

Upazila roundup

MAULVI BAZAR

Vaccination programme for livestock

June 9: The district livestock department has taken up a massive programme of vaccination for livestock and poultry birds in the district, reports UNB.

According to officials, 21,226 cattleheads and 1,70,000 poultry birds were vaccinated during the last month.

Meanwhile, cattle diseases have broken out in the district after the onslaught of devastating cyclone and flood. Fodder crisis is the main reason behind the outbreak of the diseases, livestock officials said.

The vaccination programme is being carried out in every union of the district to check the spread of the diseases.

PATUAKHALI

Erosion threatens two villages

June 9: The Khalishkhali and Laukati villages near the district headquarters are threatened by erosion of the river Lohalia, reports UNB.

The river which flows by the township has already washed away a part of the town area.

Water Development Board took necessary steps to control erosion but the river turned to devouring the opposite side threatening the two villages.

There are seven food godowns on the other side of the river which are in danger of being eroded.

If urgent measures are not taken, these godowns having storage capacity of about 3500 metric tons of foodgrains each may be destroyed causing a total loss of at least Taka one crore.

NETRAKONA

Father, 2 sons drown in boat capsized

From Our Correspondent

June 9: Three members of a family were drowned when a boat capsized in the Badshaganj haor in Dharmapasa upazila on Friday. The tragic incident occurred when the boat carrying five passengers suddenly was caught by a gusty wind and capsized.

The victims are Sudhar Das (40) of village Hasannagar in Dharmapasa upazila and his sons Parimal (7) and Joy (5). They were returning home from their relatives house of village Kundapara. The bodies were recovered on Saturday.

BRAHMANBARIA

A victim of dowry

June 9: Housewife Hasina has been divorced as she failed to meet the dowry demand of her husband, reports UNB.

The only daughter of late Charu Miah of village Talukandi under Bancharampur upazila was married to Kamal Hossain of Jhagar Char on payment of Taka 2000 as dowry.

After the death of her father, the husband started assaulting Hasina for more dowry.

Unable to bear the torture any longer, she left her husband's house and started living in her father's house. Kamal sent her letter of divorce.

RAJBARI

Prostitutes hold rally

June 9: Some 500 inmates of a brothel demonstrated in the town today and wrest home their matron from police custody, reports UNB.

Shouting slogans they came in buses and trucks from their riverbank squatters at Daulatdia in Goalanda upazila and drove through the thoroughfare of the district headquarters, demanding release of their 'Mashi', Moni (45).

They then gathered at the Deputy Commissioner's Office, where ADC (general) Mujibur Rahman arranged the release of Moni on bail in absence of the DC.

District railway police picked up Moni, said to be headwoman of the inmates of the brothel, early Saturday morning on charge of creating public nuisance at the Rajbari railway station.

The demonstrators first went to police station and UNO of Goalanda upazila. Being unsuccessful, they arranged the march towards the district headquarters.

The hearing of the case will be held on June 13. More than 2,000 inmates are reportedly quartered in this one of the oldest brothels.

JHENIDAH

One beaten to death

From Our Correspondent

June 9: One Tofazzel Hossain aged about 55 of village Ghoramara under Jhenidah Sadar upazila was killed last night. Tofazzel accompanied by his son and other neighbours were returning home from Goalpara Hat. On the way a group of people attacked them with lathes and Tofazzel was beaten to death on the spot while other three received injuries.

Later they were rushed to Jhenidah Hospital. A case was lodged with Jhenidah thana and police took two persons into custody in this connection. Village enmity is said to be the cause of the murder.

COMILLA

Seminar on natural disaster

June 9: A seminar on "natural disaster in Bangladesh" was held at BARD auditorium under the joint auspices of Engineering Institute of Bangladesh (IEB) Comilla and Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) on June 5, reports BSS.

Syed Murgub Murshed, Director General of BARD was present at the seminar as chief guest. The seminar was presided over by Director, (project) of BARD Muhibur Rahman. A. Bascyt Sarkar, Chief Engineer, Water Development Board and President IEB, Comilla presented a key note paper.

JAIPURHAT

211 villages electrified

June 9: Rural electrification programme is going on in full swing in Jaipurhat district at a cost of Taka 25 crore, reports BSS.

An official source said, so far 9,620 connections were given to 211 villages of five upazilas of the district. Of the total connections, 7,970 were household, 584 commercial, 174 industrial, 699 irrigation and 193 for other purposes.

So far 844 kilometres of electric lines were erected, the source said.

MUNSHIGANJ

BNP firm to uphold democracy: Badruddoza

June 9: Education Minister Prof. Badruddoza Chowdhury said here yesterday the unprecedented response of the international community to the appeal of the BNP government for the success of the cyclone-hit people was a victory of democracy and the people of this country, reports BSS.

Addressing public meetings at different places of Srirangar under this district, the Minister said establishment of democracy after a long drawn struggle against autocracy had enhanced the image of the country in the outside world. The present government is determined to consolidate the process of democracy at any cost, he stressed.

He said the people had supported the politics of BNP in the last general election and sought the cooperation of all to reach the benefits of the democratic process to the people.

SIRAJGANJ

Body exhumed after 23 days

June 9: Police on Saturday exhumed a corpse after 23 days from Pipulbaria village in Sadar upazila and sent to hospital for postmortem, reports UNB.

The body of Abdul Quddus (26), son of Fazar Ali, was dug out in presence of magistrate Abdul Maleq, police said.

Quddus was injured in a clash on May 15 and died at the Sadar Hospital on May 17. Quddus was injured when a group, allegedly led by Moktal Sheikh and Sukur Sheikh, attacked his house. The attack was in a backlash to a feud between two villages, local people said.

Village chiefs (matbars) settled the dispute as the opponents agreed to pay Taka 5,000 in compensation to the father of Quddus, they said.

But they did not fulfil the commitment. Idris Ali, uncle of the victim, then lodged a case.



PABNA: A house ravaged by the recent tornado at the outskirts of the town.

—Star photo

Dewanganj embankment not completed in 20 yrs

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, June 9: Dewanganj town protection embankment needs immediate completion to save Dewanganj town from the erosion.

The scheme undertaken 20 years back spending 20 lakh Taka is yet to be implemented.

According to a local Water Development Board source the entire embankment was under the grip of the Brahmaputra erosion. During the last 20 years about 200 feet area of the embankment was devoured by the erosion. The embankment has faced a serious set back due to this years catastrophic erosion.

Meanwhile, the temporary bamboo pilings erected at the side of the embankment has been washed away by strong currents of the river water.

It is learnt that numerous cracks have developed at the embankment following heavy pressure. Experts of local WDB are unable to take any survey operations on the embankment due to strong water currents.

A WDB source says, since 1969 the Dewanganj town was constant under the threat of erosion and about two miles area has been eroded by the river. The authority tried to check the erosion by dumping boulder stones till 1989, and after 1990 concrete blocks and geo-textile bags were dumped to stop the erosion but no fruitful results were achieved. Now the Dewanganj town has reduced to a smaller one and if erosion continues this way in the next five years its existence would diminish, water experts said. It is alleged that despite huge stock of boulders stored in WDB office these are not being dumped.

Besides, 50 lakh Taka was misappropriated by fake project.

This year the government sanctioned Taka 20 lakhs for the purpose but the construction work is still pending.

Two persons were drowned and three others missing in a boat capsized in the Brahmaputra river under Jamalpur town recently. The victims named Mansoor (40), Rustum (50) while coming from Nandina by a boat suddenly it capsized in deep water.

Zia's death anniversary observed

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, June 9: The tenth death anniversary of late President Ziaur Rahman was observed here on May 30 in a befitting manner.

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Brahmanbaria unit held elaborate programmes to mark the occasion.

Besides, BNP Sariat upazila unit held a programme including Milad Mahfil to mark the occasion.

Mujibur Rahman was in chair while Advocate Abdus Sattar MP was the chief guest.

Free medical centre

A free medical centre organised by Brothers Union Club was opened at Madhyapara at Club office premises recently. Former Deputy Minister Advocate Humayun Kabir was the chief guest while Ashraf Alam, the convenor of the club was in the chair.

Later the bodies were recovered.

2 sisters raped

Fulpari (15) and Sharifa Khatun (14), two sisters of Hatibandha High School under Dewanganj upazila were raped by Kabirul Islam Badsha and Manjurul Haq Khaja in a house of railway colony. The local people caught them when they were outraging the modesty of the girls bearing hue and cry for help. On the day of the incident, the girls came to Dewanganj when the miscreants forcibly caught and took them to Dewanganj railway colony.

A case has been registered with Dewanganj upazila courts and the police investigation is going on.

Gay girls

Floating teen aged gay girls have posed a serious problem

to the passers-by and public in the town.

The gay girls move freely even in the day time in the important centres of the town. Sometimes they demonstrate ugly postures to draw the attention of the passers-by. Mostly youngsters become the victims which has caused concern of the guardians.

Cow lifters active

Cowlifters has increased all over Jamalpur district. Within a fortnight over 200 cattle heads were lifted from different villages in the district.

Competent sources said, some organised gangs of miscreants were carrying on this notorious activities.

Melandah upazila police recovered eight stolen cows from Ghaugora village recently.

Woes of mango traders

From Our Correspondent

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, June 9: Transportation of mangoes from Chapainawabganj railway station to different parts of Bangladesh has come to standstill due to corruption of railway employees posted there.

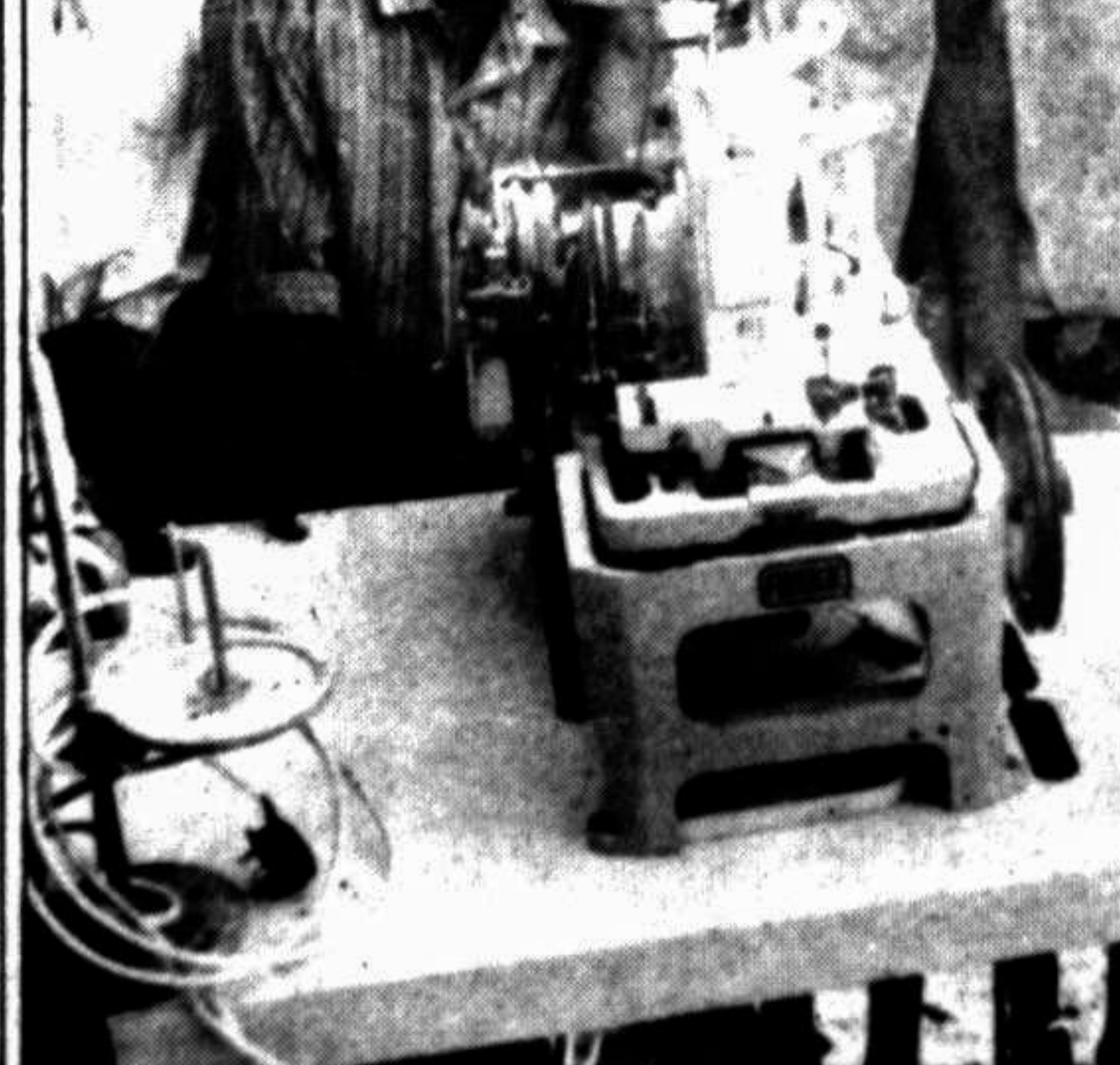
The Mango Traders Association, Chapainawabganj had a discussion with the high level railway officials of Paksey division, western zone on problems of mango transportation.

Despite huge profit earned from mango transportation, the railway department ignores the problems and harassments faced by the mango traders. However, the higher officials gave the assurance to mitigate the problems but no step has yet been taken in this regard.

It is learnt from the mango traders that they sustain huge loss every year owing to multifarious problems including lack of adequate number of wagons to carry mangoes and unnecessary halts and shunting of the mango loaded wagons at different stations created by a group of dishonest railway employees to earn gratification from the mango traders.

Chapainawabganj has produced bumper mangoes this year and the railway employees are taking advantage of earning illegal profits.

Syed Manjur Hossain MP of Chapainawabganj urged the railway authority to remove the prevailing problems and demanded punishment and transfer of the employees involved in this ill practice.



Youths having a curious look at the machinery damaged during the recent cyclone at Export Processing Zone in Chittagong.

—Star photo

Housewife beaten to death

SATKHIRA, June 9: A housewife of village Parulia in Debhata upazila was beaten to death by her husband, police said here today, reports UNB.

Family sources said, Noor Ali Biswas became furious when his wife Jobeda (21) blamed him for developing an affair with another woman. He started beating her mercilessly causing her instantaneous death.

A case has been filed with local police.

In another incident Mohsin Sardar (25) of Rajapur under Kaliganj upazila allegedly committed suicide by taking poison recently.

The reason behind the suicide could not be ascertained.

Ex-UP member axed to death

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, June 9: An ex-Union Parishad member was axed to death by some miscreants at village Hingrapara under Harinakunda upazila of the district recently, according to a delayed report.

According to police and village sources, on the night of the occurrence the miscreants numbering about six to seven called the victim Shahar Ali (55) of Daulatpur UP out of the house and axed to death near by his residence.

Accusing seven persons a murder case was filed with Harinakunda police station in this connection and investigation is going on.

The body was post-mortemed at Jhenidah Sadar Hospital.

Zia's death anniversary

The 10th death anniversary of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman was observed throughout the district in a befitting manner.

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), and its front organisations, Jubadal Chhatradal jointly chalked out elaborate programmes in observance of the day.

The party flag was hoisted at half mast at party office. The programme included Quran Khwani, Milad Mahfil and discussion meeting.

The discussion meeting was presided over by the convenor of the district BNP addressed by Moshir Rahman MP and Advocate Abdul Majid, Advocate Alaul Haq Abubakar and others.

BAU exams suspended

AGRI-VARSITY (Mymensingh), June 9: As per notification issued here recently by the Controller of Examination of BAU all examinations which were scheduled to be held on June 1 and on the subsequent dates in all the centres under BAU and all practical examinations as scheduled to be held only at the BAU centre, had been suspended sine die in persuasion of the decision taken in the emergent meeting of BAU Syndicate on May 31, says a press release.

However, the practical examinations of B. Sc. Ag. (Hons) Final Examination for the year 1988 will continue on and from June 2 at the Bangladesh Agricultural Institute centre on and from June 8 at the Potuakhali Krishi College Centre as per schedule.

Diarrhoea claims 19 in Jamalpur

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, June 9: Diarrhoea has claimed 19 lives and attacked over 20,000 during the last two weeks in the erosion and flood affected areas of the district.

It is learnt that seven persons died of the disease in Bakhshiganj upazila alone.

Local doctors said that the toll may rise rapidly as there is no proper measures to ensure sufficient treatment and provision of pure drinking water in the upazila.

About 50,000 people were rendered homeless in seven upazilas of the district by the Jamuna-Brahmaputra erosion. The shelterless people are

passing their days amid acute food shortage and pure drinking water.

Meanwhile, erosion of the river Jamuna has taken a serious turn devouring a portion of Madarganj upazila.

Local people urged the higher authorities to take immediate measures to save upazila headquarters from erosion.

It is learnt from a reliable source that the government is yet to sanction loan or relief to the erosion victims.

On the other hand many people are facing problems to erect their houses due to high prices of house building materials. Prices of bamboo and ropes have increased so much that erection of a thatched house involves more than Taka 4000.

Jamalpur District Administration has made a call to the higher authorities to shift important offices from Madarganj town. The Upazila Chairman, Siraj Tarafdar said that over 15,000 homeless people of the eroded villages have taken shelters on the embankments and beside roads and are suffering from the intestinal diseases due to consumption of impure water and low quality food.

Another sources added, that the erosion victims had migrated to the nearby newly emerged chars of the district.

The sources alleged that despite several representations to higher authorities none of them have been given khas land.

Another Toyota car (Chittagong, Ga-3224) was stolen from Comilla Housing Estate on the night of May 23.

A car (Comilla, Ka-5759) was stolen from its garage at Ostad Ayat Ali Khan road in the town on May 12.

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Notes from Narail

NARAIL, June 9: Polythene bags, mostly used for shopping purpose, have been causing health hazard and polluting the environment in the district, reports UNB.

According to sources, the used bags dumped indiscriminately both in the town and villages block drains causing water-logging.

The bags which do not either dissolve in water or in ground, remain undamaged and eventually affects the environment.

A survey conducted by the local elite reveals that over the recent years many factories were established to manufacture polythene bags here.

Local elite have urged the authorities to impose restrictions on establishment of polythene bag manufacturing factory further and save people from polythene hazards.

Fish fry

Fish fry are being caught indiscriminately in the district despite government ban shattering the prospect of fish output.

Government has banned catching of fry below 9 inches.

A section of unscrupulous fishermen here are catching fry of rohi, katla, mrigel, silver-carp and other species from different waterbodies by current nets hindering the growth of fish resources.

Meanwhile, the district fishery department has taken up a programme to release fish fry in open waterbodies of the district.

Felling of trees rampant

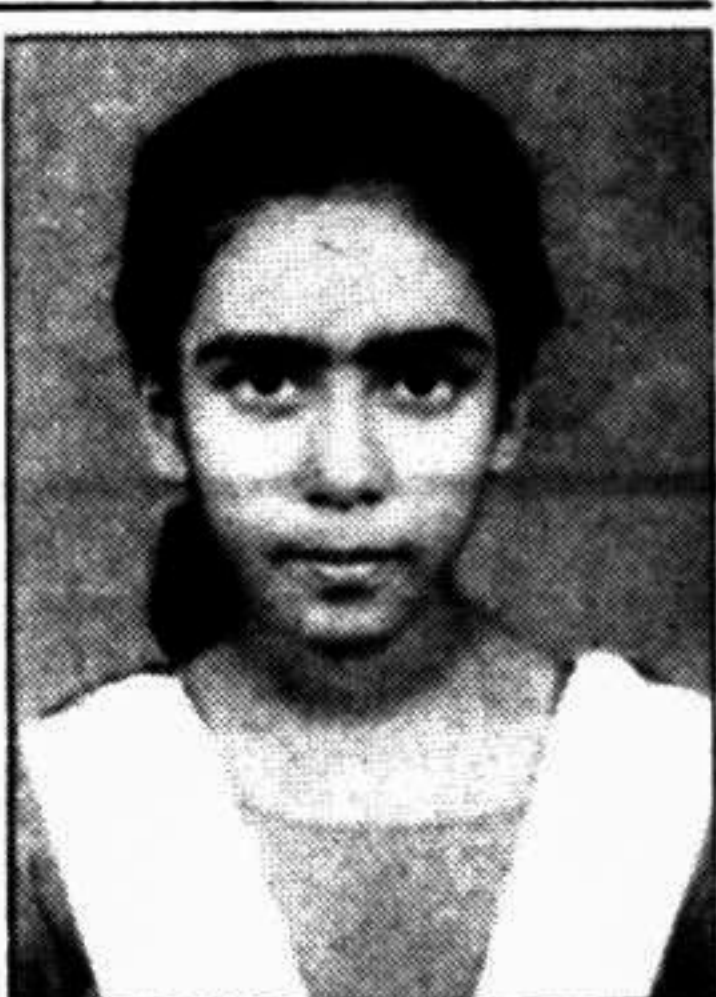
Indiscriminate felling of trees, particularly fruit-bearing ones has been endangering ecological balance besides creating paucity of fruits in the district.

According to sources, a section of poverty-stricken people are selling their jackfruit trees to trader who supply them to brickfields at high prices.

In addition, production of jackfruit in the district has been affected by the rampant cutting of the fruit-bearing trees. The price of the fruit has also increased abnormally.

Previously surplus jackfruits were supplied to the neighbouring districts but now it has become impossible to meet the local demand.

Moreover, planting of jackfruit saplings to replenish the vacuum is not in sight.



Academic feat

Jessica Jane de Silva has secured the junior scholarship of 1990 second grade from Scholastica Girls High School, Chittagong. She is the only daughter of Mr Victor and Mrs Mary Annette de Silva of Noakhali.

She also secured primary scholarship.

Govt taking effective steps to check erosion

The government is taking up an effective programme for the protection of Chandpur town from river erosion, Minister of State for Information Nurul Huda said in Dhaka on Thursday, reports BSS.

The River Research Institute in collaboration with the World Bank has been working out a pragmatic measure to check river erosion in the Chandpur town, he told a function organised by Chandpur Sadar Upazila Samity marking its founding anniversary.

Presided over by the President of the Executive Committee of the Samity, Mohammad Mostafa Talukdar, the function was addressed by Alam Khan, MP, General Secretary of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) Ruhul Amin Gazi, Chairman of the upper body of the Samity, A B Shahidullah and General Secretary Mohammad Nurul Huq Mian.

The State Minister for Information pointed out that the Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Minister M Majid-ul Huq along with the Chairman and engineers of the Water Development Board had already visited the erosion affected site of Chandpur town last month and decided to undertake effective measures for the protection of the town.