

News snaps

Old-age allowance programme inaugurated

RAJSHAHI, July 12: State Minister for Water Resources Dr Alauddin inaugurated old-age allowances programme as part of the poverty alleviation drive initiated by the present government, reports BSS.

He launched the programme in Bagha Thana Parishad auditorium under the district, describing it as a timely initiative to alleviate poverty from the country. Speaking at the function, Dr Alauddin said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government launched this programme in fulfilment of Bangladesh Awami League's election pledges to bring about a positive change all over the country.

Right of votes ensured, says Chief Whip

BAKERGANJ, July 12: Chief Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad Abul Hasanat Abdullah said the present government had initiated the old-age allowance keeping in view the overall development of the country, reports BSS.

The Chief Whip was inaugurating an old-age allowance-giving programme in the local TTDC auditorium. Alhaj Sayed Masud Reza, MP, Deputy Commissioner Alauddin, local Thana Nirbahi Officer, and other officials also spoke on the occasion. Abdullah said the present government had ensured the right of votes of the people and now devoted itself to relentless efforts to ensure other basic rights of the nation.

Poll pledges being fulfilled, says minister

NETRAKONA, July 12: State Minister for Religious Affairs Moulana Nurul Islam said, the present government under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was strongly determined to fulfill all of its election-pledges in phases, reports BSS.

"In order to fulfill one of her election-pledges, the daughter of Bangabandhu Sheikh Hasina introduced old-age pension allowance scheme throughout the country for rehabilitation of the poor elderly people." The state minister said this while inaugurating, as chief guest, the old-age pension allowance scheme here on June 25. Fazlur Rahman Khan, MP, attended the function as special guest. Deputy Commissioner Netrakona Ali Akber Hussain Akhand presided. The function was addressed, among others, by president of Barhatta Thana Awami League Sultan Ahmed Nuri and general secretary of Netrakona district Krishak League Keshab Ranjan Sarker.

Training course on UP management

COMILLA, July 12: A three-day training course on Union Parishad (UP) management concluded on Wednesday at the Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BAR) here, reports BSS.

A total of 150 union parishad chairmen of the district participated in the training. Deputy Commissioner Comilla Chowdhury Golam Maula inaugurated the training course at a function recently.

Uplift projects work progressing

SYLHET, July 12: Works on development projects in the district taken up by FWD at a cost of Tk 10.28 crore during the last fiscal year are progressing fast, reports UNB.

The projects included construction of a 100-bed women's hostel for the Osmani Medical College at a cost of Tk 1.67 crore and Companiganj Thana Health Complex costing Tk 5.88 crore. The construction works of the office buildings of the Deputy Deputy Commissioner and Deputy Inspector General of Police at a cost of Tk 2.88 crore are also going on. The Ansar-VDP and reserved police office buildings are also being constructed at a cost of Tk 88.91 lakh and Tk 60 lakh respectively. Besides, the construction work of two sheds of the District Jail has been taken up on temporary basis. The works are expected to be completed during the current fiscal year.

8-year-old girl gang raped

MYMENSINGH, July 12: An eight-year-old girl was gangraped at Shinemari in Madhupur thana of Tangail district on Friday, reports UNB.

Hospital and family sources said a gang of miscreants picked up the girl while playing in front of her house at noon and took her to an abandoned home in the deep jungle and left the victim stained with blood after repeated violation. Local people found the girl in an unconscious state and sent her to a nearby mission in a critical condition. She was later rushed to the Mymensingh Medical College Hospital following the deterioration of her condition.

Four terrorists arrested

NARAIL, July 12: Police arrested four terrorists with a revolver from a house at Nanikhir village in sadar thana in the district, reports UNB.

Acting on a secret information, police raided the house on July 5 and arrested Bidyut Sheel, 30, of Nanikhir village, Mintu, 24, of Auria village and Asim Bhattacharya, 25, of Harijara village in Sadar thana. One of the terrorists named Arifuzzaman Mukul, 30, managed to flee the spot. Police said they arrested the bandits while preparing to commit a dacoity at the house of one Kallipada Sheel of Nanikhir village. Police also said the terrorists were wanted in connection with several robbery, murder, snatching, rape and other criminal cases.

Unauthorised welding shops spring up

SYLHET, July 12: Unauthorised welding workshops have sprung up indiscriminately in the town here polluting the environment, reports UNB.

The authority is playing silent role on the matter due to mysterious reasons. The unauthorised workshops at Shibganj, Mirabazar, Chilarag, outskirts of the town, Nayasarak Jindabazar, Ambarikhana, Airport road, Subidbazar, Pathantula, Rajargal and South Surma areas are doing brisk business before the nose of the law enforcers. The works at these factories continue from morning to night daily. The sparkles of these shops are affecting the eye-sights of the passers-by. Besides, the owners of these shops engage child labourers violating government prohibition. Many factories managed illegal electricity connection with the connivance of some dishonest officials depriving the government of huge revenue. Moreover, traffic jam is a regular phenomenon in these areas.

Valuables worth crores of taka gutted

JAMALPUR, July 12: Valuables including dwelling houses worth crores of taka are being gutted each year in five thanas of the district in absence of fire service stations, reports UNB.

According to official sources, two second grade fire stations are situated in the district headquarters and Sarishabari thana sadar only. One water tank and two pump mounted vehicles are there in the district headquarters and only two pump mounted vehicles in Sarishabari station. It is not possible to rush to the remote areas on their part in times of emergency due to bad communication system and shortage of manpower, fire station sources said. The local leaders urged the authority to take immediate steps to set up fire stations in five thanas.

Miladunnabi observed in Kushtia

KUSHTIA, July 12: Eid-e-Miladunnabi was observed here with due solemnity and religious fervour on Tuesday, reports BSS.

National flag was hoisted atop all government and private buildings, Islamic University, Shishu Academy, mosques and different schools and colleges held milad mahfil. Kushtia Jame Mosque and other mosques held special prayers for the great Prophet (SM). A big religious procession was brought out on this holy occasion. Shishu Academy organised a discussion meeting. Abdus Salam, Deputy Commissioner, Kushtia was the chief guest and Prof Nazmus Salehin, Principal, Kushtia Islamia College was special guest.

Tribals, non-tribals urged to live in amity

RANGAMATI, July 12: Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Engineer Musharraf Hussain urged here all, both tribals and non-tribals living in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, to live in amity, reports BSS.

He was speaking at the inaugural ceremony of old-age allowance programme which began formally in the district. Held in the local municipal auditorium, the function was attended, among others, by chairman of the task force on tribal refugee rehabilitation affairs, MP Dipankar Talukdar, Deputy Commissioner of the district Shah Alam, councillors of Rangamati Hill District Local Government Council (RHDLCG), Aung Saw Chyin Marma and Ruhul Amin and chairman of Rangamati Municipality, Mont Swapan Dewan. Ching Kieu Roaza, Chairman of RHDLCG, presided over the function.

Liquor seized, one arrested

MYMENSINGH, July 12: Police arrested a man and seized 19 bottles of foreign-made liquor on Saturday from a passenger bus at Pulpur bus station here, reports UNB.

The arrested was identified as Jahangir Alam, 35. Acting on a tip-off, police searched the Mymensingh-bound bus coming from Halaughat and seized the liquor hidden in a bag. A case was lodged with the police in this connection.

BJMB brightens prospect of industrialisation in N-region

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, July 12: The long cherished Bangabandhu Jambuna Multipurpose Bridge (BJMB) has ushered in a new era in the northern region. The bridge which was a dream, proved to be a reality with its colourful ceremonial inauguration on June 23.

The BJMB has practically bridged the gap between North and East bringing capital city Dhaka at only 5 hours' distance from Rangpur which was 12 hours to 14 hours or more in the previous days.

It is most surprising to the newspaper readers in the town areas that they were now getting all the national dailies by 7 am which they never dreamt before. Abdul Awlad Mia a regular newspaper reader told that the BJMB had really shortened the distance between Dhaka and the northern districts. As a result, they are now reading national dailies early in the morning like Dhaka. Similarly many other newspaper readers, agents and the hawkers

have expressed their satisfactions following arrival of the national dailies at the district headquarters in the early morning.

The traders of different commodities like rice, cattle, poultry birds and eggs told the Daily Star correspondent that now they had been sending goods freely to Dhaka and elsewhere in the country without any bottleneck of traffic jam. Perishable goods like mangoes are now easily reaching Dhaka without the fear of damage on its way. Abdul Khaleque Mia, a trader of the town told this. He further said, from now on all perishable goods will never be perished on its way as happened earlier.

The number of bus passengers have now increased to a great extent because of opening of the dream bridge. The buses are now plying between Dhaka and Rangpur in five hours only which they never dreamt before. The owners of coach services have been trying to introduce

bus services three and four times a day instead of twice daily previously.

The train passengers have been decreased by 75 per cent, according to Railway sources. It was gathered that the inter-city mail trains were now running between Dhaka and Rangpur with only 25 per cent passengers.

Acute crisis of LP gas cylinders has been overcome, Shah Md Selim, Secretary of Gas Cylinder Distributors' Samity disclosed this. He said, in the next few months the problem of gas cylinder will be solved with the start of gas supply through BJMB. He further alleged, the government have done an injustice to the private car owners by imposing high toll at Taka 400 for each car, car micro-bus and pick-up vans. He strongly protested the high rate of tolls for private cars, micro-buses and pick-up vans. He demanded refixation of toll rate immediately.

The prospect of industrialisation in the northern region is now bright, a leading trader and Rangpur Chamber president Mosaddique Hossain Bablu expressed this optimism. Golam Mostafa, former president of Rangpur Chamber and Executive Member of Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce (FBCCI) said that with the beginning of gas supply by BJMB pipe lines, the northern region will be industrialised.

Great enthusiasm among the people of all spheres of life is visible. As there are no problem of the marketing facilities now the farmers are very much hopeful of getting fair price of their produce. They will not be deprived of fair price now, according to experienced circles.

The government should encourage the people of this region to gear-up the agricultural and poverty alleviation programmes to attain self-reliance in the region, this is a popular demand of the local people.

On river Brahmaputra Approved project for construction of bridge yet to be implemented

JAMALPUR, July 12: The approved project for construction of a bridge across the river Brahmaputra on the Jamalpur-Sherpur Highway is yet to be implemented despite persisting demand by the local people, reports UNB.

Early implementation of the project would establish direct road communication between Dhaka and Sherpur, Sribordi, Bakshiganj, Dhanuakamalpur and Roumari via Jamalpur greatly benefiting the northern region, the local leaders said.

At present various types of vehicles including the passenger buses are crossing the river by ferry causing inordinate delay in the transportation, making it most expensive and thus retarding economic activity in the region.

Hundreds of trucks loaded with stones which come from India for construction works at various places have to be ferried with much difficulty and delay.

A source of the Roads and Highways Department said that a tender for constructing the bridge was floated some time ago but the process was stopped abruptly for unknown reason. The local leaders drawing the attention of the concerned

authorities said the bridge on the River Brahmaputra had been a long cherished dream of the people.

Rezaul Karim Hira and Atiur Rahman both Members of Parliament from Jamalpur and Sherpur raised the demand for fulfilling this dream on several occasions in the Parliament.

Tragic!

RANGAMATI, July 12: Two workers died of suffocation at Manikchhari thana here on Tuesday as they entered into the bottom of a rim-well for repair work, reports UNB.

The victims were identified as Abdul Quddus, 25, and Rowshan Ali, 28.

Fire service sources here said Quddus was the first to enter into the under-construction well of Public Health Engineering (PHE) with the help of a rope. While no response was available from him after the landing at the bottom of the well, another victim was dropped into it. He also met the tragic end of his life like his predecessor.

Fire Brigade personnel recovered the bodies after four hours of frantic efforts.



SYLHET: Foreign Minister Alhaj Abdus Samad Azad handing over a cheque for Taka five lakhs donated from the Prime Minister's Fund to the President of Sylhet District Bar Association recently. — Star photo

Anti-social activities rising alarmingly in Feni dist

FENI, July 12: Anti-social activities like dacoity, burglary, snatching, killing, rape, terrorism and extortion are on alarming rise deteriorating the law and order situation in the district, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, an organised gang of terrorists killed one Sahabuddin, 35, a truck-driver, of west Sonapur village in the outskirts of the town and looted his shop on June 28.

A pregnant housewife, Sima Bhoumik, 19, of Mohammadpur village in Fulgazi thana was killed allegedly by her husband for dowry on July 2.

A housewife, 30, of Barahipur village and a minor girl, 7, of Alipur village in Sadar thana were raped on June 28 and 29 respectively.

Jharna Akter, 18, a college student was abducted from Subar Bazar, Monowara Begum, a student of class eight of Kasimpur, Swapna Begum 13, of class five of Sultanpur, Khodeja Begum, 16, of class ten of sadar thana, Jahanara Begum, 13 of

Tarakucha and a poor girl Sufia Akter, 13, of Joypur villages were abducted recently by some miscreants.

But police could not yet arrest any one in this connection.

On June 28, the bandits stormed two houses of Abdus Salam and Nurul Afsar at Masimpur village in Sadar thana and looted valuables worth about Tk 1.5 lakh.

Bad luck indeed!

RANGPUR, July 12: Sudden death deprived a selected distressed old man to enjoy the benefit of old age allowance here, reports UNB.

Masu Sheikh, 70, of Pashan Shekh village of Kania thana while stepped forward to receive the money suddenly died of heart attack at the premises of TNO office on Sunday.

The incident shocked the elderly people who gathered there for receiving the government allowance.

A dacoity was also committed by bandits at a house of Nurabi Bahar at Raghapur village in Sonagazi thana on June 24 and damped with valuable worth over Tk one lakh.

A gang of terrorists after putting barricade on Feni by-pass road looted cash and valuables worth about Tk 2 lakh from a bus and five tempos near Mohammad Ali Bazar on June 25.

An organised gang of burglars looted valuables worth over Tk 2 lakh from 12 sub-health centers of Family Planning Department at four thanas in the district during the last month.

On June 28, some eight people were injured as a group of terrorists opened fire at them while they were resisted from looting the valuables from the Feni Customs godown.

Besides, drug addicts are on rise as wine, hemp, heroin, rectified-spirit, phensidyl syrup are being sold almost openly in the district.

Telephone subscribers' woes multiply in Narail dist

NARAIL, July 12: The telephone network in the district is plagued with manifold problems causing untold sufferings to the subscribers, reports UNB.

The automated machines and under ground connecting board established long ago become inoperative every now and then.

The subscribers cannot get the service of automated connection after waiting for hours together. Sometimes the situation continues for days together.

There are 200 automated NWD and 200 non-NWD connections here at the central Telephone Exchange. At present there is no arrangement for new NWD connection.

Some 100 connections were given at Lohagara thana through CB board and 50 connections given at Magneto Board in Kalia thana. Ten connections have been given at Barodia Bazar from a Magneto Exchange.

Besides, there are two card phone booths in two thanas and three in the town. All the card phone booths are lying inoperative due to fault in underground connection. Nothing effective was done to make it operative despite complaints by the users.

At present, repairing works are going on in the town and 200 NWD and 100 non-NWD connections were restored.

The subscribers of non-NWD have to face further problem as they are to take help from Board to contact elsewhere in the country. The subscribers fail to take their desired number from the telephone operator after waiting for hours.

An official of the Telephone

Department said that rejected or worn out parts of machinery are brought here for repair works which is mainly responsible for the break in service here.

2 bodies recovered

JHENIDAH, July 12: Police recovered two dead bodies in the district since Wednesday, reports UNB.

A body of an unidentified man was recovered from a field on Thursday at Charcoal village in Sadar thana.

The body marked by bore of bullets. Police suspected that the man was a member of an outlawed party.

A group of miscreants numbering about seven to eight forcibly took away one Sakina, 35, at Hatathpara village under Maheshpur thana and beat her to death at a nearby jute field on Tuesday night.

Police recovered the dead body on Wednesday.

The dead bodies were sent to Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Separate cases were filed with the respective thanas.

Another report adds: Police recovered 1,300 bottles of phensidyl worth about Tk 2.5 lakh from a house at village Dulalmandia in Kaliganj thana here on Thursday.

None was arrested in this connection.



FARIDPUR: Prof. Mia Lutfar Rahman, Director of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education delivering his presidential speech at a seminar on educational structure reforms at HSC level held recently under the auspices of Higher Secondary Education project. — Star photo

Shariatpur people passing days in great panic

SHARIATPUR, July 12: With the increasing terrorist activities at Kanar Bazar and Khaloshi areas in Sadar thana by the so-called Sharbahara terrorists the local people have been passing their days in great panic, reports UNB.

Tension gripped the areas following the killing of five people by the outlawed activists during the last two months for which the harvesting of Irri-Boro paddy in many areas was not possible.

Paddy on hundreds of acres of land are being damaged in the field, the farmers said adding that in some areas they are to guard their standing crops after the night fall.

6.11 lakh hectares to be brought under Aman paddy farming

MYMENSINGH, July 12: A scheme has been taken up to bring over 6.11 lakh hectares of land under Aman paddy cultivation during the current season in five districts of greater Mymensingh, reports UNB.

According to Agriculture Extension Department, of the total, over 2.57 lakh hectares will be cultivated in Mymensingh, 77,209 hectares in Jamalpur, 76,210 hectares in Sherpur, 68,038 hectares in Netrakona and over 1.32 lakh hectares in Kishoreganj district.

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation will distribute high yielding seeds, insecticides and other necessary agricultural inputs among the farmers at fair prices to make the scheme a success.

Amirabad High School teacher succumbs to his injuries

MYMENSINGH, July 12: A high school teacher succumbed to his injuries on Friday at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital, reports UNB.

The victim Endad Hossain Chowdhury, 35, a teacher of Amirabad High School at Khircha village in Fulchhari thana was stabbed by his neighbour at one stage of altercation over the ownership of a jackfruit tree on Wednesday. He was rushed to the hospital in a critical condition.

A case was lodged with the police.

Meanwhile, a 22-year-old housewife allegedly committed suicide by taking poison on the

Separate incidents claim 4 lives in Habiganj

HABIGANJ, July 12: Four people died in separate incidents in the last one week in the district, police said, reports UNB.

Police and witnesses said Milli, 11, a student of class six, daughter of Ismail Mia of Madhabpur thana was crushed to death on the spot by a speeding Dhaka-bound truck from Sylhet at the Telipara bazar in the thana on Thursday.

Mizan, 26, a pedestrian, died when he was run over by a truck at Telipara rail crossing at 7:15 pm on the same day.

The truck drivers managed to escape after the incidents. A 20-year-old youth named Jamir Ali allegedly committed suicide on Friday night at Moshadia village in Lakhal.

same day in the Sadar thana. According to family sources, Hazera Khatun, daughter of late Suruz Ali was married with Munsur Ali, son of Nidu Mia at Khodaboxpur village in Gouripur thana eight months back.

During her eight months staying at her husband's house Hazera became perturbed when she came to learn that he was an impotent.

She with utmost frustration came to her parents' house and took poison on Thursday and died on the following day.

A UD case was filed with the Kotwali police.

Old-age allowance distributed among 630 old people

ISHURDI, July 12: Distribution of old-age allowance was started here in Ishurdi thana parishad premises on June 28, reports BSS.

Shamsur Rahman Sharif Delu, MP, inaugurated the function as the chief guest.

The function was presided over by the Thana Nirbahi Officer Rafiqul Alam.

Social Welfare Department organised the function for distribution of allowance among 630 old men and women of 63 wards of seven unions under Ishurdi thana.