

News snaps

Hartal observed in Patuakhali

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

The hartal was called to demand immediate arrest and exemplary punishment to killers of Shahabuddin, 40, a rickshawpuller and his wife Rashida Begum, 35. Shops remained closed and all vehicles went off the road during the hartal. Rickshawpullers 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 Gangachhara 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

MYMENSINGH, Aug 12: BAU Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Muhammad 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 Monsurul Amin and BAU Deputy Registrar Mohammad Nazir Rahman.

Training course on coop leadership

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

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

Education Week begins at RU

RAJSHAH, 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 Khaleque 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 Bhattacharyya 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 Dhiranagar 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 Mohajon bazar and Shiyorbor, Amdanga and Chhararar of Naboganga under Lohagara and Kalia thana of Narail district recently, reports BSS.

Sharif Khasruzzaman MP, Dharendra 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 Baharatola 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 Secondary 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 Saded Ali of Gopalpara 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.

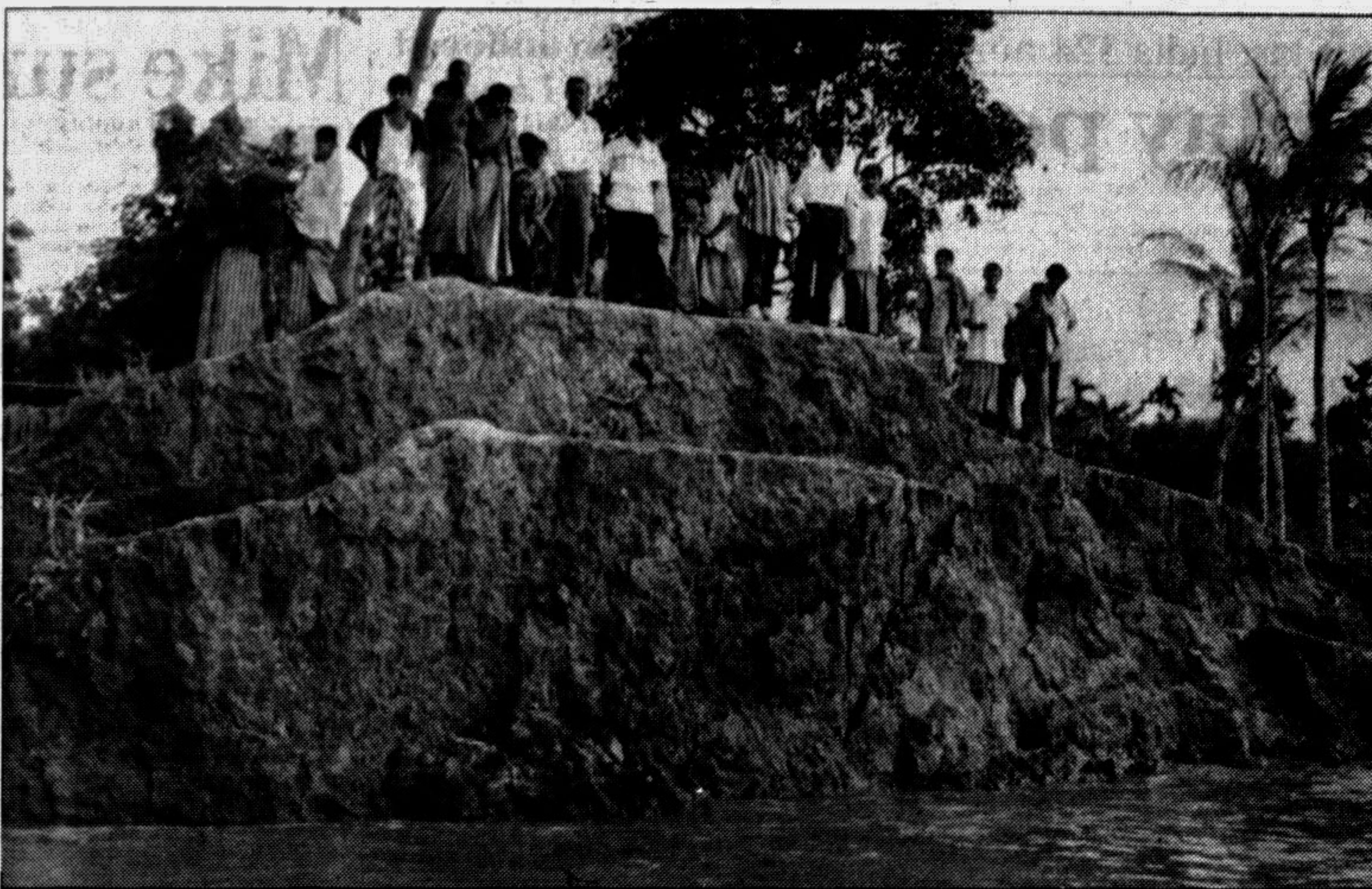
According to a survey revealed here recently, a section of school students spend hours together in video shops skipping their classes every day. It showed five per cent of the students enjoy various video games selling their books while 10 per cent stealing money from their houses. According to guardians, this unproductive 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 Dighirpur 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 into 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, Dewanganj, and Bakshiganj are still under water.

About 100 educational institutions have been crowded with flood victims.

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 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. It is alleged.

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.

Rural communication system has been affected. Many roads in the rural areas have been completely damaged. Rickshaws, rickshawvans, bicycles are yet to start plying on these roads. This is also affecting rural economy adversely.

UNB says from Chapainawabganj: About a hundred families of Bakharali in

sadar thana have been rendered homeless by the erosion of the mighty river Padma in last few days.

The erosion has been continuing in Char areas of the district. Meanwhile, a vast tract of land including a government primary school was also washed away.

Now, Captain Mohiuddin Jahangir College in the locality has come under a serious threat of erosion. The college was built only a few years back at the cost of Tk 65 lakh.

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

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

In last year, over 1000 families in Monoharpur, Hasanpur, Dovagi, Luxmipur, Radhakantapur and Bablabona in Shibganj thana and Narayanpur, Sunderpur, Loharpur, Bakharali and Alatali in sadar thana became homeless due to erosion.

About 50,000 acres of agricultural land were devoured by the river Padma during the last few years, local farmers said.

4 killed in Gaibandha road mishaps

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Aug 12: Four persons including two children were killed and 16 others sustained injuries in separate road accidents on Rangpur-Bogra highway within three days.

In the first incident, two persons were killed at Tutulita on Bogra-Rangpur highway when a Rangpur-bound cement loaded truck hit a power tiller at the time of overtaking on August 9. In which the power tiller driver, Abdul Gofur, 30, and Abdul Baset, 25, received severe injuries. Both the persons succumbed to their injuries on way to Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH).

In the second incident another road mishap took place at Poodaha on Bogra-Rangpur highway on August 7 in which Rafika, 7, a school girl was killed when a running truck Dhaka-Metro-DA-1155 crushed her. The ill-fated 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, one two-year-old child Koli was crushed under the wheels of a running truck at Jheneshare on Gaibandha-Palashbari highway on August 7. The victim was crossing the road. Police seized the truck.

Theft of STW by Indian nationals creates tension in border village

From Our Correspondent

MEHERPUR, Aug 12: A tense situation has been prevailing in border area of Kathuli under Gangni thana recently following an incident of theft of a Shallow Tube Well (STW) by a gang of Indian nationals.

BSF of India took position with heavy weapons and villagers of Rathuli left their houses for safer places. The villagers said on July 22 some Indian nationals forced their entry into Bangladesh territory and took away a shallow tube well belonging to Fariduddin of Kathuli border area.

When villagers came to know about the incident they abducted an Indian national on July 27. Now tension has been prevailing as there was no amicable settlement or flag meeting between Bangladesh and India to settle the dispute. BDR jawans have also been alerted. The villagers are now passing their days in great panic.

Kalaroa people exposed to arsenic poisoning

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Aug 12: At least 21 out of a total of 29 tubewells in Kalaroa thana of Satkhira district are under the threat of arsenic poisoning. Kalaroa thana is the worst-hit thana as per a survey report submitted by a team of experts on August 2. Over two lakh people of Kalaroa are exposed to the risk of arsenic poisoning. Now they are scared of drinking water. The people of neighbouring Tala thana have also detected presence of arsenic in water.

Dr Dipankar Chakravarty, Director of the School of Studies of Jadavpur University and Dr Mahmudur Rahman of Dhaka Community Hospital identified high presence of the chemical compound (.05-296) in 12 out of 24 tubewells, water.

There are about 4,000 tubewells in Kalaroa thana. Out of these, safe drinking water can not be collected from 2,000 tubewells. Water users do not have facilities for detecting arsenic presence.

The alarming detection of presence of arsenic in Kalaroa and Tala thanas is a serious threat to public health. Arsenic affected people usually suffer from incurable diseases such as light pigmentation on skin.

RU female students face accommodation problem

RAJSHAH, Aug 12: Female students of Rajshahi University have been facing serious accommodation problem since long as the four dormitories assigned for them cannot cope with the rising number of students, reports UNB.

Of the nearly 24,000 students in the RU, the number of female students at present is about 8,500. The university has only 2,181 seats in the four female dormitories where nearly 4,350 students live at present in pitiable condition — two or three in one bed. Others either stay with relatives or in mess.

Hail sources said some 1,350 students reside in Begum Rokeya Hall having capacity of 720 seats; 1,077 reside in Tapasi Rabeya Hall (cap. 525); 1,202 in Begum Munnunjan Hall (cap. 676); and 738 in Begum Khaleda Zia Hall (cap. 460).

Some resident students complained that their studies were hampered due to the rush of non-residential students who stay in the halls as guests paying a fee of Tk 15 per night (Tk 450 per month).

A similar shortage of hall accommodation prevails in the male dormitories but the non-resident male students make their own arrangements outside the campus.

Moreover, the male students can stay in the halls with their classmates against a nominal lump sum amount for months together. They do not have to pay any fees for residing as guests.

The female hall authorities have been charging the said fee of Tk 15 per day from female students for about one and a half years without approval by the university syndicate. The hall authorities said the decision to charge the fee was taken to reduce pressure of the non-resident students.

The objective of introducing the fee could not be attained as many non-students also stay in the dormitories as guests paying the charge. Provost of Tapasi Rabeya Hall Syeda Kasada Nure Elahi told.

Scarcity of fish in Narail

NARAIL, Aug 12: The scarcity of fish in local markets hits the protein intake of common people here seriously, reports UNB.

A similar shortage of small fish like puti, telapia, moa, tengra and batasi are being sold between Tk 80 and Tk 100 per kg.

Rajshahi Newsletter

From Our Correspondent

Rajshahi, Aug 12: Teachers, doctors, nurses, students, officials and workers of Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) brought out a procession on August 6 morning to protest against Dr Shyamol Krishna Shah, Assistant Professor of ear, nose, throat (ENT) Department of RMCH.

The procession paraded main thoroughfares of the city chanting slogans demanding arrest and punishment of the attackers.

Later, a rally was held at Pathology Gate of RMCH. It was addressed by Prof Safiur Rahman, President of Rajshahi Medical College Teachers' Association and Dr M A Awal, central executive member of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA).

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 Emadur Rahman. They demanded arrest and punishment of the attackers. The signatories included Mohammad Hossain Ranjan, Rashidur Rahman Milon, Asiruddin, Jane Alam, Ankar Sen, Masum Ahmed Tipu, Ershad Ali Islah, Enamul Haq, Saiful Alam Shelly and others.

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

Former General Secretary of Rajshahi Bar Association Advocate Emadur 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 expressed 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, Mahfuzul 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, Golan Azam, Coordinator of Breast Feeding Foundation, Dr Rezaul Islam and Shamsunnahar Begum, Headmistress of Laxmipur Girls' High School.

Later the chief guest distributed prizes among the win-

Training course

A training course on 'Process of Income Tax: Ideas and Implementation' was recently held at the auditorium of Rajshahi Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

Rajshahi Chamber of Commerce & Industry arranged the training course with assistance of German Federation of Small Business & Skilled Crafts.

Income Tax Commissioner of Rajshahi Circle Qazi Delwar Hossain inaugurated the training course.

President of Rajshahi Chamber of Commerce & Industry Mohammad Ali Sarkar, Khondoker Hafizur Rahman, Salahuddin Raju, Mostaq Hossain, Khondoker Ferdous Alam and others addressed the inaugural session.

Officers' Welfare Assoc meeting

A meeting of Non-Gazetted Officers Welfare Association, Rajshahi unit was held recently at the local Collectorate Club.

In the meeting the Association demanded allocation of two buses for transport of the officers and repair of one bus which has been lying inoperable for many days.

The meeting also demanded revision of 10 to 15th grades of the proposed pay-scale. The meeting was presided over by the Rajshahi unit president of the Association Amir Hossain.

Coach dacoity

A dacoity was committed in a Rajshahi-bound night coach recently near Kashinathpur bridge of Pabna.

According to witnesses, the dacoits numbering about seven, took control of the bus Razanigandha 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 Dashedura crossing.

Terrorist arrested

Motihar thana police arrested a terrorist along with a pipegun from village Bakhrabaj recently.

Receiving a secret information, police raided Ashraf Molla'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.



TANGAIL: Jan Pronk, Development Assistance Minister of the Netherlands recently visited the Main Inlet Regulator of Compartmentalisation Pilot Project at Jugni