# NATIONAL

# **NEWS SNAPS**

#### Three of a family electrocuted at **Puthiya**

BSS, Rajshahi

Three members of a family were electrocuted at Senbagh village in Puthiya upazila in Rajshahi Saturday.

The victims were identified as Mohsin Ali, 55, his wife Taskura Khatun, 50, and nephew Abdus Salam, 20, hospital and police sources said. Nephew Abdus Salam suddenly came in contract with alive electric wire while giving a side connection at about 3:00 pm. His auntie Taskura Khatun tried to save him but was electrocuted. After a few moments Mohsin Ali rushed to the spot and tried to help the victims. But he too got electrocuted. Abdus Salam and Taskura died on the spot. Mohsin was rushed local health complex for treatment. Later, he was shifted to Raishahi Medical College Hospital where the attending doctors declared him dead.

#### Pneumonia breaks out at Mirjagonj

Pneumonia has broken out at Mirjagonj upazila in Patuakhali during the last few days. Three children died of the disease in this upazila within a week, official sources said. Another seven were admitted to the local hospital.

Upazila Health Officer M Liakot Ali Khan told that pneumonia has broken out here due to severe hot and incessant rainfall in this season.

#### Foodgrains procurement drive going on

A total of 1,036 tons of paddy and 1,766 tons of rice have been procured from all four upazilas of Chuadanga till July 21 under the current IRRI-Boro procurement season. According to official sources, the aforesaid quantity of paddy and rice have been procured through five government purchasing centers.

The government has fixed a target to procure 1,345 tons of paddy and 1,932 tons of rice during the current IRRI-Boro paddy and rice procurement season. The procurement work of both paddy and rice are continuing.

#### Aus farming on 13,200 hectares

A total of 13,200 hectares of land have been brought under Aus cultivation in all the four upazilas like Sadar, Alamdanga, Damurhuda, and Jibannagar during the current

Of the total, 8,200 hectares of land have been brought under cultivation of high yielding variety and the rest 5,000 hectares under local variety. According to an official source, of the total, 2,600 hectares of land have been brought under cultivation in Chuadanga Sadar upazila, 2,600 hectares in Alamdanga upazila, 5,800 hectares in Damurhuda upazila and 2.200 hectares in Jibannagar upazila. The production target of Aus paddy during the season has been fixed at 27,000 metric tons. The condition of Aus paddy throughout the district is now satisfactory.

#### Orientation course on immunisation

BSS, Joypurhat

A six-day orientation course on immunisation at Kalai upazila office ended on Thursday

Organised by Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) local unit, the course was organised on the eve of National Immunisation Day for trainees at union and upazila levels. A large number of Imams of different mosques, headmasters of government primary schools from Kalai, Punat Zindarpur, Matrai, Udaypur union

#### Workshop for principals of colleges

BSS, Barisal A daylong workshop on "Barisal district Rover Group Presidents 2002" for the principals was held in Barisal on Friday

Organised by the Rover Region of Bangladesh Scouts, the workshop was attended by Barisal Education Board's Chairman Prof Abdus Salam as chief guest and Prof M Sayedur Rahman, Secretary of Bangladesh Scouts, and Prof Abdul Martuja Chowdhury as special guests. Presided over by Deputy Commissioner Sheikh Abdul Kalam, the function was directed by Chairman of Social Welfare Department of Government Brojomohan University College Prof Abdus Samad. M Shahjahan conducted the function. A total of 67 principals from government, non-government colleges and madrashas from 10 upazilas of Barisal participated at the workshop.

#### Phensidyl recovered from Meherpur

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) recovered 73 bottles of phensidyl worth Tk 5,750 from Mujibnagar and Buripota border area in Mujibnagar upazila on Sunday morning. The seized phensidyl bottles were destroyed, BDR source said.

### Man sustains acid injuries in

BSS, Magura

A man received acid injuries at Kucundi in Sripur thana of Magura on Saturday night. The victim was identified as Rabiul, 30. According to police and eyewitnesses some miscreants poured acid on victim's head at around 8 pm on Saturday. Rabiul was sent to Dhaka for treatment. No case was registered in this connection.

#### Abducted girl rescued in Netrakona

BSS, Netrakona

Police rescued an abducted madrassah girl from a house of village Teosree in sadar upazila on Wednesday evening

According to the police and her family sources, Delwara , 15, a student of class seven of Madanpur Alia Madrassah was allegedly kidnapped from her house at Butiarbari in the same uapzila by some armed young men of her village of on Wednesday. Later police raided a house of the village and rescued the girl from a house but kidnappers managed to flee the spot. Some young men of village Teosree used to disturb her on the way to the Madrassah every day, the girl's mother Amena Begum

#### Int'l workshop on landless people

A day-long International Workshop on 'improving living standard of Bangladesh landless' was held at the Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) campus on

Organsied by the Stockholder Project planning with the financial assistance of Department of International Development (DFID) the workshop was inaugurated by Vice-Chancellor of BAU Professor Muhammad Mustafizur Rahman at the gallery of Animal Husbandry Faculty. Speaking on the occasion, Vice-Chancellor said cattle property sector is more suitableness out of all the sectors of poverty alleviation and economic perspective. A total of 100 scientists and specialists of animal affairs

### Drive to control anti-social

activities

UNB, Chandpur A mobile court aided by police arrested 11 people and dismantled one circus and five

puppet show pandels at Badarpur village in Matlab Uttar upazila Wednesday. Of the arrested, four were from circus party and seven others involved in narcotics business. During the 3-hour drive starting at 4pm, furniture, including two generators, a huge quantity of bulbs, microphone worth about Tk several lakhs were seized. The team also arrested seven hemp addicts along with hemp making materials. The district administration took steps to conduct the drive following pu

#### Illegal hemp, liquor shops evicted

Police in a drive evicted nine illegal hemp and liquor shops and arrested a drug trader

from the Natun bazaar area of Magura on Wednesday. Police said grabbing government land by force some drug traders were conducting illegal drug business in the area since long. According to the instruction of the district administration, police led by a magistrate, demolished the illegal shops and arrested Harun along with hemp. District Administration has also taken a decision to evict the

brothel from the area and directed the sex-workers to leave the place.





(left) Front view of Laugoal Government Primary School in Sylhet where no classes were held for the last eight years. But two teachers receive their salaries regularly while dropouts are on sharp rise here. A teacher sits with a negligible number of students at a private house as the tin-shed and the bamboo made structure (right) of the school were damaged long ago. The school was established in 1973 and has 30 decimals of land. When contacted with the district education officer he informed that measures would be taken soon to reconstruct the school and necessary furniture would also be supplied in the aban-

# **Eviction drive at 'Khasia Punjee'** in Moulvibazar: One killed

RAJAT KANTI GOSWAMI,

One member of a tribal Khasia family was killed and at least 10 others were injured during an eviction drive at 'Khasia Punjee' at Kulaura upazila recently.

The Juri range office of the Department of Forest conducted an eviction drive at Section no-22 under the Juri Forest Range-1 at Fultala union in Kulaura upazila recently. The drive was conducted to recover land of the Forest Department occupied by some Khasia tribal families.

One person named Abinash Murong, son of Kartik Murong was killed on the spot.

Twenty Khasia families were living on the evicted land since long. The only occupation of the Khasia families was cultivation and marketing betel-leaf. They cannot live in plain lands and creation and preservation of forest is part of their life. In different forests in Moulvibazar more than 1,000 Khasia families live and cultivate betel-leaf from generation to generation

informed that on the fateful day forest officials along with a group of 'Bengali miscreants' of the locality attacked them and demolished their houses and betel- leaf gardens and ultimately evicted them from the

Now the Khasias are living in the nearby forest under open sky with-

On July 25, the evicted Khasia families came back to their 'punjee' and tried to reconstruct their houses. But on July 26 the forest officials along with the miscreants came again and attacked them for the second time. This time the forest officials opened oun shots on them and their family member Abinash Murong was killed on the spot. The forest officials and the miscreants looted their motorcycles and other things, the Khasias complained. They also pointed out that no police and magistrate were present during the eviction drive

Police of Kulaura Police Station said the Forest Department conducted the eviction drive in Fultala Khasia Punjee without informing

police or the local administration. After receiving an information of the incident in Khasia Punjee police went to the spot and recovered the body of Abinash Murong and a 303 rifle. The body was sent to Moulvibazar hospital morgue for autopsy

However, the Kulaura forest officials denied the allegations that some local goons were with them during the eviction. The forest official informed that their department has security force with arms. So they can conduct any drive to protect the reserve forest from illegal occupants without help from the police, but if needed, they can seek help of police, the forest official

The tribal people ofs different 'punjees' in Moulvibazar arranged several press conferences recently where they alleged that some local miscreants were trying to grab lands at Khasia 'punjees' at different tribal populated areas. In some cases, these miscreants attacked the Khasias to evict them.

#### AL activist's wife allegedly commits suicide

UNB. Feni

A housewife allegedly committed suicide at Bogadona union in Sonagazi upazila on Saturday night.

Locals said Mohsena Khatun, 35, wife of Awami League activist Abul Bashar, killed herself by hanging from a tree having failed to endure economic hardship.

She was passing her days in abject poverty as her husband, an active Awami League (AL) activist and former member of Bogadona Union Parishad, fled from his house for fear of political revenge after the general election on October 1.

# **Pregnant housewife** beaten to death allegedly by husband

A pregnant woman was beaten to death for dowry allegedly by her husband at Shaikhati village in Sadar upazila Monday.

Police said Haroon-ur-Rashid beat his wife Parveena, 27, to death as she refused to bring Tk 10,000 as dowry from her poor father.

10 years back, was seven months

Local people caught Haroon and

Parveena, who married Haroon

handed him over to police after a mass beating. Police recovered the body and sent it to hospital morque

In another incident, a man was electrocuted as he tried to operate a deep tubewell at Hariharnagar in Monirampur upazila Friday.

His two sons - Aminur, 20, and Mominur, 15, -- also suffered injuries when they came up to save their father.

Mominur was admitted to hospital in a critical condition.

### Vegetable dear in Narail

BSS, Narail

Prices of vegetable have increased exorbitantly in the local markets of Narail causing much inconvenience to the poor and common people. Almost prices of all the vegetables vary from Tk 10 to 15

Green banana per four is selling at Tk 6 to 8 in place of Tk 4. Ladv's finger is selling at Tk 8 to 10 a kg in place of Tk 4 to 6. Cucumber is being sold at Tk 14 to 15 a kg in place of Tk 8 to 10. Potato is selling at Tk 10 to 12 a kg in place of Tk 7 to 8, green chilly is selling at Tk 50 to

60 a kg in place of Tk 10 to 12, a slice of sweet gourd at Tk 10 in place of Tk 5. Papaya is sold at Tk 8 kg in place of Tk 4 to 5.

Leafy vegetables of good qualities are seldom available in the

Vegetables trader told that the prices of vegetables and leafy vegetables would increase further. Rain water and the water level in the low-lying areas, canals, rivers and other water bodies swelled causing heavy damage to vegetables on the fields, they added.



Work on the new railway station going on in full swing in Sylhet. Work on this modern station started during the last

# Plight of landless people in Sirajganj town

AKHTERUZZAMAN BABLU, Sirajganj

Hundreds of landless people who were evicted by local influentials from government railway khas land near the Sadar police station in Sirajganj recently are now leaving a sub-human life under the open sky. They are yet to

The evicted people met the newsmen at the office of a new local daily on the Sirajganj municipality road and narrated their plight. They alleged that they were also tortured by the land grabbers. Of them, landless Abul Sheikh, Sahera Begum, Asma, Fuljan Begum, Hayatun Nessa, Bulu Begum, Khairun Begum, Bhanu, Anjona, Farida Begum, Jobeda Begum, Shefali Begum, Rima Begum, Rupa Begum and some others informed that they had no source of income. They further informed that five years ago they took shelter on the government khas land and constructed kutcha houses where they used to live with their family. But unfortunately the land

grabbers bribed some local politicians, touts and the former officer-in-charge of the local sadar thana. The influentials evicted them in collaboration with them.

The landless people also sought the intervention of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in this regard. They alleged that the local administration took the side of the influentials. The influentials also bribed the local police personnel and members of the security agencies, the landless people alleged. We feel quite insecure in the prevailing situation, they said.

Some dishonest influentials grabbed government khas lands worth crores of taka from different parts of the district town illegally since independence of the country. When contacted local administration said that they were enquiring about the matter.

Meanwhile, the government was losing a good amount of revenue as some local influentials took shelter under political banners and built multi-storied buildings on the government khas lands.

# Three die in separate incidents in Sherpur, **Jhalakati**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three persons died in separate incidents in Sherpur and Jhalakati

UNB from Sherpur reports: Two people were killed in separate incidents in Nalitabari and Sadar

upazilas on Monday and Tuesday. Police said the body of a young rice trader, Alam, was found hanging at Hague Rice Mill in Nalitabari upazila Tuesday.

According to police, Alam of Haluaghat upazila in Mymensingh, came to the rice mill Monday night to purchase rice. He was carrying Tk

Police picked up an employee of the mill, Babul, for interrogation.

Shangma, 35, was electrocuted at a

from Chhotogazni village in Jhenigati upazila Another report from Jhalakati adds: A little boy drowned at Shaitpakia village in Nalchiti upazila

Meanwhile, a tribesman, Polen

rice mill at Mirjapur in Sadar upazila. Shangma, a night guard of the mill, was electrocuted while switching on a pump machine. He hailed

on Tuesday. The victim was identified as

Sabbir, 2, son of Manirul Islam.

#### 192 uplift projects implemented in Bogra

UNB, Bogra

Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) implemented 192 development projects in Bogra in fiscal 2001-2002 at a cost of Tk 17.28 cr.

Of the projects, 135 were implemented under rural infrastructure maintenance programme, three under PRMIMP-2, one under flood victims rehabilitation programme, four under IFSP: Bill, 31 under priority basis programme (3rd phase), five under culvert construction programme and 13 under rural infrastructure development programme

Besides, some projects were implemented in the district costing

The projects include tree plantation and construction of office buildings, bridges and roads.