

News snaps

Tagore's anniversary of death observed

FULTALA (Khulna), Aug 11: The 56th anniversary of death of biswa kabi Rabindra Nath Tagore was observed here in a befitting manner, reports BSS.

Various socio-cultural organisations observed the day with befitting manner which included discussion on life and works of the biswa kabi, musical. A discussion meeting was also held at the Dakshinidhi Rabindra complex.

Contraband goods seized

SATKHIRA, Aug 11: Members of the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) seized contraband goods worth over Taka 82.6 thousand recently, reports BSS.

The BDR personnel raided several border areas and seized Indian goods smuggled into Bangladesh. The goods included milk powder, sugar, saree, salt, cumisseed and phenisidyl syrup, a BDR source said. The goods were deposited to the Custom authorities. None was arrested in this connection.

River bank protection work begins

SYLHET, Aug 11: Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury inaugurated the project work for protecting river bank from erosion by the Surma beside the town on Saturday, reports UNB.

Water Development Board (WDB) is implementing the project for constructing 75-metre road from Mistry Mosque to Technical Point in the town at an estimated cost of Tk 7.63 lakh. Addressing the function, the Speaker said the project had been taken up on an emergency basis to save the people of the area from river erosion.

He said the project would be completed soon and after its successful completion, a vast area on the southern side of the river would be protected from erosion.

264 uplift projects completed

NETRAKONA, Aug 11: A total of 264 uplift projects of Special Rural Infrastructure Maintenance Programme of the government were implemented in the Netrakona district in the last financial year, reports BSS.

District Relief and Disaster Management Department supervised the implementation work. A total of 602 metric tons of wheat were allocated by the Ministry of Relief and Disaster Management for the implementation of the projects. The projects included repair and maintenance of different roads, culverts and road-cum-embankments.

Education Week observed

CHANDPUR, Aug 11: A discussion meeting on the significance of science and technical education was held at Chandpur Government College last week to mark the National Education Week, reports BSS.

Presided over by the principal of the college, Bazul Haq, the discussion was attended, among others, by the Deputy Commissioner, Chandpur, Md Khalid Anwar as the chief guest. Prof. Badir Rahman Chowdhury, Prof. Ismail Tofadar and Prof. Mozammel Huq spoke on the occasion.

Seminar on Miladunnabi

NARSINGDI, Aug 11: A seminar on the importance and significance of Eid-e-Miladunnabi was held in the local town hall on August 4, reports BSS.

The seminar was organised by the Islamic Foundation, Narsingdi. Presided over by Deputy Commissioner, Narsingdi, Rafiqul Islam, the seminar was attended by the Chairman of Bangladesh Madrasah Education Board, Prof. Moulana Mohammad Younus Siddiq as the chief guest. Police Super of Narsingdi, Shahab Ali PPM and Director of Islamic Foundation, Dhaka division Prof. Maulana Hassan Abdul Quayum were present as special guests.

49,715 cows inseminated in Tangail

TANGAIL, Aug 11: A total of 49,715 cows were brought under artificial insemination programme in the district during 1996-97 fiscal year through 37 insemination centres, reports BSS.

The target for the year was 50,000. Dr. Tulisadas Saha, Assistant Director, Tangail District Artificial Insemination Centre said, out of the 37 centres, 13 are being run by frozen semen and the rest 24 by liquid semen collected locally. Dr. Saha added that awareness about this programme has remarkably been developed and farmers are showing interest to develop High Yielding Variety of the bullock.

Uplift work progressing

MEHERPUR, Aug 11: Work of 16 rural infrastructure development schemes at a cost of Taka one crore and thirty-five lakh in two thanas of the district are progressing satisfactorily, reports BSS.

According to Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) 55 per cent work has already been completed and the rest is expected to be completed by December next. The work includes renovation and reconstruction of roads, culverts and bridges. After completion of the scheme, road communication of the district would be improved.

Poor people get loan from ASA

MADARIPUR, Aug 11: Association for Social Advancement (ASA) has disbursed Taka one crore as loan among five thousand poor people in Madaripur and Shariatpur sadar thanas during the first six months of this year, the association sources said, reports BSS.

Of the total loan receivers, 4500 are females and the rest 500 are males. The loan was provided to these 5000 poor people for small business, rearing of cows, poultry and other self-help schemes. The loan receivers have already proven their credit worthiness by making regular repayment of the loan and saving a small amount every week.

Bus dacoity on Bogra-Nagarbari Road

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 11: Armed dacoits swooped on a bus on Bogra-Nagarbari road and looted cash and valuables worth about Tk three lakh from the passengers on Monday, reports UNB.

Police said, a gang of 7-8 dacoits took control of the Dhaka-bound passenger bus while it was passing by Mirzapur area at about 8 pm. The miscreants tied up the driver and his three helpers, grabbed some cash and valuables from the passengers, and decamped with the booties. A case was lodged with local police.

Vitamin-A Week observed

COMILLA, Aug 11: Some 18,041 children of Comilla Pourasava were brought under Vitamin-A capsule programme in observance of the National Vitamin-A Week, reports UNB.

Children of 1-6 years age group were administered the capsules at 36 vaccination centres in the town during the programme. School teachers, pourasava employees and Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB) staff conducted the week-long programme, inaugurated by pourasava chairman Kamal Uddin Chowdhury.

Farewell to BAU teachers

MYMENSINGH, Aug 11: Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), Vice Chancellor Prof. Muhammad Hossain has emphasised on utilisation of thought and experience of elderly people for the progress of the nation, reports UNB.

"Experience is the substance of sorrows and sufferings," he observed while addressing as the chief guest at a function on the BAU campus recently. Elderly welfare association of BAU organised the farewell reception accorded to just-retired teachers and officers of the university. Among others, former BAU VC Prof. M. Abdul Huq, Prof. Mohammad Rafiqul Huq Bhuiyan, Prof. Mohammad Moynuddin, Prof. Manik Lal Dewan and Mohammad Shahid-Dad Khan addressed the function.

Association president Dr. M. A. Hasmat presided.

Separate incidents kill 3

GAIBANDHA, Aug 11: Two people allegedly committed suicide and one electrocuted in separate incidents in Gobindaganj thana in two days, reports UNB.

Police said Gella, 70, of village Boalia took his life by hanging himself recently. However, the reason behind the suicide could not be known. Earlier, Ahmad Ali of village Teghara also committed suicide being unable to bear pain in his stomach. Shariful Islam, 25, of village Fulbari died on the spot after he was electrocuted at village Junglemara recently.

Road development schemes implemented

MOULVI BAZAR, Aug 11: The Roads and Highways Department has implemented a development scheme of different roads under Moulvibazar district during the financial year of 1996-97, reports BSS.

Taka five crore fifty lakh was sanctioned to implement the scheme. The official sources of the Roads and Highways Moulvibazar Division said the schemes which were implemented included earthwork of 0.75 kilometre, pavement work of seven and a half kilometres, carpeting work of 5.50 kilometres, seal coat of 12 kilometres, construction of three culverts and three RCC bridges on different roads of the district.



GAIBANDHA: A flood affected village in the district. This photo was taken recently from village Purbo Bait Kamari under the Sadar thana by our local correspondent KM Rezaul Haque.

Bogra road accidents claim 440 in 5 years

From A Correspondent

BOGRA, Aug 11: A total of 440 people were killed and 322 others injured in different road accidents during the last 5 years in Bogra.

According to official sources, 557 road accidents were occurred in 11 thanas of

Culprits of Jainkathi Double Murder Case yet to be nabbed

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Aug 11: None has been arrested still on charge of the double murder case at a village under Jainkathi union of the sadar thana in Patuakhali district. The murders happened on Thursday night over land dispute.

According to witnesses and police, on that night at about 2 am Waliul Islam and some of his associates 6 to 7 in number broke into the house of one Shahabuddin, 45, and chopped him and his wife Rasheda Begum, 35, to death on the spot following a previous land dispute at the same village, Thengal.

The dead body of Shahabuddin was later found in front of the house of his uncle Menzuddin, while Rasheda's naked beheaded body was recovered from inside the house.

Abdus Salam, brother-in-law of Shahabuddin filed a case against Waliul Islam and other 10 persons with the sadar thana in this connection.

The dead bodies were sent to Patuakhali General Hospital for autopsy.

Mother, daughter drown as boat collides with cargo vessel

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Aug 11: Mother and daughter drowned in the river Gowain on Sunday afternoon when an engine boat collided with a cargo vessel.

Official sources informed that the passenger carrying engine boat was on its way to Radhanagar from Gowainghat thana headquarters. It collided with a cargo vessel at about 1 pm which was near the river bank due to strong wind.

The boat capsized instantaneously and most of the passengers managed to swim ashore. But, the body of Pahi Namasudra, 30, and her daughter Swa Namasudra, 15, were recovered at about 3 pm by the local police.

Mourning Day programme in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Aug 11: Massive programmes have been undertaken to observe the National Mourning Day on August 15 in a befitting manner, marking the 22nd anniversary of the assassination of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman along with his family members, reports BSS.

Different political parties, socio-cultural organisations, professional bodies and educational institutions will pay tributes to the great leader through elaborate programmes.



PABNA: Prof. Ansar Ali, President, Pabna Edward College Ex-Students' Association delivering his speech at its convention held on Friday in Pabna Banamali Institute.

— Star photo

Rain paralyses life in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Aug 11: Normal life in the city has been totally paralysed due to heavy down-pour on Sunday.

Khulna Met Office recorded 60 millimetres of rainfall which started from 2 pm. It has been continuing till filing of this report at 10 pm. Due to faulty drainage system almost all main roads have gone under waist-deep water.

All roads have taken deserted look with fewer vehicles and pedestrians.

According to telecom officials, more than 100 telephone lines went out of order in the city as stagnant water damaged underground cable lines.

All slums in and around the city have been inundated.

3 outlawed party members killed

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Aug 11: Three persons were gunned down by their rivals in early hours of Monday last in a field of village Dasbashi under Pantli Union of Kumarkhali thana.

The victims are: Faruquallah Faruq, 35, Mizanur Rahman Laitu, 30, and Hasan alias Badal, 30. Local people said that the victims were members of an underground party.

The rivals ambushed and fired several rounds of gunshots on their arrival. The attackers left the place after the operation.

Faruq, son of Kutubuddin of village Washi, Mizanur Rahman alias Laitu, son of Tokke-luddin of village Chaturia under Saikpota thana were killed on the spot. Other persons Hasan, son of Hossain Ali of village Belghoria under Kushtia Sadar thana succumbed to his injuries in Kushtia General Hospital after 12 hours of sustaining bullet wounds.

Receiving information police sent the bodies to Kushtia General Hospital for post-mortem.

Separate cases were filed in Kushtia and Kumarkhali Police Stations.

One competent source said that on January 6 Mohammad Ali alias Mom and Sakumuddin of village Adabaria under Kumarkhali thana were killed. In retaliation these three murders were committed. Police said Faruq was a leader of Biplobi Communist Party. He was an accused of many cases including murder abduction, women repression and toll collection.

HSC examinee electrocuted

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Aug 11: A Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinee from Salkupa Government Degree College was electrocuted on Sunday morning at village Kabirpur under Salkupa thana.

Local people and police said, Sanzib, 19, was working with a dead service line near his house at about 7 am on the fateful day. Suddenly the supply of power resumed. Sanzib was electrocuted and he died on the spot.

Extended meeting of Keraniganj AL

From Our Correspondent

A joint extended meeting of Keraniganj thana Awami League and all its associate organisations was held on Wednesday at Zinzira Community Centre auditorium, says a press release.

Presided over by Md Shah-jahan, President of Keraniganj thana Awami League the meeting was attended by 103 local and central leaders.

General Secretary of Dhaka District Awami League Benazir Ahmed, its Organising Secretary Mahbubur Rahman Mahbub, General Secretary of Keraniganj thana Awami League Nasrul Hamid Bipu and other leaders of the party's sister organisations and Union AL spoke on the occasion.

Meanwhile, the triennial conference of Keraniganj thana Krishak League was held on Friday at the office of the organisation at Teghara.

A new committee of Teghara Union Krishak League was formed with Askar Ali as president, Anul Kazi as general secretary and Mosharraf Hossain Ratan as organising secretary.

Paddy procurement drive

Kurigram farmers deprived

KURIGRAM, Aug 11: Farmers in the district are not getting fair price of paddy in the current procurement drive as the market is controlled by middlemen, reports UNB.

Some businessmen have allegedly captured the market making it impossible for the farmers to sell their paddy and rice directly at government godowns.

According to sources, many farmers were compelled to sell their produce to the middlemen along with the sale slips which they get from their respective union parishad chairman.

They said slips given to farmers for selling 700 kg of paddy against each were being sold at low rates to the middlemen because of complex procedure in the government purchase centres.

The procurement permits are now being sold between Tk 300 and Tk 400 which differ

from the government rate by about Tk 130.

It is also alleged that some UP chairmen and block supervisors are giving the slips to the speculators in the name of growers while the deprived farmers do not get them even after complaining and demonstrating at the godowns.

Agriculture Department sources said the farmers community became disappointed at abnormal downturn in the price of rice from which they expected to make up the losses incurred last year due to flood.

At present, per maund of rice sells at Tk 150-170 in local markets of the northern district.

The government has fixed target of procuring 8,121 metric tons of paddy and 3,685 metric tons of rice from the district in the current procurement drive that began on May 7.

Barisal Newsletter

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Aug 11: The Construction work of Gakhani bridge on Gakhani channel is expected to be started from October next in Jhalakati.

Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, MP, and Joint Secretary General of Jatiya party said here recently that, this China-Bangladesh Maitree Setu-5 will be constructed with an expenditure of Taka 55 crore.

The Chinese Government will provide financial assistance to implement the project. Moreover, construction works of Palli Biddut Samity (PBS), Youth Training Centre and a government library building at Jhalakati will be started during this fiscal, he added.

332 new primary schools in 3 divns

A total of 332 new primary schools are going to be constructed in Chittagong, Barisal and Sylhet divisions with interest free financial assistance of Asian Development Bank (ADB) for the development of primary education in these divisions.

ADB sanctioned 10 crore US dollars free of interest to implement the projects, official sources said. Particularly these primary schools will be built at the tornado and tidal surge prone as well as coastal areas of these 3 divisions where a large number of children do not have educational facilities. These primary schools will be provided with 3,000 class rooms. The projects also include repairing works of 1,130 schools and reconstruction of 996 village (Gramen) and 260 town primary schools, including supply of necessary furniture, water, electricity and sanitation facilities. The projects will be implemented during this financial year, it is learnt.

One beaten to death for Tk 5!

One person was beaten to death for Taka 5 only at Patuakhali village under sadar thana in Barguna district on Wednesday.

Police and witnesses said, some terrorists beat one Mansur Ali, 40, only for Tk 5 mercilessly. As a result he was critically injured and became unconscious.

Local people later took him to hospital, but Mansur Ali died on way to hospital. The doctor on duty in the hospital declare him dead.

A case was filed in this connection with sadar thana. None was arrested till writing of the report.

UNICOL team visits Sahabpur gas field

Gas is expected to be produced from the Sahabpur gas field under Borhanuddin thana of Bhola district within the next two years.

Carroll Scott, Director, UNICOL of USA said at a gathering recently held at Bhola that gas

10 MHL trucks for 10 pourasavas

A total of 10 mobile hydraulic beam lifter trucks (MHL's) were given to 10 pourasavas in the country for the uplift of people's lifestyle, living standard providing modern facilities to the pourasava residents.

These MHL trucks were given with financial assistance of Asian Development Bank (ADB) under the mid town infrastructure development project. Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) handover these trucks to the Barisal, Brahmanbaria, Chandpur, Chapainawabganj, Comilla, Jamalpur, Jessore, Sirajganj, Tangail and Noakhali Pourasava authorities at the first phase, it has been learnt. These modern equipments providing trucks will be used for emergency repairing works of 2000 KW power lines in rural areas, maintenance of street lights in the poura areas, immediate shifting of uprooted trees, and houses during tornado, rescue of trapped people during fire incidents including some other emergency relief works.

Each mobile hydraulic beam lifter costs about Taka 24 lakh, LGED sources said.

Young man falls from launch, dies

A newly married youngman suddenly fell down into water and died tragically recently at Anur launchghat of Betagi in Barguna.

Witness said, one Rafiqul Islam came to board, a Jhalakati-bound launch with his newly married wife Happy. They were on way to Jhalakati. But when they tried to get on the passenger launch, ML Suravi-1, suddenly both of them fell down into the river and were seriously injured hitting with the wooden security bar.

Later critically injured Rafiq was taken to Barisal Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries. Rafiq hailed from village Raipasha under Nalchity thana in Jhalakati district.

Attack on RMCH doctor : 3 nabbed

From Our Correspondent

Prof. Saifur Rahman for a dispute of a tender. They were pressing the principal for taking decision in their favour. On that very day of the incident they met Prof. Saifur Rahman in his chamber and threatened him.

Prof. Saifur Rahman and Dr. Shyamal reside in the same building. The attackers made a mistake to identify Prof. Saifur and assaulted Dr. Shyamal as they thought him to be the principal.

Prof. Saifur, when contacted, acknowledged the threats by a group of contractors and said, "I don't know who have assaulted Dr. Shyamal and why, but it is certain doctors cannot work properly if their lives are insecure even on the hospital campus."

He further said, incidents of assaulting doctors, nurses and employees of the hospital have become very frequent now-a-days. He urged for a drastic action against the terrorists.

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