

## NEWS SNAPS

## Two youths with phensidyl arrested

**UNB, Narail**  
Two youths were arrested along with phensidyl syrup in a joint drive of police and army from Rugganj area of Sadar upazila on Friday.

Police said, Obaidur, 20, of Jurula village of Sahabad union and Colnich, 25, of Mahishkhola village in Sadar were caught red-handed while they were taking the drug to Rugganj bazaar. Separate cases were filed.

## Construction of steel bridges going on

**BSS, Barisal**  
Construction of three steel bridges is going on in full swing at different places of two southern districts at a cost of Tk 37,78,456 during the current fiscal year.

According to an official source, two bridges are being constructed in Barisal district and one in Jhalakathi district. Of these, 20-metre long steel bridge is being constructed on Gourmadi-Sarical road at a cost Tk 12,20,000 and 22.036 metres long bridge at a cost of Tk 18,73,456 on Babuganj-Mohanganj road in Barisal district. Another 20-metre steel bridge is being constructed at a cost of Tk 16,85,000 on Jhalakathi-Shaheberhat road in Jhalakathi district. The work on these bridge is expected to be completed soon.

## One stabbed to death

**UNB, Barisal**  
A man was shot and stabbed to death by gunmen at Thakur-Mallik village in Babuganj upazila Tuesday night.

Jalal Ahmed, a regional leader of outlawed Sarbahara Party, was believed to have been killed by his rivals over intra-party conflict. Awami League in a press release claimed that Jalal was its activist and he was killed by the cadres of BNP. Police recovered the body from a road in the village.

## Alleged gold smuggler arrested

**UNB, Jessore**  
An alleged member of an international gold smuggling racket was arrested here on Friday. A patrol team of Navaran highway police camp arrested Touhidur Rahman from a Jessore-bound bus along with Tk 3.40 lakh. During interrogation Touhid confessed his involvement in the gold smuggling gang, police said. Police also recovered 20 bottles of phensidyl syrup from his possession.

## Two arrested with revolver

**UNB, Munshiganj**  
Police recovered one revolver and 11 rounds of bullet, and arrested two people in a drive in Makhali area of Sadar upazila Wednesday.

Police said the revolver was recovered in an abandoned condition. They arrested Abul Hossain and Minar Hossain in this connection. Another report from Comilla says: one person was arrested along with materials for manufacturing pipe-gun from a welding shop in Thirapukur area of the town on Tuesday. A case was filed against the arrested identified as Shahadat. Owner of the factory Mainuddin and manager Bachchu fled away to escape arrest, police said.

## 18 expelled from JP

**UNB, Brahmanbaria**  
District unit of Jatiya Party (Ershad) on Tuesday expelled its 18 leaders and workers for campaigning in favour of another party candidate violating party discipline.

The decision was taken at an emergency meeting with JP unit vice president Shafiqur Rahman Shahid in the chair. The primary memberships of the expelled leaders and workers were also cancelled. The expelled are: Unit vice president M Nurul Amin, joint secretary Bashir Ahmad, assistant secretaries Moklesur Rahman and A M Hassan Khan, organising secretary Sirajul Islam, Nazmul Huq Sherin, Selim Ahmad, Golah Shahriar Badal, Anwar Shahadat, Sarwar, Azam Babul, Adv Habibur Rahman, Bashir Ahmad Basu, Syed Mokabber, Kazi M Anwar Hossain, Ansanul Huq, Adv Kamaluddin, A T M Abdullah and Kamaluddin Chowdhury.

## Special meeting on law and order

**UNB, Sherpur**  
As political violence in Nakla upazila has been on spate, local administration held a special meeting on law and order at the upazila headquarters Tuesday.

Political leaders, including representatives of the candidates of October 1 general election, and local elite attended the meeting held with UNO Tandra Sikder in the chair. Deputy Commissioner Sheikh Abul Kalam, Police Super Amullia Boshan Barua, representative of the armed forces deployed in the area also attended the meeting. The political parties at the meeting pledged to cooperate with the authorities in maintaining law and order in the area for peaceful holding of the election.

## Netrakona JCD demands arms recovery

**BSS, Netrakona**  
Leaders of Netrakona district unit of Jatiyatadabi Chhatra Dal (JCD) urged the caretaker government for arresting armed cadres of "Seven Star Bahini" at Durgapur upazila.

The JCD leaders also demanded recovery of illegal arms from the "Seven Star Bahini" for holding the coming elections in a free, fair and peaceful manner. They made the appeal to the government while addressing a press conference at Netrakona Press Club here recently. The JCD leaders alleged that the armed cadres of the Seven Star Bahini and Awami League terrorists demonstrating arms, threatening the leaders and workers of BNP and warning local people of dire consequences, if they cast votes against boat, the election symbol of Awami League.

## 67 licensed firearms deposited

**UNB, Jessore**  
Some 67 licensed firearms were deposited from nine upazilas of the district till Tuesday midnight, the deadline for surrendering the authorised firearms ahead of the election.

Of the firearms, some 21 were deposited in Kolwali thana alone. The deposited arms include 38 revolvers, seven pistols, eight guns and 14 other types of arms. Police said there are about 300 licensed arms in the district. Meanwhile, a meeting of the council of advisors on law and order in Dhaka on Wednesday decided to cancel the licenses of the firearms, which were not deposited within the deadline, official sources said.

## 11JP activists fall sick after taking tea

**UNB, Mymensingh**  
Eleven supporters of Jatiya Party (E) fell sick after taking tea at an election camp in Sadar upazila Wednesday night.

Medical sources said the JP supporters took tea at Madhya Barerarpur camp after joining a procession at 8 pm and soon fell sick.

They were admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital and five of them were in coma till filing of the report on Thursday noon.

## Six illegal arms recovered in Chuadanga

**BSS, Chuadanga**  
Police recovered six illegal fire arms and some ammunitions from different places of Chuadanga on Thursday and Friday, police sources said.

Acting on a secret information, police recovered one country made pistol and a pipe gun from village Islampur in Alamdanga upazila on Thursday. In another drive, police recovered two shutter guns, one pipe gun, one cartridge and one rifle bullet from village Karpashdanga mission para here. On Friday Chuadanga sadar thana police recovered one country made loaded gun from village Natun Bhandardah. Separate cases have been lodged with respective police stations. None was arrested.

## Govt employee injured by tribal youths

**BSS, Bandarban**  
Deloar Hossain, government employee, was seriously injured by some tribal youths in his government quarter in Ruangchhari Upazila Sadar on Thursday night.

Police sources said some tribal youths beat Deloar Hossain, 40, mercilessly and he was admitted to Bandarban Sadar Hospital in a critical condition. The government officials and employees of Ruangchhari Upazila said they were often attacked by the tribal miscreants and urged the caretaker government for ensuring security in the area.

## Attack on three houses by terrorists

**UNB, Comilla**  
A gang of armed terrorists ransacked three houses leaving two people injured at Battashar village in Barura upazila of the district on Saturday.

Police said, some armed terrorists attacked the houses of Abdur Rahim, Sabur and Bellal of the village leaving Sabur and another person injured. Sabur was admitted to the hospital in a critical condition. The reason behind the attack could not be known immediately. A case was filed.

## Plundering of forest resources goes on in Sundarbans

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira**

Plundering of forest resources is going on unabated in the Sundarbans. As a result, the government has been facing huge revenue losses every year.

Personnel of the Forest Department failed to take steps to check plundering of forest resources.

The Sundarbans covers a vast area of forest resources. The government earns Tk 25 crore every year from the Sundarbans.

Deer, tiger, honey, wood, golpata and other resources are being

plundered everyday, according to a source of the forest office. The government strictly prohibits hunting of wild animals in the Sundarbans. But profession and non-professional hunters are often seen hunting animals in the Sundarbans indiscriminately. The hunters enter the Sundarbans without prior permission of the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) and hunt animals to sell their skin at high prices.

Besides this, honey a natural gift, produced in the Sundarbans which can earn a lot of money, is being exploited by unauthorised people

and sold in markets of Satkhira, Khulna, Bagerhat, Mongla, Jessore and also in other parts of the country.

The number of Royal Bengal Tigers, the pride of the Sundarbans is decreasing due to random hunting. It was learnt from a preliminary survey report recently that the number of Royal Bengal Tiger now stands at approximately 450.

According to reports, the number of male deer is one lakh and that of female is also one lakh. However, the number of crocodiles in the coastal areas of the Sundarbans is said to be increasing gradually.

## Faulty drainage system causes water logging in Mymensingh

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh**

Because of lack of proper drainage system and poor condition of roads, the sufferings of Mymensingh town dwellers go beyond description.

Water logging has become a common feature in the district town. Most of the roads of the town go under knee-deep even after a slight rainfall. It takes a remarkable time to recede the rain water because of faulty drainage system.

Most important roads of the town like Boro bazaar, Machhua bazaar, Station Road, Ganginarpar Road, Durgabari Road, Raja Road, Aampatti, Swadeshi bazaar Road and C K Gosh Road are flooded after slight or moderate rainfall. The condition of roads worsens further when the mud and garbages are mixed with rain water.

Such area wears a very pitiable look when the workers lift sewerage and pile up it for days together.

When the garbage stills over and it rains, the situation worsens further. As a result suffering of the people multiplies. Due to lack covers on the drains, the people throw garbages of their household in these drains. Other wastes including polythene bags are dumped here obstructing the smooth flow of drain water.

Kutchra latrines are also seen on the drains in the town. But the authorities concerned are totally indifferent to this fact.

As most of roads are low, rain waters enter into the business establishments carrying garbages. After heavy rainfall, Station Road, Dugabari and Ganginarpar Road look like a flood affected area. The front side of many business establishments and markets are protected constructing high slabs or low walls.

Once some canals and kutchra drains were constructed in front of the houses or markets, but these canals and drains have already

been filled up with garbages and soil. Many drains are also broken down. Those drains need repair works. No cleanliness drive, have been launched by the authorities concerned.

Moreover, most of the follow lands are now under illegal occupation. Some lands have been leased out, but houses have been constructed there in an unplanned manner.

Machhua bazaar, the oldest kutchra bazaar of the town remains always dirty for want of proper drainage system. Garbages of this market is not cleaned regularly, alleged some businessmen. They also told The Daily Star that after slight rainfall they have to wait for recession of rain water for hours together.

Some town dwellers told this correspondent that though they are paying the municipality taxes regularly, but the authorities concerned are fatally yet to take proper step to develop the drainage system properly.

## First phase of literacy programme ends

**BSS, Satkhira**

The implementation of Total Literacy Movement (TLM) programme under the title of "Uddipta Satkhira" Phase-1 has been completed.

The district administration had chalked out an elaborate programme to eradicate illiteracy and to give light of primary education to the adult men and women under a pilot project of TLM started by turns in seven upazilas from December-1 in 1998 and completed on May-15 in 2000.

In the first phase of the programme, 60 pilot education centres opened at upazila and municipality level on experimental basis for imparting knowledge of reading, writing and arithmetic to 1800 illiterate male and female of 78 unions under the project. Thirty persons are enrolled in each centre.

The second phase of the programme will be started from January-1 to 2002.

The total population of the project is about 15,94,78, of whom a total of 3,28,827 illiterate adults will be educated under the TLM programme.

The upazila-wise learners are as follows: 29,850 males and 35,103 females in Tala upazila, 16,028 males and 20,421 females in Kalaroa, 26,520 males and 33,780 females in Sadar, 20,336 males and 27,180 females in Assassuni, 7,494 males and 10,276 females in Debhata, 18,891 males and 24,055 females in Kaliganj and 23,528 males and 35,365 females in Shymnagar upazila.

According to official sources, the main objective of Uddipta Satkhira is to educate 3,28,827 adults through 10,965 centres by October 31 in 2002.

The upazila-wise centres are Tala 2,165, Kalaroa 1,215, Sadar

completely suspended from the next month of September of the same year due to cataclysmic flood that hit five upazilas of the district on September 27 in 2000.

## Oilmen of Kishoreganj in misery

**UNB, Kishoreganj**

More than 16,000 workers engaged in producing edible oils in 13 upazilas of the district have been facing acute problem for want of working capital.

Many oil producers have already shut down their factories and passing their days in great hardship.

Once 2,500 bullock-driven oil factories were operated in the district generating employment opportunity for about 5,000 families.

The decline of these factories has led to expansion of more efficient and cheaper mechanised oil mills in various parts of the district.

Demand for bullock-driven edible oil has also marked a decline because of import of soybean and palm oil, which have flooded local markets.

Nearly Tk 10,000 working capital is required to run a bullock-driven oil factory. The owners have to borrow loan from local moneylenders at an exorbitant rate of interest giving rise to production cost.

Failing to cope with the financial crisis, many of them have already closed down their factories in the district.



PHOTO: STAR

A musical programme was arranged recently by the Rover Scouts of Islamic University on the occasion of a reception accorded to the newcomers and the outgoing students of the university at the lounge of the Arts Faculty.

## Five including 2 asst presiding officers held in Naogaon

**UNB, Naogaon**

Five people including two assistant presiding officers were arrested here during Monday's national election.

Polling in Khodkalna Primary School centre in Mohadevpur upazila of Naogaon-3 constituency was postponed for two and a half hours at 12 noon to avoid untoward incident.

Local people became agitated when supporters of Awami League with the help of assistant presiding officer forced some women to cast their votes for their party.

Later, the assistant presiding officer and two AL supports were arrested from the centre.

## Border areas of Jhenidah now a safe route of smuggling

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah**

The border areas of Jhenidah have become a safe route of smuggling of contraband phensidyl syrup and other items.

At least 1,50,000 bottles of phensidyl syrup is brought in the country from India every month through different borders, according to some law-enforcing agencies, local people and a section of transport workers.

Smuggling of contrabands is increasing day by day as most of the accused in smuggling cases are not nabbed although some men and women involved in carrying the

goods are arrested by the law enforcing agency personnel.

Phensidyl smuggling has become a common feature at Kaliganj upazila headquarters. Here a good number of abandoned women, men even some college students are allegedly involved with the illegal trading in Mohespur of Jhenidah, Jibannagar in Chuadanga and Pragpur in Kushtia districts.

Many people involved in smuggling of phensidyl syrup had been arrested with goods earlier from different parts of the district, but they got bail immediately after their arrest.



Lhatu Wangchuk, Ambassador of Bhutan in Bangladesh and his wife S B Wangchuk called on Prof Dr Md Anwarul Islam, Vice Chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), Mymensingh during their visit to the university recently