

NEWS SNAPS

Two govt offices closed for 5 years!

**UNB, Jamalpur**  
Two important government offices at Guthail in Islampur upazila of Jamalpur remained closed for last five years due to reasons unknown.  
These are Gilabari Telephone Exchange and Guthail Artificial Insemination Centre. Locals said they have tried to know the reasons behind the closure of these important offices, but failed. Another sources said there had been over 50 telephone subscribers under the exchange. Besides, closure of the Insemination centre has forced the people to go to Sadar, which is 6 miles off the area for inseminating their farm animals.

Navigability crisis in Padma-Jamuna

**UNB, Manikganj**  
Movement of ferry, launch and cargo boats are facing disruption on Aricha-Daulatdia and Aricha-Natakholia routes due to poor navigability in the Padma-Jamuna rivers.  
The navigability crisis has forced the authorities to close five pontoons in the three river terminals. Most of the channels in the Padma and Jamuna have become narrow like canals due to lack of adequate flow of waters from the upstream at the impact of Farakka Barrage. Huge amount of money is spent every year for dredging purpose to restore navigability in these routes, but the situation remains the same, BIWTC sources said. Meanwhile, big shoals have emerged in the rivers threatening possible closure of the river routes anytime. Dredging works are on at vulnerable points to maintain navigability.

Production in 400 industries hampered

**UNB, Madaripur**  
Production in 400 small industries in five upazilas of Gopalganj and Madaripur districts are being hampered due to erratic power failure.  
Mill owners alleged that production in their mills and factories is disrupted for four to five hours a day due to erratic power failure.

Problems grip Bhola Govt College

**UNB, Bhola**  
Bhola Government College is beset with various problems, including shortage of teachers, hampering its academic activities.  
The college is currently running by 50 per cent teachers, as 36 posts remain vacant against 72 teachers. Students alleged that many of their classes are not held due to shortage of teachers resulting in poor performance in the final results. It is also found that the number of students of the college is decreasing and students are not interested in taking admission in many subjects due to want of teacher. The college has approval for 11 subjects in honours courses while nine subjects in Masters courses.

Six killers get life term

**UNB, Tangail**  
A court in Tangail last week sentenced six people, including an old man and his son, to life term imprisonment for killing his son-in-law. The court also fined Ibrahim Hussain and his son Nazrul Islam and their four accomplices Emarat Hossain, Jinnah Ali, Mainuddin and Baka Miah of Pugligram in Nagorpur upazila Tk 5,000, in default, to suffer six months more RI. According to the prosecution, Ibrahim aided by his associates beat his son-in-law Sohrab Ali to death over a family feud on March 18, 1998. After examining the records and witnesses, Additional District and Sessions Judge Fazlur Rahman handed down the judgement. However, the court acquitted four others Abu Taher, Farooque Miah, Babul Miah and Abdus Samad for lack of evidence.

Two murderers imprisoned

**UNB, Kishoreganj**  
A court in Kishoreganj there has sentenced two people to life term imprisonment in a murder case.  
The court also fined Montazuddin and Abdur Rashid of Pattha Kathalia village in Sadar upazila Tk 5,000 in default, to suffer one year RI More. According to the prosecution, the convicts killed their fellow villager Amiruddin on Dec 12, 1997 as he had an extramarital affair with Montaz's wife. After examining the records and witnesses, the Additional District and Sessions judge handed down the verdict Thursday.



A participant reciting at a poetry recital soiree at Udichi Auditorium in Mymensingh on November 10. Anuprash, a poetry recital organisation arranged the programme titled "Grohey Grohey Taray Taray" in memory of eminent scholar Golam Samdani Quraishi.

Gaibandha old DC office, treasury buildings sold thru' secret auction

**UNB, Gaibandha**  
Public Works Department (PWD) sold two government buildings allegedly at a throwaway price depriving the government of huge revenue.  
The engineers of the department allegedly took bribe from the concerned contractors and sold the Tk 50 lakh old DC office and Treasury building at Tk 5 lakh through a secret auction.  
Official sources said the office of the Deputy Commissioner and Treasury was shifted to the new building in 1993 vacating the two old buildings.  
Since then it was rented to Roads and Highway Department, Anti-corruption Bureau and CID and the offices were still functioning in these buildings.  
Local contractors alleged that the then Executive Engineer of Public Works Department Nazrul Islam Bhuiyan showed the building abandoned and prepared survey report showing the value of the building at Tk 4 lakh. He then approved it from the concerned ministry to sell it in auction.  
But avoiding all formalities of open auction, the executive engineer sold it to a particular contractor. This was disclosed when the Public Works Department issued letter to the offices working in the building to vacate it.  
When contacted present Executive Engineer Akhteruzzaman told that all the process of the auction was performed during his predecessor's period.  
He said he had only issued the letters to the using authorities to vacate the building.

Onion framing on 50,000 hectares in 64 dists

**UNB, Kishoreganj**  
Inconsistent onion price for the last few years has prompted the authorities to take an intensive scheme for bringing some 50,000 hectares of land under onion farming across the country.  
According to agriculture officials, the country's 64 districts have been divided into nine agricultural zones for the ambitious programme, fixing the production target at 5 lakh metric tons.  
Of the total lands, 5,700 hectares will be brought under onion cultivation in seven districts of Dhaka zone while 1,900 hectares in five districts of Mymensingh zone, 1,670 hectares in seven districts of Comilla zone, 820 hectares in five districts of Chittagong zone.  
Besides, onion will be cultivated on 110 hectares in three districts of Rangamati zone while 8,200 hectares in 11 districts of Barisal zone, 14,500 hectares in eight districts of Rajshahi zone, 10,300 hectares in 10 districts of Jessore zone, 6,800 hectares in eight districts of Rangpur zone.  
Zone-wise output target: Dhaka-57,000 mts, Mymensingh-19,000 mts, Comilla-16,700 mts, Chittagong-8,200 mts, Rangamati-1,100 mts, Barisal-82,000 mts, Rajshahi-1.45 lakh mts, Jessore-1.03 lakh mts and Rangpur-68,000 mts.  
Meanwhile, Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) and Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation have taken all necessary measures to ensure adequate supply of agrinputs, including quality seeds, fertilisers and pesticides, to the growers to make the programme a success.



Shahiduzzaman Khan, Executive Editor of The Financial Express, inaugurates a photo exhibition by renowned photographer Inam al Haq recently at District Shilpakala Academy Auditorium, Faridpur.

Photo exhibition on birds ends in Faridpur

A three-day photo exhibition by renowned photographer Inam-al Haq concluded recently at Faridpur District Shilpakala Academy Auditorium, says a press release.  
Organised by Faridpur Sahitya Parishad, the show was inaugurated by Executive Editor of The Financial Express Shahiduzzaman Khan. MA Samad, SM Nurunnabi, Munsir Harun-ur-Rashid, Nasiruddin Ahmed Musa, Md Altaf Hossain and Mafiz Imam Milan also spoke at the inaugural function.  
Thirty-five selected photographs of birds were put on display at the exhibition.

Crimes up in Jessore town: police harass innocents

**UNB, Jessore**  
Crimes like robbery, theft, hijacking, abduction are on rise in Jessore town marking the deterioration of law and order.  
Locals said within a span of 10 days from Nov 1 to 10 three motorcycles were stolen from the town, daring thefts were committed at three houses at Ghoppara road, old Kasba and circuit house areas and robbers looted two houses at the downtown and old Kasba areas.  
Moreover, a college girl was abducted from the downtown area, Tk 40,000 of a businessman was snatched from the running bus on Jessore-Khajura road, a boarder of a residential hotel was stabbed, and attacks and counters attacks amid bomb explosion took place near the red light area during the same period.  
Locals alleged that police have been harassing the innocent people mysteriously in the name of arresting the hoodlums while the terrorists are moving almost freely in several areas of the town.  
While contacted, police officials said due to shortage of manpower and logistic support they are facing problem to nab the terrorists. They also said drives are on to bring the listed criminals to book.  
Meanwhile, four motorcycles were stolen by a gang of miscreants from Jessore town on Sunday and Monday.  
Police said a motorcycle of Abdul Huq was stolen from Collectorate building area on Monday and two others belonging to Jiban Ratan Kundu and Habib were taken away from Missionpara and Chitra crossing on Sunday.  
Another motorbike of Mithu of the town was stolen from in front of the police outpost in the town on Sunday afternoon, they added.  
Separate cases were filed with the police, but none was arrested so far in this connection.  
Locals alleged that due to mysterious inaction of police, the members of an organised gang are active in different parts of the town and they are stealing bicycles, motorbike and other valuables almost every day.  
They also alleged that the identified criminals, including Munna, Harun, Mafizul Islam, Rafiq, Siraj and Vera Shakil, have been maintaining secret connection with the police and are carrying out their misdeeds at random.

AL activist slaughtered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

In an incident at Mollahat of Bagerhat district, Awami League (AL) activist Himla Chowdhury, 40, of Shingati village was slaughtered to death by some unidentified man in the early morning of Thursday.  
Police recovered his body from a sugarcane field where he was slaughtered.  
Police said this murder was a sequel to political enmity. On Tuesday night another AL activist was slaughtered at Chitalmari upzila.

Huge firearms recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Laxmipur

Laxmipur police recovered huge firearms after raiding various places in Laxmipur in last two days. Police also arrested one person on charge of extortion.  
The arms include three foreign guns, two local guns, three light guns eight pipe guns, one rifle, two bullets and a number of lethal weapons.  
Laxmipur police conducted raids at various places and recovered those arms from Uttar Joypur, Srirampur Primary School, Jora Pukurpar and Dutta Para.  
Police arrested Babul, son of Monsur Ahmed, accused in three extortion cases.