

## NEWS SNAPS

## Unnatural death in Chandpur

**UNB, Chandpur**  
A man allegedly committed suicide by hanging at an abandoned house in Chandpur town on Friday.

Police said the body of Osman Ali Bepari, 65, was found hanging from the ceiling of the house, adjacent to his rented house where he lived with his daughter. He hailed from village Nalua of Matlab North upazila. Police recovered the body and sent it to morgue for autopsy. An unnatural death (UD) case was filed.

## Two bodies recovered

**BSS, Joypurhat**

Police recovered two unnatural bodies from different areas in Joypurhat, police said.

The victim was an unidentified woman, 25, recovered by police from Baroghati pond near rail station in the town recently. The body sent to Sadar Hospital for autopsy. In a separate incident one person named Siddique, 35, son of Motiazur Rahman of village Suktahar in Sadar thana allegedly committed suicide by taking poison following family problems. He succumbed at Sadar Hospital after admission. Two separate unnatural death (UD) cases were filed at Sadar police station in this connection.

## New poverty alleviation organisation

**UNB, Tangail**

The 147th branch of 'Palli Daridra Bimochan Foundation', an organisation working for alleviation of poverty, was inaugurated in Ghatail upazila Tuesday.

State Minister for Labour and Employment Lutfar Rahman Khan inaugurated the branch. The foundation has a plan to distribute loan amounting to Tk 30 lakh in Ghatail while Tk 176 crore across the country.

Later, the state minister distributed textbooks among primary students free of cost and 510 bundles of CI sheet among the families of 340 martyred freedom fighters in the upazila.

## Paucity of drinking water

**BSS, Madaripur**

Stomach ailments have broken out in different parts of Madaripur district due to paucity of drinking water and adulterated food.

Hospitals and health complex sources said a large number of patients were reporting to them for treatment every day. Many tubewells have been lying out of order for a long time causing scarcity of the supply of pure drinking water.

## Toxic liquor poses health hazard to tea workers

**UNB, Moulvibazar**

Selling of locally produced toxic liquor, is rampant in the tea garden areas of Moulvibazar district causing health hazards to the tea garden workers.

The tea labourers have been suffering from various diseases including lever problems for taking liquor due to its easy availability.

Toxic liquor is being produced almost in every house in Rajghat, Bharaura, Khejurichchora, Udnachchora, Horinchchora, Jagchchora, Amrail and Kalighat tea garden areas of Srimongol upazila with toxic substances and rind of Babla trees.

Because of its cheap price, poor tea garden labourers take this liquor for a long time.

Social workers said although tea garden labourers contribute a lot to the country's economy there is none

to look after their health and sanitation and save them from taking spurious drugs.

## Arsenic detected in water in Jessore

**UNB, Jessore**

Arsenic beyond permissible limit has been detected in 761 tubewells of Chougachha upazila.

A survey conducted by a non-governmental organisation (NGO) revealed that out of 3,499 tubewells in 11 unions 761 tubewells have been contaminated with arsenic.

People of this upazila are being compelled to drink arsenic contaminated water due to lack of pure water.

## Cold wave affects IRRI-boro farming in Dinajpur

**UNB, Dinajpur**

to month long cold wave.

Farmers said rabi crops and seed beds of IRRI-boro paddy were damaged extensively due to cold and misty weather.

Seeds of about 50 per cent farmers were damaged in the

seedbeds in 13 upazilas of Dinajpur.

Besides, the hopes of farmers have been shattered, as the target of aman cultivation was not achieved here.

The cultivation of paddy and winter crops is being hampered due



PHOTO: STAR

Extra passengers climb on rooftop of a Dhaka bound bus in the judge court area of Sirajganj town. Overloading is a regular feature in highway buses here. Road accidents occur frequently on this highway resulting in loss of valuable lives and property.



PHOTO: IQBAL SIDDIQUEE

The Surma River has started eroding the Sylhet-Kamalbazar road in Sylhet. A number of business establishments including rice mills face the threat of erosion. Immediate steps should be taken to check unabated erosion of the river.

## Five manhole cover lifters nabbed

**UNB, Sirajganj**

Police arrested five alleged manhole cover lifters in Sirajganj town Wednesday night.

Police said the arrested people used to steal manhole covers of local Telegraph and Telephone Board and smuggled those to different parts of the country, including Dhaka. This has been causing immense suffering to the local people for a long time.

The arrested were identified as Harun-ur-Rashid, 18, Arif, 18, Shahadat, 20, Masum, 19, and Golam, 21.

## Workshop on Obstetric Care

**BSS, Narsingdi**

A four-day workshop on 'Hospital Action Plan to Strengthen the Emergency Obstetric Care (EOC) Programme', jointly organised by Monohardi Upazila Health Complex and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), concluded here recently.

Presided over by Dr Amir Ali, Health and Family Planning Officer Monohardi upazila, the concluding session of the workshop was attended by Dr Abdul Khaleque Talukdar, Civil Surgeon Narsingdi as chief guest while Muhammad Abu Taher, BSS Narsingdi district correspondent and Dr Nasima Safa, UNICEF representative were present as special guests. A total of 70 participants, including all medical officers, staff nurses and all other staffs of the health complex participated in the workshop.

## Narail-Khulna road unfit for transport movement

**UNB, Narail**

The Narail-Khulna road via Gobra bazaar and Noapara under Roads and Highways Department has become unfit for transport movement.

Of the 35-km road, condition of 10 kms of road from Narail Victoria College is deplorable as cracks and

potholes have developed at many points. This is due to absence of repair and renovation works for a long period.

The Roads and Highways Department constructed Narail-Khulna road in 1990. Since then no scheme was taken up so far to repair the important road of the region.

## Six lakh shopkeepers in Dinajpur depend on polybags

**UNB, Dinajpur**

About six lakh shopkeepers in Dinajpur district are now using environmentally hazardous polythene bags (polybags) to attract their buyers, according to a statistics.

Polythene bags have flooded the markets of 13 upazilas in violation of government ban on its production, marketing, storage and use.

It was found that if any customer buys any commodity, the shopkeepers supply them in a polythene bag readily.

The authorities concerned are not taking any step to stop sale and use of polybags, locals alleged.

## 17 chairman candidates lose security in Jhalakati

**UNB, Jhalakati**

Security deposits of 17 chairman candidates in the just concluded election of six union parishes in Kathalia upazila have been forfeited.

They failed to win the required number of votes.

Total of 36 candidates contested in the election for chairmanship of Chechrirumpur, Patikhalghata, Amua, Kathalia, Shoiljalia and Awrabunia unions.

Seven chairman candidates out of 11 in Shoiljalia union lost their security deposits.

## 60 pc bus fare hike on Gazipur routes

**UNB, Gazipur**

Bus fare on different routes of Gazipur has been increased by 60 per cent.

Transport owners have increased the bus fare taking advantage of the government decision of 16 per cent bus fare-hike.

The tickets of Gazipur-Tangail route were sold on Saturday at Tk 50 against the previous rate of Tk 30. At present the bus fare of Tangail-Dhaka route is Tk 70, while previously it was Tk 45.

## Work on FWP projects goes on

**BSS, Joypurhat**

The Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) is implementing 65 projects under Food for Works Programme (FWP) in Joypurhat district in the current fiscal year.

Official sources said, the projects are now going on in full swing against an allocation of 695 tons of wheat. Under the projects, earth work for roads and rural infrastructure development are being conducted now in all five upazilas. Locally formed project committees consisting of local public representatives, elite and members of the parliament are supervising the works.

## Re-excavation of Sirajganj Katakhali canal begins

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj**

Re-excavation and development works of an important canal vital for maintaining a healthy environment in Sirajganj town has been started on Wednesday.

Iqbal Hasan Mahmood, State Minister for Power inaugurated the development and re-excavation works of Katakhali canal in the northern district town.

A public meeting was held at the New Dhaka Road here where the state minister was the chief guest.

He declared that strict measures would be taken against those who captured portion of the canal illegally. He sought co-operation of all, irrespective of political party affiliations. He pleaded this for preserving the healthy environment of the town. He further said that the canal was about to die because of unauthorised grabbing of a large part of both banks of the canal by unscrupulous

people. They established houses and establishments on the land. He warned illegal land grabbers.

He said a handful of people oppose the move, while the vast majority of people like our step.

Step by step the development work of the vital canal will be done, he declared.

Abu Muhammad Golam Kibria, Chairman, Sirajganj municipality and acting general secretary of the district Awami League was the special guest. The re-excavation work will help improve the environmental status of the town, he said. Deputy Commissioner of Sirajganj Ibadot Ali said that the re-excavation and development works are a long felt demand of the people of Sirajganj. Ultimately it will beautify the town, he added.

Among others, Advocate Mokaddes Ali, joint convenor, Sirajganj district BNP and Humayun Islam Khan, Saiful Islam spoke on the occasion.



Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman poses for photograph with some old cadets of Sylhet Cadet College. He was on a visit to a medical camp on January 24 organised by the Old Cadets Association of Sylhet (OCAS) at a union parishad office near to Sylhet Cadet College. Four hundred disadvantaged people received free treatment and medicine at the camp where a blood donation campaign was also held. OCAS also distributed warm clothes among the fourth class employees of the cadet college, besides distributing awards among GPA5 holders of SSC examination, 2002.