

## NEWS SNAPS

## 'Amrapali' mango gains popularity

BSS, Narsingdi

Plantation of "Amrapali", a new high yielding variety of mango, is getting popularity in Narsingdi.

During the last sapling plantation season ended on September 15 this year 10 orchards of Amrapali mango was set up in each upazila by the Department of Agriculture Extension Department (DAE). A total of 5,000 saplings have been planted in the six upazilas. The growers have collected the saplings directly from the agriculture department and from private nurseries. According to the local DAE, sapling of this kind of mango needs a minimum space to grow up. Two Amrapali saplings need 10 to 12 feet maximum distance for fast growing. Amrapali tree starts bearing fruits at the age of 3 years and the fruits are more delicious than other varieties of mango. Amrapali sapling is generally cultivated on high fallow land where scope of other crop cultivation is limited. Some 600 saplings can be planted on one acre of land which produce an average of 5 metric tons of mango every year.

## Mobile eye camp in Habiganj concludes

BSS, Habiganj

A six day long mobile eye camp organised by "Voluntary Association for Rural Development" (VARD), a non-governmental organisation (NGO) of Sylhet, concluded here at the district modernised sadar hospital on Friday.

Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blinds (RCSB) provided technical and financial assistance to the camp. About 700 eye patients were given treatment free of cost while about 100 eye patients were operated upon without any fees in the camp. Such camp is regularly arranged once in a month in all the district towns of Sylhet division including a few upazila head quarters. Necessary medicine and spectacles were also supplied to the patients free of cost. Dr Md Gulam Rabbani Ph.D, Civil Surgeon of Habiganj and Dr Md Ismail Hussain, eye specialist of sadar hospital was in overall management of the camp, which will be arranged here again in the last week of October.

## UP Chairman arrested in Rajshahi

BSS, Rajshahi

Police arrested the chairman of Pakri Union Parishad arrested in Godagari upazila from Kakonhat area on Sunday. According to police sources, chairman Momtaz Ali Seitu was arrested in connection with a number of criminal cases including a double murder and rape charges pending against him for a long time.

## Two alleged miscreants arrested

BSS, Jhenidah

Two alleged notorious miscreants were arrested with a German made automatic 9 MM loaded pistol and one country made pipe gun from Kaliganj upazila Sunday night, police superintendent (SP), Jhenidah said.

Police identified the culprits as Shahin Alam alias Rana, 35, of village Kalekapur, Sadar upazila and Hazrat Ali of village Patebela in Kaliganj upazila. The miscreants were wanted by police in connection with a number of criminal cases involving murders, toll collection and abduction. Acting on a secret information police raided the Kaliganj bus stand and arrested Rana from a shop with a German made automatic 9 MM loaded pistol at around 8 PM. Rana is known as an activist of an underground political party. Acting on another secret information Kaliganj Police arrested Hazrat Ali with a country made pipe gun same night.

## Huge smuggled goods seized at Rajshahi

BSS, Rajshahi

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) personnel of the 35th Battalion seized huge smuggled goods worth about Tk 50.99 lakh from three places in Rajshahi in separate anti-smuggling drives.

The BDR personnel from the Battalion Headquarters chases a Dhaka-bound truck from Chapainawganj in Kakonhat area of Godagari upazila and recovered 4011 pieces of Indian smuggled sarees valued at Tk 50.05 lakh. They also seized the truck. Sensing the BDR presence the driver and helper of the truck managed to escape. The BDR personnel of Charchat BOP recovered 670 bottles of phensidyle worth about Tk 67,000 from near the BOP camp. They also seized 55 bottles of Indian wine worth about Tk 27,500 from Bidirpur BOP on the same day. The seized goods were deposited to the local Customs authorities.

## 32 education projects undertaken

BSS, Narsingdi

The Education Engineering Department (former Facilities Department) has undertaken 32 educational projects in Narsingdi at a cost of Tk five crore eighty three lakh and twenty thousand in the current fiscal.

Official sources said the projects include construction of new academic buildings of 24 non-government secondary schools and of 8 senior madrasahs. Work on two schools and one madrasah in Sadar upazila, six schools and one madrasah in Polash upazila, seven schools and three madrasahs Shibpur upazila, eight schools and three madrasahs in Monohardi upazila and one school in Belabo upazila have been taken up. The work of 8 projects has already started and the rest would be started very soon. Work of all projects would be completed by June next.

## An ill-fated HSC examinee

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura



Zahida could not know her good performance in the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examination as she was killed allegedly by miscreants much before the result.

Always cheerful, Zahida secured first division in Humanities group in the HSC examination under Jessore Education Board this year.

Zahida Khatun 18, daughter of a poor farmer named Raihan Joarder of village Boroichara in Sreepur upazila of Magura district was a meritorious student of Dariapur College.

She was strangled allegedly by miscreants at a jute field after being gang raped by them while returning home from the friend's house nearby in the afternoon on July 5, this year. A case has been lodged with Sreepur thana in this connection.

Zahida also got first division in the SSC (Secondary School Certificate) examination.

While talking to The Daily Star, father of Zahida, Raihan Joarder said, "I demand exemplary punishment to the culprits who are responsible for my meritorious daughter's killing."

## Magura Mohila College fares well

Our Correspondent, Magura

The HSC (Higher Secondary Certificate) examinees of Magura Mohila College performed brilliantly in this year's examination under Jessore Education Board.

A total of 303 candidates took part in the examination.

Of the candidates, Mahmuda Rahman and Kanchan Rani Datta secured 5th and 15th position respectively in the combined merit list of Humanities group.

Of the total examinees, 143 passed while the pass-percentage of the college is 44.22.

Forty six candidate got first division from science, Humanities and Commerce groups.

Seventy six examinees secured second division.

Only 12 candidates of Humanities group got third division.

In 2001, 33 examinees got first division while 8 got second division two got third division out of the total 287 examinees.

In 2000, 18 candidates got first division while two got second division out of the total 323 examinees.

The pass-percentage of the college in 2001 and 2002 were 50.31 and 36.67 respectively.

Magura Mohila College started functioning with 126 students in 1987. Now the number of the students stand at 520.



PHOTO: A.K.M MOHSIN

Unscrupulous people catching shrimp fries from the Meghna. But the authorities concerned seem to be indifferent to check the bad practice.

## 6 cadres of outlawed party held in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Police on Monday morning arrested six cadres of an outlawed party from Belkuchi area in Sirajganj for their involvement in the looting of police camp and killing of cops.

But police did not disclose the names for the cause of investigation.

A joint operation of two teams led by two magistrates is being conducted in Belkuchi area for the last three days. One team of the criminal investigation department (CID) consists of five-members. The team is led by Akhter Ali, additional superintendent of police, CID, Dhaka while other members are Atiqur Rahman Munshi, ASP, Nabokumer Das, ASP, police inspectors Sheikh Mohammad Shahidullah and Anwar Hossain. The other 10-member team is led by the commandant of Rajshahi Reserve Range Force, Shahidul Huq.

Police have expressed their optimism in nabbing all the culprits in near future.

A total of 37 persons were arrested by police till Tuesday. Of them, 18 persons were wanted for warrant and 19 were arrested on various charges.

On Sunday, the officer-in-charge of Belkuchi police station, Abdur Razzaque was closed in Sirajganj police line and outpost-in-charge Subeder Abdul Hannan and Habilder Atiar Rahman were suspended by the higher authority.

In June last year, the Randhunibari police camp was established following killing of two Awami League (AL) leaders named Golam Azam and Habibur after in a brushfire by the activists of outlawed parties.

## Valuables worth Tk 14 lakh gutted in Faridpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Ready-made garments, sewing machines and other valuables worth Tk 14 lakh were gutted in a fire that broke out in Molla garment shop at the first floor of Titumir market in the town on Friday night.

The fire was originated from a short circuit.

## 100 bottles of phensidyl recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Sadullapur thana police recovered over 100 bottle of phensidyl from a tempo which met a road accident near Sadullapur Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) office on August 9.

The tempo belonging to Shakil Paribahan ply between Sadullapur-Madorganj without passenger almost every day.

Suspicious movement of the tempo created curiosity among the local people. On August 10, local people chased the tempo. Being afraid the driver lost control over the wheel. The tempo skidded off the road and fell into a roadside ditch near Sadullapur BRAC office.

The driver of the tempo managed to flee. Police seized the vehicle.

Local people have alleged that the vehicle ran regularly with an understanding with police.

## Youngman killed in C'nawabganj

BSS, Rajshahi

One person was killed on the spot and 12 others injured in a clash between rival groups over a disputed plot of land at Dupail in Gomostapur upazila in Chapainawganj village on Sunday.

## White monkey on rise in Sylhet forests

BSS, Sylhet

White monkeys in Sylhet forests are on rise raising hopes of the wildlife enthusiasts in last couple of months.

Sylhet Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) said endangered bashful white monkeys were fast dwindling in absence of proper conservation schemes coupled with illegal drives of a group of monkey trappers.

The DFO said, in 1995, government took some steps in Sylhet region for creating conducive environment for growth and development of endangered wild species. He said forests in Sylhet region were rich in flora and fauna and even in 1984, Bison were

plenty in this region. Some 60 to 70 years back dancing peacocks used to roam across the jungle.

Number of talking bird Moyna has also increased in Sylhet forest. Wild cocks, Tia, Dove and Doel have proliferated in the jungles. But in haor water body area reckless bird hunting is continuing in full swing.

Forest department officials said plans are underway for importing Bisons from Myanmar for preservation of originality of the forest.

Pythons, black King Cobra and other reptiles are also visible in the Sylhet forest. Deer, tigers and leopards roam across the deep forest where a few indigenous people reside.

## Little progress in sanitation scheme in Gaibandha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Over 40 lakh families in the northern region of the country are still deprived of the sanitation facilities. As a result public health is at stake.

In a recent survey conducted jointly by United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Bangladesh Statistical Bureau and NGO Forum for Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation, it was revealed that the sanitation programme did not succeed by the stipulated period which expired on May 2002.

The programme was undertaken to bring 80 per cent families under sanitation facilities by May 2002. But the programme failed to achieve success. Only 50 per cent families have been brought under the programme during the stipulated period.

While on survey, the workers observed that many families in remote areas still prefer river bank, crop fields and bamboo grove as suitable place to respond to the call of nature. In spite of supplying sanitation materials to many families, sanitary latrines were not installed.

Villagers feel suffocation inside a

latrine and avoid it due to bad smell, according to the survey. It needs a long standing motivational programme to familiarise sanitary latrines among remote villagers.

## Erratic power supply a regular feature in Habiganj

BSS, Habiganj

Erratic supply of power has become a regular feature in Habiganj town and Shaistaganj town including the adjoining areas causing untold sufferings to the people for the last few weeks.

The electricity supply in this district town disrupts at least 3 to 4 times in a day while it disrupts 4 to 6 times in a day at Shaistaganj town, the most busy commercial and industrial centre of the district hampering productions in mills, factories and in other different small and cottage industries.

## Khulna BNP leaders blame police for increasing crime

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Leaders of Khulna city and district units of BNP blamed police for deterioration of law and order in recent days. They expressed grave concern over police inaction in nabbing real culprits.

"We are deeply concerned over rise in murder incidents and free style movement of armed cadres of different outlawed organisations," the leaders said.

They expressed concern through a press statement issued on Monday evening.

The signatories to the press statement are Whip Ashraf Hossain, city Mayor Sheikh Tayebur Rahman, city BNP president M Nurul Islam MP, BCB president Aii Asghar Lobby, MP, City BNP Secretary Nazrul Islam Manju and district BNP convener Shafiqul Alam Mona.

BNP leaders further said in their press statement that there is no security of life and property of the people in the metropolitan city and district due to alarming rise in murders, dacoities, rapes, muggings, drug addiction and toll collection.

The BNP leaders further said that there is no such instance that real murderers have so far been arrested. Even, complainants and witnesses of murder cases are being eliminated. There has been no recovery of arms being used to commit murders and other crimes, they said.

Meanwhile, there has been no headway in the investi-

gation of murders committed in last five days in Khulna, Bagerhat and Khulna city. The last victim of murder in last five days is Mizanur Rahman Sana, 24, witness of the murder of his brother-in-law Jubo Dal leader KI Hasan Sohel. No killer involved in these murders has so far been arrested.

There are allegations that innocent people are being arrested as suspects during combing operations, still going on, in Bagerhat and Khulna districts. Police excess in the name of combing operations is infuriating the people. Some sub-inspectors of Dumuria thana said they came under attack by women during combing operation at Tolna union on Sunday night.

The outlawed party activists have also threatened policemen of Khulna and Bagerhat districts and of other districts in the south-western zone.

On last July 17 SI Altaf of Fakirhat thana and on last May 18 constable Sadek Ali of Jhenidah Sadar thana were killed in armed attack by extremists. Besides, 11 policemen were severely injured in several armed attacks by extremists in Khulna and Bagerhat districts during last one year.

Purbo Banglar Communist Party has given threats to journalists of Khulna and Bagerhat districts as learnt from leaflets circulated on last Friday at Fakirhat upazila. The death threats have been given to journalists for writing 'too much' against PBCP cadres as stated in the leaflets.