

NEWS SNAPS

Barisal BNP activist murdered

UNB, Barisal
 A BNP activist who was lynched by a rival group in Muladi upazila in Barisal on Sunday. Locals said as a sequel to factional feud a cadre of BNP demanded Tk 50,000 as toll from Abdur Rahim Hawladar of Chhabipur union but on his refusal to pay the amount the brawl turned into violence. The angry youths attacked and ransacked the house of Abdur Rahim on Saturday and looted valuables and beat the inmates mercilessly leaving six people injured. Of them the condition of Abdul Majed Akand was critical. He was rushed to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital where he died. A case was filed and six people were arrested in this connection.

Old man killed following land dispute

UNB, Barisal
 An old man was killed at Charpaldi in Kalkini upazila of Barisal on Monday night. The body of Sekandar Ali Howlader, 62, was recovered from near a brick field early Tuesday. He was missing since he went to Gouranadi Bandar Jam-mosque to say tarabi prayers. He is believed to have been killed following a land dispute. A case was filed.

Three of a family injured by terrorists

UNB, Khulna
 Three people of a family were injured in an attacked by terrorist at Sreepallatala in Rupsa upazila of Khulna on Friday night. Police said a gang of terrorists attacked the house of Shippada Basu, a Jubo League leader, and looted valuables and Tk 15,000 in cash leaving three people injured. The injured, identified as Shippada Basu, his father Kaminipada Basu and mother Maya Rani, were admitted to Khulna General Hospital.

Accident on rise in rail-gate points

UNB, Khulna
 Accident is on rise in different rail-gate points from Khulna to Jessore railway stations due to want of gate-men. Railway sources said there are 51 barrier rail gates between Khulna and Jessore, but there is no gate-man in 20 of the gates, which remain open when train runs. At least 145 people were killed in train accidents during the last five years at different gate points. Besides, most of the rail gates have become dilapidated due to lack of maintenance for long and the authorities did not take any initiatives to repair the gates. Locals demanded immediate measures to avert further accidents in these rail gates.

Smuggled goods worth Tk 7.68 cr seized

UNB, Chuadanga
 Bangladesh Rifles seized smuggled goods worth over Tk 7.68 crore from different frontier areas of Chuadanga in the last 11 months till November. BDR sources said in separate drives they seized smuggled goods worth about Tk 6.85 crore while being brought into Bangladesh and goods worth Tk 82.59 lakh while being smuggled out to India. During the period they filed 1,443 cases with the police and arrested 29 accused.

52 arrested by BDR from frontier areas

UNB, Satkhira
 Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) arrested 52 people from the frontier areas of Sadar and Kolaroa upazilas in Satkhira while they were entering illegally into the district on Wednesday and Thursday. Of them, eight were children, 19 women and 25 men who hailed from Jhalakati, Jessore, Pirojpur and Bagerhat. Official sources said 32 people were arrested while entering through Keragachi frontier in Kolaroa upazila on Wednesday and 20 others through Boikar border in Sadar upazila on Thursday morning. These people went to India on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr without any valid document.

Work on 16 uplift projects going on

UNB, Chapainawabganj
 Work on 16 development projects under "Mid Town Infrastructure Development Project-2 in Chapainawabganj town is nearing completion. Asian Development Bank has provided Tk 3.63 crore for implementing the projects, which include road carpeting and setting up a central bus stand and drains. Locals Government Engineering Department and municipality are jointly implementing the projects, officials said. The projects are likely to be completed by June next.

Two bodies recovered in Mymensingh

UNB, Mymensingh
 Police recovered two bodies from separate places in Sadar upazila of Mymensingh on Tuesday night. Police said they recovered the body of Laily, 30, wife of Ziaul Hassan of Kawnia village in Sadar upazila, shortly after midnight. She is believed to have committed suicide following a family feud. Police also recovered the body of an unidentified old man from the pump house of Mashuragar railway station at about 11.30 pm. It was found hanging from the ceiling of the pump house. Separate UD cases were filed.

Youth rescued in wounded state

UNB, Patuakhali
 A youth was rescued in a wounded state on Thursday night from Patuakhali town seven hours after his abduction from local Gazipur bus stand. Locals said a gang of 12 terrorists abducted Liakat Hossain, 22, from a bus at Gazipur Bazaar at about 3 pm. Liakat, son of Muhammad Idris Mia of village Boalia in Galachipa upazila, fell prey to the kidnapers while he was returning his home from Patuakhali. The abductors fled away leaving behind the youth at an abandoned house at Kalikapur in the town at about 9 pm when local people came there hearing his screaming. Later, he was rushed to Sadar Hospital. Liakat's father filed a GD with police, but none was arrested till Friday.

Body to investigate Natore incident

UNB, Natore
 Natore district administration has formed a committee headed by Additional Deputy Magistrate Muhammad Siddique to investigate into the Tuesday's incident that left three women of a family injured at Dilalpur village in Lalpur upazila. The committee was asked to submit its report within three days. Some BNP men attacked the family members as they refused to give them toll money of Tk 20,000. The hoodlums also demanded one of their young girls as toll. Meanwhile, police arrested Del Bahar, one of the five accused persons in the case filed in this regard.

Handloom employees abstain from work

UNB, Brahmanbaria
 Employees of Bangladesh Handloom Board Facilities Centre in Bancharampur upazila of Brahmanbaria went to a nonstop work abstention due to nonpayment of their salaries. Hundreds of borrowers of 118 villages in 13 unions under the centre are facing trouble, as they cannot receive loans due to the strike. The lone handloom centre in Brahmanbaria, out of four in the country, was set up in the 80s aiming to develop handloom industries.



The 12th annual general meeting (AGM) of Mita Textiles Limited was held on Thursday at its factory premises at Sreepur in Gazipur. Mustafizur Rahman, managing director (MD) of the company presided over.

95 pc RU students want ban on student politics

RU CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

About 95 per cent students of Rajshahi University (RU) are in favour of banning student politics. This has been revealed at a survey conducted recently by this correspondent. The general students blamed the student organisations for violence and unrest in all the educational institutions across the country. In Rajshahi University the student leaders are divided on this issue. Some leaders are in favour of banning student politics while others are against it. General Secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra League, RU unit Ahsanul Haque Pintu said, "We have a glorious past of student politics. Students played a leading role in our liberation war, in the language movement of 1952, during mass upsurge and the movement for restoration of democracy in 1990. According to him ban on student politics will help expansion of terrorism on the campus. He also demanded ban on the destructive politics of Chhatra Dal and Chhatra Shibir on the campuses of all educational institutions. Joint convener of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), RU unit, Ahmed Muid Shimul recalled the earlier glory of students' movements, but those days are gone, he

added. Now terrorists rule the campuses of educational institutions. Non-students mainly lead the student politics on the university campus who remain usually engaged in illegal toll collection, he further said. He condemned the rule of Awami League government when Chhatra League activists occupied dormitories of the institutions forcibly, snatched tenders, took ransom, insulted the girls and created a horrifying atmosphere on the campuses. He suggested to find out a proper solution. RU president of Chhatra Shibir Helal Uddin said the role of student politics was glorious in 1952 and afterwards in every constructive movement. So, he does not expect a ban on student politics. Sumona Sarkar Jhumur, RU unit president of Chhatra Union said a conspiracy to ban student politics has started when the students started protest movements against the present government's decision to export gas to India. RU Pro-VC Prof KAM Shahadat Hossain Mondal supported a ban on student politics because it would help uproot terrorism from the campus. This would make the campus congenial for education. RU VC Prof Faisal Islam Faruqi did not comment on this particular issue when this correspondent contacted him at his office.

Clash over harvesting paddy leaves two killed

UNB, Patuakhali

A fierce clash between two groups of farmers over harvesting paddy on a disputed land left two people killed at Daurabhangra village in Baufal upazila of Patuakhali Saturday, according to a delayed report. The victims were identified as Delwar Munsif, 38, and Jalil Munsif, 45, of Ballatali village. A case was filed against 28 people in this connection and police arrested eight people, including three women. But they could not arrest main accused Motaleb Hawladar, chairman of Boga Union Parisad. After namaj-e-janaza of the deceased Monday, some villagers swooped on the police as they failed to detain the main accused. The angry villagers also set fire to three dwelling houses of an accused, Hanif Faraji, after police left the village. When contacted Baufal thana police confirmed the incident but the UNO said he had no knowledge about it. Local MP Shahidul Alam Talukder said he directed the police

to take all necessary steps to keep the situation under control. **A report from Manikganj says:** At least 35 people were injured in separate clashes in Manikganj on Friday and Saturday. Police said a fierce clash between the supporters of former UP chairman Abdul Khaleq and Abdul Baten at village Bajetaluk in Daulatpur upazila over sanctioned wheat of the local Jame Mosque and formation of its new committee left 23 people injured, nine seriously, on Friday. The seriously injured were rushed to different hospitals. On the same day in another clash over insulting a local elderly man at village Bangula in Sadar upazila left 12 people injured, seven seriously. The injured were rushed to the Sadar Hospital. His rival group attacked Kuddus Khan, 35, of Madhubpur village in Singair upazila and stabbed him indiscriminately on Saturday. He was rushed to the hospital in a critical condition. Separate cases were filed with the police. **Another message adds:** A teen-aged girl allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself from a tree at village Atipara in Singair upazila on Saturday. Family sources said the victim, Kanika Mondol, 14, daughter of Kanai Mondol became annoyed when her mother rebuked her for talking with a local youth and took the extreme path. The body as sent to morgue for autopsy. **Another report from Sherpur says:** At least 20 people, including five women, were injured in separate clashes in Sadar upazila on Friday, according to a delayed report. Police and medical sources said a clash between two groups of people at village Sonkanda over a land dispute left six people injured. Of them, Chan Mohammad, 45 and Ajitullah Mondol, 70, were admitted to Sadar Hospital. A 60-year-old man, Hatem Ali, of Bagraksa in Sherpur town was critically injured as his rivals beat him following a dispute over the ownership of a coconut tree. He was also admitted to the Sadar Hospital.

Newly-wed housewife burnt alive allegedly by husband

UNB, Faridpur

A newly-wed housewife was burnt alive at village Laxmikul in Boalmari upazila in Faridpur allegedly by her husband on Monday night. The victim was identified as Achhia Khatoon, 32, wife of late Aynal Hossain. Villagers said Aynal's brother Joynal, in a bid to grab his land, killed him five years back. But his mission could not be fulfilled due to the presence of Achhia, his sister-in-law. At last he decided to eliminate her from the world. Witnesses said as part of his conspiracy, Joynal along with his accomplice Bellal kidnapped Achhia in the evening and confined her in the room of their house and later strangled her. After the murder he put poison into her mouth to prove that she committed suicide. Police sent the body to Jessore General Hospital morgue for autopsy. Azmat along with his mother and siblings went into hiding after the incident.

Four fugitives arrested in Khagrachhari

UNB, Khagrachhari

Police arrested from fugitives from Mohalchari and Milechari areas of Khagrachhari on Thursday. The arrested were identified as Rafiqul Islam, Habibur Rahman, Babul Dey and Sagar Chowdhury. Police said the four accused remained absconding since a case was filed against them for their alleged involvement in ransacking Milechari Upazila BNP office before the October 1 parliamentary elections. The arrested were produced before the court. **Another report adds:** Khagrachhari District BNP has handed over a supporter of the party to police for his alleged involvement with anti-social activities. Police said the accused, Javed, had been conducting different anti-social activities, including extortion, in the town using the name of BNP. Javed is also an accused of four cases.



Children reciting rhymes at a children's fair arranged in Netrakona on December 26 on the occasion of Child Rights Week-2001. Sabalombi Unnyan Samity, a local development organisation arranged the fair.

Work on iron mine in Rangpur stopped

UNB, Rangpur

Digging of a prospective iron mine at Bhelamari village in Pirganj upazila of Rangpur has been stopped in midway due to reasons unknown. The Geological Department of the government directed the concerned authorities to dig the earth up to 2000 feet from the surface, but the drilling engineers stopped work after digging 1500 feet. Official sources said a team of Geological Department conducted a month-long survey in 1968 and detected huge reserve of liquid iron at the village. The expert after testing the liquid iron opined that it would take 20 years for maturity of the mine. Accordingly the department took initiatives in July 1999 to detect and trace the iron and directed the drilling engineers to dig the earth up to 2000 feet from the surface. An engineer involved in the digging work on condition of anonymity said they got satisfactory result after digging 1500 feet, but the actual position could be known after digging 3000 feet.

IT village will be set up in Khulna

UNB, Khulna

An Information Technology (IT) village will be set up in Khulna city aiming at creating opportunity for the citizens of the southern region to have easy access to the latest technology. Khulna Development Authority (KDA) has taken up the responsibility to construct the village near New Market area on 1.3 acres of land involving Tk 53 crore. The project has already been sent to the Planning Commission for approval. Work on the project is likely to be started from next month, KDA sources said. A KDA official said the project, designed with the support of Japanese experts, will create opportunity to develop human resources in IT sector in the region. Some 1,000 unemployed youths will get employment opportunity in the village. The proposed village would produce skilled computer programmers and experts in other fields, and help earn foreign currency, the official said.

The IT village will have facilities of earth station, control room, telephone exchange, server room, library, training centre, conference room, branch of bank and cafeteria. Besides, there will be web server, administration server, billing server, Pentium base PC, PC note book, facilities for operating system, UPS, IPS and 500-line telephone facilities in the village.

Natore AL joint secy expelled

UNB, Natore

Awami League (AL) has expelled its Natore unit joint secretary Muhammad Esharat Ali for violating party decision. Local AL took action against Esharat who, defying party decision, contested as an independent candidate from Natore-4 constituency in the Oct 1 poll against party's nominee Prof Abdul Quddus, former State Minister for Fisheries and Livestock. He has been relieved from all posts and his primary membership also cancelled.