

## News snaps

### Use of compost fertilizer stressed

SHERPUR, June 30: Minister for Agriculture and Food Begum Motia Chowdhury has called upon the farmers to prepare compost fertilizer and increase its use for preserving fertility of soil and increasing production, reports BSS.

She was speaking at a farmer's rally at Chandrakona held on Friday to create mass awareness in preparing bio-fertilizer and its use. The minister said the fertility of land is being reduced by continued use of chemical fertilizer.

### Tk 3,159 lakh BAU budget

MYMENSINGH, June 30: Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) has announced its annual budget of Tk 3,159.25 lakh for 1997-98 fiscal year, reports UNB.

In the budget, Tk 2979.25 lakh will be provided from government allocation and Tk 180 lakh from own sources. Treasurer and Secretary of the Finance Committee of the university M Idris Ali has placed the main recast budget for the fiscal 1997-98 and reform recast budget of the outgoing fiscal in the syndicate meeting on Saturday.

### Workshop on women's discrimination

RANGPUR, June 30: A day-long workshop on 'Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and uniform family code' was held at Shishu Academy here recently, reports UNB.

The workshop was organised by Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB), Rangpur unit. It was also addressed by resource persons Advocate Khaleda Khatun and Laila Arjuman Banu. The workshop was attended by Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) activists, social workers, lawyers and local journalists.

### Lightning kills one in Satkhira

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, June 30: A person was killed in lightning here at village Khejnadanga under the sadar thana of the district on June 24.

Eyewitnesses said, the victim, Nirmal Chandra Mondal, 40, of village Khejnadanga was fishing in his fish farm when a thunderbolt hit him and he died on the spot.

### Fake officer arrested

SIRAJGANJ, June 30: Police arrested a fake audit officer while he was demanding bribe from a school teacher at Moniruzaman Tara road in the town on Friday, reports UNB.

The fake audit officer Shaheen Sarwar, 30, was caught red-handed in the morning when he was demanding bribe from a teacher of Bagbari Abdul Jalil Memorial High School in Kamarkhand thana. A case was filed with the police. The accused, however, confessed his guilt.

### Workshop on Women Affairs

KHULNA, June 30: A two-day workshop on 'Women Affairs', organised by News Network, concluded here at the officers' club on Sunday, reports UNB.

Khulna City Corporation Mayor Sheikh Tayebur Rahman inaugurated by opening ceremony as the chief guest while News Network Editor Mohammad Shahiduzzaman presided over. Some 17 journalists of local and national daily newspapers and news agencies, women writers and representatives of different NGOs participated in the workshop.

### Valuables worth Tk 5 lakh looted

CHITTAGONG, June 30: Robbers looted valuables from a house-cum-shop at Natun Bazar area in Bashkhal thana on Friday night, police said, reports UNB.

A gang of 30-35 armed dacoits stormed into Jagadish Chandra Dhar's residence and shop at the bazar at 1:30 am, and took away some ornaments, electronics goods and Tk 5 lakh from there. A case was filed with Bashkhal police.

### Child lifter arrested

JHENIDAH, June 30: A child lifter was caught red-handed from a village in Sadar thana on Saturday, police and villagers said, reports UNB.

Nasima, 35, of Polashpur in Sadakha was caught by local people as she tried to lift Munira, 6, daughter of Abdul Rahman of Bhakshadipur in Shaitakupa thana. Munira was picked up from her grandfather's house at Korapara village in Sadar thana. The lifter was handed over to police.

### Transport workers kill youth

KISHOREGANJ, June 30: A young man died after he was pushed out of a speeding bus allegedly by transport workers on Dhaka-Pakundia highway near a bazar in Pakundia thana on Saturday, reports UNB.

Police and witnesses said Moeleh Uddin, 18, was dashed out following an altercation between its conductor and helper and some standing passengers over bus fare at Sukhia Bazar at about 10:30 am. He died on the spot. Moslem of Kudalia village in Pakundia was returning home by the bus from his workplace in the capital.

### Traffic jam on Chaumuhani road

NOAKHALI, June 30: Constant traffic congestion on the main road of Chaumuhani commercial centre in Begumganj thana here has been hampering the movement of vehicles as well as pedestrians, reports UNB.

Apart from other small motorised vehicles, thousands of trucks and buses ply through this slim road creating traffic congestions and suffering to the commuters. However, the long-standing demand for constructing a by-pass road in the bazar is yet to be materialised.

### Land tax worth Tk 40 lakh realised

NARSINGDI, June 30: A total of Taka 40,22,120 was realised as land development tax in Narsingdi district during the last 11 months of the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the target was fixed at Taka 86,73,012.00 for the current fiscal year.

### Afforestation drive in Madaripur

MADARIPUR, June 30: National Tree Plantation Drive '97 began here on Monday last with a call for massive tree plantation everywhere in the district to create suitable human habitation and protect ecological balance, reports BSS.

Deputy Commissioner, Madaripur, Sharif Toyabur Rahman inaugurated the drive by planting a sapling at the premises of the Deputy Commissioner's office. A discussion, organised by Madaripur Forest Department was held in the Deputy Commissioner's Conference Room. Deputy Commissioner, Madaripur, presided.

### Children's Islamic cultural meet

NARSINGDI, June 30: A 3-day Shishu-Kishore Islamic cultural competition, organised by the Islamic Foundation, Narsingdi, was held on June 23, in the foundation's conference room, reports BSS.

The Islamic Foundation arranged the competition with a call to the children and juveniles to devote their energy in conformity with Islamic values. The subjects of the competitions are Qirat, Azaan, recitation of poem, Islamic songs, essay writing and general knowledge.

### Anti-drug Day observed

COMILLA, June 30: International Day Against Drug Abuse and its illegal trafficking was observed here on June 26, reports BSS.

The day-long programmes included a colourful procession, rally, discussion, art competition and staging of drama. Deputy Commissioner Chowdhury Golam Mowla inaugurated the programmes on the town hall field. He also participated in the colourful procession. Doctor Zobaida Hannan presided over the discussion.

### Workshop on compulsory primary education

TANGAIL, June 30: A workshop on 'Compulsory Primary Education' sponsored by the District Primary Education Office was held here recently, reports BSS.

Primary and secondary school teachers, thana level education officers and representatives of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) participated in the workshop. The participants discussed various ways and means to make the government programme of the Universal Primary Education a success.

### Money lenders deceiving villagers

NETRAKONA, June 30: Money lenders are doing brisk business by giving loan at a high rate of interest causing suffering to the poor and marginal farmers of the district, reports UNB.

Local leaders said over 65 per cent of village people are living under the poverty line and compelled to sell their produce in advance at a nominal price. Taking the advantage of this prevailing situation, a section of unscrupulous money lenders are making money. The poor farmers are forced to sell their produce at lower prices to repay the loan of the money-lenders.

### 5 Rajshahi MPs call

## Withdraw case against BNP leader

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, June 30: Five members of parliament (MPs) who were elected from Rajshahi in a joint statement on Sunday demanded immediate release of BNP leader Nazrul Islam Nuru and withdrawal of all cases filed against him.

Advocate Kabir Hossain, Dr Alauddin, Barister Animul Islam, Abu Hena and Advocate Nadim Mustafa in their statement said, Awami League terrorists ransacked and looted a shop of a leader of Durgapur thana Jubodal on June 22. He filed a case naming the terrorists. They alleged that later on the terrorists filed a false case against BNP leaders and police arrested Nazrul Islam Nuru accordingly.

They demanded release of Nuru and arrest of the actual 'criminals'.

### Shishu Ananda Mela in Satkhira

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, June 30: A three-day long Shishu Ananda Mela has concluded here at the Sadar thana parishad premises on June 23.

Organised by Shishu Academy, Satkhira, the programme of the Ananda Mela included children's rally, hand-writing, essay and reciting competitions. Besides, staging of drama and discussions were held on the occasion.

The Additional Deputy Commissioner, Satkhira, Farooq Ahmed Khan inaugurated the Ananda Mela on June 21. Over 100 children took part in the competition while 28 stalls were installed.

On the concluding day of the Ananda Mela, a discussion meeting was also held at the auditorium of sadar thana parishad with Sabir Ahmed, TNO Sadar thana in the chair while Md Abdus Salam, Deputy Commissioner, Satkhira, was present as the chief guest on the occasion. Abdul Muttalib, President, Satkhira Press Club, Principal Abdul Muttalib Chowdhury and Shahin Uddin spoke on the occasion.

### Ansars' rally in Faridpur

FARIDPUR, June 30: The Director General of Bangladesh Ansars and VDP, Brigadier Enayet Hossain Mia has called upon the members of Ansars and VDP to contribute their mite in nation building activities, reports BSS.

He was addressing at a rally of Ansars and VDP on Thursday at local Kabi Jasimuddin Hall.

The DG said that 45 lakh members of this department have been trained in such a way that they are capable enough of maintaining law and order. They are also working for the socio-economic development in village level in the field of plantation, village sanitation, pisciculture, poultry farming and other economic activities, he added.

Earlier District Adjutant of Ansars Tofazzel Hossain elaborately described the manifold activities of Faridpur district Ansars and VDP.

### Office-bearers

A nine-member executive committee of Pabna Rural Electrification Association-2 Employees Welfare Association has been formed recently in a meeting of the association at Kashinathpur in Pabna recently, says a press release.

Razab Ali, President of the association presided over the meeting.

The office-bearers are: Razab Ali-President, Abdul Jalil-Vice-President, Shahadat Hossain-General Secretary, Mamun Khan-Assistant General Secretary, Farhad Hossain - Organising Secretary, Fazlul Huq - Treasurer, Bazul Rahman - Office and Publicity Secretary, Mowla Box and Sukumar Sarkar - members.



A rural bard warbling through a village with Ektara in hand. — Star photo by A K M Mohsin

## Moulvibazar Newsletter

From Our Correspondent

MOULVIBAZAR, June 30: Two people were killed and 16 others injured in separate road accidents in Moulvibazar district recently.

Police said, one person was killed when a truck fell into a road side ditch in Islampur area near Moulvibazar town.

The truck loaded with pineapples and jackfruits and coming from Kularua met the accident on Kularua-Moulvibazar road at about 1 am at night killing Khurshed Ali, 56, a fruit trader on the spot.

Moulvibazar thana police seized the truck, but the driver and the helper fled away. A case was filed with the local police station in this connection.

In another accident, one person was killed and 16 others were injured when a minibus fell into a wayside ditch at Bhimshi bazar on Bhunaber-Satagaon road. Tapan, 16, helper of the minibus died on the spot. The injured persons have been admitted in to Srimongal Thana Health Complex.

### Scout leaders' training

The 110th training course of scout leaders concluded here at local Municipal Model High School recently.

Dr Abdullah Al-Mahmood, a senior scout trainer conducted the week long training course. It was participated by 55 trainees. On the concluding day, a camp fire was also held. Presided over by Scout Commissioner Azizul Haque Iqbal, the camp fire was attended by GKM Nurul Ameen, Deputy Commissioner and Motiar Rahman, Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) as the chief guest and special guest respectively.

### HSC examinee commits suicide

A female candidate of Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examination committed suicide by jumping under the wheels of a running train on June 5. She was expelled in the examination.

According to Railway Police (GRP) sources, the victim, Ummei Kulum Kuli, 20, elder daughter of Abdul Mottaleb of village Santola under Sadullapur thana was a student of Joyenpur Adarsha College. She appeared in the HSC examination from Sadullapur Degree College centre. On the fateful day she was taking part in Accounting examination.

Unfortunately she was expelled for adopting unfair means in the examination. This incident made her upset. She decided to end her life. She rushed to railway station and committed suicide under the wheels of a goods train.

An unnatural death case has been filed with GRP thana in this connection.

### Property worth Tk 1.50 lakh gutted

From Our Correspondent

MEHERPUR, June 30: Armed miscreants have snatched away the tender box from the office of the Executive Engineer, Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), Meherpur in a commando style on Thursday.

Eye witnesses said, three armed miscreants came to the office by a motor cycle and held one employee as hostage on gun point. They broke open the tender box, took the tenders and left the place.

The miscreants left the place before anybody could realise the incident. It is worth mentioning, Thursday was the last day of dropping tender for construction of road and culvert at a cost of Taka 32 lakh.

When contacted the LGED officials confirmed the incident. A case has been filed in Meherpur Police Station in this connection.

Meanwhile, the LGED authorities have cancelled the tender. It was learnt.

### Pry school closed for 2 years!

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, June 30: A non-government primary school has remained closed for long 2 years from the very day of its opening in 1995.

The school is Dhakhin Sugar Non-Government Primary School under Jogodishpur union of Chowgacha thana in the district.

## Acute fish scarcity in rural markets of Magura

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, June 30: Acute scarcity of fish has been prevailing in the rural hats and bazars of the district recently.

According to market observers, fish fries are being sold violating government ban on it. Hilsa fish is being sold at Taka 120 to Taka 135 per kg in the rural markets. Fish below the size of nine inches are being sold at Taka 60 Taka 70.

A source of Magura Fisheries Department said, the fish production has fallen down drastically in the district due to drying up of canals, beels, rivers, ponds, ditches and other water bodies.

While visiting some village markets including Khamarpara, Langabandh, Arpara, Banagati, Nohata, Simakkhali of the district this correspondent found no fish except Jatke (small Hilsa fishes) there. Talking to the fishermen they said, fish supply in the markets has decreased by nearly 80 per cent due to acute scarcity of fish.

A group of fishermen informed this correspondent, the fishes caught from haors and dighis are being purchased by middlemen or brokers. They send these items to the city markets. Various species of fish like Ruhi, Katla or Magur are being sent to the city markets through middlemen. The middlemen supply fishes to city markets due to good road communication. As a result fishes like Ruhi, Katla, Magur, Kot,

Boal are missing from rural markets. Only Hilsa fish is available in rural markets, the local market observers said.

There are over 80 beels on 25,359 acres of area including Baro beel in Srikhol union, Magura beel in Amalsar union and Muhammadpur beel. The local varieties of fishes like Kot, Puit, Soail, Magura, Ruhi, Katla, Mrigal, Boal lay eggs during the rainy season. But due to bad effects of wastes in waterbodies fishes are dying. Outbreak of fish diseases in epidemic form also occur due to pollution of waterbodies.

Meanwhile, a good number of ponds were re-excavated by the side of main and secondary canals of Ganges Kobodak (GK) Project some years back. But these ponds have dried up due to lack of water supply from the GK Project. As a result pisciculture has been seriously hampered.

In Magura there are seven rivers like Gorai, Kumar, Nabaganga, Fatki, Chitra, Modhumoti, Hanu, 39 canals, 85 beels, 7 haors and 9481 ponds and dighis.

Most of the waterbodies have dried up. Almost all of the ponds belong to private owners or joint owners. The owners do not follow the scientific method of pisciculture.

A section of pond owners alleged that district and thana level officers of Bangladesh Fisheries Department do not

take necessary steps to promote pisciculture. Though fish week is observed in the thana and district level every year, but no practical steps have been taken by the Fisheries Department to raise fish production.

Due to lack of motivation many pond owners do not come forward to cultivate fish. Only a handful of pond owners release fish fries to their ponds at their own initiative. They collect fish fries from the local suppliers. They do not get good result due to low quality of fish fries.

Some fishermen said, most of the owners of ponds do not cultivate fish in a scientific method. They do not use medicine or supply food properly and systematically due to lack of proper knowledge. Fund crisis is also a setback in this sector. As a result, fish production has come down to great extent now-a-days.

Besides, fishing of small fries go on unabated in different water bodies during the rainy seasons defying government ban. Unscrupulous people use current nets for fishing fries in the river Gorai and Modhumoti. This unhealthy trend is going on unabated. The fish fries are being sold openly in different rural markets defying government ban.

The local elders apprehended that various species of fish which grow in sweet water would vanish in near future if this trend is not checked immediately.

## Shifting of surveyors' camp slated

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, June 30: A big peasants' rally was held at Bishnupur in the district on Friday.

The rally protested the incident of sudden shifting of surveyors' camp from Bishnupur Government Primary School to Ghughudaha madrasah recently. The surveyors' camp has been set up for the purpose of revisional settlement of khas land of Beel Ghughudaha in Santhia thana of Pabna district.

Presided over by landless peasant leader Sakendar Ali, the protest rally was also addressed, among others by Abdul Kader, Managing Director, Samata Samaj Kalyan Samity, Sarwar Hossain, Project Manager and landless peasant leaders Golzar Hossain, Kalu Mian, Korban Ali, Ghotan Mistry and Dulal Khan.

The speakers apprehended that the camp's shifting might endanger the interests of landless peasants due to probable manipulations by landlords in future.

They demanded immediate transfer of Surveyors' Camp from Ghughudaha madrasah to Bishnupur Government Primary School where the camp was originally set up by the government.

### Tender box snatched away

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Meanwhile, the LGED authorities have cancelled the tender. It was learnt.

## Pry school closed for 2 years!

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The school is Dhakhin Sugar Non-Government Primary School under Jogodishpur union of Chowgacha thana in the district.

The local people have allegedly boycotted the school in protest against illegal appointment of the school's headmistress by corrupt practise of local Thana Education Committee.

The local Thana Education Officer, Thana Nirbahi Officer and the District Primary Education Officer visited the school from time to time to assess the situation.

The officers assured local people to resolve the issue, but in vain. The school remained closed for an indefinite period. It has been learnt, the headmistress and other teachers of the school are drawing their salaries regularly without doing their duty.

The local people have sought the attention of the Education Minister for necessary measures to settle the issue once for all.



RANGPUR: The Principal of Rangpur Cadet College, Prof Muhammad Bacchi Khan welcoming the old cadets in a friendly basket ball match here on June 20.

## Notice Inviting Tender (3rd Call)

- Tender Notice : 439/1996-97.
- Name of work : Construction of 4th floor over the existing 3rd floor and 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th floor over the existing 5th floor of Career Women's Hostel at Nikhet, Babupura, Dhaka (Civil, Sanitary & Electrical works)
- Estimated cost : (a) Civil Tk 1,91,08,552/00 portion. (b) Sanitary & Water Supply portion Tk. 5,89,488/00 (c) Electrification Tk. 5,13,418/00 portion. Tk. 2,02,11,458/00
- Earnest money : Taka 4,04,230/00
- Last date of selling tender : 10.07.1997 (during office hours).
- Date of receiving and opening of tender & time allowed : At 12.00 Noon on 14.07.1997 and will be opened on the same day at 12.30 PM.
- Eligibility of contractor/firm : (a) Enlisted special class I (one) contractors/firms of PWD who have successfully completed a single building at least from GF to 5th floor or more/5th floor to 8th floor or more in a SINGLE TENDER amounting to not less than Tk. 65,50,000/00 (Taka sixty five lac fifty thousand) only are eligible to participate in this tender. For such work a completion certificate must be obtained from the Executive Engineer, PWD under whom the work were executed successfully. The same certificate should be submitted in duplicate along with the enlistment book to any SE, PWD in Dhaka Metropolitan area for prior permission to purchase the tender documents in question 1 (one) copy of the certificate duly initialed by the concerned SE to be enclosed with the tender documents, otherwise the tender will be treated as cancelled. (b) The contractors/firms who can install materials and labour carrying lift/or a hoist within 30 (thirty) days and "WEIGH BATCHER" for concrete mixture within 40 (forty) days from the date of issue of work order are eligible to participate in the tender. (If available the "WEIGH BATCHER" may be obtained on usual charges of PWD from PWD E/M Workshop, Dhaka). The contractor/firm who fails to install the "MATERIALS & LABOUR CARRYING LIFT"/ or hoist and "WEIGH BATCHER" within the above stipulated time his/her work order will be rescinded and earnest money will be forfeited. Moreover his/her firm will not be allowed to participate in any tender in PWD for the year 1997-98 for which no claim will be entertained in any office of PWD.
- Place of selling and receiving tender : i) Office of the Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka Division, Dhaka. ii) All PWD (Building) Divisions within the Dhaka Metropolitan area and PWD E/M Division No. II, Dhaka.