

## News snaps

### SM Sultan's birth anniversary Aug 10

NARAIL, Aug 6: Different socio-cultural organisations of the district have chalked out elaborate programmes on August 10 on the occasion of the 73rd birth anniversary of the great artist SM Sultan, reports BSS.

The programmes include placing of wreath on the grave of the painter, children's rally, children's painting competition and discussion on the life and works of Sultan. Shishu Sarga — a children's organisation founded by the great painter — will arrange separate programme to mark the occasion. Local baul singers will present mystic songs at the residence of Sultan.

### One held for possessing hemp

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Aug 6: One person was arrested and one and a half kilogram of hemp and four litres of country-made wine were recovered in two separate raids conducted recently by Faridpur Narcotics Control Department.

A task force headed by Abdur Rashid, Assistant Director of Faridpur Narcotics Control Department, raided the house of Bimala Dashi at Gochlamot in the town on July 26 and recovered four litres of country-made wine and 500 grams of processed hemp. The task force also raided the house of Tapan Kumar Goswami at Badarpur and recovered one kilogram processed hemp. Goswami was taken into custody.

### 11 uplift projects implemented by WDB

PATUAKHALI, Aug 6: Water Development Board (WDB) implemented 11 development projects in the district during 1996-97 fiscal year under Food For Work Programme, reports UNB.

Official sources said 3,400 metric tons of wheat were utilised for the implementation of the projects. These included construction of a 61-km embankment and repairing of embankments in the coastal areas of the district. With the completion of the projects, 6,000 acres of agricultural land in Mirzapur, Gaiachipa, Kalapara and Sadar thana of the district have been protected from flash flood and salinity.

### 12 hurt in AL-JP clash

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Aug 6: At least 12 activists from both sides were injured when AL-BCL and JP activists locked in a clash at Bhola town on Monday evening.

Witnesses said, the clash erupted when an AL-BCL procession was passing near the Jatiya Party office. They chanted objectionable slogans. The JP office was also ransacked and damaged. Two police were also injured amid heavy brickbattling. Police were deployed in Bhola town to avert further clash. None was arrested till filing of this report.

### Education Week in Gafargaon

GAFARGAON, Aug 6: A cultural and literary programme sponsored by the thana administration in observance of the National Education Week '97 concluded recently at Khairunnesa Government Girls' High School here, reports BSS.

Students of 50 schools, colleges and madrassahs of the thana took part in the weeklong programme. The programme was inaugurated by Thana Nirbahi Officer, Gafargaon, Khondkar Ahmed Ali.

### Cotton seed farming programme

CHUADANGA, Aug 6: An intensive cotton seed cultivation programme has been taken up by the Bangladesh Cotton Development Board in the Chuadanga Cotton Cultivation Zone this year, reports BSS.

According to an official source, 80 hectares of land has been earmarked in the zone for the cultivation of cotton seed. Of the total land, 20 hectares will be brought under cotton seed cultivation in Damrudhuda unit, 15 hectares in Amdulbaria unit, 10 hectares in Baradi unit, 35 hectares in Meherpur unit. The production target of seed cotton in this zone has been fixed at 80 metric tone.

### Mother of 5 children commits suicide

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, Aug 6: A mother of 5 children, Kali Dasi, 35, wife of Pulin Biswas at village Ramkantapur under Shalikha, thana of the district allegedly committed suicide by taking poison on July 30, family sources said.

Family trouble is cause of her suicide. An unnatural death (UP) case has been registered with Shalikha thana in this connection.

### Contrabands worth Tk 9 lakh seized

SATKHIRA, Aug 6: Members of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) seized contrabands worth over Taka nine lakh during the last four days, reports BSS.

### Removal of school teacher demanded

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Aug 6: Journalists of Bheramara Press Club have demanded removal of Rawshan Ali, assistant teacher of Bheramara Pilot Girls' High School immediately. He assaulted Ismail Hossain Babu, Bheramara correspondent of Dainik Bangla Bazar when he went to school on his professional duty.

Rawshan Ali has been put under suspension when local dailies and weeklies published report against two teachers of this school for their attempt to violate girl students. The journalists are being threatened by those teachers. Meanwhile, guardians are being afraid of sending their daughters to school due to misconduct of such teachers. They have demanded removal of all male teachers from the school.

### Playmates kill boy

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Aug 6: A boy aged about 12 was killed following a quarrel over a trivial matter at village Pabaikandi in Kishoreganj sadar thana recently.

Police sources and witnesses said, Mahub Anam was hit with a stick on the head during an altercation while he was engaged in playing with his playmates. Mahub was immediately rushed to the Mymensingh Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries the same day. A case was registered with Kishoreganj police accusing 5 persons. None has yet been arrested.

The members of BDR 21 Battalion of Satkhira district raided several border areas and seized the contrabands. The goods included sugar, salt, sunnati seeds, bicycle, spare parts of bicycle, milk powder, nylon net, sugar candy, sarees. The goods were deposited with the Customs authorities. None was arrested in this connection.

### Hossanabad road mishap claims 4

BHERAMARA, Aug 6: Four passengers were killed and two others injured in a road accident at Hossanabad under Daulatpur thana, reports BSS.

The accident occurred when a speeding bus dashed with a road side tree at Hossanabad, 20 kilometre off from here, on Saturday last. The dead are identified as Khairuddin, 28, Hossain Ali, 18, Nizam Uddin, 35, and Abdul Hossain, 25. A case has been lodged with Daulatpur thana in this connection.

### 107 homeless families rehabilitated

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 6: A total of 107 homeless families have been rehabilitated with dwelling houses and cash money under a World Bank-financed project, reports UNB.

The families, who had taken shelter on the Brahmaputra Town Protection Embankment after being homeless by river erosion, have been rehabilitated on a 165 kathas of land at Kazipur ghat in the town. Deputy Commissioner, AKM Shamuddin Ahmed inaugurated the newly-implemented settlement project at a function here on Monday. River Bank Protection Project director Anisur Rahman was present.

### Law, order situation reviewed

NARSINGDI, Aug 6: The monthly law and order meeting of Narsingdi district was held on July 29, at the Deputy Commissioner's conference room with Deputy Commissioner Rafiqul Islam in the chair, reports BSS.

The meeting was addressed, among others, by Police Super Shahab Ali, ADC (General) Begum Jishan Ara Arafun Nesha, Principal, Madhabadi College Abdul Ali, TNO, Narsingdi sadar Sarwar Khan and BSS district correspondent Abu Taher.

The meeting decided to take effective measures against all crimes particularly repression to women and children including dowry, torture, abduction, rape and murder and child lifting.

### Body recovered

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Aug 6: Decomposed deadbody of an old farmer was recovered from a jute field at village Kushorious under Jhenidah thana on Tuesday evening. The dead was identified as Abu Bakar, 52.

Police said, the victim left house on Sunday morning last. A case was filed with Jhenidah thana in this connection and the body was sent to morgue for autopsy.

## Step to protect people from river erosion

GAIBANDHA, Aug 6: Water Development Board (WDB) has taken up a project at a cost of Tk 9,76,11,000 to protect the people of the district from the erosion of rivers and flood, reports BSS.

The work of the project includes construction of 25 kilometre long flood control embankments on both sides of the Ghagot river, digging of a two-kilometre long canal, construction of 75-metre RCC bridge and nine sluice gates.

The work of the project will be completed by 1999.

## 'Priority on electrification of villages'

FARIDPUR, Aug 6: Forest and Environment Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury on Monday said the government has attached the highest priority to rural electrification to fulfill its commitment to improve the lot of the rural people within the shortest possible time, reports BSS.

"The government has made a huge allocation for rural electrification for the development of villages as well rural economy," she said while addressing a public rally on the occasion of the electrification of village Rasulpur under Nagarkanda thana.

Presided over by the President of Faridpur Palli Biddut Samity Mohammad Abdul Kuddus Sardar, the rally was addressed, among others, by Brigadier Mohammad Enamul Haque, Chairman, Rural Electrification Board (REB), REB members M A Wadud and M A Samad and leaders of local Awami League.

## 5 killed in separate incidents

NILPHAMARI, Aug 6: Five people, including an old woman, died in separate incidents in the district during last three days till Tuesday, reports UNB.

They were identified as Mostafa, 19, R K Kundu, 33, Moneshwari, 52, Dilip Kumar Biswas, 28, and Jahangir Alam, 32.

Police said Mostafa of village Chanderhat in sadar thana was killed when he was hit by a stick on his head following a feud over money he borrowed from one Latifa Begum on Tuesday.

Rice trader R K Kunda allegedly committed suicide by jumping under a train at Debr Danga in the poura area on Monday. Family feud was the cause behind the suicide, police said.

Earlier on Sunday, Moneshwari was allegedly killed by her family members at Jelepura village in Sadar thana.

On the same day, Dilip was beaten to death by his step-mother and brother at Shailamari union in Jaldhaka union following family feud.

In another incident, Jahangir was stabbed to death by unidentified miscreants at Kazirhat village in Jaldhaka thana.

## Huge foodstuffs misappropriated from LSD godown

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Aug 6: A huge quantity of foodstuffs disappeared from the Taraganj LSD food godown recently.

The Officer-in-Charge of the thana LSD godown in collaboration with a section of food officials at least 62 metric tonnes of rice, paddy and wheat worth misappropriated Taka 8 lakh, it has been alleged.

Acting on a complaint, the district controller of food along with the thana administration held an enquiry and detected the incident of misappropriation. The thana food godown officer-in-charge was immediately put into temporary suspension by the district controller of food and specific case was started against him. The accused OC, LSD of Taraganj Abdullah Baki scenting the danger absconded well ahead. In his absence the enquiries and the weighting of foodstuffs were held by the enquiry officials.

In the meantime, the wife of the accused OC Kamrun Nahar Begum submitted a complaint with the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rangpur alleging that her husband was forced to hand over charge and later taken to unknown destination in a microbus by some unknown persons. Since then he was untraced, the petitioner alleged.

## RMCH teacher assaulted

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Aug 6: An assistant professor of Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) was seriously injured when some unidentified youths assaulted him in the hospital compound Monday night.

Dr Shaymol Krishna Saha came under attack of the gang while he was returning home from duty. The attackers beat him up with iron rods and hammers, police said.

Dr Shaymol is now under treatment at the Neurosurgery Ward of the hospital. His condition is stated to be critical.

Protesting the incident, Rajshahi Medical College Teachers' Association held a meeting and demanded arrest and punishment of the attackers by Thursday.



CHANDPUR: Home Minister Major (retd) Rafiqul Islam presenting a fax machine to the executives of Chandpur Press Club here recently. — Star photo

# 818 killed in Bogra in 10 years

From A Correspondent

BOGRA, Aug 6: Crimes are on rise in the industrial town.

People from different walks of life including police personnel were involved in the crimes committed here during the last 10 years. Some of the police personnel were either removed from service or department proceeding had been initiated against them for their involvement.

It has been learnt from a reliable source of district administration that as many as 13 thousand 3 hundred 5 cases of dacoities, snatchings, burglaries, riots including 8 hundred 18 killings were committed during the period from 1986 to 1996 here.

Legal action could not be taken against all the persons involved with the crimes due to political pressure, influence of elite and the instruction of departmental higher authorities. Many party activists were caught redhanded with arms and police released them.

These records are available in the Government files. The number of members of the law enforcing agency weren't increased in commensurate with the increase of crimes in the area. Police are not equipped with necessary arms and ammunitions to address the increasing crimes.

During the period under report the member of the police

force were not only wounded, but also lost their lives in attack with unauthorised arms possessors. The innocent people were being harassed with arrest in the hands of police due to the misapplication of Section 54. Police maintained such records that one officer-in-charge who once posted at Dughachia constructed a building beyond his known source of income. The entire cost of the building was met with illegal income. One police officer posted at Nandigram thana allegedly took a huge amount of money assuring a final report of a rape case. The police department was collecting necessary records to initiate departmental proceedings against the police officer Jinal.

Another source of district administration said, 7 hundred 87 crimes including 54 murders were committed in 1986. Various nature of 8 hundred 24 crimes including 67 murder were committed in 1987. Although the crimes were decreased it was still stood at 7 hundred 70 including 60 murders in 1988. The number of crimes rose to 9 hundred 45 including 76 murder in 1989. The number of crimes however came down except riots in 1990 when 88 riots were committed. In 1990, a number of 7 hundred 78 cases including 56 murders were committed. The number of

crimes increased again in 1991 when 9 hundred 19 crimes including 75 murders were committed. 1 thousand and 33 crimes including 74 murders were committed in 1992. As many as 1 thousand 2 hundred 76 crimes including 69 murders were committed in 11 thanas of the district in 1993.

According to police, 1 thousand 7 hundred 37 crimes of various nature were committed in 1994 which was highest during the years under report. In that year 83 murders were committed. Again 1 thousand 8 hundred 92 crimes including 83 murders were committed in 1995. During 1996 up to December 31 the number of various crimes committed were 2 thousand 3 hundred 44 including murder of 1 hundred and 21. That year one police constable was killed by the miscreants.

Bogra police was alleged specific cases of attempt to rape, harassment in the name of application of law, realisation illegal gratifications and misapplication of Section 54.

Another police source said they have insufficient manpower to address the crimes. There were 1 thousand 95 police force including one Police Superintendent. The number should be 3 times greater. Besides police force need more transport facilities.



KUSHTIA: Bazaars on railway track are very common sights in rural areas of the district. Picture shows such a bazaar on the railway line near the court railway station here. Serious accidents also occur frequently here. — Star photo

# Afforestation drive needs to be geared up in N-region

From Our Correspondent

PABNA Aug 6: The afforestation programme launched by all the successive governments since 1971 has become a total failure.

The forest area in Pabna district has decreased due to indiscriminate cutting of trees. The minimum forest area, according to the international experts, should be at least 25 per cent of total area of a country. This is essential for maintaining the ecological and environmental balance of a country.

When contacted, the Divisional Forest Officer, Pabna admitted the truth. He expressed his grave concern over the situation. He, however, stressed that the government was making all-out efforts to increase forest area.

The Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) said that a more vigorous and aggressive drive should be launched. He sought greater participation of NGOs in this regard.

When contacted over telephone the Divisional Forest Officer told The Daily Star that during the financial year 1994-95 the Forest Extension Department of Pabna had arranged planting 4,16,677 saplings of different varieties in various areas of the district. Besides, it was further disclosed that a total number of 9,54,267

plants of different varieties were also distributed among the members of the public during the same period.

The DFO further disclosed that under the "Community Forestry Project" launched by Asian Development Bank for the North-Western zone of Bangladesh, the Forestry Extension Department of Pabna Division in association with various other agencies of the district, arranged plantation of a total number of 3,25,000 saplings in the district. They covered a total area of 731 Kilometers on both sides of various roads and highways, flood control and other embankments, railway lines.

He further stated that people residing near or around the areas already brought under the afforestation programme were organised under the banner of 10 associations for planting, nursing and protecting the planted trees in their nearby areas. After attaining maturity, when the trees thus grown were sold out, 40 per cent of the total sale proceeds, amounting to Taka 5,54,265 were also distributed among them (those associations). This was done under the "Community Afforestation Project". The implementation of this project was completed within five years from 1982 to

1986 as was scheduled by the government.

Financed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Forest Extension Department of Pabna Division, under an integrated planning, brought a total area of 216.5 miles under the joint venture of the said department, Pabna District Roads and Highways Department and the Bangladesh Railway Department.

Being inspired with the success achieved from the above-mentioned "Community Afforestation Project", the government of Bangladesh took up another project known as "Social Afforestation Project".

Meanwhile, the Division of Pabna comprising two districts — Pabna and Sirajganj — are worst affected due to denuding of forests.

Felling of trees were rampant, burning of trees in brickfields defying all the restriction imposed by the government are going on unabated. Wood is being widely used in the kitchens for cooking purposes.

As a result, prices of wood have also gone up abnormally and its scarcity also became extremely acute.

The situation was aggravated every day due to abnormally low supply of electricity, non-availability of gas and coal.

## Gaibandha Newsletter

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Aug 6: Three children drowned in separate incidents in the district within a span of three days.

In first incident on July 20, Shamim, 7, son of Abdul Sheikh of village Munglispur under Palashbari thana drowned in a roadside ditch where he was plying a banana plant raft with some other playmates. Suddenly he fell down into the deep water and drowned. Last year another daughter of the aforesaid person also drowned in flood water.

In the second incident on July 19, two-year-old Babu, son of Whed Mia of village Kholarabi under Gaibandha sadar thana drowned into the pond adjacent to the dwelling house. He was playing on the bank of the pond. Suddenly he fell into deep water and drowned. His body was recovered.

In the last incident on July 20, Naim, 10, of village Singjani under Gobindaganj thana while taking bath in the road side ditch suddenly fell down into deep water and drowned. He did not know how to swim.

## Fate of 40 SSC examinees uncertain

Result of 40 Secondary School Certificate (SSC) candidates of Shibganj Al-haj Md Hossain Smriti High School, Sunderganj Thana remained held up this year due to some unknown reasons. It has created much tension among the students and guardians.

A total of five candidates of Science group and 35 others of Arts group of the school remained held up due to not deposited examination fees duly, according to a reliable source. As such the Board authority withheld publication of their results. It was due to alleged negligence of the school authority.

According to the published result, a total of 89 students appeared in the last SSC examination from this institute.

A total of 40 students remain deprived of their result.

## Housewife beaten to death

A housewife was beaten to death by her husband at village Gopalpur under Gobindaganj thana recently.

According to information, the victim, Shahnaz Khatun, 23, a mother of one child was married with one Minhazul of the same village a few years back. Recently a quarrel was ensued among the husband and wife over family problems. At one stage of exchanging hot words the husband started beating the victim. The victim fell unconscious. On receiving the information father of the victim rushed and shifted her to local health complex where the victim succumbed to her injuries the next day.

A case was filed with Gobindaganj thana.

## Acid thrown on college girl

Anjuara Begum, 17, a student of Dharmapur Abdul Jobbar College under Sunderganj thana received severe burn injuries when two terrorists threw acid on her recently.

The victim was going to college on the day at 9 am from village Chaprohad under Sunderganj thana. Two youngmen of the same village namely Biplob and Subash resisted her on way. All on a sudden they threw acid on her and fled away. The victim sustained severe burn injuries at her left side. She was removed to the local health complex.

Her elder brother filed a case with Sunderganj thana. None was arrested in this connection.

## Jaker Party leader stabbed to death

Anwar Ali, 50, leader of Jaker Party of village Balamjhar under the thana was stabbed to death by his nephew recently.

A disagreement between the victim and neighbour Khoka Mia over the possession of landed property was the cause of the incident. Earlier the victim and his supporters gave a good beating to Khoka Mia two days back while he was taking possession of a plot. At this incident the sons of Khoka namely Fazlu, 22, and Nazrul, 16, decided to take revenge on the victim was coming from near by mosque when the accused, Nazrul resisted him on way and stabbed him with a sharp dagger. The victim died on way to hospital.

A case was filed with sadar thana accusing 11 persons. The body was removed to morgue for post mortem. Police arrested three persons in this connection.

## Madrasa teacher punished

One madrasa teacher and his pimp were awarded 101 lashes and fined Taka 8,000 in an arbitration at village Manduier under Sadullapur thana on charge of developing illicit relationship recently.

Ishaque Ali Pramanik, a teacher of Joyenpur Azizul Islam Dakhlil Madrasa developed an illicit relationship with a divorced woman Amena Begum of village Manduier under Sadullapur thana recently. On a fake assurance of marriage Ishaque continued to rape Amena for a pretty long time.

One day when Ishaque entered into the room of Amena, the local people kept the room under lock and key and raised hue and cry. They were caught redhanded by the local people. They were tried by the local village mathbars. The committee examining the witnesses found both the male and female guilty of maintaining illicit relationship and awarded 101 lashes both the accused and find the teacher Tk 8,000 under Islamic Sariyat. The judgement was, however, was implemented on the spot.

## TNO robbed

Gobindaganj Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO) was robbed of Taka 1,700 and severely assaulted by the gang of highway dacoits at Shakoa on Gaibandha-Palashbari highway recently.

At dead of night Gobindaganj TNO Abdul Hannan Chowdhury was returning to his headquarters after attending a farewell party of the Deputy Commissioner of Gaibandha. When he reached Shakoa, the driver of his official jeep Rangpur Ka-6595 found a barricade across the road. Being afraid of prospective robbery the driver tried to move back the jeep toward Gaibandha hurriedly, but the vehicle fell into the roadside ditch.

Meanwhile, the gang of dacoits attacked the inmates of the jeep including the TNO. They gave a good beating to TNO and his men and snatched away cash taka 1,700 at gun point. Another loaded truck Fabna Ta-1005 reached there.

The miscreants attacked the driver and snatched away Tk 1,200.

Patrol police remained 200 yards off the spot, but they did not take any measure. The vehicle of the TNO was however rescued. Assistant Police Super (Circle A) visited the area. A case was filed with Palashbari thana.

## Anti-smuggling rally

A public meeting against smuggling and black marketing was held at Gobindaganj under the arrangement of JSD (Rob) Katabari UP unit recently. Presided over by Freedom Fighter Abdul Karim, the meeting was addressed by Aroj Ali, Asger Dewan, Tasinuddin. The speakers expressed concern over widespread smuggling of Indian contraband items.

## Incident of acid throwing related

The students of Palashbari Piyerli Girls High School, guardians and a cross section of people brought out a protest procession condemning acid throwing on school girl Moslema Begum recently.

Demanding punishment to the culprits involved in acid throwing, the processionists paraded main roads of Palashbari area. Later a large gathering was held at highway crossing. The speakers demanded immediate arrest of the culprits and sought their punishment by hanging to death.

## One killed in train mishap

An unidentified old man aged about 70 was run over by a Dinaipur bound Ekota Express train recently. The next day his body was found near the southern home signal of Gaibandha Railway Station. Later the body was handed over to government Railway Police (GRP).

## River erosion turns serious

With the increasing of water level in Jamuna basin erosion has recently taken an alarming turn in Haldia and Shaghata unions under Shaghata thana in the district.

A total 50 acres of cultivable lands and homestead were washed away by the surging water of the river Jamuna rendering nearly 100 families homeless.

The badly affected areas are: Hatbari, Kalurpara, Kumpara, Kanaipara and Guabari from where the erosion victims left for safer places for shelter.

## 5 children rescued from child trafficker

Bonarpara Government Railway Police (GRP) arrested one Shaheda Begum, 35, of village Chandanpat under Lalmonirhat district suspecting him as a child trafficker. Police also recovered five children of different ages from Inter-city Ekota Express train.

According to Government Railway Police (GRP) of Bonarpara station, the accused, Shaheda Begum along with five other girls was travelling by Dhaka bound Ekota Express train. When the train reached at Bonarpara Railway Station the movement of alleged Shaheda created much suspicions to the on-duty patrol police. On interrogation she could not reply satisfactorily. According to the opinion of children they were being taken to Dhaka for working as housemaids.

Police took the children