

**News snaps**

**Farmers deprived of fair price**

NARAIL, July 14: Farmers of the district are being deprived of fair prices of boro paddy in the current harvesting season, reports UNB.

Per maund paddy is being sold between Tk 180 and Tk 190 in different hats and bazars which is below the production cost, said the farmers. The government fixed the price at Tk 244 of per maund paddy. But due to corruption of some food officials and dishonest traders, the farmers are being compelled to sell their produce at throw away prices.

**Smuggling on rise**

SYLHET, July 14: The cross-border smuggling has become rampant in the recent times across the 12 mile-long Kushiara river belt at Zokiganj thana in the north-eastern corner of the district, reports UNB.

Local people said despite a good number of border check-post across the area, the smugglers run their business uninterrupted by deceiving the law enforcers. The smugglers mainly use six ghats as their transit points. Huge amount of urea fertilizer, Hilsa fish and electronic goods go out of the country to India while different goods, including fruits and essentials, smuggle into the country through these routes.

**Orientation course on NAEP**

RAJSHAHI, July 14: A day-long orientation course on the New Agricultural Extension Policy (NAEP) organized by Association for Community Development (ACD), a local NGO, concluded here on Sunday, reports BSS.

The course was conducted by M Rezaul Karim, Training Officer, Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) and Chanchal Kumar Bose, Subject Matter Specialist (horticulture) of DAE.

**Virus fever spreading in Madaripur**

MADARIPUR, July 14: Virus fever is spreading fast in different parts of the district, specially in the rural areas, reports BSS.

According to physicians, the symptoms of this virus fever are high temperature, spasmodic pain and headache. The worst-affected areas are Sadar, Kalkini and Rajor thanas. Women and children are common victims of this virus fever, the doctors said.

**Ice cream factories posing health hazard**

PATUAKHALI, July 14: Unhygienic ice cream produced manually are on sale here posing health hazard to the public especially the children, reports BSS.

It was learnt that most of the ice cream factories in the district hardly maintain hygienic rules in producing ice cream. During summer ice creams are produced and sold in different remote villages as well as in urban areas. Consuming those contaminated ice cream public particularly the children are being attacked with various intestinal diseases.

**Agri-loan disbursed among farmers**

CHUADANGA, July 14: Bangladesh Krishi Bank disbursed an amount of Taka 6,22,29,000.00 among the farmers of four thanas of the district as agri-loan during the last financial year as against the disbursement target of Taka 6,18,93,000, reports BSS.

According to an official source the percentage of loan disbursement in Chuadanga district by Bangladesh Krishi Bank during the last financial year was 101 per cent.

**Youth killed by dacoits**

SAVAR, July 14: A youngman was killed as dacoits hurled bombs at him while committing dacoity at his house at Bhabali Nayapara in Sadar thana, reports UNB.

Police said the dacoits stormed the house of the victim Aminur Rahman at dead of night and looted valuables. Aminur chased the dacoits when they were fleeing the spot and at one stage they hurled bombs at him killing him on the spot.

**School boy kidnapped**

CHITTAGONG, July 14: A boy was kidnapped by an armed gang from a school at Patharghata in Kotwali thana on Friday, police said, reports UNB.

The victim, identified as Fayed, son of Abdul Jabbar of Islam Colony in Patharghata, was a student of class VI of Kazem Ali High School in the locality. The armed-gang, who came in a micro-bus, lifted Fayed from St. Placid School ground while he was playing with his friends at around 3 pm. Later, the lifters demanded Tk 10,00,000 as ransom from the guardians of the victim over telephone.

**Training course on coop leadership**

MANIKGANJ, July 14: A five-day training course for the members of Poyla union women cooperative society on 'cooperative leadership and management development' concluded recently at Gilor thana parishad auditorium, reports BSS.

AFM Yahya Khan, district cooperative officer was present at the concluding function as chief guest and distributed certificates among the trainees.

**Massive aus farming programme**

MEHERPUR, July 14: Around 12,500 hectares will be brought under aus cultivation in the two thanas of Meherpur district in the current season, reports BSS.

An agriculture department source said, 2,500 hectares will be brought under High Yielding Variety while 10,000 hectares under local varieties. The thana-wise break-up is: Meherpur Sadar 6,500 hectares and Ganjali 6,000 hectares.

**Girl rescued**

PATUAKHALI, July 14: Police rescued a teenage girl and arrested two alleged prostitutes from Old Hospital road in the town last week, reports UNB.

Police said two sex workers Aro and Morshedha took away Nazma, a garments worker, to a local brothel from Dhaka in the name of visiting Darisal. Nazma cried for help when she came to know that she was brought to a brothel. On hearing her cry for help, local people came to her rescue and they also caught Aro and Morshedha from the spot and handed over them to the police.

**Tk 177 cr loan distributed among farmers**

RAJSHAHI, July 14: Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank (RAKUB) disbursed Tk 177 crore agricultural loan among 1,55,000 farmers of northern districts during the fiscal 1996-97, reports UNB.

The bank, during the period, has also realised Tk 215 crore against the target of Tk 450 crore showing an achievement of only 47 per cent. RAKUB which has 6,18,835 loanees fixed distribution target of Tk 250 crore during the period.

**Attack on UP chairman**

FARIDPUR, July 14: A UP chairman and his brother were seriously injured in an attack by their rivals over a land dispute at Majhidpur village in Char Bhadrashan thana, reports UNB.

Hospital sources said a group of people armed with lethal weapons attacked Ghelki Fazul Huq, 45, chairman of Gazirak Union Parishad and an Awami League supporter, and Sheikh Usar, 50, as they went to the disputed land near their house in the morning.

**Imam Samity's demonstration**

RAJBARI, July 14: Imams and mullahs of the town brought out a procession after Juma prayer on Friday to protest against publishing the derogatory poster of Prophet Mohammad (SM) in Jerusalem, reports UNB.

The imams and mullahs gathered under the banner of Imam Samity also demonstrated in front of Collectorate bhaban and submitted memoranda separately to Deputy Commissioner and Police Super.

**Hill women's confce**

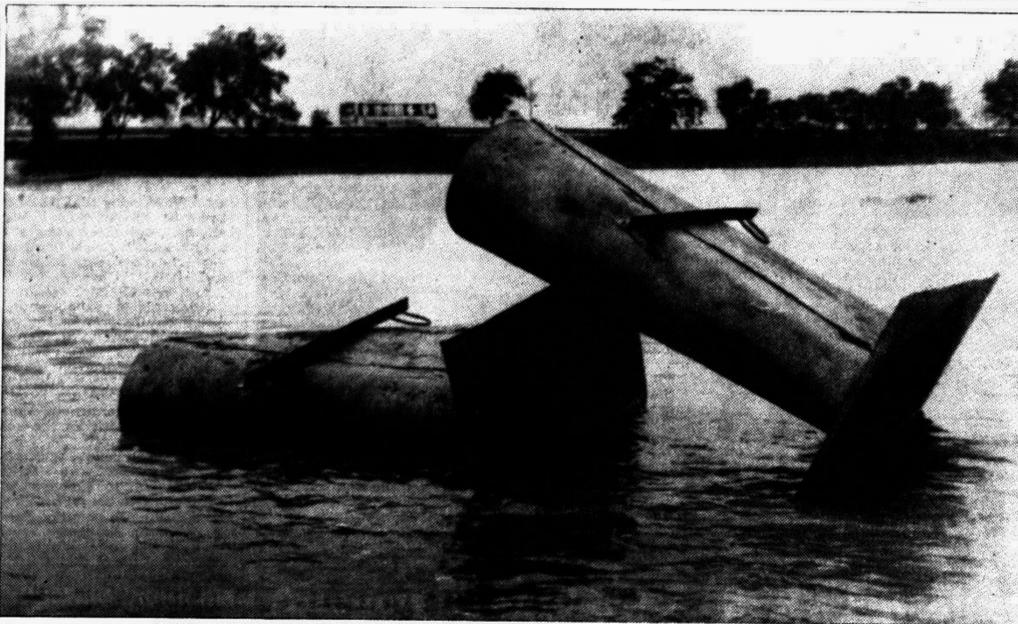
KIAGRACHHARI, July 14: The second annual conference of Hill Women Federation, an organisation of tribal women in the three hill districts, was held at Swanibar in the town recently, reports UNB.

Federation President Sucharita Chakma inaugurated the conference and chaired the council session. It was also addressed by Pahari Gano Parishad leader Samiran Chakma, Pahari Chikara Parishad leaders Pradiphan Khisa, Animesh Chakma and Kajari Marmia and federation leaders Bantika Chakma and Mojita Chakma.

**Training course on project management**

THAKURGAON, July 14: A two-day training course on project management of income generating VGD programmes concluded recently at the conference room of the District Relief and Rehabilitation Department, reports BSS.

The training course was inaugurated by Abdul Jabbar, Director General, Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation and chaired by Abdul Ali Makhan, Deputy Commissioner, Thakurgaon.



All brickfields of Savar area have been submerged in flood water recently causing huge loss to brick manufacturers. — Star photo by Anisur Rahman

**Sylhet Cadet College secures 11 top positions**

From Iqbal Siddiquee

SYLHET, July 14: The cadets of Sylhet Cadet College secured 11 positions in the Combined Merit List of General Science group in the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations this year.

They bagged the 18th position scoring 901 marks. Md Fahim-Al-Fajal and Md Afjalur Rahman secured 900 marks each. They were placed 19th position. Md Sarwar Alam scored 899 marks. He secured the 20th position in

top positions in the Combined Merit List of the Board, yet the teachers and students seemed to be not satisfied with the result. They expected better results as that of the last year. Last year the college secured

during vacation.

Sajib is the second son of Shafiqul Islam, Assistant Professor of English in the Sylhet Cadet College and Khaleda Begum, a teacher of the Cadet College Primary School.



Manjur (5th)

Prosenjit (10th)

Shakhat (12th)

(Rajib) (12th)

Rumel (13th)

Among them, Sajib-Al-Islam stood 4th with a total marks of 921 and 8 stars. Manjur Mahtab stood 5th with a total marks of 919 alongwith star marks in 8 subjects. Prosenjit Das who secured a total of 913 marks and 8 stars stood 10th. Md Rajib Uddin and Shakhat Hossain jointly secured the 12th position as both of them scored a total of 911 marks each. Rumel Mohammad Saifur Rahman secured 13th position

the first, second and third places along with more good positions, said a senior teacher to The Daily Star. Sajib-Al-Islam, who stood 4th in the Combined Merit List of the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations under 'Combined Board wishes to study medicine in future. I am happy with the result', Sajib said while talking to The Daily Star in his residence. Sajib said, he used to study about

Sajib plays volleyball, football and cricket. He has special attention in athletics also. Sarath Chandra and Satyajit Roy are his favourite authors. Great Prophet Hajrat Mohammad (SM) is the most ideal character to Sajib. Sajib is a fan of Mohammedan Sporting Club. Sajib does not favour student's politics. For good results, he got inspiration from his principal.



Suhash (16th)

Arif (18th)

Fahim (19th)

Afjal (19th)

Sarwar (20th)

scoring a total marks of 910 Suhash Dutt stood 16th securing 905 marks. Md Ariful Islam

the Combined Merit List. Though 11 students from the same institution secured

6 to 7 hours a day. He had only a private tutor for Mathematics. He used to stay in the residence

teachers, parents and especially from his uncle Dr Bashir Ahmed.

**Separate incidents claim 4 in Pabna**

PABNA, July 9: Four people, including two teenaged housewives, were killed in separate incidents in the district recently, reports UNB.

Police recovered two bodies — of Rita Khanam, 18, from a jute field at Kalikapur village in Ishwardi thana and Moyna Khatun, 15, from Dadpur village in Chatmohar thana — in the morning.

Police suspected that Rita's husband might have killed her for dowry. Motive behind the killing of Moyna, who was slaughtered, could not be immediately known.

Siraj Mia, 60, of Char Kamar village in sadar thana died of snake bite early in the morning, family sources said.

In another incident, Mantu Mia, 40, son of Habibur Rahman of Kashipur village in Bhangura thana, allegedly committed suicide in the morning over a family dispute.

Separate cases were filed with the respective thanas. UNB Sirajganj correspondent adds: Police recovered the body of a youngman from Sirajganj Government University College on Tuesday morning.

**Father held for violating daughter**

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, July 14: Teknaf police arrested a father on charge of violating his daughter at village Fateh Ali Para of Sabrang union here on Sunday.

Police said, chairman of local union parishad and villagers caught Abdul Jalal and handed him over to Teknaf police station.

Earlier, 16-year old daughter of Jalal lodged a case with the thana charging his father violating her

**Alleged irregularities in FWP project**

From Atiur Rahman

JESSORE, July 14: Two and a half months after expiry of cut-off date the final reports of Food for Works Programme (FWP) project was not submitted yet by the local District Fisheries Officer (DFO) to the Director General (DG), Fisheries.

World Food Programme (WFP) donated the allocated wheat for the project.

This unusual delay has sparked criticism about administration and management of this district fisheries office.

According to office record, original cut-off date for these projects was April 15 last.

Later on it was extended to April 30 by WFP. The time was

**Four killed in bus accident**

MANIKGANJ, July 14: Four people were killed and 45 others injured when a minibus plunged into a ditch on Dhaka-Aricha highway near Manikganj bus stand recently, reports UNB.

Police and witnesses said the Aricha-bound minibus fell into the 10-feet ditch as the driver lost control over the vehicle while overtaking another coach in Bhatbaor area at 4 pm.

They said the bus first dashed a roadside tree and then rolled down along with the tree.

Sattar, 30, of Shakrail in Shibulaya thana, Hablu, 25, of Goaldangi in Gheor thana, Dulal Mia, 27, of Nageswari in Kurigram district and an unidentified person died on the spot.

Of the injured, Delwar, 35, Tara Chan, 35, and Azharul Islam were admitted to Manikganj Hospital.

Police seized the bus the driver fled the scene. A case was filed

extended with a view to enabling the authorities to complete the project within deadline and submit final reports accordingly.

It is alleged that disagreement between PIC (Project Implementation Committee) and DFO to prepare final reports showing percentage of work achieved and that of wheat utilised in projects delayed the process.

It may be mentioned here that DFO was the authority to issue delivery order (DO) in favour of PIC to lift wheat of project from local food godown.

It is also alleged that 100 per cent work of any of the projects was not done.

Allegations of lapses, in design, dressing and field leveling of the projects were common. People from local area, met the Deputy Commissioner, Jessore and lodged complaints against irregularities and violation of methodology set by the government in implementing projects.

The DG (Fisheries), Liaquat Ali and Programme Officer of WFP Enamul Haq, visited several projects to see the progress of work during implementation of the projects, but they expressed dissatisfaction over the manner, the work was going on.

Meanwhile, lack of frequent visit to supervise and monitor the projects from the department concerned during implementation period offered scope for the alleged corruption to creep in.

All the projects have washed away and merged with the water bodies following the recent incessant rain fall.

Incidentally, the responsibility to implement the projects was given to DFO for the first time.

Previously such type of projects used to be executed under direct supervision of the Project

Director (PD) of Fisheries Development and Management Project. He was assisted by his executive engineer.

A total of 13 projects were taken up in the district under the programme.

The projects are, re-excavation of Zafornagar pond of Jhinkergacha thana, re-excavation of Chitra river of Bagherpara thana, re-excavation of Purakkhal baor of Obhainagar thana, re-excavation of Bhaibrab river under Haibatpur Union, the same river under Kashimpur Union and a part of the river under Jongul Bathan under Barundia union, Mukteswari river of Kotwali thana, re-excavation of Kadgora river in two segments, re-excavation of Bergobindapur baor, re-excavation of Chaklar baor, re-excavation of Marjad baor of Chowgacha thana and re-excavation of Sonandua baor of Sharsha thana in the district.

A total of 1,478 metric tons of wheat were sanctioned for the WFP project.

**New KU Dean**

Dr Md Kayemuddin has recently joined the Business Administration Discipline, Khulna University (KU) as a Professor on June 29, says a press release.

He has been given the responsibility of the Head of the Business Administration Discipline and the Dean of the Management and Business Administration School.

**3 college teachers assaulted in Magura**

MAGURA, July 14: A section of degree examinees of Magura Ideal College went on rampage recently assaulting its three teachers, reports UNB.

**Diarrhoea claims 17 lives in Gopalganj**

From Our Correspondent

GOPALGANJ, July 14: Diarrhoea has broken out in five thanas of Gopalganj district and at least 10 thousand people are reported to have been attacked by the disease.

According to officials sources, 17 persons have so far died of diarrhoea in the five thanas.

Acute scarcity of pure drinking water has been prevailing in the affected area.

Besides shortage of oral saline, cholera saline (RS) and other drugs has been prevailing in the affected area. Poor patients are worst sufferers as they are quite unable to buy medicine from the open market. In the open market these medicines are being sold at a very high price.

Everyday about one hundred diarrhoea affected patients are being shifted on average to Gopalganj hospital. Emergency medical teams are yet to reach the affected area.

Patuakhali TV sub-centre is expected to be inaugurated soon to facilitate about one crore viewers of southern districts, reports UNB.

The work to set up microwave link which was stopped so long for fund constraint is nearing completion and final examination of the relay is going on.

The opening of the sub-centre could not be possible even after completion of the all construction works three years ago following want of microwave link of the telephone department.

After the inauguration of the sub-centre, set up at the town's Kalekpur area on 1.5 acres of land, viewers of southern region will be able to see clear programmes of Dhaka and Chittagong.

The sub-centre is being implemented at a cost of Tk 13 crore with the financial and technical assistance from the government of France.

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They said they have not been getting anything to eat and no relief has been sent for them since flood engulfed the areas on July 9.

About 10,000 people have taken shelters in six flood centres which has been built privately to save the nearby marooned people.

Some local tribal people including Proma Marmia, Bourani Chamchamda, Sushil Borua, Meoching Marmia and Ulachi Borua said no official has so far visited them since they took shelter in Bilkis Begum High School on July 9.

They also said they got only three tons of rice from pouta commissioners who collected it on emergency basis from those people who were not affected by the flood.

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**Chuadanga Newsletter**

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, July 14: Urmila Khanam, 16, daughter of Abu Bakkar of village Hardi under Alamdanga thana became a victim of acid throwing by Hedayet Hossain alias Hedai, son of Abdus Satter of the same village.

When Urmila was going to school Hedayet threw acid on her. People of the area caught hold of Hedayet and gave a mass beating. They later handed him over to police. Urmila is a meritorious student of class X of Hardi M S High School. The students of the school brought out a procession in protest against this act and demanded exemplary punishment to Hedai.

In his inaugural address the TNO said, to keep the ecological balance of a country it needs 25 per cent land to be covered with trees. But we have only 10 per cent of land with the trees. In view of this fact we require more land to be covered with forest, he said.

The workshop arranged by local forest division was addressed by Thana Agriculture Officer Sattaya Ranjan Adhikari and Abdus Satter, Chuadanga Forest Development Officer. 15 male and 15 female participated in the training workshop.

The telephone of the Hospital remains out of order. The dental unit could not be introduced for fund shortage. One dental technician is getting salary for the last two years without any work. There is a cook in the hospital, but a sweeper allegedly does the work of the cook. The cook is taking his salary without doing any job.

Patients are being deprived of the proper treatment facilities. There are only 3 doctors instead of 9. The Thana Health Officer-in-charge runs a clinic at Chuadanga Sadar. He is allegedly indifferent to his duty.