

District roundup

RAJBARI

Two to die for murder

Aug 18: Two people were awarded death penalty and eight others life imprisonment Sunday in a sensational murder case, court sources here said, reports UNB.

Arifur Rahman (30) and Abdul Hye (50) were given death penalty and Mohammad Suja, Keramat Ali, Mohammad Osman, Abdul Azam Khan, Mohammad Shahjahan, Mohammad Wahid, Abdul Kuddus and Ansar Ali awarded life term while 10 others were acquitted.

The court also fined the eight convicts Taka 3,000 each or in default to suffer three months more imprisonment.

The prosecution story, in brief, is that all the convicts attacked Bablu (22) with deadly weapons and stabbed him severely on October 8 last year while he was returning his Dauki village home from Chandoni Bazar.

Bablu was rushed to Rajbari Sadar Hospital where he succumbed.

Ayub Ali, elder brother of Bablu filed a case with Rajbari police in this connection.

District and Sessions Judge A K M Fazlur Rahman after examining the witnesses and records awarded the punishment.

GAZIPUR

Acute scarcity of drinking water

Aug 18: Acute scarcity of drinking water in Kaliakoir thana of the district is prevailing for a long time as a large number of tubewells went out of order, reports UNB.

According to informed sources, out of 1953 tubewells in nine unions of the thana, 200 have been lying inoperative for a couple of months compelling the local people to drink polluted pond water. As a result a large number of people have been attacked by various water-borne diseases.

Many hand driven tubewells went out of order during the dry season due to fall in ground water level, local people said.

Local leaders have urged the authorities to install deep tubewells instead of hand driven ones to ensure supply of pure water in the district.

COMILLA

Apex Foundation Stipend

Aug 18: Apex Club of Comilla awarded Apex Foundation Stipend to three blind students of Comilla Victoria Collegiate School, reports UNB.

The stipends were given in a simple ceremony held on August 12 at Apex office in a brief function with Apexian Zahirul Islam Dolon in the chair.

The stipend styled "Solaiman Khan Barzari" was handed over to the recipients by life Governor Bangladesh Apexian Advocate Abul Khair.

The recipients were Shah Alam of class ten, Sankar Kumar Karmakar of class eight and Mojibul Haque of class seven.

MADARIPUR

Tree plantation campaign on

Aug 18: Tree planting campaign is going on full swing in the district as part of the countrywide drive to bring ecological balance, reports UNB.

Apart from the government programme a number of socio-cultural organisations and educational institutions have chalked out elaborate programmes in this connection.

Meanwhile, different species of saplings have already planted at schools or office building premises in the district. Official sources said people are taking keen interest in planting saplings of various fruit-bearing trees in their respective locality to make programme a success.

Local leaders have urged the authorities to distribute more saplings free of cost to encourage the common people to join the campaign.

NARAYANGANJ

Reception to best cooperators

Aug 18: A reception was accorded to best cooperators on August 10 at the office of Narayanganj Sadar Thana central cooperative samity here, reports BSS.

Director General of Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) Syed Margub Murshed was present at the function as chief guest while Deputy Director of the BRDB, K A M Musa was special guest.

Prizes were distributed among the best cooperators. 1,000 coconut saplings were distributed free of cost among the members of the cooperative society.

PANCHAGARH

Debiganz college facing problems

Aug 18: Debiganz College in the district has been facing multifarious problems including shortage of teachers, reports UNB.

The college is still a tin-shed building with no separate administrative office room, no library, an auditorium and no common room for teachers and students.

Classrooms with inadequate sitting arrangement are being used as administrative office which again is wet in the rainy season by drops of rain water pouring down the perforated tin-roof.

College teachers have no staff quarters. A small tin-shed house which can accommodate only 8 students is used as students hostel.

Local leaders urged the concern authorities to take immediate steps to improve condition in the college with the money given by the Education Minister during his recent visit here.



Sirajganj Aman plants in Tarash thana are drying up for want of rainfall. — Star photo

Diarrhoea claims 15, attacks 500 in 2 thanas of Pabna

PABNA, Aug 18: Diarrhoea that broke out in an epidemic form claimed 15 lives including six babies and attacked 500 others in Sadar and Aithoria thanas of the district during last week, reports UNB.

According to health control room, the victims were identified as: Mazeda (4), Hatem Ali (32) of Hazirhat village, Tozammel (2) of Arifpur village, Tasirun Bewa (50), Abdul Mazid (5), Tuli (2), Nazir Ali (35) and Baker (25) of Pratappur village in Sadar thana.

In Aithoria thana, the victims were identified as: Masum (8), Mokbul Mollah (35), Abeda Khatun (55), Monir (2), Gutu (30) and Serajul (21) of Laxmipur village, Sobeda Bibi (60) and Dudukha (65) of Matigachha village.

Civil Surgeon of the district said at least 84 medical teams have been working in the affected areas round the clock

and the situation is under control.

A huge quantity of electric and telephone wire worth about Taka 4 crore was stolen from different lines of nine thanas of the district during last six months.

According to Power Development Board, 12000 metre long electric wire was stolen from Chatmohar, 9500 metre from Ishwardi, 5200 metre from Bera, 100 metre from Vangura and 2500 metre from Sujanagar lines.

About 10,000 metre electric wire was also stolen from Pabna poura areas and 30,000 metre telephone wire was stolen from different parts of the district, the sources added.

Calico Cotton Mills of the district remained closed for some days due to power disruption caused by the burglary of electric wire.

It is alleged that some un-

scrupulous officials of the Power Development Board are involved with this large scale burglary.

At least 302 cases have been filed with different police stations in this connection.

Police nabbed 235 people on various charges and recovered a huge quantity of fire arms from different parts of nine thanas of the district in the last fortnight.

The miscreants involved in various crimes including road dacoity, hijacking, snatching, murder, theft and extortion of tolls were wanted by the police for a long time, police said.

The recovered arms included eight pipeguns three pistols, three cut rifles, one shotgun, two rifles, 12 lethal weapons, three daggers, five knives, three bombs and 132 cocktails.

About 100 cases were filed with the different police stations.

Notes from Maulvibazar

From Our Correspondent

MAULVI BAZAR, Aug 18: A meeting of Islami Front, Kamalgonj thana branch was held recently at Shamsnagar Jame mosque premises.

The meeting was presided over by Maulana Md Badruzzaman, while Convener of Sylhet District Islami Front Maulana Shahjalal Ahmed Akhanjee attended the meeting as chief guest.

A 21-member convening committee was also formed in the meeting for the Kamalgonj thana branch of Islami Front with Hafiz Misbahuddin as Convener and Maulana Md Ahmed Hussain Khan as member-secretary.

Dacoits loot valuables

A daring dacoity was committed at dead of night recently in the house of Abdul Zabbar and Asit Devroy at Gupatara village under Kulaura thana of the district.

Witnesses said, the gang of dacoits numbering about 15 to 20 raided the house of Abdul Zabbar and Asit Devroy of same village and took away gold ornaments, cloths and cash.

On hearing the hue and cry of the inmates, people of the village rushed to the spot and gheraoed the dacoits. But they caught red handed one dacoit. Other dacoits managed to escape. The dacoits, who was caught by the villagers was identified as Abdur Rahim of same thana.

This dacoit was later handed over to the police and a case has been filed with Kulaura thana.

Punishment to official's demanded

Employees of telephone exchange office, Maulvibazar brought out a procession with in the office area and gheraoed the local T&T authority here recently demanding punishment to their corrupt officials who are allegedly involved with corruption which undermine the prestige of local telephone exchange office. The situation however brought before the higher authority for immediate action.

6 killed in separate incidents

Six persons including a minor girl were killed in Maulvibazar and Habigonj districts during the last two weeks in separate incidents, according to police.

One Abdul Latif (40) of Sreemongal was crushed to death under the wheels of a speeding bus at near Sreemongal town on Sylhet-Dhaka highway.

Rafique Miah (17) of Mukata village under Rajnagar thana of Maulvibazar district committed suicide by taking poison. The cause of his suicide could not be known immediately.

Kotai Mullah (40) of Sirajganj village under Sreemongal thana here allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself. The body was sent to Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

Monowara begum (22), a young girl of Kumrakapon village under Kamalgonj thana of Maulvibazar district allegedly committed suicide by taking poison. The cause of her suicide could not be known. Body of the victim was sent to Maulvibazar hospital for autopsy.

Anti-social activities rampant

Gambling and anti-social activities are going on unabated in broad day light at Sherpur area of Sadar thana.

Sherpur is the important place of the district for lunch station and road communication.

The gamblers indulge in anti-social activities in broad day light and continue till late night in defiance of the law-enforcing agency.

Passersby and tender-age boys are allured to participate in gambling.

The youths, particularly the students are being allured by the anti-socials causing moral erosion. Guardians alleged that young boys and students spending their valuable times during night time in the venue. They also alleged that incidents of snatching and hijacking are on the rise in the Sherpur bridge area.

Law-enforcing agencies and district administration are playing the role of silent spectators for the reasons best known to them.

Prize distribution ceremony held

Prize distribution ceremony in connection with indoor game sports competition sponsored by Ekatuna Union Adarsha Pathagar was held at Ekatuna government primary school premises on August 11 with great enthusiasm.

Mansur Ahmed Makis presided over the function while Shaqatul Wahid, President of Maulvibazar press-club attended as chief guest and gave away the prizes among the winners.

Five to suffer lifeterm for murder

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Aug 18: A K M Fazi Kabir, Additional District and Sessions Judge, 2nd Court, Kishoreganj in a judgement recently sentenced five persons to suffer imprisonment for life and fined Taka 5,000 each in default to suffer RI for six months more on the charge of killing one Ratan Chandra Debnath of village Beruail Khalapara in Kishoreganj Sadar thana.

The persons awarded life term are: Datlu Alais, Taheruddin, Nur Amin Alais Nurul Amin, Liaquat, Siraj and Mofiz. Of them Nur Amin Alais Nurul Amin has been absconding and he was tried in absentia. The court however found Abu Taher not guilty and acquitted him of the charge.

According to prosecution, on the night of July 12, 1989, the accused persons entered the house of Ratan Chandra Debnath with the intentions to commit dacoity.

The house-owner then woke up and identified the culprits. They then swooped on him with ramdao, kirich and injured him seriously. He was immediately rushed to the Kishoreganj Sadar Hospital where the doctor declared him dead.

A case was registered with Kishoreganj Police which under investigation submitted charge-sheet against six persons under section 306 BPC.

The judge after examining the evidences found five of the accused persons guilty and sentenced them to life term along with the said fine.

Advocate Mohiuddin Ahmed APP conducted the Prosecution while Advocate MA Rashid defended the accused persons.

Chawpadaha Orphanage closed for want of fund

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Aug 18: Chawpadaha Orphanage under Gaibandha Sadar thana has been closed down due to financial crisis.

The orphanage was set up in the year 1980 with about 80 orphans. The committee recruited four teachers to teach the inmates of the orphanage. But after running it for two years the committee ceased the activities due to acute financial hardship. Public donation was the source of income of the organisation.

Local social workers set up the orphanage in a brick built tin-shed house which is now lying almost abandoned for lack of maintenance. On the otherhand, the teachers of the orphanage have become jobless since the closer of the organisation.

With the closure of the orphanage, the inmates were compelled to engage in various

Thousands of children suffering from malnutrition

From Our Correspondent

MADARIPUR, Aug 18: About 30,000 children in 10 thanas of the districts Madaripur and Shariatpur have been suffering from malnutrition.

A large number of children have died of various diseases in these two districts during last few years.

A non-government survey conducted in these thanas revealed that the attack of this diseases like diarrhoea, dysentery, pneumonia, malaria, and hoping cough following the consecutive floods, droughts and other natural calamities in most of the thanas of these two district during the last few years.

Acute scarcity of balanced diet is another factor that lead to the premature death of the poor children. A large number of children die every year of the above mentioned diseases. Those who survive have to lead a miserable life during their lifetime.

The unfed or half-fed mothers find it difficult to give requests breast feeding which is the only appropriate diet for the children of the have-nots.

The economic condition of the people especially the rural people of Kalkini, Shibchar, and Rajor of Madaripur district and Bherganj, Damudya, Goshairhat, Naria, Zanjira and Palong of Shariatpur district live below the poverty line and find it difficult

to arrange their daily food. As a result, they are unable to feed the children the requisite diet and take health care.

The ignorance of the parent is also greatly responsible for the malnutrition of the children. They are not aware of the use of the locally available edible herbs and vegetables.

The ignorance of the villagers is also responsible for the malnutrition of the children. The radio and TV advertisement on oral saline and deficiency of vitamin A is much more effective to the rural people. Such kinds of advertisements are very helpful in making the ignorant parents aware of the ideas of health care.

Open sale of phensidyl at Pabna

PABNA, Aug 18: Indian phensidyl syrup, a contraband item, is being sold openly at some medicine shops of the town, reports UNB.

According to informed sources, a gang of smugglers are engaged in smuggling the spurious drug for a long time.

It is reported that Nakalia college student Razib (19) and two motor workers Anar Ali and Siby died recently by taking the drug.

Decomposed body recovered at Tangail

TANGAIL, Aug 18: Decomposed body of Mintu, about twenty-five years old man, was recovered from a tank beside Tangail Hospital yesterday by the police, reports BSS.

BARISAL

Plan to make self-sufficient in food

Aug 18: Agriculture Extension Department has taken up a production programme for making eleven southern districts under Barisal Agriculture Zone (BAZ) self-sufficient in food within three years, reports BSS.

The districts are: Barisal, Jhalakhati, Bhola, Pirojpur, Patukhali, Barguna, Faridpur, Gopalganj, Rajbari, Madaripur and Shariatpur.

According to an official source, a total of 2,41,01,057 acres of land will be brought under cultivation in these districts.

The production target has been fixed at 2,67,45,890 metric tons of foodgrains, the source said.

Of the total 52,10,305 metric tons of aus and aman paddy will be produced in 48,62,270 acres, 3,37,378 metric tons of wheat in 4,26,704.85 acres.

MAGURA

One commits suicide by taking poison

Aug 18: A man allegedly committed suicide by taking poison at Raghobadair village of Sadar thana, police said, reports UNB.

Family sources said the victim Mosharrif Hossain (25), son of Adluddin of the village met the tragic end last week following a family feud.

The body was sent to morgue for postmortem.

A case has been filed with the police in this connection.

NETRAKONA

150 held with arms, ammunition

Aug 18: Netrakona district police rounded up a total of 150 alleged miscreants and recovered a good number of illegal fire arms and ammunition from ten thanas of Netrakona district under countrywide anti-crime drive programme entitled "Operation August-92" during the last fortnight.

Police Super, Netrakona Anwar Hossain Khan told BSS here Monday that the arrested miscreants were included absconders, dacoits, terrorists, illegal fire arms holders and notorious criminals wanted for various cases.

The recovered fire arms included five pipeguns, one automatic revolver and twelve rounds of live bullets. The arrested miscreants were produced before courts, the police super said.

JAMALPUR

Singer dead

Aug 18: G M Zakul Huq, a well-known actor, singer and former teacher of Dewanganj Boys High School, died here recently after a prolonged illness. He was 66, reports BSS.

Huq who performed on the stage over the last three decades had been suffering from several diseases and undergoing acute financial constraints.

A popular teacher, he retire from active service a few years ago and survived only on private tuition. He left behind three sons and five daughters.



MAULVIBAZAR: Shaqatul Wahid, President, Local Press Club giving away prizes to the winners of indoor games competition held at Ekatuna Primary School recently. — Star photo