

NEWS SNAPS

Acid thrower gets death penalty

UNB, Dinajpur
A court in Dinajpur has awarded death penalty to a man for throwing acid on a teen-aged girl in Hakimpur upazila, which left the girl blind.
District Additional and Sessions Judge Abdus Salek gave the death penalty to Sakhawat Hossain on Thursday. According to the case, Sakhawat Hossain threw acid on Ferdousi Begum, 14, daughter of Siddique Ali of Bararia village as a sequel to previous enmity on February 10, 2000 in which she suffered severe burn injuries in her head, face and different parts of the body. During the incident, her sister-in-law and aunt also suffered burn injuries in their bodies. Ferdousi was first treated at Joypurhat Sadar Hospital from where she was shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Concern over worsening law and order

UNB, Thakurgaon
The law and order committee in a recent review meeting expressed concern at the increase of anti-social activities in Thakurgaon.
The committee in its regular meeting held at the conference room of Deputy Commissioner with DC Islam in the chair on Jan 7 also directed the concerned authority to take necessary action against the anti-social activities, which were going in the name of Ananda Mela. The meeting observed that housie, gambling and obscene dances were being held in the fair causing concern among the conscious section of the people. The meeting also expressed concern over the rising number of drug addicts and drug trafficking and directed the department concerned to take effective measures in this regard.

No fund for Teesta Bridge road project

UNB, Rangpur
Construction of Teesta Bridge link road in Kaunia upazila of Rangpur has become uncertain due to withdrawal of fund from the project.
Sources said Tk 4.50 crore has been withdrawn from Tk 5 crore sanctioned primarily in 2001-2002 fiscal year for consultants' fee, tender, survey and various tests required for the construction. The decision to build one thousand meter long and 10 meter wide Teesta Bridge was taken at a meeting of National Economic Council (NEC) on September 19, 2000 at a cost of Tk 103.35 crore to establish direct link between Lalmonirhat and Kurigram and other parts of the country.

Five-day poultry training course begins

UNB, Savar
A five-day "Poultry Farming Training Course for Small Entrepreneurs" has begun at Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute at Savar.
Local MP Dr Dewan Mohammad Salahuddin inaugurated the course on Sunday. BLRI and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) jointly organised the course. A total of 60 poultry farm owners including 15 women from four sub-site of Poultry Technology Development Project have been taking part in the course.

Smuggle goods worth Tk 50 lakh seized

UNB, Joypurhat
BDR in separate drives seized smuggled Indian goods worth Tk 50 lakh from Joypurhat-Hilli border areas on Friday-Saturday.
BDR sources said they seized a truck loaded with 4,400 kg Indian cumin and 10,750 kg lentil from near Hilli Dangapara checkpoint area while being carried to Dhaka on Saturday. The value of the seized goods including the truck was estimated at about Tk 34.37 lakh. The truck driver fled the scene. On the same day members of Anti-smuggling Task Force recovered huge spare parts of Indian bicycle after searching a shop at Panchbibi bazaar. Besides, Indian goods worth about Tk 17.43 lakh were seized in separate drives from the border area on Friday. The recovered goods include sugar, salt, cosmetics, phensidyl and saree.

425 bottles of phensidyl recovered

UNB, Gazipur
Police in a drive recovered some 425 bottles of Indian phensidyl from a slum near Natun Bazar of Tongi in Gazipur on Sunday.
On information, DB police from Dhaka raided the area at noon and recovered the banned syrup. They also arrested a woman, Marjina, 25, in this connection. A case was filed.

Cash, valuables of cloth store looted

UNB, Barguna
Bandits stormed into a cloth store at Nachnapara Bazaar in Patharghata upazila of Barguna Saturday midnight and looted cash and valuables worth over Tk one lakh.
Police and witnesses said the armed robbers numbering about 20 tied up bazaar night guard Siddik and took away valuables including Tk 20,000 in cash from the shop of Chittaranjan. The armed robbers later decamped with booty in a trawler. A case was filed with police.

BNP activists stage demonstration

UNB, Gaibandha
Hundreds of BNP activists staged a demonstration against BNP Standing Committee member RA Gani in presence of a state minister in Gaibandha recently and demanded his expulsion.
Witnesses said the agitated BNP workers demanded expulsion of the party leader when State Minister for Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment Major (ret'd) Kamrul Islam, who is also in charge of the district, came for the first time after the Oct 1 elections. They also demanded dissolution of the BNP district committee terming it as a pocket committee of Dr RA Gani. It was formed just after the landslide victory of BNP in the election.

Cultivation of 'rabi' crops hampered

UNB, Narsingdi
Cultivation of 'rabi' crops in six upazilas of Narsingdi is being hampered due to non-availability and high price of chemical fertilisers.
Farmers said TSP and SSP fertilisers are essential for the growth of various rabi crops, but the TSP (Potanga) is not available in the local hats and bazaars due to short supply. Farmers alleged that taking advantage of the situation, a section of dishonest traders with help of the members of law enforcing agencies, are smuggling huge quantities of sub-standard TSP and pesticides from India into the country. Besides, different brands of fertiliser are being sold in the open markets at an exorbitant price putting the farmers in great trouble.

Three contesting in Jhenidah Municipality by-election on Thursday

DELWAR KABIR, Jhenidah

Three candidates are contesting in the Jhenidah Municipality by-election scheduled to be held on Thursday (January 17).
The post of chairman of the municipality fell vacant following the death of ex-chairman Mosharrif Hossain Mosha recently.
AKM Mashiur Rahman, joint secretary of Jhenidah district BNP and also Jhenidah district committee president of Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal has submitted the nomination paper as the four-party candidate. Earlier, he resigned from his job in the Power Development Board (PDB).
Fisheries and Livestock Minister Sadek Hossain Khoka declared the name of Mashiur Rahman as the four-party candidate at a meeting at Jhenidah Municipality community centre recently.
However, the announcement came as a surprise among a good number of activists of BNP.
Mashiur is contesting with the symbol of bicycle. BNP's pouira committee senior vice-chairman Harun-or-Rashid also submitted his nomination paper. He is also the executive director of a non-governmental

organisation (NGO). Harun is involved with BNP politics for a long time. He is contesting with the symbol of umbrella.
However, BNP sources said the party leadership has expelled Harun for violating the party rules.
Awami League (AL) candidate Mahmudul Islam has been contesting with the symbol of candle. He is the president of Jhenidah district Jubo League.
All the three candidates are striving hard to woo the voters.
According to some voters of Arappur, Bhutiargati, Pobahati and Hamdah in the municipality area, AL candidate, Mahmudul Islam Foton might be benefited from the rivalry between Mashiur and Harun.
Moreover, AL has a vote bank in the municipality area.
According to the Election Office (EC) sources, the total number of voters in Jhenidah Municipality is 53,414 including 25,308 female voters.
EC office sources said, 35 polling centres will be set up to hold free and fair election on Thursday. Sufficient number of law enforcing personnel will be deployed to ensure law and order on the election day, they added.



Staff members of Rupantar, a non-government development organisation, rendering songs at a function at Satkhira Press Club recently. It was organised as part of a fortnight programme to create public awareness to resist woman and child trafficking along the bordering 18 unions of Satkhira.

Most people in Gaibandha Know nothing about sanitation

K M REZAUL HAQUE, Gaibandha

Over 62 per cent people of Gaibandha are yet to be brought under sanitation system. Most of the people in this district know nothing about sanitation.
According to a statistical report of UNICEF, only 21 per cent people of Gaibandha enjoy the facilities. There are 3,85,791 families in Gaibandha. Out of them 1,52,632 families have been brought under sanitation system.
According to Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE), Gaibandha, till June last year 23,590 families of Gaibandha Sadar, 15,985 families of Sadullapur, 14,319 families of Palashbari, 32,732 families of Gobindaganj, 26,163 families of Shaghata, 9,296 families of Fulchari and 23,375 families of Sunderganj upazila have been brought under sanitation programme.
However, UNICEF in its survey, expressed discord about the statistics shown by the DPHE. According to UNICEF, at least 81 per cent families of Gaibandha are completely ignorant about sanitation system. Even the progress of the sanitation programme undertaken by local Non-governmental

Organisations (NGOs) is not so satisfactory. The survey further depicted that Gaibandha is the most backward district in implementing the sanitation system in the northern region.
DPHE undertook an intensive programme to promote the sanitation programme in 1995-96 fiscal year. Under this programme 10 specific villages in seven upazilas were selected to implement the sanitation system. The villages are Telukraetpur and Sultan Sadekpur in Sadar upazila, Bara Jalaipur in Sadullapur upazila, Barupara in Paleshari upazila. Bakchar in Gobindaganj upazila, Kalapani in

Shaghata upazila, Katlamari and Kamarpara in Fulchari upazila, Ghagao and Chandragram in Sunderganj upazila.
A target was fixed to implement 100 per cent sanitation programme in these areas through motivational activities. On completion of the programme DPHE declared its 79 per cent achievement.
According to information of the intensive programme which PHED implemented in 10 specific villages where the department registered a total of 3,119 families. Of them 2,468 families adopted sanitation system. So the department failed to achieve its target.



Workers of Bangladesh Chhatra Union paraded the streets of Chittagong in a procession recently demanding immediate reopening of Chittagong University.

BNP-AL clash leaves 20 hurt in Pabna

UNB, Pabna

A fierce clash between the supporters of Awami League (AL) and ruling BNP left some 20 people injured at Hatkhali Sholakura village in Sujanagar upazila of Pabna Saturday.
The rioting people ransacked several houses and looted valuables during the clash.
Police and witnesses said the clash erupted between the workers of Awami League and BNP that lasted for several hours as a sequel to previous enmity.
Of them, AL activists Siddiq Sheikh, 41, Khalilur Rahman, 55, Shahnewaz, 31, Nurul Islam, 30, and Milon, 23, were admitted to Pabna General Hospital in critical condition.
Another report says that police arrested a youth from Avirampur village in Algharia upazila on the same day allegedly for raping a schoolgirl.
Police said Manjurul Islam Manju alias Jiban, 24, of the village raped her when she came out of her house to respond to the call of nature on Friday midnight.
Police arrested the youth after a case was filed against him under Woman and Children Repression Act.