

NEWS SNAPS

One electrocuted in Narail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narail
One person was electrocuted in Narail recently.

The victim was identified as Ekhas, 20, of village Gabtala in Narail Sadar. He was electrocuted while trying to save a woman who was shocked when she came in contact with an electric wire of the rural electricity supply authority. Both of them were plucking Shapla (a kind of leafy vegetable) from a pond before the incident.

Body of boy recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narail
Police recovered the decomposed body of a boy recently at village Dumuria in Narail Sadar.

The body was identified as an eight-year-old boy named Tuhin. It was recovered from a bamboo cluster of the aforementioned village. He was the son of Abul Kalam who was missing since October 1. Police said that a lungi was wrapped around the neck of the body. A case was filed with the Sadar police station in Narail.

One killed in road mishap

BSS, Joypurhat
One person was killed on the spot and three others injured seriously in two separate accidents here Sunday, police and hospital sources said.

Zahidul Islam was killed on the spot while Abdu Samad and a housewife Sabina Yasmin were critically injured after an Akkelpur bound passenger bus from Joypurhat town fell down into a roadside ditch at Kechurmora point near Akkelpur upazila town at about 11 am on the day. The injured persons were admitted to Akkelpur and Joypurhat hospitals respectively. Driver and helpers of the bus managed to flee the scene. In a separate accident, Azadul, a boy of 11, son of Nurul Haq was critically injured when a private car hit him in Joypurhat town Sunday morning. The boy was admitted to Joypurhat sadar hospital in a critical condition.

Touchstone statue recovered

BSS, Chuadanga
Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) personnel recovered a statue made by touchstone weighing 23 kg worth about Tk one from village Banka in Jibannagar upazila on Friday.

BDR patrol team raided the area and recovered the statue from the house of Fazlur Rahman. BDR also arrested the owner of the house. A case was lodged with the Jibannagar Police Station in this connection. The statue was handed over to Darsona Customs.

Gold smuggling at Sylhet airport

Five customs inspectors relieved of duties

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

Five Customs inspectors had been relieved of their duties from the Osmani International Airport in Sylhet on charge of their alleged involvement with the recent incidents of gold smuggling.

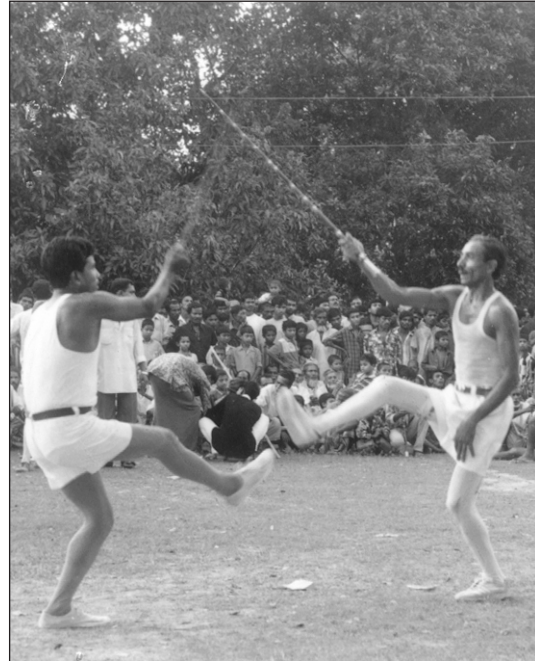
After several big gold hauls in the airport, different agencies of the government reported that a number of officials in the airport are directly or indirectly involved with smuggling. The officers are, Kahirul Enam, Romangshu Bardhan, AK Majid Khan, Md Nasir Uddin, Mazharul Islam and Shafiqul Azam.

Finance Minister, State Minister for Civil Aviation and State Minister for Finance made several visits to the airport and discussed the issue of gold smuggling going on in the airport for a long time. On August 13 gold worth about a total of Tk three cr had been seized from four passengers in the airport. The passengers who travelled to Sylhet from Dubai had been caught along with the aforesaid quantity of gold in their possession. They

are, Ekramul Haque Parvez of village West Mollartek in Dhaka, Alauddin of village Doloirmati in Kanaighat upazila, Wahid of Arambag in Sylhet city and Shahabuddin of village Saleswar of Beanibazar upazila.

Detective Branch (DB) of police detected the incident. They claimed that in connivance with the Customs officials, gold had been smuggled into the country. Customs inspectors helped the four passengers to get out of the airport without any checking, DB police claimed. While fleeing they had been caught outside the Customs Lounge. Later, some of the Customs officials tried to say that the passengers had been ready to pay the government duty against the allowed quantity of gold. They also gave an official report stating such a story. But the DB police told that the passengers should give proper declaration about gold before departing the Customs lounge.

But, the Commissioner of Customs in Sylhet told that on the basis of prior information, we nabbed the smugglers with the assistance of DB men. Since then both the departments claimed success.



PHOTOS: HOSSAIN SERAJ

On the occasion of Durga Puja, the greatest religious festival of Hindus, a mock fight with sticks (top left) was arranged in Magura town while (top right) a Kabadi game was organised by the local puja committee at the district town. A village fair (bottom left) was held on the auspicious occasion and an enjoyable boat race arranged on the occasion delighted people of all walks of life here this year.

Dead man chargesheeted?

UNB, Barisal

A man who died 20 years ago was chargesheeted recently by Kotwali police in a criminal case.

SI of Kotwali thana Rezaul Karim submitted the charge sheet against late Yakub Ali of village Baotithi in Sadar upazila along with his sons and brothers in the case.

Neighbour Abdul Malek Gazi filed the case on January 23, 2002.

Local chairman has already issued a certificate confirming the time of his death.

700-seat shilpakala academy auditorium

BSS, Rajshahi

A 700-seat auditorium and cultural complex will be constructed at Rajshahi Shilpakala Academy premise at a cost of Tk 2.16 cr soon.

Post and Telecommunications Minister Barrister Aminul Haque said this while addressing a function at the academy premises as chief guest recently.

The minister said that the government was implementing various infrastructure development projects for modernisation and expansion of the academy.

He stressed the need for cultural activities aimed at flourishing a healthy nation.

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Begum Selima Rahman, Mayor of Rajshahi City Mijanur Rahman Minu, MP and Syndicate Member of Rajshahi University Saleh Uddin Baby also spoke on the occasion.

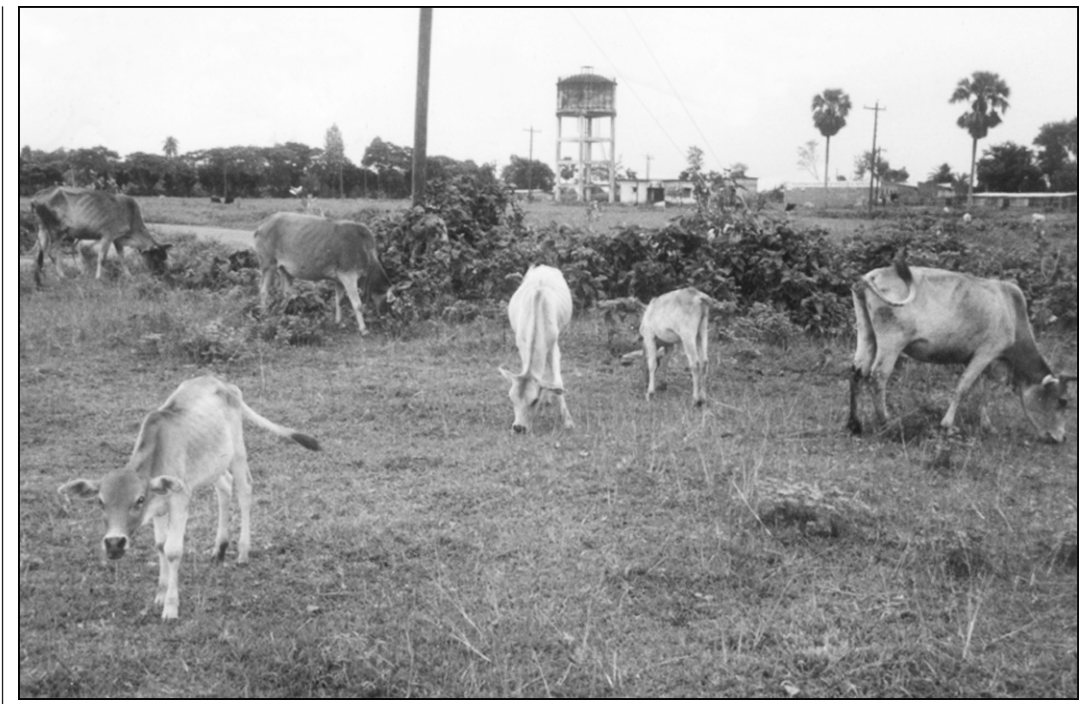


PHOTO: STAR

Cows graze on the unutilised land of Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) estate, Jhenidah at village Dhanbaria on Jhenidah-Magura highway. Local entrepreneurs are reluctant to set up industries here due to various reasons including lack of bank loan facility and unabated smuggling along the Indian border in Jhenidah and nearby Jessore and Chuadanga districts.

Jhenidah BSCIC industrial estate now a grazing ground

DELWAR KABIR, Jhenidah

The industrial estate of Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) in Jhenidah is now a grazing ground.

The industrial estate was not developed properly till now though the BSCIC authorities started development activities in 1988 on 15.70 acres of land near Dhanbaria village, about three-kilometre east of the Jhenidah-Magura highway. An amount of Tk 2.56 cr was spent for earth filling, pump house, construction of link road, office building and drains in 1998.

BSCIC sources said they planned allotment of plots like 61 A type, 25 B type and 11 special (S) type ones among the entrepreneurs. But till October 20, only 31 A type, eight B type and nine S type plots were allocated for 32 industrial units.

Only five unit owners started operation for a nursery, one textile industry, one tyre retreading unit, two chemical fertiliser factories. The tyre retreading unit has been closed for more than a year. Now only four industrial units exist in the BSCIC estate.

Some entrepreneurs told this correspondent that they are least interested in establishing industries here, because of unabated smuggling of goods from the Indian borders along Jhenidah, Jessore and Chuadanga districts. Furthermore, easy bank loans for establishing industries are not available, they

complained. Hoodlums are also a constant threat here, they added.

When contacted with the BSCIC authorities, they further informed that for want of budget, they have been facing problems. They are not in a position to repair the pump house which went out of order a few months back. For want of money they can not clean the drains, maintain the roads and other works.

One estate officer, a technical officer, an accountant, a guard, a peon and sweeper have been posted by the BSCIC authorities, but since 1998 they are being deprived of their monthly salaries. As the project ended on June 30 in 1998, they have to depend on lump sum allocation of the authorities. It has been hampering normal activities of the estate, BSCIC sources told.

An entrepreneur requesting anonymity said some entrepreneurs from Jessore, Kaliganj, Narail, Chittagong, Kushtia and some other places received plots to establish industries.

He further complained that he sought loan from the Shilpa Bank at Jhenidah. But the Shilpa Bank authorities did not grant loan amounting to Tk five lakh which he applied for. While talking to the manager of Bangladesh Shilpa Bank at Jhenidah, he admitted the fact and said they cannot grant any loan proposal below Tk 50 lakh. The bank only grants a big amount of money to big entrepreneurs, the manager informed.

Four sued in Khulna 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.

Heroin, phensidyl recovered

BSS, Chuadanga

Ten young drug addicted boys were handed over to sadar thana police by their respective parents here as the administration stepped up measures against abuse of drugs recently.

Meanwhile, police and local drug control officials seized one gram of heroin from the possession of a woman at Haque Para. They also recovered 15 bottles of smuggled Indian phensidyl from Muslim Para of the district on Thursday.

30 uplift schemes implemented

BSS, Bheramara

A total of 30 uplift schemes were implemented in Bheramara upazila of Kushtia district at a cost of Tk 50 lakh in the last fiscal.

Five hundred tons of wheat were also allotted for the schemes. Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) implemented the schemes under the food security programme with the assistance from World Food Programme.

One held with Hundi money

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

An amount of Tk 12.29 lakh Hundi money was recovered from the possession of a man by the army and police during a joint drive Monday. Police of South Surma PS and a contingent of army started searching the vehicles in the St Lalmatia area on the Sylhet-Fenchuganj road. At one stage, when a bus of Saudia Paribahan Chatta Metro-Ba-11-0081) was being searched, they caught one person named Azadur Rahman, who kept 12 lakh 29,500 from different parts of his body. Besides, as many as 16 vouchers of different bank branches at Srimangal were also found in his body.

On interrogation, he gave names of two persons involved with the illegal business of transaction of money.

He was produced before the magistrate court where he gave a confessional statement regarding his involvement with the Hundi business.