

## Upazila roundup

## FENI

## BDR asked to remain vigilant to check smuggling

Aug 24 : The Director-General of Bangladesh Rifles, Major General Mohammad Abdul Latif, has called upon the BDR personnel to remain ever vigilant to check smuggling, reports BSS.

He was addressing officers and jawans of the 28 Rifle Battalion during the visit of Gatabari and Nowapur BOP here. Col Mohammad Shamsuzzaman Chowdhury, Director, Operations and Training and Col A H Tafsir Ahmed, Sector Commander of Comilla were also present.

The BDR Director General urged them to discharge their duties with high morale and courage and also to engage themselves in nation building activities.

Earlier, he visited quarter guard of 28 Rifle Battalion here.

## SHERPUR

## Pests attack 30,000 acres cropland

Aug 24 : About 30,000 acres of land with standing crops have been attacked by pests affecting production in five upazilas of the district, reports UNB.

The worst affected upazilas are Sadar, Sribordi, Nokla, Naltabari and Jhenaidah.

Assistant Director of the district Agriculture Extension Department said that steps were taken to contain the menace and the situation was under control.

Meanwhile, farmers alleged that pesticides are scarce in the market and are being sold at an exorbitant price beyond their purchasing capacity.

They urged the authorities to spray insecticides on the affected croplands without further delay.

## KHULNA

## 75 pc system loss reduced

Aug 24 : The system loss control committee of Khulna Divisional Power Development Board in a month long drive has reduced 0.75 per cent of system loss in Khulna metropolitan area, reports UNB.

In the drive against unauthorised power connection, the control committee detected unauthorised consumption of 8 mgw of power and filed 180 cases in this connection, PDB sources said.

The PDB was able to detect loss of 80 lakh watt of electricity during the drive which began on July 16.

The committee has filed 155 cases in the metropolitan area and 17 others in Bagherhat and Meherpur districts for unauthorised power connection.

The system control team consisting of one Magistrate and union representatives, took action like disconnecting illegal power lines, checking meter of subscribers and non-issue of electric bills during on-the-spot inspection.

## RANGAMATI

## Timber worth Tk 9 lakh seized

Aug 24 : Forest officials arrested two people and recovered illegally extracted timber worth about Tk 9 lakh from their possession from Rangkhong Mukh Forest Check and Tolls Station Ghat, sources said here today, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, a group led by the Divisional Forest Officer, Chittagong Hill Tracts South Forest Division raided the spot on August 17 and recovered 1500 cubic feet teak and gamar and 1500 Cft miscellaneous firewoods which were stocked for smuggling to on-ward destination by an organised gang, the sources added.

The arrested persons are Selim and Shah Ahmed, both brothers. Later, they were sent to upazila police custody. A case was filed in this connection.

## MALJEE COURT

## Dacoits loot valuables

Aug 24 : A gang of dacoits looted valuables, cash and goods worth of about Tk one lakh from the residences of two doctors, police said here today, reports UNB.

The dacoits at dead of night attacked the residences of Dr Shah Alam and Dr Didan Islam of the Noakhali General Hospital and decamped with the booties recently.

Two cases have been filed with the Sadar police in this connection.

## 2 babies drown

Two babies drowned at Sadar upazila of the district in the nearby pond of their house, police said here today.

The bodies of Mira (4), daughter of Abdul Malek and Zahed (3), son of Abdul Khalek of Jallil village were found floating in the pond recently.

Family sources said they slipped into the pond while they were playing on the bank of the pond.

Two cases of unnatural deaths have been filed with the local police.

## BARISAL

## 42,000 acres put under transplanted Aman farming

Aug 24 : About 42,000 acres of land have been brought under transplanted Aman cultivation in 10 upazilas of the district during the current season, reports UNB.

According to Agriculture Extension Department, of the total, 1000 acres of land have been brought under transplanted Aman cultivation in Sadar, 300 acres in Babuganj, 6000 acres in Uzirpur, more than 100 acres in Bakerganj, 4000 acres in Gournadi, 12,000 acres in Agailjhara, 4000 acres in Muladi, 5000 acres in Hizi, 6000 acres in Banaripara and about 3000 acres in Mehendiganj upazilas.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation has distributed seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and necessary inputs among the growers at fair prices to make the scheme a success.

With the successful implementation of the scheme, it is expected that about 30,000 metric tons of aman paddy will be produced in the district.

## PATUAKHALI

## 37 projects nearing completion

Aug 24 : Work on 37 projects in four upazilas of Patuakhali district is nearing completion to help save the agriculture land from tidal surge and salinity, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the Water Development Board (WDB) has been implementing these projects at a cost of about Tk 11 crore. The project has been financed by the International Development Agency (IDA).

The works on the projects included construction of closure dam, sluice gates and flushing sluice gates. Of the total projects, four are being constructed in Patuakhali Sadar upazila, 18 in Galachipa, seven in Kalapara and eight in Mirjanj upazilas.

About 15,000 acres of cultivable land could be saved from tidal surge and salinity following the implementation of the project.

## CHANDPUR

## Erosion renders 1200 families homeless

Aug 24 : More than 1200 families at three villages in Sadar upazila have been rendered homeless by erosion of the mighty river Meghna during the last three weeks, reports UNB.

The Hanarchar Government Primary School, an old mosque and a hat have also been engulfed by the river during the period.

Education of about 600 students has become uncertain with the loss of the primary school building.

The river also washed away part of its raised bank on which about 20 families had taken shelter. These families have now moved to the Chandpur irrigation project embankment.

The local MP, Upazila Chairman and UNO visited the affected areas and assured the distressed people of government assistance for their rehabilitation.

## NARSINGDI

## Press Club executives

Aug 24 : Md Nurul Islam (Observer) and Nibaron Roy (Ittefaq) were elected President and General Secretary respectively of Nar-singdi Press Club recently, a Press release of the club said here yesterday, reports BSS.

The other office bearers of the club are: Senior Vice-President—Khandaker Matur Rahman, Vice-President—Alam Mollah, Assistant General Secretary—Mustafa Kamal Sarkar, Treasurer—A Rahman Bhuiyan, Office Secretary—Khalid Mohammad Linkin and Cultural and Sports Secretary—Nurul Islam, members of the Executive Committee are Habibullah Bahar, M A Awal and A Rahim.



TANGAIL : Candidates appearing at the HSC examination at an examination centre in Bhupur.

— Star photo

## Kobadak devours 600 dwellings

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Aug 24 : Erosion in the river Kobadak which continues unabated during the last five years has already devoured 600 dwellings and a tract of over 200 acres of cultivable land in Tala upazila of the district.

About 5000 people were rendered homeless in the villages under Tala upazila following erosion during the period. The homeless people have taken shelter on the embankments and living a miserable life under the open sky.

Village-wise breakup of damage to house and land due to erosion is: 360 dwelling houses and 50 acres of crop land in Jethna, 150 houses and 40 acres of land in Rahimpur, 70 houses and 65 acres of land in Mobarakpur and 15 acres of land and 30 houses along with business establishments in

Melab bazar under Tala upazila. Tala thana buildings are also threatened by the erosion. Besides, vast areas of Putkighat bazar and different points of Tala-Kumira road were grabbed by the river during the period.

## Land development tax

The Revenue Department, Satkhira has realised Taka 2,90,22,000 against the demand of Taka 3,19,67,000 from seven upazilas of Satkhira in 1990-91 as land development tax which was about 18 lakh Taka more than realised in 1989-90 fiscal year. The percentage of realisation was 91 for the year. The Revenue Department has realised land development tax amounting to Taka 2,72,90,000 in 1989-90. Out of the total amount, Taka 58,57,000 was realised as land

development tax in Satkhira Sadar upazila, Taka 28,00,000 in Kalaroa, Taka 39,58,000 in Tala, Taka 37,30,000 in Assasuni, Taka 28,80,000 in Debhata, Taka 44,01,000 in Kaliganj and Taka 56,20,000 in Shyamnagar upazila.

The Revenue Department, Satkhira realised the highest sum of money in 16 districts under Khulna division in 1990-91 fiscal year. During the period the Department has also realised Taka 70,77,000 from the sales of Jalmaahals of the district, the sources added.

## Standard of edn falls

Standard of education has fallen considerably although the number of schools increased to a great extent. In each upazila of the district there are two to five junior high schools in rural areas

running since 1947. The school houses are dilapidated. Qualified teachers are hardly available though most of the schools have been enjoying 70 per cent government benefit.

Though English is taught compulsorily in all the schools, the students are unable to write even their names and addresses correctly even after passing secondary education. If compulsory final examination is introduced at the end of class eight the students will do better and unfair means at examinations will decline to some extent. To improve education in rural areas the schools must be converted into government schools.

If remedial steps were not taken to introduce English in all educational institutions the standard of education will not improve, it is felt.

## Govt trying to improve lot of masses : Mustafiz

KACHHUA (Bagerhat), Aug 24 : Foreign Minister A S M Mustafiz Rahman yesterday said that the present democratic government was doing everything for alleviating the sufferings of the destitute and poor people and trying its best to improve the condition of the masses by establishing a happy and exploitation-free society, reports BSS.

He was speaking as chief guest at a function arranged at Kachua Upazila Parishad auditorium for formally handing over the documents of khash land to the landless people.

One hundred seventy documents of 119 acres of khash land were handed over by the minister to 170 peasants in the function. The Foreign Minister said the government was pledged — bound to establish fundamental rights of the people.

## Boy killed in Shantibahini planted bomb blast

RANGAMATI, Aug 24 : A boy was killed and seven others were injured at Marushabazar in Bagairchari upazila Wednesday morning in what appeared to be stepped up operations by Shantibahini outlaws, reports UNB.

Shishumoy Chakma (10) died on the spot when a planted time-bomb went off at about 11-55 am, officials and witnesses said.

A bank of the insurgents also charged a grenade at a tea stall owned by Abul Hossain soon after the bomb explosion, injuring the seven, including Hossain (52) and his son Sharayat Hossain (20).

Five other injured were Monika Chakma (16), Alo Jyoti Chakma (32), Boga Chakma (60), Gonit Kumar Chakma (30) and Chandra Kumar Chakma (40).

## Govt trying to improve lot of masses : Mustafiz

In this context, he said people-oriented administration was being introduced in the country for ensuring active participation of the masses in development activities both at national and rural levels. He called upon the people to maintain peace in the society for unhindered pace of progress and prosperity of the country.

Later, addressing a public meeting at Jatrapur Union Parishad office premises, the Foreign Minister urged the people to give their verdict spontaneously for choosing the form of government in the coming referendum.

Earlier, he addressed the teachers and students of Kachua Pilot School at the school premises.

He also laid the foundation stone of Baitun-Noor Mosque complex at the adjacent area of KDA New Market, Khulna.

## Two killed, two hurt in Jhenidah road mishaps

JHENIDAH, Aug 24 : Two people, including a minor girl, were killed and two others were seriously injured in separate road accidents in Kaliganj upazila of the district today (Sunday), police said, reports UNB.

Olivia (8), daughter of Zahurul Islam, was crushed under the wheels of a truck near Kaliganj bus stand at 7 pm. Olivia was standing on the road near her cousin's house as she came to visit from Jamalpur.

The truck was seized by police but the driver was absconding.

In another accident, Dr Bhabendra Nath (52) died on the spot when the jeep he was travelling in was hit by a truck on Jessore-Jhenidah highway near Badedithi of the upazila at about 4.30 pm.

## Sherpur plagued with problems

From Our Correspondent

SHERPUR, Aug 24 : The five upazilas of the district are beset with manifold problems causing immense sufferings to the people.

Inadequate educational facilities, lack of proper utility services and civic amenities, poor transportation and communication facilities, absence of irrigation and flood control programmes and lack of incentives for industrialisation stand in the way of overall development of the district.

According to the former DDC of the greater Jamalpur district and present Member of Parliament from Sreebordi-Jenaigathi constituency Dr Shirajul Haque, due to negligence for years and in absence of any pragmatic development programme the district is lag-

## Students urged to uproot violence from campus

KERANIGONJ, Aug 24 : State Minister for food Barrister Nazmul Huda yesterday called upon the people to cast their votes in favour of parliamentary form of government on September 15, reports BSS.

The State Minister was addressing as chief guest the third founding anniversary of Keranigonj Mohila College here. He said the name of BNP would be written in golden letters, in the national history for the passage of the 12th constitutional Amendment Bill to return to parliamentary form of government.

## 7 including student leaders sued for ransacking DC office in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 24 : The district administration here today filed a damage suit for Taka 50,000 against seven people including four student leaders who allegedly ransacked the Deputy Commissioner's office Sunday, police said, reports UNB.

A joint procession of Chhatra Union and Chhatra League (N-S) Sunday gheraoed the DC office and ransacked it demanding release of Manjur-e-Khoda Torik, a student leader.

Torik, district Organising Secretary of the Chhatra Union, was arrested for his alleged involvement in the killing of district Jamaat leader Shabazuddin in 1988.

Meanwhile, the lawyers who had called for boycott of courts Sunday following a brawl with police decided to call off their strike after a discussion with the district administration today (Monday).

AZM Shaful Islam, the Deputy Commissioner, led other local officials in the talks with lawyers at the local bar this evening, officials said.

Barrister Huda said some evil quarters in the name of politics were very much active to destabilize the democratic environment by creating violence in educational institutions. Recalling the contribution of the students community in ousting the autocratic regime, he urged the students to uproot violence from the educational arena.

Mr Huda mentioned that the women of the country constituted the half of its population and stressed the need for their participation in the overall development process of the country. He said Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman had established a separate women Ministry. He said the government under Begum Khaleda Zia was very much concerned about the welfare of women.

He called upon the women community to strengthen the hands of Prime Minister Begum Zia so that she can implement successfully their uplift programme.

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan, Barrister Ziaur Rahman MP, Niamatullah Sabu MP, Amanullah Aman MP, Shamsunnahar, Ahsanullah MP, Director General of Education M.A. Mozammel Haque and the Chairman of Dhaka Education Board M. Eunus Mia also addressed the function.

## Notes from Jamalpur

## From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Aug 24 : The biennial conference of Jati-yatabadi Chhatra Dal Melandah upazila unit was held at local government girls high school auditorium recently.

The conference was presided over by Fakir Abubaker Siddique. Mr Shahidul Haque Khan, Convener of Jamalpur district unit Chhatra Dal formally inaugurated the conference.

Among others, it was addressed by Khandakar Ilias Murtuza, Lokman Ahmed Liton, Meherullah, Abdus Salam, Fazul Qader Hella, Azam Khan and Anisur Rahman.

## Freedom Party workers meet

A workers meeting of Freedom Party Melandah upazila unit was held at its office premises last week.

The meeting was presided over by upazila unit chief Shaful Islam Badsha and it was addressed by Nurul Haque Sungi, Abdul Hashem, Mohsin Ali, Dulaluddin, Babu Sukumar Roy and others. Later a big procession was brought out in the town which paraded different streets.

## Mujib's anniversary of death observed

The 16th death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was observed with due solemnity at Jamalpur district.

The days programme included Quran Khwani, Milad Mahfil, special prayers, discussion meeting and food distribution among the poor. Party flags remained at half mast along with back flags in 'Awami League office of the district.

Awami League and other organisations observed August 15 as National Mourning Day. A discussion meeting was held at district AL office with Advocate Motiur Rahman Talukdar in the chair. It was addressed by Rezaul Karim Hera, Zahurul Haque, Advocate Bakiullah and others. Later a mourning procession paraded the main streets of Jamalpur town.

## BCL rally

The Bangladesh Chhatra League (S-A) organised a rally in front of Amtala at local Government AM College ground last week and demanded trial of the killers of Bangabandhu.

The rally was presided over by A Zahurul Haque. Mr Akhteruzzaman, former DUSCU Vice-President attended as chief guest. It was addressed among others, by Lungu, Rezaul, Shamim, Ahmed Hossain and others.

## BSF kills Bangladeshi

## From Our Correspondent

CHAPAINWAGANJ, Aug 24 : A Bangladeshi national Aminal Islam (26) of baligam village under Chapainwaganj sadar upazila was shot dead and another Monjur Ali of the same village was fatally wounded when a patrol squad of the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) entered in to the Bangladesh territory near Polandanga Hakim Pur and opened fire on them when they were fishing in the padma river Wednesday night.

## Plan afoot to ban felling of trees

SYLHET, Aug 24 : Finance and Planning Minister M. Saifur Rahman said here today that the government was contemplating to enact laws to prohibit cutting of trees along the roads and around home-steads, reports BSS.

Addressing a seminar on "Role of trees in the preservation of environment," the minister said plantation of trees help develop domestic resources besides saving the environment from pollution.

Organised under the aus-

plages of Sylhet forest department, the seminar was also addressed by Vice-Chancellor of the Shahjalal Science and Technology University Dr. S.A. Chowdhury and Divisional Forest Officer Golam Quddus Chowdhury.

The Finance Minister said trees in huge quantity were being used for burning bricks. As a result, the environment was being affected.

Rahman called upon all to make the national tree plantation drive a success.

Earlier, the Finance Minister planted a sapling at the premises of the Circuit House.

Saifur Rahman also called upon the Ansar and VDP personnel to devote themselves for maintaining law and order for the sake of democracy and overall development of the country.

Addressing as chief guest the annual conference of the district Ansar and VDP at Sylhet Stadium, the Minister said there was a conspiracy to

destabilise the democratic rule.

He urged all to be vigilant against the conspiracy and resist it with concerted efforts.

The conference was also addressed by BNP Joint Secretary General Abdul Matin Chowdhury MP, Khondakar Abdul Malik MP and Director General of Ansar and VDP Major General Mohammad Mahbubur Rahman.

Saifur Rahman said Ansar and VDP were disciplined organisations



SIRAJGANJ: A big hole developed on Sirajganj Bazar railway station road posing threat to vehicular movement.

— Star photo