

News snaps



JESSORE: Suvendu Biswas Partho stood first from Jessore Cantonment Public School in the merit list of this year's SSC examination under Jessore Board. He is seen with his parents Sailendra Nath, a teacher of Daud Public School and Rina Biswas also a mistress in a high school. — Star photo

Body recovered

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, June 25: The decomposed body of Abdul Jalil, 35, of village Bagawali in Niki thana was recovered by police recently from 'Kulyan beel'.

Ambia Khatun, wife of the ill-fated man told this correspondent that her husband went out of the house a week ago. Since then he had been missing. His legs were tied up with a napkin and cut marks were found on his chest. Police apprehended that Jalil was murdered three or four days ago.

Debobroto dislikes student politics

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, June 25: Debobroto Biswas stood first in the Commerce group of this year's SSC examination from the Jessore Board.

Son of a poor family, he had never any private tutor. He wants to study MBA. He dislikes students' politics. Rabindra Nath Tagore is his favourite poet. Bibekananda Biswas is his father and Haridashi Biswas is his mother.

'Aman' farming on 25,000 hectares

MEHERPUR, June 25: A total of 25,000 hectares of land have been brought under transplanted 'Aman' paddy cultivation in two thanas here in the current season, reports BSS.

According to the Agriculture Extension Office, 10,000 hectares have been brought under High Yielding Variety (HYV) of 'Aman' paddy and the rest 15,000 hectares under local variety. Of the total 25,000 hectares of land, 14,000 hectares have been cultivated in Meherpur sadar thana and 11,000 hectares in Gangni thana.

Workshop on human rights

MYMENSINGH, June 25: A day long workshop on human rights and law for the local community leaders was held recently at Nandail BRAC office, reports BSS.

Organised by the non-governmental organisations BRAC and RDP, the workshop was presided over by Nadail branch manager of BRAC Tabirur Rahman. Nandail Poursabha chairman Rafiquddin Bhuiya, woman commissioner of the Poursabha Shahana Aziz, local union parishad chairman Khalilur Rahman Bhuiya, Prof Akram Hossain and Nandail Press Club general secretary M Enamul Huq Babul, among others, took part in the discussion.

Two-day girl guides' programme

KHULNA, June 25: A two-day programme of Bangladesh Girl Guides Association was arranged recently at the local Government Coronation High School premises here, reports BSS.

The concluding programme was presided over by Begum Sufia Ali. About 60 girls guide from 10 districts participated in the function.

'Aus', 'Aman' farming

COMILLA, June 25: A total of 1,14,399 hectares of land have been brought under 'Aus' and Transplanted 'Aman' paddy cultivation here in the current season, reports BSS.

According to Agriculture Extension Department, of the total land 'Aus' paddy has been cultivated on 63,899 hectares and 'Transplanted Aman' on 50,500 hectares. The production target has been fixed at 99,400 tons of 'Aus' paddy and 50,000 tons of 'Aman' paddy. Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation supplied seeds and other inputs to the farmers for successful implementation of the 'Aus' and 'Aman' cultivation programme.

Tk 70 lakh uplift project progressing

COMILLA, June 25: The Facilities Department of the Ministry of Education has taken up four projects for the development of four educational institutions in Brahmanpara and Nangolkot thanas, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the projects include construction of academic buildings of four institutions at a cost of Tk 70 lakh. Work on the projects has been progressing fast and will be completed by July.

Tubewell sinking programme

MANIKGANJ, June 25: The Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) has taken up a scheme to sink 287 tubewells in seven thanas here in the current rainy season, reports BSS.

An official source said PHED has been implementing the scheme under its Rural Water Supply Project to ensure safe water to the rural people. Of the tubewells, 184 are Tara pumps and 103 shallow tubewells. The scheme financed by the UNICEF will be completed by June 30, the source said.

Abducted people freed

KHAGRACHHARI, June 25: Two people, abducted by unknown miscreants in separate incidents, were set free here on Monday night, reports UNB.

Police said tribal student Arun Bitash Dewan, son of former UP Chairman Uma Kanti Dewan, was picked up by miscreants while he was returning home at Jormom on June 10. Uma Dewan claimed that his son was abducted by the anti-peace elements a few days back. Police said Kidnappers released another young man, Ajoy Chakma, after 13 hours of his abduction. He was kidnapped from Babuchhora in Dighinala thana.

Bus driver's release demanded

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, June 25: Bus owners and bus workers in a meeting held at the Janata Bank square on Sunday declared suspension of bus service for an indefinite period along Faridpur - Sadarpur via Char Bhadrassa from June 20.

This is because of arrest of a bus driver named Kamal on charge of his alleged involvement in a criminal case. The speakers revealed that the arrested Kamal was not the same Kamal wanted by police. They demanded his immediate unconditional release failing which the bus strike would continue for an indefinite period, they declared.

'Shiva linga' recovered

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, June 25: A 'Shiva Linga' weighing about seven maunds was recovered recently from a nearby bush of Khan Sahab Darga in Kaligonj thana.

Police sources said that a group of boys and girls while playing found the 'Shiva Linga' lying abandoned inside the bush. Local people deposited it with Kaligonj Police. Value of the 'Shiva Linga' is about Taka Two crore, police sources said.

Freedom fighter dies

RANGAMATI, June 25: Social Welfare and Relief Secretary of Rangamati district Awami League and convener of Rangamati sadar thana Muktiyoddha Command Council Saleh Ahmed Chowdhury died of cardiac arrest at his Bonorupa residence on Sunday, reports BSS.

He was 54. A valiant freedom fighter of the War of Liberation, Saleh Ahmed leaves behind his wife, three sons, two daughters, a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death. After Namaz-E-Zanaza at Bonorupa mosque, his body was sent to his paternal house at Charandip village in Boalkhali thana of Chittagong district for burial.

Poura authorities' inefficiency turns N'ganj into a town of garbages

From Ehsanul Haque

NARAYANGANJ, June 25: Most areas of the port town remain littered with filth because of the local pourasabha's failure to remove garbage from the local dumping points and footpaths to the designated disposal ground.

One of the delicate issues where the problem is taking an awful shape day by day is the absence of proper concern and mechanism for disposing daily garbage and waste. According to a rough estimate, about 50-60 tons of solid waste is produced in the town every day and the pourasabha removes about 42 per cent of such waste.

The rest is left to worsen the living condition of the town dwellers. The ever-growing accumulation of garbage is causing serious environmental pollution and severe health hazard in the densely populated town.

At present, Narayanganj pourasabha is entrusted with the responsibility of collecting and disposing the wastes. The process involves three stages: collection, transportation and disposal. The common garbage management techniques involve land filling by the waste products at the disposal site - Panchabati under Patulla Thana and incineration of the collected waste.

The basic idea is that people will throw their daily wastes in specific dustbins and the pourasabha trucks will collect and dispose those. According to an estimate, it costs about Taka 810-820 for the pourasabha to collect and dispose every one ton of garbage, authoritative sources informed.

According to official

sources, only 45 dustbins are available in the poura area. About 50 per cent of those have been broken. Moreover, most of the dustbins have not been set-up in an organised and planned way.

In some areas the spots where the local people used to throw their daily wastes had been turned into sites for dustbin. In fact, the dustbins are not in accordance with the number of inhabitants in an area, the nature of the locality (whether residential or commercial), the arrangement and distribution of the households and so on.

Thus, often the dustbins are either too near or too far from any private house. Also the size and number of dustbins are not often adequate for the total garbage produced in an area. So, overflows and littering of garbage in the adjacent area are practically a common scene. In addition to such nuisance these areas have turned into breeding places of diseases.

Residential and commercial sources, only 45 dustbins are available in the poura area. About 50 per cent of those have been broken. Moreover, most of the dustbins have not been set-up in an organised and planned way.

Acting health officer of the pourasabha said due to lack of garbage carrying trucks, cleaning activities are disrupted severely. Only three trucks are in operation out of five. He also blamed lack of awareness among the city dwellers for the garbage disposal problems. In many areas, residents throw rubbish haphazardly and many drains and its adjacent areas are illegally occupied by the local influential people. As a result, the cleanliness drive is being hampered, he added.

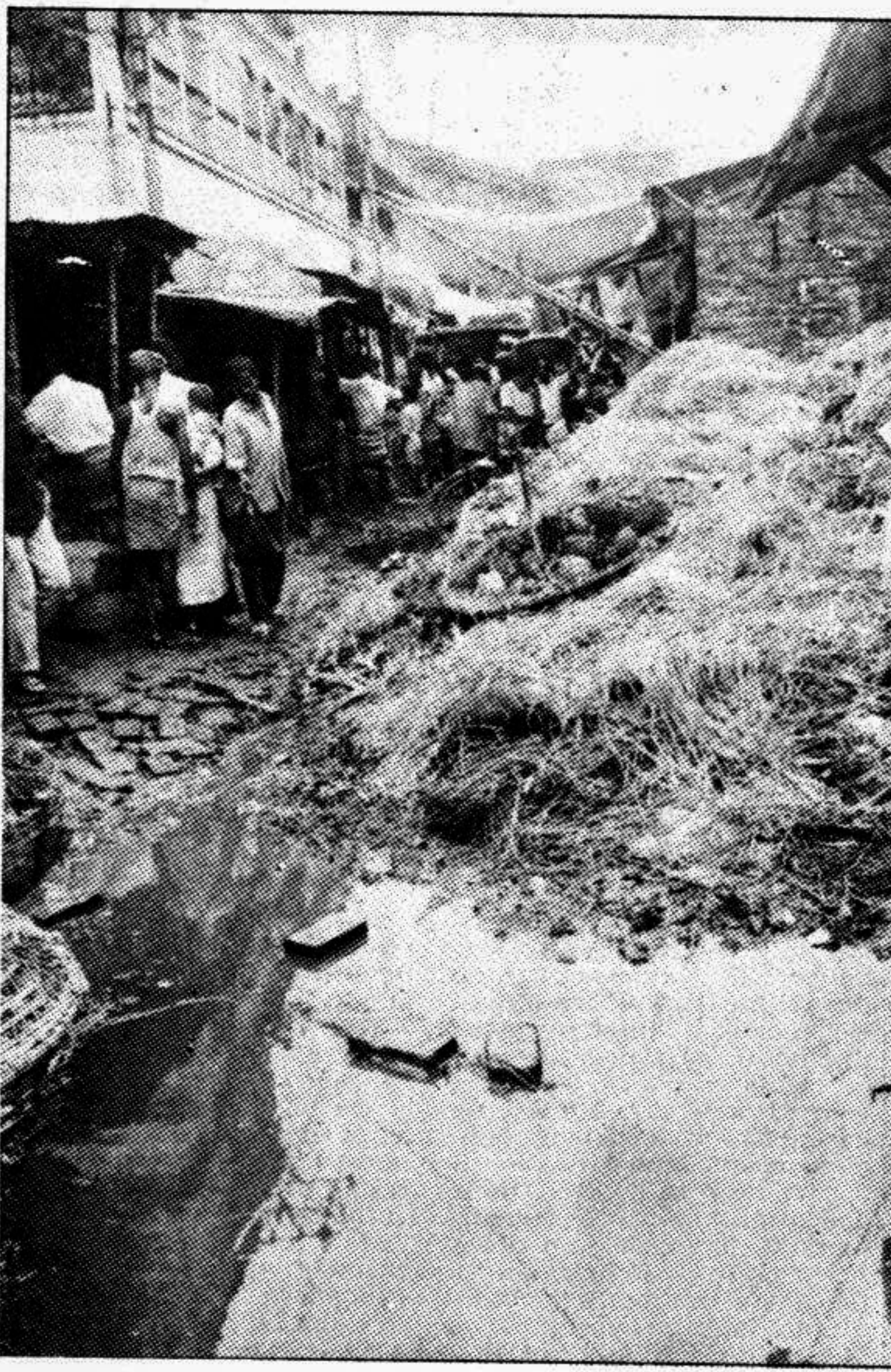
There are 45 sanctioned posts for the health department, but 14 posts including health officer, two medical officers and two sanitary inspectors have been lying vacant. There are 318 cleaners working under the pourasabha. But in many areas the city residents said the garbage collection of this pourasabha is 'irregular' and very 'unprofessional'. 'While filling the trucks with rubbish, they litter those on the streets more than the 'tokais' (street

urchins who recycle those) do, they added.

Many residents said they are keeping their respective areas clean paying for the door-to-door garbage collection service. To avail of the service, dwellers of each and every household are paying up to Taka 400 annually. The money is being paid without any receipt and the amount is additional to pourasabha's holding tax. In President Road, Amlapara, Ukilpara, Chamber Road and other areas for instance pour cleaners are charging Taka 30 per month from every household for the daily collection. 'We don't mind paying the amount as long as our area remains clean', said Hasanuzzaman Shamim, a businessman living in the Ukilpara area.

In recent years, there has been a significant rise in clinics and industrial development in and around Narayanganj town. Experts stated, industrial and clinical wastes have more dangerous implications for the environment of the town and health of the people. Though there is a provision that the industrial plants would recycle their waste products, it is seldom carried out.

Many interviewers suggested stricter imposition of legal rules upon the industries for not recycling their poisonous wastes as the only solution to the matter. Moreover, the civil society can also play an important role by individually or collectively suing such industries, writing about the issue in the newspapers and magazines and caring out extensive research work on the matter. In



Accumulated garbage in Digubabur bazaar area. But it seems there is none to clean the same. — Star photo

common complaints raised by the respondents who lived in the housing colonies or flat buildings. Some complained that their neighbours did not instruct their houseworkers on how to use garbage bags, or where to dispose of waste and thus aggravating the garbage management system of the whole neighbourhood. The major factor behind this was identified as lack of civic sense or education. One distressed resident of Chamber road complained that her neighbours in her flat building dumped garbage in front of the house. She stressed that they felt that as long as their own floor was clean, garbage in front of the house was not their headache. 'This is almost cultural', she said. 'We have no civic sense. Personal hygiene is stressed but no one cares about the community. No one is aware about the health hazards'.

Many pointed out that though 'tokais' play an important role in recycling paper plastic products, they also add to the problem. 'Tokais' take the garbage bags out of the bins and dump the trash on the street and take the bags and go through the garbage for papers, such trend aggravates the situation further. 'Tokais' who were interviewed did not feel to put the trash back in the bins. 'The truck will come to take it all away anyway. No one wants this trash. Plus, we have to earn something', said one little girl emphatically who was rummaging through the garbage in Deobhog.

Papers, newspapers were recycled by paper or paper bag making industries with 'tokais' playing an intermediary role. They also pointed out that plastic cans and tins were reused and recycled. However, some expressed concern about the health hazards involved in reusing paper bags made from newspapers. They pointed out that in many cases papers were collected from the dustbins and these bags were made in the shums where the conditions were far from hygienic.

It is also alleged that 'tokais' collect polythene bags from the bins, wash them and sell those to the street side shops for reuse. Respondents felt this practice put the consumers at risk. Many respondents also stated the empty bottles (shampoo, soap and cosmetics) are used to market counterfeit products in 'Jinjira'.

The children who are involved in the whole recycling business report that it is very profitable (Tk. 5/6 for each kg of newspaper, Tk 6/7 for each kg for hard papers, Tk 4/5 for thick plastic bags). They admitted that buyers paid high prices for shampoo bottles which are in good condition. They are least bothered about health hazards or cleanliness or counterfeit products.

Many homemakers expressed that if the pourasabha informed the residents about a certain time and day in advance when they would collect garbage from that area, then the system would have functioned more efficiently. Many felt that the pourasabha should have strict monitoring system and area-wise supervisors should be appointed for effective management. Some even suggested that higher management should impose fines on negligent officers who fail to monitor their underlings. A few of the respondents mentioned that the pourasabha worker need to be given incentives for better performance. Some suggested that those workers who collect more garbage should be paid more.

One major point where the general people and experts unanimously agreed was that recycling the collected garbage had been the most cost-effective and environmentally friendly method for the ultimate disposal of garbage. Recycling plants should be immediately set up with proper technical and resource back-up and both the government and NGOs should be involved in such venture. Moreover, recycling of the inorganic wastes by the informal sectors should be given institutional shapes which also provide employment for a large number of 'tokais'.

On May 20 some PCJSS backed students attacked villagers at Kabangpuria and Narankhaiya village, injuring them. They also damaged 12 houses and looted valuables from the villagers. The villagers, most of them are traders of Swarnivar bazaar area, refused to pay toll to the terrorists.

Meanwhile, in Jormarang place during the time. On May 20 some PCJSS backed students attacked villagers at Kabangpuria and Narankhaiya village, injuring them. They also damaged 12 houses and looted valuables from the villagers. The villagers, most of them are traders of Swarnivar bazaar area, refused to pay toll to the terrorists.

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On June 18, a clash between the supporters and opponents of CHT accord took place at village Pujgang under Panchhari thana, injuring ten persons.

TV official killing Ex-Doaj UP chairman arrested

From Our Correspondent
NETRAKONA, June 25: Former Union Parishad (UP) chairman of Doaj union in Atpara thana was arrested by Atpara police from his native village recently in connection with 'Four TV Officials' Murder Case.

Police said, four TV officials were brutally killed in 1975. Accused Sahajahan Siraj was a 'Nayek' of then Army.

He was on security duty there. A case was filed with Gulshan thana in this connection. After the incident he escaped from there and in 1984 he was elected the chairman of Doaj UP.

Ashuganj Exchange 'Usual answer is technical fault'

KISHOREGANJ, June 25: The Ashuganj river port 200-line auto-telephone exchange set up in 1992 is in a deplorable condition, reports UNB.

Subscribers can hardly contact with other parts of the country. When complained, the usual answer is 'technical faults' in the exchanges.

Local calls are mostly marred by cross connections. The trunk service is also far from satisfactory and it is almost impossible to make trunk call to other parts of the country and outside.

Besides, the telephone lines of most of the subscribers remain out of order. Wrong numbers, feeble sound, cross connections and ghost bills are constant headache of the subscribers.

The subscribers of the port town, most of them businessmen, are to depend on telephone for carrying out their business. But due to the problems they are facing enormous difficulties. The local leaders urged the authorities concerned to take immediate measures to renovate or replace the exchange with new one.

Monika wants to be an engineer



From Staff Correspondent
SYLHET, June 25: Monika Biswas who stood second among girls in the Science group from Comilla Board in the SSC examination this year wishes to become an engineer in future.

She is the second among three daughters of Advocate Koushik Ranjan Biswas and Ratna Biswas, a teacher of Kazi Jalal Uddin High School.

She expected a better result. Obtaining the second place she was not happy as she could not secure any position in the combined merit list, she said this while talking to the Daily Star. She studied for seven to eight hours daily. Reading books is her hobby.

Pabna police face manpower shortage

From Our Correspondent
PABNA, June 25: Police Department in Pabna district has been suffering from acute shortage of manpower.

Because of the manpower shortage the police department cannot play its due role in controlling crimes and anti social activities in the district. Pabna Police Department officials said,

As many as 40 posts of officers are lying vacant in the district for a long time, they added. Despite repeated appeal to the higher authorities, no initiative is taken to recruit officials against the vacant posts.

Pabna Superintendent of Police Shah Alam Shikder told The Daily Star.

He said the sanctioned posts for the department were only 1013, including officers and non-officers, against a population of 24 lakhs in the district.

One post of Senior Assistant Superintendent of Police, one ASP (Special Force), five Sub-Inspectors, one armed Havildar, two Naiks and 30 posts of constables were lying vacant in this crime-prone district for a long time.

Dacoits attack Rly SP's house in Ctg: Cop hurt

From Our Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, June 25: A group of armed dacoits attacked the house of GRP (Railway Police) Super at Tigerpass hill at around 2 am on Wednesday.

The dacoits locked in a clash with the police guards. As a result a constable was injured critically. He was identified as Monirul Islam, 24. He received bullet injury. He has been undergoing treatment at Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH).

It was raining cats and dogs when the dacoits attacked the SP's house. However, the dacoits could not enter into the SP's house and fled away.



Littered garbage in the Chamber Road area. — Star photo

Acting health officer of the pourasabha said due to lack of garbage carrying trucks, cleaning activities are disrupted severely. Only three trucks are in operation out of five. He also blamed lack of awareness among the city dwellers for the garbage disposal problems. In many areas, residents throw rubbish haphazardly and many drains and its adjacent areas are illegally occupied by the local influential people. As a result, the cleanliness drive is being hampered, he added.

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6 extremists including an Indian held

From Staff Correspondent
KHULNA, June 25: City extremists including their ring leader Dipak Shaha, 38, were nabbed by Mongla police on Tuesday.

They were extorting toll of one lakh take from fish trader Bidhan Roy.

Police recovered three homemade guns from the extremists at Digraj on Khulna-Mongla highway.

Dipak is an Indian, police said.

They are deprived of salaries for one year

BARISAL, June 25: Fifty-nine officials and employees of a dairy farm here were not getting their salaries for the last one year due to administrative bottleneck, reports UNB.

Sources said the farm, set up on 50 acres of land at Kashiapur at a cost of Tk 15 crore, has a monthly income of Tk 1.5 lakh. Built under the supervision of Fisheries and Livestock Ministry, the farm went into operation with 175 cows in June last year. Now it has 308 cows.

Meanwhile, the authorities have submitted a proposal to bring the services of the officials and employees of the dairy farm under revenue, but their demand went unheeded.

At least five people were killed in about fifty clashes between the supporters and opponents of CHT peace accord in the last two months in the districts. On the other hand, at least eight persons were kidnapped during the same.

At least thirteen people were killed so far after the signing of the accord, source said. Among them, two were the supporters of the accord and the rest eleven were anti-CHT accord activists.

As many as one hundred incidents of kidnapping took place during the time. On May 20 some PCJSS backed students attacked villagers at Kabangpuria and Narankhaiya village, injuring them. They also damaged 12 houses and looted valuables from the villagers. The villagers, most of them are traders of Swarnivar bazaar area, refused to pay toll to the terrorists.

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Law and order deteriorating in Khagrachhari, Rangamati dists

From Shuvra Jyoti Chakma

KHAGRACHHARI, June 25: The law and order situation in Khagrachhari and Rangamati hill districts has deteriorated again as occasional clash between supporters and opponents of CHT peace accord, kidnap, toll collection, stealing and mugging incidents have become a phenomenon.

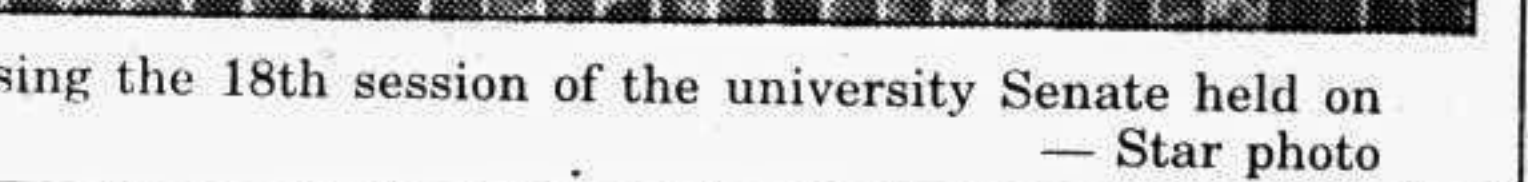
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RAJSHAHI: The Vice-chancellor of Rajshahi University addressing the 18th session of the university Senate held on June 19 at the Senate building here. — Star photo

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