

## News snaps

### Death condoled

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, July 23: A meeting was held in the district court premises to condole the death of advocate Tushar Kanti Bose, a renowned lawyer in the town. MA Shahidur Rahman, District and Sessions Judge of Satkhira, presided over the meeting while it was addressed, among others, by Advocate SM Haider, Advocate Shah Alam and Advocate Tapan Kumar Bhattacharjee. Speakers at the meeting expressed deep shock at the death of Bose and expressed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

### Husband kills wife

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA July 23: A housewife was allegedly strangled by her husband at village Srimantakati under Tala thana in the district recently. The victim was identified as Shefali Rani Sarker, 22, wife of one Manoranjan Sarkar. Police sources said the husband beat up the wife and at one stage strangled her. Later the husband and his family members poured pesticides in her mouth in a bid to hide the killing. The husband used to beat the victim up for dowry, neighbours alleged.

### Man commits suicide

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH July 23: One Azhar Ali, son of Kazimuddin of village Bangao Jatiapara in the district, committed suicide by taking poison recently. The reason behind the suicide could not be known immediately. He was rushed to thana health centre where the doctors declared him dead.

### 4 robbers held, arms recovered

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, July 23: Four robbers were arrested and arms and ammunition were recovered in Bheramara thana of the district recently. Police on a tip off arrested Sajid Hossain of village Sonakund under Daulatpur thana, Akkas Ali of village Balidiar, Masudur Rahim alias Ripon and Samsul Haq of Allar Darge of Daulatpur thana from Raita Pathar ghat area. The members of law enforcing agency also recovered one modern shutter gun, one pistol and 4 rounds of 303 rifle bullets. The arrested persons were wanted in many cases.

### Teenage girl commits suicide

From Our Correspondent

NARSINGDI, 23: A teenage girl committed suicide by taking insecticide at village Baluizsnair in Mohishsura union under Sadar thana in the district recently. The victim was identified as Khadija Begum, 15, daughter of Abdus Salam. The reason behind the suicide could not be known immediately. An UD case was filed.



**Field day for the department:** Dilip Kumar Chakravarty, additional director, Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), explains to farmers on the department's 'field day' at Akin village, Faridpur sadar.

— Star photo by Abdul Matin Fakir

### Body recovered

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, July 23: The body of one Altamuddin alias Alu, 19, a small trader of village Char Bhelamari in Nandail thana, was recovered recently. Police suspected he was strangled. Police sources said the victim was sleeping in his shop at night. But he was found dead in the morning few yards from his shop. Cash and goods were also looted from the shop. A case was registered with police in this connection.

### Kachua Pourashava budget

CHANDPUR, July 23: The annual budget of the newly formed Kachua Pourashava under Chandpur district was announced last week, reports BSS.

Pourashava Chairman Mohammad Zahid Hossain Bhuiyan announced the Tk 3,33,86,180 budget for the 1999-2000 fiscal at a meeting at his office. Government and pourashava officers, journalists and local elite were present on the occasion. Taka 2,71,74,000 has been earmarked for various development projects including construction and reconstruction of roads and development of markets under the municipality.

### Immunisation programme

MANIKGANJ, July 23: Livestock Department implemented a massive programme of immunisation and increase of cattle and poultry resources in seven thanas of the district during the last fiscal year, reports BSS.

Under the programme 1,50993 cattle and 19,93380 poultry birds were immunised during the period. At the same time 49,000 cattle and 104674 poultry birds were given medical treatment. Besides 49,670 cattle were brought under cross-bred system. District Livestock Department has taken similar types of programme for the current fiscal year.

### Tk 83.96 lakh land dev tax realised

PIROJPUR, July 23: The Revenue Department, through its 52 taluk offices in the district, realised land development tax totaling Tk 83.96 lakh in last fiscal year (1998-99), reports UNE.

The amount is Tk 45.93 lakh less than the target fixed for the period for six thanas of the district. The target was Tk 1.29 crore, said an official source. Of the total, Tk 28.53 lakh were realised from Sadar thana, Tk 11.92 lakh from Nazirpur, Tk 8.05 lakh from Nesarabad, Tk 4.20 lakh from Kaukhali, Tk 9.60 lakh from Bhandara and Tk 21.66 lakh from Mathbaria.

### Another body recovered

THAKURGOAN, July 23: The body of a middle-aged man was recovered from Tangon near the old Tangon bridge at Collegera here on Friday, reports BSS.

The victim was identified as Md Kharuzzaman alias Budhgaru Mohammad (40), son of the late Nurul Haque of village Baikunthapur under Thakurgoan Sadar thana. He was missing since July 7.

### Sanction for roads development

FENI, July 23: The government has sanctioned about taka seven crore for the development of five roads in the district in the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to an officials source, the project will be implemented by the Roads and Highways Department. The roads are Feni-Comilla, Feni-Parsuram, Feni-Noakhali, Feni-Sonagazi and Chhagaihaya-Maharajganj Road. Work on these projects has already started and will be completed within the current fiscal.

### Municipality implements 5 schemes

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, July 23: The Chapainawabganj Pourashava spent taka 67 lakh 18 thousand for the implementation of development work in five projects during the last fiscal year, reports BSS.

The projects included installation of 32 shallow tube wells at a cost of taka 11 lakh 60 thousand, 258 tara pumps at a cost of taka 34 lakh, 71 tara-2 pumps at a cost of taka 12 lakh 50 thousand and resinking of 50 tube wells at a cost of taka 31 lakh.

### 17 projects progressing

FENI, July 23: The Facilities Department of the Ministry of Education has been implementing 17 projects at a cost of taka 70 lakh in Feni district in the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to an officials source, of the total institutions eight are vocational institutes, four colleges, one primary training institute and four primary schools. Work on these projects has already started and will be completed within six months.

## National

# Use of bio-gas in household work increasing

From Rajat Kanti Goswami

MOULVIBAZAR, July 23: Use of bio-gas in household work has increased considerably in the district.

A total of 33 bio-gas plants has been installed in different thanas. Using bio-gas the consumers have been saving their hard-earned money. The reason is the bio-gas plants not only produce cooking fuel, but it is also helpful in keeping the environment free from pollution.

According to official sources, the government has allocated Taka 65 thousand as donation to install the bio-gas plants. The total cost of installation of a bio-gas plant is estimated at Taka 11 thousand, of which Taka 5 thousand is being given by the government as donation to the interested individual. Rest 6 thousand will be invested by the interested individual. But people of the rural areas have demanded an increase in government allocation for each plant so that one can easily install a plant. They have also demanded installation of bio-gas plant in each and every union parishad here.

Installation of bio-gas plants started from 1996. Shah Juned Uddin, the first sub-assistant engineer of bio-gas installation project here has launched his first project at the home of Md Mohsin, 28, a school

teacher of village Kadupur in the sadar thana. Production capacity of this bio-gas plant was 150 CFT. An amount of Taka 5 thousand was donated to Md Mohsin from the government while the rest amount, Taka 6 thousand was borne by Mohsin himself. Now his family members have been using bio-gas from this plant for two and a half years.

It is learnt from the local bio-gas pilot project office that a total of 11 such plants had been installed here in 1997. Out of these, seven plants were installed in the sadar thana and four in Rajnagar thana. The government had sanctioned Taka 5 thousand to each of these plants. The total allocation was Taka 55 thousand for the year 1997. In 1998, a total of 17 projects were implemented with the government donation of Taka 85 thousand. Of these 17 projects, two in the sadar thana, eight in Kamalganj thana, one in Srimongal thana and six in Kulaura thana.

To introduce the bio-gas, a seminar was held recently at Moulvibazar town where all the thana nirbahi officers and chairmen of union parishads attended.

However, there are only two appointed engineers in the district to look after the programme of bio-gas pilot project. The engineers are now appointed at Moulvibazar sadar and Kulaura thana. But the man power is too poor for the normal functioning of the project. The existing man power should be increased.



**Crores in the sea:** The Cox's Bazaar-Teknaf marine drive is being devoured by the sea exposing the village Kalatali to oceanic erosion. Work on the road was abandoned two and a half years back, after the government spent 26 crore taka for it. — Star photo

## New technique to protect vegetables from insects

From Our Correspondent

NETRAKONA July 23: The Agriculture Extension Department (AED) has invented a new technique to protect vegetables like sweet pumpkin, pumpkin, cucumber and jute plants from harmful insects.

The new technique has gained popularity among the vegetable and jute growers. Because it does not require pesticides to eliminate insects from jute and vegetable fields.

AED has set up a school here for the vegetables and jute growers to help them learn the technique of trapping harmful insects through light and net device recently.

The department also arranged a farmers' rally in the sadar thana recently to make

them conscious about the adverse effects of unplanned use of pesticides. The organisers urged the farmers to use the new trapping device for destroying the harmful insects. After applying the technique, vegetable growers achieved a good result.

According to this technique, cotton mixed with a special type of hormone is kept in a yellow tube which is hung over a large pot full of water mixed with detergent.

The insects are usually attracted by the smell of the hormone. Because this smell is like the very smell which comes out of the body of the female insect at the time of sexual excitement. Male insects, being attracted by the smell, come to the yellow tube and fall into the

water kept under it and die. According to the sources, one such trap can be used on seven bighas of land and about 150 to 170 flying insects die everyday in one trap.

About 75 per cent of vegetables and fruits are destroyed by the flying insects. A male insect makes coition with female partners five to seven times a day. Then the female insects lay eggs on vegetables, crops and fruits and ultimately damage those. The new technique of destroying insects has proved to be very effective.

But the technique can not be improved due to lack of laboratory facilities. There is also lack of research facilities, official sources said.

Water kept under it and die. According to the sources, one such trap can be used on seven bighas of land and about 150 to 170 flying insects die everyday in one trap.

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