

NEWS SNAPS

Royal Bengal Tiger kills woodcutter

UNB, *Satkhira*

Royal Bengal Tiger killed a woodcutter in the Sundarbans in Satkhira last week. The victim was identified as Fazlur Rahman, 48, hailed from village Kalinchi in Shyamnagar upazila. Local people said Fazlu went to deep forest along with some 12 companions for cutting wood five days back. He came under the man-eater's attack in Agjorer Char area. The body was recovered.

Beheaded body, head of a man recovered

UNB, *Khagrachhari*

Police recovered the beheaded body and the head of a man, who was kidnapped over a week ago, from separate places in Matiranga upazila of Khagrachhari on Thursday.

The victim was identified as Kumar Boishnab, 42, of West Dhalia in the upazila. He was kidnapped on Dec 27 following a land dispute. After his abduction, police arrested three people Chandidas Boishnab, Haridas Boishnab and Pilang Boishnab of the village for their alleged involvement in the kidnapping and sent them to jail. Acting on their confessional statements in court, police recovered the victim's beheaded body from the Feni river while the head from the Dhalia River.

No-confidence on municipality chairman

UNB, *Jhenidah*

Chairman of Shailakupa Municipality Khalilur Rahman lost in a no-confidence vote by his commissioners on Saturday.

Only four votes out of the total 13 were cast in favour of him in the no-confidence motion. The rest nine voters expressed their no-confidence on him. The motion was tabled in presence of the Deputy Commissioner of Jhenidah ABM Shahjahan after five allegations of corruption were proved against the chairman. The matter was referred to the higher authorities for necessary action. Khalilur Rahman took over as the first chairman of Shailakupa Municipality through an election in 1993.

School Feeding Programme will resume

UNB, *Moulvibazar*

The government is going to resume the School Feeding Programme this year in different primary schools of nine upazilas across the country.

About 1.5 lakh primary school students will be brought under the programme in Barolekha and Rajnagar in Moulvibazar, Companiganj in Sylhet, Sadar and Gabtoli in Bogra, Charbhadrason and Sadarpur in Faridpur, Dinajpur Sadar, and Porshuram upazila in Feni. Under the programme the Ministry of Relief and Disaster Management will provide 100ml of soya milk and 25 grams of soya biscuit to each student daily, 22 days in a month. The programme was first introduced in 1989 but halted in 1992. It was reintroduced in 1997, but stopped again last year.

Couple critically hurt in attack by rivals

UNB, *Satkhira*

A couple was critically injured in an attack by their rivals at village Sonakhali in Shyamnagar upazila of Satkhira on Tuesday night.

Witnesses said a gang of miscreants, allegedly led by local Awami League leader Yusuf Ali, stormed the house of Radhapada Gosai, 35, at dead of night and looted valuables after assaulting him and his wife. A longstanding land dispute was said to be the reason behind the attack. Radhapada and his wife Bakul Rani were admitted to local health complex. They alleged that Shyamnagar police refused to take case in this connection.

Four policemen injured by villagers

UNB, *Laxmipur*

Four policemen were injured when some people pelted brickbats at them at Shadishpur village in Ramganj upazila of Laxmipur on Wednesday.

The injured are SI of Ramganj thana Abdul Matin, ASI Mizanur Rahman and constables Ripon and Jahangir. The cops were returning from Shadishpur after serving notice to two rival groups in a case over leasing a pond. Later, additional police force rushed to the spot and arrested Fazlul Haq, Abdul Quader and Abul Kalam from there. A case was filed in this connection.

School building works halted

UNB, *Shariatpur*

Construction work on a two-storied school building in Sadar upazila in Shariatpur came to a halt following the threat of some extortionists.

The extortionists demanded Tk 2 lakh as toll from the contractor of the Tk 18-lakh project of constructing Burirhat High School Building. The work began two months back, but it was totally stopped when the contractor was forced to leave the area following the threat by local extortionists.

Land registration activities hampered

UNB, *Chapainawabganj*

The post of Chapainawabganj district registrar and three upazila-level posts of sub-registrar have been lying vacant since long hampering land registration activities.

There are five posts of sub-registrar in five upazilas of Chapainawabganj. But post of district registrar and sub-registrars of Shibganj, Nachle and Bholahat are lying vacant. Now the sub-registrar of Sadar upazila, in addition on his own responsibility, is performing the duties of district registrar and Shibganj upazila sub-registrar. Sub-registrar of Gomastapur upazila is performing the duties of Nachole and Bholahat upazila sub-registrar offices.

Village brought under power network

UNB, *Brahmanbaria*

Another village in Kosba upazila of Brahmanbaria has been brought under rural electrification network installing a 4-km power line at a cost of Tk 20 lakh.

Local MP Mushfiqur Rahman inaugurated the power supply to Bahadur village Thursday where REB Chairman Ziaul Islam Chowdhury and General Manager Sirajul Haque were present. Under the programme, electricity was provided to 200 residences, three irrigation projects and two rice mills of the village. With the inauguration of the power supply, some 300 acres of land at the village have been brought under irrigation system.

Heart patients do not get good treatment

UNB, *Moulvibazar*

The number of heart patients is increasing alarmingly in all the six upazilas of Moulvibazar.

According to a survey report, most of the patients between 35 and 40 years of age have been going to foreign countries like India, Thailand and Singapore every year for better treatment due to lack of proper treatment facilities at the local hospitals and health complexes. But many rural and poor people are deprived of proper treatment, as they have not enough money to go outside the country. Besides, they do not know about their disease due to their ignorance. The number of such patients is increasing day by day, the report said. Local people complained that most of the doctors serving in the hospitals are connected with private clinics and a good number of them have their own clinics and as such they are not attentive to the patients of the hospitals.

Number of beds in hospitals will be raised

UNB, *Comilla*

The number of beds in the country's newly set up five medical college hospitals will be raised to 500 from 250.

State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Amanullah Aman disclosed this while addressing physicians at a workshop on Comilla Medical College and development of health management of Comilla Monday. Organised by Doctors' Association of Bangladesh, Comilla, it was addressed, among others, by DAB central president Prof Dr MA Hadi, vice president Dr AKM Azizul Huq, secretary general Dr AZM Zahid Hossain, Dr NA Kamrul Ahsan, Dr Anwar Ibbal and Dr G Mohiuddin. The state minister said steps would also be taken to place the Comilla Medical College Development Project under revenue alongside raising its numbers of bed.

Seven counterfeit notes recovered

UNB, *Jessore*

Detective Branch of Police recovered seven counterfeit notes and arrested a man from Raypara in Jessore town on Wednesday.

On information, police raided the house of Hamid Mia and arrested Shamsur Rahman along with a fake note of Tk 500 and three notes of Tk 100 and 50 each. Police suspected that Shamsur Rahman might be a member of a gang engaged in human trafficking and fake money trading. A case was filed.

Aricha a safe route for drug traders

UNB, *Manikganj*

Selling and buying of drugs in going on unabated across Manikganj due to inaction of the law enforcing agencies, including Narcotics Control Department.

Various drugs like phensidyl, fermented liquor, seductive pill, heroin, opium, hemp and rectified-spirit are being sold overtly at various points in Manikganj. According to a competent source huge quantity of drugs are smuggled into the country from India everyday. These drugs are directly carried at Arichaghat on roadway or river routes and then supplied to various areas of the country, including the capital Dhaka, as per demand. Children, juveniles and women are being used to reach the drugs to the retailers, the source said adding Dhaka-Aricha highway has become a safe transit route for drug traders.



PHOTO: STAR

Activists of Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal parade down the streets of Chittagong in a procession protesting the recent government move to export gas to India.

Prospect of industrialisation bleak in northern districts

Appeal to Saifur for gas supply

MOZAMMEL HUQ, *Rangpur*

Industrialisation in the northern region of the country without gas supply is a far cry.

Although the prospect of industrialisation in the northern region, especially in five districts of greater Rangpur brightened, following commissioning of the Jamuna bridge, yet it still remains a dream for the people of this neglected region.

Industrial experts of the country are of the opinion to set up agro-based industries in greater Rangpur.

But most members of Rangpur Chamber of Commerce and Industries and prospective entrepreneurs unanimously expressed that industrialisation in this region is completely absurd without gas supply.

Mosaddeque Hossain Bablu, president of Rangpur Chamber of Commerce and Industries, informed this correspondent that lack of gas supply had been hindering industrialisation in this region. Bablu has already submitted a written appeal to Finance and Planning Minister Saifur Rahman urging him to bring greater Rangpur and Dinajpur districts under gas supply network immediately for the purpose of industrialisation in this neglected region. He submitted the appeal to the Finance Minister during the opening function of Rangpur branch of Bangladesh Bank, recently.

Alhaj Rahim Uddin Bharasa, an ex-MP and a renowned industrialist in the subcontinent who is also

the president of Rangpur district BNP underscored the need for immediate gas supply to the region for setting up industries, especially agro-based industries in greater Rangpur region availing of good communication facilities after the opening of Jamuna bridge.

It may be mentioned that the north-western zone of the country comprising the districts of Rajshahi division is also enriched with all the raw materials required to set up agro-based industries. But these districts also lag behind for want of gas supply.

Golam Mostafa, ex-president of Rangpur Chamber of Commerce and Industries and Director of Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry told this correspondent that a large number of prospective entrepreneurs are waiting for gas supply in the region which will help them establish agro-based industries. Without gas none will come forward to set up industries, he added. Mostafa is also a Director of a cold storage and proprietor of half a dozen cloth and garment shops in Rangpur town described his bitter experiences in this regard saying that he has to pay an amount of over Tk five lakh monthly as electricity bills for his cold storage while it is almost 25 per cent of this cost in other parts of the country where gas is available abundantly. Owners of the existing industrial units in this region have to pay huge amount of money as electricity bills much higher to the amount of the gas-run industries of the country, he added.

Admission seekers far outnumber seats at Rajshahi University

53 candidates will vie for one seat

RU CORRESPONDENT, *Rajshahi*

The written test for admission into the first year Honours course under the academic session 2001-2002 of Rajshahi University (RU) will be held from January 13 to January 27.

The test will be held in three shifts for three departments a day from 9-11 AM, 12-2 PM to 3-5 PM.

Though the admission test schedules have been changed a little, yet all the arrangement for admission tests have been completed.

January 13 has been fixed for admission test of the Accounting, Bangla and Finance and Banking departments, January 14 for the test of the Marketing, English and Management departments, January 15 for Sociology, Political Science and Social Work, January 16 for Economics, Public Administration and Anthropology, January 17 for the test of the Library Science, Law and Mass Communication departments, January 19 for the Islamic studies, Psychology and Geography and Environmental Science, January 20 for the test of Physics, Arabic, Philosophy, Information Technology, Mathematics and Folklore, January 21 for the test of Chemistry, Population Science, Applied Physics and Music and Dramatics

departments, January 22 for Applied Chemistry, Genetics and Breeding, Urdu and Statistics departments, January 23 for Agronomy, Pharmacy and Computer Science, January 24 for Bio-Chemistry, Geology and Mining, Sangskrit and Fine Arts departments, January 26 for History and Islamic History and January 27 for the admission test of the Zoology, Farsy/Persian, Fisheries and Aquaculture and Botany departments.

A total of 1,63,000 applications for admission against the fixed 3,118 seats have been submitted this year. This shows that 53 candidates will contest for one seats.

The highest number of applications (44,076) have been submitted in the Science Faculty against 705 seats.

In the context of the seats fixed for admission in the first year Honours classes, it appears that 1,59,882 candidates seeking admission will be dropped as there has been no increase in seats in any department this year.

The university authorities have earned Tk 1,22,25,000 by selling admission forms this year. The university authorities earn an income equivalent to this amount or more than this from the sale of admission forms every year. But the

authorities have alleged spent little for the minimum amenities of the admission seekers.

The admission seekers, through untold suffering, have to appear in the admission tests of the university located at a place 8 to 9 kilometres of the main Rajshahi city. They have to reach the varsity campus to participate in the admission test by buses or tempos plying on the highway at the risks of life. The bus owners, taking advantage of the situation, have raised the bus fare.

Besides, tribulations of the admission seekers mount in their communication with the university to know the results of admission tests. The university authorities do not spend money for publication of results of the admission tests in the national dailies for the convenience of the admission seekers of the far flung areas across the country.

Most of the candidates of the far flung areas can not know in proper time the results which are hung on the boards and the successful candidates can not avail of the chance of admission.

A great number of candidates in the waiting lists are admitted here. But many candidates in the waiting lists, for information gap, due to the wrong policy by the university authorities in publication of results miss the chance of admission.

New Public Prosecutors in 2 dists

UNB, *Dhaka*

The government has appointed new PPs, GPs, SPPs, APPs, FPPs and AGPs in the courts of Sherpur and Dinajpur.

Relieving those who were appointed during the Awami League regime, the government appointed BNP or like-minded prosecutors in the posts.

Solicitor wing of the Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Ministry has appointed 12 advocates for Sherpur court, 28 for Dinajpur court and 34 for Pabna court.

In Sherpur Court, the government appointed Adv Khondker Nazrul Islam as Public Prosecutor (PP) and Adv Abdul Majid Badal as General Prosecutor (GP).

The newly appointed seven Assistant Public Prosecutor (APP) are: Advocate Abdul Khaleq, Adv Wasim Uddin Ahmed Chowdhury, Adv Abuja Giffari, Adv AHM Amunil Islam Helal, Adv Mokhlesur Rahman Akand Ziban, Sudhagsu Kaloar and Adv Abul Kalam

Azad.

New AGPs are: Adv M Monir Hossain, Adv Afsar Uddin and Adv Joyal Abedin.

In Dinajpur, the appointed prosecutors are: PP -- Adv Abdus Sayeed, GP -- Advocate Abdul Motaleb, Additional PP -- Mohammad Ekramul Momin, Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) on Women and Child Repression -- Advocate Abdul Mannan and SPP for Special Judge Court -- Shamim Bin Golam Pal.

APPs of the court are: Advocate Bazlul, Kadir, Badsha, ATM Aminul Islam, Mostakim, Mohammad Momtaj Ali, Sohrab Ali, Khoirat Ali, Masud Hassan, Saiful Huq Chowdhury, Gonesh Chandra Roy, Serajul Islam, Begum Nurunnesa Hossain, Akhtaruzzaman Nannu and Emam Ali. The AGPs are: M Habibur Rahman, Shamsul Alam, Mujibur Rahman (3), M Abul Aziz Mondal, Abdul Hannan, Mostafizur Rahman (Mostaq) and Shahin Uddin Siddiq.



The 27th annual general meeting (AGM) of Manola Perfume Chemical Industries Ltd was held recently at Royal Garden, a city hotel in Chittagong.