

National

News snaps

Hartal observed in Patuakhali

PATUAKHALI, Aug 12: Hartal was observed here in the district town on Monday, called by Patuakhali district Rickshaw-pullers Association, reports BSS.

The hartal was called to demand immediate arrest and exemplary punishment to killers of Shahabuddin, 40, a rickshaw-puller and his wife Rashida Begum, 35. Shops remained closed and all vehicles went off the road during the hartal. Rickshaw-pullers brought out a big procession in the streets of the town.

Companiganj Thana Health Complex opens

SYLHET, Aug 12: Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury on Saturday inaugurated the newly-built Companiganj Thana Health Complex in the district, reports UNB.

The 31-bed hospital was constructed at a cost of about Tk 6 crore. Rasheed, speaking on the occasion, said all the villages of the thana will be brought under rural electrification network within the next two years. Besides, steps will be taken to establish a college in the thana sadar and a health centre at Islampur union, the Speaker stated.

Heavy downpour in Rangpur

RANGPUR, Aug 12: The river Teesta recorded a sharp rise due to heavy downpour across the district on Monday, reports BSS.

According to the Water Development Board (WDB), the river Teesta is now flowing about half foot below the danger mark at all points, resulting in inundation of low-lying areas along both the bank of the river. Erosion of the river in the meantime intensified at several points in Gangachara and Keshoreganj thanas. WDB has set up a control room to monitor the flood and erosion situation.

Boy arrested in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 12: A teenage boy was arrested on Sunday night from village Satikabari in Sadar thana of the district in connection with the killing of his elder sister, reports UNB.

Police said they arrested Zulfikar Haider, 16, on suspicion after the unnatural death case of his sister Lipi Khatun. The case was turned into a murder case on receiving the post mortem report on Sunday. The report, prepared by the Sadar Hospital, found the death of Lipi Khatun, 30, on March 24 as homicide.

Education Week opens at BAU

MYMMENSINGH, Aug 12: BAU Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Muhammed Hossain underscored the need to work unitedly for massive expansion of education in line with global science and technology to implement human resources development programme a success, reports UNB.

He was inaugurating the 'national education week' at Shilpacharya Jainul Abedin Auditorium in Bangladesh Agriculture University here on Saturday as the chief guest. Organised by the Education Ministry, the opening function was chaired by BAU Student Affairs Adviser Prof Dr Abu Reza Mohammad Masud. It was addressed, among others, by Prof Dr Monsur Amin and BAU Deputy Registrar Mohammad Nazirul Rahman.

Training course on coop leadership

MANIKGANJ, Aug 12: A five-day long training course on 'Cooperative Leadership and Management Development' concluded at Jhikta bazar under Harirampur thana last week, reports BSS.

Fifty members of different cooperative societies including Jhikta Bazar Whole-sale Rice Traders Cooperative Society, Jhikta Bazar Fish Traders Cooperative Society, Jhikta Bazar Traders Cooperative Society and Jhikta Bazar Retail Rice Traders Cooperative Society took part in the training course.

Education Week begins at RU

RAJSHAHI, Aug 12: The National Education Week '97 of university level began at Rajshahi University (RU) recently, reports BSS.

Vice-Chancellor of Rajshahi University Prof Abdul Khaled opened the education week at a function held at Kazi Nazrul Islam auditorium of the university. Presided over by the chairman of the organising committee of the week Prof Shishir Kumar Bhattacharji the function was also addressed, among others, by Treasurer Prof Md Nurullah, Registrar, Mohammad Yunus and President of Rajshahi University Teachers' Association (RUTA) Prof Shahidul Islam.

Nine shops gutted

GAZIPUR, Aug 12: A devastating fire that broke out at Dhrasram bazar in Sadar thana on Saturday night gutted nine shops including restaurant, stationary and grocery shops, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the blaze originated from a short circuit at a shop at 11 pm and soon engulfed the bazar area. Fire fighters from the district headquarters doused the flame after three hours of hectic efforts. Local MP Ahsanullah Master visited the area on Sunday.

State minister visits Lohagara

LOHAGARA (Narail), Aug 12: State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Talukder Abdul Khaleque visited the areas affected by river erosion at Bardia and Mohajan bazar and Shylior, Amdanga and Chharrariar of Naboganga under Lohagara and Kalia thana of Narail district recently, reports BSS.

Sharif Khasruzzaman MP, Dhirendra Nath Saha MP, Deputy Commissioner of Narail Ashrafuddin Ahmad, and local leaders were with the state minister.

Indian whisky recovered

NETRAKONA, Aug 12: A BDR team recovered 42 bottles of Indian whisky from Baharatoli area near Bijoypur border outpost of Durgapur thana under Netrakona district recently, reports BSS.

According to BDR sources, a BDR team while patrolling in the aforesaid border area found the bottles packed in a gunny bag, in an abandoned position at a jungle there. No body was arrested in this connection.

Best educational instts selected

FARIDPUR, Aug 12: The National Education Week '97 was observed in the district in a befitting manner through holding of literary and cultural competitions and seminar, reports BSS.

The week observance committee also selected best college, school, madrasa and best teachers of those institutions of the district. Government Sarada Sundary Mahila College was adjudged as the best college of the district while the principal of the same college Prof Md Taleb Ali was adjudged as the best college teacher.

Faridpur High School was adjudged as the best high school while Solna Madrasa of Boalmari thana as the best madrasah.

1 jailed for possessing illegal arms

CHITTAGONG, Aug 12: The District and Sessions Judge has convicted a man in absentia for possessing illegal arms and sentenced him to 17 years in jail, reports UNB.

The convict was identified as Harunur Rashid, son of Mohammad Sabed Ali of Gaipara in Bandar thana of the district. The case in brief that police with the help of local people arrested Harunur Rashid from his residence on April 24, 1994 and acting on his confessional statement seized a foreign-made gun along with four cartridges from underground at Katapahar adjacent to Lalkhan Bazar. Later, a case was filed against him under the Arms Act and the Special Powers Act. The judge after examining the witnesses and evidence found Harunur Rashid guilty of possessing unauthorised arms and handed down the sentence recently.

Video game shops spoiling school boys

JESSORE, Aug 12: With the mushrooming growth of video game shops in the town, the number of school skipping students has marked a sharp rise, reports UNB.

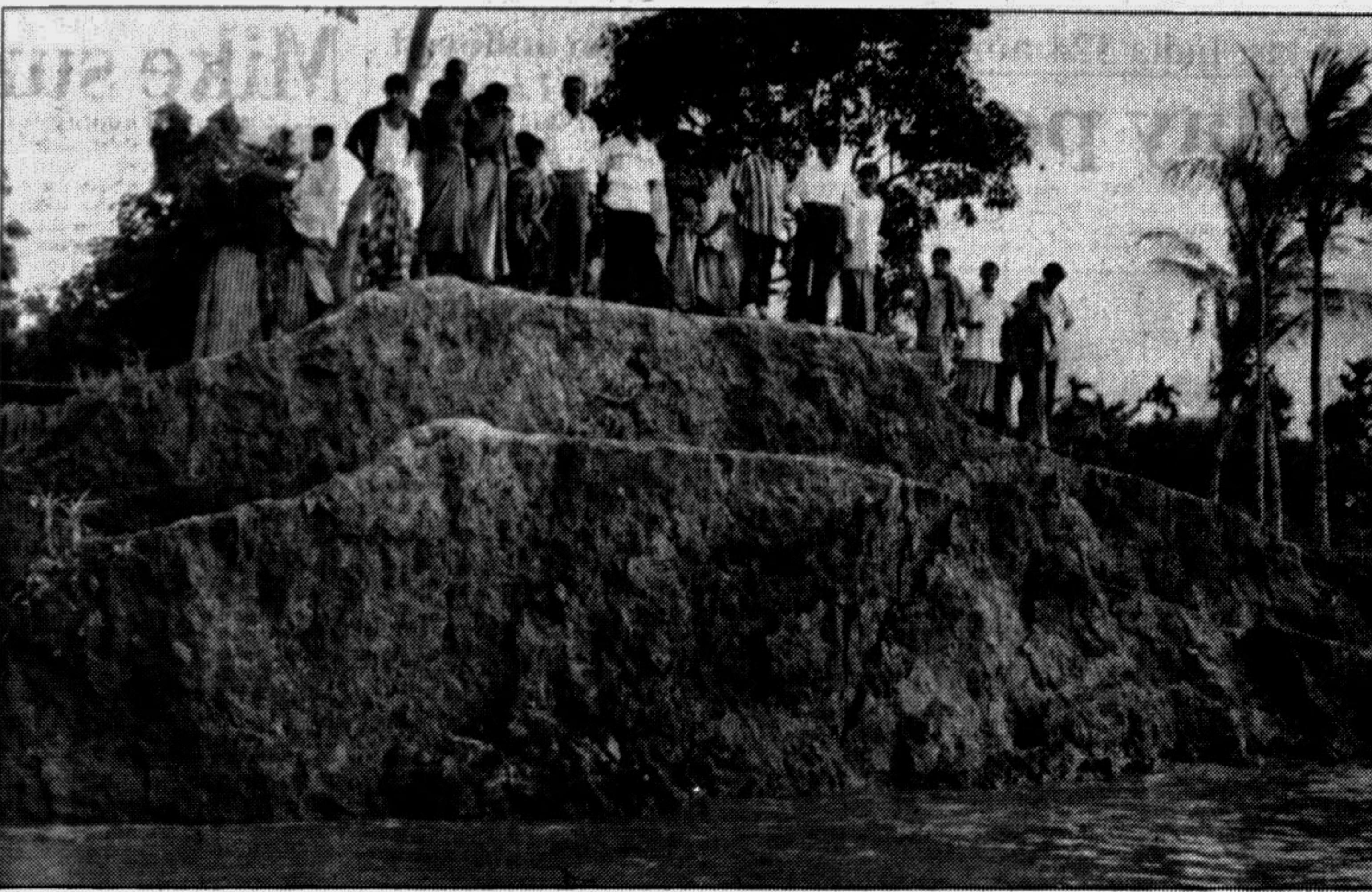
According to a survey revealed here recently, a section of school students spend hours together in video shops skipping their classes every day. It showed five per cent of the students enjoy various video games selling their books while 10 per cent stealing money from their houses. According to guardians, this unrestricted video games have been exerting a bad influence on their kids, spoiling their academic life.

Wheat misappropriator arrested

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Aug 12: A Union Parishad (UP) chairman was arrested by Bajitpur police for misappropriating wheat allotted for the destitute women recently.

Police sources said, Anwarul Haque Milon, Chairman of Dighirpar Union Parishad in Bajitpur thana lifted 8,040 kilograms of wheat for distribution among the destitute women under Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) programmes. But the chairman later allegedly sold all the quantity to blackmarket. Despite repeated reminder, he did not distribute the wheat. At last, Md. Khabiruddin, Project Implementation Officer (PIO) lodged a case against the UP chairman with Bajitpur police station following which he was taken into custody.



CHANDPUR: Erosion of the river Meghna has turned serious recently at Haimchar thana in the district. — Star photo

River erosion victims in miseries

By Staff Correspondent

The river erosion victims of Jamalpur and Chapainawabganj districts have been passing their days in great miseries now.

Our Jamalpur Correspondent says: The sufferings of flood victims in Jamalpur district have increased manifold due to intermittent rainfalls, non-distribution of house building materials, shortage of food and many other problems.

Although, flood water from both the rivers Jamuna and Brahmaputra started receding in very slow, in the low-lying areas, waterlogging has aggravated the situation. Many flood-affected areas of Jamalpur district covering seven thanas, namely sadar, Sarishabari, Madarganj, Melandah, Islampur, Dewangonj, and Bakshiganj are still under water.

The agricultural works can not be started until complete recession of water. The rate of unemployment has increased.

The rural hats and bazars in the affected areas are yet to start in many places. Some of the hat areas are still under water.

With the recession of water, people started returning home but the number of such returnees is very low. At least 50 per cent of victims who have taken shelter either on embankments or on other high land have no money to reconstruct their damaged homes, according to UNB.

According to unofficial sources, 3050 houses have been

completely damaged and 10,000 houses partially damaged rendering over one lakh persons and 3000 families homeless.

Till Friday not a single affected person got any grant for house building purposes. The heavy intermittent rainfalls throughout the district for the last 10 days have aggravated the miseries of river erosion victims.

The flood victims have been facing an acute shortage of food. No further relief materials, especially foodgrains are being distributed now. The government allotment is also too meagre to meet the demand of river erosion victims.

The lone religious educational institution for higher education in the locality, Radhakantapur Madrasah is also under the threat of erosion.

The erosion also continues along the banks in Narayanganj and nearby areas covering 20-km in Mohanpur, Shibganj and sadar thanas of the district.

In last year, over 1000 families were killed when a running truck Dhaka-Metro-DA-1155 crashed her.

In the second incident another road mishap took place at Poondhara on Bogra-Rangpur highway on August 7 in which Rafika, 7, a school girl was killed when a running truck fell into the roadside ditch when it was overtaking another vehicle injuring 16 fish traders travelling on board the truck.

In the last incident, a two-year-old child Koli was crushed under the wheels of a running truck at Jheneshwar on Gaibandha-Palashbari highway on August 7. The victim was crossing the road. Police seized the truck.

The speakers demanded immediate arrest and punishment of the terrorists.

Attack on lawyer slated

A total of 41 lawyers of Rajshahi Bar Association in a joint statement condemned the attack on their colleague Emdadur Rahman. They demanded arrest and punishment of the attackers.

The signatures included Mohammad Hossain Ranjan, Rashidur Rahman Milon, Asiruddin, Jane Alam, Ankar Sen, Masum Ahmed Tipu, Ershad Ali Shah, Enamul Haq, Saiful Alam Shelly and others.

Mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) Mijanur Rahman Minu visited Advocate Emdadur Rahman in Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH).

Former General Secretary of Rajshahi Bar Association Advocate Emdadur Rahman was seriously injured by some miscreants recently.

Call to protect interest of Rajshahi people

The Leaders of Committee for Protection of Interests of Rajshahi in a press conference demanded fulfillment of their five-point demands within Aug 18.

They also warned the government of drastic mass movement if the demands were not fulfilled within the last date of ultimatum.

The demands included withdrawal of the decision of withdrawal of the Head Office of Bangladesh Railway Western Zone from Rajshahi, installing broad gauge in Jamuna Bridge and so on.

The leaders observed that the people of Rajshahi expressed their whole hearted support to their five-point demands by observing strike on July 31.

The press conference was held recently at a hotel in the city, was addressed, by Mijanur Rahman Minu, Fazle Hossain Badsha, Khairul Alam Farhad and others.

Breast Feeding Day observed

World Breast Feeding Week was observed in Rajshahi with due festivity.

On the occasion various programmes were taken to observe the week. On August 7, an attractive function was held at Rajshahi Medical Sub-Depot auditorium.

Presided over by Dr Nazrul Islam, Civil Surgeon of Rajshahi, the function was addressed, by eminent gynaecologist Prof Zubaida Khatun as the chief guest. Prof Anwarul Islam, President of Bangladesh Medical Association, Rajshahi unit, Mahafuzul Huq, Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Dr Rokeya Begum, Assistant Director of Health Department, Dr ABM Tanzimul Huq, Assistant Director of Health Department, Dr Khaled Ahmed, Manager of Rajshahi Medical Sub-Depot, Golam Azam, Coordinator of Breast Feeding Foundation, Dr Rezaul Islam and Shamsunnahar Begum, Headmistress of Laxmipur Girls' High School.

According to witnesses, the dacoits numbering about seven, took control of the bus Razangandha and robbed off the passengers at gunpoint. The dacoits were abode in disguise of passengers. They also beat the passengers.

It may be mentioned that dacoits are on rise in the night coaches from Kashinathpur to Dashuria crossing.

Terrorist arrested

Motihari thana police arrested a terrorist along with a pipegun from village Bakhraij.

Receiving a secret information, police raided Ashraf Molia's house and caught red handed his tenant Delbar when he was trying to flee with the pipegun.

A case was filed in this connection.

Faridpur TB Hospital ailing

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Aug 12: The Tuberculosis (TB) hospital at Tepakholi in the town is beset with manifold problem.

The 20-bed hospital was established in the decade of sixties. In view of the growing number of TB patients in the district, it was decided to raise the hospital to 100-bed one after the liberation of Bangladesh.

But the decision was not

materialised. Though it is a 20-bed hospital, the hospital authorities are reportedly forced to admit more than 30 patients. The extra patients reportedly have their seats on the floor.

The patients of the hospital do not allegedly get proper treatment nor do they get proper diet as required for TB patients. It is also alleged that the patients are not properly attended by doctors and nurses.

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