

## District roundup

### NARAIL

#### Successful canal digging

Aug: 4 The canal digging programme of Narail district has achieved hundred per cent progress, reports BSS.

This was disclosed in a review meeting of canal digging programme of Narail district at Narail Circuit house Saturday. Agriculture, Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Minister M Majid-ul-Haq presided over the meeting, an official handout said.

Four canals in three thanas of the district had been taken for re-excavation in the last financial year. On completion these canals will provide irrigation facilities up to 20 thousand acres of land and will produce 30 thousand metric tons of additional food crops per year.

Expressing his satisfaction after reviewing the re-excavation programme the minister said that the main object of this government was to enhance food production and to ensure development. He said Bangladesh had achieved a tremendous progress and prosperity in all sectors during last two and half year.

### BARGUNA

#### Destitutes on rise due to erosion

Aug: 4 Almost every year a good number of people of three thanas in the district are turning destitutes on account of erosion by the river Bishkhali, reports UNB.

The affected thanas are Begati, Baman and Patarghata. During the last eight years the mighty Bishkhali swallowed Kakehira and Ramna unions, Bama and Begati sadar rendering about hundreds of people of 10 villages homeless.

The destitutes who were economically solvent in the past, have been passing their days in extreme hardship since no steps have been taken to rehabilitate them by the district administration.

Every year flood and river erosion damage standing crops on a vast acres of land and household articles but no constructive programme has been taken to save the locality, local people alleged.

They also added that some steps are being taken each and every year but those are not implemented due to corruption, dishonesty and lack of appropriate planning.

They urged the concerned authorities to take proper steps to save the locality from the erosion on emergency basis.

### NETRAKONA

#### 11 convicted for murder

Aug: 4 Eleven people were convicted of murdering an old man and sentenced to life term by Additional District and Sessions Judge Abdur Razzak Saturday, reports UNB.

The convicts are Mukto Miah alias Joyal Abedin, Abu Syeed, Abdul Latif, Abdus Satter, Abu Taher, Jubed Ali, Mukhles, Hashim Uddin, Siddique, Dulal and Ishaq.

According to the prosecution, the accused attacked and killed Nayeab Ali (75) of village Chandralara in Kendua thana of the district on March 25 in 1991 while returning from thana headquarters.

The victim's cousin filed a case with Kendua thana, accusing 13 people.

Two of the accused, Selim and Idris, were acquitted of the charge.

### RUPGANJ

#### Priority given to alleviation of poverty

Aug: 4 Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury said on Thursday criminals were being punished according to the existing laws of the country, reports BSS.

The minister was addressing at a distribution function of sewing machines and type writers at Rupganj thana auditorium here.

The Home Minister said the present government was determined to change the lot of common man within the shortest possible time. The government has given top priority on poverty alleviation programme, he said and urged the people to take up self-employment projects like poultry, livestock, farming and fishery.

Termining population explosion as the number one problem of the country he called for popularising family planning programme.

Later, Home Minister distributed 28 sewing machines among 28 unemployed and distressed women and two type writers to two local type writer training centres.

### DINAJPUR

#### Steps taken to improve service conditions of judges

Aug: 4 Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz Saturday said the present government had undertaken appropriate steps to improve the service conditions of the judges and the profession of the lawyers in order to ensure rule of law and expedite disposal of cases in the society.

He was addressing the members of the district bar association here. Khurshid Jahan Haque, MP and Reazul Haque Chowdhury, Bar Association President also spoke on the occasion.

Mirza Hafiz asserted that for functioning of the court and profession of the lawyer Bangladesh was the first among the SAARC countries to place adequate fund in the budget and Annual Development Programme (ADP) for enhancement of judges pay and allowances and for construction and repair of Bar Association office buildings and libraries equipped with sufficient legal books.

He called upon the lawyers to ensure close cooperation and harmony with the judges so as to expedite disposal of cases and save the people from unnecessary suffering, he reiterated government determination to make the judiciary independent, impartial and corruption free at any cost.

Recent dismissal and removal of some judges from service from gross misconduct and corruption had borne the testimony to this fact, he said it had become and imperative to bring about major amendment to many a age-old laws and regulations and enact new ones for meeting the need of the changing socio-economic situation.

### RAJBARI

#### Eleven get 7 yrs RI

Aug: 4 Eleven people were sentenced Wednesday to seven years rigorous imprisonment each and fined Taka 5,000, in default, to suffer one year imprisonment more for dacoity bid, exchange of fire with police and keeping illegal arms, says UNB.

The convicted are Akkas, Rashid, Anwar, Saidul, Yusuf, Amjad, Seraj, Najibuddin, Nofel, Raasal and Jinnah.

The case, in brief, was that the gang of dacoits assembled at village Khandua of Pangsha thana on June 17, 1991 to commit dacoity but police act on a tip rushed to the spot. The robbers then opened fire which was repulsed by the police and arrested the 11 people with three country-made rifles, three pipe guns, three daggers, 13 rounds of bullets and 18 cartridges.

Later a case was filed with the Pangsha police and the investigating officer SI Md Nasir Uddin submitted charge sheet against 15 people.

After examining the witnesses and records Additional District Magistrate Abu Nasir Ahmed awarded the punishment and acquitted four others, and Ishaq.

### PABNA

#### Housewife allegedly beaten to death

Aug: 4 A housewife was beaten to death allegedly by her husband while a schoolboy died when he fell from a tree in the sadar thana of the district Saturday, reports UNB.

Police said Begum Khatun (25) fell unconscious after being beaten by Abed Ali over a family feud at village Falia in sadar thana today.

She was rushed to the Sadar Hospital where the attending doctors declared her dead.

In the other incident, Habib, 12, a student of class five of Zila School, dropped from a jack fruit tree at their house premises in Atua area in the town and died instantly this morning.

### RAJSHAHI

#### Promotions to post of prof at RU postponed

Aug: 4 All the promotions to the post of Professor of Rajshahi University have been postponed due to injunction by the court, reports UNB.

Promotion of Dr Syedul Islam of the Department of Chemistry was stopped following a case.

The court issued the injunction on June 28 following his appeal to the Sadar Assistant Judge Court for the postponement of all promotions of the university until the finalisation of his promotion issue.



Indian trucks are seen waiting for unloading goods at Benapole check-post. These trucks are to wait for days together due to space shortage of the customs godown. Sometimes goods coming from India are seen under open sky which causes huge damages. — Star photo by A K M Mohsin

## Biman carrying no cargo to Sylhet for two months

### From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Aug: 4: Bangladesh Biman have stopped carrying of cargoes to Sylhet for last two months causing much sufferings to hundreds of passengers coming from abroad.

At least 70 tons of cargoes booked for Sylhet have been lying at Zia International Airport, Dhaka.

Most of these cargoes were booked by the incoming passengers from Middle East, Europe and USA. These are not being brought to Sylhet by the Biman authority. Some of these reached Dhaka for more than three months.

The passengers normally come to the country from abroad for a short period of time. They send their necessary household materials like baby-food, medicines, clothes and others through air cargo. In some cases it is found that they do not receive their goods during the time of their stay in Bangladesh.

There are 21 flights or Biman on Dhaka-Sylhet route in a week. Of these, 12 flights of F-28 planes can carry 117 tons and nine flights of ATP planes can carry 68 tons of goods. Normally, the domestic passengers carry minimum luggage. An official of the Ground section of Biman told this correspondent that due to the absence of any clear system five tons of cargoes are not brought per flight.

Biman has three luggage vans each of which has a capacity of four tons at a time. But these are not used properly, it is alleged.

Carrying of cargoes to Sylhet has been badly hampered due to floods during the months of June and July. No van carried any luggage since May.

The situation went worse as the District Manager of Biman, Sylhet requested the Head Office in Dhaka to stop sending cargoes in flights.

When contacted, the District Manager, Biman confirmed the stockpiling of 60 tons of cargoes in Dhaka for long. He, however, accused the Customs and VAT Department for the matter. Biman itself was being hit by the situation, he said. Different stations of Biman in Europe and Middle East had been advised not to book any cargo for Sylhet.

The Deputy Collector of Customs denied the allegation in this matter. There is a good warehouse of Biman at the Sylhet Airport and another owned by the Customs and Biman there. But Biman is not using these for keeping the cargo.

Biman has security force while the Civil Aviation Authority has separate security personnel at the airport. There is no record of missing of any goods from the godowns at the airport.

A total of Taka 44,29,63,000 has been realised from the electricity consumers of the 3 divisions comprising four districts in the Sylhet circle of PDB, during the last financial year.

According to an official source, of the total amount, Taka 10,52,73,000 was realised from Sylhet Distribution Division, against an amount of Taka 10,56,32,000. Taka 18,62,12,000 from Moulvibazar Division against an amount of Taka 19,20,44,000 and Taka 15,14,98,000 from the Commercial Operation Division, Sylhet against an amount of Taka 18,52,43,000.

The average system loss in the circle stood at 23.01, informed an official source.

### 2 die of diarrhoea

Two persons died of diarrhoea in Chhatak thana under Sunamganj district during the last one week.

According to the reports, at least 25 others have been suffering from waterborne diseases at village Chandpur of Doharbar union. Most of the victims are children, it is reported. The dead are, Abdul Quddus (12), son of Ranjan Ali and Nilufa Begum (8) daughter of Samuj Ali.

No medical team visited the village since the outbreak of the disease, it is informed.

## Consumers place 7 point demand to PDB

### From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Aug: 4 Electricity consumers of the district met in a meeting held at local chamber of commerce auditorium recently. They placed a 7-point demand with local Power Development Board. The meeting was presided over by Shahjada Anowerul Kadir, president Gaibandha Chamber of Commerce.

The consumers urged upon the authority of Power Development Board to implement the genuine demands of the member of public. The demand included interest rebate up to December '93, suspension of snapping of power lines up to December '93, assurance of issuing monthly electric bills regularly, uninterrupted power supply, prompt ledger posting and stopping all kinds of harassment to consumers.

## 19 dairy farms get incentives

TANGAIL, Aug: 4 The livestock department has handed over cheques amounting to Taka 7.25 lakh as incentive bonus to 19 private dairy farm owners of the district on Thursday, reports BSS.

The cheques were handed over at a function held at the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner. The function was presided over by Azizur Rahman, Additional District Magistrate, Advocate K H Badruddin Ahmed, MP was present as chief guest. Dr Fariduddin, District Livestock Officer spoke on the occasion.

The incentive bonus are being given to the non-government dairy farm owners to enhance milk production in the country.

Three persons, including one woman were killed and thirty others were injured in an accident at Jamurki on Tangail-Dhaka highway. The accident occurred when a bus bound for Dhaka from Sherpur fell to road side ditch and plunged in deep water. Of the injured twenty were admitted to Kumudini hospital. People of the area rescued the passengers from the coach.

## BNP biennial confce held in Barisal

### From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, Aug: 4 The biennial conference of the Barisal district and town units of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) was held here Friday at the local Ashwiny Kumar town-hall amid high tension and security.

Minister for Labour and Manpower Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan attended the function as chief guest while State Minister for Education Principal M Yunus Khan presided.

## Farmer's rally held at N'ganj

### From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Aug: 4 The local units of Bangladesh Kishan Federation and Bangladesh Kishani Shava arranged a rally here on Monday.

Later, the rally submitted a memorandum containing 9-point demand to the Deputy Commissioner. Thousands of farmers paraded through different roads of the town.

Habizur Rahman Pintu, convener of the federation presided over the rally and it was managed by Md Jasimuddin.

The rally was also addressed by Badrul Alam, Central General Secretary of the federation, Liaquat Hossain Khan, Organising Secretary, Khurshida Akhtar, G S Kishani Shava and others.

## Facilities for plastic surgery developed

FARIDPUR, Aug: 4 Facilities of plastic surgery have been developed at the Faridpur General Hospital, reports BSS.

According to an official source, Faridpur General Hospital is the lone hospital outside the capital where plastic and cosmetic surgery are done regularly for the last few months besides Dhaka Medical College and Rehabilitation Institute and Hospitals for Disabled (RIHD) at Dhaka. Dr Shahidul Bari, Consultant Surgeon of Faridpur General Hospital who has recently returned from Italy after having a special training in this surgery has been conducting the operations.

According to the surgeon, who also works at the plastic surgery unit of Dhaka Medical College, so far 32 major cases and 35 skin grafting of different nature have been performed at local hospital. The surgeon said that in our country there are no sufficient facilities for this type of surgery. This is the reason for curious gathering.

According to the surgeon, plastic and cosmetic surgery is no less important than treatment of other diseases. Plastic and cosmetic surgery are done mostly on the persons having congenital problems, clear palate, flat nose, deformed nose or ear, ugly scar on the face besides burn injuries and deformation of important parts of

## Workshop on natural calamity concludes

From Our Correspondent BRAHMANBARIA, Aug: 4 Under the auspices of Bangladesh Krishi Research Council a two-day workshop was held on 'Natural calamity in the field of agriculture management' organized by B. Baria agriculture department at the Zila Parishad Bhavan which concluded recently.

The function was presided over by Deputy Director of Agriculture Extension Department, M A Baker. It was addressed by Dr Zahurul Hoque, Dr N I Bhuiya, Dr Sadrul Amin, Professor S M Emamul Hoque, Anwar Iqbal, Saif Fataur-Rahman.

About 120 persons including union parishad chairmen and members, representatives from non-government organizations, farmers, and distinguished persons of the district took part in the training programme.

human body due to accidents. At private level this type of operation is costly as well as time consuming, the surgeon said.

One Chand Mia Sheikh (40) of Chagalchira under Gopalganj district told BSS that he had a deformed face after a cancerous growth operations.

After plastic surgery at Faridpur General Hospital his normal appearance had been restored.

Dr Bari has raised a team of four for this purpose with Dr A S M Abul Ehsan, Dr Anwar Hossain and Dr Ajit Das.

Another UNB report says: Two people were killed and 35 others, including 12 women, injured in a bus accident Saturday at Pukuria, some 25 km from the town, on the Faridpur-Sadarpur road.

Witnesses and police said the Sadarpur-bound bus skidded off the road at noon, killing its passengers Latif Matbar (55) of Bhanga thana and Adul Kuddus (40) of Sadarpur thana on the spot.

The injured were admitted to the Faridpur General Hospital, and Sadarpur and Bhanga health complexes.

Driver of the bus and his helper managed to escape immediately after the accident.

A case was registered with the Sadarpur thana in this connection.

## Erosion leaves 10,000 homeless in Madaripur

### From Our Correspondent

MADARIPUR, Aug: 4 More than 10,000 people of the district have become homeless recently due to erosion of the rivers Padma and Atrialkha following the water level rise in the rivers.

The erosion has left about 5,000 people homeless in Bandarkhola union of the district during last few days. The office of the Matbararchar union parishad has been devalued by the river Padma during the period.

The worst affected thanas of the district are: Kalkini, Shibchar and Sadar thana.

Standing crops on about 500 acres of land in the four thanas have been inundated by the flash flood.

People who have been affected by the erosion have taken shelter on road side and few other suitable places.

## Hats facing acute problems

Another report says: The Medakul hat and Ghosher hat under Gournadi thana of the

Barisal district have been facing accommodation problem, want of pure drinking water, absence of drainage system and conservancy services.

For the last 35 years these two popular business centres were not expanded to keep pace with the increasing number of customers and dealers creating problems in business transaction. The roads inside these areas are not spacious enough to facilitate smooth movement of the customers. Besides, indiscriminate installation of new shops has further narrowed the space which has been in bad shape for lack of renovation.

The hat authorities however failed to take steps accordingly and keep the markets neat and clean. They realise a large amount as taxes from the swop owners.

Heaps of garbage are seen accumulated but not removed regularly polluting the atmosphere. There is no drainage system in these markets. During the rainy seasons these market areas are partially flooded.

## 3 members of a family drowned, 3 others missing in boat capsized

### CHANDPUR, Aug: 4:

Three members of a family drowned as an engine boat capsized in the confluence of Meghna and Dakatia rivers near Chandpur town on Saturday, reports UNB.

Police said here the boat with about 30 passengers was heading towards Rajeswar from Purnabazar of the town and overturned in the river after being hit by a fishing trawler.

The victims were identified as Joyrab Baru (35) and her two children Aklima Khatun (4) and Noor Mohammad (2) of Rajeswar in Sadar thana.

Rest of the passengers, however, swam ashore and search is on to recover the bodies.

A report from Sirajganj says: Three people were missing when

a boat loaded with bags of cement capsized in mid stream of Jamuna near Chowhal thana on Sunday morning.

The engine boat carrying 200 bags of cement from Maniaganj was running towards Sirajganj when it overturned due to mechanical trouble and strong wind and sank into the river, witnesses and survivors said.

Identity of the missing passengers could not be known immediately. The accident occurred at 5 am.

The owner of the cement bags worth about Taka 45,000 was, however, not with the cargo vessel.

Police acknowledged the incident.

## Sharp fall in bamboo output

### From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Aug: 4 Bamboo groves in Chuadanga district are on the verge of extinction due to indiscriminate cutting of bamboos.

Thousands of bamboos are cut and sold every day from the villages of four thanas of the district.

According to reports, most of these bamboos are brought to the towns for higher prices by some brokers, the bamboos are purchased by contractors and others who build or repair their houses. Only a small number of bamboos are used for domestic consumptions.

According to an unofficial assessment there are more than 30,000 bamboo-groves in the district. But most of these groves are in poor condition with only a few usable bamboos in each grove.

Many groves have already been destroyed. The poverty stricken village people not only sell their bamboos but also uproot the bamboo roots and sell them as fuel to the brick field owners or potters.

Poor villagers with scanty income or no income are com-

pelled to sell their asset — the bamboos to earn their livelihood. Bamboo groves are also destroyed sometimes to procure land for house building purposes.

The indiscriminate destruction of the bamboo groves has rendered about 75 per cent bamboo artisans jobless.

The government should take steps to increase per capita income of the rural people and encourage plantation of bamboos.

### 12 R & H schemes

Twelve schemes were implemented in four thanas of Chuadanga district during the last financial year at a cost of Taka 1,53,94,302 by the Roads and Highways Department.

Out of the total schemes, four were road repairing schemes and the rest of the schemes were implemented under the Annual Development Programme (ADP) at a cost of Taka 1,06,28,636.

Two roads were repaired in Chuadanga sadar thana and two other were repaired in Jibannagar thana of the dis-



NARAYANGANJ: Thousands of members of Bangladesh Kishan Federation and Kishani Shava brought out a procession here on Monday and later they held rally and submitted a memorandum to the local DC. — Star photo