

## NEWS SNAPS

**One killed in road mishap in Sylhet**

BSS, Sylhet

An unidentified old man was killed in a road mishap on Sylhet-Tamabil road on Sunday. Police said, a pedestrian died on the spot when he was crushed under the wheels of a Sylhet-bound truck from Tamabil. The driver of the stone-loaded truck escaped. The accident led to disruption in the vehicular movement on the route for an hour. Jaintapur thana police recovered the body and sent it to the Osmany Medical College Hospital for autopsy. A case was registered with Jaintapur thana in this connection.

**9 abducted villagers yet to be rescued**

BSS, Rangamati

The nine villagers abducted on August 30 last were not freed after 11 days of abduction despite all possible efforts to free them.

Parbatya Chattagram Jono Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) and its rival United Peoples Democratic Front accused each other for the incidents of abduction. Simultaneously, two truck drivers who were kidnapped from Kalabagan in Kawkhali upazila on August 1 allegedly by tribal miscreants are yet to be rescued. Moves are going on to free them.

**Padma erosion threatens GK Project**

BSS, Bheramara

Erosion by the Padma along the Ganges Kabatak (GK) project area has taken a serious turn.

Continued erosion posed a serious threat to the 60-MW power station and main pump station of the GK project and the approach roads to the Bheramara-Paksey ferry ghat (terminal). The river has already engulfed a vast area along the ferry ghat approach road, making vehicular movement risky. If the erosion continues unabated, the road communication between northern part and southwestern zone of the country will be snapped, local people apprehended. They urged the authorities concerned to take immediate step to check erosion in the area.

**Rain causes water-logging in Tangail**

BSS, Tangail

Water logging of roads in Tangail town due to heavy rainfall has caused great sufferings to the town dwellers.

Roads of many residential areas of the town particularly of Adalat Para, Muslim Para Betka, Shabalia and Palashtali were inundated causing damages to roads due to heavy rainfall, according to official and local sources. The areas covering about 32 kms of the town remained water-logged for months together causing sufferings to the people. Twenty one kms of pucca drain and 11 kms of kutcha drain have almost choked up for lack of maintenance and regular servicing. The stagnation of water has caused serious damages to roads. As a result movement of vehicles are also being disrupted frequently.

**Woman arrested with 10-litre wine**

BSS, Tangail

Madhupur thana police arrested a woman with 10-litre wine from her possession in the Jalchattr forest area of Madhupur upazila on Wednesday night.

Acting on a tip-off, Madhupur thana police raided the Jalchattr forest area on Wednesday night and recovered 10-litre wine from a woman named Sankori Rani. A case filed with Madhupur police station in this connection.

**Indefinite truck strike in 16 dists from Sept 26****Overloading of trucks to be checked from today**

AKHTERUZZAMAN BABLU, Sirajganj

An indefinite truck strike will begin in 16 districts from September 26.

A step has also been taken to check overloading of trucks in 16 districts.

All the plying trucks will be checked by a team of police, truck owners and truck workers from today (Sept 15). It was decided at a recent meeting of truck owners and truck labourers with the communication minister.

The truck owners associations of northern and southern regions

jointly announced the programme of indefinite truck strike demanding fulfilment of their 9-point demands.

The leaders of North Bengal Truck Owners' Association and South Bengal Truck Owners' Association announced the programme at a joint press conference on Thursday last at the Sirajganj Truck Owners' Union office.

The conference was presided over by North Bengal Truck Owners' Association president Abul Hossain Khan while it was addressed, among others, by general secretary of the association Sayedul Islam

and other leaders of both the associations.

The leaders demanded immediate fulfilment of their 9-point demands which include decrease in the toll rate of Jamuna bridge, protection of trucks from illegal toll collection at different points of highways and police harassment.

Among others, leaders of both the truck owners associations like Nasiruzzaman Babu, Abu Salek Swapan including Firoj Ahmed of Bogra, Sadrul Islam of Rajshahi, Tajul Islam of Panchagarh and Shamsur Rahman Manik of Pabna were present in the press conference.

**Rajshahi-Jamuna Bridge direct road link soon**

BSS, Rajshahi

Construction of the 55-kilometre Nalka-Hatikumrul-Banpara highway is expected to be completed by December this year.

The highway would establish a direct road link between this divisional headquarters and the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge (JMB).

Roads and Highway Department is executing the project being implemented under the Road Rehabilitation and Maintenance Project-3 (RRMP-III), according to official sources.

Work on the Tk 327.38 crore project began on December 29, 1998 with a view to linking up the western region of Rajshahi division with the JMB.

Of the total project cost, Tk 203.78 is being provided by the International Development Agencies (IDA) while the rest Tk 123.60 by the Government of

Bangladesh (GOB).

Eighty-five per cent physical work on the project have already been completed along with 86 culverts and 12 bridges. The highway is being built through the historic 'Chalan Beel', area covering the districts of Nator and Sirajganj.

Provision has also been made for a secondary 4-metre wide road on a separate lane, six metre below along the left side of the main road, for slow moving and manual traffic to avert accidents.

The authorities have acquired some 663.10 acres in the two districts for the project. Three firms -- two Chinese and one domestic -- were appointed for its implementation. Resettlement work for the affected people have also been completed under the existing rules of the World Bank.

Abdus Salam, executive engineer of the project told newsmen that construction of a new and very

high embankment on new alignment over soft soil in the low-lying areas around the Chalan Beel, is expected to have a significant impact on improved traffic movement and related economic development in the region.

The road, besides directly linking up the Sona Masjid land port, will also reduce about 50-kilometre distance and relevant travel time from the JMB to Natore, Rajshahi and Chapainawabganj.

The agriculture sector will reap high benefit as the area will be connected with a national highway. In case of severe flooding like 1987, 1988, 1991 and 1998 the affected people will be able to take shelter on the slow traffic lane, he informed.

The road will also contribute a lot to the enhancement of the living standard of rural communities through development of the road network as well as sustainable economic advancement.



PHOTO: A K M MOHSIN

A roadside trader sells curd made of buffalo milk at Lalmohon upazila in Bhola. Lalmohon is famous for buffalo curd which is very delicious and of good quality. Price of one pot containing 1 kg of curd is Tk 20 only.

**One killed by robbers in Gazipur****Bandits storm into houses of 8 people**

UNB, Gazipur

A man was killed and at least 10 others were injured in violent attacks by robbers at Baghia village in Kapasia upazila early Saturday.

Witnesses said the bandits numbering 40-50 stormed into the houses of eight people, including Selim and Razzak, at dead of night and looted valuables worth over Tk 2 lakh.

As local people rushed to the spot hearing screams, the robbers swooped on them, leaving a night

guard, Arif Hossain, dead on the spot.

Four of the injured - Siddique, Milon, Liton and Abdul Hye - were admitted to the upazila health complex in critical condition.

Later locals caught three of the robbers and handed over them to the police. They are Mosharaf, Lokman and Ripon.

An armed robbery was also committed at a house of Phinik Rozario at Dhanun village in Kaliganj upazila the same night.

**Undertrial prisoner dies at Narsingdi jail**

UNB, Narsingdi

An undertrial prisoner of Narsingdi district jail died of illness at Sadar Hospital here on Saturday.

He was identified as Belal Hossain, 30, son of Aman Khan of village Bilsaron in Shibpur upazila who died after three hours of admission at about 3pm.

Jailer informed that Belal had

been suffering from chest pain and jaundice complications for the last seven days. Following deterioration of his condition he was rushed to the hospital at noon.

Bellal was arrested on April 10 in a case filed under the Women and Children Repression Act. An unnatural death (UD) case was filed with the police.

**Housewife killed allegedly by husband**

A CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A housewife was beaten to death allegedly by her husband Labu Mia at Fakir Para in Sariakandi upazila on Thursday noon as she suggested him not to play gambling.

The deceased was identified as Sheuly, 30, daughter of Ful Mia of the same village.

Police and locals said Labu Mia was a gambler. He has beaten to death Sheuly when she obstructed him to go to play gambling. After the incident he poured poison into her mouth and tried to colour as suicide. Labu Mia has been absconding after the killing. A case has been filed with Sariakandi thana in this connection.

**Viral fever at Faridpur**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Viral fever has broken out in and around Faridpur town in an epidemic form recently.

The symptoms of the disease are high temperature, headache, cough and cold. The patient suffers for four to five days and cures automatically.

**New welfare organisation in Moulvibazar**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

People of greater Dhaka district who are now living in Moulvibazar town, have formed a welfare organisation named 'Birhattara Dhaka Zila Samity'.

A meeting of the newly-formed organisation was held at the sadar upazila auditorium recently.

A 15-member executive committee was formed through selection. The office-bearers are: president AKM Mainuddin, Superintending Engineer, WDB, Moulvibazar, Senior Vice President, Amullya Kumer Sarker, Sub-Judge, PWD Moulvibazar, General Secretary: Mahmud Hasan, Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Moulvibazar Sadar, Joint Secretary: Khalequzzaman, officer, Delta Life Insurance Co., Publicity and Organising Secretary: Sawkat Hasan Khan, businessman, Finance Secretary: Md Shahidul Islam, Manager City Bank Ltd, Welfare Secretary: Kazi Lutful Kabir, businessman, Education and Publication Secretary: Md Zinnat Ali Biswas, Upazila Education Officer, Women Affairs Secretary: Begum Faizia Karim, officer, Pubali Bank (main branch), Sports and Cultural Secretary: Liakat Hussain.