

## NEWS SNAPS

## 15 shops gutted in Sherpur

BSS, Sherpur

At least 15 shops and seven houses were gutted in a devastating fire at Nanni Bazar in Nalitabari upazila in Sherpur on Tuesday.

The cause of fire could not be ascertained immediately, but locals and fire brigade suspected that the fire originated from a laundry shop in the early hours of morning. Local sources said, the losses caused by the fire was estimated at about Tk 50 lakh.

## 120 bags of Indian sugar recovered

BSS, Pabna

Iswardi thana police in Pabna seized 120 bags of Indian sugar from Iswardi Railway Junction area on Monday. One person was arrested in this connection.

The arrested was identified as Habibur Rahman of the same area. Acting on a tip-off, police led by Additional Police Super recovered sugar and arrested him. A case was filed with Iswardi thana against him.

## Heart patients increasing in Tangail

BSS, Tangail

The number of heart patients is increasing alarming in all the 11 upazilas of Tangail. A survey revealed that rural poor people do not know about their disease due to their ignorance. So, the number of such patients is increasing day by day. Most of the patients are 40 to 50 years old. Some of them come to the local hospitals for treatment, but a good number of patients go to foreign countries like India, Thailand and Singapore every year for better treatment, the report said. Local people complained that most of the physicians are connected with the private clinics and a good number of them have their own clinics. For the reason, poor people do not get proper treatment of their disease.

## T-Aman cultivation exceeds target

BSS, Faridpur

Transplanted Aman (T-Aman) cultivation in the current season has exceeded the target in Faridpur.

According to Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), T-Aman has been cultivated on 12,933 hectares of land while the official target was 10,200 hectares in the current season. Of the total land brought under T-Aman cultivation, high yielding variety (HYV) has been cultivated on 11,306 hectares with the aim of producing 27,699.7 metric tons while local variety has been cultivated on 1627 hectares to produce 2,440.5 metric tons.

According to DAE sources, Broadcast Aman (B-Aman) has been cultivated on 39,456 hectares to produce 39,456 metric tons. The source said the target of Broadcast Aman was actually 47,881 hectares, but it could not be achieved due to natural calamities. However, 806 farmers of sadar and Charbhadrans upazilas were provided with T-Aman seedlings and fertilisers as grants worth Tk 3,89,805 as their crops were damaged by natural calamities.

## Extensive vegetable farming programme

BSS, Tangail

An extensive vegetable cultivation programme has been taken up in Tangail in the current season.

About 65,000 tons of vegetables worth about Tk 36 cr is likely to be produced in Tangail during the season. The Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) brought about 5,200 hectares under vegetable cultivation during this season. According to official sources, out of the total land, 2500 hectares in Tangail Sadar Upazila, 1500 in Madhupur and 1200 in Ghatail Upazila have been brought under the cultivation. Necessary cash loan, seed, fertiliser, pesticide and other agricultural inputs were supplied among the farmers.

## 232 bottles of phensidyl recovered

BSS, Tangail

Madhupur thana police arrested four persons and recovered 232 bottles of Indian phensidyl syrup on Friday night.

Acting on a secret information, police raided slum area in Garo Bazaar in Ghatail upazila. They recovered phensidyl and arrested four persons with the help of local people. The arrested persons are Alamgir Hussein, 35, Harunar Rashid, 32, Rostom Ali, 32, and Mobarak Ali, 30. A case was filed with Madhupur thana in this connection.

## Month-long rat killing drive in Comilla

BSS, Comilla

A month-long rat killing drive began in Comilla with a call to all to protect the standing crops from the rats.

Sponsored by District Agriculture Extension Department, the rat killing programme was inaugurated by Additional Director Md Maiseuddin Ahmed. Agriculture extension officer Saydur Rahman presided over the function. Deputy Director Abdur Rashid, agriculture officer AHM Iqbal Ahmed also spoke on the occasion. Additional director Maiseuddin Ahmed distributed prizes among the best block supervisors in rat killing during last year.

## Training on agri development ends

BSS, MYMENSINGH

A three-day training course on Agricultural Developments and Journalism concluded at Graduate Training Institute of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) on Thursday.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice Chancellor of the Agricultural University Prof Mostafizur Rahman urged the journalists to play due role in projecting the problems of the farmers for agricultural uplift in the country. Prof Rahman distributed certificates among 30 journalists from national and local dailies and electronic media, who took part in the training course. Deputy Commissioner, Mymensingh was present as the special guest on the occasion.



PHOTO: STAR

Greek mythology goes that hyacinth sprang from the blood of Hyacinthus, a youth accidentally killed by Apollo. In this part of the world water hyacinth is a stranger floating plant. A British colonial officer reportedly imported the plants for the beautification of his garden. The plant's phenomenal reproductive capacity soon spread it throughout the continent. In many areas of this riverine land, water hyacinth poses serious problem by shielding the water bodies. This not only hampers pisciculture and navigation but also invites vector families to flourish. In rural Bangladesh hyacinth serves as a cattle feed. Over the years scientists have been able to manufacture paper and even hard boards with this widely available plants. Flowering season brings in joy rides for all, especially for the children. This picture was taken recently in Mymensingh.

## Adulterated fertiliser floods markets in SW region

DELWAR KABIR, Jhenidah

Almost all the markets in the south-western region have been flooded with adulterated fertiliser.

Unscrupulous fertiliser traders have been selling below standard of fertiliser in the markets.

Meanwhile, the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) seized a huge quantity of adulterated fertiliser.

DAE personnel conducted drives at different markets in Jhenidah, Kaliganj, Saikupa, Bhatia, Garaganj, Kotchandpur and seized fake Mughal brand zinc fertiliser produced by EastWest Chemical Company, Gangchil brand of fertiliser produced by

Reximco Chemical and Krisakbandhu brand of fertiliser manufactured by Bangladesh Agricultural.

DAE sources said a section of dishonest traders who have no valid papers are allegedly manufacturing fake fertiliser and marketing the same in the name of various brands. The DAE authorities recovered at least 1,000 empty packets. The packets had been prepared to fill up with fake fertiliser.

Some fertiliser dealers requesting anonymity said at least 50 small fake companies have grown up elsewhere in the southwestern districts.

Some officials of DAE have allegedly been issuing certificate in

favour of them and encouraging its production.

On September 10, an additional director of DAE allegedly issued such a certificate to East-West Chemical company of Bheramara in Kushtia. In his certificate on a plain paper the DAE official certified that the product of East-West Chemical Company is of good quality while he also advised producers to collect license from the concerned deputy director of DAE. When this Correspondent tried to talk with the additional director over telephone time and again for his comments, he was told that he was not available.

## Dengue patient detected in Jhenidah

A little boy has been detected as dengue patient in Jhenidah. He has been identified as Nayan, 8, of village Chandpur in Saikupa upazila.

Dr Alok Kumar Saha, a child specialist in Jhenidah Sadar hospital said that one person named Badiuzzaman Badal has brought his son Nayan with high fever and red-dish eyes. He examined the boy and diagnosed him to be a dengue patient. Now the boy is under treatment at the hospital.

Dr Saha said that Nayan has been improving gradually.

According to the specialist, another dengue patient had been detected in Jhenidah earlier. He had been released after proper treatment.



PHOTO: STAR

A fertiliser dealer who is also a member of a vigilance team for recovery of fake fertiliser shows adulterated fertiliser to the journalists at the office of the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), Jhenidah.

## Nilufar 16th in Humanities group

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura



Nilufar Yasmeen secured 16th position in the combined merit list of Humanities Group and 10th among female examinees in this year's HSC (Higher Secondary Certificate) examination from Magura Government Hossain Shaheed Suhrawardy College under Jessore Education Board.

Nilufar obtained 856 marks with letters in three subjects. She is the daughter of Moslemuddin and Shamsunnahar in the Doarpar area of Magura town. Her father is an employee of Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB) in Magura. Nilufar wants to take higher study in English.

## Kanjif Fatima to study English literature

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Kanjif Fatima obtained 6th position on the combined merit list in the Humanities, Islamic Studies and Music Group from Alhaz B N Khan Degree College, Wazirpur,

under the Barisal Education Board in the Higher Secondary Certificates (HSC) examinations held in May-June 2002.

She plans to study English literature.

She secured 852 marks with letter marks in Agricultural Science and Computer Science. Fatima had secured 821 marks in the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations with letter marks in four subjects from the Wazirpur Girls High School in 2000. She also obtained junior scholarship in first grade.

She is the daughter of M Mosharaf Hossain Mridha, a retired Power Development Board (PDB) official and Shahanara Hossain Renu. She hails from village Paramandasaha in Wazirpur upazila of Barisal.

Reading and gardening are her pastimes. She used to read at least 10 hours a day during examinations.

## Faces of HSC talents

Tasnuva first among girls in Science Group



PHOTO: STAR

Tasnuva flanked by her parents.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Tasnuva Mahjabin of Sylhet MC College secured the second position in the combined merit list of Science Group in the HSC examination this year under Sylhet Education Board. She also scored the first position among girls in the board.

Tasnuva intends to study in computer science. She is satisfied with

her result. She got 918 marks with letter in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Statistics. Her father Jamsheed Ali is a retired government official and mother Gauharunnesa is a housewife. They hail from village Bardesh in Beanibazar upazila of Sylhet. Hajrat Mohammed (SM) is her favourite personality while Rabinranath Tagore is her favourite poet.

## Kanchan wants to take higher study in law

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura



Kanchan Rani Dutta secured 15th position in the combined merit list of humanities group and 9th among female examinees in this year's HSC (Higher Secondary Certificate) examination from Government Women's College in Jessore Education Board.

Kanchan obtained 858 marks

with letters in all subjects except English and Bengali. She is the daughter of Nanda Dulal Dutta and Bela Dutta of village Sonaikundi in Sreepur upazila of Magura. Her father is a farmer.

She wants to take higher study in law. During her leisure she reads books. Her favourite writer is Samaresh Majumder. While talking to The Daily Star, Kanchan said to this correspondent that her parents and some of her teachers encouraged her always.



PHOTO: STAR

Some meritorious students of Sylhet MC College who secured good position in the combined merit list of HSC examinations with the college Principal Prof Anna Mahub.

## Road mishaps claim 225 in 8 months in northern dists

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Over 225 people were killed and more than thousands sustained injuries in road accidents occurred in the last eight months in the northern districts.

According to information gathered from different police stations, the reasons of all the road accidents are due to unfit transport vehicles, over loading, high speed, tendency of overtaking, erecting markets on both the sides of highway and rash driving.

Most road accidents occurred in Sirajganj district. The accidents occurred at the entrance of the Jamuna Bridge.

According to statistics of different police stations and Railway police of the northern region, during

the period of January to August this year a number of accidents took place in different districts. The district-wise break ups are given below 21 persons killed in 18 road mishaps in Gaibandha, 16 persons killed in 17 road mishaps in Pabna, 42 persons killed in 28 mishaps in Sirajganj, 18 persons killed in 12 mishaps in Jaipurhat, 15 persons killed in 48 mishaps in Bogra, 14 persons killed in 10 mishaps in Rajshahi, 17 persons killed in 15 mishaps in Natore, 19 persons killed in 16 mishaps in Dinajpur, 25 persons killed in 20 mishaps in Rangpur, 12 persons killed in 10 mishaps in Nilphamari, 21 persons killed in 18 mishaps in Thakurgoan and six persons killed in five other mishaps.

## Loadshedding makes life miserable in Faridpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Frequent loadshedding round the clock for months together has made life miserable in Faridpur.

Without prior information, the electricity goes off during day as well as night exposing people to unbearable hot spell now blowing over the entire district.

It has now become a regular feature that loadshedding take place for an hour just at the time of Magreb prayers. Consequently religious minded people belonging to both Muslim and Hindu communities have to encounter a lot of trouble to go to mosque or temples and sit there to perform their reli-

gious rites.

Besides, students can not sit at their reading desk in the evening, the most proper time, for the absence of electricity.

Evening is spare time for the service holders to go for shopping and marketing, but they find it quite inconvenient to move in the pitch dark in the moonless night. Moreover, street light is not provided in most streets causing the town dweller's sorry plight graver.

For absence of light the activities of muggers and anti-social elements are intensified. Innocent people are always getting mugged or robbed off during the time of loadshedding just after nightfall.