

## NEWS SNAPS

## Separate incidents claim three in Rajbari

BSS, Rajbari

Three people died in three separate incidents in Rajbari in two days.

According to police sources, two persons in Rajbari Sadar upazila committed suicide by hanging on Saturday and the other died in a road accident in Baliakandi upazila on Sunday. Police said Yunus Kabob, 30, of Ramkantapur village in sadar upazila committed suicide by hanging over a family feud while Shamsul Haque, 30, of village Charnarayanpur in Sadar upazila also committed suicide by hanging in his father-in-law's house allegedly over family feud. According to police, one person named Atiqur Rahman, 26, a student of Rasulpur Hafizia Madrasah in Baliakandi upazila died in a road accident in Bahorpur area on Sunday. Three separate cases were registered with Rajbari and Baliakandi police stations.

## 15 seed stores in shambles in Madaripur

BSS, Madaripur

At least 15 seed stores at Kalkini and Shibchar upazilas may become unfit for use at any time due to lack of maintenance for a long time, food officials feared.

The Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) constructed 12 union seed stores in Kalkini upazila during the 60s, three seed stores at Basngari, Kalkini and Gopalpur in the last decade. The condition of nine seed stores have become dilapidated as these were not renovated for a long time. Seven seed stores in Shibchar upazila have also become unfit for use due to lack of renovation. Construction of seed stores are needed most urgently at Shahebrampur, Shikar Mongal, Kazi Bakai and Nabogram in Kalkini upazila.

## Growers yet to get fair price of jute

BSS, Rajbari

Jute growers in Rajbari complain they are not getting fair price of their produce as sufficient number of buyers are yet to appear in different markets.

They have been compelled to sell their jute much below the production cost to the middlemen who are allegedly hoarding those, according to some growers. Growers say jute is being sold in different markets in Rajbari at Tk 250 to Tk 350 per maund, which is much below the production cost. However, quality of this year's jute is comparatively inferior to that of the previous year due to prolonged drought followed by incessant rains. Jute was cultivated on 19,160 hectares with a target of producing 25,86,600 bales of jute in 2001-2002 year, according to the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE). Besides, the jute traders alleged that they are yet to get an arrear of Tk. 5.35 cr from different purchase centres.

## Test relief scheme going on in Narail

BSS, Narail

Work on 118 test relief schemes involving 162 metric tons of foodgrains have been going on in full swing in three upazilas and two municipalities in Narail.

Of the schemes, 32 schemes are being implemented in Narail sadar, 42 schemes in Lohagara, 40 schemes in Kalia upazilas, three schemes in Narail Municipality and one scheme in Kalia Municipality. So far over 70 per cent work of the schemes have been completed and the rest is expected to be completed by this month, official sources said.

## Erosion turns hundreds homeless in dists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The erosion by the Padma, the Arial Kha, the Kumar and the Sugandha has rendered hundreds of families homeless in Madaripur and Jhalakati.

**BSS from Madaripur reports:** The erosion by the Padma, the Arial Kha and the Kumar has so far rendered about 1,000 families homeless in three upazilas in Madaripur.

Of them, about 400 families have become homeless as two kilometres area along the Dhaka-Mawa road in Shibchar upazila were eroded by the Padma and the Arial Kha.

About 300 families have been rendered homeless in 20 villages of seven unions in Shibchar upazila. The unions are Tarail, Sannyashirchar, Matbarerchar, Char Janajat, Kathalbari, Bandarkhola and Shiruail.

A total of 115 families in 10 villages of Sadar upazila and over 130 families in Kalkini upazila of Madaripur have been rendered homeless by the erosion of the Arial Kha river.

According to some erosion victims they are leading miserable life on different highlands under the open sky without any help from any quarter.

**Another report from Jhalakati says:** Erosion by the Sugandha continued unabated threatening the existence of a good number of government offices and home-steads of about 100 families in the district town.

Local people and water board officials said that the erosion by the



A villager looks vacantly towards the Madhumati river which devoured his dwelling house at village Kashinathpur of Mohammadpur upazila in Magura. Erosion has rendered hundreds of people shelterless in Magura, Madaripur and Jhalakati in recent days.

Sugandha continued as the last phase of Jhalakati town protection embankment could not be completed on time due to lack of fund.

Water Development Board sources said that they could not complete the remaining portion of 170 metres of the town protection embankment for want of fund.

A total of Tk 4 crore 24 lakh was set for the project. An amount of Tk 3 crore have been spent for the embankment in two phases during

1999-2000 and 2001-2002 financial years.

As 170 metres of the embankment could not be completed, the old college area and its western side have been eroded.

Pathakali School, District Primary Education office, District Education office and homesteads of about 100 poor families have become vulnerable due to erosion.

Trisha murder case

## Arguments going on

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Arguments under section 342 of CrPC of the sensational Trisha murder case began in the court of the District and Sessions Judge, Gaibandha on September 16.

Session Judge AKM Anower Hossain pronounced the prosecution charges and the deposition of witnesses. The accused persons namely Mehdi Hasan Modern, Md Shaheed and Ariful Islam Asha denied their involvement in the Trisha murder incident. They told the court that they submitted their confessional statement under section 164 after being tortured by police during remand.

During argument, Public Prosecutor (PP) Jahangir Alam Zinnah narrated the overall situation soon after the death of Sadia Sultana Trisha where people from all walks of life throughout the country demanded trial of the accused persons.

The PP pointed out at the deposition of witnesses and pleaded for the conviction of the accused persons being confirmed about their involvement in murdering Trisha.

Defence lawyer Sirajul Islam Babu argued in favour of the accused persons.

## Alleged armed robber held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Jhenidah thana police arrested Alamgir alias Pintu, 28, of village Pobahati in the Jhenidah municipal area in the early morning on Monday for his alleged involvement in a bus robbery near Jhenidah Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) area on Sunday noon.

## Shots from districts

মহেশখালীর চাকরুন্দের বড়ী রশিদ হত্যার মামলার চার্জশীট গৃহীত করা, চার্জশীট ছুক্ত সকল পলাতক আসামীদের গ্রেফতার, গ্রেফতারকৃত আসামীদের ছড়িয়ে দেয়ার অপতত্ত্ব পরতা বন্ধ, শিথল্য ও সাজানো মামলা দিয়ে হয়রানী বন্ধ ও নিরাপত্তা ঘরে ফেরার দাবীতে



(Left-right) Old mother, widow, daughter and baby child of slain Hazi Rashid Ahmed observes a token strike at Chittagong Press Club. They were demanding punishment to the killer of their dear one.



A participant argues at an anti-corruption debate competition jointly organised by Sachetan Nagorik Committee (a committee of conscious citizens), Mymensingh Sadar and Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) on Wednesday at Muslim Girls' High School and College, Mymensingh. Students of Muslim School and Cantonment Public School took part there.



Abdul Haque, the Khulna area manager of Sun, a non-governmental organisation (NGO), hands over a cheque of Tk 6,000 as death demand to Samsur Rahman, husband of Mahima Khatun, a member of the organisation, who died recently in Satkhira.



Former president of Moulvibazar Bar Association advocate Mujibur Rahman inaugurates a video magazine programme titled "Amader Moulvibazar" at its premier show at Moulvibazar Press Club. Khaled Chowdhury, president of the district drama association presided over there recently.

## Abducted girl rescued in Jhenidah

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Jhenidah police rescued an abducted from village Aruakandi in Sadar thana in the early morning on Monday.

She was allegedly abducted by a gang of young men on August 18.

Police sources said, acting on a tip-off, a contingent of police led by sub-inspector Rashidul Islam rescued abducted Salma Khatun, 13.

Liton, 28, of the same village abducted Salma at about 10:00 am when he was going to her aunty's house.

On September 13 police arrested Liton.

A case was lodged with Jhenidah thana and Salma was sent to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital for medical test.

## Poor result in SSC exam

## 18 colleges in Moulvibazar face shortage of students

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Eighteen colleges in Moulvibazar have been facing an acute shortage of students due to poor result in the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations.

Some of the colleges may face closure for this reason.

As many as 6,700 students appeared in the SSC examination-2002 under the Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board, Sylhet. Of them, 1,500 students came out successful. Students who got 'F' grade in one subject are included in this figure as they are eligible to get themselves admitted in Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) courses on condition. Results of all high schools in the district except three is very disappointing.

Seven, out of 18 colleges are well-established. Of these, three are government colleges. Rest of the colleges had been set up at a time when the percentage of pass in SSC examinations was much higher.

Some high schools have been elevated and eleven and twelve classes have been introduced within six or seven years. The increasing number of successful SSC students had been accommodated in these colleges previously.

Of the colleges, three are situated in Sadar upazila, two in Rajnagar, six in Kulaura, three in Baralekha, three in Kamalganj and three in Srimongal upazila. Two government colleges are situated in Sadar upazila as the other in Srimongal upazila.

There are nine degree colleges,

two each in Moulvibazar, Kulaura and Baralekha upazilas and one each in Rajnagar, Kamalganj and Srimongal upazilas. Nine other colleges are of HSC level.

All the 18 colleges accommodate 5,000 students at class eleven each year. Of these 1,500 students are accommodated in three government colleges every year.

A total of 2100 students are accommodation in class eleven in seven other degree colleges. Eight newly-established colleges have the capacity of absorbing 1,600 students.

But this year, the SSC result in Moulvibazar is very poor. Only, 1,500 students passed (including students who got F grade in one subject) in the SSC examination.