

Upazila roundup

JAMALPUR BNP workers meet held

From Our Correspondent July 29: A workers' meeting of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), Jamalpur district unit, was held at its office premises recently. The meeting was presided over by SM Khairul Bashar Chisty, Convener of district BNP. Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder, Secretary General of BNP and LORD Minister attended it as the chief guest. The meeting was addressed, among others, by Serajul Haque MP, Advocate Abdul Khalek, Mahbubur Rahman Ansari, Nazrul Chowdhury, local A.M. College VP and GS Alamgir Hossain and Jamal Hossain.

NANDAIL 68 Alim, Fazil examinees expelled

From Our Correspondent July 29: Of the total 179 candidates 68 were expelled during two days of Alim and Fazil examination from Nandail center for adopting malpractices in the examination hall. The expelled students were allegedly found to be involved in copying and other unlawful activities, the hall authorities said. Meanwhile, the 'Ali Sunnat Waljamaat', a socio-religious organisation condemned the malpractices adopted by the Madrasah students violating the principles of Islam which as the association sources said, was very shameful for the society. The association urged upon the Madrasah teacher community to take cautious steps to check the malpractice at any cost.

CHUADANGA Population-day observed

From Our Correspondent July 29: 'World Population Day' was observed here recently in a befitting manner. A colourful programme was chalked out including a procession by the health department employees and discussion meeting in this connection. The discussion meeting was held at local Sreemonto Town Hall which was presided over by Mr. Tajul Islam, Deputy Commissioner of Chuadanga. Among others, the meeting was addressed by Professor Messers W.A. Kadir, Abdul Kalam Azad, Makkbulur Rahman, Safful Islam Pitu, Dr. Amirur Rahman, Shah and Dev Dulal Krishna. The speakers stressed the need for controlling population growth and maintaining a balance in this regard. They also urged all concerned to use our manpower in the production sector with a view to increasing national production. They also advised the local concerned department to be more active to implement the government policy to decrease the rate of population in the district.

SATKHIRA One gets life-term for murder

July 29: A man of Bosontapur village under Kalora upazila has been sentenced to life term on charges of murdering his co-villager. Court sources here said the convict, Omedur was also fined Taka 5,000 and would suffer two years rigorous imprisonment more in default. District and Sessions Judge Abdul Rob delivered the judgement recently. According to the prosecution story, a group of miscreants led by Omedur called Abdul Aziz of the same village out of his house in 1988 and killed him. A case was filed and after investigation, police submitted chargesheet against three people including a woman. The Judge, after examining the records and witnesses awarded the punishment to Omedur and acquitted two others.

JHENIDAH Record sugar production

July 29: Mobarakganj Sugar Mills has set a new record in producing sugar since its inception during the current crushing season ('90-91), reports UNB. According to General Manager, the mills produced about 21,817 metric tons of sugar as against the target of 14,355 metric tons by crushing about 2,79,951 metric tons of sugarcane during the period. He said the mill is normally fit for running 120 days in a crushing season. But under special arrangement the mill worked for another 91 days this season. The average production capacity of the mill is about 15,000 tons, he added. The excess production was achieved due to excess cane production in the area and concerted endeavours of the workers and farmers, officials said.

FENI Chhagalnaiya UZ polls results cancelled

July 29: The District Election Tribunal and Sub-Judge Court cancelled the results of Chhagalnaiya Upazila election and ordered fresh election within 30 days from the day judgement was given, reports UNB. The district Sub-Judge Abdur Rashid Miah in his judgement Saturday also declared the incumbent upazila chairman not eligible to contest the ensuing election. The verdict was given on the basis of a petition filed by Awami League Candidate Foz Ahmed challenging the result of the elections held in April 1990 and the eligibility of the incumbent chairman Nuruddin Babul to run for the elections again. Nuruddin Babul, a defaulter of bank loans, contested the election from Jatia Party.

MAULVI BAZAR Minor boy killed in road mishap

July 29: A boy was killed in a road mishap at Juribazar on Baralekha-Maulvi Bazar road, police said here today, reports UNB. According to police, the victim Enam (6), son of a beggar of Juribazar in Baralekha upazila while crossing the road a Maulavi Bazar bound Minibus ran over him recently. He died on the spot. The driver, however, managed to escape. A case has been lodged with police in this connection.

MEHESPUR Student leader attacked by miscreants

July 29: A student leader was injured seriously Saturday evening when he was attacked in the town by some miscreants, police here said. Zahidul Islam alias Chhoto Bahu, Secretary of the local Jatayatnabadi Chhatra dal unit was on way to his house when the miscreants attacked him with an axe. The reason behind the attack should not be immediately known. Later, several student organisations brought out processions in the town demanding immediate arrest of the culprits responsible for the incident. A meeting was also held in front of the district Press Club where speakers condemned the attack and demanded immediate punishment of the miscreants.

MANIKGANJ Pirates attack boat on Padma

July 29: Armed pirates attacked a mechanised boat Friday on the river Padma near Harirampur upazila in the district and decamped with valuables worth about Taka one lakh. According to police and witnesses, the dacoits numbering 10-12 with deadly weapons stormed the Harirampur bound boat coming from C & B ghat when it reached near Lasraganj. They beat the inmates of the boat and looted their belongings. Three people were arrested in this connection.

BRAHMANBARIA Smuggled goods recovered

July 29: Bangladesh Rifles seized smuggled Indian goods worth about Taka six lakh during the last week from near a beel in Sadar upazila here, reports UNB. On a secret information, BDR jawans rushed to Shembari beel area and recovered 420 bundles of yarn from two mechanised boats stationed there. The goods were later handed over to the local customs authorities. Meanwhile, BDR in different raids during the last six months recovered smuggled Indian goods worth about Taka one crore from the district. The contraband included Indian sarees, spices, yarn, sugar, spare parts, electric goods and medicines.



Indiscriminate use of firewood in brickfields violating government ban causing ecological imbalance. Photo shows the item is being unloaded from a barge at Aminbazar for use in nearby brickfields. — Star photo

Medicine scarcity in health complexes hampers treatment

CHUADANGA, July 29: Scarcity of medicines in hospitals, health complexes and union health centres has posed serious sufferings to the people of the district. Local people complained that even paracetamol tablets are no available in the rural health centres. It is alleged that most upazila and union health complex medical officers are attending outdoor patients because medicines are not available in the hospitals. The outdoor services of all the hospitals have completely been stopped. Admitted patients are procuring all the medicines from outside. According to a health official of the district, only Taka 2.5 lakh is sanctioned every year for medicine, mattress, pad, bedsheets, pillow, mosquito nets and surgical instruments for each hospital

and Taka 30,000 for every union health centres as against the requirement of Taka five lakh for the hospitals and one lakh for the union centres. The insufficient supply of medicines has hampered the treatment in all the hospitals, he added. People of the locality have urged the government to ensure supply of medicines in the hospitals, UZ health complexes and union health centres on urgent basis. A dacoity was committed at the residence of Superintendent of the local Vocational Training Institute recently. The dacoits decamped with valuables worth Taka 54,000 including cash Taka 2,400, ornaments weighing seven tolas and two wrist watches. It is learnt that the dacoits numbering about 10 with cut

rifle, randa, daggers and iron rods raided the house of the Superintendent by fastening the two night guards and committed the dacoity. Being informed the Superintendent of Police, Chuadanga along with the OC Chuadanga Sadar visited the spot. A case has been lodged with Chuadanga thana in this connection, investigation is in progress. None has been arrested till now. A highway robbery was committed at Darsana railgate nine miles way from Chuadanga-Jessore via Jhibannagar highway recently in which a truck driver Roisul Islam was killed and three others including the helper of the truck were seriously injured. The dacoits also looted Taka 47,000 from the driver. It is learnt that the robbers created a roadblock by thick iron wires on both sides of Darsana railgate at 3 am while the truck coming from Khulna loaded with fertilizer got trapped into the iron wire barricade. Immediately 10 to 12 robbers attacked the driver and stabbed him at random. As a result he was seriously injured. They snatched away Taka 47,000 from the driver. Later the driver was taken to the Jhibannagar Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries. The truck was partly damaged. The Superintendent of Police, Chuadanga later visited the spot. A case has been started in this connection. Smuggled spices seized Smuggled cinnamon and cloves worth Taka 12 lakh were seized by the BDR personnel of local BDR camp recently from two trucks at Dingedah village three miles away from here. It is learnt that two trucks on Chuadanga-Jhenidah bus route loaded with cinnamon and cloves while a proceeding towards Darsana were seized by the patrol party of local BDR. The recovered items worth Taka 12 lakh were booked from Chittagong in the name of Messrs Santhosh Traders at Chuadanga but organisation of such names cannot be traced out in Chuadanga. The truck drivers and the helpers were arrested in this connection. A case has been started with the Chuadanga police station and investigation is in progress in this connection.

Storage facilities for mangoes non-existent

DINAJPUR, July 29: Mango, the king of fruits is the chief crop of three northern districts of Dinajpur, Rajshahi and Chapainawabganj. These districts are famous for quality Malda variety of mango. Mango tree generally gives fruits upto the age of 15 to 50 years. This age can be extended upto 80 to 90 years if proper care is taken. A tree generally gives 100 to 3,000 mangoes per year at the age of 30 to 45 years. Mango was cultivated on 41 thousand acres of land in Rajshahi Division of which Dinajpur shares 8,000 acres, Rangpur 4,000 acres, Bogra 3,000 acres, Pabna 2,000 acres and Rajshahi 24,000 acres of land. There are different varieties of mango trees. The average production of mango is three tons per acre and the number of trees on an acre is generally 15 to 20. The total mango production in Rajshahi Division is nearly 1,23,000 tons per year. Five varieties There are five main varieties of mangoes, such as Gopalbhog, Lengraa, Khirsapati, Fazy and Aashwini. The ratio production of these varieties are Gopalbhog — five per cent, Lengraa — five per cent, Khirsapati — five per cent, Fazy — 40 per cent, Aashwini — 15 per cent and various kinds of Gooty — 30 per cent. To carry out research and find out new species of mangoes a Mango Research Centre with an estimated cost of Taka 33 lakh has been set up at Chapainawabganj. This is the only Mango Research Centre in the country. Besides, the mango growers of Dinajpur district are demanding for setting up another Mango Research Centre at Dinajpur since long. But no thing has yet been done in this regard. The age-wise percentage of mango trees in Rajshahi Division is 1 year to 10 years — 11 per cent, 11 years to 20 years — 30 per cent, 21 years to 30 years — 20.24 per cent, 31 years to 50 years — 20.40 per cent and above 51 years — 36.66 per cent. A mango tree generally gives better yield at the age of

between 31 years and 50 years. A Fazy variety of mango tree gives nearly 100 pieces of mangoes while a Lengraa variety 300, an Aashwini variety 1,200, Gopalbhog 300 and Khirsapati 2,500. Mango fruit is called an alternate biennial crop, that is in one year there is good production of mango, the next year, it is reduced to a greater extent. Main problems The main problems of mango cultivation are natural calamities such as hailstorm, untimely rain, thunderstorm and pest attack. The buds of mango trees generally come in between 8th Maagh and 8th Falgun. If it rains during this period the buds are not bloomed resulting in the loss of the crop. If flood water remains stagnant beneath the mango trees the fruit may be damaged to a great extent. Hoper, a kind of pest, is the main enemy of mango crop. If a mango tree is attacked by Hoper all the flowers of the mango crops get damaged. Transport problem Another problem is trans-

Crimes galore

From Our Correspondent JHENIDAH, July 29: At least 19 people were killed and two guns looted in separate incident here within 35 days ending July 21, police said. Abdur Rashid Khan (45), an elite of village Sbdalpur in Kotchandpur Upazila was gunned down by some unknown gunmen at the village bazar at early night on June 16. Some unknown gunmen gunned down JSD (Inu) worker Toakkel Ali (42) at Habibpur village in Shailakupa Upazila on June 17. On June 19 at midnight a gang of armed miscreants gunned down two local leaders of Krishak Sangram Samity Dr Nazim Ahmed (36) and Jamat Ali (35) at village Gobrapara in Harnakund upazila. One Assaduzzaman Asha (20) of village Paikpara was slaughtered to death by unknown assailants on July 1 midnight. On July 7 evening, a gang of armed men gunned down three persons Khalil (27), Kalu (28) and Majbur (30) who were said to be Sharbahara Party men at village Bazar Gopalpur in Jhenidah Sadar Upazila. On the same day at midnight an oldman Jabbar Khan (75) of village Milebari in Moheshpur Upazila was stabbed to death by some unknown assailants at his residence while he was asleep. On July 12, one carpenter Bimal Kumar Mondol (40) was beaten to death by some unknown assailants near his residence at village Bagutia in Shailakupa Upazila. On July 14 night, one Shariful Islam (30) said to be Sharbahara activist was gunned down by a gang of armed men said to be Biplobi Communist Party (Haq group) at village Bagura in Shailakupa Upazila. On July 21 midnight, armed activists said to be Sharbahara Partymen gunned down two villagers Shukur Mondol (50) and Israel Hossain (25) at village Kalamankhali in Jhenidah Sadar Upazila. On July 15, one young housewife Shafia Khatun (20), wife of Bazul Rahman of village Jugirhuda in Moheshpur Upazila was beaten to death while she went for morning bath in the river Kabatak near her residence. An oldman Tofazzel Hossain (65) of village Ghoramara in Jhenidah Sadar Upazila was killed by the rival group and another youth of village Sonolidanga in Kaliganj upazila was killed in blast while he was making a bomb during the period. Police also recovered three bodies one from wooden box, one from river and one from the corn field during the period. In two separate incidents on June 24 night a gang of 12 armed activists belonging to an outlawed underground party looted two SBBL guns with 29 round of bullets from two houses. Separate cases were lodged with respective thanas. Showdown of powers over the area and internal conflicts among the different outlawed underground armed activists are said to be the main cause of armed tussle resulting in killings and counter killings in Jhenidah district. (Panic stricken villagers are passing their days in fear. Law enforcing agencies have failed to maintain law and order situation. People of the area have urged upon the concerned authorities to take action against the troublemakers and to maintain peace and harmony in the society. Smuggled Indian medicines seized From Our Correspondent SATKHIRA, July 29: Indian medicines worth Taka six lakh were seized by BDR personnel of 35 rifles battalion from the house of Jafer Ali of Debhata upazila on July 20. It is reported that acting on a secret information the BDR personnel raided the house and recovered Indian medicines worth Taka six lakh. The medicines include Phenidyl syrup, Neurolin injection, Polybion injection, tablet, Baralgin, Benadryl and gripe water etc. A phial of Phenidyl syrup is being sold here between Taka 60 and 75. A case was lodged with the Debhata police station in this connection. Shrimp worth Taka four lakh was poisoned by some miscreants at Allahar Dan Shyamnagar. It is reported that a gang of miscreants led by one Sakat Ali Mollah of village Tarantapur under Shyamnagar upazila following family feud poured insecticides into the shrimp project owned by Surat Ali of the same village. As a result the shrimps were killed. A case was lodged with Shyamnagar upazila against the accused, the miscreants were threatening the plaintiff to withdraw the complaint, it is alleged. 5 jailed for murder MYMENSINGH, July 29: Five people have been sentenced to life imprisonment for killing two sisters in Trishal upazila, reports UNB. Court sources said the convicted Kazatuddin, Mizan, Zobaid, Ali and Nurul Islam were also fined Tk 5000 each and would suffer two years RI more in default. First Additional District and Sessions Judge Zinat Ara delivered the judgement recently. The prosecution story, in brief, is that the criminals attacked the house of Aftab Ali of village Purabat in Trishal upazila and killed Aftab's two daughters Subina and Farida on December 1, 1987. A case was filed and police after investigation submitted charge-sheet against the accused. The judge after examining the records and evidences awarded the punishment.

Water logging hampers aman cultivation

From Our Correspondent JESSORE, July 29: Constant water logging threatens Aman paddy cultivation on thousands of acres of land this year in Billgaralia, Pathara, Pajia and Balidhali in Keshabpur upazila of the district. It is reported that water of beels cannot be properly drained out through the defective sluice gate controlled by WDB in the rainy season. The farmers are unable to harvest their crops from these beels for the last four years. They are being deprived of harvesting crops worth about Taka 10 to 12 crore every year, in the face of the demands of the people of the area. The WDB authorities re-excavated the Harihar and the Bhadra rivers close to the beels last year but due to irregularities the works were not done properly. As a result, the water of the beels cannot be drained into the rivers. The beels have gone under water this year after a little rainfall. A heavy rainfall will render hundreds of people of the surrounding areas homeless. Proper drainage of the water of the above beels through the rivers could save the people of the area from being marooned, it is opined.

Cox's Bazar lacks good communication link

From Our Correspondent COX'S BAZAR, July 29: Cox's Bazar, a tourists resort of world repute and important trade centre of the country lacks good communication links with other parts of the country. The district plays important role in supplementing the national economy, huge quantities of fish, salt, timber and betel leaves are produced here. These products are sold at cheaper prices due to absence of adequate transport facilities to export the products to other parts of the country. On the other hand, absence of railway communication hinders greatly the progress and prosperity of the district. Villagers are the worst sufferers. Cox's Bazar was established by Captain Cox in 1799, which has now a population of 13 lakh people. It lacks good communication links a 96 miles long road connecting the portcity is not good enough smooth and speedy transportation. As a result, prices of essentials have shot up for excessive transportation cost. The railway communication can help flourish the trade and commerce, cottage and heavy industries.



MUNSHIGANJ: Procession brought out by Munshiganj Family Planning Department parading the town streets in observance of the World Population Day recently. — Star photo