

National

News snaps

Road blockade in Gaibandha

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, July 27: Gaibandha District Car and Microbus Samity barricaded road for an hour protesting the alleged snatching of a microbus on July 20.

The road blockade was held from 10 am to 11 am on Tuesday last demanding withdrawal of false case against the bearers of samity. They also demanded arrest to those involved with snatching the microbus. Movement of all vehicles including rickshaws remained stopped for the period.

Scholarship money donated

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, July 27: An engineer has created a rare instance by donating his one instalment scholarship money to 49 meritorious students of Sirajul Huq Muslim High School in the district town.

The engineer named Shariful Islam set the example for encouraging the students. ADC (General) disclosed this while speaking on the occasion of distribution of scholarship money as the chief guest on July 20 in the school premises. Shariful Islam is an old student of the school and now a businessman in Khulna. Elite of the town attended the function.

Noted physician dead

From A Correspondent

MANIKGANJ, July 27: Dr Chitta Ranjan Dutt, a physician of Manikgonj died of massive heart attack on July 22 at Shuhrawardi Heart Institute. He was 84.

He was a reputed physician and was well known as Bholu Babu here. He played an active role in the Liberation War as a physician. He had been a lecturer at Dhaka Mitford Hospital and a doctor of Army Medical Corps during the colonial regime for a short while. The rituals will be held at his residence on August 4 at West Dashrara, Manikgonj.

Workshop on production of bio-gas

KISHOREGANJ, July 27: A workshop on production and utilisation of bio-gas was held last week in the training and conference room of Khamarbari here, reports BSS.

The workshop was presided over by Deputy Director, Agriculture Extension Wasluzzaman. Additional Director, Agriculture Extension, Mymensingh region Fazlul Huq was present in the workshop as the chief guest. Bio-gas experts Dr Habibur Rahman, Muhammad Ferdous, Motiur Rahman, Abdul Kayum, Aniruzzaman, Kamal Kanti Shah and Habibur Rahman spoke on the occasion. Thana level agriculture officers participated in the workshop.

Aman cultivation in Meherpur

MEHERPUR, July 27: The cultivation of transplanted Aman paddy in two thanas in the current season is in full swing, reports BSS.

According to an official source, so far 70 to 80 per cent cultivation of the transplanted Aman have been completed. Of the total land 5,750 hectares are brought under cultivation in Meherpur Sadar thana and 6,600 hectares in Gangi thana.

Viral fever in Madaripur

MADARIPUR, July 27: Viral fever has broken out alarmingly in the district. The disease is spreading rapidly in all the four thanas of the district, reports BSS.

People affected by this fever generally become very weak within a short period. Many people are now suffering from this viral fever. According to the doctors, the disease broke out due to change of climate and heavy rainfall.

Boy stabbed to death

NARAYANGANJ, July 27: A young boy was stabbed to death allegedly by his cousin at Kashipur Gudaraghata in Fatulla thana on Saturday night, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Shahidulla, 18, son of Barek Sikder. Police suspected that the youth might have been killed by one of his cousins whom he accused of lifting a bicycle.

Seminar on Total Literacy Movement

MADARIPUR, July 27: A seminar to motivate the illiterate people to create awareness among them under the Total Literacy Movement (TLM) organised by 'Jotirnoy Madaripur' was held in the Mukti Joddha auditorium here on July 20, reports BSS.

The seminar was presided over by the Thana Nirbahi Officer Madaripur sadar. Deputy Commissioner, Madaripur Farhad Rahman inaugurated the seminar as the chief guest. Pourashava chairman Md. Mahalur Rahman Khan, District and Thana Education Officers, school and college teachers, students, local elite, political leaders and journalists addressed the seminar.

Fisheries Week '99 in Netrakona

NETRAKONA, July 27: The Fisheries Week '99 has begun here as in other places of the country on Sunday, reports BSS.

In observance of the week a discussion meeting on 'the method to achieve self-sufficiency in fish production' was held in the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner (DC), Netrakona. Presided over by DC Kuddus Khan, the meeting was organised by the Netrakona District Fisheries Week Observance Committee. A central committee member of Bangladesh Awami League Advocate Fazlul Rahman Khan MP attended the discussion as the chief guest. The meeting was addressed among others, by Additional district magistrate Amir Hussain, Police Super Abul Kashem Ferdous and District Fisheries Officer Mohammad Amirullah.

Sanction for repair of health complex

MAGURA, July 27: Public Works Department sanctioned Tk 4.78 lakh for repair and renovation of three thana health complex bhaban under annual development programme, reports UNB.

Officials said the repair works will be carried out on Dariapur health complex in Sripur thana, Muhammadrupur complex. The works on the buildings are expected to begin in August and be completed by December this year.

Loan for jobless youths

SHARIATPUR, July 27: Youth Development Department disbursed loan about Tk 30 lakh among unemployed youths in six thanas during the preceding fiscal, reports UNB.

Officials said 800 youths, including girls, in Badarganj, Damudda, Goshirhat, Naria, Jagira, and Sadar thanas received the financial assistance under self-employment and poverty alleviation programme. Meanwhile, the department has imparted training to 1,000 unemployed youths so they can take up income-generating schemes like pisciculture, poultry farming, cow fattening, afforestation, nursery, tailoring and handicrafts.

Life term for four killers

HABIGANJ, July 27: A court here has convicted four people and sentenced them to life term in jail for killing a man, reports UNB.

The court also fined the convicts, Firoz Ali, Ashique Mia, Abul Hasim and Bahadul, Tk 1,000 each, in default, to suffer one month more imprisonment. According to prosecution, the convicts attacked and killed their co-villager Abdul Bari on November 22, 1995 following their past enmity. After investigation, police submitted charge-sheets against six people. Additional District and Sessions Judge Sirajuddin after examining the records and witnesses punished the four and acquitted two others.

Accuseds of murder case acquitted

SUNAMGANJ, July 27: The additional district and sessions judge has acquitted all the accused persons of the sensational murder of a young man in the parental house of his second wife in village Kalasirupur, Tahirkpur, in May 1997, reports UNB.

The judge in his verdict recently in a jampacked court, acquitted all the accuseds including Sejaura Begum, second wife of the victim. This is because the prosecution failed to prove beyond doubt the complicity of the accuseds in the murder. Twelve witnesses were examined during hearing of the case. The prosecution in brief was Shahinur, Aktil Miah, Golam Rababi, Abdul Hannan, Monnar alias Monaf, Imam Hossain and Sejaura Begum in a planned way killed Hanifa on the night of May 1, 1997. After the gruesome murder, the body was hidden under ashes. Mother of Hanifa filed the case accusing them for the murder of her son and police after investigation charged sheeted against seven persons.

Deadlock over nomination of RUV for over one month

From Kamran Reza Chowdhury

RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, July 27: Administrative work of the university is being hampered greatly due to a deadlock created over the nomination of vice-chancellor.

The deadlock had been continuing for over one month since election of the VC panel.

The university authorities already finalised all necessary formalities and necessary papers have been sent to the Chancellor's office much earlier.

According to the formalities the RU Senate elected a three-member VC panel on June 19. The elected panel members are the present VC, Prof Abdul Khaleque, the incumbent Pro-

ment teacher had been vested with the responsibility of vice-chancellor more than two years ago when the chancellor sacked the former VC, Prof Yousuf Ali on corruption and misuse of power charges. Prof Khaleque claimed to run the campus 'peacefully' for more than two years.

However, the delay in the nomination has hampered the normal functioning of the university.

The teachers are divided into two groups now. One group wants a change in the administration, while the other one terms the present Khaleque regime as successful.

Work on Tk 102 cr PANASHI project progressing in three dists

From Anwar Ali

NATORE, July 27: Work on the five-year pilot project namely PANASHI is progressing.

The government took up the PANASHI project in the three northern districts of Pabna, Natore and Sirajganj to develop the agriculture and alleviate poverty retaining the environmental balance.

Work on the Tk 102-crore project, financed by Asian Development Bank (ADB), is being supervised by Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC). The project area covers sadar, Atgharia, Iswardi, Chatmohor, Bhangura, Faridpur, Bera, Santia and Stjanagar thanas in Pabna; sadar, Baraigram, Gurudaspur, Shin-

laipur, Bagatipara thanas in Natore and Royganj, Shahjadpur, Kazipur, Ullapara, Kamarkand, Tarash, Chouhali and Belkuchi thanas in Sirajganj districts.

One of the most important aspects of the project is the improvement of the irrigation system. About 25 control structures will be created, 30 reservoirs will be dug along with the water distribution system. 250 deep tubewells will be installed, 500 irrigation channels will be renovated under the project.

The other aspects are crop diversification, afforestation and fish and poultry farming. Mechanisation of agriculture will be promoted by distribution of 250 power tillers among

the farmers.

About 100 km roads will be built and developed in the rural areas and about 6,000 farmers will be given training on agriculture and fish cultivation. About 20,000 women will also be imparted with the training.

Twenty-four demonstration farms will be set up to train farmers on latest agricultural techniques and crop diversification and 24 nurseries will be established to provide improved variety of plants.

A superintending engineer, three executive engineers, 18 assistant engineers, 48 sub-assistant engineers and a number of staffers are now working to make the first phase of the PANASHI project a success.



Justice now: Students of Rajshahi University protest the killing of Sabina Parvin Mita, a third year student of Botany. She died under mysterious circumstances at Room 9 of the Karmajibi Hostel in the city.

— Star photo

Earnings from VAT, excise, customs duties decline in Jessore

From Atiur Rahman

JESSORE, July 27: Jessore office of VAT, Excise and Customs earned revenues worth taka 662 crore 86 lakh during the last fiscal 1998-99.

The office earned taka 179 crore 99 lakh as VAT, excise and supplementary duties. The earnings were up by 20.68 per cent of the target. The target was fixed at taka 159 crore 91 lakh, according to official report.

Revenues as customs duties were taka 482 crore 87 lakh including both the earnings from Benapole and Darsana stations. The earnings, however, could not surpass the target which was taka 538 crore and 68 lakh, the report said.

Customs duties worth taka 406 crore 35 lakh and taka 53 crore 58 lakh were earned from Benapole and Darsana respectively. The target for Benapole

shortly and later it came down to 7.5 per cent and finally it became a duty-free item.

The decision was taken to combat the acute onion crisis in the country.

The volume of import during 1998-99 was 9.21 per cent less than that of the 1997-98.

In 1997-98, goods worth taka 1428 crore 62 lakh were imported while in 1998-99 goods worth taka 1289 crore 73 lakh were imported, lowering the revenue earnings.

Defending the fall in revenue during the fiscal 1998-99, another official on condition of anonymity said tariff value reduced due to fall of price in international market, adversely affecting the flow of revenue earnings.

Besides, 9 cases have remained pending with higher court. The cases involve customs duties worth taka five crore.

In 1997-98, duty-free goods worth taka 311 crore 70 lakh were imported while in fiscal 1998-99 the volume rose by 300 per cent. In 98-99, duty-free goods worth taka 1314 crore 24 lakh were imported, the source added.

They source also said that the rate of duty on various perishable goods was reduced frequently, affecting the revenue earnings. Citing instance, the source added that the rate of duty on the import of onion was reduced thrice in the fiscal 1998-99.

Originally the rate of duty on this item was 30 per cent and it was reduced to 15 per cent.

They observed the activities of the International Rural Education and Training Centre of AUH along with its various extension sites under the sponsorship of UNESCO-Beijing. Led by Prof A Halim of the Department of Agricultural Extension Education, BAU, the visiting team included Prof MSU Bhuiya of the Department of Agronomy and Associate Professor MA Momen Miah of the Department of Agricultural Extension Education BAU as its members.

They also visited the

BAU team visits China

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, July 27: A team consisting of three faculty members of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) recently paid a visit to the Agricultural University of Hebei (AUH) Baoding, China.

They also visited the

Diarrhoea kills 4 more

MOULVIBAZAR, July 27: At least four people died of diarrhoea in Kulaura thana during last week, reports UNB.

Residents and doctors said more than 300 people were attacked by the waterborne disease in different parts here.

No more HBFC loan for land owners in N-region

NATORE, July 27: Having failed to recover a huge amount of loan from the borrowers, House Building Finance Corporation (HBFC) has stopped sanctioning loans in the country's northern region, dashing the hopes of new loan seekers, reports UNB.

According to a competent source, a section of corrupt officials of HBFC grant loans to some insolvent borrowers only to raise the volume of its outstanding loans.

After receiving loans, he said, these borrowers construct houses at the lowest possible cost ignoring the conditions set by the HBFC. Thus they save a substantial amount of money sanctioned by the HBFC.

He said in a blind pursuit of making profit they rent their poorly built houses and do not respond to HBFC's appeals for repaying the loans, because they know that they have nothing to lose if the building constructed at low cost is put on auction for nonpayment of loan.

He said many buildings in the region constructed with HBFC loan have become liabilities to the corporation as most of the houses lost proper market value for using substandard or inadequate materials.

The HBFC authorities, in view of this rising trend, has stopped sanctioning loans in Rajshahi region, affecting initiatives of many potential land owners to construct houses.

Meanwhile, local people have appealed to the HBFC authorities several times for resumption of loan sanctioning, but their appeals went unheeded.

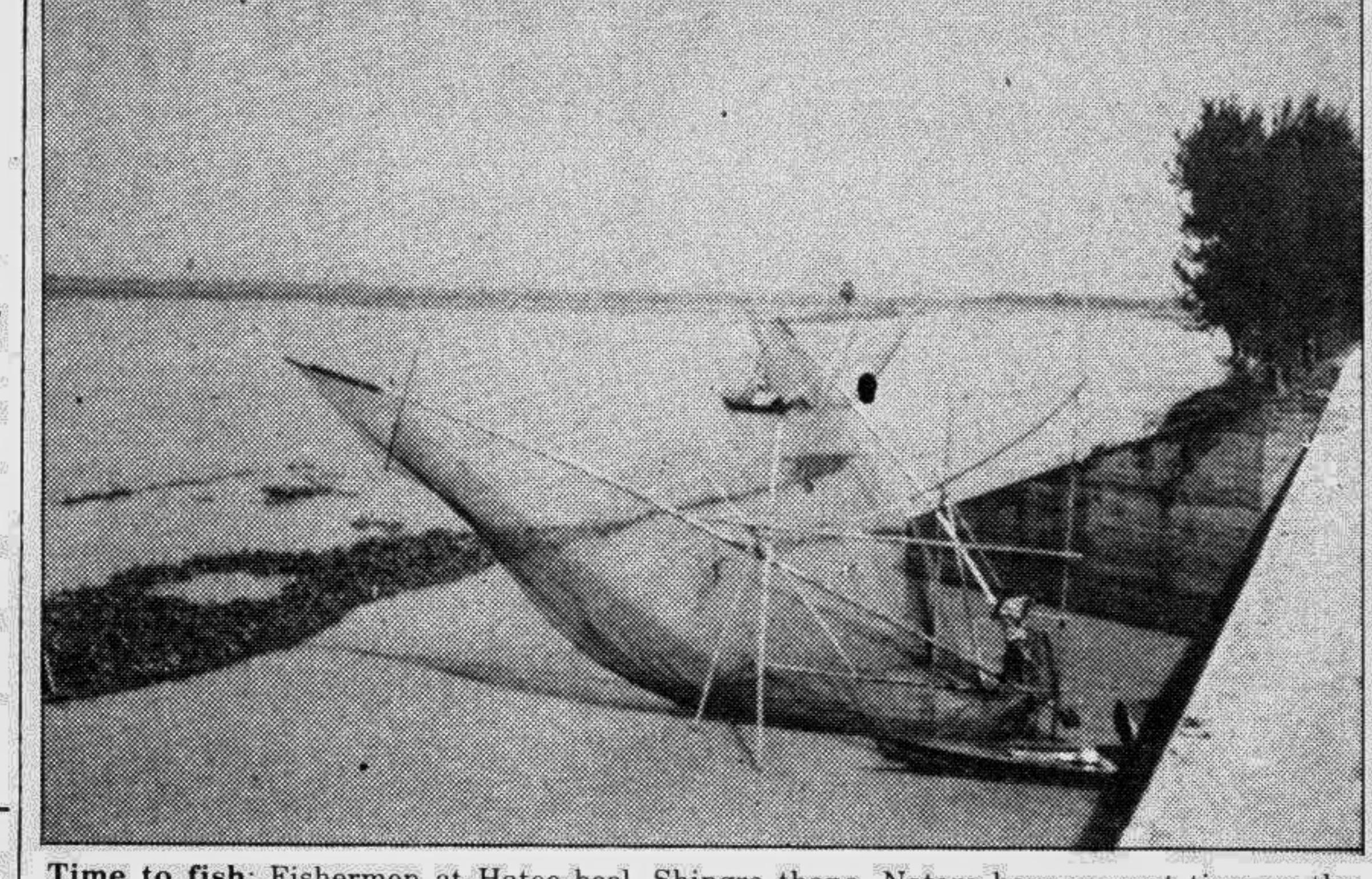
JOYPURHAT, July 27: The train services on Joypurhat-Panchbibi route that disrupted on Sunday afternoon following a mishap restored Monday, reports UNB.

Seven bogies of a Khulna-bound down train derailed at uttar Puranapoli, four km off the town at about 3.30 pm on Sunday snapping rail communication on the route.

The train services returned to normal after a relief train removed the bogies at 1.30 pm on Monday.

Sayeeda Begum, 35, of Bahari village, Matlab thana, Chandpur was acid burned after a thief entered her house and she cried out for help.

— Star photo by Shirin Akther.



Time to fish: Fishermen at Hatee beel, Shingra thana, Natore have a great time as the water bodies swell with the monsoon. — Star photo by Anwar Ali

Rape victim's family members under pressure

From Our Correspondent

JHONIDAH, July 27: Family members of a rape victim at village Sutti under Sadar thana in the district are under pressure to withdraw the case filed against rapists.

Accused - Enamul and Tipu - are creating pressure on them to withdraw case, victim's family members said last week.

According to Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), 49,900 hectares of land have been brought under Aman cultivation in the district this year.

Twenty-four demonstration farms will be set up to train farmers on latest agricultural techniques and crop diversification and 24 nurseries will be established to provide improved variety of plants.

A superintending engineer, three executive engineers, 18 assistant engineers, 48 sub-assistant engineers and a number of staffers are now working to make the