

NEWS SNAPS

One killed in road mishap

UNB, Habiganj
A young truck labourer was killed and another one injured in a road accident in Baniachong upazila on Friday. Police and witnesses said Farid Miah, 30, died on the spot when their speeding truck turned turtle while giving side to a rickshaw near Baniachong bazaar. Police seized the truck. A case was filed.

Body recovered

UNB, Joypurhat
The body of an unidentified woman was recovered from a pond near Joypurhat Government College in the town Monday. Locals said they found the body floating and on information police recovered the body. There was no injury mark on the body and the reason behind the death could not be ascertained. Police sent the body to hospital morgue for autopsy.

BCL leader arrested

UNB, Bhola
A Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leader was arrested from near Bangla School in the town Saturday. Sources said army-led joint forces arrested vice president of district Chhatra League Mohammad Belal, 30, under section 54. Belal is an employee of an insurance company.

Valuables worth Tk 5 lakh gutted

UNB, Habiganj
Four shops were gutted by a devastating fire in Nabiganj upazila here on Saturday. Witnesses said the fire originated from a hotel at JK High School Market at 9pm and engulfed nearby three other shops. Fire brigade from Sadar upazila brought the blaze under control after an hour of frantic efforts. The loss was estimated at Tk five lakh.

Ansar, VDP rally in B'baria

UNB, Brahmanbaria
A rally of Ansar and VDP members was held at the Nabinagar upazila council auditorium Monday. District Ansar Adjutant Pobltra Kumar Shaha attended the rally as chief guest. Among others, Upazila Ansar and VDP officer Mahbubul Alam, Agriculture Officer Abdul Malek and journalist Gouranga Devnath Opu were present. Over 200 Ansar and VDP members attended the rally where prizes were distributed among some of them for their contribution in socio-economic development and improving the law and order situation.



PHOTO: A. K. M. MOHSIN

Four cowboys chase their animals towards a grazing ground of the hilly Sreepur in Sylhet district. Sheer poverty forced many in Sreepur to become cowboys while many others of their age group go to school to build bright future.

Diarrhoea death toll 5 in Joypurhat

UNB, Joypurhat
Diarrhoea that has broken out in Joypurhat in an alarming form claimed two lives in Khetlal upazila on Friday night. The victims were identified as Ranibala, 63, and Shova Rani, 26, of village Doulatpur in the upazila. Besides, Matiur, 16, of Dhanmandi area in the town, died on December 17 while Manoranjan, 22, of village Tajpur in Sadar on December 17 and Quazem, 70, of Akkelpur upazila on December 4. District Civil Surgeon office confirmed the deaths. Diarrhoea is spreading very fast in the district due to the shivering cold and the affected people are crowding the hospitals and private clinics. Hospital sources said some 2,000 people of the district were afflicted with diarrhoea in last one month, of whom 1,200 underwent treatment at different hospitals and health complexes. Local Civil Surgeon Dr Anwar Ali told that steps are being taken to set up medical camps in the diarrhoea-affected areas.

Families of Mymensingh bomb blast victims in misery

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Families of the ill-fated bomb blast victims of Mymensingh are in misery as they were the only source of income of their families.

Phul Babu, 44, whose one leg was amputated was the only source of income for his five-member family. All his three children were student till the time of the sad incident. Now he has become pauper as there is none to take care of his family, said Himani Chanda, sister-in-law of Phul Babu. They received no significant financial help from any one, Himani disclosed to The Daily Star.

Shahen, 20, an operator of Ajanta Cinema hall, son of a rickshawpuller is now waiting eagerly to return home. My family is now in serious financial crisis as I am now unable to help the family now, Shahen told The Daily Star in emotion choked voice.

Mustafa, 20, a school student still does not know that his elder sister Mahmuda, a Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSC) examinee and cousin Sajib, a Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinee succumbed to their injuries which they sustained during the bomb blast incident in Purabi Cinema Hall. Sajib, son of a

betel-leaf trader and admitted at Ward No 6 of MMCH received severe injuries in his hand, leg and neck.

Babu, 17, a student of class IX, son of a 'Zarda' hawker of the district town and admitted at CMH, lost his right leg in the bomb blast incident. Babu still does not know his one leg was amputated. "Sir, my legs would not be cured again, My family members are waiting for me, said Babu in a pathetic tone. "I could not fill up the form to sit for the next SSC examination due to financial crisis, Babu informed.

Meanwhile, a total of 19 persons including four women sustained injuries in a series of bomb blasts in four cinema halls in Mymensingh on December 7 are undergoing treatment at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) and at Mymensingh Combined Military Hospital (CMH).

Eighteen people were killed and many others injured in the bombings in Aloka, Chhayabani, Ajanta and Purabi cinema halls.

The injured persons who were admitted at MMCH are Fazal, 35, a film operator, Phul Babu 44, manager, Shahen 20, operator of Ajanta Cinema hall, Rajib, 15, Billal Hossain 25 at Ward No 9,

Shilpi, 26 a student of class IX lucky, 14 Chamely, 16, and Rekha Begum, 35, at Ward No 10, Selim, 20, and Bachhu, 25 of Ward No 7 Mustafa, 20, Chan Miah, 20, and Rubel 14, at Ward No 6.

Five bomb blast victims who were admitted at Mymensingh CMH are Nazim Uddin, 28, Abul Kalam, 25, Bablu, a school student, Nabir Hossain, 20 and Ripon, 20.

Fire persons were referred to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), Dhaka CMH and Orthopaedic Hospital in Dhaka from MMCH and CMH as their condition deteriorated. Of them, Jewel, 25, a bakery worker succumbed to his injuries at DMCH on December 11.

According to MMCH sources, three bomb victims identified as Phul Babu, Rajib and Fazal were amputated at MMCH. Of them, Fazal lost two legs while one leg each of Phul Babu and Rajib amputated.

Babu, 17, a school student and son of a hawker now admitted at CMH, lost his right leg in the bombing.

A surgeon at MMCH told The Daily Star that the patients were not out of danger because they are still at the risk of multiple problems.

"But their condition is improving and we are treating them free of cost, said Major Dr Shaheen, a surgeon of CMH, Mymensingh.

However, the condition of the bomb victims at MMCH are improving gradually, hospital sources said. It would take one month or more for their total cure as their injuries are grievous, said a doctor of MMCH. The bomb victims who were computed would be reamputated later to save them from future infection, the doctors further said.

Tragic!

UNB, Sunamganj
A mother allegedly committed suicide by taking pesticide after feeding the same to her two children at village Berigaon in Sadar upazila on Monday.

Locals said Rabeya Khatun, 25, first gave pesticide to her son Lokman Hossain, 4, and daughter Sufia Khatun, 2, mixing with water and then took herself in the evening.

Hospital sources said Rabeya died on way to hospital while the kids were shifted to the Sylhet Osmani Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

The reason behind the incident could not be known.



A memorial meet on the occasion of Guru Rabidas anniversary was held recently at Aramnagar in Sadar thana of Joypurhat district by Bangladesh Guru Rabidas (Dham) Mission, Joypurhat branch. Hundreds of members of Rabidas community from different districts and thanas participated in the meet also attended by Master Kanai Lal Rabidas Mohanta, director general of the Mission as chief guest and Mewalal Banshfor Chowdhury, chairman of Gaibandha district Harijan Council.

Random use of firewood in brick kilns in Jhenidah

UNB, Jhenidah
Violating the government ban, kiln owners in Jhenidah are using firewood for manufacturing bricks, degrading the ecological balance. Sources said the owners not at all follow government rules and regulations for establishing and controlling kilns. It also said some 32 brickfields, out of 67, have no legal permission.

According to an ordinance promulgated in May 1992, firewood is not allowed to use in the brickfields. Besides, 13 more preconditions are imposed for establishing and controlling brickfields including setting up of a 120-foot chimney in every kiln, no brickfield in the residential areas and banning emission of gas from wastage.

The owners have to get license after fulfilling all the preconditions. But 35 owners have got license without the clearance certificate from the Environment Ministry, it is alleged.

One commits suicide in Joypurhat

UNB, Joypurhat
A man allegedly committed suicide by taking poison at village Dadra Jontigram in Sadar upazila the same day. Locals said Siddique, 34, took his own life following a family feud. He was rushed to the Sadar hospital where he died. An unnatural death (UD) case was filed.

Pistol recovered from Narsingdi

UNB, Narsingdi
Police recovered a loaded pistol searching the house of an alleged criminal at Chowala in the town Sunday. On information police raided the house of Elias, son of Abu Taleb, and recovered the arms loaded with two rounds of bullet from under a bed. Elias, however, fled the house sensing police presence. He was wanted in a number of criminal cases. A case was filed against him.