

## NEWS SNAPS

**Bangladeshi national shot dead by BSF****UNB, Jessore**

A Bangladeshi national was shot dead by Indian Border Security Force (BSF) near border Sunday night.

Villagers said Abbas Ali, 40 of village Laxminarayapur, was gunned down by BSF men allegedly for trying to cross the border at Sadhipur BSF returned the body after a flag meeting with BDR on Monday. A tense situation was prevailing in and around Benapole border for shooting at sight by BSF.

**74 murdered in Khulna last year****UNB, Khulna**

Some 74 people were murdered in different places of Khulna during the year 2001.

Police said dispute over establishing supremacy in the area, previous enmity, land dispute and political rivalry are the main reasons behind the killings in 14 thanas. Of the total, two people were killed in January, five in February, nine in March, five in April, six in May, seven in June, six each in July, August, September and October, nine in November and seven in December. Most of the accused persons of the killings are at large due to lack of police action.

**One killed in Naogaon road mishap****UNB, Naogaon**

A man was killed and six were injured in separate road mishaps in Naogaon town and Raninagar upazila on Friday-Saturday.

Five people were injured critically when a speeding truck at Haripur smashed a three-wheeler on Raninagar-Abadpukur road Friday. The injured were admitted to Raninagar Health Complex and Sadar Hospital. Of them, the driver of the three-wheeler, Bulu, 35, succumbed shortly after admission. In another incident, two people were injured when a Naogaon-bound bus dashed the three-wheelers parked beside the road near the bus terminal in Naogaon town Saturday.

**College student killed by 'cousin'****UNB, Satkhira**

A college student was killed allegedly by his cousin in a clash over land dispute at Dakkhin Kulia village in Debhata upazila of Satkhira on Sunday.

The clash ensued between Hazi Anisur Rahman Mollah and his brother Monsur Mollah when the later along with his sons went to occupy a disputed land. Locals said Abu Bakkar, 24, son of Anisur Rahman, was injured when his cousin Jahangir, son of Monsur Mollah, hit him with a sharp weapon during the clash. Abu Bakkar was first admitted to local hospital, but later shifted to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University where the attending doctors declared him dead.

**Armed robber killed by his 'associate'****UNB, Jhenidah**

An armed robber was killed allegedly by one of his associates in Kamarkundu village of Kotchandpur upazila in Jhenidah early Monday.

Police said a gang of armed robbers numbering 10 stormed into the house of Quazi Nurul Islam Khan at 12:30 am and looted Tk 55,000 from the house. As they were returning with the looted money son of Nurul Islam caught one of them. Another armed robber tried to hit the son of Nurul Islam with a sharp weapon, but mistakenly hit his associate (armed robber) killing him on the spot. However, the armed robbers fled with the looted money. A case was filed.

**1 caught for selling books in black market****UNB, Mymensingh**

A messenger of Nandail Primary Education office was caught from Nandail Bazar on Monday while selling 668 textbooks in black market.

Officials said messenger Alal Miah of Sherpur village stole 668 pieces of textbooks of different classes from the Education office and tried to sell those in the black market. Local people caught Alal Miah and handed him over to police. A case was filed.

**20 injured in clash over toll collection****UNB, Mymensingh**

At least 20 people were injured in a clash over toll collection of a bridge on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway at Bhaluka on Monday.

Police said the clash between toll collectors and local transport owners and workers took place at about 11 am as the transport workers tried to cross the bridge without paying toll. The injured were admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital and Bhaluka Health Complex. Later, the unruly transport workers blocked the road parking their vehicles haphazardly on both sides of the bridge. Traffic on the road returned to normal an hour later when police removed the blockade.

**River pirates abduct two boys****UNB, Satkhira**

River pirates abducted two little boys from Kunchi area of Satkhira forest range on Thursday and demanded a ransom of Tk 1 lakh.

Family sources said the pirates numbering 10 abducted Abu Hasan, 16, son of Monsur Ali and Moyna, 12, son of Arshad Ali of Datonekhal village in Shyamnagar upazila, when they were fishing at Kunchi river. They demanded Tk 1 lakh as ransom from their family members. The abductors also threatened to kill them if the family members failed to give the demanded ransom within 10 days.

**7 road construction projects suspended****UNB, Khagrachhari**

The government has decided to suspend seven under-construction road projects taken up in Khagrachhari at a cost of Tk 58 crore.

The government in principal has decided to suspend the projects of the Chittagong Development Board saying that the projects were comparatively less important. The suspended projects are 14-km Tabalchhari-Dewanpara road, 8-km Matiranga-Charpara road, 20-km Tabalchhari-Barnal road, 14-km Gourangapara-Hospital road, 12-km Gomati-Dewanpara road, 14-km Khedachhara-Gomati road and 26-km Dighinala-Naraihari road. Of the total projects, construction work on three roads started recently and about 20 per cent work was completed. Local MP Wadud Bhuiyan during his recent visit at Matiranga and Tabalchhari assured the people of taking necessary steps to run the projects scheduled to be completed by 2005.

**Villagers snatch four from police****UNB, Sherpur**

Villagers clashed with police and snatched away four arrested accused from them at Ghughurakandi village in Sadar upazila of Sherpur Saturday midnight.

Sub-Inspector Dewan Abul Hossain, constables Rabiul and Mamataj and Ansar Helal Uddin were injured during the clash. They were admitted to sadar hospital. Police said they on a secret information raided the village at dead of night and nabbed eight wanted accused including Habibur Rahman, Kismat Ali, Shajedul Haq, Rafiq, Manju, Hazrat and Rabbani from a gambling den. But a section of villagers attacked the law enforcers with lethal weapons and snatched away four of the arrested accused. Police however, brought the accused Habibur Rahman, Kismat Ali, Shajedul Haq and Rafiq to Sadar thana.

**Miscreants loot valuables from a house****UNB, Magura**

Miscreants attacked and looted valuables from a house at Kuwatpur village in Shalikh upazila of Magura on Saturday.

The house owner Bidhan Chandra Biswas of the village said that some 10-12 hoodlums swooped on his house, damaged furniture and looted valuables in broad daylight. "After the incident, I went to Shalikh thana, but police refused to register any case," the house owner said. Locals said the attack was a sequel to a land dispute with some other people of the village.

**Two drug traders arrested****UNB, Jessore**

Police in separate drives, arrested two drug traders and recovered 70 bottles of phensidyl from the Sadar thana in Jessore on Wednesday.

Police said they conducted a drive at the bus terminal area of Jessore town and arrested two people along with 50 bottles of phensidyl from a bus. On the same day, 20 bottles of phensidyl were recovered from the house of drug trader Kohinur Begum in Rail gate Roypara area of the town. Police could not arrest Kohinur as she fled away sensing presence of police. Separate cases were filed.

**Work on BSCIC estate completed****UNB, Madaripur**

Construction work on BSCIC industrial estate in Madaripur involving over Tk 1.55 crore has been completed.

Official sources said the works included construction of a two-storied building, roads and drains and earth filling. Meanwhile, production was going on in full swing at various factories set up on 37 plots of BSCIC. These are: seven saw mills, six oil mills, eight flour mills, five pulse mills, three sanitary wares, one soap and one 'chanachur' factory and three biscuit factories and one cold storage. About 1,000 male and female workers have been earning their living by working at different BSCIC units, officials said.

**Concern over realising excess fees from SSC examinees****STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

It is a matter of great concern that the authorities of many government and non-government secondary schools in Natore, Narail and Magura have collected excess fees from the SSC examinees, much beyond those fixed by the education board, defying government warning of punitive action.

**Our Natore correspondent reports:** Almost all the government and non-government secondary schools in six upazilas of Natore collected excessive fees from the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinees.

This correspondent has conducted an investigation recently and revealed that the authorities of almost all the government and private schools realised extra money in the name of coaching and other purposes for the ensuing SSC examinations. They took additional fees during filling up of application forms for appearing in the SSC

examinations scheduled to be held on March 14 this year.

According to allegations, the authorities of these schools, in gross violation of the board's norms, realised an amount of Tk 1,000 and Tk 1,800 from each candidate on various pretexts creating pressure on the students or on the guardians. The students of non-government schools were the worst sufferers.

The additional fees include tuition fees of at least six months up to June last year amounting to Tk 210 and Tk 350 session fee between Tk 200 and Tk 300 and coaching fee between Tk 300 and Tk 500 from each candidate.

At least 7,000 students of about 250 secondary schools in the Natore would appear in the SSC examination this year.

This correspondent interviewed a number of SSC examinees who informed that a few of them received the money receipt after submitting the examination fees.

A candidate of Humanities group from Natore Government Boys' High School, on condition of anonymity, alleged that he had to pay Tk 800 as the examination fees as against the board's fixed Tk 550. A retained student who will appear only in one subject (Mathematics) from the school had to pay Tk 615.

All the private schools realised Tk 300 to Tk 500 as coaching fees.

Nobobidhan Girls' High School realised Tk 1,800 to Tk 1,300 from candidates of science and humanities groups respectively. The amounts include Tk 400 as coaching fees.

When contacted, Shamsul Islam, headmaster of Nobobidhan Girls' High School told this correspondent that the decision of taking the fees was approved in the school's governing body's meeting.

"Every year we arrange the coaching for SSC candidates to improve their results. We did not take coaching fees from 50 girls considering their poverty," he said.

Shamsul Islam, however, informed this correspondent that all the private girls' schools have been facing acute financial crisis since the government introduced free education for girls. So, we try to make up the loss by increasing other fees. About 150 girls will appear the SSC examination from the school, he added.

Mohshin Ali Chowdhury, Headmaster of Bonbelgharia High School told that they realised Tk 1,607 and Tk 1,510 from candidates of science and humanities groups respectively and the amounts include Tk 400 as coaching fee.

When asked about the government warning against taking excessive fees, Mohshin told that he was not aware of the warning.

Meanwhile, the government in early December warned that departmental action will be taken against government schools and grants will be suspended and legal action will be taken against non-government schools for collecting excess fees from SSC candidates.

**UNB from Narail says:** the district Education office said that Jessore Board fixed per head Tk 590 for science group while Tk 550 for commerce and humanities groups, which includes subject examination fees, centre fees, mark sheet and provisional certificate fees and practical examination fees.

But the guardians alleged that most of the high schools in Narail realised Tk 1,400 to Tk 1,800 from each of the SSC candidates instead of the fees fixed by the board.

It was also alleged that the school authorities fixed November 28 as last date to fill up the forms though the board authority fixed December 3 as last date for the final examinations to be held in 2002.

The guardians have urged the authorities concerned to look into matter and take necessary action in this regard.

**Another report from Magura says:** Authorities of different high schools in Magura are realising excessive fees from the SSC examinees.

The government has fixed Tk 525 per student for arts and commerce group including subject fee, practical exam fee, evaluation fee, scouts fee, education week fee and centre fee.

But some unscrupulous teachers of high schools realised Tk 1,500 to 2,000 from each of the SSC candidates.

It is also alleged that taking large amount of money from irregular students some schools are allowing them to fill up the forms for the examination.

The guardians have urged the authorities concerned to look into matter and take necessary action in this regard.

**Rampant sale of adulterated petrol in Moulvibazar****UNB, Moulvibazar**

Sale of adulterated petrol is rampant at different filling stations and markets in Moulvibazar in recent times.

It is gathered that some traders are making huge profits by selling adulterated petrol in various parts of the district vitiating the environment.

Owners of some motorised vehicles alleged that a section of dealers and traders are selling petrol by mixing diesel and kerosene oil and earning windfall profits. They fail to detect the malpractice as the color of petrol and kerosene is the same. Buyers of petrol and diesel have become hostages at the hands of these dishonest traders.

A number of owners and drivers alleged that their vehicles are being

damaged due to use of adulterated petrol and diesel. Consumption of engine oil like Mobil has increased as the unburned kerosene from the carburetor heads passes over the engine chambers. As a result, the engines release excessive black smokes with harsh sound, polluting the environment.

The owners of the motor cars and motor cycles also alleged that when they use adulterated petrol and run their vehicles continuously on the long road the bikes and cars stop automatically after sometime. The consumers alleged that all parties concerned including depots, pumps and traders might be involved in the adulteration.

The owners of the motor vehicles urged the authorities concerned to look into the matter and take immediate steps against the dishonest traders.

**Water level falls sharply in Padma, Jamuna****UNB, Manikganj**

Water level in rivers Padma and Jamuna continues to fall, hampering river traffic on Aricha-Doulatdia-Noyakhola and the important river routes.

Sources at Flood and Disaster Warning Centre said that water level in the two major rivers has already dropped by 3.38 metres.

Movement of various types of river vessels like launches, steamers, ferries, boats and trawlers in being disrupted as innumerable shoals have appeared in the rivers.

They said important channels on Aricha-Doulatdia-Noyakhola are gradually narrowing due to quick fall in the water level.

Usually, the officials said, 8 feet of navigability is required for smooth movement of vessels,

especially ferries, while 12-13 feet for loaded-ferries.

But the rivers have lost the required level of navigability on the routes due to sharp fall of water levels.

To keep up the navigability, seven dredging machines have been removing silts from vulnerable points of the rivers since October last.

Dredging work in Aricha and Daulatdia channels in being done round-the-clock.

Meanwhile, six new ghats, river terminals, have been set up to quickly ferry the passenger transports.

Experts apprehend that the movement of heavy vessels in the river routes might be suspended anytime if the water level of the rivers continues to fall at the present rate.

**Massive Rabi crops farming scheme in C'nawabganj****UNB, Chapainawabganj**

A massive scheme has been taken up to bring 88,475 hectares of land under Rabi crops cultivation in Chapainawabganj this season.

According to the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) the production target has been fixed at 3,44,735 metric tons. The crops included Boro paddy, wheat, potato, maize, mustard, pulses, spices and winter vegetables.

Of the total land, Boro paddy would be cultivated on 42,900 hectares and wheat on 20,000 hectares and production target has been fixed at 1,45,254 mts of paddy and 45,200 mts of wheat respec-

tively. Besides, potato would be cultivated on 2,000 hectares, maize on 800 hectares and mustard on 7,000 hectares and production targets have been fixed at 22,840, mts of potato, 3,096 mts of maize and 7000 mts of mustard respectively.

Moreover, different kinds of pulses would be cultivated on 8,425 hectares with a production target of 6,048 metric tons and spices like onion, garlic, chilli, ginger and coriander on 2,350 hectares with an output target of 13,297 metric tons.

DAE sources also said 5,000 hectares would be brought under vegetable farming with a production target of one-lakh metric tons.



Orphan children of Dighapatia Shishu Sadan (an orphanage) receiving mosquito nets from Nani Gopal Sarkar, deputy director of the Social Welfare Department at a function held recently in Natore.

**Three killed in road mishap****UNB, Noakhali**

Three pedestrians were killed and five others injured in a road accident at Banglabazaar area on Laxmipur-Choumuhani road in Noakhali on Saturday.

Witnesses said Aziz Miah, 45, Munshi Miah and an unidentified man were killed on the spot when a bus coming towards Choumuhani hit the pedestrians losing its control.