

## NEWS SNAPS

### Bandarban Jubo League leader killed

UNB, Bandarban

Unknown assailants killed a Jubo League leader and threw the body in the Sangu River, police said.

The victim was identified as KN Barua, Kalaghat ward Jubo League president. Police recovered the body from the river near Kalaghat area in the town on Tuesday morning.

### Housewife commits suicide

BSS, Goalando

Taking sleeping pills, one housewife committed suicide at village Miridha Danga in Goalando upazila of Rajbari district on Sunday.

Police said, the victim was identified as Shahtun Begum, 20, mother of a one-year-old daughter and wife of Karim Begari. The body of the deceased was sent to Rajbari morgue of autopsy. Reason of suicide could not be known immediately.

### Armed miscreants hijack motor cycle

BSS, Bagerhat

Armed miscreants hijacked a motor cycle on Fakirhat-Rupsha highway in Khanar Pakur area on Sunday night.

Police said, Tariqul Rahman, an employ of Beximco Pharmacy Company, was riding the motor cycle and was on his way to Khulna. A gang of armed miscreants intercepted him at about 9.00 pm on the highway and hijacked the bike. A case has registered Fakirhat thana.

### 36 injured in clashes

UNB, Munshiganj

At least 36 people were injured in separate clashes over gambling in Munshiganj on Thursday and Friday.

Ten people were injured at Ghashkandi-Purba Shilmandir in the town on Friday, witnesses said. Twenty six others were injured at Chhoto Mollahkandi in Sadar upazila on Thursday. Eight of the injured were admitted to Sadar hospital.

### Listed criminal arrested

BSS, Rangamati

Police in a drive arrested a listed criminal from Banarupa area here on Sunday.

The arrested person identified as Chandan Dey, 26, wanted in connection with several cases including anti-social activities in Kotwali police station. Police produced him before the magistrate court here. The court sent him to jail.

### Potato harvesting begins

BSS, Chandpur

The harvesting of potato has started in Chandpur.

According to Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) sources, bumper potato production is expected here this year. About 20 hectares have been brought under potato cultivation here in the current season.

Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) and DAE supplied seeds, fertilisers and other agricultural inputs to potato growers.

Blooming starts in trees in greater Rajshahi

## Bumper mango output likely this year if weather favours

BSS, Rajshahi

Blooming has started in mango trees in greater Rajshahi.

Agriculture scientists and farmers are expecting a bumper mango production in the coming season if weather favours.

Around 55 to 60 per cent trees have blossomed. The blossoming began at the end of January and will continue till mid-March.

About 90 to 95 per cent trees are expected to bloom by the end of this month, said Atiqur Rahman, Scientific Officer, Fruit Research Centre, Rajshahi.

The coming summer is "On Year" for mango production. This year the production is likely to be significantly higher in comparison with that of the last off year.

Last year the production of mango was greatly hampered due to unfavourable weather, late budding and fluctuation of temperature. Moreover, 75 to 80 per cent of trees showed no budding last year. This year almost all trees have shown their budding.

Officials of the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) said buds appeared timely as optimum temperature was available in this season. Moderate rainfall at the beginning of this month and absence of heavy fog also helped budding. Severe cold along with dense fog of last month helped much in good budding.

Chief Scientific Officer of mango research station at Chapainawabganj Dr Nazim Uddin said to this correspondent the major problems are fluctuation of temperature, excessive rainfall or fog, attack by pests and insects and inclement weather.

The current flowering has passed the first two stages. Attack of pests and storm in the coming Baishakh and Jaishtha still remain a major threat to

future of the fruit.

During summer, hopper disease, mango fly and anthraclox germ attack mango and destroys it. Nor'wester of Baishakh also causes great loss to mango production.

According to the DAE sources, there are about 15 lakh mango trees of different ages on about 20 lakh hectares in Rajshahi, Chapainawabganj, Natore and Naogaon districts. Ninety per cent of the trees are fruit bearing.

About 1.15 lakh metric tons of mango were produced last year. Mango has a great economic importance in the region. About 55 to 60 per cent people are benefited from the fruit in different ways.

Mango is an important cash crop in the northwestern region, especially in Rajshahi and Chapainawabganj.

More than 100 varieties of mangoes are produced here. Of which Fazli, Gopalbhog, Khirshapat, Langra, Lakhna, Bombai, Mohananda, Mohanbhog and Ashwina are famous.

Experts said mango is a perishable fruit. It remains intact and edible for a period of 5 to 8 days after harvest. But enhancement of its storage period is an important factor for export of mango.

Both short and long term measures should be taken to enhance its production in the region. Mango trees should be cared properly and scientifically. More intensive measures should be taken to wipe out pests, experts said to this correspondent.

Felling of mango trees should be checked. Bank loan for mango cultivation should be extended. Government initiative is necessary to make blocks of mango farms like sugarcane farming.

If the measures are taken and land for mango cultivation can be extended, in near future, mango will be one of the most important export items, experts opined.

## Problems grip health complex in Mymensingh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Manifold problems have gripped Dhubaura Upazila Health Complex, a health complex in a frontier upazila of Mymensingh.

Dhubaura upazila, a neglected area in Mymensingh lacks facilities of modern road communication, education and health. So, people here have to suffer a lot.

The new 31-bed health complex was inaugurated in 2000 by the then prime minister Sheikh Hasina. But due to lack of doctors and other

staffers, people here are not getting proper treatment.

According to official sources, out of nine posts of doctors, there are only three doctors.

Out of 75 posts, 23 posts of employees are lying vacant for a long time. The vacant posts include nurses, ward boys and laboratory technicians. Though the health complex has staff quarters for doctors and others with modern facilities, many are not willing to stay here. Scarcity of medicine prevails here permanently.

Dr Md Elias, Deputy Civil Surgeon of Mymensingh who is In-Charge of Civil Surgeon told The Daily Star that shortage of doctors or staffers prevailed here because most of them go on leave preparatory retirement (LPR).

However, he denied shortage of medicine and drinking water. After their posting here many doctors are become active to be transferred at 'suitable places', said another source preferring not to be named.

## Housewife allegedly raped in Jhenidah

UNB, Jhenidah

A housewife was allegedly raped by a rickshaw puller and his friends at village Khazura in Sadar upazila on Sunday night.

Abdul Wadud, a rickshaw puller picked up the 35-year-old woman from Arappur bus stand while she was waiting for a bus to go to her home district Meherpur.

He raped her along with his friends in Segun Bagan area.

On the following day, the women lodged complaints with police and identified Wadud from in front of a school with the help of police.

Police arrested Wadud and sent to court after recording his statement.

## Sugarcane production target fixed in Madaripur

UNB, Madaripur

The Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) has taken up a programme to bring 3,000 hectares of land in four upazilas of Madaripur under sugarcane cultivation.

The target of the production in the current season has been fixed at 1.50 lakh metric tons (MTs).

About 700 hectares of land will be brought under the scheme in Sadar, 1,500 hectares in Kalkini, 200 hectares in Rajoir and 600 hectares in Shibchar upazila.

DAE has distributed fertiliser, seeds, pesticides and other agricultural inputs to achieve the target.



PHOTO: A K M MOHSIN

Some tribal women purchase vegetables from roadside female vendors in Rangamati town. Women are becoming self-reliant because of their greater participation in economic activity.

## Killer gets life sentence in Rajbari

UNB, Rajbari

A court here has awarded life sentence to a man for killing his wife more than a year ago.

Arman Chowdhury of village Mamrabad of Pangsha upazila was fined 5,000 taka, in default, to suffer one month more rigorous imprisonment (RI).

Arman killed his wife Sabina Parvin following a quarrel on December 2, 2001.

Session Judge Sheikh Sydul Islam handed down the verdict on Sunday.

## Islamic scholar passes away

UNB, Kishoreganj

Moulana Abdul Hamid Dipeshwari, eminent Islamic scholar passed away at his village home at Dipeshwar in Hossainpur upazila on Sunday. He was 142.

Known as Bulbul-e-Bangla, Moulana Abdul Hamid died at 9:20am. He is survived by four sons and three daughters.

Abdul Hamid participated in the anti-British movement.

## Separate incidents kill 2 in Jhenidah

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Two persons were killed in two separate incidents in Jhenidah.

On the night of February 13, miscreants killed a rickshaw van puller named Mangal, 26, in Arappur area of Jhenidah town, after manhandling him severely, police said.

The victim hails from village Rupdah in Sadar upazila. Conflict with rickshaw van owners might be the cause of the inci-

dent, local people apprehended.

The body was sent to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital at 12.30 am.

In another incident in the afternoon on February 14, a 32-year-old man named Bellal Hossain died at Khulna 250-bed hospital.

Police and Jhenidah prison sources said Bellal was shifted to Khulna in a critical condition.

On the Eid day he was handed over to police in an arms case and sent to Jhenidah district prison.

Relatives told this correspondent that an influential group abducted Bellal's wife a few months back. The same group handed over him to police with a fire arm after severe beating. He is a restaurant owner at Seikhpara Bazar near Islamic University. He hails from village Bhabmipur in Rajbari.

The body was sent to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital.

## A festival of tribal Buddhists



PHOTO FEATURE: JOGLUL HASAN

Kathin Chibor Dan is a traditional religious festival of the tribal Buddhist community. A weaving competition is held to mark the festival. Tribal women participate in the meet with great enthusiasm. The whole night they engage themselves in weaving and present their product to the priest before rising of the sun. The group which presents their gift first of all is rewarded. (Top left-right) Participants of Pankhaipara in Sadar upazila of Khagrachhari and (bottom left-right) contestants of Goloabari and Mohajanpara in Khagrachhari striving hard to win the first prize.

## Two killed in separate road accidents in Mymensingh, Comilla

UNB, Mymensingh/ Comilla

Two persons were killed in separate road accidents in Mymensingh and Comilla in two days.

A man was killed and seven others were injured in separate road accidents on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway and Gazipur-Chandona road on Sunday and Monday.

Witnesses said Bachhu Mia, 30, of Goforgaon upazila died on the spot when a Dhaka-bound pick-up van hit him at Maona intersection on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway. He

was returning home on Sunday.

Seven people including an employee of judge court Lehajuddin were injured in a tempo accident on Gazipur-Chandona road on Monday.

Another report from Comilla says: A young man was killed in a road accident in Burichang upazila on Dhaka-Chittagong highway on Sunday.

Police said Lutful Kabir Lutu, 28, was run over by a speeding bus when he was crossing the road at Nimshar bazaar at 11pm. A case was filed.



Murshid Kuli Khan, managing director (MD) of Janata Bank (JB) speaks as the chief guest at a conference of JB branch managers, Jessore region. M U Farooki, general manager (GM), Khulna divisional office and Nurul Hasnat, deputy general manager (DGM) of Jessore area were present at the conference on Sunday.