

NEWS SNAPS

Youth killed in road mishap

UNB, Jessore
A young man was killed in a road accident on Chowgachha Purapara road in Chowgachha upazila Tuesday. Witnesses said Ripon, 24, of Bagerpara upazila died on the spot when an auto-rickshaw he was travelling fell into a roadside ditch. The taxi driver fled the scene. A case was filed in this connection.

Two girls missing

UNB, Comilla
Two girls missing for the last two weeks from village Lampur in Sadar upazila in Comilla could not be traced till Tuesday.

Police said Hazera Akther, 14, and her cousin Nasrin Akther, 9, left their house on December 12 without informing anybody and did not return. A general diary (GD) was filed in this connection with the local police station.

Workshop on Reproductive health

UNB, Patuakhali
A daylong workshop on reproductive health was held at the Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB) auditorium here Monday.

Family Planning Association of Bangladesh organised the workshop titled "More Coordination between the Government and Non-government organisations for Successful Implementation of Reproductive Health Projects." Deputy Commissioner of Patuakhali Prashanta Barua inaugurated the workshop.

Training for journalists

UNB, Pirojpur
A seven-day training programme for local journalists concluded here Monday.

Mass Line Media Centre organised the training programme at the Zilla Parishad auditorium. A total of 20 journalists of national and local dailies took part in the programme.

The workshop focussed on human rights, development news, ethics of journalism, techniques of story writing and feature writing.

Murderer gets life term

UNB, Nogaon
A court here convicted a man and sentenced him to life-term imprisonment on Saturday in a murder case.

According to the prosecution, Joinuddin of village Nolkhor in Manda upazila stabbed Muzaffar of village neighbouring Merulla to death and injured his wife Nargis after entering into his house at dead of night on June 10, 1986.

Magura Municipality election January 18

HOSSAIN SERAJ, Magura

The Magura Municipality election will be held on January 18, much to the happiness of the voters who will be able to cast their vote after about nine years.

The last election to Magura Municipality was held on January 30, 1993. After that election the class three municipality was upgraded into a first class one for which area extension became essential. About 5.5 square kilometer areas of the adjoining union councils Kasundi, Atharokhada, Moghi, Choulia and

Jagdal of Magura Sadar upazila were included in the municipality.

But the Chairman of the aforementioned union councils jointly filed a case with the High Court protesting the decision. As the case was pending with the court due to legal complications election to the municipality could not be held on its scheduled date on January 30, 1999.

Talking to The Daily Star the District Election Officer, Magura Mohammad Mohsin Ali said, "Now there is no legal complication." According to the schedule by the Election Commission, the date for

submission of nomination papers is December 26 and the last date for withdrawal of candidature is January 3, 2003.

UNB from Keraniganj reports: Submission of nomination papers for the coming UP election began here Tuesday with over 100 candidates submitting nominations on the first day.

The last date for submission of nomination papers is January 1 and the withdrawal is January 9.

Elections to 10 unions, out of 12, of the upazila will be held on February 24-27.



A delighted farmer (2nd from left) of village Shamerkuna in Sadar thana in Moulvibazar is seen with the officials of the agriculture extension office on his aman field where he produced a bumper paddy.

Bumper aman output in Moulvibazar

RAJAT KANTI GOSWAMI, Moulvibazar

Despite flood and cyclonic storm during the cultivation season, the farmers of Moulvibazar district produced bumper aman paddy this year.

According to the Moulvibazar district office of the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), a total of one lakh 4 thousand 674 hectares of land were brought under aman cultivation in six upazilas, though the target of cultivation was one lakh 600 hectares. The achieve-

ment of cultivation exceeded the target by 4074 hectares. Out of the total land, 74319 hectares were brought under high-yielding variety (HYV) and 30356 hectares under local variety.

The DAE sources said, according to preliminary statistics, a total of two lakh 30 metric tons of paddy were produced this season.

However, the figure is not officially confirmed. Within a week the confirmed figure will be available at the DAE office. The DAE official informed that harvesting of aman paddy completed totally.

Aman paddy in 10 unions of Kamalgoni, Rajnagar and Kulaura upazilas were damaged as flood waters submerged paddy lands which passed through breaches developed in the embankments of the rivers Monu and Dholai. Stagnant waters from the Kawadighi haor were pumped out, but it was not fruitful as water level of the river Kushiya which flows near the Kawadighi haor (water body) was much more higher than that of the haor. As result a vast track of land in this haor remained uncultivated in the aman cultivation season.



(Left) Members of a poor family are in a quandary where to build their new abode just after shifting of their house from the Katakhal canal area in Sirajganj town where a demolition drive started from December 18 while (right) another family shifting their belongings through a rickshaw van to elsewhere after self-demolition of their structure.

1000 structures demolished in Jamalpur

UNB, Jamalpur

A drive to demolish the illegal structures from the land of Bangladesh Railway (BR) began here Monday.

Over 1000 illegal establishments were demolished on the first day of the drive.

Illegal encroachers grabbed vast land of Jamalpur-Bahadurabad section of Bangladesh Railway with the help of some dishonest officials.

Led by Dhaka Divisional Estate Officer Nurul Kobir Siddique first class magistrate Mostafa Kamal and local officers of BR conducted the drive.

Ex-UP member killed in villagers' clash in Sherpur

UNB, Sherpur

A former union parisd (UP) member was killed in a clash between two groups of people at village Purbakumri in Sadar upazila Monday, according to a delayed report.

The victim was identified as Azam Ali Mollah alias Kalu, 65, ex-member of Bajithkhol union in the upazila.

Police said the clash between the two groups, one led by Bachchu Mia and another by Yasin Ali of the village, took place during a meeting arranged to settle their past disputes, leaving Azam dead on the spot.

50,000 MTs of vegetable output target fixed in Sherpur

UNB, Sherpur

Some 5,000 hectares of land have been brought under vegetable cultivation in five upazilas of Sherpur with an output target of 50,000 metric tons (MTs).

Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) sources said vegetables like cauliflower, cabbage, bean, carrot and leafy vegetable will be cultivated in the current season.

DAE and Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) will provide quality seeds and ensure supply of fertilisers and other necessary inputs to make the programme a success.

Demolition drive in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

A drive to demolish illegal structures from the traditional Katakhal area in Sirajganj town started from the morning of December 18.

About 100 illegal establishments, on both sides of Katakhal canal such as Raipur, Bhuterdiar, Goyla and Bhanganbari 'mouzas' were bulldozed, on the first day of the demolition drive, initiated by the district administration.

The drive was launched following submission of a memorandum to

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia during her visit to the flood affected areas in Sirajganj where people demanded cleaning of the canal for the interest of public health. A decision was taken recently in this regard at a meeting at the Deputy Commissioner's (DC) office with DC Md Ibadat Ali in the chair. Accordingly the land grabbers were recognised. Afterwards, several legal notices were served to them. Many poor people shifted their structures quickly from the Katakhal area while many others marked time.

59,400 MTs of wheat output target fixed

UNB, Panchagarh

An extensive programme has been taken up for wheat farming in five upazilas of Panchagarh in the current rabi season.

Some 26,400 hectares of land would be brought under wheat farming with an output target of 59,400 metric tons (MTs) of wheat.

Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) and Bangladesh

Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) took steps for distribution of seed, fertiliser and pesticide among the growers for making the programme a success.

Various banks, including Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank (RAKUB), started disbursement of loan among the farmers to help them bring their land under wheat cultivation.

Valuables worth Tk one lakh looted in Jhenidah

UNB, Jhenidah

Valuables and cash worth Tk one lakh were looted in two separate robberies in Kaliganj upazila on Friday mid night.

In the first incident, the bandits, numbering about 8, stormed into the upazila health complex and tied up its pharmacist, one employee and the night guard.

They later broke open the door of the storeroom and took away medicine worth Tk 36,000 and other valuables. A case was filed with the police.

In another incident, the robbers, in the guise of army men entered into the house of one person named Nurul Islam at village Fala.

They looted valuables worth of Tk 50,000 and Tk 10,000 in cash and escaped with the booty.

Misappropriation of govt fund

UNB, Nogaon

A union parisd (UP) chairman was arrested from Saphara upazila Thursday for his alleged involvement in misappropriation of government money.

Police said they arrested chairman Shamsul Alam Chowdhury for misappropriating the money of a project of the Department of Public Health Engineering.



Female children parade the streets of Gaibandha town in a colourful procession to mark the International Broadcasting Day for Children. The deputy commissioner (DC) of Gaibandha is seen leading the procession organised by the district information office on December 19 which started from the Swadhinata Prangan.