

### 78 rescued from hands of traffickers

**SATKHIRA, July 5:** Bangladesh Rifles rescued some 78 people including 39 women and nine children from a bus at Taltala border checkpoint on Tuesday, reports UNB.

According to BDR, a gang of traffickers collected these people from two districts with the assurance to provide them with good jobs abroad.

The jawans on suspicion challenged the bus while crossing the checkpoint and moving towards Indian border carrying these people. Sensing the BDR arrival, the traffickers tactfully managed to escape.

The victims hailed from Gopalganj and Faridpur districts, they said.

Later they were handed over to the police and case was lodged.

### Young girl rescued!

**NARSINGDI, July 5:** Police rescued a teen-aged kidnapped girl from a Sylhet bound coach at Bhele Nagar bus station of the town, reports UNB.

The victim, Ruma Begum 19, daughter of Arman Bhuiyan of Kharakmara village in Shibpur thana was kidnapped by a gang of armed miscreants of the same village on June 1.

Arman Bhuiyan complained that the miscreants numbering 10 to 12 led by Ripon, Jahangir and Matin attacked his house at midnight, beat the inmates and abducted Ruma at gun point.

He said, the miscreants used to tease his daughters whenever they got chances and finding no other way out, he brought the matter to notice of village elders. At this the miscreants became angry and abducted Ruma at dead of night.

Acting on secret information on June 7, police raided the night coach and recovered her.

### Tragic deaths of five

**MAJDEE COURT, July 5:** Five electrical workers were electrocuted and another received serious injuries while they were working on a line at Mandipara in Begumganj thana of the district, says UNB.

The victims were identified as Shahidullah 25, Lokman 28, Shahid 27, Anis 26, and Bimal 24. The injured was identified as Jahangir Alam 20.

Witnesses said the electricians were connecting a newly installed Palli Biddut electric line last week with the main line. But one of them suddenly connected the line without alerting the others resulting in the tragic death of five of them on the spot.

### Lucky escape!

**SIRAJGANJ, July 5:** A young mother and her young son were miraculously saved from being run over by a train here recently, reports UNB.

Witnesses said, Anita Rani, 22, of Thakurgaon and her son Ashim, 5, fell on the sleepers, as they tried to get in the Sirajganj-bound train when it started moving out of Sirajganj Railway Bazar Station.

Anita and her son got down from the train to buy biscuits, but were late to return to catch the train. They were going to a relative's house at Dhanbarhi in sadar thana from Iswardi.

# The cruel Kushiya at it again

From Our Correspondent

Fadullah and Natun Kashba villages of Nabiganj thana in Habiganj district and Aghar, Fehribazar, Raniganj Bazar

Jalalpur, Katia Hossainpur in Jagannathpur thana in Sunamganj district. More than one hundred shops of Markull

Bazar at Bariachang thana in Habiganj district have already vanished by the river erosion causing a huge loss of proper



**SYLHET:** Continuous erosion by the river Kushiya has already engulfed huge areas of land in four districts of greater Sylhet region. Picture shows a part of the prey of the river at Pailanpur in Balaganj thana. — Star photo

The sufferings of the affected people especially, the poor people have gone extreme as they lost all their belongings during the last few years.

Meanwhile, the government is yet to take any effective measure to save the huge areas in different thanas of the region. Different local organisations and political parties have demanded for implementation of necessary projects to end such losses from continued erosion.

A 25-kilometre long Kushiya dyke was constructed long ago from Sherpur to Markull along the bank of the river. Due to absence of proper maintenance and repair works, the dyke has become ineffective causing damages to both croplands and dwelling houses. Erosion takes a serious turn during the monsoon every year.

On repeated requests and appeals the Bangladesh Water Development Board had planned to implement a scheme to divert the flow of the river water. Unfortunately, the scheme was never implemented and the fund allocated for the scheme (Tk 3 crore) still remains unutilised, it is alleged.

## Fishermen in Kushtia living under poverty line

From Our Correspondent

**KUSHTIA, July 5:** At least 50,000 fishermen of different thanas are living under poverty line due to lack of proper patronisation, unplanned construction of embankment, lack of capital, nonutilisation of haors rivers. The adverse effects of the Farakka Barrage is also one of the reasons of their hardship.

According to a survey conducted by the Zilla Fishery Department about 16268 tons of fishes are required for Kushtia only but only 5694 tons of fishes are produced a year.

As a result numerous fishermen of the district have given up their ancestral profession for want of working capital and price hike of fishing equipment.

It is to be mentioned here that Kushtia district is surrounded by a large number of khal, beel and rivers like the Padma and Goral with their tributaries in which the fishermen of these areas catch fish.

An old fisherman told this correspondent that during the reign of President Ziaur Rahman rule they used to get bank loans and other facilities and the prices of fishing appliances were also reasonable. While other fishermen informed that the water bodies had been leased out to the non-professionals depriving the genuine ones of the opportunity. As a result they have been passing days half fed or on starvation.

The survey report added that pisciculture is not possible on large scale as the silted ponds, canals, haors and other water bodies are not dredged regularly. It is to be mentioned here previously the greater Kushtia district had a large quantity of fish which were supplied in different areas of country after meeting its own requirement. But the khals, beels, and haors have been silted up and contain very little water with full of water hyacinth and weeds for want of proper care.

It is further learnt that there are 3000 waterbodies and 132 khal and beels measuring 1050 hectares of water area. There are 1700 private ponds in the district which cover 2000 hectares of area. Fishes are being commercially cultivated in 1000 of the total ponds and the rest 1000 ponds are lying unutilised.

Experienced circle opined that to cultivate fish in all the water bodies government should lease put the water bodies to the genuine fishermen permanently and should sanction bank loans on easy terms and conditions.



**Jhenidah:** Thousands of people cross this bamboo bridge every day. The bridge connects Isakhali with Bethulia, two important business centres. Despite repeated appeals the authorities have not yet constructed a proper bridge. — Star photo

## Taka 240 crore plan to control malnutrition of children under-5

**FARIDPUR, July 5:** Government has taken up an ambitious programme to reduce and control malnutrition of under-five children in the country, says an UNB report.

of under-5 children, out of 23 million are malnourished and 35 per cent of them are severely affected and about 700 children die every day due to malnutrition in the country.

According to a highly placed source of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the 60 million dollar equivalent Taka 240 crore World Bank financed 'Bangladesh Integrated Nutrition Project' (BINP), a community based malnutrition prevention programme, will start functioning from 1995 in five thanas of five divisions.

The sources further said the programme aims at to reduce 50 per cent of the prevailing severe protein energy malnutrition (PEM) among the under-five children, 50 per cent reduction of under weight birth rate, elimination of iodine deficiency disorders, vitamin-A deficiency and its consequences including blindness and empowerment of all lactating women to breast feed their children exclusively for the first five months.

The thanas are Faridpur sadar of Dhaka Division, Keshabpur of Khulna Division, Gourmadi of Barisal Division, Kamalganj of Chittagong Division and Gabtali of Rajshahi Division.

The programme will be extended for six years in phases in 42 thanas of the country, the sources added.

At present, about 20 million

fresh loan of Taka 16 crore 45 lakh among the interested borrowers during the financial year of 1993-94.

The loan has been distributed in sadar, Rajnagar, Kulaura, Sreemongal, Baralekha and Kamalganj thanas of the district.

BKB Moulvibazar Regional office at Sreemongal source said the bank has already distributed more than Taka 13 crore 96 lakh from July 1, 1993 to June 6, 1994 to local farmers and small entrepreneurs.

## Tk 15 cr agriculture loan lying unrealised

From Our Correspondent

**MOULVI BAZAR, July 5:** A total of Taka 15 crore 64 lakh 16 thousand agri-loan disbursed among the borrowers in Moulvibazar district had been lying unrealised for long.

Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) disbursed this amount of money as loan with a view to helping the rural farmers and small entrepreneurs through its different branches in Moulvi Bazar district till June 9 this year.

During this period, the BKB had invested Taka 40 crore 30 lakh and 4 thousand in different sectors as loan.

It is gathered that, the BKB had taken up a programme to realise Taka 15 crore 6 lakh from its borrowers during the financial year of 1993-94, of which Taka 13 crore 43 lakh 64 thousand has already been realised till June 9.

However, the BKB had also taken up a plan to disburse

The BKB credit facilities were extended for dairy-farms, potato-preservation, tea development, pineapple farming, making irrigation and form use tools, cold stores, tea gardens development (under EEC grant), poultry farms, rubber gardening, food-grain trading, batel leaf farming, fisheries and buying bullocks.

## Massive water supply projects in Chuadanga

From Our Correspondent

**CHUADANGA, July 5:** Massive water supply programme is now being implemented in four thanas of Chuadanga district.

in two thanas.

Of the total Tara deep tubewells 50 have been installed in Chuadanga sadar thana and 69 in Damurhuda thana.

At present there are 22 kilo meter water supply pipe line in Chuadanga town.

Under the programme a total of 145 new hand pump tubewells are now being installed in four thanas of the district of which 65 hand pump tubewells are being installed in Chuadanga sadar thana, 34 in Alamdanga thana, 13 in Damurhuda thana and 39 in Jibannagar thana. In the meantime installation work of over 100 hand pump tubewells have been completed and the rest works are going on in fullswing.

On the otherhand, resinking work of 178 disordered hand pump tubewells of the district are also going on in fullswing.

Meanwhile over 150 disordered hand pump tubewells have been resunk and the rest of the 28 tubewells would be resunk with a few days.

Besides the installation work of 119 Tara deep set tubewells have been completed

## District roundup

### COMILLA

#### Rival JCD groups clash: 10 hurt

**July 5:** An armed clash between two rival groups of Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) workers in and around the BNP office at Kandipur in the town have left ten people injured, reports UNB.

The clash took place between the two groups on June 24 over the announcement of a new committee of the district unit of JCD. The two rival groups locked in the clash with fire arms to establish their supremacy in the committee.

Police constable Khalilur Rahman was also injured during the clash. He was admitted to Comilla General Hospital with bullet injury on his right chest.

### MAGURA

#### Two killed in separate incidents

**July 5:** Two people, including a minor girl, were killed in separate road accidents in two thanas of the district, police said, reports UNB.

The dead were identified as Billal Hossain, 40, son of Khalilur Rahman of Gangarampur in Gopalganj district and Puti Khatun, 10, daughter of Rafiqul Islam of Ichowhada village in sadar thana.

Billal Hossain was killed on June 14 when two loaded trucks collided on Magura-Kamarkhal road killing Billal on the spot.

Police arrested Ead Ali and Sekender Ali, driver and helper of a truck respectively. The driver and the helper of another truck managed to escape.

Puti Khatun while crossing the road was crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck on Magura-Jhenidah road on the following day.

Two separate cases were filed with the police.

### RAJBARI

#### Blood donation programme

**July 5:** A blood donation programme was held at the Rajbari Government College campus recently with a view to setting up a private sector blood bank in the district, reports UNB.

Fifty students, male and female donated blood at the programme, jointly organised by the Faridpur Sandhani Club, district Rover Scouts and Students' Union of the Rajbari Government College.

On the occasion, a discussion meeting was held with the Principal and Rajbari Commissioner of Rover Scouts Ethia Islam Mia in the chair.

It was also addressed by General Secretary of the Rajbari unit of Rover Scouts Joydul Abedin, President of Faridpur Sandhani Club Dr Mustafizur Rahman Shamim, VP and GS of the students' union of Rajbari College Sirajul Alam and Nazrul Islam Shimul respectively.

### C'NAWABGANJ

#### Santhals in extreme poverty

**July 5:** Santhals, one of the 90 different tribals in the country, are the most backward community due to their extreme poverty, reports UNB.

There are some 50,000 Santhals in the 16 northern districts. Most of them live in Chapainawabganj, Rajshahi, Joypurhat, Dinajpur and Thakurgaon districts.

They mainly live in rural areas and are engaged as labourers in croplands and construction sites to maintain their livelihood as most of them have no land of their own.

Due to their poverty they have little access to education. There are only 2,500 so-called literate Santhals who can read and put their signatures only, according to an NGO source.

Considering their backwardness, Santhal Academy had been set up by late President Ziaur Rahman in various districts to improve their condition. But these are now not functioning, it is learnt.

### SIRAJGANJ

#### 1.2 lakh drug addicts in 16 districts

**July 5:** There are some 1.2 lakh drug addicts in the northern 16 districts of the country, said an NGO survey report, reports UNB.

The survey report revealed that most of the drug addicts are rickshaw-pullers, transport workers, sweepers and large number of youths including students.

Phensidyl syrup, heroin, ganja and even rectified spirit are being used for addiction. These are available in various medicine and grocery shops.

To meet the cost of their drugs, the addicts are often engaged in stealing, hijacking, smuggling and other anti-social activities.

The survey report said most of the addicts come in the 'darkworld' owing to frustration, unemployment and sometimes just to meet their curiosity.

Law enforcing agencies sometimes crack down on their den but the addicts manage to escape themselves due to their political connections and other influence.

### KUSHTIA

#### 2 killed in road mishap

**July 5:** At least two persons were allegedly killed in a road accident Wednesday at Laxmipur on Kushtia-Jhenidah road, reports BSS.

A truck coming to Kushtia from Jhenidah on Laxmipur Bridge by breaking the railing. The unfortunate victims are the driver and the helper. Kushtia police recovered bodies and sent them for post-mortem.

### BARISAL

#### 22 lakh saplings to be planted

**July 5:** A total of 22 lakh saplings of different varieties of timber and fruit bearing trees will be planted in Khulna forest extension division during the current season, reports BSS.

The division includes Barisal, Jhalakati, Pirojpur, Bagerhat and Khulna.

According to an official source, government has sanctioned Tk 70 lakh for the implementation of the programme under thana afforestation project during the current season.

The plants to be planted include: mehagani, shishu, rain-tree, silkarai, akashmani, coconut, neem, guava, jack-fruit, nut, star-apple, black barry, karat, krishnachura.

Of the total 1.60.000 saplings, will be planted on both sides of roads and highways. Besides, 15 lakh saplings will be distributed among the people at a nominal price.

Another report adds: The annual conference of Ansars and VDP members of Barisal district was held at the Barisal Zilla Auditorium with Major Sheikh Md Badrul Huda (ret'd), Deputy-Director, Ansars and VDP, Barisal Range, Barisal, in the chair on Wednesday.

Major General Syed Badruz-zaman, Director General, Bangladesh Ansars and VDP, was present as chief guest.

The chief guest gave away prize among the best Ansars and VDP members.

### NOAKHALI

#### Irregular power supply disrupts EPI services

**July 5:** Extended Programme on Immunisation (EPI) in Hatiya Health Complex is seriously being hampered due to erratic power supply to the complex during the last two weeks, says UNB.

Immunisations services to a large number of mothers and children have become uncertain due to the frequent power disruption in the health complex, local people alleged.

"It has become difficult to keep the medicines cool due to the power disruption", said a doctor of the complex.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- |                         |                            |                            |                        |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>           | 41 Bakery lure             | Khachaturian               | 20 Pitching stat.      |
| 1 Crazy                 | 43 Freebie                 | 3 Picador's foe            | 22 Commotion           |
| 5 Invigorate, with "up" | 47 "Road to —"             | 4 Indiana Jones' one fear  | 23 Farm fraction       |
| 9 Young 'un             | 48 Canvas protection       | 5 Sympathetic sorrow       | 24 Mandible            |
| 12 Unyielding           | 51 Mag. staffers           | 6 Common Market coin       | 25 Id counter-part     |
| 13 Computer symbol      | 52 Basset of cat TV        | 7 Office-holder, for short | 26 Fezlike hat         |
| 14 Gorilla              | 53 "Atlas Shrugged" author | 8 Glitch                   | 27 Man-handle          |
| 15 Big, hairy creeper   | 54 Baseball bat wood       | 9 Moliere hypocrite        | 29 Heady brew          |
| 17 Scale members        | 55 Inkling                 | 10 Oil org.                | 30 Pirate's potation   |
| 18 Bear of TV ads       | 56 Potato buds             | 11 Gibbons' cohost         | 35 Kipling tad         |
| 19 Command to Fido      | 1 Quarter                  | 16 Bottom line             | 37 Reserved            |
| 21 French connection?   | 2 Composer                 | 16 Bottom line             | 39 Cookie-sheaf        |
| 22 Pleasant island, now | 16 Bottom line             | 16 Bottom line             | 40 Sheepish remark     |
| 24 Sharks' opponents    | 16 Bottom line             | 16 Bottom line             | 41 Neighborhood        |
| 27 Soft shoe, for short | 16 Bottom line             | 16 Bottom line             | 42 Disen-cumbers       |
| 28 Place of worship?    | 16 Bottom line             | 16 Bottom line             | 43 Locate              |
| 31 Khan title           | 16 Bottom line             | 16 Bottom line             | 44 Fun                 |
| 32 Tune                 | 16 Bottom line             | 16 Bottom line             | 45 Career              |
| 33 Winter woe           | 16 Bottom line             | 16 Bottom line             | 46 Tackles' team-mates |
| 34 Labor                | 16 Bottom line             | 16 Bottom line             | 49 Ms. MacGraw         |
| 36 Exploit              | 16 Bottom line             | 16 Bottom line             | 50 Cartoon dog of TV   |
| 37 Consider             | 16 Bottom line             | 16 Bottom line             |                        |
| 38 Authoritative text   | 16 Bottom line             | 16 Bottom line             |                        |
| 40 Exist                | 16 Bottom line             | 16 Bottom line             |                        |

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**CRYPTOQUIP**  
 H M H W C O F H O O F C X H X A  
 I M C H O C W I F C M H I B H S  
 Z R U M H I R ' O W Z U F O , M G B H R  
 F H T H S R Z O O C T X W G M .  
**Yesterday's Cryptoquip:** CARPENTER'S LIVID WIFE, AFTER LATEST ESCAPE, DEMANDED: "LEVEL WITH ME."  
**Today's Cryptoquip clue:** M equals W  
**The Cryptoquip** is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.



**JHENIDAH:** Dr. Kamal Hossain, Gano Forum Chief, addressing as chief guest at a public meeting at Saikupa high school ground recently. — Star photo