

Truck hits car, two killed

JESSORE, Aug 4: A truck rammed and smashed a private car on the Jessore-Benapole road Wednesday, killing two people and injuring three others, reports UNB.

The dead were identified as car driver Mahidul, 30, and Pintu, 28, of Bhabber village in Sharsha thana.

The injured three — Abdul Ghani, Subal Biswas and Gopal Chandra — were admitted to Jessore sadar hospital in critical condition.

Police said a speeding truck from Jessore hit the car from opposite direction at Kagajpukur in Sharsha thana at about 1:30 pm.

The car was fully damaged and all its five passengers, including the driver, were trapped inside it after the collision.

Police seized the truck, but the driver managed to escape the scene. A case was filed with Sharsha police.



SYLHET: Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman speaking at a reception accorded to him for his active role in creating the Sylhet division. The district BNP organised the reception at the Registry Maidan on the eve of starting the functioning of Sylhet Division on August 1.

Flood in Chandpur improving 10,000 still marooned

CHANDPUR, Aug 4: The flood situation through out the Chandpur district has been improving day by day with the recession of flood water. About ten thousand people are still marooned in different char areas of Chandpur sadar.

According to Chandpur district flood control office 64 unions and five wards of municipality of the district were badly affected by the flood.

So far seventeen persons were drowned by the flood. About one thousand cattle died.

Chandpur district administration in the meantime, has already estimated the losses of lives and properties due to flood in the district. The recent flood has destroyed standing crops on about one lakh twenty thousand acres of land worth about Taka fifty crore.

Fifty thousand dwelling houses have been damaged worth about Tk ten crore. About six lakh, twenty-four thousand people have been affected by the flood. Damages in road communication sector have been estimated that about 220 km long road completely and 821 km partially were damaged. According to Bangladesh Water Development Board, Chandpur.

From Our Correspondent

the Chandpur Meghna-Dhonagoda irrigation project worth Tk 180 crore is badly damaged. Many breaches have appeared at Amirabad, Ekhlashpur, Spatnal and Enaetnagar areas of the embankment. The embankment is being repaired with the recession of the flood waters. About 10 thousand bags of sands were placed on both sides of the embankment. A two miles long bamboo fencing was also constructed along two sides of the embankment. About 5 thousand people have taken shelter on Meghna-Dhonagoda and Chandpur Irrigation Project embankments. All of whom are living in sub-human condition. It was gathered from various sources.

Meanwhile relief operation by the district administration have been geared up. A total of Taka two lakh have been sanctioned by the government for the flood affected people of the district. Besides 150 metric tons of rice, 330 metric tons of wheat, 1000 pieces of sarees and 500 pieces of lungis have so far been distributed among the flood affected people.

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, Chandpur unit distributed rice, chira, gur, clothes, biscuits and other essential relief materials.

Besides BNP, AL Chandpur units, Chandpur Rotary Club, Chandpur Central Rotary Club, Lions Club and other social organisations are also distributing relief goods in the affected areas.

According to Chandpur Civil Surgeon office sources so far five people died by attack of diarrhoea and about five thousand people have been attacked. Ninety-nine medical teams are working in different flood affected areas. Scarcity of drinking water and oral saline have been prevailing. Md. Golam Kibria, DC of Chandpur recently visited the different flood affected areas of the district. He informed this correspondent that extensive damages to huge property were caused due to flood in the district. The affected people are passing their days in hardship due to high prices of essential goods. He told that relief goods were distributed properly through government officials in different thanas of the district.

Relief is insufficient in comparison to the requirement, alleged the affected people. More relief are needed in the district. Many people are still living in relief camps and on different embankments, railway stations and other places.



CHANDPUR: Flood affected people have taken shelter on the embankment with their dismantled dwellings and other belongings.

Power supply in rural Sirajganj almost neglected: Allege consumers

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 5: Domestic consumers of electricity in Kaziupur, Belkuchi and Chowhali thanas have turned to hostages of the Sirajganj supply office of Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB). The national grid line can supply 12 megawatt of power at best. During irrigation period, load shedding becomes inevitable mainly in the thana level supply system.

At present no extra consumption of power is reported. Besides, a considerable number of consumers have shut down as the 11-KVA lines at some places have turned risky due to floods. The 200-KVA transformer at Mukundaganj bazar remains inoperative since long. Consequently,

From Our Correspondent

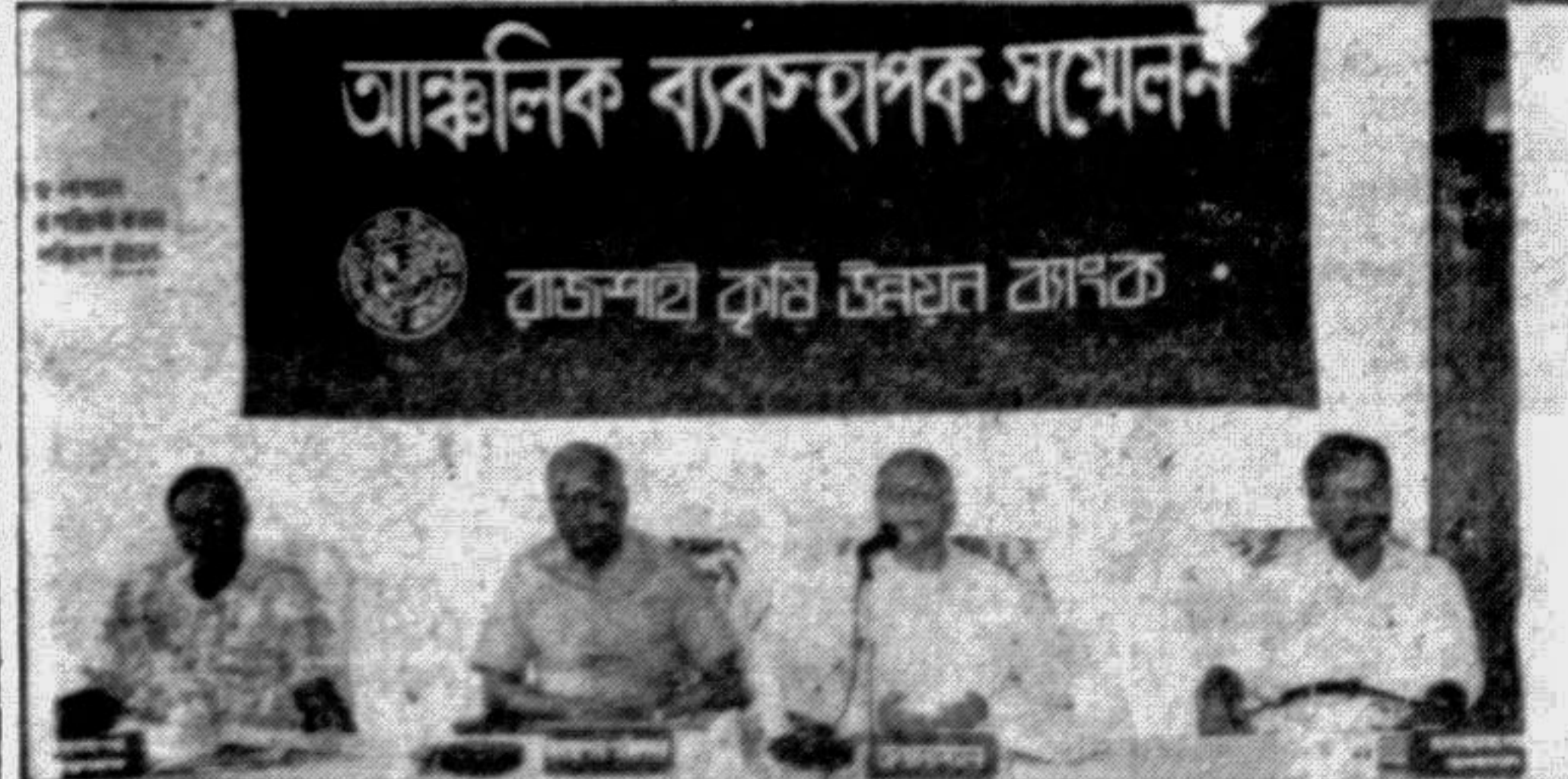
of local FDB office that 14 MW power is required to meet the demand of the district including 2.5 megawatt for Balli Biddut Samities (BBS). The national grid line can supply 12 megawatt of power at best. During irrigation period, load shedding becomes inevitable mainly in the thana level supply system.

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load of the supply system have, reduced considerable. Yet the Sirajganj supply office of BPDB fails to operate the active lines in thana level.

It is observed that the employees of PDB are interested to keep town supply normal in fear of untoward incidents and neglect thana level supply. The employees of thana level offices of BPDB face rage of the consumers.

When contacted, a source of Sirajganj supply office of BPDB told The Daily Star that supply in thana level could not be kept normal due to frequent earth fault and time to time short supply from the national grid line.



RAJSHAHI: The 23rd Regional Managers conference of Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank was held recently at the bank conference room. Chairman of Board of Directors Emran Ali Sarkar addressed the conference as the chief guest. Managing Director Shahidul Haq Khan, General Managers Yasin Ali and A K M Sajedur Rahman were also present in the conference.

Students, people clash with police: 25 hurt

FARIDPUR, Aug 4: At least 25 people, including eight policemen, were injured as local people and students clashed Wednesday with police at Charbhadrason thana over a road-traffic dispute, says UNB.

Witnesses said trouble erupted at about 9 am when a procession was demanding introduction of large passenger bus services on Charbhadrason-Faridpur road and protesting the beating up of them on August 1.

Local minibus office, TNO office, BRDB office, one minibus and a police van were damaged during the five-hour-long clash.

When the processionists attacked the minibus office, police intervened charging batons and firing tear-gas shells to disperse them. The

agitated people retaliated with brickbats.

All the injured people, including the seriously injured Constable Bellal Hossain and local BRDB Accountant Abdur Razzak, were admitted to different hospitals.

Local people said the clash was sequel to a road accident on July 29 on Faridpur-Charbhadrason road, which left two students injured.

After the accident, people of Charbhadrason beat up some members of the Faridpur Minibus Owners Association on July 31.

On the other hand, some people of Charbhadrason were beaten up by the Association members on Aug 1 when they came to the district headquarters.

Cases were filed with Charbhadrason thana.



A COMMON SCENE IN THE MONSOON: Heavy shower is regularly causing water logging in parts of Rajshahi city including the premises of Rajshahi Medical College Hospital, Bangladesh Bank, Radio Bangladesh, Divisional Public Library and Laboratory High School. Streets in some points, most of the lanes and by lanes and ground floor of dwellings are also inundated by rain water. It may take upto five days to drain out the rain water. This picture was taken from Sabjipara, a muhalla near the city corporation office after two days of rain.



SYLHET: BDR caught these two women smuggling two revolvers into Bangladesh through the border point of Doarabazar thana recently.

Padma, Arial Khan devours 300 dwellings in Faridpur

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Aug 4: Three hundred dwelling houses and one thousand hectares of land under Char Bhadrason and Sadarpur thanas have reportedly been eroded by Padma and Arial Khan with the recession of water. As the water level is falling, the erosion of the rivers are taking menacing turn.

The erosion-hit people have taken shelter on the embankments and high lands of the neighbouring areas. They have been passing their days unfed and half fed as no relief worth mentioning have yet reached them.

Besides, acute scarcity of drinking water is prevailing in the area.

Touch stone statue of 'Sun God' found

COMILLA, Aug 4: A seven-maund touch stone statue of 'Sun God' was handed over to the Maimamati Archeological Museum here today, reports UNB.

The statue was recovered a few days back from Babutpara village in Muradnagar thana. It was found while digging a pond of Waliullah of the village.

Students protest new exam method

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Aug 4: The students of local high schools boycotted their classes and brought out a big procession in the town on July 23 demanding reintroduction of the old method of the SSC examination held upto 1995.

After parading the main streets of the town, the processionists met the Deputy Commissioner at his office and handed over a memorandum and threatened to launch a greater movement if their demands are not met within the specified period.

The Deputy Commissioner assured them that he would immediately inform the proper authorities of their demands and advised the students to attend their classes and to be attentive to their studies.

Contrabands worth Tk 29 lakh seized in Magura

MAGURA, Aug 4: Members of the Bangladesh Rifles three battalion here seized contrabands worth about Tk 29.28 lakh from various parts of the district in the last month, reports UNB.

Minu warns against any anomalies in RCC development work

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Aug 4: Mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation Mijanur Rahman Minu warned the officials and workers of the corporation that drastic actions would be taken against the concerned officials and workers if any anomalies was found in development works.

To avoid punishment the mayor asked them to work sincerely and perform duties with due honesty and efficiency to make the development programmes of the corporation successful.

Minu was addressing a conference of the officials and workers Tuesday.

He said that Rajshahi City Corporation had implemented development projects costing about Taka 50 crore in last four years. He claimed that such a big amount was never spent in development sector in Rajshahi City Corporation in its long span of existence. However, he admitted, it could not be assured that standard of these works were upto the

mark.

He said that the corporation was to face adverse criticism for the low standard of works. 'This must not be repeated in future, he warned.'

He also gave some directives to the engineering department. He asked the engineers not to make such a big estimate that would be difficult for them to implement with the limited resources. The mayor also ordered them to make estimate of any scheme only after field visit and not to make any estimate after its finalisation.

Minu also sought cooperation of the city dwellers and contractors. He said that without cooperation of all sides development projects could not be implemented properly.

Among others, the Chief Executive Officer M A Qasem and the Secretary of the corporation Shaikh Mukhles Ahmed were present in the meeting.

News from Jhenidah

Phensidyl syrup bottles seized

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Aug 4: A total of 581 bottles of smuggled Indian Phensidyl syrup was recovered from a night coach of Five Star Paribahan near Hatgopalpur in sadar thana of the district on Monday, it is learnt.

According to police sources, a Dhaka-bound coach no. Dhaka metro-Ba-02-0075 allegedly loaded the bag of Phensidyl syrup at Barinagar bazar. Acting on a secret information police stopped the coach at Hatgopalpur. But the driver reportedly drove the coach towards Magura. The police nabbed the driver and the helper at Magura and recovered 581 bottles of Phensidyl from the coach while the owner of smuggled syrup managed to flee.

A case was filed with Jhenidah thana in this connection.

Valuables worth Tk 20,000 robbed

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Aug 4: A dacoity was committed in the house of Shamsul Alam of village Shishutala Chandpur in Moheshpur thana of the district recently, it is learnt.

According to reports, some unknown armed miscreants numbering about 20 to 25 raided the house and looted valuables worth at least Taka 20 thousand. The miscreants managed to flee.

A case was lodged with Moheshpur thana in this connection. But police could not arrest any body so far, it is learnt.

According to another report, a dacoity was committed at Goalpara Maternity and Child Health Centre (MCH) in sadar thana of the district recently.

According to reports, some dacoits broke into the MCH and entered the room of the midwife. The miscreants looted various items of medicines, medical equipments, cash taka and other valuables worth Taka 25 thousand and fled.

A case was filed with Jhenidah thana in this connection.

One jailed for smuggling

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Aug 4: One person was awarded one year RI and penalised Taka 500, in default to suffer for another 15 days in jail by the Special Judge of Jhenidah, Mahatab Uddin recently.

The case in brief was that on December 13, 1992 at about 10.30 pm Hassan Ali of village Jadabpur under Moheshpur thana was caught by the BDR jawans at village Mogadaspur of same thana. Ten pieces of smuggled Indian sarees, some Indian currencies were also recovered from him. A case was lodged with Moheshpur thana in this connection.

After through hearing the Judge gave the verdict.

Man wanted in murder case held

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Aug 4: Moheshpur thana police arrested a wanted criminal from village Gourinagar of the district recently.

According to police sources, Manirul Haq was awarded 10 years RI for killing his wife earlier and since then he was absconding. Acting on a secret information police raided a house and nabbed him. He was sent to jail-hazat, police said.

Cold storage, ice factory lying unused

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Aug 4: The only cold storage and the ice factory of government owned Baluhar Fish Production Centre (Baor) in Kotchandpur thana of the district is lying unused for last 10 years. Fish worth Taka crores are damaged every year, it is alleged.

According to reports, the cold storage and the ice factory was installed at a cost of Taka about 12 lakh about 10 years back. But the authorities left the machines unused and the technician is reportedly drawing salary regularly without work. It was further alleged.

Sources said that Fishing in Baluhar Baor was started in December last year and ended in March this year. At first 110 metric tons of fish was procured. But the authorities allegedly showed only 80 metric tons of fish caught from the baor, a source informed.

According to sources, this year procurement target was fixed at 215 metric tons. The second term of fishing is yet to furnish.

Some dishonest employees of Baluhar 'Baor' reportedly fulfill the production target catching silver carp or other foreign varieties of fish instead if Ruih or other costly fish. As a result government is deprived of lakhs of Taka every year, it is further alleged.

When contacted 'Baor' authorities said that they are trying to resume operation of the cold storage and ice factory at a convenient time.

Fake NGO leader arrested

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Aug 4: Saikupa thana police arrested the so-called president of two fake Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) for his alleged involvement in collecting Taka five lakh from 252 innocent people of village Chandpur in Saikupa thana of the district on Wednesday, it is learnt.

According to police sources, Mokaddes Ali of village Chandpur formed two fake NGOs namely, 'Anu' and 'Ashar Alo' in 1991 with 252 innocent persons of the village as members. He was allegedly collecting Taka 10 from each of the members every week promising that all the members would be provided with huge amount of loans if they could save money with his NGOs. In last four years Mokaddes Ali allegedly collected at least five lakh from them, police sources said.

On July 27 a victim who depositing money with Mokaddes Ali informed Saikupa police and police accordingly arrested him while the cashier and three others managed to flee, police said.

A case was lodged with Saikupa thana and the arrested was sent to jail.

It may be noted here that the number of fake NGOs have been increasing alarmingly in different parts of the district who have been allegedly collecting lakhs of taka from the poor and landless people daily, it is alleged.

House servant allegedly beaten to death

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHETE, Aug 4: A house servant was beaten to death at village Charaboi under Beanibazar thana Monday Police arrested the house owner Abdur Rahim Wednesday.

Kamal Miah, 18, had been living in the house of Abdur Rahim for long. Abdur Rahim allegedly gave him a good beating for his inefficiency in the night following Monday. Kamal was again beaten up as he failed to plough in the field due to sickness. The master and his relatives at one stage threw Kamal in the river at an unconscious state. Some villagers collected the body and hand over it to the police. Beanibazar police sent the body to the Sylhet M A G Osmani Medical College for post-mortem. Police on Wednesday arrested Abdur Rahim from his village house.

Direct bus service through Natore from Rajshahi resumes

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Aug 4: Direct commercial bus communication between Rajshahi and other districts of the country through Natore resumed on July 31 after 100 days of disruption.

District motor owners and workers unions of Rajshahi, Natore, Pabna and Bogra in a joint meeting on July 30 at Pabna reached the understanding of plying their vehicles with any delay. The meeting was organised by the Pabna Motor Owners Association and presided over by its president Baby Islam.

The direct bus communication between Rajshahi and most of the districts of Rajshahi division was disrupted since April due to introduction of new bus service in same routes.