

Upazila roundup

**KURIGRAM
Publication ceremony**

From Our Correspondent
August 2: The publication ceremony of the weekly 'Gonokatha' was held recently through a colourful function held at the local Public Library premises.

In this connection a discussion meeting was arranged which was chaired by AKM Shaful Islam, Editor of the weekly Gonokatha. Khairul Alam ADC (Gen) Kurigram and Mohsin Ali Khan, Secretary, Kurigram Zila Parishad were present as chief guest and special guest respectively.

**RANGPUR
Saving deposits exceed target**

From Our Correspondent
August 2: The National Savings Department has earned Taka 1,25,00,000 exceeding its target during the last financial year in Rangpur district.

The target was Taka 4,91,81,000 but Taka 6,16,25,541 was collected as savings deposits. Among them the highest saving deposits of Taka 3,09,58,500 was collected in three-year term savings certificates while it was followed by general accounts deposits of Taka 1,02,34,156. Remaining Taka 2,04,41,500 was collected from defence and other saving certificates and prize bond sales proceeds.

**GAIBANDBA
Accommodation problem acute**

From Our Correspondent
August 2: Accommodation shortage has become a serious problem in Gaibandha town. After upgrading into a district many government offices are supposed to be constructed here. Many offices of different organisations opened here shortly also lack accommodation facilities for their respective employees. The accommodation problem of 50,000 people has been increasing gradually with the growth of population.

Construction work in the private sector is also disappointing due to exorbitant price of the materials. Construction under departmental endeavours is hampered either by non-availability of suitable space or due to lack of adequate fund.

**MEHERPUR
Body recovered**

August 2: Police recovered a body on Wednesday hanging from a tree of village Shinghati in sadar upazila of the district, reports UNB. Police said the victim, Noor Hossain (27), was killed by some unknown assailants Tuesday night and then hanged him from a tree near his house. The victims eyes, mouth and hands were burnt with acid, post mortem report said. The motive behind the killing could not be ascertained immediately. A case was filed in this connection.

**NETRAKONA
Shallow tubewell engines being used in boats**

August 2: More than 1650 shallow tubewell engines have been abused deteriorating the irrigation network in the district, reports UNB.

9 die of diarrhoea in Jamalpur

From Our Correspondent
JAMALPUR, Aug 2: Diarrhoea has claimed nine lives and attacked 25,000 others during the last one week. The diseases has broken out in an epidemic form in the flood affected areas of the district. In absence of sufficient treatment and pure drinking water the toll may rise rapidly, local doctors said. The Civil Surgeon office sources said that 31 medical teams were imparting treatment in the affected areas, but respective Upazila Parishad and Union Councils complained that the medical teams

are not at all functioning in the affected areas. Union Council Chairman of Dewanganj Upazila alleged that despite repeated appeals the doctors do not bother to attend the patients. The Civil Surgeon of the district when asked about the matter simply expressed his reluctance to disclose the fact. Another 20,000 people have been rendered homeless in the district by the Jamuna erosion during the last two weeks. The victims took shelter from one and a half month to 1 year to prevent tetanus, hooping cough, measles, tuberculosis and diphtheria.

According to informed sources, shallow tubewell engines are being used mostly in the mechanised country boats, saw mills, rice and paddy husking and sugarcane crushing mills instead of irrigation purposes violating the Government instructions. Sources said engines are being sold to boatmen or owners of small scale industrial units with impunity affecting irrigation adversely. Local farmers have urged the authorities to look into the matter and take necessary action against the dishonest persons involved in this act.

**SATKHIRA
Cattle trader shot at**

August 2: A cattle trader was shot at by some unknown miscreants and robbed off his cows Tuesday night near Bagachara market in Kalaroa upazila of the district, reports UNB.

According to sources, Abul Kalam, cattle trader of Ofapur village was returning home after purchasing some cows from the market. The miscreants stopped him on the way and snatched away his cattle-heads including cash Tk. 20,000 injuring him seriously. He was rushed to the Sadar hospital and a case was filed with local police in this connection.

**FARIDPUR
12 kgs ganja recovered**

August 2: A team of Narcotics Control department officials in two separate raids recovered more than 12 kgs of ganja and 15 ganja plants and arrested two people, police said here yesterday, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, the team with the collaboration of the police raided a house at Koshadanga village in Bhanga upazila and recovered 12 kgs of ganja and 15 plants on July 15. Police arrested the house-owner Osman Gani Howladar. In another drive, the team raided a shop at Goalchamat area of the town and seized 130 grams of ganja on June 30. Police also nabbed the shop owner Tapan Kumar Goswami. Two cases were lodged in this connection.

**SIRAJGANJ
JCD wins govt college union polls**

August 2: Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) yesterday won the students union polls of Sirajganj Government College securing 17 out of 18 posts, including VP and GS, reports UNB. Soheli Rizvi Raju and Shaful Alam Dollar were elected VP and GS respectively. A total of 1470 out of 1667 votes were cast. The election was peaceful.

**GOPALGANJ
Seminar on inoculation held**

August 2: A seminar on expanded programme for inoculation was held on Tuesday at Kotlipara upazila parishad auditorium under the joint auspices of Gopalganj district administration and UNICEF, Dhaka, according to an official source. About 50 women from all walks of life attended the seminar which was presided over by the Upazila Parishad Chairman of Kotlipara. Deputy Commissioner of Gopalganj also spoke on the occasion. The seminar resolved that every mother should take care of her children so that various child-diseases could be checked effectively. It was also suggested in the seminar that proper treatment should be provided free of cost to the children of the age group from one and a half month to 1 year to prevent tetanus, hooping cough, measles, tuberculosis and diphtheria.



Sonargaon-Narayanganj connecting road constructed during the rule of Shershah has become unfit for vehicular traffic. Many cracks have developed at several points of the road making the journey hazardous. — Star photo

2.5 lakh children deprived of pry education in Chandpur

From Our Correspondent
CHANDPUR, Aug 2: The government and non-government primary schools in seven upazilas of the district have been facing manifold problems for a long time. There are 786 government and 153 non-government primary schools in the district. According to District Primary Education Office sources, of the six lakh school-going children only 3,50,000 are able to attend classes while the rest 2,50,000 are being deprived of primary education. There are about 3955 sanctioned posts of teachers of which 200 posts are lying vacant. The number of teachers is inadequate to meet the requirements. It is reported that school buildings, constructed during the British and Pakistan periods are on the verge of collapse due to lack of repair and reconstruction. Besides, the schools are left open in absence of doors and windows. There are no chairs and benches in many schools so the children are compelled to take their lessons sitting on the floor. The dilapidated condition of the schools has created anxiety among the guardians. As a result, many guardians stopped sending their children to the schools resulting in fall of attendance. The Facilities Department of Education Ministry has reconstructed recently some primary school buildings but their numbers very few. Erratic power supply in Chandpur town and its adjoining areas has become a regular feature causing untold sufferings to the consumers for a long time. Power failure is frequent in the town and adjoining areas hampering not only the daily routine of the inhabitants but also the regular production in small-scale industries. Power failure creates panic among the shopkeepers and buyers at night. Some times overloading of power disrupts transformers which caused irregular supply of power to the consumers in different places. It is further learnt that unauthorised electric connections exceeding the usual load caused overloading. The overloaded power from the particular transformer also shortens its life. PDB officials are ignorant about these unauthorised connections. Which is bringing huge loss of revenue. Official sources said the scheme is being funded by International Development Agency (IDA). According to Water Development Board, the repair work includes dumping of two and a half lakh cft boulder stones and placing of 15 thousand geo-textile filled with sands over two erosion points (1200 feet in length) of Natun Bazar and Puran Bazar areas. It is expected that the work will be completed within a month. The work is being done as per the recommendations of the National Committee on the Chandpur Town Protection Scheme. After the completion of the scheme the town and a good number of business establishments including the railway station will be protected from the erosion of the river Meghna during this season, it is learnt.

Flood, diarrhoea claim 4 more in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, August 2: Four people died today from drowning and of diarrhoea raising the flood-related death toll to 20 in the district, officials said, reports UNB. According to Relief Control Room sources, Swapna Khatun (5) of Natuapara village and Jainal Abedin of Dakkhintola in Kazipur upazila were drowned in the flood water. Liton (4) of Ghoragacha village and Khoka Miah (30) of Natuapara village of the same upazila died of diarrhoea. Meanwhile, flood water continued receding at Sirajganj point improving the overall flood situation in the district, but erosion by the Jamuna went on. About 1000 families in 20 riverside villages in Kazipur, Sadar, Belkuchi, and Shahjadpur upazilas have been rendered homeless by continued erosion. The shelterless people have taken refuge on highland and embankments, concerned upazila chairmen said.

Fake BDR arrested

SATKHIRA, Aug 2: A fake BDR named Aggar was arrested from the district town by the BDR Commanding Officer of the district while collecting tolls from the public Tuesday, reports UNB. Aggar of Shariatpur upazila identifying himself as a BDR personnel was collecting tolls on various articles from the shopkeepers and public for the last few days. On suspicion, local people informed the matter to the BDR commanding officer. Later he was sent to jail. A case has been filed in this connection.

Teesta erosion makes 6000 enclave people homeless

RANGPUR, Aug 2: Devastating erosion of the river Teesta engulfed six villages of Dhangam and Angarpota enclaves rendering about 6,000 people homeless in the last few days, reports UNB. Shamsul Huda, Chairman of Dahagram Union Parishad said Jammalar, Moslemarchar, Saidarchar, Bosoarchar, Shikkharchar and Pachkurichar villages of the enclaves were devoured due to construction of a cross dam in the upstream of the river Teesta at Holdibari-Biltoli point by India. Colossal erosion also damaged standing crops on vast tracts of lands including homesteads of the low-lying areas of the enclaves, he added. Erosion victims are passing their days with great distress as they took shelter on DB road and other open places. The situation aggravated further as the victims in the absence of transit permission are not in a position to carry relief and other essentials to the enclaves from mainland, said the chairman. Shamsul Huda apprehends that the enclaves may go down to the river if any precautionary measures are not taken immediately. He urged the government to take measures on emergency basis to save the life and property of the affected people.



State Minister for Jute Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan opening the jute purchasing centre of Latif Bawany Jute Mills at Narsingdi Sadar on Wednesday.

Flood situation improves in Jamalpur

From Our Correspondent
JAMALPUR, Aug 2: Overall flood situation in the district is improving as water level in the rivers showed receding trend, flood control room sources said. According to the flood control room duty officer, at least 4,79,530 people have been badly and 3,50,021 people partially affected in seven upazilas of the district. Of them three lakh people took shelter on flood control embankment and went to other safer places. About 25,000 dwelling houses were completely damaged while 15,135 partially. Standing crops on 32,383 acres of land completely damaged and 3,500 acres of land partially. About 81 educational institutions including 57 primary schools have been destroyed by the flood waters. Total 708 square miles area under 55 union councils of the district and 98 culverts have been badly damaged while 249 kilometres kutchra roads were completely destroyed by the flood water of the Jamuna and Brahmaputra. Moreover, 130 feet WDB Jamuna flood control embankment at Harindara point, devoured by erosion of Jamuna last week. District administration disbursed Taka 4,10,37,135 in cash and other relief materials including 43,654 metric tons of rice, 63 kgs of pulses, 252 tins of biscuits, 457 packets of medicines, 8,786 pieces of old clothes including saris, lungis, ganjis and baby cloth have so far been distributed among the affected people. Two unions of the district are still submerged. The only means of communication from village to village is macha nised boats. Over 200 families have been taken shelter on the Jamalpur Public Hall while acute scarcity of pure drinking water is prevailing, it is learnt. According to the Sharishabari Upazila Chairman, about 25,000 people were badly affected and 500 dwelling houses were badly damaged due to Jamuna erosion. Islampur upazila Chairman Faridul Haq Khar, Dulal said that five unions of the upazila have been badly affected by heavy downpour, floods and Jamuna erosion. According to the Water Development Board, the Brahmaputra recorded a fall of 37 centimetres.

Two killed in Magura road accident

MAGURA, Aug 2: Two people were killed on Magura-Jhemidah road when a truck lost control and fell into a road side ditch near Ichakada Bazar, 6 km off the town Thursday night. The identity of the two middle-aged men who died on the spot could not be known. According to the witnesses, the incident occurred when the speeding truck (Dhaka metro Na-9692) was turning at a crossing point on the road. The driver, however, managed to escape. The bodies were sent to the Sadar hospital for autopsy.

Forest resources on the wane

From Our Correspondent
MAULVI BAZAR, Aug 2: The forest resources of the district is on the wane due to illegal felling of trees by some unscrupulous people. Forest of the district were full of valuable trees like firewood, bamboos, songgrass, cane, many old trees. Young plants coupled with natural growth of multi-farious plants have made the forest still richer in natural resources. But all the reserve forests are being plundered. All the old trees are being felled mercilessly and the dense forests are going to be barren. It is further learnt that many trespassers are occupying forcibly forest land by building permanent residences. These illegal processors are directly or indirectly responsible for felling tree, selling firewood and bamboos. The authorities concerned should pay due attention to take preventive measures for protection of our forest wealth immediately, it is widely felt. One SSC examinee committed suicide on July 27 at Baharmardan village under Maulvi Bazar Sadar upazila. The victim Afzal Khan (16) son of M Montaj Khan committed suicide by consuming poison. The body was sent to Sadar Hospital for post mortem. A UD case has been filed with the Maulvi Bazar police station. **NAP meet held** A meeting of Bangladesh National Awami Party (NAP-Muzaffar), Maulvi Bazar district committee was held on July 7 at Maulvi Bazar pourashava auditorium. The meeting was presided over by district NAP (M) President Advocate Samar Kanti Chowdhury while NAP (M) central leader Mr R M Goswami attended as chief guest. The meeting was addressed by Md Shahjahan, Advocate Shanti Pada Ghose, Abdul Jabbar, M A Jali, Burhanuddin, Rosendra Datta and district NAP (M) General Secretary Abdul Bari Chowdhury. Speakers at the meeting said that National Awami Party was a people-oriented party where as BNP government followed the path of ousted autocratic government and imposed taxes indiscriminately on essential items to multiply the sufferings of the common people.

Affluent people urged to invest in productive sector

BOGRA, Aug 2: Azizul Haq MP of Kahaloo-Nandigram constituency and chairman of Rupali Bank Limited Thursday called upon affluent section of the people to invest their money in productive sector, reports UNB. He was speaking as a chief guest at the inaugural function of 'Northern Credit Co-operative Society Limited' in the town. He said the country's economic development was minimum in the last 18 years as the major portion of internal resources of the country were amassed in the hands of a few people. Expressing surprise over the misuse of loan money by few people Haq stressed the need for creating awareness among the people to invest their money in productive sector for the overall development of the country. The functions was also addressed by Abdul Majid MP, G.M Seraj and Deputy Commissioner Fazlur Rahman.

Notes from Sylhet

From Our Correspondent
SYLHET, Aug 2: Shahjal Science and Technology University, Sylhet has been deprived of any allocation in the national budget, for its development which was established after the great struggle of seven decades. It may be mentioned that University Grant Commission proposed a revenue expenditure of Taka 2.82 crore during the budget preparation but the Finance Ministry refrained from alloting any amount on the plea of providing some other funds. Again the UGC considering the crisis of the university sent a proposal through the Education Ministry to sanction one crore Taka from some other heads, at the time of presenting budget in the parliament but the Ministry disclosed that they are using the development fund to pay the salaries of teachers and staff constraining development works. Different political parties condemned some technocrats in the Finance Ministry. The President of the Sylhet Gonak Gaba Parishad Mr. Mubashir Ali called upon the Prime Minister to personally look into the matter for immediate budget provision. **Crimes galore** Hijacking, highway robbery and other crimes have registered a sharp rise in the district during the last week. A rice merchant at Dhapadigharpar was robbed of Taka 2,15,000 on July 23. On his way home with the money in a bag on a rickshaw at about 8 pm three miscreants on a motor cycle held them up at pit to point and fled away with the bag after scuffle with the merchant and his employee Su kkur Ali. The bike had no number plate. Police arrested one Rafique Ali on suspicion. In another incident hijackers escaped with Taka 50,000 from Masuk Ali Mia. When he was returning home after withdrawing money from the bank seven robbers attacked and injured him seriously with knife. The victim identified the miscreants and a police case has been registered. The gang leader was arrested by Gopalganj police the following day. Besides, stabbing, stealing, cheating have become rampant in the town.

RU student commits suicide

RANGPUR, Aug 2: Mosharrif Hossain (20), a first year student of Rajshahi University allegedly committed suicide by taking insecticides in his house at Biontopur village of Sadar upazila, police said here today, reports UNB. Police recovered a note from his house on the fateful day July 26 where he wrote no one should be responsible for his death. The reason behind the alleged suicide could not be ascertained. The body was sent to the hospital morgue for autopsy and a case was lodged in this connection.

Housewife commits suicide

MAGURA, August 2: A young housewife allegedly committed suicide following a family feud in the district, police said here today, reports UNB. The victim identified as Hashbara Khatoun (30), wife of Solaman Ali of Salkha village of Sadar upazila killed herself by hanging from the ceiling of her house recently. The body was later sent to sadar hospital for autopsy. A case has been instituted in this connection.