

## NEWS SNAPS

### Three of a family die in boat capsized

**BSS, Gopalganj**  
A middle aged woman and two of her little daughters died in a boat capsized at village Khalipura in Muksedpur upazila on Monday evening.  
The trios were identified as Rina Begum, 35, and her two little daughters Nargis, 5, and Sathi 3. An eight-year old daughter of the ill-fated mother, however, escaped the capsized at a canal. Family and police sources said the victim, Rina Begum, pregnant wife of Syed Ali Mir of village Nowkhanda, was going to her father's home by a small boat along with her three daughters when it sank due to rough weather.

### Orphan drowns in pond in Faridpur

**BSS, Faridpur**  
A boy of Faridpur Muslim Mission Orphanage drowned on Tuesday morning in the Mission's pond.  
According to the Secretary of the orphanage, Azizul Haque Sheikh, 12, of village Chatar in Boalmari Police Station had been a resident of the orphanage since 1999. He was a student of class III. The boy went to the pond for taking bath. While swimming, the boy drowned. His body was recovered and handed over to his guardian. An unnatural death (UD) case was registered with Kotwali Police in this connection.

### One killed in clash in Feni

**BSS, Feni**  
A man was killed in a clash between two groups led by Habibullah and Abul Hasan at Charcandi village in Sonagazi upazila in Feni on Wednesday morning.  
Police said there was an exchange of hot words between the groups. At one stage, they locked in a clash. Sabuj, 29, son of Golam Mostafa was critically injured and sent to Feni Sadar Hospital. He died there. No case was filed and none arrested in this connection.

### Young man commits suicide in Pabna

**BSS, Pabna**  
A young man committed suicide by taking poison in Iswardi upazila on Wednesday morning.  
Police and family sources said Ashraf Islam, 30, of Awtapara village committed suicide when he could not bear pain in his stomach. He had been suffering from stomach pain for a long time. An unnatural death (UD) case was filed with Iswardi police station in this connection.

### Shaheed Day in memory of 8 FFs



Engineer Mosharrif Hussain, chairman of the Jamuna Bank Limited inaugurates the 7th branch of the bank at Beani Bazar in Sylhet. Mahmudul Hoque, vice chairman, Solaiman Khan Majlish, managing director and other directors of the bank were present on the occasion.

**BSS, Chuadanga**  
Shaheed Day was observed in Chuadanga in memory of eight freedom fighters (FFs) on Monday.

On this day on August 5, 1971 during the Liberation War, they were killed by the occupation Pakistan army at village Natudah in Damurhuda upazila in a face to face fight with the Pakistan Army. The freedom fighters are Hasan, Rabiul, Alaul, Tarek, Rowshan, Abul Quasem, Afazuddin and Kiamuddin. Since then, the day is being observed in Chuadanga as Shaheed Day. Chuadanga district unit of Bangladesh MuktiJodha Sangsad chalked out a daylong programme which included ziarat, milad mahfil, discussion meeting at their mazar premises and feeding the destitutes.

### 10 alleged fund misappropriators sued

**BSS, Khulna**  
Anti-corruption Bureau of Khulna filed nine cases against 10 persons including four Thana Education Officers for alleged misappropriation of over Tk 19 lakh.  
According to official sources, Thana Education Officers Anwarul Islam Siddique, HM Delwer Hossain, Yusuf Ali and Abdul Alim, teachers Sarder Shafiqul Islam of Mehmane Alia Government Primary School, Shaikh Moinuddin of Shipyard Government Primary School, Sarder Mobarak Ali of Sonadanga Government Primary School, MA Hamid Mia of National Government Primary School, Gazi Mostafa Kamal of Numagar Government Primary School and Sultan Ahmed an office assistant of Khulna Sadar Thana Education Office have been implicated in the cases. They misappropriated Tk 19,03,516 from the government fund showing false document of salary, bonus, loan and GPF among different institutions between September 1997 and August 2001.

### Power failure makes life miserable

**BSS, Chuadanga**  
Frequent power disruption has become a regular feature at Chuadanga town causing financial loss to the businessmen and inconvenience to dwellers including students for a long time.

Power failure occurs everyday three to four times especially just after evening. As a result, people of all walks of life, especially students, businessmen, lawyers, mills-factory owners, hospital-clinic patients and owners and jail prisoners are the worst sufferers. There are generator services in the town, but due to high charge, only one per cent people are enjoying electricity supply facilities through sufferers.

### Loan distributed among jobless youths

**BSS, Narsingdi**  
The Youth Development Directorate has distributed Tk 31 lakh as loan among 520 jobless educated young men and women in six upazilas during the 2001-2002 fiscal.  
The loan was distributed in order to enable the youths to be self-reliant. According to the Deputy Director, Jubo Unnayan Narsingdi, the loans were given for different projects like small industries, poultry, dairy, pisciculture, nursery, tailoring and small trading. The Youth Development Directorate imparted short term and long term training to 2,188 young men and women in Narsingdi during the same period to make them self-reliant in different spheres of life. The training are on tailoring, cattle rearing, poultry, dairy, cow fattening, nursery, pisciculture and computer.

### 363 projects implemented in Narsingdi

**BSS, Narsingdi**  
A total of 363 projects were implemented under Rural Infrastructure Development Programme in Narsingdi, during 2001-2002 fiscal.  
About 3,532 tons of wheat was sanctioned for the projects. Of the total projects, 50 were implemented in Narsingdi Sadar upazila against 729 tons of wheat, 52 in Raipura upazila against 664 tons of wheat, 102 in Shibpur upazila against 842 tons of wheat, 73 in Monhardi upazila against 574 tons of wheat, 37 in Belabo upazila against 341 tons of wheat and 48 in Polash upazila against 382 tons of wheat. The projects included construction and reconstruction of roads and culverts, excavation and re-excavation of canals and earthwork for construction of different educational and religious institutions.

### Two arrested with wine in Tangail

**BSS, Tangail**  
Police recovered 500 litres of wine from a truck at Basail on Tangail-Dhaka highway in Mirzapur Upazila on Sunday.  
Two persons were arrested in this connection. According to police sources, acting on a tip-off, highway patrol police chased the truck, which was bound for Dhaka from Tangail at night. Police searched the truck and recovered 500-litre local made wine. Truck driver Abul Hossain, 35 and wine trader Solaiman, 42, were arrested. A case was filed with Mirzapur police station.



(Left) An inundated house at Bin Para in Sadar upazila in Mymensingh. All the inmates of the house left the place and have taken temporary shelter at safer places elsewhere while (middle) a flood affected primary school of a Non-governmental Organisation (NGO) at the aforementioned place remains abandoned due to suspension of classes and (right) the flood victims have taken shelter on Shambhuganj cross-dam. Flood situation in Mymensingh remains static though water started receding from the affected areas

## Flood situation in Mymensingh static 40 villages remain inundated

**AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh**

The flood situation in Mymensingh is still static though water started receding from Saturday.  
Because of onrush of water from across the border, the Brahmaputra swelled up rapidly. Forty villages of seven unions in Sadar upazila have been inundated. The badly affected unions are Kustia, Paranganj, Boror Char, Kaghdahar, Char Sirta, Char Iswardia and Char Nilaxia.  
Flood has rendered thousands of people homeless. The flood victims have taken shelter at different educational institutions, in the Mymensingh Park area, inside Municipality Super Market, on Shambhuganj cross-dam and at other places with all their belongings including cattlehead and poultry birds.  
The victims have been suffering a lot due to lack of pure drinking water and food. Many victims are living with their children in make-shift structures. Their sufferings multiply during rains. Many victims have been passing their

days without food. They received meager relief. Moreover, they are not getting proper healthcare facilities due to lack of medicine.  
However, the Sadar upazila health office sources said that 15 medical teams had been working round the clock in the flood affected areas.  
Dr Rashida Akhtar Khatun, Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer told The Daily Star that report of diarrhoea from the flood affected areas is yet to be received. Dr Anwarul Islam Chowdhury and Dr Rulul Amin told this correspondent at Begun Bari Primary School and Hossain Memorial High School that an acute crisis of pure drinking water has been prevailing in the affected areas while sanitation problem is a very serious problems for the flood victims.  
Meanwhile, the flood has also caused severe damage to jute and some other standing crops. Fish farmers especially in the shoal areas are the worst sufferers as many fishes of the ponds have already been washed away.

## Rains delay Aman farming in Narsingdi

**BSS, Narsingdi**

The cultivation of Aman paddy is being hampered and delayed in the six upazilas of Narsingdi due to incessant rain and flash flood for the last few weeks.

The incessant rainfall and onrush of water from the last week of Bangla month Ashar and in the first two weeks of Sraban flooded the cultivable land of Narsingdi.

The farmers became frustrated as their standing crops and Aman seedlings in the field went under water.

Besides, it is the best time for transplantation of Aman seedlings.

Farmers said they are now very busy to prepare their land for cultivation of Aman as the flood situation is being improved.

Narsingdi is famous for rice cultivation. In the two previous consecutive years, the district achieved a good harvest of Aman paddy. Successful yield of Aman paddy brings substantial amount of money to the farmers.

Another report from Joypurhat says, farmers in the northern districts including Joypurhat have already achieved the fixed target of T-

Aman farming in the current season.

In some districts, farmers have already crossed the target. Plantation of T-Aman seedlings is expected to be finally completed by the middle of August, official sources said.

If the climatic conditions remain favourable the production target of T-Aman crop may be exceeded as farmers have already brought more land under T-Aman farming than the fixed target in most of the northern districts.

The government has fixed a target of producing 43,36,785 tonnes of T-Aman rice from a total of 16,61,100 hectares in the 16 northern districts during the season.

The farmers of Joypurhat, Dinajpur, Thakurgaon, Panchagarh, Bogra, Naogaon, Chapainawabganj, Rajshahi, Natore have already planted seedlings on more than that of targeted land up to July 31.

A total of 18 lakh hectares will actually be brought under T-Aman farming in the region this year. Plantation of seedlings will continue up to the end of August in the flood-affected Kurigram, Gaibandha, Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari, Rangpur, Bogra, Sirajganj and Pabna.

The district-wise fixed target of T-Aman cultivation for the current season is as follows: 67,500 hectares to produce 1,60,625 tonnes of rice in Joypurhat, 1,78,400 hectares to produce 4,06,205 tonnes of rice in Bogra, 1,93,200 hectares to produce 4,29,450 tonnes of rice in Naogaon, 34,700 hectares to produce 79,695 tonnes of rice in Natore, 57,100 hectares to produce 1,36,000 tonnes of rice in Nababganj, 81,100 hectares to produce 1,93,185 tonnes of rice in Rajshahi, 36,600 hectares to produce 85,870 tonnes of rice in Pabna and 53,000 hectares to produce 1,13,510 tonnes of rice in Sirajganj, 1,34,400 hectares to produce 3,12,750 tonnes in Rangpur, 1,08,000 hectares to produce 2,32,585 tonnes in Gaibandha, 1,11,800 hectares to produce 2,33,155 tonnes in Kurigram, 1,08,500 hectares to produce 2,48,250 tonnes in Nilphamari, 81,500 hectares to produce 1,93,310 tonnes in Lalmonirhat, 2,34,000 hectares to produce 5,11,740 tonnes in Dinajpur, 98,500 hectares to produce 1,98,290 tonnes in Thakurgaon and 82,400 hectares of land will be brought under T-Aman cultivation programme to produce 1,61,125 tonnes of rice in Panchagarh.

## Plight of young daughter of a widow

**BSS, Jamalpur**

Although Rupeza Begum, 15, a young girl escaped attempts of rape twice, now she has become a burden for her widow mother as rumours about the so-called rape has been haunting the family.

Poverty-stricken mother Hasna Begum, 40, of village Rashidpur Gadakhali Para in Sadar upazila, lost her husband about 10 years back. After his death she has been shouldering the responsibilities of the family.

She is leading a sub-human life with her three children. But Hasmat Ali, son of Haider Ali of the same village made their lives miserable. Because his greedy eyes fell on teenage Rupeza. As Rupeza turned

down Hasmat's proposal, he became furious.

One night in April this year, Hasmat entered into the room of Rupeza by breaking open the door and tried to rape her, when she was sleeping with her mother.

When Rupeza and her mother raised a hue and cry, neighbours rushed to their house and caught Hasmat red-handed. Later, at an arbitration for justice, but it ended with only a cautionary warning to Hasmat.

The incident angered Hasmat further. He became more furious. On the night of June 16 this year, Hasmat and his brother-in-law (sister's husband) Golam Mostafa entered into the room of Rupeza again by breaking open the door and allegedly tried to raped Rupeza.

When she started shouting, both the culprits escaped.

After the second rape attempt, mother of Rupeza went to the Narayanpur police investigation centre to take shelter of law. But officer-in-charge of the investigation centre allegedly refused to take any case.

The victim with the assistance of lawyers filed a case with Jamalpur Cognisance Court on June 20, 2002.

After filing the case, the court ordered the concerned police to investigate into the matter. Getting the court order it is alleged that the police officer of Narayanpur investigation centre gave final report against the victim without holding any inquiry. Following the final report

the culprits have been threatening to abduct Rupeza.

The helpless widow Hasna came to the local office of Bangladesh Sangbadik Samity (journalists association) on July 25, 2002 and told the journalists about her plight. The widow wearing a tattered sari said, "I submitted an application seeking security of my daughter to the Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Jamalpur.

## Lions distribute relief among flood victims

**UNB, Mymensingh**

Lions Club International distributed relief materials worth Tk 6 lakh among flood-affected people in Muktagachha upazila Monday.

State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources AKM Mosharrif Hossain was present on the occasion.

The club distributed relief goods, including rice, pulses, edible oil and salt, among 1,000 people of Rasulpur, Dauga and Paikh Shimul unions of the upazila.

It has also undertaken a Tk 25 lakh programme to rehabilitate cyclone and flood-affected people in the upazila.

## Revenue collection at Mohishkundi check post comes down

**BSS, Kushtia**

The revenue collection at Mohishkundi border check post, of Doulatpur upazila, the main entry point of imported Indian cattle is decreasing day by day due to evasion of taxes by a section of traders allegedly in connivance with the members of law enforcing agencies.  
As a result, the revenue collection came down to Tk 28 lakh 72 thousand from the highest Tk 13 crore 8 lakh 10 thousand 300 in 1995-96 at the check post.

Because of operation of many illegal cattle shelters in Charpara, Bilgathua, Jamalpur, Munshiganj, Charchilmari, Chilmari the collection of revenue in the check post comes down to all time low.

As a large number of cattle, including cows and buffaloes, are being smuggled in through the unauthorised shelters before the nose of the members of law enforcing agencies, the government has been deprived of huge amount of revenue.

It is alleged that the on duty law-enforcing personnel remain busy taking bribe from the cow dealers and reaching the cattle to safe places without realising official revenue.

According to an investigation, the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) check post recently showed releasing 86 cows on payment of revenue. But in fact, at least 600 cows and buffaloes were found released from there. The officials of Mohishkundi BDR camp, however, denied the allegations.

The local people demanded immediate closure of the unofficial cattle camps.

According to official statistics, in 1993-1994 fiscal year, the collection of revenue stood at about Tk 5.53 cr. But it came down to Tk 3.77 crore in 1994-1995.

In the 1995-96 fiscal year, the government took some measures when the collection of revenue increased to 13.7 cr. But the very next year, it fell again to Tk 10.78 cr.

In 1998-99, the revenue income stood at Tk 7.10 cr followed by Tk 3.25 cr in 2000-2001 and Tk 28 lakh 72 thousand in 2001-2002.

## Miscreants assault 2 newsmen at Hilly Land Port

**BSS, Joypurhat**  
Two journalists were assaulted by an organised gang of miscreants in Hilly Land Port areas along the border Tuesday.

The journalists, who were kept hostage for an hour, were later released due to intervention of local clearing and forwarding (C&F) agents, eyewitnesses said.

Mamun Islam, North Bengal correspondent of The Independent, and Tapan Kumar Khan, Joypurhat district correspondent of the Daily Janakantha, were assaulted by the gang when they were taking some photographs of the land port.

The miscreants also snatched away their cameras, but they returned those after negotiation, damaging the films. The victims alleged that they sought help from the law enforcers and customs officials, but none came forward to save them.