

### Two Indian female hundi traders held

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole**

Benapole customs officials yesterday arrested two Indian female hundi traders from the international check post under Benapole Police Station and recovered Indian and Bangladeshi currency from them.

The arrestees are Jubaida Khatun, 35, and Reshna Khatun, 32, daughters of Abdul Sheikh of North 24 Pargana district in West Bengal, India.

Benapole Customs House Commissioner Shaawkat Hossain said, acting on a tip-off that the hundi traders were carrying a large amount of money from India to Bangladesh, a team of customs officers intercepted them. They seized Tk 24 lakh in Bangladeshi currency and Rs 5,000 in Indian currency from their possession. They were arrested and sent to Benapole Port Police Station.

A case was filed with the police station.



**A cow grazing in front of the Daroshbari mosque in Shibganj upazila of Chapainawabganj when the tourists are unable to visit the historical site for lack of a connecting road. Inset, the front view of the Khoniadighi Mosque. The photos were taken recently.**

PHOTO: RABIUL HASAN

### Nine female brokers fined at Jhalakathi Sadar Hospital

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhalakathi**

A mobile court on Monday detained nine female workers on charge of luring the patients to different clinics and diagnostic centres from Jhalakathi Sadar Hospital.

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab)-8, district administration and police, led by Executive Magistrate Md Gausul Azam, conducted the mobile court at Sadar Hospital.

The detainees were fined Tk 5,000 each, in default, to serve one year in jail.

They lured the patients who came to the hospital to different clinics and diagnostic centres, the magistrate said, adding that such drives will continue.

The court also raided a clinic with a diagnostic centre and three restaurants.

The mobile court fined City Clinic Tk 2 lakh for various anomalies. Popular Diagnostic Centre Tk 20,000 and three restaurants in Jhalakathi town Tk 30,000, the magistrate added.

### Schoolgirl takes own life for scolding

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhalakathi**

A schoolgirl committed suicide in Rajapur village in Suktaj upazila of the district on Monday night, said Sheikh Munirul Gias, a check post charge of Rajapur Police Station.

The deceased was Mukta Moni, 14, daughter of Md Gofran Hossain and a Class VIII student at Shuktaj High School.

Mukta hanged herself with a scarf. She was taken to Rajapur Health Complex where she was declared dead.

Mukta's parents scolded her for going to a neighbour's house to watch television.

Mukta had even led her to commit suicide.

The body was sent to Jhalakathi Sadar Hospital for autopsy, adding the OC.

# History beyond reach

## Very few visit the archaeological heritage of Chapainawabganj for lack of road connectivity

RABIUL HASAN with ANDREW EAGLE

One of the most significant archaeological hotspots in all of Bengal, the sites of Gaur which straddle the Indian border in Chapainawabganj should be bustling with tourists.

But on the Bangladeshi side the several impressive ruins scattered across five square kilometres situated around 25 kilometres from the district town in Shibganj upazila, are most often quiet. Tourist enjoyment is hindered by a lack of road access.

Likely founded during the Pala era, Gaur rose to prominence after the Sena dynasty came to power in 1100 CE. It grew to be a prosperous and vibrant city, then situated on the Ganges River, though the river has long since changed its course. In 1198 Gaur was captured by Muslim rulers but did not decline. Rather, Gaur served as

the primary seat of power in Bengal for the next three centuries.

The structures that remain were mostly built from the end of the 15th century. They include the Khoniadighi, Dhaniachak, Chamchika and Daroshbari mosques, as well as the Chhoto Sona Masjid, the Daroshbari madrasa and the Takkhana palace complex.

Sadly, most of these sites are hard to reach.

The 99-foot high and 34-foot wide Daroshbari mosque is located in Omarpur village. It was once famed for its terracotta designs but is now in a poor state. Deep cracks have developed in its walls, weeds cover most of the exterior and many decorative tiles have either eroded or been stolen. Along with Dhaniachak, Daroshbari mosque is only accessible via a rough, dirt road. More often than it hosts tourists the historic site serves as a resting

place for cattle.

Chamchika near Balladighi village is yet less accessible. To reach that mosque, tourists have to traverse a track through mango orchards on foot. "There are artistic terracotta designs at Chamchika," notes one elderly local, Karom Ali. "But few tourists go there."

There isn't any road.

Passage to the Khoniadighi mosque and Daroshbari madrasa sites is, meanwhile, all but impossible. Former access routes have been occupied and effectively closed off by influential locals.

Two of the few tourists to attempt visiting the sites recently spoke of their experience with the Daily Star. "There aren't any decent places to stay or to eat nearby," says Abdus Salam, a teacher from a Pabna madrasa.

"Only the Chhoto Sona Masjid is beside the highway," says one of their tourist,

Rezaul Islam, a businessman from Kashiadanga in Rajshahi. "It's difficult or impossible to visit the other sites."

"We have made the upazila nirbahi officer in Shibganj aware of the problem," says Humayun Akbar, the deputy assistant engineer for the archaeology department with responsibility for the sites. "We have also spoken with the Local Government and Engineering Department in the hope of constructing the much-needed roads. I hope that construction can begin this financial year."

For some of the sites like Daroshbari madrasa, however, land acquisition will be required to accommodate the roads.

Locals and experts alike recognise the tourism potential of this important archaeological zone. But until key access roads are in place most of the sites are certain to remain eerily deserted and rarely explored.

### Missing woman found dead

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari**

Police yesterday recovered the decomposed body of a young woman from Charaiokha village in Nilphamari Sadar upazila, 20 days after she went missing from her home.

The victim, Minuara Begum, 22, was daughter of Mominul Islam of the village.

Minuara had been residing at her father's house since her divorce about two years ago and earning her livelihood by working at a readymade garment factory at Uttara EPZ in the upazila.

Mominul said after getting a phone call his daughter went out from the house on September 13 and remained missing since then.

Farmers spotted Minuara's decomposed body lying in a paddly field at the village, he said.

# Impact of Tangail flood

## Crops worth Tk 213 crore damaged

**MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail**

Different crops worth around Tk 213 crore were damaged on 19,756 hectares of land due to the recent flood in the district.

Of these, around 16,755 hectares were damaged fully.

District acting Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) Abu Adnan said around 18.47 per cent of 107,225 hectares of croplands in the district were damaged in the flood.

Transplanted Aman on 14,800 hectares of land, seedbeds of paddy on 413 hectares, broadcast Aman on 2,899 hectares, Aus on 628 hectares, vegetables on 935 hectares, sugarcane on six hectares, banana on 42.3 hectares and other crops on 32.35 hectares of land were damaged in the flood, Adnan said.

The loss of rice, vegetables, banana and lemon amounts to about 54,453 tonnes, he said.

Only 16,549 of around 2,49,969 affected farmers are getting seeds and fertilisers under the post-flood rehabilitation programme, DAE sources said.



**An agriculture official examines Aus paddy damaged by flood in Tangail Sadar upazila. The photo was taken a few days ago.**

PHOTO: MIRZA SHAKIL

**Only 16,549 of around 2,49,969 affected farmers get seeds and fertilisers under the post-flood rehabilitation programme.**

Basail, 752 each in Gopalpur and Dhambari, 15 in Ghatail and 502 in Sakhipur are getting the government support (promodona), Adnan said.

The government fixed the number of the affected farmers for providing the support, he said, adding that only who incurred huge loss in the flood are getting the facility.

"The government also plans to provide support during the next Boro season," he added.

On the other hand, the flood-hit farmers are struggling hard to turn around due to problems like stagnant water on the fields, extra labour cost for clearing weeds and exorbitant prices of Aman seedlings.

Nurul Islam of Char Bhabha village in Kalihati upazila said transplanted Aman paddies on his two bighas of land were fully damaged after the onrush of water from the nearby Jamuna river during the third week of August.

"Many farmers, including myself, in the area could not plant the paddy

again due to stagnant floodwater in the fields," he added.

Dulal Mia of Pathrail village in Delduar upazila said Aman paddy on his 60 decimals of land was damaged and the field was full of weeds.

"After the floodwater receded from the field, I had to pay extra labour cost (Tk 500 per person per day) for clearing the weeds to plant paddy again, although getting good yield due to late cultivation is uncertain," he said.

Besides, the farmers could not plant Aman paddy again even after floodwater receded from their fields due to crisis of seedlings, villagers said.

"One hundred bundles of Aman seedlings cost Tk 250 to Tk 300 last year while the seedlings are being sold for Tk 1,000 to Tk 1,500 this year," said Abdur Rahman of Ariana village in Bhauapur upazila. He said this while he was talking to this correspondent at Govindashi market where he came to buy seedlings.

### Abducted kid rescued in Sunamganj

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail**

Police rescued a three-year-old girl from Dharampasha upazila of Sunamganj on Sunday night, a day into her abduction from Sakhipur upazila of Tangail on Saturday.

The victim, Synthia Akter Sinha, is daughter of South Africa expatriate Shahadat Hossain.

Sahadat's wife Afroza Begum asked one of her father's employes Al-Amin, 25, to take Synthia for a hair cut on Saturday. Instead, he took the baby girl to Sunamganj.

After tracking Al Amin's cellphone location, Sunamganj police arrested him with his cohort Panu, 30, and rescued Synthia Hossain, said.

### 'Bring Sabuj Mia's killers to book'

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh**

Locals here yesterday demanded arrest of Sabuj Mia's killers and their exemplary punishment.

"They made the demand at a human chain in Madhupur Bazar area of Ishwarganj upazila of the district."

Sabuj, 38, was a money lender. Lovely took Tk 1.5 lakh from him a few years ago, but she did not pay the dues, police said.

Sabuj went missing on September 21, police added.

The victim's brother Shafigul Islam lodged a general diary with the Ishwarganj Police Station on September 23.

Detective Branch (DB) of Police detained Lovely on September 27 from Azizpur, said Ashiqur Rahman, officer-in-charge (OC) of DB in the district.

# Teacher uses students in vandalism?

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali**

A woman has filed a case with a speedy trial tribunal in the district town as some school students and locals allegedly led by a teacher vandalised her house at Dakkhin Chhotobighai village under Patuakhali Sadar upazila on September 20.

The court asked the OC of Patuakhali Police Station to take lawful step after recording the case as First Information Report.

The complainant is Mansura Begum, while the accused is Md Asaduzzaman alias Hiron Master, a teacher of Bighaihat High School, also secretary of ward Awami League's unit No 3 under Bighai union.

Mansura Begum lives in a house at nearby Ashrayan project with her family while she has a tin-shed house beside the school, goes the case statement, adding that Hiron got annoyed as Mansura turned down his bad proposal several times.

"Around 10:00am on September 20, a gang of 15 to 20 people comprising students and locals led by Hiron Master attacked my house, vandalised it and looted cash money and valuables worth about Tk 1.5 lakh. They also ransacked a shop owned by my husband Abul Basar, a village doctor," it mentions.

"As police declined to receive my case, I filed a case with the court on September 28. Now I am away from home as Hiron, a local influential man, has threatened me to withdraw the case," Mansura said.

Several students seeking anonymity said, Hiron Sir told them to ransack the house.

Md Rafiqul Islam, headmaster of the school, said he wasn't at school on the day and the matter was not raised later as the house was closed due to puja vacation.

This correspondent made several mobile calls to Abdul Goni Sikder, chairman of the school management committee, but he didn't receive the calls.

Hiron Master said, "I was not involved in the matter. Some students and local people who became annoyed by their bad activities vandalised the house."

Md Mostafizur Rahman, OC of Patuakhali PS, said, "The victim didn't come to me to file any case earlier. I received an order from the court and recorded the case. Lawful step will be taken after investigation."



**Schoolboys engage in an orgy of destruction, leaving the house of Mansura Begum beside Bighaihat High School in Patuakhali Sadar upazila in ruins, on September 20. A teacher of the school, also a local Awami League leader, allegedly instigated the act.**

PHOTO: STAR