

## News snaps

### Relief for river erosion victims

COMILLA, July 16: The district administration recently distributed cash and relief materials among the affected people of Burichong and Brahmanpara thanas due to erosion of embankment of the river Gumti, reports BSS.

About 15,000 people of six unions of the two thanas were affected due to the damage caused to the embankment, official sources said. Taka 35,000 in cash and eight metric tons of rice were distributed among the victims. Eight medical teams are working among the affected people and five shallow tubewells have been sunk to supply pure drinking water in the area.

### Pathological service for diabetics

PATUAKHALI, July 16: Bangladesh Diabetic Association, Patuakhali district branch has introduced pathological services for all patients recently, reports BSS.

Official sources said, pathological services have been introduced to serve people providing them genuine pathological report at a cheaper cost. The laboratory of the association remains open between 8 am and 2 pm and 5 pm and 8 pm on all week days except Friday and holidays.

### Govt Employees Coop Society's poll held

FENI, July 15: The annual election of the Feni District Government Employees Cooperative Society was held recently at its office here, reports BSS.

Ahij Siddiqur Rahman Chowdhury has been elected President of the Feni District Government Employees Cooperative Society, a press release said.

### 2 dacoits arrested in Magura

MAGURA, July 15: Police arrested two dacoits of a gang and recovered five arms from Rainagar village in Sripur thana here recently, reports BSS.

Acting on a tip-off, while the police raided the village to nab the dacoits, the gang opened fire on them. Police also returned the fire and at one stage nabbed Akas Ali and Shukman Ali from the spot and recovered two shutter-guns, three pipe-guns, nine bullets and some sharp weapons from their possession. Other activists of the gang, however, managed to escape. A case was filed with the police.

### Computer training course ends

BOGRA, July 16: A six-week computer training course organised by National Training and Research Academy for Multilingual Shorthand (NTRAMS) concluded here recently, reports BSS.

Five officers and 23 employees of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) participated in the training course. Certificates were distributed among the trainees on the concluding day's function which was presided over by Md Abdul Mannan, Director, NTRAMS. Vice-Chancellor of BAU Dr M Hossain, Prof Abdus Sattar of Sir Azizul Haq College, Deputy Registrar of BAU M Najibur Rahman and Public Relations Officer of BAU Dewan Rashidul Hasan spoke on the occasion.

### Faulty drainage system in Noakhali

NOAKHALI, July 16: Water-logging in the district headquarters has been causing suffering to the town-dwellers for a long time, reports UNB.

According to the dwellers, the rain water in poura area remain stagnant submerging the surrounding residential areas and roads and lanes in the absence of proper drainage system. Moreover, garbage is dumped in the 'Chhagalmara Khal' of the town blocking the water outlet causing inundation to the surroundings after a slight rainfall. Kutcha roads of the town go under water in the rainy season as many shops were established on both sides of the canal haphazardly blocking the drainage system.

### R&H Deptt's land illegally occupied

SYLHET, July 16: Some one lakh square feet land of both sides of the roads in the district under Road and Highway (R&H) Department are under unauthorised possession of influential quarters, reports UNB.

Sources said of the occupied land, most are being captured from Sylhet-Sunamganj road by a section of political leaders and vested quarters. Workshops, hotels, saw-mills, clubs and dwelling houses are being constructed on the occupied lands, officials alleged. R&H Department sources said they requested the Deputy Commissioner of the district to evict the illegal occupants from the lands, but no effective measures have yet been taken.

### More arms recovered in Rangpur

RANGPUR, July 16: Police in a raid for the third time recovered two country-made guns from inside the Rangpur Polytechnic Institute recently, reports UNB.

No one, however, was arrested during the raid. Tension was prevailing in the institute since the major violence between the rival groups of students on June 17. Meanwhile, district administration has been trying to restore peace on the campus. But some teachers have expressed their doubt about the restoration of normalcy as the main terrorists are yet to be arrested.

### Rivals' clash leaves one dead

NARAYANGANJ, July 16: Abdus Samad, 70, a farmer, was killed on the spot and three others were injured in a clash between two rival groups of people at Shekerchar under Sonargaon police station recently, reports BSS.

The victims came under attack following an altercation with the rival groups over money lending affairs, according to police. The body was sent to Narayanganj General Hospital for autopsy and the injured were admitted to Khanpur Hospital.

### 2 held for possessing illegal arms

CHITTAGONG, July 16: Double-nooning police arrested two criminals and recovered two Pakistan-made single barrel guns from their hideout at Moulvibazar here recently, reports BSS.

Police also recovered 17 bottles of phenisidyl from Reaz Hasan and Abul Kashem. In a separate drive Kotwali police nabbed five extortionists from a garments factory. They were trying to extort Taka 50,000 from the manager of the factory.

### Youth killed by members of in-laws

YOUTH killed at in-law's house

SIRAJGANJ, July 16: A young man was allegedly strangled to death by some members of his in-law family at village Jhaprakazpur in Raiganj thana recently, reports UNB.

Police said Haider Ali, 27, son of Salimuddin of village Parkodia in the same thana, married Runa Khatun, daughter of Amir Hossain, seven months back. But Haider had developed relationship with his sister-in-law and allured her to elope with him, his father-in-law Amir Hossain alleged. As Haider came to his house, the family members beat him up and later strangled to death, police said.

### Massive aman cultivation scheme

MADARIPUR, July 16: Around 69,500 hectares of land have been brought under aman cultivation in Madaripur and Shariatpur districts in the current season, reports BSS.

According to an official source, 37,000 hectares have been cultivated in Madaripur district while 32,000 hectares in Shariatpur. The Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) has supplied High Yielding Varieties of aman seeds and fertilizers to the farmers.

### Sewing training for youths

ISHURDI, July 16: A month-long sewing training course for the local youths was arranged by Nich-Path, a non-governmental organisation, at its auditorium here recently, reports BSS.

The training course was inaugurated by the Adviser of Nich-Path Prof Rawahan Ara Begum. Twenty-five youths are taking part in this training course.

### Sewing machines distributed

BANDARBAN, July 16: District Manpower Employment and Training Bureau has distributed sewing machines among 17 trained distressed women, reports UNB.

The distribution has been made after proper scrutiny and the recipients are to pay the price of sewing machine in easy instalments free of interest. The distressed women received the 17 machines at a function held here recently.

### Rural uplift projects nearing completion

CHANDPUR, July 16: Seventy-five per cent work of 969 rural infrastructure development projects in the district has been completed during the last financial year in Chandpur district, reports BSS.

The projects are being implemented in all the seven thanas and two pourasavas of the district under Food for Works Programme (FWP). According to District Relief and Rehabilitation Department sources, 3100 metric tons of wheat were allotted to implement the projects. About 20 lakh people of the district will be benefitted by these projects.

### Sherpur Pourashava plagued with problems

SHERPUR, July 16: The district pourashava is plagued with multifarious problems causing inconveniences to the residents for a long time, reports UNB.

Deplorable condition of roads, lack of drainage and sanitary systems, poor street light, shortage of accommodation have aggravated the sufferings of the poura dwellers. Besides, frequent power failure, mosquito menace and indiscriminate dumping of garbage have vitiated the situation.



GAIBANDHA: Rickshaws and boats plying side by side on Gaibandha-Balashi road near the district town following onrush of flood water recently.

— Star photo

## Monika wants to study Computer Science

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, July 16: Monika Akbar, a student of Sylhet Blue Bird High School, stood 7th among girl candidates in the



Monika Akbar

Combined Merit List of SSC examinations from Comilla Board this year. She obtained a total of 893 marks along with letter marks in 6 subjects.

Monika looked happy with her expected result. She is the daughter of Ali Akbar, owner of a jewellery shop in Sylhet town. Monika's ambition is to study Computer Science.



Suhash Ranjan Das

Another report says: Suhash Ranjan Das alias Shimon stood third in the Combined Merit List of Social Science group in Comilla Board this year.

A student of Choripara High School in the remote Kanaighat thana of Sylhet district, Suhash obtained a total of 845 marks along with star marks in 4 subjects.

He is the son of Shubhendru Bhusan Das, assistant teacher of the same school. He wants to be a teacher.

## Benapole Land Port users demand one-day holiday

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, July 16: The port users have demanded reduction in weekly holidays at Benapole Land Port.

They demanded it with a view to diffusing traffic jam and ensuring continuity of revenue earnings in the port.

About 90 per cent trade between India and Bangladesh is operated through Benapole Land Port.

According to a port source, revenue earnings from this port exceeds Taka 500 crore per year.

At present goods are exported and imported only in trucks through this port. It will soon be divided after re-opening of Jessore-Benapole railway line.

Repair works on this line is in progress. It is expected to be completed and likely to be re-opened by mid '98.

Traffic jam at this port is a constant problem. Sometimes long queue of stranded loaded trucks on the other side in India extends up to 10 kilometres due to space constraint in Benapole Port.

During the fiscal 1995-96, a total of 85,000 Bangladesh and Indian trucks were loaded and off loaded from this port. During the fiscal 1996-97 the figure rose to 90,000.

The cargo handlings during this period were 5,50,000 metric tons. These handlings were operated by the Port Authority on working days except weekly holidays and government holidays. The Customs Department issued the clearance order.

The total working days of the last year were 313 days excluding 52 government holidays till May this year. It has now come down to 261 days a year following increase in weekly holidays from one day to two days.

A source on condition of anonymity told that the total working days would not exceed more than 240 days per year due to recurrence of strike, hartal and other trouble.

Now on the first day of week days beginning from Sunday, imported and exported goods

are loaded and unloaded in extra time. The clearance order for the trucks are issued forthwith accordingly.

This has become the system of work at this port effect of two days holiday.

To finish two days work in one day is now impossible for both Customs Department and Port Authority. This has affected the flow of import and export business.

The port users during the recent visit of shipping minister ports and river. ASM Abdur Rob to Benapole, demanded cut down in weekly holidays from two days to one day immediately. The also demanded for making arrangement to be made for the loaded truck to pass through the check post on Saturday.

The port users citing instance of an academic institutions where one day holiday is effective, requested application of the system to Benapole Port also.

## Standard of education falls in Satkhira schools

From Abu Ahmed

SATKHIRA, July 16: The secondary education is being hampered due to shortage of teachers, lack of proper maintenance and shortage of furniture in schools of seven thanas in Satkhira district.

There are 245 secondary schools including 241 non-government secondary schools and 152 madrasahs in the district. The thana wise secondary schools and madrasahs are as follows: Satkhira sadar-secondary schools-55 and madrasahs-21, Tala-63 and 38, Kalaroa-37 and 18, Debhata-10 and 5, Assasuni-35 and 24, Kaligonj-28 and 21 and Shyamnagar thana -27 and 24.

The maximum number of schools and madrasahs are in critical condition due to shortage of teachers, dilapidated condition of schools and other problems.

The maximum numbers of schools and madrasahs are housed in tinsheds. During rainfall sufferings of the learners and teachers reaches the climax. The condition of some old science laboratories is miserable. Some schools have no benches, table and almirahs.

Qualified and meritorious persons do not take up teaching at non-government secondary schools. Facilities like gratuity, house rent, bonus and pension are not given in non-government schools.

Besides, the school authorities can not pay 20 per cent salary to the teachers due to shortage of funds. There is a government ban on increasing tuition fees of the students. The institutions have no other source of income. Most of the teachers who have no proper qualifications for jobs elsewhere ultimately take up the teaching profession in non-government high schools.

Good English language teachers and good arithmetic teachers are not available in non-government high schools. As a result, the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinees are compelled to adopt unfair means in the examination halls due to the deterioration of the standard of teaching. Experienced science teachers are also very limited in these schools.

Private coaching has been commercialised in the districts. Most of the teachers are now interested in private coaching. So they do not give full attention to their students in the school.

The schools do not have their own syllabus. Besides, question papers are not made by the respective institutions. The question papers which are bought from various commercial question setters at cheap rate are full of errors. The examination fees are also collected from the students at higher rate, most guardians alleged.

Classes are not held during 3 to 4 months of the academic year on the pretext of non-availability of government approved books.

Guardians have apprehended, if the authorities concerned of these schools do not take necessary steps towards positive direction, the standard of education will fall further.

## Smuggled medicines flood Sylhet markets

SYLHET, July 16: Indian smuggled medicines have flooded the markets of border region in the district, reports UNB.

People buy Indian medicine for its low price. Indian iron capsules and vitamin syrups are popular among the people.

But contraband medicines like phenisidyl also enters the country through Jafong, Tamabil, Jakiqanj frontiers. It is learnt that most of the medicines have exceeded the expiry date which are injurious to health.

These medicines are sold in unauthorised medicine shops in bazars of border region and Zindabazar, Taltala, Choughatta and stadium markets in secret.

The Indian medicines namely quadrom, rebital, burnol, foroxon, feofol and others including expensive ones are coming through the border areas almost everyday.

According to another report, Chamber of Commerce Industry has initiated to construct Jalalabad export and economic zone. Government help would be sought to build export and economic zone in private sector. There is possibility of foreign

aid for the project. The chamber sources said Jalalabad export and economic zone would be built in a suitable place in Madahabpur of Maulvibazar. With former chamber Chairman MA Salam Chowdhury as Convener, the responsibility in this regard was given to Salah Uddin, Ali Ahmad and ATM Mushahid.

## Man injured in bomb attack by miscreants

SYLHET, July 16: A man was injured in a bomb attack at the office of Jalalabad Gas Sramik Karmachari Union here on Sunday, reports UNB.

Union sources said some masked miscreants attacked the office in the afternoon. They first wanted to know the whereabouts of the former CBA general secretary Abdur Rahman. When they learnt that he was not present at the office they hurled several bombs injuring Imran Hossain Chowdhury, a technician of the office. Imran was rushed to the Osmani Medical College Hospital.

## Life of people, crops in threat Kalapara cross dam awaits completion

PATUAKHALI, July 16: Life of people and standing crops are in threat as the construction of an alternate cross dam in Kalapara thana is yet to be completed, reports UNB.

The construction work of 4-km long has been stopped at Charipara point in Lalua union due to dispute over land which may affect about 20,000 people of 15 villages and crops on 10,000 acres of land.

Farmers said they are not interested to cultivate aman in the coming season as they lost their ash crops recently due to intrusion of saline water through the underconstruction alternate dam.

Local people fear that they may face great danger during the tidal surge due to non-construction of 400 feet alternate dam in the area.

The construction of the 4-km-long alternate cross dam in Charipara, Nayakata, Chowdhurypara and Munisipara began in last year after a good portion of main cross dam was engulfed

by the continuous river erosion. Water Development Board has been supervising the project work. When contacted, an official said the project work has been stopped as dispute ensued between a local man and the project chairman over acquiring of land.

## Tk 30 lakh statue recovered

THAKURGAON, July 16: A statue of 'shiblinga' made of touchstone, worth about Taka 30 lakh, has been recovered from village Sandharai under Ranisankal thana on July 3, reports BSS.

On secret information police rushed to the village and recovered the statue from a ditch near a temple of village Sandharai. The weight of the statue is about 60 kilogram while its height is about one metre.

Two persons were arrested in this connection.

## Meherpur Newsletter

From Our Correspondent

MEHERPUR, July 16: Twelve members of the Executive Committee of Hotel Bazar Merchant Samity have tendered their resignation en masse recently. Two months back 17 member Executive Committee was elected.

The cause of their resignation was stated to be misappropriation of money raised from subscription by the President, assault on Chairman, use of Samity for the purpose of political gain, excess collection of subscription and intimidation to businessmen.

Names of the persons who tendered resignation are: Hashem Ali and Nepal Chandra Pal, Vice-Presidents, Md Liza, Joint Secretary, Sarwar Hossain, Organising Secretary, Saidul Islam Mintu, Office Secretary, Atiar Rahman, Saidul Islam, Manik, Matiar Rahman, Abu Bakkar and Shahabuddin Khan.

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given for poultry farming, small business, cattle rearing and cultivation of vegetables. Taka 60 thousand were distributed among 20 women.

## Training on livestock rearing

A training programme was organised to impart training 20 cooperators on livestock rearing under the auspices of TBCCA Limited recently.

Besides, 60 persons were given training on rearing cows, goats and cultivation of vegetables.

## Theft of bikes rising

Theft of bi-cycles has become rampant in Meherpur town. Seven bi-cycles were stolen from different parts of the town recently.

One person kept his cycle in front of the mosque of Hotel Bazar and went inside for prayer. After returning he found his cycle missing. One Khairul lost his cycle from Boro Bazar area while Mohasin lost his cycle from court area. Two others, Kalam and Malek also lost their cycle from Kathuli road. Shamsar and Khairul also lost their cycle.

It is reported that an organised gang of cycle lifter has been engaged in stealing cycle from the town. None was arrested as yet nor any cycle could be recovered.

## Educational equipment distributed

Educational equipment worth taka one lakh twelve thousand fifty were distributed among 83 government primary schools of Meherpur Sadar thana. The sadar thana Education Department of Meherpur district has taken the programme.

## 2 alleged terrorists arrested

Meherpur thana police on a tip-off arrested two alleged terrorists Toye and Matiar from the house of Elahi Mondol of village Lariapar under Meherpur sadar thana recently.

Police recovered two arms and three rounds of ammunition from their possession. A case has been registered with Meherpur police station in this connection. The arrested persons were wanted in several cases and were absconding.

## Loan distributed among distressed women

The Association for Social Advancement (ASA), Gangni sadar thana unit has started distributing loan to distressed women.

The loan giving function was inaugurated by Shaikh Enamul Huq, Regional Manager of the NGO. The loan was given among the landless. The loan was



NILPHAMARI: The flood situation has deteriorated in the district with rain water inundating fresh areas. —Star photo by AKM Mohsin