

District roundup

RANGPUR

Scheme for cotton cultivation

AUG 8: A scheme has been taken up to bring 11,600 hectares of land under cotton cultivation in 16 northern districts during the current season, reports UNB.

Cotton Development Board sources said of the total, 3,000 hectares of land were brought under the cultivation in Rangpur zone, 4,000 hectares in Rajshahi, 2,100 hectares in Bogra, 1,500 hectares in Pabna and 1,000 hectares in Dinajpur fixing the production target at 2.5 lakh mound.

The department has also undertaken programme to disburse loan of Taka three lakh, high yielding seeds, fertilizer and pesticides among the farmers to make the scheme a success.

Another report says: National Savings Department exceeded its target of savings in Rangpur district during the last fiscal year.

Official sources said the department earned Taka 13,41,79,000 as saving deposits against its target of about Taka 13,38,97,000 during the period.

The amount was earned out of sale proceeds of defence savings certificates for five and three years term, general savings certificates, long term savings certificates, price bonds and other means.

MAJDEE COURT

Training programme of UP chairmen

AUG 8: A one-day training and review programme of the Union Parishad Chairmen of Noakhali district was held at the Deputy Commissioner's conference room last week, reports UNB.

A total 47 UP Chairmen took part in the programme, presided over by the Deputy Commissioner of the district, Hasanuzzaman Choudury.

The topics of the training included tree plantation, compulsory primary education and family planning while the law and order situation and different development activities of the district were also reviewed.

The conference was addressed, among others, by the ADC (General), Additional SP, District Primary Education Officer and Deputy Director of Family Planning.

NETRAKONA

Anti-crime conference held

AUG 8: An anti crime conference was held at the conference room of Netrakona district police here recently, reports BSS.

Deputy Commissioner and District Magistrate, Netrakona Dewan Afzaruddin attended the conference as chief guest while Police Super Netrakona Anwar Hossain Khan was in the chair.

Police sources said that the conference reviewed the overall law and order situation of the district. The rate of crimes showed a significant fall in the three months due to effective measures by police.

The conference was attended among others by Public Prosecutor of Netrakona district Nurul Islam Bhuiyan, additional police super Netrakona, assistant police super of Barhatia, Mohanganj and Netrakona circles and officer-in-charge of all the ten thanas of Netrakona district.

B'BARIA

Bank manager killed in road mishap

AUG 8: A bank manager was killed and 15 others were injured, four critically, when a coaster tumbled into a roadside ditch at Peerbart crossing near the town Thursday, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Mazharul Haq Bhuiyan, 40, Manager of Sonali Bank's Nasirganj branch, who was returning home in Kashba thana.

Witnesses said the accident occurred at 5:30 pm when the driver of the Kuti-bound vehicle lost control as some passengers attacked him over a tussle on busfare.

The coaster turned turtle in the ditch after it skidded off the road.

The body was brought to the Sadar Hospital. The seriously injured were admitted to the hospital while others released after first aid.

M'BAZAR

Two killed in separate incidents

AUG 8: A minor boy was killed and his mother was injured in lightning at Hallagram village in Barlekha thana of the district last week, reports UNB.

The boy was identified as Saiful Islam (5), son of Tareb Ali of the same village.

Family sources said, Saiful met instant death and his mother Rayban Bibi received serious injuries when the thunderbolt hit their house in their sleep at night.

Another report says: A young man was run over by a speeding bus on Sherpur-Nabiganj road near Kurshi Government Primary School in Nabiganj thana of the district last week.

Police and eyewitnesses said, Nasir Uddin (27) met the accident while he was crossing the road and died on the spot.

Police seized the bus but the driver of the vehicle managed to escape.

NARAIL

Police recover pipe-gun

AUG 8: Police recovered a country made pipe-gun including a rifle bullet from Suborhoph village in Sadar thana of the district last week, reports UNB.

Acting on tip, Si Md Jakir Hossain, rushed to the spot and recovered the arms and ammunition from a banana tree of the same village.

A case was filed with Narail police but none was arrested yet in this connection.



MAULVIBAZAR: The pitiable condition of Juri — Fultala road of the district. The road has been severely damaged by recent flood. — Star photo

**Quami Jute Mills
Tk 1cr loss every month?**

SIRANGANJ, Aug 8: The Quami Jute Mills is incurring loss of about Taka one crore every month, it is reported.

As a result, the mill is facing acute financial crisis and is likely to be closed in a near future if the trend continues.

It is learnt that since inception of the mills in 1960, it was a profitable concern upto 1982. Due to excessive manpower, price hike of spare parts, high rate of electricities and alleged corruption of a section of unscrupulous employees the mills incurring loss.

The products of the mill can not compete with the international market due to higher cost of production.

That before the nationalisation in 1972, the mill was running with 42 administrative officers, 142 employees and 2000 workers. But at present there are 124 officers, 350 employees and 3000 workers.

Due to fund shortage, coal and JP oil could not be purchased and the workers are not paid wages for weeks together. The scheduled banks also expressed inability to pay further loans.

While contacted, a source of the mills told this correspondent that a considerable number of workers are now ready to give up this job, but due to uncertainty of getting monetary benefits they can not do so.

Workshop of UP chairmen concludes

LALMONIRHAT, Aug 8: A day-long workshop of the Union Parishad chairmen of the district was held at the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner, reports UNB.

Deputy Commissioner Kazi Farid Ahmed inaugurated the workshop on July 17.

Tree plantation, canal digging, compulsory primary education, primary health care and function of the local government have been discussed in the workshop.

Priority given to increase fish output

BAGERHAT, Aug 8: Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman on Wednesday said, fish is a major resource of the country which can play a vital role in fulfilling the demand of protein of the increasing population as well as boosting the economy, reports UNB.

The present government was giving priority to inspire the people to take up pisciculture in right earnest so that they could ensure adequate fish production in the country, he added.

The Foreign Minister was addressing as chief guest a rally of fishermen and fish cultivators at the thana auditorium here, organised by the Fisheries Department to celebrate the "Fisheries Fortnight".

The minister also inaugurated a fish exhibition arranged on the occasion.

Presided over by Deputy Commissioner of Bagerhat, the function was also addressed by Syeda Nargis Ali MP, district BNP President Barrister Kazi AT Monowar Uddin and a number of fish cultivators.

Mostafiz urged people of all strata to ensure maximum utilisation of ponds, canals, beels, ditches and other open water bodies for fish production to meet local demand and also earn huge foreign currency for the country. "Our country has bright prospect in fish production."

In this regard, he said the present democratic government had been endeavouring to attain self-sufficiency in all fields.

Later, the minister formally released fish fry in a pond at the thana sadar premises.

A BSS report from Daulatpur says: Chief Whip Khondoker Delwar Hossain has underlined the importance of turning the fish cultivation into a production oriented social movement.

Our objective is to face the challenge of the country's wide-scale unemployment problem and with this ends in view we are working hard to make the country self-reliant and ploughish the prospects of earning huge foreign exchange from the fish sector, he added.

The Chief Whip was addressing a function on the occasion of releasing fish-fry to open haors at Sri-Dhan-Nagar Ghat area of the Ghior and Daulatpur police station under Manikganj district.

Khondoker Delwar informed the audience that in the last fiscal year we had earned Taka 700 crore by exporting fish. Twelve lakh people fully and one crore people partly kept themselves engaged in the fish sector, he said.

We have a large number of water bodies as well as a vast sea area for cultivation of fish and plans are underway to bring these water bodies under extensive fish cultivation, the Chief Whip said. When implemented, we shall not only achieve self-sufficiency in nutrition supply, but also be able to solve the gigantic unemployment problem, he added.

Appreciating the success of Fisheries Research Institute in evolving improved technology, he urged the people to engage themselves in this sector and help alleviating poverty.

Assistant judge dismissed

From Our Correspondent

MOULVIBAZAR, Aug 8: An assistant judge was dismissed from the service for violation of rule.

It is learnt that Md Shahajan, Assistant Judge of Kulara thana under Moulvibazar district was dismissed from the service. The Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Ministry raised an allegation of violation of Section (3-C) of Government Employee (Discipline and Appeal) Rule-1985 against the said assistant judge.

According to the advice of the Bangladesh Supreme Court and Bangladesh Public Service Commission, the Law, Justice and Parliamentary Ministry dismissed him from the service.

Police seizes goods worth Taka 2 lakh

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, Aug 8: Police Sub Inspector of Akhaura thana Nurul-Alam seized 420 kg of dry fish from Mogra Bazar under Akhaura thana of the district recently.

The recovered dry fish was estimated to be worth about Taka one lakh five thousand. A person named Hari Mohan Barman was arrested in this connection and a case was filed at Akhaura thana.

Five missing in boat capsized

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 8: Five people were missing after a pineapple-loaded mechanised boat capsized in the Jamuna off Rangram groyne on Thursday afternoon, reports UNB.

The boat, bound for here from Madhupur in Tangail, sank at around 4 pm after its engine suddenly went off.

It was carrying pineapple worth about Taka 15,000 and also 11 people, six of whom swam ashore.

10 to suffer life-term for killing JSD leader

PABNA, Aug 8: Ten people were on Thursday sentenced to life-term for murdering JSD (Rab) leader Ahmed Karim, reports UNB.

District and Sessions Judge Abdur Rahman Patwari gave the judgement, acquitting two others.

The convicts are: Mohammad Masud (32), Mohammad Selim (35), Sohag (20), Kazi Alam (28), Mohammad Kamal (28), Abdul Matin (30), Mohammad Moni (25), Rifle alias Russel (30), Rajon (29) and Dablu (25).

Two of them— Moni and Rifle — were tried in absentia. They are reported to have fled abroad.

Acquitted of the charge are: Local JSD (Rab) leader and former MP Mohammad Iqbal and JCD activist Anisur Rahman.

According to the prosecution, the JSD leader was hacked to death on October 30 in 1990 by the convicted people at the town when he was going to his party office at about 8 pm from his Raghobpur residence by a motor-cycle.

After examining 37 witnesses, the judge pronounced the verdict in a packed courtroom.

The PP Advocate Shahjahan

Govt taking steps to make women self-reliant

NARAYANGANJ, Aug 8: State Minister for Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Sarwari Rahman on Thursday formally disbursed Taka 90 thousand as loan among 45 destitute women for Narayanganj district, reports BSS.

This credit money was given to them from the Prime Minister's special fund for rehabilitation and welfare of destitute women.

Speaking on the occasion, the State Minister said, government's countrywide credit programme for destitute rural women have been going on in view of making them socio-economically self-reliant.

Mrs Rahman said, the present government is very keen to make associate the women folk in the mainstream of development activities.

For the purpose, she said, the government have been implementing various projects including mass education, vocational training and credit programmes.

She called upon the loan recipients to utilise the money properly for income generating activities.

Organised by Women's Affairs Department, the function was also addressed by Begum Shamsunnahar Khawaja Ahsanullah MP, Advocate Abul Kalam MP, Secretary of Women's Affairs Ministry Mohammad Enamul Huq, Director of Women's Affairs Department Rafi Ahmed Chowdhury and President of Narayanganj unit of Jatiya Mahila Sangstha Begum Mamataz Yusuf.

The function was presided over by Deputy Commissioner of Narayanganj Md Habibur Rahman.

Taka 36 lakh 40 thousand 500 have already been disbursed among 986 destitute women of 18 districts.

The districts are: Dhaka, Gazipur, Narsingdi, Bogra, Jessore, Rangpur, Chandpur, Mymensingh, Sylhet, Feni, Dinajpur, Kushtia, Faridpur, Barisal, Khulna, Jamalpur, Rajbari including Narayanganj.



RAJSHAHI: Mizanur Rahman Minu, Rajshahi City Corporation Mayor inaugurating the tree plantation programme of Ciba-Geigy Bangladesh Ltd. through planting a sapling here recently.

72 industrial units set up by BSCIC

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Aug 8: A total of 72 new industrial units were set up in 16 northern districts of the country during the last 17 months under the auspices of Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC), official sources said.

RAKUB will disburse the loan for encouraging the rural people of these districts in crop production, pisciculture, animal husbandry, dairy farm development and for socio-economic development of these area.

Of the total agri-loan Taka 102.50 crore will be distributed as short-term agri-loan, Taka 33.50 crore as medium-term agri-loan and Taka 14 crore as long-term agri-loan.

Meanwhile, RAKUB had distributed Taka 1.43 crore as loan to the rural farmers in 16 northern districts during the last fiscal year and recovered Taka 98 crore 10 lakh in this regard.

Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank (RAKUB) has taken up a programme to disburse Taka 175 crore as loan in 16 northern districts during the current fiscal year, official sources said.

The newly established industries include specialised textile mills, husking mills and power looms.

According to sources, the government during the period earned an amount of Taka eight thousand 714 from the newly established units. However, the collection from the units is said to be not satisfactory, the sources added.

Only owners of 354 units out of the total 3,379 have renewed their licences. It is clear the government is being deprived of huge amount of money from this sector.

City Mayor opens tree plantation programme

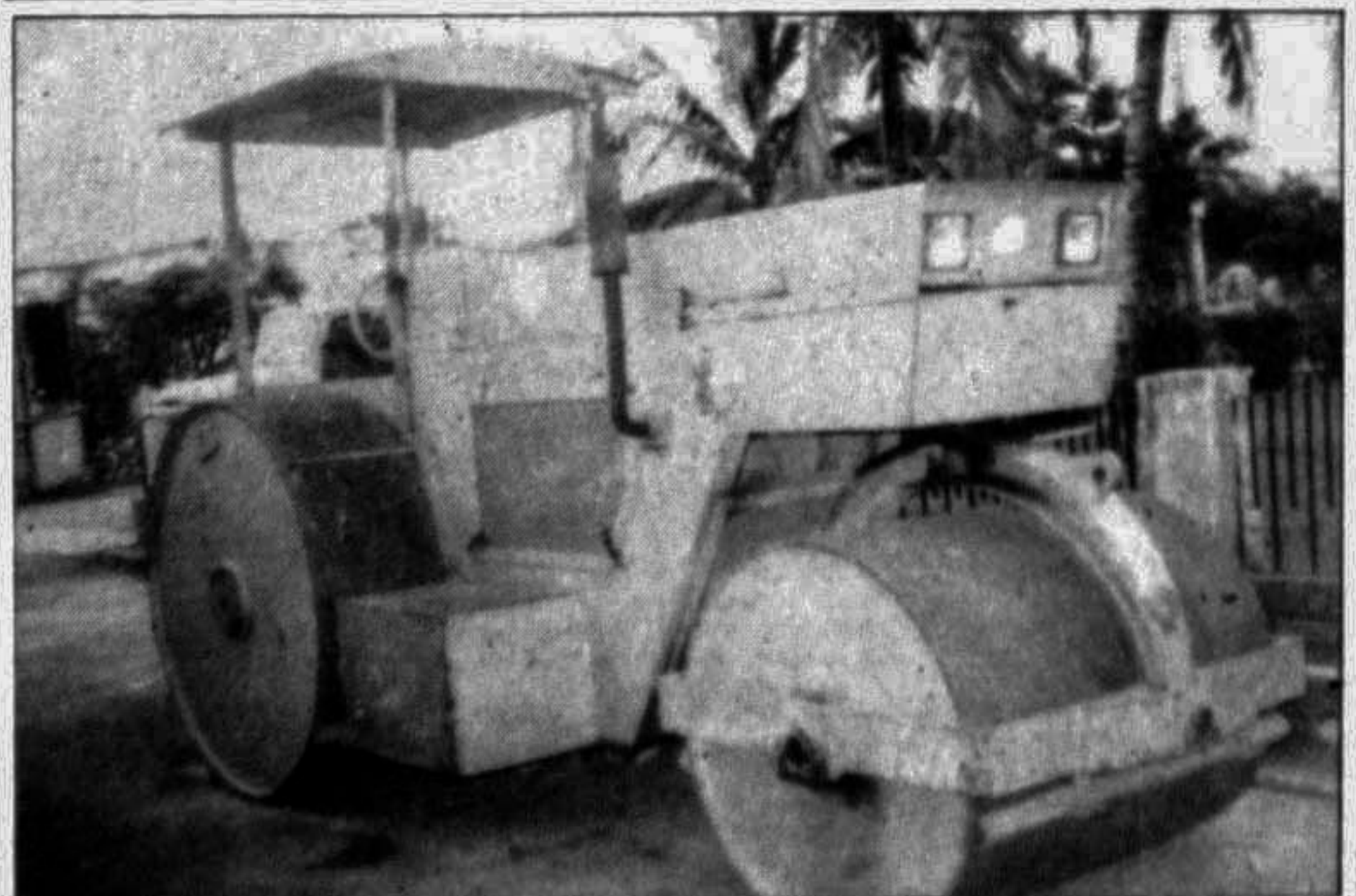
From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Aug 8: There is no alternative to tree plantation in maintaining ecological balance and save the country from the natural disaster.

Rajshahi City Mayor, Mizanur Rahman Minu expressed this opinion while inaugurating the tree plantation programme of Ciba-Geigy Bangladesh Ltd. in Rajshahi recently.

It was addressed by Rajshahi Divisional Commissioner, M Aminul Islam, Marketing Manager of Ciba Ruhul Qud-dus.

Ruhul Qud-dus told the gathering that Ciba would plant saplings on five-mile-long Rajshahi City Protection Embankment in cooperation with the government this year.



GAZIPUR: The roller machine of Tongi pourashava has been lying under open sky for more than two years. The machine was purchased with Taka 22 lakh. — Star photo