

SNAPS

**Seven cases sent to Khulna STT**

**BSS, Chuadanga**  
Seven under-trial sensational criminal cases have been sent to the Speedy Trial Tribunal, Khulna, for their quick disposal, sources at the district judge court said on Thursday.

The se are four murder cases, two cases under Arms Act and one relating to repression on a woman.

Hearings on some of the transferred cases have already been started, the sources added.

**One gets 10 yrs' RI for snatching**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra**

District Judge Asheaur Rahman has sentenced one person to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment (RI) for snatching money and a wristwatch.

The court also fined convict Ferdous Alam of Malgram village Tk 10,000, in default to suffer one year more RI.

Alam had snatched Tk 1,200 and a wristwatch from one Aminul Huq in May 1999 at gunpoint.

**14 yrs' RI for keeping illegal arms**

**A CORRESPONDENT, Madaripur**  
Special Tribunal Judge Nazir Ahmed gave 14 years' imprisonment to one Ripon Bapari for illegally possessing a shotgun.

Ripon of Shibchar upazila was caught with the illegal gun by Shibchar thana police on October 3 last year, court sources said.

## Diarrhoea takes serious turn in Nilphamari

26 killed, 55,600 attacked: Situation 'serious' in Domar and Nilphamari Sadar, Civil Surgeon says



Diarrhoea patients on the floor of Nilphamari Sadar Hospital. The photo was taken at about noon yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

**EAM ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari**

Diarrhoea situation in the district has taken a serious turn with death of four more people in last three days, raising the toll to 26.

Talking to this correspondent yesterday, Civil Surgeon Nazrul Islam admitted the four deaths and said around 55,600 people have been attacked with the disease in

the six upazilas.

The unofficial death toll is however 35.

He said the month of September is the worst period as regards diarrhoea and other intertinal diseases are concerned.

The Civil Surgeon said the demand for intravenous cholera saline in the affected areas is 1000 bags per day but the health depart-

ment had only 110 bags yesterday.

A messenger was sent to Dhaka yesterday to bring saline on an emergency basis. He is expected to be back by Saturday night.

The situation in Domar and Nilphamari is "serious" but it has "improved" in Dimla, the Civil Surgeon said.

According to information received from the district health

department till Saturday noon, 19 diarrhoea patients were admitted to the upazila health complex in Nilphamari, 15 in Domar, 14 in Dimla, 14 in Jaldhaka and 13 in Saidpur health complex.

Two emergency diarrhoea wards have been set up at Nilphamari Sadar Hospital and Dimla health complex.

This correspondent during a visit found diarrhoea patients lying on the floor at Nilphamari Sadar Hospital for want of beds.

Hundreds of patients are taking treatment daily at outdoors of the Sadar Hospital and the five upazila health complexes.

Besides, a large number of patients are taking treatment at homes.

Due to scarcity, doctors and health workers at hospitals are advising patients to buy intravenous saline from outside.

Taking the chance, drug store owners are charging

Tk 60 to 70 per intravenous saline against Tk 40.

Many poor people complained that their patients are suffering as they can not buy saline at such high price.

The Civil Surgeon said the disease spread as poor people were compelled to take uneatable food and impure water.

There is no agricultural work in the district now. At least five lakh people are unemployed and so they can not buy food, sources said.

The government should supply emergency food relief and start food for work programme to cope with the situation, they said.

## Steps taken for Durga Puja in Barisal, Sylhet

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Barisal and Sylhet district administrations have taken special measures to ensure observance of Durga Puja in a befitting manner.

Our Barisal Correspondent reported that the district administration on Thursday held a meeting with Hindu community leaders, politicians, public representatives, police officials and the local elite.

The meeting was informed that 375 Puja mandaps (places of worship) including 22 in Barisal city have been organised for the Puja this year.

The meeting was attended by, among others, BCC Mayor Majibur Raman Sarwar MP, Police Superintendent Md Mohsin Hossain, BCC ward commissioners Nuramul Islam, Atikur Rahman, Murtaza Abedin, district Bar Association President and Puja Ujapon Parishad Secretary advocate Manabendra Batobale, city BNP secretary Asaduzzaman Khasru and city Zamaat-e-Ameer Moazzem Hossain Helal.

The meeting decided to deploy additional police force and ensure uninterrupted power supply during the festival. Steps will also be taken to restrict plying of trucks and other heavy vehicles in the city to avoid traffic jam during the Puja.

The BCC Mayor announced Tk 5000 donation for each public Puja mandap and Tk 3000 for each private mandap.

A BSS report from Sylhet said the Deputy Commissioner at a meeting held at his office on Thursday said sufficient police force would be deployed and a control room opened to ensure security during the Puja. Steps will also be taken to ensure uninterrupted power supply.

Among others, Sawami Chadranathan-Anandazi Moharaj, principal of Sylhet Ramkrishna Mission, Public Prosecutor Nurul Haque, Sylhet city BNP President Ehia Reza Chowdhury, Sylhet Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Dr. Shafiqur Rahman, Trustee of Hindu Dharmiya Kalayan Trust Nihar Ranjan Das attended the meeting.

## Businessman Zakir murder Suspect might have crossed border, nephew held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

CID police took a close relative of a suspect in millionaire businessman Rezaur Rahman Zakir murder case into three days' remand on Friday.

Dilip Talapatra, maternal uncle of the suspect --Krishnapada Banik-- was arrested from his business firm - Comilla Shipping -- at Buck Building at Khatungonj on Wednesday night.

Dilip was produced before the District Magistrate's Court on Friday with seven days' remand prayer. The court granted three days' remand.

Dilip is reportedly a cheque dealer. CID sources said they suspect that Dilip might be knowing about transaction of crores of taka of Zakir's scrap vessel business, sources said. The transactions were usually done in chaques.

The sources said, only a few days before being murdered, Zakir gave Krishnapada Tk 24 crore for purchase of three scrap vessels. The amount reportedly remained untraced since Zakir's murder. The sources further said that before Zakir's murder,

Krishnapada reportedly shifted to Dhaka, keeping his business firm Trisha Enterprise at Buck Building in Khatungonj under lock and key.

He is untraced since then. The sources said CID suspects that he might have crossed into India rousing.

Dilip's firm - Comilla Shipping-- also remained closed since the murder, the sources said. During interrogation, Dilip kept mum about Zakir murder and denied his relationship with his nephew Krishnapada as well, they said.

Rezaur Rahman Zakir was missing from in front of Chittagong railway station on August 11. His bullet-ridden body was recovered from Militarypole under Boalkhali upazila on the following day (August 12).

A case was filed with Boalkhali police station and six persons were arrested in this connection earlier. The case was sent to CID on September 3.

The arrested six persons were remanded twice.

## Tributes to Gandhi

135th birth anniversary observed at Gandhi Ashram

BSS, JOYAG, Noakhala

Speakers at a discussion on Mahatma Gandhi held here on Friday at Gandhi Ashram have paid tributes to the "one of the most outstanding personalities of the 20th century."

Law justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed attended the function chief guest.

Justice Gour Gopal Saha, a judge of the Supreme Court and chairman, Gandhi Ashram Trust, presided over the inaugural function of the weeklong programme taken up to mark the 135th birth anniversary of Gandhi.

Indian High Commissioner Manilal Tripathi, former MP Hasna Jasimuddin Moudud, economist Debapriya Bhattachariya, Noakhali District Judge Abdul Gafur, Deputy Commissioner Mostafa Kamal Haider, Police Superintendent Mesbahun Nabi, and Ms Jharna

Dhara Chowdhury, secretary of the Trust participated in the discussion.

Moudud said Gandhi was one of the greatest humanists of the 20th century who dedicated his life for the cause of the oppressed.

He said the humanist philosophy of Mahatma, if applied, could bring peace, harmony and social justice in the life of the people of this region.

Tripathi noted that friendship between Bangladesh and India is rooted in a multi-layered and multi-faceted foundation and said this shared ethos provides a strong basis for our abiding friendship and should be cherished as a valuable asset for realising the potential of the friendship.

The weeklong programme includes peace rally, 60 peace meetings in different villages, blood donation, children painting and essay competition.

## 5 kids rescued from traffickers

Body recovered at Mymensingh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Four children abducted from Muktagacha on September 24 were rescued from Trishal bus stand in the district town by local people on Thursday.

The rescued children are Shokkuri, 9, Sagar 7, Mintee, 5 and Sirajul 3, all children of one Chan Miah of Elachhai village in Muktagacha upazila.

Police said people at the bus stand saw the five children weeping and approached them.

They told the people that they were going to their father at Nutun Bazar at Muktagacha upazila headquarters from their village home. On the way, two persons offered them biscuits and brought them to Mymensingh town. Seeing the unknown place, they started weeping. At this the two persons left them.

The children have been handed over to Kotwali police.

In another incident, the Kotwali police recovered the body of a young man from the Circuit House ground Thursday morning.

The body was identified as that of

one Babu, son of Tofazzol Hossain of Hamid Uddin Road in the town.

Police said the body bore marks of injury.

## Urea sells at high price in Patuakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Urea fertiliser is selling at about Tk 100 more than the fixed price in Kalapara coastal areas in Patuakhali district during the ongoing peak season of Aman cultivation.

Traders are realising Tk 330 to Tk 340 per bag against its fixed price of Tk 240, farmers said.

Farmers said the traders have created an artificial drisis of the item as its demand increased. Local agricultural officials said there is a demand for 500 bags of urea per week in Kalapara region during Aman season.

Local fertiliser dealers said they purchase urea from Ghorashal factory and the price increases due to high carrying cost.

## Miscreants damage image of goddess in Lamonirhat

A CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Miscreants damaged the image of a Hindu goddess at a temple at Kamlabri village in Aditmari upazila on Wednesday night.

Aditmari thana police arrested one Kashem Ali, 25, son of Nabi Hossain of the same village on the following day in connection with the incident, police said.

Lalmonirhat Police Superintendent Mohammad Maniruzzaman visited the village on Thursday and Friday and told members of the Hindu community that the district administration will take all measures so that they can celebrate the Puja properly.

During a visit by a group of newsmen yesterday, Bimol Chandra and Babul Chandra, president and general secretary respectively of the Puja celebration committee said a gang of ten miscreants attacked the temple and damaged the image.

## Tk one crore heroin seized in Sherpur, two held

BSS, Sherpur

Police recovered one kilogram heroin worth about Tk one crore from a house at Goshaipur village under Sribardi upazila on Thursday night and arrested two persons.

They are Jaber Ali, 50 and his son Solaiman, 25.

Acting on a tip-off, detective branch (DB) police raided the house and found the heroin packet at the kitchen.

Police said the two are members of a gang of heroin smugglers, led by Amir Hossain, son-in-law of Jaber Ali. They smuggle heroin from India through Jhenaigati frontier and supply it to different parts of the country.

A few minutes before the raid, Amir Hossain left the place with another packet of heroin.

Jaber Ali was arrested with heroin earlier also but freed.

Police are now interrogating the two arrested persons.

## UP chairman murder Five arrested in Faridpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Five persons were arrested on Friday in connection with the murder of Manikdah Union Parishad Chairman Shahed Ali on the previous day.

The arrested persons are Sattar Bepari, 25, Badal Sheikh, 28, Mamunur Rashid, 23, Nurul Islam, 25 and Faruque Hossain, 30, according to Bhanga Police.

Shahed Ali was murdered Thursday night while he was returning home at Adampur village.



PHOTO: ANWAR ALI

It is Autumn now, but people caged in concrete jungles have no time to enjoy the beautiful and pleasant season. Have a break from urban life and see the enchanting beauty of rural Bangladesh with Kash flowers in full bloom. The photo was taken recently from a shoal in the Padma river.