

## News snaps

## Man commits suicide

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, June 21: A 30-year-old man committed suicide recently by taking poison at village Musuli in Nandall thana.

Kajal Chandra Debnath went to their banana garden and swallowed poison there. He was immediately brought to the Nandall Thana Health Complex where the doctor declared him dead. The cause behind the suicide could not be known till filing of this report.

## Three dacoities in one night

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, June 21: Three dacoities were committed recently in three houses at Jugia Palpara, three kilometres off the district town.

A gang of armed dacoits numbering 12 forced their entry into the house of Rintoo. At gun point the dacoits made members of the house hostages and looted cash, gold ornaments and other valuables worth Taka 30 thousand. Later on they forced their entry into the houses of Sharab driver and Amirul one after another. They escaped safely after the dacoity. Police visited the spot, but none were arrested till filing of the report.

## BDR personnel arrested

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, June 21: Police and local people caught two Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) personnel red-handed while they were involved in anti-social activities at a house in Shiroi in the city on June 12 night.

BDR Commander Lt Col Thin later on got them released on bond. Departmental actions are being taken against them, BDR sources said. According to police, local people kept the BDR personnel named Nasir and Borhan under siege in the house along with the two stray girls and informed the police. Police rushed to the spot and took them to the thana. The two women were arrested and sent to jail. Local people beat the BDR personnel and a so-called newsman, said to be their agent.

## Indian sugar, sari recovered

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, June 21: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Gaibandha in a swoop recovered 100 bags of Indian sugar and 355 pieces of Indian sari which was smuggled into the district recently.

On the day during his regular visit to different offices in Palashbari and Gobindaganj thana in connection with revenue collection he was returning to Gobindaganj. On suspect he challenged a bus on Kamdia-Gobindaganj road and recovered the aforementioned smuggled goods. The driver and goods were handed over to Gobindaganj thana custody. On the same day the DC's escort also recovered Indian sari and Indian sugar. Those were handed over to Palashbari thana.

## Development work progressing

JHALAKATI, June 21: Work on 377 development schemes to develop communication network and socio-economic condition of the people in the region is progressing fast in four thanas here, reports UNB.

Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) is implementing the schemes in Rajapur, Kathalia, Nalchiti and sadar thanas at a cost of Taka 19.63 crore, officials said. The schemes included construction and repair of 76 km road, construction of 51 bridges and culverts, renovation of 71 bridges and culverts and re-excavation of 9 km canal.

## Advocacy meeting

JOYPURHAT, June 21: Preparatory work has been launched ahead of the UNICEF sponsored health service programme on Acute Respiratory Tract Infection in Children, reports UNB.

An advocacy meeting held here recently to create awareness among the people was attended by 50 people representing a cross-section, including political leaders, teachers, journalists, physicians and health-workers. Presided over by Civil Surgeon Dr Anwar Ali and attended by the Divisional health official Tanjimul Haque and UNICEF representative Rezina Sultana, the meeting discussed prevention, care and management of respiratory infection particularly pneumonia affecting the children.

## Outbreak of cattle disease

MADRIPUR, June 21: A fatal disease locally known as 'Tarka' claimed lives of 50 cattle in three unions of Kalkini thana here recently, reports UNB.

The disease has been spreading fast in different villages in an alarming proportion creating panic among the farmers. The affected unions are Nabogram, Kazibakai and Dasar. About four to five cows on average are being affected every day. In absence of any vaccine in the district veterinary hospital the farmers cannot save their animals. Ainal Khan, Subodh and Rafizuddin Mia of South Maipara village said the cows and calves affected by the disease lie down quivering and succumb after a while. When contacted Veterinary Surgeon Abdul Jabbar said there is no vaccine of this disease in the hospital here.

## Cash, valuables looted

HABIGANJ, June 21: Dacoits looted cash and valuables worth about Tk 20 lakh from two houses at Shahangar village in Ajmirganj thana recently, reports UNB.

Police said a gang of armed robbers, numbering about 15 stormed into the houses of Shitesh Roy and Nitesh Roy at dead of night and decamped with booty. They also beat up the inmates of the two houses indiscriminately. Before fleeing, the gang exploded several hand-bombs to create panic in the area.

Frogman dies while on-duty

PIROJEPUR, June 21: A young frogman died in the river Sandha at Swarupkathi. He died while engaged in salvage operation of a sunken boat on Friday evening, reports UNB.

Abul Kalam, 25, was hit hard on the head and back by propeller of a passing by trawler ML Rafiq. The body was recovered after several hours from the river bed. Earlier in the day a country boat, heavily loaded with timber, sank seven feet deep in the river.

## Housewife strangulated to death

MANIKGANJ, June 21: A young housewife, mother of one child, was strangulated to death recently allegedly by her husband at North Kesti village in the sadar thana, reports UNB.

Family sources said Hossain Ali of the same village married her since then. On the fateful day of June 13, Hossain and his relations beat Sakhina mercilessly and later strangulated her to death following her refusal to bring the dowry money from her poor parents. The body was sent to sadar hospital morgue for autopsy.

## Notorious arms trader arrested

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, June 21: Daulatpur police arrested Ibrahim Hossain, 32, son of Chatu, II of village Sadipur in Daulatpur thana recently from hospital bed.

Police said Ibrahim is a notorious arms trader and wanted in many cases. It is alleged Ibrahim lost his ear by his copartner when there was a dispute over sharing of money. He was immediately admitted in Daulatpur Thana Health Complex. On getting information police rushed to the hospital and arrested him. He is being treated under police custody.

## Bridge over Old Bramhaputra

NARSSINGDI, June 21: The construction of a 160-meter long RCC (Reinforced Cement Concrete) balance cantilever bridge over the Old Bramhaputra river at Belabo is progressing fast, reports BSS.

An official source said the government sanctioned Taka one crore 79 lakh and 49 thousand for implementation of the project. According to the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), 25 per cent work has already been completed. The entire work will be completed within a year. The bridge will fulfil the needs of the people of Belabo of Narssingdi district and Kular-Chak of Kishoreganj district.

## Boy drowns in Kaptai lake

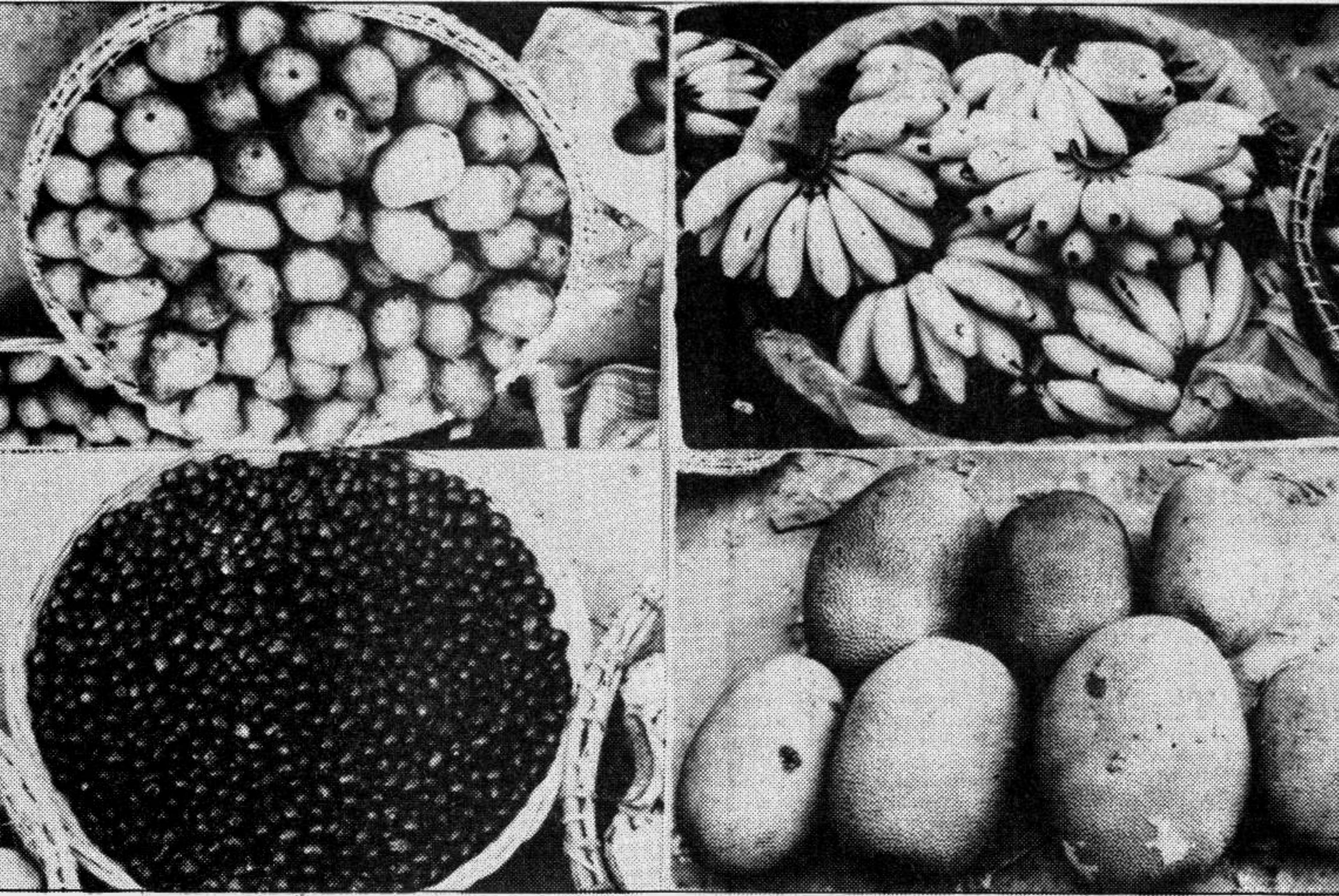
RANGAMATI, June 21: Baghaichhori police recovered a floating body of a boy from Kaptai Lake near Pabkhali, reports BSS.

The boy drowned while collecting firewood in the lake near Marishy Bazar of the thana. The victim was identified as Tridip Barua, 12.

## Jail term for deer hunter

COX'S BAZAR, June 21: One person has been sentenced to one year's imprisonment for killing a deer at Bangabandhu Park in Dulahazara, the country's only deer breeding centre, reports APB.

First Class Magistrate Shah Alam Mridha convicted Mohammad Ishaq and gave the prison term, court sources said. Ishaq was caught by the Forest Department employees while he, along with some others, were fleeing the deer after killing the same on February 7 last year.



Now is the season of fruits. An abundant supply of various types of fruits is visible in the markets all over Bangladesh. Prices are also reasonable this year. The picture above was taken from Sailkupa 'hat' in Jhenidah district. In this 'hat' mango, the king of fruits is being sold at Taka 14 to 25 per kilogram while blackberry at Taka 8 to 12, a jackfruit of medium size at Taka 12 to 25, four bananas at Taka 4 to 8.

— Star photo by Delwar Kabir

## Nazrul Academy branch in each district suggested

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, June 21: Speakers at a seminar here in the city recently paid glowing tributes to national poet kazi Nazrul Islam and urged the authorities concerned to establish branches of Nazrul Academy in each district headquarters in the country.

The speakers also called upon the authorities to make special arrangements to market the rebel poet's complete works in reduced price, introduce compulsory 100 marks on Nazrul in honours and master's courses of Bangla Literature in the universities.

In his inaugural speech, Professor Muhammad Yusuf Ali said a group of intellectuals were trying to tarnish the image of Nazrul in a planned way.

The former vice chancellor demanded that a compulsory paper of at least 100 marks on Nazrul be introduced in university syllabuses.

Renowned actor and convenor of the National Committee for Celebration of Poet Nazrul's Role and the Revival of National Consciousness - was inaugurated by Professor Muhammad Yusuf Ali, former vice chancellor of Rajshahi University. Professor Mokhlesur Rahman, Dean of Faculty of Arts of Rajshahi University, presided over it.

Nazrul is a symbol of our faith, aspirations and vigour. His works injected consciousness in the mind of the nation and eventually inspired to struggle against political oppression.

Adul Wadood, Rajshahi Correspondent of The Daily Star, in his keynote paper presented at the seminar, said the poet was a symbol of non-communal but at the time he worked hard for Bengali Muslim renaissance.

Professor Mokhlesur Rahman said Kazi Nazrul Islam was a rebel not only in literature but also in our struggle for liberation. "He always inspires us at all occasions of our national crises and that is why he is our National Poet", he said.



RAJSHAHI: A seminar on "Nazrul's Role in Revival of National Consciousness" was arranged recently jointly by the National Committee of Nazrul Birth Centenary Celebration and Rajshahi Sangskritik Jote at the Zilla Parishad auditorium. Prof Mokhlesur Rahman, Dean of Faculty of Arts, Rajshahi University, presided over the function. Former Vice-Chancellor of Rajshahi University Prof Yusuf Ali (right) inaugurated the seminar while eminent actor Ariful Huque (middle) was the chief guest. Journalist Dr Abdul Wadood presented the key-note paper.

— Star photo

## Magistrate, cops hurt

## Transport workers, mob clash in Thakurgaon

Proposed Rupsha Bridge

## Programme to

## protest poor

## allocation

THAKURGAON, June 21: One magistrate, a sub-inspector of police and six others were injured seriously in a clash between a group of transport workers and a section of local people at Khochabarihat, five kilometres off Thakurgaon town recently, reports BSS.

Abdul Halim, Chairman Jagannathpur Union Parishad, Baby, a girl student of a college and twelve others were arrested in this connection.

The clash ensued when a group of young men with a girl were denied to embark a Dina-pur bound minibus at Thakurgaon bus stand. The group had forcibly embarked the bus and halted at Khochabarihat and locked in clash with the transport workers, witnesses said.

When a contingent of police under the leadership of a magistrate had rushed to the spot to control the situation brickbattling was started from among the public. In the brickbattling magistrate Mustafizur Rahman Mridha, SI of Police Ishaque Ali, constable Firoz Kabir, bus driver Ashraf, conductor Rakesh Kumar and helper Kamal were injured seriously.

They were admitted to Thakurgaon police station in this connection.

The situation aggravated when some transport workers mercilessly beat some people of Khochabarihat area at Thakurgaon bus stand and some passengers including a woman were confined in the Bus Owners' Association office.

The Deputy Commissioner and the Police Super of Thakurgaon visited the spot. Two separate cases, one by the police and the other by the bus owners association were lodged with Thakurgaon police station in this connection.

The programme includes rally and procession in the city, district and thana headquarters on June 21-23, submission of a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner on June 24, dawn-to-dusk hartal and hoisting of black flag on July 1 and public meeting at Shaheed Hasil Park on July 5.

Convenor of the Liaison Committee and city BNP president Nurul Islam announced the programme at a press conference at the local Press Club. He said poultry amount of Tk 10 crore was earmarked in the national budget for 1999-2000 for construction of Rupsha Bridge. The inadequate allocation had frustrated the people of Khulna, he added.

Meanwhile, Nagarik Samaj brought out a procession this morning and submitted a memorandum, addressed to the Prime Minister, to the Divisional Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner, demanding early construction of the Rupsha Bridge. It also demanded of the Prime Minister to ensure uninterrupted supply of power and development of Khulna region.

Besides, raiding different border areas including Chandigarh, Kosba, Monipur, Maldanadi, Nanpur, Shankuchal, Borajola, Bibir Bazar, Amanganda and Jagannathdighi, the BDR jawans recovered goods worth Tk 3.58 lakh.

These goods included saree, timber, steel, powder milk and bicycle.

Another report from Joypurhat says: Task force on anti-smuggling with the help of police seized Indian contraband including phenisidyl worth about Tk 2 lakh in three separate raids in Kalai and Sadar thana on Monday.

On the total, five will be established in Sadar and Ali Kadam thanas by June 2000.

Setting up of community clinics has been going on as part of countrywide programme to establish 13,500 clinics in rural areas excluding pourashava areas.

Meanwhile, BDR seized 52 bottles of foreign liquor, 5 kg hemp, 2,498 bottles of phenisidyl, 2 kg heroin and 62 litres of alcohol.

The department also filed 47 cases and arrested 27 people in this connection.

Another message from Comilla says: Police in separate raids on Friday seized illegal drugs from the town and arrested four people.

Police raided Nurpur Cobberpara and seized 10 litre Bangla wine and arrested three people in this connection. They were Shova Chandra Bonik, Bahar Miah and Mahbubur Rahman.

On the same day, police also seized 60 bottles of Phenisidyl, 10 bottles Whisky and one bottle Officers Choice raiding the

house of Dulal Miah at Shambongacha in the town and arrested him from June 7 to 11.

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