

## NEWS SNAPS

**School student commits suicide**

**UNB, Sherpur**  
One school student allegedly committed suicide by hanging in Sadar upazilla here on Tuesday.  
According to police, Salam, 17, son of Abdul Malek of village Mirzapur hanged himself from a tree as his parents rebuked him for his failure in the Secondary School Certificate Examination (SSC) examinations for two times. An unnatural death case was filed with the police in this connection.

**Two phensidyl smugglers jailed**

**UNB, Madaripur**  
A court here has sentenced two people named Babul Rahman and Mohammad Alim of Jessore district to five years rigorous imprisonment (RI) each in a phensidyl smuggling case.

The two accused were arrested along with 1,220 bottles of Indian phensidyl from Kaorakandi ferry ghat in Shibchar upazila on April 1, 2000. After examining the records and witnesses, the Special Tribunal Judge M Yar Ali handed down the verdict on Monday.

**Four-year-old girl raped in Thakurgaon**

**UNB, Thakurgaon**  
A little girl was raped in the Kalibari area of the town Thursday.  
Local people caught the rapist Shahin, 20, of the area red-handed and handed him over to police after a mass beating. Police said Shahin took the 4-year-old girl to a nearby isolate place and raped her leaving her critically injured.

**Four hurt in clash over extortion**

**UNB, Thakurgaon**  
Four people were injured in a clash over extortion for Durga Puja in Ranishankoil upazila Friday.

Witnesses said the clash ensued between the supporters of a shop owner and the Puja Udzapon Committee of the upazila following an altercation between them centering collection of toll. The injured were admitted to the Upazila Health Complex. Additional police were deployed there to avert any further untoward incident.

**Youth arrested with pistol, bullets**

**UNB, Mymensingh**  
Police arrested a youth along with a foreign-made pistol and bullets from Bakhpalli area in the town Thursday.  
The arrested was identified as Bidyut. Acting on a tip-off, plainclothes police raided the area at night and caught him with the pistol and two rounds of bullet. A case was filed.

**Two-day workshop for journalists**

**UNB, Bagerhat**  
A two-day training workshop for the local journalists concluded at the local press club here on Saturday.  
A total of 40 journalists from different upazilas of the district took part in the training workshop. Rupanar, a voluntary organisation, and local press club jointly organised the workshop.

**Five arrested along with TV, VCP sets**

**UNB, Brahmanbaria**  
Five people were arrested along with TV and VCP sets and obscene cassettes from Phulbaria area of the town Thursday night.  
Police said acting a tip off they raided the area and arrested Didarul Alam, Mohammad Ali, Azad, Noman Mollah and Jhutan Das while screening the obscene films.

# 33 staff at distressed children's centre in Gopalganj in misery

ALIMUZZAMAN MIA, Gopalganj

Thirty-three officers and employees of the distressed children's training and rehabilitation centre in Tungipara are passing their days in great misery due to non-payment of salary for the last four months.

Md Ashraf Uddin Molla, deputy director of the Social Welfare Directorate informed that salary of officers and employees including the sanction for the distressed children of the centre have been suspended due to expiry of its term on June in 2001.

During the regime of Awami League (AL) an amount of Tk 9,70,000.00 was spent for construction of the distressed children's training and rehabilitation centre, situated on five acres of land at village Gimadanga in Tungipara upazila.

It started functioning after inauguration of the centre by the then Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina on July 13 in 2001.

The deputy director of the Social Welfare Directorate also informed that 211 children have already been given training and education. There

is a total of 300 seats in the centre. At first its work was started against development scheme.

In the meantime, observing all the formalities to include the scheme in the revenue scheme, a letter has been sent to the higher authority from the deputy director of Gopalganj Zila Social Welfare Directorate on June this year.

Three of its staffers have resigned already from the service voluntarily due to non-payment of salary.

Because of non-payment of salary most of the officers and employees of the centre have been staying now at their homes leaving their service station. Frequently they come here for any information if any.

As a result 211 distressed children are also suffering a lot.

However, following a request of the higher authorities, the supply contractor of food started again supplying food.

After partial payment of his bill, the food supply contractor again stopped supplying food due to non-payment of rest of the bill.

On June 30 this year, the contractor, Wahedun Nabi informed that

he had not received his bill for three months.

On the other hand an amount of Tk 720 has been sanctioned for each inmate. The authorities concerned informed that it is very difficult to maintain the education, clothing, medical and other expenditure by this amount of money.

No amount is sanctioned as medical allowance for the children. Despite availability of all the training materials in the centre, the inmates are not given training due to fund shortage.

Kamruzzaman, house parent of the centre also disclosed that due to want of money, electric bill, telephone bill and other bills for maintenance work of the centre have been stopped.

Initially it had been named as Sheikh Rasel Distressed Children's Training and Rehabilitation Centre. At present it has been renamed as the Distressed Children's Training and Rehabilitation Centre.

However, the local people have demanded to include the centre in the revenue sector thinking the fate of the distressed children.

**Vast areas flooded as dam damages in Bogra**

UNB, Bogra

Vast areas of Dhunat upazila were inundated Saturday due to the damage of Pukuria Flood Protection Embankment.

Locals said the embankment was damaged due to rise in water level in the Jamuna river in the last few days.

About 300 meter areas of the 700-metre long ring embankment built at a cost of Tk 10 cr were damaged rendering some 50 families homeless and damaging standing aman crops on a vast tract of land.

Sacks of sand are being dumped in the embankment to check the onrush of floodwater. Upazila Nirbahi Officer Al Amin visited the spot.

**Demonstration of Rajshahi WDB contractors**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Contractors of Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), Rajshahi on October 2 demonstrated and laid siege to the chief engineer's office protesting cancellation of licenses of contractors.

Almost 100 contractors brought out a procession at the BWDB, Rajshahi campus.



Funny mascots of the Fantasy Kingdom amused hundreds of children and others alike in the small district town of Tangail recently on the occasion of the Child Rights Week.

# Husband to die for killing wife in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Death sentence was awarded to a husband for killing his wife while another accused was given life-term imprisonment recently in the court of District and Sessions Judge, Rangpur.

Rangpur district and sessions judge Md Abdul Hannan while delivering judgement in a sensational murder case recently found accused Selim Khan guilty for killing his wife Masuda Begum. Another accused Faruk alias Iqbal, a friend of accused Selim Khan was sentenced to transportation for life by the court in the same case.

Accused Faruk alias Iqbal also fined Tk 10,000, in default, to pay the

fine, otherwise to undergo rigorous imprisonment (RI) for two more years.

The case in brief was that accused Selim Khan of local Alamnagar Colony under Rangpur Municipality married to Masuda Begum in the same area. After eight months of wedding, Masuda Begum was killed by her husband in December 1999. After killing her body was wrapped in a jute bag concealed in the safety tank of local Alamnagar mosque. Accused Faruk alias Iqbal, a friend of accused Selim helped him in the criminal act.

Abdus Samad, father of deceased Masuda on suspicion, went to his son-in-law's house on

Dec. 12, 1999 and found his daughter absent there. He enquired about her whereabouts, but none of the house replied in a satisfactory manner.

However, after a long search at all possible places Abdus Samad lodged a general diary (GD) with Kotwali police station on January 12, 2000 regarding missing of his daughter Masuda Begum.

Kotwali police, acting on a secret information arrested accused Faruk alias Iqbal and recovered the decomposed body of Masuda Begum. Kotwali thana SI Krishna Kumer conducted an inquiry and submitted chargesheet on July 12, 2001.

**Jhalkati AL worker arrested**

UNB, Jhalkati

An Awami League (AL) worker was arrested from his relative's house at Satoria union in Rajapur upazila here Thursday.

The arrested was identified as Jafar Khan, 40, nephew of Awami League president of Satoria union unit. Jafar alleged that he was arrested under section 54 from his father-in-law's house at the instance of his political rivals of the ruling BNP.

**Licensed gun looted in Bagerhat**

UNB, Bagerhat

Armed miscreants stormed into a house at village Shubhadia in Fakirhat upazila and looted a licensed gun Thursday night.

Police said some 8-10 miscreants attacked the house of Krishnapad Biswas at about 10pm and took away his single barrel gun.

Meanwhile, police arrested two youths - Ranajit Sarder, 30, and Taposh, 28, - from a shrimp farm in the area Friday in this connection.

**Convicted fugitive arrested in Noakhali**

UNB, Noakhali

Sudharam thana police in Noakhali arrested a convicted fugitive Sunday.

Locals said a gang of robbers looted gold and cash worth Tk two lakh from the house of one person named Nur Nabi at village Doulotramdi in Batya union Friday night.

Local angry people later caught Nizam Uddin, an infamous bandit in the same area, suspecting his involvement in the robbery. They later handed him over to police after a mass beating.

Police said Nizam Uddin went into hiding since he was sentenced to life term imprisonment in a murder case recently.



Dumped garbage on the Station Road in Sylhet town has been polluting the environment all around causing citizens' health hazard. But the authorities concerned do not take necessary steps to clean the garbage regularly so that the area remains pollution-free.

# Palm on demand in Faridpur markets

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Palm is on great demand now in different markets in Faridpur.

People make different kinds of cakes and sweets from palm. These are "Tal chapi", "Amdasha", "Bara", "Khair", and "Payesh". All these are tasty foods. People, especially of rural areas entertain their guests are with these food items. Sometimes, people exchange cakes made of palm among their relatives.

Palm is available in plenty in Faridpur during the Bangla months of "Ashar, Sraban and Bhadra".

In the local markets ripe palm locally called "Tal" is being sold between Tk 7 to 10 per piece.

A farmer told this correspondent that he had already earned Tk 250 by selling palm from a single tree in this season adding that he had several palm trees.

Poor people use palm trees while making kutcha houses. Palm wood

is also used as fuel. Hand fans made of palm leaves are very popular all around. Its branches are also used as fuel in the rural areas.

A seasoned palm tree is usually sold here between Tk 1,000 to 2,000.

However, steps should be taken to encourage people to plant palm sapling by the sides of roads and on unused lands to bring financial solvency to some extent.

**Training course on goat raising**

BSS, Gopalganj

World Vision, an NGO, organised a three-day training course on raising "Black Bengal Goat" in collaboration with the district livestock office last week.

A total of 62 trainees from seven villages took part in the course.

# Four unnatural deaths in Madaripur

UNB, Madaripur

Four unnatural deaths were reported in different upazilas of the district on Monday-Tuesday.

Two people including a little girl drowned in two separate incidents in Sadar upazila Tuesday. The deceased were identified as Bandey Ali, 70, of Kulpaddi village, and Misti, 6, of Harikumaria area of the town.

Two people including a housewife allegedly committed suicide over family troubles in Kalkini and Rajoir upazilas Monday.

The victims were identified as Abdul Motaleb, 30, of village Karnapara of Kalkini upazila and Rashida Begum, 18, of Molladi Bazidpur village of Rajoir upazila.

Of them, hospital sources said, Motaleb allegedly committed suicide by taking poison while Rashida by hanging.

# Silver jubilee of Tribal Welfare Association



PHOTO: AMINUL ISLAM

The Tribal Welfare Association in Mymensingh, a national organisation of tribal people, celebrated its silver jubilee festival on October 4 at Mymensingh Stadium in a befitting manner. Over 4,000 tribal people of Dhaka, Mymensingh, Tangail, Sherpur, Jamalpur, Netrakona, Sunamganj, Sylhet, Moulvibazar and Gazipur took part there. The tribals included Manipuri, Garo, Koch, Hajong, Banai, Dalu, Khatrya and Burman. (Top left) A colourful procession by the tribals on the occasion, (right) while the Archbishop of Bangladesh Michael Rozario speaks at the inaugural function of the programme as the chief guest. (Down left-right) Traditional dances by tribal women on the occasion.