

Cruel indeed

From Our Correspondent
MOULVI BAZAR, Aug 1: Both husband and wife fled away from a hotel mysteriously, leaving their 7-day old child in the hotel room under lock and key.
 The incident took place recently at "Hotel Brotri" of Srimongal town.
 It is gathered that one Emtadur Rahman, 26 and his wife Rahima Begum, 24, with their new born baby entered the hotel at 10 AM and recorded their name and address in the hotel's register. But after staying an hour in the hotel room according to witnesses they left the hotel with a plea for marketing, leaving the child alone in the room. But till mid-night the couple did not come back and hearing the baby crying in the room the hotel authority informed the matter to the local police. Police rushed to the hotel and by breaking the door recovered the child.
 A case has been registered with the police in this connection. The child has been kept under care of hotel manager, it was learnt.

One killed in road mishap

From Our Correspondent
KISHOREGANJ, Aug 1: Rafiqul Islam, a third year student of Bhairab Haji Asmat College was crushed to death under the wheels of a Kishoreganj bound passenger bus (Kishoreganj JA-040002) near Laksmipur bus stand on Bhairab — Kishoreganj road on recently.
 According to reports, the student was pushed out by the conductor of the running bus following altercation with him over bus fare. The driver fled a way from the scene with his vehicle.
 A case has been recorded in this connection with local police station and the body was sent to Kishoreganj sadar hospital for autopsy.
 Meanwhile, the students of Haji Asmat College brought out a procession in the town in protest of the incident and demanded punishment of the staff of the bus.

Teachers, students of Sarada Sundry College accorded reception

FARIDPUR, Aug 1: Teachers and students of government Sarada Sundry Mahila College were accorded a reception on July 26 at local Kabi Jasimuddin Hall by the district administration for receiving best college award in the national education week of 1994, reports BSS.
 A H M Nurul Huda Chowdhury, Chairman of Land Reform Board was the chief guest while the function was presided over by K M Nurul Huda, Deputy Commissioner of Faridpur.
 Professor Mian Lutfar Rahman, principal of the college and Ali Akbar Chowdhury ADC (General), spoke on the occasion.
 The speakers stressed on the need for education of womenfolk of the country for positive development in all sectors.

Dacoit shot dead in Kishoreganj

From Our Correspondent
KISHOREGANJ, Aug 1: An alleged dacoit was shot dead when a gang of miscreants tried to snatch him away from police custody at village Ilashpur under Sherpur union in Nandail thana recently.
 Acting on a tip, a police team led by ASI Abdul Awal of Nandail thana went to the village and arrested Nurul Islam (30) who was wanted in two dacoity cases. On way back to the thana, relatives of the arrested dacoit, both male and female, armed with ramdaos and other lethal weapons swooped on the police and tried to snatch away the arrested person.
 At this the police opened several rounds of fire killing Nurul Islam on the spot. ASI Abdul Awal and constable Matiar Rahman who sustained serious injuries in the attack were later admitted into Mymensingh Medical College Hospital and constable Gabbar and Abdul Gani were admitted into Nandail thana health complex.
 A case was registered with Nandail police station in this connection. The body was sent to Kishoreganj Sadar Hospital for post mortem.
 Police took Amzad Hossain and Abdul Hakim, father and younger brother of the deceased, into custody. Additional SP of Mymensingh and ASI of Gouripur circle visited the spot.

Notes from Jhenidah

From Our Correspondent
JHENIDAH, Aug 1: About 50 persons were injured in a clash between activists of BNP and AL in village Jadavpur in Mohespur thana recently.

According to reports, following village enmity supporters of both rival groups faced each other with lethal weapons injuring about fifty persons. Of them condition of five were stated to be critical. They were rushed to Mohespur thana health complex.

One commits suicide

Delwar Hossain 20, a day labourer of village Fatehpur committed suicide recently. It was gathered that ill-fated Delwar Hossain worked as a day labourer at the field of a local influential farmer. He had requested to pay his salary to his master and was refused.
 Telling to collect money he probably felt ashamed and took pesticides.

Decomposed body recovered

Kaligonj thana police recovered a decomposed body of an unknown woman (about age 25) from a village in Badurgachha in Kaligonj thana recently.
 The body was found with marks of injuries on the nose, ear and lower parts of the abdomen. She might have been killed after repeated rapping, police said.

Oldman killed in road accident

One person was killed and three others were injured in road accident near Arappur on Jhenidah-Kushitia road recently.

Reports say, **Torap Ali Mandal, 60,** of village Daribini of Harinakundu thana was hit by a Jhenidah bound tempo near Jhenidah Cadet College at Arappur. He was crushed to death on the spot. The tempo fell into a nearby ditch which resulted in injuries of three passengers.

BKB disburses over Tk 22 cr. loan in Sylhet

From Our Correspondent
SYLHET, Aug 1: A total of Taka 22 crore 34 lakh 7 thousand was disbursed as agricultural loans in 11 thanas of Sylhet district during the last financial year by the Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB).
 When contacted, an official source informed this correspondent that a total of 4 thousand 353 farmers received the loans for cultivating different crops through all the 22 branches of the bank.

Three crushed under train wheels

PABNA, Aug 1: Three people were crushed under the wheels of running trains in the district Monday, says an UNB reports.
 The GRP at Ishurdi said, two villagers, Siddiqui Rahman, 30, of Kot Charpara in Ishurdi thana and Ramzan Ali, 25, of Majpara in Atghoria thana — lay down on the tracks in the respective areas for committing suicide and were cut into pieces early.

Drought affects growth of aman paddy in Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent
SIRAJGANJ, Aug 1: Cultivation projects of transplanted aman paddy may fail in Sirajganj district due to continuous drought and insufficient rainfall.

According to sources, the Agriculture Extension Department (AED) undertook a scheme to cultivate transplanted aman paddy in 55,928 acres of land in nine thanas of the district which include 7,200 acres in Sadar thana.



SIRAJGANJ: A housewife and her son are trying to save aman seedbed by supplying water from a nearby road side ditch. — Star photo

11,000 acres in Kazipur thana, 13,000 acres in Raiganj thana, 8,500 acres in Tarash, 8,000 acres in Ullapara, 300 acres in Shahzadpur, 3,200 acres in Belkuchi, 4,600 acres in Kamar Khanda and 128 acres of land in Chowhali thana. The farmers accordingly prepared land and seedbeds. Following insufficient rainfall and continuous drought the saplings could not be transplanted in

time and due to delay the aman saplings have dried up in the seedbeds.
 It is reported that the prepared aman crop land have remained dried till the third week of July. The farmers are using the saplings as fodder for the cattleheads.
 Farmers of some affected areas said that such weather in the rainy season was not expected and they did not expect

such unusual weather any time in the past. They also informed this correspondent that aman paddy can not be cultivated by irrigation. Natural rain is the only hope for aman cultivation.
 Following the situation, it is feared that Sirajganj district will suffer to a great extent in producing aman paddy this year.
 Our Faridpur correspondent

Fire destroys property worth Tk 98 lakh in Kishoreganj

From Our Correspondent
KISHOREGANJ, Aug 1: At least 100 dwelling houses and property worth about Taka 98 lakh were burnt in 65 fire incidents in all 13 thanas of Kishoreganj district during the last one year ending on June 30, local people said.
 Fire brigade official sources however, confirmed that property worth about Taka 64 lakh and 51 thousand were damaged in 44 fire incidents till June 30.
 According to the local fire brigade sources, property worth about Taka 2,500 was damaged in three fire incidents in July, property worth about Taka 1000 in two incidents in August, property worth about Taka 1500 in one fire incident in September. In property worth about Taka 1000 in one fire incident in October, property worth about Taka 50,05,000 in two incidents in November, property

service station at 11 thanas of the district. Property amounting to crores of taka including dwelling houses in the rural areas and business establishments are often damaged in the devastating fire incidents every year.
 Fire service station situated in district headquarters cannot extend service to the thana headquarters and rural areas due to lack of proper road link with thana headquarters. Most of the thana headquarters of Kishoreganj district are isolated from district headquarters due to lack of road connections. At present there are two fire service stations in the districts with minimum facilities.
 *Local people an leaders have urged to the authorities to look into the matter and take immediate steps to set up fire service stations in all 11 thanas headquarters.

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ditches for jute plants to rotting.
 Most of the jute plants have attained maturity but lack of enough rains may end in heavy losses.
 The prospect of aman paddy whose growth depends on occasional rainfall is extremely disappointing owing to absence of adequate water and rainfall.

Samannoy Committee meet held

MAGURA, Aug 1: A workers meeting of Jatiya Samannoy Committee of the district was held at local Bar Association Office recently, reports UNB.
 Presided over by Jalal Uddin it was also addressed by Khan Ali Reza, Prof Kazi Feroz, Advocate Ali Kodor and others.
 Speakers, at the meeting, discussed on the life and contribution of Jahanara Imam and urged the workers to follow her ideals. The meeting also observed one minute silence to show respect to late Jahanara Imam.
 A convening body of the Samannoy Committee was formed with Jalal Uddin as convener, Advocate Ali Kodor, Mia Wahid Kamal, Bikash Mozumder, Monowar Reza, Sofiqul Islam as joint convenors and Ali Reza as member secretary.

Milch cow handed over

CHADPUR, Aug 1: G M Fazul Huq Welfare Trust, Dhaka, has handed over a milch cow to a poor villager of Srirampur of the district, who reportedly went insane after losing his cow, his only source of income, reports UNB.
 Rafiq Bapery of Srirampur village, went mad after losing the milch cow and its calf which used to give him 5 kgs of milk a day.
 The cow and its calf died of hydrophobia following dog bite, villagers said.
 The trust, after a report on Rafiq's insanity in a local Weekly Chanpur, came forward and offered the cow on July 13.
 Chairman of the trust G M Fazul Huq, who is also a philanthropist of the district, and Deputy Commissioner, Md Golam Kibria jointly handed over the cow at a simple ceremony.
 The function was attended, among others, by local Sakua Union Chairman Hafez Bapery, Secretary General of the trust Mostafa Talukder and local BNP leader Nurul Islam Mridha.

Erosion in Barisal

From Staff Correspondent
BARISAL, Aug 1: Thousands of people were rendered homeless due to erosion and more than three hundred dwelling houses including shops worth more than 3.5 crore taka were engulfed by river Kirtonkhola during last fifteen years at Charkaua union under Kotwali thana of the district.
 Local people said, erosion intensified early this month and in only twenty four hours time recently the bazar area was hit by the river erosion.
 A 64 years old madrasa at Charkaua has been threatened by the erosion which may collapse any time. Students of the madrasa have already left their hostels. Furniture of the madrasa have been shifted.
 Earlier a project to check erosion at Charkaua area with an estimated cost of 85 lakh taka was taken by Worker Development Board (WDB). However the project is yet to be implemented.
 Local people said they had brought the attention of the concerned authorities about continuous erosion of Kirtonkhola along the Charkaua opposite Barisal town.
 Continuous erosion of Kirtonkhola in Charkaua area has already engulfed hundreds of acres of crop land, two primary schools and more than 300 shops and dwelling houses causing a loss of more than 3.5

Thousands of people forced to take shelter in open sky

crore taka, local people said. They said, that about taka three crore will be needed to check the continuous erosion of river Kirtonkhola.
 Meantime local people have handed over a written statement to the district administration asking for immediate measures to control the erosion. The statement pointed out that the Charkaua Senior Madrasa, Hafizia Madrasa, a high school, a primary school, union parishad office, agricultural office, three jama masjids and about hundred dwelling houses and shops are being threatened by the erosion of river Kirtonkhola.
 Meantime, WDB authority has already started works on parapet system to check erosion at the Charkaua area.

Parcopine system

'Parcopine system' has been invented by WDB authority and seemed to be effective in the southern region to control erosion of the rivers.
 This system was introduced at Hizla area of the district and Hularhat of Projpur.



BARISAL: The river Kirtonkhola continues to engulf vast areas of land in the district. The photo shows a part of Charkaua area hit by the river erosion. — Star photo

No street light on Dhaka-Sylhet highway

KISHOREGANJ, Aug 1: Absence of street light facilities on the Dhaka-Sylhet highway from Jagannathpur to Meghna Ferry Ghat in the Bhairab riverport pourashava area is hampering the movement of pedestrians and rickshaws after sundown, reports UNB.
 According to local people, this portion of the road remains all along busy with the movement of pedestrians and vehicular traffic, but it has become hazardous for the absence of street light.
 Meanwhile, taking advantage of the situation hoodlums, hijackers and robbers snatch away the belonging of the pedestrians and passengers every now and then after nightfall. No patrol police are seen to save the people from the hands of miscreants.
 Local people urged the authorities concerned to look into the matter and take immediate steps for arranging street light in the area.

Special public prosecutor

Kafiluddin Chowdhury appeared on behalf of the state while advocates Aminul Islam and Feroz Alam defended the accused.

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District roundup

CHITTAGONG

One awarded life-term
Aug 1: The First Additional Sessions and Anti-Terrorism Tribunal Judge Syed Enayet Ullah here awarded life term to one, Muhammad Babul and fined him Taka five thousand, in default to suffer one year more rigorous imprisonment on charge of snatching away Taka 20,000 at gun point from the employee of a private firm, says BSS.
 The judge acquitted the second accused, Nuruddin Zahed as charges against him could not be proved.
 The prosecution story is that Nur Enterprise employee Raja Meah was going to Khatunganj in the city by a rickshaw with Taka 20,000. Muhammad Babul stopped the rickshaw and snatched away the money at gun point. But Muhammad Babul was caught by the passersby. Police submitted charge sheet against the accused. The judge examined five witnesses in the case and found Muhammad Babul guilty.
 Special public prosecutor, Kafiluddin Chowdhury appeared on behalf of the state while advocates Aminul Islam and Feroz Alam defended the accused.

Play more role in poverty alleviation programmes

Aug 1: Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury called upon the people to play a vital role in implementing the poverty alleviation programmes undertaken by the government, says BSS.
 He was speaking as chief guest at the opening ceremony of tree plantation and pisciculture campaign-94 of fire service and civil defence department.
 The home minister said individual and family income can be increased by rearing poultry and cattle, pisciculture, tree plantation. At the same time these activities can contribute to poverty alleviation programmes undertaken by the government.
 The minister underscored the significance of tree plantation and urged the people to plant more trees for maintaining environmental balance.
 Earlier, the minister planted a teak sapling at the station premises and released fish fries at a pond.
 He also distributed some mehagani saplings among the divisional officers of the department to plant those at their respective divisional headquarters.

GAZIPUR

Private dairy farm owners receive bonus cheques
Aug 1: Incentive bonus cheques amounting to Tk 6,93,750 were handed over to 22 owners of different non-government dairy farms Tuesday in a function held at the conference room of the deputy commissioner of Barisal, says BSS.
 Presided over by Mamta Uddin, Deputy Commissioner, Barisal, the function was attended by Mujibar Rahman Sarwar, MP and Dr Tiyaq Al Bhuyan, Deputy Director, Livestock Department, Barisal Division.
 The function was addressed among others by Dr Sunil Chandra Gain, District Livestock Officer, Barisal, Md Moazzem Hossain and Md Abdur Rauf.
 Mujibar Rahman Sarwar gave away the cheques to the owners of the farms.
 Sarwar in his speech said, the present government has introduced the incentive bonus to encourage the non-government dairy farm owners to make the country self sufficient in milk.
 A total of 123 dairy farms have been set up in this district in the private sector.
 Another report adds: A total of 1,743 bundles of CI sheets were supplied to different educational institutions in six thanas of Barisal district under post cyclone rehabilitation programme last year.
 According to an official source, Japanese government has donated these CI sheets for the implementation of the programme.
 Of the total, 109 bundles were distributed in Gournadi thana, 31 bundles in Agailjhara, 228 bundles in Babuganj, 563 bundles in Barisal sadar, 145 bundles in Wazirpur and 667 bundles in Bakerganj thanas of the district.
 About 350 educational institutions received these CI sheets, the source said.

PANCHGARH

'Ensure legitimate rights of women'
Aug 1: Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Mirza Golam Hafez has called for massive publicity of the laws enacted for the welfare of the women community of the country, a PID handout, said recently, reports BSS.
 "The personal, social and citizen's rights of the women have been ensured through these laws, he added.
 Addressing a meeting at the local girls college premises on Saturday the minister said that although equal rights of the men and women were guaranteed in the country's constitution there were exceptions found in reality.
 Terming such situation as results of illiteracy and dependency on others the minister called upon the educated women to play pioneering role for establishing the legitimate rights of the women in the society.
 Earlier the minister went to see for himself the progress of works of Panchagarh town protection embankment. About 80 per cent work of the 14-crore Asian Development Bank aided project have been completed.

FENI

171 development projects completed
Aug 1: The work on 171 projects under Food for Work Programme (FWP) in five thanas of the district was completed during the last fiscal year (1993-94), says UNB.
 According to the officials, 2,556 metric tons of wheat were distributed among the labours against these projects under the FWP.
 Thanawise break-up of the projects are, sadar-49, Porshuram-38, Chhagalnaiya-28, Sonagazi-32 and Daganbhuiyan-24. The project-work included construction and reconstruction of 412 km kutcha road and 5,25 km canal digging.

JAMALPUR

Meeting discusses aspects of FAP project
Aug 1: More than five lakh people and vast area of crop land will be affected by natural disaster if river dredging system is not included in the Flood Action Plan (FAP) in Jamalpur and Sherpur districts, reports UNB.
 This was expressed by the speakers at special meeting of district Environmental Core Team held at World Vision office here last week.
 Presided over by Shamsul Huda, Chairman of the team, the meeting discussed overall aspects of FAP 3.1 project and its impact.
 The meeting was addressed among others by Abul Hashem, Minhajuddin, Samar Sangma and Mansur Rahman.

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NARAYANGANJ

Two industries sued for taking illegal gas connections
Aug 1: Two top private sector industries here have been sued for stealing gas worth an estimated Tk one crore, police said, warning the scam could be the tip of an iceberg, reports UNB.
 Police who feared more cases of fraudulent practice with regard to gas use said they were preparing for investigation in other units of the local industrial belt.
 They also did not rule out the possibilities of involvement of a section of unscrupulous employees of the Titas Gas in such theft.
 The two companies charged with pilfering a huge volume of gas from the Titas transmission system for running their plants are Star Particle Board Mills and Star Vegetable Oil Mills.
 Titas Gas Saturday sued five people, including the owner of the two industries belonging to the same group, but police said the accused were all absconding.
 According to the case, the industries, situated at Kuripasa Bandar area, had taken unauthorised gas connections from a bypass line last October. Preliminary estimates say the stolen gas could be worth at least Tk one crore.
 The misdeed was revealed Friday following a spot investigation by a police team led by a magistrate.
 When contacted, Eagr M Kamaluddin, deputy manager of Titas Gas, confirmed the case.