

## NEWS SNAPS

**Tk 1.71 cr BKB loan for farmers**

**BSS, Chuadanga**  
Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) has disbursed Tk 1,71,11,000 as loan among the farmers in the first three months of this current financial year in Chuadanga.

According to an official source, the bank has fixed a target to disburse an amount of Tk 14 cr in the current financial year through its 11 branches. The disbursement of loan is going on satisfactorily. The bank already realised Tk 2,20,99,000 outstanding loan from Chuadanga in the same period. BKB has fixed up a target to realise Tk 14 cr outstanding loan in the current financial year. The realisation work of arrear loans is also progressing satisfactorily.

**Tk 5.95 cr scheme for construction of schools**

**BSS, Munshiganj**  
The Education Engineering Department has taken up a scheme for construction and renovation of the academic buildings of 30 high schools and one madrasa in six upazillas of Munshiganj at an estimated cost of Tk 5.95 cr.

Official sources said, seven high schools in sadar upazila, six in Srinagar, four in Lauhajang, five in Tangibari, four in Gazaria, four in Sirajdikhan and one madrasa in Srinagar have been taken up under the scheme. Fifteen academic buildings will consist of four rooms while the rest will comprise three rooms each with a 3-storey foundation. Work on the scheme will start soon.

**Unabated erosion by Padma in Kushtia**

**BSS, Bheramara**  
Erosion by the river Padma continued unabated threatening the existence of a good number of government, non-government offices and educational institutions in Kushtia.

Besides, hats, bazars, homesteads and a vast tract of cultivable land in three unions in Daulatpur upazila in Kushtia also face the threat of erosion by the Padma. The unions are Phillipnagar, Ramkrishnapur and Chilmari. About 2,000 families have become homeless as four kilometres' area of the unions were devoured by the river. The erosion victims are leading miserable life on different highlands under the open sky.

**200 treated freely at eye camp**

**BSS, Munshiganj**  
Twenty-two female and 13 male eye patients were operated upon and given glasses free of cost at a 5-day long eye camp which ended here Wednesday.

Besides, more than 200 men, women and children suffering from various ophthalmic problems were examined and given treatment by eye specialists at the camp, the sponsors said. The camp was held at Kewar Mia Bari government primary school premises under the joint management of Kewar Adarsha junior high school and Bangladesh National Blind Welfare Association.

**Installation ceremony**

**BSS, Narsingdi**  
An installation ceremony of the newly elected students' union executives and freshers' reception 2002 of Narsingdi Government College was held in the collage auditorium recently.

Minister for Local Government Rural Development (LGRD) and Cooperatives Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan attended the function as the chief guest while Shamsuddin Ahmed Esak, MP, and Sarder Shakhawat Hossain Bokul, MP, were the special guests. Jitendra Lal Borua, principal of the college presided over the function. The function was addressed, among others, by Deputy Commissioner Kazi Akhtar Hossain, General Secretary of the District BNP Tofazzal Hossain, Khairul Islam, JCD General Secretary Nasir Uddin Ahmed, newly elected President of the College Union Shofiqul Islam Apel and Dipak Kumar Barman. The programme was followed by a cultural function.

**Poultry farming becomes popular**

**BSS, Narsingdi**  
Poultry farming has been gaining popularity among young people in Narsingdi day by day.

A good number of educated youths received short term and long term training on poultry farming from the Youth Development and Livestock Department (YDLD) and they have been earning their living by this profitable business.

The department is also providing loan and other technological supports to encourage youths to set up poultry farms. Besides, Bangladesh Krishi Bank and Sonali Bank, Narsingdi region provide short term loan to the owner of the farms. According to official sources, the number of poultry farms has increased in all the six upazilas of the district. About 300 small and large poultry farms are here and earning about Tk six to seven cr per year. The local Livestock officer Nasim Uddin said one can easily earn Tk 4000 to 5000 within 35 to 40 days by rearing around 200 broilers in a farm and one can earn Tk 50,000 to 60,000 easily within a year by rearing 200 layer variety in a small farm.

**Problems hamper academic activity at Saikupa college**

**DELWAR KABIR, Jhenidah**

The academic activity is being hampered greatly in Saikupa Government Degree College due to multifarious problems.

As a result the number of students in the college is decreasing fast. If the situation prevails, there will be no student in this college after five years, expressed some guardians of students.

In 1969, this college was established at Saikupa, then a thana headquarter. Initially classes were held in two tin-shed houses. Now it is a multi-storied building. But the result in various examinations in the college is very poor.

Before establishment of Saikupa College, there was no college in the upazila. No other college was established till early nineties. Nine more non-government colleges and a degree level madrasah were established in between 1993 and

2000. The colleges are Abaipur Jamuna Sikder College, Bagulia Jarip Biswas College, Katlagari College, Saikupa Women's College, Saikupa City College, Seikhpara DM College, Mia Jinna Alam College, Bangabandhu Memorial College, Kanckerkole College and Saikupa Alim Madrassah. Furthermore, Benipur High School and Seikhpara Rahatun Nessa Girls' High Schools were recognised as collegiate schools. The institutions admit students in eleven class.

Most of the non-government colleges were established by local political leaders. Jobless young men or women were employed in these colleges in exchange of donation which varies from Tk 70 thousand to one lakh. In many cases, least qualified candidates were provided as principal or teacher. Even some teachers donated their lands in the name of college to get jobs.

A section of teachers, even the

principals of non-government colleges collect the mark sheets and certificates of successful candidates of Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations from their respective schools and get them admitted in their colleges as students. Here the students cannot express their options independently. In these colleges, the authorities do not collect tuition fees from the students, rather they provide books and other educational implements to students free of cost. Furthermore, the students avail of free transport. Such trend is visible in almost all the non-government colleges in Saikupa upazila.

The standard of teaching in these colleges is very low and the result in various examinations is very poor. So, most of the guardians are reluctant to get their wards admitted in these colleges.

**Robbers stab one to death in Barguna**

**UNB, Barguna**

Armed robbers stabbed a man to death and looted cash and valuables worth over Tk one lakh from his house at village Gourichanna in Sadar upazila Wednesday night.

Locals said some 7-8 bandits attacked the house of Khairul Islam of the village and started beating the house inmates.

At one stage, the robbers indiscriminately stabbed Khairul and his son Swapon as they tried to resist them from raping his young daughter. Khairul died on the spot.

Later the robbers decamped with the cash and valuables including gold ornaments.

**Three villagers injured by bandits in Habiganj**

**UNB, Habiganj**

Three people were injured, one of them critically with bullet, in an attack by bandits at village Bagbari in Chunarughat upazila Thursday late night.

Villagers said a gang of robbers swooped on the house of Harun Laskar of the village at midnight and severely beat up him and his wife as they refused to give them their licensed gun.

The robbers later shot and critically injured Harun's nephew Russell, 18, when he raised hue and cry.

The bandits ran away under the cover of indiscriminate firings as the villagers chased them.

Russell was first admitted to Chunarughat Health Complex and later shifted to Sylhet Osmani Medical College Hospital following deterioration of his condition.

**White Cane Safety Day observed**

**BSS, Manikganj**

White cane safety day was observed in Manikganj on Wednesday underlining the imperative to extend more support and facilities to the blinds.

A meeting was held and a rally brought out in different streets of the town under the auspices of Bangladesh Blind Association, Manikganj unit. The rally paraded the town and chanted slogans in favour of their demands.

**10 injured in clash over capturing new house in Pirojpur**

**UNB, Pirojpur**

At least 10 people were injured in a clash between two rival groups of people at village South Dighirkhan in Nazirpur upazila Tuesday.

Police said the clash took place between the two groups when Harun Howlader of the village along with his associates went to capture the newly constructed house of Jagodish Mondal.

Two of the injured - Jagodish's wife Ronja Rani Mondal and their neighbour Mizanur Rahman - were admitted to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

A tense situation was prevailing in the area following the clash.

**One arrested with pistol in Narayanganj**

**UNB, Narayanganj**

Mobile police arrested one person and recovered a 9 mm pistol with two rounds of bullets from his possession at Balur Math near Titas Gas and Transmission office at 7 in the evening.

According to police sources, the arrested person was identified as Jasim Uddin, 25, son of Abdur Rouf of village Chand Tara Masjid in Munshiganj. He stayed at Rambabur Pukurpar area at Chashara. Jasim was rounded up by police when he was trying to have phensidyl syrup at Balur Math. A case was registered with Narayanganj police in this connection.

**Thieves take away Tk 38,200 from RAKUB, Ghorapakhia**

**UNB, Chapainawabganj**

Thieves took away Tk 38,200 and 100 prize bonds from Ghorapakhia branch of Rajshahi Krishi Unnyan Bank (RAKUB) in Shibganj upazila Saturday.

Police said the thieves entered into the bank by breaking the locks open in absence of the guard and took away the money and prize bonds.

Police arrested guard of the bank Azharul Islam in this connection. Police super visited the spot. A case was filed.



PHOTO: STAR

Three rural women pass through a temporary bamboo bridge on the river Fatki at village Chatkabarria in Magura. This makeshift bridge connects the village with the Shaikha upazila headquarters. Believe it or not, due to absence of a pucca bridge people have to go to Shaikha through village Mashakhali via Natopara of Kaliganj upazila in the adjoining Jhenidah district. Only a permanent bridge in place of this kutcha one can mitigate the sufferings of lots of people.

**2 diversion bridges in bad shape****Tangail-Mymensingh road link may be snapped at any moment**

**BSS, Tangail**

Road communications between Tangail and Mymensingh may be disrupted at any time as two diversion bridges on the 60-mile road may collapse at any moment.

According to transport owners and workers, the bridges lacking adequate maintenance are under heavy pressure of vehicles of 16 routes connecting greater Mymensingh district with North Bengal and Tangail.

Since the opening of direct road communications between Dhaka and Mymensingh, the Tangail-Mymensingh road has been given less attention by the concerned authorities. Since the opening of Jamuna Bridge, the road became awfully busy.

Innumerable cracks and potholes have developed over the 25 kilometer-long part of the road from Elenga to Ghatail Cantonment.

The Roads and Highway Department spent a huge amount of

money in last five years for renovation of the road, but inferior quality of works did not bring any change to condition of the road.

The condition of the bridges from Elenga to Pakutia has become deplorable. The condition of Bagulia bridge, Dhunail bridge and Chatipara bridge under Kailhati and Bazunbush bridge, Kalidas para bridge and Pakutia bridge under Ghatail thana are also in deplorable condition hampering smooth movement of vehicle.



PHOTO: STAR

Over 100 disabled people take part in a wheel chair procession in Mymensingh which started from Muktagachha Municipality and ended at Krishnachura Chattar (square) near Mymensingh railway station. Mymensingh Disabled Community Centre and local Cyclist Association for Peace jointly arranged the colourful procession to mark the World White Cane Safety Day on October 15.

**T-aman farming target exceeds by 190 hectares in Satkhira this year**

**BSS, Satkhira**

The target of T-Aman cultivation has exceeded by 190 hectares this year in seven upazilas of Satkhira under Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), Satkhira.

According to official sources, DAE Satkhira has fixed a target to bring about 112700 hectares under T-Aman cultivation with a target of production of 267375 ton of Aman paddy this year. But a total of 11289 hectares were cultivated with a production target of 268425 tons of paddy.

Of the total land, 105205 hectares were cultivated under Ufshi variety of Aman while 7685 hectares under local variety.

Upazila-wise break-up of cultivated lands is as follows: 21750 hectares in Satkhira Sadar upazila, 13160 hectares in Kalaroa upazila, 14905 hectares in Tala upazila, 6200 hectares in Debhata upazila, 20600 hectares in Kaliganj upazila, 14170 hectares in Assosuni upazila, and 22105 hectares in Shymnagar upazila.

A total of 105 demonstration plots were also set up in seven upazilas of the district this year to acquaint the farmers with the modern methods of cultivation. DAE has been expecting bumper production this year, as the climate and sufficient rain in time were very much favourable for cultivation of this crop.

DAE makes ready a number of hand nets, hand spray machines and power spray machines for each upazila to avert any insects and pests attack in district at any time.

Deputy Director of DAE, Satkhira M Belayet Hossain informed that there is a total of 378987 hectares of land in the district. Of which, net cultivable land is over 182248 hectares. There are a total of 254857 farmer families in the district.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Agrani Bank, Janata Bank, Sonali Bank and Bangladesh Rural Development Board distributed short-term loan for making the programme a success.

**Hundreds visit Magura to see remains of indigo kuthi**

**HOSSAIN SERAJ, Magura**

A newly discovered archaeological site at village Baharbagh in Gopalgram union, about 15 km off from Magura town has been attracting hundreds of enthusiastic people from far flung areas of the country.

The archaeological site was discovered while workers had been digging a 'heap-shaped' rugged land on October 10, for the purpose of cultivation.

An old building had been found below six feet from the main land.

The chairman of Gopalgram union, Afzal Hossain told The Daily Star, "I think it is a building which had been built by the British Indigo traders. A furnace had also been found for boiling indigo."

While talking to The Daily Star, assistant commissioner magistrate Kamal Hossain said, "As there is no office of Archaeological Department here, the general section of the Collectorate office supervises the archaeological sites and objects," adding that it might be an old building, built by the British

indigo traders and the bricks of 12 by 6 inches in size indicate so, he further informed.

Historic records say, in the Regulation VIII of 1819, local zamindars had been empowered to sub-lease estates.

British Indigo traders became lease-holders of the estates in exchange of a handsome amount to the zamindars (land-lords).

At one stage, the indigenous moneyed men started indigo trading.

British marchants had been keen to start indigo business in this country. They started coming here with the hope of getting so-called 'Lamp of Alauddin'.

Some started indigo business and built several kuthis (camps), a manager or a big boss used to be in charge of the kuthis.

Nahata was situated in the then Magura thana (now in Mohamadpur upazila).

Chandpur, Rajapur, Arpara, Charkhali and Shatruijpur Kuthis were under Nahata kuthi's administration.

At first, a British indigo businessman named 'Sebi-shabeb' set up an indigo-Kuthi at Nahata in the then 'Naldi-Pargana'. Afterwards he sold it to the Thorborn and Tomas company.

In 1872, one indigo trader named Oats came here and became engaged in this business.

Oats set up a 'Kachcharibari' on about one acre of land at village Baharbag, about 2 km off from Shatruijpur indigo camp.

Besides, a large hearth was set up there for boiling raw indigo.

In course of time the Kachcharibari and the hearth went into oblivion.

Subsequently, local fishermen Radhacharan, Ranjans, Profulya and Kithish used to reside here.

In 1985, the fishermen sold this land to Hashem Ali Khan alias Fatik Khan 70, of village Baharbagh and left the place.

Recently Fatik Khan decided to turn the land into a cultivable one. So, he engaged labourers for the purpose when the remains of the old building had been discovered.