

## NEWS SNAPS

## Wife strangled by husband

UNB, Jessore

A young housewife was strangled allegedly by her husband at village Laujani in Jhikargachha upazila on Saturday.

The victim was identified as Nadira Jesmin Mousumi, 15, wife of Raju, an unemployed youth of the village. Police and family sources said Raju strangled his wife during a quarrel between them at night and then hung her body on a mango tree to prove that she had committed suicide. After the incident, Raju along with his family members went into hiding. Police recovered the body and sent it to Jessore general hospital for autopsy. A case has been filed.

## Body recovered in Gazipur

UNB, Gazipur

The body of a young unidentified woman was recovered from Chilai river near sadar upazila here recently.

The body bore several injury marks. It is suspected that the miscreants killed her after rape. The body was sent to hospital morgue on Feb 18 for autopsy. A case was filed with the police.

## Arrested man snatched from police

UNB, Narail

An arrested man, accused in a murder case, was snatched from police by his accomplices and family members on Shaheed Mizan Road in the Monday.

Plain-clothes police arrested Hiro, son of A Mukit Khan, from the area, but his family members along with others took him away. Another case was filed against him.

## Cadre of outlawed party arrested

UNB, Kushtia

Police arrested a cadre of an outlawed party with a shutter gun from Ambaria village in Mirpur upazila of Kushtia on Thursday.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided the house of Siraj, an alleged top terror of greater Kushtia region, and arrested his accomplice, Akbar Ali, hailed from Naodapara village in Chuadanga district. Siraj along with his accomplices surrendered to the former Home Minister at local stadium on July 23, 1999 and now he is in jail. Siraj was an accused of Marfat Ali murder case and he was sentenced to death by hanging by a court in 1995.

## Krishi Bank disburses Tk 6.45cr

UNB, Magura

Bangladesh Krishi Bank has disbursed Tk 6.45 crore loans among the farmers of the district during the last seven months of the current fiscal year.

Zonal Manager of the bank said the loan has been distributed for cultivation of crops, purchasing irrigation machine and bullocks, and setting up poultry farms and small businesses.

Meanwhile, the bank has realised outstanding loan of Tk 7.90 crore from the farmers during the same period. BKB has set a target to disburse Tk 15.17 crore loans through its 17 branches in the current fiscal year.

## Two babies hurt in bomb blast

UNB, Madaripur

Two children were injured, one critically, in a bomb blast at Purba Rasti village near Madaripur town Tuesday.

Wrist of right hand of Ratan Mondal, 8, son of Bholanath Mondal was lost in the explosion. He was collecting leaves in a garden. Another unidentified child who was accompanying Ratan also received splinter wounds during the incident at noon. They were rushed to a local clinic.

## Killer gets death penalty

UNB, Jessore

A court in Jessore has awarded death penalty to a man in absentia on charge of killing his wife.

According to prosecution, the accused, Korban Ali Sheikh, 28, of Bashatpur village in Sharsa upazila, following a family feud, kicked his pregnant wife Saira Begum, 22, to death on July 29, 1999. Later following a case police arrested him on the next day. But the court granted him bail on June 13, last year and since then he went into hiding. After examining the witnesses and records the Special Tribunal Judge AKM Zahir Ahmad awarded the capital punishment on Sunday.

## Businessman robbed of Tk 50,000

UNB, Naogaon

A gang of criminals snatched away Tk 50,000 after hurling acid at two businessmen in Hadrakuri area in Badalgachhi upazila of Naogaon recently.

Police said that the miscreants threw acid on Habib, 25, son of Ajijuddin of Nandahar and Abdur Rouf, 24, son of Abdus Sattar of neighbouring village Ramchandrapur while they were returning home at night on February 8 and took away the money. They were rushed to the hospital in critical condition. Police arrested Didar Ali, son of Satish Mondal of West Kola village in the same upazila in this connection. A case was filed.

## 25 injured in bus accident

UNB, Manikganj

At least 25 people sustained injuries in an accident at Manikganj bus stand on Dhaka-Aricha highway Tuesday.

Witnesses said the accident occurred when a Dhaka bound mini bus from Harirampur fell into a roadside ditch as its driver lost its control at about 1 pm. Seriously injured 14 passengers were admitted to sadar hospital and two of them, Akash, 21, and Shefali, 20, were shifted to Dhaka orthopedic hospital following deterioration of their condition.

## 'Sundari' timbers seized

UNB, Pirojpur

Police seized huge quantum of smuggled 'Sundari' timbers worth Tk one lakh, from a trawler in the Kaliganga river Tuesday noon.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided the Srirankathi launch ghat area in Nazirpur upazila at 1pm and seized the timber. They also arrested Khelafat Hossain from the trawler in connection with smuggling. Police also recovered timbers worth of Tk 3 lakh from the same spot on January 4.

## New DG of BINA

UNB, Mymensingh

Dr Ataur Rahman has joined as the new Director General (DG) of Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture (BINA).

Before joining the new post Dr Ataur Rahman was the Director Administration of BINA.

Dr Rahman, who joined BINA in 1969, is the inventor of high yielding paddy Iratom-24, high yielding mustard seeds 'Safal Sarisha', 'Agrani Sarisha', 'Bina Sarisha'-3 and 4.

## Rally in favour of polythene

UNB, Brahmanbaria

Nasimagar upazila administration brought a colourful rally in Brahmanbaria Wednesday to create mass awareness against polythene shopping bag use.

People from all walks of life, including students and teachers, government and non-government officials, journalists and NGO activists took part in the rally. Later, a meeting was held at the upazila premise where the speakers urged all to boycott polythene bags and help the government enforce the ban on polythene bag use and production across the country from the first week of the next month.

## Mosque of Ahmadiya community set on fire

UNB, Barguna

Miscreants torched a mosque of Ahmadiya community at Khakdan village in Amtali upazila of Barguna Saturday.

Locals said Ahmadiya Muslim Jamat set up the mosque in the area recently and rivalry started between two groups of people over setting up of the mosque. One group described Ahmadiya Community as non-Muslim and demanded suspension of their activities. Ahmadiya jamat alleged that their rival group set fire to their mosque. Local OC visited the spot.

## Foundation of polytechnic instt laid

UNB, Thakurgaon

The government will set up a polytechnic institute in Thakurgaon at a cost of over Tk 4.25 crore.

State Minister for Agriculture Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir laid the foundation stone of the institute in front of the local BSCIC industrial estate on Sunday. Chief Engineer of Facilities Department Zahidur Rahman was present in the function as special guest. Apart from academic and administrative buildings two workshops will be set up for the polytechnic institute on two acres of land, sources said.

## Lack of political will

## Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant project still unimplemented



(Top L-R) The main entrance of Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant project site and the abandoned residential quarters, now being used by the hoodlums, who carry on anti-social activities there. (Bottom L-R) At least 22 lakh bricks piled up for infrastructural development in the project site three decades ago have been damaged gradually while a mini weather forecast office inside the project site is seen in operation.

ANWAR ALI, Natore

Unusual delay in implementing the 'Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant' (RNPP) project has raised doubt about its future while power shortage still remains a big hurdle to industrialisation of northern Bangladesh.

Conceived in the early 60s to provide plentiful energy, the RNPP project -- an ambitious plan remains still a dream of a few enthusiastic scientists working in Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC).

While talking to The Daily Star a senior BAEC official involved with the project preferring anonymity speaks of the 'sensitivity' of the issue.

"The dream project, adopted during the Ayub regime of Pakistan in 1961, was lying unimplemented due to lack of political will," he said, but he did not elaborate.

It will take five to seven years to complete the project redesigned in 1996 with a plan for a 600 megawatt nuclear power plant at a cost of about US 900 million dollars, he added.

The nuclear power plant had been on agenda since 1971, but not moved much in the past 31 years.

Successive governments have shelved the project, but still spend

## Rickshawpuller killed in road accident

UNB, Narsingdi

A rickshawpuller was killed and two passengers were injured when a speeding bus hit the three-wheeler from behind at Jangal area in sadar upazila on Dhaka-Ghorasal road on Monday night.

Police said the Narsingdi-bound bus from Gazipur rammed into the rickshaw, killing its driver Kabir Hossain, 28, of Char Madhabdi of the upazila on the spot.

Two passengers of the rickshaw Khorshed Alam and Ful Mia suffered critical injuries. They were admitted to Sadar Hospital.

The bus driver, however, managed to flee the scene.

The body was sent to hospital morgue for autopsy. A case was filed.

## One gets life term for rape

UNB, Natore

A court here has convicted a man and sentenced him to life term imprisonment for violating the adolescent daughter of a beggar.

According to the prosecution, Johir Mondol violated the daughter of the beggar at their house at Purulia village in Gurudaspur upazila when she was alone in the house on March 29, 1999.

A case was filed in this connection and police after an investigation submitted chargesheet against him.

After examining the witnesses and records, Additional District Judge ASA Mahfuz pronounced the verdict on Wednesday.

## Pneumonia breaks out in epidemic form in Jhenidah

UNB, Jhenidah

Pneumonia has broken out in an epidemic form in Jhenidah claiming lives of three babies in 48 hours and attacking several hundreds others.

Hospital sources said 59 babies aged between three and five were admitted in sadar hospital in a day. The number of admitted patients in the same hospital in last month was 244.

Kaliganj upazila is the worst hit area due to lack of physicians and medicines.

Guardians of these patients, mostly poor, are in anxiety as the prices of the medicines are also high particularly in Kaliganj upazila.

There is only one child specialist in Jhenidah.

Besides, serious lack of oxygen, nebulizer medicines and injections in emergency ward made the situation worst in last month, the sources further said. There has been a

serious lack of beds in all hospitals.

Child Specialist Dr Alok Kumar Shah told that severe cold, negligence and lack of awareness about the disease are the main cause of outbreak of pneumonia, which is fatal for the children.

He, however, said that the situation is not grave. With change of weather, the number of pneumonia patients is decreasing, he added.

Another report from Pabna says: At least 50 children died of pneumonia, diarrhoea and other diseases in last one month.

Hospital sources said everyday hundreds of patients, rushed to the hospital where only 16 children beds are available.

Most of the patients had to stay on the floor and without medicine, including oxygen.

BSS reports from Rajbari: Health care in Rajbari is being seriously

hampered due to shortage of doctors.

Civil Surgeon of Rajbari Dr Golam Mohiuddin said there is only one medical officer in his office and there is no disease control and monitoring doctors.

Besides, seven posts of physicians in Sadar Hospital, 10 posts in Sadar Upazila, 15 posts in Pangsha Health Complex, seven posts of Baliakandi Upazila Health Complex and eight posts in Goalondo Upazila Health Complex have been lying vacant since long.

On the other hand, the operation theatre of four health complexes and hospitals has become useless due to lack of necessary doctors and equipment. Besides, the lone X-ray machine has been lying inoperative for the last few years. As a result people are being compelled to go to clinics and labs for operation and diagnosis causing financial loss to them.

Besides, poor people are being deprived of healthcare facilities, as they cannot afford the cost of treatment in the clinics. On the other hand, the rural people of Rajbari area are being cheated by the quacks everyday, local people said.

According to the local civil surgeon office there are 24 health sub-centres in 42 unions of Rajbari, but most of these have no medical officers. Some sub-centres have medical officers, but they hardly attend there. Due to non-availability of qualified doctors rural people go to quacks for treatment.

According to non-officials there are over 250 quacks in different parts of the district and most of them are exploiting the rural people.