

## News snaps

### Man commits suicide

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, July 17: A 20-year-old man committed suicide recently by taking poison at village Pangmasua in Kaliadi thana.

Police and hospital sources said, Mofizuddin, 20, son of Md Idris Mia swallowed poison. Afterwards he was admitted into Bhagalpur Hospital where he breathed his last. The cause behind the suicide could not be known.

### Arms, ammunition recovered

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, July 17: Gaibandha police in a drive recently recovered three arms and ammunition from village Ramchandrapur in the sadar thana.

On getting a secret information a police contingent raided the house of an absconding criminal named Joyal of the aforementioned village. They recovered one revolver, one pipe gun and one shutter gun from a box. They also recovered a few ammunition and equipments used for manufacturing fire arms. Police, however, arrested his second wife Sirina Begum and sent her to jail. Police could not arrest the main criminal Joyal.

### Snatcher caught red-handed

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, July 17: A snatcher was caught red-handed recently at Dhuldi, eight kilometres off the town.

According to locals, a gang of snatchers five to six in number attacked Sarwar Mia, Site Manager of BS Jute Spinning Mills, being built at Shibrampur in Kotwali thana. They tried to snatch away money from him while he was passing through Dhuldi area by rickshaw at 9 pm on the day. The attacker raised a hue and cry for help. Then the local people rushed to the spot and caught hold of one of the snatchers identified as Ayub Ali, 25. The rest managed to flee the scene. Later on Ayub was handed over to Kotwali police.

### Two more commit suicide

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, July 17: Two persons committed suicide in the district recently.

A housewife committed suicide by taking insecticide at village Banail in Narsingdi thana recently. The victim was identified as Zulekha Khatun, 30, wife of Abdul Quddus, a day labourer, she took insecticide as she could not bear the pangs of colic pain. A boy committed suicide by jumping before a speeding train at village Aranyapasha of the same thana. The victim was identified as Khokan, 14, son of Shambu Miah of the village. The reason behind his suicide could not be known immediately.

### Population Day observed

COMILLA, July 17: International Population Day was observed in the district in a befitting manner on July 11, reports BSS.

The Department of Family Planning and different non-government organisations arranged various programmes to mark the day. A discussion was held at Diabetic Hospital conference room which was presided over by Deputy Director of Family Planning M Abdul Latif. Lt Col (Retd) Akbar Hossain, MP was present as the chief guest and Additional District Magistrate Mesbahul Alam and Dr Zohaida Hannan were the special guests. Dr Abdul Momin, Dr Muzibur Rahman, Dr Abdullah Al Mamun, Abdul Hamid and Yar Ahmed spoke on the occasion. Certificates and prizes were distributed among the best family planning workers, assistants and inspectors.

### Bumper output of Boro likely

BHERAMARA, July 17: A bumper production of Boro crop is expected in the just concluded season, reports BSS.

According to the District Agriculture office sources, the target of production of Boro during the season was set at about fifty thousand tonnes. Due to weather remaining favourable and timely supply of seeds, fertilizer and insecticides the bumper production was possible. The peasants now expect to harvest more than the target set.

### Decision withdrawn

LALMONIRHAT, July 17: Lalmonirhat Lawyers Association has withdrawn its recent decision of boycotting the District and Session Judge's court after a fruitful discussion with the judicial officers, reports BSS.

The discussion was held at the chamber of the District and Session Judge recently. The boycott decision was taken on July 11 for alleged misbehaviour with some lawyers.

### Phensidyl seized

NARSINGDI, July 17: Narsingdi Sadar thana police seized 391 bottles of phensidyl from the road, in front of Narsingdi district hospital at Bashil, on Dhaka-Sylhet highway of the district recently, reports BSS.

Police sources said mobile police on duty found two bags containing 391 bottles of phensidyl on the road, in front of the hospital. Police seized the bags of the phensidyl, but the owner of the phensidyl managed to escape.

### Plantation programme progressing

BANDARBAN, July 17: Forest Department here has planned to distribute two lakh saplings of fruit bearing and other trees on nominal charges during the current tree plant campaign, reports BSS.

Forest Department sources told here that plantation was in full swing in all naked hills under Bandarban Hill District. More than 15 lakh saplings of various trees are being planted on the naked hills from January last. The sources said that massive plantation programme had been taking up here with a view to achieving ecological balance and afforestation target.

### Young man killed in road accident

MADARIPUR, July 17: A young man was killed and another injured by a speeding bus at Kalabari under Sadar thana on Barisal-Faridpur highway on Friday, reports BSS.

Eye witnesses said the accident occurred when they were run over by a passenger bus. They were travelling by a motor cycle. The victim Kawsar Hossain (18) died on the spot. The injured was admitted to Faridpur Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

### Welfare scheme for poor

SHARIATPUR, July 17: The Social Welfare Department has undertaken a Tk 1.88 crore scheme for the welfare of the poor villagers of six thanas, reports UNB.

The money has already been disbursed among 30,000 poor villagers as soft loan. The borrowers have invested the money in small projects, including fisheries and livestock. Officials said recovery of such loans is quite satisfactory.

### Life term for killer husband

JOYPURHAT, July 17: A court here on Thursday convicted a man and sentenced him to life term in jail for killing his wife in 1997, reports UNB.

The court also fined him Tk 5,000, in default, to suffer six months more RI. According to prosecution, Gazilul Islam, 28, son of Ibrahim Ali of village Panch in Kalai thana, beat to death his wife Rehana Khatun, 24, on June 29, 1997 for dowry.

After examining the witnesses and records, District and Sessions Judge Abu Bakar found Gazilul guilty of murder and handed down the verdict. The Judge, however, acquitted five other accused in the case as the allegations brought against them were not proved.

### Tragic death of young man

NAOGAON, July 17: A young man, who unwittingly slept alongside Naogaon-Dhumurhat road in Porakhatara area Monday night, was crushed under the wheels of a running truck, reports UNB.

Villagers said Belal, 22, son of Danesh Ali of Berhadanga village, slept on the road as he felt drowsy while fishing in a roadside beel, leaving behind his fishing net in the beel. Police recovered the body the next morning and sent it to hospital morgue for autopsy.

### Science fair held

SHARIATPUR, July 17: A science fair and Shishu Ananda Mel was held on recently at Shariatpur Government Girls High School premises here, reports BSS.

The inaugural function of the fair was presided over by Fazila Parveen, headmistress of Shariatpur Government Girls High School. The Deputy Commissioner Shariatpur, Syed Ibrahim Khan was present on the occasion as the chief guest. Additional Deputy Commissioner M A Rashid and Prof Mohammad Ali Hossain, among others, spoke on the occasion.

## Siltation hampers pisciculture in Cox's bazar

From Abdul Monayem Khan

COX'S BAZAR, July 17: Pisciculture has been affected badly due to massive siltation in the Bakkhali, Matamuhuri, Naf rivers and in different canals and water bodies.

According to government and non-government sources, unplanned use of chemical fertilisers and insecticides in crop fields has also affected the growth of different species of fries. Hundreds of fishermen have been facing numerous problems due to shortage of fund and price-hike of fishing materials.

Earlier, different species of fish were available in abundance in rivers, ponds and other water bodies, but now the situation has become quite opposite due to indiscriminate fishing by non-professionals.

Acute scarcity of fish has been prevailing in the rural areas here for the last one month in this rainy season.

This is because some of the professional fishermen have left their profession while others migrated to other places for survival.

Indiscriminate fishing of fries in different parts of the region defying the government ban is another cause of the scarcity of fish. The government has banned fishing fries below nine inches all over the country with a view to boosting up the fish production.

According to witnesses, fries are being sold in the markets of Sadar thana, Kutubdia, Mohekhali, Ramu, Chokoria, Ukhia and Teknaf thanas. The matter was brought to the notice of the Fisheries Department on several occasions, but the department took no steps.

About 9,000 ponds in different parts of the region are lying uncultivated since long.

Local people said, about 50 per cent of the ponds in the area have been silted and dried up due to lack of maintenance. A large number of ponds are also covered with water hyacinths hampering fish cultivation.

Experts said, 12,000 metric tons of fish can be produced annually if these ponds are properly cultivated. The authorities should take programmes for re-excavation of silted rivers and ponds and introduce scientific

methods of fish culture.

On the other hand, different varieties of sweet water fish are on the verge of extinction as fries being caught indiscriminately violating the government ban.

The eggs of fish are also being destroyed. Sweet water fish like Kol, Magur, Shingi, Pabda, Puti, Mola, Tuki, Shoal, Boal are rarely found in the local markets. These were found abundantly in the markets during the rainy season in the past.

**Experts said 12000 metric tons of fish can be produced annually if the ponds are cultivated properly. The Fisheries Department should take programmes of reexcavation of silted up rivers, ponds and other water bodies. The department should also introduce scientific methods of fish culture. On the other hand, different varieties of sweet water fish are on the verge of extinction as fries are being caught indiscriminately in Cox's Bazar district violating the government ban. The eggs of fish are also being destroyed. The matter was already brought to the notice of the Fisheries Department on several occasions, but no steps have yet been taken by the department or the members of the law enforcing agencies till now.**

The district fisheries department sources informed that the season stretching from Ashar to Aswin of the Bangla year (June to October), is the breeding period of fish, which are caught abundantly in this period.

The government prohibited the fishing of small varieties of fish like Rupi, Katla, Kalibaus up to 23 centimetre (nine inches) from July to December. But fries are being caught indiscriminately defying the ban.

The authorities concerned and the law enforcing agencies never played their due role against the violators of the ban, local

people alleged.

Our Netrakona Correspondent says: An acute scarcity of fish has been prevailing throughout the district for the last two and a half months.

While visiting the markets in 10 thanas, this correspondent found that the supply of fish in the markets had been quite inadequate. The prices of fish shot up due to its short supply. Only some small varieties of fish are being sold at prices between Tk 125 and Tk 160 per kg. Other fish like Hilsa, Mrigel, Rupi, Katla and Silver Cup are being sold at Tk 160 to Tk 200 per kg. Big varieties of fish are not available in the markets.

According to the local observers, low production due to lack of its scientific cultivation here has caused scarcity of fish. Besides, fishing of fries by 'current nets' is another reason for fish scarcity.

There are hundreds of ponds, 'beels', canals and other water bodies in the district. But most of those are lying abandoned due to lack of necessary steps and proper management to be taken by the departments concerned.

Some pisciculturists opined that there is a bright prospect of cultivating fish bright throughout the year here. The possible production from this district alone can meet the total fish demand of greater Mymensingh.

But due to lack of initiatives and patronage, high interest rate of bank loans and non-availability of high yielding variety of fries are the main reasons behind fish scarcity.

Though some private bodies and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) have been trying to boost fish production in the district by opening of hatcheries in different places, but the organisations could not yield good result due to numerous reasons. At present only a few people are engaged in pisciculture in a planned manner here. Fries are now coming from Mymensingh for cultivation here. While talking to The Daily Star some fishermen of different thanas gave an appalling picture of pisciculture. They are now leading a miserable life, they added.



Hay day for boatmen:

Boatmen of Natore who remained almost idle before the advent of the rainy season are now passing busy days ferrying passengers across the rivers.

— Star photo by Anwar Ali

### Army man killed in road mishap

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, July 17: One army man was killed and 15 others were injured, eight of them seriously, in a road accident near Bandar hat in Singra thana of the district recently.

According to police, a Kadirabad Cantonment-bound military truck from Bogra Cantonment collided with a road-side tree and fell into a ditch, killing havildar Shahiduzzaman, 38, of Kadirabad Cantonment in Natore.

The injured persons were admitted in Natore Sadar Hospital and shifted to Bogra military hospital later.

Seriously injured army personnel were Havildar Abdus Samad, 26, Naik Shah Jalal 25, Mahirul, 26, Sepoy Saidur, 25, Anwar, 26, Sadek, 26, Habib 28, and Abdur Rashid, 32.

The truck was carrying ordinance goods from Bogra Cantonment. However, damage to the goods was not reported.

### 2 extremists arrested

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, July 17: Two alleged extremists were arrested by Singra thana police on Tuesday night.

Police acting on a tip off, arrested the two from Chalan beel area. The arrested persons were Shaheed, son of late Fayez Uddin of Dahla village, and Afzal, son of Hazrat Ullah of Biash village under Singra thana.

They are said to be members of outlawed Purbha Bangla Sarbahara Party.

In recent days about 15 remote villages of Chalan beel area under Natore, Pabna and Sirajganj districts have become a sanctuary for the outlawed Sarbahara group.

300 policemen in a joint drive conducted in remote villages of the three districts arrested 35 extremists on July 10.

More than 50 road robberies were occurred in the northern region of the country during the last six months.

### Khasia tribe reacts sharply

## Betel leaf sellers asked to collect business permits

MOULVIBAZAR, July 17: Members of the Khasia tribe here reacted sharply following an order of the district administration to collect permits for selling betel leaf, reports UNB.

The district administration recently issued the order asking all betel leaf sellers to collect permits to run their business.

A headman of Khasia tribe here told the news agency that production and sale of betel leaf is their only profession from generation to generation.

"We produce betel leaf in the hills and jungles of the border area and sell those in different hats and bazars as our major

means of livelihood," said the headman and president of Khasia Welfare Society Jhoinul Khasia.

If a farmer can produce paddy on the frontier lands and can sell in the market without permits, why permits would be necessary for betel leaf, he asked.

There was no such permit during the Pakistan days and also during the 28 years after independence, Jhoinul said. "But now the order has been issued to harass the Khasia farmers."

With the introduction of the permit system for sale of betel

leaf, the poor Khasias will be deprived and the business controlled by the vested quarters, he feared.

He said the main drawback of the permit system is that a farmer will be allowed to sell a specific quantity of betel leaf and his excess production will perish. This will hamper production of betel leaf, quite contradictory to the government call for increasing production.

Local people urged the government to withdraw the order to redress the grievances of the Khasia tribe for maintaining peace and harmony in the region.

## Alleged irregularities in Jamalpur schools

JAMALPUR, July 17: Lack of adequate number of teachers and other problems have been hampering academic activities in different educational institutions across the district, reports UNB.

Nandina Model Academy in Sadar thana has been facing many problems hampering its academic activities.

The school, established in 1984 by some local people and included in the government Monthly Payment Order (MPO) on the same year, has over 500 students. But the numbers of classrooms, furniture and other educational equipment are too inadequate.

The students have been facing serious problems due to this reason. The classrooms lack ceiling and the conditions of the partitions are deplorable. There is no boundary wall of the school.

There is no hostel and the students from remote areas have been facing accommodation problem. The shape of the playground of the school is very bad and water logging during the monsoon there causes sufferings to the teachers and students.

Besides, there are administrative problems in the school. After the resignation of the chief patron and Management Council President Maj Gen (ret'd) M Khalilur Rahman, feud among the members of the committee led to a chaotic situation hampering development activities of the school.

There are allegations that many teachers resorted to corruption taking the advantage of weak management of the school.

In the face of irregularities and other allegations, the In-

spection and Audit Department conducted investigation and some allegations were found valid.

Following the inspection, the salaries and allowances of the teachers and employees were stopped.

After much effort, the teachers and employees got their arrear salaries of 10 months, but still their salaries and allowances of 23 months remained unpaid, causing hardship for them.

Education in West Maizpara Government Primary School in Kazi Bakal union of Kalkini thana is also being hampered due to lack of adequate teachers. President of the School Management Committee Mohammad Sirajul Islam said that two teachers out of the total four went for PTI training ignoring the request of the committee.

## No electricity court in Jamalpur, Sherpur

From Our correspondent

JAMALPUR, July 17: Electricity subscribers in Jamalpur and Sherpur districts are facing a lot of problems as the electricity court meant for settling bills dispute and others is stationed in Tangail.

There is no separate court either in Jamalpur or in Sherpur for quick disposal of the cases, causing severe inconveniences to the subscribers in the two districts.

About 3000 cases relating to disputes from Jamalpur and Sherpur have so far been lodged with the court in Tangail, local electricity office sources said. Most of the cases are filed to re-align the outstanding bills.

In many cases the subscribers cannot to know about the court order directly. They only come to know about the order through respective police

stations.

As the whole process of filing cases is done from outside of their districts the subscribers often fall victim to police harassment, local people said.

Besides, appearing before court from different parts of the two districts cause the electricity consumers both financial and physical suffering.

Moreover, unusual delay in disposing the cases causes extra suffering to people of the two districts.

Jamalpur Ainjibi Samity, an association of lawyers, has appealed to the authorities concerned to set up a court in the districts to help mitigate the suffering of the electricity consumers.

Local people have also urged Power Development Board to take necessary steps in this regard.

### Udichi bombing

## Charge-sheet likely this month

JESSORE, July 17: The charge sheet in the bombing incident at the Udichi cultural function at the local town hall premises that killed 11 people on March 6 is likely to be submitted in the district court later this month, reports UNB.

CID sources preferring anonymity said the investigation report has already been completed. The charge sheet will be submitted in the court soon with the permission of the Home Minister.

"It's now only a matter of time," he added. In course of investigation, the CID police arrested 37 people but four of them were released on bail.

Five of the arrested — Daud, Nantu, Sorab, Litu and Ashrafur Alam alias Berebabu

— are said to be arms dealers and syndicate members.

The arrested also include Munirul Islam Madina, an activist of Harkatul Jihad, and former local municipal commissioner Mohiuddin Alamgir.

The bomb that exploded at the 12th national conference of Udichi function killed 11 people and injured more than 150 others.

The exploded device, first believed to be grenades, was later found to be time bomb after examining the fallout.

Sources said the bombs, which were exploded in Jessore, were similar to the ones exploded at Jalpaiguri Railway Station in West Bengal, India. These were RDX bombs, they added.

## Accused snatched from police

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, July 17: An accused was snatched from police in the local hide market area on the outskirts of the town Tuesday noon.

Miscrants attacked the team of police, who were taking the accused. Arju wanted in three cases, to police station, and snatched the accused. One police havildar was beaten up during the attack.

Arju is wanted in three cases of kidnapping of woman, toll collection and terrorism. He is a leader of a terrorist group in the area.

He was expelled from the dis-

trict unit of ruling Awami League backed-Jubo League few weeks ago due to his involvement in terrorist activities.

Arju allegedly kidnapped a school girl from Chaikbayadan area on March 1.

Natore police picked up Arju from his area at around 11 am on the day and were taking him to the police station by a motorcycle which came under attack in the hide market area.

The miscrants had a scuffle with the police, leaving havildar Mahboob injured and at one stage snatched Arju.



### Chittagong Port Authority

Office of the Chief Engineer  
Bandar Bhaban, Chittagong

## Notice for Enlistment of New Contractors

Applications are invited from bonafide contractors with requisite eligibility and experiences for the enlistment of new class I, II and III contractors in the Civil Engineering Division of the Chittagong Port Authority during 1999-2000 fiscal year. Applications should be in the prescribed forms of the Port Authority and the said prescribed form can be procured by depositing Taka 25/- in the port fund through Challan from the office of the undersigned during office hours. The last date of submitting application is 30-7-99.

DFP-15411-12/7  
G-1312

Chief Engineer  
Chittagong Port Authority

## Office of the Police Commissioner

Dhaka Metropolitan Police  
Dhaka

## 3rd Tender Notice

Tenders in sealed envelopes are invited from bonafide vessel repairing/ parts importer establishments for current repairing of engine (diesel) of 02 (two) country boats, 02 (two) steel-made country boats and 02 (two) speed boats of Bangladesh Police during 1999-2000 fiscal year. 5% (five per cent) of the quoted rate as the earnest money in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order in favour of "Assistant Police Commissioner (Accounts), Dhaka Metropolitan Police, Dhaka" will have to be deposited by the tenderers. The earnest money/Pay-Order deposited by the selected firm will be refunded after 01 (one) year of the completion of the repairing work. List of faults (schedule), terms and conditions and rules and regulations will be available from the office of the Assistant Police Commissioner, Central Police Motor Repairing Workshop, Rajarbagh Police Line, DMP, Dhaka at the cost of Taka 400/- (four hundred) only non-refundable on all working days from 09.00 hours in the morning till 17.00 hours in the afternoon. The earnest money/Pay Order of the unsuccessful firm will be refunded after the acceptance of the tender.

Interested tenderers are requested to submit the tenders in sealed envelopes along with Bank Draft/Pay Order by 12.00 Noon on 26.7.99 in the tender box kept in front of the officer on duty in the Central Police Motor Workshop. Tenders will be opened the same day at 12.30 PM before the tenderers present or their representatives (if anyone remains present).

Any tender without Bank Draft/Pay Order will be treated as rejected. The tender acceptance committee reserves the power to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason.

No schedule will be sold on the day of opening tender.

Md Habibur Rahman  
Deputy Police Commissioner  
(Headquarters)

DFP-15321-12/7  
G-1314

Dhaka Metropolitan Police  
Dhaka.