

**News snaps**

**Protest procession in Jhenidah**

JHENIDAH, July 13: Several hundred people brought out a procession in the town on Friday protesting the heinous attack on Prophet (SM) and the holy Quran by Zionists, reports UNB. The processionists from all walks of life, paraded different parts of the town and held a rally at local Agrani Bank Chatter. Presided over by Alhaj Moulana Hatem Ali. Pesh Imam of Jhenidah district headquarter Jamme Mosque, the rally was addressed by poura chairman Anisur Rahman Khoka, district shopowners president Saidur Rahman Montu and Jamaat leader Abdullah Anwar.

**More doctors, nurses to be recruited**

THAKURGAON, July 13: Health Minister Salahuddin Yusuf on Saturday said the government will recruit 1000 doctors and 4000 nurses soon to provide better health services for the people, reports BSS.

He said the government is trying hard to meet the demands in the health sector with very limited resources. The minister was addressing a group of physicians, nurses, local officials and political workers at Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital here.

**Population Day procession in Comilla**

COMILLA, July 13: World Population Day was observed in Comilla on July 10, reports BSS. Health and Family Planning Department organised elaborate programmes to mark the day. A colourful procession was brought out from town hall in the morning. Additional Deputy Commissioner (rev) Ibadat Ali led the procession.

**Population Day observed in Faridpur**

FARIDPUR, July 13: World Population Day was observed here on July 10 in a befitting manner, reports BSS. District Family Planning Department in collaboration with Family Planning Association, BRAC and other organisations related with Family Planning work organised elaborate programmes which included rally, seminar, slide show and distribution of prizes to best workers in Family Planning. A colourful procession participated by hundreds of Family Planning workers, both male and female, paraded the streets chanting motivational slogans.

**Efforts on to improve people's lot**

CHANDPUR, July 13: State Minister for Planning, Civil Aviation and Tourism Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir said the present government is determined to follow balanced development programme in the country with a view to redressing the sufferings of the common people and to improve their socio-economic condition, reports BSS. The State Minister was addressing a public meeting at Kadla under Kachua thana in Chandpur district recently.

**Population day observed in Noakhali**

NOAKHALI, July 13: World Population Day was observed here in a befitting manner, reports BSS. This year, the theme of the day is "adolescents' productive health." The day's event began with a procession from district family planning office in the morning. Participants carrying placards paraded different streets of the town with a view to creating mass awareness about the significance of the day.

**Child rescued**

PATUAKHALI, July 13: People of Galachipa thana rescued a child named Nayan, 10, from the hands of the child lifters recently, reports BSS. It is alleged that the miscreants kidnapped the boy on his way home from school on June 29 last making him senseless. Nayan hails from village Sree Rampur under sadar thana of the district. He is a student of Sree Rampur Government Primary School, Galachipa thana police arrested one rickshaw-puller, Abdul Khaleque who allegedly had link in the kidnaping.

**Father killed by son**

SYLEHT, July 13: An octogenarian father succumbed who was injured by his angry son at Sadarpur village in Zokiganj thana here on Thursday, reports UNB. Family sources said, Makiu Mia got furious over the arbitration of his father, Sonahar Ali, 90, on a family feud and hit his father on the head on Wednesday. The cruel son tried to bury the father as an accident but police recovered the body and sent it to the Osmani Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

**Dacoits kill youth**

SAVAR, July 13: A youngman was killed as dacoits hurled bombs at him while committing dacoity at his house at Bhabali Nayapara in sadar thana on Saturday night, reports UNB. Police said the dacoits stormed the house of the victim Anisur Rahman at dead of night and looted valuables. Anisur chased the dacoits when they were fleeing the spot and at one stage they hurled bombs at him killing him on the spot.

**Rokeya Cultural Complex to be built**

RANGPUR, July 13: Begum Rokeya Memorial Cultural Complex will be built at Pairabondh, the birth place of the pioneer of Bengali Muslim women's emancipation, reports UNB. The complex will be constructed on one acre of land at a cost of Tk four crore comprising an auditorium and a youth technical training centre at Pairabondh in Mithapukur thana.

**One handed over to police**

TANGAIL, July 13: A college student was handed over to Sadar thana police by his elder brother recently, reports UNB. Babu, son of one Shamser Ali of Thanapara in the town, was handed over to police as he indulged in criminal activities. He had also been wanted by police in an attempt to murder case.

**Boy killed in road mishap**

BARISAL, July 13: One boy was killed on the spot and three others were injured seriously in a road accident at Rahmatpur bridge near Sub-regisly office under Babuganj thana of the district at about 4 pm Saturday, police said, reports BSS. According to the source, a motor cycle hit Sajjat Hossain, 7, and his mother Sufia Begum, 35, while they were walking along the road. Sajjat Hossain died on the spot. The mother of the boy and motor cycle riders were injured seriously and were admitted to the Shere-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital for treatment.

**Govt's priority on communication sector**  
KACHUA, July 13: State Minister for Planning, Civil Aviation and Tourism Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir said the present government has laid emphasis on communication sector and power supply to improve the socio-economic condition of the common people, reports UNB. He was addressing a public meeting at Kadla in Kachua thana of the district on Saturday.

**440 killed in road mishaps in Bogra**

BOGRA, July 13: A total of 440 people were killed and 300 others injured in road accidents in the district in the last five years, reports UNB. According to official statistics, some 557 mishaps occurred during the period due mainly to rash driving and mechanical trouble. The statistics shows that 78 people were killed in '92, 80 people in '93, 105 people in '94, 70 people in '95 and 130 people in 1996.

**5 canals closed in Madaripur**

MADARIPUR, July 13: Over 80,000 acres of cultivable land in the district are deprived of irrigation facilities due to closure of five canals, reports UNB. The Chokder, Mustafapur, Bajitpur, Amgram and Rajor canals have been dried up as water level of rivers went down to the level of lock gates. The lock gates were constructed at the starting points of these canals in order to control the flow of irrigation water in rainy and winter seasons.

**Uplift projects progressing**

MAGURA, July 13: Development works of four hats and bazars in the district involving Taka one crore are going on in full swing, reports UNB. Local Government and Engineering Department is implementing the schemes with the assistance of Asian Development Bank under Rural Development Project-18. The schemes included construction of sheds for the sellers, roads, drainage system, public latrines and installation of tubewells in Radhanagar, Bunagati, Nohata and Shatrujtpur hats.

**2 held for possessing phensidyl**

MANIKGANJ, July 13: Police seized 69 bottles of contraband phensidyl and arrested two persons at Aricha ghat recently, reports BSS. Shibalaya Police said, on a secret information they recovered 69 bottles of phensidyl from a Dhaka bound bus recently. The arrested persons hail from Jessore and Mymensingh.

**6 months' report Road mishaps claim 300 lives in N-dists**

BOGRA, July 13: Road mishaps have recently marked an unusual rise in northern region of the country, leaving over 300 people dead and 200 others injured in last six months, reports UNB. Police said the accidents occurred due to overloading of passengers and goods, reckless driving, fitness problems of vehicles and deplorable condition of roads.

According to reports, 30 were killed in Bogra, 25 in Sirajganj, 15 in Joypurhat, 25 in Gaibandha, 24 in Rangpur, 26 in Dinajpur, 11 in Thakurgaon, nine in Panchagarh, 18 in Nilphamari, 12 in Lalmonirhat, 17 in Naogaon, 19 in Natore, 12 in Rajshahi, eight in Chapainawabganj, 39 in Pabna and seven in Kurigram during the period.

Local people alleged that most of the cases filed in connection with the accidents were dismissed for lack of witnesses, depriving the plaintiffs of justice and compensations. They also called for setting up of a separate hospital in between Bogra-Nagarbari and Rangpur road so that the injured could be given immediate treatment.

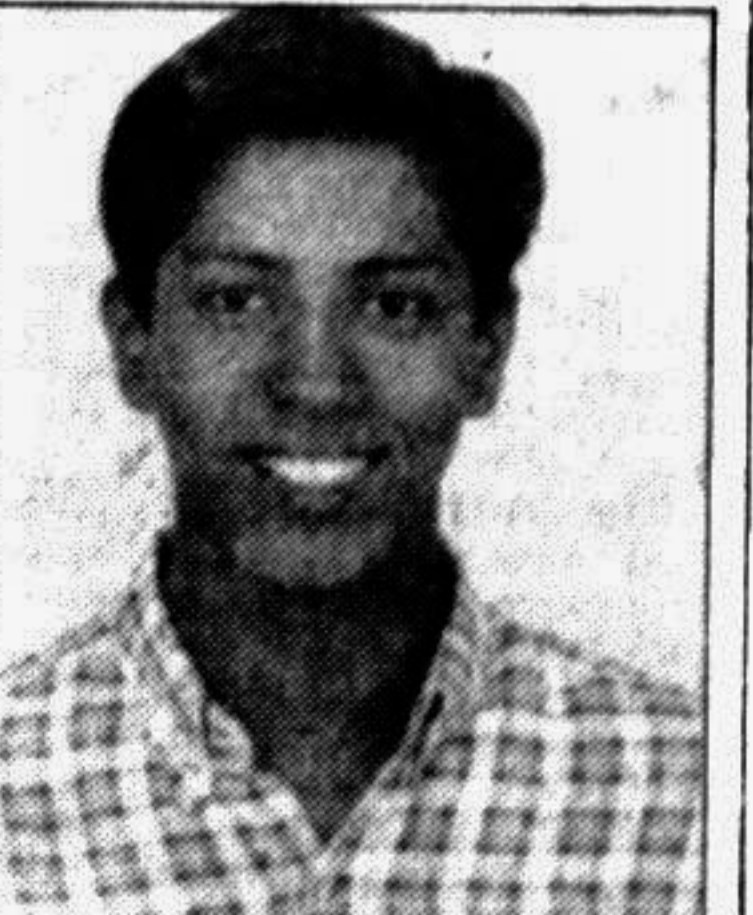
**Cruelty of a housewife**

From Our Correspondent  
NARAYANGANJ, July 13: A housewife almost severed the genital of her husband at Paschimtala of Jamaabazar under Fatullah thana early Saturday morning, police said. The doctors were trying to stitch together the almost severed parts of the organ of the victim, Faruk Hossain, a day labourer. He was asleep when his wife, Firoza Begum, 35, attacked him. Firoza has been arrested. Faruk married Firoza 17 years ago and they have three children.

**Pry Education Week observed in Natore**

NATORE, July 13: The National Primary Education Week was observed in the district, as elsewhere in the country, in a befitting manner last week, reports UNB. On the occasion, district Primary Education Department chalked out elaborate programmes including children's rally, tree plantation and discussion meeting. Deputy Commissioner M Ishaq Bhuiyan inaugurated the week by planting a sapling at Dighapatia Government Primary School premises in the town. Later a discussion meeting was held at the school premises with Sadar Thana Nirbahi Officer M Nurul Islam in the chair. Compulsory Primary Education Committee also held a meeting at the Deputy Commissioner's conference room with DC and Chairman of the committee M Ishaq Bhuiyan in the chair.

The meeting discussed the problems in the implementation of primary education programme and suggested the ways and means to make the "Education For All - by the year 2000" programme a success. TNOs, ATEOs, local elites and members of the committee were present.



**Shahed wants to be aeronautical engineer**

Md Shahed Rahman of Mirzapur Cadet College stood 5th in the combined merit list of Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examination this year under Dhaka Board. He scored 940 marks with eight letters, says a press release. Shahed wants to be an aeronautical engineer.

**Students asked to shun path of violence**

NOAKHALI, July 13: Shipping Minister and Secretary General of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) ASM Abdur Rab recently urged the student community to come forward to keep the educational institutions free from violence and terrorism, reports BSS. He said students should fight for their own privileges and to fulfill specific demands related to their institutions, not for any party interest. He was speaking as the chief guest at the biennial conference of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), Noakhali district unit held here at the Poura hall. Referring to the participatory politics he said, normalcy in politics would be ensured if democracy with participation establishes in the country.

**Strict measures to maintain peace Pabna Poura bypolls today**

By Z A M Khairuzzaman and Ranesh Maitra

PABNA, July 13: Pabna Poura by-election will be held today (Monday).

A total of 60,421 voters will cast their votes from 8 am to 4 pm without any break today. There are three young candidates in the race. They are: Mosharrar Hossain of Awami League, Kamrul Hasan Mintoo of BNP and Anwar Hossain Surjya, an independent candidate. All of them are not above the age of 30 years.

No such younger candidates contested previously for the post of chairman of Pabna Pourasava. None of the traditional candidates field nomination papers when they learnt about the intending younger candidates. The post of chair-

man of Pabna Pourasava fell vacant on April 4 this year after its chairman Sheikh Shahidul-lah Bachchu was shot dead by unidentified gunmen.

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) and Police Superintendent (SP) of Pabna said all preparations have been taken to hold the election in a free and fair way. Strict measures have been taken to maintain law and order around the polling centres, they said. They further disclosed that in each and every polling centre several policemen and Ansars headed by a Police Officer and under a magistrate would be deployed.

Meanwhile, a vigilance team has been formed. The team will be led by Additional Deputy

Commissioner (ADC-General) will comprise one high ranking police officer and three nominees of three contesting candidates.

There will be 24 polling centres having 121 booths, told Hedayetul Islam, Returning Officer and ADM of Pabna.

He said that 387 election officials would work in the centres. There would be 24 Presiding Officers, 48 Assistant Presiding Officers and 242 Polling Officers for conducting the elections.

The DC and SP of Pabna sought cooperation from all to help hold the Pabna Poura by-election in a free and fair manner.

**Indefinite bus strike in 7 routes from Domar**

NILPHAMARI, July 13: Bus, minibus strike for indefinite period in seven routes from Domar thana sadar since Friday has been causing suffering to the passengers, reports UNB. A conflict between Nilphamari district bus and minibus workers union and district truck and tank lori workers union, ensued a series of clashes and damage of offices for the last two months. Both the groups filed cases accusing each other in this connection. The bus and minibus workers union stopped plying of buses and minibuses from Domar thana sadar to Panchagarh, Deviganj, Chilahati, Dimala, Jaldhaka, Nilphamari

Sadar and Rangpur routes for indefinite period.

**Aero Bengal's service suspended**

From Staff Correspondent  
BARISAL, July 13: Air service between Dhaka and Barisal and between Dhaka and Sylhet operated by the only private airliner of the country, Aero Bengal Airlines, remains suspended from July 2 with no possibility of resumption of the service in the near future.

minibus owners' association expressed anger over the frequent strikes called by workers. They called for immediate action by the authorities concerned. According to them, passengers are suffering and the owners are becoming loan defaulters due to the wild-cat strike.

According to another report, Kishoreganj thana police arrested inter district dacoits Boltu, Shah Alam, Dinesh and Kala while they were preparing for committing a robbery on Friday. Police said they were wanted in connection with several dacoity cases.



GAIBANDHA: The artistes of Surobani Sangsad, a local cultural organisation, rendering songs at a musical soiree held here recently.

**Massive pest attack Prospect of aus crop cultivation bleak**

PATUAKHALI, July 13: Report of massive pest attack on aus crop field has been received from the farmers of the region, reports BSS. Official sources said, so far pests (pamri) attacked on 940 hectares in six thanas of the district, while the farmers said, vast tract of land, more than that of official figure, has been attacked by the pests. The prospect of aus crop cultivation has become bleak due to this pest attack.

According to official source, about 54,000 hectares have been brought under aus cultivation in six thanas of the district in the current aus season. Of the total land, 13,750 hectares have been brought under High Yielding Variety (HYV) and the rest, under local variety.

Local Agriculture Extension Department sources said, pest attacked 200 hectares of aus crop land in Bauphal thana, 165 hectares in Galachipa thana, 120 hectares in Kalapara

thana, 165 hectares in sadar thana, 100 hectares in Dashmina thana, and 190 hectares in Mirzaganj thana.

Hand-nets have been distributed to save the aus crop from further attack of pamri in the crop field.

Besides, farmers are being motivated by the block supervisors to destroy pamri insects by applying both medicine and traditional methods, the office source added.

**New treasurer of RU**

From RU Correspondent  
RAJSHAHI, July 13: Prof Abul Fazal Haq took over as treasurer of Rajshahi University recently. He replaces Prof M Mokbul Hussain whose term has expired.

**Four children rescued from Pabna hospital**

PABNA, July 13: Police rescued four children from Pabna General Hospital Monday night after they were admitted to the hospital following a road mishap, reports UNB. The four children suffered minor injuries in an accident when a Dhaka-bound bus skidded off the road at Kashinathpur. Some 30 people were injured in the accident.

Acting on a tip that they were being taken out of the country by child-traffickers, police went to the hospital and rescued them. But no traffickers could be traced.

Police immediately sent the children to Dhaka for sending them to their respective parents.

Of the four children, three gave their names and addresses as Ripon, 7, son of Mojibur of Chanpur village in Bhola district, Rubel, 8, son of Taher of Kajerchar in Faridpur, and Shahjahan, 6, son of Qayyum of Habiganj.

The fourth, Mostafa, 6, could not say his mother's name, nor give any address.



MAGURA: Fish fries are being sold in rural markets of the district defying government ban on it. Using current net some youths fishing fries before the nose of members of law enforcing agencies near the town recently.

**Natore Newsletter**

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, July 13: The problem of fishermen in the district have been discussed in a meeting held recently under the auspicious of the District Fishermen's Association with Gonesh Chandra Sarker in the chair. The speakers discussed about proper implementation of Jalmahal policy adopted by the government. They said, the genuine fishermen are not getting opportunity under the policy. As a result, 50 per cent fishermen have been facing financial crisis. They appealed to the concerned authorities to stop lease of Jalmahals to non-fishermen.

The district unit of Islamic Foundation also organised a discussion to mark the day at its auditorium with Deputy Director of the Foundation Md Abdus Sakur in the chair. Health expert Dr Mohsin Ali presented a keynote paper on drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

**Coop assoc's AGM held**

The 30th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Sadar Thana Central Cooperative Association (TCCA) was held at its office premises recently with president of TCCA Md Abdul Mannan in the chair.

Deputy Commissioner of Natore M Ishaq Bhuiyan and Deputy Director of Bangladesh Rural Development Board attended the meeting as the chief and the special guests.

The association adopted its budget for the 1997-98 fiscal year in the meeting. Later, the DC distributed prizes and certificates among 25 members of the TCCA for their best performances in sanitation, mass education, family planning programme and tree plantations.

**Global Day against Drug Abuse observed**

The International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was observed here recently through an elaborate programme. The programme included rally and discussion. A colourful rally participated by people from all walks of life paraded the main streets of the town.

A discussion was held at the Deputy Commissioner's conference room with Additional District Magistrate Tayabur Rahman in the chair.

Political leaders, Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) representatives, government officials and local journalists took part in the discussion.

**Education Week observed**

The National Primary Education Week '97 was observed here recently in a befitting manner.

The programme chalked out by the district Primary Education Department included children's rally, tree plantation and discussion. Deputy Commissioner M Ishaq Bhuiyan inaugurated the week by planting a sapling at Dighapatia Government Primary School premises.

A discussion was held on the school premises with the sadar thana Primary Education Officer in the chair.

**Khas land being grabbed illegally**

Khas lands are being occupied illegally by a section of influential people in Natore Poura area. According to reliable sources, due to lack of government decision to lease or sell out the land, a section of people have been grabbing the land by preparing fake documents.

An official report of Natore Pourashava submitted to the district administration said, about three per cent of its land have already been occupied. A complaint was also filed against the Poura land office. According to a reliable source, the Land Office was on 15 per cent land of the house owned by the then king Dhirendranath at Kanaikhal area of the town. A man named Sekandor Majid filed a case claiming 1.74 per cent of land inside the office.

According to an estimate, of the total 168 acres of khas land, some 80 per cent of land worth about Taka 50 crore have already been occupied illegally. The district administration has so far did not take any initiative to recover the occupied land. The illegal occupants have rather filed cases against the administration, it is alleged.

**Ultimatum of CHT non-govt teachers**

KHAGRACHARI, July 13: Non-government Teachers and Employees Coordination Council of Chittagong Hill Tracts has given ultimatum to meet their demand for hill allowance by 1st August, reports UNB.

The ultimatum came through a press conference of the council at a local Press Club on Tuesday morning. Council leaders announced a month-long agitation programme at the press conference which will be ended on July 30 to press home their demand.

They threatened to go for a wild cat strike in all educational institutions in the region unless their demand is met by the stipulated time.

Local district unit President of Bangladesh Teachers' and Employees Federation read out the written statement of the council at the press conference.

Council leaders said despite their appeal recommended by the ruling party MPs of three hill districts to the Prime Minister, Education Minister and Education Secretary for the allowance much earlier, but no effective step was taken so far. They said about 3,000 teachers and employees of more than 200 non-government educa-

tional institutions in the region, covering Rangamati, Khagrachari and Bandarban districts, are being deprived of their due hill allowance although the teachers and staff of all government, semi-government and autonomous institutions are receiving the allowance.

The press conference was addressed, among others, by council leaders Nurul Islam, Omar Faruq, Hari Kumer Nath, Mosharrar Hossain, Sunendra Chakma and Sarimma Marma.

**Taslima wants to be computer engr**

From Our Correspondent  
RANGPUR, July 13: Taslima Nasrin of Rangpur Cantt Public School and College stood first among girls in Science group and second in combined merit list of science group in SSC examinations under Rajshahi Board. She secured 941 marks with eight letters. She studied for 15 to 16 hours daily. She wants to become a computer engineer.



KUSHITIA: The afforestation campaign was inaugurated in the district town by planting a sapling in the premises of a primary school at village Dahakula under the sadar thana recently.