

News snaps

30 shops gutted in Sylhet
From Staff Correspondent
SYLHET, June 25: Some 30 shops were gutted in a big fire at Charkhai Bazar in Beanibazar thana Friday night. The fire that reportedly originated from a stove at a restaurant which soon spread to the adjacent shops. Fire Brigades from Sylhet rushed to the spot and brought the fire under control, sources said.

Workshop on human rights
NILPHAMARI, June 25: A day-long workshop on "The Role of Professionals in Protection of Human Rights" was held at the pourashava auditorium here on Friday, reports UNB.

Organised by Rangpur-Dinajpur Rehabilitation Sangstha (RDRS), the workshop was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner ABM Quamrul Islam while RDRS district unit co-ordinator Tarikul Islam presided over it. Some 50 senior journalists, lawyers, political leaders, social workers and women representatives from six thanas of the district took part in the workshop.

One held for damaging vehicles
BOGRA, June 25: Police arrested a man locally known as 'Nogno Pagal' (naked mad) for his destructive activities in the town on Saturday, reports UNB.

Local people said the man ransacked vehicles including a Dhaka-bound night coach and two army officials' cars and shops in Rangpur Super Market on the day. During the last three days, about 14 vehicles and 13 shops were damaged by him, police said.

No cold storage in Barguna
BARGUNA, June 25: About 40 per cent of produced fruits, vegetables and spices in the district are perished every year due to lack of cold storage facilities, reports UNB.

Growers are compelled to sell their perishable products like mango, tomato, potato, onion, ginger, turmeric and green chili at throwaway prices as they are unable to store these. Lack of transport facilities and high cost hinder the movement of these products to different parts of the district.

Tk 46 lakh road dev work completed
FENI, June 25: The development work of 4-kilometre long Jagatpur-Monipur road under Parsnuram thana of Feni district has been completed recently at a cost of Taka 46 lakh, according to an official source, reports BSS.

Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) sanctioned the money for this work which will benefit about 50,000 people.

School repairing works progressing
NETRAKONA, June 25: Under Annual Development Programme of the government, the repair and renovation work of four high schools and two junior high schools are nearing completion in different areas of Netrakona sadar thana, reports BSS.

An official source said the government sanctioned Taka 4,40,000 for execution of repair and renovation work. The two junior high schools and four high schools are Bashati Milon Junior High School, Chharpura Junior High School, Kuntia Farayannesa High School, Madanpur Shah Sultan High School, Barawari High School and Birampur Hazi Fayezuddin High School.

Smuggled goods seized
HABIGANJ, June 25: The Government Railway Police (GRP) police here seized Indian smuggled goods worth about Tk 1.5 lakh from an inter-district train at Shayestaganj Railway junction on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Police acting on a secret information searched the Sylhet bound Farabat Express train from Dhaka and recovered Indian sarees, lungis and spare parts from the guard room of 9687 no. boggy. A case has been registered with the Srimangol GRP police.

Chhagalnaiya Health Complex ailing
CHHAGALNAIYA, June 25: The Chhagalnaiya Thana Health Complex is beset with multifarious problems causing sufferings of the local people, reports BSS.

Shortage of doctors, medical assistants, nurses and technicians, as well as sufficient medicine, and unhygienic condition are the major problems of the hospital, local people say. The patients, particularly the poor ones, are the worst sufferers due to the prevailing condition of the hospital.

Spirit, phensidyl recovered
MANIKGANJ, June 25: Police seized 64 bottles of spirit, six empty bottles and one bottle of phensidyl from a shop in Aricha ghat and arrested a man in this connection on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, a contingent of police led by Shibalay Thana Officer-in-Charge (OC) Sheikh Belal Hossain in the early morning recovered the narcotics and arrested Akhtar Bhuiya, 50.

Tk 6cr Jhalakati poura budget
JHALAKATI, June 25: Jhalakati Pourasava has announced a Tk 6.33 crore budget for the 1996-97 financial year, reports UNB.

Pourasava Chairman Abdul Halim Gazi announced the budget at a press conference here on Monday. Majorheads of expenditure of the budget included development of water supply system, construction of roads, culverts, market and office buildings.

28 transformers recovered
NARSINGDI, June 25: Police unearthed 28 electric transformers by digging a jungle at Ghorergaon Village in Shibpur thana on Thursday, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, police led by Officer-in-Charge (OC) Mir Jamal Uddin went to the area and unearthed the transformers. Some miscreants stole transformers from different parts of the district and hid them beneath the ground. A case was filed with the police.

Tk 10 cr bridge work begins
GOLAPGANJ, June 25: The construction work of Taka 10 crore Kura bridge over the river Kura under Golapganj thana began on Friday, reports BSS.

Nurul Islam Nahid, MP inaugurated the construction work of the 116-metre long bridge. Officials said, the bridge will be completed by 1999. More than one lakh people of Sharifganj and North Badepasha unions under Golapganj thana will be immensely benefited after the construction of the bridge, the officials added.

Father beaten to death by son
MADARIPUR, June 25: A villager of Pashchim Kalagachia under sadar thana, Torab Ali Fakir, 55, was beaten to death by his son recently, reports BSS.

Police said, at one stage during a quarrel between the father and the son, Gani Fakir, beat Torab Ali mercilessly and he died on the spot. A murder case has been lodged with sadar thana in this connection.

Ferry service on Meghna opens
LAXMIPUR, June 25: Shipping Minister ASM Abdur Rab on Saturday inaugurated a ferry service on the river Meghna linking Maju Chowdhury's Hat in Laxmipur with Daulatkhani in Bhola, reports UNB.

The new ferry will operate thrice a week on Saturday, Monday and Wednesday.

Fraud arrested at Bhairab
BHAIRAB, June 25: A fraud was caught red handed while trying to rob some railway passengers of their valuables mixing poison with their foods at the Bhairab Railway Station early Thursday, reports UNB.

Railway sources said members of an organised gang in disguise of passengers convinced two traders in Dhaka-bound Noakhali Express train to take cigarette and poisonous foods. As the passengers fell unconscious taking the foods, the frauds then attempted to take away their belongings. But the railway security guards caught one of the frauds, Ruman, and handed over him to police.

Official held for misappropriating money
SYLHET, June 25: Kotwali police arrested a non-governmental organisation (NGO) official Altaf Mahmood from a house in the town on charges of misappropriating money by fraudulent means and other allegations on Thursday, reports UNB.

According to police, police arrested him in connection with a case for misappropriating Tk 3.50 lakh from Alhaj Nadir Khan. Altaf Mahmood was taken on police remand for three days as per court order. He was the director of so-called NGO 'Namso Bangladesh'. He is the resident of Sonapur village at Baliakandi thana in Rajbari district.

Land remains fallow in Barisal
BARISAL, June 25: Nearly one lakh acres of land in six southern districts under Barisal division remained fallow for a long time, reports UNB.

According to various sources, of the total, 21,660 acres have been lying fallow in Patuakhali, 10,033 acres in Barguna, 39,000 acres in Jhalakathi, 5,940 acres in Bhola, 2,165 acres in Pirojpur and 20,819 acres in Barisal. According to local farmers, if proper initiatives were taken by the Agriculture Extension Department these lands could be brought under cultivation. The greater Barisal district once the granary of Bengal has turned into a food deficit area.

Gas poisoning claims 2 in Satkhira

From Our Correspondent
SATKHIRA, June 25: Two day labourers died reportedly from the effects of poisonous gas while repairing a latrine at Jhousdanga Bazar under Sadar thana on Sunday. The victims were identified as Jamaluddin of Jhousdanga Bazar and Abdul Gafur of Langoljaha.

Fund shortage hampers Model Town Project

NATORE, June 25: The construction work on the Middle-Class Town Infrastructural Development Project-2 (Model Town Project) of Natore pourashava is going on at a snail's pace due to fund crisis, reports UNB.

A competent source said the project work that began in 1995 under the 5th five-year plan at a cost of Tk 12 crore is being hampered as Tk 69 lakh has so far been received for procedural complexity of the LGRD and Cooperatives Ministry.

Under the project, the roads, electric supply, sewerage and water supply system of the pourashava will be developed with the assistance of Asian Development Bank.

Meanwhile, with the allocation, Local Government Engineering Department has started development and extension works of different roads.

On the other hand, for the slow progress of the work, traffic movement is being hampered. LGED is also constructing and repairing pucca drains under the project at a cost of Tk 2.50 lakh.

Magurchhara inferno in pictures



Pix 1: Huge forest resources were burnt by the devastating fire near Magurchhara gasfield. Pix 2: Water reservoirs were created five days after the huge fire. Pix 3: Sreemangal-Bhanugachh road situated near the Dhaka-Sylhet railway track cannot be located now under the heap of stones dumped after the gasfield fire incident. Pix 4: The flame came down to 20 feet on June 23. — Star photo by Rajat Kanti Goswami

Cluster villagers yet to be rehabilitated

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, June 25: The inmates of 20 model villages in seven thanas of the district have been facing immense trouble in maintaining their livelihood.

During Ershad's regime 20 model villages namely cluster villages were set up by the government at different remote areas in the district. The aim was to rehabilitate landless destitutes. Those cluster villages were established on khas land. A few decimel of plots were allocated to each family in the cluster villages. But most of them are yet to get possession of the plots. Tin-shed houses were built in every cluster-villages where facility of pure drinking water was available.

During the BNP regime those cluster villages were renamed as adarsha grams. Under this programme the BNP government arranged shelters for some destitute families but they made no arrangements for proper rehabilitation of the

poor inmates. Neither the government nor any non-governmental organisations extended their hands for their any rehabilitations. As a result the inhabitants of the cluster villages are passing their days in great miseries. Most of them are day labourers while others are beggars. Many of them have already migrated to elsewhere.

Meanwhile three cluster villages namely Kapasia Sena Poli under Sundarganj thana, Gajaria Adarsha Gram and Fazlur Adarsha Gram under Fulchhari thana have already washed away due to river erosion.

Some of the cluster villages under Fulchhari and Shaghta thanas are facing extinction as those are situated in remote char land surrounded by river. No good communication system, no schools or colleges, no water supply network, no medical facilities are available there.

Standard of living falls in Barguna

BARGUNA, June 25: The standard of living throughout the district has been declining due to various reasons including absence of employment opportunities and sharp fall in agricultural production, reports UNB.

Repeated natural calamities like floods, drought, hailstorm, cyclone, unabated pest invasion have rendered the people to face constraints in maintaining their livelihood.

According to experts, price hike of agricultural inputs and other essentials, bad communication system and dearth of adequate educational facilities are also responsible for poor living standard.

Agriculture sector has already been ravaged by repeated natural calamities and want of irrigation water due to siltation of rivers during the last five years.

The hazards in all types of communication have ruined the prospects of industrialisation of both urban and rural areas. More than 98 per cent roads of the district are kutcha and the rest is brick-layed here and there.

According to a survey conducted by a non-governmental organisation, 80 per cent of the population including the businessmen depend mainly on river transports but the massive siltation and emergence of shoals have jeopardized the navigability. Moreover, lack of initiative to dredge the silted rivers aggravated the situation.

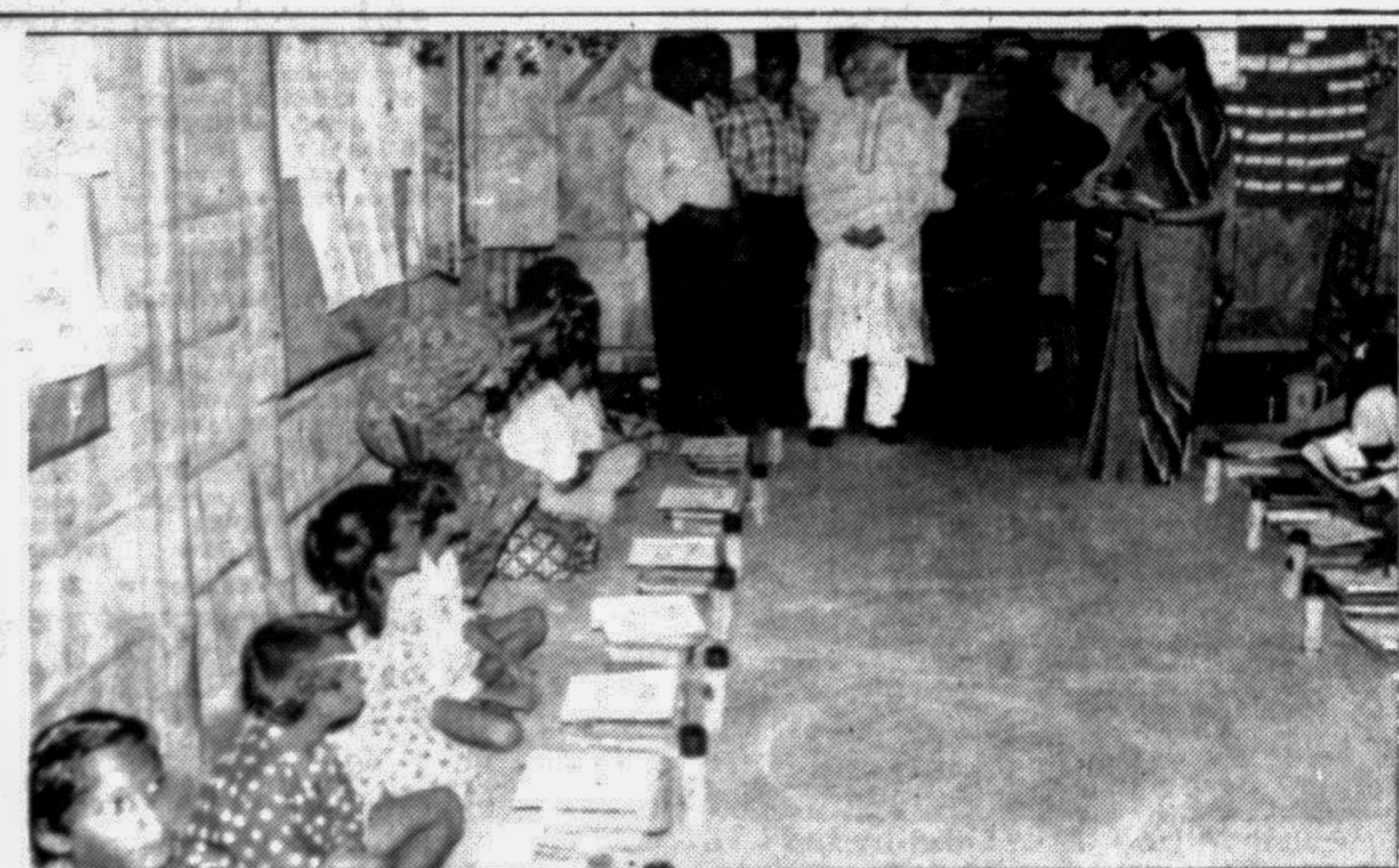
Most of the 40 unions are still isolated from thana and district town due to bad communication system.

Education sector also wears a dismal look as a large number of primary and high schools and colleges in the district damaged in cyclone and flood are yet to be reconstructed.

Most of the government and non-government educational institutions are virtually facing closure.

Tree plantation drive at BAU

MYMENSINGH, June 25: Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) has launched the National Tree Plantation Drive-97 as part of countrywide programme with a target to plant 6,000 saplings on the campus, reports UNB.

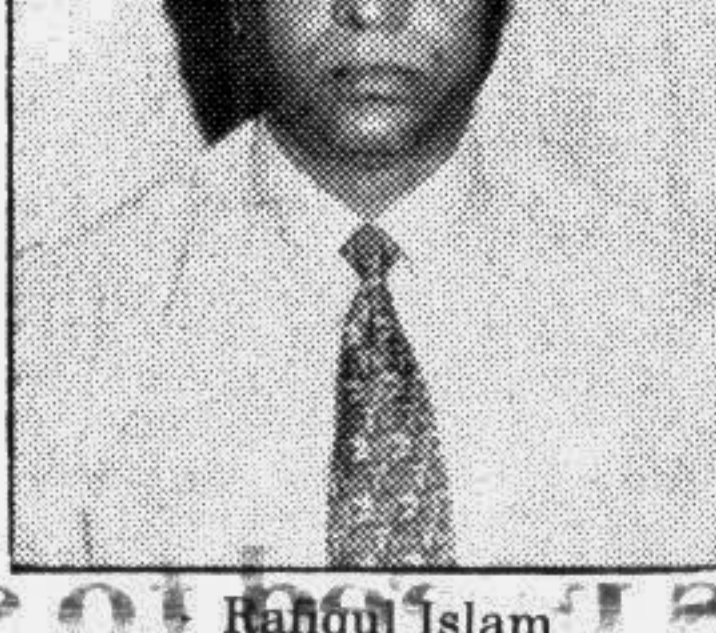


KUSHTIA: Education Minister A S H K Sadeque observing human rights and Legal Education course conducted by BRAC for its village Organisation members at Kamargaon village in Kushtia on Saturday.

Best Officer's Award for Mymensingh DC

From Our Correspondent

RAFIQUL ISLAM



By Staff Correspondent
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has awarded Rafiqul Islam, Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Mymensingh the Best Officer's Award for his contribution towards the success of Total Literacy Movement (TLM) recently.

Earlier, Rafiqul Islam was selected the Best Officer outside the Primary and Mass Education Division on the occasion of the National Primary Education Week, 1997.

The TLM programme was called 'Alokito Chudanga' (enlightened Chudanga) which enhanced the coverage of primary school going children in the district.

Islam contributed significantly towards the success of Alokito Chudanga when he was the DC of Chudanga earlier.

Rafiqul Islam received an award of Taka 10,000, a medal and a certificate from the Prime Minister at a function held at the Osmani Auditorium in Dhaka recently.

Kidnappers free Ctg businessman

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, June 25: The businessman who was kidnapped by armed terrorists from Raozan recently was released in the city, police said.

The kidnapers freed Haji Abu Taher, a brick field owner, after being paid a ransom of huge amount, local people said.

Taher was abducted at gunpoint by four terrorists from his brickfield at Raozan and brought to the city by a car.

However, none was arrested in this connection so far.

Chudanga Newsletter

From Our Correspondent

CHUDANGA, June 25: An alleged terrorist has been arrested by Damurhuda thana police recently.

Police acting on a tip-off arrested Kamal, 33, from the house of Rajab of village Pratrabpur. Police also recovered one country made super quality pipe gun and one round of ammunition from his possession.

There are five cases pending against him on charge of dacoity, murder, hijacking and toll collection. He was an associate of Ruhul, a regional leader of Purba Banglar Communists Party, police said. Kamal is a resident of village Rudranagar of Damurhuda thana.

Nazrul Joyanti

The 98th birth anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam (Nazrul Joyanti) was celebrated here in a befitting manner recently.

Alamdanga Press Club arranged the Nazrul Joyanti programme. Acting President of the club Khondakar Shah Alam Montu presided over the function. It was attended by freedom fighter and litterateur Shafaeul Islam as the chief guest while former president and advisor of the press club Afliuddin and Abdul Hamid were special guests.

Among others, poet Hamid Hasan, AFM Seraj Shamjee, Asgar Hossain, Khondakar Hamidul Islam Azam, Abdul Kashem Tuku, Sarwar Hossain and Shahidul Islam spoke on the occasion. They paid glowing tributes to the memory of the National Poet.

Body recovered

Alamdanga thana Police recovered the dead body of Montu, 32, son of Badamuddin of village Binodpur from a sugarcane field of Dauki Mouza recently.

Police sources said, on May 14 a group of armed terrorists abducted Montu and killed him. They kept his body under mud of the sugarcane field. Police have suspected that the murder was committed as a result of village feud.

A case has been registered with Alamdanga police station in this connection. Police Super (SP), Chudanga visited the spot. Vigorous police investigation is going on to arrest the killer.

One gets life for possessing arms

One person has been awarded life term rigorous imprisonment (RI) for possessing illegal arms.

Isarat Ali, 32, son of Wad Ali of Durlavpur under Alamdanga was given the life term imprisonment in a judgement pronounced by the Additional District and Sessions Judge of Chudanga, Abdul Matin recently.

The Judge examined 10 witnesses including the Investigating Officer of the case and found the accused guilty of the charges for possessing illegal arms and awarded the punishment. Jafar was acquitted of the charge.

Fake journalist arrested

CHITTAGONG, June 25: A squad of the Detective Branch (DB) arrested a fake journalist from a shop at Momin Road here recently of police on charge of extortion and recovered Taka 10 thousand 900 from his possession.

Mohammad Atiqur Rahman, Assistant Commissioner (AC) of DB told BSS that they arrested one Pradip Chandra Shill from Shahabuddin decorator when he was extorting money from the owner of the shop personifying himself as a journalist.

Police said the arrested person has been threatening the owner of the decorator for the last several months to publish news aimed at damaging his goodwill. Police also seized a camera from him.



Tender Notice

বিদ্যুৎ ব্যবহারে মিতব্যয়ী হোন

Name of work: Supply of single phase metre box for Monpura Electric Supply under Bhola Electric Supply. Eligibility of contractor: Sealed tenders in Form T-1 are invited from Power Development Board's 1996-97 A/B/C/D class valid licence holder enlisted contractors for completion of above-mentioned work. Estimated cost: Tk 57,980/-. Price of tender: Tk 50/-. Place & date the tender will be available: Can be purchased through Bank Draft/Pay Order for the said amount in favour of Deputy Director, ZAO, PDB, Barisal from Additional Chief Engineer, Distribution, Western Zone, PDB, Barisal/Superintending Engineer, O&M Circle, PDB, Barisal/Manager, Agrani Bank, Kalinath Bazar, Bhola during office hours up to 15.07.97. Date of receiving & opening tender: Besides the above offices, also at the office of the undersigned up to 12:00 Noon of 16.07.97 and on the same day at 12:30 PM. All other rules & regulations regarding the tender should be complied with properly. Biddu/Jana-1568(3)96-97 DFP-14833-19/6 G-1738

Resident Engineer (Executive) Bhola Electric Supply PDB, Bhola

Rupnagar Govt Residential Project-1 Emergency Caution Notice

No. 7

Earlier emergency Caution Notice No. 6 was publicised from this office in 1996 for information of all concerned & house construction. All concerned are hereby cautioned for the 7th time that those who have received allotment of 5.00, 3.50, 2.50 & 1.75 katha plots in Mirpur Rupnagar site & services 1st Project under the Housing Directorate in 1985 and later on received possession but have not yet started house construction as per approved design on their respective plots — due to which various antisocial activities are going on in the empty plots and as a result social atmosphere and law & order are deteriorating, are earnestly requested by this office to immediately start house construction as per approved design on their respective plots.

Otherwise, this office must be compelled to take legal steps to cancel the allotment letters of plot/plots allotted by the government in 1985 under the project.

Md Abdus Sabur Executive Engineer Dhaka Housing Division-1 Section No 2, Mirpur, Dhaka Telephone : 100062

DFP-14828-19/6 G-1739

Dhaka WASA Tender Notice

পানির অপচয় বন্ধ করুন।। ম্যানহোলের ঢাকনা চুরি রোধ করুন

Tenders are invited from Dhaka WASA enlisted 1st class ABC licence holder mechanical & electrical contractors for the undermentioned works:

Name of work	Allotted cost	Date & time of receiving tender
1. Installation of 11KV Sub-Station at Lalkuthi	Tk 98,408/-	14-7-97 up to 12-00 water pump.
2. Installation of 11KV Sub-Station at Sheorapara	Tk 98,408/-	-do-

Tenders will be opened on the same day of receiving at 2-00 PM in presence (if any) of the tenderers or their representatives.

Tender schedule will be available at the office of the Chief Accounts Officer of Dhaka WASA, WASA Bhaban, 98, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka & all MODS Zone offices of Dhaka WASA. Other detailed descriptions will be available at the office of the undersigned.

Address : WASA Bhaban 98, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka WASA-PI-236/97 DFP-14835-19/6 G-1740

Md Nurul Haq Executive Engineer Water (E&D) Division Dhaka WASA.