

## NEWS SNAPS

**Tk 9.58 cr uplift projects implemented**

**BSS, Mymensingh**  
Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) executed 6 development projects in Ishawarganj upazila at a cost of Tk 9 crore 58 lakh this year.

The projects are -- 90-metre long Kacha Mata bridge on Annandaganj-Batola road at a cost of Tk 80 lakh 32 thousand, 10 km long Isharganj-Anandaganj road at a cost of Tk 2 crore 94 lakh and 15 km long Ishawarganj-Royebazar road at a cost of Tk 5 crore 8 lakh. Development of Annandaganj growth centre at a cost of Tk 42 lakh 69 thousand, construction of Ochakhila union parishad bhaban at a cost of Tk 28 lakh 66 thousand and Ishwarganj Mahila market at a cost of Tk 6 lakh. Besides, construction of Mottola union parishad complex bhaban is going on at a cost of Tk 23 lakh 60 thousand during the current financial year, officials said.

**New inter-city train demanded**

**BSS, Naogaon**  
The daily passengers of some north-western districts demanded that the government introduce an inter-city train between Saidpur railway station and Goalondo Ghat to mitigate their communication problem.

Thousands of people in the area covering Saidpur, Rangpur, Parbatipur, Jaipurhat, Santahar, Bogra, Naogaon, Faridpur, Kushtia, Magura, Pangsia and Rajbari are working in different government, semi-government and private offices. Passengers on this route have to travel by bus and other modes of transport risking their lives every day. There has been no inter-city train on this route since the independence of Bangladesh. The passengers on this route appealed to the authorities concerned to introduce an inter-city train to mitigate their sufferings.

**20 post office bldgs to be built**

**BSS, Khulna**  
The Postal Department in Khulna will construct 20 post office buildings in rural areas of the south western zone of the country in the current financial year.

Postal Department sources said work orders have already been issued for construction of each building at a cost of Tk 2,80,000. Last year, 38 buildings of the same type were constructed each at a cost of Tk 2,90,000.

**Huge India bound garlic seized**

**BSS, Rajshahi**  
Bangladesh Rifles BDR personnel of 35th battalion recovered huge garlic bound for India from a shop at Monigram bazar in Bagha upazila Tuesday afternoon, BDR sources said.

Acting on a tip-off, a BDR party along with the members of the district task force went to the bazaar and searched the shop and its godown in the afternoon and recovered 11 tons of garlic worth about Tk 6.5 lakh. The garlic were stockpiled for smuggling to India. One person named Nazrul Islam, 30, was arrested in this connection. The seized goods were deposited with the local Customs department.

**Non-iodised salt on sale in Laxmipur**

**BSS, Laxmipur**  
Non-iodised salt is being sold in almost all markets of Laxmipur denying the government order regarding production, storage and distribution of non-iodised salt.

In spite of ban on selling non-iodised salt, the commodity is being sold in different markets with impunity. Innocent people are purchasing such non-iodised salt due to its cheaper prices. One kilogram of iodised salt is being sold between Tk 10 to 12 while the price of one kilogram of non-iodised salt is between Tk 8 to 9. As a result the consumers are purchasing non-iodised salt at random. Some unscrupulous traders are selling dirty non-iodised salt at different markets.

**Touchstone statue recovered**

**BSS, Bheramara**  
A touchstone statue estimated to be worth Tk 60 lakh was recovered by police at Kazihata in Bheramara upazila of Kushtia on Saturday, police said.

A team of Detective branch from Kushtia raided a Pragpur bound bus at Kazihata, four-kilometer off here and recovered the statue from the possession of Hafiz Ahmed Zulue. He is an alleged identified smuggler of Bahirchar Solodag in Kushtia.

**Call to increase fish production**

**BSS, Kushtia**  
Fisheries fortnight was observed at the Lalon Academy premises in Kushtia recently.

Syed Mehedi Ahmed Rumi MP launched the programme by releasing fish fries in the river Mora Gorai adjacent to Lalon Academy with a call to increase fish production for enhancing employment opportunities thereby reducing poverty.

# Rangpur farmers produce surplus paddy from new HYV aman seed

**MOZAMMEL HAQUE, Rangpur**

The farmers in Rangpur have produced 50 to 60 per cent surplus aman crops this season using Sonar Bangla-1, a new high yielding variety (HYV) of paddy seed imported from China, according to agriculture specialists.

This new variety of Chinese high-breed paddy seed can overcome the adverse effect of bad weather.

It can be cultivated thrice a year. If it is cultivated at a large scale, it will go a long way in making the country a food surplus one.

Speakers at a largely attended farmers' rally held on October 12 at the Khamarbari auditorium of Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), Kurigram expressed this optimism. The rally had been jointly organised by DAE, Kurigram and Mallika Seed Company, a non-government entrepreneur. Presided over by

Shahab Uddin Ahmed, president of Kurigram Press Club, the rally was addressed, among others, by Abdul Awal, deputy director, DAE, Kurigram, Fazlur Rahman Malik, proprietor of the Mallika Seed Company, Harunur Rashid, Sadar upazila agriculture extension officer, Jahangir Alam, crop specialist, Abul Hossain Sarker, Sadar upazila block supervisor, Hossain Ahmed, an agriculture expert and a number of leading farmers including Abdus Salam Badsha, Mansoor Ali, Abdul Majid, Abdul Aziz Akonda, Abdur Rezaque and some local journalists of Kurigram.

While speaking at the rally, the Deputy Director of DAE highly praised this new variety of crop seed saying that the farmers of the district are very much keen to use this variety due to its high yield which ranges between 80 to 110 maunds per acre of land.

In the ongoing aman season, the farmers who sowed Sonar Bangla-

1 crop seed on their lands, have started yielding a good harvest. The harvest is also one month to one and a half months' ahead of the existing varieties of aman seeds. The vacant lands can easily be utilised for Rabi crop farmings, the official further disclosed.

Moreover, the food crisis, fodder scarcity and unemployment problem of farm labourers in the month of 'Kartik' will also be solved, he informed.

A farmer named Abul Kalam of village Jor-chandra in Rangpur Sadar upazila has been using the HYV Sonar Bangla-1 seeds for three years and reaping its benefit.

The deputy director of Kurigram DAE produced over 8 maunds of paddy by cultivating this new variety of seeds on 12 decimals of land within his office compound. It was chowed to the participants of the rally organising a crop cutting and farm day there on Saturday last.



PHOTO: STAR

Hajee Mohammad Kamal, a farmer at village Shareyartal, Mahiganj in Rangpur beside his aman field where he sowed high yielding variety (HYV) of Sonar Bangla-1 seeds and produced surplus paddy.

## Legend of Hazrat Garib Shah

**HOSSAIN SERAJ, Magura**

Today is the holy Urs Mubarak of great saint Hazrat Garib Shah.

On this occasion befitting programmes have been chalked out at his mazar (grave) at village Nahata in Sreepur upazila in Magura. The programmes include religious discussion, feeding of destitutes and milad mahfil.

Every year on the second day of Bangla month Kartik, the Urs Mubarak is held by his followers where thousands of people assemble at the mazar of this great saint of Indo-Bangla-Pak sub-continent.

Famous saint Garib Shah was the son of Shah Kitabuddin of village Nahata in Sreepur upazila. But his mausoleum is situated in three districts. The places are Nahata in Magura, Bakultala in Jessore and Barojhuri in Faridpur.

Legend goes that Garib Shah was laid to rest in seven different

places at a time.

Once while crossing the river Hanu in Sreepur area, Tomas Tuidy, British indigo trader of a farm in Hazrapur area met Hazrat Garib Shah who was wearing torn clothes at that time.

Tuidy gave Garib Shah some coins, considering him a beggar. But Garib threw the coins into the river. At this Tuidy became very much annoyed and told the holy personality to return the coins. Garib told Tuidy to unfold his grip. He did so and at once the hand of Tuidy was filled with huge coins. At once Tuidy begged his pardon and became his follower.

Unfortunately, the mazar of Garib Shah Dewan at Magura is not properly maintained while the historic records of his great deeds are not well-preserved, though many God fearing people of different religious faiths still assemble here.

Garib was the disciple of Khan Zahan Ali, the famous religious personality and leader of this sub-continent. As Khan Zahan Ali died in 1459, it is supposed that Garib was a man of mid-15th century. Garib got married at the age of six months only. But after his marriage his wife died. From then on he adopted the divine life.

Elderly people in the area say Kitabuddin sent his son Garib to Munshi Ganjer Ali, a teacher of a local madrassah. He did not know the spiritual power of the future hermit.

One day Ganjer Ali observed that his disciple Garib had been walking over the river Hanu adjacent to the village. Observing the miracle Ganjer Ali himself became his disciple.

People still talk about the spiritual power of Garib Shah.



PHOTO: IQBAL SIDDIQUEE

French envoy Michael Lamux, his spouse and the spouses of German and Swedish ambassadors on Sunday afternoon visited the puja mandaps at Companyganj in Sylhet. Durga Puja, the greatest religious festival of Hindus ended on Tuesday.

## Pneumonia claims 7 children

**BSS, Chuadanga**

Pneumonia has broken out in an epidemic form in Chuadanga.

A total of seven children died of pneumonia in Jibannagar and Chuadanga upazilas recently.

Over 20 children had been treated at Chuadanga Sadar Hospital.

However, there is no any pneumonia ward in any of the hospitals or upazila health complexes in Chuadanga.

## Minister for educating youths on social values

**BSS, Jessore**

Information Minister Tariqul Islam said recently that it was not possible to check social degradation and crime without controlling the abuse of drugs.

He said the menace of drug abuse could be controlled through educating the young people on religious and social values. He was addressing an anti-crime rally jointly organised by the district administration and the motor parts traders association in the town. He told that the abuse of drugs must be curbed to involve the youth in social development activities.

Chaired by deputy commissioner AKM Zafurullah Khan, the rally was also addressed, among others, by president of the motor parts traders association Sheikh Mansur Ali, district BNP general secretary advocate Quazi Monirul Huda, cardiologist Prof Dr Hasina Banu and municipality chairman SM Quamruzzaman Chunnur.

## Anniversary of death of Faizunnessa observed

**BSS, Comilla**

The 93rd anniversary of death of Nawab Faizunnessa Choudhury, a patron of education and social work during the British rule in this sub-continent was observed here recently through various programmes.

The Nawab Faizunnessa Government Girls' High School authority organised various programmes in this connection. The programmes included milad and doa mahfil, discussion and extempore speech competition on the life and works of late Nawab Faizunnessa, competition on Hamd and Nat-e-Rasul. It was followed by distribution of prizes.

Head Mistress of the school Setara Begum presided over the function, convener of Nawab Faizunnessa Smiti Sangrakshak Committee Dr Zobaida Hannan, SM Sayedul Haque, a relative of the late Nawab, former Headmistress Sufia Akhter Khatun, former teacher Sharifunnessa Begum and former student of this institution Dilnashi Mohsin spoke on the occasion.

## Body recovered

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj**

Police recovered an unidentified body from near the Hatipara madrasa graveyard in Shalanga thana in Sirajganj on Sunday.

Police said, a local union parishad (UP) member of Hatipara informed police that they found an unidentified body near a ditch of Hatipara graveyard. On receiving information police recovered the body and sent it to Sirajganj General Hospital for autopsy. A case was lodged with Shalanga police station in this connection.

## 4 persons sued for misappropriation of Tk 69.65 lakh

**UNB, Khulna**

The Bureau of Anti-corruption (BAC) has filed six cases against four people for misappropriating nearly Tk 70 lakh through forgery from an Agrani Bank branch.

As per the case, lodged with local police, Lutfur Rahman, a godown keeper of the bank on the city's Iqbal Road, in collusion with some income tax officials embezzled over Tk 69.65 lakh kept against letters of credit (LCs).

Lutfur started withdrawing money through false cheques from 1998.

High BAC and income tax officials came to Khulna to investigate alleged misappropriations several times between 2000 and 2001. Local officials of the state-owned bank, however, expressed their ignorance about any wrongdoing.

Lutfur, also a leader of the Bangabandhu Parishad, has gone into hiding.

Others accused in the case are Najir Hossain of Keshobpur upazila in Jessore, SM Alam, income tax advisor of Khulna zone and income tax inspector Musharraf Hossain.

## BRDB loan for poor

**BSS, Bheramara**

Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) has disbursed Tk 30 lakh as loan among the poor people of six unions of Bheramara upazila in the current fiscal.

The unions are Bahirchar, Mokerampur, Dharampur, Juniadah, Chandgram and Bahadurpur.



PHOTO: STAR

Theatre unit of Magura arranged a day-long workshop on 'Acting' at Magura Press Club auditorium recently.



Shahjahan Bepari, general secretary, Lauhajang unit of BNP in Munshiganj, leading a procession, organised on October 10 to celebrate the first anniversary of formation of the four-party alliance government.

## 8,488 certificate cases filed against loan defaulters

**BSS, Comilla**

At least 8,488 certificate cases have been instituted by four state-owned banks to realise outstanding loan of about Tk 38,98,00,000 from defaulters in 12 upazilas of Comilla.

Of the total cases, Bangladesh Krishi Bank filed 6,056 cases to realise Tk 35.65 crore, Agrani Bank filed 1,466 cases to realise Tk 1.12 crore, Janata Bank filed 853 cases to realise Tk 1.3 crore and Sonali Bank filed 313 cases to realise Tk 1.17 crore in 12 upazilas.

According to bank sources, a total of Tk 326.27 has been lying as outstanding loan, of which, Tk 38.98 cr have been classified as defaulting loan.

The four nationalised banks realised Tk 10.10 cr in the last two months in this current fiscal.

The four nationalised banks distributed Tk 4,95,00,000 during this period against the target of Tk 65.25 cr in the current fiscal.