

## News snaps

### SI closed

JESSORE, July 7: A police sub-inspector was closed on Sunday to the district police lines from Chowgacha thana for misuse of power, reports UNB.

Sources said action against SI Mohasin was taken for his alleged involvement in corruption.

### Saplings distributed

BANDARBAN, July 7: As part of the month-long countrywide plantation drive, the Forest Department will distribute two lakh saplings among people at nominal prices, reports UNB.

Officials announced this at a pre-rally gathering of the local people here on Tuesday. The rally, marking the inauguration of sapling distribution, was brought out in the town from the Forest Office. Later on Deputy Commissioner Mohsin Ali Sardar and District Council Chairman Thoanchang Master planted two Kirshnachura saplings at the DC office premises.

### Work progressing

PIROJPUR, July 7: Local Government and Engineering Department (LGED) has sanctioned Taka 43, 60, 025 for construction of 10 bridges in two thanas here, reports UNB.

Of the bridges, one is being constructed in the sadar thana while nine others in Mathbaria thanas, officials said. About 60 per cent works on the bridges have been completed, they said.



RAJSHAHI, July 7: About 55,000 children upto five years have taken Vitamin-A capsules during the National Vitamin-A Week which was observed here recently. City mayor Mijanur Rahman Minu seen inaugurating the week by feeding a baby Vitamin-A capsule. — Star photo

### 1,36,170 vaccinated

PIROJPUR, July 7: A total of 1,36,170 mothers and children in six thanas here were vaccinated under Extended Programme of Immunisation (EPI) last year, reports UNB.

The thana-wise breakup of the vaccinated mothers and children is: 21,137 in sadar, 27,059 in Mathbaria, 29,699 in Nesarabad and 21,750 in Nazirpur. A total of 19,355 mothers and children in Bhandaria and 10,928 in Kaokhali thanas and 6,251 in the municipality have also been brought under the programme to vaccinate them against BCG, DPT, polio measles and tetanus, officials said.

### Loan for farmers

NARSINGDI, July 7: Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) disbursed Taka 1,68,28,000 among 3,100 farmers and landless poor men and women in six thanas as loan in 1998-99 fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the loan was disbursed for Boro cultivation and creating employment opportunity and socio-economic development of the marginal farmers and poor people. Of the total amount, Tk 57,93,000 was disbursed among 1,079 members of 56 samitis as crop loan and Tk 1,07,45,000 among 2,041 poor members as poverty alleviation loan. Meanwhile, BRDB, Narsingdi branch recovered Tk 1,09,95,000 outstanding loan in the same fiscal year.

### Foundation stone laid

NAOGAON, July 7: Abdul Jalil, a central leader of the Bangladesh Awami League has laid the foundation stone of the newly established Fayeduddin Memorial College at Khakra here last week, reports BSS.

Principal of the college Prof M Babur Ali presided over the function. Chairman of Naogaon Poursabha Akhtar Ahmed Siddique, district Awami League Secretary M Abdul Malek and president of Naogaon district Chamber of Commerce and Industries M Shamsul Alam, among others, spoke on the occasion. Abdul Jalil said that the present government had allocated maximum amount for the education sector.

### FWP projects being implemented

KISHOREGANJ, July 7: The Relief, Rehabilitation and Disaster Management Department has been implementing 249 projects in 13 thanas under its Food-for-Works Programme, an official source said, reports BSS.

The government sanctioned 2,769 tonnes of wheat for implementation of the projects in 1998-99 fiscal year. The projects included reconstruction of rural infrastructure especially roads, educational and religious institutions. Thanawise allotted wheat and number of projects are: 191 tons for 19 projects in Hossainpur, 157 tons for seven projects in Bhairab, 170 tons for 20 projects in Astagram, 224 tons for 19 projects in Bajitpur, 171 tons for 20 projects in Itna, 305 tons for 29 projects in Karimganj, 341 tons for 25 projects in Katiadi, 143 tons for 10 projects in Nikli thana, 270 tons for 25 projects in Pakundia, 178 tons for 13 projects in Tarail, 1389 tons for 10 projects in Mithamun, 309 tons for 33 projects in Kishoreganj sadar thana and 171 tons for 19 projects in Kuliarchar thana.

### Training course

MADARIPUR, July 7: A three-day training course on cultivation of high yielding sugarcane organised by the district Agriculture Extension Department (AED) concluded here recently, reports BSS.

A total of 30 sugarcane growers from Shibchar thana participated in the training course. Deputy Director, AED Md Sayed Ali attended the concluding function as the chief guest. Thana agriculture officer, Shibchar presided over the function. Abdul Hakim, a sugarcane expert conducted the training course.

### Three of a family shot at

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, July 7: Three members of the same family received bullet wounds at Aruapara recently when a group of armed terrorists fired gun shots on them.

They are in critical condition at Kushtia General Hospital. The injured are Dodul Hasan, 25, Rokeya Begum, 60, and Ripon, 30, cousin of Dodul. Police source said that on June 28 Alzal Hossain, a businessman was robbed of Take one lakh 8 thousand 400 in front of Rupali Bank in day light. Police also said that firing incident was the result of dispute over disbursement of the robbed money among the hijackers. Armed terrorists entered into the house of Tariqul, but in his absence they resorted to firing on the inmates of the house.



KURIGRAM: A drama was staged here recently by the elderly people at village Tograihat in Rajarhat thana. — Star photo



RAJSHAHI: Renovation work on last year's flood damaged T-Groyne of Rajshahi town protection embankment going on during this ongoing rainy season when water level in the Padma rising rapidly. Picture shows (Left) the eastern side of base line of the T-Groyne. The riverside base of the embankment is being repaired amid erosion by the river. Uncertainty looms over continuation of the renovation work due to sharp rise in water level of the river.

— Star photo by Abdul Wadood

## Prisoners deprived of treatment in Rajshahi central jail hospital

From Abdul Wadood

RAJSHAHI, July 7: Alleged negligence, irregularities and corruptions in the Medical Department of Rajshahi central jail have rendered the sick prisoners to immense sufferings.

The prisoners do not get proper attention and medicines until their conditions become serious. Four inmates of the jail died of different diseases in a month (June) due to alleged negligence of the jail authorities.

According to the concerned sources, there is a 50-bed hospi-

tal for the prisoners in the jail premises. But actually sick prisoners usually do not get beds there. Influential and wealthy prisoners somehow manage the authorities and get admitted into the hospital in the guise of sickness to avoid sufferings in the ward. They remain there for days together keeping the beds always occupied. As a result, the prisoners, who fall actually sick do not get admission. They have to remain in their wards almost unattended. When their conditions deteriorate, only then the

jail authorities make arrangements to send them to the nearby Rajshahi Medical college Hospital (RMCH).

The process kills much time and the patients die before their shifting to the hospital. Once taken alive to RMCH, their conditions become very bad.

Relatives of the dead prisoners often allege that their people had not been given due attentions during their sickness. There is however, no record of taking legal actions by them.

Advocate Abul Qasem, President of the Rajshahi

branch of Bangladesh Manobadhikar Bastobayon Sangstha said that they had been conscious about the allegations of the jail authorities, but they did not get any written allegations.

In terms of human rights, he said, "Each and every citizen in the country, including the prisoners, has the right to get food, clothing, shelter and proper treatment facilities." He urged the government and the jail authorities to ensure the prisoners' human rights.

## Boy languishing in Natore jail for 19 months

From Anwar Ali

NATORE, July 7: A teenage boy has been languishing in Natore jail for about 19 months without any trial.

The trial of the case against the boy could not be started due to administrative snags.

According to sources in the jail, police and court, the boy is identified as Mizanur Rahman, 16, son of Abu Sayeed of Binsara village in Tarash thana of Sirajganj district.

Shingra police arrested Mizanur on December 4, 1997. Later on a court ordered to keep him in Natore Jail. Police chargesheeted two persons including Mizanur on February 12, 1998. Since then the case

remains pending for trial as the concerned police could not arrest the other accused of the case Achhalat, son of Khorshed of the Binsara village in Sirajganj. Moreover, police could not confirm the court regarding Achhalat's absconding. This situation has kept Mizanur waiting in jail.

The court sources said, if the court can be confirmed regarding Achhalat's absconding, the trial will be started after maintaining normal procedures.

The boy, in the meantime, prayed for his bail which was rejected by the court on the ground of non-availability of any person standing monetary security for the boys appearance

in court. As a consequence Mizanur has to stay in jail for an indefinite period.

Nobody below the age of 16 years can be kept in jail, so says the jail code. But in December '97 when Mizanur was arrested and kept in jail, he was below 16 years, it was learnt.

It is to be mentioned here that Mizanur and Achhalat allegedly looted and killed Amir Hamza, a farmer of Borogram village at Dahia union in Shingra thana while the victim was returning home selling a cow at a nearby 'hat' on December 3, 1997. It was alleged in the case which was filed against the two.



SYLHET: Daryl Mullins, Career Business Manager, South Asia region for British Telecom (UK) handing over a personal computer set to the President and General Secretary of Sylhet Press Club at a simple ceremony held here recently. Jahir Ahmed, Country Manager for British Telecom in Bangladesh and other officials looking on. — Star photo

## Colleges, madrassahs facing shortage of English teachers

From Abdul Monayem Khan

COX'S BAZAR, July 7: Over 75 per cent non-government high schools and colleges and 85 per cent senior madrassahs, religious educational institutions, of Cox's Bazar and Bandarban districts do not have adequate English teachers, hampering academic activities in the educational institutions.

According to the existing rules, each senior madrassah appoints a lecturer in English, an intermediate college recruits two and a degree level college

recruits three or more.

But 85 per cent senior non-government colleges, both intermediate and degree level colleges, of the two districts do not abide by rules due chiefly to non availability of qualified English teachers.

Moreover, the educational institutions which are not financially sound cannot recruit English teacher with required qualification.

In most cases, because of financial constraints the madrassahs have to appoint part time lecturers in English, depriving students of full time teaching facility.

There are many colleges and madrassahs which often do not receive a single application even after advertisements in the national dailies. In some cases applicants do not face the interview board even after submitting application and receiving interview cards for the post of Lecturer in English.

English teachers, however, in the districts earn huge amount of money through private coaching. Because of scarcity of English teachers students have to depend on private coaching, much to the su-

ffering of guardians.

Some principals of private colleges and madrassahs of the two districts have called for a change in the term and condition of the recruitment procedure so that third class degree holders in English can also apply.

They also urged the authorities concerned to provide financial benefits to the educational institutions for ensuring smooth academic atmosphere in the area.

### Baby 'Cheetah' trapped in Kanaighat

SYLHET, July 7: A tiger cub was trapped by the local people at Garakhali embankment in Kanaighat thana on Saturday, reports UNB.

The captured baby 'cheetah' is one foot in length.

Villagers said after the news spread, a large number of people rushed to the area to have a look at the tiger cub, kept tied with an iron chain.

Meanwhile, the local administration is taking steps to send the cub to the zoo on an emergency basis.

## Alarming erosion in Chandpur Tk 9.18cr projects to save 2 Sylhet thanas

SYLHET, July 7: The government has undertaken two major projects, aiming at protecting Golapganj and Baniabazar thanas from river erosion, at a cost of Tk 9.18 crore, reports UNB.

According to competent sources, works on the two projects will begin in the new fiscal year.

Upon completion of the two projects, a vast area of the two thanas will be saved from the onslaught of Surma and Kushiara rivers, the sources said.

Another report from Chandpur adds: River erosion in three thanas of the district has taken an alarming turn, threatening two important irrigation projects in the area.

Officials of Meghna-Dhanagoda Irrigation Project, constructed at a cost of Tk 175 crore, and Chandpur Irrigation Project, built costing Tk 54 crore, are on the verge of collapse.

Meanwhile, rivers Meghna and Dakatia started flowing above their danger marks devastating the riverside areas.

The affected areas are Ananda Bazaar, Gunrajdi Dashedi, Lalpur, Kanudi in Sadar thana, Dashedi, Phonpur, Jahirabad, Sikderbar in Matlab thana.

Hymehar, Nilkamal, Barbarhobi and Gazipur in Hymehar thana.

### Flood situation worsens in Kushtia

KUSHTIA, July 7: Flood situation in the district worsened further on Monday as the rain-swollen Padma and Gorai rivers continued to overflow their banks inundating riverside thanas and damaging standing crops on a vast track of land, reports UNB.

The affected areas are Daulatpur, Kumarkhali, Bheramara and Khoksha thanas.

According to officials, the water level in Padma rose by 8 cm at Harding Bridge point while Gorai 9 cm at Gorai Railway Bridge point.

Meanwhile, ferry services at Bheramara-Pakshy Ferry ghat improved as authorities have taken special measures to divert the course of rolling flood waters.

But erosion by river Gorai has taken a serious turn devouring a good number of homesteads in four unions of Daulatpur and Khoksha thana.

The affected unions are Ramkrishnapur, Chilmari, Maricha and Philipnagar.

## Need for dissemination of meteorological knowledge stressed

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, July 7: A two-week long workshop on climatology and meteorology held recently at Rajshahi University underscored the need for dissemination of

knowledge of climatology and meteorology to help train people in forecasting weather and climatic phenomena.

"Summer Workshop on Climatology and Meteorology 1999" was organised by the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies of Rajshahi University.

Thirty seven participants, who are engaged in teaching and research in Geography and related disciplines, from various universities and colleges attended the workshop.

The workshop, the first of its kind in the country, mainly dealt with the issue to disseminate theories and analytical techniques that have emerged in the field of climatology in recent times in order to strengthen the capability of teaching climatology and meteorology in the universities and colleges in Bangladesh.

It also stressed the need for updating curriculum in studying climatology and meteorology, besides training people in monitoring, analyzing and forecasting weather and climatic phenomena.

The workshop was conducted by renowned climatologist and meteorologist Dr. Rafique Ahmed, Professor of Geography and Earth Science in University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, Wisconsin, USA.

Ahmed, who is currently holding the office of the Director of the Association of America Geographers, devoted all his research work on the climatological aspects of Bangladesh.

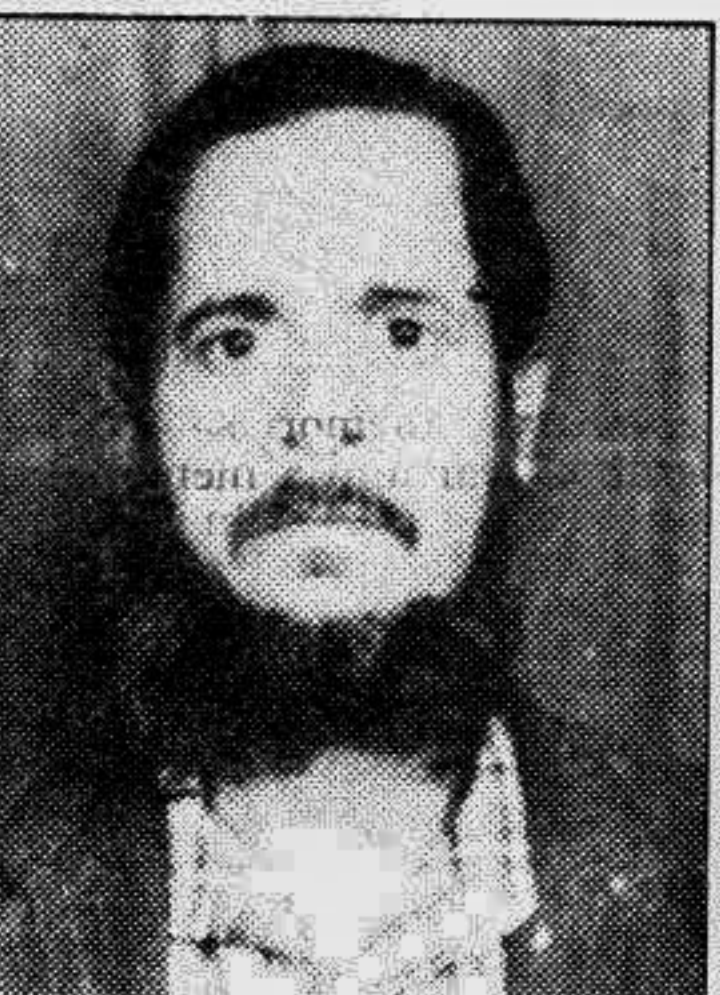
Ahmed visited China in January on invitation from the Jilin Province Meteorological Research Institute to conduct a joint research on the comparative study of the summer monsoons in the Bay of Bengal and in the South China Sea.

The participants received certificates from Vice-Chancellor of the Rajshahi University on the concluding session of the workshop. Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Syeedur Rahman Khan also spoke on the occasion.

Professor Rafique Ahmed donated Tk 50,000 to introduce

two scholarships for the students of BSC Honours and MSc (thesis group), to be effective from the 1998-99 session, in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies of Rajshahi University.

### Tale of a freedom fighter



Manik

From Delwar Kabir

JHENIDAH, July 7: The two hands, which held rifles and other firearms during the War of Liberation, now beg aims.

Freedom fighter Manik, Bangla for jewel or ruby, literally lives on begging. He is now completely jobless. Manik, who hails from Defalbaria village under Sadar thana, has been suffering from diabetes and related diseases. The freedom fighter's only son, a rickshaw puller, cannot help his father much.

Despite repeated appeals, he has not received any government help during the last 28 years.

Manik, who faced Pakistani occupation forces and their local collaborators-- Rajakars and Al Badars -- in Pashi, Chutlia, Chakama, and Kurimati areas, participated in the War of Liberation under sector 8.

The freedom fighter has repeatedly been urging the authorities concerned to help him.

But who cares?

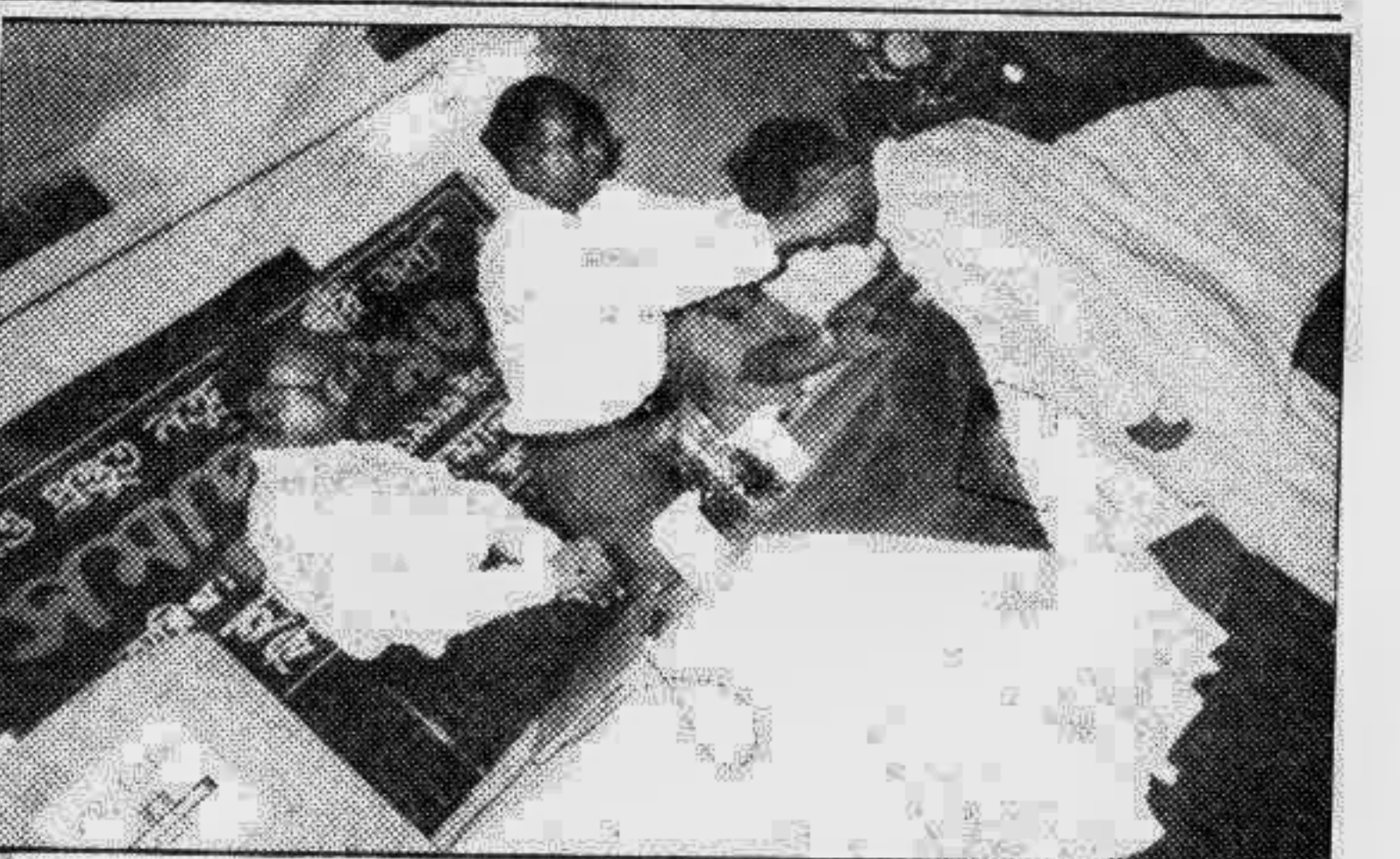
### 30 hurt in village clash

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, July 7: At least 30 people were injured in a clash between two rival groups at village Atukura of Fandawak union under Nasirnagar thana of the district recently.

According to witnesses, because of a sequel to a previous altercation the clash was occurred.

Of the injured, 24 persons were given first aid and the rest admitted to hospital.



RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY: Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Sayeedur Rahman Khan awarding recently a meritorious student named Abdul Mannan with a gold medal for his outstanding result. — Star photo