

## NEWS SNAPS

**Housewife strangled**

UNB, Nilphamari

A housewife was allegedly strangled by her husband at village Halhalia in Domar upazila Saturday.

Police said Khademul Islam killed his wife Parveen, 20, as she caught Khademul red-handed while engaged in immoral acts with another girl of the village. A case was filed with local police.

**Boy killed in road mishap**

UNB, Gazipur

A little boy was killed in a traffic mishap on Dhaka-Mymensingh Highway at Malekerbari Monday.

The victim was identified as Rakib, 10, of village Narun in Kaliganj upazila. Police said Rakib was crushed under the wheels of a Dhaka-bound speeding bus when he was crossing the highway in the morning.

**Body of housemaid recovered**

UNB, Barisal

Police recovered the body of a housemaid from the Roads and Highways (R&H) staff quarters here Wednesday.

The deceased was identified as Hanufa, 15, housemaid of M Halim, a clerk of the R&H department. She hailed from Banglabazar in Charfashion upazila. On information, police rushed to the residence and found Hanufa's body hanging. It was sent to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

**Tk 76.32 cr road Construction project**

UNB, Bogra

Roads and Highways Department has taken up a project to construct 62-km road from Dhunat upazila to Mokamtala in Shibganj upazila at a cost of Tk 76.32 crore.

The road scheduled to be completed in 5 years will connect Dhunat and Mokamtala via Bagbari, Baliadighi, Gabtali, Choukirhat. Official sources said the concerned authority has been asked to take up a plan to complete Tk 10-crore works in the current financial year.

**Drug trader couple held**

UNB, Gazipur

Police arrested a drug trader couple along with 160 bottles of phensidyl from the town's Laxmipura area Monday.

Joydevpur police said they arrested Modhu, 25, and her husband Hasem, 35, in a pre-dawn drive and seized the contraband item. Legal action has been taken against them.

**Importance of power for uplift stressed**

BSS, Barisal

Whip Mujibar Rahman Sarwar said here that there is no alternative to ensuring electricity for development of the rural Bangladesh and the present government is pledge-bound to bring all the villages of the country under electrification network within next three years.

The Whip, also in charge of the district, was addressing a meeting of officers and workers of a Palli Biddut Samity at Ruptali marking the silver jubilee of the samity as the chief guest. The function was addressed, among others, by special guest MP Abul Hossain Khan, Superintendent Engineer Md Joydul Huq and general manager of Palli Biddut Md Haroon. The Whip said Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman introduced the rural electrification system in 1977 as he realised the development of the country was not possible keeping 80 per cent people in darkness.

**One arrested with phensidyl**

UNB, Comilla

A man was arrested along with 3,000 bottles of phensidyl from Amtali in Sadar upazila on Dhaka-Chittagong Highway early Monday.

Acting on a tip off, police recovered the drug kept in 30 sacks after raiding a Dhaka-bound truck. The law enforcers also arrested Faruk, helper of the truck. The driver of the truck, however, managed to flee the scene.

A case was filed with police.

**LGED implements 57 uplift projects**

UNB, Pirojpur

Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) implemented 57 development projects in the district at a cost of Tk 1.7 crore in the last fiscal year.

The project works included construction and reconstruction of rural roads and bridges and construction of culverts, officials said.

**'Boro' farming faces setback in M'bazar as BADC fails to supply adequate seeds**

RAJAT KANTI GOSWAMI, Moulvibazar

The peasants of Moulvibazar district have been facing an acute crises of boro seeds this year.

The situation has been created as Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation's (BADC) sales and marketing centres failed to supply boro seeds, according to demand of peasants.

In Moulvibazar district there are two sales and marketing centres of seed under BADC. One of this centres is situated at the district headquarters while another at Kulaura upazila. Besides this, a total of eight dealers had been appointed in different areas of the district by BADC.

However, the BADC officials said the number of farmers who want to purchase boro seeds have doubled this year.

But the centre sought allocation of seeds according to the average statistics of the previous years. At this situation, demand of seeds are much higher than that of

last year. This was created the seed crisis. Most of the farmers failed to collect and preserve sufficient seeds as the paddy fields have been damaged badly due to last season's flood. As a result, this year almost all the boro farmers depend on the seeds of BADC.

Official sources of BADC said they sought 90 metric tons (MT) of different kinds of boro seeds to the higher authorities. But only 60 MT of seeds have been allocated against these demand. And all the seeds have been sold out within first five days of the sales programme which started on October 20.

On the other hand 30 metric tons of seeds have been allocated to eight BADC seed dealers. But these dealers can not collect their allocation due to strike of a section of BADC employees. The official source, however, added that a dealer at Srimongal upazila collected 7100 Kg of seed from BADC.

It is alleged that a section of dishonest seed traders sell one packet of 10 kg seeds at Tk 250-270 instead of Tk 150.



PHOTO: STAR

Some rickshaw van pullers passing idle time in the Kotchandpur college area in Jhenidah. Now the van pullers are in great hardship as their earnings came down drastically. At present hardly they can feed their family members daily. Previously they used to earn Tk 120-150 per day and now they earn merely Tk 35-40 daily.

**Mother, daughter suffer acid burn injuries**

UNB, Sherpur

A mother and her minor daughter suffered acid burns at village Barujani in Nalitabari upazila here early Sunday.

The victims were identified as Ambia Khatun, 35, and her daughter Ajmina, 5. They were undergoing treatment at a local hospital.

Ambia Khatun, wife of Abdul Hakim of the village, said nephews of Hashem - Jalal, Sukur, Sujan and Hasem - threw acid on them at about 1:30am when they were sleeping in the house over property related dispute.

Abdul Hakim said earlier in March, he was injured critically by these attackers and he had to take treatment in hospital for two months.

The criminals went into hiding. A case was filed with local police.

**Three jewellery shops looted in Jhenidah**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Armed robbers looted three jewellery shops at Madhupur bazar, about six kilometres from the district headquarters, in the early hours of Tuesday.

According to witnesses, a gang of 15 robbers came to the bazar at about 1:30 am and tied up the nightguards at gunpoint.

They entered into three jewellery shops -- Subrata Jewellery, New Jewellery and Seema Jewellery -- by breaking open the shutters and looted gold ornaments.

Separate cases were filed with Sadar police station.

**Jhenidah people collect 173,139 tails of rats**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

The people, especially the students have shown their keen interest in killing rats during the rat killing drive in Jhenidah district this season.

A total of 173,339 tails of rats were deposited, while at least 50,000 rats were killed, said a source related to Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE).

The farmers, block supervisor (BS), field level workers of DAE and students deposited 80,825 tails of rats in Jhenidha sadar, 15,712 in Saikupa, 17,195 in Harinakundu, 20,161 in Kaliganj, 15,089 in Kotchandpur and 24,329 tails in Mohepur upazila.

DAE sources said to make the rat killing drive a success, they trained to 82,761 students of different educational institutions, 57,641 farmers and 159 block supervisors in the district.

**Open market sale of rice in Nilphamari**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Open Market Sale (OMS) of rice started in 61 unions and four municipalities in Nilphamari from Sunday.

Two dealers were appointed for each union, three dealers for Jaldhaka, Domar and Syedpur municipalities, and five dealers for Nilphamari Municipality to sell the rice.

Dealers at union level were selling 500 kg of rice a day while dealers in municipality 1000 kg.

The government fixed the price of rice at Tk 11.50 per kg.

**Corrupt Sonali Bank manager imprisoned**

UNB, Thakurgaon

A local court sentenced a former branch manager of Sonali Bank (SB), Shibganj here to two years of imprisonment in a corruption case recently.

The manager, Sirajul Islam, was also fined Tk 1.50 lakh, in default, to suffer three months more rigorous imprisonment (RI).

According to the prosecution, Sirajul Islam, son of Rajab Ali at village Sukati Maulapara in Atoari upazila of Panchagarh, misappropriated Tk 1.50 lakh during his tenure as manager of Sonali Bank at Shibganj in 1995.

Khalilur Rahman of district anti-corruption bureau filed a case against the manager.

After examining the records and witnesses, GM Salahuddin, district Special Judge, found the manager guilty of the corruption and handed down the verdict.

**Reception with a difference**

PHOTO: STAR

The Magura Foundation in collaboration with the district administration honoured 101 students for their outstanding achievements in the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC), Secondary School Certificate (SSC), Dakhil and Alim examinations from Jessore Education Board this year at a grand reception accorded to them at the Asaduzzaman auditorium in Magura town on November 3. The awardees are seen with Kazi Salimul Huq MP, and Shafuil Alam, DC, Magura.

HOSSAIN SERAJ, Magura

At a colourful function amid joyful uproar of students, their parents and well-wishers, "Magura Foundation" a social welfare organisation, in collaboration with the district administration honoured 101 meritorious students for their outstanding achievements in this year's Secondary School Certificate (SSC), Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC), Dakhil and Alim examinations.

Accompanied by their parents, friends other relatives who won the glorious positions gathered chaired by the president of 'Magura Foundation' and Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Magura Mohammad Shafuil Alam while distinguished social worker and renowned businessman Alhaj Kazi Saimul Huq, member of parliament

(MP) attended as the chief guest where the bright achievers were accorded a grand reception at the Asaduzzaman auditorium in Magura town on November 3 at a ceremonial function.

Moderated by the magistrate Zahidur Rahman Bhuiyan and magistrate Kamal Hossain the function was addressed, among others, by principal Shiekh Lutfar Rahman, Dr Fariduddin Ahmed, Sunil Kumar Pal, Swapon Kumar Sarkar, Nazimuddin Ahmed, Mofzur Rahman, Jaan Mohammad, ABM Mahfuzur Rahman, Hasina Begum, Mahmuda Rahman Shuchee and Meer Enamul Hasan.

Glorious achievers received crest, cash money, books and flowers from the chief guest amid loud cheers of hundreds audiences.

Kazi Salimul Huq, the chief guest called upon the achievers to trans-

late their individual success into a collective effort for nation building. "We salute the present super achievers for what they are right now. But we also salute them with the hope that they will play pioneering roles in nation building."

President of the function DC Mohammad Shafuil Alam urged the meritorious students to be creative for the advancement of the country and sought cooperation from the people from all walks of life to extend the activities of Magura Foundation.

Meritorious student's representative Mahmuda Rahman who achieved 5th position from the Humanities group in the combined merit list of this year's HSC examination under Jessore Education Board, stressed the need to work hard to uphold the standard of education.