

News snaps

Diarrhoea breaks out at Rajoir

MADARIPUR, July 21: Diarrhoea broke out in the rural areas under Rajoir thana of Madaripur district in an epidemic proportion, reports BSS.

According to official source, one Taher Ali, 30, of village Hossainpur died of the disease on June 29 while 290 others were attacked by the disease in different villages during the last few weeks.

Training on mass edn programme

MANIKGANJ, July 21: A two-day training on "Mosque Based Child and Mass Education Programme" of Islamic Foundation concluded here recently, reports BSS.

On this occasion a discussion was held in the auditorium of Manikganj Government High School. Harun Chowdhury, Additional Deputy Commissioner (Gen) Manikganj, presided while Abdul Wahab Khan, MP, was present in the meeting as the chief guest.

Rajshahi TV station work progressing

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, July 21: Construction of Rajshahi Television relay station building under the supervision of Public Works Department is expected to be completed by December this year, reports UNB.

An official source said the construction work is progressing fast and 90 per cent work of the building has already been completed. PWD, Rajshahi unit, has undertaken a programme to construct the building at a cost of Tk 1.75 crore.

New Bangla daily from Pabna

PABNA, July 21: A new Bangla daily named as "The Daily Nirbhar" has started publishing from Pabna town from Thursday.

Prof Abu Sayeed, State Minister for Information, was present at the inaugural ceremony of the new daily as the chief guest. Industrialist, Anjan Choudhury Pintoo, is the publisher of the daily.

345 tubewells installed in Netrakona

NETRAKONA, July 21: The Public Health and Engineering Department (PHED), Netrakona installed 101 shallow tubewells and 244 tara pumps in different areas of 10 thanas under Netrakona district in the last financial year, reports BSS.

The installation of tubewells and pumps was done under Government's Rural Water Supply Programme. Besides, PHED also re-perk 302 shallow tubewells in the aforesaid areas during the period.

Miladunnabi celebrated in Comilla

COMILLA, July 21: Eid-e-Miladunnabi was celebrated here with due religious fervour and festivity on Friday, reports BSS.

Different social and religious organisations arranged various programmes which included discussion, waz and milad. Islamic Foundation, Comilla unit, organised a discussion at foundation's conference room on the day. Religious books were distributed free of cost in 32 mosque-libraries.

12 touchstone statues recovered

PATUAKHALI, July 21: Twelve statues made of touchstone worth lakhs of taka were recovered by the police from Kalapara launchghat under Kalapara thana of the district recently, reports BSS.

Police in a raid recovered the invaluable antiques from a country-boat in the river Ardhanarmanik near Kalapara launchghat. A case has been filed in Kalapara police station and one person was arrested in this connection.

Arrest of extortionists demanded

SIRAJGANJ, July 21: Local striking jewellery shopowners brought out a procession in the town on Monday demanding immediate arrest of the extortionists who assaulted one of their colleagues, reports UNB.

Mizanur Rahman Babu, the owner of Rayen Jewellers at Sheikh Mujib Road, was assaulted by Pintu and Shahin when he refused to pay them Tk 50,000 as toll on Sunday, the shopowners said. The shopowners under the banner of Jewellery Merchant Association also submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner to realise their demand.

Interest-free loan for small businessmen

NILPHAMARI, July 21: Social Welfare Department has distributed Tk 2.6 lakh interest-free loan among the small businessmen in Domar thana in the current month, reports UNB.

According to official sources, some 121 small businessmen received the loan under the department's Poverty Alleviation Programme at a function held at the department premises last week. Abdul Aziz, thana social welfare officer, disbursed the loan among the small entrepreneurs.

Youth commits suicide

SYLHET, July 21: A young man allegedly committed suicide by taking poison at Mahana village in Kanaighat thana on Tuesday, reports UNB.

The cause behind the suicide could not be known. The body was sent to the Osmani Medical College Hospital for autopsy. A case was filed with the police.

Aman seeds distribution programme

SATKHIRA, July 21: The government seed selling centre of Satkhira district has fixed a target to distribute 57,920 kgs of different varieties of aman seeds in seven thanas of the district this year, reports BSS.

The varieties of seeds include Br-1 (100 kgs), Br-11-25020 kgs, Br-25-370 kgs, Br 25 Bridhan-2950 kgs, Br 30-28,000 kgs, Br-31-140 kgs and Br 32 Bridhan-1340 kgs.

One killed in Sirajganj road mishap

SIRAJGANJ, July 21: An unidentified man was killed and another 25 were injured in a mishap at Chourashika on Bogra-Nagarbari road on early Saturday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the incident occurred at 4.30 am when a Dhaka bound coach from Gaibandha collided with a truck parked beside the road. Of the injured, 17 were admitted to Ullahpara Purnimagatee Health Complex, Sirajganj General Hospital and Bogra Mohammad Ali Hospital in critical condition. A case was filed and police seized the bus. But its driver and helper managed to flee the scene.

Youth centre to be set up in Barguna

BARGUNA, July 21: The government will set up a youth training centre, involving Taka three crore at Barguna in the current financial year, reports BSS.

The State Minister of Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Qader said this while opening a four-month long dress making training course, organised by district youth development office here recently. Deputy Minister for Shipping Dharendra Debnath Shambhu, Mazbur Rahman Talukder MP, and Nargis Ara Haq MP, were among others, spoke on the occasion.

Prize giving ceremony of cultural meet

NOAKHALI, July 21: The prize giving ceremony of cultural competition organised by Noakhali Shishu Academy was held at pourashava auditorium recently, reports BSS.

Sultana Razia, wife of the Deputy Commissioner, Noakhali, and Farha Diva Ahmed, wife of the Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) were chief guest and special guest respectively while Priti Kana Barua, Principal, Noakhali Government Women College presided over the function. Chief guest Sultana Razia distributed prizes among the winners.

Rly station overbridge yet to be built

KISHOREGANJ, July 21: A decision, taken in 1968, to construct an overbridge in the west part of the Bhairab Railway station is yet to be implemented, reports UNB.

Official sources said the overbridge, on Kamalpur-Amlapara site, could not be constructed due to alleged non-cooperation of a section of railway officials. Local leaders said everyday thousands of people from Bhairab town, Kamalpur, Fanchabati, Amlapara, Jagannathpur and Laximpur have to cross the rail lines risking their lives in the absence of overbridge. School going children are the worst sufferers.

Wheat for VGD misappropriated

SIRAJGANJ, July 21: Wheat worth Tk 2,35,52,600 have allegedly been misappropriated from the vulnerable group distribution (VGD) programme in the district in the last 12 months, reports UNB.

A survey conducted recently by a non-government organisation revealed that 19,770 VGD cards were distributed among the destitute mothers of 79 unions in nine thanas allocating 30 kg of wheat to each card holder every month. But it was found that only 20 kg of wheat instead of 30 kg have been given to a card holder and the remaining huge amount of wheat was sold in the black market — thus earning Tk 15,81,600 every month.



MANIKGANJ: Acute scarcity of drinking water has been prevailing in flood affected areas of the district. The people of flood-hit village Nabayankandi under Harirampur thana in the district collecting drinking water from a nearby tubewell.

Water-borne diseases in Manikganj

MANIKGANJ, July 21: With the recession of flood water, fever, diarrhoea and dysentery broke out in the district, attacking about 4,000 people in seven thanas in last two weeks, reports UNB.

For lack of adequate medicare facilities, the diseases continued to spread attacking the flood-stricken people everyday.

Civil Surgeon office sources said, two people died and 1,197 others attacked in June. The situation of the current month is yet to be.

However, a doctor of a local clinic informed, about 40 per cent people in the district came under attack of fever and stomach ailment for using and drinking impure water.

Relief distributed among flood victims

BANDARBAN, July 21: Minister for Agriculture and Food Begum Motia Chowdhury recently visited various flood affected areas of the district and distributed relief materials and cash money among the flood-hit people, reports BSS.

The areas she visited are Marma Bazar, Madhyam Para, Kalaghata Bazar, Balaghat Bazar and a seed-bed zone which have been seriously affected by the flash flood.

The minister distributed cash money, sarees, lungis and rice among the flood-hit families of these areas and asked the local administration and leaders to assess the damage caused by floods and enroll the numbers of really affected families to accomplish relief and rehabilitation work in these areas.

She also directed the concerned authorities to distribute seeds and fertiliser among the affected farmers.

During her visit to the affected areas, Begum Motia Chowdhury was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner of Bandarban Atiqul Islam Chowdhury, Director General of Agriculture Extension Directorate Enamul Huq, Brigade Commander of the 6th Infantry Division Sleim Akter, Pura Chairman Ayub Chowdhury, district Awami League General Secretary Abdur Rahim Chowdhury and the regional food controller of Chittagong division Amimul Huq.

In the afternoon, the minister made a surprise visit to the Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Factory (COFL).

Work of Gaibandha Sub-Jail stalled

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, July 21: The construction work of new Gaibandha Sub-Jail complex remained suspended for the last three months following a crisis on land acquisition.

The crisis originated when the land owners filed a case against the district administration claiming fair price of lands according to present market rate.

Public Works Department (PWD), Gaibandha started the construction works of the complex without making any fair payment to the owners of land. As such the land owners obstructed the construction works. A clash also ensued between labourers and villagers. At one stage the villagers demolished the boundary structure. The district administration filed another court case against the land owners.

According to an official source the old Gaibandha Sub-Jail is situated at DB road. Only 144 inmates are accommodated here. But over 300 jail inmates are now living there.

So Gaibandha Sub-Jail remains always jam-packed with prisoners.

Gaibandha has been converted into a district town in 1984, but the status of the Sub-Jail still remains same. Despite repeated appeals from different quarters the concerned authorities did not upgrade its status. They did not solve accommodation problem also.

In 1995 the government sanctioned Taka eight crore for erecting new Sub-Jail complex with a capacity of 200 prisoners. Accordingly six acres of land was acquired at Jheneshore on Gaibandha-Palashbari highway.

The price of land was fixed Tk 3.84, 608. This was far below the present market rate. The land owners filed a case claiming fair price of land.

They even erected barricade on construction work as the contractor started implement-

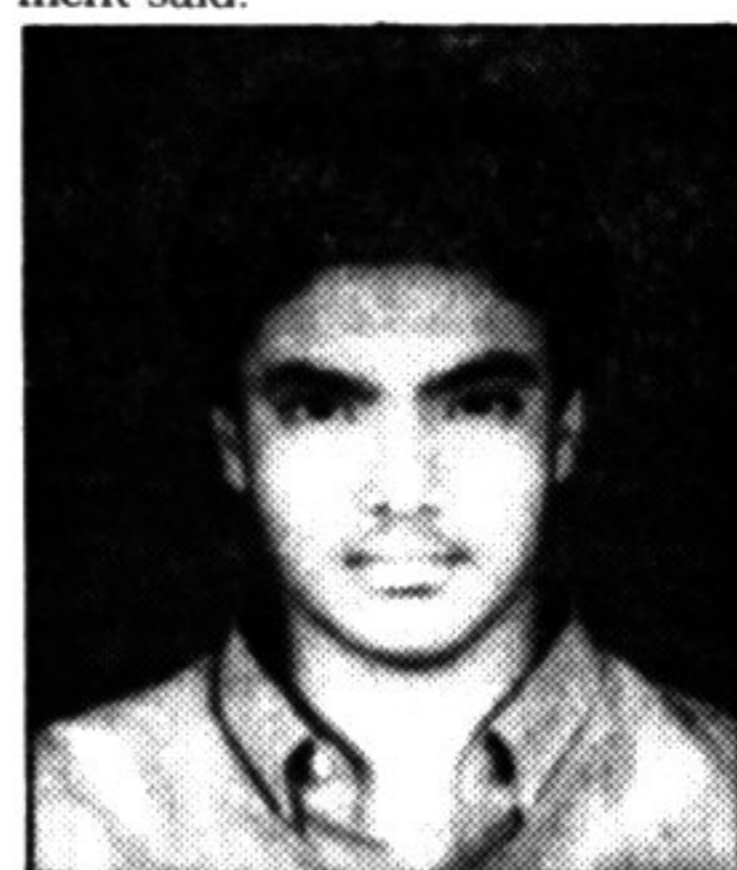
ation of work without paying the price of land to the owners. On the issue occasional clashes ensued between the labourers and local villagers.

Over three months have already passed, but the suspended works of the complex is yet to be started. Meanwhile the areas have gone under flood water. The contractors of the complex incurred huge financial loss due to stoppage of work. According to the complaint of land owners, the authorities started construction of the Jail complex without paying the price of land. They said their obstruction would continue in future also.

Power supply in Bandarban dist restored

BANDARBAN, July 21: The power supply in this hill district was restored on Friday morning after nine days of disruption due to flash flood in the region, reports BSS.

The water supply system became functional immediately after restoration of power, the Executive Engineer of Public Health Engineering Department said.



Tarik wants to be architect

Tarik Kamal secured 8th position in the Combined Merit List in SSC examination of 1997 from Chittagong Collegiate School under Chittagong board says a press release.

He obtained a total of 912 marks with distinctions in Mathematics, Islamiat, Geography, Science, Agricultural Science and Higher Mathematics.

Call to resist anti-liberation forces

RAJBARI, July 21: Environment and Forest Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury urged the countrymen to resist the anti-liberation forces unitedly imbued with the spirit of War of Liberation, reports UNB.

The minister, while highlighting various development activities of the present government, alleged a vested quarter are trying to create law and order situation in the country.

She was speaking as chief guest at the biennial council of Rajbari district Jatya Sramik League at the railway auditorium here on Saturday.

Presided over the Monwar Hossain, the council was addressed, among others, by Quazi Keramat Ali MP, district Awami League president Syed Rafiqul Salehin and Sramik League central committee president Abdus Salam Khan.

Later, the minister inaugurated tree plantation programme at Rajbari Adarsha Mahila College.

She also handed over Tk one lakh cheque each from the fund of the Prime Minister to the families of two people killed during the election on February 15 last year.

3 unnatural deaths in Sylhet

SYLHET, July 21: Three people died in separate incidents in the district during last week, police said, reports UNB.

A school student Lipika Rani Das, 18, took pesticides to commit suicide on July 8 in Kadamtali of south Surma following her failure in passing the last Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examination.

She was rushed to the Osmani Medical College Hospital in a critical condition where she died on the following day.

Mintu Nath, 20, of Majlishpur village in Balaganj thana went for swimming in a pond and his body was found floating mysteriously after two hours on July 7. Local people took him to hospital immediately where the attending doctor declared him dead.

The cause for death could not be ascertained.

Rumina Begum alias Ruma, 15, daughter of Kala Mia, allegedly committed suicide by hanging in Satargaon of Sadar thana on July 6. The cause of suicide could not be known.

Separate cases were filed with the police.



GAIBANDHA: A flood affected family of village Nabidanga under Fulchhari thana — Star photo by K M Rezaul Haque

Poverty alleviation programme progressing

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, July 21: Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) has recovered Taka 6.28 crore instead of their target of Taka 6 crore from 18,899 members of 10 thanas in Jhenidah zone last fiscal.

According to BRDB sources, they distributed Taka 7 crore 45 lakh 43 thousand among 18,899 members of Thana Bittahm Central Cooperative Association (TBCCA) of Jhenidah sadar, Kalliganj, Kotchandpur, Mohepur, Horinakundu and Saikupa thanas of Jhenidah district and Magura sadar, Saikha, Sripur and Mohammadpur thana of Magura district last fiscal.

The disbursement was 107 per cent. During the last fiscal 3,881 new members were enrolled in TBCCAs.

Manik Lal Das, Senior Assistant Director (SAD) of Rural Poor Cooperative Project (RPCP) of BRDB, Jhenidah informed that our target of Taka 6.30 crore they were able to collect Taka 6.28 crore last fiscal. During the period Taka 16.78 lakh and 62.55 lakh were deposited as share and savings respectively from the TBCCA members.

SAD of RPCP informed that alleviation of poverty, removal of illiteracy and awareness build up are the main objectives of the project. The members

have been provided with financial assistants for beef fattening, cow rearing, goat farming, poultry, fish cultivation, paddy husking, flattened rice, preparing, small trade and other Income Generating Activities (IGAs).

A good number of RPCP members have already been able to alleviate poverty from their families.

When contacted some Field Organisers (FOs) of RPCP, BRDB said that they do not extend their loan support who are illiterate.

2 killed, 37 hurt in Faridpur road mishap

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, July 21: Two persons were killed and 37 others injured, 5 of them seriously, in a road accident at Bashagari on the Faridpur-Barisal road Sunday morning.

The deceased persons were identified as Helena, 25, and Kamona Malo, 18, both hailing from Nagarkanda thana.

The accident occurred when a bus bound for Faridpur from Maksudpur fell into a ditch at Bashagari.

Magura Newsletter

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, July 21: Seven persons including five women committed suicide in different villages of Sripur thana in the district within a week recently, according to the police and family sources.

Reshmi Parvin, 16, daughter of Ashraf Molla of village Chougachi committed suicide taking poison. Krishna Rani Mondal, 23, wife of Nanda Kumar Mondal of Char Sripur and Beauty Khatun, 25, wife of Salim Mondal of Char Islampur allegedly committed suicide by hanging in a single day. Panu Molla, 16, son of Amjad Molla of village Ghasiara and Sahara Khatun, wife of Yusuf Ali of village Mangaudanga committed suicide by taking poison recently.

Helena Begam, 30, wife of Matiar Rahman at village Amtol also allegedly committed suicide taking poison. Sridam Pramanik, 30, son of Mondomohon Pramanik of village Gabindapur hanged himself to death recently.

Family troubles, love affairs and poverty were the causes of their suicide. Separate cases were lodged with the local thana.

2 killed by snake bite

Two women including a teenage girl died by snake bite in Sripur thana of the district recently, family sources said.

Ruja Khatun, 32, wife of Kutubuddin of village Khamarpara died by snake bite in her house when she was doing her household work in a kitchen house recently.

Another teenage girl named China, 13, of village Rakasakandi under Amalsar union in Sripur thana died by snake bite recently when she was sleeping in her room, family sources said.

One awarded life for killing brother

One person has been awarded life term rigorous imprisonment (RI) with a fine of Tk 5,000, in default, to suffer another six months' imprisonment for killing his brother.

The convicted murderer, Akram Hossain Molla of village Mousha under Muhammadpur thana in the district stabbed his brother Aktar Hossain with a dagger on June 13, 1994. Aktar was going to call his brother for attending in a 'Shalish' for settlement of previous dispute. Aktar died on

No cold storage in Magura

About 35 to 40 per cent production of vegetables, fruits and spices are perished every year for want of cold storage facilities, according to growers' sources.

Growers of different agriculture products are compelled to sell their perishable products like tomato, onion, potato, jackfruit and different kinds of vegetables at throwaway prices due to absence of cold storage.

Lawyer dead

Advocate Khan Mosharaf Hossain, 60, a noted lawyer of Magura died at his residence in village Parla of the Sadar thana on July 11. He was suffering from jaundice.

Political leaders of different parties, district administration and people of all walks of life of Magura town paid respect to the departed soul.

6 alleged killers held

Shalikhtha thana police arrested six alleged murderers of 'Renu' recently, according to the police.

Police arrested Arab Ali and Taraf Ali, son of Samsel Molla, Aljar, Jiku and Pintu, sons of Jalal Molla and Tuku, son of Badar Molla of village Madhukhali under Gangarampur union of Shalikhtha thana in the district.

According to the reports, Renu Khutun, 17, daughter of Abdus Salam, a day labourer under village Madhukhali was abducted from her residence on August 5, 1996 by a group of miscreants. Her dead body was recovered from a canal the next day. A case was lodged in this connection.

Lightning claims one

Lightning has claimed one life at village Khamarpara under Sripur thana in the district recently.

The deceased was identified as Sukumar Biswas Tuku, 42, of the aforementioned village. Witnesses said, the incident occurred when the victim was taking bath in the river Kumar.

Siltation decreases land productivity

PABNA, July 21: Productivity of a vast tract of land under Pabna Irrigation project has been decreased due to continuous siltation by sands, reports UNB.

Local farmers said about 4,000 hectares of land under the project have already been silted up by two feet sands and if the situation continues crop cultivation will come to a deadstop incurring huge loss to them.

Besides, a vast areas of the irrigation project were inundated following the breaches of embankment at Nakalia in Bera thana during the recent flood.

Meanwhile, State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed visited the area on Wednesday and Thursday and assured the affected people that punitive action would be taken against the persons responsible for the breaches of the embankment.

Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzaq while visiting the affected area on July 16 asked the officials to repair breaches. But the local people said repair work is not possible as the area went under 10 to 15 feet water.

Woman allegedly killed by husband

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, July 21: One housewife was strangled to death allegedly by her husband on Friday.

The victim, Hasina Begum, 30, wife of Montir Hossain, Grader of Rupsha Fish Processing Plant was strangled to death on Friday night.

Police on receipt of information recovered her dead body from the bed room of their house at Bagmara under Rupsha thana.

Her husband has been absconding. Police said they were having strained relations with each other over family matters.

A case under section 302 has been registered.

Separate incidents claim 2 lives in Nilphamari

NILPHAMARI, July 21: Two people, including an old woman, were killed in separate incidents in the district, police said today, reports UNB.

Family sources said Sakina Khatun, 65, wife of Basar Uddin of Dhopadanga village in sadar thana, was killed following a family feud on Thursday.