

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.

BIWTC sources said the vessel went out of order at a place between Shaharaboy and Lunabha, 25 km off 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 212 mm rainfall during the past four days ending six pm Friday.

The source said that Baraitali, Koyerbil, Kakara, Lakh Yarchar and Harbang of Chakaria thana, Kharulia and Khali of Cox's Bazar thana and Joarinala 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 Fulsati 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 was 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.

Barendra region which is considered as the desert of the country.

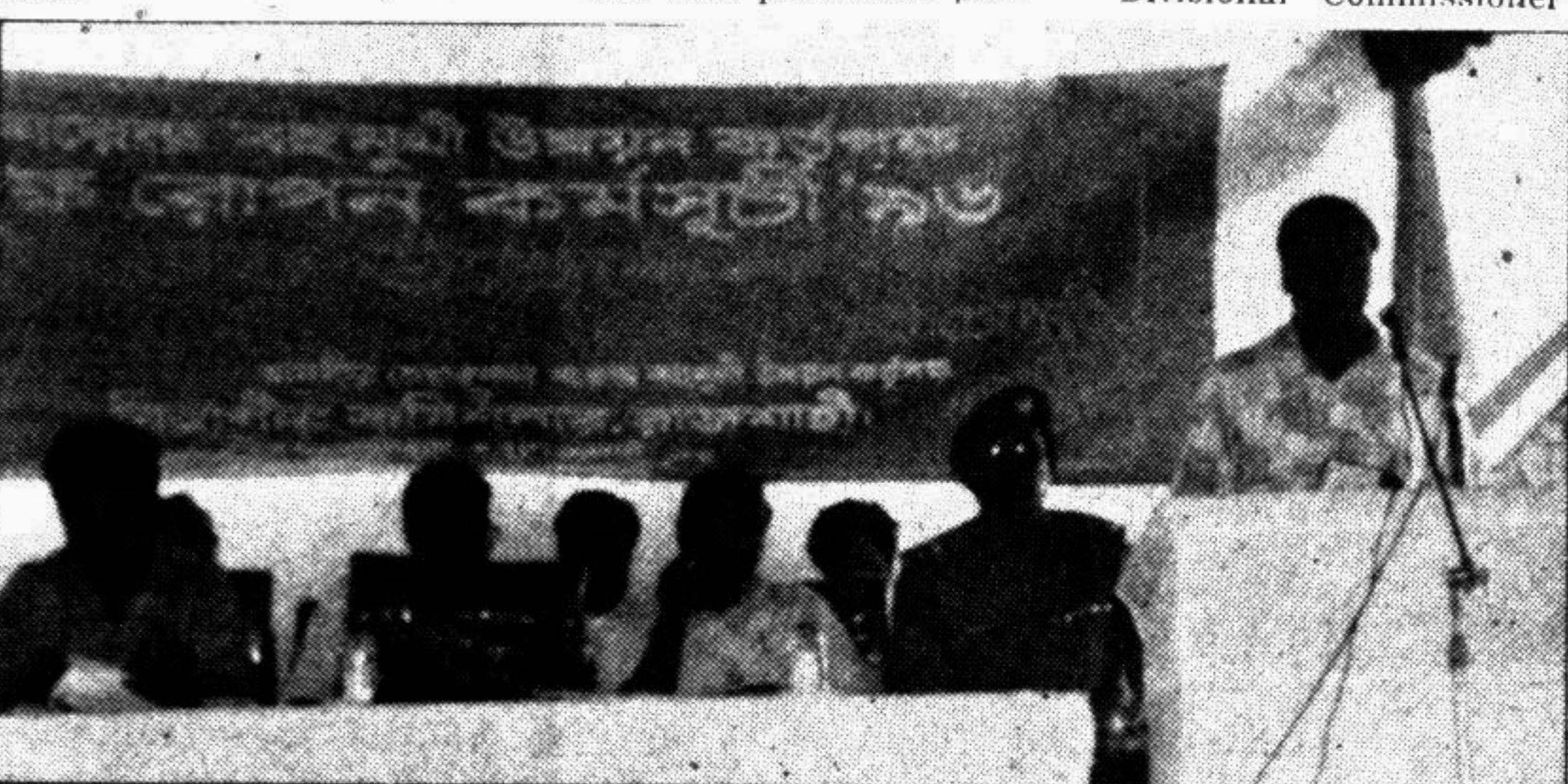
Barendra Multipurpose Development Authority has planted a total of 1.04.06.660 saplings in last 10 years from 1986 to 1995. Out of the total, 69,07,796 trees have been alive, official sources here said.

For playing commendable role in tree plantation, Barendra Multipurpose Development Authority was awarded the first prize of "The Prime Minister's Prize for Tree Plantation" in 1992 and bronze medal as the third prize in 1994.

The tree plantation programme of BMDA was, meanwhile, formally inaugurated recently with festive manner.

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

mad Ashaduzzaman, 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

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A.F.M Yahia Chowdhury inaugurated the tree plantation programme by planting a sapling beside the road near Tilna High School. Later, he inaugurated a tree fair in the same premises organised by BMDA.

Increasing number of women being involved in drug trafficking

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, July 27: Females are also steadfastly entering into illegal trafficking and smuggling of contraband drugs in Pabna district. It is alleged by Mohammad Sadeque, Deputy Director, Directorate of Narcotics Control Department, Pabna, while talking to The Daily Star recently.

The Deputy Director disclosed that acting upon a secret information, the officials of the Narcotics Control Department along with a police contingent, intervened and stopped a passenger coach running between Ishurdi and Dhaka near Radhanagar Natun

Bridge within Pabna town on June 23, at about 11-30 am. On searching the coach (Keya-Badal) they recovered 187 bottles of smuggled Indian phenesyl.

Suspecting their involvement in smuggling, the contingent arrested two women—Named Sreemati Shova Rani, 35, and Musammat Sar Bhanu, 34, and a case was filed against them. Both the women were produced before the court.

In another raid conducted jointly by the officials of Narcotics Control Department and Pabna police, the house of one Abdus Sattar of Krishnapur, Pabna town recently, and arrested one Mini Begum alias Minu, 40, daughter of late Yasin Sheikh of Krishnapur and produced her before the court. She is allegedly involved in conducting illegal trade of contraband drugs in Pabna town, Ishurdi and Dhaka, it was alleged.

Earlier, a raid was conducted in a night coach recently near Radhanagar-Maktabpara and after searching the said coach, 1600 bottles of Indian phenesyl were recovered, while this raid was being conducted, aforesaid Mini Begum, who was travelling as a passenger in the coach, silently went down and escaped. She could not be arrested on the spot but a warrant of arrest was issued.

Ultimately, they succeeded in catching hold of this allegedly notorious smuggler after searching the house of Abdus Sattar where she lived as a tenant.

The Deputy Director told this correspondent that many other poor women were also engaged in this illegal trade—as representative of big smugglers yet to be detected or sheer out of poverty.

Flood situation in Jamalpur improving

JAMALPUR, July 27: The overall flood situation in the district started improving as the river Jamuna continued receding during the last 24 hours till 6 pm today (Friday), reports UNB.

People, who had taken shelter in different flood centres, began to return to their homes.

Meanwhile, diarrhoea and other water-borne diseases broke out in the flood-hit areas. According to official sources, some 200 people, most of them children, were attacked by these diseases.

Some 80 mobile medical teams were working round the clock in the affected areas.



PABNA: Shova Rani, 35, and Musammat Sar Bhanu, 34, were arrested for allegedly smuggling Indian phenesyl from a passenger coach recently. — Star photo



PABNA: Mini Begum alias Minu, 40, was arrested recently from Pabna town on charge of being involved in illegal trade of contraband drugs. — Star photo

Over 97 pc power bill collected in Jessore circle

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, July 27: Over ninety-seven per cent of arrears electric bills was collected in Jessore Circle of Power Development Board (PDB) during last fiscal and penalty worth Taka 21.15.870 was realised by disconnecting 7282 electric connections through conducting 80 mobile courts during the same period, said local office of PDB.

According to information a total of 1810 cases were recorded against defaulting consumers and arrears worth Tk 3.46.88.000 have been realised from them. One defaulting consumer during this fiscal was reportedly convicted

and sentenced to suffer imprisonment, the source said.

When contacted, Deputy Director, Jessore office of PDB told The Daily Star that a total of Taka 57.54.81.000 was outstanding on account of electric bill. Out of that a total of Tk 56.97.200 have been recovered being the percentage of recovery 97.61 per cent.

According to another report, the trend of electricity pilferage by consumers is on increase. As such PDB is being deprived of a very big amount of revenue income. Alleged corrupt practices by a section of field staff of PDB has led to this situation.

Comprehensive crop cultivation programme

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, July 27: A comprehensive summer crops cultivation programme has been under taken 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 district.

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 channeling 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 dialing (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 Latmiah (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 Sadar 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 Chhapalash in Pakundia thana last week.

Khoshnabar, 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, Alhaj 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 journalist 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 syring contains virus or by blood transmission or breast feeding of the mother carrying the virus.

Attack from HIV can be avoided if maximum precaution is taken in sex-relation by using condom, and by developing habit of safe-sex, the speakers said. They also said that attack from HIV could easily be felt when its various symptoms begin to be evident.

These were progressive loss at weight, strength of body reduction of health and continuous fever and use of medicine whatever it is, gives no result.

The Salvation Army is not lagging behind to provide facility to public to be aware of this fatal disease. They have already taken up programme to detect HIV by laboratory tests in their local clinic, two doctors and two technicians with special training on the HIV/AIDS, have been appointed for test. They have meanwhile, completed group meeting with local transport workers saloon workers. Thorough and investigative medical

check-up of commercial sex-workers in local brothel has also been conducted by them. No HIV case was detected. Meeting under the initiative of AIDS consultant of the Salvation Army Alison Reader, with local government officials, NGOs and elites has been held.

In this respect, the role played by Project Manager IAM, John Martin is vital. He was assisted by other project manager including captain Thompson in April 1993.



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

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 women till to-date.

In reply to a question, as to what measures were taken by the government against HIV/AIDS, Professor Nazrul Islam told 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 workshop helped participants immensely to update

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 Kholadanga. It has five other clinics, set up at Konojper, Glauru-

lia, Fatepur, Ramnagore and Sitarampur.

Two clinics outside the of 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, Jahangir Alam, sadar thana health and family planning officer, Lokman Hakim and Jamir Ahmed Jessore, correspondent of The Bangladesh Times and Bangladesh Bhetar, attended as special guests.

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

The concluding session was presided over by Jessore correspondent, The Daily Star, Ataur Rahman and conducted by local journalist Nowroz Hira.

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

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 night at Birampur under Natchol thana of Chapai Nawabganj 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 kutchahouse situated alongside the Aunura Natchol road.

At about 11 am a goods truck losing its control hit the house breaking the fence. The truck drove 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 Natchol from Dhaka and handed it over to the police. The driver, however, managed to flee.

A case was registered with the Natchol thana police.

Meanwhile, 10 persons were injured in clash between two rival groups on land disputes at Kharkhari Narikel baria 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

fixing the line of demarcation of their paternal lands.

On Tuesday morning, both the groups were locked in quarrel while ploughing the lands and the clash ensued. Both the groups used sticks, lathis and sharp ironmade weapons.

Out of the injured, Imajuddin, 60, his wife Shitunnessa, 55, and son Anwar Hussain, 36, Abdul Fajal, 35, Ershad Hossain, 20 and Maked Ali, 30, were admitted into Rajshahi Medical College Hospital with critical condition.

A case was filed.

Minor boy drowns

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, July 27: A minor boy drowned in a pond at village Chhapara in Itna thana on July 15. The victim was identified as Zamin, 6, son of Kafil Ali.

On the day of incident mother of the deceased came out of the house in search of work leaving her son asleep. On return she found her son missing and later the body was found afloat in a nearby pond.

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 brickbats on the magistrate, police and teachers and later damaged the furniture of the college.

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



RAJSHAHI: Syed Hossain, General Manager of Bangladesh Railway, Western Zone recently distributed medals among 14 railway officials and workers for performing laudable activities. — Star photo