

Upazila roundup

CHANDPUR

Rotary Club executives

From Our Correspondent  
August 7: The election of the members of the Board of Directors of Chandpur Rotary Club was held at Rotary Bhavan recently.

Rotarian AKM Mujibur Rahman, President of the club, presided over the election meeting. Rotarian Subhash Chandra Roy and Zamil Haider Bulbul have been elected President and Secretary respectively for the current year.

Other office-bearers are: Vice-President - Shah Md Kuddus, Joint Secretary - Mizanur Rahman Khan and Kamaluddin Ahmed, Treasurer - Md Hafiz Mia, Director Club Service - Tomal Ghos, Director Community Service - Mostaq Haider Chowdhury, Director Vocational Service - Md Delwar Hossain Monohar, Director International Service - Prof Delwar Ahmed, Sergeants at arms Principal Md Tarikulah and Abul Kalam Azad.

MYMENSINGH

Medical college students union polls today

From Our BAU Correspondent

August 7: The election of the Mymensingh Medical College Student's Union will be held today. Four panel are contesting for 15 posts including the posts of Vice-President and General Secretary.

Bangladesh Chhatra League (A-A), Jattayabadi Chhatra Dal and Islami Chhatra Shibir submitted individual panel. Meanwhile, Chhatra Union and Bangladesh Samajtantrik Chhatra Front submitted joint panel.

Principal of the college Prof ATM Mukkharul Islam called upon all to cooperate in holding the election peacefully.

MADARIPUR

HBFC office needed

From Our Correspondent

August 7: In absence of House Building Finance Corporation (HBFC) office at Madaripur, people of the district are unable to construct new houses and buildings to overcome accommodation problem.

Moreover, the loan disbursement system has become so complex that it takes a long time to avail loan facilities from any bank. After the upgradation of Madaripur into a district its population has been increased considerably but houses were not constructed accordingly. It is reported.

GAIBANDEHA

Banks disburse Tk 7.17 crore agri-loan

August 7: Commercial banks have disbursed Tk 7.17.69.000 as agriculture loans in seven upazilas of the district since last June, official sources said, reports UNB.

Bank sources said a total of 1,90,690 borrowers will get benefit out of the loan to boost agriculture output in the district.

The concerned banks so far realised Taka 4.99.94.000 outstanding loans from the loanee farmers, it is learnt.

Earlier the banks filed certificate cases against 7,768 defaulters to realise outstanding loan of Tk. 6.92.78.000.

Diarrhoea claims 30 lives

Diarrhoea claimed 30 lives and attacked about 1000 people in the district during the last few days, reports UNB.

Scarcity of pure water and oral saline have been prevailing in the affected areas. Besides, shortage of water purifying tablets have aggravated the situation.

Taking of impure water and adulterated food have been attributed to the spread of the disease.

District Health Department sources said a number of medical teams are working in the affected areas to combat the spread of the disease.

COMILLA

11 dacoits arrested

August 7: Eleven dacoits were arrested in two separate raids in Ranimuhari and Rajnagar areas of Sadar upazila, police said here today, reports UNB.

The arrested dacoits are Abdul Haque, Matin, Din Islam, Khokan, Golam Mostafa, Abdul Jalil, Matti Mia, Hanif, Swapan, Rajkumar Chakma and Abu

Taher.

Acting on a tip, police raided the hideouts of the dacoits on July 28 and 29 who were wanted in connection with several dacoities. They were sent to jail here.

Two separate cases have been lodged in this connection.

Aman farming

A scheme has been undertaken to bring 3.02 lakh acres of land under intensive transplanted aman cultivation in the district during current season.

According to Agriculture Extension Department sources, of the total, 2.40 lakh acres of land will be brought under high yielding variety, 30,000 acres under Pajjam and 32,000 acres under local varieties.

At least 1,92,600 kgs of seeds of improved varieties of aman paddy have been made available for the growers.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation has distributed fertilizers, insecticides and other necessary inputs among the growers at fair prices to make the scheme a success.

PABNA

2 killed, 11 hurt in road accident

August 7: Two people died on the spot and 11 others were injured, three of them seriously in a road accident in a village here Sunday, reports UNB.

Accident occurred when the driver of a Pabna bound minibus lost its control and fell into a roadside ditch at village Mazhidpur on the Pabna-Rajshahi highway killing Tazul (25) and Md Azar Ali (27) instantaneously.

The injured were admitted to the Pabna General Hospital. A case has been registered in this connection.

FENI

Tk 17.68 lakh sanctioned for 5 projects

August 7: Local pourashava has sanctioned Taka 17.68 lakh to implement five projects under flood rehabilitation programme, reports UNB.

Official sources said funded by Asian Development Bank, the projects include construction of roads, culverts and bridges.

The works on the project will start soon. After completion of the projects, about 80,000 people of pourashava will get benefit.

SHERPUR

Street lights inadequate

August 7: Lack of adequate street lights in the municipal areas here have been causing inconveniences to the town dwellers, reports UNB.

Most of the light posts are without bulbs or fused bulbs, causing problems to pedestrians and movement of vehicular traffic.

Moreover, frequent power failure and load shedding have worsened the situation. As a result, the town plunges into darkness after sundown giving rise to anti-social activities.

Local people have urged the poura authorities to take immediate steps in this respect to ease their sufferings.

MAULVI BAZAR

One killed by miscreants

From Our Correspondent

August 7: One Md Mokhlis Miah of village Barman under Maulvi Bazar Sadar upazila was allegedly killed by some miscreants at his village recently.

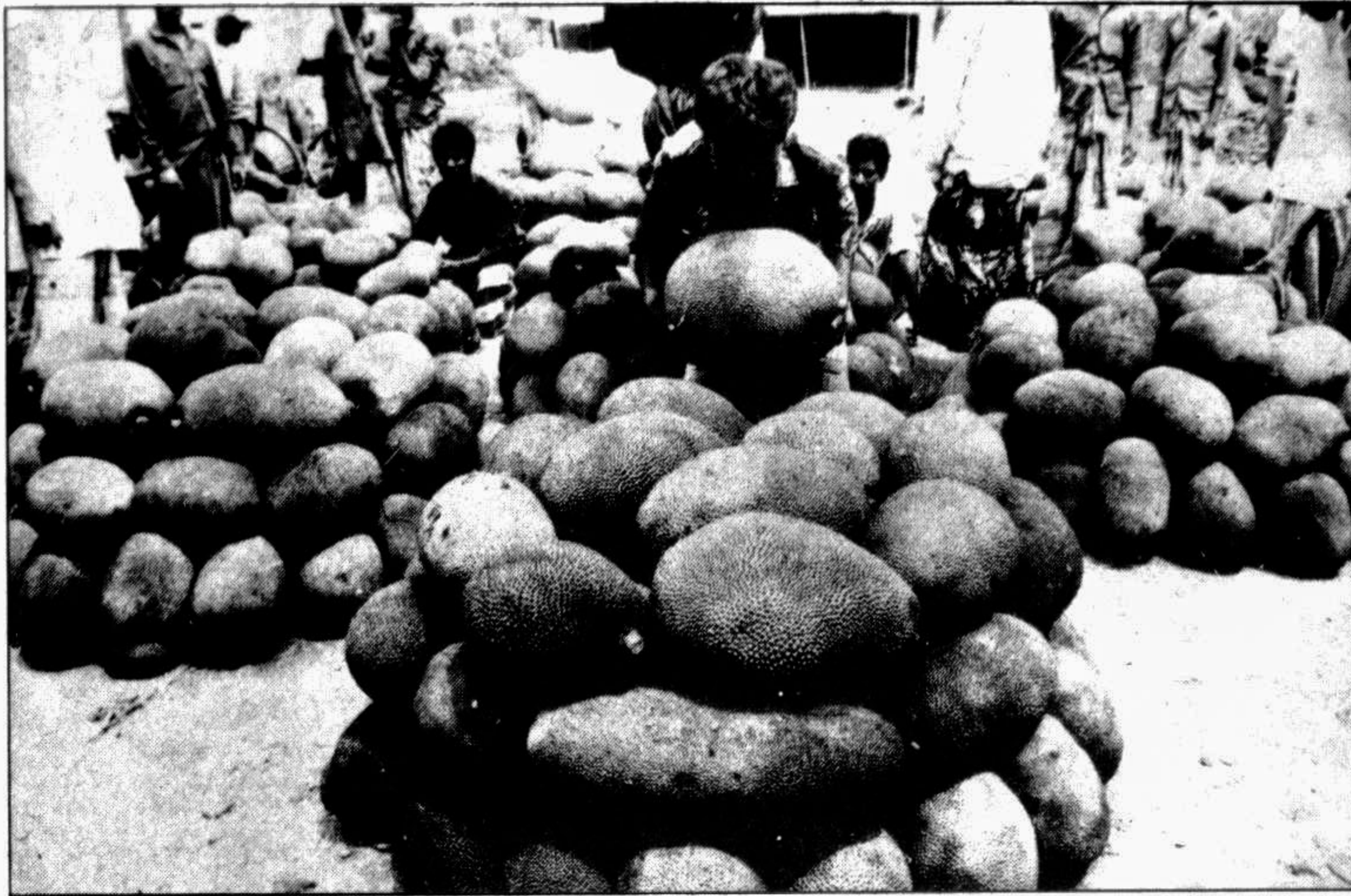
It is reported that, at the night of occurrence the victim was returning home from Maulvi Bazar town and when he reached his village at 10 pm some identified miscreants with lethal weapons attacked him. On his alarm, some villagers came to his help. In the meantime, the miscreants hit Md Mokhlis Miah by dao. As a result, he sustained grievous injuries. He was admitted to Maulvi Bazar Sadar Hospital. But after 3 days he succumbed to his injuries.

In this connection a murder case was registered with Maulvi Bazar police.

Teacher shortage in schools

The primary schools of Netrakona district especially in the remote villages have been facing various problems for a long time. Out of total 781 government schools, 562 are government and 219 are private. According to the sources, the schools should be provided with 4206 teachers in total but there are only 2922 teachers now. About 1296 posts of the teachers are vacant since long.

Besides, 25 schools are running without headmasters.



As the jackfruit season nearing end the price is going beyond the purchasing capacity of the commoners. Photo shows traders waiting with the item for customers at a market in Savar. — Star photo

Handloom industry faces closure

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 7: Handloom industry of Sirajganj district has been facing closure due to manifold problems including abnormal price hike of cotton yarn, dyes, chemicals and fall in demand of handloom products. Meanwhile, 70 per cent of handloom factories now remain closed throwing a large number of weavers unemployed.

Natural calamities during the last few years damaged a large number of handloom factories.

According to a survey, there are 77,000 handlooms in Shahzadpur Upazila, 15,000 in Ullapara upazila and 50,000 in Belkuchi Upazila. More than 80 lakh people are either directly or indirectly dependent on this sector.

The government, however, extended loan facilities in 1984 to gear up this sector. Taka 5500 loan was paid for each semi-automatic loom and Taka 3500 for country loom while scheduled banks disbursed loans among the weavers on passbooks, issued by the Bangladesh Handloom Board.

It is alleged that a substantial amount of loan went to the pockets of fake weavers who utilised forged passbooks.

On information the government stopped the disbursement of loan subject to issuance of new passbooks. But since then the loan distribution scheme remained stopped. Under the loan distribution scheme, Sonali Bank

at Belkuchi disbursed Taka 84 lakhs among 240 weavers. Krishi Bank — Taka 78 lakhs among 240 weavers and Agrani Bank — Taka 78 lakhs among 250 weavers. Repayment of loan was too poor. Along in Shahzadpur upazila, Taka 10 crores remain unrealised.

A handloom factory owner told this correspondent that prices of cotton yarn, dyes and chemicals have been increased abnormally and demand for handloom products have declined threatening the existence of this prospective cottage industry.

Virus fever

Virus fever is spreading alarmingly in Sirajganj weakening the immune system of the body.

Three to four members of each family have been attacked by this virus. The affected patients suffer from fever normally for one to two weeks with severe body pains, headache, sneezing, sore throat, cough and sore eyes.

Nasal secretions are found to be helping agents for spreading of the virus. No cure has been found as yet. To prevent the common ailments, doctors prescribed chicken soup with a few boiled vegetables and fruit juices to help built resistance to the disease.

Doctors further advised that patients should stay in a room with uniform temperature and humidity. A hot water bath with two to three times daily salt water gargles are the helping remedies.

One gets life-term for murder in Mymensingh

From Our BAU Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, Aug 7: Mr M I Hafiz, Additional District and Sessions Judge, Mymensingh sentenced Jahrlul Haq to life imprisonment on the charge of murdering his sister-in-law Minara Khatoon of village Bargaw under Trisal upazila.

According to the prosecution, on July 7, 1990 the accused killed Minara Khatoon. A case has filed with the police who after investigation chargesheeted the accused. The judge after examining the evidence and witnesses sentenced Jahrlul to life-term.

81 bags blood collected

Eighty-one bags of blood were collected by Sandhani and Medicine Club of Mymensingh Medical College unit recently during separate blood donation programmes.

Shopkeepers, vendors occupy Rajshahi city roads

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Aug 7: Mushroom growth of stalls on the narrow roads and footpaths of the city is causing untold sufferings to the vehicular traffic and pedestrians of Rajshahi city since last few years.

Hundreds of temporary stalls of various items are being set up daily on both sides of the roads leaving very narrow space for movement of vehicles leading to regular traffic jam. Pedestrian are the worst sufferers.

Besides, many motor repairing workshops and welding shops on Kazala Road, Station Road, Shaheb Bazar Road and Tallamari Road impede smooth movement of vehicles.

On the other hand, people of different areas in the city disrupt the road communication heaping building materials on

the roads. In most cases the shopkeepers block the roads with empty drums and other goods.

Most of the pavements in the commercial areas are grabbed by the hawkers. The law enforcing agencies often play silent role against these illegal occupation in exchange of tolls, it is alleged. Dwellers have called upon the concerned authorities to take effective measures against these illegal encroachment of roads and footpaths for avoiding the traffic jams in the city.

Santahar Pura budget

Santahar Pourashava announced Taka 1.27 crores budget for the fiscal year 1991-92 on July 29 at the Pourashava office premises. The budget showed a surplus of Taka 2.20 lakh over its es-

timated expenditure of Taka 1.18 crore.

The sources of income are Taka 73.18 lakhs from government grants and Taka 47.89 lakhs from taxes.

Amirul Islam Monju, Chairman of the Pourashava announced the budget.

RUTA concerned over campus violence

The Rajshahi University Teachers Association (RUTA) urged all concerned to take necessary steps against campus violence in a meeting recently with Dr Shahjahan, Acting President of the Association in the chair. The Association expressed its deep concern over the closure of the university for an indefinite period. They also demanded immediate re-opening of the University.

Ration dealers cheat card-holders

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Aug 7: Introduction of palli (rural) rationing system in the district with a view to helping the landless and distressed villagers has not achieved its goal.

Palli ration dealers closed their shops when extreme financial and food crisis were prevailing in Sadar, Kalaroa, Tala, Debhata, Kaliganj, Shyamnagar and Assassuni upazilas of the district.

According to the reports, there are about 200 ration dealers with no ration shops in their respective unions. In most cases they take allotment from the upazila food officers and allegedly sell out those allotment orders to different traders in their upazilas.

Besides, some dealers collected ration cards from the card holders in the name of renewal in June, 1990 but those cards were not returned to the card holders yet. As a result they were being deprived of ration rice which is available at government rate at Taka 7.50 per kg against market price of Taka 13 per kg.

People of Kalaroa

municipality have been plagued with manifold problems including lack of civic amenities.

Deplorable condition of roads, absence of drainage system, inadequate number of street lights and absence of sanitary latrines have made the lives of dwellers hazardous.

Innumerable cracks and potholes have developed on roads posing threat to vehicular traffic. Pedestrians occasionally slip into ditches receiving serious injuries.

Besides, encroachments by illegal shops have narrowed the roads impeding the movement of vehicles.

Moreover, erratic power supply and voltage fluctuations has aggravated the situation. The entire municipal area plunges into darkness due to frequent power disruption.

Dwellers complain that many of their electronic gadgets went out of order due to intermittent power supply. In absence of recreational facilities youths are forced to take recourse to anti-social activities, elders of the town complained.

16 smugglers arrested in Comilla

COMILLA, August 7: BDR arrested 16 alleged smugglers and seized smuggled goods worth about Tk 45.43 lakh during the last July, reports UNB.

The goods seized while being smuggled into the country were worth Tk 35.38 lakh and those seized while being smuggled out of the country were worth Tk 10.05 lakh.

Separate cases were lodged in this connection.

Local people alleged smugglers are active in border areas of the district for a long time. A section of influential people are engaged in this heinous act before the nose of the law enforcing agencies, they added.

2 bodies found in paddy field

JHENIDAH, August 7: Two activists of the Biplobi Communist Party were found dead in a paddy field in the district on Sunday night, reports UNB.

The victims Suruj Ali, (30) of village Fulbari and Abu Bakar (45), of village Dora in Kotchandpur upazila said to be the activists of the party (Haque group) were found slaughtered in the paddy field.

Local people informed the police who later recovered the bodies and sent them to Jhendah morgue for autopsy.

A case has been lodged with Kotchandpur police in this connection.

Another report from Kushitia says that a minor girl drowned in a pond at village Baradi, two miles off from here on Sunday.

The victim Shapla (3), daughter of a labourer was rescued by a person who was also bathing in the same pond and sent her to the Kushitia General Hospital where the attending physicians declared her dead.

Flash flood hits Sylhet

SYLHET, Aug 7: Hundreds of thatched houses and standing crops on vast tracts have been damaged in the district in flash flood caused by incessant rain and downpour of hill waters from across the border, reports UNB.

River Jafflong and Pingguan burst their banks amid heavy rains and the waters rolling down the neighbouring Indian state of Meghalaya in the last few days, officials and local people said.

At least five unions—Rustampur, Tuakkul, Nandirgan, Langura and Alirgan—in Guainghat upazila have been affected severely by fresh flooding in the district.

With continuous rise of water levels of all the rivers in Sylhet, the flood is likely to take a serious turn, water experts said.

Electric wire recovered

NARAYANGANJ, Aug. 7: Police recovered electric wire worth Taka one lakh from Panchabati area of Fatulla police station in the early hours recently and arrested four people in this connection, reports UNB.

The arrested persons are Siraj, Berek and Sheikh Sirajuddin.

The recovered goods include 160 kg and 110 kg aluminium wires of 33 KV and 440 KV respectively, 70 kg aluminium metal and 24 kg of other electric goods.

Police suspects this to be a case of smuggling. A case has been filed in this connection with Fatulla police.

Notes from Panchagarh

PANCHAGARH, Aug. 7: The post of Boda upazila magistrate has been lying vacant for a long time hampering the normal functioning of the court and delaying the disposal of pending cases, reports UNB.

Official sources said the post of upazila magistrate has fallen vacant after Abdul Bari, the former magistrate was transferred to Kaliganj upazila 10 months ago.

Local people have urged the authorities to fill up the vacant post without further delay.

8 primary school bldg. completed

Facilities Department of the Ministry of Education has completed construction of eight new government primary school buildings at a cost of Tk.35 lakh in five upazilas here during the last year.

According to official sources, the scheme was taken up under Universal Primary Education Programme. The upazilas are Boda, Atowari, Tetulia, Debigonj and Sadar.

The scheme include the construction of puca buildings, sanitation system, supply of pure water. The schools were equipped with modern appliances.

Over 5000 students will get primary education facilities in these schools, sources said.

Power failure

Frequent power failure and load shedding have become regular features in the town and adjoining areas causing inconvenience to the dwellers.

According to the businessmen, almost everyday electricity goes off plunging the entire poura area into darkness. As a result production in mills and factories has been facing a setback. Students are the worst sufferers.

Erratic power supply also caused extensive damage to electronic gadgets in houses and business establishments. People cannot crush their paddy and wheat in the mills due to erratic power supply.

Price hikes of foodstuff and other essentials in the markets have also largely attributed to frequent power failure, sources added.

Besides, fluctuation of voltage and inadequate streetlights have also aggravated the situation.

Local people urged the authorities to take necessary steps to solve the problems without further delay.

Rajshahi Customs Division earns Tk 19.7 cr

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Aug 7: Rajshahi Customs Division, earned a total of Taka 19 crore 7 lakh 84 thousand in 1990-91 fiscal year as customs duty and surcharge, which was about 8 crore taka more than the earning of 1989-90 fiscal year.

Out of the total amount, Taka 16 crore 32 lakh was earned from sugar industries. Taka 79 lakh 55 thousand from jute products, Taka 71 lakh 87 thousand from cinema tickets, Taka 42 lakh 31 thousand from match factories, Taka 15 lakh 23 thousand from bidi factories and the rest amount from other industries.

Rajshahi University Teachers Association (RUTA) General Secretary Dr Sadequul Islam in a statement here demanded immediate implementation of Pay Commission report.

RUTA also demanded highest four grades of the proposed pay scale for the university teachers.

Housing problem acute at Dinajpur

From Our Correspondent

DINAJPUR, Aug 7: The town dwellers of the district have been suffering from accommodation problem for a long time. Since after the partition of Bengal, a negligible number of new houses was built in this town to ease out the acute housing problem of all classes of people.

With the rise in population the housing problem of this town has become very acute thereby leaving government officials, teachers, businessmen and others in serious inconveniences.

The number of educational institutions both for girls and boys has also increased from primary level to a degree college. Most of the educational

institutions here have also no buildings of their own as such private houses are being used for hostels of the students.

Most of the offices and houses are in a dilapidated condition. Taking advantage of insufficient housing facilities the local house-owners are charging high rents.

The offices of The Deputy Commissioner, Sub Registrar, Superintendent of Police and Police Station have been housed in government buildings since long. But other offices such as District Public Relations office, Agricultural

Office, Family Planning Office and all other offices are housed in rented buildings.

Stray dogs having many diseases are creating health hazards for the people of this district town in particular and also in other parts of the district in general. Cases of dog bites are on the increase causing concern to the people.

There are more than 5,000 dogs in this township. A large number of dogs lies down at night around hotels, restaurants, verandahs of shops and fish, meat and vegetables markets.



CHAPAINAWABGANJ: Smuggled Indian cotton yarn packed in gunny bags recovered by local police recently. — Star photo