

## NEWS SNAPS

## Youth killed in Gazipur road mishap

**UNB, Gazipur**  
A youth was killed in a road accident on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway Thursday. The victim was identified as Liton, 24, an employee of People's Ceramic at Tongi. Liton, who hailed from Naogaon, died on the spot when a Dhaka-bound bus knocked him down near the mill gate in the morning.

## 10 hurt as BNP factions clash in Magura

**UNB, Magura**  
Ten people were injured in a clash between two factions of ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) at Mithapur village in Sadar upazila Wednesday. Witnesses said the clash between the two groups, one led by Shaheb Ali and another by Rostam Ali, took place in the evening over establishing supremacy in the area. Three of the injured - BNP leader Shaheb Ali, 32, Nurunnabi, 30, and Noor Islam, 32, -- were admitted to Magura Sadar Hospital.

## Court rejects bail prayer of police SI

**BSS, Joypurhat**  
Molla Amjad Hussein, Judge of the Children and Women Repression Control Special Court of Joypurhat, rejected the bail petition of alleged rapist Sub-Inspector (SI) of police Amjad Hussein, 48 here recently.

According to police and court sources, SI of Kheltal thana Amjad Hossain, as the investigation officer of an abduction case, went to the residence of Nasrin, 14, at Deol village in Kheltal thana and raped her in absence of her parents. As Nasrin made a hue and cry, her neighbours rushed to the spot and caught the culprit red-handed and confined him there. Later, Police Super Habibur Rahman visited the spot and rescued the accused, Amjad Hossain and arrested him.

## Tk 1,22,58,575 realised as land tax

**UNB, Comilla**  
A total of Tk 1,22,58,575 was realised as land tax in 12 upazilas of Comilla in 2001-2002 fiscal against the target of Tk 1,21,81,216.

Of the upazilas, Daukandi upazila Land office achieved the highest 116 per cent success in tax recovery while Laksam upazila 90 per cent, officials said. They said the outstanding land tax in the upazilas was about Tk 78.10 lakh in 2001-2002 fiscal and now it stands at 43.70 lakh.

## 500 litres of wine making liquid seized

**UNB, Gazipur**  
Officials of Narcotics Control Department seized 500 litres of wine making liquid substances from Gozaria village in Sadar upazila on the day. On information, they raided the house of Shadhucharan and seized the substances. A case was filed.

## Filling station gutted in Laxmipur

**UNB, Laxmipur**  
A filling station gutted in Roypur upazila Thursday, causing an estimated loss of Tk 6 lakh. The fire broke out at the filling station, 'MS Motin Traders', at the upazila headquarters at about 8pm. On information, firefighters from Sadar rushed to the spot and put out the flame.

## 165 bottles of Indian phensidyl seized

**UNB, Jessore**  
A team of Narcotics Control Department seized 165 bottles of Indian phensidyl from two houses in Chougachha upazila Sunday.

Acting on a tip-off, they raided the house of Nurul Islam at Karikarpura village and recovered 115 bottles of phensidyl. They also arrested his wife, Jahanara Begum, in this connection. They later raided the house of Islam's neighbour Hazrat Ali and seized 50 bottles of phensidyl. Ali's wife Chhoto Begum was also arrested.

## Smuggled goods seized from Mongla

**BSS, Bagerhat**  
Coast Guard, Mongla Zone seized smuggled goods worth Tk 1,81,42,744 during the last three months drives.

Fifteen persons were arrested for their alleged involvement in the smuggling during the period. According to official sources, the Coast Guard launched 217 drives from April to June this year and recovered 10,177.93 CFT of stolen woods. The seized woods include Sundari, Goran, Poshur, Kakra and Geuwa. They also seized 6,500 maunds of smuggled salt, 105 grams of heroin, 200 grams of hemp, 4,250 litres diesels, 379 canes of beer, 375 copper, 460 maunds of Golpata, one triple, two engine boats, one trawler, 14 plastic drums, four country boats, Nylon rope measuring 145 feet, five pipes, seven rods and other smuggled goods. The Coast Guard lodged 31 cases during the time in this connection.

## 36th annual conference of BARD begins

**BSS, Comilla**  
The 36th annual planning conference of Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) began here on Wednesday.

Acting director general of BARD Saleha Begum inaugurated the two-day conference. Over 100 senior government officials, planners, researchers, academics, non-governmental organisations and international development agencies are attending the conference. The participants are reviewing different poverty alleviation programmes of the country.

## Work on 22 school buildings completed

**BSS, Panchagarh**  
Construction work of 22 high school building have been completed at a cost of Tk 2.57 cr in five upazilas during the last fiscal year.

After completion of the work about 10,000 students would get better facilities for education.

## BKB disburses loan in Khulna

**BSS, Khulna**  
Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) disbursed a sum of Tk 175.92 cr as agriculture loan among 7,415 farmers in 10 districts of Khulna division through its 150 branches in 2001-2002 financial year.

At the same time BKB realised Tk 227.49 cr from those areas. According to official sources, the loan was disbursed for the cultivation of Aman, poultry farming, cow fattening, shrimp cultivation, cottage industries and vegetables cultivation. Of the total, Tk 41.03 cr was disbursed for the farmers of Khulna, Tk 14.53 cr for Bagerhat, Tk 17.61 cr for Satkhira, Tk 6.69 cr for Narail, Tk 17.78 cr for Jessore, Tk 18.63 cr for Jhenidah, 26.39 cr for Kushtia, Tk 8.54 cr for Meherpur, 12.89 cr for Magura and Tk 13.83 cr for Chuadanga. The loan disbursement target was fixed at Tk 200 cr for the financial year 2001-2002. The disbursement was achieved at 88 per cent.

## 24 uplift works going on in Panchagarh

**BSS, Panchagarh**  
Work on 24 development projects are progressing fast in five upazilas of Panchagarh during the current year.

According to official source, the government sanctioned Tk 2.58 cr under Party Project. The project include Tk 1.78 cr for 18 bridges and development of 6 roads at a cost of Tk 80 lakh. Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) is supervising the work. The work will be completed in December.

## Seven hurt in separate road mishaps

**UNB, Jamalpur**  
Seven people were seriously injured in separate road accidents in Sadar and Malandaha upazilas in Jamalpur Thursday.

Witnesses said four people were injured when a truck dashed a roadside tree at Kalibari in Sadar upazila on Dhaka-Mymensingh-Jamalpur highway. Three of the injured were admitted to Jamalpur General Hospital while truck driver Hossain Ali, 30, was taken to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital in a critical condition. In another accident, three motorcyclists were injured when two motorbikes collided on Jamalpur-Madarganj road at Hajjarbari in Malandaha upazila.

## Alleged drug trafficker arrested

**UNB, Jhalakati**  
Police arrested an alleged drug trafficker, Ali Akbar, 40, along with his accomplice Faruq from his house at Natun Char in Jhalakati town Wednesday. They also recovered 17 bottles of phensidyl from his house.

## 150 villages submerged in Sirajganj

## 900 handloom factories devoured by Jamuna

**AKHTERUZZAMAN BABLU, Sirajganj**

Flood situation in Sirajganj deteriorated on Thursday with inundation of more low-lying areas in five upazilas.

Flood water entered from the eroded embankment (Dhitpur site) and a vast track of land in Shahjadpur upazila was inundated. About 1 lakh 15 thousand people were affected by flood.

A total of 150 villages 15000 was inundated by the current flood.

At least 500 handloom factories of Sirajganj Sadar, Kazipur, Belkuchi, Chowhali were shifted to elsewhere due to erosion. Torrential rain along with intense current of the mighty Jamuna intensified erosion in Sirajganj.

The river washed away Randhunibari, a renowned hat (major bazaar) of Belkuchi upazila. The River Jamuna also eroded Sarotia, Gachhabari, Charnajhail, Rajapur, Makipur and other areas. About 500 families including 2500 people rendered homeless in this week. A total of 900 handloom factories were devoured by the mighty Jamuna.

One hundred forty-metre area of the Shailabari Ziagroyne in Sadar upazila were washed away. People of Shimla, Bhatpiary and Randhunibari areas became

panic stricken as water of the Jamuna entered into the area where the affected people shifted already 500 houses.

Official sources said some villages in the Chalan beel areas of Ullapara and Tarash upazila were inundated.

Local people said if the erosion continued the groyne would be washed away.

Local people alleged that Executive Engineer of the Water Development Board in collaboration with some contractors dumped cement concrete block, GO textile and sand bag and tried to submit false bill.

Affected people demanded high power enquiry about the corruption of past and present government.

Handloom factories in Randhunibari, Gachhabari, Satiantoli Morgram, Punbomohanpur, Purbobaotara were shifted and many handloom workers were jobless. Many schools of the flood affected areas were closed by the authority.

When contacted, the Executive Engineer of WDB said, he would give only the water level record report, but not any other information.

Deputy Commissioner Md. Ibadat Ali visited the flood-hit Belkuchi area.

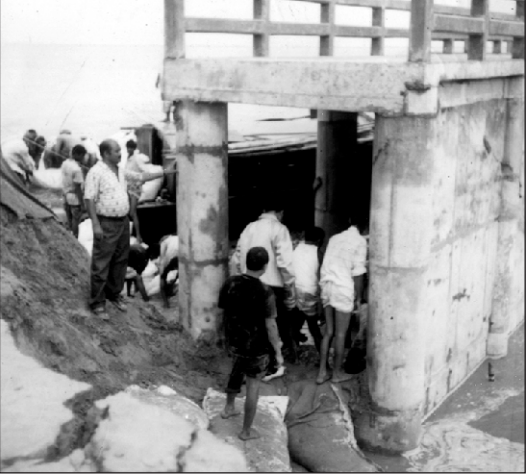


PHOTO: STAR

Flood has played havoc in Sirajganj. (Top left) Deserted houses of a flood affected village named Char Radhunibari in Sirajganj as the villagers took shelter elsewhere, while (top right) the erosion affected people erected makeshift structures beside the Jamuna Bridge bypass. Police allegedly threatening them to leave the place. "But where shall we go?" said an elderly erosion victim (cross marked). (Bottom left) The erosion affected people of Randhunibari and Sartia bazaar in Belkuchi and Sadar upazilas awfully observe the scene of devastation. Property worth crores of taka have already been devoured by the mighty Jamuna. (Bottom right) The detached spar at Shimla from the main structure. This happened due to widespread erosion in the area.

## Alleged rapist snatched by influentials

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah**

A girl student of class ten was allegedly raped by a young man at village Ekterpur in Kaliganj thana in Jhenidah on Wednesday morning.

But local influentials allegedly snatched away the rapist from the people who caught him.

Local people said, a girl of the village was coming to school in the morning. When she reached near a jute field, Palash, a notorious young man took her into the jute field and raped her. People from nearby rushed when the girl started shouting for help. They caught Palash red-handed.

When contacted, Kaliganj police said, a case was lodged with them. But the accused is yet to be nabbed.

## Pirates wreck havoc in Meghna

**UNB, Noakhali**

Pirates looted valuables worth Tk 50 lakh from fishermen and traders in the Meghna River from Wednesday to Saturday.

They also took away 18 fish-laden tempos and two trawlers from Alexander Ghat of Ramgati upazila in Laxmipur and demanded Tk 5 lakh as ransom.

Secretary of Meghna Jele Samiti alleged that Pashar Majhi, Nabba, Shafi and members of Jahangir group are committing piracy at different points from Sandip Channel to Ramgati and Bhola.

Pirates also looted valuables worth Tk 2 lakh from a trawler at Char Gazaria leaving 22 people injured Sunday. The bandits cut off hands of Ali Ahmed, 52, and his son Humayun, 27, when they resisted.

The other seriously injured were identified as Abdullah, 38, Ali Karim, 22, Sonu Mia, 42, Ali Mia, 48, Lal Mia, and Borhanuddin, 38.

The bandits also abducted Nirod Kumar, Avinas Jolodas, 28, Assad Ali, 48 and Firoj Ahmed.

## Two arrested on charge of rape

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah**

Kaliganj thana police arrested two persons including the ex-husband of a young woman at Mobaraganj colony in the same thana for their alleged involvement in raping the woman on Wednesday, according to police sources.

A gang of three young men in the guise of relatives entered into the house and raped the woman one after another. The mother of the victim was saying her prayer in another room of the house then. The rapists confined her there. Before

leaving the spot, the miscreants cut off hair of the woman.

Kaliganj police said, Kamruzzaman Barun, former husband and one of his associate were the main culprits of the incident. They were taken to custody when mother of the victim informed the matter to police.

Police informed that according to primary investigation they saw some signs and symptoms of rape.

The victim was sent to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital for medical examination. The medical report is yet to be received.

## New chairman of Kamalganj Municipality

**RAJAT KANTI GOSWAMI, Moulvibazar**

BNP-led four-party alliance candidate Md Muhibur Rahman Chashi (Cherag Miah) has been elected the chairman of Kamalganj Municipality.

Election to Kamalganj Municipality was held on July 20 peacefully. According to the Returning Officer, Muhibur Rahman Chashi secured 2818 votes while his nearest rival of his own political party BNP Hasin Afroz Chowdhury got 1949 votes.

There had been six candidates who contested for the post of chairman of Kamalganj Municipality. Two leaders from BNP and four leaders from Awami League contested for the post of chairman. But BNP-led four-party alliance had nominated Md Muhibur Rahman Chashi (Cherag Miah) as the alliance candidate while former upazila chairman and central leader of Bangladesh Krishak League Professor Rafiqur Rahman secured the AL nomination for the post of chairman. Another BNP leader and three AL leaders refused to withdraw their nomination papers following request from their respective party's district committees. All of these candidates were in the election battle for the post of chairman and campaigned against each other.

AL nominee Professor Rafiqur Rahman secured 1603 votes. Other AL leaders Abdul Munim Tarafder got 210 votes, Azadur Rahman 428 votes and Amirul Islam Ponki 152 votes.

However, nine posts of commissioner in nine general wards and three women commissioners in three reserved seats for women had also been elected in the polls.

Most of the elected ward commissioners belong to AL. The elected commissioners in nine general wards are Ward No-1 : Gouranga Kumer Deb, Ward No-2 : Moshahid Ali, Ward No-3 : Md Rushan Miah, Ward No-4 : Md Jashim Uddin, Rahman, Ward No-7 : Golam Mugni Muhiit, Ward No-8 : Md Anwar Hossain and Word No-9 : Abu Akkas Ansari.

The elected women commissioners in three reserved wards for women are Area No-1 (Ward No-1,2,3) Minarun Nahar Chowdhury, Area No-2 (Ward No-4,5,6) Rukshana Begum and Area No-3 (Ward No-7,8,9) Anwara Begum.

Official source said a total of 9238 voters out of 9017 voters cast votes. The turnout was 80.27 per cent. A total of 87 votes were cancelled during the counting.

## Basic facilities at Madaripur hospital yet to be increased

**UNB, Madaripur**

Lack of basic facilities in general hospital in Madaripur hampers the efforts of a handful of doctors to provide due healthcare services to the poor people.

Official sources said the government upgraded the 50-bed hospital to a 100-bed one in 1991 without increasing its basic facilities.

Although the poorer section of the

people depends on the hospital, it hardly can provide desired services due to lack of doctors, nurses, medicine, apparatus and safe drinking water.

More worrying is that the generator and the ambulance of the hospital remained out of order for long.

The government provides necessary funds for free supply of medicine to its patients, but they get nothing more than paracetamol

tablets and some antibiotics. "The poor patients have to buy all medicine from outside," said an official of the hospital.

He said 13 posts of physicians and nine of nurses in the hospital have long been lying vacant.

Besides, the pillow covers, bed sheets and mosquito nets provided by the hospital are so dirty that the patients can hardly use those.