

NEWS SNAPS



Post and Telecommunications Minister Barrister Aminul Huq distributing cattle among the families of martyred freedom fighters recently at a function at Godagari Upazila Parishad.

Poor man killed by criminals in Pabna

UNB, Pabna

A poor man was killed and 15 people were injured in an attack by criminals at Gazaria Beel (water body) at Bera upazila in Pabna Thursday.

Police said some 25-30 muslemen attacked the landless people as they prevented them from harvesting their Boro paddy from khas land at the beel in Afra Pundaria village, leaving Mokhfer Sarder, 36, dead. Two of the injured, Nazimuddin, 37, and Babu, 34, were admitted to Pabna General Hospital. Tension was mounting in the area following the incident.

One missing in Shitalakkha boat tragedy

UNB, Narayanganj

A boatman was missing after a mechanised boat capsized into the Shitalakkha river after a collision with a coaster Thursday.

Police said 11 boatmen of the salt-laden engine-boat jumped into the river when the boat sank near Tanbarazar after the collision. It was heading towards Rupganj Murapara.

All the boatmen but one swam ashore. The missing boatman was identified as Nazir, 25. Police seized the coaster and arrested three people in this connection. A case was filed.

Int'l film festival in Sylhet on May 4

UNB, Sylhet

A three-day international film festival will begin in Sylhet on May 4 as part of the 7th international film festival held in Dhaka in December last.

Bangladesh Short Film Forum will organise the festival at Sylhet Auditorium in collaboration with Betikram Chalachitra Mancha and Prokashana Gobeshana O Unnayan Shangshtha Bibartan. The slogan of the film festival will be "Free Film, Free Show". Twenty award winning films of various countries, including the USA, the UK, Canada, Japan, France, Spain, Iran, Argentina, Brazil, Italy, Belgium, India, Latvia, Germany, Jamaica, the Netherlands, Ethiopia, Russia, Thailand and host Bangladesh, will be screened in the festival.

14 hurt as phensidyl traders clash

UNB, Barisal

At least 14 people were injured, two with bullets, in separate clashes between two groups of phensidyl traders in Barisal town on Tuesday-Wednesday.

Police said the two groups of Kaunia and Padmabati areas in the town had been on loggerhead over selling phensidyl syrup. On Tuesday, a fierce clash erupted when some youths from Kaunia attacked their rivals in Padmabati area leaving 12 people injured. Two of the injured -- Liton and Zaker -- were admitted to a local clinic. Two more youths -- Jamal and Sattar -- were injured in another bomb attack in Padmabati area the following day.

Attack on Brahmanbaria newspaper office

UNB, Brahmanbaria

A gang of criminals attacked the daily Probashbani office in Brahmanbaria and stabbed one of its staff reporters Wednesday night.

They also assaulted editor of the local daily Mahibur Rahman. The injured reporter, Niaz Mohammad Khan Bitu, was admitted to a local hospital in a critical condition. The reason behind the attack could not be known. Local newsmen at a protest meeting demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment to the criminals. Chaired by president of the club Mansur Kamal, the meeting was addressed, among others, by M Nurul Hossain, Syed M Shahjahan, SM Sirajul Islam, Mohammad Arzu, Sadequr Rahman and Badal Guha.

Killer gets life term imprisonment

UNB, Moulvibazar

A court in Moulvibazar sentenced a man to life term in jail and four others to 14 years rigorous imprisonment (RI) each in a murder case.

The court also fined the lifer, Shefui Mia, Tk 20,000, in default, to suffer two years more RI while the four others -- Nehar Khan, Torab, Raju Mia alias Dilai and Zili Mia -- Tk 10,000 each, in default, to suffer one year more RI. Of them, Nehar, Raju and Zili were tried in absentia. According to the prosecution, the accused killed Rashid Ali of village Hossainpur in Kulaura upazila while committing armed robbery at his house on March 3, 1997. After examining the witnesses and records, the District and Sessions Judge pronounced the verdict recently.

Six top criminals arrested in Noakhali

UNB, Noakhali

Police in separate drives in two trouble-torn areas of Begumganj upazila in Noakhali arrested six top criminals Tuesday night.

Acting on secret information, police raided Daharpara and Gobindakhal areas at dead of night and arrested listed criminals Saifullah, 23, Yusuf, 19, Harun, 25, Chowdhury, 20, Kafiluddin, 25, and Zahruddin, 23. They were wanted in a number of criminal cases. Another report from Barisal adds; Muggers chopped two youths indiscriminately on Nabagram Road in Barisal town Thursday morning and took away their belongings. The injured -- Tawhidul Islam, 15, and Sabuj, 18 -- were admitted to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital. A case was filed.

Fate of IU AST faculty graduates uncertain

No scope for further study

RAHAT AHMED, *Kushtia*

Fate of the honours graduates of Applied Science and Technology (AST) faculty in Islamic University (IU) is uncertain.

This is because of the university authorities' inability to admit the honours graduates in M Sc classes who completed their examinations long ago.

The students of first batch of B Sc (Hons) classes in Electronics and Applied Physics (EAP) and Applied Chemistry and Chemical Technology (ACCT) departments of 1995-96 session completed their honours final examinations about four months ago. Their results were also published. But the authorities concerned could not arrange their admission into M Sc classes in the Applied Science and Technology faculty. This is because of non-approval of the ordinance of M Sc classes by the vice chancellor of the university. As a result the students are suffering much.

The AST faculty was started first with Computer Science and Technology (CST), Electronics and Applied Physics (EAP), Applied Chemistry and Chemical Technology (ACCT) departments from the 1995-96 academic year for B Sc (Hons) classes. Finally three departments such as Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Applied Nutrition and Food Science (ANFS) and Biotechnology (BT) opened for B Sc (Hons) classes from 1998-99 session.

However, the university authority did not approve the ordinance of M Sc classes for those six subjects yet due to unknown reasons. But completing B Sc degree the students of the faculty in 1995-96 session have fallen in uncertainty whether they will be into M Sc classes or not in this university despite provision for M Sc degree in the university prospectus. The process of M Sc admission is being delayed due to lack of approval of ordinance for M Sc course by the vice chancellor. About two years ago a committee headed by Prof M Alauddin, Dean of the AST faculty was formed to prepare ordinance for M Sc classes. Later the committee was asked to prepare

ordinances of MSS and MTIS for Humanity and Social Science and Theology and Islamic studies faculties. The committee submitted the ordinances for M Sc and MSS without that of MTIS due to non-cooperation of the Theology faculty. Now the files of ordinance for M Sc and MSS are yet to be approved by the VC. However, the VC asked the committee to submit ordinance of MTIS course along with the two ordinances of M Sc and MSS jointly.

The Theology faculty is delaying in preparing the MTIS ordinance as the students in honours course (4-year course) are yet to finish their BTIS course in 1997-98 session. The students of B Sc (4-Years Hons course) classes in 1995-96 session have completed their B Sc degree in three departments.

Because of non approval of ordinance for M Sc classes by the VC, neither the registrar office nor the AST faculty can start admission into M Sc classes.

Earlier, the Academic Council (AC) approved the M Sc ordinance informally, but did not put down it into the resolution book. The faculty is always ready to start the M Sc course, but the VC is yet to approve the ordinance, said Dean of AST faculty Prof M Alauddin.

On the issue of admission, a victim student seeking not to be named told this correspondent, "There is no other scope to get admission into M Sc classes anywhere with our relevant subjects. So, the authorities should pay attention regarding this, otherwise we shall start movement soon."

Many students of the AST faculty after completing B Sc (Hons) degrees and being disheartened in getting admission in M Sc class have already left the campus for job or for other purpose.

Official sources said the approval of the ordinances by the VC is expected soon just after getting the ordinance of MTIS.

30 lakh benefited by river protection project in 3 dists

UNB, *Sirajganj*

Shalabari, Shimla, Kazipur-1 and Kazipur-2, according to official sources.

The Brahmaputra-Jamuna is one of the largest and most important river systems in Bangladesh and every year vast tracts of lands under the three districts are affected by floodwaters from the river.

A 220-km long earthen embankment, known as Brahmaputra Right Embankment (BRE), from Kaunia in the upstream to Bera in the downstream to the right bank (west bank) of the river was constructed during 1963-68 to protect lands from recurring floods and erosion.

But the untamed Jamuna continues its fury devouring lands on its West Bank. A USAID study showed that some 405,000 people were displaced from both sides of the Brahmaputra from 1980-1992 and of them only 55,000 people could rebuild their homesteads on new lands or shoal lands.

2 killed in Joypurhat road accidents

UNB, *Joypurhat*

Nripendra Nath Mondol and his associate, Ujjal Kumar Mondol sustained injuries when their motorcycle collided with a bicycle at Hitcham area on Joypurhat-Bogra road in the morning. Ujjal was rushed to the hospital in a critical condition.

Separate cases were filed with the police.

Training course on spoken English ends at BAU

UNB, *Mymensingh*

A three-week training course on spoken English for some selected teachers and students of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) concluded Monday.

Earlier in the morning, a college student identified as Shamim, 17, of Shantinagar area in the town died on the spot when he was run over by a train near Joypurhat rail station.

In yet another accident, district Bar Association president and English Society of the University organised the course.

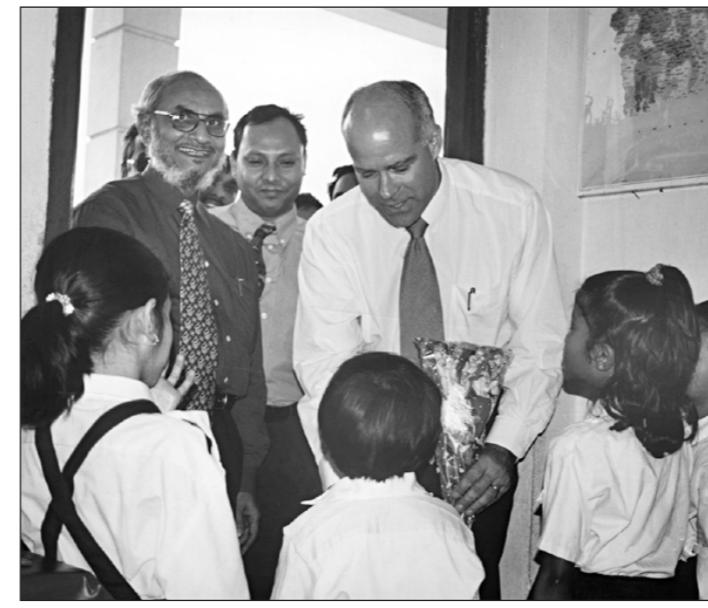
BRAC-Unocal Community Library opens

Scott A Barber, President and Managing Director of Unocal Bangladesh recently inaugurated one of the three BRAC community libraries built in Sylhet with the support of Unocal.

Executive Director of BRAC Abdul-Muyeed Chowdhury was present on the occasion. The ribbon cutting ceremony took place in BRAC-Unocal Library situated in Serajuddin High School at Kuchuia union. The other two such libraries are in Enayetganj, situated at the south west of Bibiyana and in Sherpur in Kulinagar.

The partnership with BRAC to build the libraries started in 2000. Unocal will support these libraries till 2004 after which the libraries are expected to be self-sufficient.

The school management committee members, teachers-students, local community leaders, BRAC officials and Unocal officials attended the programme.



Scott A Barber, President and Managing Director of Unocal Bangladesh receives a bouquet from a student of Serajuddin High School at Kuchuia union in Sylhet on the occasion of inauguration of a BRAC-Unocal Community Library, built with the financial support of Unocal recently. Abdul-Muyeed Chowdhury (first from left), Executive Director of BRAC also attended the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Rat found in dish of pulse at RU hall!

ANWAR ALI, *Rajshahi*

Students of the Suhrawardi residential hall of Rajshahi University (RU) detected a 'big boiled rat' into cooked pulse while taking meal in the dining hall on Monday night.

A student picked up a large rat with a spoon from the dish of pulse supplied by the dining hall authority.

They (students) went on rampage following the incident and damaged furniture of the room. The concerned employees managed to flee the scene.

Later, Prof Nazrul Islam, proctor of the hall rushed to the dining room and brought the situation under control.

The hall authority suspended three employees in this regard and formed a five-member committee headed by Prof Dr Dulal Chandra Roy to investigate into the matter.

The committee was asked to submit its report within seven days.

Treatment centre for disabled, mentally retarded people

UNB, *Sylhet*

Jalalabad Disabled Rehabilitation Centre and Hospital has started providing treatment to the disabled and mentally retarded people.

Located at Manikpur in Sylhet town, the centre is providing treatment to the disabled and mentally retarded people from 9 am to 5 pm everyday, except Fridays.

Equipped with modern medical equipment, the centre has got a medical officer, three physiotherapists, five technicians and other officials for providing healthcare services to the disabled.

The centre started offering its outdoor services in August 2000 while its 25-bed hospital was inaugurated in January 2001.

Hospital sources said the centre started its journey with the subscription money of the members of Rotary Club of Jalalabad in 1997. Later, Rotary Foundation and the expatriate people of Sylhet extended their support.

Apart from providing treatment, the authorities have taken steps to rehabilitate the disabled people. The centre has already launched a "Book Binding" project with the assistance from the Australian government and Green Disabled Foundation for the disabled.

Saidur Rahman, the medical officer of the centre, said the centre

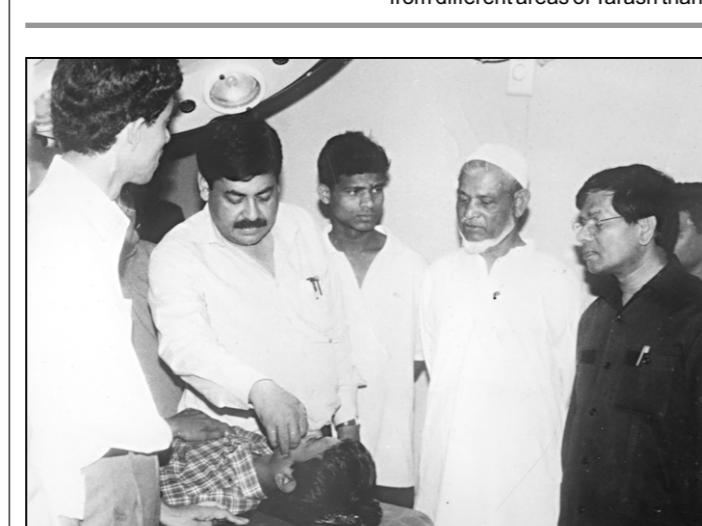
21 Sarbahara men arrested from Natore, Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Natore*

Police arrested at least 21 members of Purba Bangla Sarbahara Party from Natore and Sirajganj districts on Tuesday.

In Natore, police raided Dalia, Shukash and Bishash unions of Shingra upazila and arrested 13 members of the outlawed party.

Sirajganj police led by ASP (Circle) Abdullah Al Mahmud arrested eight members of the party from different areas of Tarash thana.



A patient being operated upon at a free health camp held recently for the treatment of patients with defective lip and palate at Desh Clinic and Nursing Home in Rangpur. Twenty patients were operated upon free of cost in the camp organised by Dr Mosaddeque Hossain Biswas while 119 others from across the district got enlisted for operation in another camp to be held in May.