

News snaps

Discussion on life, work of Nazrul

TANGAIL, Sept 5: A discussion on the life and literature of the Kazi Nazrul Islam was held on Thursday in the local public library auditorium here to mark the 22nd death anniversary of the National Poet, reports BSS.

Organised by Nazrul Shahitiya Parishad, a socio-cultural organisation, the discussion was presided over by Advocate Khan Mohammad Khaleed. Prof Mir Sohrab Ali in his keynote paper discussed various aspects of works of the poet. The discussion was followed by a musical soiree and recitations of Nazrul.

Housewife beaten to death

NATORE, Sept 5: A young housewife was beaten to death allegedly by her husband at Janglee village in sadar thana on Monday, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Zabeda Begum, 30, wife of Afsar Ali. Police said Afsar hit Zabeda's head with an iron rod after a quarrel with her over beating his second wife Fahima. Zabeda died on the spot. They said Afsar got married Fahima without the permission of his first wife. Police recovered the body and sent it to sadar hospital for autopsy. Younger brother of the victim Abdur Rahim filed a case against Afsar, Fahima and her three brothers Moksed, Kashem and Ansar. Police arrested Kashem in connection with the murder.

BKB branch managers' confce held

CHUADANGA, Sept 5: A day-long conference of the branch managers, field officers and employees of the Chuadanga region of the Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) was held here at the office room of the regional manager of the bank recently, reports BSS.

Atiar Rahman, Regional Manager of the Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Chuadanga region, presided over the conference while Md Abdus Sobhan, General Manager, Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Khulna division was present as the chief guest. K M H Ansari, DGM, Khulna, S A T Zaman, Regional Audit Officer, Chuadanga and 40 field officers and employees including 10 branch managers were present in the conference. The chief guest Abdus Sobhan in his speech urged upon the branch managers, field officers and employees present in the conference to work hard to achieve the loan distribution, recovery and deposit targets of the current financial year.

Road development project taken up

SATKHIRA, Sept 5: The Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) has taken up a project to implement the development work of 95.12 kilometres of seven roads in six thanas of Satkhira district in the current financial year at a cost of Tk 22.83 crore, reports BSS.

According to an LGED source, the project include development work of 10.83 kilometres of Dalua-Patkelghata road under Tala thana, 16.40 kilometres of Assassuni-Mohiskur Road under Assassuni thana, 22.47 kilometres of Nikipur-Ratanpur-Kaliganj Road under Shyamnagar and Kaliganj thanas, 7.42 kilometres of Nalta-Tarali road under Kaliganj thana, 17.52 kilometres of Kadamtola-Abederhat-Khathanda road under sadar thana, 11.28 kilometres of Kazhat-Khordoha Road under Kalaroa thana and 9.20 kilometres of Ailpur-Bhomra Road under sadar thana. The project was taken up under the rural development project 18 of LGED, financed by the Asian Development Bank. The project will be completed by this year 1998. The development work of 75.354 kilometre out of 95.12 kilometre of these roads have already been completed.

Pregnant woman commits suicide

MYMENSINGH, Sept 5: A pregnant woman allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself in her father's home at Girkarkanda village in Fulpur thana on Wednesday, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Kalpana, 20, wife of Atikul of Bhatpara village. She was six months pregnant. Police said Kalpana, daughter of Shorifuddin, had been residing in his father's home for last few days as her in-laws allegedly tortured her for dowry. She, however, had cut marks in her body, police added. An Unnatural Death case was filed with Fulpur police.

6 anti-socials arrested

SYLHET, Sept 5: Police arrested six people including two women from a residence at Mirabazar in the town on Tuesday for their alleged involvement in anti-social activities, reports UNB.

They were identified as Liza Begum of Keraniganj thana of Dhaka district, Jharna of Narisingdi, Jamal Hossain of Moulvibazar and Kamruzzaman of Haliganj, Akshy Mia of Sunamganj and Babul Mia of Brahmanbaria districts. A case was filed with Kotwali in this connection.



A helpless old woman with a child in her lap at a relief camp at Keraniganj ghat. —Star photo

Separate incidents claim 2 lives

MAGURA, Sept 5: A young man allegedly committed suicide and another boy drowned in Shalikhia thana of the district on Saturday and Friday, reports UNB.

Police said Tokan Biswas, 20, of Kumarkota village committed suicide by taking poison on Saturday due to family feud. In another incident, Saddam, 10, son of Manik Molla of Tilkari village drowned in a beel when his boat turned upside down while he was plucking water lily on August 28. Two cases were filed with the police.

Woman drowns in boat capsizes

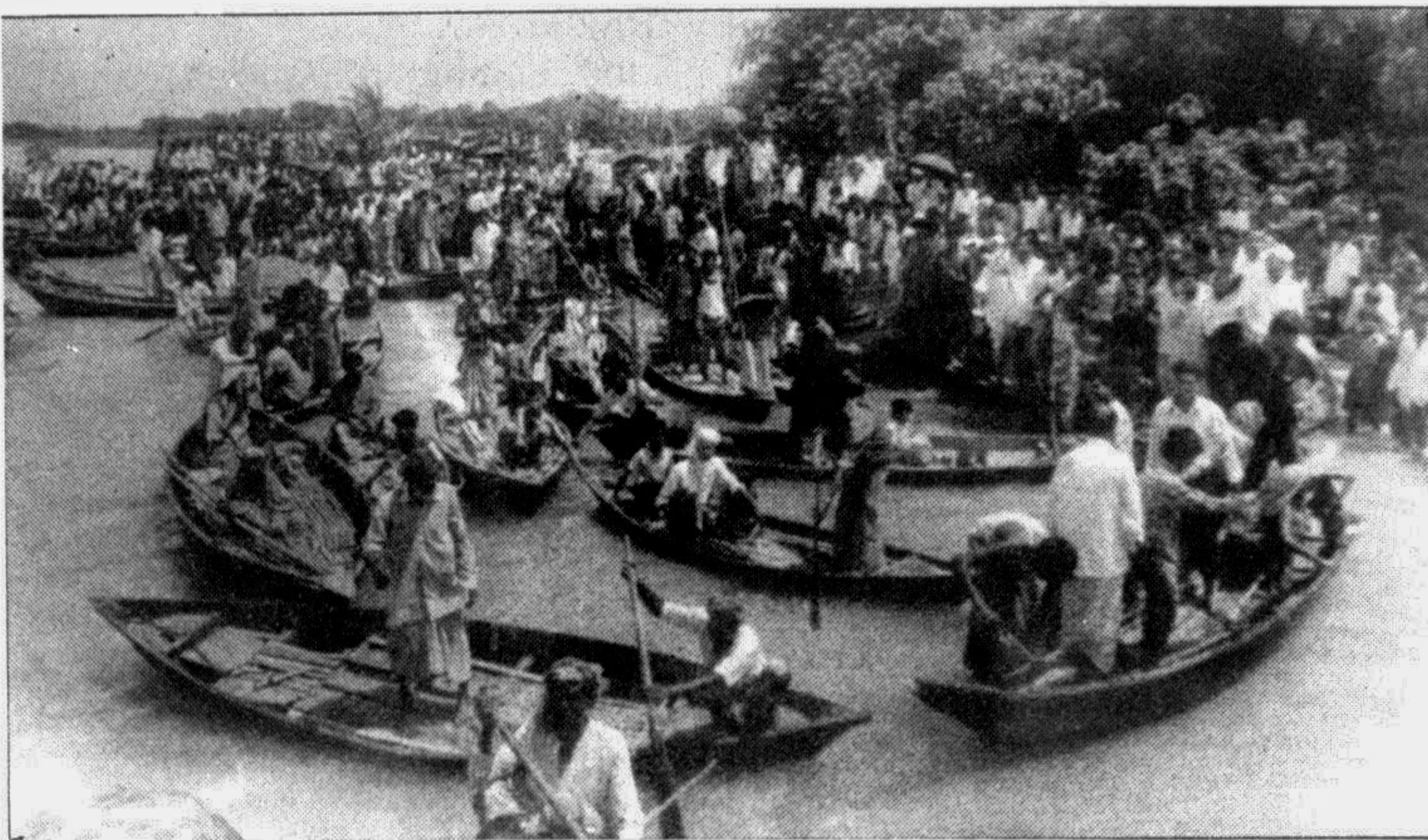
MYMENSINGH, Sept 5: A young woman drowned in a boat capsized in the river Brahmaputra at Khagdahar Ferry ghat in sadar thana on Thursday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the boat carrying 10 passengers capsized due to heavy current in the river. Of them nine managed to swim to the shore. The missing woman was identified as Ambia Khatun, 26, of Charshirata village in sadar thana.

Valuables worth Tk 1 lakh looted

SATKHIRA, Sept 5: A dacoity was committed in 17 houses and 10 shrimp ghers of two villages under sadar thana recently, reports BSS.

Police sources said, about 25 to 30 armed dacoits entered forcibly into 10 houses in village Rudrapur and seven houses in village Daulatpur under sadar thana at midnight. The dacoits raided the houses one after another and looted cash and other valuables worth over Taka one lakh. The dacoits also looted 10 shrimp ghers in village Rudrapur and took away fish and cash about Taka 50 thousand. The dacoits assaulted three villagers and one housewife. A case was lodged with sadar thana police. None was arrested so far.



MUNSHIGANJ: Flood affected people of the district frantically shifting from place to place in search of safe places. —Star photo by A K M Mohsin

Diarrhoea spreading fast in Netrakona

Drinking water crisis in Gaibandha

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Sept 5: Although water started receding since August 28, flood situation has aggravated again from Tuesday following heavy down-pour. The areas which improved slightly have gone under water again.

The eastern part of Gaibandha sadar, Shaghata, Fulhari and Gobindganj thanas are still under knee to waist deep water. Flood stricken people who left their houses are yet to return to their dwelling huts as those are still under water. Besides, maximum number of houses in the affected areas have already raged to the ground and many of them washed away by the surging water.

Remote village markets in the affected areas have gone under water. As such people have to suffer much for collecting of essential items. These markets are now being set up on embankments and highway where the vendors are selling daily necessities at an exorbitant price. Besides, price of vegetables and other essential items have shot up due to short supply of commodities. Supply of such items has dropped alarmingly following inundation of crops and vegetables field.

According to district Agriculture Extension Department,

this time prolonged flood has damaged crops on 7,428 hectares of land in seven thanas of the district. Of those 'Aman' seedlings on 2,298 hectares, transplanted 'Aman' on 2,260 hectares, jute on 956 hectares, 'Aus' on 149 hectares and sowing 'Aman' on 131 hectares of land damaged completely.

While talking to the Chairman of Gaibandha Pourashava he told The Daily Star that two months' prolonged flood had caused untold miseries to poura dwellers, but the pourashava received only 69 tons of rice, Taka 20,000 in cash, Sari 525 pieces, Lungi 125 pieces, old garments 250 pieces and biscuits 30 tons which is almost negligible against much requirement. Besides, the pourashava opened 11 rescue shelters for flood stricken people at different educational institutions.

The sufferings of people have been increasing day by day as flood prolonged for months together and the problem has been turning acute for want of adequate relief materials and medicare facilities. Moreover crisis of pure drinking water is another problem in the flood affected areas. Poura chairman Waheduzzaman Khan said, He urged all concerned to extend all possible help for the survival of flood victims.

Meanwhile, the Chairman of Bangladesh Sugar and Food Corporation visited the flood ravaged sugar-cane field under Rangpur Sugar Mills, Mohimaganj and assured the growers to extend help for the rehabilitation of affected farmers.

Meanwhile, one person was electrocuted in the flood affected area, Mahbubur Rahman, 15, of village Gobindpur under sadar thana was electrocuted while he was searching his missing ducks in flood water. Suddenly he came to the contact with live electric wire and electrocuted on the spot.

Our Netrakona Correspondent reports: The flood victims have been affected by diarrhoea in 42 unions of eight thanas in the district. A total number of 262 people have been affected by virus fever in two weeks.

Diarrhoea and other water-borne diseases have broken out in the affected areas due to acute scarcity of food, pure drinking water and essential drugs.

The Civil Surgeon's office source said, at present 42 medical teams are providing free-medical services to the patients in the affected unions. But according to reports collected

Prices of essentials up in Narail dist

NARAIL, Sept 5: Prices of essentials including vegetables have shot up in the district causing serious inconveniences to the common people, reports UNB.

Businessmen and local people said the price hike is mainly due to flood situation and problems in transportation of various commodities from other parts of the country.

Rice traders said paddy and rice cannot be transported to the district from the northern part of the country due to bad communication caused by the current flood resulting in the exhaustion of their stock here.

They said if the flood situation does not improve immediately, the price of rice here will increase further.

People of low income group are hard-hit due to the price spiral as their scope for work has also been reduced due to the flood situation across the country.

At present coarse variety of rice is being sold at Tk 14 per kg as against Tk 12. The price of Masur pulses, consumed by the common people almost regularly, has gone up to Tk 38 per kg from Tk 32.

Local people said the price of onion and garlic have simply become double in the markets during the period.

The prices of vegetables and green leafy have also gone up abnormally due to short supply. The prices of various species of fish, which are normally available in the local markets during this season, are also high.

The traders said Hilsa is being sold at Tk 100 to Tk 110 per kg in the district.

Many other types of popular varieties of local fish including Ruihi, Katla and Mrigel are hardly available.



A boy with his brother, a newborn baby at a relief camp at Kamrangirchar. —Star photo

8 murdered in Mymensingh dist last month

MYMENSINGH, Sept 5: Eight people were murdered in the district in separate incidents in the district during the last month, reports UNB.

Police said the murders were committed due to dispute over property, clash between two rival groups and murder after rape.

Of the victims, six are women, said the sources adding that two of them are rape victims.

They were identified as Julekha Khatun, 35, of Aushbar village in Kankoni union of Phulpur thana, Rahima Khatun, 35, of Paishka Charpara village of Gouripur thana, Anwara Begum, 28, of Munshipara village in Bolar union of Trishal thana, Hasna Banu, 28, of Charpuliarami village of Sadar thana.

The sources said Julekha was slaughtered in her house allegedly by her husband on August 30 following a dispute over land property.

Police arrested Abdul Mannan, her husband, and two of his sons Shaiful Islam and Rafiqul Islam in this connection.

Rahima was strangled by some unidentified miscreants on the night of August 25 and police found her body at a sugarcane field nearby her house.

She was also killed as a sequel to a dispute over some property, said the police.

Anwara was stabbed to death by her husband Tofazzal on August 8 as she refused to give him a piece of land.

Police recovered two mutilated bodies of young girls who were reportedly the victims of gang rape. They said one of the bodies was found on August 7 from a jute field of village Bijoynagar in Sadar thana.

The victim, identified as Hasna Banu, 28, daughter of late Hasmat Ali of Charpuliarami of the thana, was reportedly abducted on August 1 by a group of terrorists who killed her after gang rape.

The other body of an unidentified young woman, aged about 28, was found in Kalairpar Moiganla beel in Gaforgaon thana of the district on August 20.

Besides, a man was killed by his nephew as he was beaten up mercilessly following a quarrel for only Tk 4 on August 9.

The victim was identified as Lal Mahmud of Anuhadi village in Phulbaria thana.

In another incident, Suman, 22, was killed by the rivals during a clash at Usthi bazar in Gaforgaon thana.

Separate cases were filed with the police.

Majra threatens sugarcane on 1 lakh hectares of land

NATORE, Sept 5: Sugarcane fields of hundreds of hectares of land in the command areas of Natore and North Bengal Sugar Mills have been badly damaged by the massive pest attack, reports UNB.

Growers in the area have been facing serious setback due to the extensive damages caused by the attack of the pest known as 'Majra'.

Agricultural experts and farmers said the main cause of the attack is the bad weather condition in the fields due to the prolonged flood.

The long overstay of flood waters in the sugarcane fields and absence of sunshine for long due to inclement weather contribute much to the crop losses in the affected areas, they said.

The farmers feared that sugarcane on about one lakh hectares of land worth over Tk 100 crore will be destroyed if the situation continues for the next two weeks.

They said the situation has aggravated further as the pest could not be controlled by using pesticides in the fields. The only option left for them is to cut down the affected sugarcane plants, they added.

The sugarcane cultivation areas under the command of Rajshahi Sugar Mill and Pabna Sugar Mill have also been affected by the pest attack.

Meanwhile, local Member of Parliament Ruhul Quddus Talukder Dulu of BNP has urged the authorities to start special crushing in Natore and North Bengal sugar mills to save the farmers.

He also urged to withdraw the ban on producing molasses in the command area of the two mills to overcome the losses of the growers so that they can save the standing crops.

Housewife stabbed to death

KISHOREGANJ, Sept 5: A housewife was stabbed to death by the alleged accomplices of her former husband at Malzhati village of Nikli thana on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the miscreants numbering eight to ten entered the house of the victim Anwara Khatun, 27, by breaking open the fences at dead of night and stabbed her to death.

The sources also said the woman divorced her former husband Abdul Latif of the same village for his maltreatment and subsequently she married Jamshed Ali which angered Latif.

The body was sent to sadar hospital morgue for autopsy on Friday. A murder case was filed against the victim's former husband Abdul Latif and his seven accomplices with the police.

Incidents of abduction, rape on rise in dists

KHULNA, Sept 5: A young girl was arrested on Thursday morning on charge of abducting a child from Darogapara in the city, reports UNB.

Police said local people caught red-handed Golapi, 18, while abducting a child named Sathi, 4, and handed over her to them.

Diarrhoea claims 3 lives in Mymensingh

MYMENSINGH, Sept 5: Three people including two children died and 1850 were affected by diarrhoea during the last seven days across the district, reports UNB.

Civil Surgeon Office and hospital sources said, Tanila, 6, daughter of Manik at Shilashi village of Gaforgaon thana died on Thursday, Mahub, 2, son of Abdul Karim of Danua village in Nandail thana and Hossain Ali Sarker, 75, of Naha Road of the town died on August 30.

Meanwhile, the local people recovered the floating dead body of a housewife Ambia, 26, who drowned in the Brahmaputra river in a boat capsized near sadar thana on Thursday night.

Boy commits suicide

KISHOREGANJ, Sept 5: A teenage boy allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself at a village in Karimganj thana here on Thursday, reports UNB.

According to family sources, Saiful Islam, 16, son of Abul Malek of village Monosontosh hanged himself from a tree, adjacent to his house, following refusal of his love proposal by a girl of the same village.

The body was sent to the Sadar Hospital for autopsy. A UD case was filed with the police.

The prosecution, in brief, was that Saifuddin Gazi, son of Saukat Gazi of Ratanpur in Kaliganj thana of the district allured the victim, 7, and took her to a banana garden on July 6, 1998 and raped her.

Another message from Mymensingh adds: A teenage girl was gang raped and is now fighting for her life at the hospital.

Police said three young men of Choto Barai village of Gaforgaon thana raped the girl at a house of the village on August 30.

The miscreants were identified as Bellal, 25, son of Sekender, Islam, 26, son of Ibrahim and Badal, 18, son of Hekmat of the same village.

The sources said the victim was called out by her two friends, Shelly and Morium, and was left behind in a house where the young men were staying.

The alleged miscreants reportedly threatened the family of the victim not to disclose the incident.

The victim was given treatment by a village doctor but was shifted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital on Thursday evening following deterioration of her condition.

A case has been registered with the police.

50,000 children in Naogaon deprived of education

NAOGAON, Sept 5: About 50,000 school-age children of the district are being deprived of education, reports UNB.

Official sources said the reasons include extreme poverty and lack of adequate primary schools.

According to the local guardians, negligence of duty of the primary teachers and lack of inspection by the authority concerned are mainly responsible for the deprivation of a large number of children.

The officials of Primary Education Department here said the number of primary educational institutions in 11 thanas of the district is 1,931. Of these, 794 are government, 477 are registered non-government primary schools, 35 are community centres, 40 are satellite centres and 585 others are kindergartens and schools run by different NGOs.

The number of students enrolled with these schools is 4,39,767 including 78,322 students of under-six age group, said the officials.

According to them the number of school-age children who could not enrol themselves in 48,240.

These boys and girls are being deprived of their right of education, they said. Most of them are being forced by their parents to work for bread for mere survival.

These children have been working as day-labourers, boys in the hotels and restaurants, helpers in tempo and passenger buses, employees in the grocerias and other shops and as domestic servants.

Some of them engaged themselves as small vendors in the streets.

Meanwhile, the Food for Education Programme, introduced in 360 educational institutions in 28 unions of the district, is not running properly.



COMILLA: Protibimbo Theatre, a cultural organisation here arranged on August 30 roadside drama and musical programme with view to collecting donation for flood victims.