

## News snaps

### Debate on education on sex

TANGAIL, Aug 3: A debate "education on sex and reproductive health is a must for framing the planned family" was held on July 27 at Kumudini Government College, reports BSS. Family Planning Association of Bangladesh, Tangail branch, arranged the debate. Ten students for and against the subject, participated in the debate. Dr Salma Banu, Principal of the college distributed prizes among the winners.

### Fish fries released

SATKHIRA, Aug 3: Fisheries Week '98, organised by the Tala Thana Fisheries Office concluded here on July 29, reports BSS. The week was inaugurated earlier at a function held at Tala Shilpakala Academy on July 23. Syed Kamal Bakht, MP, president of Satkhira District Awami League inaugurated the week as the chief guest. Thana Nirbahi Officer Abdul Halim presided over the function which was also addressed, among others, by the thana fishery officer Mohsinuzzaman, UP chairmen Abdul Karim, Shamsur Rahman, Amzad Hossain and fish farmer Robinbra Nath Das. The chief guest distributed prizes among the three best fish farmers in the thana. The chief guest later released about 2000 of Ruhi, Katla and Mrigel fish-fries in the thana parishad pond.

### Discussion on breast-feeding

MUNSHIGANJ, Aug 3: A discussion on the breast-feeding was held here at the civil surgeon's office premises to mark the World Breast-feeding Week on Saturday, reports BSS. Civil Surgeon Dr Nishi Ranjan Saha presided over the discussion. Dr Jahurul Haq, Dr. Abdul Rouf, Md Basiruddin, Prof Nargis Akhter, Ms Mamtaz Begum, BTV Reporter Arful Islam, Md Tajmul Haq and Mohammad Hussain spoke on the occasion.

### Foundation of college hostel laid

CHUADANGA, Aug 3: The foundation stone of the 50-bed hostel of Chuadanga Government Girls' College was laid at the college premises recently, reports BSS. The deputy commissioner of Chuadanga Saiful Alam formally laid the foundation stone of the hostel at a function held at the college premises. The principal of the college Rawshan Ali presided over the function. The Facilities Department of the Ministry of Education will construct the three-storied hostel building of the college at a total cost of Taka 66,50,000. The construction work of the hostel building is now in full swing.

### Afforestation drive begins

SIDDHIRGANJ, Aug 3: A week-long tree plantation programme organised by Navaati Painadi Nutun Mahallah Unyan Committee has begun at Miznizi, Siddhirganj in Narayanganj district on Saturday, reports BSS. Mujibur Rahman, president of thana Awami League inaugurated the programme. Abdul Matin Master, vice-president of National Samik League and other local Awami League leaders were present on the occasion.

### Children's cultural meet held

MADARIPUR, Aug 3: A district-level children's cultural competition organised by Bangladesh Islamic Foundation, Madaripur branch was held at the premises of Amruddin High School here, reports BSS.

Deputy Commissioner, Madaripur Farhad Rahman was present at the function as the chief guest. Presided over by Mobarak Ali Miah, Headmaster of Aminuddin High School, the function was addressed, among others, by Abul Kashem Mazumdar, Deputy Director of Islamic Foundation, Madaripur.

### Valuables worth Tk 2 lakh looted

GAZIPUR, Aug 3: Valuables worth about Tk two lakh were looted in a daring dacoity at the Jangalia village in Kaliganj thana Thursday, reports UNB. According to witnesses, a gang of armed dacoits stormed the former chairman late Elahi Newaz's house at dead of night. They mercilessly beat the inmate of the house and decamped with valuables including a licensed rifle. A case was filed with the police.

### Road accidents claims 3 lives

SYLHET, Aug 3: Three minors, including two sisters, were killed and 15 others seriously injured in a road accident near Ranaping in Gopalganj thana on Monday, reports UNB. Police said the accident occurred when a bus coming from Sylhet tumbled into a roadside ditch near Langlipole. The dead were identified as Masuma, 5, and Shamima, 8, daughters of Abdul Gani of Kakardia village in Dyanibazar thana, and Mahmood, 2, son of Ahmed Hossain of Teradia village in the same thana. Fifteen of the injured were admitted to different clinics and hospitals, including Sylhet Osmany Medical College Hospital.

### Work of RCC bridges progressing

NETRAKONA, Aug 3: The construction of three RCC bridges is going to be completed at three places of the district under the supervision of Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), Netrakona, reports BSS. According to LGED Netrakona office sources, the government sanctioned Taka two crore and forty-one lakh for the construction of 60 metre long bridges at Katli on Netrakona Apara road, 58 metre long bridge at Sheoraganj on Netrakona-Purbadhala road and 90 metre long bridge at Shalipur on Jaria-Durgapur road during the last financial year. The construction of the three bridges is expected to be completed by December this year.

### Bridge construction work completed

SATKHIRA, Aug 3: The construction work of a 48-metre bridge over the river at Dalua under Tala thana of the district was completed in June last, reports BSS. According to an official source, Taka 35.22 was spent for construction of the bridge. The fund was provided by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) under its medium urban infrastructure development project.

### Phensidyl syrup recovered

NETRAKONA, Aug 3: Netrakona Kotwali thana police in a special drive recovered 30 bottles of Indian phensidyl syrup on the night of July 24 from a house at village Midni, about four kilometres from here, reports BSS. Police sources said, acting on a tip-off a police squad led by police sub-inspector Abdur Razzak raided the house and seized the contraband item. However, police could not make any arrest as the owner of the house and other phensidyl traders managed to escape sensing the arrival of police. A case was recorded with Kotwali police station in this connection under Narcotics Control Act, police sources added.

### Thunderbolt claims life of a couple

TANGAIL, Aug 3: A young couple died at village Natonchar in Gopalganj thana when they were hit by thunderbolt recently, reports BSS. The victims are Lutfar, 24, and his wife Aleya, 18. The incident occurred when lightning hit their house. They died on the spot. Their six-month-old child was, however, escaped unhurt.

### Necessary steps to help flood victims

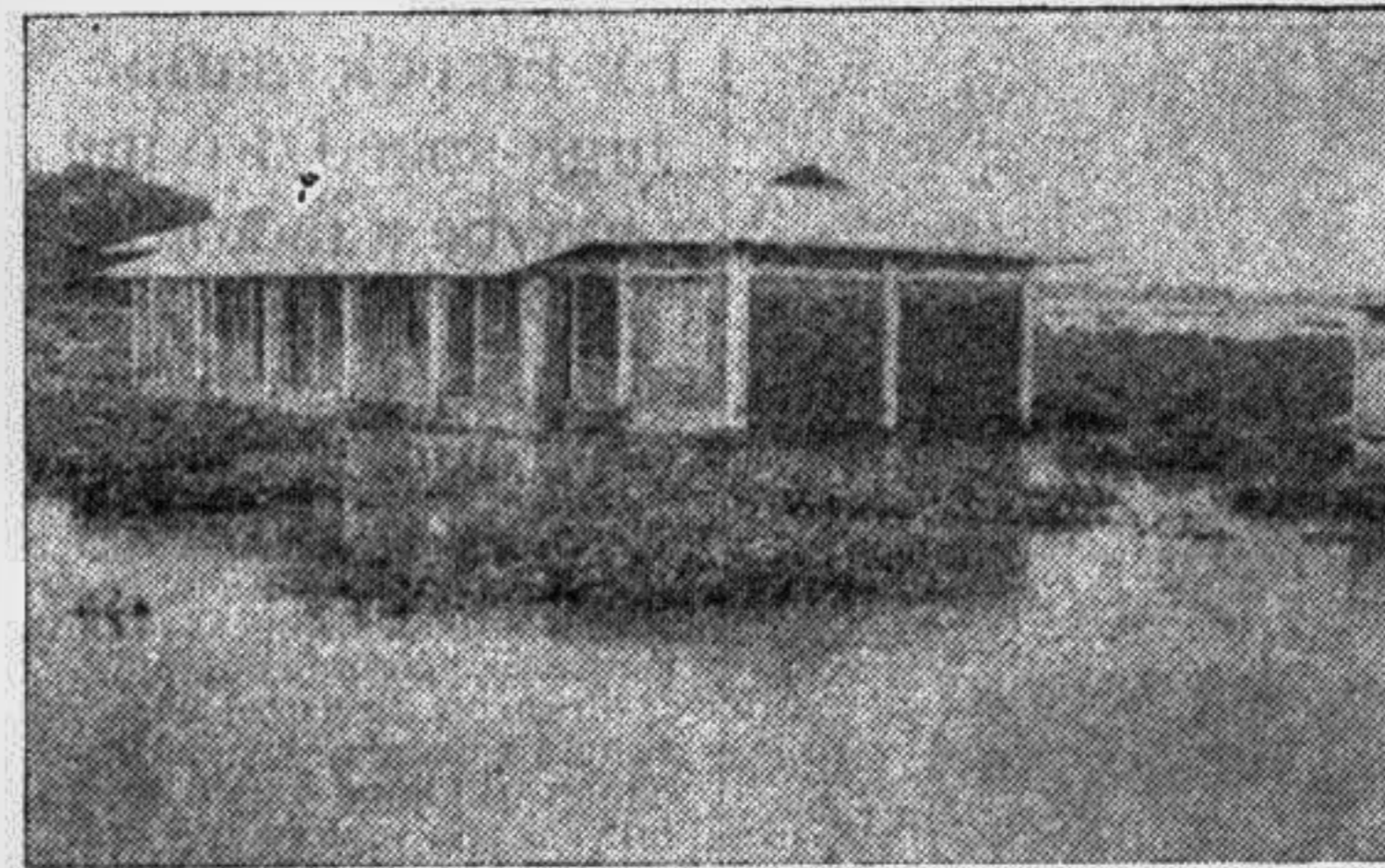
SARISABARI, Aug 3: The state Minister for Religious Affairs Moulana Nurul Islam said that the Awami League government has introduced old-age allowance following the spirit of Islam to regard the elders, reports BSS. He said this while addressing as the chief guest meeting held at Alta Cinema Hall on Saturday on the occasion of distribution of old age allowance among the distressed old people of Sarisabari thana. About 720 old men and women from Eight union parishads of Sarisabari thana were given old-age allowances under the management and supervision of Social Welfare Department, Sarisabari thana. Dwelling on current flood situation, the state minister said the government is taking necessary measures to help the flood victims.

### T-aman farming scheme

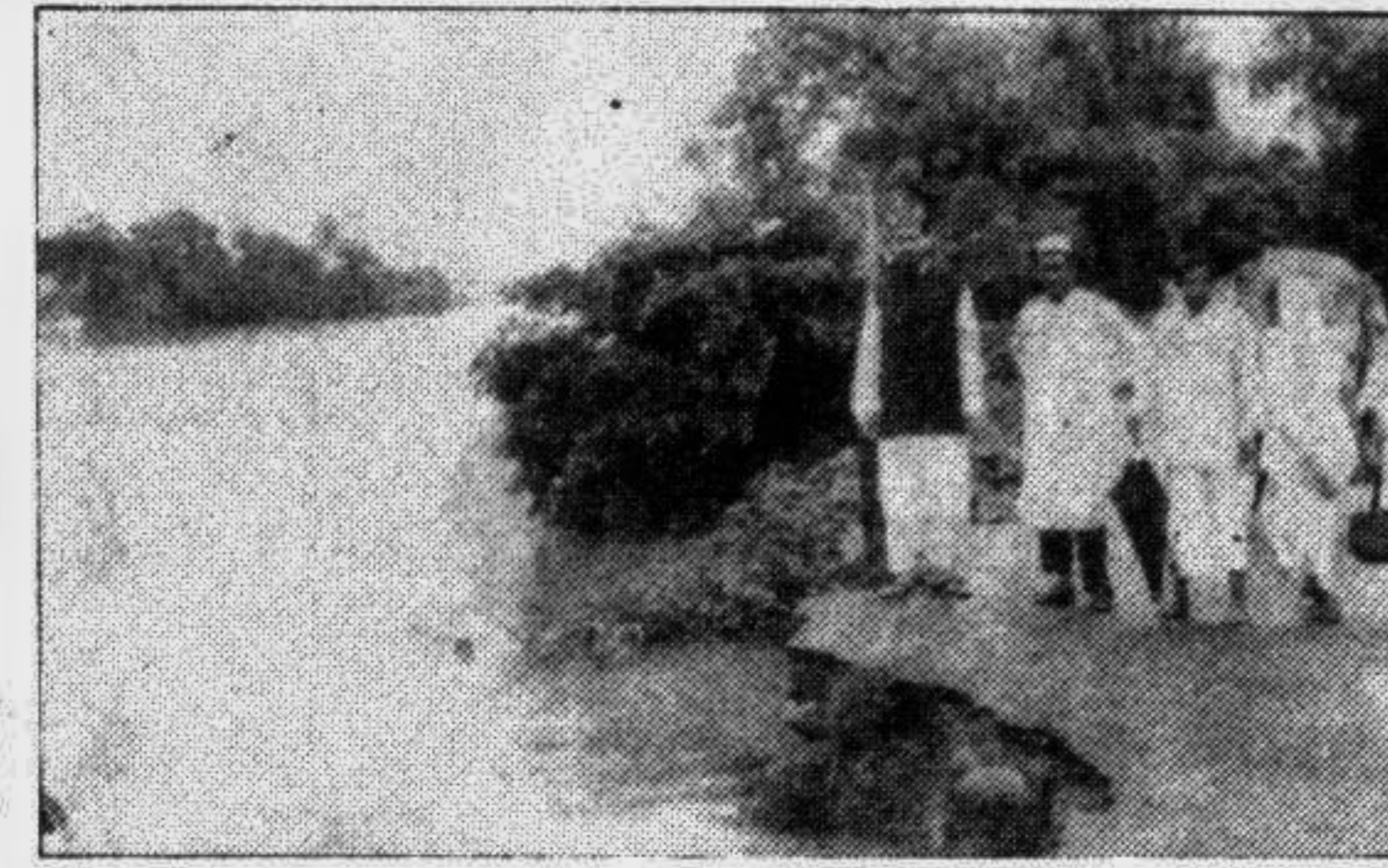
MEHERPUR, Aug 3: The Agriculture Extension Department has taken up an Intensive Autumn Crop Cultivation (IACC) Programme in the district in the current Kharif season, reports BSS. Under the programme around 12,500 hectares have been brought under Transplanted Aman crop cultivation of which 10,000 hectares are cultivated with High Yielding Variety and the rest 2,500 hectares with local variety (HYV). BADC has distributed about 800 tonnes of HYV aman seed of BR-11, BR-26, BR-30 and BR-32 among the farmers in Meherpur district.



SYLHET: Flood waters have inundated Jagannathpur thana headquarters.



Chandpur Government Primary School remained closed for an indefinite period as flood waters had submerged all nearby roads.



The river Surma devoured a large portion of Kadamtali-Chadnight road. Local people have demanded early steps to check the erosion. — Star photo by Iqbal Siddique.

## Barisal flood damages standing crops, seed-beds on several hundred acres of land

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Aug 3: Flood water struck Barisal submerging a huge area under different thanas of the district during last week. Meanwhile, the flood waters inundated at least 50 villages of Gournadi and Agajlhara thana of the district causing immense sufferings to more than 30,000 villagers down there. Md Alauddin, DC, Barisal and some other officials visited the flood affected areas. The water level of the Arial Khan river has risen suddenly and started flowing more than 43 centimetres above the danger level.

Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO) Golam Mostafa visited the affected areas and informed that meanwhile the huge seedbeds in Khanjapur and Barthi unions have already been submerged. According to district relief office, at least 796 acres of land with standing crops have been inundated in Agajlhara thana.

Fish hatcheries including betel leaf boraj of these unions have also been damaged badly. Flood situation, according to local sources, has been deteriorated, as rain continued during last two days. According to first hand re-

ports received here by the district relief and rehabilitation department, huge areas of Dumuria, Magura, Donarkandi, Medakul, Tarakupi and Halla villages under Khanjapur and Barthi unions have already been submerged with flood waters and at least 10,000 people got stuck.

Besides, erosion in different rivers have already increased in the southern districts due to strong current and onrush of flood waters towards the sea from the upstream. The worst affected areas are Muladi, Banaripara thanas and

Shikarpur areas of Babuganj thana. Meanwhile, relief materials have already been distributed among the victims of Banaripara thana, the district relief and rehabilitation office sources said.

Water level of the Kirtokhola river beside Barisal town, Arial Khan, Sandhya, Sugandha, Tetulia, Kalabadar, Bishkhali, Baleswar and the Meghna rivers has been more or less risen and in different places flowing on or over the danger level.

## Dairy industry in Kushtia on verge of collapse

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Aug 3: Lack of integrated and coordinated action programme on the part of the government officials has led the dairy industry to collapse in the district and elsewhere in the country.

Dairy farm owners of the district have been facing great hardship for want of proper marketing facilities for the milk produced, shortage of veterinary treatment and fodder for their cattleheads. All these have slowed down the growth of dairy farms causing serious concern among the farm owners. Besides, acute shortage of essential drugs for the livestock is another stumbling block on the way to development of the industry.

For lack of proper knowledge in diagnosing various animal diseases, the cattle in the farms suffer much specially the hybrid ones. According to the district livestock department total number of registered dairy farms in Kushtia is 216. During

the last five years most of the dairy farms have been established with the hope of obtaining government donation. But only 56 farms have so far received the donation amounting to Taka 19,12,500.

The number of farms in Kushtia sadar thana is 75 of which 25 farms have received government donation amounting to Taka 8,31,250. In 1993 an exhibition of livestock was held at Muslim High School ground for attracting others to come in this business. It may be mentioned here that taking advantage of government facilities many people established small dairy farms, but the veterinary hospitals in the district and thana headquarters can not provide adequate treatment to the increasing number of affected cattle.

The shortage of fodder and its increasing prices have left the farm owners substantially dependent on paddy, wheat, straw, bran oil cake, gram and

maize which are too expensive to use as fodder. Hundreds of cattleheads die every year due to malnutrition and epidemic. Diseases such as Khura, worm infection, ring worm and diarrhoea are causing severe financial loss to the farm owners. The improved varieties like Australian, Sahiwal, Hariana, Frisian cows need proper medical check-up and improved fodder in the tropical environment. Oxen were once common in all the villages of the district.

Farm owners, however, can no longer provide huge quantity of fodder required to feed them. Absence of artificial insemination centre, doctors trained in animal husbandry and high prices of cattle are other problems the dairy farm owners facing here. Due to huge shortage of fodder and for its price hike the farm owners are depending on paddy, wheat, straw, bran and oil cake. Wheat, gram and maize used as fodder also have now become much expensive.

## People's coop sought to ensure law and order in Sherpur

### Agricultural credit disbursement programme

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Aug 3: A massive programme of disbursing agricultural credit of Taka 300 crore has been taken by Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank for financial year 1998-99. The bank will implement the programme through its 300 branches. Out of 300 crores taka, a total of Taka 186 crores loan will be disbursed among marginal and small borrowers which is 62 per cent of the total amount.

Other important sectors are: poverty alleviation, livestock, fishery, irrigation equipment and farm implements, agro-based small industry, cash credit and socio-economic programme. The bank had disbursed Taka 200 crores and recovered Taka 225 crores in all these sectors last year (1997-98).

### Relief for Jamalpur flood victims

JAMALPUR, Aug 3: The government sanctioned 50 tones of rice and Taka 50 thousand as immediate relief for the flood-affected people of Jamalpur district, according to district relief and rehabilitation office sources, reports BSS.

Besides this 100 tins of biscuits and 25 rolls of polythene sheets were also given. The same sources said that 4976 pieces of sarees, 1,000 pieces of lungis and 2,000 pieces of old clothes were given for distribution from the Prime Minister's Relief Warehouse.

These relief materials including cash money were later diversified to seven thanas and two pourashava administrations for free and immediate distribution to the worst flood affected and distressed under the supervision of union parishad and thana administration.

The district administration is expecting more relief sanctions very soon, the sources added.

SHERPUR, Aug 3: The maintenance of the law and order situation here has been hampering due to shortage of police personnel and transport facilities for them, reports UNB.

Police sources said there is one police for 3,000 people in the district while the national average is one police for 1,300 people. The total number of posts of police in the district is 404 including that of the Police Super. Of these, 16 posts have been lying vacant for long.

Some 20 constables, two Sub-Inspectors, two ASI and one Officer-in-Charge are now working in each of the five thanas of the district.

This small number of police is entrusted with various responsibilities including transporting the accused to and from the custody and the court, maintain law and order in a vast area and nabbing the accused under warrant of arrest

besides numerous protocol and other normal duties.

There is only one pickup van for each thana and in some cases of emergency, the police cannot reach the spot due to lack of transport facility.

Police sources have urged the authorities to take necessary measures for appointing more police personnel and to provide more transport facilities to them to ensure security of the people. They also stressed the need for active cooperation of the people to ensure law and order in the society.

Community policing is such a concept, said SP Sheikh Nurul Anwar, adding that the system was first introduced at Nalitabari and so far yielding positive results.

He said Town Defence Party is going to be introduced in the district headquarters with the assistance from the Chamber of

Commerce and Industry in order to provide better service to the people.

### Soft term loan for distressed women

LALMONIRHAT, Aug 3: A local NGO has disbursed Tk 1.50 lakh as soft term loan among 156 distressed women of the flood-hit areas of eight unions in Sadar thana here, reports UNB.

The NGO named Gram Unnayan Foundation (GUF), disbursed the loan under its poverty alleviation and women development programme on Tuesday.

Deputy Commissioner Tarit Kanit Roy Chowdhury, Executive Director of GUF Kazi Sultan Ahmed and TNO Amjad Hossain were present on the occasion.

## Rangpur Newsletter

From Our Correspondent

### Pry edn faces setback

RANGPUR, Aug 3: Primary education in Pirganj thana is being hampered due to shortage of teachers, furniture, bad shape of institutions and lack of required amenities. There are 77 government, 88 non-government primary schools, 53 madrassahs, 103 educational institutions run by NGOs and three non-formal schools in the thana. About 36,000 students have been studying in these schools and madrassahs. But 15 posts of headmaster and 50 posts of assistant teachers are lying vacant. The institutions are in dilapidated condition and there are shortage of furniture and basic amenities are not provided to students.

### Best madrassah teacher

Patgram thana secondary education project has selected Kazi Nizamia Dakhil Madrassah as the best madrassah and Alur Rahman, a teacher of the madrassah as the best teacher in the last year.

### Trial of Rubel's killers demanded

The district Chhatra League secretary Shahidur Rahman Dollar in a statement strongly demanded trial and punishment to the killers of Rubel, a meritorious student of Independent University. He further cautioned, any lapse in punishing the killers will not be tolerated by people.

### Relief distributed

Rangpur-Dinajpur Rehabilitation Services (RDRS) distributed some relief materials among the flood affected people of Rangpur and Dinajpur districts recently. The relief goods included 667 packets of biscuits, 170 plastic Jerican, 58 polythene roll, 6,700 packets of oral saline, 2,100 safety matches, 12 torch lights, 10 tubewells, 3,000 kg chira, 375 kg molasses and 250 kg salt.

### Cattle-lifter arrested

The Village Defence Party (VDP) commander Kazi Lokman and member Abdul Kuddus in an

Zila Sadar or in Barisal Sadar, 40 km far from here which is not at all possible for the poor patients. Acute medicine scarcity has been prevailing in the health complex for a long time and the poor patients are the worst sufferers as they cannot afford to buy medicine at high prices from outside. Emergency patients are not possible to shift to the Zila Sadar or Divisional headquarters as there is no ambulance in the hospital.

### Problems grip Koilag Pry School

KISHOREGANJ, Aug 3: Koilag Government Primary School in Bajitpur thana here is beset with many problems hampering the academic activities, reports UNB.

### UP member arrested

Badarganj Police arrested a union-parishad member named Nurul Islam Murhuria of Ramnathpur union on charge of stealing a huge quantity of railway slippers. According to police, the arrested person had also misappropriated seven metric tons of Test Relief (TR) wheat.

### Housewife found dead

Romena Khatun Lipi, 20, wife of Aaur Rahman, 28, of Shibganj thana was found dead in a rented house at local Lahiri Hat recently. The deceased was a trainee of Gramin Krishi Foundation. According to police, she was residing with her husband there following a love affair. But the cause of her death is yet to be ascertained.

### Girl abducted

Afroza Begum, 14, a student of Kutcha Bari High School of Lohanipara union in Badarganj thana was abducted by some miscreants from her house at night recently. When resisted, the miscreants hurt the mother of the victim by a sharp weapon. A case was lodged with the police, but none was arrested and the abducted girl is yet to be recovered.

### One commits suicide

Abdul Hamid, 50, of Sarai union in Kaunia thana committed suicide by hanging at his house recently. The deceased was an employee of Power Development Board (PDB). The reason behind the suicide could not be known till filing of this case.

### Rapist awarded life-term imprisonment

SYLHET, Aug 3: A court here has sentenced a man to life term imprisonment for violating a school girl, reports UNB.

According to the prosecution, convicted Ziaur Rahman raped a student of a high school in Gopalganj thana on August 25, 1987, while she was returning home. After examining the records and witnesses, Judge of the Special Court of Women and Children Repression Control Sankar Ali awarded the punishment.

Another report from Tangail adds: A man was awarded life term imprisonment in a murder case filed three years back. The prosecution story, in brief, was that Nasiruddin Talukdar of village Karali in Mirzapur thana stabbed his co-villager Nazimuddin, 43, to death on July 14, 1995 as a sequel to previous enmity. Nasiruddin remained absconding since the incident.

Additional District and Sessions Judge ABM Sajedur Rahman after examining the witnesses and records awarded the punishment on Wednesday in absentia.



NARAYANGANJ: Traffic jam is now a regular feature on Dhaka-Chittagong highway due to ongoing flood. This photo was taken from near village Jangla of Bandar thana in the district recently. — Star photo by SK Enamul Haq