

## News snaps

### 10-yr-RI for arms possessors

COMILLA, July 25: A special tribunal has sentenced two men to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment (RI) for possessing illegal firearms in two separate arms cases, reports UNB.

Additional Sessions Judge of third court Mohammad Jasim Uddin who is also the judge of the Special Tribunal No. 6, convicted Sheikh Sharafat Hossain. His conviction came after more than 8 years in jail *hajrat*. Sharafat was taken into custody on May 21, 1991, from Chandina bus stand along with a Mark rifle. In another case, the court convicted Nurul Islam who was arrested on March 19, 1997, from his workshop at Bhuchibazar in Laksham thana along with a six-chamber 18 inches gun.

### Good output of guava expected

SIRAJGANJ, July 25: About three lakh tonnes of guava is expected to be produced in 30 guava growing villages in the current season, guava growers of the locality said, reports BSS.

Over 500 families of 30 villages have been engaged in cultivation of guava for many years. Growers say this year they are expecting a bumper production because of favourable weather. At present this Vitamin-C-rich fruit has been selling at a reasonable price in the local market.

### Panic of dacoity

NOAKHALI, July 25: The numbers of burglary and dacoity have increased much here which created panic among the people, reports UNB.

During the last 10 days, several daring dacoities were committed in different houses of Chapabshirhat and Batoliya unions in sadar thana. Local UP chairmen and members said a total of 43 burglaries were reported from different areas during the period. Valuables worth about Tk 2.5 lakh were taken away by the burglars in these incidents, they claimed. Dacoities were committed in the houses of Mominul Haq, Hanif Miah, Khurshid Miah and Tofael Miah of Narashingapur village in Chapabshirhat union and the houses of Hanif Master and Yusuf Miah in Batoliya union. They claimed that valuables worth Tk 4.25 lakh were taken away by the dacoits.

### Smuggled Indian goods seized

JOYPURHAT, July 25: A special squad of anti-smuggling taskforce seized a huge quantity of Indian goods worth about Tk 18 lakh from Panchibibi thana on Monday, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, the team, comprising DC, BDR commander and a magistrate, recovered 219 sacks of sugar from a truck at Fikechar ghat on Panchibibi-Kamdia road and six bags of onion from a bus in Mirriti area. The haul was deposited with Hill Customs Office, according to officials.

### Killer suspect arrested

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, July 25: Kushtia Police recently arrested another accused of a murder case.

Abdus Samad, Commissioner of Kushtia Pourasabha was killed on the night of September 8, 1998 at his house at Kalisankarpur. Police arrested the accused named Mizanur Rahman alias Sakil alias Hartal alias Ghorial from Kalisankarpur of Kushtia town. Arrested Mizan is the son of Murad Ali alias Mobarak Ali of Kalisankarpur.

### Anniversary function of weekly

MANIKGANJ, July 25: A function marking the second anniversary of local weekly the 'Manikganj Khabar' was held at Manikganj Bar Library Hall on July 19, reports BSS.

Presided over by Professor Ali Ahmad, the function was attended by Additional Deputy Magistrate Md Mahfuzur Rahman as the chief guest. Principal of Government V M College Prof Ali Akbar, President Manikganj Press Club A F M Nurjaj Alam Bahar, Secretary Manikganj Press Club Golam Sarwar Sanu, student leaders Kazi Rajhan Uddin Tuku, Matiuur Rahman and editor of the Manikganj Khabar Amir Hamja spoke on the occasion.

### Old woman commits suicide

JOYPURHAT, July 25: Being failed to endure the sufferings of asthma, an old woman of Rukindipur village in Akkelpur thana allegedly committed suicide, reports UNB.

Hospital sources said Ayesha Beva, 71, had long been suffering from asthma and tried to kill herself on Tuesday cutting off her throat with a blade. She was admitted to Joypurhat Modern Hospital where she died on Wednesday.

### Workshop on disaster management

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, July 25: A day long training workshop on disaster management under the auspices of Disaster Management Bureau was held at Gaibandha Zila Parishad auditorium here recently. Presided over by Deputy Commissioner of Gaibandha Sharafuddin Ahmed, the function was addressed, among others, by Shafiqur Rahman, Mohsin Ferdous, Adam Ali and Monsur Raja Chowdhury. The speakers pointed out that Bangladesh is a disaster prone area and everyone should be alert to face the situation. Besides, district administrations should also identify the disaster prone area and get ready to tackle the situation, they opined.

### Uplift projects progressing

GAZIPUR, July 25: Work on 121 development projects under the Annual Development Programme (ADP) taken up in 1998-1999 fiscal year will be completed soon, an official source here said, reports BSS.

The government sanctioned Taka 2.10 crore for implementation of the projects. The work of the projects included construction and reconstruction of bridges, culverts, roads and educational institutions. Work on 21 projects has already been completed and the rest will be completed shortly, the source said.

### Road development work progressing

MANIKGANJ, July 25: The reconstruction and development work of 10-kilometre long Satoria-Pakuria road is progressing in full swing and the officials of the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) expect that the work will be completed by March 2000, reports BSS.

The Government has sanctioned Taka 3.35 crore in the current fiscal year for implementation of the project under the LGED. Satoria-Pakuria Sarak is the main road of Manikganj and Satoria thana. The condition of the road has been pitiable for the last two-three years. On completion of the project the communication of the area will be improved to a great extent.

### Programme for Sultan's birth day

NARAIL, July 25: An elaborate programme has been chalked out here to observe the 75th birth anniversary of the great painter S M Sultan on August 10, reports BSS.

The programme includes placing of wreath at the graveyard of Sultan, rally, painting competition, traditional lathi khela and Ha-do-do khela at Narail College premises, boat race in the river Chitra and discussion meetings on the life of the painter. A souvenir will be brought out to mark the birth centenary of the internationally reputed painter.

### Tk 1.75 crore sanction for schemes

MEHERPUR, July 25: The Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) has sanctioned Taka 1.75 crore for the implementation of different projects in the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the projects include construction and reconstruction of roads, bridges and culverts. Besides, the LGED has also taken up two projects for the development of 13-kilometre Meherpur-Mahajanpur road and 17-kilometre Meherpur-Mujibnagar Road at an allocation of taka 1.75 crore.

### Science fair held

MANIKGANJ, July 25: A three-day science fair and 'shishu ananda mela' was held at Manikganj Shishu Academy premises last week, reports BSS.

The concluding ceremony of the fair was presided over by Md Abul Kalam Azad Chikladar, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Manikganj. Associate Professor of Manikganj Government Devendra College Sanjiv Chowdhury attended the function as the chief guest. District Education Officer F A Jabbar, President Manikganj Press Club A F M Nurjaj Alam Bahar and President of District Mahila Sangstha Lakhmi Chatterjee, among others, spoke on the occasion.

# Entrepreneurs getting ready to set up industries in N-region

Bangabandhu Bridge link road construction work starts

From Anwar Ali

NATORE, July 25: Potential entrepreneurs have started exploring project possibilities in the northern Bangladesh with the inauguration of the construction work of 55-kilometre Bonpara-Nakla-Hatikumrul link road.

The road links Bangabandhu Bridge with the north-western part of the country.

Investors both from home and abroad are now visiting the industrially backward northern region to assess the prospect of industrialisation. Many of them have already acquired plots to set up industries in this region.

"Not only new en-

trepreneurs, but also the owners of laid-off local mills in Rajshahi division are trying to open their closed industrial units," said Md Aminul Islam, President of Natore Chamber of Commerce and Industries (NCCI).

Islam said, the investors from other cities, including Dhaka and Chittagong, have been looking for suitable sites to set up agro-based industries and other industries.

He also said, local businessmen have started renovating their markets, shops, and business centres with a renewed zeal after the commissioning of the Bangabandhu Bridge.

Interested entrepreneurs have become more optimistic about their potential projects with the inauguration of the construction work of the 55 km link road, he added.

Islam observed that massive industrialisation would accelerate the pace of development in the region, removing unemployment problem within five to seven years.

The NCCI president emphasised on the need for bringing all the 16 northern districts, particularly Rajshahi, Bogra and Rangpur under the gas supply network as early as possible.

# 124 killed in six and a half months in S-W region

From Atiur Rahman

JESSORE, July 25: At least 124 people were killed during the last six and a half months from January to mid-July this year in separate incidents in the south-western region.

A total of 31 political murders were committed in the region during January, according to news paper reports. Among the victims, one was an opposition party activist and others were outlaws.

According to reports, one Manik .35, was killed by a group of assailants on January 3 in Khulna. Police identified him as a member of an outlawed organisation. Three persons were killed by outlaws in Chuadanga on January 9. They were identified as Musa Haque .40, a Union Parishad member; one Shamsul .30, and one Shahidul .42.

Two workers of Peoples Jute Mills at Khalishpur in Khulna were killed on January 10. They were Siraj .53, Manik Mia .55.

Malik .30, who was affiliated with the opposition politics, was killed in Kushtia on January 11.

Outlaws strangled two persons in Kushtia and gunned down two others in Jhenidah on January 13. Awami League leader Ismail and three others were killed by outlaws at Alamdanga in Chuadanga on January 14.

On the same day, a leader of Sramajibi Mukti Andolans, Israel Hossain .28, was killed at Kotchandpur in Jhenidah.

A total of six persons, including a Union Parishad chairman, were killed by outlaws in Jhenidah, Chuadanga and Kushtia on January 16.

Jubo Dal leader Altaf Hossain .35, was killed at Labutala

on January 24 and two others were killed in clashes during hartal called by the 4 opposition parties on the same day.

Six persons were killed by outlaws on January 29. Anwar Hossain, Jubo League leader, was killed in Khulna by outlaws on January 30.

Jubo Dal leader Nur Islam was killed in the town on February 7. On the same day, Jubo Dal activist Abdul Hakim .28, of Rognathapur under Sharsha thana in the district, was killed.

Abdus Salam, an outlawed party activist, was killed by rival group at Bagherpara on February 8.

A valiant freedom and a central leader of JSD Kazi Aref along with six other others were brutally killed by terrorists in public meeting at Mirpur in Kushtia on February 16.

Nepal Roy, a Jubo League activist, was shot at in the town on February 18 and he succumbed to injuries the next day.

Vice president of Chowgachha thana BNP Makbul Hossain .45, was chopped to death in broad day light at his house allegedly by armed terrorists of Awami League on February 20.

Three persons were killed by outlaws at Alamdanga in Chuadanga on February 23 last.

Shantul Islam .35, a Jubo League activist, was killed at Soikakupa in Jhenidah on February 24 last and Jamir .28, of Chogharia in Chuadanga was killed by his rivals on February 27.

A BNP activist Rintu of Chowgachha thana in the district was killed on March 11.

JCD BL College unit general secretary Rafiqul Islam was

killed on March 13.

Labour leader Shahajahan Bhuiyan was killed at Fultala in Khulna on March 27 and Kuddus .32, was killed on March 24. Four outlaws were killed in Jhenidah on March 28.

UP chairman Mostafa Habib was killed at Botiaghata in Khulna on April 3.

Jubo Dal leaders Mosleuddin Khokan and Tariqul Islam Tipu were killed at Karbala in the town on April 4. Two outlaws were killed at Harinakunda of Jhenidah on April 5.

Bikash .25, of Jubo League was killed on April 7. Jubo Dal activist Shahidul Islam .37, was killed by allegedly armed terrorist of ruling party at Bergobindapur baor under Chowgachha thana in the district on April 11.

Two extremists were killed by the rival group on the same day. Five others were killed by Laitu group of Purbo Bangla Communist Party on April 15 last. Eight more were killed in Chuadanga on April 25.

A total of 12 persons were killed in the first fortnight of June and another 14 in last the fortnight of June. It included the murder of Abdul Kader .40, of Monirampur and Helal .28, of Kafwali in the district.

In first fortnight of the current month, 14 persons were killed in separate incidents.

Jubo League worker Chhotan .25, was killed in Khulna on July 3 last. A housewife of Jhikargachha in the district was killed on July 5. A JSD leader Salahuddin .30, of Kumarkhali and one Faruk in Kotwali thana of Kushtia were killed on July 12 last.



Students and journalists of Rajshahi University brought out a procession protesting the filing of a case against the Bengali vernacular daily Sangbad and its RU correspondent.

—Star photo.

## Army jawan killed in road mishap

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, July 25: Aslam Khan, 26, a jawan of the army was killed and 36 other army personnel were injured when a truck carrying them to Mongla turned turtle on Rupsha-Mongla highway recently.

The injured army personnel were admitted to Khulna Navy Hospital.

Driver of the truck lost control of the brake due to rash driving.

It turned turtle claiming life of Aslam on the spot at Digraj in Mongla thana, police quoting eyewitnesses said.



Insoluble problem?: Erosion by the Rivers Jamuna and Padma in Pabna is devouring vast tracts of land. Photo on the left is from Kaitala village, Pura Bharenga, Bera thana. Photo on right shows people at Fakiopur, Nazirganj union, Shujanagar thana trying to save their hearth by building a bamboo fence.

—Star photo by Ranesh Maitra

## 14 milch cows die in Ishwardi

From Ramesh Maitra

PABNA, July 25: At least 14 milch cows died and several others fell sick after taking allegedly poisonous fodder in Ishwardi thana of the district recently.

Three weeks ago the cattle owners of Jainagar, Manikagar, Char Sahapur, Diar Sahapur, Luxmikunda, Ruppur Pakvria and Paksey areas of the thana purchased fodder from a shop of fodder trader Fazlu Mollah. After taking the allegedly poisonous fodder, "bhush" or husks of wheat and paddy.

Maznu, a cattle-owner of Sahapur village, told this correspondent that his ten cows

fell sick and later four of them died after taking the bhushi purchased from the shop of Fazlu Mollah.

Other cattle woners, Anis, Nayeab and Altaf, said their 10 milch cows died during the period after taking the fodder purchased from the same shop.

It is further alleged that most of the paddy crushing mill-owners of the area mix a sort of chemical to make the bhushi fine, making the fodder poisonous.

The village elders, however, held a 'salish' recently and found Fazlu Mollah guilty and fined him taka one lakh.

## BATC distributes 50,000 saplings

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, July 25: An afforestation campaign has been launched here by British American Tobacco Company Limited (BATC).

The programme has been progressing at Chechua leaf tobacco region through distribution of 50,000 Epi Epi saplings free of cost among the farmers and people.

Pal Kirkum, Managing Director (MD) of the company inaugurated the programme. Golam Mohiuddin, Deputy Managing Director of BATC was also present on the occasion.

The MD said the company has a target of distributing 30 lakh saplings this year to make the afforestation programme a success. Sayed Ali Imam Divisional Manager, Golam Faruq Khan, Mizanur Rahman, Abdul Matin Sarkar and Giasuddin Patwari, all regional managers were also present during the inaugural function.

## 70 pc Panchagarh people outside

sanitation scheme

PANCHAGARH, July 25:

Despite tremendous government efforts to ensure health for all by the year 2000, 70 per cent people of the district still remain outside sanitation programme, reports UNB.

According to sources, only 30 per cent people of the district's total population have been brought under sanitation programme.

The campaign, launched by the government to implement the health for all programme, has proved futile as most of the people in rural areas are seen to respond to call of nature under the open sky.

A visit to some remote villages of the district showed that majority people have no sanitary latrines.

Local elite urged the authorities concerned to take proper steps to immediately bring the entire population of the district under sanitation programme.

## CCC Mayor for interactions among 4 city corporations

CHITTAGONG, July 25:

Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Mayor ABM Mahiuddin Chowdhury Thursday emphasised the need for interactions and exchange of experiences among four city corporations of the country for mutual benefits, reports BSS.

"Four Mayors of the city corporations should be united on some important national issues," the Mayor said.

Addressing a meeting on healthy city programmes, attended by the ward commissioners of Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) and Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) in the auditorium of the corporation Mayor Mohiuddin explained in details healthy city programmes of CCC.

Secretary of CCC healthy city ward programme Abdul Wahab presided over the meeting. It was addressed, among others, by ward commissioner of Jamal Khan healthy city ward MA Naser and leader of the delegation of the RCC ward commissioner Zahidul Islam.

Later the city Mayor presented crests to the members of the delegation, who came to the port city on a two-day visit to witness the healthy city ward programme undertaken by the CCC.

## Events of districts in picture



Trees are not always good: The RCC has planted hundreds of trees on the Rajshahi town protection embankment. Some experts feel that the trees are making the already vulnerable century old embankment weaker by spreading their roots in all directions.

—Star photo by Abdul Wadood



Help thy neighbour: Golam Mortuza, TNO, Shaikupa thana, Jhenidah handing over money to an aged woman, as part of the social service department's programme for widows and divorced women.

—Star photo



Restaurateurs take to the streets: Restaurant owners of Sathkira parade the streets before submitting their six-point memorandum to the deputy commissioner.

—Star photo

## 'Govt must salvage sinking jute sector'

SIRAJGANJ, July 25: Already overburdened with bank loans, jute growers of the district have embarked on harvest amidst demand for jute at its law ebb, reports UNB.

Sources at the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) said the downturn in cultivation of jute would continue if the government fails to come up with programmes to salvage the sinking jute sector.

"It's not a good news for us to go on harvest as the market price of jute is running far below our expectation," said a farmer.

Officials said farmers of the district this year cultivated jute taking loans either from banks or the moneylenders with high interest rate in a bid to recoup their losses caused by the last year's prolonged flooding.

But unfortunately this year's flood too forced them to harvest

jute at pre-matured stage, affecting their jute output.

Besides, the present jute price in the northern region is much lower than their expectation. A maund of jute is selling there at Tk 200-235 against the production cost of Tk 240-260.

There have been reports that jute growers in Sirajganj, Bogra, Natore, Pabna, Naogaon, Gaibandha, Kurigram and Rangpur districts were taking jute back homes for lack of buyers.

"This situation has been prevailing in these areas for the last five years and we have lost our interest in jute cultivation," bemoaned Amir Hossain, a jute grower.

A total of 12,105 hectares of land were brought under jute cultivation in the district this year against the target of 22,235 hectares, according to DAE sources.