

Upazila roundup

JAMALPUR
Press Club general meeting held

From Our Correspondent
August 6: A general meeting of Jamalpur Press Club was held here with Muslim Uddin Sujan in the chair recently. The meeting was addressed by Meherullah, Mamunur Rashid, Mostafa Babul, Shafiq-zaman Litu, Zahid Habib, Shukumar Chandra Dec, Badur Rahman, Abu Zafar Chowdhury and other's.

JUCSU leaders hailed
Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal of Jamalpur district unit has congratulated the newly elected student leaders of Jahangirnagar University Central Students Union (JUCSU) and hall union leaders.

A statement signed by Shahidul Haque Khan Dulal said it was a victory against terrorism in educational institution of the country. They also brought out a procession.

JHALAKATI
Tk 9.57 lakh post cyclone rehabilitation plan

August 6: A total of Taka 9.57 lakh was sanctioned for a post tornado rehabilitation scheme in the district, reports UNB.

According to official sources, out of the amount Taka 6.52 lakh was sanctioned for rehabilitation of the Agriculture and Taka 3.57 lakh for repairing of two damaged examination centres.

Meanwhile, 481 metric tons of wheat worth about Taka 34.00 lakh were distributed among 1300 distressed families of the district under Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) programme during the last fiscal year.

Of the total wheat, 117 metric tons were distributed in Sadar, 149 metric tons in Nalchiti, 100 metric tons in Rajapur, 81 metric tons in Kathalia and 34 metric tons in Nalchiti Municipal area, the sources added.

RANGAMATI
Teak-logs recovered

August 6: A total of 100 cft teak-logs were recovered from a bush near Chitramam, a tribal village on the bank of the river Karnafuli, illegally extracted from the government reserve forest, reports UNB.

According to forest officials, the logs were about to be smuggled by an organised gang whose attempts were foiled by timely detection recently.

A case has been filed in this connection.

PATUAKHALI
Flood control embankment completed

August 6: Construction work of a flood control embankment has been completed at a cost of Taka 10 crore in Charmontaz of Galachipa upazila of the district, reports UNB.

Official sources said, the embankment was built by the Water Development Board (WDB) under financial assistance of Asian Development Bank (ADB).

About 4500 acres of land in the locality will be save from tidal surge and salinity by the embankment, sources added.

Repairing of end institutions

Facilities Department under the Ministry for Education has taken up a programme to repair four educational institutions at a cost of Taka 20 lakh in the town.

SUNAMGANJ
33 jailed for murder

August 6: Thirty three persons were awarded different terms and fined on charge of involvement in the murder of co-villager, court sources said, reports UNB.

Several villagers gathered there and some of them beat Bachchu Mia mercilessly. Later Bachchu succumbed to his injuries at Sadar hospital on July 4, 1988.

The victim's wife filed a case against 43 persons. The learned judge after examining evidences and witnesses found 33 persons guilty.

The judge awarded six of the accused 10 years rigorous imprisonment and fined Taka 5,000 in default two years RI more and 27 others six years' imprisonment and fined Taka 2,000 in default one year's imprisonment more.

Ten other persons were acquitted as no charge could be framed against them.

KISHOREGANJ
Sangbadik samity executive body reorganised

From Our Correspondent
August 6: The district unit of Bangladesh Sangbadik Samity has reorganised its Executive Committee at a meeting held at the press club on Saturday last.

The committee was formed with Abu Bakar Siddique Hero and Mohammad Sayeeduzzaman as President and General Secretary respectively.

Other office-bearers are Subir Basak, Vice President, Kazi Saheem Khan, Assistant Secretary, Fazle Elahi and Liakat Hossain Manik Members.

The meeting was presided over by Professor Ziauddin Ahmad.

PAENA
Body recovered

August 6: Police recovered a body from Charbalarampur area in Sadar upazila Monday, reports UNB.

The deceased identified as Israel (28), son of Montruiddin Sheikh of Brojnanthpur village in Sadar upazila, was feared to have been killed by miscreants.

Family sources said the victim was kidnapped by some armed miscreants on July 29.

A case was lodged in this connection.

Heroin recovered

Narcotics Control Department here recovered 17 grams of heroin worth about Taka 2 lakh and arrested one person in this connection from Krishnapur area of the town Sunday.

Acting on a tip, officials of the department raided the house of Ramzan Ali (50) and caught him red-handed with heroin.

A case was filed in this connection with the local police.

KUSHITIA
3 arrested from hotel

August 6: Police Sunday arrested three people including a girl from a local hotel in the town for their alleged involvement in anti-social activities, reports UNB.

Those arrested were identified as: Farida Akhter alias Mousami (18) Alamgir and manager of the hotel.

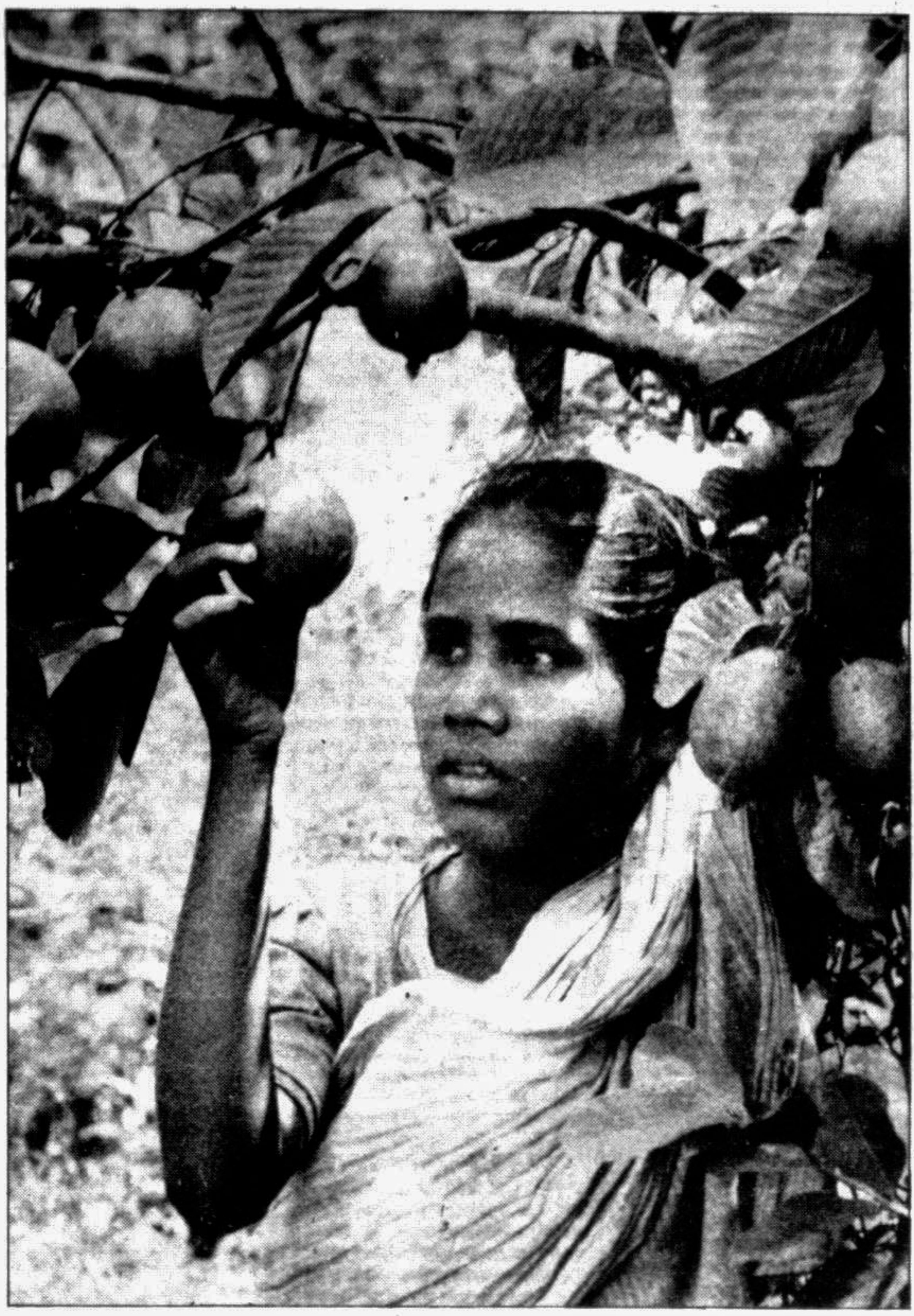
Acting on tip, police raided the hotel and nabbed the three. But two of them, however, managed to escape.

SATKHIRA
One commits suicide

August 6: Asgar Ali, 26, killed himself after being snubbed by his elder brother for picking Taka 150 without permission, reports UNB.

According to the FIR lodged with the Sadar upazila police the victim belonging to Mashkholia village was shocked for having been detected and took pesticide.

Asgar was rushed to the hospital where he died.



Record production of guava is reported this year. A girl plucking the fruit at a village in Joydevpur. — Star photo

Narayanganj IWTA terminal lacks modern facilities

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Aug 6: Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) terminal here lacks requisite facilities for the passengers and traders. The pickpockets have now found this place most suitable for their activities. It is known to all that this river port has a prominent position in the world jute trade. Therefore the terminal of BIWTA has utmost importance for handling trade and travelling public. Built at a cost of Taka 45 lakhs the terminal was inaugurated on March 29, 1966. It was designed to ensure amenities which the old river ghats.

But the terminal and areas around it have become a happy hunting ground for squatters and anti-social elements preying on poor passengers. Littered with filth and garbage in the absence of proper cleaning the terminal building and its corridors pose. Serious health hazards to the people. The authorities have not cared to maintain urinals and toilets nor has it provided drinking water for the passengers. Lighting arrangement is also inadequate. There are also allegations of corruption in respect of selling entrance tickets to the passengers.

Flash flood in Comilla: 2 die

From Our Correspondent
COMILLA, Aug 6: At least two persons were drowned and another five were missing when the river Gumti burst its bank near Pirjatrappur village in Burichang upazila Sunday due to flash flood caused by incessant rain during the last three days.

Baharbond Kutchery Bhaban needs early repair

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Aug 6: Baharbond Kutchery Bhaban, an abandoned property is now on the verge of collapse threatening the lives of its dwellers. About one hundred years back, it was constructed by the then Zaminder of Baharbond Estate. After 1956, it was declared abandoned and the then government took its ownership. This century-old building has developed cracks and holes at its roofs, walls and floors. Parasitic plants have grown in it and during rainy season, rain waters easily enter inside it to the utter inconveniences of the occupants. Public Works Department (PWD) took up a survey programme to locate unfit buildings owned by the government and traced out 100 such unfit and dilapidated buildings. These buildings are being used as government office and for residential accommodation of the officials. The PWD just after survey, sent out notices to the government declaring them unfit for habitation and proposed for required funds for repairing and reconstruction works. But no fund has so far been sanctioned in this regard. The Baharbond Kutchery Bhaban also declared unfit and condemned in 1987. A room of this kutchery building is occupied by Rangpur Press Club being allotted by the government.

According to district officials, a 300 foot crack in the bank has affected at least 18 unions of Burichang, Brahmanpara and Muradnagar upazilas of the district inundating about 20,000 acres of cropland and rendering about two lakh people homeless.

Abu Taher (16) and another unidentified boy drowned in the village Pirjatrappur and another 5 people remained missing, district officials said.

Our Staff Correspondent from Chittagong adds: Flood waters began to recede from the affected areas of Chittagong district Sunday with the cessation of rainfall.

About ten lakh people have been affected and over two thousand rendered homeless when three days rain waters overflowed the Matamuhuri, Sanghu and Dhalua rivers and gripped nine out of fourteen upazilas in flash flood.

The affected upazilas included Satkania, Lohagara, Chandanias, Patiya, Boalkhali, Rangunia, Fatickchari, Hathazari and Raozan.

UNB adds: Cox's Bazar remained cut off from rest of the country as road communication snapped with collapse of a bridge in swirling flood water.

The bridge on the Cox's Bazar-Chittagong highway at Borakata in Chokoria upazila broke down last night, the district officials said.

Goitre patients left untreated

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Aug 6: About one lakh people of Kurigram, Rangpur, Gaibandha, Lalmonirhat and Nilphamari districts of greater Rangpur have been suffering from goitre, according to an estimate. Official sources said the people of the char areas of the districts are the main sufferers.

According to the physicians, iron deficiency is the main cause of this ailment. Rectified iodine is the preventive drug for goitre to some extent but poor people of the char areas cannot afford it due to poverty, it is reported.

Despite physical hazards the goitre patients are subjected to social apathy. Sometimes children feel frightened to see their swelling neck. They are generally isolated from their families and take recourse to begging for livelihood. Nosimun and Ashmoyee both from village Harikosh of Kurigram Sadar upazila told this correspondent that the disease has come to them as curse. Their husbands have deserted them due to the swelling of their necks. Finding no other alternative they took to begging while some others are working as maid servants.

Most of the men suffering from goitre work as day labourers in the village. Tipu Bawra (50) of village Uddimari has been suffering from this disease since her childhood, while Mujibur Rahman, a rickshawpuller and Amjad Hossain another villager took various medicines as suggested by the doctors but to no effect.

The disease is mostly prevalent in the char areas like Jamuna, Jatrapur, Panchkachi, Chowddhagurir Char, Kali Ganger Char, Chattrapur, Dakbanglar Char, Ohogadha Char and Noorkharwar Char etc. It is being felt that a hospital for treating only goitre patients should be established in Rangpur-Dinajpur zone.

Prices of essentials rise

Prices of essentials have shot up in the local markets adversely affecting low and fixed income groups of people. Traders allegedly raised the prices of the essentials on the plea of the imposition of VAT.

Market sources said soyabean oil is now being sold between Taka 45 and 48 against Taka 32 per kg last month. Mustard oil is also being sold at Taka 50 to 60 against Taka 40 and 50 last week.

Different varieties of rice have gone up by about Taka 50 and 60 per mound. Prices of powdered milk and spices like onion, ginger have also shown an upward trend.

In addition, prices of cement, rod and bricks registered a rise affecting construction work here.

Political scene

Kishoreganj BNP workers meet held

From Our Correspondent
KISHOREGANJ, Aug 6: A workers meeting organised by Karimganj upazila unit of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) was held at its office premises recently. With Kabiruddin Ahmed in the chair, Amiruzzaman, Organising Secretary of Kishoreganj district BNP attended the meeting as chief guest. The meeting was addressed, by Abdul Ahad, Abu Miah, Md. Harunur Rashid and Azizul Islam.

Pirganj thana BNP committee formed

From Our Correspondent
August 6: Biennial council meeting of Pirganj thana unit of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) under Thakurgaon district was held at Purnima Cinema Hall recently.

The meeting was presided over by Anarul Alam Moyna, Advocate Toyabur Rahman, district president of the party attended as chief guest while Fakrul Islam Alamgir was the special guest. Among others, local journalists were present. The councilors unanimously elected a 51 member committee for the thana unit, headed by Anarul Islam Moyna as President and Mr. Jahidul Haque Secretary.

5 more hurt as BCL, JCD clash at Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 6: The student activists of Awami League and BNP clashed at Kazipur Megha College today, leaving at least five injured, reports UNB.

Police and witnesses said the trouble erupted when some Chhatra League supporters attacked the Kazipur BNP office at about 2 pm.

Today's clash was believed to be in a sequel to the brawl between the two belligerent groups in the last three days in the town.

The injured were released after first aid, sources said.

JCD leader stabbed at Edward College

PABNA, Aug 6: A leader of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal was stabbed by some unruly students at the Edward College here yesterday, reports UNB.

The victim, Khondaker Mizanur Rahman Milton, is Assistant General Secretary of the college unit of JCD. He was rushed to Pabna General Hospital.

JCD blamed the Awami League-backed Chhatra League (A-L) for the stabbing. A case has been lodged in this connection.

Smuggled goods worth Tk 22.37 lakh seized

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Aug 6: Smuggled goods worth Taka 22,37,633 were seized by the BDR personnel from Jibannagar upazila head quarters of Chuadanga district on July 29.

The smuggled goods were seized from a truck at Jibannagar bus stand. The driver and the helper is absconding. The seized goods included 58 pieces of VCR, 509 kgs of cloves, 262 kgs of cinnamon, 33 kgs of cardamom, huge quantity of coconut oil, deep tubewell pipes and copper etc. The goods brought from Dhaka were apprehended to be smuggled to India.

Recently formed Chuadanga Government College Sangrami Chhatra Samaj ransacked the office of the Principal and damaged the office furniture on July 30 for not publishing a white paper on account of the college students union of 1988-89. The Sangrami Chhatra Samaj had been demanding the white paper and submitted memorandum to the college authority.



RANGPUR: The dilapidated Baharbond Kutchery building which may collapse at any moment. — Star photo