

District roundup

PABNA
Heroin worth Tk 30 lakh recovered
Aug 17: Some 300 grams of heroin worth about Taka 30 lakh were recovered and a youngman was arrested from the new bus stand here recently, official sources said, reports UNB.
Acting on tip, officials of the Narcotics department rushed to the spot and nabbed one Sabed Ali (26) with the heroin. A case has been filed in this connection.

COMILLA
Four fugitive terrorists held
Aug 17: Police nabbed four fugitive terrorists from different villages of Chandina thana in two separate raids recently, reports UNB.
Among the criminals, Zaman Mian and Ambar Ali were arrested from Harikhola village while Hafizur Rahman was arrested from Sreemantapur village and Amir Hossain from Shuhilpur village, police said.
All the miscreants were wanted by the police on various charges.
The arrested were sent to the jail here.

MEHERPUR
Police arrest one with gun
Aug 17: Police arrested a person in village Satien of the thana for possessing a shutter gun on Tuesday (August 11), reports UNB.
Acting on a tip, a team of police raided the house of Abdul Khaleq, son of Yunis Ali and seized the unauthorised gun.
A case was filed in this connection with the local thana.

PANCHAGARH
Hats, bazars beset with problems
Aug 17: Hats and bazars of the district have been facing manifold problems causing inconvenience to both the buyers and sellers for a long time, reports UNB.
Most of the hats and bazars of Sadar, Debiganj, Atowari, Bhojanpur, Laxmihat, Jagdal and Maidandighi are in pitiable conditions.
Filths and garbages are dumped besides the roads of the markets causing environmental pollution in the absence of arrangements for clearing them. During the rainy season the situation turns worse. The bazar roads become muddy and slippery and waters remain stagnant at many points of the dilapidated roads.
Moreover, the shops were built haphazardly causing great inconvenience to the customers. The sheds were too inadequate in most of the markets. During the rainy season marketing becomes impossible for want adequate shades.
Scarcity of pure water and absence of sanitary latrines are posing health hazards for the buyers and sellers in most of the markets. People particularly children are often seen defecating in drains and roadsides polluting the environment.
Local leaders have urged the authorities to take immediate schemes to renovate the markets for the interest of the people.

MAGURA
One gets 2 yrs RI on charge of demanding dowry
Aug 17: A man has been sentenced to two years rigorous imprisonment on charges of demanding dowry from his father-in-law, court sources here said, reports UNB.
According to the prosecution story, the accused Lutfar Rahman of village Borosoloi in Sadar thana married Rashida Khatun daughter of Ayejuddin of village Amuria of the same thana seven years back. He received valuables as dowry from his father-in-law at the time of marriage.
But later he demanded more money as dowry which the poor father-in-law refused to pay. Then the greedy husband started Rashida torturing both physically and mentally. At one stage he drove her out from his house.
Finding no other way out Rashida filed a case with the Sadar magistrate court and the Magistrate Abdus Sattar Mia after examining the witnesses and records awarded the punishment recently.

SIRAJGANJ
JCD, AL clash: 20 hurt
Aug 17: Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Awami League clashed in the town to night leaving at least 20 people injured, six of them seriously, reports UNB.
Witnesses said the clash occurred at Malshapara following dispute over family property between two brothers — Bhutto of Awami League and younger brother Babu of JCD.
At one stage, the situation turned violent when workers of the two organisations joined the brawl in support of the two feuding brothers. About 150 activists of Awami League and Chhatra Dal clashed with lethal weapons, iron rods and hockey sticks.
Seriously injured JCD leader Babu was admitted to Sirajganj General Hospital. Others admitted to the hospital are: Alim (25) and Santosh (28) of JCD, and Jahangir (27), Chandu (40) and Amjad (45) of Awami League.

KUSHITIA
Weekly 'Shikal' introduced
Aug 17: A weekly paper 'Shikal' was brought out on here Monday, Hafiz Rakib Uddin edits the weekly, reports BSS.
Abdul Hamid, Vice-Chancellor of Islamic University inaugurated the paper at a function held Monday. In a brief speech he asked the newsmen to carry objective news and views to earn credibility for the paper.
Syed Hafiz Ahmed, Deputy Commissioner, Kushitia also spoke on the occasion.
Hafiz Rakib Uddin, Editor of weekly 'Shikal' sought cooperation of the people to sustain the paper.

GAZIPUR
Agriculture Bank disburses Tk 19.62 cr as loan
Aug 17: Bangladesh Agriculture Bank has disbursed Taka 19 crore 62 lakh as loan among the marginal cultivators in the district during the last financial year, reports UNB.
The loan was given to the farmers on short term basis for dairy farming and purchasing of agricultural implements.
The bank realised Tk 5 crore 45 lakh outstanding loans from the farmers during the same period.

MANIKGANJ
Pottery industries face setback
Aug 17: Pottery Industries of the district have been facing setback due to price hike of inputs and lack of marketing facilities, report UNB.
Prices of raw materials have gone beyond the purchasing capacity of the poor artisans, who are compelled to give up their ancestral profession.
High prices of fuel and straws have aggravated the situation. Potters said due to abundant availability of aluminium and steel made products, the demand for pottery has reduced.

MALJEE COURT
PHED instals 10,000 tubewells
Aug 17: The Public Health Engineering Department has recently sunk more than 10,000 tubewells in six thanas of the district to supply pure drinking water, reports UNB.
The crisis of drinking water increased in absence of adequate tubewells in the area and compounded due to the non-operational state of 50 per cent of the existing ones, union parishad sources said.
Local people have urged the PHE Department to repair the tubewells immediately and arrange supply of machinery parts free of cost.
The PHE, however, said repairing the machines within the department are meagre and inadequate to meet the growing demand of the increasing population.

SHERPUR
Post of DC lying vacant for a month
Aug 17: Normal administrative functions in the district are being seriously hampered due to the absence of any Deputy Commissioner, reports UNB.
The post of Deputy Commissioner has been lying vacant for over a month since the transfer of the former DC.
Additional Deputy Commissioner, Hasanuzzaman took charge of the office after former Deputy Commissioner Md Abdus Salam was transferred on June 29.



RAJSHAHI: Professor M. Anisur Rahman, Vice-Chancellor, Rajshahi University speaking on the installation ceremony of Social Workers' Association of the varsity held here at Teacher-Students Centre recently.

Jamuna erosion leaves 1500 homeless in 15 days

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Aug 17: At least 1500 families were rendered homeless and about 500 acres of cultivable land in two unions of the district devoured by the river Jamuna during the last fortnight, reports UNB.
The affected unions are Narayanpur and Pankha in Sadar thana.
Over 7000 affected people of Sadarpara, South Pankha, Surjunayanpur and Shibganj villages have taken shelter on the nearby embankment and other places.
Deputy Commissioner of the district Ashraf Ali visited the affected people but no relief materials has yet been distributed among them.
Local leaders urged the authorities to take immediate

steps to help the affected people.
Erosion of Padma, Jamuna going on
A report from Pabna says: The Padma and Jamuna continued to erode and over 60 villages along the rivers in the district have been affected during the last four months, official sources said.
The unabated erosion has already forced about 17,000 families in eight thanas to abandon their homes and move to safer places.
Standing crops on 25,000 acres of farmland were totally damaged due to the onrush of water from the rivers.
Besides, several handloom factories, five primary schools, 4 madrasahs, one handloom

board office, 2 colleges, six mosques and 15 other government offices have been affected.
The worst affected villages are — Chormara, Shimla, Machra Morham, Pikepara in Kazipur thana, Bahirgola and Amalpara in Sadar thana, Khaldamatia, Chardelua, Makampur, Randhuni, Luxmipur in Belkuchi thana and Mirkuti, Muradpur, Mowhalli in Chowhalli thana.
Four villages in Shajadpur thana in Sirajganj district, seven in Bera thana, two in Surjanagar thana and one in Sadar thana of Pabna district have also been threatened.
A large number of affected people have taken shelter on the nearby flood protection embankments.

Sports facilities meagre at dist HQs

MAULVI BAZAR, Aug 17: Sports facilities in Maulvibazar District Headquarters are inadequate.
The situation was quite different a few years back when different kinds of games were played with great enthusiasm. The people at large especially the young people took active part in each games.
But now a days, the situation has changed completely. Facilities for different games and sports have become meagre and consequently popularity has suffered a marked decline. Lack of fund, absence of initiatives and the indifference of the local administration have contributed to the present condition.
The District Sports Association (DSA) which looks after the development and promotion of sports in the area has

failed to come up with the expected initiatives.
The local sporting clubs and sportsman suffer due to lack of cooperation from the DSA.
Local sportsmen formed an organisation, Sportsmen Welfare Association (SWA) to protest against inactive role of the DSA.
A SWA source informed the local newsmen that there held no 1st division football league in Maulvibazar for the last 8 years and 2nd division league for the last 3 years.
There is no stadium at Maulvibazar District Headquarters, though other district headquarters have modern stadium.
There are three play grounds in Maulvibazar town under the ownership of three educational institutes.
Bangladesh Krira Parishad

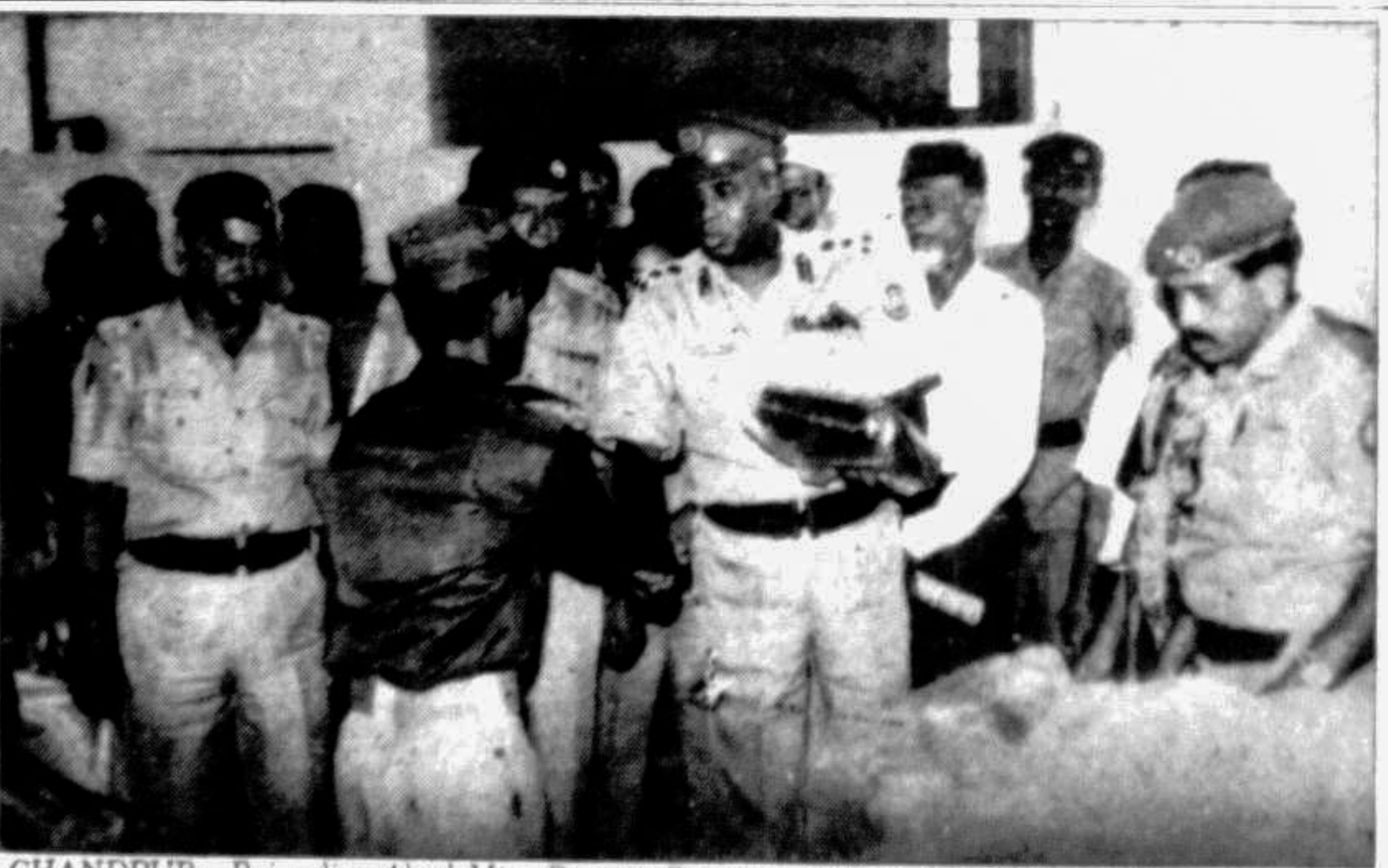
use to extend some fund and sports equipment every year. But Maulvibazar DSA has not yet taken any sports programme.
Some sports organizers opined that, earlier the young boys were found busy with various games and that helped them keep their body and mind fit for the studies. But now, these young chaps are found gossiping at restaurants and on roadside. Sometimes they are found involved in antisocial activities for want of sports facilities in which they can devote their time and energy.
The concerned authorities have been urged to take steps to increase sports facilities to the young generation to keep them fit for studies and keep them aloof from antisocial activities.

Prospect for rubber farming bright

PANCHAGARH, Aug 17: The prospect for High Yielding Variety (HYV) rubber cultivation is bright in the district for favourable climatic condition, local forest officials said, reports UNB.
The soil scientists said climate, chemical components of soil, temperature and yearly rate of rainfall in this district are very favourable for rubber cultivation.
Mentionable that the forest department in 1960 on experimental basis took up a project for rubber cultivation in Tetulia and Debiganj thanas and the yield was quite satisfactory. But the project was, however, abandoned due to lack of maintenance and proper care.
The experts said the government could earn at least Taka 2 crore per annum at the initial stage if the rubber farming project was undertaken in the district.
Local leaders have urged the authorities to undertake

the rubber cultivation project immediately for the benefit of the poor and marginal farmers.
200 jobs for closure of factory
Country's lone electric pole manufacturing factory Panchagarh Jamkon Ltd remained closed for a year rendering about 200 employees and workers jobless.
The factory met with the sudden closure when the PDB authorities abruptly stopped taking supply of electric poles from the factory.
According to informed sources, the factory was established on an agreement with the PDB that the latter would consume the entire output of the electric poles. The company started functioning with a capacity of manufacturing 20,000 poles per year.
But PDB took supply of only 15 per cent of the total production causing stalemate in the factory. It is alleged.
The PDB on enquiry said

they were unable to procure supply of the poles from the company due to fund shortage. PDB authorities, however, advised the company to win work order for World Bank and ADB aided projects.
But the company alleged that they could not avail the opportunity due to stiff conditions set by the PDB. The company management said that the factory might be kept operative if PDB took supply of 13,000 poles every year.
Hard stone lifting policy needed
The government is deprived of a huge amount of revenue every year due to absence of any policy or system in lifting hard stones in the district.
According to informed sources, the stones lifted from Tetulia and Bhojanpur thanas meet 75 per cent requirement of the country for the development and construction works.



CHANDPUR: Brigadier Abed Mia, Deputy Director, Ansars distributing prizes among the best performers of the annual rally of the local unit of Ansars.

Notes from Satkhira

From Our Correspondent
SATKHIRA, Aug 17: The election of the executive committee of Satkhira district Sarak Paribahan Samik Union was held here recently.
The elected office-bearers are as follows: Rabul Islam — President, Abdul Wahab — Vice-President, Khabiruddin — General Secretary, Shafulah — Assistant General Secretary, Abdul Majid — Organising Secretary.
Abdul Mannan — Treasurer and Sk Mokkur Rahman — Office-Secretary. Members — Abdul Raham, Mahram Ali, Abdul Kader, Rafiqul Islam, Artful Islam, Abdul Gofoor, Nurul Haq, Abdur Rauf and Abdul Jabbar.
Advocate Abdul Khaleq, Prof Abu Ahmed and Prof Habibur Rahman conducted the election.

Two housewives commit suicide
Two housewives committed suicide by taking poison here recently.
It is learnt that one Anita Rani Bachar (18), wife of Tapas Kumar Bachar of village Magura under Satkhira Sadar thana and another Kusum Rani (25), wife Ajit Kumar Sana of village Gadaipur under Assassuni thana committed suicide by taking poison.
Both of them committed suicide over family troubles, it is gathered.
Two separate UD cases were lodged with Satkhira and Assassuni police stations in these connection.

Hemp cultivator nabbed
One Mattur Rahman, an alleged hemp cultivator was arrested at Kuskhali village under Satkhira Sadar police station recently.
Acting on a secret information, a contingent of Narcotics department and police led by Shahjahan Talikdar, Inspector, Narcotics and Liquor Department, Satkhira raided the village and recovered huge hemp plants. The owner of the land one Mattur Rahman was also arrested for cultivating the ganja.
A case was lodged with Satkhira police in the regard.

Coconut production declining
Coconut production has declined to a great extent in the district due to absence of plantation and research work.
Although the climate and the soil of the district are favourable for coconut, lack of co-operations from concerned authorities are mainly responsible for the decline, sources said.
Every season, a huge quantity of immature coconuts are plucked indiscriminately to meet local consumption, they added.
According to exports, if coconut production is planned and the fruit processed scientifically, the government can earn huge foreign exchange by exporting coconut oil.
Local leaders urged the government to take initiative to promote cultivation of coconut in extensive areas.

Roads need repair
All the roads under Assassuni thana of the district need immediate repair as numerous cracks, big ditches and holes have developed affecting seriously the movement of vehicles and pedestrians.
Besides, the roads are so narrow that it is very difficult for two vehicles to pass through while many roads are completely damaged at different points. As a result, during the rainy season water remains stagnant in the ditches making it muddy.
It may be mentioned here that the only busy road that links Assassuni thana and district headquarters and other places of the district is in deplorable condition.

Public Library office-bearer
MYMENSINGH, Aug 17: The elections of office-bearers and members of the executive committee of the local Muslim Institute Public Library was held recently, reports BSS.
A 24-member executive committee was elected unopposed with Deputy Commissioner A F M Mattur Rahman and Prof Md Basiruddin as ex-officio President and General Secretary respectively for the next two years.
Dr K Zaman and Md Moinuzzuddin have been elected Vice-Presidents.
The Muslim Institute Public Library was established in 1931. Zakir Hussain, Additional Superintendent of Police, Mymensingh (later Governor of the Then East Pakistan) and Khan Shahe M Abdullah, Secretary District Board were the Founder President and General Secretary respectively of the institute.

Tk 7.80 lakh for repair of pry schools

MAGURA, Aug 17: The government has sanctioned Taka 7.80 lakh for repairing and development works of primary schools in Sadar thana during this fiscal year, reports UNB.
Officials said of the total amount, Taka 3.90 lakh has been allocated for Narhati Government Primary School while the rest amount would be spent for Kushabartha Government primary school.
The works on the schools will start soon and are expected to be completed by December this year.
On completion, a large number of students will get modern education facilities, the sources added.
Another reports adds: A youngman was killed by snake bite at Baroi para village in Sreepur thana recently.

Family sources said the victim Kamal Hossain (18) met the tragic end while he was returning home from a playground.
Thousands of passengers have been facing difficulties in the absence of waiting shed at the town bus stand here.
The passengers are to wait for hours together at the bus stand to reach their destinations under the scorching sun in summer and rain in rainy season. Women and children are the worst sufferers.
Passengers said the bus stand goes under water during the rainy season causing untold suffering to them. The bus stand has no latrine and urinals. People and children are to defecate here and there near the bus stand polluting the environment.

Half-day hartal called by AL observed

COMILLA, Aug 17: A half-day countrywide hartal called by Awami League demanding the trial of the killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was observed here Saturday peacefully, reports UNB.
Shops, business establishments, private offices, schools and colleges remained closed and all modes of transport went off the roads in support of the six hour hartal that began at 6 am.
The AL observed the day as the mourning day hoisting black flag at 7.30 am in front of its office. The day started with garlanding the portrait of Sheikh Mujib, hoisting the National Flag and party flag at half mast.
Milad mahfil and Quran khwani were also held in observance of the day.
Another message from Jhenidah adds that the hartal was observed peacefully in district headquarters and all the six thanas of the district. No untoward incidents were reported during the hartal hours.
Another report from

Satkhira said that the six-hour hartal was observed peacefully. All business establishments, schools and colleges remained closed.
During the hartal hours several mourning processions paraded the main thoroughfares of the town.
Meanwhile, a Bogra report says that at least five people were injured in a clash between the activists of AL and BNP at Nandigram thana headquarters during the hartal hours.
Another message from Kushitia adds: The half-day hartal was observed peacefully in the district demanding repeal of the Indemnity Ordinance Bill.
A discussion meeting was held to observe the 17th death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman with Advocate Ahsanullah in the chair. Those who spoke on the occasion are Dr Strajul Islam, Anwar Ali, Mattur Rahman Lahu.
The speakers demanded immediate repeal of the Indemnity Ordinance Bill and trial of the killers of Bangabandhu.



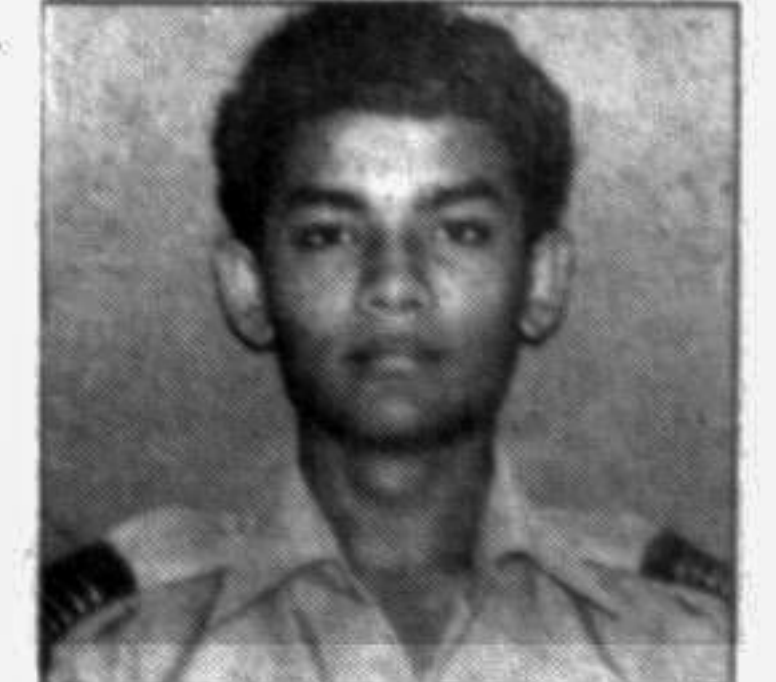
RAJBARI: These houses have been constructed on the lands of the Bangladesh Railway at Kalukhali Station of the Bhatiapara route.

Islamic Varsity Masters Course

Admission of all outside students demanded

KUSHITIA, Aug 17: All Party Students Otkya Parishad staged a demonstration in the Islamic University campus near here Thursday demanding admission of students from other colleges and universities in the Masters Degree Course, reports UNB.
The processionists comprising students of different colleges marched through the town chanting slogans in favour of introducing admission for the graduates and honours degree holders from other colleges and universities.
The students later staged a demonstration in front of the Vice Chancellor's office and held a rally.
The rally was addressed, among others, by Shohrabuddin, leader of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, Jagul Haidar, a central leader of JCD, Iqbal Mahmood and president of Chhatra League district unit.
The speakers urged the VC to fulfill their demands immediately.
Nawab Ali Khan, president of Chhatra Union and Sardar Hafiz, president of Chhatra Maitree of the district unit also spoke in the meeting.

It may be mentioned that there are only three primary schools, one madrasa, one secondary school and one private primary school for a total population of 15,790 in the two enclaves.
More than 98 per cent of the people depend on agriculture having 4,817 acres of cultivable land. The rest are engaged in service and business.



Collins stands 5th in combined merit list

From A Correspondent
Md Tanveer Hasan Collins has secured 5th position in the combined merit list (science group) from Jessore Board obtaining 896 marks and letter marks in all subjects from Jhenidah Cadet College.
Elderest among three children of his father Md Liaquat Ali, who is an inspector of Dhaka Customs, Excise and VAT and mother Roushan Ara, who is a housewife. He studied 3-4 hours daily according to the selected time of the college.
His hobbies are collecting coins, listening to music and playing basketball, volleyball and table tennis. He wants to be a computer engineer in the future.

Literacy rate poor in Angorpota, Dahagram

Another report from Lalmonirhat adds: The literacy rate in the enclaves of Angorpota and Dahagram is very poor compared to the national literacy rate, a survey report revealed.
The rate at these enclaves, according to a latest official statistics, now stands at around 13 per cent, while the national literacy rate is about 24.
There is no Master Degree holder at Angorpota while at Dahagram four persons have completed MA, it says.