

NEWS SNAPS



Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yousuf handing over a certificate of "National Fish Fortnight 2002 Award" to a representative of International Technology Development Group (ITDG), Bangladesh, a United Kingdom (UK) based international development organisation in Faridpur recently in recognition to the organisation's special contribution towards fish culture technology extension.

Woman sentenced to death for murder

UNB, Comilla
A woman was condemned to death by a court here Monday for killing her stepdaughter. The court also sentenced the ill-fated girl's father and uncle to five years imprisonment and fined them Tk 10,000 each, in default, to suffer one year more in jail. The case history in brief: Parveen Akhter, the second wife of Mujibul Haq of Anandapur village in Sadar upazila, strangled her stepdaughter Sohagi to death on January 31, 1997 and dumped the body in a ditch.

Being tipped-off by villagers, police recovered the body and arrested Parveen, Mujibul Haq and Shamsul Haq. After examining the records and witnesses, the Additional District and Sessions Judge handed down the verdict.

Listed criminal Hasan arrested in Ctg

BSS, Ctg
Detectives arrested a listed criminal from South Madrassah in Hathazari upazila of Chittagong on Tuesday.

Mohammad Hasan, 23, son of Samsul Alam of village Haldia in Raozan upazila, is a close associate of Taslim Uddin Mantu and an accused in Principle Gopal Krishna Mohuri murder case.

Hasan was wanted in connection with looting Tk 33 lakh from M/S Fashion Products in the city's Agrabad commercial area on February 20 this year.

Businessman stabbed by muggers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Muggers stabbed a businessman and took away Tk 5 lakh from him at Zinjira in Keraniganj upazila Tuesday afternoon.

Ramiz Uddin, 35, owner of Mollah jewellers at Khara Kandi in Keraniganj came under attack in front of Zinjira power house at 1:00pm.

A gang of four stopped Ramiz on way to the city's Tantibazaar and stabbed in his back and abdomen. They snatched a bag containing Tk 5 lakh from Ramiz and fled the scene.

Ramiz was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with multiple stab injuries.

Fund shortage hampers uplift work in Gopalganj

ALIMUZZAMAN MIAH, Gopalganj

All the development works in Gopalganj have been postponed because of withdrawal of fund by the present administration of the four-party alliance.

At present all the development schemes taken up by the previous Awami League government have been postponed. In some cases about 50 to 75 per cent works of these schemes have been completed, but due to the lack of fund rest works have been stopped.

A decision had been taken by the previous Awami League government for the establishment of Sheikh Mujibar Rahman Science and Technology University.

In 1999 a rented house had been taken at Nabinbag in Gopalganj town to process the administrative works while 53 acres of land at Gobra had been acquired for the purpose. Seventy per cent of land-filling works have also been completed and about Tk 11 cr have been spent for the purpose.

Sheikh Hasina, the former Prime Minister of Bangladesh laid the foundation stone of the university. Afterwards the University Grants

Commission issued a notification from the Ministry of Education. With this order all the works of three science and technology universities including this one have been suspended. The authorities concerned also asked for the statement of property of this university. It has also been learnt that the office of the proposed university might be closed at any moment. The officers and workers serving under the project are apprehending to lose their jobs.

An university in Gopalganj had been a long felt popular demand of the local people as well as of the people of Bagerhat, Narail, Madaripur and Pirojpur. A sense of deprivation grips the people, especially the younger generation.

In the meantime, six big development works taken up by the Water Development Board (WDB) have been postponed. An amount of Tk 5.50 cr have been sanctioned against these projects. Subsequently, works of these projects have been stopped due to lack of fund.

When this correspondent talked to the Executive Engineer of WDB, Mr Abdus Sobhan he informed him that works on the river projects might

be damaged because of incessant rains. He informed that these projects have been suspended at the instruction of the concerned ministry.

Meanwhile, works on the water supply project in Gopalganj which are being implemented by the Department of Public Health Engineering, Gopalganj, are allegedly progressing very slowly. Works on the project had been supposed to be completed by next year, but because of lack of fund it is not impossible. The fund will be exhausted within 6 months.

Moreover, works on the projects under Gopalganj Public works Department (PWD) have been started very slowly. Though the construction work of the district jail was supposed to be completed within 2003, but due to lack of fund work on this project will linger for more than 5 years.

Executive Engineer Mirza Abu Taher further informed this correspondent that due to lack of fund works on projects like Sheikh Moni Auditorium and Bangabandhu Smriti Saudha are uncertain.

NGO coordination body meets at Pabna

A meeting of the NGO coordination committee was held at Pabna on August 20, says a press release.

Md Jainal Abedin, Executive Director of TACD and convener of the committee presided over the meeting. Md Abdul Kader, Executive Director of Samata and a central member of the National NGO Coordination Committee, advocate Borkot Ali Bokul, Executive Director of Dulai Janokallan Shongstha and Chairman of ADAB Rajshahi chapter and Md Abdur Rab, Executive Director of Bachte Chai Somaj Unnoyon Committee and Divisional Coordinator of the committee spoke on the occasion. They expressed their condemnation and protested the unfortunate incident where some elements showed disrespect to former Chairperson of ADAB and Chief Coordinator of Nijera Kori on August 16, the press release added.

Shortage of doctors in Madaripur hospital, health complexes

UNB, Madaripur

Posts of 177 doctors and other staffs have been lying vacant in Madaripur hospital, other health complexes hampering the health care service for 13 lakh people.

Concerned sources said 12 posts of doctors have been lying vacant in the Sadar hospital while 2 posts in Razoir Upazila Health Complex, 4 in Kalkini Upazila Health Complex and 4 in TB clinic and Civil Surgeon Office.

Besides, there is no medical officer in 11 sub-health centres and 8 posts in the Civil Surgeon Office, including the post of District Health Supervisor remained vacant.

A total of 128 posts of senior staff nurse, health inspector, ward boy, health assistant, supervisor, sanitary inspector and fourth class employee have been lying vacant.

Besides, 8 posts of pharmacists, health assistant and fourth class employees are lying vacant in Sub-health Centre for long.

Businessmen, BNP call 3-day hartal in Pabna

UNB, Pabna

Local businessmen and district BNP have separately called for three days hartal in Pabna on Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday to press home their demands.

District BNP will enforce a dawn to dusk hartal on Wednesday demanding removal of the police super and release of a party leader.

On the other hand, a section of businessmen called a half-day hartal on Thursday and dawn to dawn shutdown on Saturday demanding cancellation of the committee of Pabna Chamber of Commerce and Industry and its fresh election.

The businessmen have submitted a memorandum to the deputy commissioner to accept their demand.

Pirojpur lawyers boycott court

UNB, Pirojpur

Members of the District Lawyers' Association also boycotted the court Thursday protesting increased court fee.

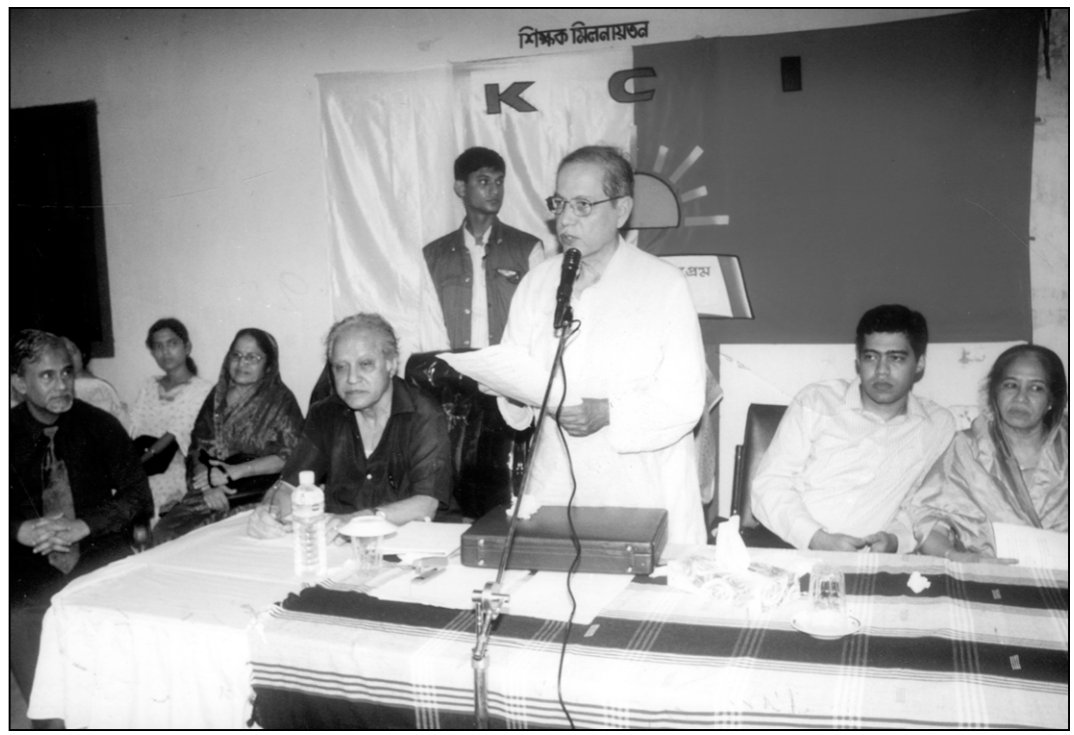
About 300 members of the association brought out a protest procession in the town and submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner (DC), Pirojpur.

Foundation stone damaged

UNB, Tangail

The foundation stone of the underconstruction Moulana Bhasani Science and Technology University at Santosh was damaged Monday night.

Locals said the foundation stone unveiled by then Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Oct 12, 1999 was damaged by unknown miscreants.



Former President Professor A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury addressing the inaugural ceremony of a new science building at Majidpur Chhoyhata School in Sreenagar area of Munshiganj. The programme was followed by distribution of stipends to meritorious students of the school recently.

110 day labourers of Rupsha Bridge project on hunger strike for wages

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

One hundred ten day labourers of Rupsha bridge construction project (RBCP) began hunger strike from Monday protesting non-payment of their wages.

As a result, construction of link road of the project have been stopped by its sub-contractor.

The construction firm took sub-contract from Shimizu-ITD for construction of the link road.

The day labourers alleged they have not been paid their wages by sub-contractor Ansar Ali for the last four months.

Rajshahi BIT director's office ransacked

BSS, Rajshahi

Unruly youths ransacked the office of the director of the Bangladesh Institute of Technology (BIT), Rajshahi and damaged its equipment Tuesday noon, a BIT press release said.

According to the press release, the youths numbering about 15/16, from the adjacent Kazla areas entered into the director's office at about 11.45 am and then met the director Prof Dr. Keramat Ali Mollah identifying themselves as leaders of a political party.

They insulted him for not giving appointment to their selected persons in different posts of the

institute. At one stage the youths damaged the glass of the table, mobile phone, telephone set, fax machine and some other essential documents on the table.

They also tried to manhandle the director.

The teachers of BIT held an emergency meeting in the afternoon with the director Prof Keramat Ali in the chair and condemned the incident. They demanded exemplary punishment to those responsible for the incident.

They also decided to lodge a case with Matihar police station in this connection.



An important traffic island at the main gate of Mymensingh Railway Station is seen without any traffic police. Frequent traffic jam is a regular feature at this very important intersection in this district town.

PHOTO: AMINUL ISLAM