

## Upazila roundup

### KISHOREGANJ

#### Rotarians urged to serve suffering humanity

July 28: State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism A Mannan stressed the need for strengthening the efforts of Rotarians to enlarge the scope of selfless service. He called upon the Rotarians to find out the ways and means to help people in need, solution to community problems and work hard for creating a new harmonious society.

He was addressing as the chief guest the third installation ceremony and 100th regular weekly meeting of Kishoreganj Central Rotary Club at the local Public Library Hall Friday. Chaired by Rotarian Sayeduzzaman, President of the Club, the function was addressed, among others, by Rotarian AKM Llaquat Hossain Manik outgoing President and Rotarian Principal Jalal Ahmed.

### JHENIDAH

#### Highway robbery

From Our Correspondent

July 28: A highway robbery was committed last night at BSCIC estate Jhenidah last night in which the robbers looted away valuables worth about Taka two lakh.

Police sources said Khondaker Abdur Rashid of Faridpur was driving his own computerised costly Pazer Jeep just after Friday evening. Abdur Rashid who has been in Qatar for about 27 years came to Bangladesh recently on leave. He was on the way to Jessore to meet his friends. A motor-cycle with three robbers were following the jeep. When the jeep was crossing a bridge near Magura slowly, one of the robbers jumped from the motor-cycle into the jeep by opening its door while the two others crossed the jeep riding the motor-cycle. The robbers then forced Abdur Rashid to stop the jeep at BSCIC estate, Jhenidah at gun point where the rest two robbers were waiting.

Later on, the robbers looted away all belongings worth about Taka two lakh including cash Taka 50,000 and a passport with visa from Abdur Rashid.

A case was registered with Jhenidah thana.

UNB adds: Two employees of Sonali Bank Hartnankunda upazila branch of the district were suspended Thursday for their alleged embezzlement of Taka 50,000.

Bank sources said officer Hannan Siddiqui and senior cashier Aghar Hossain were found guilty when regional office made an investigation into the embezzlement allegations.

Final action against them will be taken after further investigation, the sources added.

### NANDAIL

#### Ashura observed

From Our Correspondent

July 28: The holy Ashura was observed at Nandail with due solemnity and religious fervour. Different socio-cultural organisation chalked out elaborate programme to observe the day.

The programmes included discussion meeting, seminar, 'Jaari', Milad Mahfil, distribution of food to the destitute and special Munajat.

Islamic Social Welfare Organisation held a seminar on 'Teachings of Karbala' at its Katakhal premises.

Presided over by Musharraf Hossain Akhand, Chairman of the organisation, the seminar was addressed by Abdus Samad, Khureshed Uddin, Abdur Hakim and Niamot Hossain.

A Qirat (recitation from the Holy Quran) competition was also held under the auspices of the organisation. The function was concluded with distribution of food to the destitute.

### BRAHMANBARIA

#### Decomposed body recovered

July 28: Police recovered a decomposed body of an old man Friday from Sejamura village of Sadar upazila after 17 days of his missing, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Abdul Haiz (55) of Alipur village in the same upazila. He was found hanging from a jack-fruit tree near a sugarcane field.

The body was sent to the Sadar hospital for autopsy. A case has been filed in this connection.

### SATKHIRA

#### Contraband worth Tk 65,000 seized

July 28: Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) arrested five people and seized contraband items worth about Taka 65,000 from

Gazipur border area of the district Friday, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, BDR arrested Rashid, Hajari, Isamuddin, Habibullah and Rabban and recovered the goods from their possession.

They were sent to police custody and the contraband goods were handed over to the local customs department.

A case has been filed in this connection.

### FARIDPUR

#### Bus services resume in 7 routes

July 28: Bus services in seven routes in the district resumed this afternoon after four days of transport strike, reports UNB.

The strike ended following a meeting between the district Bus-Minibus Owners Association and the district administration.

Deputy Commissioner Md Abdur Rahim presided over the meeting held in the DC office's conference room and attended by the SP, ADC (General), representatives of bus, minibus and inter-district Bus Owners Associations and motor workers union.

Local passenger buses and minibuses went off the road on July 24 after misbehaviour by the local people with some members of Minibus Owners Association on July 23 in a bid to shift the Kamarkhal bus stand to a new site.

It was decided in the meeting that the old Kamarkhal bus stand will stay there.

### JESSORE

#### Price situation of essentials reviewed

July 28: The supply and price situation of essential commodities was reviewed at a meeting held here yesterday with State Minister for Social Welfare and Women Affairs Tariqul Islam in the chair, reports BSS.

The Minister said the Value Added Tax (VAT) system introduced in the country by this democratic government was a progressive and actual taxation system aiming at the welfare of the country.

He stressed the need for making people fully aware of this systems for ensuring its proper execution.

Members of Jessore District Chamber of Commerce and Industries were present in the meeting.

### MADARIPUR

#### Jubo Dal meeting held

From Our Correspondent

July 28: A workers meeting organised by Madaripur district unit of Bangladesh Jatiyatubadi Jubo Dal was held at Ukil Library office premises recently.

The meeting was presided over by the Jubo Dal President Md. Muzibur Rahman Howlader. Among others, M Enamul Hoq' Sahin, Bazur Rahman and Atikur Rahman spoke in the meeting.

### SIRAJGANJ

#### Rly steamer ghat being shifted

July 28: Railway steamer ghat is being shifted to Mirpur area of the town due to siltation in the old ghat at Malshapara, official sources here said, reports UNB.

Official sources said that railway route from Strajganj ghat to Jagannathganj ghat has been affected seriously at several points for a long time due to siltation of the river Jamuna.

The work on shifting the ghat is expected to be started soon.

### PABNA

#### 16 die of diarrhoea

July 28: Sixteen people including nine babies died of diarrhoea and hundred others were attacked by the disease over the last four days in Bera and Sadar upazilas here, reports UNB.

The victims are Aduri (5) and Rashida (8) of Mirzapur village, Mazid (28), Khokon (5), and Hashem (2) of Mahmudpur village, Selina (2), Santosh (30), Mazroon Bawa (55), and Sattar (35) of Hazrat village in Sadar upazila, Mirza Shamsul (45), and Hatem Sarker (70) of Aminpur village, Momtaz (3), Kohinoor (5), Selam (1) of Jatsakini village, Sejib (5) and Sohrab Ali (50) of Berakhola village in Bera upazila.

District Civil Surgeon office, however, confirmed only seven deaths.

Meanwhile, paucity of pure water and scarcity of emergency medicines have been prevailing in the affected areas.



Elephants are rarely seen in rural areas excepting when a circus party is visiting — maybe once in many years. Photo shows two circus party men mounted on the giant set out for banana plant to feed the giant animal while children run after it for amusement at a village in Comilla. — Star photo

## Large-scale cutting of leaves threatens 'Gol' plants

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, July 28: Large scale cutting Golpata from the Sundarbans has threatened the existence of Gol plants.

"Gol" plant grows in abundance in the Sundarban Forests along the bank of river. The Gol leaves are called "Golpata" which are like coconut leaves largely used for making thatched houses in rural areas of Satkhira, Khulna, Bagerhat, Jessore, Barisal, Patuakhali and other places in the country.

Bawalis, the professional Golpata cutters usually visit the forest twice or thrice a year to cut two or three leaves from

one-year-old trees in the cyclic order because each of these trees bear three to four leaves only.

Bawalis load hired boats with 320 to 400 quintals of Golpata each.

Some start this business on their own capital while others borrow money from the money lenders or from banks at high interest. Big merchants also use Bawalis for collecting Golpata.

Every year they pay Taka 1,000 per 400 quintals to the Forest Department against the cost of the leaves.

The purchase it by weight but sells it by count. Forty kgs of Golpata is equivalent of 80 pieces of leaves which they sell at Taka 30 to Taka 35.

An amount of Taka 13,66,00,000 have been allocated for the reconstruction and repair of damaged roads in Khulna zone.

According to reliable sources, 64 km of roads, six wooden bridges and wood decking have been damaged in Bhola district. In Khulna, 47 km kutcha structures have been damaged.

In Jessore, 65 km long roads, 25 ferries, bridges, and

sheds, in Kushtia 13 km roads, in Gopalganj 12 km long roads, four bridges, Bailey bridge, in Faridpur 11 km long roads, four bridges, culverts and Bailey bridges, in Patuakhali 21 km of roads, one ferry, one Bailey bridge, in Barisal 30 km long road, 14 ferries and four ferry ghats have been badly damaged.

The total loss under greater Khulna district has been estimated at Taka 1,57,00,000 but Taka 89 lakh have been allocated. In Bhola the loss was to the tune of Taka two crore eighty lakh whereas only Taka 30 lakh have been allocated.

## Dealers deprive ration card holders

From Our Correspondent

DINAJPUR, July 28: Although the authorities have introduced "Pally Rationing" system with a view to helping the landless and distressed villagers, ration dealers and Food Inspectors are being benefited.

At this time of extreme financial as well as food crisis, almost all "Pally Ration Dealers" in Chitribandar, Btrol, Sadar and Kaharol upazilas under Dinajpur district in connivance with certain Food Inspectors are allegedly black-marketing ration rice.

According to reports, there are about 100 Pally Dealers in those upazilas most of them having no ration shop in their

respective unions. They in most cases, take allotment from upazila Food Officers and allegedly selout those allotment orders to different traders in Bochaganj, Btorganj and Parbatipur areas.

These dealers collected all ration cards numbering about 15,000 in the name of renewal in June 1990. But 8,000 out of the total cards have not yet been returned to card holders. As a result, they are being deprived of ration rice at fixed rate of Taka 7.50 per kilogram.

### Sanitary latrines

A large number of inhabi-

tants of Dinajpur district do not use sanitary latrines due to ignorance about health and hygiene.

Due to absence of sanitary latrine, rural people defecate in the nearby areas polluting the environment.

According to the UNICEF survey reports, about fifty per cent of diseases are caused due to insanitation. Almost all rural people attend to the call of nature in the nearby bushes, canals, beels, rivers and roadside places.

Diseases like typhoid, paratyphoid, cholera, bacillary

dysentery spread fast in the areas.

Another reason for spread of infectious diseases is accumulation of household wastes which are found in rural areas.

About 40 per cent of the sufferers are infants up to the age of five years due to unhygienic habits followed by the mothers while cooking and serving the foodstuff. As a result, infants become victims of diarrhoeal diseases.

According to the survey, only seven per cent people use sanitary latrines.

## Workers demand reopening of Halima Textile Mills

From Our Correspondent

COMILLA, July 28: A large number of employees of Halima Textile Mills has been facing acute economic hardships since the closure of the mill five years ago. Already 59 workers have died.

The mill was established in 1962 in Halima Nagar, seven km from Comilla town. It was nationalised in 1972 and denationalised on December 16, 1982.

It is alleged that the shareholders of the mill withdrew huge sum of money from mill account including Taka 54 lakh, workers' Provident Fund causing serious setback for the functioning of the mill. As a result authorities declared lay-off on January 24, 1986 without giving any information to the labourers. Further, Taka 33 lakh workers' salary, Taka 50 lakh electric bill and Taka two

crore loan from Pubali Bank Ltd of Kandirpar branch are left unpaid.

On the other hand huge quantity of clothes and cotton worth Taka two crore is being damaged. About 172 power looms, 12,000 spindles and other valuable machineries are also decaying.

About 1000 workers from greater Comilla, Noakhali, Sylhet were working in the mill.

## Tk 9.22 lakh Rotary projects in Austogram

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, July 28: The Rota Bangla Foundation has undertaken 12 projects in different areas in Austogram upazila of the district at a cost of 28,000 US dollars equivalent to Taka 9,22,335 for economic and social development of the rural areas of the upazila.

These projects have been financed by Rotary Club of Barasso Valley of Australia who donated 12,000 US dollars, the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International donated 14,000 US dollars and Bangla Para Rotary Village Corps through Rotary Club of Dhaka donated 2,000 US dollars.

The work on these projects started in February last and is expected to be completed by the end of current year. The projects are being implemented in villages Banglapara, Deoghar, Kastul, Austogram, Abdullahpur, Paon, Monoharpur, Kagaziganj and Sabyanagar under Austogram upazila.

The main aim and objectives of these projects are to assist the rural people particularly women folk of these villages to improve their economic, social life and human advancement in the form of vocational training, working capital to run small business, houses for shelterless people, sanitary toilets and tubewells, school rooms, agricultural equipment, passenger sheds at ferry ghat, poultry farms, tree plantation and public toilets.

The ongoing projects include construction of a library room for Austogram Girls High School at a cost of Taka 42,000, a passenger shed at Deoghar Ferry ghat at a cost of

Taka 33,000, 143 income generating projects in Abdullahpur, Paon, Kastul, Kagaziganj, Deoghar, Monoharpur and Sabyanagar villages at a cost of Taka 2,44,800, 36 fish processing projects in different villages at a cost of Taka 70,800, 73 small projects for poultry farms and cattle breeding at a cost of Taka 1,16,400, setting up of sanitary toilets in different villages at a cost of Taka 36,000, installation of 17 tubewells at a cost of Taka 76,500 in different villages, Rota homes for homeless in different villages at a cost of Taka 1,10,000, two projects for village doctors at Sabyanagar and Kastul at a cost of Taka 3,600, eight book stalls, icecream and cheese sales centre at Abdullahpur, Kagaziganj, Deoghar and Paon villages at a cost of Taka 10,000, Twenty eight small cottage industries at a cost of Taka 1,02,200 and 13 projects for shoe sales, tea stalls, and icecream factory in Dhaka city by the immigrants coming from rural areas at a cost of Taka 74,400.

With the implementation of these projects about 30,000 people of different villages of Austogram upazila will be benefited, Rotarian Jack Nankervis and Rotarian Ian Clark of Australia and Rotarian Imdatul Haq of Bangladesh took initiatives to mobilise the funds for the economic emancipation of the rural people. After the completion of the work of the first phase the work of the second and third phases will be started gradually, it is learnt.

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## Shariatpur needs fire brigade

From Our Correspondent

SHARIATPUR, July 28: There is no fire brigade in the Shariatpur district. There exists one nominal office with four fourth class employees, who are often harassed.

Ten years ago a fire brigade office was set up but it is yet to start functioning. Officers and operational workers with fire vehicles are badly in need for the security of many hats and bazars of this district.

A telephone exchange of 300 lines with the facilities of NWD awaits inauguration. Meanwhile, calls are coming from outside districts. But inmates of this district can not get directly their desired numbers outside the district.

## Gentex machine of telegraph office out of order

July 28: The Gentex machine of Rajbari telegraph office has been lying out of order since long causing much inconveniences to the local traders and journalists, reports UNB.

The machine was put into operation on July 18 after a long time but it went out of order again on July 21.

## Drought hits Rangpur

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, July 28: A severe drought has hit all eight upazilas of the district since past few weeks hampering cultivation of Aman paddy and harvesting of jute crop.

According to information received from different corners of the district, farmers could not cultivate Aman paddy in their land for want of water.

Aman paddy on only 20 per cent of land have been cultivated all over the district, farmers said.

On the other hand the harvesting of jute crop has been badly hampered in the district particularly in high land area.

Most ponds, beels, canals and other water bodies dried up causing great inconveniences in rotting jute.

Jute farmers said that most of them harvested jute with the expectation of rain but at their utter surprise found their harvested crops being dried up in the canals and khals. Jute plants in many fields are being damaged in absence of rain.

Rangpur met office said it recorded only 140 millimeter rainfall during the current month which is much below the requirements for both Aman and jute crops.

## BAU reopens on Aug 3

From BAU Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, July 28: Classes of Bangladesh Agricultural University will resume on August 3, after over two month's unscheduled closure.

The decision was taken on Wednesday at the end of two-day Syndicate meeting with Vice-Chancellor Prof Asadur Rahman in the chair.

Examinations of the university postponed by its sine die closure on May 30, will begin from July 25 and the residential halls will be opened on July 21 only for the examinees.

The university was closed sine die on May 30 following a clash between pro-Awami League Chhatra League and BNP-backed Jatiyatubadi Chhatra Dal activists in which at least 20 students were injured and over 100 rooms of different halls ransacked.

## A cruel father

RANGPUR, July 28: A cruel father of village Srirampur in Mithapukur upazila of the district Tuesday strangled to death his two minor daughters, reports UNB.

The ill-fated daughters were Rehena Khatoon (8) and Alena Khatoon (6). The reason behind the murder could not be ascertained.

According to police, Razzak Mian, a Rickshawman puller took his daughters to Ashura Mela at Balarhat of the village Tuesday, while returning home from the Mela at around 9 pm he strangled his daughters at the bank of a pond adjacent to his house one after another.

On hearing alarm of the victims, the villagers rushed to the spot and Razzak Mian managed to escape throwing the bodies into the pond. Later the mother of the victims with the help of the villagers recovered the bodies from the pond.

The bodies were sent to hospital for autopsy and a case has been filed in this connection.

The cruel father remained absconding since the incident.

## 358 FWP projects being implemented

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, July 28: A total of 358 projects have been taken up under food for works programme in seven upazilas of the district during the current rainy season. The construction work of these projects is going on in fullswing, it is learnt.

Of the total, 86 projects were taken up in Sadar upazila, 29 in Dehbata, 42 in Assasuri, 45 in Kalaroa, 31 in Kaliganj, 48 in Tala and 77 in Shyamnagar upazila.

About 535 metric tons of wheat have already been sanctioned to implement these projects.

The projects included construction and re-construction of roads and earth fillings of different educational institutions.

## Teacher shortage in teachers' training college

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, July 28: Jessore Teacher's Training College is faced with serious problems. Shortage of teachers is the main problem, it is learnt.

It is reported that 28 posts out of 31 in Jessore T. T. College are lying vacant. There are only three teachers at present. New teachers are not recruited to fill up the vacant posts since long. The existing teachers are reportedly trying to leave the institution as and when they get better chances elsewhere.



JHENIDAH: Two alleged Sarbahara Party activists nabbed by Jhenidah police at village Dhananjoupur in Jhenidah Sadar Upazila recently. — Star photo