

## NEWS SNAPS

## Two youngsters commit suicide

**UNB, Brahmanbaria**  
Two younger lovers allegedly committed suicide after failing to marry each other at Shaheb Nagar village in Bancharampur upazila of Brahmanbaria on Sunday.

Police said Alaudin, 22, and Pakhi, 16, loved each other for long. As their parents refused their wedding, they decided to flee from their houses. After being failed to flee Alaudin took poison and hearing the news Pakhi also took poison. Both of them died at the upazila health complex. AUD case was filed.

## Body of housewife recovered

**UNB, Gazipur**  
They body of a housewife was recovered from Dariapur village of Kaliakoir upazila of Gazipur Saturday.

The deceased was identified as Nazma Akther, 20, wife of Bahaudin of the village police and locals said Bahaudin has been demanding Tk 50 thousand as dowry from her wife and he strangled Nazma to death at one stage of altercation over dowry on Friday. A case was filed.

## Body of youth found

**UNB, Narayanganj**  
The body of a youth was found from a beel (water body) at Fatullah BISIC industrial area Sunday.

The deceased was identified as Siraj, 28. Family source said Siraj was missing since Saturday. Police suspected that the killers dumped the body in the beel after strangulating him to death. The reason behind the killing could not be known. A case was filed.

## Jute mill workers observe strike

**UNB, Sirajganj**  
Workers of Qaumi Jute Mills observed a daylong strike Monday protesting the government's decision to close mills and factories and denationalise those as per prescription of the donors.

The workers observed the strike as a part of the central programmes of Jute, Yarn and Garments Industry Sangram Parishad. They also brought out a procession in the town and organised a protest meeting in Bazaar Station area. The speakers at the meeting said the consequences of the government's decision against the interests of the workers will be dangerous, and it would not bring any good for the economy. The workers also demanded implementation of minimum wage for the workers.

## 38 will contest in Barisal Bar Assoc poll

**UNB, Barisal**  
Some 38 candidates filed nomination papers Monday, on the last day of submitting the same, for 24 posts of Barisal District Bar Association.

Some 554 lawyers will cast their votes in the election scheduled on February 14. Three nomination papers were submitted for president and three for general secretary posts.

## Wheat cultivation on 9,900 hectares

00 hectares of land has been brought under wheat cultivation in Magura during the current season.

Local agriculture department fixed a target to cultivate wheat on 7,000 hectares of land in Sadar, Sreepur, Shalikha and Muhammadpur upazilas in the current season. Later the target has been exceeded due to favourable weather. The production target has also been revised at 22,869 mts from the previous 14,000 mts.

## Special public prosecutor manhandled

**UNB, Barisal**  
Divisional Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) Adv Shakawat Hossain Jummon and his assistant were physically assaulted inside the Bar Association office in Barisal on Monday.

Witnesses said, Mainul Islam Poulak, a local leader of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, at one stage of altercation over granting bail of the accused in a case hurled abuses on the PP and assaulted him physically. Poulak also beat up PP's assistant Kabir in presence of the lawyers.

## Jamalpur journalists protest harassment

**UNB, Jamalpur**  
Local journalists in Jamalpur brought out a silent procession protesting harassment and repression on the newsmen.

Journalists Coordination Committee after a holding protest rally submitted memorandum, containing their demands, to the Deputy Commissioner for handing over it to the Prime Minister. The speakers, at the rally, denounced the objectionable remarks and criticism of local BNP leader Mahbubur Rahman Ansari about the journalists in a law and order meeting.

## Smuggled goods worth Tk 1.20 cr seized

**BSS, Bheramara**  
The anti smuggling Task Force led by BDR police and Customs officials seized huge quantity of Indian smuggled goods worth about Tk 1.20 crore from different border areas in Bheramara during the last one year.

The Task Force also arrested 60 persons and recovered the huge quantity of smuggled goods. The seized goods included sugar, saris, spaceports, motorcycles, bicycles, medicines phenesidyl, bundle of cloth, shallow machine parts, current nets, salt, cosmetics, pulses, spices, and steel crockery. The different border points under BDR sector, Kushtia were almost open during the period of last government. Smugglers were active during the period and made way with contraband goods towards different corners of the country.

## Traffic jam a regular feature in Rajshahi

## Modern traffic signal system fails to bring desired result

**ABDUL WADOOD, Rajshahi**

Modern traffic signal system could not bring the desired result in Rajshahi city.

Negligence and ignorance of the drivers and insincerity of the traffic police are the main reasons behind the problem.

As a result, traffic jams are becoming frequent in some areas in the city. Incidents of road-accidents are also increasing in number day by day.

According to sources in Rajshahi city corporation (RCC) Engineering Department, nine automatic traffic signal devices were set up in 1994 to ease the increasing traffic irregularities and jams at nine busy crossings of the city. The places are Talmairy Crossing, Shaheb Bazaar Bara Masjid Crossing, Shaheb Bazaar Collegiate School Crossing, Sadar Hospital Crossing C&B Crossing, Laxmipur Crossing, Barnali Crossing, Darikhorbana Crossing and Bindur Crossing.

In addition to the signal systems, traffic police also work at those spots to maintain traffic.

But, the signals are not followed by most of the people.

Most of the drivers do not know traffic rules. Besides, those who know the rules do not care to follow those. They often run their vehicles violating signals.

Most of the drivers are ignorant of traffic rules though they have somehow managed to get driving licences from the Road Transport Authority.

On the other hand, most of the owners of the private vehicles who drive their vehicles themselves have no licences.

The main problem is created by the rickshawpullers, police said, who neither know traffic rules nor bother to follow the rules.

There are also allegations that traffic police are often seen indifferent to implement traffic rules. They do not resist or punish the traffic rules breakers. They are, rather, seen to remain busy with the collection of tolls from the motor vehicles especially goods-carrying trucks.

There are three inspectors, 12 sergeants and sufficient number of constables in the Traffic Department of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police (RMP). The department has also sufficient number of constables in the Traffic Department of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police (RMP). The department has also sufficient vehicles said.

An official of the RMP traffic department said, on condition of anonymity, that traffic situation in the city is within the normal limit.

## Revenue earning at Sonamasjid Port likely to decrease

## Decision to ban import of 15 categories of items

**UNB, Chapainawabganj**

Revenue earning at the Sonamasjid Land Port may decrease due to some discriminatory decisions, which include banning import of 15 categories of items through the port.

Importers, C and F agents and port labourers have expressed deep concern over the decision and said it would discourage the importers to use the port.

National Board of Revenue has imposed ban on import of 15 categories of items through four Customs ports, including Sonamasjid, recently with a view to checking smuggling and corruption as well as increasing the foreign currency reserve.

In the first phase, NBR banned items like paper, tobacco, spin, fruit juice and spices in November, and in the second phase in December, banned another 10 categories of items.

The decision is, however, not implacable for Benapole port in Jessor and Tamabil port in Sylhet.

Meanwhile, the Customs authority has stopped the entry of Indian trucks without paying tax upon an instruction by State Minister for Finance Major General (Retd) Anwarul Kabir who visited the port recently.

Several hundred trucks carrying goods, including perishable items, remain stranded for days together following the decision.

They said earlier 400 Indian trucks entered into the port daily. The number has now gone down to only 40 to 60.

Meanwhile, C and F agents Association President Ashraf Alam and General Secretary Samiul Haq said importers, who earlier preferred to use Sonamasjid port

considering its geographical location and easy communication with the other parts of the country, including the capital, are now moving to other ports.

They said the port is first among other ports in earning revenue and despite non-existence of infrastructure facilities to collect duties, it has earned about Tk 400 crore in last one decade.



**PHOTO: STAR**  
Tahera Begum Jolly, Jhenidah district coordinator of the Socialist Party of Bangladesh speaks as the chief guest on the occasion of the 18th anniversary celebration programme of the Islamic University unit of Socialist Students' Front recently.

## Nature PBS earns good profit

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nature**

The Rural Electrification Board (REB), since its inception in 1977 through an ordinance, has so far brought about 17 lakh acres of land in rural Bangladesh under irrigation network drawing an annual production of additional foodgrains of 18 lakh metric tonnes.

The board built as much as 67 Polly Bidduy Samities (PBS) across the country to 35.61 lakh subscribers including irrigation-pump users with the blessings of power through 1.35 lakh kilometres of power-line.

These facts were revealed in a speech of the REB chairman Ziaul Islam Chowdhury, given to the annual reports of Nature PBS-1 and 2.

Chowdhury also hoped that power would reach almost every upazilas of the country within 2005.

Nature PBS-1 earned a revenue of Tk 14.53 crore during the 2000-01 financial year while the PBS-2 made a 13.34 crore revenue, the report said.

## Torture on women, children up in Kushtia

**A CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia**

At least 1,136 women and children have been persecuted last year in Kushtia.

"Mukti-o-Shishu Unnayan Sangshtana, a non-government organisation revealed this at a press conference in Kushtia recently.

Last year 13,233 cases of various types of oppression have been filed with six thanas. Of those, 65 were related with women and children repressions, eight murder, 61 abduction, 16 traffickings, seven dowry related and 68 other cases.

The data also mentioned, 245 women were oppressed in different incidents, 339 oppressed by their husbands and husband's families, 290 women committed suicide, 15 were burnt, 124 women and children were tortured in various ways and 10 women were murdered.

## New chairman of Manikganj Municipality

**UNB, Manikganj**

After nine years, election to Manikganj Municipality was held in Manikganj on Saturday electing Mosharraf Hossain Babul as chairman.

Babul bagged 11,788 votes while his nearest rival former municipality chairman Ramzan Ali got 11,139 votes.

The elected male commissioners are Nasiruddin Khan, Mezbail Haq, Ratan Majumder, Ahmed Ali, Sudeb Saha, Hamidur Rahman, Monsur Ahmed, A K M Noor Nabi and Shamsul Haq while the female commissioners are Jahanara Parvin, Rebeka Sultana and Karabi Ahmed.

A total of 34,677 voters cast their votes at 19 polling centres. Voter's turnout was 72.93 per cent.

District election commission sources said last election to the municipality was held on January 30, 1993.

The date of election had been deferred several times due to complexity on demarcation of boundary.



**PHOTO: STAR**  
A sequence from a dance drama performed recently by 'Nrityangan', a local school of dance and music, at Natore District Council Auditorium.

## Wheat farming on 13,985 hectares in Jhenidah

**DELWAR KABIR, Jhenidah**

Wheat farming target has been achieved in Jhenidah in the current season.

DAE sources said, the farmers of Jhenidah have been showing their eagerness to cultivate wheat. A total of 16,500 hectares of land was brought under wheat farming last year, they informed. Usually 2.31mt of wheat are produced on one hectare of land.

The growth of wheat is apparently satisfactory and the yield will be good if there is no severe pest attack, or natural calamities.

DAE sources also informed that the farmers of Jhenidah arrange irrigation water on most of their plots through shallow or deep tubewells instead of rainfalls.

But rainfall in late January or early February may help produce good quality of wheat. It will also save the production cost of the farmers, they added.