

## Upazila roundup

### BRAHMANBARIA

#### Smuggler held, Indian sarees recovered

Aug 18: BDR personnel arrested one alleged smuggler and seized 117 pieces of Indian saree worth about Taka 46,840 from his possession at Brahmanbaria Railway Station Friday, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, BDR jawans raided the Dhaka bound inter-city Mahanagar Express from Chittagong and arrested Md Moin Khan.

The seized goods were handed over to Akhaura customs office.

### NARAYANGANJ

#### 64 arrested, bombs recovered

Aug 18: Police arrested 64 persons, recovered two pipe guns and 35 hand made bombs in a drive against absconding criminals here early yesterday, reports UNB.

The arrested persons were in the wanted list for different crimes including terrorism, rape, loot and possession of unauthorised arms, police said.

Narayanganj thana police nabbed 41 persons and recovered a pipe gun and 35 hand made bombs from in the around the thana area.

Bandar thana police arrested 23 persons and recovered an abandoned pipe gun from the backyard of Sirajuddin Club.

### TANGAIL

#### Tk 1.38 cr excise duty realised

Aug 18: Tangail District Customs and Excise Department realised excise duties amounting to Taka 1.38 crore during the last fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to official sources at least Taka 20 lakh were lying arrear with different cinema halls.

### RAJBARI

#### Jute growers at stake

Aug 18: Jute growers of the district are unable to sell their produce for want of purchasers, sources said, reports UNB.

The local jute traders said they were not interested in jute business due to financial loss.

The government jute purchasing centres have not yet started buying jute from the growers as they have not received any directive from the higher authorities, it is learnt.

The jute growers have urged the authorities to take necessary steps towards mitigating their suffering.

### CHITTAGONG

#### 16-day reporters training course begins

Aug 18: A 16-day basic training course for reporters began at the regional public Administration Training Center here yesterday under the auspices of Bangladesh Press Institute (PIB), reports UNB.

Eighteen reporters from different districts of Chittagong region and Dhaka are participating in the course.

On the opening day on Saturday PIB course coordinator Rafiqul Islam Nasim explained in details the aim and objective of the course. Later, a simple function held in this connection was attended by local editors and elite.

### NOAKHALI

#### Banks to disburse Tk 2 cr agri-loan

Aug 18: Commercial banks have taken up a programme to disburse about Taka two crore and 37 thousand as loan for transplanted aman cultivation in six upazilas of the district during the current season, sources said, reports UNB.

The banks are: Kribsi Bank, Rupali Bank, Sonali Bank, Agrani Bank and Janata Bank. Of the loan, Taka 46.50 lakh has been distributed among 1,182 farmers during the last month.

The loan will be disbursed for purchasing seeds, fertilizers, insecticides and other necessary inputs, the sources added.

Meanwhile, the disbursement of the loan is expected to be completed soon.

### JHENIDAH

#### Dishari champion in Kishore League soccer

Aug 18: Dishari Eleven became champion in the Kishore League '91 defeating Balak

Samity Eleven by 2-0 goals held at local Wazir Ali high school ground Friday, reports UNB.

Jahangir and Farook scored one goal each on behalf of the winners and Jahangir and Hafizur were adjudged as the highest scorer in the league respectively.

Former Principal of Jhenidah Cadet College Karim Uddin distributed the prizes among the winners as the Chief guest.

Organised by Kanchannagar Club, 16 teams participated in the Tournament.

### RAJSHAHI

#### School girl commits suicide

Aug 18: One school girl of Sahabajpur village under Durgapur upazila of the district allegedly committed suicide, police said yesterday, reports UNB.

According to family sources, Mosammat Zarina (13), a student of Class Seven allegedly committed suicide over a family dispute by taking pesticides.

Later the body was sent to the hospital for autopsy.

An unnatural death case has been filed with Durgapur police in this connection.

### KUSHTIA

#### 5 drug addicts arrested

Aug 18: Police arrested five drug addicted people from Mondolpara of Chauria village adjacent to the town on Tuesday, reports UNB.

On a tip, police raided three houses of Abdul Khaleque, Badal and Makhan and recovered a number of used heroin packets. The house-owners remained absconding.

They arrested Nurul Islam, Selim, Nasiruddin, Islam and Shambhunath for drug addiction. A case has been registered with the local police in this connection.

### CHANDPUR

#### Old man killed in road mishap

Aug 18: An old man was killed and two others including a rickshawpuller were injured seriously when a speeding truck dashed them near Hajiganj High School, about 15 km off here Saturday, reports UNB.

Zulfur Rahman Majumder (60), of Rampur village in Hajiganj upazila died on the spot while his relative Bashir Ullah Majumder (67), of the same village and the rickshawpuller were rushed to the Sadar hospital.

According to police, the mishap occurred when the Hajiganj Bazar bound truck dashed the rickshaw carrying the two old men on their way to the upazila court in connection with a case.

The killer truck (Chatta Metro Da-217) coming from Comilla plunged into a roadside ditch after hitting the rickshaw.

Police seized the truck but the driver, however, managed to escape.

A case was filed in this connection.

### KISHOREGANJ

#### Businessman robbed of Tk 22,400

Aug 18: A businessman was robbed of Taka 22,400 by miscreants near Pratapnath Bazar in Kuliarchar upazila in broad day light on Monday last.

According to the police, about Gafur Altas Khoka Mia a jute merchant while on way to the bazar was intercepted by a gang of miscreants numbering six to eight at 2 pm. The miscreants snatched away Taka 22,400 and a calculator machine from him at daggers point stop.

A case was registered with Kuliarchar police in this connection.

### PABNA

#### 7 arrested

Aug 18: Police arrested seven people on charges of dacoity, murder and other criminal cases in Kazirhat ferry ghat bazar of the district, reports UNB.

According to police, the arrested are: Younus Ali (26), Lalma (35), Ismail Hossain (32), Madhu Sardar (30), Abdul Latif Harun (30), and Halim (36).

Meanwhile, A gang of armed dacoits at Kazirhat ferry ghat bazar in Bera upazila killed three people named Abdul Awal Khan (30) Anwar Hossain (28) and Moziru Bawa (60), and injured 17 others on last Friday.



In absence of adequate number of bogies passengers travelling on footboard of Isakhan Express train on Dhaka-Bhairab-Mymensingh route taking life-risk. — Star photo

## Huge coal deposit detected at Barapukuria

From Our Correspondent

PANCHAGARH, Aug 18: Huge deposit of pit coal at a depth of about 150 metres beneath the earth has been detected at Barapukuria in Parbatipur upazila of Dinajpur district.

According to dependable sources, there are seven parallel layers of coal below this depth which is an unusual phenomenon.

It is further learnt that the calorific value of this deposit is 6700 kilo calorie per kg and percentage of carbon is more

than 80.

Exploration survey report of coal deposit at Barapukuria conducted by Overseas Development Agency (ODA) of UK in November, 1988 reveals that there is a deposit of 300 million tons of coal beneath the earth in seven layers spread over an area of five to seven kilometres.

The total exploration will cost about Taka 475 crore which will take 48 months, according to a preliminary estimate. If 7.85 lakh tons coal

are exploited annually from this field it will last for 47 years. The projected exploration will cost Taka 1274 per ton.

In view of its economic feasibility at Barapukuria, Asian Development Bank (ADB) in principle has agreed to allocate 150 million US dollars if necessary steps are taken in time. The exploration and marketing of coal will be possible in 1995 and it will provide jobs to 20,000 people. Out of 11 proposed drilling

spots in North Bengal, seven spots reveal the deposit of good quality coal. In Jamalganj it is estimated that there is 760 million tons coal within 25.75 kilometres area.

At present there is need of seven lakh tons of coal per year in the country. Electric Power Development Company of Japan has shown keen interest in installing power stations in North Bengal. If explored, Barapukuria alone can feed the demand of 14 lakh tons of coal per year for inter-

national consumption.

The sign of desertification in the North Bengal in particular and in western part in general is apparent.

It is learnt that brickfields in Bogra, Rajshahi, Pabna, Rangpur and Dinajpur towns and the nearby brickfields use 23,000 tons of wood per day as fuel. To protect the region from desertification, steps should be taken immediately to procure fund from donor countries for exploration of coal at the earliest.

## Fake company cheats unemployed youths

From Our Correspondent

NANDAIL, Aug 18: A large number of unemployed youths is being cheated by a fake company named Agro-Fisheries at Nandail upazila, which has collected large amount of money from the job-seekers promising them suitable jobs.

It is alleged that the said company collected Taka 2800 from each candidate as security deposit and promised to appoint them as branch managers with a monthly salary of Taka 1500. Agro-Fisheries has opened many offices in Nandail and Kaliganj upazilas.

Sometimes the job-seekers are allowed to visit its Dhaka central office to make them confident.

But the company delayed in launching its promised training course without any reason. In the course of time the job-

seekers found the offices under lock and key and the respective offices untracked.

Meanwhile, cultivation has been badly affected due to acute shortage of cattleheads at Nandail, Kendua, Ishwarganj, and Tarail upazilas. It is learnt that the shortage is due to recurring natural calamities, fodder scarcity, various cattle diseases and unrestricted slaughtering and lack of proper care by the farmers.

Most of the cattleheads are observed to be incapable to draw the ploughs as they are only with skins and bones due to lack of proper nursing and care.

The cattle diseases like khura, neck swellings, enthrax and diarrhoea are common. In absence of proper measures by the respective veterinary departments.

## Mujib's death anniversary observed

KUSHTIA, Aug 18: The sixteenth death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was observed here Thursday with due solemnity, reports BSS.

Awami League, Chhatra League, Jubo League, Sramik League and Bangabandhu Parishad jointly brought out a big procession in the town. They chanted slogans demanding trial of the killers of Bangabandhu.

The programmes of the day included Quaran Khwan, Milad Mahafil, and discussion meeting.

Bangabandhu Parishad chalked out a three-day programme to mark the day. A discussion meeting was held Thursday at Kushtia Public Library ground. The speakers paid rich tributes to Bangabandhu. Chhatra League, Islamic University branch organised a seminar on the life and work of Bangabandhu.

## Violence-free campus govt's aim: Badruddoza

CHOUMUHANI (Noakhali), Aug 18: Education and Cultural Affairs Minister Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday said that violence on the campus was self-damaging for the students and it must be curbed at any cost, reports BSS.

He said the government was determined to make the campus free from anarchy and violence.

The Minister said this while, addressing two separate gatherings of students, guardians, teachers and people of all walks of life at Choumuhani and Sonaimori under Noakhali district here. Among others, local Member of Parliament Barkatullah Bulu, BNP leader Advocate A Rahim and student leaders addressed the gatherings.

Prof Chowdhury said, discipline on the campus was an imperative for making the students worthy citizens of the

country. He said the students should maintain congenial atmosphere on the campus and devoted themselves to acquire knowledge.

He said, the country's development programme was depended on foreign aid coming mainly for the poor and distressed people. He said the dependence on foreign aid could be avoided through increasing the magnitude of works.

He called upon the people of all walks of life to put in their best efforts to improve the lot of the people.

## Tagore's death anniversary observed

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Aug 18: The 50th death anniversary of Rabindra Nath Tagore, was observed at Kurigram with much enthusiasm recently.

In this connection a discussion meeting was arranged by Kurigram Shilpakala Academi at the local Town Hall which was chaired by Professor Tapan Kumar Rudra of Kurigram Government College.

Mr. Shafigul Islam, Deputy Commissioner, Kurigram was present as chief guest while, Mr. Mobaruk Ali Khan, Superintendent of Police, Kurigram was the special guest.

Among others, Advocate Nazir Hossain Khondoker, Mr. Helal Jahangir, and Mr. Alok Karanjai took part in the discussion on life and literary activities of Rabindra Nath Tagore.

The function was rounded off with recitation and musical soiree.

Newly married Shushil Chandra Barman (25) and Dulali Rani (18) of village Nostimkhan in Rajshahi upazila of the district committed suicide at a time recently, by taking endrin.

Family troubles were the cause of their suicide, it is gathered.

## Housewife electrocuted

JHENIDAH, Aug 18: A young housewife was electrocuted at Adarghupara under Jhenidah Pourashava on Thursday, reports BSS.

The victim, Shefali (19), wife of one Rafiqul while cutting banana from a banana tree at her residence came in touch with a live electric wire. She died on the spot.

The department of Narcotics Control, Jhenidah recovered two four-foot long ganja plants and five seven-foot long bhanga plants from two places under Jhenidah Pourashava on Thursday.

Two separate cases were filed in this connection. But nobody has been arrested.

## Heroin worth Tk 35 lakh recovered

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Aug 18: Three hundred and fifty grams of heroin worth Taka 35 lakhs were recovered by the BDR personnel of 35 Rifles Battalion Satkhira recently.

According to the local BDR sources, acting on a tip the BDR jawans led by Major Manish Dewan, Commanding Officer raided a Dhaka bound coach Sonali Paribahan at Kazirhat under Kalaroa upazila recently and recovered 250 grams of heroin worth Taka 25 lakh.

In another drive the BDR jawans recovered 100 grams of heroin worth Taka 10 lakhs smuggled from West Bengal, India at BDR check post.

One Ishwahabi Mollah of Bashirhat while crossing the check post the BDR personnel on duty challenged him and searched his body and recovered 100 grams of heroin from his possession. He was taken into custody. Two separate cases were lodged with Kalaroa and Satkhira police stations.

A large number of rickshaws and vehicles on busy

roads of Satkhira and occupation of footpaths by small traders create traffic jams endangering the safety of pedestrians.

According to the Satkhira pourashava sources, there are 2250 rickshaws with valid licences and 3000 without licences.

Besides, rickshaw pullers procure licences from adjacent union parishads. On the other hand they lack minimum knowledge of traffic rules. Indiscriminate parking of rickshaws in the busy commercial areas of the town contributed to traffic jams.

Local people alleged that places for the rickshaw parking should be fixed and implementation of traffic rules should be followed strictly. The footpaths occupied by the small traders in the busy commercial areas of the town pose hindrance to the pedestrians and narrow the space further.

There are a number of motor repairing workshops on both the sides of the road that hinder the easy movement of vehicular traffic.

## Fire in Mobarakganj Sugar Mills

JHENIDAH, Aug 18: Fire sparked twice in the bagasse carrier of Mobarakganj Sugar Mills at Kaliganj upazila of the district last night but was brought under control before causing any major damage to property, mill sources said, reports UNB.

Mill officials put out the fire first time it occurred at about 9 pm. But after sometime the latent fire in the bagasse spread again and the mill authorities rang the siren.

Fire brigades which rushed to the spot from Jessore, Jhenidah and Magura brought the fire under control.

There were no major damages excepting some burnt bagasse, Administrative Officer Mashitir Rahman told UNB.

The fire originated from sparks as welding work going on in the bagasse carrier, he said.

## Muslim League to recast different units

CHITTAGONG, Aug 18: A meeting of the Coordination Committee of Chittagong Muslim League held here yesterday decided to reorganise different units of the party in the light of its unity move, a party press release said, reports BSS.

The meeting presided over by Coordination Committee Convener Advocate Manzur Ahmad was attended by party central leader, Mr M A Salam.

The meeting mourned the death of party leaders, Mr Ruhul Amin and Sufi Matur Rahman and prayed for the peace of the departed souls.

The meeting also decided to nominate Mr M A Salam for contesting Jatya Sangsad by-election from Chittagong-8 constituency.

## Virus fever spreading fast

MAULAVI BAZAR, Aug 18: Virus fever is spreading in Kularoa upazila of the district adversely affecting the power of resistance in the body, reports UNB.

According to physicians, the symptoms of this virus fever are high temperature, spasmodic pain, headache, sore throat, cough and sore eyes.

The patient suffers for one or two weeks. No effective medicine has been found for this virus, but doctors said anti-biotics and anti-allergic drugs were generally prescribed in case of high fever. These drugs, they said, further diminish body resistance.

Doctors prescribe chicken soup with boiled vegetables and fruit juices to build resistance to the disease.

## 7 burglars nabbed

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 18: Police caught red handed seven teenage burglars from Putiabari area of the town Thursday last, reports UNB.

The arrested were Aslam (14), Jamir Hossain (12), Robin (10), Sorawardi (10), Kader (11), Mamun (10) and Mintu (10).

Acting on a tip, the petrol police challenged them while they were entering into a house of the area and nabbed them.

Later all the accused were produced before the Upazila Magistrate Court and the Magistrate released three of them on bail.

## Registry offices in shambles

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Aug 18: At least 122 registry offices in the 16 northern districts under Rajshahi Division are in dilapidated conditions and have become unfit for keeping documents inside the offices.

Most of these offices are housed in abandoned and rented pucca or semi-pucca bhabsans all over the zones. Due to lack of proper maintenance works, these houses have developed cracks and potholes. As a result rain waters easily enter into rooms causing damages to the valuable documents and a great inconvenience to officials and staff members on duty.

Besides these, due to lack or adequate accommodation the documents and balam books have been preserved haphazardly in these offices, available spaces and record rooms. But in absence of proper care and spraying of insecticides, valuable documents and balam books are being damaged by the rain waters and insects.

The Rangpur Registry Office is also in bad shape. The building of this registry office is about a century-old and in 1987, it was declared unfit and condemned by the Public Works Department (PWD) after holding a survey and immedi-

ate reconstruction was suggested.

A scheme for the construction of new Rangpur Registry Office was approved about two years back and a preliminary fund of over Taka one crore was sanctioned by the government towards its construction. But subsequently the fund was withdrawn for unknown reasons leaving the project in an abandoned state.

It may be noted that the Rangpur office and its record rooms are now jam-packed with three fold documents and balam books are alleged to have been damaged due by insects and rain waters.



AGRI-VARSITY (Mymensingh): A colourful procession rendering songs in praise of trees and forest paraded various roads within the campus of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) on August 12 on the occasion of inauguration of a month-long tree plantation programme at BAU. Led by Prof Asadur Rahman, Vice-Chancellor of BAU, the procession was participated by a large number of teachers, students, officers and employees of the University and ladies and juveniles of the campus. — Star photo