

NEWS SNAPS

Pedestrian killed in Barisal road mishap

UNB, Barisal
A pedestrian was killed when a bus hit him at East Moheshpur on Barisal-Niamoti road on Saturday.

Police and witnesses said Abdur Rashid, 50, died on way to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital after he was injured in the accident while crossing the road. Police seized the bus. A case was filed in this connection.

Satkhira road accident claims one

UNB, Satkhira
A young man was killed and five others were injured in a road accident in Bhurulia-Chalchhata area on Satkhira-Munshiganj road Friday.

Witnesses said Jobbar, 22, son of Mukter Gazi of Sripurkati village in Shyamnagar upazila died on the spot when a passenger bus collided with an engine driven van in which they were travelling. The injured were admitted to the hospital. Three of them were identified as Rafiqul, Babu and Khokan. Agitated people barricaded the Satkhira-Munshiganj road for one and half hours protesting the incident.

Unidentified body of youth recovered

UNB, Gazipur
An unidentified body of a young man was recovered from Nilerpara area of Gazipur pourasava on Saturday.

The body was sent to Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy. In another incident, M Chan Miah alias Chanu, 42, of Sripur village in Sripur Municipality was killed and his son Sohel, 13, and father-in-law Hekmat Ali, 65, were injured when a Dhaka-bound truck collided with a baby taxi at Kawya on Sripur-Dhaka road on Friday. The body was sent to the local hospital for autopsy. A case was filed.

374 killed in 10 districts last year

UNB, Magura
At least 374 people were murdered in 10 districts of Khulna division last year. Police said these people were murdered in Magura, Jessore, Narail, Jhenidah, Khulna, Satkhira, Bagerhat, Kusthia, Chuadanga and Meherpur districts. Of the total, 33 people were killed in January, 22 in February, 33 in March, 37 in April, 35 in May, 29 in June, 30 in July, 45 in August, 30 in September, 26 in October, 33 in November and 21 in December. Political rivalry and village conflict were the main reasons behind the killings, they said. Besides, 728 incidents of women repression including 154 rape were recorded during the period.

Memorial meeting on Monajatuddin

UNB, Naogaon
A memorial meeting on journalist Monajatuddin was held marking the sixth death anniversary of the noted journalist on December 29.

Organised by District Reporters' Club, the meeting was addressed, among others, by journalists Masudur Rahman, Sheikh Anwar Hossain, Saidur Rahman, Mezbah Sakline. The speakers paid glowing tributes to the late journalist and recalled his contribution in ventilating the problems of the rural people. Later a milad mahfil was held for the salvation of the departed soul.

Father hands over sons to police

UNB, Satkhira
Failing to prevent his two sons from drug abuse, a man of Muntajitpur village in Sadar upazila of Satkhira handed over them to police on Friday.

Police said Shahinawaz alias Khoka handed over his two school going sons Abid, 16, and Zaid, 14, as they were also engaged in various anti-social activities. In another incident, Archana Rani, 14, student of class six and daughter of Dinesh Chandra Mondol of Bakharaputi in Shyamnagar upazila allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself on the same day when her mother rebuked her as she failed to come out successful in the annual examination.

Armed miscreants hijack microbus

UNB, Sirajganj
Armed miscreants hijacked a microbus from Banwarinagar Faridpur area of Pabna on Friday.

Police said in the guise of passengers a gang of miscreants numbering 5 to 6 hired the microbus from Sirajganj town bus terminal to go to Pabna. But when the microbus reached Pabna, the miscreants forced the bus driver Fazlu, 50, to get down at gunpoint. They also beat him mercilessly and cut his tendons and fled away with the vehicle. Fazlu was first rushed to Sirajganj hospital and later shifted to Dhaka for treatment. A case was filed.

Land for three welfare organisations

UNB, Comilla
Comilla district administration has given lease of 24 acres of land to three organisations, including a social welfare organisation.

Concerned sources said 12 acres of land at the northern side of Dharma Sagar near the town were given lease to Nazrul Parisad and Cultural Complex and 12 acres to Disabled Association's school. The Deputy Commissioner gave the lease at a meeting on December 31.

Bid to privatise 2 jute mills protested

UNB, Khulna
Several thousand workers of Daulatpur and Star Jute Mills on Saturday staged demonstration in front of DC office protesting the government's bid to privatise the mills.

The mill workers submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner urging the government to continue production in the mills under Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC). BJMC is going to float tenders to sell out the state-owned enterprises on Monday.

Two arrested with phensidyl

UNB, Kishoreganj
Two people were arrested with 32 bottles of phensidyl syrup from Kacharibazar in Kishoreganj town on Monday night.

Police in a joint drive led by a magistrate, seized the contrabands and arrested Liton alias Chanchol, 20, and Nazrul Islam, 25. They were sent to jail hajot.

Eight armed robbers arrested

UNB, Cox's Bazar
Police arrested eight armed robbers while preparing to commit a robbery in Pahartali area in Cox's Bazar town on Wednesday night.

Acting on a tip off, police raided the area and nabbed them including their gang leader Ali Ahsan Mintu with four guns. The other muggers were identified as Sultan, 20, Rashid, 18, Mostaq, 22, Hedayet, 18, Saiful, 20, Kaiser, 19, and Babu, 18. They hailed from Sadar, Chakaria and Ramu upazilas. They were wanted in connection with a number of criminal cases. Police said they were committing crimes including extortion, robbery and terrorism in Cox's Bazar sea beach, town, bus terminals and highways since long.

Law and order situation discussed

UNB, Sherpur
The newly appointed Police Super (SP) exchanged opinion with the local journalists at his office in Sherpur on Saturday.

During the meeting, they discussed the law and order situation and laid stress on elimination of gambling and drug abuse, which are the main causes of increasing crimes. The Police Super sought cooperation from the press for the improvement of law and order situation and said the gap between the general people and police must be reduced through mutual cooperation. Among others, correspondents of various national dailies, news media and Bangladesh Betar were present.

Health care facilities for tobacco farmers

UNB, Cox's Bazar
British American Tobacco Company (BATIC) has taken up a programme to bring 2,000 members of 400 tobacco farmers family of Cox's Bazaar under its compulsory health care programme.

The company has distributed 400 health cards among the tobacco farmers of Kakara union of Chokoria upazila at a function at the local conference room of International Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases Research recently. Under the programme, Chokoria Community Health Project run by ICDDR,B will provide the health care facilities to the tobacco farmers and their family members. Zonal Manager of BATIC Belayat Ali Ahsan presided over the function while Police Super of Cox's Bazaar Muzammel Hossain was the chief guest. Company Officer of Chittagong Division Akhter Anwar said the company would also provide education facilities to the children of the tobacco farmers in near future.

Hard time for IU authorities to cope with large number of admission seekers

Test result will be published in newspapers by Jan 31

RAHAT AHMED, Kusthia

The Islamic University (IU) authorities have to face a hard time to cope with the increasing number of admission seekers this year.

This year a total of 42,852 candidates are vying for 1,160 seats of 18 department under five faculties. Thirty-nine students are vying for each seat. The highest competition will be in the Computer Science and Technology Department where 95 students will vie for each seat. Last year 39,000 applicants sat for admission tests.

Admission tests in some depart-

ments of the university are being held in the underconstruction buildings resulting in immense sufferings of students. Many admission seekers sat for the admission test in adverse weather condition, sometimes braving the biting cold of the winter in the morning and also facing the scorching sun at noon.

On the first day of the admission test on average 92 per cent applicants sat for the test while 96 per cent on the second day, 98 per cent

test result through the national dailies. In the previous years most of the admission seekers who had been selected on their merit could not get admitted into the university due to non-publication of admission results in any newspaper.

According to the official sources of the university, all the results of the admission tests will be published within January 31. Admission seekers who will be selected on merit basis have been advised to collect their admission forms from the respective departments within February 2 to March 3.

Candidates in the waiting list have been asked to report to the respective departments within March 8 to 10. All the admission seekers who will be selected on merit basis and also the waiting listed candidates will have to appear for the final viva-voce examinations during the time of collecting their admission forms after showing their own admit cards supplied by the authorities, the sources added.

Classes of this session will begin from March 11. Admission seekers of this session who fall under the freedom fighters' ward quota, players' quota, tribal students' quota and cultural activists' quota have been asked to collect their forms from the administrative building within March 4 to 10.

Meanwhile, the candidates and their guardians who come from Kusthia and Jhenidah towns for admission test at the campus are facing an acute transport problem on Kusthia-Dhaka highway.

This year a large number of female candidates are taking part in the admission tests. The highest number of female candidates are appearing in the Politics and Public Administration Department.



PHOTO: STAR

Islamic University vice chancellor Prof Mustafizur Rahman visiting an examination hall room for admission in the first year honours classes of various departments for 2001-2002 session.s

ments of the university are being held in the underconstruction buildings resulting in immense sufferings of students. Many admission seekers sat for the admission test in adverse weather condition, sometimes braving the biting cold of the winter in the morning and also facing the scorching sun at noon.

On the third day, 97 per cent on the fourth day and 98 per cent on the fifth day and also the same percentage on the sixth day sat for the test.

A committee led by VC Prof Mustafizur Rahman frequently visited the centres.

This year the IU authorities have decided to publish the admission

Electricity pole manufacturing factory faces closure

UNB, Manikganj

Aricha PC Pole, an electricity pole manufacturing factory at Aricha ghat, faces closure due to mismanagement and corruption.

Although it has a capacity to produce 70 pieces of concrete pole a day, production in the factory has fallen drastically.

The factory was set up at the

ghat considering its communication facilities -- both water and land -- with technical assistance from China in the late 80s.

Since then, it has been supplying electricity poles to PDB for expanding its electricity network across the country.

But there have been allegations that the factory officials sell out the raw materials supplied by the gov-

ernment and produce poles with low quality ones.

There are also allegations that poles produced in the factory are supplied to the black market in addition to PDB.

When contacted its executive engineer dismissed the allegations and said all procurements of the factory were done through tender quotations.

Manufacturing of railway coaches will resume at Syedpur workshop

UNB, Nilphamari

Manufacturing of passenger coaches at Syedpur railway workshop in Nilphamari will resume soon after a long 10-year suspension.

Necessary steps have already been taken in this regard and we will go for manufacturing new rail coaches after receiving fund," said an official of Bangladesh Railway West Zone on condition of anonymity.

The authorities concerned said, the existing "Carriage Heavy Repairing Shop" would be converted into "Construction Shop" to build the coaches.

To this effect, a feasibility study has been carried out and a three-member technical committee formed with Chief Engineer (Mechanical) of Bangladesh Railway West Zone as chief to implement the project.

The committee has submitted its report to the government. In the report, official sources informed that

they put forward necessary production cost, manpower, technical and logistic supports alongside making a list of unused materials.

According to the report, some 121 manpower will be required for each coach and the cost per coach would be approximately Tk 76 lakh.

With the existing manpower framework, the work would be done, officials hoped.

The workshop was established in 1967 and operative till 1992. Before the lay-off cost of each coach was Tk 46.52 lakh.

But with the suspension of fund from the donors, the workshop was shut down. To meet local demand, the government imported railway coaches from abroad costing each coach Tk 96 lakh to Tk 1 crore.

Railway authorities hoped that with the resumption of manufacturing unit at the Syedpur workshop, the government would be able to meet the local demand of railway coaches.

Increasing trend of terrorism worries Jatiya Party (E)

MOZAMMEL HUQ, Rangpur

Jatiya Party (Ershad) expressed its indignation over the increasing trend of terrorism, corruption and other crimes during the last few months.

Life and property of people have become totally insecure now, JP(E) further alleged.

JP(E) leaders alleged this at a press conference at Rangpur district party office recently.

JP (E) leaders also declared the the party will crack down on terrorists in case of government failure to curb terrorism within 100 days of takeover of office of administration by the BNP-led alliance government.

Mashiur Rahman Ranga MP, secretary of Rangpur district JP (E) said that JP (E) is capable enough to root out terrorism from the soil of the country.

Gulam Mohammad Kader MP, presidium member of the party and younger brother of former president

HM Ershad, speaking at the press conference said JP (E) has the people's confidence and support to launch anti-terrorism drive. We shall do so if the government fails to restore normalcy across the country during its stipulated deadline.

Replying to questions of journalists, Kader disclosed about JP(E) chief HM Ershad's serious illness who, he said, 'is now undergoing treatment abroad'. He also informed the newsmen that the former president hurriedly left the country abroad despite serious ailment. He revealed that Ershad apprehended arrest by the BNP government. Ershad also feared that following his arrest he might have died in jail without treatment, Kader disclosed.

Kader castigated both the Awami League and BNP government saying that the parties are two sides of the same coin.



PHOTO: STAR

Sadek Hossain Khoka, Minister for Fisheries and Livestock speaking as the chief guest at the opening programme of the new academic session of the sixth batch of Chittagong Government Veterinary College at Pahartali in Chittagong on December 27 last year.

Forest official drowns

UNB, Khulna

An official of the Sundarbans Forest Department reportedly drowned in a river in Khulna on Monday.

Police said Biplob Chakrawarty, 35, forester of Badamtala patrol outpost in Swaranhota range, was missing since he went out to take his bath in the river adjacent to his house at noon.

His body was later recovered from the river.

The body of Biplob, hailing from Tikatuli in Dhaka, was sent to General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Associate professor of English Department of Lalan Shah Government College at Harinakundu in Jhenidah Hasan Bashir alias Mukto, 48, died of massive heart attack at his Alipur residence in Faridpur town at 6:30 pm on December 25.

He left behind his widow, one son, one daughter and a host of relatives, friends and well-wishers to mourn his death.

He was buried at Alipur grave yard following namaj-e-janaja at Chawk Bazar Jame Mosque.

He also served at Government Rajendra College, Government Sarada Sundari Mahila College and Nagarkanda College in Faridpur.

Continuous extraction of hard rocks threatens ecological balance in CHT

BSS, Rangamati

Continuous extraction of hard rock resources through blasting drilling and unscientific age-old methods in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) has been destroying the forest hills in the region threatening ecological balance, experts said.

Considerable quantity of rock, locally known as 'boulder' has been extracted every day in the south-eastern belt of the country comprising Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachhari hill districts although collection of rocks through blasting is strictly prohibited in the hills for maintaining ecological balance.

The violators are not only destroying forest hills and ecology, but also depriving the government of a huge amount of royalty with the connivance of the corrupt forest officials, said councilor of Chittagong Regional Council Rupayan Dewan.

Bribing the forest officials, the boulder traders smuggle out 50-60 thousand cubic feet of boulders from the hill districts to outside against a permit of 12 thousand cubic feet issued from the deputy commissioner (DC) of the respective districts, the added.

Rocks are required for river bank

protection as well as for construction of bridges and their approaches, said Tariq Mainul Islam, Executive Engineer of Rangamati division of the Public Works Department (PWD). Rocks are also required in clinker factories for making cement, roads and other construction works, he said.

A number of scientific study revealed that sandstone's different places in CHT, including Waggor, Narayangiri, Doluchhari, Rampahar and Sitapahar of Rangamati, Rowangchhari and Ruma in Bandarban and Panchharu and Ramgarh in Khagrachhari hill districts are very promising armour-stone with potential quarry locations that attract the unscrupulous extractors.

The unscrupulous extractors have been operating about 100 quarries in the belt, said a forest official. Winter is the peak season for illegal extraction of rocks, he added.

Besides some other consumers, the boulders are mainly supplied to the contractors of Chittagong Port Authority for coastal protection works at the rate of about 7,000 tones per annum, local people said.