

Upazila roundup

RANGPUR

Train derail

From Our Correspondent
Aug 11: At least ten passengers were injured and train communication in between Burmari and Lalmonirhat railway stations remained suspended since 3 pm Friday following derailment of seven compartments of Lalmonirhat-bound local passenger train from Burmari. The incident occurred between Namuri and Aditmar stations.
Relief train from Lalmonirhat rushed to the spot and trying to clear railway lines to restore train communication in between Burmari and Lalmonirhat stations. But train communication remained paralysed till writing of this report.

KISHOREGANJ

2 arrested in Mati murder case

From Our Correspondent
Aug 11: Two persons were so far arrested by Bajitpur police for their alleged involvement in sensational Mati murder case. They are Shamsuddin and Meraj Ali. It deserves mention here that Mati Mia (25) of village Lowhagon was called out of the house by two his neighbours on the plea of enjoying VCR show on July 26 last.
The beheaded body of Mati Mia was recovered from a place about one mile off the house on July 31. Of the arrested persons Meraj Ali confessed his guilt to the Upazila Magistrate Court.

PABNA

Lightning kills 17 in 3 months

From Our Correspondent
Aug 10: Lightning claimed 17 lives and left 14 others injured at Pabna during last three months.
The lightning incidents occurred during May to July this year and left 17 people dead and 14 others injured breaking the record of last 40 years. Of them two each in Pabna Sadar, Bera and Strajnagar upazila while one each at Faridpur, Chatmohar and Ishwardi upazila.

MAGURA

10 injured in clash

Aug 11: At least 10 people were injured, four of them seriously, in a clash between two rival groups at village Chakhada under sadar upazila here Friday, reports UNB.
According to police, the clash ensued over the possession of a disputed paddy field in which 10 people from both the groups were injured.
The seriously injured were admitted to Sadar hospital while the others were released after first aid.
Separate cases were registered with the local police in this connection.

FENI

Mills, factories lose Tk 1,00,000 every day

Aug 11: Mills and factories of the town here have been incurring an estimated loss of Tk one lakh every day due to power disruption for the last four days, reports UNB.
Most of the areas of the town plunged into darkness after the 500 KVA transformer went out of order Tuesday night.
Twenty mills were closed down following the power failure and at least 5,000 commercial establishments and residents were affected badly.
Power Development Board sources said a three-member committee was formed to investigate the incident.

NETRAKONA

Anti-crime operation intensified

Aug 11: A month-long anti-crime operation styled as operation Dragon sponsored by Netrakona district police started here on Wednesday, reports BSS.
Assistant Super of Police Netrakona Kazi Foyzul Hossain made a news briefing here about the programme. During the briefing the ASP said police recovered two pipeguns with two rounds of live ammunition and arrested nine notorious criminals like dacoits and burglars from different parts of the district during the first 24 hours.

BARISAL

895 arrested in 6 months

Aug 11: The Barisal police arrested 895 people including 190 members of the so-called 'Sharbahara Party' in the district on different charges during the six months till June 30 last, police sources said, reports BSS.
According to the source, 53 persons were arrested for committing dacoities, 17 for robbery, 23 for burglary, five for rape, seven for abduction and 648 others for other criminal cases.
A total of 34 Sharbahara activists have been sentenced to various jail terms.
The district police recovered one rifle, two revolvers, three cut rifles, 10 pipe guns, one barrel of pipe gun, 66 rounds of rifle bullets, 17 rounds of gun bullets and 10 live bombs from different places of the district during the period, the source added.

TANGAIL

34,000 farmers get loan exemption benefit

Aug 11: A total of 34,000 agricultural loanees got exemption benefit of Taka 25 crore from 30 branches of Bangladesh Krishi Bank in Tangail region under the government policy to relieve the peasantry of agri-loan up to Taka 5,000, reports BSS.
A bank source said that under this exemption many loanees have heaved a sigh of relief and started their farming life vigorously.

MAJDEE COURT

Noakhali soccer league begins August 16

Aug 11: Noakhali football league, organised by the District Sports Association, will be held from August 16 at Shahid Bhuii Stadium, reports UNB.
Seven football teams will participate in the league competition, official sources said.
The teams are: Mohammedan Sporting Club, Brothers Union, Udayan Club, Friends Club, Adina Club, Sonapur Sporting Club and Purbani Tarun Shanga.
Brothers Union and Adina Club will play in the opening match.

BRAHMANBARIA

2 smugglers jailed

Aug 11: Two smugglers Md Jahangir Alam and Kamaluddin have been given two years rigorous imprisonment and fined Tk 500 each, in default to suffer RI for another one month, reports UNB.
In his judgement, the Assistant Sessions Judge said a BDR patrol party rounded up Md Jahangir Alam and Kamal Uddin while smuggling 16 pieces of Indian sarves, two woolen wrappers, eight oranges and one black pant piece near Shalda Nadi border outpost.



PABNA: Power Development Board has used many trees instead of poles to expand electric line at maligacha union under Pabna Sadar upazila posing danger to the villagers. —Star photo

31 murdered in Jessore in three months

From Our Correspondent
JESSORE, Aug 11: Murder incidents are on the rise in Jessore. In all 31 persons were killed during the last three months in eight upazilas of the district.
According to the reports, 15 people including women were killed by miscreants in Sadar upazila, of them six in Sharsha upazila, three each in Keshabpur and Montrampur while two each in Jhikargacha and Bagharpara upazilas while one person was killed in Chowgacha upazila.
It is learnt that nine persons were killed within 36 days. Alaf Hossain (28), his father and four brothers were killed by Ali Hossain and his gang recently.
Nasima (30) was killed by her husband at village

Sharp rise in price of essentials

From Our Correspondent
NETRAKONA, August 11: Prices of essential commodities registered a sharp rise in the district after imposition of VAT adding miseries to the consumers.
According to the market sources, the price of rice has gone up by Taka 60 to 80 per maund. Mustard and soyabean oil also recorded a sharp rise which sell at Taka 60 and 54 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 65 a week back. 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 resulting in short supply.
On the other hand meat and fish are beyond the reach of common man. Mutton and beef sell at Taka 100 and Taka 60 per kg respectively while hilsa fish, rui, mrigal, glass carp,

Teesta rly station lacks facilities

From Our Correspondent
KURIGRAM, Aug 11: Teesta railway station has been facing multifarious problems due to lack of development for quite sometime past.
The brick soiling of both the platforms of the station was damaged at places. Potholes have developed on it where water remains stagnant during the rainy season.
In the absence of third class waiting room, hundreds of passengers remain standing in the open platforms for hours together, while the upper class waiting room lacks in sufficient quantity of furniture.
Moreover, there are neither toilet nor urinal adjacent to the platforms. The only toilet inside the first class waiting room can hardly cope with the necessity.
Besides, a number of tea-stalls and small shops were installed at the platforms, which have further created accommodation problem.
Thousands of passengers have urged the authority to look into the matter.

BNP victory procession in Jamalpur

JAMALPUR, Aug 10: Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and its front organisations here brought out victory processions Friday for the unanimous passage of the 12th Constitution Amendment Bill in the Jatiya Sangsad, reports UNB.
They paraded the main thoroughfares of the town Tuesday evening rejoicing over the country's reversion to be parliamentary form of government.
District unit of BNP, Jatiyatabadi Shechhaschak Party and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) also chalked out elaborate programmes, including special prayers in all the mosques of the district, to mark the occasion.
Kushtia
A message from Kushtia adds: Bangladesh Nationalist Party and its front organisations brought out a victory procession in the town on Thursday celebrating passage of 11th and 12th Amendment Bills in the Jatiya Sangsad.
The procession which started from Shilpakala Academy premises paraded main streets and dispersed after a rally at Kushtia Public Library premises.
The rally was addressed by Advocate Abdul Kadir, Advocate Azhar Rahman, Prof Alaf Hossain, M A Shamim, Arzoo, Mehdi, Rumi, Abdur Rashid and Jagul Haider.
Speakers at the rally thanked Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and Opposition Leader Sheikh Hasina for their role in establishing parliamentary form of government.

Potato now main smuggling item

From Our Correspondent
JESSORE, Aug 11: Potato has become the main smuggling item now in border areas of the district. A huge quantity of potato is being smuggled to India. As such the price of the item has increased in the local markets. It is now being sold at Taka three to four per kilogram.
Smuggling to and from Bangladesh declined to a great extent a few months ago but again it has become rampant now-a-days. Women smugglers are now found in larger numbers travelling from door to door with smuggled Indian goods including sarves, pieces of cloth, cosmetics etc along border areas.
Hilsa fish is being smuggled out in huge quantity. This has increased the price of this popular fish beyond the purchasing capacity of the common people. It is now being sold at Taka 65 to 75 per kilogram.
Meanwhile, anti-smuggling drive has been geared up. Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) personnel recovered smuggled goods worth Taka 7,99,45,253 and arrested 104 persons during the last seven months.

Pulp import threatens Chhatak Paper Mills

From Our Correspondent
SYLHET, Aug 11: Pulp import has threatened Sylhet Pulp and Paper Mills at Chhatak forcing it to suspend its production.
The accumulated pulp in the mill's store has created a crisis of space in absence of marketing and supply avenues. The mill having a capacity of 60 metric tons a day has been sustaining a loss of Taka 26,000 a day.
The chief users Karnafuli Paper Mills, North Bengal Paper Mills and Khulna Paper Mills alleged that the mills had to cut their production since the former government had decided to import pulp from abroad. The production in Chhatak Paper Mills has been reduced as mills water-house cannot hold any more pulp.

The Sylhet Chamber of Commerce and Industry has awarded scholarships to 51 primary and higher secondary students in a function held at Chamber building last week under the presidency of M A Munim, Chamber President.
Certificates and scholarships were distributed by the chief guest Dr Sadrudin Chowdhury, Vice-Chancellor of Shahjalal Science and Technology University.
Dr. Sadrudin called upon all to help maintain congenial atmosphere in the campus which he stressed as the pre-condition for proper education. He also emphasised the need for training teachers and rewarding the institutions that produce good result.
Mr. Munim said this was the first time that Chamber has started awarding scholarships to primary students. He disclosed that the Chamber has created the Education Fund in 1987 and later awarded the scholarships.
Gamma camera
The Nuclear and Medicine Centre at M A G Osmani Medical College has been going without any Gamma Camera since its inception. Recently other machines of the centre which were out of order have been repaired. Both patients and students have urged the college authorities to install the Gamma Camera which will help the patients avail ultrasonographic and scanning facilities.

From Our Correspondent
SIRAJGANJ, Aug 11: National Awami Party (NAP) leader Pankaj Bhattacharya Friday urged parliament members to support the bill seeking repeal of the Indemnity Ordinance, 1975, reports UNB.
Addressing a public meeting at Bhasani auditorium here, the NAP General Secretary said all "black laws including the Indemnity Ordinance should be scrapped for the sake of democracy".
Presided over by local NAP unit President Advocate Mohammad Ishak the meeting was addressed, among others, by central party leaders Dr Abdul Malek and Ahmedur Rahman Ajmerce.
They called upon all left-leaning forces to form a front on the basis of political and economic consensus.

36 unnatural deaths recorded in Faridpur

From Our Correspondent
FARIDPUR, Aug 11: Thirty-six unnatural deaths were reported in Faridpur district during the last three months, police and hospital sources said.
Of them 11 were murdered, 10 killed in road accidents, 7 committed suicide, 6 were killed by lightning, one died from snake bite and one was electrocuted.
Shahjahan of Rungkle village under Nagarkhanda upazila, Ismail at Faridpur Kamarkhal Highway, two sisters Mafuza Begum (28), and Rafaza Sultana (24) died when two trucks collided on Faridpur-Barisal road. Baber Ali (35) a driver was killed when he lost control over the vehicle while smoking. The bus fell into the nearby ditch. Ahmed was killed when he was hit by a coaster near Kanpur bridge while crossing the road. Hannan (20) was killed in a road accident near a bus stand. Ahmed Mullah (55) was killed when a BRTC bus knocked him from behind near Kanpur bridge. Nimi Das was killed in a truck and bus collision near Bismillah Shah Darga and a minor girl was killed in a road accident on Faridpur-Barisal road.

One person of village Gopalpur committed suicide by taking poison on June 29. Kalpana (35) of Charnatakhalia in Charbhadrashan upazila, Motti Begum (60) of Bilmamudpur village under Faridpur Sadar also committed suicide by consuming poison recently.
Police recovered a body of a young lady (25) from Chatter Beel of Bhaugha upazila. Another body of Younus Sardar (31) was recovered from village Sakpadia under Nagarkhanda upazila recently. Kaidas (60) was stabbed to death at village Parneshwardi under Boalmari upazila. Badsha Miah (35) was also stabbed to death by some unknown assassins near Nagarkhanda upazila while Babu, a social worker was killed by some miscreants at Faridpur sadar recently.
Babul (30) was killed during a clash between police and dacoits near Parikhitpur in Madhukhal upazila. Hamid Ali Kabiraj (65) president of Union Krishak League and a member of local union Parishad of village Bahirdia under Muchchir upazila was electrocuted on June 25, while Kamal (12) and Taslima (11) were killed by lightning in Alifadanga upazila.



RAJSHAHI: Artistes rendering songs at a cultural function in observance of Rabindra-Nazrul Jayanti organised by RU Ladies Club at Juberi Bhaban recently. —Star photo

Potato now main smuggling item

From Our Correspondent
The recovery also includes smuggled goods worth Taka 4,55,99,246 while it was transported to Bangladesh from India and smuggled goods worth Taka 3,43,46,000 were recovered while being smuggled out to India. The items include sarves, lungies, cattle, motor parts, cycle parts, cosmetics, VCR, VCR, polyester cloth etc. The BDR instituted 70 cases in this connection.
232 commit suicide in 7 months
The number of suicidal cases are also increasing in the district. A total of 232 men and women committed suicide in last seven months. According to the available reports, 66 persons including women of Chowgacha upazila committed suicide in Montrampur, 55 persons in Keshabpur, 21 in Abhoynagar, 19 in Sadar upazila, 18 in Bagharpara, 17 in Sharsha and 16 in Jhikargacha.
It is reported that family dispute, failure in love and frustrations are some of the main reasons behind these suicidal cases.

Rain disrupts normal life in Netrakona

NETRAKONA, August 11: Netrakona district town and its adjoining areas, experienced widespread rainfall during the 24 hours ending 6 am yesterday, reports BSS.
The rainfall disrupted normal life in the town. As the dwellers were forced to remain indoors.
The three major rivers of the district registered a sharp rise in water level at different points during the period.
Netrakona Water Development Board officials said that the water level of the river Sumswari at Durgapur, the river Kongso at Jaria and the river-Mogra at Chailisha Nagar points near Netrakona town had registered sharp rise during the period.

Notes from Rajshahi

From Our Correspondent
RAJSHAHI, Aug 11: At least 20 people were injured in a clash between two groups of football fans at Upashahar area of Rajshahi city recently.
Eyewitnesses said the clash took place between Upashahar Waterkant Para and School Para over a goal of a football match at local playground. Lethal weapons like ramdao, kirich, Chinese axe and cocktails were used in three-hour-long clash. Panic engulfed the Upashahar area rapidly.
Later police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control. Police also arrested three persons on the spot.
A case has been lodged with Boalia police in this connection.
RU action against 2394 students
The Syndicate of the Rajshahi University in a meeting held recently took disciplinary actions against 2394 examinees of 1988 Degree Compartmental and 1989 Degree Pass examination, for adopting unfair means in the examinations.
The Syndicate with the VC Prof Amanullah Ahmed after scanning all the cases found the candidates guilty for violating the examination rules and punished them different terms.
Six examinees were expelled for five years, 71 examinees for four years, 70 for three years, 729 for two years and 200 examinees for one year.
Besides, examination of 1317 examinees were cancelled.

Donation
Engineer Akbar Hossain, a permanent resident in London, has donated Taka 10 lakh to Rajshahi University authority for creating a stipend fund. Some scholarships will be distributed among the meritorious Students of RU from this fund every year.
Professor Aminul Haque Beg, Administrator of Planning and Development section of the RU on behalf of Akbar Hossain handed over a cheque for Taka 10 lakh to the VC of RU Prof Amanullah Ahmed at a simple ceremony.
Registrar Omar Faruk and Director of Accounts Golam Mahub were also present in the function.

Prices of essentials mark rise
Prices of essentials have marked a sharp rise in the local markets following the introduction of Value Added Tax (VAT), it is alleged.
Traders enhanced the price of essentials in the name of VAT, sufferers complained.
Foodgrains and other essentials are selling beyond the reach of low and fixed income groups.
Course rice is now being sold at Taka 12 per kg, mutton at Tk 60 per kg, beef at Taka 60 per kg, mutton at Tk 90-100 per kg. Soyabean is being sold at Tk 42 per litre and mustard oil Tk 50 to 60 per litre.
Different varieties of vegetables and spices have also recorded a sharp rise. Besides, sweet-meat and confectionery items have also registered an upward trend in price during the current week.

Flood turns for worst in Jamalpur

From Our Correspondent
JAMALPUR, Aug 11: Flood situation again took serious turn in Jamalpur district during the last two days. At least 35 villages under 17 Union Parishad have gone under water. About 10,000 acres of newly cultivated transplanted Aman paddy land went under knee-deep water.
Bahadurabad ghat is seriously affected by erosion of the river Jamuna.
The ghat has been shifted to a safer place. About 35 feet of Harindara flood control em-