

## NEWS SNAPS

## Six arrested with arms in Tangail

**BSS, Tangail**  
Bhuapur thana police arrested six persons along with firearms and bullets from their possession at Gabindasi village in Bhuapur upazila of Tangail on Sunday night.

Police said arrested persons are Altab Hossain, 30, and Helal Uddin, 25, who were taking preparations to commit crime in the area. According to their confessions police later arrested Safiqul Islam Shapon, 27, Zillur Rahman, 35, Sukumar Das, 37, and Shah Alam, 25. Police also recovered one shutter gun, one pipe gun, one revolver and three round of bullets. A case was registered with Bhuapur thana in this connection.

## Six villages brought under power network

**BSS, Pabna**  
Six villages of sadar upazila have been brought under power network system at a cost of Tk 15 lakh by Power Development Board (PDB).

Maulana Abdus Subhan, MP charged the new network by pushing a button at Goyespur village in sadar upazila. The newly connected supply line has covered about 10 km of the area. About 500 domestic consumers, deep tube-well and business centres were connected from new line. Local officers of PDB, political leaders and journalists were present on the occasion.

## Advocacy workshop on children ends

**BSS, Rajshahi**  
A two-day advocacy and planning workshop on "Early Childhood Development (ECD)" ended in Rajshahi at the auditorium of Teachers Training College in the city on Thursday.

Sponsored by the Bangladesh Shishu Academy, Rajshahi, local administration in collaboration with the United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF) organised the workshop aiming at skill development of those who are involved in nursing and looking after the children for building a strong foundation of them. A total of 40 people from different government offices, social organisations and NGOs took part in the workshop. Five members of the ECD's national resource team -- Towfiqur Rahman, Abu Zafar Talukder, Mezbah Uddin, Dr Shaiful Islam, and Dr Tamanna Taher discussed various matters regarding the issue during 10 working sessions in the workshop.

## Work on town protection project goes on

**BSS, Chandpur**  
Work Chandpur town protection embankment project, to be completed at a cost of Tk 13 cr, are going on in full swing.

Official sources said the project was taken up to protect the affected portion of the existing embankment including the Natun bazar and Puran bazar areas of the town from continuous erosion of the Meghna. So far, about 35 thousand CC blocks have been dumped on the erosion affected areas of Chandpur town. The blocks are dumped by placing geo-textile and sand bags. Md. Sirajul Islam, Executive Engineer of Water Development Board (WDB), told that work on the project were going on round the clock.

## Aman cultivation programme

**BSS, Chandpur**  
The Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) has set a target to bring 2 lakh 60 thousand hectares of land under aman cultivation in eight upazilas of Chandpur in the current season.

Of the total land, 2 lakh 10 thousand hectares of land will be brought under high yielding variety while 50 thousand hectares under local variety. Though the time for sowing seeds is running out they could not yet prepare their seedbeds for want of seeds. The seeds are not available in the open markets but those are available in black-markets and seeds are sold at very high price, according to farmer. Aman seedbeds on a vast tract of land in Chandpur have been damaged due to flood and incessant downpour. The farmers further said that aman cultivation has been delayed this year, as they have to prepare new seedbeds again following the damage of seedbeds by flood and incessant rains.

## 3 members of outlawed party arrested

**BSS, Pabna**  
Police arrested three armed miscreants alleged to be member of an outlawed party and recovered one loaded pipe-gun from their possession at char Boalia in Sujannagar thana of Pabna on Tuesday.

Police said a contingent of police led by SI Redwanur Rahim raided Char Boalia village and arrested listed criminal Abider Rahim, alleged to be the leader of an outlawed group. According to his confessional statement police recovered one loaded pipe-gun from his possession and two more listed criminals Abdur Razzak and Safiqul Islam. They were sent to jail.

## Over Tk 16 cr realised as revenue

**BSS, Faridpur**  
Faridpur Customs and VAT Office realised Taka 16 crore 56 lakh and 33 as revenue under different heads in the last fiscal year.

According to a source of local Customs Office Tk 16 crore 7 lakh and 58 thousand was realised and VAT, Tk 14 lakh 96 thousand & 792 as excise tax, Tk 27 lakh 84 thousand 225 as supplementary tax and Tk 5 lakh 60 thousand 773 as turnover tax. The amount of revenue collection is 1 crore 58 lakh 33 higher than the previous year. Party two brick field owners of Faridpur did not pay their revenue tax last year. As a result an amount of Tk 8 lakh 15 thousand has become arrears to them. Steps are underway to realise the arrears, the source said.

## Tribal abductors frees non-tribal trader

**BSS, Rangamati**  
Tribal abductors freed a non-tribal food-grains trader whom they allegedly kidnapped on September 1 from Nariarchor Bazaar in Nianiarchor upazila of Rangamati allegedly for ransom.

Didarul Alam, 35, was freed recently on payment of Tk 12 lakh from the hideout of tribal hostage-keepers at Kalapahar, bordering Nariarchor and Kaukhali upazila. Nianiarchor police did not confirm the payment of ransom though an official from intelligence agency did not rule out the payment of ransom, when contacted over telephone.

## Missing girl yet to be traced

**BSS, Tangail**  
Rina Akhter, 17, daughter of Jarina Akhter, of village Mirer Betka in Tangail Sadar upazila of Tangail has been missing since August 3.

After searching the houses of the victims relatives, they informed police. But, whereabouts of the girl could not be traced yet, according to fancy sources. Now the family members of Rina are passing sleepless night.

## Musa-Siddiqui panel wins BMA polls

**BSS, Mymensingh**  
The panel supported by Dr Hadi and Dr Zahid was elected in the Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) election of Mymensingh unit here.

The panel, backed by four-party alliance, led by Dr AKM Musa Shaheen and Dr Mohammad Ali Siddiqui were elected president and secretary respectively of the BMA, Mymensingh chapter. The polling of the association was held recently across the country peacefully.

## Seminar on dengue at RU

**BSS, Rajshahi**  
A seminar on dengue fever was jointly organized by Rajshahi University (RU) Zoology Association and Bangladesh Zoology Association at the science building of the university on Sunday.

Prof KAM Shahadat Hossain Mondal, Pro-VC of RU was the chief guest on the occasion. Prof M Abdus Salam, Dean of Life and Earth-Science Faculty and Dr Risvi Sultan, Chief Health Officer of Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) spoke as special guests. The seminar was chaired by Dr Mahatab Ali, Chairman of Zoology Department of the university. The keynote paper was jointly presented by Prof Dr Altaf Hossain and Prof Dr Abdul Mannan of Zoology Department. Dr Mirja Wajed Hossain Beg, chief consultant of RU medical centre, Prof Md Sohrab Ali, Director of Institute of Biological Science (IBS) and Mahabur Rahman, Researcher of IBS also took part in the seminar. At the end of the seminar, an exhibition on dengue fever and the life cycle of Aedes mosquito was held.

## Seminar on reproductive health

**BSS, Jhalakati**  
A seminar on reproductive health and gender issue was held at local Chamta High School on Tuesday.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Jhalakati addressed the seminar as the chief guest. It was chaired by Mubarak Hossain Mallik, Chairman of Basanda Union Parishad. Civil Surgeon Dr AKM Anisul Haq, Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Sadar, ABM Fazlur Rahman, Mofazzal Hossain Talukder, Headmaster of Chamta High School and District Information Officer Md Maniruzzaman spoke on the theme of the seminar. Organised under the management of the District Information Office, about 50 social leaders took part in the seminar.

## Lack of gas supply in N region hinders industrialisation

**BSS, Rajshahi**

Supply of natural gas in Rajshahi division including greater Bogra district would usher in a new dimension of development of the region through establishing of new small and cottage industries based on agricultural products.

Because of absence of natural gas supply, industrial entrepreneurs and investors of the country and abroad remained reluctant to set up agro-based industries in the northern region. Specially, after a wide speculations and discussions at various stages about exporting of gas to neighbouring countries without ensuring supply of the same in northern region, many prospective entrepreneurs of the country are disappointed to invest money in industries without gas supply.

After the commissioning of the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge (JMB), the prospect of establishing agro-based industries in northern region has turned bright. But even after five years of commissioning of the bridge, not a single agro-based industry has been set up in the northern region for absence of gas supply.

The delay in supplying natural gas is also jeopardising the establishment of Export Processing Zone (EPZ) in Ishurdi and Uttara EPZ in Nilphamari.

Greater Rajshahi and greater Bogra districts produce a lot of fruits, vegetables and crops round the year. Due to absence of proper facilities of preservation and processing, a huge quantities of those products are perished every year.

Growers of the agricultural products have to sell their harvest at a throw away price or just to let those rot at their fields for the lack of storage and processing facilities.

According to the sources of Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADCO) in Rajshahi around 1.355 million metric tons of vegetables of various varieties produced in greater Rajshahi and greater Bogra districts are perished every year due to lack of proper preservation facilities.

Out of the total perished amount 0.9 million metric tons belonged to winter vegetables and 0.455 million metric tons of summer vegetables.

Farmers of Paba and Godagari upazilas informed, production of cabbage, tomato, radish, potato, cauliflower and radish are so abundant during the winter

season that often they do not harvest those vegetables from their fields because the market price of those vegetables did not meet the labour cost of harvesting.

Local farmers also opined that only a number of gas based vegetables processing units can save wastage of so huge amount of vegetables.

More than 1,000 silk-industries (factories) and silk units of Rajshahi and Chapainawabganj badly needed gas. Due to recurrent load-shedding and a high price of a electricity, the production of those factories is being badly hampered and the production costs being increased.

Thirty could storages of greater Rajshahi districts also need gas.

More than 1,000 automatic rice processing industries of Chapainawabganj, Rajshahi and Naogaon districts are also waiting for the supply of gas in the region. Twelve sugar mills including Rajshahi, Natore, North Bengal and Ishurdi sugar mills are incurring a huge loss every year. One of the major causes of loss has been identified as the absence of natural gas supply in those mills.

The loss in Rajshahi sericulture factory, textile mills and jute mills will also be reduced when the gas line is connected there.

Even 1200 brick kilns of greater Rajshahi districts are using fire woods violating the rules. Supplying of gas would save millions of trees of the region and thus save the environment which is already facing desertification in the fragile Barind region.

Only around Rajshahi city areas there are more than 100 brick-kilns which use more than 60,000 metric tons of fire wood annually despite a ban on using wood in the brick-kilns. The use of natural gas would decrease the production cost of brick to a half and the quality of brick would be better.

Sadrul Islam, secretary of Rajshahi Brick Owners' Association (RBOA) in a meeting held at Rajshahi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) demanded the supply of gas in Rajshahi immediately for the greater sake of saving the environment.

The leaders of RBOA while talking to this correspondent informed that due to lack of gas, the production cost of brick is about the double than those are produced by gas. They further informed that the local owners of brick kilns are being losers due to absence of gas.

## Cattle market in Faridpur pollutes environment

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur**

Tepakhola cattle market at Tepakhola in the eastern side of Faridpur town is in bad shape.

The market is polluting the atmosphere of Government Yasin College situated nearby.

The entire atmosphere in and around the market is being polluted. Tuesday is the 'hat day' which sits once in a week. A large number of buyers and sellers come to their market from far flung areas of the district. Sometimes buyers come here from other districts also.

The area of the cattle market is

too small to accommodate the cattle brought to the market for sale. The market always remain very dirty. It has no drainage system, rain water very often over flow the market area causing untold suffering to the buyers, sellers and concerned persons.

With little rain, the market becomes very muddy. Cow-dung is put in several places in the market. Human excreta and other bad smell vitiate the atmosphere in the area after hat day. Sufferings reach extreme point in the rainy season.

Government Yasin College,

situated in the opposite direction of the cattle market has been facing much suffering crated by the cattle market particularly in the rainy season.

It is reportedly very difficult for the students and teachers of the college to enter the college because of heavy rush of people on the 'hat day'.

Some intelligentia are of opinion that the cattle market should be immediately removed elsewhere and the market land be handed over to Yasin College as donation for its hostel accommodation.



PHOTO: A K M MOHSIN

The bank of a river in Bhola is being eroded continuously rendering thousands of people homeless. River erosion is a perennial problem here. A vast tract of land of the erosion victims have already been devoured in the river. But till now no permanent measures have been taken by the authorities concerned to solve the problem.

## Deadlock at CU Marine Sc Instt

**CU CORRESPONDENT**

A deadlock is prevailing in the Marine Science Institution of Chittagong University (CU) since the last three days over an announcement of the Public Service Commission (PSC) where the institution students were barred to appear in the ensuing Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) examination.

The students of the institute has boycotted the classes and examinations since Monday protesting the decision.

The student locked the classrooms demanding immediate revision of the announcement.

The students of the institute brought out a procession on the campus on Wednesday and held a rally. At the rally held at the arts faculty building premises where the students threatened to lay a siege along the road and rail link between Chittagong and other part of the country.

The students vowed to go for non-cooperation movement if they do not take any initiative to save their right.

The agitated students also demonstrated before the office of the vice chancellor of the university and submitted tow separate memoranda to the VC as well as the Chairman of PSC demanding immediate revision of the announcement.

## Bazars in Narail in bad shape

**BSS, Narail**

Most of the hats and bazars in the three upazilas of Narail are in dilapidated condition causing great inconveniences to both the buyers and sellers.

There are about 107 hats and bazars in Lohagora Kalia and Narail Sadar upazilas. Population of Narail has increased to about 8 lakh but no expansion and development of these markets have taken place as yet.

Apart from collecting tolls from the sellers and buyers, the concerned authorities so far took no steps for the proper maintenance and development of these markets, locals alleged.

The situation worsens in rainy seasons when most of these markets go under knee-deep water and become muddy and slippery due to lack of proper drainage system.

Shortage of accommodation has been hampering the movement of buyers and sellers. Moreover, the leaseholders realise more tax than the government rate causing hardship to the shoppers and vendors.

Scarcity of drinking water facilities in most of these markets has been causing immense suffering to the people in absence of necessary tubewells.

Moreover, there are no arrangements for latrines and urinals in most of these markets.

Besides, filth and garbage are dumped in the markets hither and thither making the markets ideal places for breeding of mosquitoes.

The upazila administration leased out the markets in their respective area, but took little care for development redressing the sufferings of traders and consumers.

The local leaders urged the concerned authorities to take urgent steps to renovate the dilapidated markets.

## Shots from districts



PHOTO: STAR

Children in Mymensingh formed a human chain at the Feroz Jahangir Square in the district town recently demanding remedy from traffic jam, reconstruction of flood damaged roads, regular removal of garbage and eradicating mosquitoes from the municipal area immediately.



PHOTO: STAR

Bishwajit Chowdhury, Assistant Editor of Prothom Alo, a leading Bangla daily of the country, distributes wheel chairs to the disabled people at the Shilpakala Academy in Chittagong. Chittagong Device Centre (CDC), a wheel chair manufacturing organisation, donated wheel chairs to the crippled recently as part of their welfare programme.



Advocate Abdul Hamid, Deputy leader of the Opposition in Jatiya Sangsad (parliament) speaks at a seminar sponsored by a group of Chittagong University (CU) teachers titled "Bangabandhu, Bangladesh and Present Situation" as the chief guest at the district council auditorium in Chittagong recently. Chittagong city mayor AB M Mohiuddin Chowdhury is seen, among others.



PHOTO: STAR

People of all walks of life parade the streets of Chittagong in a procession on the occasion of the eighth death anniversary of 'Shaheed Janani' Jahanara Imam. During her lifetime she fought for trial of war criminals of the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971. She lost her eldest son in 1971 who is a martyr in the liberation war.