

## NEWS SNAPS

## Man killed in road mishap

UNB, Habiganj  
A man was killed and five others were injured, three critically, in a traffic accident on Habiganj-Nabiganj road Friday.

Witnesses said the accident occurred when a bus dashed a tempo from behind near Umednagar Madrasa killing the tempo driver Shazal, 24, on the spot and injuring the five people.

Three of the injured - Gita Rani Das, 35, Zafar Mia, 60, and Abdul Hamid, 28, - were admitted to sadar hospital in serious conditions.

## Garment trader killed

UNB, Habiganj  
A garment trader was hacked to death by unidentified assailants at village Chouripur in Sadar upazila Thursday night.

Police said the miscreants stabbed Lal Mia, 50, indiscriminately on his way to home from the district town at about 11 pm. Police recovered the body Friday morning and sent it to sadar hospital for postmortem.

## Phensidyl recovered

UNB, Comilla  
Police seized a truck carrying some 5000 bottles of Indian phensidyl at Meghna-Gomoti toll plaza on Dhaka-Chittagong highway Wednesday.

Truck driver Sultan Ahmed, 45, was arrested in this connection. The phensidyl bottles were being taken to Dhaka from Kongshanagar Bazar of Burichang upazila. A case was filed.

## Fish damaged with poison

UNB, Comilla  
Fish worth about Tk two lakh were damaged with poison by miscreants at village Gopalnagar in Deviddar upazila Wednesday.

Witnesses said miscreants poured poison in the ponds of Sonali Fisheries Project out of their past enmity. No case was filed until Friday.

## Allocation for uplift projects

UNB, Dinajpur  
The district council has allocated Tk 6.25 lakh for implementing four development projects in Birganj upazila.  
The projects include purchase of furniture for two schools and one madrasa, renovation of academic buildings and development of roads, officials said.

## Prison term for three extortionists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Three persons were awarded with three years of rigorous imprisonment (RI) in an extortion case under the Speedy Trial Act. Abdul Mazid, a magistrate of the court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate in Rajshahi delivered the judgement on November 20 after about 43 days of the incident.

The convicts are Pintu, son of Ekram Ali, Babu, son of Abdur Razzak and Liton, son of late Abu Taher in the Chandipur area of the city. They were also fined Tk 5000 each, in default, to suffer six years more in prison.

On September 30, the three convicts demanded toll on gun point from the manager of Index Plaza, a business institution. But being refused, they beat up the manager, looted a huge amount of cash and ransacked his office room.

A case was filed in this regard with Rajpara thana and the investigating officer of the case sub-inspector Akhtar submitted the charge sheet.

## 11 cargo ships fined for polluting environment

CU CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) fined 11 cargo ships on charge of polluting the environment and deceiving the Customs authorities.

During the four-hour long drive which began at 9am from the Kamaphuli Bridge point to port marine workshop jetty point on November 29 the CPA team led by magistrate Mohammad Munir Chowdhury, in association with the port police forces, fined nine inland cargo ships, fishing trollers and cargo boats and fined about Tk one lakh.

In another drive, the CPA fined two ships about Tk one lakh for polluting the environment.

## Preparations on for free &amp; fair UP polls in Moulvibazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Moulvibazar district election office has taken preparation to hold a free and fair union parishad (UP) elections.

Elections to union parishads in Moulvibazar district will be held between January 25 and March 3 next year.

Appointment of Returning officers and declaration of polling dates has already been completed. Candidates for chairmen and members of union parishads have started submitting nomination papers.

According to the district election office, voters of 65, out of 67 union parishads will cast vote this time while election of two union parishads will be held later as period of the existing councils of the two union parishads are yet to be expired.

The two union parishads are Brahminbazar UP of Kulaura upazila and Adampur UP of Kamalgonj upazila. There are 67 UPs in six upazilas in Moulvibazar district. Of the total UPs, 12 each in Moulvibazar Sadar and Baralekha upazilas, nine each in Kamalgonj and Srimongal upazilas, 8 UPs in Rajnagar upazila and 17 UPs in Kulaura upazila.

The district election office

appointed 21 government officers in six upazilas as Returning Officers in six upazilas who will be responsible to organise free and fair polls in their respective union parishads.

Four Returning Officers were appointed each in Kulaura, Rajnagar and Moulvibazar Sadar upazilas and three Returning Officers were appointed each in Baralekha, Kamalgonj and Srimongal upazilas.

Upazila-wise appointed Returning Officers are as follows:

In Sadar upazila Md Shahjada, Agriculture Extension Officer for Khalipur, Monumukh and Kamalpur union parishads, Zinnat Ali, Primary Education Officer for Akhalkura, Ekatona, and Kanakpur unions, Rafiqul Alam, Upazila Engineer for Chadnighat, Mostafapur and Giasnagar UPs and Md Amirul Islam, Rural Development Officer for Upper Kagabola, Amtail and Nazirabad UPs.

In Baralekha upazila Arabinud Sen Gupta, Social Welfare Officer for Borni, Dhaserbazar, Niz Bahadurpur and North Shahbajpur UPs, Basir Uddin Ahmed, Agriculture Officer for South Shahbajpur, Talimpur, Baralekha and North Dakshinbhag UPs, Md Hasan Ali, Livestock Officer for Sujanagar, South Dakshinbhag,

West Juri and East Juri UPs.

In Kulaura upazila the Returning Officers are Nazir Ahmed Chowdhury, Upazila Engineer for Bhukshimul, Joychondi, Kadipur, Kulaura Ups, Abdul Baten Khan, Agriculture Officer for Jayfornagar, Fultala, Sagarnal and Goalbari Ups, Ali Ashraf Khan, Project Officer (FASOP-2) for Baramchal Bhatara, Rautgaon and Tilagaon Ups, and Md Shamsur Rahman, Primary Education Officer for Hazipur, Sharifpur, Prithimpasa and Karmadha Ups.

In Kamalgonj Upazila EAKM Reaz Uddin, Primary Education Officer for Rahimpur, Munshibazar and Patan Ushar Ups, Shafi Ullah Sarker, Project officer for Shamsernagar, Kamalgonj, and Alinagar Ups and Rafiqul Islam Chowdhury, Accounts Officer for Madhabpur and Islampur Ups.

In Rajnagar upazila Md Mujibur Rahman, Livestock Officer for Uttarbahag, Munshibazar Ups, Md Abdul Halim, Agriculture Officer for Tengra and Kamarchak Ups, Iqbal Ahmed, Upazila Engineer for Fatchpur and Panchgaon Ups and Md Ali Ahsan, Primary Education Officer for Rajnagar and Monsumagar Ups.

In Srimongal Upazila, the Returning Officers are Jahar Lal

Majumder, Agriculture Officer for Mirzapur, Bhunabeer and Satgaon Ups, Pijush Kanti Datta, Rural Development Officer for Rajghat, Sindurkhan and Kalighat Ups and Md Ali Asgor, Primary Education Officer for Kalapur, Srimongal and Ashidrone Ups.

Meanwhile, polling dates for 65 Union Parishads have been announced by the district election office.

Elections to union parishads in Baralekha upozila will be held on January 25 and 27, while polls in unions in Kulaura on January 29 and February 1, in unions under Rajnagar upazila on February 3 and 5, in unions under Kamalgonj on February 19 and 22, in unions under Moulvibazar Sadar upazila on February 24 and 26 and elections to the unions under Srimongal upazila will be held on March 1 and 3.

The election office sources added that they arranged to sale out the voters' list to the chairman and member candidates. Each page of the voters' list will be sold at Tk 4 only. A chairman candidate will purchase the voters' list of the entire union, a general member candidate will purchase the voters' list for his ward and a woman (reserved seat) member candidate will purchase the voters' list for three general wards.

## Two students jailed in forgery case

UNB, Noakhali

A court here convicted two students and sentenced them to three years in jail in a forgery case.

According to the prosecution, Abdul Hashim of village Shibpur and Abul Hossain of village Qadir Hanif in Sadar upazila took admission to Sonapur College showing forged testimonials and mark-sheets.

After examining records and witnesses, additional district magistrate Abdul Awal found them guilty of forgery and handed down the verdict Thursday.

## Election schedule for 40 Rangamati UPs

UNB, Rangamati

Election schedule for 40 union parishads (UPs) in nine upazilas of the district, out of 10, have been announced.

As per the new schedule, the UP elections will be held between January 25 to February 27.

The UP elections in Sadar and Naniarchar upazilas will be held on Jan 25, Rajasthali and Bilaichhari on Jan 30, Barkal and Juraichhari on Feb 3, Kaptai on Feb 19, Koukhali on Feb 22 and Baghaichhari upazilas on Feb 27.

## One to die for killing wife, two sons

UNB, Faridpur

A court here on November 26 convicted a man and sentenced him to death for killing his wife and two little sons.

The convict was identified as Billal Pramanic, 35, of village Munshir Dangi in Sadar upazila.

According to prosecution, Billal picked up a quarrel with his wife Rahela Begum, 25, over the sale of their land on April 14, 1999, and at one stage chopped her and their two sons - Russel, 7, and Rajib, 5, to death.

After examining the records and witnesses, Additional District and Sessions Judge Mujibar Rahman pronounced the verdict.

## Over Tk 3 cr uplift projects implemented in Rangamati

BSS, Rangamati

Rangamati Hill District Council (RHDC) implemented 17 different kinds of projects in various upazilas in Rangamati last year.

Official sources said of the projects, seven in education sector, five in religious sector, two in communication sector and one each in livestock, fisheries and agricultural sector were implemented against a total of Tk 3,09,20,000 for development of the region.

The authority had spent Tk 1,18,10,000 in education sector, Tk 48,00,000 in religious sector, Tk 27,00,000 in fisheries and Tk 30,10,000 in agriculture sector.

Besides, three projects, one on pig farm development at a cost of Tk 40,00,000 in Rangamati Sadar, one on embankment construction for pisciculture at Dulubayannachara in Barkal against Tk 10,00,000.



Two labourers dig ground to extract stones at Panchagarh. Stones are found abundantly in this northern district from where those are sent to other parts of the country for construction purpose.

## 2,00,522 MTs of wheat output target for 11 dists

UNB, Madaripur

Some 72,120 hectares of land in 11 districts of Barisal zone have been brought under wheat cultivation this season with an output target of 2,00,522 metric tons.

Of the total, wheat will be cultivated on 8,500 hectares land in Madaripur, 11,500 hectares in Shariatpur, 6,500 hectares in Gopalganj, 25,500 hectares in Faridpur and 14,200 hectares in Rajbari districts.

Besides, some 1,500 hectares

land will be brought under rabi crop cultivation in Barisal, 100 hectares each in Jhalakati and Pirojpur, 160 hectares in Patuakhali, 60 hectares in Barguna and 4,000 hectares in Bhola districts this season.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) has undertaken necessary measures to provide necessary fertilisers, seeds, pesticides and other agri-inputs to the growers to help achieve the target.

## No cold storage in 3 hill dists

UNB, Rangamati

Farmers in the three hill districts are facing a serious problem in preserving their produces for lack of cold storage.

As there is no cold storage in the district, the farmers have to sell potato, sweet potato, cabbage, cauliflower, bean, pumpkin and other perishable items at nominal prices.

According to them, huge vegetables are perished every season for lack of preservation facilities. "Sometimes, we have to sell our produces at prices lower than the production cost," said a farmer.

Some private entrepreneurs said they would set up cold storage in the district if they get soft bank loan.



Ishrat Sultana Bhutto, member of parliament (MP) speaks at a meeting on December 17 to exchange opinion with the local journalists at Jhalakathi.

## Kishoreganj Municipality chairman, 12 commisioners sued

UNB, Kishoreganj

Kishoreganj Municipality chairman Muhammad Nurul Islam Nuru and 12 commissioners have been sued for allegedly misusing government funds.

Bureau of Anti-corruption filed the case on December 17.

The other accused are Khaleda Fency Begum, Muhammad Mahtab

Uddin, Ibrahim Bakul, Bimol Chandra Das, Muhammad Solaiman Khan, Muhammad Fazlul Karim Khan, Muhammad Bazlul Karim, Muhammad Al Faruk Ahmed, Mansura Jaman Natun, AKM Nazrul Islam Bhuiyan, Muhammad Ismail and Hasina Haider.

Officials said they spent over Tk 2.32 lakh from government funds without permission from the authorities concerned on a reception programme on June 25, 1999.

The reception was accorded to then Local Government and Rural Development (LGRD) Minister Zillur Rahman, Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid and State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Syed Ashrafur Islam and several members of parliament (MPs).

## 2,95,000 hectares brought under lentil farming in Kishoreganj

UNB, Kishoreganj

Some 2,95,000 hectares of land in 63 districts of nine agricultural zones would be brought under lentil farming in the current season with an output target of 1,44,000 metric tons (MT).

According to Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), the zones are Dhaka, Mymensingh, Chittagong, Comilla, Rangamati, Barisal, Rajshahi, Jessore and Rangpur.

Of the total land, 12,500 hectares would be brought under lentil farming in Dhaka, 4,000 hectares in Mymensingh, 6,620 hectares in

Comilla, 3,400 hectares in Chittagong, 230 hectares in Rangamati, 52,950 hectares in Barisal, 35,400 hectares in Rajshahi, 80,900 hectares in Jessore and 9,000 hectares in Rangpur.

DAE has taken necessary initiatives to ensure supply of quality seeds, fertiliser and other necessary inputs among the growers at fair prices to boost production.

Besides, Bangladesh Krishi Bank and other commercial banks disbursed loans to the farmers to make the programme a success.

## Fund constraint hampers literacy programme

UNB, Barisal

'Pradipta Barisal', a government sponsored programme launched to remove illiteracy from eight upazilas of the district, has run into trouble due to fund constraint.

Concerned sources said the district administration took up the project in 1997 involving Tk 8 crore.

Some 121899 illiterate men and 134688 women were enlisted for making them familiar with letters under the programme.

But the fate of the project hangs in the balance as only Tk 3 lakh has so far been allocated for the project against the estimated cost.

Officials said their repeated appeals to the higher authorities for more funds fell on deaf ears.



Fazle Kabir, deputy commissioner (DC), Kishoreganj speaks at an eye screening camp at Azimuddin High School compound in the district town which was organised recently by Dhaka New City Lions Club.