

**Fuel stolen from train**

From Our Correspondent  
GAIABANDHA, Aug 23: A gang of fuel lifters took away 75 gallons of HSD oil from a locomotive overpowering its locomotive at Bonarpara railway station last week.

According to railway source a Bonarpara bound goods train originated from Parbhatipur junction when it reached its destination at Bonarpara station on August 15 a gang of fuel lifters first approached the loco-master Abdul Kader and asked him to supply HSD Oil from fuel tank of locomotive No. 2410. The master refused. At this the angry miscreants tied the driver with a rope and took away 75 gallons of fuel from the tank.

The victim however sought help of railway police but nobody came to his help. Protesting the incident the loco-master association decided to stop movement of goods train. Foreman of the Bonarpara loco-shed filed a complaint with Lalmonirhat railway control office. The movement of goods train still remain suspended in different railway stations.

**Journalist dies of heart attack in Rajshahi**

From Our Correspondent  
RAJSHAHI, Aug 23: Eminent journalist and cultural activist Saiful Islam Makhon died of sudden heart attack Wednesday morning.

Makhon, 40, fell sick Tuesday afternoon with chest pain and was admitted into the coronary care unit (CCU) of Rajshahi Medical College Hospital. He was suffering from myocardial infarction, a deadly disease of heart. He expired his last breath at 5:30 am Wednesday.

Saiful Islam Makhon was the general secretary of Rajshahi City Press Club, country page editor of the national daily The Dainik Barta published from Rajshahi, president of Jatiatabadi Samajik-Sangskritik Sangstha, Rajshahi district unit, chairman of Rajshahi Land Mortgage Bank and guest producer of play in Radio Bangladesh Rajshahi. He left behind his widow, a daughter and a minor son.

**Highway robbers caught red-handed**

From Our Correspondent  
GAIABANDHA, Aug 23: Police and BDR personnel in joint drive foiled a highway dacoity at Shahebagan on Gobindaganj-Dinajpur Highway. They arrested six alleged miscreants and recovered arms and ammunition from their possession recently.

According to police, a gang of highway armed dacoits on the road side at Shahebagan on Gobindaganj-Dinajpur highway stopped passenger buses and snatched away thousands of cash from the passengers. On being informed local thana and BDR camp a joint force encountered the areas and caught red-handed six persons from the spot and recovered one shutter gun, one country made pipe gun, three rounds of 303 bullets, three rounds of cartridges, four daggers and a tree cutting saw.

A case was filed with Gobindaganj Thana.

**Decomposed body recovered in Natore**

From Our Correspondent  
NATORE, Aug 23: Police recovered the decomposed body of a young man from North Mandlapara area of Lalpur thana of the district.

On information, Lalpur police led by SI Matiar Rahman, rushed to the spot and found the body in front of Lusar Ali's house.

The body was sent for autopsy. Signs of injury by lethal weapon have been seen at different parts of the body, police said.

**135 cases started, 122 accused held  
Huge quantity of contraband drugs recovered**

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Aug 23: The Narcotics Directorate of Pabna has instituted in total 135 specific cases in different thanas of Pabna district against as many as 122 accused persons from whom contraband drugs of huge quantity were recovered during the first six months of this year.

The above was disclosed by Mohammad Sadeque, Deputy Director, Directorate of Narcotics Control, Pabna, while talking to The Daily Star on Tuesday giving details of the contraband items recovered by them with the help of Pabna police. The Deputy Director disclosed that during the period, 6,782 bottles of phensidyl, a drug now banned in the country, used as cough reliever, heroin — 29 grams; ganza — 5kg and 300 grams; ganza plants 417, foreign liquor — 31 bottles, rectified spirit — 285 litres; cholai (steam condensed from boiled rice) liquor — 792 litres; denatured spirit — five litres and tarce (fermented fruit juice) — 1277 litres.

Of the above cases, the Deputy Director stated that four cases were filed against seven accused persons for possessing or selling phensidyl, 14 cases against 44 accused persons in connection with heroin, four cases against 28 accused persons in connection with ganza and ganza plants, three cases in connection with the recovery of foreign liquors, two cases against two accused persons against the recovery of rectified spirit, 22 specific cases against 22 persons for possessing country-made wine, one case against one accused person for possessing denatured spirit and 18 more cases against 18 persons for possessing tarce.

The cases were either under investigation or pending before different courts for trial, he said.

The Deputy Director in course of the interview said that in Pabna town and its surrounding areas young boys and girls age between 14 and 30 years groups have become alarmingly addicted to various

contraband drugs. Through the North Bengal Highways, a large number of such young men and women have also become engaged in the smuggling of such contrabands from India. They have been using passenger coaches and various other vehicles. The Deputy Director, however, stated that his directorate and the police frequently conducted raids most of which were successful. They also arrested persons involved in drug-trafficking which have already reached an alarming dimension as underground powerful men back such illegal crimes. "We are trying utmost of find out the 'god-fathers' too, he said.

The Deputy Director then narrated the story of some successful raids.

Towards the end of last June, the officials of his directorate and a strong police contingent conducted sudden raid in the Ananta Bazar of Pabna town. They arrested on suspicion, nine youths and after searching their bodies, packets (purias) of heroin were recovered from each of them. In total, 4 grams of heroin were recovered from them, they were all arrested and forwarded to the court. The were all in Pabna jail.

The next day at about 10 am the same contingent raided a Dhaka-bound day coach (No: Pabna-BA-02-0003), searched the same and recovered 400 bottles of phensidyl from four bags kept on the roof of the coach. No one was arrested.

Earlier, the Directorate and Pabna, after conducting a combined raid at different places of Pabna town, recovered five cases of contraband drugs — three of which contained heroin while two others contained 300 bottles of Indian phensidyl. Five persons have been arrested — three of whom were arrested and two others were absconding.

On July 9, 1996, acting upon a secret information, another joint raid was conducted over day coach named, "Khaled" and recovered 190 bottles of phensidyl from the roof but in absence of any claimant, none

could be arrested.

On the same day, after conducting a raid in his house in Atua Housepara of Sadhupara within Pabna town, one Abdul Halim Sheikh, son of late Kobad Ali Sheikh, a notorious heroin trader was arrested following recovery of three grams of heroin weighing machine (Nkiti) from his house.

The same day, yet another raid was conducted in the house of one Musammat Ruby Khatun, wife of Yunus Sheikh and 500 grams of heroin were recovered. But the woman was not found and hence she could not be arrested as yet. A case was, however, lodged in this connection.

In yet another case, a contingent led by the Dy Director intercepted a night-coach near Rajapur, three miles off Pabna, searched the same and recovered 260 bottles of phensidyl from inside a box and on suspicion arrested two women, Musammat Ambia Begum, 35, and Musammat Golbahar 45. A case has been started in this connection.

In another raid, conducted for long six hours from 8 am at different places of Pabna town, 10 grams of heroin were recovered. Sixteen accused persons, namely, Md Ektar Hossain, Saiful Alam, Abdur Rashid, Banesar Ali, Amzad Hossain, Md Siddique, Md Bachchu Sheikh, Md Moksed Ali, Mirajul, Sonai, Pitloo, Abdul Malek, Madhumath, Rikat Ali, Edris Ali Sheikh and Sabur, Malitha were arrested. Cases were also instituted against them.

Another team, after conducting a raid a Dhaka-bound passenger coach near Edward College, Pabna, recovered 840 bottles of Indian phensidyl with no claimant.

In yet another raid, the Narcotics Control Directorate and Pabna police jointly intercepted a Dhaka bound night coach, searched the same and recovered 300 bottles of phensidyl but none claimed the ownership.

**Erosion leaves 32,000 families homeless during last five years**

MADARIPUR, Aug 23: About 32,000 families of Madaripur and Shariatpur districts have been rendered homeless by river erosion during the last five years, reports UNB.

The rivers Arial Khan and the Padma engulfed several unions including Kathalbari, Bandorkhola, Dattapara and Banskandi unions rendering 15,000 families homeless during the period.

Another 16,000 families in Shariatpur district have been rendered homeless during the last five years.

Hundreds of acres of land of Kachikata and Tarabunia unions of Bhergeranj Thana, Palerchar, Khunderchar, Jangira unions of Jangira thana were also eroded by the Padma.

It also engulfed all the cultivable land and dwelling houses of Nayapara and Chhatra Union under Nama Thana of the district.

In Madaripur district, the erosion by the Kumar rendered homeless 100 families in Rajor thana and over 1,000 families in Kalkini thana.

Local people expressed concern that government did not take any initiative to rehabilitate the homeless families who were passing their days in helpless condition.



AGRI-VARSITY (Mymensingh): Japanese researcher and Assistant Professor Dr Nobumichi Kobayashi of Sapporo Medical University of Japan working at the Department of Medicine Faculty of Veterinary Science Laboratory of the Bangladesh Agriculture University (BAU) to develop recent techniques for rotavirus antigens characterization during his visit in Bangladesh. — BAU photo

**406 posts lying vacant  
Family planning programme in N-dists faces set back**

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Aug 23: The family planning programme in the northern districts is being hampered as 406 posts at the family planning directorate have been lying vacant for a long time.

According to official sources, of the total posts, 110 posts of officers and 296 posts of other employees remained vacant.

The sources also said, three posts of deputy directors in Rajshahi, Chapainawabganj and Pabna are vacant out of the total 13 posts in the division. Out of 16 posts of assistant directors, six posts in different

districts have been lying vacant.

Besides, the posts of medical officers have not been created in many new districts, a reliable source said. At present, there are only eight posts of medical officers in 16 districts, of which two posts are lying vacant.

In thana-level, some 53 posts of medical officers and 11 posts of thana family planning officer among the total 124 posts have been remaining vacant.

Moreover, posts of three assistant thana family planning officers are yet to be filled up.

On the other hand, a total of 73 posts of health visitors and 213 posts of family welfare assistants remained vacant in the division.

During the last 12 months, a total of 32,76,889 methods of family planning have been accepted by 50,36,247 fertile couples in the division.

The percentage of the users for family planning materials was 65.07 which was 2.35 per cent higher than the previous year.

But some people alleged that many family planning materials are being sold in black-markets.

**A medical Centre badly needed at Benapole**

SATKHIRA, Aug 23: There is a growing demand for a hospital or medical centre in the Benapole bordering area which earns about Tk 500 crores of revenue every year, reports UNB.

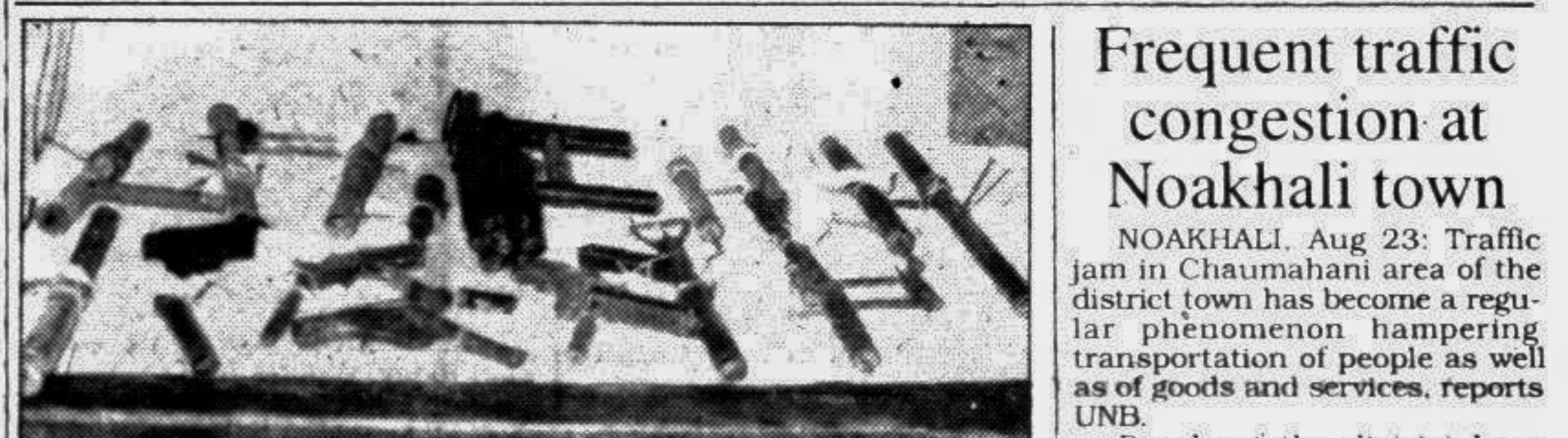
Local leaders said the land port rightly deserved a modern medical centre and fire service station.

Serious patients have to go as far as Jessore for urgent treatment while some of them die on the way.

**Body recovered in Kishoreganj**

From Our Correspondent  
KISHOREGANJ, Aug 23: Police recovered the body of Ramzan Ali, 30, of village Dipeshwar in Hossainpur thana Monday and sent to the morgue of sadar hospital for autopsy.

The body which bore some marks around the neck was found afloat in the Brahmaputra river near Sahebpur Char, three kilometres away from his house, eye witnesses and police said. Family sources informed, Ramzan went to Sahebpur Char Village on Sunday morning for collecting money from someone to whom he earlier gave loans on profit. He remained untraced since then.



NATORE: Partial view of some of the illegal arms voluntarily surrendered recently. — Star photo

**8 out of 11 plants out of order  
Alarming loadshedding in Khulna**

From Our Correspondent

KHULNA, Aug 23: Constant power dislocation in Khulna zone has already taken an alarming turn as eight out of eleven units of Goalpara power plant have been inoperative since last two months. The generating of three units have recorded sharp decline in power generation. As a result, loadshedding is causing colossal damage to industrial production.

Every day Khulna zone records 100 megawatt of loadshedding, said PDB source here. The source further said that

inoperative units of the plant were enough to meet the need for domestic consumption, but due to non availability of necessary fund, the damaged units could not be repaired. At present, only twenty megawatt of power is being produced everyday from the lone Barge Mounted power plant.

Khulna zone needs at least 285 megawatt power everyday, but it gets only 75 mw in total. About 120 mw is being supplied from the national grid, said PDB source.

**Disruption in pest control schemes  
466 spray machines remain out of order**

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Aug 23: A huge number of spray-machines have been lying out of order in the godowns of agriculture offices at district and different thana headquarters for long. This has been causing much difficulties to the farmers in spraying insecticides when their crop fields come under severe pest-attack, it is alleged.

According to an official source, there are in total 466 spray-machines which have gone out of order in the district. These include 346 hand-driven and the rest 120 power-driven. The break-up of the damaged

spray-machines is as follows: 204 are in the godown of district agriculture office, 19 in Karimganj, 20 in Kulliarchar, 20 in Hossainpur, 13 in Tarail, 4 in Pakundia, 40 in Katiadi, 19 in Bhairab, 38 in Niki, 34 in Baitpur, 20 in Ima and 26 in Austagram thana offices. Some of them have gone out of order due to non availability of spare parts while others have been damaged totally. Besides, a total of 224 hand-driven and 49 power-driven spray machines bought by different thana parishads have also been lying out of order in the district.

**Frequent traffic congestion at Noakhali town**

NOAKHALI, Aug 23: Traffic jam in Chaumahani area of the district town has become a regular phenomenon hampering transportation of people as well as of goods and services, reports UNB.

People of the district have demanded immediate construction of a bypass road to put such congestion problem to an end.

Chaumahani is the district's busiest and most important commercial centre with trade and business connecting with the other commercial centres of the greater region.

**Body of a minor boy recovered in Satkhira**

From Our Correspondent  
SATKHIRA, Aug 23: The body of a minor boy was recovered from a pond of village Khajrahat under Shyamnagar thana of the district recently.

According to police sources, the body of the victim, Kazal, 8, son of Abdus Rashid of village Khajrahat under Shyamnagar thana of the district was recovered from inside a gunny bag floating in a pond of the same village.

Kazal was reported missing from August 18 noon. The body was sent for autopsy, police sources informed adding the incident may have been murder but the motivation behind it is not known.

**Flood situation in Manikganj deteriorates**

MANIKGANJ, Aug 23: Flood situation in the district deteriorated today with the water level in the Jamuna crossing the danger level by 9 cm, reports UNB.

Erosion of the river continued unabated devouring 23 thousand acres of crop land in 22 villages of Harirampur, Shibhalaya and Daulatpur thanas. Nesarganj union of Harirampur has been totally washed away.



PABNA: Nine persons were recently arrested in a sudden raid who were accused of possessing heroin. — Star photo

**Housewife drowns**

From Our Correspondent  
KISHOREGANJ, Aug 23: A young housewife drowned in a lake near the house of the victim at village Osmampur in Baitpur thana recently.

Police sources said, Manasa Rani Saha, 18, wife of Debal Chandra Saha was missing since the evening of the day of incident and her body was recovered from the lake in the night. Family sources said, victim Manasa was suffering from hysteria. The dead body was sent to the morgue of Kishoreganj sadar hospital.

**Two alleged terrorists held**

From Our Correspondent  
NATORE, Aug 23: Two alleged terrorists have been arrested by the Kotwali police here recently.

Acting on a tip off, the Kotwali police led by Officer-in-Charge K M Habibur Rahman raided an area of Natore pourashava and rounded up Nur Mohammad from Bargacha area and Amjad Hossain from Kathalbaria area.

A number of cases have been registered against them. The alleged were sent to jail custody.

**One killed in snake bite**

From Our Correspondent  
KISHOREGANJ, Aug 23: An employee of health department died of snake-bite at village zairabad in Karimganj thana on August 12 night, it was reported.

Md Lokman, 42, health assistant of Zairabad union went to a nearby beel for catching fish where he was bitten by a poisonous snake. He then returned home and slept without taking any treatment. After sometime, his condition deteriorated and died while being taken to the hospital.

**Dacoity committed in Magura, two arrested**

From Our Correspondent  
MAGURA, Aug 23: A dacoity was committed in the house of A Razzak Molla at village Chakhada in Magura Sadar thana of the district recently, police sources said.

It was reported that a gang of dacoits entered the house at about 11:30 pm and looted away TV, VCP, watch, gold-ornaments and Valuables worth about Taka 2 lakh 40 thousand. A case was lodged with Magura-Sadar thana and police arrested Mihir, 35, and Motiar, 30, in this connection.

**BNP general secretary quits in Pabna**

PABNA, Aug 23: Advocate Shahjahan Ali, the district unit general secretary of BNP, quit the party on Thursday, reports UNB.

In his resignation letter, Shahjahan Ali alleged that BNP did not recognise his contribution. When contacted district BNP president Mirza Azizur Rahman confirmed his resignation.



COMMON SCENE: Traffic jam at the heart of the Jhenidah town. Vehicles remain stranded in the busy town streets for many hours often caused by the inter-district buses passing through the town. There is no terminal for the inter-district buses which regularly make stoppage on the main road side near the Chuadanga bus stoppage in Jhenidah town. — Star photo by Delwar Kabir



SHERPUR: Erosion of Dosham river still continues. The picture was recently taken from Poyestin char village under sadar thana. — Star photo