

## News snaps

### Bomb blasts kill young man

From Our Correspondent

**FARIDPUR, July 3:** One youth of village Chardidas in Bhanga thana was killed recently on the spot in bomb blasts. Muktar, 24, the ill-fated young man was making bombs clandestinely at a house belonging to Mohan Sheikh on the night of the fateful night.

### Smuggled onion recovered

From Our Correspondent

**JHENIDAH, July 3:** Jhenidah police recovered 43 bags of smuggled Indian onion worth about Taka one lakh from a Faridpur bound minibus on Thursday last, according to police sources.

Police said, receiving a secret information police stopped the minibus in front of Jhenidah thana.

### Gay girls on rise

From Our Correspondent

**BRAHMANBARIA, July 3:** Number of gay girls are increasing in the different part of the town demoralising the young boys of the society.

Local people have alleged that the gay girls roam about in different parts of the town including the bus terminal, court road, Kachary Pukurpur and Tanbazar area. As a result, anti-social activities are being increased in the respective areas. It is also alleged that, the gay girls roam about in different mohollas and lanes of the pourasabha of the town at night and allure a group of people especially the youths with their obscene gesture. Some guardians informed that their young sons had been getting spoiled due to the influence of the gay girls.

### Man killed by miscreants

From Our Correspondent

**KISHOREGANJ, July 3:** One person of village Nuha of the sadar thana was killed recently by the miscreants.

Police sources said, the miscreants entered into the house of Abul Kashem, 22, by cutting fence at dead of night while he was asleep. They attacked him with sharp weapons resulting in his death on the spot. A case was registered with Kishoreganj police station against seven persons including the main accused Abdul Barik Khan. There had been long standing dispute between the main accused and the deceased over land. None was so far arrested.

### Life term imprisonment for 3 killers

**CHAPAINAWABGANJ, July 3:** A district court has convicted three men and sentenced them to life term imprisonment with a fine of Taka 10,000 each, for the murder of a housewife, reports UNB.

Those convicted are Kamruzzaman of Tatipara and Kuddus and Samshuddin Master of Jhaudbona village in Bholahat thana. Four other accused were acquitted. The prosecution in brief said Esaron Bibi, wife of Moniruddin in village Chakdiharampur was killed on February 27, 1997, over land dispute. After examining the witnesses and records, District Additional and Sessions Judge Arunnesa Begum recently handed down the verdict.

### Fisherman drowns

**MUNSHIGANJ, July 3:** A fisherman drowned when a fishing boat was smashed by a Dhaka-bound launch from Barisal in the Dhaleswari river near Muktarpur recently in the sadar thana, reports BSS.

According to police sources, three fishermen were fishing in the river with "Bandhi" nets when the mishap occurred. Two fishermen managed to swim ashore while the other remained missing. The missing fisherman has been identified as Birendra Barman, 30, of Mulchar in Tangbari thana.

### Dipta wants to be a computer engineer

From Our Correspondent

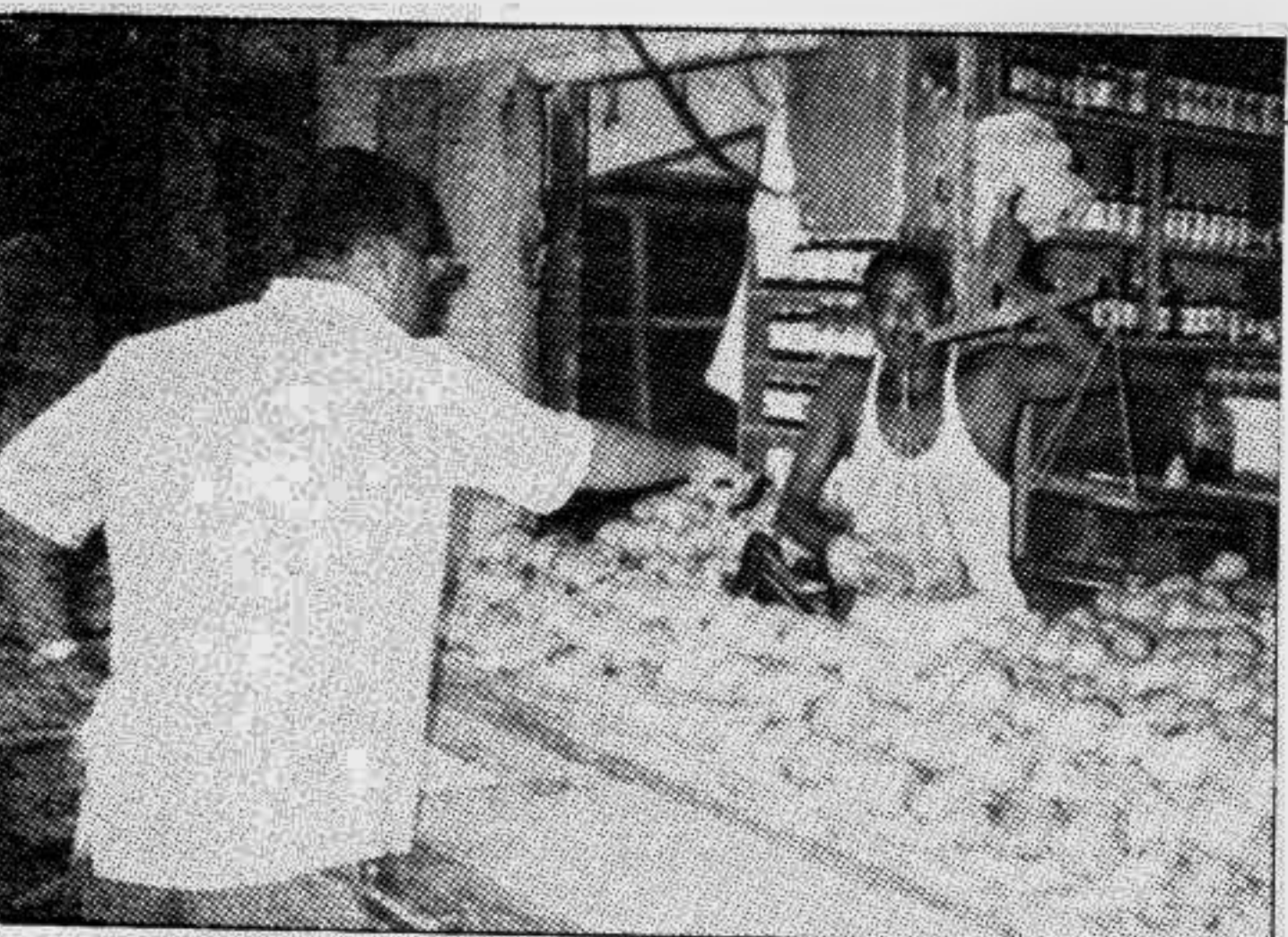
**MYMENSINGH, July 3:** A F M Nuruzzaman (Dipta), a student of Mirzapur Cadet College secured the first position in the Science group scoring 958 marks with letter in all subjects in this year's SSC examination under Dhaka Board.

He wants to be a Computer Engineer. While talking to newsmen at their Saroda Gosh road residence here, Dipta said he used to study for five to six hours a day. He said a student can do well if he maintains regularity in his studies.

Dipta has no interest in student politics. He expressed unhappiness over the student politics in the country. He is fond of English music, reading books and playing cricket. His favourite writers are Humayan Ahmed and Sunil Gangopadhyay.

He informed that his mother had played a vital role for his excellent result.

He is the son of Md Zakaria, one staffer in a private firm in Dhaka and Nurunnahar Begum, an assistant professor in Bangla Department of Mominunnesa Government College.



MAGURA: Quality mangoes are on sale now at the rate of Taka 35 per kg in this district town. — Star photo

### 8 sued for selling mad cow meat

**JHALAKATI, July 3:** A case was lodged against eight people for selling meat of a mad cow in the local market on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Police said the General Secretary of Putiakhali bazaar committee Ashraf Ali filed the case with police. The cow became mad after being beaten by a mad dog. Veterinary Surgeon asked the owner of the cow Moshel uddin of North Chhittil village in Kathalia thana to kill and dump the cow under the ground. It was brought at the veterinary hospital. But Motahar and Abdul Barak bought the cow at a nominal price and were selling its meat to the buyers. On information, police rushed to the spot and sent the meat to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital for testing. Police could not arrest anyone so far.

### Premature death of housewife

**MANIKGANJ, July 3:** A young housewife bled to death at the Sadar Hospital here after abortion done outside the hospital by an unidentified midwife, reports UNB.

Hospital sources said Shafali, 25, of Harazi village in Satura thana, came to the hospital on Saturday to perform her abortion. But Halima, a maid of the hospital took Shafali to her own residence and got her abortion done by an unidentified and untrained midwife. Shafali's condition started deteriorating due to profuse bleeding. She was then taken to the hospital but died after fighting for one and a half-hour. The midwife fled hearing the death news of the victim.

### Man killed by dacoits

**JOYPURHAT, July 3:** A man was killed and another injured during dacoities at two villages in Panchbibi thana on Saturday night, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Shafiqul Islam (28) of Atapur village. Injured Rafiqul Islam (37) of Goneshpur village was admitted to the hospital in a critical condition. Police said the armed gang swooped on the house of Aminul Islam, a member of Atapur Union Parishad at 12.30. They indiscriminately stabbed Rafiqul, elder brother of Aminul when he tried to resist them. Later the robbers decamped with valuable things worth about Tk 50,000. The same group on the same night stored the house of one Azizul Islam at Goneshpur village. The robbers opened fire on Shafiqul Islam, brother of Azizul, when he tried to resist them. Shafiqul first admitted to the thana health complex in a critical condition and later died on way to the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

# 19 outlaws surrender in Chuadanga in one month

From Our Correspondent

**CHUADANGA, July 3:** A total of 19 terrorists have surrendered to Chuadanga police from May 31 to June 30.

Of the total terrorists three have surrendered from Chuadanga sadar thana, six from Alamdanga thana, two from Damurhuda thana, seven from Jibannagar thana and another from Kotchandpur thana of Jhenidah district.

The Superintendent of Police (SP), Chuadanga told recently at a press conference that the terrorists had also surrendered 15 illegal arms and 58 rounds of ammunition at the time of their surrender. These include two country made double barrel guns, four shutters, three country made single barrel guns, two country made pistols, one revolver, one pipe gun and two masket rifles.

Among those surrendered there are 18 members of the outlawed Purbabangla Communist Party.

A Magura correspondent reports: The surrendering programmes of outlaws are now going on in the south-western districts of the country. As a result the combing operations have lost speed. Though some outlaws of this region have already surrendered, but their accomplices are doing misdeeds.

It is alleged that most of the surrendered outlaws had not laid down their modern weapons. They used these modern weapons in different times in gunfights with police. Most of them have surrendered some useless and back dated arms, only to be rehabilitated. It may be mentioned in this

connection that outlaws of this region looted a total of 48 fire arms from police in the last 10 years. In 1990 from Chuadanga railway station seven rifles, in 1995 from Utholy railway station of Chuadanga district four rifles, in 1997 from Barabazar of Jessore district six rifles and one sub-machine gun, in the same year from Rupsha food factory of Khulna five rifles, in 1998 from Kamulpa district three rifles, in the same year from Shiromoni cable factory of Khulna six rifles and four guns and in 1999 from Akij Jute Mills 12 rifles were looted by the outlaws.

Among the looted 12 rifles from Akij Jute Mills only three were recovered during the on-going combing operation. But till filing of this report the outlaws did not surrender rest of

the looted 40 rifles, four guns and one sub-machine gun.

Moreover, the surrendered arms are not satisfactory in view of number and quality. On the otherhand 45 fire arms looted from police still in possession of the outlaws.

Our Staff Correspondent from Barisal says: Jaoadul Islam Dipu, 27, one of the top notorious terrorists, extortionist and accused of different cases in Patuakhali town was arrested recently by police from the Mithapukurpur area.

According to police, he let loose a reign of terror in the Adalatpara, Puranbazaar, Launchghat and Foudzaripool areas of Patuakhali for a long time as a terrorist and extortionist.

He was wanted by police for quite a long time, police said.



PABNA: (L-R) Bumper production of IRRI-Boro paddy has been achieved this year in Bera and Faridpur thanas. Farmers could not grow Boro paddy on fields in these two thanas during the previous years. — Star photo

## 12 killed in separate incidents in dists

By Staff Correspondent

A total of 12 persons were killed in separate incidents in districts recently, according to agencies.

A young man was crushed under the wheels of a speeding bus at Habiganj road in Srimongal thana recently.

The victim, Mohammad Karim, 28, met his tragic end while crossing the road. A case was filed with the police.

In Gazipur, police recovered the body of an unidentified young woman, aged about 20, from the bank of the river Turag recently.

The body bore several injury marks. Police sent the body to the Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

A 12-year-old girl school-student was run over by a Sylhet bound train from Dhaka at Chandar Kandi near Narsingdi, police and eyewitnesses said.

The accident occurred when Sylhet bound Titas Express hit the victim Shahida Akhtar who was going to school along the railline. She died on the spot.

Two passengers were killed and 50 others injured in a head-on collision between two buses on Dhaka-Sylhet highway at Belabla thana recently.

One of the deceased was identified as Sujana Mia, 19, while other was a 35-year-old man.

Police said the Dhaka-bound bus rammed into another bus from opposite direction at Noakanda, Patildoiria area while trying to overtake another vehicle killing Sujana and the unidentified man on the spot.

All the injured were admitted to Sadar Hospital, and Belabla and Raipura Thana Health Complexes.

Police seized all the three buses but the drivers managed to flee.

The bodies were sent to Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

In Borguna, a madrasah student was electrocuted when he came in touch of live wire.

Police said Sagir (22) of east Betagi village met with tragic end when he came in contact with the snapped wire on way back home in Betagi thana. He died on the spot.

Another report from Barisal adds: A minor girl who was seriously injured by a live electric wire at Beltala area died at Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital.

The dead was identified as Jhuma (10), daughter of Jalal Sarder.

A 12-year-old boy was run over by a speeding truck near Kalkini Thana Health Complex in Madaripur district, eyewitnesses and police said.

The victim Shahadat Hosain, son of Abdul Karim Mia of village Rajde in Kalkini Thana died on the spot.

A case was filed with Kalkini thana in this connection.

One person was killed when a thunder-bolt struck him at Masimpur under Sadar thana in Sirajganj district, police said.

The victim Abdur Rahim, 22, was an employee of a restaurant of Sirajganj town. The lightning splashed over his house during heavy rainfall and he died on the spot.

A young man committed suicide by taking poison in Shalikhtha thana of Magura district.

Babu, 3, son of Kawsar Mia of Bunagati village, took his life following an altercation with his father, police and family sources said.

He was rushed to a local clinic where the attending doc-

tors declared him dead.

Another report says: A minor boy drowned in a pond in village Saratidia of Sirpur thana.

Police said Shobeb, 3, son of Daud Ali, fell into the nearby pond of their house when he was playing on the pond-side.

A man was killed in a traffic mishap at Sonabaria in Sadar thana on Sathkira-Jessore road.

Police said Mahatab, 35, of Sonabaria in Kalaroa area was critically injured when a speeding bus hit a van in the area. He died on way to Sadar Hospital.

### Artificial seed crisis

**NARAIL, July 3:** The farmers here have accused officials of the district of deliberately creating seed crisis in the peak aman season in connivance with dishonest dealers to make hay on their misery but the officials have strongly denied the charge, reports UNB.

Leading farmers said local seed store-keepers, on the plea of short supply, have been charging Tk 10 more per bag

## Banana growers of Jamalpur need govt patronisation

From Our Correspondent

**JAMALPUR, July 3:** Farmers in all the seven police stations of the district are losing interest in banana cultivation due to lack of patronisation and damage caused by the natural calamities. Jamalpur sadar thana is famous for growing high quality of banana round the year.

Sagor, Sabri, Champa, Humai, Gara, Chini Campa, Vimata, and Tulaita are some of the high quality banan grown commercially in Jamalpur. During the last few years about 20 thousand acres of land have been brought under banana cultivation in the seven police stations of the district. But now it stands at 10 thousand acres only.

Natural calamities and lack

of patronisation are the causes of shrinkage of areas under banana cultivation. Natural calamities such as flood, drought and tornado in the past few years played havoc with banana plantation. The calamities have forced some growers to reduce their dependence on this highly vulnerable crop. Lack of facilities for the poor and marginal growers has also contributed to the shrinkage of area under banana cultivation.

Many banana growers have switched over to other crops and seasonal vegetables in absence of government assistance. But banana cultivation has a bright prospect.

Others vegetables can also be cultivated on the land where

bananas have been planted. If property developed, this can create job opportunities for the poor in the banana growing areas.

Sources said that motivation of marginal farmers to take to banana cultivation has helped increase banana cultivation.

About 1,000 growers have planted high yielding banana inspired by the motivation campaign.

Many marginal farmers have become successful banana planters as a result of the campaign.

Much of the fallow land and water logged areas can be brought under banana cultivation if proper steps are taken.

If the cultivators get finan-

cial and modern technological assistance from the government, they can produce export quality banana of different varieties. Easy term loans may be of great help to the farmers.

Moreover, the farmers are finding it more profitable compared to some other traditional crops. Large scale production of banana will surely meet at least partially, one of our long felt needs of increasing fruit production. Consumption of fruits which is highly recommended by doctors as a possible way of maintaining sound health is still well below the prescribed quantity as far as people in general are concerned. Fruits remain beyond common people's reach owing to their short supply.

So boosting production of fruits should figure prominently in our plan to fulfil the citizens' nutritional needs. Banana is a fruit which can also have an export market, since the quality of the locally produced variety is very good.

According to reports collected from the seven police stations of the district show that the farmers had already adopted the improved methods of cultivation. Its result is also encouraging. Banana Production has gone up appreciably. However, the farmers feel that the production of banana can be boosted further if they get loan and insurance facilities.

Furthermore, they need also proper training. The agriculture department should be aware of the problems the farmers are facing.

Experiments are being made in different areas with the objective of diversifying our agricultural products. This is no doubt necessary for exploring new possibilities that can streamline the agriculture sector.

But for banana no special effort is necessary for our soil and climatic suitability for its plantation. It has been proved beyond any doubt.



Banana being collected from a garden at village Binander Para in Jamalpur sadar thana. — Star photo

## Power crisis makes life miserable in Faridpur

By Staff Correspondent

The persisting power crisis has made the normal life miserable in greater Faridpur district.

**UNB from Shariatpur reports:** Like other parts of the country, power outages have gripped here.

Sources said production in tea gardens and other heavy and small industries of the region is seriously being hampered due to erratic power supply.

High School students were said to be the worst sufferers of power outages as they started appearing in the first terminal examinations. In many parts of the region power goes off for hours together everyday.

Officials said five districts of greater Faridpur need 90 MW power everyday, but they re-

ceive only 50-60 MW from the national grids.

**Another report from Madaripur adds:** The persisting power crisis, attributed to short supply, has made the normal life here miserable.

Electricity subscribers of Palli Bidyut Samity alleged that fluctuations and erratic power supply continued to damage their household electronic goods like TV sets and refrigerators.

Meanwhile, Palli Bidyut Samity has brought new areas at thana-level under its power supply network. But Power Development Board cannot fulfil its demand of power from the national grid.

Subscribers of the samity also accused its officials of indulging in malpractice, aggravating their sufferings.

## Faces of talents

From Aroop Talukdar

Rashidunnabi has a hobby of reading books. He wants to be an army officer.

**Mohammad Musa Mollah,** Cadet No. 901, of Barisal Cadet College secured 19th position from the Science group in the combined merit list under Jessore Education Board this year.

He obtained 900 marks with seven letters in Physics, Chemistry, Biology, General Mathematics, Elective Mathematics, Social Science and Islamic Studies. Musa, son of Maulana Lutfar Rahman has the hobby of reading books. He likes to get higher education.

**M Fardil Hosain Faisal,** of Barisal Cadet College, Cadet No. 904 secured 20th position from the Science group in the combined merit list under Jessore Education Board this year.

Fardil obtained 899 marks with seven letters in Physics, Chemistry, Biology, General Mathematics, Elective Mathematics, Social Science and Islamic Studies. Faisal, son of M Lakat Hosain wants to be an army officer. His hobby is to play games and reading books.

**AKM Parvez,** Cadet No. 885, secured 20th place from the Humanities group in the combined merit list of SSC examination this year from Barisal Cadet College under Jessore Education Board.

He obtained 791 marks with letters in General Mathematics and Engineering Drawing (ED). Parvez, son of Mohammad Shahajahan Bhuiya wants to be an army officer.

**Our Pabna correspondent says: Mohammad Khaled Noman,** stood 18th place securing 823 marks in the Social Science group from Pabna Cadet College in this year's SSC examination from Rajshahi Board.

## Viral fever spreading in Netrakona dist

**NETRAKONA, July 3:** Viral fever has been spreading in 10 thanas during the last several weeks, reports BSS.

A large number of viral fever patients have been pouring in the hospitals and health complexes of different thanas everyday for the treatment, reports reaching here from different areas reveal.

This correspondent while visiting Netrakona Sarder Hospital saw for himself that several dozens of viral fever patients, especially children and women treated at the outdoor of the hospital. Some viral fever patients informed that they have been experiencing high temperature, spasmodic pain, severe headache, cough and pain all over their bodies.

Some on-duty doctors of the hospital said, the viral fever patients suffer for one week to three weeks in severe cases. No effective medicine has been found for this type of viral fever.

Only anti-biotics, anti-pyretics and anti-allergic drugs are generally prescribed for the treatment of the viral fever patients.

UNB from Bandarban says: A middle-aged prisoner died of cerebral malaria at Sadar Hospital here early on Wednesday, allegedly for want of timely supply of medicine from the jail authorities.

Hospital sources said Idrish Ahmed, 40, admitted on June 26, died at 3 am on Wednesday, as jail authorities did not supply prescribed medicine in time.

### Workshop for journalists

From Our Correspondent

**MOULVI BAZAR, July 3:** A five-day long 'Workshop on Women and Children for the Journalists of Sylhet Division' concluded here recently at Moulibazar Press Club.

The workshop was organised by the Press Institute of Bangladesh (PID).

Presided over by Radhika Mohan Goswami, President of Moulibazar Press Club, the concluding ceremony was attended by Md Habibur Rahman, Divisional Commissioner, Sylhet Division and GKM Nurul Ameen, Deputy Commissioner of Moulibazar as chief guest and special guest respectively.

The concluding ceremony was also addressed, among others, by Md Abdus Salam, Secretary of Moulibazar Press Club, Jiten Sen a senior journalist and ASM Abdul Haque trainer of PID. The chief guest gave away certificates among the participants.

A total of 22 working journalists from different district headquarters participated in the workshop.