

## NEWS SNAPS

**Kidnapped schoolboy killed in Noakhali**

**UNB, Noakhali**  
Miscreants kidnapped a schoolboy from village Dadpur in Sudharam thana and killed him Tuesday.

The victim was identified as Mizan, 9, a student of class III and son of Abul Kalam. His body was recovered from a guava garden at village Daobari the following day. It was sent to sadar hospital morgue for autopsy. In another incident, an 18-month-old baby drowned in a pond at village Hakimpur in Sadar upazila on Wednesday. Separate unnatural death (UD) cases were filed with Sudharam police station.

**Girl killed in road mishap**

**UNB, Joypurhat**  
A little girl was crushed under the wheels of a microbus at Janiapara in Khetlal upazila Wednesday.

Police said Farzana, 8, daughter of Pacha, was critically injured when the microbus knocked her down in the area.

She was rushed to Joypurhat Modern Hospital where she died after admission. An unnatural death (UD) case was filed.

**Two decomposed bodies recovered**

**UNB, Joypurhat**  
Police recovered the decomposed bodies of a microbus driver and his helper from Shirastri Bazaar in Panchbibbi upazila Wednesday.

On information, plainclothes police raided the business organisation of Abu Taleb Mondal at the bazaar and recovered the bodies from the septic tank of its latrine. The bodies were sent to hospital morgue for autopsy.

**Two youths with phensidyl held**

**UNB, Joypurhat**  
Two youths were arrested along with 51 bottles of Indian Phensidyl from separate places here Wednesday.

The arrested were identified as Shariful Islam Babu, 28, and Bulu, 25. Of them, Shariful was arrested from the town with 29 bottles of phensidyl while Bulu from Bhanakushila area in Sadar upazila with 22 bottles.

**Orphans' home to be built in Magura**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura**  
A four-storey orphans' home will be built in Magura in the current fiscal at a cost Tk 82.81 lakh.

Public Works Department (PWD) officials said construction work on the project will begin this month. Seventy-five orphans will be rehabilitated in the orphanage on completion of its construction work in June.

**440 villages brought under power supply network in B'baria**

**UNB, Brahmanbaria**  
Brahmanbaria Palli Bidyut Samity (PBS) brought over 440 villages out of 1,331 in the district under its power supply network in last six years.

The Samity installed 2,400 kilometers of power line at a cost of over Tk 110 crore to provide electricity to the villages. A total of 69,481 connections, including 60,000 houses, 6293 business establishments, 1008 industrial units, 1066 irrigation pumps were given during the period.

**102 community clinics set up in Pirojpur**

**UNB, Pirojpur**  
A total of 102 community clinics were set up in the district during the last fiscal year aiming to reach healthcare facilities to the doorsteps of rural people.

Health and Family Welfare Ministry constructed the community clinics at a cost of Tk 2.4 cr. Nine of the clinics were constructed in Bhandaria upazila, seven in Kaukhali, 20 in Sadar, 18 in Nazirpur, 22 in Nesarabad and 26 in Motbaria upazilas. Four union-level health and family welfare centres were also set up in Sadar, Nazirpur, Bahndaria and Zianagar upazilas costing Tk 1.59 cr, officials said.

**Three kidnapped girls rescued**

**UNB, Khagrachhari**  
Police rescued three kidnapped schoolgirls from Keraniganj in Dhaka and Sudharam in Noakhali Tuesday, two months after their abduction.

The girls were identified as Afroza Shamin Asha, Dipali Bhaskar and Farida Akhter, students of class X of Khagrachhari APBN High School. On information, Sadar thana police, with the help of respective thanas, rescued Afroza from Keraniganj and Dipali and Farida from Sudharam in Noakhali.

Police said the girls, who were kidnapped on September 4, were forced to marry three youths.

A youth was arrested from Keraniganj in this connection.



Minister for Environment and Forest Shajahan Siraj distributes cheques among the shareholders of Social Afforestation as the chief guest at a function arranged at Jhenaihati in Sherpur on Tuesday. Special guest Alhaj Md Jahed Ali Chowdhury, Whip of Jatiyo Sangsad (parliament) was present on the occasion.

## 3,000 cases pending with Satkhira courts

**ABU AHMED, Satkhira**

The judges, lawyers as well as common people have been facing immense suffering as the trials of various cases are not being completed in due time.

About 3,000 cases have been piled up in the courts for delay in disposal of the cases.

There is lack of sitting arrangement for the judges in the new judge's court building, constructed in 1983-84. The Judge's Court is housed in two separate buildings, one is dilapidated and is separated from the other by one kilometre distance.

In 1983-84, the then government upgraded the thana into upazila and the subdivision into district and an upazila complex was constructed with a housing capacity for the members of an assistant judge's court and those of a magistrate's court besides housing of other departments in each upazila headquarters.

During the period, the government also constructed two separate buildings in Satkhira Collectorate, each for the district administration and the judge's court.

The district and sessions judge's court, one additional district and sessions judge court, two sub-judge's courts and an assistant judge's court are housed in the new court building. The judiciary was running smoothly since 1990.

But after the fall of the Ershad regime, the then government in 1991, cancelled the upazila system. The courts of six assistant judges and six upazila magistrate's court were shifted to district headquarters without considering the sitting arrangements of the assistant judge's and also those of the magistrates.

For lack of required number of courts, one women and children repression control special court and six assistant judges courts are housed in the age old dilapidated building (the then Munsif court building), built in the British period. Though the century-old building has been declared abandoned by the Department of Public Works a decade ago. The dilapidated building has become unfit for use and it may collapse at any moment endangering life and property of the judges, lawyers and litigant people.

The one storied building has been damaged for want

of repair and maintenance and also natural capacity loss. The doors, windows, walls, floors and roof of the building stand condemned although the seven courts are housed there. Even after little shower, rain waters enter into the rooms, leakage the roof has also been developed. The valuable documents are being damaged.

The judges and lawyers are discharging their duties at risk of their lives.

Besides, the government created several new posts of additional district and session judges, two joint district and assistant judges a few years ago. But the sitting arrangement of the created posts were not considered by the authorities concerned.

According to court sources, the senior lawyers of the judge's court failed to attend their respective courts due to long distance of the two court buildings off and on and the judge's can not proceed the case in absence of lawyers. The trial of the case is being delayed causing immense sufferings of the judges and the clients.

There is no separate room for the accused persons in the old court building. The accused persons gather in the court.

Beside's there are no record room, copyist room, store room and library in the old court room. There are four rooms for the seven courts in the age-old Munsif court building. The judges discharge their duties by turn.

When contacted a PWD office source told The Daily Star that the old court building turned dilapidated long ago. The building may collapse at any time. By expanding the new court building, the accommodation problem might be solved, he told. The department has already been taken up a project to expand the new court building. But due to fund constraints the project can not be implemented, he said.

It may be mentioned here that the number cases is increasing rapidly in the district.

The lawyers and the litigant people urged authorities concerned to take immediate steps to expand the new judges' court building and mitigate the suffering of the common people.

## Two dealers sued for selling boro seeds in black market

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet**

Two cases under Speedy Trial Act started against two seed dealers of Shulla upazila in Sunamganj district on Thursday on charge of selling boro seeds in black market.

The dealers, Habibur Rahman and Pabitra Kumar remained absconding. The cases were filed following an inquiry done by the upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) at the instruction of the divisional commissioner of Sylhet, official sources said.

The two dealers lifted 17 metric tons of boro seeds from the seed marketing centre of Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) in Sylhet on October 12 and 22 for distribution among the farmers at fixed price. But instead of that, they sold it in the black market when the farmers are badly in need of boro

seeds for the last 10 weeks. An acute crisis of seeds has been prevailing in the entire haor (water body) region which is considered to be the main boro producing zone of the country.

The officials further said that 48 tons of seeds were sanctioned in Derai upazila, where there was a demand of minimum 300 tons.

Out of 48 tons, only 12 metric tons of seeds were sold among the farmers by the two dealers in the adjacent Derai upazila on Wednesday and Saturday under police guard.

Meanwhile, there is also an allegation against six dealers who lifted 36 metric tons of seeds for sale among the farmers last week. The dealers did not sale the seeds to the farmers, rather they sold the same in the black market.

## One gets life-term for possessing illegal arms

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet**

One person has been jailed for life-term on November 5 on charge of possessing illegal arms in Sylhet.

The Additional District and Sessions Judge, Arms and Explosives Special Tribunal Mirza Mohammad Ayub Ali passed the judgment.

The Sylhet Kotwali police on September 23 in 2001 received a secret information that a gang of miscreants had been staying at a

residential hotel in Lalbazar area of Sylhet city. A police party headed by Sub-Inspector Mursheed raided the hotel and chased the group of young men, but all managed to escape. At one stage, a pistol and a magazine with six rounds of ammunition fell on the floor. When police tried to pick up the pistol, the young man managed to escape.

Later the police took testimony from the hotel staff and came to know about the gang's activities. Police made a thorough investiga-

tion and came to know that, Suhel son of late Abdul Matin of 45 Baruthkhana in Sylhet city often used to stay in the hotel by force and used to collect toll from businessmen. The police officer filed the case. It was later investigated and charge sheet was submitted against the lone accused Suhel.

The court after examining nine witnesses and records, passed the said verdict under sections 19 (A) and 19 (F) of the Arms law of 1978 against the absconding accused.



Eminent cardiac specialist Prof S R Khan examines a heart patient at a heart camp at Saikupa Government Degree College in Jhenidah. Saikupa Upazila Parisad in collaboration with Bangladesh Heart Research Association arranged the camp recently where 387 heart patients got free treatment.

## RANGPUR diary

**OMS of rice launched in Rangpur**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur**

The open market sell (OMS) of rice has been launched at fair price across the district at the supervision of district administration since November 2.

There are 70 appointed dealers for selling of the OMS rice at Tk 12 per kg. The consumers mostly belonging to middle and low income group of people have been procuring the rice which ranges from 1 kg to highest 5 kg per head.

The food department is releasing everyday 500 kg of rice to each dealer to feed the consumers under the programme. Coarse rice is being sold under the programme. The price of fine rice has registered an abnormal rise in different markets all over the district. According to the consumers, it is being sold between Tk 15 and 19 per kg while it was sold between Tk 13 to 16 per kg last week. Due to short supply, its prices soar in the markets, the traders alleged.

**Loan for farmers**

The commercial banks of Rangpur are executing a programme to disburse crop loan aiming at boosting up crop production in the district.

Under the programme, Janata bank has a target to disburse Tk 3,47,25,000, Sonali Bank Tk 5,000,50,000, Agrani Bank Tk 1,27,00,000 and Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank has the biggest target of disbursing Tk 47,05,00,000. Disbursement of the loan amount is going on in full swing.

**Winter crops seed distribution scheme**

The Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) has started distribution of rabi crop seeds among the farmers across five districts of greater Rangpur zone during the current season.

As per programme, a target has been fixed to distribute boro seeds at 536 metric tons, wheat seed 2,700 metric tons and potato seed 700 MT. The distribution of other rabi crop seeds has been going on in full swing.

**Goats distributed**

Under a poverty elevation programme, the Livestock department has so far distributed goats among 239 distressed families in the district and also provided them cash loan for setting up goat farms. Initially three goats for each listed families were distributed.

**Seminar on livestock dev**

A seminar on livestock development programme was held in Rangpur recently. Nurul Islam, director general (DG) of the livestock department was chief guest while it was presided over by the deputy director of the department in Rajshahi division Dr Md Azizul Islam.

A large number livestock officials, field level workers from 16 districts under Rajshahi division and local elite attended the seminar.

**Madrasahs in grip of problems**

There are 27 madrasahs in Gangachara upazila. The madrasahs are in grip of various problems for a long time.

Of the madrasahs, 23 enjoy MPO benefit while the rest four are being deprived of the benefit. Most of these religious institutions lack required land, good building, furniture and other educational accessories. The library facilities and required amenities are completely absent, causing a great problem to the students, it is alleged.

**Mother of five flee with fiancé**

A mother of five children fled away with a college student leaving behind her children. This happened at Badargonj upazila recently. Amena Khatun, 30, of Badargonj upazila during frequent absence of her husband Ameeruddin, 40, from home fell in illicit love with a college student Hiron, 23, for a long period. At a convenient time she fled away from house with her young fiancé.

**Five of a family get life-term for murder**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet.**

Five members of a family on Thursday were sentenced to suffer life-term imprisonment in a murder case at Balaganj upazila.

The court also fined them Tk 20,000 each, in default, to suffer two years more in prison.

The additional District and Sessions Judge, First Court, Sylhet Shamsul Alam Khan passed the Judgement in a crowded court room.

The prosecution case in brief is that, Rajmatullah his sons Abdul Hamid, Shahid, Mamin and Hadi called Abdul Karim of village Nijkaranshi Muradpur of Balaganj upazila to the western bank of a pond of the house on June 19 in 1999. There they killed Abdul intentionally.



Md Fazlur Rahman Chaudhury, National Commissioner (Cub Scouting), Bangladesh Scouts visits the Cub Leaders' Basic Course in Chittagong. Thirty four upazila education officers and assistant upazila education officers attended the eight-day long course held recently at the Primary Training Institute (PTI) centre in the port city.