

News snaps

Valuables worth Tk 1.50 lakh looted

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Aug 5: Six alleged miscreants on Saturday night looted three air conditioners, two telephones, one canon fax machine and other valuables worth over Tk 1.50,000 at gunpoint from the office of China Harbour Engineering Co at Sher-e-Bangla Road under Kotwali thana.

The company has been working at Khulna-Chuknagar Road under an agreement with the Bangladesh government. The acting project manager Ji Sui Yan has registered a case in this connection.

Rangpur Press Club executives

RANGPUR, Aug 5: A 13-member executive committee of Rangpur Press Club was formed for two years term in an election at club premises on Thursday, reports UNB.

Sadrul Alam Dulu and Liakat Ali Badal were elected as president and secretary respectively while Syed Abul Hasanat Labiu and Khairul Anam elected as vice presidents. Other elected office bearers were: Joint secretary Mahub Rahman, treasurer Wadud Ali, sports secretary Saidul Islam Alamgir, cultural secretary Manik Sarker, office secretary Abdur Rahman Mintu, members AKM Faziul Haque, Ariful Haque Raju, Shusanta Bhomik and Joinal Abedin.

Timbers recovered

RANGAMATI, Aug 5: The Khagrachhari Forest Division has recovered in a raid, about 250 cubic feet of different costly timbers worth about Taka two lakh from different places of Khagrachhari town on July 30, reports BSS.

The raid was led by the Range Officer of Khagrachhari Sadar Enamul Huq and assisted by Deputy Ranger Abdul Mannan. The recovered timbers which included teak, koral and gamar were reportedly extracted illegally from the government reserved forest and stacked at Perachhara and a place adjacent to Christian Boarding in Khagrachhari town for smuggling, official source said.

Education Week observed

FENI, Aug 5: An education conference was held at Feni Pilot High School premises recently in observance of the National Education Week '97, reports BSS.

Thana Nirbahi Officer, Feni sadar, Fazlul Huq presided over the conference. Joyanal Abedin Hazari, MP, was present on the occasion as the chief guest. Feni Pourashava Chairman Alhaj Kabbat Ahmed attended the function as special guest. Prizes were distributed among the educationists of the district.

Woman killed in Satkhira road mishap

SATKHIRA, Aug 5: A young woman was killed and 10 others were injured in an accident in Debhata thana on Satkhira-Kaliganj road on Saturday, reports UNB.

Manju, 30, of Thanaghat, of the district died on the spot when a Satkhira bound minibus dived against a telephone post while giving side to a rickshaw van in the morning. All the injured were sent to Sadar and Sakhipur hospitals from where one was shifted to 250-bed hospital in Khulna in a critical condition. Police seized the minibus, but the driver fled from the scene. A case was filed with Debhata police.

11 fishermen missing

BARISAL, Aug 5: At least 11 fishermen were reportedly missing after a trawler capsized in the Bay of Bengal, some 60 km off Patharghata in Barguna district on Saturday night, reports UNB.

Ali Akbar, one of the survivors, said "FB Ali Shaha" with 13 fishermen on board sank in the bay as it was caught by violent wind. The missing fishermen were identified as Abul Kasem, 38, Ishaq, 28, Shamsul Alam, 30, Rafiq, 28, Abdul Ali, 25, Badaha, 36, Siraj, 28, Mansur, 35, Siraj, 23, Khokan, 20, and Selim, 33.

4 killed in Kushtia road mishap

KUSHTIA, Aug 5: Four bus passengers were killed and two others injured when they fell down from an overloaded running bus on Kushtia-Mohiskundi road on Saturday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the bus passengers fell from the accident after they were hit by a branch of a roadside tree at Hosenabad.

The deceased identified as Khabiruddin, 28, Hossain Ali, 18, Nizamuddin, 35, and Abul Hasan, 30, died on the spot. The names of the injured people could not be known.

Agri-workshop concludes

NAOGAON, Aug 5: A workshop on agriculture organised by the Agriculture Department concluded at the premises of the district agriculture extension office here last week, reports BSS.

About 50 persons including officers and employees of Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADCO) and some non-government organisations participated in the workshop to discuss modern method of cultivation.

Kidnapped boy recovered

SATKHIRA, Aug 5: Police rescued a kidnapped minor boy from a house at Kalja village in Kaliganj thana and arrested two people in this connection on Sunday, reports UNB.

Sakim, 6, son of Rahmat Ali of Kodandaha of Assasuni thana, was kidnapped from his house on June 17 for a demand of Tk two lakh as ransom. Police said after hectic campaign, they rescued the boy after more than one and half month of his abduction raiding the house of Nawsher and Akbar at Kalja village in Kaliganj thana.

Body recovered

SYLHET, Aug 5: A body of a man was recovered from a house at Mouban Hatpur in the town on Thursday, reports UNB.

Police said they recovered the body of Taleb Hossain, 32, son of Raja Mia of Sharifnagar village of Habiganj district, from the house owned by Moynur Rahman. The hands and legs of the body were tied up with rope when it was found, they added. Taleb has been residing in Moynur's house for long. Meanwhile, police sent the body to the Osmani Medical College Hospital for autopsy. A case was filed with Sadar police.

Pry school teachers' confere

NARSINGDI, Aug 5: The triennial conference of the district unit of Bangladesh Private Registered Primary School Teachers' Association was held at Baniachhal Primary School here on Friday, reports UNB.

President of the association Asaduzzaman attended the conference as chief guest. Presided over by acting president of Narsingdi Teachers' Association Abul Kashem, the conference was addressed, among others, by Nepal Das, Sukkur Ali and Abdul Basad. A 56-member committee of the district unit was formed with Abul Kashem and Nepal Das as its president and vice-president respectively.

Indian phensidyl recovered

BARISAL, Aug 5: Wazirpur thana police recovered 65 bottles of Indian phensidyl syrup from a Barisal-bound night coach from Meherpur on July 26 night, reports BSS.

According to the police source, acting on tip-off, Wazirpur thana police rushed at the Shikarpur ferry ghat and recovered the phensidyl from under the passengers' seat of the night coach. None was arrested in this connection from the coach. A case was lodged with Wazirpur thana police in this connection.

Workshop on education

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 5: Various programmes chalked out in observance of the National Education Week '97 concluded here on July 31, reports BSS.

A workshop on education, development and environment was held at Bhasani auditorium here to mark the occasion. The Deputy Commissioner, Sirajganj, AKM Shamsuddin inaugurated the workshop as the chief guest. Teachers of different educational institutions, among others, participated in the workshop.

Unnatural deaths on rise

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Aug 5: A total of 152 bodies were brought to the morgue of Kishoreganj sadar hospital for post-mortem during the last six months.

According to the hospital sources, post-mortem of 23 bodies were performed in the month of January, 20 in February, 23 in March, 26 in April, 26 in May and 34 in July. The bodies had been sent to the morgue by the police of 13 police stations and 2 railway police stations in the district for performing autopsy. A total of 160 bodies were brought to the Kishoreganj morgue during the same period last year.

SYLHET, Aug 5: One hundred seat girls hostel of Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College was inaugurated by the Health and Family Welfare Minister Salahuddin Yusuf here recently, reports BSS.

The hostel building was constructed at a cost of Taka two crore and fifty lakh. Addressing a gathering on the occasion the minister asked the hospital authority to ensure better health services to the common people.

Kuakata yet to be developed as exciting tourist spot

From Aroop Talukdar

BARISAL, Aug 5: Kuakata with its 18 kilometres long and 2 kilometres wide shining sand beach and glittering waves is gradually becoming one of the most important tourist spot in Bangladesh.

The Sundarbans, another tourist attraction is very near to Kuakata sea shore. The Sundarbans rich with wildlife resources is the largest mangrove forest in the world having a unique natural beauty.

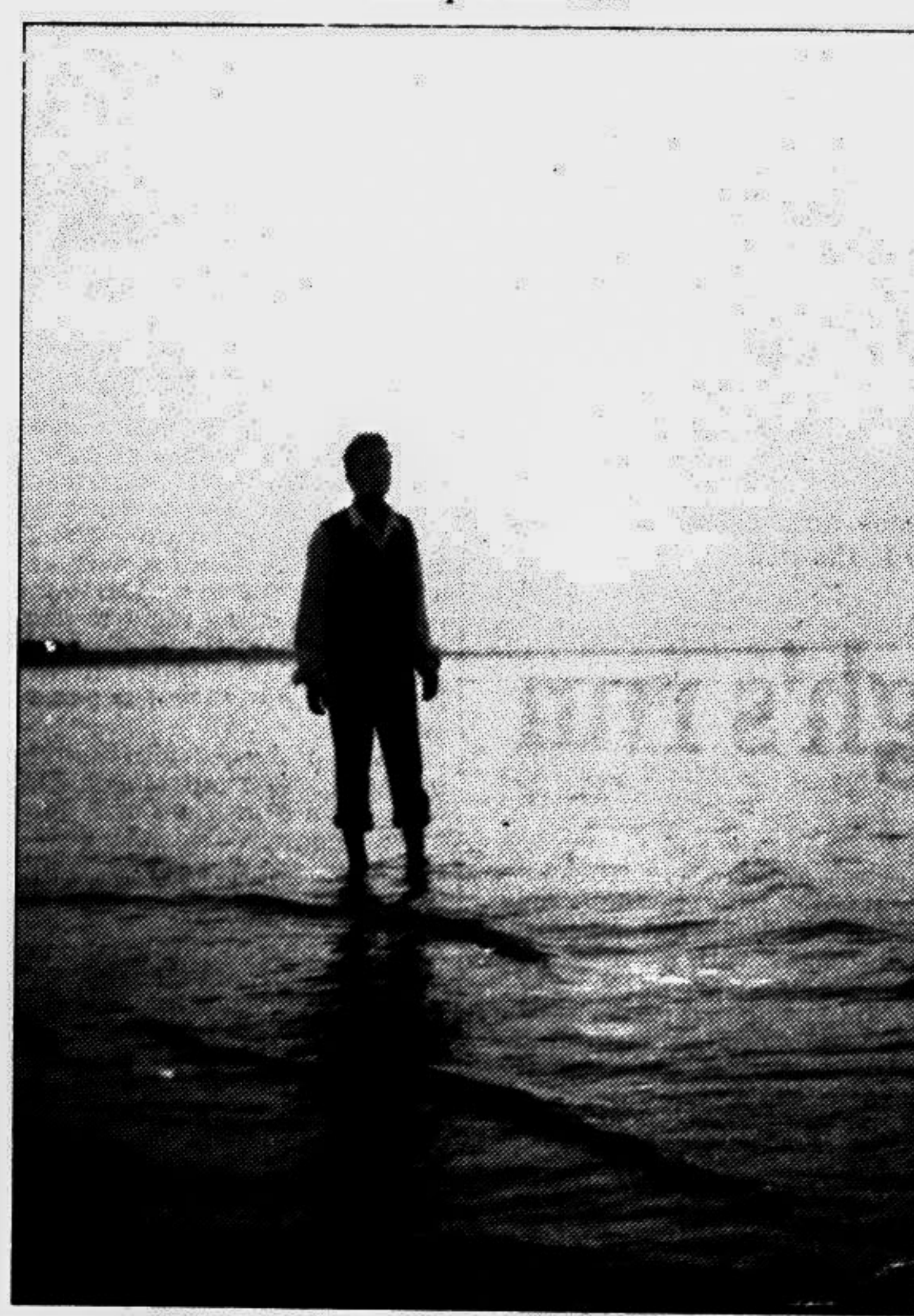
Kuakata and the Sundarbans offer the most exciting opportunities for developing tourism in our country. It may be mentioned undoubtedly.

But no tangible endeavour has yet been taken from the government to provide necessary accommodations or transportation facilities for the tourists.

Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (BPC) has taken up a project to construct a 'tourist centre' adjacent to the Kuakata sea shore. At the very outset it will have a 'Holiday Home' with well decorated 30 rooms and a 55 seated modern restaurant-cum-dining hall. Besides, there will be a swimming pool, river cruising vessels upto the Sundarbans including other necessary facilities with an expenditure of more than Taka 1.50 crore.

Construction works of 4-storey dormitory building has already been started at Kuakata. It is expected to be completed within this year.

Kuakata is situated at the lap of the Bay of Bengal with serene beauty of natural landscape. It is one of the rare sea-beaches in the world from where both sunrise and sunset scenes can be observed. There is another



BARISAL: The scene of sunset at Kuakata sea beach.—Star photo

attraction for the tourists — Rakkhain tribal people. Their strange way of livelihood and lifestyle seem to be very interesting to modern people.

Kuakata sea shore is only 70 kilometers away from the Patuakhali district headquarters.

It needs less than 3 hours by road and more time by riverine transports to reach the destination due to hazardous road communication.

Still then, tourists are on increase every year at Kuakata, especially in the winter season and in the historical rash festival.

The long coconut garden along the sandy sea beach has also created a very natural heavenly landscape. Many tourists use to sit under the shadows of the coconut trees in the summer to get a relief and rest.

The oldest Buddha Bihar 'Sreemangal Bihar' in the southern region of the country at Kuakata is another exciting feature. Some 72 years ago an image of Lord Buddha with 1.5 tons of weight and 7 feet height was set up here at Mulapara. The Vikkhu Ukhema set up that image in the temple. That temple was wrecked during the cyclone in the sixties. One Bachin Talukder, as caretaker, rebuilt the temple. But it was further damaged in the cyclonic disaster of 1965. Afterwards, the image (idol) was replaced from Mulapara to Keranipara at Kuakata. From then the brass made Buddha idol is considered as one of the great attractions for the tourists coming to the Kuakata sea resort.

The sound and glittering light of rolling water in the sea seem to spark like diamond at the top of the running waves in moonlit nights.

It is really an unforgettable memory in one's life time! Kuakata seaside resort lacks many basic facilities of tourists but it is still beautiful with its panoramic natural beauties.

1,94,000 cases pending in different courts in N-region

From Ranesh Maitra

PABNA, Aug 5: About 1,94,000 cases are pending in different courts — many of them for years together — in 16 districts of northern region, according to a report from official sources.

Among these cases are: rent certificate cases, civil suits, land acquisition cases, revenue cases, 'exchange' cases and mutation cases. It has been stated in the report that annually, on an average, 25 per cent of the pending cases are being disposed off.

The report states that of the total number of 1,94,041 pending cases, 1,53,092 cases were so far disposed off. Besides, out of the total number of 3,578 cases filed over the disputes concerning right title and possession of land, 2,008 cases are still awaiting disposal.

Moreover, 1,05,033 rent certificate cases, trial of only 9,169 cases have been completed. The

total claim of the government in the pending rent certificate cases stood at Taka 14 crore 87 lakh 92 thousand and four hundred and fifty three. Out of the total number of 14,824 civil suits arising out of the dispute concerning government khas land, only 335 cases were disposed off during the last year. Of these cases, the government won in 274 cases and were defeated in the remaining 67 cases.

Out of the total number of 2,573 revenue cases, 2,283 are still pending in different districts. Out of the pending cases 60 revenue cases are awaiting disposal and laying hanging for over five years.

Besides, out of the total number of 6,869 land acquisition cases, 5,484 are still pending.

As regards 5,609 exchange cases, 1,259 are awaiting disposal. These exchange cases

have been able to show a better performance as regards their disposal were concerned.

Regarding pending mutation cases, numbering about 62,606, a total of 37,213 such case are still awaiting disposal. The pending mutation cases have been divided into two parts. Of the first part, 13,211 cases out of 27,523 are laying pending which in the second part, 24,002 out of the total number, of 35,083 cases are awaiting disposal.

The report, published recently by the Revenue Department, however, does not include the number of pending criminal cases and of civil cases in which government is not included as a party.

This government have, however, issued circulars upon the respective district administrative authorities to take an all-out effort for a prompt disposal of all the pending cases.

Gopalganj Newsletter

From Our Correspondent

GOPALGANJ, Aug 5: The X-ray machine of Tuberculosis (TB) clinic under Gopalganj Sadar Hospital is lying inoperative for 12 years due to some mechanical fault. No repairing work has yet been done, hospital sources said.

Moreover, a post of junior consultant in this clinic has fallen vacant since long. As a result, the TB patients are deprived of proper treatment.

The hospital authorities and the civil surgeon have repeatedly asked the Director General (DG), Health and the Project Director, TB control in writing to provide of a new x-ray machine or repairing of the old one.

The number of TB patients are abnormally increasing in the district. Due to shortage of medical apparatus and X-ray machine, the attending physicians have been facing trouble to diagnose the disease.

The TB clinic authority and Civil Surgeon of Gopalganj Nurul Haque told The Daily Star correspondent that the present situation of the TB clinic is very miserable. Proper treatment is not possible at this stage, he added.

The people of Gopalganj district urged the concerned ministries to provide an X-ray machine and arrange for posting a junior consultant for the clinic immediately.

Boy electrocuted

A minor boy was electrocuted in Gopalganj town at Khistianpara on July 31, Gopalganj Sadar thana police said.

According to family sources, Tipu Panda, 10, son of Kumud Panda, a resident of Khistianpara in Gopalganj town was playing with his companion near his residence. At one stage, Tipu went to sit near an electric pole which was electrified. He met the tragic end of his life when he came in contact with the electrified pole.

The local people immediately sent him to Gopalganj Sadar Hospital where the attending doctors declared him dead.

A case has been registered with Gopalganj Police Station in this connection.

Woman commits suicide

An old woman, Ashalata Biswas, 50, committed suicide by taking a poison on July 28 midnight, Gopalganj thana police said.

Ashalata Biswas, 50, is the wife of late Jaga Bandhu Biswas of village Ghanapara under Gopalganj Sadar thana in the district. Ashalata Biswas had a quarrel with his children on July 28. She became very angry.

Ashalata Biswas decided to take poison the same night. Accordingly she took poison and died.

An unnatural death (UD) case was registered with Gopalganj police station in this connection. The dead body of Ashalata Biswas was sent to Gopalganj morgue for post-mortem.

Youth killed in road mishap

A young man Idris Ali Molah, 18, was killed in a road accident on Dhaka-Khulna highway near Gopalganj Girls' High School on July 9 morning.

The victim is the son of Masher Ali Mollah of village Gopalidhi under Dash Milla thana of Patuakhali district. When Idris was going to his residence from Gopalganj bazar, a truck came from the rear side and knocked down him. He was seriously injured. Then he was admitted to Gopalganj Sadar Hospital in a critical condition where he died after two hours, according to hospital sources.

A case was lodged with Gopalganj police station in this connection. The dead body was sent to Gopalganj Hospital morgue for autopsy. The truck driver and helper have been absconding. Police seized the truck.

Roads in bad shape

The condition of roads, both kutcha and pucca has become extremely miserable in the district.

The situation has become so due to lack of maintenance work.

Besides, alleged corruption by the contractors in repairing and reconstructing roads also have contributed to extreme miserable condition.

Handloom industry facing set back

The handloom industry in Gopalganj Sadar thana, Kasiani thana, Maksudpur thana and Kotkalipara thana of the district has been facing set back due to various problems.

High price of yarn, weaving materials, non-availability of capital and lack of marketing facilities are the major problems.

According to handloom industry owners sources, about 50 thousand people are dependent on weaving to earn their livelihood, but for want of capital and exorbitant price of yarn, they are unable to cope with the present situation.

Availability of foreign clothes at cheaper rate has reduced the demand of local handloom products.

The products like bed-sheet, napkin, saree, lungi and wrap-pers are in great demand outside the district. These products are comparatively cheaper. A group of weavers told this correspondent that unless some positive steps were taken by the authorities to supply adequate yarn and other necessary materials to the weavers directly, the present miserable condition of the weavers would continue.

More than 100 women are involved in smuggling in Gopalganj town, a survey report revealed here.

According to the report conducted by a social welfare organisation, most of these poor women are either divorced or widowed in young age. Finding no other alternatives to eke out their living they were compelled to take up such heinous occupation. A large number of women in the town live in a miserable condition due to poverty. These influential people of the society use these destitute women to meet their selfish end. Sometimes criminals marry poor women and engage them in smuggling and prostitution by force. Sometimes, these women become fifth or sixth wife of these criminals, it is learnt. These women go out of their houses early in the morning and return at night selling smuggling goods. During their day and night operations they have to face hostile circumstances, on many occasions they have to please the members of law enforcing agencies.

Woman smugglers on rise

Although the affair is known to the law enforcing agencies, no steps have been taken to either check the unhealthy trend.

Population Day observed

GOPALGANJ, Aug 5: The World Population Day was observed in Gopalganj in a befitting manner recently.

This year, the theme of the day was "Adolescents' Reproductive Health." The district family planning department chalked out elaborate programmes to mark the day.

At district level, a colourful rally was brought out from the Collectorate building premises and paraded the main streets of the town. The Deputy Commissioner, Gopalganj, Abdur Razzaq led the rally. District level officials, workers of the family planning department and NGOs participated.

A discussion meeting was held at the thana parishad auditorium. Deputy Director, Family Planning, Md Enamul Haq presided over the discussion. Syed Mahub Hossain, Additional Deputy Commissioner (Gen) and Dr Nurul Haq, Civil Surgeon, Gopalganj, were present as the chief and special guests respectively.

Another commits suicide

One Romen Chandra Sarkar, 30, son of one Gopalchandra Sarkar of village Golabaria under Gopalganj sadar thana committed suicide by taken poison recently.

Romen Chandra Sarkar quarrelled with this parents and committed suicide by taking poison.

A case of unnatural death (UD) was filed with Gopalganj police station in this connection.

Police recovered the dead body and sent it to Gopalganj Sadar Hospital for post-mortem.

School dropouts on rise

The number of primary school-going children is decreasing in remote areas of the district. The reason is they are compelled to take up jobs to give financial support to their families.

According to a survey, a large number of children, between age 8 and 12 are engaged in different odd jobs to earn their livelihood instead of going to schools.

As a result, primary schools of these areas are facing acute shortage of students. The problems are intensifying every day.

The survey report also said parents of these children are marginal and landless farmers. In general they have a large family with many members. Most of them can't afford to meet the expenses of their family.

Finding no other alternatives the poverty stricken farmers prefer to engage their children in various petty jobs like cattle rearing, rickshawpulling and tea stall works. During harvesting seasons, a good number of labourers doing with their kids migrate to other places in search of work.

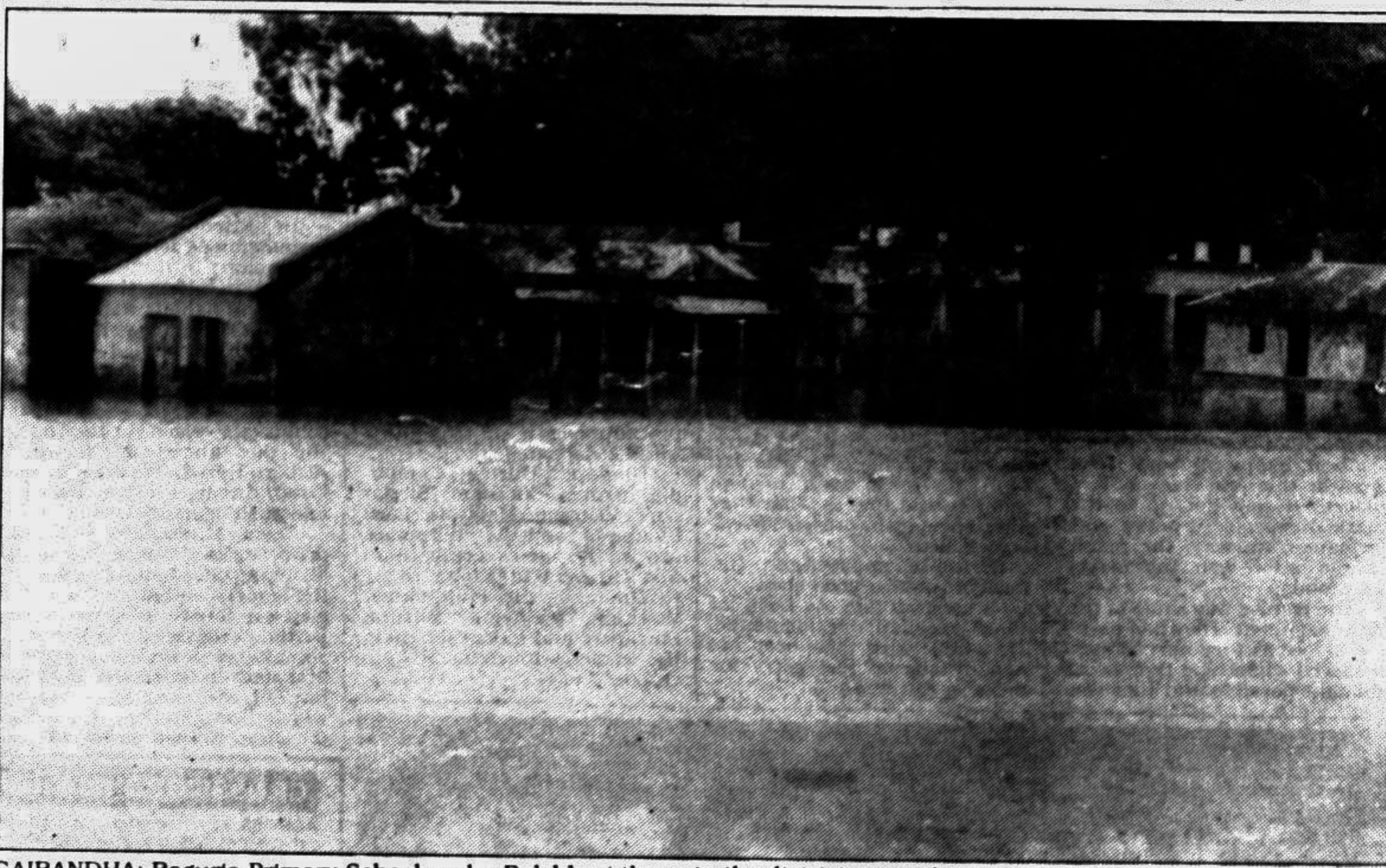
Boy drowns

A boy drowned in the pond at village Khati under Gopalganj sadar recently.

Monir Sheikh, 4, son of Jahangir Sheikh, of village Khati under Gopalganj sadar thana while playing with his companions near the pond of his house Monir suddenly fell down and drowned in the pond.

A few minutes afterwards Monir's parents recovered him from the pond.

Gopalganj thana police started an unnatural death (UD) case in this connection.



GAIBANDHA: Baguria Primary School under Fulchhari thana in the district was submerged by flood water. — Star photo

BDR-hijacker trade gunfire

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Aug 5: The jawans of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) of Daulatpur thana border area exchanged fire with hijackers at Monatala Raighata Ghat on Friday morning. BDR jawans arrested one hijacker along with foreign-made pistol.

Armed hijackers numbering about 20 stormed into a trawler loaded with Indian smuggled goods. It was coming to Bangladesh by the river Padma. The hijackers tried to loot those Indian smuggled goods. They fired several gunshots to terrorise the boatmen.

Hearing the sound of fire, BDR jawans rushed there and challenged the hijackers. They exchanged 15 to 20 rounds of gunshots. When the hijackers identified the BDR jawans they left abandoning their arms.

Aman farming target won't be achieved in Chandpur

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Aug 5: The target of transplanted aman paddy cultivation will not be achieved in all seven thanas of the district due to non-availability of seeds and seedlings.

According to Agricultural Extension Office sources, a scheme has been taken up to bring 50,000 hectares of land under transplanted aman cultivation programme during the current season. Out of the total lands, about 25,000 hectares of land will be brought under High Yielding Variety (HYV) and the rest will be brought under local variety.

The production target has been fixed at about one lakh metric tons. But due to short-

Tk 6 cr road development project

LALMONIRHAT, Aug 5: The Department of Roads and Highways has taken up 10 different projects at a cost of Taka six crore in the district in the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

The projects are: two-kilometre road extension, one and a half-kilometre road carpeting and maintenance of Lalmonirhat-Burimari road, construction of a 37-metre bridge near Polashi, repairing of the Lalmonirhat-Burimari road, construction of two bridges and Patgram-Dahgram road, construction of a bridge.

Meanwhile, five projects have been completed and work on other projects are in full swing.

After completion of the projects, the communication network in the district will be improved to a greater extent.