

## NEWS SNAPS

**Boy commits suicide**UNB, *Munshiganj*

A teenage boy allegedly committed suicide at Ganakpara in the town on Saturday night.

Police and family sources said M Hasan, 15, son of Razzab Ali, took poison as his family members forced him to refrain from taking drug. He died on way to Dhaka from Sadar Hospital. An unnatural death (UD) case was filed in this connection.

**Man commits suicide**UNB, *Jhenidah*

An old man allegedly killed himself at village Gobindapur in Sadar upazila Thursday.

Jamaat Ali, 78, committed suicide following a family feud. An unnatural death (UD) case was filed in this connection.

**Fake journalist arrested**UNB, *Patuakhali*

A man was arrested from the Boro Jame Masjid area in the town Friday for trying to collect toll identifying himself as a journalist.

Being informed by locals, police arrested Enyetur Rahman as he identified himself as a correspondent of Channel 1 and demanded Tk 1 lakh from contractor Mizanur Rahman Syed as toll. The fake journalist also threatened to arrest Mizan by the army if his demand was not met.

**Sirajganj school students go on rampage**UNB, *Sirajganj*

A group of students of Gyandaini High School who could not pass the tests for appearing in the next SSC examinations attacked their teachers Sunday as they were not allowed to fill up forms.

Witnesses said the unruly students, numbering about 20, locked the main gate of the school, ransacked its furniture and snapped the telephone line before attacking their teachers. A case was filed.

**Man arrested in acid attack case**UNB, *Jhalakati*

A middle-aged man was arrested from Agarbani in the town Sunday in a case of acid attack.

Plainclothes police raided the area and caught Jalal of the Krittakati area in the town. Earlier, his father Ensubuddin was arrested in the same case, police said.

**Diarrhoea kills 6 in Mymensingh**OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Mymensingh*

Diarrhoea claimed at least six lives at village Dhakir Kanda in Phulpur upazila within 24 days.

Five members of two families including a mother and her minor daughter included in the death toll from October 10 to November 3, according to the Civil Surgeon Office sources.

Hazera, 5, Rashedul, 2, and Shamsuddin, 9, daughter and sons of Abu Taher Munshi died of diarrhoea on October 13 and October 14 respectively. Farzana, 5, daughter of Abu Taher also died of diarrhoea in the second week of October.

Aklima Khatun, 5, daughter of Md Mostafa and Achiha Khatun, 30, mother of Aklima Khatun and wife of Md Mostafa died of diarrhoea on November 1 and November 3 respectively at village Dhakir Kanda in Phulpur upazila.

However, according to official record of the civil surgeon office from October 1 to October 22, some 1653 persons were affected with diarrhoea at nine upazilas here.

One hundred twenty eight persons were affected in Iswarganj upazila, 577 persons in Phulpur, 282 in Haluaghat, 220 in Trishal, 198 in Bhaluka, 113 in Muktagacha, 72 in Bhaluka, 54 in Dhubaura while nine persons were affected in Gouripur upazila.

But another sources said the number of death and affected people would be more than the official report.

When contacted, Dr Nasir Uddin Mahmud, Medical Officer for Disease Control and Surveillance told The Daily Star that 12 control rooms, were opened at 12 upazila health complexes and 158 medical teams were formed to contain the disease.

He also informed that there are cases of diarrhoea in Sadar, Phulpur and Iswarganj upazilas claiming that the situation improved further than that of the previous month as there is no report of death after November 3. He also added that the number of affected people is more this year than the previous year, but the death toll is still less than that of the last

year. Diarrhoea claimed 16 lives last year. Due to lack of pure drinking water and faulty treatment of village doctors, the diarrhoea affected people die, said another sources.

Meanwhile, a total of 163 diarrhoea patients were admitted at Surjo Kanta (SK) Hospital, an infectious ward of Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) from November 1 to November 10 (3 pm). On average of 16 people were admitted there.

On November 9, 22 patients were admitted at SK Hospital. They are Moni, 19, Kamal, 60, Rajib, 3, Zubeda Khatun, 55, Tainy, 2, Mustafa, 30, Reza, 30, Zubeda, 35, Phuljan, 45, Shakil, 4, Nurul Hoq, 45, Doly, 25, Sathi, 2, Roshni, 4, Sufia, 28, Khadiza, 40, Aysha, 15, Sabbir, 7, Atikur Rahman, 28, Tultul, 12, Tofazzol Hossain, 20, and Zubeda, 60.

But the civil Surgeon office claimed that the situation is under control and no scarcity of medicine prevails here.

**Rapist awarded 10-year RI in Brahmanbaria**UNB, *Brahmanbaria*

A court here has sentenced a man to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment (RI) in a rape case.

The court also fined the convict, Motaleb alias Jasimuddin, Tk 10,000, in default, to suffer six months more in jail.

The case history was in brief: Motaleb picked up a 12-year-old-girl from her house and raped her in a desolate spot on August 17, 1999.

A case was filed against three persons in this connection.

Judge of the Woman and Child Repression Control Court Rashidul Hasan Patwari pronounced the verdict on Sunday after examining the records and witnesses.

Two other accused, Samad alias Dulal Mia and Abdul Manaf, were acquitted as they were not proved guilty.

**Murderer to suffer life-term imprisonment**UNB, *Jhenidah*

A court here Thursday convicted a man and sentenced him to life-term imprisonment in a murder case.

The court also fined Ahsan Biswas Tk 10,000, in default, to suffer three months more RI. Ahsan's father was also sentenced to one year RI in the same case.

According to the prosecution, Ahsan along with his family members beat up his wife Fahima to death at village Barobazar in Kaliganj upazila on December 11, 2000.

After examining the records and witnesses, the District and Sessions Judge handed down the verdict.

**Ex-UP chairman held in B'baria**UNB, *Brahmanbaria*

An ex-union parishad (UP) chairman was arrested here Friday when he came to Sadar thana to deposit a gun against his expired license.

Police said Kalimuddin, former chairman of Char Islampur union in the upazila, was arrested as he did not renew the license of his single barrel gun. A case was filed against him under the Arms Act.

**2 killer suspects arrested**UNB, *Brahmanbaria*

Two people were arrested from Nabinagar upazila here on Saturday in connection with a murder.

Police said they arrested Swapan, 25, of Dhanami and Abdul Hanif, 50, of Shibpur in the Helal murder case.



Two farmers at Char Iswardia in Sadar upazila, Mymensingh are seen harvesting aman paddy from their land. Cultivators here expect a good production of aman due to late rains.

**Border belt in Mymensingh will be brought under tea cultivation**OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Mymensingh*

A vast tract of land of the border belt in Mymensingh region will be brought under tea cultivation programme by Bangladesh Tea Board (BTB).

BTB will take up such a programme to meet the growing demand in local markets and to increase the export volume.

According to the experts, the weather and soil condition in the border belts of Mymensingh region which include Mymensingh, Sherpur, Jamalpur and Netrokona districts are similar to the tea producing area of Sylhet region and the future of tea production is bright here.

More than 15,000 hectares of land would be brought under tea cultivation here, experts said.

Recently a team of BTB conducted a feasibility study on tea cultivation in Nalitabari, Sreebardi and Jhenaigati upazilas of Sherpur and Haluaghat upazila of Mymensingh. During their survey the BTB team found that the soil, climate and rainfall in the areas are favourable for good tea production. The team also found that "Indicator Plants" locally now as "Nishi Gachh"

grows here naturally and the land where these plants are grown is favourable for tea cultivation, said members of the team.

The team planted saplings of tea on some plots of land including the compounds of Gajni Abakash Kendra and upazila parishad of Jhenaigati.

Bangladesh Tea Board will set up demonstration plots for starting massive tea cultivation and to attract the farmers towards tea cultivation. A proposal has been sent for introducing small holding tea cultivation here to the Ministry of Commerce for approval.

When contacted, some farmers of Haluaghat upazila told The Daily

Star that they are very interested to start tea cultivation because it is much more profitable than that of traditional crops. They said that if tea cultivation is started here in small scale, one day it would flourish as tea industry because there are thousands of hectares of fallow forest lands in the border belts of Mymensingh region where tea cultivation can be expanded fast.

Thousands of hectares of fallow forest lands under the Department of Forestry can be brought under tea cultivation. As a result good foreign exchange would be earned while thousands of unemployed people would be employed in the neglected areas.



PHOTO: STAR

State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources A K M Mosharrar Hossain hands over a prize to the leader of the winning team of Essay and Debate Competition on Anti-corruption organised by the local unit of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) at the Muktagacha Library auditorium on November 7 last.

**20 Sylhet polytechnic instt students hurt in clash with cops, construction workers**UNB, *Sylhet*

Twenty students of Sylhet Polytechnic Institute were injured in

a series of clashes with construction workers and police Sunday.

Witnesses said the trouble ensued when a guard of an under-construction railway station near the institute dragged a student into the construction site and beat him up following an altercation with him.

Later, a group of 25 students came to the construction site and locked in a clash with the workers, leaving 11 students injured.

Angered by the attacks, over 100 students later rushed to the spot in a

procession and clashed with police as they did not allow them to enter the construction site.

Nine students were injured as police charged baton and lobbed teargas shells to disperse them.

Police arrested three students and two construction workers from the scene.

Three of the injured were admitted to Sylhet Osmani Medical Hospital in critical conditions while four others to a private clinic.



PHOTO: STAR

A successful Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinee receives a certificate and a crest from Kazi Salimul Huq Kamal, local member of parliament (MP) at a reception accorded to the SSC talents at the Magura Asaduzzaman auditorium in the district town recently.