

## News snaps

### Death condoled

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, July 23: A meeting was held in the district court premises to condoled the death of advocate Tusar 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 Sarker. 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 Bangon 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

KUSHIA, 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 Sajjat Hossain of village Sonakundi under Daulatpur thana, Akkas Ali of village Balir-diar, 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 Baluizshair in Mohishasura 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.

### Body recovered

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, July 23: The body of one Altamuddin alias Altu, 19, a small trader of village Char Bhamar 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, 1,50,993 cattle and 19,93,380 poultry birds were immunised during the period. At the same time, 49,000 cattle and 1,04,674 poultry birds were given medical treatment. Besides, 49,670 cattle were brought under cross-breeding system. District Livestock Department has taken up 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 tahsil offices in the district, realised land development tax totalling 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 Kalkhali, Tk 9.60 lakh from Bhandaria 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 Collegepara here on Friday, reports BSS.

The victim was identified as Md Kharuzzaman alias Budharu 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 Chhagalnaiya-Mahariganj 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 Pourashabha 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.

## 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 also organic fertiliser. 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 instal 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 had launched his first project at the house 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 was 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. Official sources informed that seven more plants had been installed till the month of June 1999 and Taka 35 thousand had been donated by the government.

It was also learnt that the country's biggest bio-gas plant had been installed at the home

of Abdus Shahid at village Kadipur in Kulaura thana.

Production capacity of this plant is 500 CFT bio-gas. Abdus Shahid, the bio-gas plant holder is now giving six gas connection to his neighbouring six families after fulfilment of his family's demand. Abdus Shahid's family is now using hajak lamp by using bio-gas. He received Taka 5 thousand only from the government as donation. But the total expenses of this plant was Taka 45 thousand.

Abdus Shahid also uses the organic fertiliser produced as by-product in his bio-gas plant. This organic fertiliser is being used as fodder of fish in his four ponds where a fisheries project was established by Abdus Shahid.

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.

## 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 vegetables 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, vegetables 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 insects 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 bigas 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.

## Two-hour road blockade in Gaibandha

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, July 23: Local businessmen of Palashbari thana observed a day long hartal on July 16 protesting seizure of 25 maunds of onion on July 13 by police who suspected those as smuggled item.

Onion traders also put up a barricade on the highway for two hours. As a result, hundreds of buses and trucks on both sides of the highway remained stranded.

Protesting the incident, local traders laid siege to the local thana and demanded return of the onions.

They told police that five onion traders procured the onions from Panchbibi market and brought at Palashbari for sale. According to the traders, police took away the goods in the thana custody without assigning any reason.

When contacted Palashbari thana duty officer told that had they found three rickshaw vans loaded with onion by the road side without having any owner. So police took the goods in the thana custody.

Police, however, resorted to lathi-charge and fired rubber bullets to disperse the crowd. As a result 25 persons sustained injuries, three of them critically. They were shifted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH).

Protesting police action local traders observed a day long hartal on July 16. During the period the business establishments of Palashbari remained closed, but all other activities including movement of vehicular traffic were normal. Po-

lice filed three cases against 57 persons.

On the other hand Bangladesh Chhatra League, Palashbari unit brought out a protest procession demanding withdrawal of false cases against the political leaders and removal of Palashbari thana Officer-in-Charge (OC) Idris Ali Bhuiyan.

### Rangpur poura budget

RANGPUR, July 23: Rangpur Pourashabha has approved an ambitious budget of Taka 17 crore 86 lakh 30 thousand and 500 for 1999-2000 fiscal year.

A sum of Taka 48 lakh 82 thousand and 500 has been shown as a surplus amount.

Presided by Kazi Md Zunun, Chairman of Rangpur Pourashabha, the budget meeting was attended by the commissioners both male and female, at the pourashabha auditorium recently.

On the following day, the poura chairman held a meeting with the local pressmen to exchange views on the budget. Speaking at the meeting, the chairman said that he did not impose new taxes in the budget considering pecuniary conditions of the citizens.

He urged the residents of Rangpur pourashabha to pay their different tax dues in time so that the pourashabha is enabled to execute its developmental schemes to the utmost expectations of the citizens.



Grim Figures: Teachers and students of Rajshahi University brought out a silent procession demanding 'safe' roads following the death of a Statistics teacher -Ummeh Najahat-- in a road accident in the city.



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 year back, after the government spent 26 crore takas for it.

—Star photo

### It all happened for love

NAOGAON, July 23: It all happened for love. An ASI of Patnitala police station was closed to the Police Lines here on Wednesday on charge of kidnapping a housewife, reports UNB.

Police said ASI Farooq Ahmed had an illicit affair with Rabeya Begum, 30, wife of Yusuf Ali, a mechanic of Badalgachi thana complex.

The ASI was learnt to have influenced Rabeya to elope with him and one day he brought her to Mathurapur village and married her on June 2 1999.

Before long Rabeya, mother of one, realised her fault and returned to her husband Yusuf. To her surprise, Yusuf accepted Rabeya gladly.

Later on July 18, Yusuf made arrangement to send her to Rajshahi to take preparation so he can accept her as per Islamic Shariah and protect her from the evil eyes of the ASI.

On information, the ASI waylaid Rabeya at Naohata crossing near a police post in Mahadevour thana and abducted her on broad day light.

Yusuf brought the matter to the notice of the Police Super of the district and sought justice.

After investigation the police super closed ASI Farooq on Wednesday.

### Man killed in clash over land

From Aminul Islam

MYMENSINGH, July 23: One person was killed and 10 others were injured recently in a clash over land at village Biswanathpur in Gouripur thana.

According to police, Abdul Jalil went to the spot with his men to take possession of a piece of land. At the same time another man Jalal Uddin Khan came to the spot with a group of people as he also claimed the disputed land. They locked in a clash leaving 11 persons injured.

Of the injured, Abdul Jalil, 40, and Mutaleb, 35, were admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) in a critical condition. Later on Jalil succumbed to his injuries.

In another incident, at least two persons were injured recently in a clash in Bhaluka Municipality area.

The injured were identified as Batashi, wife of Badua Rabi Das and their daughter Rani, a pregnant woman.

The clash began when Meazuddin with his men came to spot in a bid to occupy the homestead of Badua by allegedly preparing false documents.

The victims were admitted to Bhaluka Health Complex for treatment.

### 70 bottles of phensidyl seized

SATKHIRA, July 23: A total of 70 bottles of Indian made phensidyl syrup were recovered from two women in separate raids at a village under Sadar thana in the district recently.

Narcotics and Drug Control Department of Satkhira circle sources said, 25 bottles of the syrup were seized from one Jamila Khatun, 35, wife of Ahsan Ullah of village Sreemantapur and 45 bottles from Khadiza Khatun, 32, daughter of Abdul Karim Sardar of the same village.

Two separate cases were lodged with police.

### Girl raped in Kishoreganj

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, July 23: A 19-year old girl was kidnapped and raped at village Bara Ajaldi under Pakundia thana in the district recently.

Police sources said one Fariduddin and his associates kidnapped the victim from her elder sister's house. They later confined the victim in a house and violated her.

Fariduddin earlier proposed the girl to marry her. But the proposal was refused by the guardians of the girl.

On receiving information, police rushed to the spot and rescued the girl.

Police also arrested Manzil, elder brother of Fariduddin. But the main accused Fariduddin could not be arrested.

A case was registered with Pakundia police in this connection.

## 10 river ports threatened Erosion in Pirojpur devours 10 villages

PIROJPUR, July 23: Constant erosion by five rivers flowing through the district has devoured 10 villages and threatened the existence of 10 river ports, reports UNB.

Erosion by the rivers Kali-ganga, Kocha, Bolleswar, Sandhya and Modhumoti has taken serious turn during the last two weeks grabbing a two kilometre area with several hundred homesteads and some one hundred shops in four river ports.

Besides, many areas of Tushkhali, Telikhal, Safa, Charkhali, Hularhat, Kalkhali, Rajbari, Zolabari, Sriramakathi, Matibhanga and Inderhat ports were eroded during the period.

Sources said erosion by river Sandhya devoured the lone timber trading centre situated at Inderhat port. Many rice mills and saw mills were forced to shift. The launch ghat was also shifted further inside.

They apprehended that one food godown, one fertiliser godown and the BIWTA's signal room at Kalkhali port may be devoured anytime by the Kali-ganga river.

Erosion by the river meant while has grabbed nearby lands in Hularhat port and rendered homeless about 150 families who used to live near the river at Odonkathi, Morichal and Narkhali.

Erosion by the Kocha grabbed several hundred homesteads in Tegra, Inderkani, Char Bolleswar and Parerhat business centres and caused the Telakhali river port to be shifted one kilometre inside.

About 100 families of this river port have already taken shelter in different areas of Sadar thana.

The launch ghats at Tushkhali and Sama ports, union parishad office and one school have also come under threat of erosion.

UNB Rangpur correspondent adds: More than one hundred people were rendered homeless by the erosion of Ghaghot river in Kotwali thana of the district during the last few weeks.

The river devoured about 50 acres cultivable lands and a large number of dwelling houses. The homeless people have taken shelter on high lands.

### Call to distribute khas land in Barisal by Dec

BARISAL, July 23: Chief Whip Abul Hasanat Abdullah has asked the concerned authorities to complete the distribution of all the khas land of the district among the landless by December this year, reports BSS.

Hasanat said this while speaking at a meeting of the Barisal District Khas Land Management and Distribution Committee held in the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner here yesterday.

The Chief Whip also asked the authorities to discharge their duties with utmost sincerity and honesty.

### 11 shops set on fire, ransacked

KHAGRACHHARI, June 23: Agitated local people have ransacked and set fire on 11 shops in the Shivmandir area here following abduction of a student, reports UNB.

Arun Bikash Dewan, son of a former UP Chairman Uma Kanti Dewan, was lifted last week from near his school allegedly by some 'tribal terrorists'.

Some local people attacked the shopping zone to capture the kidnappers who were thought to be hiding there.

Police rushed to the area and brought the situation under control.

## Tk 1.6 cr WDP projects to boost agri, fish output

PABNA, July 23: With a sweeping vision to boost agricultural production, Water Development Board (WDB) implemented three important projects in Sujanagar thana during the last fiscal at a cost of Tk 1.6 crore, reports UNB.

The projects are: A 6-km flood protection embankment in Sagarkandi Union and dredging of river Badai and a project under Food for Works Programme (FWP).

Official said the first two projects were implemented at a cost of Tk 90 lakh while the third at Tk 70 lakh.

They said with the installation of the embankment crops on about 1,500 acres of land in Satbaria and Nazirganj areas would be saved from flood onslaughts, enabling the farmers to grow additional grains worth about Tk one crore every year.

Some 5,000 acres of land in the low-lying areas along the vicinity of the River Badai would be saved from waterlogging due to dredging of the river. Officials hoped that additional crops worth over 2 crore would be produced from the area every year from now on.

Besides, the project under the FWP would help save some 35,000 acres of low-lying lands in Raniganj Union from water stagnation enabling the farmers to grow additional crops worth about 15 crore every year.

The projects, completed by June '99, are expected to help produce fish worth about Tk one crore every year.

### Woman commits suicide in Khulna

KHULNA, July 23: A woman committed suicide at Chakrali village under Batiaghata thana of the district on July 18, reports BSS.

Police sources said, one Dipali Dhal, 20, wife of Kartik Chandra Dhal committed suicide by drinking poison.

A case has been registered with the Batiaghata police station in this connection.

### Street dog killing drive in Tangail

TANGAIL, July 23: Tangail pourashabha launched a week-long street dog killing drive last week and killed 150 street dogs in the area during the period, reports BSS.

Sanitary Inspector of the pourashabha informed that more street dogs will be killed in another drive soon to save pourashabha inhabitants from dog bite.

### Body recovered

MANIKGANJ, July 23: Police recovered the decomposed body of a 35-year-old man from Dhaka-Aricha highway at Golta here on Wednesday, reports UNB.

The identity of the ill-fated man could not be known. But he was believed to have been killed in a road accident.