

## NEWS SNAPS

**Auto-rickshaw driver killed**

**UNB, Sylhet**  
Miscreants stabbed an auto-rickshaw driver to death and took away the auto-rickshaw on Dhaka-Sylhet highway Wednesday night.

The victim was identified as Jilumia, 28, son of Cherag Ali of village Jhajar in Sadar upazila. Police said the assailants swooped on Jilumia near Jhajar bazaar at about 8pm and stabbed him leaving him critically injured and took away his auto-rickshaw. Locals rescued him in a serious condition and he died on way to Sylhet Osmani Medical College Hospital.

**Vendor strangled by miscreants**

**UNB, Jessore**  
A vendor was strangled by unknown miscreants at Sarapole Rupdia in Kotwali thana Thursday night.

Quoting witnesses police said a group of 10 armed men picked up green coconut seller Abdur Rahman, 25, son of late Shamsur Rahman, from his house and strangled him at a nearby paddy field. Causes behind the killing could not be known immediately.

**Four with heroin nabbed**

**UNB, Mymensingh**  
Police arrested four people, including a woman, along two pounds of heroin from village Bolor in Trishal upazila here Friday.

The arrested were identified as Anwara Begum, 45, Salahuddin, Halal, 28, and Ahad, 30. Police said they raided the house of Anwara of the village and nabbed them with the drug. Anwara has long been selling heroin in the village. A case was filed.

**Tk 10 lakh illegal timber recovered**

**UNB, Sherpur**  
Forest officials aided by the members of joint force recovered 1,015 pieces of illegal ekashia timber valued at about Tk 10 lakh from Sribordi upazila bazaar and its adjoining areas of the district.

Nine saw mills of the area were also sealed off on charge of possessing the illegal timbers. However, none was arrested in this connection.

**Diarrhoea takes a serious turn in Barisal****Death toll 7 till Nov 27****UNB, Barisal**

Diarrhoea caused by Rotavirus took a serious turn affecting a large number of children in the southern region.

Dr Amio Bhusan, DD Health, said diarrhoea situation in the region is worsening and at least seven people died of the disease within the last 10 days till November 27.

According to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital (SBMCH) sources, at least 19 children were admitted and more than 30 others treated at the hospital for diarrhoea related problem caused by Rotavirus in a single day on November 27.

Dr Bikash Mazumder, a child specialist of SBMCH, said November and December are the ideal period of spreading the Rotavirus that affect mostly the underaged people.

The virus first causes running nose of the affected child. As the watery substance enters into the stomach through mouth, diarrhoea breaks out within 48 hours.

Children under 36 months are the prime victims of the Rotavirus attack, which may cause death due to excessive dehydration.

SBMCH child diarrhoea ward has only 24 beds while the regular admission is more than twice.

**BADC allocated boro seeds on sale in black market****UNB, Kishoreganj**

Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) allocated boro paddy seed is being sold in the black market at high prices.

BADC appointed eight dealers for selling seeds among the growers in various upazilas of the district. But most of them have no seed sale centres.

A sack of 10 kgs of seed is now being sold between Tk 160 and Tk 190. Besides, some of the dealers are selling seeds in black markets.

As a result, genuine farmers are not getting seeds at fair prices.

According to local agriculture office, steps are being taken against two of the dealers in this regard.



PHOTO: HOSSAIN SERAJ

With Eid-ul-Fitr round the corner, a good number of shops have sprung up in Magura town with various products. (Left-right) People thronging in great number at saree and shoe stores.

**Chili output target fixed at 3.60 lakh MT****UNB, Kishoreganj**

Some 1.80 lakh hectares of land will be brought under chili cultivation in the current season across the country under nine agricultural zones with an output target of 3.60 lakh metric tons (MT) of chili.

The zones are: Dhaka, Mymensingh, Comilla, Chittagong, Rangamati, Barisal, Rajshahi, Jessore and Rangpur, Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) sources said.

Of the total land, 12,000 hectares would be cultivated in seven districts of Dhaka zone, 12,000 hectares in five districts in Mymensingh, 17,500 hectares in seven districts of Comilla, 21,000 hectares in five districts of Chittagong and 15,000 hectares in three districts of Rangamati, 45,000 hectares in 11 districts of Barisal, 28,000 hectares in eight districts of Rajshahi, 26,000 hectares in 10 districts of Jessore and 17,000 hectares in eight districts of Rangpur.

**Satkhira Municipality yet to provide basic amenities to dwellers****OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira**

The inhabitants of Satkhira Municipality are deprived of basic civic amenities for a long time.

Although, the population of the municipality is increasing day by day, yet the authorities are not providing civic amenities to the town dwellers.

Satkira municipality was established in 1869. At present the municipality area is 12 square miles and population of the municipality is about 128000. It was upgraded into 'A' grade in 1998, but the facilities of first class municipality area not available.

Town dwellers suffer much due to absence of proper drainage system, deplorable condition of roads, inadequate street lights, lack of proper sanitary system, frequent traffic jam and absence of recreational facilities.

Absence of proper drainage system is a major problem in the municipality area. The town dwellers face difficulties due to stagnation of water in drains. Most of the drains are filled with filth and garbage which are not cleaned in proper time.

In many areas there are no drains. In the rainy season the drains are accumulated with dirt and filth. It causes health hazard to the inhabitants of the municipality, especially during the rainy season. Because of lack of proper maintenance and repair work, most of the roads of the municipality are in deplorable condition.

The damaged roads are Sultanpur road, Sultanpur to old Satkhira road, Kamunagar road, Ghoshpara road, Sarkarpara road, Dhopa para, road, Raispur road and Kukhrali road. Cracks and potholes have developed at many points of the roads. The workers and staffs of the municipality and Telephone and Telegraph Board (T & T Board) have created some holes on the road. The areas are yet to be repaired. The number of damaged roads have increased due to heavy rainfall.

Meanwhile, the road starting from Puratan Satkhira to Sultanpur, Laskarpara road, Amtala intersection to Mathpara, Chaltetala road, Madhumallardangi road, SP Bungalow to police line road, Palitpara road and Rahanagar road to Kamannagar road are in bad shape. Cracks and potholes have developed at all points of the roads. Some big holes have been developed on these roads. The pedestri-

ans can not even walk easily through these roads.

Most of the covers of the drains are broken and the footpaths are generally occupied by makeshift shop owners. Some roads of the town are very narrow which are unfit to ply even small vehicles. Even two rickshaws can not ply at a time. After a slight rainfall most of the roads become muddy. Rain water remains stagnant on the roads causing sufferings to the passers-by and all others.

Violation of traffic rules has become a normal affair. It causes serious traffic jam in different parts of the town. Pucca pole turning point, Laboni Cinema hall, Hagachha bazaar, Sangita Cinema hall, Khulna road and bus terminal crossing point are seriously affected by traffic jam very off and on.

Because of increase in number of rickshaws traffic jam has become a regular phenomenon. According to official sources of Satkhira Municipality, there are 3000 licensed rickshaws on the roads, but actually about 6000 rickshaws ply on the roads.

Street lights are inadequate. Most street lights have broken down or gone out of order for a long time. Most of the roads and residential areas go under darkness after sunset.

Sanitary system of the town is not satisfactory. A few dustbins have been set up in the town which always remains unclean. Garbages of the drains are not removed at day time creating obnoxious odour. Floating people respond to the call of nature in the roadside places and drains cause inconvenience to common people. Consequently the environment is polluted.

Besides some town dwellers are still use kutcha latrines.

There is a children's park in front of the Satkhira Central Public Library here, but nobody takes care of it. As a result the park has been abandoned. Now it has turned into a grazing field and so-called sex workers remain engaged in anti-social activities.

When contacted with an officer of the municipality, he informed that the children park is not the property of the municipality. It is under the supervision of the district administration.

Residents of the municipality have urged the authorities concerned to take proper steps to mitigate their sufferings immediately.