

National

**Four persons
abducted
in Kushtia**

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Aug 4: Terrorists abducted one person and demanded Taka 80 thousand for his release money from the victim's family members of Mirpur thana recently.

Family sources said that a gang of armed terrorists kidnapped Amir Hossain Kheru, 38, from village Mollipara of Mirpur thana on Wednesday night. No trace of the victim could be available till writing of this report, according to family sources.

The terrorists also kidnapped Md Shajahan Ali Maittha, 50, from village Nowdipara adjacent to Nimgala Bazar 11 miles from Kushtia town on the same night. Family sources said that the armed terrorists took the victim forcefully from his house. No trace of Shajahan could be available till writing of this report. Latest reports say two more persons were abducted from same thana is last 3 days. Details were not available.

Another news adds: CID police in separate raid arrested 3 absconding accused on Friday last. The arrested accused are Kamruzzaman alias Belal, Mamunur Rashid and Joydev. Police were in search of them for a long time.

**Distribution of
about two lakh
seedlings almost
complete**

From CHT Correspondent BORAIKHARI (Rangamati), Aug 4: The Boraikhari Forest Nursery (BFN) has nearly completed distribution of about two lakh seedlings and stumps of different trees and fruit-bearing plants among the interested planters during the ongoing afforestation seasons, official said.

BFN, a permanent nursery of the Chittagong Hill Tracts South Forest Division has been raising seedlings and stumps of different valuable trees like, teek, mehagini, champaful, chapalish, Jarul, telsur, garjan, gamar, Shilkora, eucalyptus, accasia menjaium etc as well as fruit-bearing plants like, pomegranate, custard-apple, guava, jujube etc alongwith a sizeable number of medicinal plants. Forest Ranger Krishna Pada Saha, the charge officer of the nursery detailed.

Individual planters, government and private sectors as well as schools, madrasahs and colleges were among those who collected seedlings and stumps from BFN to plant during the ongoing tree plantation season, sources said.

In order to save the imbalanced environment and to cover as maximum areas as possible with tree plantation, the BFN as a part of its routine activities has also raised a few hundred beds of seedlings in the nursery for distribution in the coming plantation season, Krishna Pada added.

**Bank cashier
suspended for
misappropriating
Tk 70,000**

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Aug 4: A cashier of Sonali Bank, Jhenidah branch was suspended for his alleged involvement in defrauding bank money Taka 70 thousand, according to official sources.

According to Sonali Bank (SB) sources, Shamsur Rahman Mollah, cashier of the bank was transferred to elsewhere seven months back. But he did not hand over the charge to his new colleague. To investigate the matter authority deputed an officer. On second day, on investigation Taka 70 thousand was found short from the cash. The cashier allegedly tried to adjust the money from the remittances of Kaliganj branch but failed.

When contacted, Habibullah Bahar, Assistant General Manager (AGM) Sonali Bank, Jhenidah region acknowledged the fact and told that the cashier has already been put under suspension and disciplinary action was taken against him.

**Tk 123 cr plan to
develop forest
resources in
coastal dists**

PATUAKHALI, Aug 4: Forest Department has taken up a five-year programme at a cost of Tk 123 crore in the coastal districts of the country to girdle with green fields, reports UNB.

The programme included development and establishment of new nurseries, tree planting by the side of highways, railways and connecting roads and experimental afforestation in sea beach.

The work on the programme to ensure ecological balance has already started in the coastal areas of Bagherhat, Pirojpur, Barguna, Patuakhali, Bhola, Lakhimpur, Feni, Chittagong, Noakhali and Cox's Bazar.

After proper implementation of the programme, the department is expecting that dreadfulness of cyclonic storm and flash flood would be reduced to a great extent and environment in the coastal region would be improved much.

**Serious drinking water crisis
prevails in Bandarban**

From CHT Correspondent

BANDARBAN, Aug 4: Drinking water scarcity has taken an alarming turn in the district causing serious problem to the dwellers, especially in this hilly town due to allegedly mis-management of the local Directorate of Public Health Engineering (DPHE).

Majority people of this hilly district town out of a population of about 50 thousand have been using contaminated water from the canals, fountains, jhurries and chhoras as the local DPHE could not meet even 25 per cent of their requirement even after the completion of the long awaited and severely demanded modern water treatment plant at a cost of take four crore.

Virtually, there has been an impasse in supplying drinking water to the tax-payers of this malaria-diarrhoea-prone neglected district town ignoring their basic human rights, local leaders alleged.

Thousands of people of this district have long been suffering from diarrhoea and other intestinal diseases after drinking contaminated and co-

water lifting pumps could not be possible, an engineer from DPHE said.

The newly constructed water treatment plant was not brought into commission due to non-installation of electric connection accompanied by the authorities for allegedly taking bribe. Both the BDR jawans have been accused in an FIR and specific anti-corruption case has been lodged against them.

It is learnt that on July 13, the said BDR jawans allegedly took bribe from the driver of a truck carrying Indian holders.

The Thana Nirbahi Officer, Bera, who was incidentally present there, searched the pockets of BDR jawans and recovered Tk 400. The TNO asked the Officer-in-Charge, Bara thana to take immediate action against the BDR men.

A case was lodged against Ahsan Ali, BDR Habildar and Monir, BDR jawan under Anti-corruption laws.

Investigations have been proceeding against both of them.

**Two BDR men
suspended for
allegedly
accepting bribe**

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Aug 4: Two BDR jawans attacked with the BDR checkpost at Kashinathpur over the North Bengal Highway, have been suspended by the authorities for allegedly taking bribe. Both the BDR jawans have been accused in an FIR and specific anti-corruption case has been lodged against them.

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**Flood, erosion affected people in
Pabna leading miserable life**

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Aug 4: More than 2,000 houses of about 30 villages under four thanas of Pabna district outside the flood control embankment on the bank of the two giant

1303 hectares of land in all have been eroded.

Assessments are still going on for finding out losses suffered by the people in Bera, Santhia, Faridpur, Bhangora and Pabna Sadar thanas due to erosion and flood. The flood situation in the district is, however, improving steadily but the sufferings and miseries of the people were increasing everyday.

Paucity of drinking water became a serious problem in the affected areas, shortage in supply of foodgrains and price hike of all the essential commodities have also been posing a severe threat.

Meanwhile, according to an unofficial estimate, about two lakh landless peasants and day-labourers in the thanas were lying idle for almost three months as they do not find any job.

The market condition throughout the district is extremely dull for want of sufficient economic activities in different sectors. Extremely high prices of essential commodities have aggravated peoples daily life too.

PABNA: A flood inundated house deserted by its inhabitants in village Chara in the greater district of Pabna.

— Star photo

rivers — Jamuna and the Padma — were grabbed by erosion rendering over 5,000 people homeless. The affected people were compelled to take shelter on the said flood control embankment although the embankment itself is under threat of erosion.

Many people in the affected areas are being compelled to sell out their beloved cattle at cheaper rates. Several villages under Sarkeri, Nazirganj, Manikhat, Sujanagar and Satbari unions of Sujanagar thana were affected by severe erosion in the river Padma during last three weeks and about 100 houses, situated outside the flood control embankment, were already grabbed by the river. Erosion is continuing in these areas — severely affecting Barkhanpur of Nazirganj unions and Machihapara of Manikhat union.

The Deputy Commissioner, the Thana Nirbahi Officers of Bera, Sujanagar, Faridpur and Santhia thanas visited the affected areas and distributed some relief materials though

hectares of transplanted aman paddy, 185 hectares of jute, 53 hectares of vegetables —

PABNA: The flood control embankment in Bera thana near Bera Pump House is under a severe threat caused by erosion in river Jamuna.

— Star photo



BORAIKHARI: Partial view of Boraiikhari Forest Nursery. These seedlings are being distributed in the ongoing plantation season.

— Star photo

**Electricity supply crisis hits
common people in Sylhet Div**

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Aug 4: Frequent loadshedding of electricity has made the life of the people of Sylhet Division miserable during the last few weeks. Severe reduction in the temperature in the northern region of the country has also attributed much to the situation. The country's maximum temperature was recorded in this region during the last few days.

The frequent electricity failure has badly hit the common town dwellers. Especially, the students including the HSC examinees are the worst sufferers. Besides, small and big industries are also suffering much due to the prevailing power supply crisis through out the four districts in the division.

It is observed that, when the power goes out without any prior notice, it takes hours together to resume causing much inconvenience for the subscribers. Sometimes it is alleged that, remote areas including bazars and important commercial centres remain without electricity for days together. People especially the businessmen have to incur losses for it. Besides, common consumers do not get any clear information about the power disruption from the complaint centres of the offices of PDB, it is alleged.

The people in general throughout the division were found very much annoyed due to the prevailing irregularity in the power supply as the total generation of power in the region is much more than the actual demand. It may be stated here that, a total of 160 Megawatt power is being produced in the three power generation units of Power Development Board (PDB) in Sylhet region.

It includes, 50 Megawatt from the Shahjibazar power station, 90 Megawatt from the Fenchuganj Combined Cycle Power Plant and 20 Megawatt from the Kumargaon Power station per day. The total demand for power in 4 districts of Sylhet Division stands at 80

to 90 Megawatt, during the peak hour, informed an official source.

According to a reliable source, about 25 to 30 Megawatt electricity is being shaded everyday in the Sylhet Division for the last few weeks.

However, an official when contacted, said that they had nothing to do here to reduce the loadshedding as load distribution is controlled centrally to meet the nationwide crisis through the national grid.

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**Young woman
raped**

From Our Correspondent

MOULVI BAZAR, Aug 4: A young woman was allegedly raped in village Uchhlapara under Kulaura thana of the district recently.

According to the police, the victim Luky, 22, daughter of Zabber Miah of the village was allegedly kidnapped by a gang of miscreants and raped her in an abandoned building.

The victim was admitted at Moulibazar Sadar Hospital with serious injuries.

Father of the victim, Zabber Miah filed a rape case against Ismail Miah of the same village in this connection. No arrest was made till writing of this report.

**3 charge-sheeted
for being involved
in acid throwing
incident**

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Aug 4: Tarail police have submitted charge-sheet against three persons for their alleged involvement in acid throwing incident on two sisters and their brother recently. The accused are — Rafique, Mizanur Rahman and Alauddin. All of them have been charged under different sections of the cruelty to women and children act-1995.

According to the police, the accused persons threw acid on Pyara Akhtar Kochi, 18, Farzana Hoque Ruma, 15, and Asaduzzaman, 13, through the window while all of them were in deep sleep side by side in their house at village Kajla-Bargarh in Tarail thana. Two sisters were rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital while the brother was admitted to Karimganj hospital.

Golam Sabir, officer-in-charge of Tarail thana and I.O of the case after proper investigation submitted charge sheet to the court. All the accused are still at large but efforts are in progress to nab them, police said.

**Stolen motor
cycle recovered**

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Aug 4: The DB police of Kishoreganj recovered a stolen motor-cycle in a raid in the house of one Muklesur Rahman of village Pachchim Fulbaria in Brahmanbaria thana recently.

Earlier, Md. Samiruddin sub-inspector of DB arrested one Shahabuddin from Dholaiapara in Dhaka city and on the basis of his confessional statement recovered the motor-cycle.

The 100 CC motor-cycle was stolen from the house of Md. Idris Ali of Gaital in Kishoreganj town on April 23.

died after 20 days of struggle for life.

People of Housing Estate brought out a procession with the dead body of Latif and demanded arrest of Piara Begum and other responsible for his murder. Police reportedly did not take immediate action for reason best known to them. As a result, processionists gheraoed the police station and pelted bricks on police station.

Flood water also entered in vast areas of the district town. Houses, roads, markets are inundated. The worst affected areas of the town are: Nazirpara, Professor para, Taltala, Govt Staff Quarters, Bishnudi, Molla para, Rahamtpur colony, Station Road, and Govt. Womens College road.

Government has so far sanctioned Taka one lakh twenty thousand in cash, 120 metric tons of rice, 100 tons of biscuit and 5000 pieces of sarees.

Heavy showers during the last few days thrashed the sufferings of flood affected people.

Standing crops on 40 thousand acres of land and 10 thousand houses were damaged.

Due to onrush of flood water near Chandpur, the steamer and launch terminal have been facing threat of erosion.

Meanwhile an alternative launch terminal was constructed near Madrasa Road for the safe journey of the passengers.

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No body has yet been arrested. No body went to police station to file any case. Daulatpur police however has registered a case in this connection.

**3 alleged
smugglers
arrested**

From CHT Correspondent

PANCHHARI, (Khagrachari) Aug 4: The Khagrachari hill district Task Force Committee has here rounded up last Tuesday three alleged smugglers and recovered a large quantity of smuggled goods from their possession at Panchhari bazar in Panchhari thana of the district, police sources said.

The arrested persons and the recovered Indian smuggled goods were handed over to Panchhari thana police by the Task Force personnel, sources said.

The raid was conducted by magistrate Noor Mohammad Majumdar and custom inspector Kamaruddin, member of the district task force, sources added.

Smuggled goods seized in Feni

FENI, Aug 4: A huge quantity of smuggled Indian goods were seized from a bus near Mohipal on Dewanganj-Feni bypass here last week, reports UNB.

Acting on tip-off, BDR jawans recovered the heroin worth about Tk two lakh which was kept inside a pillow. The seized contraband was deposited with the Narcotics Control Department.

Earlier, patrolling BDR arrested two people and recovered a pistol from them from Bidirpur ghat in Godagari thana.

The arrested Nawas Ali and Asmaul Hossain were handed over to local police and the seized goods were deposited with the customs godown.

**'B' blood group dominates
among Rajshahi citizens**

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Aug 4: Blood group B is dominating among