

## NEWS SNAPS

## Tax raised for travelling Sundarbans

UNB, *Bagerhat*

in a bid to increase earning from the tourism sector, Forest Department has raised tax for travelling in the Sundarbans.

With the imposition of new tax from February, local and foreign tourists will have to pay Tk 50 and Tk 300 respectively against the previous rate of Tk 20 and Tk 4. Different tour agents alleged that imposition of increased tax without prior announcement created trouble for both agents and the tourists. Forest Department sources said the authorities have taken the decision to raise the travel tax for bringing dynamism in the sector.

## Deer poacher arrested

UNB, *Barguna*

Forest guards caught a deer poacher from Kachikhali range in the Sundarbans in Barguna on Thursday.

Acting on a tip-off, the forest guards raided the area and nabbed Kabir of Chhoto Tengra village in Patharghata upazila while he along with his associates was setting up trapping materials for poaching deer. His associates, however, managed to escape.

## Installation of electricity line completed

UNB, *Rangamati*

Installation of 11-KV electricity line stretching over 25 kms under the Chittagong Hill Tracts Electrification projects second phase has completed.

Official sources said work on another 19-km 11-KV line is progressing. They said the government took up 12 projects in the three hill districts to install power line on priority basis and initially installation work is going on over 44 kms. The areas where the electricity line is being installed include Beuria Adarsa village to Lailachhara in Rangamati, Panchbari-Uttachhara-Gorapara in Khagrachhara and Rajbari-Madhujira-Norrambilli in Bandarban.

## Re-excavation work of canal begins

UNB, *Barisal*

Work on re-excavation of Jail Canal in Barisal town started Tuesday with local people voluntarily participating in it.

Whip Mujibur Rahman Sarwar inaugurated the re-excavation work. Eight canals, out of nine, in the town need immediate re-excavation as those have silted up. Existence of the canals has also been threatened due to encroachment.

## 56,646 ponds lying uncultivated

UNB, *Narail*

A total of 56,646 ponds in 10 southwestern districts have been lying uncultivated for years together missing the opportunity of producing huge quantity of sweet water fishes.

There are some 5,480 derelict ponds in Narail while 6,375 in Jessor, 13,432 in Jhenidah, 4,692 in Magura, 6,900 in Kushtia, 3,000 in Chuadanga, 4,067 in Meherpur, 4,000 in Sathkhira, 6,000 in Khulna, and 2,700 in Bagerhat districts. Most of these ponds are full of hyacinths turning those into breeding centres of mosquitoes. An additional quantum of fishes worth Tk 22.09 crore could be produced annually if these ponds are brought under pisciculture.

## Bookshops flooded with notebooks

UNB, *Kishoreganj*

Local bookshops have been flooded with notebooks defying the ban on selling the same.

Students from primary to high school have an affinity to read notebooks instead of textbooks for getting readymade answers giving the booksellers scope for carrying out their booming business. Government has imposed ban on sale and publication of notebooks up to class VIII, but the unscrupulous traders have been selling the same ignoring the ban. District administration remains silent on the issue. Moreover, most of the notebooks are substandard, and full with errors and distorted facts.

## Launching ceremony of UNICEF report

UNB, *Sherpur*

The launching ceremony of "Progogit Pathay - End Decade Review Report 2000" was held at the conference room of Deputy Commissioner of Sherpur on Wednesday.

Deputy Commissioner Abul Hossain of Sherpur attended the function as the chief guest and ADC Monwar Hossain Sarkar presided over. UNICEF District Coordinator Hira Khanom was also present. The report stressed on achievement of targets in reproductive health, mother and child health care and education. Government officials, doctors, local government representatives, journalists, NGOs workers and teachers took part in discussion on the report.

## Foodgrains allocated for uplift projects

UNB, *Tangail*

Some 1,527 mts of foodgrains have been allocated for implementing various rural infrastructure development projects in Ghatail upazila of Tangail this fiscal year.

This was disclosed at a review meeting on development programmes in Ghatail Wednesday. State Minister for Science and Technology Lutfur Rahman Khan chaired the meeting. The meeting was told that the grains allocated under food-for-work programme would be used for repairing roads and different educational and religious institutions. Disaster Management and Relief Ministry and Local Government and Engineering Directorate will implement the projects.

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## Fog, pest may affect mango output in greater Rajshahi

ABDUL WADOOD, *Rajshahi*

Fog and pest are likely to affect mango production this year.

The mango trees have already begun to blossom at the advent of Bangla month 'Falgun' and the bees are busy in collecting honey.

Bairals -- the traders who come from elsewhere to buy mango gardens from the garden-owners on contract, have started visiting the rural areas of Rajshahi region, the main mango-producing area of the country.

Sources in Rajshahi horticulture office (RHO) and Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), Rajshahi office said, mango grows well every alternative year. "A bumper production of mango was harvested last year. So this year is off-season for mango production," an RHO official said.

At least 30 per cent of mango trees have so far blossomed. We are expecting blossoming of 30-40 per cent more mango trees in the next two weeks," said Rabindra Kumar Majumder, District Agriculture Extension Officer of Chapainawabganj.

It was also off-year for mango production in 2000, but about 70 per cent mango trees had blossomed and the harvest was very good that year, he informed.

While explaining the reason of bumper harvest in off-year 2000, Majumder said, garden-owners have

become more conscious about taking care of their mango trees throughout the year. They are now using fertilisers, pesticides, and irrigation whatever is required, in their mango gardens, he informed.

Weather is unpredictable this year, said Majumder. Moderate rains early in the last month worked as irrigation to the mango trees, he said. But at the same time cloudy sky and foggy weather is also being experienced now and then which is harmful, he went on saying. If this cloudy and foggy weather persists during the next one month, mango production may be hampered, he apprehends.

Some garden-owners of Shibganj upazila in Chapainawabganj informed that pests had already attacked, though in small scale, in the mango gardens at places. "If the pest attacks cannot be checked immediately, new blossomings will be affected," Abdul Jabbar of Ranihati in Chapainawabganj Sadar upazila said.

According to the official sources, there are about 25 lakhs of mango-trees in the four districts of greater Rajshahi region -- 13,75,000 in Chapainawabganj, 5,00,000 mango-trees in Rajshahi, 3,75,000 mango-trees in Natore and 2,50,000 mango-trees in Naogaon.

Almost 70 per cent of the total national production of mango comes from greater Rajshahi region.



PHOTO: STAR

At least 30 per cent mango trees have blossomed in greater Rajshahi. Forty per cent more trees are expected to blossom within the next few weeks. This snap was taken from Ranihati area in Chapainawabganj.

## Law and order worsens in Gopalganj

ALIMUZZAMAN MIAH, *Gopalganj*

The law and order in Gopalganj has deteriorated alarmingly since February.

Incidents of murder, armed robbery, acid throwing and clashes have increased. Fifty persons have been injured seriously in these incidents.

On February 7 might, Amena Begum, 25, wife of Azad Sikder was critically injured after becoming an acid victim at Paik Kandhi village in Gopalganj sadar upazila.

Lipton Sikder, son of Badal Sikder of Paik Kandhi village threw acid on her body over a love affair long time ago. Once Lipton Sikder came to the house of Amena and gave an objectionable proposal to her. But Amena turned down his proposal which annoyed Lipton very much. As a result Lipton threw acid on her when she was sleeping in the house. Critically injured Amena was admitted to Gopalganj Sadar Hospital.

A case was filed with Mukusdpur police station in this connection. No body was arrested till writing of this report.

On February 12 night a theft was committed at Zaman Drug Centre at Islam Super Market in Gopalganj town. The thieves broke open the lock and entered into the drug centre and took away valuable drugs worth about Tk 5 lakhs.

A case has been registered with Gopalganj police station in this connection.

On February 14 morning Mukusdpur police recovered an unidentified body from a river near Dignagar bridge in Mukusdpur upazila.

Local people saw the floating body and they informed the Mukusdpur police who recovered the body and sent to Gopalganj hospital for postmortem.

AUD (unnatural death) case was filed with Mukusdpur police station in this connection.

On February 15 morning Mukusdpur police recovered an unidentified youth body from a field. When local farmers of Sistala village in Batikamari union parishad of Mukusdpur saw the body. The farmers informed the matter to Mukusdpur police who recovered the body and sent to Gopalganj Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

A case was filed with Mukusdpur police station in this connection. Police could not arrest anybody till writing of this report.

On February 11 night another

armed robbery was committed on Faridpur-Barisal highway at Sagalsera village in Mukusdpur upazila. A gang of armed robbers barricaded the Faridpur-Barisal highway. They looted cash and gold ornaments worth about Tk 50 lakh at gun point. The robbers looted 12 night coaches and 10 trucks, one by one while 30 passengers became seriously injured.

A case was filed with Mukusdpur police station in this connection. No body was arrested till writing of this report.

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A case was filed with Mukusdpur police station in this connection.

On February 16 morning Mukusdpur police recovered an unidentified body from a field. When local farmers of Sistala village in Batikamari union parishad of Mukusdpur saw the body. The farmers informed the matter to Mukusdpur police who recovered the body and sent to Gopalganj Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

A case was filed with Mukusdpur police station in this connection.

On February 17 morning Mukusdpur police recovered an unidentified body from a field. When local farmers of Sistala village in Batikamari union parishad of Mukusdpur saw the body. The farmers informed the matter to Mukusdpur police who recovered the body and sent to Gopalganj Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

A case was filed with Mukusdpur police station in this connection.

On February 18 morning Mukusdpur police recovered an unidentified body from a field. When local farmers of Sistala village in Batikamari union parishad of Mukusdpur saw the body. The farmers informed the matter to Mukusdpur police who recovered the body and sent to Gopalganj Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

A case was filed with Mukusdpur police station in this connection.

On February 19 morning Mukusdpur police recovered an unidentified body from a field. When local farmers of Sistala village in Batikamari union parishad of Mukusdpur saw the body. The farmers informed the matter to Mukusdpur police who recovered the body and sent to Gopalganj Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

A case was filed with Mukusdpur police station in this connection.

On February 20 morning Mukusdpur police recovered an unidentified body from a field. When local farmers of Sistala village in Batikamari union parishad of Mukusdpur saw the body. The farmers informed the matter to Mukusdpur police who recovered the body and sent to Gopalganj Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

A case was filed with Mukusdpur police station in this connection.

On February 21 morning Mukusdpur police recovered an unidentified body from a field. When local farmers of Sistala village in Batikamari union parishad of Mukusdpur saw the body. The farmers informed the matter to Mukusdpur police who recovered the body and sent to Gopalganj Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

A case was filed with Mukusdpur police station in this connection.

On February 22 morning Mukusdpur police recovered an unidentified body from a field. When local farmers of Sistala village in Batikamari union parishad of Mukusdpur saw the body. The farmers informed the matter to Mukusdpur police who recovered the body and sent to Gopalganj Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

A case was filed with Mukusdpur police station in this connection.

On February 23 morning Mukusdpur police recovered an unidentified body from a field. When local farmers of Sistala village in Batikamari union parishad of Mukusdpur saw the body. The farmers informed the matter to Mukusdpur police who recovered the body and sent to Gopalganj Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

A case was filed with Mukusdpur police station in this connection.

On February 24 morning Mukusdpur police recovered an unidentified body from a field. When local farmers of Sistala village in Batikamari union parishad of Mukusdpur saw the body. The farmers informed the matter to Mukusdpur police who recovered the body and sent to Gopalganj Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

A case was filed with Mukusdpur police station in this connection.

On February 25 morning Mukusdpur police recovered an unidentified body from a field. When local farmers of Sistala village in Batikamari union parishad of Mukusdpur saw the body. The farmers informed the matter to Mukusdpur police who recovered the body and sent to Gopalganj Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

A case was filed with Mukusdpur police station in this connection.

On February 26 morning Mukusdpur police recovered an unidentified body from a field. When local farmers of Sistala village in Batikamari union parishad of Mukusdpur saw the body. The farmers informed the matter to Mukusdpur police who recovered the body and sent to Gopalganj Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

A case was filed with Mukusdpur police station in this connection.

On February 27 morning Mukusdpur police recovered an unidentified body from a field. When local farmers of Sistala village in Batikamari union parishad of Mukusdpur saw the body. The farmers informed the matter to Mukusdpur police who recovered the body and sent to Gopalganj Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

A case was filed with Mukusdpur police station in this connection.

On February 28 morning Mukusdpur police recovered an unidentified body from a field. When local farmers of Sistala village in Batikamari union parishad of Mukusdpur saw the body. The farmers informed the matter to Mukusdpur police who recovered the body and sent to Gopalganj Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

A case was filed with Mukusdpur police station in this connection.

On February 29 morning Mukusdpur police recovered an unidentified body from a field. When local farmers of Sistala village in Batikamari union parishad of Mukusdpur saw the body. The farmers informed the matter to Mukusdpur police who recovered the body and sent to Gopalganj Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

A case was filed with Mukusdpur police station in this connection.

On February 30 morning Mukusdpur police recovered an unidentified body from a field. When local farmers of Sistala village in Batikamari union parishad of Mukusdpur saw the body. The farmers informed the matter to Mukusdpur police who recovered the body and sent to Gopalganj Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

A case was filed with Mukusdpur police station in this connection.

On February 31 morning Mukusdpur police recovered an unidentified body from a field. When local farmers of Sistala village in Batikamari union parishad of Mukusdpur saw the body. The farmers informed the matter to Mukusdpur police who recovered the body and sent to Gopalganj Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

A case was filed with Mukusdpur police station in this connection.

On February 1 morning Mukusdpur police recovered an unidentified body from a field. When local farmers of Sistala village in Batikamari union parishad of Mukusdpur saw the body. The farmers informed the matter to Mukusdpur police who recovered the body and sent to Gopalganj Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

A case was filed with Mukusdpur police station in this connection.

On February 2 morning Mukusdpur police recovered an unidentified body from a field. When local farmers of Sistala village in Batikamari union parishad of Mukusdpur saw the body. The farmers informed the matter to Mukusdpur police who recovered the body and sent to Gopalganj Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

A case was filed with Mukusdpur police station in this connection.

On February 3 morning Mukusdpur police recovered an unidentified body from a field. When local farmers of Sistala village in Batikamari union parishad of Mukusdpur saw the body. The farmers informed the matter to Mukusdpur police who recovered the body and sent to Gopalganj Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

A case was filed with Mukusdpur police station in this connection.

On February 4 morning Mukusdpur police recovered an unidentified body from a field. When local farmers of Sistala village in Batikamari union parishad of Mukusdpur saw the body.