



The concept of modern marketing has reached Birganj in Dinajpur. Baten Mia uses a mike to attract customers to his mobile shop.

## Terrorism on rise in Barisal

From Aroop Talukdar

BARISAL, July 1: Terrorist activities are on rise alarmingly in Barisal town and its adjoining areas in recent days.

Three persons including a child were killed and at least seven people were injured during the last two weeks.

Sonamaddin Gazi of Hanua village of Uzirpur was chopped to death by his younger brother on June 21.

On the same day, a person of Barisal was critically injured by a gang of armed people shoot at him. Four people were injured during that time.

Abdus Salam, a businessman was abducted by two ter-

rorists with more than three lakh taka on way to Barisal from Swarupkathi riding a motorcycle on June 21 in broad daylight.

Next day the terrorist freed him keeping the money. None was arrested and the money is yet to be recovered.

On June 25, a school girl was abducted by two ter-

rorists. She was on way home with her brother Chan, 10.

Police arrested Shahed, an associate of Jaiil Howader is still at large.

Monowar Hossain, OC of Banaripara was directed to arrest Jaiil Howader within three days which had already been expired. The OC was also served with show cause notice for his alleged negligence.

On the same day a gang of terrorists abducted three youngmen from C&B road.

Protesting the killing of Mamun local shopkeepers of that locality observed hartal and kept their shops shut on the next day.

Armed terrorists chopped off

wrist of the right hand of Mehedi Hasan Selim alias Kasai Selim, 27, after beating him mercilessly at about 11:30 pm on that day. He is still fighting for his life at Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital (SBMCH). The incident took place in old Bakla area.

Some armed clashes also took place among young people in the area.

When contacted, the Police Super of Barisal told The Daily Star that the situation and conditions would be nabbed at any cost.

## Vendors occupy roads, highways

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, July 1: Vendors occupy different roads and highways in the district, causing road accidents and traffic jams.

Bittipara, Laxmipur, Madupur, Shaikpara, Madandanga, Bhatoli are the main points on Kushtia-Khulna highway and frequent major and minor accidents are taking place in these areas due to traffic jams.

Paddy, rice, jute, pulses, fish, vegetable and fruit vendors sit beside roads and occupy major parts of roads. Thousands of people from the adjacent districts come to these make shift hats and bazaars.

The vendors sit in a row on the roads, creating obstacle to smooth movement of vehicles. Thousands of buses, coaches, trucks and other vehicles ply daily on these highways.

The vehicles get stranded for hours as the roads are occupied by the vendors and small traders, causing suffering to passengers.

They cannot reach their destinations in time because of the jams created by the vendors.

The number of road accidents has also increased on these highways in recent days due to these make shift hats and bazaars.

At least 35 road accidents occurred during the last eight months of this year, leaving 12 persons killed and another 35 injured.

District units of transport owners and workers associations have urged the authority concerned to take immediate measures to shift these hats and bazaars from the highways for the free movement of vehicles.

## Budget of 4 municipalities

By Staff Correspondent

Four municipalities have announced budget for 1999-2000 fiscal year recently.

UNB from Tongi reports: Tongi municipality announced its budget of Tk 16,24,32,000 for 1999-2000 fiscal year.

Chairman Advocate Azmatulla Khan announced the budget in presence of distinguished people of the industrial town.

### Delay in voters ID card preparation in Rangpur

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, July 1: The preparation and distribution of voters' identity card are being hampered due to much error in the voters' list.

Photos of a large number of voters are yet to be taken, it has been alleged widely.

It is also alleged that pictures of about two lakh voters out of total 12,37,000 are yet to be taken. As a result their identity cards (ID cards) could not be prepared till filing of the report.

There are many ID cards which have already been distributed among the voters are imperfect and full of errors.

The authorities concerned seemed to be indifferent in correcting those immediately. It has also been alleged further.

It may be noted that the Election Commission had been trying to complete the preparation of voters' ID cards in the district by June. Following indifferent attitude of the authorities concerned, preparation of the ID cards would not be completed within the next two months, experienced circles have feared.

BSS from Patuakhali says: Patuakhali municipality on Tuesday announced a Taka 12.5 crore annual budget for the fiscal 1999-2000 without imposing any new tax.

Chairman of the municipality, Moshtaq Ahmed Pina, formally announced the budget in the pourasabha auditorium.

Of the total amount of the budget, Taka 10 crore 50 lakh would be available from the government and the projects head and the rest Taka two crore from the municipality's own fund and the opening balance.

Commissioners, elite and journalists were present on the occasion.

Our Jhenidah correspondent reports: Jhenidah Pourasabha announced its 1999-2000 fiscal budget at a press conference at the local poura community centre on Tuesday.

Mosharrat Hossain Moshah chairman of the pourasabha announced the proposed budget for Taka 12 crore.

An amount of Taka 2.87 crore will come from the revenue head, over Taka 3.22 crore from the government development head while Taka 5.89 crore from midtown structural development project.

Development programmes including construction of roads, bridges, culverts, bus terminal and health and family planning services.

No money was allocated for the development works of Jhenidah Press Club in the budget.

Our Jessore correspondent adds: Jessore pourasabha budget for the fiscal 1999-2000 was announced by its chairman in a packed gathering at his conference room on Sunday.

## Young man stabbed to death in N'ganj

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, July 1: A young man was stabbed to death by a gang of assailants at Palpara under sadar thana this evening.

The deceased was identified as Jony, son of Had Kutubuddin Khokon, a resident of Deobagh of Paccra Road area. The motive behind the killing could not be known immediately.

The gang of assailants called Jony, an electric technician, from his residence and brought him to Palpara at about 7:30 pm.

The killers attacked Jony with sharp weapons and left the scene after stabbing Jony indiscriminately. Jony died on the spot.

The body was sent to Narayanganj General Hospital morgue for autopsy. None, however, was arrested in connection with the murder till filing of this report.

## Many important projects abandoned halfway in N-dists

NATORE, July 1: When the country is struggling to rise from the mire of poverty, many important projects in northern region have virtually been abandoned halfway for lack of government initiatives and bureaucratic tangle, reports UNB.

According to competent sources, a Petrobangla project to explore natural gas and petroleum was abandoned without assigning any reasons, spending Tk 50 crore.

They said a vast reserve of natural gas and petroleum were detected in Chalanbeel areas of Gurudaspur, Baraigram and Shingra thanas in Natore district after the country's liberation. In 1977, a huge reserve of natural gas was also detected in Shingra.

Accordingly, some 77.62 acres of land had been acquired by 1980 and construction of houses for officers and employees, roads and administration buildings on the lands completed. A gas-well was also drilled there.

But unfortunately the exploration work was abandoned within a year.

They said a survey in 1972 had given a broad hint of huge deposits of heavy metals like zircon, magnetite, and monazite under the riverbed of Padma in Godagari thana. But

no steps has yet been taken to tap these valuable resources.

During the survey in Rajshahi a high fluctuation of "Geiger" counter meter was observed, indicating the presence of radioactive metals like thorium, platinum and uranium in the same area.

In Gabarali of Chapaina-wabganj district, a huge deposit of mercury was detected in 1982 and Tk five crore were sanctioned for preliminary exploration of the mercury, but later on the fund was withdrawn.

The Joypurhat Cement and Limestone Project remained abandoned for about 20 years despite spending over Tk 100 crore. Machinery brought for the project and staff quarters and other establishments remained uncared.

The project was abandoned citing reasons that extraction of limestone would not be commercially viable.

But foreign experts said the vast reserve of limestone in Bogra and Joypurhat districts lies only 1,700 feet below the surface.

They said in terms of age component and fossil quality, the limestone could be compared only with the limestone of Takerhat of Sylhet.

A chemical analysis showed that the high quality limestone

is suitable for producing cement. Another report said about 1,00,000 MT of clinkers might be produced annually from the Joypurhat limestone project.

Meanwhile, a huge deposit of high quality laminom coal, which is comparable with the coal of Raniganj in India, has been detected in Jamalganj of Naogaon district and north-western part of Rajshahi district.

But no step has yet been taken to extract the coals, deposited under 2,800 to 3,800 feet in seven layers.

A team of foreign experts, which made a survey on the coal of Jamalganj, said the exploration would be commercially viable.

Besides, a 30-feet thick deposit of China clay was found just a few feet below the surface in Patnitala of Naogaon district. There are also millions of tons of pebbles (Nuri pathar) in Talulia of Panchagarh and Pathgram of Lalmonirhat districts.

In Lalmonirhat and Tetulia, there is also a vast deposit of Silica-sand, which can be used for making glass, china clay and other construction materials. In Peerganj of Rangpur district, a vast deposit of pit coal was detected in 1982.



CHANDPUR: A dustbin just near Chandpur Pourasabha posing a threat to public health. But the poura authorities are indifferent to this situation. — Star photo

## Bumper IRRI-Boro in Pabna

From Ranesh Maitra

PABNA, July 1: Farmers in the district had a bumper IRRI-Boro harvest this year despite the last year's devastating floods, which caused huge damage to agriculture facilities across the country, an official of the district Agriculture Extension Department here said.

The total production of IRRI and Boro varieties of paddy was 1,90,815 metric tons against the target of 1,93,839 metric tons.

Deputy Director of Pabna Agriculture Extension Department said recently the production nearly doubled in the district this year, surpassing the estimate.

The target land area for IRRI-Boro cultivation, fixed for the district by the Extension Department, also exceeded. According to the official target, a total of 42,140 hectares of land were to be brought under the cultivation. But actually 48,620 hectares of land were brought under IRRI-Boro cultivation, much to the happiness of farmers.

The department fixed the targets of per hectare production at 2.50 metric tons for IRRI-Boro and 1.50 metric tons for local variety of Boro. The per hectare production also surpassed the targets. The production reached 4 metric tons per hectare for IRRI and 2 metric tons per hectare for local variety of Boro paddy.

The thana wise breakup of the target production and actual yield per hectare for both the IRRI and local varieties is given below.

In Pabna Sadar thana, 5,230 hectares for IRRI and 150 hectares for local variety were targeted. Target of production for IRRI was 13,075 metric tons

and 225 metric tons for local. Actual production was 25,735 metric tons for IRRI and 390 metric tons for local.

In Atgharia thana, 4,110 hectares for IRRI and 300 hectares for local were targeted. Target of production for IRRI was 10,775 metric tons and 450 metric tons for local. Actual production was 19,668 metric tons for IRRI and 360 metric tons for local.

In Ishwardi thana, 1,730 hectares for IRRI and 50 hectares for local were targeted. Production target for IRRI was 4,325 metric tons and 75 metric tons for local. Actual production was 7,604 metric tons for IRRI and 95 metric tons for local.

In Chatmohar thana, 6,850 hectares for IRRI and 215 hectares for local were targeted. Production target for IRRI was 17,125 metric tons and 322 metric tons for local. Actual production was 30,564 metric tons for IRRI and 476 metric tons for local.

In Bhangoora thana, 5,140 hectares for IRRI and 160 hectares for local were targeted. Production target for IRRI was 12,850 metric tons and 240 metric tons for local. Actual

production was 25,275 metric tons for IRRI and 255 metric tons for local.

In Faridpur thana, 4,700 hectares for IRRI and 100 hectares for local were targeted. Production target for IRRI was 11,750 metric tons and 150 metric tons for local. Actual production was 24,576 metric tons for IRRI and 174 metric tons for local.

In Bera thana, 2,280 hectares for IRRI and 600 hectares for local were targeted. Production target for IRRI was 5,700 metric tons and 900 metric tons for local. Actual production for IRRI was 10,133 metric tons and 1,121 metric tons for local.

In Santhia thana, 5,220 hectares for IRRI and 310 hectares for local were targeted. Production target for IRRI was 13,050 metric tons and 465 metric tons for local. Actual total production was 22,099 metric tons.

In Sujannagar thana, 4,965 hectares for IRRI and 300 hectares for local were targeted. Production target for IRRI was 13,000 metric tons and 465 metric tons for local. Actual total production was 22,590 metric tons.

## Tk 13 crore project for safe water

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, July 1: A taka 13 crore project has been taken up to ensure smooth supply of drinking water in the municipal area.

Chairman of Faridpur Pourasava Hasibul Hasan Labu disclosed this here recently while exchanging views with residents on drinking water crisis in the municipal area.

The meeting of a cross section of people was held at the pourasava auditorium with the pourasava chairman in the chair to order to find ways to remove the water crisis in the town.

The chairman said 44 km new water supply line will be installed if the project, to be financed by Asian Development Bank (ADB), is properly implemented.

Casper Lamprecht, team leader of ADB project, present in the meeting as chief guest told the audience that ADB will stop financing if the rate of water tariff collection is not raised up to 85 per cent from existing 15 per cent.

Leading tax payers present at the meeting gave assurance that they will exercise their best efforts to motivate taxpayers to pay water bill so that the project is not abandoned.

They also urged the poura authority to pay the electric bill the pourasava owes to PDB within the stipulated time for the greater interest of the poura dwellers.

## Indian goods recovered

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, July 1: Huge smuggled goods including chest bones of Indian tortoise, sarees, clothings and spare parts of motor vehicles worth Taka one crore were recovered by Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) on Tuesday noon. BDR sources said all these Indian smuggled goods were deposited to Satkhira Customs godown.

## Adulterated food on open sale

From Our Correspondent

NETRAKONA, July 1: Adulterated food-stuffs are on open sale in almost all the hotels and restaurants here.

As a result intestinal diseases have broken out there.

Town dwellers alleged that the food-stuffs are being prepared in most unhygienic manner with poor quality and adulterated ingredients in hotels and restaurants.

Some vendors are seen found selling contaminated food in front of educational institutions causing spread of stomach ailments among the students.

Adulterated rice, flour, bread and biscuits are on open sale in the market before the eyes of the members of law enforcing agencies. Town dwellers alleged.

Pure edibles like milk, mustard oil and soyabean oil are hardly available in the town.

## 6 including 3 Indians arrested

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, July 1: Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) arrested six persons including three Indian Khasia nationalists from the river Plain at Gowainghat thana on Saturday night. An amount of Indian rupees 6,656 and Bangladeshi Taka 437 were also recovered from their possession, said an official.

The arrested Indian Khasias are, Deak, son of late Khariol Darong, Tarshon son of late Mean and Mean son of late Pallon all aged below 30 and hailing from Dauki of Shillong, Meghalay.

The Bangladeshi national Khasia who was accompanying the Indians is Francis Thong Fain, 52. The rest arrested are, Mofizur Rahman and Rafiqul Islam, the boat men, the source said.

All the arrested were produced before the magistrate. From there they were sent to the court hajat, the source added.

A case had been started on charge of unauthorised entry into Bangladesh and possessing foreign currency, the source added.

There had been allegations against the arrested Indians of being involved with cow lifting from Bangladesh and smuggling into India, the source added.

## Amrita Lal's anniversary of death

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, July 1: The sixth anniversary of death of Amrita Lal Dey, a noted educationist and social worker was observed here recently with due solemnity.

Different socio-cultural organisations, Khelaghar district committee, Khelai Group Theatre, Jibananda Academy, Amrita Lala Shishu Niketan, Satabdali Group Theatre, Barisal Theatre, Pancha Siri Group Theatre, Bangladesh Chhatra Union and Charukala Bidyalay placed floral wreaths at his crematorium.

On the occasion a discussion meeting was also held at Amrita Lal Dey College with AKM Siddique Rahman, Principal of the college in the chair.

## 3 murderers get seven-year RI

JAIPURHAT, July 1: A court here on Wednesday sentenced three people seven years of rigorous imprisonment (RI) in a murder case, reports UNB.

The District and Sessions Judge Abu Bakar Siddique also fined Tk 500 each of the convicts Lokman Hossain, Khairbar Ali and Saidul Huq, in default to suffer another six months RI.

According to the prosecution, the accused attacked and critically injured Babu, son of Asimuddin, over a dispute of earth filling at village Ramvapur of Panchabhi thana on January 14, 1997.

Babu succumbed to his injuries at a local hospital later on.

After examining the evidences and witnesses, the court found them guilty of the murder and handed down the verdict.

The court, however, acquitted Shafi Uddin, Mijan, Mozam Hossain, Sharafat Ali and Ibrahim Ali from the case.

## Electricity subscribers harassed

SIRAJGANJ, July 1: Electricity subscribers in the town are facing harassment in paying the bills that do not reach on time, reports UNB.

Local subscribers alleged that PDB officials fail to send them the monthly electricity bills in stipulated time and harass them for delay in payment of bills.

Recently, one subscriber received a bill of Tk 8,105, accumulated over 11 years from 1985-1996.

"We could not pay the bills as we did not receive those for years. We are suffering for their fault," the subscriber lamented. "However, we have paid the bill."

Allegations are also there that a section of PDB officials offer to write off large amount of interests of backlog bills in exchange of kickbacks.

When contacted, PDB engineer Ismail Hossain (AD Electric Supply) said, "There might have been some lapses on our part as we have no adequate manpower."

## Miladunnabi celebrated in N'ganj

NARAYANGANJ, July 1: The holy Eid-e-Miladunnabi marking the birth and death anniversary of Prophet Hazrat Mohammad (SM) was celebrated here on Sunday with due religious fervour, reports BSS.

The highlights of the day's programme included hoisting of national flag atop all public and private buildings, procession, milad mahfil, waz mahfil, supply of improved diets to the inmates of the hospitals and orphanages and illumination.

The Narayanganj Jusne Juluse Eid-e-Miladunnabi committee and Ahle-sunnat wal Jamaat brought out separate colourful processions, in the town and Kadam-Rasul Paurashava at Badar in the morning.

Hundreds of devotees joined the processions carrying banners inscribed with "Allaho-Akbar" and "Kalema Tayeeb."

After the procession special prayers was offered for the peace and prosperity of the country.

Ahaz Maulana Bahadur Shah and Fir Zakir Shah led the processions at Narayanganj and Bandar respectively.



NARAYANGANJ: A colorful procession was brought out in the district town on Monday on the occasion of Eid-e-Miladunnabi. — Star photo

## Daughter killed allegedly by father

JHALAKATHI, July 1: A father allegedly chopped to death his one and a half years old daughter at Bheronbaria village of Nalchiti thana here on Saturday, reports UNB.

Police said Kabir Khalifa, 30, and along with some accomplices entered the house of his father-in-law by cutting its fence Friday night and killed his daughter Kabita. His wife Kamala Begum was staying there following a feud with him.

The killers fled away as neighbours rushed to the spot hearing hue and cry raised by Kamala. The body was sent to a hospital morgue for autopsy.