

## NEWS SNAPS

## Two unnatural deaths in two days

UNB, Bogra

Two unnatural deaths were reported in Bogra on Friday and Saturday. Police said the body of an unidentified young man, aged about 25, was recovered from the drain at Musefupur village in Sadar upazila on Saturday. Rezaul Karim, treasurer of Government Mujibur Rahman Women's College was shot dead by the terrorists at Nishindara Mondolpara of Bogra town on Friday.

The hooligans also snatched away motorcycle of Rezaul Karim who hailed from Polash village in Sadar upazila. Reason behind the killing could not be known immediately. Separate cases were filed with the police.

## Body of young man recovered

UNB, Mymensingh

Police recovered the body of a young man with gauged out eyes from nearby Joinal Abedin park in Mymensingh town on Sunday.

Police said Sheikh Farid, 24, son of Abdul Hakim of Nandibari of Nioumahal of the town who owned a workshop was killed on Saturday night. Family sources said Farid went out of the house on Saturday afternoon and did not return adding that he was scheduled to leave for Singapore on Monday to join his new job. A case was filed with Kotwali police.

## Beheaded body of girl found

UNB, Jhalakati

Police recovered the beheaded body of a 12-year-old girl at Gazipur village in Bhandaria upazila of Jhalakati on Wednesday.

Father of the victim Tania said the body of her daughter was recovered half kilometer off their house in the evening. He said Tania went to nearby field for cutting grass for their cow in the afternoon. Police suspect that she was murdered after rape. A case was filed. But none was arrested so far.

## Tk 16 cr uplift works implemented

UNB, Patuakhali

Different development projects are being implemented in the municipality during the current fiscal year involving Tk 16 crore.

The projects include carpeting on 30-km road, construction of 9-km drain, two public latrines, 150 low cost family latrines and development of three local markets and bus terminals. Construction works of some other development projects are also being implemented at a cost of Tk 1 crore. Besides, six deep tubewells have already been installed in the municipality area costing Tk 13 crore and 200 low cost family latrines, four public latrines and sewerage line were constructed and 80 hand-driven tubewells installed at Tk 2 crore.

## Valuables worth Tk one million looted

UNB, Faridpur

A gang of armed bandits stormed into a market in Sadar upazila of Faridpur recently and looted valuables worth Tk one million.

Police and witnesses said the muggers came in a pickup van and raided the Bakhunda Bazaar besides the Faridpur-Barisal highway at dead of night on January 19. They tied up the night guard Majbar Rahman and looted 12 shops one after another. Later they decamped with the booty including Tk 2 lakh in cash. A case was filed but none was arrested so far.

## Eight villagers injured by terrorists

UNB, Laxmipur

Drug addicted terrorists swooped on villagers of Char Daktar village in Ramgati upazila of Laxmipur on Friday leaving eight people injured.

Locals said the terrorists attacked the villagers when they resisted them from taking hemp at Jarir Donar bridge. Two of the injured identified as Sheikh Farid and rickshawpullar Abdulaz Jaher were sent to the local hospital. The terrorists also looted and ransacked valuables worth Tk 50,000 from the shop of Sheikh Farid.

## Maternal mortality rate still high in Bangladesh

## RHI review meeting in Cox's Bazar reveals

UNB, Cox's Bazar

Safe delivery, quality services in contraceptive supply, gender equality and male participation in delivery system can make the country's Reproductive Health Initiative (RHI) programme sustainable.

The programme is going to step into its second phase next year with a lot of changes in population and health sectors but it is yet to reach desired level, according to the annual review of the programme.

Country's maternal mortality rate is still high and rates of contraceptive use remains low specially among males, and adolescent healthcare is still being ignored, observed a two-day Annual RHI Review Meeting held in Cox's Bazar on Jan 21-22.

RHI Umbrella Project of UNFPA organised the meeting which assessed the first phase progress and achievements putting forward some sets of recommendations and plans for the second phase identifying priority areas.

EC Second Secretary Josephine Kalinauckas, UNFPA Representative Suneeta Mukherjee and its Deputy Director Janet E Jackson, Red Crescent Society (BRCS) Chairman Maj General (Retd) ZA Khan and Mozaharul Islam Khan addressed the programme, among others.

EC and UNFPA as a part of their initiative for reproductive health in Asia are supporting the RH programme to make country's health and population programmes a success.

Delegations of Save the Children UK, Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB), Marie Stopes Clinic, BRCS and their partner organisations took part in the meeting projecting their already achieved progress.

Addressing the function UNFPA Representative Suneeta Mukherjee stressed on ensuring male partici-

pation in the programme through creating awareness among them as they are in-house decision-maker of a family.

"Without their participation, desirable success and sustainability is impossible," she remarked and urged NGOs to come forward as they have closer to community and have a positive and critical role in this regard.

The RHI programme concept came from the ICPD programme in Cairo in 1994. Earlier, Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB) initiated family planning programme in Bangladesh 1953 and the government adopted it in 1965.

Just after the independence UNFPA started providing assistance to Bangladesh's family planning programme with technical and financial expertise and EC is contribution to procurement of contraceptives.

To achieve long term benefits from the whole issues, Janet E Jackson emphasised on responsibility and accountability of NGOs working in the field of RH and sexual health as they have achieved tremendous successes in last few years.

She also focused on the policy of development partners, working partners and implementing NGOs.

Taking part in discussions partner organisations said that delaying of fund approval from headquarters hampers their project activities. Despite progress in this field, clinical registration yet to be approved by the Directorate of Family Planning, they alleged.

European Commission (EC) Second Secretary to Bangladesh Josephine Kalinauckas speaking in the function pointed out EC's view in RH and Population sector and reiterated its continued support for achieving the target.

## Natore markets flooded with date-molasses

## Prices within reach of common consumers

All the markets in Natore are now flooded with date-molasses.

Delicious date-molasses, commonly called as 'khejurer gur', is now being sold at Tk 24 per kg. It was sold between Tk 28 and Tk 30 last month.

Meanwhile, the wholesale prices vary between Tk 16 and Tk 22 per kg.

Omar Faruk, a date-molasses trader in Natore town's Chalkbaydanath area told this correspondent that prices of molasses are controlled following the supply and demand.

Currently, the supply of date-molasses in local markets is high, but the demand is medium. This difference has lowered the price, Faruk said.

About 500 tons of date-molasses with attractive colour and shape are being produced and marketed in various areas of Natore every week, according to a rough estimate prepared by local traders.

There are large date-molasses markets at Bonpara, Walia, Lalpur, Moulkhara, Bilmaria, and Chalkbaydanath areas.

Several hundreds of tons of



PHOTO: STAR

Abundant supply of date-molasses in all the markets of Natore in this winter. Its retail price is Tk 24 per kilogram (kg) while wholesale price varies from Tk 16 to 22 per kg.

quality date-molasses are being transported to various parts of the country from Natore every week.

In a country like ours, winter brings a festive mood among the people particularly in rural areas.

Different kinds of 'shiter pitha' (winter cakes) mark the festivity. The date-molasses, a necessary ingredient of 'shiter pitha' adds a special flavour and taste to the festivity.



## New President, Secy of Rajshahi City Press Club

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Dr Abdul Wadood (Nazib), Rajshahi District Correspondent of The Daily Star and Mohammad Zulfiker, the district stringer of the United News of Bangladesh (UNB) have been elected (Uncontested) the president and the general secretary of Rajshahi City Press Club.

Elections to the 13 posts of the executive committee of the club for the term of 2002-2003 were held on Friday at the club premises.

Other elected office-bearers are: Vice President -- Sardar Abdul Rahman (Dainik Sangram) and Abdus Sabur (Dainik Dinkal), joint secretary -- Golam Murtuja (Dainik Muktakantha), office secretary -- Ahsan Habib Apu (Dainik Bhorer Dak), sports and cultural secretary -- Abdul Mabin Babu (Independent), literature and publications secretary -- SM Shaju (Dainik Manabjamin) and members -- Nuruzzaman Mohan (Dainik Banglar Gourab), Manzuara Khatun (Financial Express, Samiul Hasan Suman (Dainik Prothom Provat) and Rokanuzzaman (Dainik Lal Golap).

Aynal Haque (Bangladesh Observer) and Abdullah Al Mahmud Bablu (Dainik Upacher) got equal member of votes in the post of treasurer. Re-election will be held in that post.

President of Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA), Rajshahi Unit Advocate Mohsin Khan conducted the election as the chief election commissioner while, Alhaj Haroon-ur-Rashid, executive member of Rajshahi Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Dewan Mohammad Shamsuzzaman, assistant manager of Bangladesh Bank, Rajshahi branch worked as election commissioners.

Out of 27, a total of 24 voters cast their votes in the election.

## Lady passenger robbed at Sirajganj bus terminal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

A lady passenger lost all her belongings kept with the luggage she was carrying from Sweden.

On return home recently at Sirajganj by bus from Zia International Airport in Dhaka the lady passenger named Khan Saifa Sultana did not find her luggage at the Sirajganj Central Bus Terminal. The luggage included one journey bag and one suitcase where she was carrying US dollar 750 and other valuables worth Tk 1.8 lakh.

A general diary (GD) was filed with Sirajganj Sadar police station in this connection. Saifa returned home after seven years from Sweden.

## Problems grip Kanaipur school in Faridpur

## Admission of excess students hampers proper education

ABDUL MATIN FAKIR, Faridpur

Kanaipur Collegiate High School at Kanaipur in Sadar upazila of Faridpur is beset with manifold problems.

Problems include shortage of teachers, accommodation crisis, lack of adequate furniture, non-availability of educational environment by establishing cattle market on the school ground and other hindrances.

The school was set up in 1937. Since its inception the school has been earning fame and reputation in academic and extra-curricular activities. Over 1200 students have been accommodated in different classes beginning from six to ten where as its seat capacity is only 700. So, the congenial atmosphere of the school is being hampered by the admission of 500 excess students.

There are only 17 teachers working in the school as against 27 posts of teachers, hampering class teaching greatly.

The school has no boundary wall and as such its land is being encroached by neighbouring business establishments.

Moreover, "Hat" sits on the school play ground two days in a week causing much inconvenience to the school. There is no common room for the teaching staff in the school which has no hostel for the students creating much inconveniences.

When contacted, the headmaster of the school said that no development work is possible for the school as it does not get any government grant.

The concerned authority should look into the matter and take necessary measures for the interest of the students of the school.

## Spurious drugs on sale in Jessore

UNB, Jessore

Unabated sale of spurious drugs is going on in different areas of Jessore giving rise to anti-social activities.

Locals said hemp, country made liquor, Indian phenisidyl syrup and other intoxicants are being sold openly in a number of stationery and grocery shops in Jessore town and other upazila headquarters.

## Massive boro farming scheme in Mymensingh

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

A total of 185700 hectares of land will be brought under boro cultivation in all 12 upazilas of Mymensingh this year, according to Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE).

DAE sources said, 14900 hectares will be brought under boro cultivation scheme in Sadar upazila, 11900 hectares in Muktagachha, 13200 hectares in Phulbaria, 12200 hectares in Trishal, 14300 hectares in Bhaluka, 1400 hectares in Gafargaon, 15,500 hectares in Nandail, 12900 hectares in Iswarganj, 17500 hectares in Gouripur, 3700 hectares in Phulpur, 13900 hectares in Haluaghat and 9300 hectares in Dhubaura upazila.

However, DAE has also taken massive programme for winter

crops, and vegetables cultivation.

DAE officials said 15500 hectares have been brought under wheat cultivation, 6000 hectares for mustard, 4500 hectares for potato, 6700 hectares for various vegetables, 500 hectares for ground-nut and 800 hectares for maize cultivation this season.

About 150 hectares of land have been brought under 'khesari' pulse cultivation, 1000 hectares for onion, 300 hectares for ginger, 850 hectares for turmeric, 600 hectares for 'musur' pulses, 2000 hectares for chilli and 1000 hectares for sweet potato cultivation.

DAE also informed that 18600 hectares of land were brought under boro cultivation in last season while 18200 hectares of land were cultivated under boro scheme in 1999-2000 season.



PHOTO: STAR

Rajshahi city mayor Mijanur Rahman Minu MP, distributes prizes among the winners of the annual sports competition arranged for the children of the officers and employees of Rajshahi Medical College Hospital. The competition was held recently at the hospital premises.