

## Kazal shifted to Dhaka

From Our Correspondent  
JHENIDAH, Sept 22: Farooq Ahmed Kazal, the much talked about *hundi* trader, was shifted to Dhaka on Tuesday for interrogation.

Kazal, who skinned crores of Taka through his so-called Kotchandpur Syndicate Bank, was awarded four months detention earlier and later duration of his detention was extended for another two months. He was staying in Jhenidah district prison.

Kazal collected about Taka twelve hundred crore from investors. The investors were assured to be provided with ten per cent to twelve per cent monthly interests. Kazal was doing the illegal business for the last eight years.

On May 8 this year police arrested Kazal from his house.

A committee was formed to collect the money from Kazal and his agents. The committee will return the money to genuine investors.

## Municipality polls Electioneering gets momentum in Comilla

COMILLA, Sept 22: Electioneering gains momentum here with only few days left for the Comilla Municipality polls, reports BSS.

Meetings are being held. Supporters of different candidates are bringing out processions and using loud speakers to attract voters.

The town also wears a festive look with walls of buildings are covered by posters having colourful election symbols of the respective candidates and banners and festoons being displayed in important places.

The total number of voters is 70,281 including 34,625 women. Five candidates are vying for the lone post of Chairman, 107 candidates for 17 posts of Ward Commissioners and 28 women candidates for five reserved seats in the election.

Although municipality elections are not held on the basis of political party lines, the candidates have blessings of the major political parties.

Of the five candidates contesting for the post of chairman, the incumbent chairman of Comilla pourashava Kamaluddin Chowdhury and Farhad Jamal Shahid are supported by the main opposition BNP and the remaining three Jasimuddin Ahmed, Shafiqul Islam Sikder and Advocate MA Azad are known to have blessings of the ruling Awami League.

There is no candidate having Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami affiliations.

Anjum Sulatana, a female candidate in Ward No. 3 of the five reserve seats and Amaullah Khan Himmat in Ward No. 7 have already been elected due to withdrawal of their opponents.

District election office sources said a total of 473 presiding officers, assistant presiding officers and polling officers will be appointed in 32 polling centres for holding the elections.

A large number of members of the law enforcing agencies, including Police, BDR and Ansar will be deployed during polling to maintain law and order, the sources added.

## Four jailed under PSA in Barisal

From Staff Correspondent  
BARISAL, Sept 22: Four people were sentenced to 10 years Rigorous Imprisonment (RI) each under the Public Safety Act in a district court Tuesday.

Convicts Abdul Kalam Howlader, Ali Sardar, Moslem Mollah and Kausar Howlader were also fined Tk 5000 each, in default, to suffer two more years of RI. Absconding Akbar Hossain was acquitted.

According to prosecution, the convicts had snatched away Tk 1700 and a wrist watch from one Rafiqul Islam, a vegetable vendor on a boat on March 10 at Chhahpur under Muladi police station. Rafiq filed a case against them with Babuganj thana under PSA on the same day.

Police after investigation, filed charge-sheets against the accused on June 8 and Special Tribunal Judge Md. Abdus Samad handed down the punishments.

## Acute fish scarcity

CHANDPUR, Sept 22: Acute scarcity of fish has been prevailing throughout the district for a long time, reports BSS.

Chandpur was once an important fish producing centre of the country. Fishes like hilsa and common carps were supplied to other districts from Chandpur. Besides the country exported a large quantity of fishes to other countries from Chandpur. But now pisciculture here has been badly affected by various reasons.

Pisciculture has been hampered due to unplanned use of chemical fertilisers on croplands. Two big irrigation projects are situated in the district.

Besides, fishermen have been facing problems including shortage of fund, shortage of nets and price hike of other fishing materials.

# Plight of Tangailites

From A Correspondent

TANGAIL, Sept 22: Residents of Tangail Municipality are being deprived of civic amenities for a long time.

Although the population of the municipality is increasing day by day, yet the municipality authorities are not providing basic civic amenities to them.

Town dwellers suffer much due to absence of proper drainage system, deplorable condition of roads, inadequate street light, lack of proper sanitary frequent traffic jam and absence of recreational facilities.

Absence of proper drainage system is a major problem in the municipality area. The town dwellers face difficulties due to stagnation of water in drains.

Most of the drains are filled with filth and garbage which are not cleaned in proper time.

In many areas there are no drains. During the rainy season the drains are accumulated with dirt and filth. It causes health hazards to the inhabitants of the municipality, especially during the rainy season. Due to lack of proper maintenance and repair work, most of the roads of the municipality area are in deplorable condition.

Because of increasing in number of rickshaws traffic jam has become a regular phenomenon here. According to office source of the municipality, there are about 6,000 licensed rickshaws on the road, but actually about 10,000 rickshaws are plying on roads here.

The damaged road are: Amnghat road, Cholana Bazar road, Kazipur road, Gurpatti road, Chaulpatti road. Crocks and potholes have developed at many points of the roads.

Most covers of the drains are broken and the footpaths are generally occupied with makeshift shop owners. Some roads of the town are very narrow which are unfit to plough even two rickshaws at a time. After a slight rainfall most of the roads become muddy and slippery. Rain waters remain stagnant on the road causing difficulties and sufferings to the Passers-by and vehicular movement.

Violation of traffic rule has become a normal affair. It causes serious traffic jam in different points of the town. Main road Chaulpatti road, Masjid road, Tangail-Mymensingh road are seriously affected by traffic jams.

Residents of Tangail Municipality have urged the authorities concerned to take proper steps to mitigate their sufferings.

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## Sugarcane under pest attack

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Sept 22: Production of sugarcane in the district will be affected severely due to flood and pest attack.

According to an unofficial estimate, the recent flood has affected sugarcane on about 10,000 acres of land. Besides, pests have attacked the submerged sugarcane plants.

Due to the pest attack, the sugarcane leaves have turned yellow. The pest-affected sugarcane will not yield sufficient and pure juice for producing molasses or sugar, farmers said.

According to sources, 17,000 acres of land have been brought under sugarcane cultivation in the district this season.

When contacted, General Manager of Kushtia Sugar Mills admitted the pest attack. The only way to combat the menace is to cut the affected sugarcane stems and burn those, he said.

Shortfall of sugarcane production target will surely cast an adverse impact on sugar production in the district and the country as well, Kushtia Sugar Mills' officials said.

Meanwhile UNB from Benapole, Jessore says:

Fifteen sugar mills of the country have fixed a target to produce 1.3 lakh mts of sugar in the current season.

Of the total target, 12,600 mts will be produced in Darshana Sugar Mills, 8,000 mts in Mobaraganj, 9,000 mts in Panchagarh, 6,400 mts in Thakurgaon, 6,000 mts in Sestabganj, 4,800 mts in Shyampur, 6,300 mts in Rangpur, 8,900 mts in Joypurhat 7,100 mts in Rajshahi, 10,300 mts in Natore, 12,500 mts in North Bengal and 4,500 mts in Pabna Sugar Mills.

According to officials, the mills will require some 16.23 lakh mts of sugarcane to achieve the target.

Meanwhile, some 1.89 lakh acres of land under the zones of the sugar mills have been brought under sugarcane cultivation from where 29.92 lakh mts of cane are expected to be produced.

Said some 16.23 lakh mts of sugarcane, the officials said, would be supplied to the sugar mills while the rest to molasses producers.

They said sugar production in the mills would begin in November next.



A seller weighs a fish at a fish market at Shailakupa upazila in Jhenidah district. Fish production in the district like other places in the country has been declining day by day mainly due to lack of modern cultivation method. Besides, indiscriminate use of fertilisers in croplands pollutes water in natural water bodies like beels, canals and rivers, taking toll on fish production. -Star photo

## Grandiose health scheme

JESSORE, Sept 22: Government has taken up a project to build 275 community hospitals in eight upazilas under a Five-year Plan to Provide treatment to the people, reports UNB.

According to the project, a total of 13,000 community hospitals will be constructed all over the country by 2003.

At the Cairo conference held in 1994 it was suggested to carry on the functions of health service and family planning jointly.

As per the recommendation the government has decided to set up 275 hospitals, each on 400 square feet of land at a cost of Tk 2 lakh for each 6,000 people under its five-year plan (1998-2003).

Health Department, Family Planning and LGRD have been implementing the project jointly.

Of the total, 58 hospitals will be constructed in Sadar, 23 in Baghpara, 39 in Sharsha, 33 in Jhikorgacha, 23 in Chowgacha, 26 in Avonyagar, 16 in Keshabpur and 43 in Monirampur upazilas.

Construction work on 124 hospitals has been progressing well and is expected to be completed by

December next, official sources added.

Of the hospitals, 25 have been built in Sadar, 10 in Baghpara, 17 in Sharsha, 12 in Avonyagar, 14 in Keshabpur, 18 in Monirampur, 10 in Chowgacha and 16 in Jhikorgacha upazila. The rest will be implemented within 2003.

A health assistant and a family planning assistant will be appointed for each hospital at the preliminary stage.

Dr Rahmat Khoda, district civil surgeon while contacted told the news agency that it was decided to begin work on the project in 1998 but the work delayed due to want of requisite land.

A committee has also been formed comprising UNOs, family welfare officers, people's representatives and representatives from different other sectors to supervise the work of the project.

After the completion of the project, the community hospitals will provide different vaccines, necessary medicines and treatment facilities to the rural people.



A muddy road caused by faulty drainage in Ukipara area in Netrakona town. But there is no initiative from the authorities concerned for improving the condition. -Star photo



A family on board a raft moves to a safer place. Low-lying areas in Sirajganj town have been inundated with floodwater. The photograph was taken from Char Malsha Para area in the town on Wednesday. The flooding has damaged crops on about 2000 hectares of land, snapped road communications and affected more than one lakh people in Sirajganj and neighbouring Pabna and Bogra districts. -Star photo by Akeruzzaman Bablu

## Twelve more godowns under construction

RAJSHAHI, Sept 22: As production of godowns rose to 2.50 crore metric tons this year with bumper harvest of Aman, the government is constructing 12 godowns on priority basis in northern districts at a cost of Tk 12 crore to improve the storage facility, reports UNB.

Besides, work on construction of a CSD godown at Rangpur with a capacity of 11,000 metric tons has been taken up with financial assistance from Japanese government.

Officials said construction of eight godowns, each with a capacity of 500 metric tons is nearing completion. These godowns are located at Bagha in Rajshahi, Dhopchacha in Bogra, Khetia in Joypurhat, Faridpur in Pabna, Bhulirhat and Jadiranhat in Thakurgaon and Ghatdhaghat and Vaduria in Dinajpur district.

According to officials, the mills will require some 16.23 lakh mts of sugarcane to achieve the target. Meanwhile, some 1.89 lakh acres of land under the zones of the sugar mills have been brought under sugarcane cultivation from where 29.92 lakh mts of cane are expected to be produced.

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