

## NEWS SNAPS



A participant speaks at the Sufia Kamal Memorial Lecture deliverance programme arranged by Drishty, a development organisation, at its Thoms Bridge office in Comilla recently. The programme was arranged to celebrate the 91st birth anniversary of the poetess.

### Valuables worth Tk 24,000 looted

**UNB, Jhalakati**  
Having failed to realise toll, extortionists raided a house at Kapurkati village in Sadar upazila and looted valuables worth about Tk 24,000 Saturday.  
Family sources said the looters earlier filed a "false" case against the house owner, Motilal Halder, forcing him to go into hiding. Taking advantage of his absence, the extortionists attacked the house. A case was filed against 14 people in this connection.

### 24 Bangladeshis pushed back, sent to jail

**UNB, Naogaon**  
Twenty-four Bangladeshis, who were pushed back by Border Security Force (BSF) after their release from an Indian jail, have been sent to Naogaon district jail.  
Jail sources said a total of 40 Bangladeshis were pushed back into Bangladesh by the Indian border guards through Mollapara border in Damoirhat upazila on the night of June 14. BDR troops caught 24 of them and handed them over to police. Police later sent the people, including three women and five children, to the district jail.

### Training for VDP members

**UNB, Pabna**  
In an effort to involve them in various development activities of the government, over 5000 VDP members of Pabna have been imparted training.  
District Ansar and VDP office organised the training programme from May 4 to June 10. A total of 5,184 VDP members, including 2,592 women, from 81 villages of nine upazilas were imparted training for three days. The training programme focussed on mother and child care, family planning, poultry and dairy farming, mass education plantation and manufacturing improved oven.

### Khulna Medical College affiliated to KU

**UNB, Khulna**  
Khulna Medical College will be affiliated to Khulna University (KU). The decision was taken at a meeting at the medical college Tuesday.  
Among others, KU Vice Chancellor Abdul Kadir Bhuiyan and Principal of the Medical College were present at the meeting. After the meeting, they said registration of students of the medical college would be done under the university from 2002-2003 session. The academic session of the college began in 1992 and its authorities applied for affiliation to the university in 1998.

### Road named as "Fruit Road" in Gazipur

**UNB, Gazipur**  
Gazipur district administration has named a rural road as "Fruit Road" to encourage the people to plant fruit-bearing trees.  
Deputy Commissioner of Gazipur M Shahabullah inaugurated the 1-km road at Chandina Village in sadar upazila Monday. Apart from trees having timber value, over 200 fruit-bearing trees will be planted on both sides of the road. The inaugural programme, which was attended by the Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer and Agriculture Officer, was followed by a colourful rally.

### Acid thrown on girl in Bhola

**UNB, Bhola**  
A teenage girl suffered severe burn injuries in an acid attack at Hamidpur village in Charfashion upazila Monday.  
Villagers said Kabir Hossain, who had an affair with Tupuri Begum, 15, of the village threw acid on the girl as she agreed to marry another man of her father's choice turning down Kabir's marriage offer. But it could not be known where Tupuri was being treated.

### Orphan raped by teen in Manikganj

**UNB, Manikganj**  
A little orphan girl was raped by a teenage boy at village Seota in Sadar upazila Sunday.  
Quoting family sources, police said Al Amin, 15, son of Gedu Mia of the village, took the eight-year-old girl to an empty room of his house alluring her to show TV programmes and raped her there. Hearing her screams, neighbours rushed to the spot and took her to Sadar Hospital in a critical condition. Al Amin went into hiding. A case was filed.

### Armed robbery at Pabna

**UNB, Pabna**  
Armed bandits swooped on a house at Barbaghia village in Sujannagar upazila and looted cash and valuables worth over Tk one lakh Sunday night.  
Police said the robbers numbering 10-15 stormed into the house of Dr Abul Hossain at the dead of night and looted Tk 50,000, gold ornaments and other valuables locking the house inmates in a room. A case was filed.

### Foodgrains allocated for development

**UNB, Panchagarh**  
Some 2,302 mts of foodgrains have been allocated for implementing 914 uplift schemes in two municipalities and five upazilas of the district under Test Relief and Food for Work Programmes this year.  
The schemes include construction and rehabilitation of roads, and earth filling of the grounds of schools, colleges, madrasahs, mosques and temples. Of the projects, 47 are being implemented in Panchagarh Municipality, 159 in Sadar, 221 in Boda, 17 in Boda Municipality, 117 in Tetulia, 116 in Atwari and 237 in Debiganj upazilas.

### 50-bed dormitory for Noakhali college

**UNB, Noakhali**  
A 50-bed dormitory and an auditorium are being constructed for Noakhali Government University College at a cost of Tk 1.89 crore, officials said.  
Facilities Department is implementing the project, which is likely to be completed by December next.

### Schoolgirl found dead at house in Barisal

**UNB, Barisal**  
A schoolgirl was found dead at her house on Bazaar road in Barisal town Tuesday.  
The victim was identified as Dipa Pal, a student of class X. It was not clear how she died. None of her family members was present at house during the incident. A unnatural death (UD) case was filed.

### Woman 'kills' husband in Jhenidah

**UNB, Jhenidah**  
A woman allegedly killed her husband in connivance with her lover at Padamdi village in Shailakupa upazila in Jhenidah recently.  
The victim was identified as Abdul Majid, 30. Villagers said Rehana, 18, aided by his lover Mosharrarf of the nearby Khulumbaria, chopped Majid to death as he was asleep in his room and dumped the body in a nearby banana field. Police later recovered the body and sent it to hospital morgue for autopsy. They also arrested Mosharrarf.

# Fresh areas flooded in Gaibandha, 2 lakh marooned in Mymensingh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

New areas have been flooded in Gaibandha while two lakh people have been marooned in Mymensingh in the ongoing flood.  
**Our Gaibandha correspondent reports:** Four out of seven upazilas in Gaibandha have been affected by flood due to overflowing of the rivers Teesta, Ghagot, Alai and Karotoa and onrush of water from the upper catchment.  
According to Water Development Board (WDB), the rivers Ghagot and Karotoa already crossed the danger mark. Surging water has already hit the national highway at Howyakhana on the Bogra-Rangpur highway because of overflowing of the River Karotoa in Gobindagnaj upazila.  
Surging water already eroded a large portion of Khalshi embankment. Northern part of Katakhal bridge on the national highway at Gobindagnaj upazila is being threatened by heavy surging water.  
Besides, 30 villages in Kishoreganj and Hairirampur unions were flooded due to overflowing of the Karotoa river. Road communication at different parts of the villages has been disrupted.  
At Sunderganj upazila at least 300 feet Sundeganj flood control embankment near Mirganj has been washed away. As a result many people of the adjacent unions in Rangpur have been marooned.  
Because of onrush of waters, a sluice gate collapsed. Vast tracts of lands at Chaperhati, Shovagan, Laxmipur, Malibari, Cimeri and Chagao unions have been submerged due to onrush of water entering through the breach.



(Left) A flood damaged house at Goshgoan bazaar of Dhubaura upazila in Mymensingh, (middle) another flood affected kutcha house at village Pancha Nandapur in Mymensingh and (right) erosion affected Kamarjani area in Gaibandha due to flash flood.

Fresh areas in Palashbari upazila have been flooded due to overflowing of the River Akhira. Besides, a large scale erosion is being continued which hit Rakkhal Bruz, Bolagari, Kanupur and Taraf Kanupur areas. Five hundred people have been rendered homeless within three days.  
With increase in water in the Brahmaputra basin, erosion has taken an alarming turn at Kamarjani in Gaibandha Sadar upazila where about 600 people rendered homeless.  
All the buildings of various offices, banks and business establishments have been devoured by water of rivers. Kamajani High School may wash away within the next few days.  
**Our Mymensingh Correspondent reports:** The flood affected people of Dhubaura, a frontier upazila of Mymensingh district have been suffering a lot due to flash flood.  
Though flood water started receding, yet many victims could not return to their homesteads. The homesteads have been washed away or damaged. About two lakh people have been marooned. Many victims are passing their days under the open sky without relief while some other victims took shelter at the houses of relatives.  
The worse affected areas are -- Goshgoan, Bhaluka Para, Kamakha Mandir, Bhuiyan Para, Roypur, Kall Sindhur, Chakpara, Ballabpur and Dakkhin Maigpara. The flood has played havoc in these areas. Many kutcha houses have been washed away or damaged. Standing 'Aus' crop and seed beds have been damaged.



Following the heavy current of hilly waters, 12 km road has been damaged totally while 86 km road damaged partially, official sources said. Some 43 educational institutions have been affected by the flash flood.  
Scarcity of pure drinking water and food has been prevailing in the affected area. Different organisations visited the flood-hit area and extended their help for the victims. But this is very insufficient.  
However, the district administration has allocated 70 maunds of flattened rice, 144000 pieces candle light, 144000 pieces match, 220 tin biscuits, 18 maunds molasses, Tk 150000 in cash for house repairing, 500 Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) cards each for 12 unions of Dhubaura and Haluaghat upazilas.  
Local leaders of different political parties visited the flood-ravaged area. They urged the government to take necessary steps to save the flood-hit people on an urgent basis.  
Awami League Leaders Advocate Mosharrarf Hossain and Islam Uddin Khan, BNP leader Professor Azaharul Islam, Principal of Dhubaura Degree College MA Motaleeb Akanda demanded dredging and construction of cross-dams on both sides of the Netai River which is termed as the sorrow of Dhubaura, for permanent solution of the problem.  
The area is flooded every year following heavy rainfall and onrush of hilly waters from across the border as there is no cross-dam during the rainy season, they also informed.  
Meanwhile flood also affected five unions of Haluaghat upazila. The situation has improved there.



PHOTO: STAR

## Erosion threatens flood control embankment in Tangail

BSS, Tangail

Rise in water level in the River Jamuna and extensive erosion posed a threat to the existence of the Bhuapur-Tarakandi flood control embankment in Tangail.  
Breaches have developed in the embankment near Nalin Bazaar point in Gopalpur upazila, the most vulnerable spot of river erosions in Tangail. The erosion along the embankment aggravated during the current season as there was no repair work last year.  
The cost of construction of block embankment was first-estimated at Tk 1 (one) crore and 17 lakh in 2000 and tender was invited by the Water Development Board (WDB) author-

ity accordingly. But subsequently, the cost of construction was revised and raised to Tk 7 crore and 4 lakh in two phases.  
About 40 contractors of WDB had requested the Chief Engineer of WDB for cancellation of the tender as they apprehended that the block embankment construction would be of inferior quality as the work order was given to inexperienced contractors allegedly by the local WDB authority. But the construction of the embankment continued defying the apprehensions expressed by the local people and experts.  
Blocks of the embankment have already started eroding even before the monsoon. The erosion expanded up to Shakharia sluice

gate intensifying the undercurrent on the eastern bank of the Jamuna. The whirlpool may intensify further with the swelling of water threatening to devour the embankment along with over 100 years old Nalin Bazaar.  
Besides, a vast tract of land covering Jamalpur sadar, Sarishabari, eastern part of Gopalpur, Madhupur, Bhuapur, Ghatail and Kalihati in Tangail are likely to be affected by devastating flash floods.  
The local WDB placed a project profile of Tk 3 (three) crore for repairing the embankment during the lean period but the ministry is yet to sanction the fund due to financial constraints.

## Daulatkhan branch of Sonali Bank closes soon

UNB, Bhola

The government has directed the authorities concerned to shut down the Daulatkhan branch of Sonali Bank by December 31.  
Official sources said the government earlier had identified the branch as a losing one as it failed to recover its default loan amounting to Tk 6 crore.  
"Bangladesh Rural Development Board owes half of the amount to the branch," said an official wishing anonymity.  
He said the government has directed the authorities to shut down the branch by December if it fails to recover the loan by June 30.

## Two criminals arrested, 2 fugitives surrender

UNB, Jhalakati

Two convicted criminals were arrested while two other fugitives surrendered to different courts in Jhalakati on Monday and Tuesday.  
Police said Abdul Haq, 38, a blind man who was sentenced to life term imprisonment in a murder case, was arrested from Dakkhin Talgachia village Monday night.  
Another accused, Mujibur Rahman, 40, who was convicted to six months imprisonment in a forgery case, was arrested from Uttampur village Tuesday.  
Two more people -- one accused in an armed robbery case and another in a woman repression case - surrendered to two courts Tuesday.  
Of them, Motaleb, 45, a blind man who was on the run after being sentenced to 10 years imprisonment in an armed robbery case, surrendered to the Joint Assistant Sessions Judge court.  
Court sources said Akhter Hossain Dakua, 32, an accused in an under trial dowry case, surrendered to the Additional Sessions Judge court.

## Bumper output of Aus likely in Jalakati

UNB, Jalakati

Though the farmers could not achieve their production targets in the last Aus season, they are now in an upbeat mood seeing the prospect of a bumper production in Jalakati this season.  
Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) has set a target to bring 23,786 hectares of land in Jalakati under Aus paddy cultivation with an output target of 33,998 mts. Officials said high yielding variety of paddy would be cultivated on 8,002 hectares of land while local variety on the rest of the land.  
The farmers are expecting a bumper production this time as they have already brought 9,485 hectares land under cultivation of high yielding variety, which is 1,483 hectares more than the target set by DAE.  
Officials have advised the farmers to cultivate BR-26 and BRI-27 varieties of Aus paddy on their croplands and use fertilisers properly.

## Two alleged armed robbers, 3 rapists arrested

UNB, Jhenidah

Two alleged armed robbers and three rapists were arrested in separate drives in Jhenidah Saturday night.  
Acting on a tip-off, police arrested three alleged rapists -- Tulu, 21, Shambhu, 22, and Rabiul, 30 -- from Paglakani and Thanapara areas in Jhenidah town. They were wanted for raping two teenage girls of Adarshapara. In another drive at Lebatala village in sadar upazila, police arrested Gani and Bahar. They were wanted in a number of robbery cases.

## Manifold problems grip RU Ziaur Rahman Hall

RU CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Shahid Ziaur Rahman Hall of Rajshahi University (RU) is beset with manifold problems. The hall was constructed in 1993. A

total of 264 residential students are living in 66 rooms, out of 72 rooms. This hall consists of one block. But according to the master plan of the hall it should consist three blocks containing 72 rooms in each block.



PHOTO: STAR

A view of Shaheed Zia-ur-Rahman Hall at Rajshahi University. Manifold problems grip the hall resulting in immense sufferings of its resident students.

The remaining six rooms of the lone block are used as paper room, dining room, provost room, house tutor room, mosque and gymnasium. Almost 1,000 students who are associated with this hall have to bear all expenses of the hall though they are living as refugees in other residential halls. The students who are lucky enough to reside in this incomplete hall face manifold problems. It has no fixed dining room. A room of his hall is used as dining room. Out of 264 students who reside in this hall, 260 students are Muslims. But they do not have any mosque which exists in other residential halls of the university. The Muslim students are compelled to go to the central mosque or to mosques of other halls to say their prayers.  
The hall provost and house tutor do not have separate office rooms. So, they do their office work in a common single room by turn. Even there is no canteen in this hall. The residential students are compelled to take food of inferior quality from restaurants outside of the hall.

## Rival groups of BNP clash in Magura: 30 hurt

UNB, Magura

Some 30 people were injured in clashes between rival groups of ruling BNP at Sharangadia village in Sreepur upazila on Tuesday and Wednesday.  
Police and witnesses said the trouble erupted Tuesday afternoon when supporters of Ashrafal Alam and Kalan Mia of the village locked in the clash over commissioning of a well in the area.  
The followers of Alam and Kalan also clashed in the morning as a sequel to Tuesday's clash. During the clashes, both sides used lethal weapons and ransacked five houses.  
Five of the injured, identified as Kamrul Zoardar, Rezaul Zoardar, Shahidul, Abdul Jalil and Fatema Khatun, were admitted to Magura Sadar Hospital "in critical condition."  
Later, Kamrul was shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.  
Police were deployed in the area to fend off further trouble.

## 45 pc people in Gopalganj affected by flu, viral fever

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj

Influenza and viral fever have broken out alarmingly affecting 45 per cent people in five upazilas in Gopalganj.  
Extremely poor and malnourished people living in rural areas are the worst sufferers.  
Bad sanitation system and adulterated food are the causes of the disease.  
Poor people working in the fields and living in slums are easily affected by influenza during the ongoing rainy season. The worst affected upazilas are Kasiami, Muksdpur, Kotalipara and some parts of Sadar upazila.  
Almost every family has at least two patients who suffer from viral fever, local people said adding that the thana health complexes with inadequate supply of medicine are not capable to give proper treatment to the patients.  
Most of the affected patients are compelled to buy medicine from outside, but poor patients cannot bear the expenses due to rising prices of medicine.  
With the outbreak of the diseases, a section of unscrupulous drug sellers have increased the prices of medicine to make a wind-fall profit. As a result misery of the affected victims has multiplied.  
**Banned polythene shopping bags seized**  
**UNB, Bandarban**  
Police in a surprise raid seized a huge quantity of banned polythene shopping bags from various shops and department stores in Bandarban town recently.  
The polythene bags were later burnt in presence of Police Super Shamsul Alam. Police also fined a trader Tk 500 for selling the banned shopping bags.