

**News snaps**

**Youngman hurt in bomb explosion**  
**RANGPUR, July 25:** A youngman was critically injured in an explosion while making bombs at Kamolkancha in the town on Tuesday, police said, reports UNB.  
 They said a crude bomb went off with a big bang when Abdul Aziz, son of one Abed Ali, was making bombs at a house at about 2 am. Being informed by the locals, police rushed to the spot and found Aziz in an unconscious state. His right hand fingers were blown up in the explosion. He was admitted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital. Police recovered some bomb manufacturing materials, including splinters from the scene. A case was filed.

**Housewife commits suicide**  
**SYLHET, July 25:** A housewife allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself from a tree following a family feud at Govrinathpur village in the Sadar thana, reports UNB.  
 Police said Jahanara Begum, 23, who was married two years ago with Abdul Salam, son of Chan Mia of the village in Balaganj union allegedly killed herself on Sunday as her ailing father-in-law wanted her not to visit her parents house for sometime. Police recovered the body on the same night and sent it to the hospital for autopsy. A case was registered with the local police.

**Massive aus cultivation scheme**  
**CHANDPUR, July 25:** About 150,000 hectares of land have been brought under the cultivation of aus paddy, during the current season in Chandpur, reports BSS.  
 Under Intensive Crop Farming Programme this cultivation has started. According to Agriculture Extension Office sources, about 50,000 hectares have been brought under High Yielding Variety (HYV) of aus and the rest 100,000 hectares under local variety. The target of production has been fixed at about 1,60,000 tonnes of local variety and 60,000 tonnes of HYV aus paddy.

**CDP gains popularity**  
**MEHERPUR, July 25:** Crop Diversification Programme (CDP) has gained popularity in Meherpur district, reports BSS.  
 The farmers have derived economic benefit under CDP. A total of 3,500 hectares of fallow land in Meherpur have been brought under the CDP. The farmers have achieved bumper production of vegetables under this programme.

**CODEC confce in Patuakhali**  
**PATUAKHALI, July 25:** An Educational Conference of Community Development Centre (CODEC), Patuakhali was held here recently, reports BSS.  
 Salim Reza, Associate Director of Bangladesh Friendship Education Society attended the Conference as the chief guest. Thirty trainers working under CODEC in Patuakhali region took part in the conference. Moshuddin Tipu, CODEC Manager, Kalapara, Abu Rayhan-al Baruni, Manager CODEC, Barguna, and Kayser Halib, Manager, CODEC Golachipa were among others, present in the conference.

**Aman seeds distributed**  
**SATKHIRA, July 25:** A non-government voluntary organisation Karitas has distributed 24000 kgs of aman seeds among 1200 flood-hit families in two unions under Assasuni thana of the district recently, reports BSS.  
 Of the total aman seeds 12500 kgs have been distributed among 625 families in Assasuni Sadar union and 11500 kgs among 575 families in Sritula union. Welfare Officer John S Bishwas, Field Supervisor Dipok Barua, Thana Project Implementation Officer Anwar Ali, Headmaster Nikmito Shom Ex-UP Chairman Amzad Ali and Thana Awami League Secretary Shazan Ali were also present at the seeds distribution function.

**Agri-rehabilitation programme in Chhagalnaiya**  
**CHHAGALNAIYA, July 25:** The Agriculture Extension Department of Chhagalnaiya thana has prepared an agriculture rehabilitation programme for the recent flood-affected farmers of the thana, reports BSS.  
 Official sources here said, the Thana Agriculture Extension Office has already sent the proposal of the programme to the higher authorities for approval. Under the proposed programme 64,000 kgs of seeds worth about Taka 7.68 lakh would be distributed among the flood affected farmers.

**Review meeting on pry edn implementation**  
**COMILLA, July 25:** A two-day review meeting on implementation of compulsory primary education in Comilla district was held on July 22-23 at PTT auditorium here, reports BSS.  
 Ninety persons including thana education officers, assistant thana education officers and educationists participated in the meeting. District Primary Education Officer Nurul Amin Chowdhury, Assistant District Primary Education Officer Khoshed Alam Bhuiyan, PTT Assistant Super Sadequr Rahman took part.

**Arsenic contamination in water in Noakhali**  
**NOAKHALI, July 25:** Severe arsenic contamination is reported to have been traced in the drinking water of Noakhali district, an official handout said recently, reports BSS.  
 The Civil Surgeon of Noakhali disclosed it recently district level meeting with State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader in the chair. The meeting was informed that water sample tests conducted in the National Institute of Preventive and Social Medicine (NIPSOM) at Mohakhali had confirmed the contamination.

**Super market being built at Tangail**  
**TANGAIL, July 25:** A super market is being constructed at a cost of Taka 52.95 lakh in Tangail town, reports BSS.  
 An official source said, the super market will consist of 87 shops. The construction is progressing fast and will be completed within the current calendar year.

**Miladunnabi celebrated in Jessore**  
**JESSORE, July 25:** A milad and discussion to mark the Eid-e-Miladunnabi was held recently at the KHN Junior School under Monirampur thana here, reports BSS.  
 Presided over by Anwar Hossain, Chairman of the Managing Committee of the school, the discussion was addressed, among others, by Abdul Mannan, Headmaster of the school, Nirod Bihari Mondal and Mukul Chandra Mondal. Students and teachers of the school and Katakali Primary School and local elite were present in the discussion.

**Paddy procurement drive in Sunamganj**  
**SUNAMGANJ, July 25:** The procurement drive of IRR-1 Boro paddy by the Food Department of the government is in full swing in Sunamganj district, reports BSS.  
 According to an official source, about 500 metric tons of paddy had already been purchased at a fixed rate. The target has been fixed at 5,000 metric tons for the current season. The Food Department has set up 13 centres to purchase IRR-1 Boro paddy in the district.

**Crimes on rise in Magura**  
**MAGURA, July 25:** Crimes are on rise in the district in an alarming proportion causing concern among the peace-loving people, reports UNB.  
 Police sources said some 151 cases on various crimes were filed with the thanas in the last six months. Of these, 11 were filed under Women and Children Repression Act, two murder cases, eight terrorism and toll extortion, six dacoities, 14 rape and other cases. Besides, 361 unnatural death cases have been lodged during the period. Of the dead, 107 were men and 254 women.

**Postal Workers Union poll held**  
**MADARIPUR, July 25:** The annual election of the Postal Workers Union of greater Faridpur which includes Madaripur, Shariatpur, Rajbari, Faridpur and Gopalganj districts was held at Madaripur Head Post Office premises here on Friday, reports BSS.  
 Kazi Omar Faruq, Abul Hossain and Abul Kalam Azad were elected President, Secretary and Treasurer respectively of the Greater Faridpur unit of the Bangladesh Postal Workers Union. Out of 135 voters 132 cast their votes. 36 candidates contested for 21 posts.

**Workshop of sugarcane growers**  
**MANIKGANJ, July 25:** A three-day workshop of sugarcane growers of four thanas of the district on modern method of sugarcane cultivation concluded recently in the seminar room of the Deputy Director of the Agriculture Extension Department, reports BSS.  
 Thirty sugarcane cultivators of Singair, Sauria, Shivalaya and Manikganj sadar took part in the workshop. The subject matter specialists discussed various modern method of sugarcane cultivation to achieve optimum production.

**4 policemen hurt in road accident**

**From Our Correspondent**  
**GAIBANDHA, July 25:** Four members of police sustained severe injuries in a road mishap that took place at Panthapara on Bogra-Rangpur highway on July 20.  
 At deep night a patrol team consisting of four police men under Gobindaganj thana with a tempo bearing number Gaibandha-PA-05-0061 was patrolling along the highway. Suddenly it dashed with a parked truck bearing number Dhaka-Ta-6772 at Panthapara under Gobindaganj thana.  
 Four members of police on board the tempo received severe injuries. They are: Hablu Hui, S.I. Saidur Rahman, Abdul Hamid, Aftab Hossain, constables who were removed to Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH). The condition of Abdul Hamid was stated to be critical.

**Contamination of arsenic in water of Kurigram**

**KURIGRAM, July 25:** Arsenic contamination has been found in six tubewell waters out of 10 of Rajarhat thana at Rajshahi Public Health Engineering laboratory, reports UNB.  
 According to the report of the laboratory, the highest 0.42 milligram of arsenic content was detected in per litre water of the tubewell owned by A Sattar Master of Taluksubal. The samples have been sent there by the district administration.  
 The sources said although a senior chemist informed about the contamination in six tubewell waters through a letter, only Sattar's tubewell has been sealed up and no measures were taken about the other tubewells.  
 When contacted, Deputy Engineer of Public Health Abdul admitted the matter and said they could not take measures as they did not get any direction from the higher authorities.  
 The level of arsenic contamination found in different tubewell waters included 0.03 milligram in Sonarpara Jam-e-Mosque's tubewell, 0.18 milligram in Shah Alam's tubewell and in Noida Parisad's tubewell and 0.03 milligram in residential quarter Padma's tubewell.

**Diarrhoea claims 5 lives in Pabna**

**PABNA, July 25:** Diarrhoea claimed lives of five people and attacked 300 others in Sadar thana on Thursday, official sources said, reports UNB.  
 The sources identified them as Basu, 3, of Char Bangbaria village, Aku 2 of south Raghobpur, Marzina 14 and Helen, 45, of Chorghoshpur and Hares 21 of Char Koshkhali.  
 Civil Surgeon office sources, however, denied the claim and said about 25 people including four children were attacked by diarrhoea in these areas.

**Aus farming falls short of target in Magura**

**From Our Correspondent**  
**MAGURA, July 25:** Aus cultivation target will not be achieved in Magura district, according to the Agriculture Extension Department (AED).  
 A total of 17,600 hectares of land were earmarked for aus cultivation in four thanas of the district. But 15,720 hectares of land were cultivated. It was about 10 per cent less than the target.  
 The target of aus paddy cultivation has fallen short due to set back of transplanted aus cultivation in Ganges Kobodak Project (GKP) areas under the district, local growers said.

**Shibpur College students union polls postponed**

**NARSINGDI, July 25:** Students union election of Shibpur College was postponed Thursday following a clash between Chhatra League and Jatityatabadi Chhatra Dal, reports UNB.  
 The clash erupted when BCL activists allegedly snatched ballot papers from the election officials at 4:45 pm.  
 Police lobbed several teargas shells to disperse the warring groups. Five students were slightly injured during the clash.

**Villager killed in road mishap**

**JAMALPUR, July 25:** A villager was run over by a speeding coaster at Gargharia village in sadar thana on Tuesday, reports UNB.  
 Police said Kajem Ali Munshi, 55, died on the spot, after he was hit by Jamalpur bound coaster from Dhaka while crossing Nandina bazar road at 2pm.  
 A case was filed. Police seized the vehicle, but the driver fled the scene.  
 Meanwhile, police recovered the body of a teen-aged girl from a pond at Tebirchar village in sadar thana on the same day.  
 The body was identified as Asha, 16, daughter of Antu Miah of Dakpara in the town.  
 Police said Asha had been missing since the wedding ceremony of her maternal uncle at Tebirchar village four days back.

**Indigo cultivators' revolt still inspires oppressed people**

From Atiur Rahman



JESSORE: The front view of indigo manufacturing plant at Khalispur under Moheshpur thana in greater Jessore district. — Star photo

**JESSORE, July 25:** The historic revolt by indigo cultivators popularly known as Indigo Revolt has occupied an important chapter in the history of oppressive British rule in India.  
 It was a mass uprising by Indigo Cultivators against the European planters in the sixties of 19th century. Their continued oppression and inhuman torture with the poor cultivators triggered this revolt.  
 According to historical account, Jessore played the vital role in this revolt.  
 Its planning, strategy, organisational development and escalation were handled from here under the direction of veteran leaders.

According to records, the first target which was hit by the rebels was the Katgora Indigo Manufacturing Plant under Chougachha thana, previously Moheshpur in this district in 1854-55. It was partially damaged by setting it on fire.  
 A number of workers and security guards were killed.  
 To the European planters of different companies in the district and elsewhere, the attack was quite surprising.  
 It was followed by the attacks on Chougachha Indigo Plant and that of Khalispur under the same district by the rebels, rebels caused an extrajudicial damage to machineries and establishments. What is remarkable is that the sequence of these events sparked tense situation in the area. It created a law and order problem for the foreigners.  
 However, these were stray incidents. The real and well-organised revolt against the European planters flared up in 1858 following the brutal killing of Shawal leader Kanu by the foreign company's agent.  
 He was killed to suppress the revolt. Kanu, coming from lower caste was bold and courageous to face any hard reality. This made him a terror to British people.  
 The revolt was further intensified and spread both in speed and action when Dombomb Biswas, Dewan of Chougachha plant and Bishnu Charan, Dewan of Khalispur Plant under this district, joined the revolt by resigning their rewarding job from Indigo company.  
 They are still remembered for their dynamism, credibility and leadership. Their dynamism impressed people. Their rare quality of uncompromising attitude on matters of principle inspired the participants in this revolt.  
 Their active participation in the revolt in fused new vigour to all ranks and files.  
 The European planters felt nervous and hunted the rebels went on frightening the indigo company's men for killing, genocide, arson, and lootings began from all around. But all these remained confined to only European indigo manufacturing plants.  
 As a result the European planters and their men left the station in search of safety and protection.  
 French Indigo expert and a trader Lui Bond was the Jessore, July 25: The his first foreigner to come to Jessore. He got a vast tract of land as settlement from the East India Company to cultivate indigo at Rupadia, a few kilometers away from Jessore town in 1795.  
 He started cultivation on commercial basis. He found it very profitable. Soon he took settlement of more land in different areas of this district and elsewhere. Soil fertility, high yielding result, cheaper cost of cultivation attracted the planters to choose the land in eastern part of the Ganges for indigo cultivation.  
 According to a writer, a total of 18 such manufacturing

plants were set up in the name of New Bengal Indigo Company. These were: Khalgalla, Rudrapur, Mullahati Kadgora, Bagadanga, Pipulbari, Pipragachi, Bhabanipur, Benapole, Durgapur, Gaighata, Hoogli, Mirjapur, Naradah, Nohata, Ichapur, Chougachha and Khalispur.  
 Contradicting this number, another writer said that there were 116 offices of company's head office for administrative and monitoring purposes.  
 The offices to supervise the production and collection were 628 and number of plans were 7452.  
 The total strength of employees was 18,482, the cultivators engaged in the cultivation rose to 1,12,36000. Most of them were forced labourers. It was the statistics available in this connection during 1814-15, while its cultivation was at infant stage.  
 According to another prominent historian WW Hunter, who went round the Indigo cultivating area in Bengal in 1814-15 reported that indigo was cultivated on 20, 40,000 bighas of land covering the districts of Jessore, Khulna, Nadia, 24 Parganas, Bogra, Pabna, Rajshahi, Maldah, Murshidabad, Mymensingh, Bakerganj and Faridpur.  
 He also mentioned that indigo production in these areas rose to 1280000 maunds.  
 The Major portion of world demand for indigo was met from Bengal.  
 British, Dutch and French owners occupied indigo produc-

tion field and monopolised the markets under patronage and assistance of East India Company.  
 The optimum production of indigo was achieved in mid-nineteen century.  
 Another historian Buckland in his work said, Jessore production of indigo was the finest in quality and colour in world market.  
 A large number of Showfal people with their family were brought to these area to utilise their services for production and process of indigo in manufacturing plants.  
 Their generations was found at Chougachha, Khalispur, Kadgora, Jessore. They are black in complexion and strict to their own dialect. They are now getting educated.  
 During the beginning of nineteenth century the socio-economic condition of the society was not bad. Agriculture was their main occupation. But the marketing facility was too limited. The only customers were the British people, Zamindars and their agents.  
 So when indigo cultivation was introduced under the initiative of British people, poor cultivators were allured of high price, and cash payment.  
 They could not recognise the value of their own products at first. But when the cultivation became wide and extensive, production increased much, the traders unveiled their original characters and began to exploit the cultivators indiscriminately. Their trade policy was

unearthed.  
 Indigo cultivator with the help of local opinion leaders Organised themselves to protest the Policy. Gradually, their organisations became stronger.  
 Meanwhile, the miseries and problems of the cultivators done by European planters were, published in the Amritbazar Patrika in 1869. It was first of its kind published from a village Dohar, Magura under Jhinkergachha thana in the district. The Editor of the newspaper was Sishir Kumar Ghose. The paper still exist and being published from Calcutta in West Bengal in the same declaration and nomenclature.  
 Later, Michael Modhusudan Dutta also criticised the British government from London.  
 The contributions of both the Editor and the poet rocked the British Government.  
 The 'Nil Darpan', a drama, written by Dina Bandhu in the oppression of indigo planters of Jessore and neighbouring districts also played a very important role.  
 It aroused public sentiment against the indigo company and the East India Company. The take-over of British Indian administrative by British Government from the East India Company in 1858 and termination of the system of compulsory cultivation of indigo through coercion of the European planters.  
 In 1859 was the positive effect of protest by the Editor of Amritbazar Patrika, Poet Michael Modhusudan and Dina Bandhu.

**Mass signature campaign for IU reopening**

**KUSHHTIA, July 25:** The local people in Jhenidah and Kushtia districts have launched a mass signature campaign demanding reopening of Islamic University (IU), reports UNB.  
 They have already collected nearly 2,500 signatures.  
 Academic life of the students of the university fell into deep uncertainty due to a month-long stalemate there.  
 The trouble ensued when Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), the student front of ruling Awami League, locked up the main gate of the university on June 26 demanding removal of Vice-Chancellor Dr Enamul Hui.  
 Later, Islamic University Teachers' Association (IUTA) joined the battle with BCL for removal of the VC, deepening the crisis.  
 Vice-Chancellor (VC) Enamul Hui has proposed the BCL and IUTA to sit across the table to moot out an amicable solution to the crisis, but both the agitating groups turned down his proposal and sought intervention of the Chancellor of the university in this regard.  
 As he failed to bring the BCL and IUTA to the negotiation table, the VC recently held a news conference and denied the allegations brought against him. He also refused to stand aside.

**4 new unions of Gobindaganj inundated**

**From Our Correspondent**  
**GAIBANDHA, July 25:** Four new unions of Gobindaganj thana were inundated by rush of water from upper catchment overflowing the river Karotoa.  
 A large portion of Karotoa counter embankment has been washed away by the surging water. Flood water has been threatening the national highway at Katakali. With detection of breaches at Karotoa embankment, fresh areas other than Taluk-kanupur, Harirampur, Nakahat, Gumaniganj unions have been submerged.  
 Local member of parliament (MP) Lutfor Rahman Chowdhury, Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO) and local Union Parishad (UP) chairman visited the affected areas. They urged the Water Development Board and Roads and Highway department authorities to take measure to stop the erosion of the river Karotoa.

**Water-borne diseases in Sylhet**

**SYLHET, July 25:** Diarrhoea and dysentery took an alarming turn soon after the flood waters started receding fast in the district, reports UNB.  
 At Muglabazar and Daudpur unions in the Sadar thana, the water-borne diseases are spreading fast in the past few days, while it was steady or under control in other flood affected areas, local people said.  
 According to physicians scarcity of drinking water and intake of adulterated food are the main reasons behind the outbreak of the diseases.  
 Health workers so far have failed to combat the spread of the diseases, but the district civil surgeon's office told UNB that the situation was being monitored properly.

**First daily newspaper of Jamalpur**

**JAMALPUR, July 25:** Daily Janabangla, the first daily newspaper of the district, will be published soon, reports UNB.  
 District Magistrate Achyut Pad Goswami signed the declaration paper of the daily at a simple ceremony at his office here Thursday.  
 Publisher of the daily Anwar Hossain Badsha and editor Mostafa Babul, president of the local press club Shaifque Jama and Awami League district unit President Prof Shahidullah were present on the occasion.

**4 lakh drug addicts detected in 8 N-dists**

**PABNA, July 25:** Number of drug addicts in eight northern districts of the country have been increasing day by day and a huge quantity of various narcotics are being smuggled through different border points everyday, reports UNB.  
 According to a survey conducted by a non-government organisation, about four lakh people of Nilphamari, Rangpur, Kurigram, Gaibandha, Jamalmonirhat, Dinajpur, Thakurgaon and Panchagarh districts have been consuming drugs regularly.  
 Majority of them are college students and unemployed youths while the others are rickshaw-pullers, small traders, smugglers, floating people and frustrated lovers.  
 Due to easy availability of the drugs including wine, phenisidyl, ganja, heroin, opium in abundance more and more youths are getting addicted everyday.  
 The drugs worth about crores of taka are being smuggled into the country through Burimari and Mugulhat in Lalmonirhat, Chilhati in Nilphamari, Nanglabandha in Panchagarh and Hilly in Dinajpur districts.  
 About 1.5 lakh men and women in the bordering districts are engaged in smuggling of the drugs with Saidpur in Nilphamari district as the main centre for distribution to

the interior, the survey revealed.  
 A source of the Narcotics Control Department said manpower shortage was responsible for their inability to successfully curb the illegal drug trade and abuse.  
 The sources said in five districts under the Rangpur zone of the department 27 posts of Deputy Director, Inspector and sepy have been vacant for long.  
 The drugs are available in most of the medicine shops in these districts and the owners of the shops are making money.

According to the report, out of total 4,700 medicine shops in these districts, 3,500 shops are running their business without licence.  
 Meanwhile, there is a counselling committees headed by Deputy Commissioner (DC), at district level for creating public awareness and taking action against the drug addicts.  
 Decisions for enforcing different measures to control the menace are being taken at the committee meeting each month. But in practice the menace is on rise, the report said.

**2 arrested BCL leaders released**

**From Staff Correspondent**  
**KHULNA, July 25:** Two Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leaders named Anwar Hossain and Shubrata Samad-dar arrested on Friday last from a local residential hotel July 14 were released on bail on Sunday from the court of CMM.

**Khulna-Jessore Sewerage Project delayed**

**KHULNA, July 25:** The unusual delay in implementation of the Khulna-Jessore Sewerage Rehabilitation Project has again pushed a vast tract of farmland, including habitats in the low-lying areas of the district, to waterlogging, reports UNB.  
 The gigantic project, covering the areas of Dumuria thana in Khulna, Keshobpur in Jessore and Tala in Satkhira districts, was dubbed as Beel-Dakatia, the largest beel of the country.  
 Most of the people living in

the areas are now getting poorer day by day due to chronic waterlogging problem, resulting in sharp decline in foodgrain output.  
 The works on the six-year project started in 1992-93 fiscal with an estimated cost of Tk 229 crore. Eighty per cent of the fund will come from the donors while the rest from the government, according to officials.  
 The project has been undertaken to save the vast areas of Beel-Dakatia, locally coined as 'misery of Jessore-Khulna', from waterlogging.

According to police sources, a gang of dacoits numbering 15 to 20 armed with deadly weapons raided the bazar and blasting handbombs caught the night guard, Mujibur Rahman and tied his hands with rope.  
 The dacoits broke open 13 shops and looted cash and other valuables worth Taka 2 lakh.  
 A case has been filed with Kalaroa police station in this connection.

**Satkhira Newsletter**

**From Our Correspondent**  
**SATKHIRA, July 25:**  
 A daring dacoity was committed at Dum Dum bazar under Kalaroa thana recently.  
 According to police sources, a gang of dacoits numbering 15 to 20 armed with deadly weapons raided the bazar and blasting handbombs caught the night guard, Mujibur Rahman and tied his hands with rope.  
 The dacoits broke open 13 shops and looted cash and other valuables worth Taka 2 lakh.  
 A case has been filed with Kalaroa police station in this connection.  
**Valuables worth Tk 20,000 looted**  
 A daring dacoity was committed at house of Prof Pabitra Mohon Das of village Kheshra

under Tala thana of the district recently.  
 Police sources said, a gang of dacoits numbering 10 to 12 armed with deadly weapons raided the house of Prof Pabitra Mohon Das and entered into the house by breaking the door. The dacoits beat the inmates of the house mercilessly and looted cash and gold ornament worth Taka 20,000. A case was lodged with Tala Police Station.  
 Another report adds: Kalliganj thana police recovered 42 bottles of phenisidyl syrup from a shop of Kalliganj bus stand.  
 Acting on a secret information police personnel raid the shop, owned by Joyal Abedin at Kalliganj bus stand and recovered 42 bottles of phenisidyl syrup from the shop. Police arrested Joyal Abedin. A case was lodged with Kalliganj PS.