# NATIONAL

# The Daily Star

# **NEWS SNAPS**

#### 111 affected by arsenic in Chuadanga

#### BSS, Chuadanga

About 100 people including female and children of village Jhajri-Begumpur in Begumpur union have become critically ill after taking arsenic contaminated water from tubewells.

According to official sources, conditions of 25 persons, including 12 children, are very critical. Three persons died in the village a year ago when they became severely ill after taking arsenic contaminated water of the hand pump tubewells. The Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) sealed the tubewells at that time and installed four new hand pump tubewells in the village. After one year, water of the tubewells became arsenic contaminated.

#### Neighbour throws acid on housewife

#### UNB, Gopalganj

A young housewife received severe burn injuries when a neighbour threw acid on her early last week.

Critically injured Madhuri, wife of Shanti Ranjan of village Satpaar in Sadar upazila, is undergoing treatment at the Sadar Hospital. The victim alleged that Dinanath, son of neighbour Sribash Biswas, stealthily entered into her house by cutting open the fence on the night of September 2, threw acid on her and ran away. Informed sources said Dinanath, a philanderer, forcibly raped Madhuri about six months ago. Following that her husband filed a case accusing Dinanath under the Women and Child Repression Act, a harsh law. The accused had been pressing Madhuri and her husband to withdraw the case. Despite threat on their life, they refused to comply. This infuriated Dinanath who took the drastic course of throwing acid on the young housewife.

#### Girl rescued

#### BSS Chuadanda

Police rescued Joly Aktar, 8, from village Begumpur in Chuadanga Sadar upazila recently. She was kidnapped from south Sobujbag of Dhaka.

According to police sources, Sohel, 20, son of Khalil, a tenant of Hannan Mia of south Sobujbag and his friend Khalil, 26, kidnapped Joly, daughter of Chan Mia, also tenant of the house and took her to Shoel's village home at Begumpur. Chan Mia rushed to the village as soon as his daughter was kidnapped and rescued her with the help of Begumpur Camp Police. The accused managed to escape. A kidnapping case was filed in this connection with Chuadanga Police Station.

#### Two firearms recovered: Six arrested

#### UNB. Jessore

Police in separate drives recovered two firearms and arrested six people from the town on Friday night.

Acting on a tip, police raided Shankarpur poultry farm area and arrested three people with one gun and two bullets. They are Babu Mir, Khan Jahan Ali and Mohabbat Ali, In another drive in Haiari Gate area of Shankarpur, police arrested three people with a pipe-gun on the same night. They were identified as Akkas, Shukur and Abdur Razzak. Separate cases were filed with the police.

#### One imprisoned for possessing weapons

#### **UNB**, Jessore

A court here has found a man guilty of possessing illegal weapons and sentenced him to 21 years in jail

The convict was identified as Rezaul Karim, son of Muslem Miah of Birampur in Sadar upazila. According to the prosecution, police arrested Rezaul Karim along with two guns, two bombs and one bullet from Birampur on August 22, 1999. After examining the records and witnesses, the Additional District and Sessions Judge pronounced the judgement on Monday.

#### Houses of two terrorists raided

#### UNB, Narayanganj

Police seized a revolver raiding the houses of two terrorists in Laxmankhola area in the town and arrested a man in this connection Monday.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided the houses of Sumon and Babul and recovered the revolver and 21 live bombs. Police seized 270 bottles of phensidyl from Nabiganj Loia Press Sunday and arrested its guard Shah Alam for possessing the contraband. Some 200 bottles of phensidyl were also recovered from a boat at Char Kisarganj near Kalagachhia. A case was filed.

#### Abandoned rifle recovered

# **BNP** bags three seats, **AL** one in Jhenidah district

#### DELWAR KABIR, Jhenidah

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has bagged three out of the four parliamentary seats in Jhenidah district while the Awami League (AL) captured the rest one in the October 1 general election.

A total of 19 candidates participated in the eighth Jatiya Sangsad (JS) polls. Of them, 11 have lost their security money.

According to returning officer's office sources, 76.03 per cent to 89.43 per cent voters in Jhanidah district cast their votes.

In Jhanidah-1 constituency comprising Shailakupa upazila, a total of 187,188 voters out of 217,821 cast votes. AL candidate Abdul Hyee bagged the seat. He polled 92,638 votes against 92,304 votes obtained by BNP candidate Abdul Wahab.

In Jhenidah-2 comprising Sadar and Harina Kundu upazilas, BNP candidate Mashiur Rahman has won for the third time defeating senior AL leader Nur-e-Alam Siddiquee. Rahman secured 144,824 votes while Siddiquee got 117,435 votes. Out of 310,543

Farmers of three northern districts

are expecting 2.54 lakh metric tons

of additional food grains during the

current season following availability

first phase work in the year 2003.

per annum, they added.

UNB, Rangpur

barrage

the current season.



(From left to right) Abdul Hyee (Jhenidah-1, AL), Mashiur Rahman (Jhenidah-2, BNP), Shahidul Islam Master (Jhenidah-3, BNP) and Shahidduzzaman Beltu (Jhenidah-4, BNP)

voters, a total of 267,604 cast their votes. Rahman bagged 54.11 per 76,03 per cent have cast votes. Out of total 233,276 votes cast, BNP cent of total votes cast. candidate Shahidduzzaman Beltu Shahidul Islam Master of BNP is has bagged 97,738 votes and won While his nearest rival AL candidate the winner in Jhenidah-3 constitu-

ency composed of Maheshpur and Kotchandpur upazilas. Out of the total 247,914 voters, 221,721 or 89.43 per cent cast votes. Master got 127,170 votes while his nearest rival AL candidate Sazzatuj Jumma received 84,760 votes. Master got 57.35 per cent of the votes cast. He has also been elected MP for the third time.

In Jhenidah-4 constituency,

Teesta project provides irrigation

facilities to 56,101 hectares

# **114 forfeit security money** in three districts

#### AGENCIES, Comilla, Jessore, Satkhira

A total of 114 candidates in Comilla, Jessore and Satkhira districts have lost their security money in October 1 national election.

Seventy six out of 103 candidates in 12 constituencies of Comilla district have lost their security money

Of the total, three each in Comilla-1 and Comilla-11. 28 in Comilla-3, seven in Comilla-4, two in Comilla-5, four each in Comilla-2, Comilla-6, Comilla-7, Comilla-8 and Comilla-10, eight in Comilla-9, and five in Comilla-12 constituency lost the security money.

They contested the election from Jatiya Party (Ershad), CPB, 11party, BSD, Islami Shashontantra Andolon, Khelafot Andolon, Krishak Shramik Janata League and as independent.

In Jessore, 24 out of 30 candidates in six constituencies have lost

pending in Kurigram

their security money, official sources said.

They are Dr KM Nazrul Islam, Mofiqul Hassan Tripti and Taherjul Islam from Jessore-1, BM Selim Reza, Atiur Rahman, Adv Abul Hossain, Prof Rezaul Hossain and M Zahidul Islam (Ind) from Jessore-2, Kazi Shahed Ahmad, Adv Mahbubul Alam Bachchu, Haroonor-Rahid, Moulana M

Towhiduzzaman, Abul Kalam Mostafa and ABM Kamrul Hassan Nasim from Jessore-3, Moulana Nazmul Huda, Boikuntha Bihari Roy, M Alamgir Hossain and AKM Isahaq of Jessore-4, Alhaj Adv Kamruzzaman from Jessore-5, Gazi Enamul Huq, Alhaj GM Ershad, Abdul Halim, Abu Bakar Siddique and Frokan Ahmad from

Jessore-6. Fourteen out of 24 candidates in five constituencies of Satkhira district have lost their security money.

E), Advocate Mostafa Lutfullah (Workers Party, 11 Party), Sheikh Altaf Mahmud (JP-Manju) and Syed Didar Bakth (Independent) in Satkhira-1 (Tala Kalaroa) constituency; Syeda Razia Foyez (JP-E), Saifullah Sardar Kislu (Independent) and Abdul Zabbar (Independent) in Satkhira-2(Sadar) constitu-

The candidates are Abdul Ali (JP-

S M Salauddin (JP-E) is the only one candidate who has lost the security money in the Satkhira-3 (Assassuni) constituency.

Besides, Shahadat Hossain (Independent), Mahabubur Rahman (JP-E) and Shasanko Shekor (BSD, 11 Party) in Satkhira-4 (Debhata-Kaliganj) constituency; Golam Reja (JP-E), Mahabub Elahi (BSD, 11 Party) and Dr Murid Ali (Independent) in Satkhira-5 (Shyamnagar) Constituency have

lost security money. **Over 8000 cases remain** 

### **Dairy farm** owners face problems

due to various reasons including

Kalaroa upazila, 17 in Tala, 50 in

Assasuni and 65 in Satkira Sadar

have been facing problems due to

scarcity of fodder and insufficient

bank loans. Moreover, they do not

get adequate medicines from the

animal husbandry department when

the cattle are attacked by various

diseases. Because of this problems

they are now compelled to close

owners, fodder is being sold at an

exorbitant price in the district, result-

ing in the increase cost of produc-

tion of milk. The production of milk

Krishi Bank, Satkhira region dis-

Several branches of Bangladesh

has also sharply declined.

According to several dairy farm

Of the total dairy farms, 40 are in

The owners of the diary farms

#### increasing day by day, and proce-BSS, Satkhira

upazila.

scarcity of fodder.

their dairy farms.

dure of trail is being delayed. Another report from Narail adds: A total of 172 dairy farms estab-About 300 unnatural death cases could not be proceeded due to delay lished on private initiatives in four in getting the viscera reports that out of seven upazilas of Satkhira indicate actual cause of death. district have been facing problems

Official sources said these cases have been lying pending over years as the reports were not reached to the respective police stations from Aiming to dispose of criminal and the laboratory in Dhaka in time.

As per the rule of Viscera Act, police should consult the viscera report of every unnatural death case, lodged with police stations, to take the next course of action.

In the report, specimens of victim's vital organ or blood are examined in a chemical test laboratory to find out the genuine cause of death

There is only one laboratory in the country for giving viscera report. A police officer in Sadar upazila preferring anonymity, said he has been waiting for one of the viscera

# **Traditional fish facing** extinction

#### BSS. Netrakona

The residents of Netrakona district which was once known as a major fish producing area are now facing an acute scarcity of fish.

reports for last one year.

looking for other profession.

casting nets.

fields.

people.

Sumeswari and different haors,

canals and beels of the district by

production of traditional fishes in the

spraying of pesticides in the paddy

fishes, the price of different varieties

of fishes, which are available in the

markets, has gone beyond the

purchasing capacity of the common

Meanwhile, due to scarcity of

According to fish experts, the

bursed about Taka 2.5 crore as loan for setting up of dairy farms. Most of the farm owners could not make profit at all and as a result they could not refund the bank loan in time and became defaulters. large number of fishermen have

#### become jobless and leading a subhuman life and many others are Number of drug Jutish Chandra Barman, a addicts rising fishermen of the district, said during

upazilas of Rangpur, Dinajpur, Gaibandha , Joypurhat, and Bogra districts could be brought under irrigation facilities of the project after completion of its second phase. Major construction works, including 615-meter barrage regu-

of irrigation facilities by Teesta lator. 610-metre flood bypass, The project has provided irriga-2,525 metres closure dam, 80tion facilities on 56,101 hectares of kilometer flood dam, 74-kilometer land in 12 upazilas of Dinajpur, project road, 33.67-kilometer main Rangpur and Nilphamari districts in canal 74.85-kilometer major secondary canal, 215.66-kilometer Water Development Board secondary canal, 325.24-kilometer sources said some 10.111.406 tertiary canal and 143 regulators, have been completed in 1998. hectares of land could be brought

A total of 3537.62 hectares of under the irrigation facilities under the project after completion of its land have been acquired for implementation of the project. Additional 5.69 lakh mts of paddy

The project will cover 30 upazilas and 82 lakh mts of wheat worth Tk of greater Rangpur, Dinajpur and 365.32 crore is likely to be produced Bogra districts with a target to in 12 upazilas of these three districts control flood irrigate arable land and drain out stagnant water.

Some 3.29 lakh hectares of land Another report from Pabna says: out of 5.95 lakh hectares in 24 Local Water Development Board

# Accommodation problem in Gopalganj, Bandarban jails

#### BSS, Gopalganj

Prisoners in Gonalgani District Jail are leading a sub-human life owing to shortage of accommodation, food facilities, local people

of land has been requisitioned from khas land at Ghosher Char Mowia one from the town. In 1999, for construction of

and warder shed, the construction

work was taken up by the Public

the proposal. Accordingly six acres jails of the country after completion of their jails terms A jail official said 110 Myanmar

nationals were sent to the jail on September 6 from Bagerhat jail and strict jail in the capacity of 400 69 from Chittagong jail on

UNB, Kurigram (WDB) has set a target to extend About 8.500 cases have been irrigation facilities to 19,000 hectares of land under Irrigation and pending with local district judge court due to want of adequate Rural Development Project in judges. current season in Pabna At present, there are only five

The facility has been ensured in judges against 13 judges. Five 13,000 hectares of land, according posts of sub-judges, out of 9, remained vacant, official sources to a handout. The main aim of the project is to said

control flood, facilitate irrigation, extract water and remove stagnant water

Abdul Mannan managed 75,516

votes. Beltu has also been elected

performed their duties in the district.

polling centres of the districts this

corespondent found a large number

of voters reaching polling centres

early in the morning. Most of the votes were cast within 2pm.

Some 1,700 election observes

While visiting a good number of

for the third time

flood-protection embankment, 146gates, 2 pump houses, 23-km main

The project will help produce additional 2 lakh mts of paddy and other crops worth about Tk 120

crore.

irrigation cannel.

important civil cases, there are another two posts of sub-judges of The project infrastructures which one remains vacant since include construction of 158km April 8. There were 376 women and km extraction cannel, 23 sluice children oppression cases, 79 pending cases, 66 special tribunal 17 specials cases, three cases,

irrigation cannel and 213-km branch

juvenile criminal cases. 193 criminal

appeals, 417 criminal revisions, two civil revisions, three election tribunal cases, 168 miss-appeal and 493 other types of cases remained pending with local judge court till last month.

Due to lack of judges, the num-ber of cases in local judge courts is

#### UNB. Panchagarh

Police recovered an abandoned 3.3 rifle from Thatpara area in Sadar upazila Saturday. Acting on a tip-off, police recovered the rifle from near Thapra Primary School. Patrol police recovered 120 chocolate bombs from Mirzapur area in Atowari upazila Friday night.

### 470 nabbed in Kurigram

#### BSS. Kuriaram

Police arrested 470 persons including eight listed terrorists during 36 days in the district.

Arrests were made in connection with different cases, as per warrants of arrest issued by different courts and under section 54. Some bottles of smuggled Indian Phensidyl, local wine were also recovered during the period. However, no illegal firearms, explosives, bombs or weapons were recovered so far, police sources said. Police operation was conducted simultaneously in all the nine upazilas of the district.

#### **Outlaw arrested**

#### STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A Sarbahara regional leader was arrested by police from Bhasanchar village in Mehendiganj upazila of the district recently.

According to Mehendiganj police, police on a tip-off raided the house of Jamal Khan, 35, a regional leader of the outlawed Sarbahara Party (Kamrul group) and arrested him. He was wanted for a long time in connection with several cases lodged against him earlier, police said.

#### Two armed robbers arrested

#### BSS, Barisal

Police arrested two persons stated to be armed robbers from WAPDA colony of the city and recovered a pipe gun from their possession recently.

Acting on a secrete information, police rounded up two persons at WAPDA Colony in front of the Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital and recovered one pipe gun, four bullets and looted goods from their possession. Police identified the arrested as Jahangir Sardar and his son-in-law Rezaul. A case was lodged with Kotwali police.

### 216 bottles of phensidyl recovered

BSS. Chuadanga

A total of 216 bottles of phensidyl was recovered from Hashadah bus stand in Jibannagar Upazila recently.

CID Inspector of the district M Golam Mustafa, acting on secret information, recovered phensidyl from a gunny bag in an abandoned condition from the Hashadah bus stand, 34 kilometres from here on Chuadanga-Kaliganj via Jibannagar bus route. A case was filed in this connection with the Jibannagar police station.

#### Contraband seized

#### UNB, Gazipur

Police seized 525 bottles of phensidyl syrup from a house at Natun Bazaar area in Tongi and arrested 11 people in this connection on Saturday.

Acting on a tip-off, detective branch of police raided the house of Abdul Aziz and recovered the contraband item. The arrested were Abul Islam, Liton, Russle, AL Amin, Nazim, Qader, Alamgir Hossain, Rouf Miah, Sohel, Kawasar and Anwar. They brought the syrup from Akhaura by train, police said. A case was filed.

#### Valuables worth Tk 1.52 lakh looted

#### UNB,Naogaon

Valuables including rice worth about Tk 1.52 lakh were looted in a robbery at a rice mill in Mohadebpur upazila headquarters recently.

Police said the armed bandits in a truck raided the Sardar Rice Mill in Baluka area on the night of August 22. They tied up the labours of the mill and decamped with 131 sacks of rice, electric motors and other valuables. A case was filed in this connection.

said

British period.

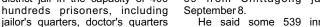
Some 600 prisoners, almost round the year, have been residing continuously in the century old jail building at a time against its capac-ity of 75 including two women inmates. The dilapidated one storied

Works Department (PWD) with an estimated cost of Tk 2 crore in primary stage. The construction work was started and 40 per cent heavily congested district jail is on work has been completed. But the the verge of collapse as no signifiwork has been suspended after completing one-third work for want cant renovation work was done

of money. since its construction during the Jail Supper M Ajmal Hussain Inadequate bath room and toilet said the prisoners are sleeping in facilities are causing health hazards the jail shift wise because the to the prisoners. Moreover, the undertrial prisoners are increasing prisoners have also been facing abnormally due to special raid by various problems for want of proper the police. There is no scope to provide them another room. As a treatment. Some prisoners alleged that supply of low quantity of food, result, the inmates are becoming ill. shortage of medicine for the sick Political leaders and elite of the prisoners and misbehavior of the town urged the concerned authoriemployees of the jail (warder) were ties to look into the matters immedi-

regular phenomena in the prison. The Gopalganj sub-jail was built UNB from Bandarban reports: in 1915 with a capacity of 75 Authorities are struggling to accominmates including two women modate prisoners in the already prisoners. During the year 1990, the overcrowded district jail following sub-division jail was converted into countrywide crackdown on crimia district jail. Later, the Inspector

General of Prison (IG Prison) The situation turned worse when decided to construct the district jail 179 Myanmar nationals were sent to and the Ministry of Home approved the jail for repatriation from different



He said some 539 inmates, including Myanmar nationals, are huddling together in the jail against its capacity of 114.

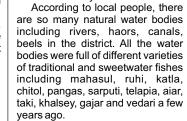
70pc do not use sanitary latrines in Netrakona

UNB, Netrokona

Over 70 per cent people of the district do not use sanitary latrines, said a survey by a local NGO.

It attributed the cause to ignorance about healthcare, poverty and lack of knowledge about sanitation. The survey also revealed 20 per cent people of rural areas, 60 per

sanitary latrines. But children below five years are not used to using such latrines, the survey said.



The traditional and sweet-water fishes, which were available in abundant particularly in the downstream areas of the district, could be supplied to the capital city and other parts of the country. Even a huge quantity of fishes remained surplus and the surplus fishes were dried up and stored.

Among the varieties of popular fishes, the mahasul fish of the hilly river Sumeswari of Durgapur was very tasty. Besides, a large number of fishermen could earn their living by catching and selling the fishes.

But in course of time, the scenario has changed and the district has lost its past glory as many traditional fishes are facing extinction. Mahasul, aiar, taki, bain, gulshey, gazar, tengra, and vedari are not very often found in the open water-bodies of the district. So, a

the eighties and nineties he used to in Narail catch many traditional fishes from the river Mogra, Kangso, Dano and UNB, Narail

> Drug trading and the number of drug addicts have been increasing in the district alarmingly but the law enforcers are playing silent role in this regard.

natural water-bodies has come down alarmingly due to many rea-The addicts mostly youths are sons including siltation and drying being indulged in various anti-social up of rivers, and other water-bodies activities including gambling, theft making indiscriminate embankand mugging to collect money for ments, unabated catching of fish buying drugs. fries by using current nets and Many educated unemployed

youths, students, transport workers, small traders, rickshawpullers and day labourers are addicted with country-made liquor, phensidyl, ganja and other drugs.

The peace-loving people have been passing their days in concern due to rise of anti-social activities, particularly extortion and snatching.

According to market sources, a They said phensidyl is now ruhi fish is being sold between Taka 100 and 150 per kg as compared to available even in rural areas at cheap rate as a large number of Taka 30 and 50 a few years back. Katla is being sold between 90 and people are involved in phensidyl 100 per kg. Moreover, telapia and trade. They also said the drug is being silver are being sold at Taka 90 per kg and pangas is being sold at Taka sold almost openly but the law 90 per kg

enforcers do not take any action as they allegedly take share of the profit of drug traders.

## **Bamboo production** declines in Sylhet

The production of bamboo has declined in the region sharply following its wanton felling.

Bamboo grows in plenty in the jungles and in the fallow lands of the hilly areas across the district without any nourishment.

Due to its availability the district was once famous for bamboo based-cottage industry. Bamboo is an essential material for erecting houses in the rural areas. Besides, various household goods, including khacaha, fuldani, hand fan, chatai, kula, dala, boat, table lamp, tukri, book-self and other selves are produced from bamboo.

Bamboo is also used in making pulp of paper mills and a pulp mill was set up at Chhatak in Sunamganj district due to its availability in the region.

tion the people started felling the bamboo clusters indiscriminately to increase arable land.

An agriculturist said, one could earn over Tk 4 lakh from an acre of

### **Robbery bid** foiled

Kanda about five kilometres from

here on Netrakona-Madan road

one pipe gun with one round of live

bullet and number of five hand

bombs, which were left by the

docoits, from the place. According to

police sources, acting on a secret

information, a team of plain-clothed

police personnel led by CID Police

Inspector Mohammed Shahiahan

rushed there and cordoned off the

place to capture a gang of road

robbers, while they were preparing

for committing a robbery. However,

the docoits managed to flee from the

place under the cover of darkness

leaving behind the firearm and

ammunition and five hand bombs.

The CID police team recovered

The CID police also recovered

#### BSS, Netrakona

recently

hilly land through planned cultivation of bamboo in five years. Netrakona CID police has foiled a road robbery attempt at Satburi

Another report from Naogaon says: Due to the indifference of the authorities concerned, a large number of trees planted on the flood control embankment along the River Atrai were stolen by an organsed gang.

Under tree plantation programme, Barind Development Authority (BDA) planted some 15,000 saplings on the flood control embankment in Krishnapur union of Patnitala upazila of the district ten ears back.

The organised gang, however, started cutting down the trees since last year when the trees grew up and selling to local timber traders almost openly, locals said.

Meanwhile they felled down 90 per cent of the total trees planted by the authority on the embankment.

Sometime they fell down the trees at nighttime and keep these under pond water and sell those to the timber traders at an appropriate time, local people alleged

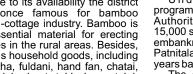
these.

PHOTO: STAF

A tree plantation programme was inaugurated on Islamic University campus in Kushtia recently.

cent people of municipality area use

UNB, Sylhet



But with the increase of popula-