

## District roundup

### KUSHITIA

#### College staff killed in road mishap

July 27: One Shamsuzza-man (50), a class four employee of Kushtia Government College died on the spot when he was run over by a truck on Saturday near BTC office here, reports BSS.

Eye witness and police said the victim was riding a bicycle. The reckless truck hit him and he died on the spot.

A case has been registered with Kushtia police in this connection. Police seized the truck.

In another incident, a rickshawpuller, Mattur Rahman, was killed by unknown assailants at Berekhata near here.

A case has been lodged in this connection with Kushtia police.

### LALMONIRHAT

#### BCL workers join JCD

July 27: About 50 workers and leaders of Awami League backed Chhatra League of the local unit have joined the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, the student wing of the ruling BNP, reports UNB.

The BCL activists led by their leader Nabir Hossain Lattu formally expressed solidarity with the 19-point programmes of Shaheed Zia at a function held at the local BNP office on July 13.

They also vowed to work with politics of development of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

Presided over by district BNP President Asadul Habib, it was also addressed by JCD leader Iqbal Hossain.

### MYMENSINGH

#### School reopens after 4 months

From Our Correspondent

July 27: Adarsha Biddapth, a high school under Mymensingh Jute Mills has reopened on July 18 after remaining closed for about four months.

The jute mills was laid off on March 3 but the authority kept the school and a mosque open. But later on the school and the mosque were declared closed from March 23.

As a result, all the teachers except the headmaster lost their job. The headmaster was in service as he is an employee of Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation. The students were the worst sufferers.

There are 1100 students and 18 teachers in the school.

### FARIDPUR

#### Executive bodies of district units dissolved

July 27: The elected executive committees of all the district branches of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy have been dissolved, reports UNB.

According to an official source, the decision of dissolution of the executive bodies of the district branches was taken at the 48th meeting of the Academy Parishad, an apex body of Shilpakala Academy, held on July 12 without showing any reason whatsoever.

Accordingly the Deputy Commissioner of Faridpur who is ex-officio president of the academy branch dissolved the elected committee.

The main objective of the academy is to maintain the cultural activities and uphold its heritage in the country.

### SHERPUR

#### 36,000 saplings to be sold

July 27: The Forest Extension Department has taken up a programme to sell 36,000 saplings of various trees in five thanas of Sherpur district in the current season, reports BSS.

Three plantation campaign launched in the district at a function held here recently. Deputy Commissioner of Sherpur Ataur Rahman Majumdar inaugurated the campaign. District and thana level officers and elite of the town attended the function.

Forest Department sources said the saplings produced in the government nurseries are being sold at a nominal price.

### PATUAKHALI

#### Under-aged girls rescued from brothel

July 27: Police in a drive rescued seven under-aged girls from a brothel located near Sadar road in the town and arrested six prostitutes in this connection, reports UNB.

According to police, these girls were collected from different areas of the district and forced them to take up the heinous job against their will.

Acting on a tip, police in a raid rescued Selma (13), Hazera (12), Mariam (12), Kohinoor (12), Shahnaz (13), Aklima (14) and Begum Luna (11) last week.

Police also arrested Salma, Rahima, Hazera, Nahar, Rina and Parveen of the brothel for forcing them to carry out the immoral acts at the brothel.

Police sources said that judicial enquiry will be conducted to ascertain in the age of the under-aged girls rescued from the brothel.

### SATKHIRA

#### One killed by tiger

July 27: One Sakat Gazi (40) of village Mushiganj under Shyamnagar thana was killed by tiger while he was catching fish within Sundarban forest area on Friday, reports BSS.

Eye witnesses said the tiger suddenly fell on him from the nearest forest as he was very attentive while catching fish. The tiger dragged him to the bush. His companions recovered the body and brought it home.

One Paritosh (35) of village Nagarmata under Tala thana was killed by a lightning on Thursday while he was catching fish in Binarpota canal, eye witnesses said.

### BRAHMANBARIA

#### Tornado hits 2 villages, 15 hurt

July 27: At least 15 people were injured when a tornado swept over two villages in Nabinagar thana Wednesday night, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the tornado, lasted about two minutes, lashed Suhatta and Dulabari villages in the thana at night.

The injured were given first aid in the local health complex. It also damaged some 100 thatched houses worth about Taka six lakh, rendering hundreds of people homeless and uprooted many trees. Standing crops on a vast acre of land were damaged.

The affected people have been passing their miserable days under the open sky.

### KHULNA

#### Workshop for improving marketing skills

July 27: A two-day workshop-cum-training on "marketing management, import and technology transfer" for fertilizer distributors concluded here Monday, reports BSS.

Jointly organised by Ministry of Agriculture and International Fertilizer Development Centre the workshop was held under the sponsorship of USAID, Dhaka. The objectives of the workshop were to improve marketing knowledge and professional skills, develop ability to plan and update knowledge on agriculture technology of the fertilizer distributors in the country.

Khulna City Corporation Mayor Sheikh Tayebur Rahman inaugurated the workshop.

In his inaugural speech he called for applying modern methods for boosting agricultural production.

### FENI

#### BDR seizes Indian goods worth Taka 1.5 lakh

July 27: Bangladesh Rifles recovered smuggled Indian goods worth about Taka 1.5 lakh in two separate raids in the district in the last one week, reports UNB.

The seized goods included sarees, wood, garments and cosmetics.

Acting on secret information, BDR raided two night coaches on Feni by pass road and different shops of Chhagalnala Bazar on July 19 and recovered the goods.

None was, however, arrested in this connection.

A case was filed with the local police and the goods were deposited with the customs authorities.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia distributing lungis among the flood victims of Badua Daulatpur village under Fulgazi Thana of Feni district on Sunday. —PID photo

## Incessant rainfall in Jessore Aus, aman paddy on 31,950 acres damaged

JESSORE, July 27: Thirty one thousand nine hundred and fifty acres of land in eight thanas of Jessore have been inundated causing extensive damage to aus, transplanted aman and seed-beds in low-lying areas following incessant rainfall over last five days.

According to informed source, four thousand five hundred acres in sadar, six thousand five hundred in Jhinkergacha, one thousand nine hundred in Obhainager, two thousand five hundred in Bagherpara, seven thousand eight hundred in Monirampur, four thousand two hundred in Keshabpur, two thousand seven hundred in Sarsha and one thousand eight hundred acres in Chaugachha thanas of Jessore have gone under water in the rainfall.

District Relief and Rehabilitation Officer, Jessore, when contacted, confirming the affected area told The Daily Star that steps have been taken by Deputy Commissioner's office to collect report from respective TNOs to assess extent of loss, done in this rainfall.

Witnesses say that waterlogging has been the cause to aggravate situation. It may turn into flashflood if situation remains unchanged and there

happens no interval of rainfall, they remarked.

Meanwhile prices of vegetables have marked sharp rise, it is learnt.

Husband and wife of Ramkrishnapur under Sukpukuria union of Chowgacha thana in Jessore, committed suicide sitting together in broad daylight on Sunday, according to informants.

It is learnt, the incident occurred when Shahajan Molik (58) and his second wife took insecticide in massive dose in a bid to end their family trouble. His first wife and two daughters also committed suicide much earlier. Shahajan Ali was member of local union parishad and General Secretary of ruling BNP of the union.

Three persons were killed and two other seriously injured when a car No. Dhaka Va-241, knocked from behind by bus No Dhaka-Metro-Cha-02-8421 at Nobinagar on Jessore-Benapole Highway at noon on Monday. Accident occurred when Jessore bound bus knocked the car running in same direction killing Mithir (49), Kasem (55) and driver Malek (20) and the spot injuring Luchi (20) and Rubi (20). Both are non admitted to Jessore hospital. They are appearing at BA exam from

## Railway coaches inadequate on routes from Chandpur

CHANDPUR, July 27: The passengers travel from Chandpur railway station to different routes have been suffering much due to shortage of coaches.

The existing passenger coaches are in a deplorable condition. The condition of coaches of local trains is more pitiable.

Due to shortage of coaches, most of the trains remain over loaded all the times. Five to six compartments are being attached to the trains.

The old, worn and children passengers are found helpless to board the trains at different stations.

Sometimes passengers are to board on luggage vans. Very often passengers are found travelling on roof tops of the train. Moreover, passengers remain

crowded on both sides of the engines.

The passengers on these routes have urged the concerned authority to look in to the matter and take steps to mitigate the sufferings.

### Child labourers

The number of child labourers increasing day by day different thana headquarters and municipal areas of the district. The poor children are engaged in different works for earning livelihood. The children of the age group of five to twelve are engaged in manual jobs on daily basis. These children are found working day and night as helping hands, in motor, bicycle and rickshaw garages, welding shops and as boys in hotels, restaurants and houses. Some of the children work as hawkers

of newspapers and other commodities. Many of them are plying rickshaws. The child labourers get a nominal remuneration from their masters. There is no guarantee of their jobs. The children are also working as servants at different houses who are some times tortured by the house owners.

A child labourer works for more than eight hours a day and he is earning between Taka 10 and 15 per day. These child labourers do not get proper diet and other medical facilities and they are suffering from various diseases.

Some children are found begging the town from door to door. It is observed that privileged people of the society were taking advantages of these poor children and they are being exploited.



AGRI-VARSITY: Md Mosharraf Hossain Shahjahan, State Minister for Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control speaking as chief guest at a freshers' reception of the Faculty of Agricultural Engineering and Technology held at BAU on July 17. —Star photo

## Mother, daughter drowned

GAZIPUR, July 27: A mother and her daughter drowned when a boat carrying 35 passengers capsized in the Bashan Beel in sadar thana, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, the mother Lucky Begum (40) and her daughter Helena (5) of village Bashan on July 19 went to village Isarkandi in the same thana to see the body of Shankar Das who was shot dead by a gang of robbers on the previous night.

While returning on the same day they met the tragic end when their boat was caught by a gusty wind at the beel. Other passengers, however, managed to swim ashore.

## Woman majority dacoit group

SIRAJGANJ, July 27: A gang of dacoits consisting of five women and one man tied up the boatman and his helper of an engine boat, threw them into the river Jamuna near Chowhali thana and decamped with the boat on Monday night, reports UNB.

Police said the dacoits hired the engine boat of one Tara Khan from Enayetpur ghat at Tk 200 for Chowhali at 8 pm. When the boat reached at the mid-stream of the river Jamuna, the dacoits swooped on the boatmen.

Police could not trace out the missing boatmen whose identity could not be known immediately.

Later, the owner of the boat Tara Khan filed a case with Chowhali thana in this connection today (Tuesday).

Meanwhile, a gang of armed dacoits numbering about 20 stormed the house of Haji Yunus (60) of Gopalpur village in Belkuchi thana and decamped with valuables and cash worth about Taka 3 lakh early today.

The dacoits entered the house at 1.30 am, tied up Haji Yunus and the guard of his weaving factory and decamped with the booties at gun point, police said.

A case was filed with the police.

## Two killed in road mishaps

SATKHIRA, July 27: Two people were killed in two separate road accidents on Kaliganj-Khulna road on Sunday, reports UNB.

The victims were identified as Rezaul (25), a van driver, of Ghana village in Keshabpur thana of Jessore district and another was a bus helper whose identity could not be known immediately.

Rezaul met the accident when he was runover by a speeding truck (No. Khulna-Ta: 1359) near Patkelghata. He died on the spot.

Meanwhile, the bus helper of Satkhira bound bus (No. Satkhira-Ba 35) coming from Kaliganj fell down from the rooftop of the running bus while he was loading goats on it and died on the spot.

Two cases were filed with the Kaliganj and Tala police.

Another report adds: The body of an old woman was exhumed from the grave for further autopsy in the district town on Sunday.

Sabujan's (70) son complaint that his mother was killed on July 21 when she went to her sister's house at Balkakari. Sabujan went to her sister's house and died there mysteriously. Later she was buried at Balkakari graveyard from where the body was exhumed after five days of the burial.

## Diarrhoea, fever break out in flood-hit Habiganj

From Our Correspondent

HABIGANJ, July 27: Diarrhoea, dysentery and fever have broken out in different places of Habiganj district in an epidemic form.

Baniachang, Bahubal, Chunerghat, Habiganj Sadar and other different lowlying areas of the district are learnt to be the worst affected areas.

According to unofficial sources over 200 people including male, female and children have already been attacked by diarrhoea, dysentery and fever at Baniachang.

According to Habiganj Civil Surgeon Controlroom, 16 persons at Bahubal and 12 persons in Chunerghat have so far been attacked by diarrhoea. Meanwhile three diarrhoea patients have been given treatment at Habiganj sadar hospital.

Everyday, a number of diarrhoea, dysentery and fever patients from affected areas are pouring into different thana health complexes and hospitals for treatment. But most of them have to go back dis-

appointed due to lack of medicare facilities, local people said.

Children of poor families are the worst sufferers as most of the parents cannot provide expenditures for their treatment.

Scarcity of pure drinking water, malnutrition, consumption of adulterated food stuff and the excessive hot spell were said to be the main reasons for the out break of the diseases.

Want of oral salines and high prices of medicines and inadequate medicare facilities have further aggravated the situations it is alleged. People urged the authorities concerned to take immediate steps in this connection.

Another report says: Frequent power failure and fluctuations in voltage have been causing much suffering to the town residents in Habiganj.

The erratic power supply in the district is increasing the sufferings of both, domestic and the commercial consumers.

Most consumers complain that, hardly a day or night passes without disruption in electricity supply.

## 4 including 2 women held with smuggled goods

COMILLA, July 27: Bangladesh Rifles in three separate raids rounded up four smugglers including two women and seized contraband goods worth over Taka 3.03 lakh, reports UNB.

A BDR patrol party on July 22 acting on secret information, stopped and searched a Dhaka bound Micro bus at Madhaya and seized 200 pieces of Indian saree worth Taka 40,000 and nabbed four smugglers including two women.

The arrested identified as Anwar Hossain, son of Shamsul Haq of Katabeel, Nepal Shaha, son of Shital Shaha of Talikona, Aleya Begum, daughter of late Charu Mia and Milan Nessa wife of Ali Akbar of Balutoopa under Kotwali thana were handed over to the police.

Another patrol party following a tip-off ambushed at Suagonj bazar in Kotwali thana on July 21 and challenged a speeding truck. When the truck tried to speed away violating the signal the BDR fired 8 rounds of bullets on its rear

bursting tires. The truck then plunged into a roadside ditch and the driver managed to escape.

The BDR recovered 1,101 pieces of Indian saree and 50 kgs of ground nuts worth Taka 1.42 lakh from the truck.

Earlier on July 15, another patrol party recovered crystal glasses, towels and sarees worth Taka 1.21 lakh from a roadside bush at village Kernaninagar in Kotwali thana.

The seized goods were handed over to the local customs authorities.

An amount of Taka 2,100 was realised as fine by a mobile court from 12 shops of the town for keeping their establishments open on the holidays.

The court headed by First Class Magistrate Mahbubunnahar raided Chowkbazar, Rajganj, Monoharpur and Kanitpar areas on July 16, and fined each shop owner ranging Taka from 100 to 200.

The shop owners were penalised under the Shops and Establishment Act of 1965.



RANGPUR: Abdul Karim Sarker, Additional Deputy Commissioner planting a sapling at the campus of a childcare project at Tamphat union of sadar thana recently. —Star photo

## PDB "action plan" yet to be effective

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, July 27: The longterm action plan which was undertaken by Power Development Board (PDB) in 1991 in a view to minimise the overall system loss of power in 16 south-west districts is yet to be enforced.

According to sources, about one hundred crore taka has already been spent but the concerned authority could do little in achieving the target.

It is learnt from a reliable source that the finance ministry in a report recommended to take proper and necessary steps against some concerned officials about the huge money spent for this programme and purpose. It may be recalled that according to this 5-year plan of 1991-95 recommendations were made to minimise and reduce power system loss to a great extent as in '91-28 pc, 1991 in a view to minimise the overall system loss of power in 16 south-west districts is yet to be enforced.

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