

News snaps

Drug trafficker handed over to police

BARGUNA, July 26: Local people handed over a young drug trafficker from village Khezurtala in Sadar thana to police with two bottles of phensidyl syrup on Wednesday, reports UNB. Police said Jahangir, 27, of village Badarkhal in the same thana was rounded up while he was trying to hide the bottles in a nearby shop. Police also said Jahangir was wanted in connection with drug trafficking and trading cases since long. In another incident 250 grams of hemp and some hemp plants were recovered and two people were arrested by the local police last month.

Youth slaughtered to death

MEHERPUR, July 26: A young man was slaughtered to death by the outlawed Sarbahara partymen over previous enmity in Sadar thana here on Monday, reports UNB. Police identified the victim as Kalu, 30, of Mahajampur village in the district. A group of armed miscreants halted the bus carrying him at Bohlantary at 10 pm and brought him down and shot at him from point blank range and later slaughtered him brutally. Police said with this, some eight people were killed by the outlaws in the last one month. A case was filed with the police.

Palli Chikitsok Samity confce held

KURIGRAM, July 26: The conference of Bangladesh Palli Chikitsok Samity Kurigram district unit was held in the PTI auditorium here with Dr B Aduzzaman in the chair, reports BSS. The samity discussed the overall flood situation in the country caused by onrush of hilly waters and heavy showers during the couple of days. Addressing the conference the central president of the samity Dr Md Sabuj Ali urged all samity members to stand beside the flood affected people by providing medicare facilities to check post-flood diseases. General secretary of the samity Dr Md Khalilur Rahman, Dr Akkas Ali, Dr Abed Ali, Dr Mujibur Rahman, Dr Ahmed Ali and Dr Anil Chandra addressed the conference. Meanwhile, the conference of the samity of Moulvibazar and Narsingdi district units were held recently.

Fisheries Week begins

NARSINGDI, July 26: The Fisheries Week '98 begun here on Thursday, reports BSS. The district fisheries department has undertaken elaborate programmes to observe the week. In the morning a colourful procession carrying festoons and banners was brought out from sadar thana parishad premises led by district fisheries officer Shahidul Alam, Deputy Commissioner, Narsingdi, Rafiqul Islam inaugurated the week-long programme as the chief guest in a seminar presided over by the Thana Nirbahi Officer, Narsingdi sadar, at sadar thana parishad auditorium in the afternoon. The Deputy Commissioner gave away prizes among the concerned persons for their contribution in increasing fish production.

Pass-books distributed among old people

RANGAMATI, July 26: Chairman of Rangamati Hill District Local Government Council, Ching Kieu Roaze, distributed 270 pass-books of old-age allowance among 270 distressed old people of Razasthali thana at a function held at Razasthali thana auditorium on Thursday, reports BSS. The allowance is being given under government's on-going old-age allowance programme. Deputy Director of Rangamati unit of Social Services Directorate, Arati Chakma, was present as the special guest. Razasthali Thana Nirbahi Officer, Mohammad Akhtar Zaman presided over the function. With this 3,506 old people of eight thanas in the district were given old-age allowance.

Training course concludes

TANGAIL, July 26: A four-day training on Office Management for LGED Office Assistants concluded on Wednesday at local LGED auditorium, reports BSS. A total of 21 participants took part in the course under four trainers. Kuhnle, district maintenance and training advisor of Tangail infrastructure development project distributed certificates among the participants.

Credit disbursed among farmers

NOAKHALI, July 26: Bangladesh Krishi Bank (KBB) disbursed a sum of Tk 14.57 crore as credit among 1,300 farmers of six thanas during the fiscal 1997-98, reports BSS. KBB regional manager told that this year credit disbursement target has been fixed at Tk 15 crore. The bank also realised outstanding loan of Tk 14.84 crore from the peasants during the last financial year. The credit was given for purchasing bullocks, irrigation pumps and livestock, cultivation of crops and investment in small business and pisciculture.

1,879 more receive old-age allowance

HABIGANJ, July 26: A total of 1,879 elderly people of Ajmiriganj and Baniachang thanas at separate functions have received the government old-age allowance, reports UNB. Parliamentary Advisor to the Prime Minister Suranjit Sen Gupta distributed the allowances on Monday. Addressing on the occasion, Suranjit Sen said the government has shown respect to the elderly citizen by distributing old-age allowance which will also increase the honour of those people in family and society.

2 killed in Sylhet road mishap

SYLHET, July 26: Two people were killed and five others injured in a road accident in Sadar thana on Sylhet-Dhaka highway, reports UNB. Police said the mishap occurred at Lala Bazar when a truck ramed into an autorickshaw, leaving two of its passengers dead. They were identified as Tofur Mia, 30, and Jamal Ahmed, 20, a student of Sylhet Government College. Meanwhile, police recovered the body of an unidentified middle age man from Kadamtali bus terminal.

Gold bars recovered

KHULNA, July 26: BDR personnel arrested six gold smugglers and recovered one lakh bars of gold and Indian currency notes worth Taka 30,000 from them at Sathkira border here on Friday, official sources said here, reports BSS. BDR personnel conducted separate raids in the border area of Tuzulpur. Abdus Salam and Dabir Charan, both alleged gold smugglers, were among the arrested persons. Separate cases have been filed against the gold smugglers with Sathkira Police.

Illegally extracted timber seized

RANGAMATI, July 26: Forest officials of Chittagong Hill Tracts South Forest Division (CHTSFD) in separate raids at Karnaphuli lake area have recovered about 1,500 cubic feet of costly timbers and 2,5000 running feet of pole (ballie) worth over Taka eight lakh and seized five engine boats recently, reports BSS. Five persons were rounded up in connection with the recovery. Tapan Kumar Dey, Divisional Forest officer of CHTSFD said, Earlier, on Friday last wooden furniture made with illegally extracted timbers worth over Taka two lakh were also recovered from Manikchhari in sadar thana of the district and outskirts of the town.

Massive afforestation programme

RANGAMATI, July 26: An area of 153,512 hectares of denuded reserved forest land will be brought under participatory afforestation programme involving the local people, in the three hill districts of Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban, reports BSS.

Problems grip Jamalpur Exchange

JAMALPUR, July 26: The telephone exchange in Islampur thana headquarter is beset with various problems hampering the service to the people, reports UNB. Local subscribers said they are being deprived of getting phone lines properly as most of the machinery are very old. Officials said the magneto exchange, established during the Pakistan period, can only give lines to eight subscribers at a time though it has provision for 131 line service. Subscribers said they have to wait for long for getting through a line and complained that only one operator work in the exchange at a time though there is provision for two operators to work together. Local people have urged the authorities to introduce auto system at the exchange immediately.



SHERPUR: Road communication has been snapped for the last few days due to inundation of Sherpur-Jamalpur road in flood waters. — Star photo

40 unions affected by flood in Mymensingh district

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, July 26: A total of 40 unions of seven thanas out of 12 have been affected by flood in Mymensingh district. The seriously affected thanas are sadar, Phulpur, Trishal and Dhubaura. Of them 13 unions of sadar thana, 12 unions of Phulpur, six unions of Trishal, four unions of Dhubaura, two unions each of Gafargaon and Muktagachha and one of Gouripur thana have been affected. Over one hundred villages of seven thanas have been affected. The low-lying areas of sadar and Phulpur thana are badly affected. About 1,000 people have been marooned. Incessant rain-fall and onrush of hilly waters from across the border for the last few days created immense and untold sufferings to the marooned people. Standing crops on about 75,000 acres of land have been affected. About 300 Kutcha houses have been totally damaged and two thousand houses partially affected. Many flood-hit people have taken shelter in different schools of shoal areas and many places of the town. Some flood-affected people have taken shelter on Shambhuganj cross-dam with their cattle-heads as there is no cowshed and grazing field due to inundation of grazing fields. But the Shambhuganj cross-dam on which many families have taken shelter is now threatened due to development of cracks at some points of the embankment. Most of the tube-walls of flood-affected areas have gone under water. Scarcity of food and drinking water have been prevailing in the affected areas. When this correspondent visited the flood-affected Char Gobindapur of Char Sirta union in the sadar thana people informed him that they had not received any relief materials. The relief materials distributed in the district among the flood-affected people is very poor. Md Rafiqul Islam, Deputy Commissioner of Mymensingh visited the flood-affected areas and distributed relief materials among the flood victims. Dr M Amanullah, State Minister for Health and Family Welfare visited the flood-hit area on July 21 and distributed relief materials among the flood victims at Khagadhar in the sadar thana and in Gafargaon thana.

Law and order worsens in Gopalganj dist

From Our Correspondent

GOPALGANJ, July 26: The law and order situation has deteriorated alarmingly in the district during the first six months of this year. A total of 439 cases have been registered with five thanas of the district in the aforementioned months. Gopalganj sadar thana sources informed The Daily Star correspondent that a total number of 162 cases were lodged with the thana during January to June in this year. The cases include four of murder, two cases of dacoity, one of robbery, 26 cases of burglary and theft, three of rioting, one of illegal arms, two cases of narcotics drugs, three of smuggling, two of rapes, five of cruelty to woman and 113 cases of different other offences. Kasiani thana police sources said that a total number of 82 cases were lodged with the thana from January to June in this year. The cases include three of dacoity, two cases of robbery, eight of burglary and theft, one of illegal arms, one of rape, three of cruelty to woman and 64 cases of different other offences. Kotalipara thana police sources said that a total number of 38 cases were lodged with the thana from January to June in the current year. The cases include one of murder, one of theft, two of rioting, one of abduction, one of rape and 32 cases of other offences. According to Tungipara thana police, a total number of 26 cases were lodged with the thana from January to June this year. The cases include one of murder, one of rioting resulting in murder, one of dacoity, one of robbery, 13 cases of burglary and theft, two under Arms Act, one of smuggling, two of rapes, four of cruelty to woman and 64 cases of different other offences. Registration of 439 cases with five thanas in the district from January to June this year is an example of alarming increase in criminal activities in comparison with those of first six months in 1997.

Shibir, BCL activists clash at IU: 6 hurt

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, July 26: At least six students were injured in a gunfight between the activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir and pro-Awami League Chhatra League (BCL) on the Islamic University campus Wednesday. According to police and witnesses, the clash originated when a Shibir activist was manhandled by some BCL activists in an IU-bound bus near Laxmipur at around 9 am. The Shibir activists brought out a procession in protest against the attack and submitted a memorandum to Vice Chancellor Prof Kayes Uddin. Later during the day, the rival groups clashed on the campus which left 3 Shibir and one BCL activists injured. A teacher of the Accounting Department, Delwar Hossain, was also injured during the clash. Both the groups used lethal weapons during the clash. Two rounds of gunshots were fired during the clash, witnesses said. Later, some agitating students ransacked the Vice Chancellor's office in the afternoon.

Truck barricade on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway

MYMENSINGH, July 26: Truckers barricaded the Dhaka-Mymensingh road in Sadar thana for about eight hours since on Monday creating a severe traffic congestion on the road, reports UNB. Police said the angry truck workers put up the barricade in Jamtola area protesting police action during a dacoity on Sunday night that left a truck driver injured. Witnesses said a group of 8 to 10 dacoits blocked the road with jute bundles and looted goods and cash from two Dhaka-bound trucks at about 2 am. Patrol police rushed to the spot and hit a truck driver, Shaju, 32, with a gun, assuming him a dacoit. He was admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.



SYLHET: Heavy downpour has caused water-logging at Surma Market area in the divisional town. — Star photo by Iqbal Siddiquee

Need for setting up marine court in each divn stressed

PIROJPUR, July 26: Unusual delay in publication of enquiry reports, inaction of the authorities concerned and lack of proper policy formulation have given rise to launch mishaps in the southern region of the country, reports UNB. According to an official, a total of 1,247 people were killed and 4,000 others injured in 16 launch mishaps in last 15 years. But unofficial sources claimed that the number of casualties from the launch mishaps would be much higher than the official one. Even though the Barisal office of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation is known as the leading river-point, it has been unable to ensure the safety of passengers due to administrative complications and lack of manpower. The sources said there is only one inspector for more than 300 launches, including double-deckers. "It's quite impossible for a man to inspect such a large volume of vessels. That's why we have to depend on police, but their help is too inadequate during our crying needs," said an official. They also attributed the frequent launch mishaps to inefficiency of masters and mishandling of their assistants. Apart from this, most of the launches running on the routes of this region have no fitness certificate and route permit, according to Patuakhali Launch Transport Association. Meanwhile, local people alleged that the persons who are found responsible for any mishap unfortunately go unpunished due to the illegal influence of launch owners and leaders of labour organisations. "It's not possible for the country's lone marine court to ensure proper and quick disposal of the cases," said an official stressing the need for setting up of marine courts in every division of the country.

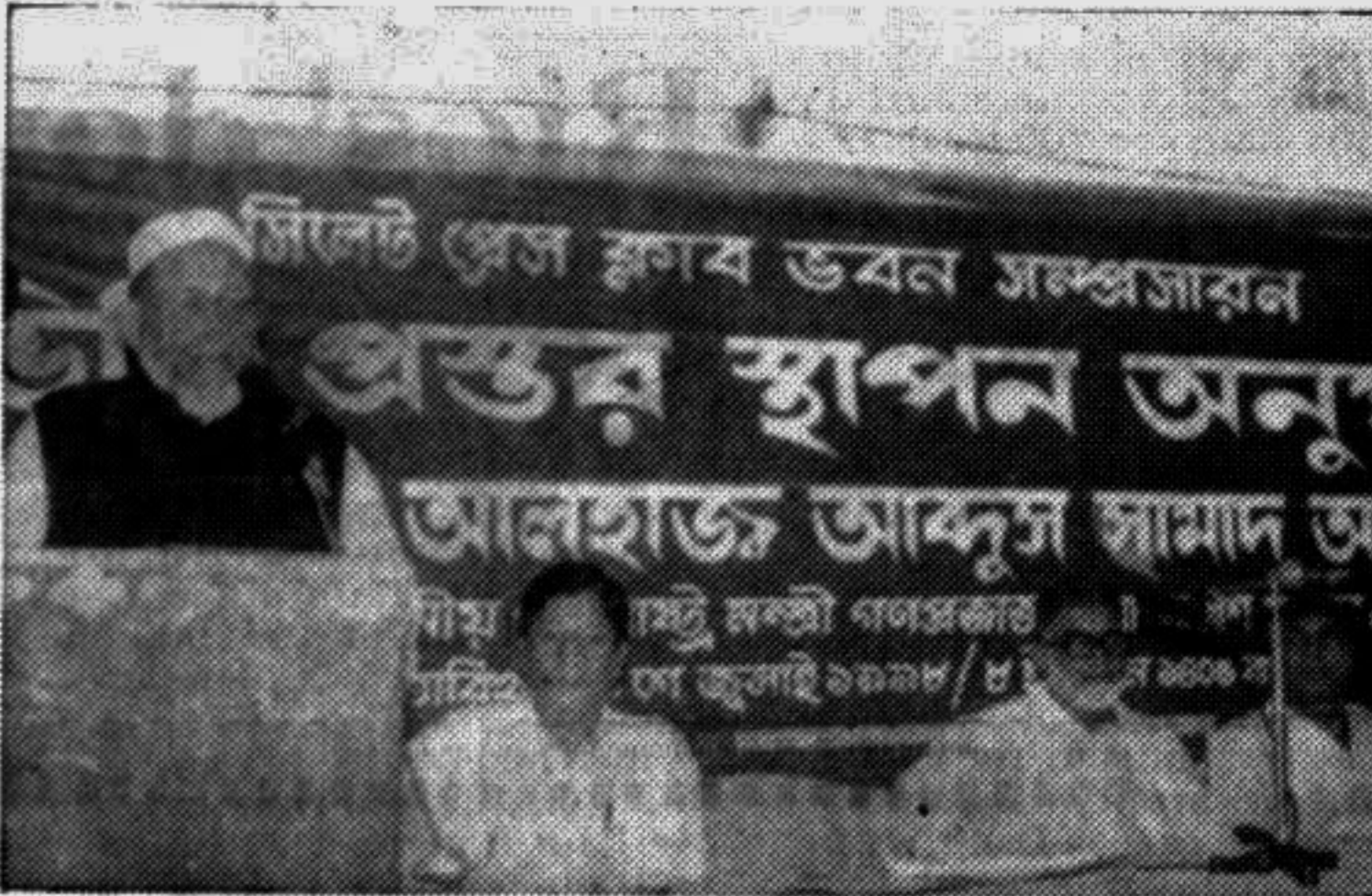
12,190 repatriated tribal families rehabilitated

RANGAMATI, July 26: Evaluation meeting of the Task Force on Tribal Refugee Rehabilitation Affairs held at Khagrachhari Circuit House on Thursday observed that 12,190 tribal refugee families repatriated in different phases have been rehabilitated at their homes and hearths in different places of Chittagong Hill Tracts, reports BSS. A total of 64,609 members of 12,222 tribal families returned home in different phases from six refugee camps in the Indian state of Tripura. Chairman of the Task Force on Tribal Refugee Rehabilitation Affairs, Dipankar Talukdar, MP, who has been enjoying the rank and status of a state minister, was present in the evaluation meeting as the chief guest. AKM Zafrul Hussain, Deputy Commissioner of Khagrachhari Hill District presided over the meeting. Chairman of Tribal Refugees Welfare Association (TRWA) Upendra Lal Chakma, leaders of TRWA, Bakul Chandra Chakma, Ranjit Narayan Tripura, Akshoy Moni Chakma and Arabindu Chakma, General Manager of Upland Settlement Project of Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board, Sukhomoy Chakma, Additional Deputy Commissioner, General of Khagrachhari Hill District, Syed Abu Raihan, Superintendent of Police, Khagrachhari, Alhaz Lutfur Rahman, Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO) Dighinala, Salahuddin Mahmud, TNO, Mohalchhari, Bazul Rashid, TNO, Sadar, Mohammad Hanif, TNO, Panchhari Sultan Mahmud, TNO, Rangarh, Zamal A Naser Chowdhury and TNO, Matiranga SM Mezbahul Islam attended the meeting. Upendra Lal Chakma expressed his utmost satisfaction at rehabilitation of the repatriated tribals which is nearing completion. "I on behalf of TRWA, am deeply indebted to sincere and active cooperation of the implementing agency to complete the rehabilitation programme, sorting out few minor problem," he said. Fifty-five families out of 768, who made self-repatriation, were not included in the list of rehabilitation, the meeting was informed. Chairman of the task force instantly directed the Deputy Commissioner in the meeting to provide the package of incentives to 14 families out of those 55, as the formalities for them have been completed.

Edward College Centenary Celebration begins Nov 10

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, July 26: The five-day Pabna Edward College Centenary Celebration programme will begin on November 10 this year. The decision has been taken on Friday at a meeting held at Shaheed Sattar Auditorium with Prof Muhammad Abdur Rouf, Principal, Pabna Edward College in the chair. Ex-students of the college attended the meeting. A 151-member centenary celebration committee has been formed with principal of the college as ex-officio chairman. Besides, a 41-member advisory council and 16-member sub-committee each having 25 members with one advisor and one convener was also formed in the meeting. Prof Muhammad Solaiman Miah, Head of the Department of English was elected chief co-ordinator and Prof Shibajit Nag of Mathematics Department was elected member-secretary of the celebration committee. Mohammad Nasim, Minister for Telecommunications, Public Works and Housing and Prof Abu Sayeed, State Minister for Information were elected patrons. It may be mentioned, they are ex-students of Pabna Edward College.



SYLHET: Foreign Minister Alhaj Abus Samad Azad speaking as the chief guest at the foundation stone laying ceremony of Sylhet Press Club on Thursday. — Star photo

Brahmanbaria Newsletter

Girl drowns
From Our Correspondent
BRAHMANBARIA, July 26: One girl drowned in a pond at village Taragon in Akhaura thana recently. The ill-fated girl is Maria aged 3 years. According to family sources, the fateful day Maria, daughter of Md Osuiddin drowned in a pond when her parents were working at home. At one stage when they realised that their daughter was not present near them, they started searching her. At last they found her floating in a nearby pond.

Phensidyl recovered
Police arrested two women from Nawghat of Tanbaraz in the district town recently and recovered 39 bottles of phensidyl syrup from their possession. According to police sources, acting on a tip-off TSI Md Gaffer Chowdhury raided the aforementioned spot and arrested them. The arrested women have been identified as Ful Banu and Kohinoor of Shingebil.

Valuables worth Tk 4 lakh looted
A dacoity was committed at the last compartment of Chittagong bound Shahzad Express near Mukandapur-Ha-

Detainee dies
One detainee of Brahmanbaria jail hazat namely Khelul Mia, 55, died recently. The detainee was an accused of several cases. Nabinagar police arrested him from Kaitola village of the same thana recently. Police sent him before the court from where he was sent to Brahmanbaria sub-jail hazat. There he fell sick and he was given first aid. In a critical condition he was shifted to Brahmanbaria sadar hospital where the attending doctors declared him dead.

2 accused of several cases held
Brahmanbaria Detective Branch Police in a drive recently arrested two brothers Shah Alam and Abul Kashem who were allegedly accused of several cases including dacoity from Muhammadpur village in the sadar thana recently. Acting on a secret information police launched the operation and arrested them. Police also seized lethal weapons and stolen goods from them. The two arrested persons were sent to court later on.

Faridpur Press Club office-bearers

From Our Correspondent
FARIDPUR, July 26: Syed Imamul Azam Abdur Rob, TV Correspondent, Tamijuddin Taj, Correspondent of Dainik Desh Janata and M M Ziliani Rumu, Editor, Faridpur Barta were elected President, General Secretary and Treasurer respectively of Faridpur Press Club for the session 1998-99 in an election held here recently. The other office-bearers of the executive committee are: AZM Amer Al — Senior Vice President, Prof Abdul Matin Fakir and Khondaker ASM Munjur Murshed — Vice President, Ali Ashraf Md Shoeb — Joint Secretary, Md Kabirul Islam Siddique — Cultural Secretary. Members: Yusuf Reza Montu, Sheikh Mohammad Delwar Hossain, Yusuf Hossain Talukder and others. BSS correspondent Md Shahjahan conducted the election as Election Commissioner.

RMCTA executives
From Our Correspondent
RAJSHAHI, July 26: Prof Dr Shah Zakir Hossain and Dr Mohammad Daemuddin were elected President and General Secretary of Rajshahi Medical College Teachers' Association (RMCTA) in an election held recently. Other elected executives are Prof Dr Mohammad Abu Azhar — Vice President, Prof Dr Mohammad Rafiqul Alam — Treasurer, Dr Mohammad Abdul Awal — Joint Secretary, Dr Mohammad Munsor Rahman — Organising Secretary, Prof Dr Shamim Ahmed — Literary Secretary, Prof. Dr Entamant Ahsanul Habib — Entertainment Secretary and Prof Dr Itekar Ahmed, Prof Dr Merina Khanam, Prof Dr Mohammad Shirajul Islam Patwary, Prof Dr Mohammad Abdullah Al Amin, Prof Dr Saiful Islam, Prof Dr Shahidur Rahman Tarafder, Prof Dr Bipul Kumer Dan and Prof Dr ABM Abdul Haman — members.