

Upazila roundup

JAMALPUR

Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal meet held

From Our Correspondent

July 30: An extended meeting of Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal of Melandah Upazila unit was held at the local office with Monwar Hawladar in the chair recently.

Khandkar Ilias Mortaza convener of Jamalpur district unit of Jubo Dal attended it as the chief guest.

The meeting was addressed among others by Mahbul Alam, Anwarul Haque, Abdus Salam, Fazlul Qader Helal, Rukunuzzaman Abu, Gias Uddin Jamali, Abdul Hai Jamali, Kajal Talukdar, Meherullah, Abu Baker, Habibur Rahman and Sarwar Hossain.

SIRAJGANJ

Prices of essentials up

From Our Correspondent

The sudden introduction of VAT has caused adverse effect on the market of Sirajganj.

The prices of all essentials have shot up resulting in the sufferings of the common man.

One kg soyabean oil sells at Taka 40 which sold at Taka 28 only two days before. Price of sugar went up to Taka 30 per kg from Taka 27 earlier. The prices of other essential commodities also registered a steep rise over the period of two days after the introduction of VAT (Value Added Tax).

NANDAIL

12 dacoities committed

From Our Correspondent

Twelve dacoities were committed at four villages during the last few days under Hahia Ghat upazila. The dacoits looted valuables worth about Tk two lakh from the houses.

In one incident a villager was killed on the spot while a clash took place between the miscreants and villagers at village Kangsherkul.

It is learnt that the dacoits were intercepted by the villagers at the time of getting out with the looted valuables. At one stage the dacoits attacked Kanchanman (32) with sharp weapons and he died on the spot.

Separate cases were lodged with Haluaghat police.

KISHOREGANJ

Adulterated foodstuff sold in restaurants

From Our Correspondent

July 30: Adulteration of foodstuff is rampant in almost all hotels and restaurants of the town with the law-enforcing agencies remaining indifferent, consumers alleged.

Due to consumption of adulterated foodstuffs, town-dwellers have been suffering from various gas trointestinal ailments. Skin diseases have broken out in an alarming proportion in the area, doctors said.

They said patients with skin diseases have been pouring into their chambers in large number everyday. Pure edibles like milk, ghee, mustard and soyabean etc are hardly available in the market.

The local pourashava and upazila authorities have sanitary inspectors, but they seldom perform their duties. Some vendors are found selling adulterated foodstuff in front of schools causing stomach ailments to the school children.

KURIGRAM

Flood victims in distress

From Our Correspondent

July 30: The flood victims of the district have been passing their days in great distress due to scarcity of food, clothes and medicines, reports UNB.

According to district administration, at least four lakh people in 44 unions of nine upazilas of the district were adversely affected.

At least 11,182 dwellings completely and 11,901 partially were damaged by the flood. Standing crops on 36,667 acres of land totally and 181 acres partially were also damaged, the sources added.

About 1031 kms road with bridges and culverts were destroyed and at least 34 educational institutions totally and 135 partially were damaged.

District administration, so far, distributed cash Taka 50,000 and 65 metric tons of foodgrains, 2000 pieces lungies, 100 pieces saris and 100 tons of biscuits among the flood affected people.

PABNA

Rapist kills minor girl

From Our Correspondent

July 30: A teenaged girl was killed by a rapist at Chatmohor upazila under the district recently.

The victim Beauty Parvin (11), daughter of Jamsed Ali of the village Sthal under Chatmohor Upazila was lured by Ismail, son of Ibrahim of the same village when she had gone to the market to purchase some potato. Ibrahim took her to a nearby room and raped frequently. After that he killed her and put her body in hole at nearby chili-field, with the help of his father Ibrahim.

Police being informed rushed to the spot and recovered the body next day with the help of villagers and it sent to the morgue for autopsy.

SHARIATPUR

Power station needed

From A Correspondent

July 30: People of Shariatpur are experiencing much inconveniences in absence of a power station in the district. Mostafapur station of Madaripur controls electricity of the six upazilas of this district thus causing much sufferings to the consumers.

If something happens in one upazila in respect of electricity, all other upazilas plunge into darkness. Low voltage, frequent power failures are the common feature. The study of students and the treatment of patients are hampered due to irregular power supply.

About two hundred small industries of six upazilas incur a huge loss.

PABNA

Jute production target may fall short

July 30: This year's jute production target is likely to fall short in all the nine upazilas of the district as growers are reluctant to cultivate the natural fibre, reports UNB.

According to sources, farmers are preferring other crops to jute, which has not been fetching good price in the last few years.

Market price of jute has always been much less than the production cost, they said.

Officials of the district Agriculture Extension Department feared that land earmarked for jute farming this year may not be covered.

BORGUNA

Sub-registrar's office in shambles

July 30: Important documents of landed property of the rural people are getting lost or destroyed due to lack of maintenance in the sub-registrar's office here, reports UNB.

According to sources, the office lacks accommodation facilities hampering its normal functioning. In absence of waiting rooms, people from far flung areas are to wait for hours together in the corridor.

The situation becomes precarious in the rainy season. Files and documents kept on the floor of the office get wet by rain water leaking through ceiling and walls.

Both employees and local people have called for shifting of the office to some other building ensuring their safety and better working atmosphere.

MAGURA

TK 4.72 lakh for family planning clinics

July 30: The government has sanctioned an amount of over Tk. 4.72 lakh for the construction and development of four union family planning clinics in Sadar upazila here during the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

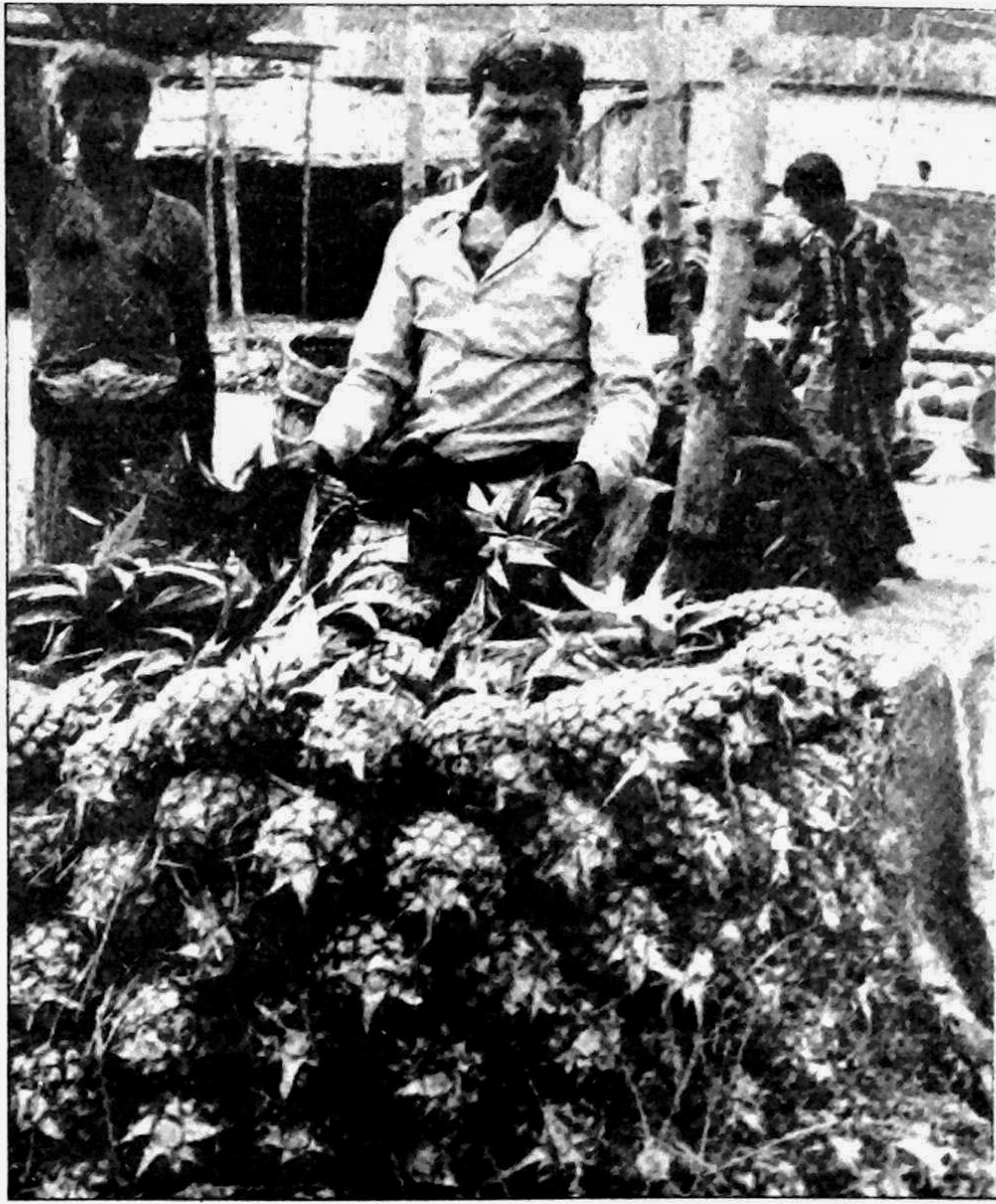
Taken up under annual development programme, local administration sources said the clinics are in Kachundi, Moghla, Hajrapur and Jagdol union.

Work on the project will start from next month and is expected to be completed by November this year.

Primary health and family planning facilities will be greatly improved after the implementation of the scheme.

They said after the attack, paddy plants turn yellow and gradually dry up.

The worst-affected upazilas are Sadar, Trishal, Gaffargaon, Bhaluka, Fulbaria, Nandail, Ishwarganj, Gouripur and Phulpur.



Pineapple — a juicy fruit is now available in abundance in the markets. Photo shows a salesman waiting for buyers with the item at a wholesale market in Munshiganj district. — Star photo

VAT-induced price hike of essentials hits consumers

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, July 30: The prices of essentials have shot up in local market and elsewhere in the district following imposition of Value Added Tax (VAT) which was implemented from July 1.

According to the market sources, before the placement of the budget for 1991-92 in the Jatiya Sangsad soyabean oil was sold at Taka 32 per kg whereas at present it sells at Taka 45 to 48. Mustard oil is selling at Taka 55 per kg against Taka 40 per kg before budget announcement. Price of salt has also increased by Taka two per kg.

Moreover, prices of baby food, powdered milk, writing paper, ball pen and soap have also gone up but the prices of rice, however, remain more or less static.

It is alleged that the business are increasing prices of several items and creating artificial crisis for making huge profit. The prices of all these items rose when national budget was announced and again there were rise after the imposition of VAT. Duty on condensed milk was increased from 28 to 40 per cent and on Soyabean oil two per cent. Prices of soap has also shot up after the imposition of VAT. Whereas sugar in the market has increased by Taka one per kilo which now sells at Taka 30 per kg. The local people have urged the authorities to arrest the price spiral of essential commodities.

Meherpur

Our Meherpur Correspondent adds: Prices of essential commodities registered a sharp rise in Chuadanga,

Meherpur, Kushtia and Jhenidah districts after imposition of VAT adding miseries to the consumers.

According to the rice traders, the price of rice has gone up by Taka 60 to 80 per maund. Mustard and soyabean also recorded a sharp rise which sell at Taka 55 and 48 per kg respectively. Salt sells at Taka 10 per kg and vegetable oil at Taka 60 per kg. Baby food is also sold at higher rates. One pound tin of baby food sells at Taka 75 against Taka 50 a week back whereas four pound tin has increased by Taka 25 to 30. Sugar sells at Taka 30 per kg. Prices of vegetables like potato, ladies finger, pumpkin, jhinga, barbaty have also registered sharp rise.

It is learnt that vegetable production has been hampered due to drought and excessive rainfall at places for which supply has decreased.

On the other hand meat and fish are beyond the reach of common man. Mutton and beef at Taka 100 and Taka 60 per kg respectively while: Hilaha fish, Rupi, Mrigal, Glass Carp, Silver Carp, Magur, Shingri Koi, Telapia, Nailotika, at Taka 70, 100, 60, 80, 60, 120, 100, 90, 60 respectively. Low income groups of people have been suffering from various diseases due to malnutrition.

Traders alleged that soyabean and palm oil are being smuggled out of the country. It is alleged that large quantity of soyabean, palm, diesel oil, CI sheets, clothes, polyester cloth, VCR, VCP, copper and brass metals are being smuggled out of the country everyday.

People yet to get price of acquired land in Faridpur

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, July 30: Local people have been deprived of fair price of their lands acquired by the government for River Research Institution (RRI) project.

River Research Institution (RRI) of Faridpur is one of the biggest projects in Asia whose foundation stone was laid by late President Ziaur Rahman primarily. Later the implementation of the project was suspended by the Ershad Government.

The then President H M Ershad inaugurated the RRI in Faridpur again on July 1, 1989, in the face strong demand by the local people.

Previously the institution was established on 35 hectares of land in 1980 and construction started in 1984-85.

The main construction works include several buildings, roads, boundary wall, deep wells etc.

The total allocation was Taka 676.00 lakh in 1988-89 of which Taka 545.00 lakh was spent for the construction of 10 buildings. The allocation for 1989-90 was Taka 1650 lakh of which Taka 1400 lakh was spent for the construction of 76 buildings. The construction of modern rethouse is going on in full swing.

The people affected by the construction of the project made several representations to the local administration and submitted memorandum to press home their demands.

It is learnt from the affected people that the price of the acquired land was estimated at a very low price compared to the actual price. It is further learnt that the then President Ziaur Rahman promised the local people that their children will get services in the project, double price for the land would be paid, the

victims will be given Khas land from elsewhere of the district. But none of the promises were fulfilled. The local people said that the present project area has been filled up by three modern IRR blocks of high yielding paddy. But the affected people are yet to get the price of their land. As a result, many people of the area are leading very miserable life.

They expect the government to take necessary steps so that they can get compensation for their land.

4.75 lakh acres to be put under transplanted Aman

PATUAKHALI, July 30: About 4.75 lakh acres of land will be brought under massive transplanted aman cultivation in the current season in six upazilas of the district, reports UNB.

According to sources, about 1.12 lakh acres will be brought under aman farming in Sadar, 85,000 in Mirzaganj, 79,000 in Galachipa and 64,000 in Kalapara upazilas.

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation will supply necessary seed, fertilizers and insecticides for the programme.

About 3.22 lakh metric tons of aman paddy are expected to be produced.

Besides, about one lakh acres of land were brought under intensive aus cultivation in six upazilas of the district.

Of the total land, 21,500 acres were brought under high yielding variety (HYV) and 79,500 acres under local variety.

BADC distributed 8,000 tons of various fertilizers worth about Tk 4 crore among the cultivators of the district.

Theft at Sundarbans rampant

More rivercraft needed to protect forest resources

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, July 30: In absence of speedy boats and necessary staff the Forest Department failed to contain the criminal activities in the Sundarbans.

A total of 3,721 thefts of wood and 'Gol pata' have so far been committed in the Sundarbans during the last few years.

According to sources, the year-wise theft cases are 1157 in 1987-88, 1667 in 1988-89, 507 in 1989-90 and 390 cases in 1990-91.

Of the total cases filed by the Forest Department 1129 cases were without the names of the thieves 1468 people were arrested with stolen wood and gol leaves. The cases were subsequently settled through the Divisional Forest Officer while 1124 cases have been filed with the respective courts.

According to the Forest Department sources, in last four years Sundarbans incurred loss of several crores Taka.

When contacted, an official of the Sundarbans told that for want of speedy rivercrafts and of shortage of manpower are the causes for the problem.

The source further added that at present there are only two big launches and 12 small launches of which six are out of order. There are also only 12 trawlers, 37 residential boats 22 country boats of which only 14 are in operation. There are 69 dings and five

and all other available means of transport.

The incoming contraband have been paralysing the local industries for a long time. The textile industry is the worst hit.

An organised influential group have been carrying out the heinous business and a large number of people including female are working over day and night as their agents. The women are engaged in ferrying the contraband door to door.

Local elite have opined that if the smuggling continues unabated country's economy will be shattered in near future.

Mentionable that an anti-smuggling check post was set up near Jhenidah police station on Dhaka-Khulna highway by anti-smuggling committee headed by Deputy Commissioner, Jhenidah, some days back. But it was withdrawn after two days of its functioning.

The contraband including saree, lungi, sugar, cattle-heads, bi-cycles, imitation ornaments, cosmetics, spices, sugar, match box, VCP, VCR electronic goods, brass copper, watch, spares, edible oil and hilaha fish are being smuggled through the borders by trucks, vans, carts, bi-cycles

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speed boats of which two are out of order.

It is further learnt from the source, that with the inadequate number of rivercrafts and insufficient number of employees the Forest Department has been facing innumerable troubles to protect the Sundarbans and combat the crimes and thefts.

A dacoity was committed at the house of Mizanur Rahman of village Nebakhali under Sadar upazila recently. The

dacoits looted valuables worth Taka one lakh.

It is reported that the armed dacoits numbering 10 to 15 raided the house and looted five tolas of gold, 20 tolas of silver and other valuables worth Taka one lakh at gun point. They beat the inmates and the house owner sustained injuries.

A case has been lodged with Satkhira police station. None has been arrested in this connection.

Smuggling rampant along border areas

JHENIDAH, July 30: Smuggling has been going on with impunity along the bordering districts of Jhenidah, Jessore, Chuadanga and Meherpur, reports UNB.

Bangladesh Rifles of Jessore and Chuadanga border outposts seized smuggled goods worth about Tk 9.63 crore during the period from January to June this year and arrested 142 smugglers.

Local people alleged that various goods worth lakhs of Taka are being smuggled into the country every night. Similarly, huge amount of goods are also being smuggled out to India through different points from Chougacha to Jibannagar border areas.

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