

NEWS IN *brief*

**Two killed in road accident**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Netrakona*

A truck driver and his helper were killed while another helper was injured in a road accident on Netrakona-Kendua road in Sadar upazila of Netrakona yesterday morning.  
The dead are Babul Mia, 25, and Jewel Mia, 22, of Gouripur upazila in Mymensingh. Injured helper Sagor was admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.  
The accident occurred as the truck fell into a roadside ditch after the driver, Babul, lost control over the vehicle at Bairaura.

**Cop dies after falling from roof**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Rajshahi*

A cadet sub-inspector died after falling from the six-storied cadet-dormitory roof of Bangladesh Police Academy (BPA) at Shardah in Rajshahi on Wednesday.  
Ziaul Haque, 25, of Moharajpur in Chapainawabganj, was about to participate in his passing out parade on February 17.  
Ziaul was seriously injured when his fellow cadet Mir M Selim found him on the ground near the building around 12:40pm.  
Charghat police said the incident appeared to be a suicide.  
He died at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

**Two Buet students get geography fellowship**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nasa and Association of American Geographers (AAG) has jointly honoured two students of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) with Geography Fellowship in South Asia, said a press release yesterday.  
The students -- Yiasser Arafat of civil engineering department and Bayes Ahmed of urban and regional planning department -- will participate in the partnership project of AAG's MyCOE programme and Nasa's SERVIR programme in the Himalayas.  
During the 10-month fellowship, the duo will conduct researches on climate change, agriculture and food security issues using geographic technol-

**BGB distributes blankets**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) distributed 72,900 blankets and winter wears among deprived people across the country.  
Along with BGB headquarters, all the sectors and associated battalions distributed blankets and winter wears among the poor people of the border areas of Khagrachhari, Dinajpur, Rangamati, Khulna, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Sylhet, Kushtia, Comilla and Mymensingh, which come under BGB's management, read a press release.  
The BGB also distributed 460 blankets in its headquarters and in Dhaka sector, and around 200 blankets at Border Guard Training Centre and School in Satkania.

**Gono Forum leader Zahirul joins AL**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gono Forum presidium member advocate Zahirul Islam has joined the ruling Awami League (AL).  
Prime Minister and AL President Sheikh Hasina yesterday gave her consent for Zahirul's rejoining, said an AL press release signed by Deputy Officer Secretary of the ruling party, Mrinal Kanti Das.  
On January 29, Zahirul met the premier after resigning from Gono Forum and told her that he had joined Gono Forum in 1993 as he was misled. "Realising my mistakes, I am willingly applying to



Activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League, a pro-Awami League student organisation, of Jahangirnagar University brandish sharp weapons and iron rods on the campus during a clash between the organisation's AFM Kamal Uddin Hall and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall units yesterday.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

HUMAN TRAFFICKING  
**Six victims rescued**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Ctg*

A team of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) personnel on Tuesday night rescued six victims of human trafficking who were attempting to go to Malaysia.  
They rescued the victims from Puran Bazar area in Teknaf upazila of Cox's Bazar at around 7:15pm, said BGB sources.  
According to the sources, the traffickers demanded Tk 20,000 from each of the victims and when they failed to pay it, the criminals abandoned them at Puran Bazar.  
All the victims hail from Jessore.

WAR CRIMES CASE AGAINST GHULAM AZAM

**Two defence witnesses to face tribunal today**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Against the backdrop of the first defence witness's repeated failure in attending court to face cross-examination, International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday asked the counsels of Jamaat-e-Islami leader Ghulam Azam to produce two defence witnesses today.  
Abdullahil Aman Azmi, who earlier testified for Ghulam Azam, a war crimes suspect, did not attend the tribunal yesterday when he was to be cross-examined. The defence witness defaulted on Tuesday too.  
The defence said Azmi could not come due to hartal.  
Jamaat-e-Islami enforced countrywide dawn-to-dusk hartal on Tuesday and Wednesday, protesting the conviction of its leader Abdul

Quader Mollah, who was sentenced to life in prison for committing crimes against humanity during the 1971 Liberation War.  
The lone defence lawyer Asad Uddin yesterday said their conducting lawyer, Mizanul Islam, failed to attend court as he could not move without vehicle.  
The tribunal said the prosecution would cross-examine the defence witness, so Mizanul Islam's presence was not necessary.  
The counsel then reasoned that their witness also could not come due to "unavoidable circumstances" amid hartal.  
When the tribunal asked the counsel for Azmi's residential address, he said he did not know it. The prosecution said Azmi lived in the capital's Moghbazar.

The three-member tribunal observed that the witness could come this short distance to the tribunal.  
When the counsel reasoned that the witness did not come due to security reasons, the tribunal said it would take necessary measures if the defence filed an application in this regard.  
The tribunal then strictly ordered the defence to produce two witnesses, including Azmi, today and said the proceeding would continue till afternoon without break.  
Meanwhile, the war crimes suspect and BNP leader Salauddin Quader Chowdhury yesterday completed cross-examining the 18th prosecution witness. Chowdhury also reappointed his counsels whom he fired earlier.

**Two hurt as iron bar falls on them**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two motorcyclists were injured as an iron bar fell on them from the ninth floor of an under-construction building at Banani in the capital yesterday.  
Injured Atiqur Rahman Liton, 30, and Ibrahim Kabir Sagar, 25, have been admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.  
Mokbul Hossain, sub-inspector of Banani Police Station, said an iron bar fell on the two as they were passing the building on road No-11 at Banani. Atiqur was driving the motorcycle.  
Nizam Uddin, a worker at an adjacent building, who witnessed the incident, said construction workers were lifting some 10 feet long iron bars to the ninth floor by a crane when one of the bars fell on the driver's head and also hit the passenger's leg.  
Nazim opined the driver only survived because he was wearing a helmet.



Garbage lines the stairs while goods of roadside vendors block off the access to a pedestrian bridge over a road in New Market area of Chittagong city. Negligence of the authorities concerned has now rendered this bridge useless forcing thousands of people to risk their lives every day while crossing the busy road. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

**BCL factions clash at JU**  
*Eight injured*

JU CORRESPONDENT

Two groups of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) clashed at Jahangirnagar University yesterday, leaving eight of the activists injured.  
The clash started following the assault of a senior student by a junior on Tuesday night.  
The injured were given first aid at the university medical centre.  
Proctor Shohel Ahmed suffered minor wounds when he tried to control the situation.  
Sources said Masud Parves, a student of government and politics (38th batch), squabbled with Riyad, a senior student of pharmacy (36th batch), over fishing near the swimming pool on Tuesday. In the evening, Masud assaulted Riyad, a student of Bangabandhu Hall.  
The students of Kamal Uddin Hall, where Masud lives, and those of Bangabandhu Hall yesterday sat at Bot Tala to settle the dispute but to no avail. Later students of both the dormitories armed with machetes, hammers, and iron rods attacked each other.  
The university unit BCL primarily expelled Masud in this connection.

**Warehouses gutted in fire**

A CORRESPONDENT, *Gazipur*

Six warehouses of garment rags (jhut) were gutted in a fire in Chandra area of Kaliakoir upazila early yesterday.  
The source of the fire could not be identified immediately.  
Locals said they saw the fire around 4:00am and tried to douse it but the flames swiftly spread to adjoining warehouses. Fire fighters put out the blaze around 7:00pm.

**RU students suffer as dinings closed**

RU CORRESPONDENT

Residential students of Rajshahi University (RU) have been suffering as some of its dining halls are yet to be opened after the winter vacation.  
The university closed on January 18 for winter vacation and the dining halls had closed three days before, said hall officials, adding that the university reopened on February 1 but some dining halls are still closed.  
Nine halls are still closed out of the total 16, they said.



A bus burns after being vandalised and set alight in Siddhirganj area of Narayanganj by activists of Jamaat-e-Islami during hartal yesterday.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

**Resist Jamaat, Shibir**

*Rally at Laldighi Moidan told*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Ctg*

Speakers at a rally yesterday called upon people from all walks of life to resist Jamaat-e-Islami and Jamaat-backed Islami Chhatra Shibir.  
They declared Jamaat seditious, anti-Islam and anti-democratic and said Jamaat and Shibir want to push the country into darkness.  
They told the rally held at Laldighi Moidan in Chittagong city.  
Jatiya Samjtantrik Dal (JSD), Chittagong city, Chittagong north district and south district units jointly organised the rally demanding, among others, immediate completion of the trial of war criminals, annihilation of communalism, militancy and formation of national unity with the spirit of Liberation War.  
Addressing as chief guest, Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu said Jamaat does not believe in democracy, state and law and court.  
"Resist Jamaat and Shibir and lift the flag of Bangladesh," urged Inu, also the president of JSD.  
Lawmaker Moinuddin Khan Badal, among others, also spoke at the rally.



**Dry weather likely**

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloud sky over the country in 24 hours till 6:00pm today.  
Light to moderate fog may occur over the country during late night till morning, Met Office said.  
Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country and day temperature may rise lightly.  
The sun sets in the capital today at 5:49pm and rises tomorrow at 6:36am.  
Country's highest temperature 33.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 11.0 degrees at Srimangal.  
Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	31.7	16.5	49	43
Chittagong	30.2	15.8	71	57
Rajshahi	29.5	12.8	85	58
Rangpur	29.5	13.4	70	55
Khulna	31.5	14.6	72	66
Barisal	31.0	14.0	79	68
Sylhet	31.9	15.8	61	47