

Seven people killed in separate road mishaps

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, July 30: A middle aged man of Hortapur village in Nowabganj pourashava was killed in road mishap on Chapainawabganj-Dhaka highway near his village on Wednesday, reports UNB.

The victim identified as Nased Ali, 42, was knocked down by a speeding minibus from behind while he was going to his place of work. He died on the spot.

Magura

Two people were killed and one injured in two separate road accidents on Magura-Jhenidah road last week.

According to police, a truck hit Zohurul Kabir, 25 and Mamun, 35 on the road near Inchakanda hat who were returning to Jhenidah district riding on a motorcycle.

They were rushed to the sadar hospital where Zohurul Kabir succumbed to his injuries on July 18. Later, Mamun was shifted to Dhaka for better treatment.

In another accident, a jeep hit Tokon, 8 while he was crossing the same road. He died on the spot. His body was sent to hospital morgue for autopsy.

Separate cases were lodged with the police.

Sirajganj

Two persons were killed including a woman in separate road accidents in two thanas of the district Thursday.

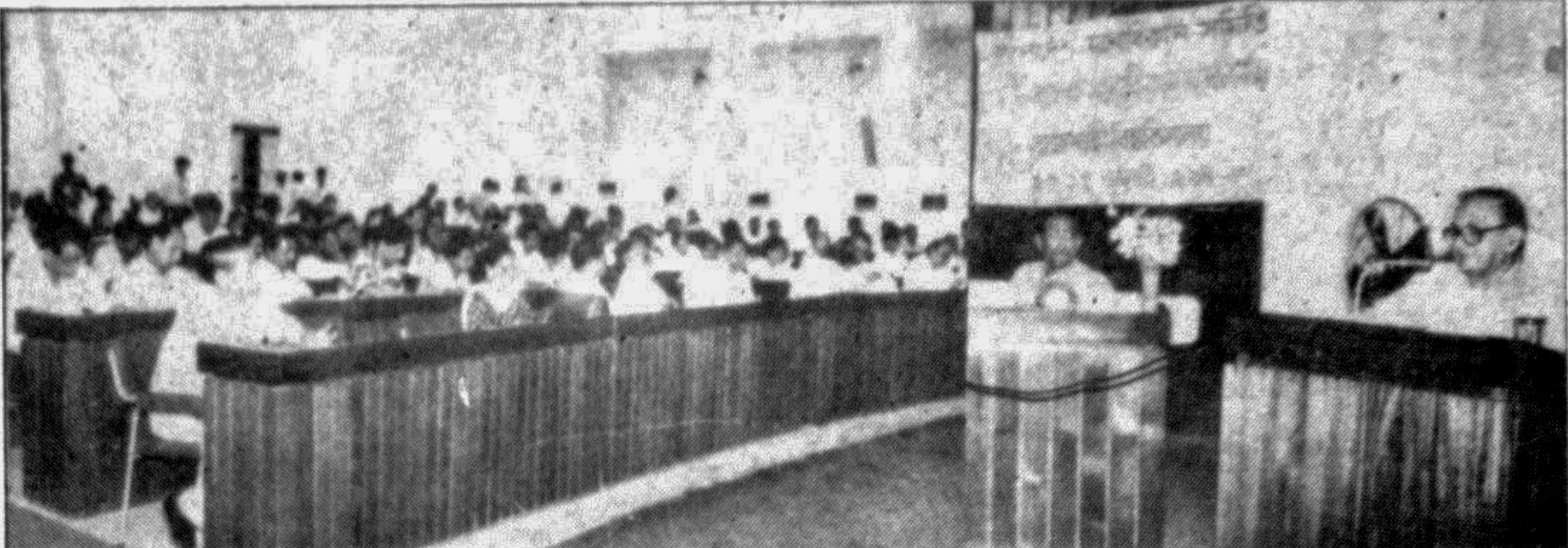
The dead were identified as Bisha Sheikh, 50 of Bhuiyagati in Raiganj thana and Sufia Khatun, 51 of Sarisagola in Shahjampur, police said.

Bisha Sheikh was killed on the spot when Bogra bound speeding truck from Nagarbari hit him t Bhuiyagati on Bogra-Nagarbari highway.

Sufia Khatun was runover by another truck running towards Nagarbari from Bogra while crossing the highway.

Natore

Our Natore Correspondent adds: Two persons were killed in a road accident. The victims were identified as Shahana Akhtar Rani, 30 and Abul Hossain, 40. Four other people were also seriously injured when a Sirajganj bound truck (Commilla-TA-6507) from Rajshahi hit a rickshaw in Vatodara village near Hasina Cinema Hall in the town. The injured persons are rickshaw-puller Fazlur Rahman, 28 and cattle businessman Eunus 35, Monsur Shaikh, 40, and Joain Mollah, 35.



Professor Md Shamsul Haque, Chairman of Rajshahi University Grant Commission addressing a conference held at the RU senate bhavan recently.

Economic importance of tree plantation increasing: Noman

MANIKGANJ, July 30: Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Abdullah al Noman said the people's confidence in the economic importance of the tree plantation has gradually been increasing, reports UNB.

That is also reflected in the implementation of the national tree plantation programme, he added.

He was addressing as chief guest at inaugural function of tree plantation programme at the premises of Corpora-dighi Junior Girls High School in Sadar thana and releasing fish fries at the big pond.

Emphasising the purpose of taking massive programme for tree plantation, planned pisciculture, dairy and poultry farming, the minister said the present democratic government has been trying hard for increasing the internal resources through creating opportunities of self-employment

to improve the lot of the common masses.

"Planned pisciculture has become imperative due to the decrease of fish production from the natural sources and the climate and landscape of our country is well suited to pisciculture", he said.

Referring to the personal attention of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia for the expansion of these planned programmes Noman also said great enthusiasm has been created in these fields.

Presided over by the president of managing committee of the school and Executive Editor of Janakantha Borhan Ahmed, the function was addressed, among others, by Alhaj Nijamuddin Ahmed Khan MP, Harunar Rashid Khan MP, Secretary of managing committee Shah Moklesur Rahman and Deputy Commissioner Murtaza Hossain Munshi.



AGRI-VARSITY (Mymensingh): Vice-Chancellor Dr Shah Mohammad Farouq planting a sapling in front of the BAU club organised by the Association for the Aged Teachers and Officers of the Bangladesh Agriculture University.

164 murders in six months

Criminal activities on rise in Khulna Div

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, July 30: A total of 164 murders were committed in 59 thanas of 10 districts in Khulna Division during last six months ending June this year.

Rivalry among outlawed party activists, litigation on land property, personal enmity, claims of dowry are reportedly the main causes of these murders, according to police sources.

Reports say that 34 murders were committed in eight thanas of Jessore, 40 in six thanas of Jhenidah, seven in three thanas of Narail, 20 in four thanas of Magura, eleven in nine thanas of Khulna, 15 in

Hen turns into cock!

CHANDPUR, July 30: An egg laying hen has turned into a cock at Puran Bazar town last week!

To the surprise of all, the hen which laid eggs was found one fine morning transformed into a feathered cock with a large red crest.

The hen belonged to Sakina Begum, wife of Babul Talukder of the town.

Sakina Begum noticed the change first when she went to collect eggs and found none. The owner said the change in the hen's body took place within a couple of days.

Eyewitness said the new cock, with its large crest is now seen chasing neighbouring hens and crows at dawn every now and then.

A local veterinary doctor told UNB that excess hormone might have caused the change in the hen.

Meanwhile, people from near and far are rushing to see the new "cock" at the residence of the Babul Talukder.

Three awarded life-term imprisonment

COMILLA, July 30: Three people were awarded life imprisonment for murdering a man, court sources said here recently, reports UNB.

The court also fined them Tk 2000 each, in default, to suffer rigorous imprisonment for one year more.

The case, in brief, was that Moslem, son of Sonu Mia of village Galla in Chandina was attacked and killed by co-villagers, Rafiq, Abdul Matin, Sultan and their accomplices in May 1985 following a dispute over a plot of land.

The father of the deceased filed a case with the police and after investigation police submitted chargesheet against the three main accused.

Clashes leave 50 injured in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, July 30: Some 50 people, including women, were injured in a series of clashes between two rival groups over catching fish from a 'khas' pond at Shahidganj village in sadar thana of the district Friday, reports UNB.

Of the injured, ten in serious condition were admitted at the Sirajganj General Hospital. The injured were identified as, Sharminia, 14, daughter of Farid of Shahidganj, and Swapan, 22 of Uttarpara.

The rival groups of Sayadhangara and Uttarpara villages were involved in clashes on two occasions. Both sides used bombs, iron rods and acid.

Frequent cultivation of HYV crops reduces soil fertility

JHENIDAH, July 30: Fertility of soil is decreasing due to frequent cultivation of High Yielding Varieties (HYV) of crops in 10 southern districts, according to an agriculture scientist.

"The peasants of our country are not educated and trained. Lack of proper knowledge prevail in them. They cultivate crops just after harvesting of previous crops. But time space is required for the land," said the scientist.

He observed lack of gypsum and zinc in fertilisers affects growth of crops. Peasants use gypsum and zinc but not in proper proportion. As a result; they are not getting optimum result even after repeated use of fertilizers.

He also said that thousands of agricultural block supervisors (BS) are deployed to keep contact with the peasants. But even five per cent of the peasants do not know their local

From Our Correspondent

Mushroom growth of pathological labs creates health problem

SATKHIRA, July 30: Mushroom growth of unauthorised pathological laboratories in seven thanas of Satkhira district creates great health problem to the patients.

Most of the pathological laboratories exist only in the name and they have no experienced pathologists. As a result patients are not getting proper diagnostic reports from these laboratories.

There are 86 pathological laboratories in different thanas including district headquarters. But only 18 to 25 laboratories have qualified pathologists and other staff.

As per government rules, if anybody wants to establish a pathological laboratory, one has to submit duly filled up form mentioning the name of the doctor, experiences, educational qualification, arrangement for supplying water, electricity, space of the room, particulars of pathological apparatus etc. But these pathological laboratories do not fulfill these requirements.

Most of these pathological laboratories have been running their brisk business without licences.

It is alleged that the non-qualified technicians in the laboratories examine urine, stool, blood etc and supply wrong reports and the charges of the pathological laboratories only sign the examination report.

Besides, some doctors of the town and different thanas established small pathological laboratories in their chambers for extra earnings.

While talking to local doctors, they said that most of the reports provided by these laboratories are wrong.

On the other hand, necessary equipments are absent in these laboratories and proprietors of these laboratories are taking excessive fees from the patients violating laboratory regulations.

From Our Correspondent

Special munajat for rainfall

DINAJPUR, July 30: A special munajat for rainfall was offered at Shatmalagoon village in Chirirbandar thana on Sunday, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, hundreds of people of the village gathered at the local Model School field to attend the grand munajat seeking divine blessings.

From Our Correspondent

Shoals affect navigation

GOPALGANJ, July 30: River traffic in 10 routes of five thanas of Gopalganj district is being hampered as numerous shoals have emerged in two main rivers and 12 khals adversely affecting commercial activities.

Boatmen said a large number of shoals have emerged in different parts of the Katilapara, Tungipara, Borni, Kathi, Ramdia, Goidalram, Bhangarhat, Silna, Radhaganj, Ujani khals.

They also said water level in the rivers and khals have also fallen sharply due to adverse effect of the Farakka barrage. On the other hand salinity of the river water has increased

threatened by river erosion. Portions of embankment may collapse at any time and inundate neighbouring villages.

Crop fields and shrimp enclosures are also likely to be submerged due to onrush of the river water if necessary measures are not taken immediately. There are about 15 villages, 10,000 acres of crop land, 100 shrimp projects within the periphery of the embankment, local people informed.

Crops and fish worth crores of taka will be affected in the area if the embankment is protected.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Water Development Board embankment by the river Modhumati at Gobra, Suktail, Modhupur and Sultan Shahi in Gopalganj sadar thana and Chapta, Gonapara and Ratal in Kashiami thana has been

District roundup

JHENIDAH

R&H land on illegal occupation

July 30: A vast tract of land throughout the district under Roads and Highways Department (RHD) has been illegally occupied by certain quarters hindering development activities, reports UNB.

Local people alleged that some influential people in collaboration with some dishonest R & HD officials were also using a vast tract of agricultural land and many ponds of the department for cultivation and pisciculture.

They said a large number of straw and tinsheds, semi-pucca and pucca shops had been developed alongside the roads in recent years ignoring the authorities concerned.

A section of businessmen are constructing large size buildings on the R & HD land in six thana headquarters of the district.

When contacted some illegal occupants alleged that some R & HD officials were collecting money without giving them any receipts.

The Executive Engineer of the district R & HD confirmed that there are more than 500 illegal occupants alongside nine roads of the district.

RAJBARI

Train services remain suspended

July 30: The rail communication between Rajbari-Vatipara remained suspended during last 15 days due to bad condition of rail line, reports UNB.

Official sources said, rail communication in the route has become risky as 75 per cent sleepers of the line have gone out of order. The authorities closed the route to avoid accident.

The local people are facing problems due to absence of train services. They are now crossing the long distance on foot or by rickshaws.

Local businessmen cannot send their goods to distant places due to lack of train services. Postal system also collapsed due to the same reason.

Local people urged the concerned authorities to take necessary steps to restore train communication without further delay.

RAJBARI

Fewer customers for jute

July 30: The price of new jute has come down in different markets of the district due to shortage of buyers and absence of government jute procurement centres, says UNB.

White jute is being sold at Taka 200 per maund while Taka 300 per maund which is less than the production cost. Taking advantage of the situation the middlemen and brokers are buying the jute at throw away prices.

"Some jute growers said average cost of production of per maund jute was more than Tk 300 and at present they are forced to sell the new jute at nominal prices due to financial stringency. They said they are increasingly losing interest in producing jute.

Agriculture Extension Department said jute was cultivated on 12,000 hectares of land in four thanas of the district. They expected that more than one lakh bales of jute would be produced during this season.

The jute growers of the district have demanded immediate buying of jute by government agencies at fair prices.

PATUAKHALI

Unhygienic condition of hotels threatens public health

July 30: Public health in the district headquarters is being threatened due to unhygienic condition of the hotels and restaurants causing great anxiety among the town dwellers, reports UNB.

Over the years, the owners of the hotels and restaurants in the town continue their business ignoring the public health. They preserve and prepare the food in dirty and unhygienic way.

The foodstuffs have been prepared and stored in the open space most of the time. Flies are seen moving in and around the foodstuffs. It has been alleged that the hotel owners use adulterated edible oil and other substandard ingredients for preparing the food.

Moreover, they are seen selling stale food before the very nose of the law enforcing agency, local people alleged.

The rural people who come to the district headquarters for various purposes are to take food in these hotels and most of them fell sick after taking the food in the hotels.

The matter was brought to the notice of the authorities concerned time and again but no action has yet been taken in this regard, the consumers said.

RANGPUR

Plan to develop educational institutions

July 30: The present government has undertaken a gigantic programme for developing infrastructures of the government and non-government educational institutions throughout the country, said education minister, reports UNB.

He was addressing as chief guest at the foundation laying ceremony of the new building of Carmichael College and Begum Rokeya College at Rangpur on Saturday.

The present government aims at both qualitative and quantitative change in the education system for making it people-oriented one, said the minister.

At least 16 educational institutions will be developed in each thana by the current year, he added.

Deputy Commissioner Afzal Hossain and BNP leaders Rezaul Hoq Sarkar Rana, Nurul Huda Sultan and Rahim Uddin Bharasha also spoke on the occasion, said a PID handout.

The government has already promoted a good number of teachers of the colleges for giving them incentives in quality teaching, he added.

KUSHLIA

IU students condemn Ctg killings

July 30: Democratic Student Front, Bangladesh Chhatra League (M-I), Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Islami Chhatra Shibir Wednesday organised separate rallies in front of the main gate of the university protesting the Tuesday's killings in Chittagong, says UNB.

The progressive student organisations condemned the killings and demanded judicial inquiry into the matter. They also demanded ban on politics of Jamaat-Shibir.

As all sorts of political rallies are banned on the campus, the student organisations arranged their rallies outside the campus.

SATKHIRA

Smuggled goods seized

July 30: The BDR Javans seized a huge quantity of bicycle parts worth about Tk 27,000 from the frontier area on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip off BDR personnel challenged a group of smugglers and seized the spare parts.

The BDR sources said the smugglers fled the scene leaving the contraband items as they were challenged by them.



BRAHMANBARIA: In the absence of ambulance services, the local people use such a method to carry patients to the local health complex.