

## NEWS SNAPS

**Bijoy Mela begins at Lalmonirhat**

UNB, Lalmonirhat

A 10-day Bijoy Mela began at the District Collectorate ground on Friday on the occasion of Lalmonirhat Liberation Day.

Deputy Minister for Communications Prof Asadul Habib Dulu inaugurated the fair jointly organised by local Muktiyuddha Sangsad and District Administration. A total of 51 stalls have been set up in the fair. Discussions and cultural functions are also being organised every day in the evening.

**JCD leader held for extortion**

UNB, Barisal

Joint forces arrested five people, including a JCD leader and two listed criminals, in the city on Tuesday.

VP of Barisal Law College and former general secretary of JCD Zahidul Kabir was arrested from his house at Battala on charge of extortion.

Other arrested included Shamsul Haq, MD Suraj and Kabir Howlader.

**Road accidents kill seven**

UNB, Dhaka

Seven people were killed in different road accidents in Comilla, Narsingdi and Gopalganj in last five days.

In Comilla, four people, including a university student, were killed in a road accident at Chaudagram on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in the early hours on Saturday.

Police said the accident occurred at about 12:45 am when the Cox's Bazar-bound bus hit a parked truck from behind at Choudhury Filling Station.

Three people, including truck driver Mohammad Mostafa, died on the spot while an unidentified man succumbed to his injuries in the hospital.

The two other dead were identified as university student Tahmina Akhter Lovley, 24, and Mahadev Dutta. A has been filed with the local police.

In Narsingdi, two people were killed and 30 injured when a Dhaka-bound passenger bus from Kishoreganj crashed into a road-

side ditch on Friday.

The accident occurred at about 11:30 am near Kurerpar Village under Belabo upazila due to reckless driving, local people said.

Identity of the victims could not be ascertained immediately.

The bodies were sent to Narsingdi Hospital for autopsy. The wounded passengers were rushed to Bhairab Hospital and Zahirul Islam Medical College Hospital.

In Gopalganj, a bus accident at Khelna on Gopalganj-Kotalipara road left a man killed and 50 others wounded on Wednesday.

Police and witnesses said the ill-fated bus plunged into a roadside ditch at the point while overtaking a van at around 10.00am, killing its driver Iskandar, 26, on the spot.

Of the injured, 10 were admitted to Sadar hospital and 25 to different private clinics.

The condition of Nurjahan Bgum, 65, and Rashid Sheikh, 80, was stated to be critical.

Police recovered the body of the driver and sent it to hospital morgue for autopsy.



A student receives a prize at the prize giving ceremony of art, essay and speech competitions arranged by the Tangail District Information Office in Tangail on the occasion of World AIDS Day on December 1.

**Clash over Eidgah leaves 50 injured**

UNB, Sylhet

A dispute over the Eidgah led to a clash that left at least 50 people injured at Kanishail during the Eid congregation on Friday.

During the clash, rival groups fired at least 10 shots and exploded crude bombs. They also ransacked some shops and houses in the area. The clash erupted at around 9.00am and lasted for about two hours.

Local people said the clash was a sequel to a rivalry over the Kanishail Eidgah. About six months ago, both the groups were engaged in quarrels demanding control over

the Eidgah.

Although there was a previous understanding between the rivals that none would create any trouble on the Eid day, but they failed to keep their commitment. They were locked in a brawl when the Imam was reciting the 'Khatba'.

Both the parties used guns during the clash and damaged at least three shops and a colony. They, however, flee the scene when an army team rushed to the spot.

Twenty injured people were admitted to Osmani Medical College Hospital.

The rival groups filed two separate cases.

**Bishkhali river devours village market**

UNB, Jhalakati

A village market went into the gorge of the Bishkhali River within an hour on the night of December 3, creating panic among the local people.

Locals said most of the shops of the Bhoanipur Bazar in Nalchhiti upazila were washed away and the loss was estimated at Tk one crore.

They said over 20,000-sq metre area market suddenly subsided. As a result, none could remove their

valuables from their shops and other materials from the area.

Deputy Commissioner Ehsanul Haq along with local Water Development Board officials visited the spot.

In similar way, 20 to 25 shops of the bazar went into the gorge of the river four years ago. Although the previous government took up the Bazar Protection Embankment project in fiscal 2000-2001, it could not be implemented due to budget constraint.

**Pry students deprived of stipend money**

UNB, Noakhali

The stipend money, introduced for the expansion of primary education across the country, could not be disbursed this year among the students in Noakhali and Laxmipur districts due to shortage of manpower in the branches of Janata Bank.

The poor and needy students even could not open their accounts in the branches of Janata Bank responsible for the disbursement of the stipend till November 28, the last date for disbursement of stipend money.

Under the stipend scheme, 40

per cent students of primary schools and Ebtedayee Madrassah were awarded the stipend.

Bank's area chief of Noakhali district Belayet Hossain said the bank has earmarked Tk 4.87 crore for distribution among 1.62 lakh students.

But the stipend money could not be disbursed due to manpower shortage in the respective branches, he added.

He said the total amount was deposited with the branches of the bank located at Choumuhani, Chatkhil, Hatiya, Companiganiganj, Senbah, Laxmipur, Raipur, Ramganj and Ramgati.

**BSCIC industrial estate yet to take shape in Chapainawabganj**

UNB, Chapainawabganj

Despite having bright prospect, Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) industrial area could not be established properly in 13 years due to lack of proper planning, shortage of capital and complexity in getting bank loan.

With a view to setting up different industrial units, the BSCIC industrial area was established on 11.10 acres of land in suburban Nayagola in 1989, involving Tk 2.73 crore.

But, only 75 plots have been allotted against 88 due to lack of interest among the entrepreneurs. At present only 12 units are in production.

An entrepreneur alleged that price of land is higher in the industrial area than that of other BSCIC areas of the country.

Nazrul Islam, General Manager of the BSCIC industrial area told that all facilities including security, adequate supply of power and water have been ensured to set up an industrial unit.

**House of expatriate looted**

UNB, Sylhet

Robbers looted valuables worth Tk one lakh from a house of an expatriate in Biyani Bazar thana after injuring two family members on Thursday night.

Witnesses said an armed gang of 4 or 5 people entered into the house of Abdul Hasib breaking open the grill at around 3.00am and looted valuables including gold ornaments.

They also hit two inmates of the house with a pistol when they raised an alarm. Police visited the house and recovered a broken part of the pistol.

**Teenage boy killed**

UNB, Khulna

A son of an alleged phensidyl trader was killed at Bhanga Moholla in Babu road of the city on Tuesday night.

Police said that Zahidul Sheikh alias Jusman Sheikh, 15, son of Jahangir, was strangled by unidentified miscreants.

They suspected that the opponents of Jahangir killed his son over sharing of money of illegal business.

Police recovered the body from the bank of a pond and sent it to hospital for autopsy. A case was filed.

**Lohagara Pilot High School celebrates 100th anniversary**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narail

The Lohagara Pilot High School is celebrating its 100th anniversary with a three-day programme beginning today.

A festive mood is prevailing here as a number of eminent personalities have already arrived to take part in the centenary celebrations.

Information Minister Tariqul Islam will inaugurate the programme at 10.00 am.

The programmes include colourful rally, re-union of ex-students, seminar, symposium, drama, exhibitions, and cultural function. The school authority will also pay homage to the founder of the school, late Roy Bahadur Jadunath Mazumdar.

Education Minister Dr. Osman Farruq, Deputy Minister for Education A Salam Pintoo, Deputy Leader of the opposition in parliament advocate Abdul Hamid, Chief Secretary to the PM's Office Dr. Kamal Uddin Siddiqui, Prof. Noor Mohammad Mia, will attend the programmes as chief guests.

MD Shahidul Islam MP (Narail-2), Dharendra Nath Saha MP (Narail-1), Prof. Abu Ahmed, Chairman of Shilpa Bank, Dr. Khalilur Rahman, Pro-VC of National University, Dr. A. B. M. Enayet Hossain, Treasurer of JU, Syed Ashraf Ali, MD of First Security Bank, Syed Zafar, ex-secretary general BFUJ, and Rahindra Nath Mazumdar, grandson of the founder of the school, will also attend the programme.

The local administration has step up security measures to avoid any untoward incident.

**Largest Eid congregation at Sholakia**

UNB, Kishoreganj

Nearly two lakh people, some from abroad, joined the country's largest Eid congregation at historic Sholakia Eidgah here on Friday.

Moulana Abul Khayer Mohammad Nurullah, Principal of Hazrat Nagor Alia Madrassah, led the prayers at 10.00am amid religious fervour.

Education Minister Dr Muhammad Osman Farruk, among other distinguished personalities, attended the congregation at the 200-year-old Eidgah.

Local administration and Public Health and Engineering Department and Shokalia Eidgah Maintenance Committee took adequate measures for holding the congregation smoothly.

The Eidgah is on 6.61 acres of land donated by Mannan Khan, Dewan of Hazrat Nagor.

**14 hurt as BNP factions clash in Munshiganj**

UNB, Munshiganj

At least 14 people were injured, one of them by bullet, in a clash between two factions of the ruling party at Charkewar in Sadar upazila on December 3.

Sources said both the groups belong to the local chapter of ruling BNP. The supporters of 'Monir group' and 'Kashem group' were locked in the clash following disagreement between the groups over the arrest of Monir, a BNP leader, by the army-led joint forces.

The Monir group blamed the supporters of Kashem for their role in the arrest of Monir.

Two of the injured Hasanullah, 19, and Kamal Mollah, 38, were admitted to Munshiganj Sadar Hospital. Hasanullah was hit by a bullet.

**Swindlers take away valuables from 10 launch passengers**

UNB, Patuakhali

Swindlers took away cash and valuables from 10 passengers of a launch after making them unconscious by giving food laced with toxic substance.

Six of them were admitted to Patuakhali general hospital when the launch, Parabat-16, reached here from Dhaka on December 5. They are Saidul, Milon, Iqbal, Hasan Mridha, Khabir and Alamgir.

Four other victims Jalil, Ismail, Asmat Ali and Sekander were released after treatment.

Crammed with home-bound people, the launch left Sadarghat Terminal on the night of December 4. The workers of the launch said an organised gang of swindlers gave the victims food laced with toxic substance and robbed them.