

## NEWS SNAPS

## Tractor kills boy

**UNB, Jhalakati**  
A little boy was killed when a tractor hit him at village Deuri in Sadar upazila on Friday.

Locals said the tractor, which was thrashing paddy, hit Reaz, 10, son of Amir Ali when he was running to and fro in the premises of their house. He was rushed to Sadar hospital where he succumbed.

## Sundari timber recovered

**UNB, Bagerhat**  
Members of the Coast Guard recovered 200 cubic feet of Sundari timber raiding some saw mills in Mongla Municipality area on Wednesday.

They recovered the timber worth over Tk one lakh acting on secret information. But none was arrested in this connection. The seized timbers were handed over to officials of Sunderbans forest department.

## Workshop on self-development

**UNB, Jhalakati**  
A daylong workshop titled 'Exploring hidden power for self-development' was held at Sadar upazila council auditorium on Saturday.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer A B S Fazlur Rahman inaugurated the workshop organised by District Social Service Office. Presided over by Deputy Director of Social Service Department Mahfuzur Rahman the function was conducted by former Chief News Editor of Bangladesh Television M Rafiqul Islam Sarkar.

## 6 women with phenesidyl held

**UNB, Brahmanbaria**  
Police arrested six women along with 185 bottles of phenesidyl syrup from different parts of the district Wednesday and Thursday.

Police said they arrested Rahela, 32, Anu, 28 and Johora, 32, along with 45 bottles of phenesidyl from Ashuganj upazila Thursday while Sahanara Begum, 35, Tahera Begum, 30, and Shilpi Rani, 30, were arrested along with 140 bottles of phenesidyl from Soroibazar area of Akhaura upazila Wednesday.

## Road repairing work going on

**UNB, Rangpur**  
Repairing work on the 28 kilometer Mahiganj-Kodomtoli-Gaibandha road is progressing fast in the district.

The Roads and Highways Department is implementing the project at a cost of Tk 17 cr. A six-metre long bridge and six culverts will also be constructed on the road.

## 499 polling centres in Bagerhat vulnerable

**UNB, Bagerhat**

A total of 499 polling centres, out of 671, in the district have been identified as vulnerable in the upcoming union parishad (UP) election.

Of these, 307 are most vulnerable and special security measures will be taken to hold free, fair and peaceful election in these centres, local Election Commission office sources said.

The centres are 29 in Sadar, 18 in Kuchua, 31 in Chitolmari, 49 in Fakirhat, 44 in Mollahat, 32 in Rampal, 17 in Mongla, 16 in Shorokhola and 71 in Morelganj upazilas.

Police said they will hold meeting soon to take pre-cautionary measures in the most vulnerable centres.

Meanwhile, two chairman candidates and six members have been contesting in the UP election here from jail. They were arrested during different drives of joint forces.

Meanwhile, another report from Munshiganj says: A total of three union parishad (UP) chairman candidates and 44 member candidates have been unofficially elected unopposed in the district in the ensuing union parishad elections.

Of them, present chairman of Bajrojogini and Konkosar UPs Tota Miah and Abu Bakar Dhali have been elected unopposed as their possible rival candidates withdrew their nominations. Another elected chairman was Abul Kalam Dhali of Moddhyapara union.

Of the rest unopposed-elected candidates, 16 women have

become members for the reserved seats and 28 members for the general member posts.

The Election Commission office sources said elections to two union parishads would not be held due to non-completion of their tenure.

## Injunction

**UNB, Rajshahi**

A court here has issued an injunction restricting the appointment of three teachers in Law Department of the University of Rajshahi.

The court issued the injunction following a case filed by Advocate Abu Aslam against the university vice chancellor, registrar and dean of the department and asked them to be present before the court by February 20 for hearing.

## Health camp on a floating hospital



A two-day 'Lifebuoy Health Camp' was organised in Char Dakatia and Char Churkaibari of Dewanganj, Jamalpur on the floating Lifebuoy Friendship Hospital on December 29 and 30 last year. Renowned physician Dr S R Khan and his team of three doctors along with two doctors and one paramedic of Lifebuoy Friendship Hospital conducted the health camp in collaboration with Bangladesh Heart Research Association. A total of 1,000 patients received treatment. (Top left) A child is being fed Polio vaccine on the floating hospital while (right) another patient is being operated upon there. (Bottom) The floating Lifebuoy Friendship Hospital.

## 40 hurt in roof collapse

**UNB, Noakhali**

The roof of an under-construction building collapsed at Gabua in Begumganj upazila on Saturday afternoon, injuring 40 people and leaving several others trapped inside.

## Munshiganj BNP leader expelled

**UNB, Munshiganj**

A union-level BNP leader and former union parishad (UP) chairman was expelled from the party Saturday for submitting nomination for UP chairmanship violating party discipline.

The expelled leader was identified as Habibur Rahman Akand, president of Adhara union BNP unit in Sadar upazila.

He submitted his candidature for the post of chairman from the union although another BNP leader Rahmat Ali Molla who submitted his nomination as per the decision of the party, a press release signed by the district BNP president and general secretary said.

## Kobadak needs excavation

**UNB, Jessore**

Water Development Board has taken up a project to excavate the Kobadak river at a cost of Tk 5.30 crore.

Government and South West Flood Damage Rehabilitation (SWFDR) division of the World Bank will jointly finance the project.

Government will provide Tk 1.80 crore while SWFDR the remaining amount. The work on the project is likely to be started by December next.

Under the project, 30.9 kilometers of area from Par Khazara of Monirampur upazila to Kadar Khal of Kesabpur upazila will be excavated.

On completion of the project, people of five upazilas including Monirampur and Kesabpur will be saved from water logging problem in the rainy season as well as get irrigation facilities in the dry season.

## Teenage girl raped

**UNB, Sirajganj**

A teenage girl was raped after abduction in Bazaar Station crossing area of the town on Friday night.

Police said Rezaul Karim Mukul of Pipulbaria village in Sadar upazila with the help of his cousin Kamal abducted the girl, a student of class X, of Gozaria along with a little girl of village Kazipur on Thursday. Mukul and his accomplice took them to a local hotel where Mukul raped the teenaged girl.

## Abductor gets life-term in Sirajganj

**UNB, Sirajganj**

A court here Thursday sentenced a man to life term imprisonment in an abduction and ransom case.

The court also fined the convict, Nurul Islam, Tk 10,000, in default, to suffer one year more rigorous imprisonment (RI).

Five other accused were acquitted from the charge due to lack of sufficient evidences against them.

According to the prosecution, the convicts picked up Ruhul Amin, 12, of village Batua in Roypganj upazila on December 20, 2000 and demanded Tk 4 lakh as ransom.

After examining the records and witnesses, judge of the Women and Child Repression Prevention Special Court Md Johurul Haq pronounced the verdict.

## Three to vie for chairmanship in Magura municipality polls

**HOSSEIN SERAJ, Magura**

Hectic campaign for Magura Municipality election is going on in full swing. The election will be held on January 18.

Three candidates will contest for the post of chairman.

They are: Khan Monwar Hossain (BNP led 4-party alliance), Abdul Gafur (Awami League) and Iqbal Akhter Khan Kafur (Independent).

Most of the candidates are now moving from door to door with their election pledges. The voters are seen gossiping in public places on various issues. In tea-stalls and market places debates on election related matters are going on.

After about nine years, election is going to be held here much to the happiness to the voters.

The last municipality election there was held on January 30, 1993.

In 1995 the class three municipality was upgraded into first class one then the necessity of area extension became essential. About



Monwar

Gafur

Iqbal

5.5 square kilometre areas of the adjoining union councils named Kasundi, Chowlia, Atharokhanda Jagdal and Moghi of Magura Sadar upazila were included in the newly formed first class municipality.

But the chairmen of the aforementioned union councils jointly filed a case with the High Court protesting the decision of area extension. As the case was pending with the court election of the municipality could not be held on scheduled date on January 30, 1998.

But after about 9 years the

Election Commission declared the election date of the municipality in the first week of last month.

Seven candidates of different political parties including an independent candidate submitted nomination papers for the post of chairman while 81 persons filed nominations for the post of nine ward commissioners while 17 candidates filed nominations for the three reserved seats for women.

Later the number of candidate, for the post of chairman stood at three.

## 27,87,000 tons of sugarcane may be crushed in 15 mills

**BSS, Joypurhat**

The government has fixed a target of sugar production at 2,23,500 tons in 15 sugar mills of the country in the current season.

Under the programme, 27,87,000 tons of sugarcane are expected to be crushed in these mills, official sources said.

Farmers expect a good harvest of sugarcane and the production target is likely to be achieved. But the quantity of sugar being smuggled into the country from India per year is much higher than the local production target, it was learnt.

Sugarcane farmers and experts urged the government to modernise or privatisate the sugar mills to avoid huge loss during crushing.

According to sources, a total of 18,600 tons of sugar will be produced by crushing 2,40,000 tons of sugarcane in Joypurhat Sugar Mills, 9,900 tons of sugar from 1,20,000 tons of sugarcane in Shyampur Sugar Mills, 13,050 tons of sugar from 1,60,000 tons of sugarcane in Fardpur Sugar Mills

and 10,537 tons of sugar will be produced through crushing 1,27,000 tons of sugarcane in Zilbandha Sugar Mills.

Some 152.16 metric tons (MTs) of aman seeds have been produced in 10 upazilas of the district during the current rabi season.

The Department of Agricultural Extension sources said 442 farmers produced the seeds on 100 demonstration plots under high yielding seed production, preservation and distribution programme.

Farmers produced mainly BRI-31, BRI-30, BRI-32, BRI-39 and BRI-33 variety of seeds this season.