

News snaps

Revised boro procurement target sought

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGONJ, Aug 2: Speakers at a rally held in the premises of Itna Tahash Office recently demanded increase of procurement target of boro paddy in three haor thanas of the district during the current procurement drive season. The haor thanas are Itna, Austagram and Mitamoin.

Held under the auspices of Itna thana unit of BNP, the rally was presided over by MdGudratullah and it was addressed, among others, by Principal Habibur Rahman Bhuiyan and Siddiquizaman Teakur Swapan. Later a procession was brought out which was followed by handing over a memorandum to the Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO). It may be mentioned here that boro is the only crop produced in the haor areas of the district in the year. But the farmers do not get fair prices of their products due to poor quantity of procurement fixed by the government.

River erosion renders 500 homeless

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 2: Several thousand people of 15 villages in four thanas of the district became homeless till Friday as erosion by river Jamuna continued in the areas with the incessant rainfall, reports UNB.

According to official sources, the worst affected areas were Natuapara and Charginish of Kazipur thana, and Kofjuri and Sonatoni of Shahjipur thana. They said about 500 people became homeless each in sadar and Chouhali thanas and two primary schools in Kazipur and Shahjipur thanas were destroyed by the river erosion began from Thursday night. Union Parishad Chairman of Natuapara and Kofjuri said about 2,000 homeless people of their areas had taken shelter on WAPDA embankment.

6 alleged pickpockets arrested

PABNA, Aug 2: Nagarbari police arrested six alleged pickpockets from Shah Enayetpuri ferry ghat on Thursday night, reports UNB.

They were Liton, 26, of village Ganga Prasadpur of Rajbari district, Sohel, 27, of Arifpur of Pabna town, Habibur Rahman, 30, of Dipchar of Pabna district, Uzzal, 31, of Kamarbagh of Savar thana, Abdur Rashid, 32, of Teota of Shibaboy thana and Salam, 23, of Chotoboli village of Manikganj district. Police said the arrested people have been involved in cheating passengers as pickpockets on Aricha, Nagarbari and Daulatdia ferry routes for a long time.

110 arrested in Bhola in one month

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Aug 2: Bhola district police arrested 110 persons on various charges in a month.

Maximum of those were warrantee of different cases like terrorism, extortion, dacoity, robbery, hijacking including various criminal activities, police said. Khorshed Alam, leader of an inter-district dacoit gang was also held. He was also wanted in connection with several cases.

BNP's protest meeting at Nagarkanda

FARIDPUR, Aug 2: Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), Nagarkanda thana unit held a protest meeting at Nagarkanda Girls' High School recently condemning the attack on its Joint Convenor and former UP chairman Habibur Rahman Mia by some miscreants, reports UNB.

Chaired by BNP thana unit Convenor KM Jahangir, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Adv Liaqat Ali Khan Bulu, Nagarkanda UP chairman Zahid Hossain Khokon, Bhawal UP chairman Atiar Rahman Kabir and local BNP leader Osman Gani Mollah. The speakers, at the meeting, alleged that some ruling party activists, led by police constable Abdul Haque Mollah of Sutrapur thana in Dhaka Metropolitan Police attacked the leader with sharp weapons while he was coming to the district headquarters from his village Fakra.

Meeting of village doctors

BOGRA, Aug 2: A meeting of the village doctors association was held at Gabtali thana headquarters under Bogra district last week, reports BSS.

Jointly sponsored by Bangladesh Integrated Nutrition Project and Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) the meeting was presided over by Kagal Union Parishad chairman Abdul Jalil Mondol. The meeting discussed various aspects of health problem of the rural people and the role of the village doctors in solving them.

Goods worth Tk one lakh looted

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Aug 2: A dacoity was committed in a grocery shop at Mithapukur in the district recently.

The miscreants numbering about 16 equipped with fire arms and other deadly weapons suddenly raided the shop and entered into it by breaking its doors at midnight. The owner of the shop was sleeping inside the shop. The miscreants at gunpoint looted away huge quantities of goods including cash money worth Taka one lakh. During retreat the miscreants opened gun shots to the villagers who were tried to *gherao* them. As a result at least 10 villagers were injured. A case had been lodged with the Mithapukur thana police station.

Indian goods seized

SATKHIRA, Aug 2: The members of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) seized various kinds of Indian contraband goods worth over Taka 6.48 lakh in nine days, reports BSS.

The members of BDR 21 battalion of Satkhira raided several border areas of the district and seized various kinds of Indian goods smuggled into Bangladesh. The BDR source said, the goods include sugar, milk powder, cow, spare parts of bi-cycle, potato, salt, egg, cumin seeds, sugar candy, saarees, lungi, medicines, 42 puppy, 227 birds and 530 turtle.

Rly waiting room occupied by RMS

KISHOREGANJ, Aug 2: The waiting room for first class passengers in Bhairab railway junction station is being used as RMS office of the postal division since long despite allotment of necessary land and funds for construction of RMS office, reports UNB.

The opening of the RMS office in the junction station in 1972 was a temporary measure. But the failure of the postal division to build the RMS office caused indefinite denial of the first class waiting room facilities for the passengers. An amount of Tk 3 lakh and necessary land were made available to the postal division in 1974 for construction of the RMS office building on the eastern part of the railway station.

3 murderers get life term

NATORE, Aug 2: Three people were awarded life term imprisonment in two separate murder cases, court sources here said, reports UNB.

District and Sessions Judge Sirajul Islam on Saturday convicted Umed Ali of village Baraigram of Baraigram thana and sentenced him to life term imprisonment and fined Tk 5000, in default, to suffer another three months for murdering his wife. In another case Additional District and Sessions Judge Mozammel Hoq on July 22 convicted Khalilur Rahman and Mojibur Rahman and sentenced them to undergo imprisonment for life and fined Tk 5000 each, in default, to suffer one year more for murdering a man.

Indian pesticides flood markets

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Aug 2: The Indian smuggled pesticides are abundantly available in different markets of Rajshahi and Chapainawabganj districts, reports UNB.

The farmers are using these sub-standard pesticides namely Theodine, Thiol DDT and Exem 50 Hiltish in their land due to its low prices causing adverse effect on standing crops. They are reportedly not interested to buy the indigenous pesticides at a comparatively high price, sources said. According to agriculturalists, extensive use of spurious smuggled pesticides decreases production capacity of the land. These sub-standard pesticides are also causing health hazards, they added.

BKB borrowers' rally

MADARIPUR, Aug 2: A rally of the borrowers from Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) organised by BKB, Madaripur branch was held recently at Ghatmajhi Union Parishad premises here, reports BSS.

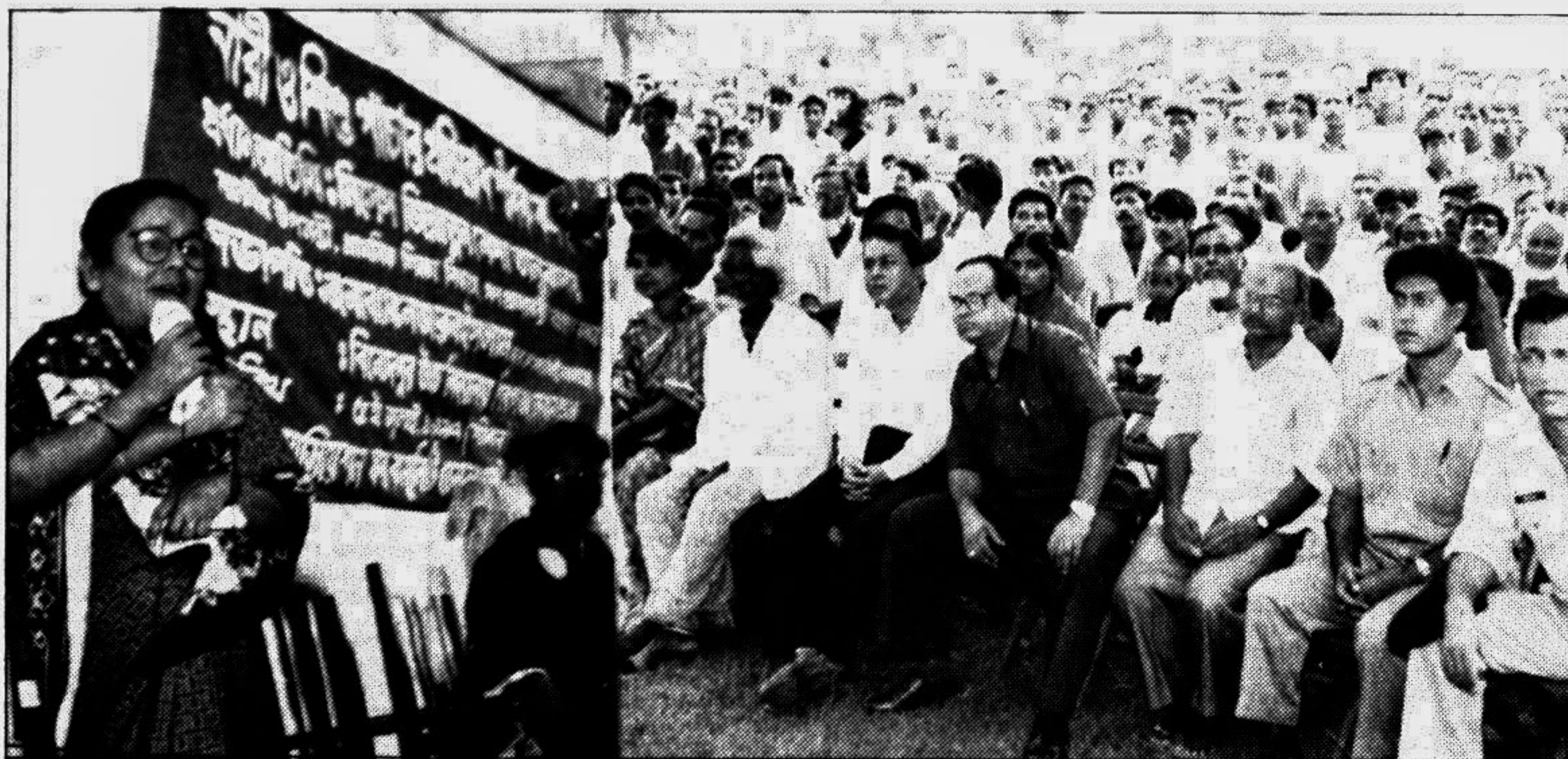
Ghatmajhi Union Parishad Chairman Ali Ahmed Khan presided over the rally. Deputy General Manager, BKB, Barisal region Shaj Khalesur Rahman Chowdhury was present at the rally as the chief guest.

A total of Taka 41 lakh was realised by 13 branches of BKB under Madaripur region on the day of the rally.

Injunction on students' union poll

TANGAIL, Aug 2: A court here on Monday imposed an injunction on the students' union election of Kalihati College scheduled for Tuesday, reports UNB.

Mohammad Shah Alam, a VP candidate from JCD panel, sought the injunction alleging irregularities in the voter list. Eight people, including three Jubo Dal leaders, were injured in an attack on a JCD procession in the college. JCD thana unit president Mozammel Haq Hiro blamed BCL activists for the attack.



CHAPAINAWABGANJ: Deputy Minister for Primary and Mass Education Prof Zinnatun Nessa Talukdar addressing as the chief guest at a workshop on 'Combating Women and Children Trafficking' held at Binodpur in the district. The workshop was organised by a Rajshahi based non-governmental organisation (NGO) recently. — Star Photo

Scarcity of fish in Gaibandha

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Aug 2: Acute crisis of fish has been prevailing throughout the district recently.

Poor supply of fish in the local markets has triggered sharp rise in fish price.

Fish supply in the district is decreasing gradually as the fishermen are unable to fish as per requirement due to non-availability of fish in rivers, canals, ponds and other water bodies. Moreover, random fishing of fries and lack of government patronage in pisciculture are the main reasons of fish scarcity. About 5,000 fishermen in the district are unable to maintain their livelihood. They are in great miseries now.

There are 17 rivers and canals in the district. Besides, the district possesses 88 marshy land with a command area of 1,065.18 areas of land. A total of 12,749 ponds are situated on 43,012.27 acres of land. 12,365 ponds belong to private owners and the remaining 384 ponds are government owned.

According to statistics total requirement of fishes in the district could be met if all the resources of fish cultivation are utilised. Water bodies can be brought under pisciculture due to alleged negligence and carelessness both from private owners and government owners.

Many prospective water bodies are lying fallow. May of the water bodies are overflooded during rainy season. As such proper fish cultivation is yet to be developed in the district. It is the major reason of 13,112.865 metric tons of fish deficit in the district annually.

The population of Gaibandha district is about 22 lakh. Total annual requirement of fishes is 21,912.93 metric tons, but the waterbodies produce only 8,800.07 metric tons of fish which is not adequate to meet the requirements. As such an acute scarcity of fish has been prevailing for the last few years. Small quantity of fish are available in the local markets. Those are being sold at an exorbitant price which is beyond the reach of fixed income groups.

Besides, local spices of

fishes are sharply disappearing from the markets due to its rapid extinction in the waterbodies.

The Hilsha fish in the markets is also in short supply. A single kilogram of Hilsha is being sold at Tk 100 to Tk 130. So Hilsha is now out of reach of common people.

The fish culturists alleged that they could not raise fish production due to lack of government patronage. Although banks have assured to provide loan facilities, but the cultivators are showing less interest in submission of loan proposal due to high bank rate and alleged harassment.

According to the sources, at present 46 fishery Samities are working in the district, but they could not produce enough fish due to multiple problems. Lack of proper training is one of the reasons. Moreover, fishing of fries is increasing day by day ignoring existing law. There is none to look after the malpractice. As such fish resources could not be increased.

Later, people handed over the youngmen along with their used autorickshaw to local police.

Another report said, police arrested two illegal occupants of *pourashava* land from Nababpur area in the town on Sunday.

The unauthorised occupants swooped on *pourashava* officers and employees when they went to evict them from the occupied land. They also kept two employees in confinement.

Police arrested one Lulu Mia along with his son Mahbubur Rahman alias Alaz from the spot. They also rescued the two employees from the confinement.

Separate cases were filed.

4 cops suspended in Jessore

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Aug 2: Four jail police constables were suspended by local central jail authority on charge of negligence of duty and in humanitarian behaviour with a sick prisoner on Wednesday.

According to Deputy Inspector General (DIG), (Prison), a prisoner Saidur Rahman 7886 who was seriously ill, was sent to Jessore General Hospital for treatment under escort of four jail police constables on Tuesday noon.

The police constables, when found that there was heavy rush of patient at the outdoor section of the hospital, they kept the sick prisoner tied with a nearby coconut tree in a standing manner.

The jail authority, acting on an information about the matter, suspended all the four constables effective from Wednesday. They were Mafiz, Ashraf, Altaf and Motaheb.

Steps sought to check copying in exam halls

MYMENSINGH, Aug 2: Bangladesh Agricultural University Teachers' Association has demanded of the university authorities to take effective measures to check adoption of unfairmeans in examination halls, reports UNB.

The association in an emergency meeting expressed deep concern over adopting unfairmeans by final year examinees of the university and put forward a set of recommendations to stop the trend.

Association president Dr Mohammad Rafiqul Haq Bhuiyan presided over the meeting held on Thursday.

The meeting also proposed for formation of a team, comprising the chief invigilator, external and other invigilators, to check unfairmeans in examination centres.

It also stressed the need for strict implementation of the provision of 75 per cent attendance of students in their classes as pre-condition to appear in their examinations.

He, however, assured cancellation of dealership in case of detection of any foul game and sale of gas cylinder exceeding the fixed price of Tk 200.

Dealers appointed under political influence are allegedly creating artificial crisis of LP gas by selling their quotas in the black market. They lift their quotas at the rate of Taka 181 per cylinder. It is alleged that the dealers are selling it in the blackmarket at the rate of Taka 500 per cylinder.

Total number of dealers are now 120.

Genuine dealers have expressed their inability to continue their business due to fake dealers' malpractice.

They further said, new dealers are enjoying maximum facilities. New dealers do not have their business establishments as demanded under rules and regulations, they added. New dealers are permit seekers, said depot manager of Meghna Petroleum Ltd.

According to official source, Khulna zone is supplied with only 21 per cent of the total gas produced by Eastern Refinery. Eastern Refinery produces one lakh and twenty thousand cylinders of LP gas every month.

The Regional Manager of Meghna Petroleum Ltd, Moinuddin Chowdhury said that Khulna city needed 40 thousand cylinders of gas every month. But only 25,000 cylinders are supplied every month for the entire Khulna zone. This is quite inadequate to meet the need, he said.

The returnees risked their life and came through different frontiers in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.



GAIBANDHA: Flood victims of Fazlurpur area in the district still staying in makeshift shelters. As a result they are undergoing immense sufferings. — Star photo

Faridpur Newsletter

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Aug 2: Ex-Headmaster of Char Bhadrashan High School at Char Bhadrashan Zailul Abedin, 76, passed away recently.

He served in the school from the very inception of the school in 1947. He is remembered for his selfless services for spreading education and doing humanitarian works.

He left behind his wife, three sons, six daughters and a host of relatives, friends, and admirers to mourn his death.

Milad mahfil at press club

Faridpur Press Club arranged a milad mahfil at the club premises recently.

In the milad mahfil prayer was held for the salvation of the departed soul of Begum Saidunnesa, 76, mother of Inspector General of Police (IGP), Azizul Huq.

The milad mahfil was attended by IGP, elder son of the deceased, journalists and police officials. Her namaj-e-janaja was held at local Ambika maidan on the same day. She was laid to rest at Alipur graveyard.

She left behind four sons, five daughters and a host of relatives to mourn her death.

Aliabad UP chairman held

Aliabad Union Parishad (UP) Chairman Syed Azmal Hossain was arrested on recently on charge of seduction of a girl student of Rajendra Varsity College in broad day light.

He was admitted to Faridpur General Hospital on the same day following sudden illness at Kotwali thana.

The students of the varsity college brought out militant processions here on three consecutive days demanding exemplary punishment to the chairman. Tight security measures have been taken at the hospital for his safety.

3 commit suicide in 2 thanas

Three persons committed suicide in three separate incidents in two thanas of the district recently.

According to police and family sources Rabindra Sikder, 18, son of Monoranjan Sikder of village Bishahi Kanda under Bhanga thana committed suicide by swallowing poison recently.

The family feud was reportedly the cause of suicide.

On the same day Motaheb Sikder, 25, son of Mohar Ali Sikder of village Baliaarchar under Sadarpur thana committed suicide by hanging from a mango tree of his house.

The cause of his death still shrouds in mystery.

Meanwhile, Ripon, 16, son of Tota Molla of village Shyampur

under the same thana committed suicide recently by consuming poison reportedly due to frustration in love affair with a girl of the same village.

Three unnatural death (UD) cases were lodged with the respective thanas.

School libraries in bad shape

Most of the school libraries of five districts of greater Faridpur are on the verge of ruination for lack of patronage and preservation.

According to government sources, there are 630 secondary high and junior high schools in five districts — namely Faridpur, Rajbari, Madaripur, Shariatpur, and Gopalganj. Out of these, 18 are government high schools, 441 non-government high schools and 144 junior high schools. Out of these, 145 schools have not library at all.

The rest of the schools have libraries, but no librarians are engaged there to distribute books among the students.

A library is a part and parcel of an educational institution. Proper education cannot be imparted without a rich library in an academic institution. So, the authorities concerned should take measures for the welfare of students as well as teachers.

Girl violated

A teenaged girl was violated recently at village Balla Dangi under Char Bhadrashan thana.

According to family sources, the victim, Sonia, daughter of Sohrab Fakir of village Balla Dangi under Char Bhadrashan thana was playing when she was forcibly taken to a lonely place by Aftab, 25, son of Jaher Molla of the same village and violated. When she raised a hue and cry, people rushed there and rescued her. She was immediately admitted to Char Bhadrashan Thana Health Complex. She was later shifted to Faridpur General Hospital.

Violators' arrest demanded

In a joint statement signed by Arju Karim, President Mahila Parishad, Faridpur district unit, Najnin Haider, President of district Mahila Samity, Shahajadi Begum, convenor of Nari Forum and Asma Akhter Mukta, Secretary of Roots, an NGO expressed grave concern for the failure of the police to arrest the culprits responsible for gangraping Salma, a teenaged school girl recently.

Salma's father Md Dalomia of Alipur area in the town lodged a complaint with Kotwali thana mentioning the names of the culprits, but the culprits are still at large and threatening Dalomia for withdrawal of the case. A tense situation has been prevailing in the area.

JAMALPUR: Winner of a literary competition held recently at Jamalpur Press Club receiving award from Ziaul Karim, a local MP.

— Star photo

Road mishaps claim 3 in Ctg, Rajshahi

Three people were killed and seven injured in road accidents in Rajshahi and Chittagong Thursday, report agencies.

Two people were killed and three others wounded in two separate road accidents in Sadar thana of Rajshahi.

Police said that a man, Monwar Hossain, 38, of Maldagh, was killed in a collision between a bus and a autorickshaw on Rajshahi-Naogaon road at Mohanpur at 8.30 am. The accident also left three people injured.

Another road accident that left a bicycle rider dead, occurred when a truck dashed the two wheeler at Bolanpur at 11 in the morning. The victim, Akhter Hossain, succumbed to his injuries at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

Another report says, one person was killed and four others were critically injured when an autorickshaw and a speeding truck collided head on at Panthashila under Sitakunda thana on Dhaka-Chittagong highway Thursday afternoon.

According to district police, the accident occurred when a speeding Dhaka-bound truck collided with an autorickshaw which was coming from the opposite direction with four passengers.

The autorickshaw was smashed in the accident which

left one persons dead on the spot and four others including the driver of the autorickshaw injured.

The seriously injured driver was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

The dead was identified as Balamar Saha, 65, the sources said.

The driver of the truck escaped from the spot soon after the accident. The body was sent to the hospital for postmortem. A case was filed.

2 snatchers held in Manikganj

MANIKGANJ, Aug 2: Police arrested two snatchers, including a babytaxi driver, near Muljan on Dhaka-Aricha highway, 2 kilometre west of Manikganj town Thursday, reports BSS.

Police sources said, Mosharraf Hossain, a businessman of Baichal under Manikganj thana, was returning home by rickshaw. Three snatchers, who were waiting near the Wireless Gate in a baby-taxi, took up the businessman in their babytaxi. On way to Aricha, they snatched Tk. 46,700 from him and left by the babytaxi.

Police caught one of the snatchers and the babytaxi driver.