

Upazila roundup

SIRAJGANJ

Three Sarbahara Party activists killed

From Our Correspondent
July 2: Three activists of Sarbahara Party were killed at Sirajganj on Friday last. A Khalil (30), Joydhar (32) both of village Allarpur and Ganga (35) of village Protap under Ullapara upazila were found dead in the nearby field of village Allarpur. They were identified as activists of Sarbahara Party by the local people.

A case was lodged with Ullapara police station.

KISHOREGANJ

Boy killed as 2 boats collide

July 2: A teen aged was killed and six others were injured including a bride when two engine boats collided at Norshandha river near Karamsi village of the district Friday evening, reports UNB.

The victim Soleman (13), son of Imamuddin hailed from Bashgarh village of Sadar upazila.

An engine boat loaded with bridal guests along with a goods loaded boat. Soleman was a member of the bridal party.

The body was sent to the Sadar hospital for autopsy.

A case has been lodged in this connection.

NETRAKONA

Mosquito menace makes life miserable

July 2: Life of the town-dwellers has become miserable due to mosquito menace, reports UNB.

Drains and derelict ponds dumped with filth and garbage cause bulk breeding of mosquitoes, sources said.

Water-logging caused by slight rainfall also help increase breeding of mosquitoes.

The situation becomes worse after sundown when residents are forced to take shelter under mosquito net. Even babies are to sleep under mosquito net during the daytime.

Despite appeals from the residents, Pura authorities remained indifferent to the problem.

KURIGRAM

Chess competition held

From Our Correspondent
July 2: Chess competition arranged by Kurigram Daba Club was held here recently with much enthusiasm at the office premises of the club.

It was formally inaugurated by Mostafa Khondoker, a reputed sportsman and sports organiser and Secretary, Kurigram Zila Krira Sangstha, in presence of a large number of chess fans. The Inaugural ceremony was addressed, by Shafi Ahmed, President, Kurigram Daba Club and Mostafa Khondoker, Secretary Kurigram DSA.

Daba Club authority sources said that, in total 50 competitions in senior and junior group took part in the competition.

COMILLA

Illegal note books recovered

July 2: Police recovered a huge quantity of note books of primary and secondary levels from a house near the town here Saturday, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Gazir Rahman (35) of Ghoramara village of Sadar upazila. On June 22 villagers found the body floating on the river and accordingly informed the police. The reason behind the killing could not be ascertained.

The body was sent to Sadar Hospital for autopsy and a case has been filed in this connection.

SATKHIRA

Pregnant woman's body recovered

From Our Correspondent
July 2: Police recovered a body of an eight-month pregnant housewife of village Chalk Santoshpur in Kalliganj upazila from a pond Saturday.

Family sources said the victim Khairunnissa (22) was strangled to death by her husband Abdul Bari at the instigation of his first wife. The killer husband later threw the body into the pond the same day to conceal the matter.

Bari remained absconding since the incident. The body was sent to morgue for autopsy.

Police took the first wife Rokuya Begum to custody and further investigation is going on.

BANDARBAN

Law, order situation reviewed

July 2: A meeting was held recently at the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner to review the law and order situation prevailing in the Bandarban hill district, reports BSS.

Presided over by the Deputy Commissioner the meeting discussed overall law and order situation and expressed satisfaction over its improvement in the district. The meeting stressed the need for vigilance against anti-social elements and closer cooperation between people and the law enforcing agencies to curb crime in the district.

The meeting was attended by the district-level officers, upazila chairmen and upazila Nirbahi officers, journalists, education social workers and elite of the town.

The case was filed for gaining illegal exemption of loans taken from Rupali Bank and Krishi Bank, Chandpur branches.

Public prosecutor Sheikh Matur Rahman opposed the bail petition while Advocate Fazle Rabbi pleaded the case on behalf of Mr Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury.

JAMALPUR

Constable suspended

From Our Correspondent
July 2: A constable of Jamalpur railway thana Abdul Malek was suspended on charge of rape recently.

It is learnt that Miss Nazma (14) was coming to Dhaka from Gumbah railway station by a passenger's train. Nazma got down from the train to change compartment. At that time the constable forcible took her away to his barrack and raped.

Local people demanded punishment of Abdul Malek. Later he was suspended by the higher authority.

BARISAL

3 lakh farmers benefitted by loan exemption

July 2: A total of 3,01,208 poor and small farmers of 11 southern districts have been benefitted due to the exemption of agriculture loans ranging from Taka 2000 to Taka 5000 by the present government, reports BSS.

The districts are: Barisal, Jhalakati, Bhola, Pirojpur, Patuakhali, Barguna, Faridpur, Madaripur, Rajbari, Gopalganj and Sarajganj.

According to an official source, Taka 179.92 crore has been exempted so far by the Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB). Of the total amount, Tk 86.48 crore are principal money.

JHENIDAH

Body recovered

July 2: Police recovered a body from the river Kumar near Goraganj village of Shailkupa Upazila here, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Gazir Rahman (35) of Ghoramara village of Sadar upazila. On June 22 villagers found the body floating on the river and accordingly informed the police. The reason behind the killing could not be ascertained.

The body was sent to Sadar Hospital for autopsy and a case has been filed in this connection.

COMILLA

2 minor girls commit suicide in Jhenidah

From Our Correspondent
July 2: Two minor girls allegedly committed suicide in separate incidents in the district, police said here yesterday, reports UNB.

Rashida Khatun (12), daughter of Gonjer Ali of village Dhonjyapur under sadar upazila killed herself by taking poison last week. The cause behind her suicide could not be known.

In another incident, Hashia Khatun (10), daughter of Reajuddin of village Golaoknagar in Shailkupa upazila gave away her life by taking insecticides on June 26.

BARISAL

'Sea truck' service suspended: passengers suffer much

From Our Correspondent
BARISAL, June 29: The Sea Truck of BIWTC remained suspended for more than one and a half months between Barisal and Hularhat of Pirojpur district. As a result, thousands of passengers of Barisal, Jhalakati, Khulna, Pirojpur and Bagerhat are facing utter troubles.

BIWTC was continuing its service since long along with its "sea truck, Mitali" having a capacity of carrying at least 130 passengers.

Mitali suddenly discontinued its service on April 29 last following mechanical troubles on the way from Hularhat to Barisal. Afterwards efforts were made to repair Mitali at the local base workshop. And after repair work when it was about to resume its trip all bearings of the machines have become unusable and from then onwards the trips of the sea truck have been suspended.

It is learnt from informed sources that a quarter of BIWTC is trying to suspend its trips permanently to help

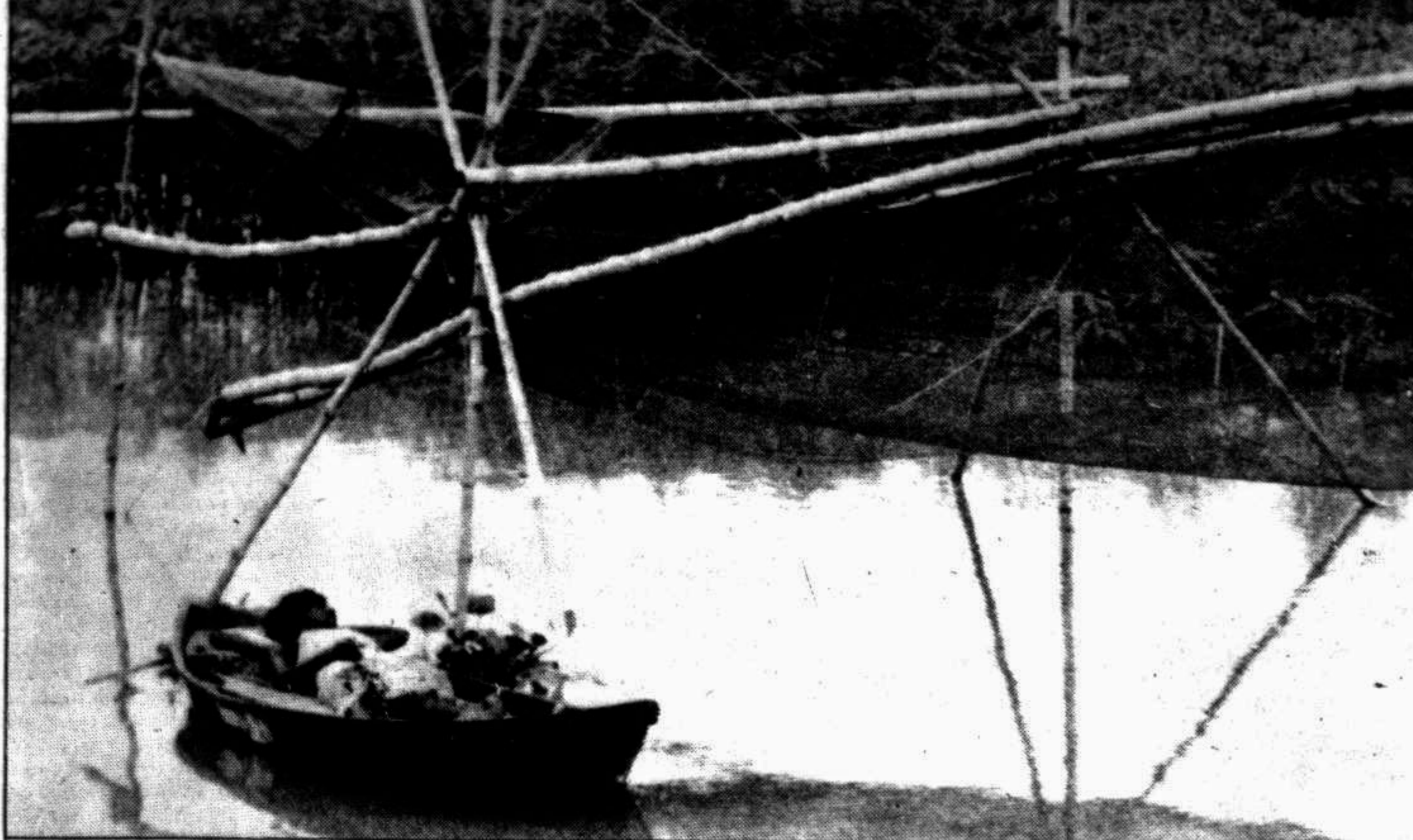
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This fisherman has nothing better to do than to have a rest after a day's unsuccessful attempt for a good haul, in a canal at Siddhirganj in Narayanganj.

Civic amenities for Sherpur residents inadequate

From Our Correspondent

SHERPUR, July 2: Civic amenities are absent in Sherpur town causing immense sufferings to about two lakh inhabitants.

The subdivision was brought under Pourashava in 1869 and then expanded and further promoted to a district seven years back. But the town is still bearing the trauma of narrow uneven roads with innumerable potholes, clogged drains, littered garbage, many mosquito breeding centers, inadequate street lights, frequent load-shedding, insufficient water supply, lack of sanitation and some other problems.

The narrow roads and lanes of the town frequently experience traffic jam. Most parts of

the roads with numerous potholes become flooded and filthy after a slight rainfall. Moreover, clogged drains and insufficient street lights multiply sufferings of the town dwellers.

The lack of proper maintenance and repairing aggravated the situation, the dwellers alleged.

"You can hardly notice a litterbin around the city. So the people had to dump their household wastes here and there which later breed mosquitoes," a town dweller told the Daily Star.

The authorities are seemingly indifferent about the cleanliness of the town. Sometimes insecticides

sprayed in an unscientific conventional methods proved ineffective.

Power failure is a regular phenomenon of the town. The town was first electrified in 1964 but the pace of development is very slow. Some outskirts of the city are yet to be electrified and some old lines need rewiring.

Water supply is also scanty. The Public Health Engineering Department sources said that fund shortage is delaying the scheme of adequate water supply. On the other hand some had tubewells have become inoperative as underground water level fell abnormally, sources said.

Lack of public lavatories

forced many people who come for various purpose in the district town from rural areas to defecate and urinate in dwelling areas causing environmental pollution.

The daily markets are in a sorry state. Shops have been built haphazardly congesting the access of the people. Even the Newmarket the town is suffering from manifold problems. The drainage system in and around the market is silted which caused water-logging in the area.

Moreover, narrow space before Newmarket causes traffic jam frequently. The housing problem of the government officials is also acute, sources said.

Ten medical assistants training schools closed

From Our Correspondent

MAULVI BAZAR, July 2: Maulvi Bazar Medical Assistants Training School has been closed for want of necessary fund and there is no effort by any quarter to reopen the school.

It may be mentioned here that 18 Medical Assistants Training Schools were opened in the year 1980 with the financial assistance of the Netherlands Government. These schools were in Maulvi Bazar, Comilla, Noakhali, Bagerhat, Faridpur, Bogra, Tangail, Kushtia, Strajganj, Munshiganj, Pirojpur, Magura, Kurigram, Thakurgaon and Chaprainawabganj.

As the contract with the Netherlands Government was not reviewed, the Maulvi Bazar Medical Assistants Training

School and other 9 school were closed in 1985. After closure of those ten schools the remaining eight schools are running in the districts of Bagerhat, Faridpur, Kushtia, Strajganj, Tangail, Comilla, Noakhali and Bogra.

From 1980 to 1985 more than 5000 students were trained up in these schools. Later on, they were absorbed in rural health centres, different hospitals and family welfare centres as Assistant Physician and their medical service has largely been applauded by people from all walks of life.

In our meagre facilities in medical service, reopening of these Medical Assistants Training Schools can play a vital role in implementing programme of "Health for all," it is widely felt.

Eid celebrated
The holy Eid-ul-Azha, one of the greatest Muslim religious festivals was celebrated throughout Maulvi Bazar district with due religious fervour and solemnity.

People of all ages and all walks of life offered Eid prayer in 'Jamaats' and embraced each other upholding the ideals of equality and brotherhood of mankind as enshrined in Islam.

Well-to-do people sacrificed animals upholding that ideal.

The main Eid congregation was held at Maulvi Bazar town Eidgah Maidan near the Shrine of Hazrat Syed Saib Mustafai (R.A.) where thousands of people offered the special prayer.

Wanton killing of frogs on in Barguna

BARGUNA, July 2: Frogs, the natural predators, are being indiscriminately caught in different parts of the district despite government ban, reports UNB.

Sources say a frog is being sold between Taka three and five in the local markets with impunity.

Local environmentalists say such wanton killing of the insectivorous animal will eventually lead to ecological imbalance in the district.

A frog can eat two to four kg of harmful insects a day.

5 lakh hectares put under Aus farming

CHUADANGA, July 2: A total of five lakh hectares of land have been brought under Aus farming in four upazilas of the district during the current season, reports UNB.

According to Agriculture Extension Department, 1.5 lakh hectares will be brought under Aus cultivation in Sadar, two lakh hectares in Damurhuda, one lakh hectares in Alamdanga and 50,000 hectares in Jhannagar upazilas.

Meanwhile, another reports from the district adds that Aus paddy on about 40,000 acres under Chuadanga irrigation project was damaged due to heavy downpour during the last week.

Many seed beds and seedlings have gone under water.

BKB will disburse Tk 800cr agri-loan

From Our Correspondent

MADARIPUR, July 2: Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) will disburse Taka 70 crore as loan among the farmers of 11 southern districts during 1991-92 fiscal year.

Faridpur, Madaripur, Shariatpur, Gopalganj, Rajbari, Barisal, Jhalakathi, Pirojpur, Patuakhali, Boguna and Bhola districts will come under this programme.

It is learnt that the said bank will also disburse Taka 800 crores as agricultural loan country wide during the next fiscal year. Bank sources said that plans have already been worked out in this regard and are likely to be effective from July.

Delay in bridge construction

Delay in completion of 126.61 metre long Bailey bridge over Sadhu's canal on Madaripur-Dhaka highway has

made the movement of vehicular traffic hazardous.

The previous RCC bridge was washed away by the devastating currents of 1988 floods, after which the R and H Division Madaripur constructed one way crescent shape diversion road with three small and narrow Bailey bridges on the canal as a temporary arrangement. Then during 1989-90 financial year Taka 1,24,45,000 was sanctioned by IDA for the construction of a permanent Bailey bridge over the same canal. Messers Soilreel, a construction firm got the work to complete it by June 30, 1991. When contacted, the Executive Engineer, R and H Madaripur said that the progress of the work is 98 per cent but the apparent condition does not comply with the remarks of the Executive Engineer.

Notes from Jamalpur

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, July 2: A worker's meeting of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Dewanganj upazila unit was held at its office recently.

S.M. Khairul Bashar Chisty, Convenor of the district unit BNP attended as chief guest while it was presided over by Sultan Ahmed.

Among others, it was addressed by Shamal Dash, Gollam Rahman, Shaheen and Abdullah Al-Mamun.

BJA unit meets

An Executive Committee meeting of Bangladesh Journalists Association (BJA), Jamalpur district unit was held at the local Press Club recently.

The meeting was presided over by President of the Unit AKM Mosharaf Hossain and among others it was addressed by Mecherullah, Secretary of the unit, Professor Kahiruzzaman, Md. Adel, Saifur Zaman Liba, Golam Hafiz Bukul, Modan Mohan Ghosh, Atiqur Rahman Reza and Shaheen Al Amin.

Spurious Indian pesticides flood market

MEHERPUR, July 2: The markets of Meherpur, Chuadanga, and Kushtia have been flooded with Indian pesticides. The pesticide dealers of the district have been selling spurious and contraband pesticide in the market.

The markets are flooded with Indian spurious pesticides like Acron Hilbish, Agro Hecro, Furadan 10 G, Lodin Hifbel at a cheap rate. The poor farmer have been purchasing the Indian pesticide without knowing demerit and chemical action of the pesticides.

It is learnt that fertility of the soil decreased to a great extent after using of the pesticide. The spurious pesticides are also causing health hazard and stomach ailment to people who are eating such agro-products.

When contacted, the Farm scientists told this correspondent that livestock of the district have also been suffering from various kinds of stomach ailments owing to eating of the pesticide-sprayed grass hay and fodder.

6 commit suicide on Eid day in Jhenidah

JHENIDAH, July 2: Six people including three housewives allegedly committed suicide on Eid day in the district, police said, reports UNB.

Two cousins Shajahan (25), and Shava (25), of Dougachi village in Sadar upazila allegedly committed suicide by taking poison. Their bodies were found in a cropland following morning in the village. The cause of their suicide could not be known.

A young housewife Rahima Khatun of Bhutiargati village in Sadar upazila allegedly committed suicide by taking pesticides. Relatives said she was unhappy with her husband.

Feroja Khatun (20) wife of Abdul Salam of Shalla village and Monowara Khatun (25) wife of Sabdul Haq of Modhuhati village of Sadar upazila were committed suicide by taking pesticides. They were suffering from severe stomach pain for a long time, family sources said.

Golam Kibria (48), of Vagwanagar village of Saikupa upazila allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself from a jackfruit tree near his residence. Stomach pain reportedly was the reason behind his suicide.

The bodies were sent to the Sadar hospital for autopsy. Several cases were lodged in this connection.

Bank officer embezzles client's money

JHENIDAH, July 2: The Sonali Bank authorities here are considering punitive action against an officer, accused of embezzling an amount of Taka 1.06 lakh, reports UNB.

The person second officer of Jhenidah Women Branch has been transferred and investigation is going on.

According to a source, the matter was detected when a woman account holder complained of discrepancy in the account statement.

It was later detected that the amount was transferred from her account through debt vouchers to the account of the officer's wife.

The local authority of the bank is reportedly trying to recover the amount from the officer.

Arms recovered in Pabna

SATKHIRA, July 2: Police recovered a pipe gun, a double-barrel gun and 32 rounds of bullets from Shaymnagar upazila here Saturday and arrested two persons during the operation, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, off Shaymnagar police raided a den of dacoits at Chandnimula and nabbed alleged dacoits Hazrat Ali and Mattiar Rahman from the spot.

They were later sent to jail here.



BARISAL: Members of the 'Barisal Ghat Samik Sangram Parishad' brought out a procession recently to press home their demands.