

## NEWS SNAPS

## Three killed in Hobiganj road accidents

BSS, *Hobiganj*

Three people were killed and several other injured in two separate road accidents on Hobiganj-Nabiganj road and Hobiganj-Lakhai road on Sunday.

Police and hospital sources said two people were killed on the spot on Hobiganj-Nabiganj road when a vehicle of Sonali Bank, Hobiganj branch crushed a rickshaw. The victims were identified as -- Mujahid, 14, who was riding on the rickshaw and rickshawpuller Zahir Miah, 24. In another accident, Emran Miah, 35, died on the spot at Lakua on Hobiganj-Lakhai road Sunday afternoon when a tyre of a passenger carrying jeep blasted suddenly. Several other passengers of the jeep were injured in the accident.

## Lightning kills two in Thakurgaon

BSS, *Thakurgaon*

Two persons were killed and five others injured seriously by lightning in different places of Sadar upazila in Thakurgaon on Saturday, police sources said.

An MA examinee, Bhabani Roy, 25, son of Djendranath Roy of village Arazi Krishnapur of Salandar union, was killed by lightning while he was passing through a field. The other victim, Dhiren Chandra, 34, son of Tankanath of village Tetulia in Raipur union, was killed when he was struck by lightning while he was working in the field. Those injured were Din of Tikiapara village, Fazila Nilufar, Rekha and Rina, all of College Para, in the town. The injured persons were admitted to Thakurgaon Modern Hospital.

## Call to recover historic pond

BSS, *Barisal*

A group of powerful people took possession of the historic Gaila dighi near Gaila bazar at Agailjhara upazila when the owners of the pond left the country for India in 1947.

These people became the owners of the pond by dint of producing fake decree and auction-purchasers in the period of over 55 years. The fake owners have no filed cases and counter cases against each other for grabbing the pond on 2.31 acres of land. This pond was under the possession of the Gaila High School till 1948. Now this pond has been turning out into 21 pieces by 21 fake possessors by making false documents in their favour. Local people called upon the authority concerned to come forward to save pond for the interest of local people.

## Cases filed against dishonest



Deen Mohammad, Chairman of The City Bank Limited speaking on the occasion of a clients' get together at a hotel in Khulna on June 27. Abbas Uddin Ahmed, Managing Director of the bank is also seen in the picture.

## traders

BSS, *Barisal*

Eleven mobile courts in different places of six southern districts of Barisal division have filed 90 cases against the traders for not using metric systems in the weighing and measurements during last 11 months.

Besides, the courts have filed 227 cases against the dishonest traders for breaking the regulations of measurements of 1982 during that period in the southern districts. The court also fined Tk 43,000 from the traders during the period. Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institute (BSTI) also filed 187 cases against the dishonest traders giving special drives in the districts during the period. The cases are under trial here BSTI sources said.

## 7-day long tree fair concludes in Feni

BSS, *Feni*

A 7-day long tree fair has concluded on Alia Madrasa premises under the auspices of National Tree Plantation Movement and Tree Fair-2002.

Organised by the Forest and District Administration, a total of 25 stalls with saplings were set up in the fair. A discussion meeting on the significance of plantation was held on the Madrasa ground. Mohammed Mosharaf Hossain, MP, and Professor Joinal Abdin, MP, were present on the occasion as chief guest and special guest respectively, while Ruhul Amin Munshi, acting DC of the district presided over the meeting.

## Work on dormitories progressing

BSS, *Manikganj*

The construction work of two dormitories are going on in full swing under the Annual Development Programme (ADP) in Manikganj headquarters.

Of the dormitories, one is being constructed for 12 gazetted officers and other for 20 non-gazetted government employees. Public Works Department (PWD) is implementing the projects at a cost of Tk one crore 64 lakh and 14 thousand. More than 80 per cent of works have already been completed and rest will be completed soon.

## 283 development projects implemented

BSS, *Laxmipur*

At least 283 development projects at a cost of Tk 443,21000 are being executed in four upazilas of Laxmipur by the Lakkhipur Zila Parishad.

The projects include construction and reconstruction of roads, bridges, culverts, drainage system, earth filling, and development of rural hats and bazaars in the district. Zila Parishad sources said the projects are expected to be completed within next three months.

## Jute cultivation declining in Chandpur

BSS, *Chandpur*

Jute cultivation in all 8 upazilas of Chandpur has been declining for the last five years.

The gradual declining of jute cultivation has been attributed due to natural calamities, high prices of seeds and fertilisers and low price of jute in the markets. During this dull seasons the growers have to dispose of the jute below the cost of production. As a result the farmers of this traditional jute-growing district of the country have lost their interest in jute cultivation and switched over to the cultivation of paddy or other varieties of crops. According to Agriculture Extension Department, Chandpur office sources, the target of jute cultivation during the current season was fixed at about 20 thousand hectares. But, so far, only about 10 thousand hectares have been brought under jute cultivation in Chandpur.

## Training course for VDP in Pabna

BSS, *Pabna*

A 3-day long training course of VDP (Village Defence Party) members on "various development programmes" organised by Ansar and VDP Department of Pabna ended on Monday.

VDP members imparted training on different trades, including mother and child care, poultry and livestock farming, mass education, plantation and family planning in the course. A total of five thousand one hundred and eight-four VDP members from 81 villages of nine upazilas have so far been imparted training on different economic and gainful activities in phases during 2001-2002. District Ansar and VDP sources said. Aftab Uddin Ahmed, District Adjutant, Ansar and VDP of Pabna district conducted the training course.

## 'Aus' farming on 11,093 hectares

BSS, *Manikganj*

A total of 11,093 hectares of land have been brought under Aus cultivation in seven upazilas of Manikganj during the current season.

Of the total land, 3465 hectares have been cultivated in Manikganj Sadar, 1200 hectares in Singair, 2511 hectares in Saturia, 76 hectares in Ghor, 1500 hectares in Daulatpur, 491 hectares in Shibhalaya and 1850 hectares in Harirampur upazila.



PHOTO: STAR

Four road robbers along with two policemen stand before a rice-loaded truck at Bamihal in Shingra upazila, about 28 kilometers off Natore town. Police nabbed the bandits within an hour of the incident.

## Prompt action of Natore police

## Looted rice recovered within an hour of incident

ANWAR ALI, *Natore*

Within an hour of looting rice from a truck, Natore police on Monday midnight arrested four members of armed road robbers and recovered the truck.

The four road robbers are--Helal, Dulal, Mantu and Anwar. All of them

hailed from different villages in Bogra. They were members of a road robbery syndicate active in the northern districts.

The rice loaded truck carrying about 162 bags of rice worth Tk 200,000 had set for Nur-e-Nabi Rice Enterprise at Mohammadpur in Dhaka at 9pm

from Jeni Rice Enterprise in Huzrapur of Chapainawabganj.

Police sources said a gang of eight armed road robbers boarded in another truck and started following the rice loaded truck from Chapainawabganj.

They looted rice of the truck brandishing firearms after barricading it with their truck on Natore-Dhaka bypass road at around 12 pm.

The armed robbers fastened the helper of the truck, Zafar Ali with rope and dragged him in the truck and fled with the vehicle.

The driver, Abdul Malek managed to flee from the spot and took shelter at the nearby petrol pump from where he informed

the police.

After being tipped off by the driver a huge contingent of police led by the

Superintendent of Police (SP) of Natore, Nazrul Islam recovered the truck from the Fulbag area at the outskirts of the town at around 1 pm.

They managed to nab the four bandits chasing their truck up to Bamihal in Shingra upazila, about 28 kilometers off the town while four others managed to flee. Police seized the truck carrying the bandits.

It is worth mentioning that one month ago the rice traders and truckers of Naogaon called an indefinite strike and stopped rice supply to other parts of the country protesting the alarming rise in highway robbery. They called off their strike after the authorities concerned assured them of appropriate measures for their safety.

Rajshahi Divisional Commissioner Md Azir Uddin Ahmed and Rashahi Range

DIG of police Md Shahidur Rahman Bhuiyan in the divisional law and order meeting on May 12 expressed their deep concern over the rising trend of road robbery.

They also asked the DCs and SPs of 16 northern districts to maintain strict security on highways and to launch special drives against the culprits.

## 17 injured in Manikganj road accident

UNB, *Manikganj*

At least 17 people were injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Aricha highway in Golra area here Saturday.

Witnesses said the mishap

occurred at about 12:30pm when a Dhamrai-bound tempo from Golra plunged into a roadside ditch while giving side to a Dhaka-bound coach.

The injured were rushed to Manikganj Sadar Hospital from where Tanja 23, Rokeya 38 and



PHOTO: STAR

Fruits are sour in Sirajganj because of high prices. This is evident from this picture at Bara Bazaar on the SS Road in the district town where the fruit sellers are seen waiting for buyers for hours together, but in vain.

Kakoli, 6, were shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) in critical condition.

Another report adds: A little boy drowned while taking bath in a pond near his house at Uttar Seota village in Sadar upazila Saturday.

Family sources said Nazmul Karim, 8, son of Mizanur Rahman of the village went to take bath in the pond at about 12pm.

## Dacoit stab 2, loot valuables

UNB, *Jhalakathi*

Dacoits looted valuables and cash from a house, leaving two people injured at Dhakkin Nobogram village in Sadar upazila last week.

Police and locals said a gang of masked bandits numbering 9 to 10 raided the house of Manik Mollah at dead of night on April 7. They stabbed Manik Mollah, 45, and his son-in-law Sabur Sharif mercilessly, looted valuables, including Tk 14,000 in cash and decamped with the booty. A case was filed with the police.

## Appointment of head examiner in SSC exam creates controversy

UNB, *Comilla*

The appointment of head examiner of Geography for this year's Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examination under Comilla Education Board has aroused controversy.

The board has appointed Chamon Ara, an Assistant Teacher of Comilla Zila School, as the head examiner of Geography for this year's SSC examination although her son appeared at the examination from the same school.

As per rules of the board, none

can be appointed head examiner if his/her relatives sit for the examination in the same year.

Chamon Ara's husband Dr Mohammad Shafiqullah is the Secretary of the Education Board and now he is in charge of its chairman.

An official, who spoke on condition of anonymity said, before her appointment Chamon Ara also filled in the declaration form of the board saying that none of her close relatives appeared at this year's SSC examination.

## Body of woman exhumed 68 days after burial

UNB, *Jhalakathi*

The body of a woman was exhumed Tuesday 68 days after her burial on suspicion of foul play over her death.

The body of Firoza Begum, 38, of Shardal Khojakhali village in Nalchhiti upazila was exhumed in presence of a magistrate following a prayer by her daughter Nasreen Akhter.

Nasreen alleged that her mother was killed by her maternal uncle Yusuf Ali for asking him to return Tk 4 lakh he borrowed from her mother.

She alleged that Yusuf buried her body without autopsy saying that she had committed suicide.

Earlier on June 24, Nasreen filed a murder case.

Police sent the body to hospital morgue for autopsy.

## Aus will be cultivated on 16,630 hectares in Jhenidah

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Jhenidah*

About 25,296 metric tons (mt) of Aus paddy is likely to be produced in Jhenidah cultivating 16,630 hectares of land this season.

Out of the total land, 1,260 hectares of land will be brought under local variety of Aus, said a source related to the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE).

In Jhenidah sadar upazila, 200 hectares of land will be brought under high yielding variety (HYV) while 600 hectares for local variety.

In Kaliganj 1,200 hectares will be brought under HYV while 500 hectares under local variety. A total of 1,670 hectares will be brought under HYV while 700 hectares under local variety in Kotchandpur upazila.

In Mohespur 2,700 hectares of land under HYV while 860 hectares under local variety, in Saikupa upazila 1,500 hectares under HYV and 6,000 hectares under local variety. In Harinakundu 100 hectares will be brought under HYV while 600 hectares under local variety.

Upazila-wise break up of production target was 1,084 mt in Jhenidah Sadar, 2,970 mt in Kaliganj, 4,138 mt in Kotchandpur, 6,380 mt in Mohespur, 1,840 mt in Saikupa and 884 mt of Aus in Harinakundu.

DAE sources said the target is expected to be achieved this season if there is no natural calamity.

It may be noted here that 20,028 mt of HYV Aus was produced on 8,460 hectares and 10,821 mt of local variety was produced on 7,955 hectares of land in Jhenidah last year.

## Rice-laden truck hijacked in Gazipur: Two arrested

UNB, *Gazipur*

Highway robbers hijacked a rice-laden truck from Maona area here on Saturday and two people were arrested in this connection.

Police said a gang of 12 robbers intercepted the Narayanganj bound truck with another truck when it reached the area.

They tied up the truck driver and took control of the steering and drove away towards Dhaka.

Later, police arrested Nurul Islam, 32 and Fazlul Haq, 28 from Abdullahpur area in this connection, but could not trace out the hijacked truck.

## One arrested for killing son

UNB, *Cox's Bazar*

Police arrested a man from his house in Cox's Bazar town Thursday on charge of killing his son.

Police said Nawab Mia shot dead his son, Farid Alam, 25, a few days ago following a family quarrel and dumped his body into a 'dighi' (big pond). Later police recovered the body from the 'Darari Dighi' in Ramu upazila. Two people Azizul Haq and his wife Miraj Khatun were also arrested in connection with the killing of Farid Alam.