# Newssnaps

#### KCC to construct truck terminal

KHULNA, July 24: Khulna City Corporation (KCC) will construct a truck terminal near Sonadanga here soon, reports BSS. KCC sources said that Taka four crore four lakh would be spent for the much needed truck terminal which will help ease traffic jam in the city. Three acres of land are being acquired for this purpose. Construction of the truck terminal will be completed speedily, the sources said.

#### 932 murdered in 2 decades

PABNA, July 24: Some 932 people have been murdered in the district in different incidents during the last two decades, reports UNB.

According to court sources, of them, 32 are the victims of political rivalry and most of the accused in these cases were acquitted due to lack of witness or adequate proof. Most of the killings took place as a sequel to conflict between two groups, said the sources in the law enforcement agencies adding that about 500 murders were committed in broad day light till June this year. One of the gruesome incidents is the killing of 12 people in 1988 at Khotbari village of Chatmohar thana. The case in this regard is still awaiting disposal in the court. Of the total murders, only one young man was sentenced to death and was executed in connection with killing of a school girl at Tebunia in Atgharia thana.

#### Integrated women dev programme opens

JHALAKATHI, July 24: The integrated women development programme under the southern region agriculture development project was inaugurated at Sadar thana here on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Deputy Director of the District Agriculture Extension Department M Anwar Hossain inaugurated the three-month long programme. Under the project, the AED has included housewives of 60 families from Ramnagar and Sangramnil villages. They will given practical training on vegetable cultivation in the yards of their respective houses, embroidery, using developed woven, making compost fertilizer from their household wastes and tree plantation. Besides, the authority also will supply agriculture accessories free of cost among these families.

#### Phensidyl recovered

MYMENSINGH, July 24: Some 200 bottles of phensidyl syrup were recovered from Boira areas of the town on Tuesday night, reports UNB

A special contingent of CID police, on secret information. raided the area at about 3 pm but sensing police presence the black marketeers left the spot leaving the bottles behind in a bag. Another message from Madaripur says: Police arrested two people, including a women, with 35 bottles of phensidyl at Nayachar village in Sadar thana on Tuesday. On a tip-off, they raided the village and arrested Parvin Akhter with 30 bottles and Anisur Rahman with five bottles of the contraband item.

#### Tk 1.48cr uplift projects implemented

MEHERPUR, July 24: The Facilities Department implemented development projects in the district at a cost of Tk 1.48 crore during the last fiscal year, reports BSS.

The project included construction, renovation and development of different educational institutions, official sources said. Under this project 27 high schools were renovated and pucca latrines and tubewells were set up in these schools. Besides, renovations of government girls college and Meherpur Government College and vocational college were also completed.

#### 25 women commit suicide in 2 years

FENI. July 24: Twenty-five young girls and housewives allegedly committed suicide in six thanas of the district in last two years, reports UNB.

Law enforcing agencies said all the suicides took place between August 1996 to July 1998. In most of the cases, the causes behind the suicides were family feud, repression, unhappy conjugal life and poverty. Of them, 10 allegedly committed suicide in Sadar, three in Sonagazi, two in Chhagalnaiya, five in Porshuram, three in Daganbhuiyan and two in Fulgazi. Besides, 24 housewives, young and minor girls were violated by this time while 11 school-going girls were abducted, the sources added.

#### Condition of slaughter houses miserable

JAMALPUR, July 24: The condition of the slaughter houses here-Wre very unhygienic threatening the public health and

overall environment in the town, reports UNB. The traders involved in selling of various meat are openly ignoring the related rules in slaughtering the cattle, said the local people. They said in most cases, the cattle are not examined by the Veterinary Surgeon which is a precondition for selling meat in the markets. Unauthorised slaughtering of cattle is rampant in the district town and other thana headquarters, said the people adding that sometimes the meat traders use open places beside the roads or a courtyard for this purpose.

#### 65,000 hectares brought under Aus farming

NOAKHALI. July 24: About 65,000 hectares will be brought under Aus paddy cultivation in six thanas at Noakhali district in the current season, reports BSS.

According to official sources. Agriculture Extension Department has also taken up a programme to bring 4300 hectares under Aman crop cultivation this season in the district.

#### Man arrested with pipe gun

SATKHIRA, July 24: Kalaroa thana police arrested one per-son with one pipe gun from Choto Kholshi village in Kalaroa thana on Sunday, reports BSS.

Police sources said, acting on a tip-off police arrested Foridul Islam, 18, of village Boro Kholshi from Choto Kholshi

and recovered one pipe gun from his possession. A case was lodged with Kalaroa thana police.

#### Contraband seized

KUSHTIA, July 24: Kushtia 1st Battalion Rifle seized Chinese spins valued about Taka 30 lakh from a numberless truck at Satbaria on Kushtia-Bheramara road recently, reports BSS. Acting on a tip-off the BDR team stopped the truck at Satbaria and seized the Chinese spins which were on way to India for smuggling. The driver fled away leaving the truck. BDR deposited the seized spins in the Bheramara Customs godown.

#### 930 selected for old age allowance

CHUADANGA, July 24: A total of 930 elderly people of four thanas of Chuadanga district have been selected for old age allowance, reports BSS.

They will get Taka 100 per head every month under the oldage allowance programme of the government. According to an official source of the total elderly people 210 elderly people will get old-age allowance from 7 unions of Chuadanga sadar thana. 390 from 13 unions of Alamdanga thana, 210 from 7 unions of Damurhuda thana and 120 from 4 unions of Jibannagar thana. The distribution work of old-age allowance has already been started in the district. The recipients of old-age allowance are getting the benefit from April this year.

#### 244 Chandpur students get stipends

CHANDPUR, July 24: A total of 244 students of Chandpur district were given stipends by Chandpur Zilla Samity on July

19, reports BSS. It was distributed in a function presided over by Advocate Siddiqur Rahman Hazra, president of the Samity. The function was addressed, among others, by Md Khalid Anwar, Deputy Commissioner, Prof Mohd Hossain Khan, Prof Habibur Rahman, Advocate Bazlur Rahman, Md Amir Hossain Khan and Md Safaitullah Patwari. In all, 167 students from high schools and 77 students of colleges in Chandpur were given stipends from the Samity.

#### Youth hacked to death

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, July 24: One young man was hacked to death on the issue of ownership of TV set used for watching World Cup match at Masterpara in Gaibandha Pourashava recently.

A group of youngmen procured a TV sets with their own contribution for watching World Cup match. After ending of World Cup final match the young group decided to hand over TV set through a lottery. On that issue first a quarrel was developed and soon the situation went beyond control. At one stage a group attacked Tusher, 24, and hacked him with a Chinese axe. The victim died after shifting him to Rangpur. A case was filed in this connection.

#### Road development work completed

RAJBARI, July 21: A total of 42-km road development work under nine projects in four thanas of the district was completed

during the last fiscal year, reports UNB.

The projects were implemented by the Local Government Engineering Directorate (LGED) under Food for Works Programme at a cost of Tk 13 lakh and 634 metric tons of wheat. The projects are: Kolahat-Khalilpur road, Baliakandi-Kamarkhali road, Machpara-Bhabaniganj road, Jamalpur-Kolahat road, Mashalia-Kolahat road, Nimtola-Mathurapur road, Rajbari-Bathulia road, Jagib Baggi-Abu Hena road and Goalanda-Kushahata road.



NARAYANGANJ: A large number of homesteads including mills and factories have been inundated in flood water at - Star photo by AKM Mohsin Fatulla in the district. Photo shows a submerged cold storage in the flood-hit area.

## Flood victims yet to get relief materials

# 70,000 people marooned in Sherpur

From Ratan Chowdhury

SHERPUR, July 24: Flood has affected very badly the sadar thana of the district. Onrush of hilly water from India has caused the flood.

Road communication between Sherpur and Jamalpur has been disrupted for the last seven days. Incessant rain for eight days has paralysed normal life in the district.

A total of 24 unions out of 52 unions in five thanas have been affected. But 10 unions out of 14 unions in the sadar thana have been affected very badly. About 60 per cent areas of land in the sadar thana went under water But the administration is yet to make an estimate of flood losses.

According to local sources, flood has already destroyed more than 3,000 hectares of jute plants, some Aman paddy, standing Aus paddy including a huge quantity of vegetables. Brahmaputtra Flood Protection Embankment has been damaged at 10 points. Local people said about seven kilometres of flood protection embankment washed out by strong current in various places. Many dwelling houses have been damaged. On the other hand, erosion has taken a sérious turn. Villages in Kamarerchar and Champukkhimari Union of the Sadar thana have been affected.

The erosion-hit villages are Sainomber char, Satnomborchar, Munsir char, Tankasam, Hamindara, Bagolghor, Bagodi. Kulurchar, Shempur-Jamalpur ferry ghat and its adjoining area. At least 5,000 hectares of land with standing crops went under water. The Chairmen and members of various unions in the sadar thana told our correspondent, 70 to 80 per cent jute plants have already been

About 70,000 people in lowlying areas of Champukkhimari union. Kamarem Char. Rouha union and Bolayerchar union remained marooned. They said no rescue operations have been started to evacuate the flood and erosion victims. No relief materials have been sent to the flood affected area till filing of this report on July

When contacted with TNO. Sadar thana Md Asadul Islam, he said five tons of rice and Taka 10,000 have been sanctioned for the flood affected people in the sadar thana. The goods will be distributed as per directive of the sadar thana MP. Md Atique Rahman Atique Deputy Commissioner(DC) Md Naofel Mia, Civil Surgeon, E R Chowdhury and TNO (Sadar) Md Asadul Islam visited the flood affected areas.

The DC told The Daily Star Correspondent, standing crops, roads, culverts and flood protection embankment have been threatened. But he said the flood situation, however, improved in the affected areas since Sunday last.

During the period, three persons died of diarrhoea and another drowned. They have been identified as Riazuddin, 50, of Kulurchar Beparipara, Md Akram Hossain, 25, of the same village and Shahana Begum, 10, of Bagolgarh. The drowned victim has been identified as Papon, 8, of Batmari.

Civil Surgeon of Sherpur, ER Chowdhury said more than 24 medical teams have been formed. They are working hard in the affected areas. A huge quantify of medicines have been distributed through the chairmen and health department employees. The situation is completely under control now, he said. The worst affected areas are Kamarer char. Champukkhimari. Charmucharia Losmonpur, Bolaverchar, Char Sherpur, Kamaria, Rouha, Batmari, Batchshala and Dhala union of the sadar thana.

Our Gaibandha correspondent has reported: death toll in the district rose to

eight due to flood with drown-

ing of one more child in Fulchhari thana recently. The victim is Jobed Ali, 8, of village Mashamari in Fulchhari thana. He drowned in flood water after falling down from a raft made of banana plant

More areas of the sadar thana have been inundated due to heavy downpour since last Sunday. The river Ghagot is still flowing above the danger mark, while water level in the Brahmaputra basin continued to recede and flowing below the danger mark. Water level in the rivers

Teesta and Brahmaputra has come down in five erosion -hit unions in Sunderganj thana. During the last three days a huge chunk of cultivable land along the western bank of the rivers washed away by the surging water. The erosion rendered 350 families shelterless. The erosion victims have taken shelter on the adjacent embankment and passing their days in great miseries.

Crisis of drinking water and fodder is acute in the flood affected areas. Worst situation is prevailing in remote shoal ar-

Many dwelling houses of Gaibandha pourashava are still under knee-deep water. Poura dwellers of lane areas are suffering a lot since last two

Two killers get

life-term

imprisonment

From Our Correspondent

Brahmanbaria Additional Dis-

trict and Sessions Judge AKM

Samsul Islam convicted Renu

Mia and Ali in a judgement and

sentenced them to suffer life-

term imprisonment in the sen-

sational Fakir Ashraf Ali

Murder case at Nasirnagor in

Samu Mia in the same case and

sentenced him to suffer 7- year

Rigorous Imprisonment (RI) in

the same murder case. Five

other persons were discharged

from this case for want of proof.

brief, is that on August 31,1991,

the accused persons called the

victim. Fakir Ashraf Ali out of

his house at night and killed

him with sharp weapons. In

this connection a case was filed

with Nasirnagor Police Sta-

nagor police submitted

chargesheet against the accused

Judge sentenced Renu Mia and

Ali to suffer life-term impris-

onment and another Samu to

After investigation Nasir-

Later in the judgement the

The prosecution story in

The Judge also convicted

the district.

persons.

suffer 7- year RI.

BRAHMANBARIA, July 24:

# 3,500 cases awaiting disposal in Jhenidah JHENIDAH, July 22: Some

3.500 cases have been awaiting disposal for long in different courts here as a number of posts of judges and magistrates are lying vacant, reports UNB.
Thousands of people in-

volved in the cases are suffering for years together, said court sources adding that the absence of witnesses add further delay in the disposal process.

There had been only one

first class magistrate in the district since long resulting in the piling up of under-trial cases. Most of the cases are awaiting trial for three to five years, said the sources.

Presently the situation improved slightly as four first class and seven second class magistrates are working in different courts, the sources added.

The sources further said there are four cognizance and four trial courts in two regions of the district. Some 2000 GR, 1200 CR and 300 to 400 other cases are lying pending in these courts.

Magistrates have to deal with about 100 regular and other cases everyday besides performing other official tasks assigned by the authorities. Most of the witnesses and

plaintiffs of GR cases filed with different thanas do not appear before the courts and even warrants of arrests issued against them failed to improve the situ-

ation. Many cases were dismissed thus. A magistrate said each of them has to deal with 700 to 800 cases in 20 to 22 working days

in a month which is a burden

for them.

### Mismanagement in telephone

JHENIDAH, July 24: Telephone subscribers have been facing a serious problems due to mismanagement and irregularities of the officials concerned in the district, reports UNB.

Most of 1200 subscribers in the district headquarters complained that their telephone lines do not function properly. cross connection is a regular phenomenon and the subscribers have to dial at least four to five times to get through the desired number.

Moreover, they said, they have to wait for hours together to get connection while receiving the incoming trunk calls.

## Traffic congestion in Sylhet town takes serious turn

SYLHET, July 24: Traffic congestion in the Sylhet town has taken a serious turn creating serious trouble for the movement of vehicles, reports

A number of unauthorised stoppage for vehicles have sprung up at different places in the city and the microbus, truck, private car and tempo used to gather on the roads narrowing these further.

Local people said that the authorities like traffic police, the municipality or BRTA are not taking any steps to check the traffic congestion. Presently, various public

transports as well as private cars are using unauthorised stands at Shahjalal bridge, Sobhanighat, roads adjacent to the proposed Osmany Udyan, Naiorpool, Shibganj Chouhatta, roads adjacent to Sadar Hospital, Kumarpara, Dargaghat, Kalighat, Majumdari, Ambarkhana, Darshandeuri and poura point created troubles for passersby also. Footpaths, shops and houses

are being built in haphazardly causing further problem in smooth movement of vehicles, said the local people adding that the situation worsened further due to negligence of duties by the traffic police. Most of the time they ignore the violation of traffic rules by the drivers. they added. Small vendors have taken possession on footpaths creating serious problems for the pedestrians. There is allegation that a

section of dishonest government officials collect a large sum of money as toll every month from these vendors and unauthorised vehicle stands.

Local people have urged the authorities to take effective measures to solve the problem for the greater interest of peo-

#### DAB files cases against ex-MP, 12 others in Khulna From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, July 24: DAB, Bagerhat, has filed 13 cases with the sadar thana against seven persons, including a former MP and a former chairman of Zila Parishad for misappro-

priating Taka 4,71,000 from

Zila Parishad fund.

The seven accused in the cases are former MP Wahidul Islam, former Zila Parishad Chairman Abdul Hye Bachchu, ex-accountant of Zila Parishad Ishaque Uddin, Shadananda Halder of Royenda Primary School, former president of Bagerhat Red Crescent Society Habibur Rahman, Ashraf Ali and Idris Ali. All of them are absconding, police said

## 15,76,219 hectares to be brought under Aman farming in 16 dists

RAJSHAHI, July 24: An extensive programme has been taken to cultivate Aman paddy in the northern region of the country during the current sea-

According to Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) Extension Department sources, a target has already been fixed to bring 15. 78.463 hectares of land under Aman cultivation in 16 districts of Rajshahi Division. Of the total, 10.02,244

hectares will be cultivated for high-yielding and 5,76,219 hectares for conventioned vari-BADC sources said, the on-

going heavy rain is favourable for Aman cultivation and they hope the target can be achieved within the scheduled time. A total of 3,39,375 hectares of land will be cultivated in specialised method for high-

yielding variety of Aman

According to BADC Extension Office, 66743 hectares of land will be brought under Aman cultivation during the current season in Rajshahi district, 1.76,185 hectares in Naogaon, 27,552 hectares in Natore, 40,124 hectares in Cha-

From Our Correspondent district, 59209 hectares in Sirajganj district. 45, 219 hectares in Pabna, 1,66,982 hectares in Bogra, 61912 hectares in Joypurhat district, 1,40,0503 hectares in Rangpur, 1,10,773 hectares in Gaibandha, 1,12,659 hectares in Kurigram district, 76,439 hectares in Nilphamari, 2,15,329 hectares in Dinajpur district, 1,08,803 hectares in Thakurgaon, 98,592 hectares in Panchagarh and 76439 hectares of lands will be brought under Aman paddy cultivation in Lalmonirhat district during the current season. To make the programme

successful, BADC has already distributed about 2000 metric tons of quality seeds including BR-II, BR-25, BR-30, BR-31 and BR-32 Aman variety. Seed-beds have also been made and saplings have grown. Farmers have also, in the mean time, started to transplant Aman saplings on their fields. At least one-third of the land of target has already been cultivated. sources informed. Different scheduled and pri-

vate banks have distributed loans in terms of cash and kinds among the farmers for Aman cultivation.

# Barobeela has turned into farmers' woe

From Monojit Kumar Das

MAGURA, July 24 Barobeela, one of the biggest waterbodies in Magura district has been turned into farmers' woe. It is due to chronic waterlogging and other problems in the beel area. As a result paddy and Rabi crops are being damaged frequently due to this problem.

A vast tract of land in Hazipur, Srikol, Atkarokhada union parshads (UPs) and Abaipur union and adjoining areas in Jhenidah district are in Barobeela. About 75 per cent beel areas are in Srikol UP, 10 per cent beel areas are in Atharokhada UP, 15 per cent beel areas are in Hazipur UP and five per cent areas are in Abaipur UP. The river Kumar flows on the northern and eastern sides of the above men-

On the other hand, the Nabaganga runs through the

tioned waterbody.

southern side of the beel and the western side areas fall in Sailkupa thana in Jhenidah

FENI: Bus service has become risky as Feni-Ramgar road submerged in flood water.

While talking to one ANM Ohid at village Tupipara in Srikol union he told the correspondent that the whole area was famous for traditional Aman cultivation which is usually grown in deep water of the beel. On the other hand, Rabi crops like peas ( motor), mustard, rapeseeds, lentil, grams are also grown largely in beel areas after extracting water in the beel through cannel which are connected with the rivers Kumar and Nabaganga. The local varieties of Aman

paddy like Kalbayra, Jalkati, Dighe, Jagali are cultivated in deep water of the beel. Once motor of this area was tasteful and delicious, a group of aged old people said. According to the officials of

Ganges- Kobadak Project (G-K Project), the areas of Barobeela and its adjoining land were taken up under the project for giving irrigation facilities during the then Pakistani regime. Canals were cut on the northern and eastern sides of the beel by G-K Project for providing water in the corp land. Due to set -back in the project this programme became a failure.

- Star photo by Amran Hossain

The farmers of the beel areas have alleged due to unplanned canals, embankments and sluice gates they are suffering now. As a result, the farmers did not cultivate either the traditional paddy or transplanted paddy. A group of marginal and

land less farmers in the beel area informed that water -logging was the main problem for farming transplanted Aman during the rainy season. Due to water logging, owners of

land in the beel most of whom are marginal and landless farmers of villages Srikol, Darpol, Tupipara, Barisat, Dosatina, Khalia, Kharichal, Radhakantopur, Ratanpur, Jugni, Bagni and other villages face a serious problem and passing their days in miseries.

The farmers informed further that they were able to cultivate Boro crops using water by shallow tubewells during the Boro season. Actually they do not get crops in two other seasons. As a result, hundreds of farmers families who depend on Barobeela are in great distress. Besides, fish in Borobeela have been abolished totally.

Local people and experts have urged the concerned authorities to take proper project for development of Borobeela for the interest of local farm-

# Rajshahi Newsletter

#### Islamic confce held

From Our Correspondent RAJSHAHI, July 24: An Islamic conference was held in Shaheb Bazar Bara Masjid premises in the city on Saturday afternoon.

Rajshahi Islamic Cultural House organised the conference to celebrate Eid-e-Miladunnabi (SM) and Islamic Unity week organised by the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Presided over by Dr Sultan

Ahmed, the conference was addressed by the Iranian Ambassador, Muhammad Shaheb Faiyaz as the chief guest, former Vice-Chancellor of Islamic University Prof Abdul Hamid, Prof Maolana Jamaluddin, Imam Nur Mohammad Zihadi, Maolana Ferdous Ahmed Hilali, Maolana Mozammel Huque, Hafez Mahbub Morshed and Azizul Huque.

The speakers observed, only the ideals of the Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SM) can ensure liberty and peace of mankind. They urged the Muslims to be on the right track of Islam and work for restoration of peace.

#### PP removed

Ministry of Law and Justice

removed Rajshahi Public Prosecutor (PP) Monsur Rahman and Government Prosecutor (GP) Abdus Samad from their

Earlier, a total of 22 APPs and 112 lawyers of Rajshahi Court accused Monsur Rahman and Abdus Samad of corruption of misuse of power and demanded their removal. New PP and GP are yet to be

#### appointed. Notorious dacoit arrested

notorious dacoit from Dhutrabona village last Monday night. He was absconding for many days. On a secret information police raided a house and arrested him. On the same night Poba police arrested absconder Asad Ali from Madhupur village and another absconder Ajibul Ali from Maria village. Boalia police on the other hand seized 45 bottles of phensidyl and arrested two persons on the same night.

Poba thana police arrested a