

Steamer Lepcha again goes out of order

CHANDPUR, July 27: The rocket steamer 'Lepcha' again went out of order today at Miar Char, 15 km from here, just after its sailing, reports UNB.

BWTC sources said the vessel went out of order at a place between Shaharabaya and Lumbia, 25 km of Chandpur town on Thursday.

After necessary repairing works it had started journey at around 9 am today for the capital.

Sources said the river vessel with 228 passengers sailed for Dhaka on Thursday. It was the third trip of Lepcha after its floating on July 15.

### Youth caught red-handed carrying pistol

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, July 27: A youth named Sarwar of village Uttar Char Chadpur under Sadarpur thana was caught red-handed with illegal arms by the villagers recently, police source said.

It is reported on the day of incident Sarwar was walking into the village in a bid to take revenge on another colleague. Shafi of the same village as a sequel to the past enmity. Suspecting such possible act may take place the villagers who challenged and caught him red-handed.

A revolver and two rounds of ammunition were recovered from his possession. He was later handed over to Sadarpur police after a good mass beating.

A case was lodged.

### Medical equipment stolen from clinic in Faridpur

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, July 27: A theft was committed at Faridpur Desh Clinic (private Ltd) at Alipur in the town on the night of July 18, according to police source.

It is learnt that an electrocardiogram machine, an ECG machine and other accessories worth over Taka eleven lakh were stolen by breaking open window grills of the clinic.

Police arrested three persons including Blyon, Manager of the clinic, Akhtar, peon of Dr Ali Akbar Biswas all of whom were sleeping in the room on the night of incident. Yusuf, a technician of the clinic was arrested for interrogation.

A case was lodged with Kotwali thana in this connection. It may be mentioned here that burglary and pilferage have increased alarmingly in and around the town.

### Heavy rainfall submerges 10 unions in Cox's Bazar

COX'S BAZAR, July 27: At least ten unions in three police stations of Cox's Bazar district have been inundated following heavy rain during the past four days, according to official source here Friday, reports BSS.

Local met office recorded 212mm rainfall during the past four days ending six pm Friday.

The source said that Baritali, Koyerbil, Kakara, Lakh Yarchar and Harbang of Chakaria thana, Kharulia and Khatia of Cox's Bazar thana and Joariania of Ramu thana have been submerged by rain water. Aman crops have been affected in these unions.

Chittagong-Cox's Bazar road may also be submerged at several points by rain water if heavy rain continues, the sources said.

The source said that the river Matamuhuri in Chakaria was flowing slightly over the danger level while the water level of Bakhkhali river near Cox's Bazar was on the rise.

### Two commit suicide

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, July 27: Two women committed suicide in the district on July 8 and 12 last, police source said.

Ranu Begum, 30, wife of one Hamagat Kaji of village Barati Para under Fulsi union in Nagarkanda thana committed suicide by taking poison on July 8.

One Shurja Khatun, 55, in Boalmari thana committed suicide by hanging on July 12.

Family feud were said to be the causes of the unnatural deaths.

Post-mortem examination of the two women were done in Faridpur general hospital.

Two separate cases were lodged with respective thana.

### Obituary

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, July 27: Khondaker Nurul Islam, 56, Principal of Government Yasin College in the town died of lung cancer at a local clinic on July 18, the clinic sources said.

He left behind his mother, widow, two sons and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn his death.

He was laid to rest at local Alipur graveyard.

## BMDA plans to plant 15 lakh saplings in three districts

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, July 27: Barendra Multipurpose Development Authority (BMDA) has undertaken an extensive programme on tree plantation during the current monsoon.

It has fixed a target to plant a total of 15 lakh saplings of different varieties this year in 25 thanas of Rajshahi, Chapainawabganj and Naogaon districts, official sources said.

Out of the total five lakh saplings will be planted in nine thanas of Rajshahi district, 2.90 lakh saplings in five thanas of Chapainawabganj district and 7.10 lakh saplings in 11 thanas of Naogaon district.

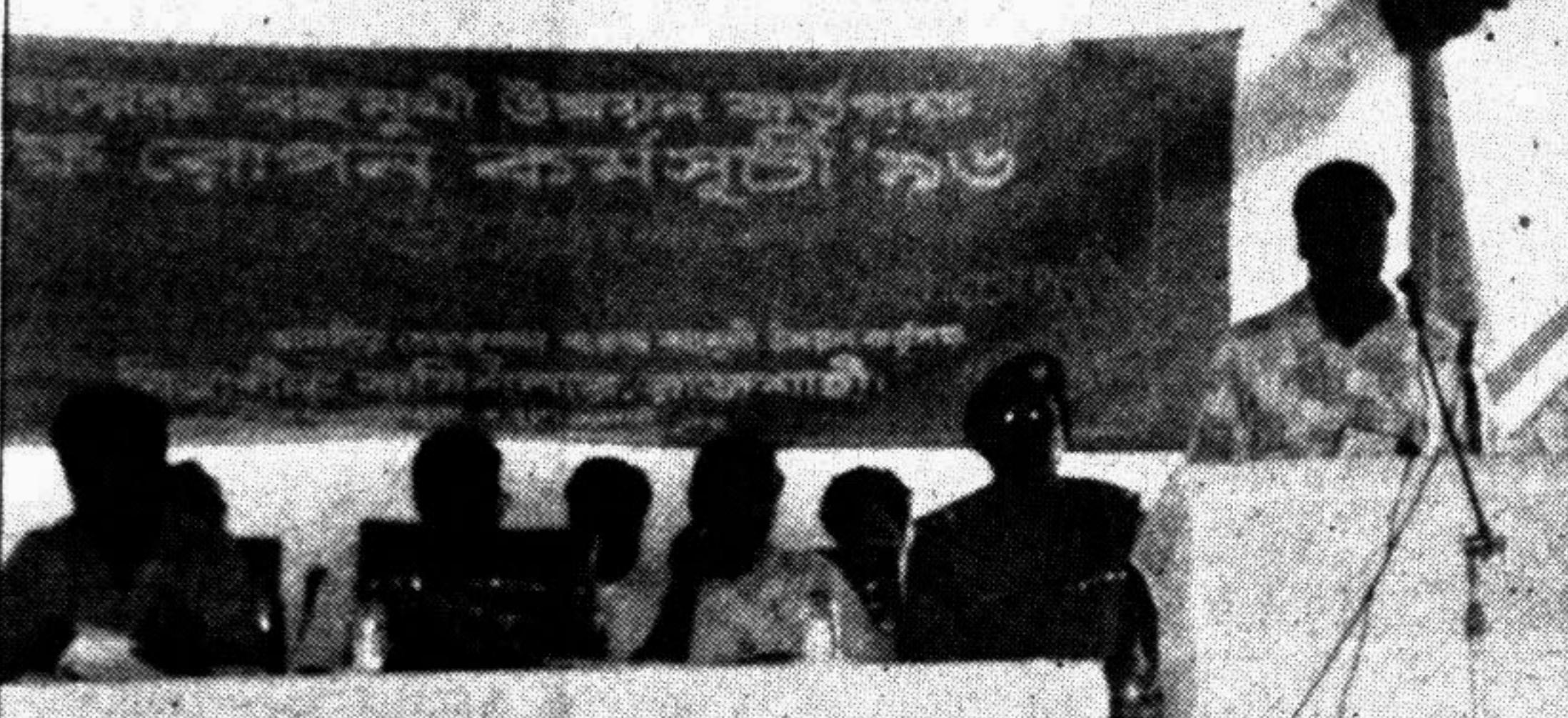
The tree plantation pro-

gramme of BMDA is mean-while, formally inaugurated recently with festive manner.

Organised at Tilna High School field at Tilna under Saphar thana of Naogaon district, the inaugural function was presided over by Moham-

mad Asaduzzaman, Executive Director of BMDA and addressed by A.F.M Yahia Chowdhury. Divisional Commissioner of Rajshahi and Chairman of BMDA as the chief guest, Akhtar Hamid Siddiqi, MP, Shamsuzzoha Khan, MP, Mohammad Ali, DC of Naogaon, Monwar Hossain, Police Super of Naogaon, Syed Hossain, General Manager of Bangladesh Railway Western Zone, Sharifuddin, Divisional Agriculture Information Officer, former MP Ohidur Rahman, former upazila chairman Rustam Ali, schoolmaster and Abdul Hamid Sarkar.

Divisional Commissioner



RAJSHAHI: AFM Yahia Chowdhury, Divisional Commissioner of Rajshahi addressing the inaugural function of tree plantation programme of BMDA as the chief guest. The Executive Director of BMDA, Md Asaduzzaman, DC of Naogaon, Mohammad Ali and Police Super of Naogaon, Monwar Hossain are also seen in the picture. — Star photo

Barendra Development Authority has given special importance on tree plantation since the beginning with a view to resist desertification process and maintain environmental balance in the

### Comprehensive crop cultivation programme

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, July 27: A comprehensive summer crops cultivation programme has been undertaken in Kishoreganj district during the current season. The summer crops including jute, aus, aman and vegetable.

According to the Agriculture Extension Department, a total of 47,300 hectares of land have been brought under the programme in the district this year. Of the total areas 16,010 hectares of land have been brought under jute, 29,173 hectares under aus, 146 hectares under broadcast aman and 197 hectares under vegetable cultivation. The production target has been estimated at 1,53,500 bales of jute, 47,619 metric tons of aus rice, 146 metric tons of aman rice and 24,000 metric tons of vegetables.

A total of 713 demonstration plots of different summer crops were set up to provide practical training to the growers for cultivation of summer crops in different thanas of the districts.

Official sources informed that, BADC distributed seeds, fertilizers and other agricultural inputs to make the programme a success.

### Fault in channel, telephones out of order

SUNAMGANJ, July 27: Telephone subscribers of the district have been facing acute problems due to fault in channelling system of the local telephone exchange, reports UNB.

Official sources said 12 out of the 14 channels of the district's Telephone Exchange remain out of order most of the time causing serious problems to establish communication through the nation-wide dialling (NWD) system.

The two channels being used in communicating with other districts are also facing troubles due to excessive load.

Some subscribers alleged that the 400-line auto exchange that started functioning in 1988 give trouble most of the time.

It was also suggested that the district headquarters now requires at least 1,000 lines to meet the increasing demand of the people.

The subscribers, however, called for immediate repair of the faulty NWD lines to lessen their sufferings.

### Three traffickers arrested from hotel in Bogra

BOGRA, July 27: Police nabbed three child traffickers from a local hotel in the town on Thursday night, reports UNB.

Police said Jahangir Hossain and Abdur Rab of Narayanganj and Mosammat Hosne Ara of Munshiganj district were arrested from the residential hotel and rescued two minor children — Farook (6) and Lamiah (5) — from their clutches.

They confessed that they were residing in the hotel when they failed to despatch the children through the hilly border to India due to tight security measures.

A police contingent led by ASP of Sarai police conducted the raid acting on secret information.

### Young girl commits suicide

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, July 27: A 15 year old girl has ended her life by taking poison at village Charpalash in Pakundia thana last week.

Khoshnab, daughter of Rashid Ali swallowed poison and died instantly. The victim appeared in the last SSC examination, but could not come out as successful, police sources and relatives said.

A case of unnatural death was registered with Pakundia police station.

### Separate police station demanded

CHITTAGONG, July 27: People of West Patiya area Monday submitted a memorandum to the police Super to meet their 5-point demand including setting up a separate police station in the area, reports UNB.

The demands included proper investigation and arrest of the criminals responsible for Nurul Alam murder on July 13, launching an anti-terrorism drive to recover the illegal arms and armed bandits.

Representatives of the local people — Eshan A Khan, Mahmood Karim Chowdhury, Al-haj Shamsul Alam and Saifuddin Khan — handed over the memorandum to the SP Abdur Rauf in his office.

In a memorandum, they said, different anti-social activities including dacoity, killing, kidnapping and hijacking have become a regular phenomenon in the West Patiya area from the Patiya police station is only 15 km away.

SP Abdur Rauf assured the delegation that a special drive would be launched soon to arrest the bandits and the other demands would be considered.

## Workshop held in Jessore

### HIV cases in the country may exceed 25,000

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, July 27: A two-day workshop on the role of journalists to prevent and organise social movement against HIV/AIDS (Human Immune Deficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) in the country was organised held by the Salvation Army in its local office auditorium from July 23-24 last.

Good number of journalists from local town participated in the workshop. Director of Health Services Dr Apu Lawrence Biswas, Project Manager, IAM (Integrated AIDS Management) John Martin, Project Manager, Rural Health Project, Sankar Kumar Nandy of the Salvation Army were the main speakers in the workshop.

It was learnt from their deliberations that HIV/AIDS was a deadly disease. Attack from this disease left no chance to survive. Death in that case was only time-factor. It was also learnt from them that despite research no medicine was invented yet to cure it. However, HIV/AIDS are not one and same diseases.

There is difference between these two. HIV is the infant stage to turn into AIDS 10 to 15 years after. HIV is the beginning after infiltration of the virus into a human body.

HIV may spread through several ways. It spreads by sex abuse, including sodomy or homo sexuality, taking drugs through injection where syringes contain virus or by blood transmission or breast feeding of the mother carrying the virus.

Representative in National AIDS committee, Professor Nazrul Islam as resource person was expected to participate in the discussion of the workshop on its second day as announced earlier by the Salvation Army. He, however, talked to participating journalists in the workshop over telephone from Dhaka and replied to their questions.

It was learnt from him that total number of HIV/AIDS in the country was 56 and 10 of them were women till date.

In reply to a question, as to what measures were taken by the government against HIV/AIDS, Professor Nazrul Islam said that national policy on this disease was yet to be formulated.

According to WHO reports, the figure of HIV/AIDS in the country may exceed 25,000 if thoroughly screened. It was learnt during discussions that HIV/AIDS is not contaminating disease. It does not spread by cough or sneeze.

The concluding session was presided over by Jessore correspondent. The Daily Star, Atir Rahaman and conducted by local journalist Nowroj Hira.

It was decided in this session to form a public health and HIV/AIDS awareness committee in the district and to that effect a convening committee, with senior journalists, Jamir Ahmed as convenor was made.

their knowledge and concept about the disease and its miserable end. Incidentally, the workshop held by the Salvation Army, was first ever such programme outside Dhaka.

It started its services here in 1972 shortly after the Liberation War. It is extended to 15 villages under six unions of Kotwali thana in the district. It covers 36,000 people.

It has two main clinics, one at New Town, and at Khodadanga. It has five other clinics set up at Konjoper, Gla-



JESSORE: Sankar Kumar of Salvation Army giving his welcome speech at the two-day workshop. — Star photo

lia, Fatepur, Ramnagar and Sitarampur.

Two clinics outside the town provide outdoor, operation and maternity facilities.

The workshop was formally inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Jessore, AHM Nurul Islam as chief guest while Civil Surgeon, Jessore, M Abdul Jalil, Deputy Civil Surgeon, Jahanir Alom, sadar thana and family planning officer, Lokman Hakim and Jamir Ahmed, Jessore, correspondent of The Bangladesh Times and Bangladesh Betar, attended as special guests.

It was presided over by the Health Director of the Salvation Army, Dr Apu Lawrence Biswas.

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### Young couple killed in C'nawabganj road accident

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, July 27: A young couple was killed by a running vehicle last Monday midnight at Birampur under Nachol thana of Chapai Nowabganj district.

According to police, the husband Motiur Rahman, 30, and the wife Rumani Begum were asleep with their minor daughter of one and a half year age in their kutcha house situated alongside the Ajmura Na chok road.

At about 11 am a goods truck losing its control hit the house breaking the fence. The truck drove in into the room and crushed the couple under its wheel. The miraculously escaped any injury.

The local people later seized (Dhaka No. 8983) which was carrying oilcake to Nachol from Dhaka and handed it over to the police. The driver, however, managed to flee.

A case was registered with the Nachol thana police.

Meanwhile, 10 persons were injured in clash between two rival groups on land disputes at Kharkhuri Narikelbaria under Poba thana of Rajshahi district on Tuesday.

According to police, a rivalry was prevailing between Imajuddin and his nephew for many days on a dispute over

### Examinee expelled Govt vehicle set ablaze, magistrate injured

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, July 27: A government vehicle was set ablaze and a magistrate, two sub-inspectors and two constables on duty sustained injuries during an attack by a group of outsiders at Karimganj college centre early this week. They also damaged the furniture of the college, it is alleged.

According to the Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO) of Karimganj, First Class Magistrate Hamidur Rahman Khan while visiting an examination hall at the centre, found a HSC examinee engaged in copying and ordered the invigilator to expel him. The expelled student immediately came out of the examination hall and after sometime accompanied by some outsiders set a jeep (Dhaka Metro Gha-11-0417) on fire after dousing petrol on it. The jeep, belonging to the District Education Office was kept in the college campus. They also started brickbattering on the magistrate, police and teachers and later damaged the furnitures of the college.

A case was registered with Karimganj police station in this connection. None has so far been arrested.