

# News snaps

## 'Zamindar House' ransacked

BHOLA, Aug 1: Miscreants swooped on the Charchandra Prasad 'Zamindar House' in Bhelu Mia union here and looted valuables after ransacking the house on Tuesday, reports UNB. A housewife, Rokeya, Begum, 32, died of panic after the professional musclemen rampaged through the Zamindar House. Some musclemen, who were armed with sharp weapons, stormed into the house of Mosharraf over land dispute and looted rice, paddy, furniture and other valuables, according to a case filed with police. Earlier, on Monday morning, the musclemen also forcibly harvested paddy from the lands of Mosharraf, son of Gazi Mofizul Islam. Police Super of Bhola visited the spot on Wednesday.

## Fries distribution programme

HABIGANJ, Aug 1: The District Fisheries Department has undertaken a programme to distribute fish fries among the people free of cost on the occasion of the National Fisheries Week '99, reports UNB. Official sources said 8,000 fries of different species of fish like saripati, rahi, katal and mui would be released in private-owned ponds and water bodies. Some 3,000 fries were released in a 'haor' near the Habiganj-Lakhal road on July 25 to make the programme a success.

## Discussion on fish culture

FENI, Aug 1: The Fisheries Week '99 which had begun in Chhagal Nayia thana on Sunday under the sponsorship of the Fisheries Department concluded on Saturday, reports BSS. A discussion on modern method of fish culture was held in Chhagal Nayia Thana Parishad auditorium on the occasion. Fisheries Department officers and local pisciculturists participated in the discussion. Three best pisciculturists were awarded certificates and transistors during the discussion for their outstanding performances.

## BARC workshop concludes

GAZIPUR, Aug 1: A two-day national workshop on "Human Resources Development Plan-2020" concluded at Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute (BARI) here on Monday, reports UNB. BARI in collaboration with Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council (BARC) organised the workshop under National Agricultural Research System (NARS). Some 500 agronomists, researchers and officials from different organisations took part in the workshop. A massive plan for two decades was taken up in the workshop. Food and Agriculture Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury inaugurated the workshop on July 25.

## 447 small projects implemented

CHAPAI NAWABGANJ, Aug 1: The Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) has implemented 447 small projects in four thanas here in the last fiscal year, an LGED source said, reports BSS. The government sanctioned Taka 2,40,58,308 for implementation of the projects in the fiscal 1998-1999. Thana-wise break up of projects is: Sadar thana 70 projects, Shibganj 78 projects, Nachol 88 projects, Bholahat 9 projects and Gomastapur 121 projects. The work of the projects included construction of roads, repair of highways and development of educational institutions.

## UNICEF assisted project extended

RANGAMATI, Aug 1: Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board has extended the UNICEF assisted integrated social development project by five years for the third time, reports UNB. The board took the decision after the UNICEF mission recently evaluated different aspects of the projects and reviewed a proposal sent by the government policy makers in view of the stable situation in the hill districts following the peace accord. The UNICEF funded project was launched in 1985 in two hill districts, but later extended to the three hill districts from 1995-2000 involving Tk 35 crore, officials said. In the backdrop of the current situation in the hill districts, the authorities also positively responded to expanding the project by implementing various schemes, including formal education and small credit programmes, they added.

## Confce of deed writers

NAOGAON, Aug 1: A conference of Nagoan District Deed Writers Association was held on July 24 at the local Town Hall, reports BSS. The conferece was presided over by Md Abdul Aziz, Elahi Bukh Mondol, president of the Bangladesh Deed Writers Association attended the conference as the chief guest. Association's leaders Shahidul Huq and Jamshed Ali and president of Nagoan Deed Writers Association Mohammad Yaqub Ali Sarkar, among others, discussed various problems of the 25 lakh deed writers of the country. They urged upon the authorities concerned to take effective measures to solve the problems facing the deed writers.

## Discussion on standard of edn

MOULVI BAZAR, Aug 1: A discussion on the standard of education sponsored by Bangladesh College Teachers Association, Moulvibazar district unit was held last week in Jannailon Kendra auditorium here, reports BSS. The discussion was presided over by Prof M. Yusuf Ali, Principal, Kullaura Degree College and president of the district unit of the association. Awami League leader Sultan Mohammad Mansur Ahmed, MP was present in the discussion as the chief guest. Syhet Divisional Commissioner Habibur Rahman presided over the meeting. Speakers at the discussion emphasised that standard of education must be maintained in the greater interest of the nation.

## Loan disbursed among women

MEHERPUR, Aug 1: Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) has disbursed Taka One crore as loan among 1,256 women in the two thanas here under the Coordinated Rural Women Development Programme, reports BSS. A BRDB source said 1,256 members of 35 cooperative societies had received loan for agricultural farming, tailoring and animal husbandry. So far the borrowers deposited Taka 2.50 lakh from their principal and Taka 5.44 lakh from their savings to their respective societies, the source said.

## Gopalganj Poursabha budget

TANGAIL, Aug 1: Gopalganj Poursabha under Tangail district has announced a Taka 2.90 crore budget for the year 1999-2000, reports BSS. Chairman of the new Poursabha Abdul Jabbar announced the budget at a meeting held at the poursabha recently. Commissioners, elite and journalists were present on the occasion. Sufficient allocations have been made for the infrastructural development of the municipality and to increase civic amenities.

## FWP projects implemented

RANGPUR, Aug 1: District Relief and Rehabilitation office implemented 5,552 small projects under Food-for-Work Programme (FWP) in Rangpur district in the last fiscal year, reports BSS. According to an official source, the government sanctioned 5,842 tonnes of wheat for execution of the projects. The work of the projects included repair of rural roads, bridges, culverts, embankments, earth-filling in educational and religious institutions and cleaning of jungles.

## Jute cultivated on 7000 hectares

MEHERPUR, Aug 2: Jute has been cultivated on 7,000 hectares of land in two thanas here, reports BSS. Of the total land, 5,000 hectares have been cultivated with High Yielding Variety (HYV) and 2,000 hectares with local variety. According to agriculture department sources, the farmers have been trained up with necessary information for better production of jute.

## Law & order discussed

KISHOREGANJ, Aug 1: The monthly review meeting of the district administration for the month of July was held at the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) on July 21, reports BSS. The meeting was presided over by DC AMM Farhad. Matters relating to law and order in the district were discussed in the meeting.

## Help remains unutilised

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Aug 1: The help is already there for them. But they are not aware of it. An amount of Tk 2.20 lakh, allotted by the government to provide legal aid to the local poor, remained unutilised for several years for lack of campaign, reports UNB. According to a competent source, the amount deposited at the account of District Legal Aid Committee on various occasions since 1994 remained unutilised.

## WDB plan yet to implemented

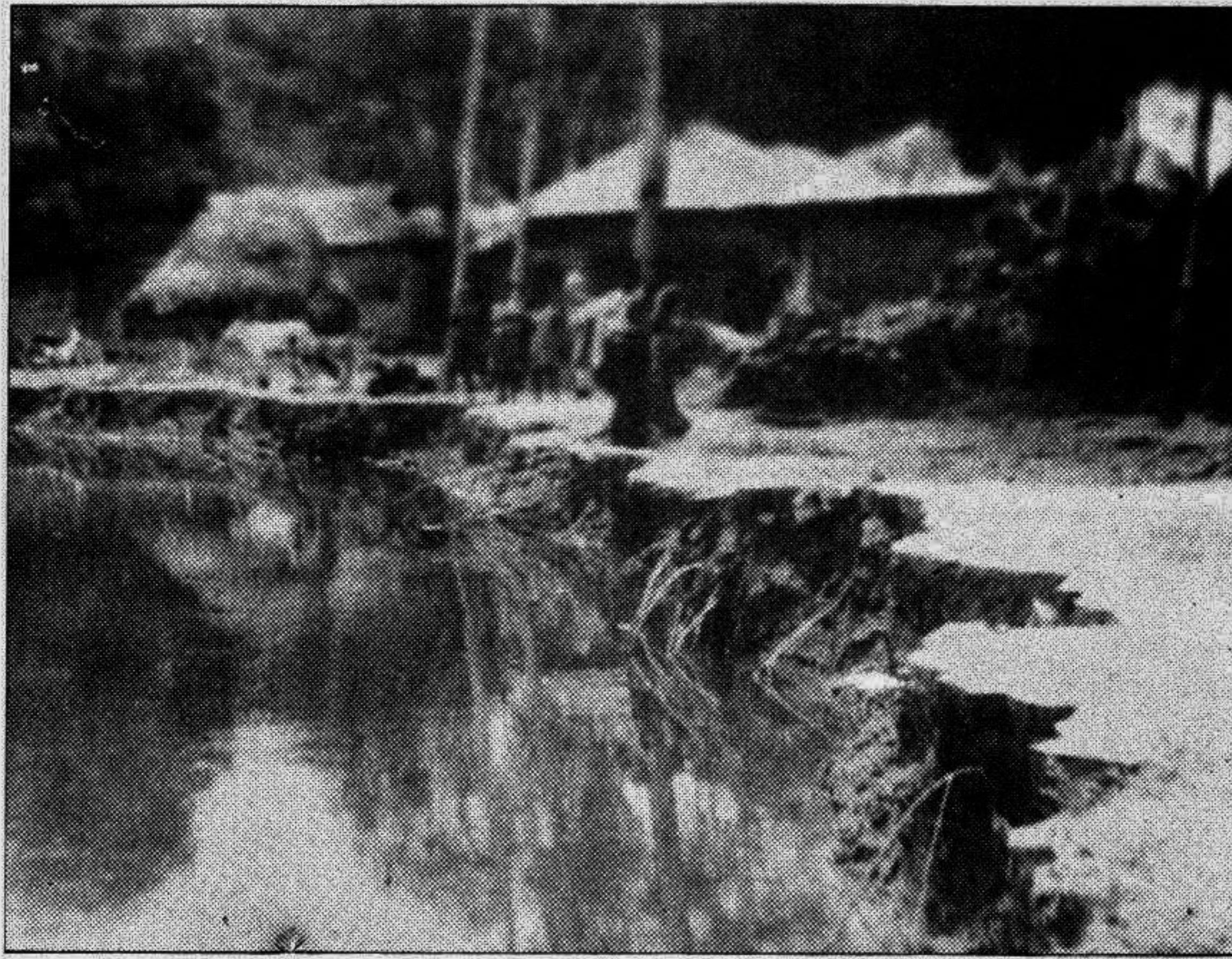
# Erosion affecting Rangpur villagers for over one decade

From Mozammel Haq

RANGPUR, Aug 1: Erosion by the Ghaghot river rendered 100 people shelterless during the last few weeks at Ceat Kellyabond (Kutipara) mouza of Uttam union in the sadar thana. Many more have been passing their days anxiously fearing further devastation. People in this area have been living with river erosion for over one decade. The river already devoured a large number of homesteads, crop lands, valuable trees and roads. Local people disclosed that Water Development Board (WDB) had planned to execute an erosion control scheme much ahead of the monsoon season this year, but the WDB authority was yet to implement the scheme.

Hashim Uddin, 70, Ansar Ali, 60, Abul, 50, and Belal, 35, all erosion victims narrated their woes to this correspondent recently. They disclosed that they had shifted their houses three to four times during the last five years. This year again their houses are threatened by erosion, they added.

A large number of fruit-bearing trees, valuable woods, huge crops and houses are also at stake in a similar way. Osman Gani, 50, a reputed farmer of the area told The Daily Star that he had created a garden of wood and fruit-bearing trees on five acres of land. There are at least 5,000 trees in his garden. He further pointed out that the lands of the area are very fertile. Last season he had



Endless erosion: The Ghaghot river has created havoc at Ceat Kellyabond village in Rangpur sadar upazila with the advent of monsoon. —Star photo

produced a record quantity of potatoes around 400 maunds per acre. He was shocked very much following the havoc of erosion. He feared that many more homesteads, crop fields, fruit-bearing trees, valuable woods and a vast tract of fertile lands would go under the river if protective measures are not taken immediately.

## Two ex-Rupali Bank officials sued

BOGRA, Aug 1: The Bureau of Anti-corruption has filed a case against two former officials of Rupali Bank for misappropriation of Tk 16.68 lakh from its Rajabazar branch in the town, reports UNB.

Earlier, the officials — Bogra Regional Assistant General Manager SM Mahubul Alam and Rajabazar branch Manager Abdul Hamid — were suspended on charge of pocketing the bank money.

Director of the bureau Abdul Kasem filed the case with Sadar police.

In the case, the bureau official alleged that the two officials opened a current account at the Rajabazar branch on June 4, 1996 in the name of Jahangir Rahman, son of Matia Rahman, Bogola, Bogra.

Later on, they drew Tk 16.68 lakh as overdraft and place account loans from June 5, 1996 to January 6, 1997. After investigation, the bureau found the two officials guilty of opening false account and misappropriation of money.



Another wonder? : Owners display a 83-inch diameter bamboo that they had cut from their homestead forest recently in Jhenidah. —Star photo

## Mugger gets 5 years RI in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Aug 1: The Third Assistant Metropolitan Sessions Judge Osman Haider today sentenced one Md Ali alias Musa to five years rigorous imprisonment and fined Taka 1000, in default to suffer six months more RI, on charge of snatching away the necklace of a school teacher at dagger point, reports BSS.

The prosecution story is that Md Ali alias Musa stopped the rickshaw of school teacher Nurjahan Begum and snatched away her necklace at dagger point on September 18, 1997 at Jamal Road. She raised a hue and cry and local people caught hold of him. He was handed over to Kotwali police who registered a case against him. Police later submitted chargesheet against Md Ali.

The Judge examined six witnesses in the case. He found Musa guilty of the offence. Assistant Public Prosecutor (APP) Kumar Bhattacharya and Advocate Pronob Kant Pal appeared on behalf of the State while Advocate Muhammad Fauzul Amin Chowdhury defended the accused.

# Five govt run flood shelters in pitiable condition

KURIGRAM, Aug 1: Five government-run flood shelters in the district, built at a cost of Tk 32.50 lakh, have become almost non-existent due to alleged negligence of the department concerned, reports UNB.

LGRD and Cooperatives Ministry built the centres at Jatra-pur in Sadar thana, Madarganj in Nageshwari, Kodalkathi in Rajibpur, Gazirpara in Chilmari and Begumganj in Ulipur thana in 1976.

These centres were to be used as shelter for the flood-affected people and as part-time schools.

After visiting the areas it was found that three-fourths of the tin-shed flood shelter in Sadar thana have been destroyed and classes of primary

education were being taken in two rooms of the remaining portion.

There was no sign of any flood centre in Nageshwari and Ulipur thanas while the centres in Rajibpur and Chilmari disappeared into the river.

Local people alleged that UP chairmen and members, some officials and influential people shared the CI sheets, timbers and bricks of the shelter homes.

Rivers passing through the district, including Dharala, Brahmaputra, Teesta and Dudhkumur, have started swelling with the beginning of the rainy season. If the flood situation deteriorates some eight lakh people will be affected.

Amid such a situation, eight

shelter homes, built by different NGOs here, will not be able to accommodate the huge number of flood-hit people.

Meanwhile, earth-filling works of "Asrany Project" have been completed at Fekrar-char, Patriakhata, Khairiar-char, Charkhedaimari in Chilmari thana, Bamanerchar in Rowmari and Berakuti in Fulbari thana to give shelter to the distressed and erosion-hit people.

But the distressed people cannot shift there until the entire works of the project are completed.

Local elite urged the authorities concerned to immediately complete the works to save the life and property of the people.

## CHTDB rehabilitates 1,000 landless tribal families

RANGAMATI, Aug 1: Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board (CHTDB) under its second phase Highland Lease Project has rehabilitated 1,000 landless tribal families of two hill districts, reports UNB.

Officials said 500 landless families from Matranga thana of Khagrachhari district and 500 families from Sadar thana of Bandarban district have been rehabilitated under the programme.

They said 4.50 acres of land have been acquired and 1,000 houses constructed at a cost of Tk 1.52 crore for rehabilitation of landless tribal families.

The board has constructed five primary schools, five playgrounds, 20 connecting roads, five worship houses and one office-cum-community centre, and installed 80 tubewells at a cost of around Tk 1.93 crore in the villages where the landless families are being rehabilitated.

Besides, the officials said, works on a horticulture project on 1,000 acres of land was completed in June this year at a cost of Tk 1.56 crore.

Meanwhile, a total of Tk 9.72 crore out of Tk 14.57 crore have been spent for rubber cultivation on 400 acres of land in the two thanas.

Apart from this, a total of Tk 19.64 crore have been spent for construction and reconstruction of small industries and of-

## Man killed during robbery in Jamalpur

JAMALPUR, Aug 1: One person was killed and six others were injured during a robbery at a shop at Hazipur Bazar in Mesta union under Sadar thana recently.

The robbers numbering about 15 to 20 broke into the shop, owned by one Chand Mia, at night, local people said. As people resisted the robbers they opened fire on the villagers, injuring Yusuf Ali, 22, Jali, 35, Moulina Akteruzzaman, 40, Motiur Rahman, 38, Ziaul Hoque, 12, Hanif, 15, and shop owner Chand Mia, 55. The injured persons were rushed to hospital. Later Yusuf Ali succumbed to bullet injuries at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

The robbers looted Tk 2 lakh 90 thousand and goods worth about Tk 50 thousand. But police with the help of local people arrested four robbers with one fire arm, three bullets, one 'chapati' and one 'ramdao' when they were fleeing the village in a boat.

As their engine driven boat developed mechanical problems near Char Kapashia of Mehndah thana, the four robbers were easily arrested. They were identified as Mukul, Monjurul, Sajjan and Shohel. However, others managed to flee the scene.

Earlier, the body was buried hurriedly under the supervision of village elders.

A case was lodged later with police in this connection. Detective Branch of Magura police conducted the exhumation for investigation.



Reward of labour: Abdus Sobhan, a farmer of Jhenidah weighing the newly harvested hybrid paddy produced in his field while his wife cleans the golden produce. Proud father of the cultivator looks on. —Star photo by Delwar Kabir

## Bangabandhu Bridge now a safe route for smugglers

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 1: Bangabandhu Bridge, widely seen as the key to bring prosperity to the country's struggling northern region, has emerged as a safe route for smugglers, reports UNB.

Indian goods, including drugs and sarees, worth crores of taka are being transported to capital Dhaka and eastern districts everyday through the bridge, dampening the enthusiasm of local entrepreneurs.

Sources said smugglers from northern districts, including Rajshahi, Naogaon, Dinajpur, Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Thakurgaon, Chapainawabganj, Ishwardi, Rangpur, Joypurhat, Bogra and Sirajganj, use the bridge for transporting goods smuggled from India.

They unload smuggled goods nearby the bridge and supply those to different parts of the country by trains, buses and trucks through the bridge. Police hardly take action against them.

Acting on a tip-off, police, however, challenged a bus coming from northern district at the toll plaza of the bridge a few days back and recovered some 300 bottles of Indian penshildy.

In another raid on an inter-city train at Raipura Rail Station police arrested three smugglers along with 1500 Indian eggs.

"When the small fries are being caught, the big bandits are going unpunished," said a school headmaster.

## Crops on 5,000 acres of land damaged by Netrakona flood

NETRAKONA, Aug 1: Standing crops on 5,000 acres of land have been damaged here by flood. Cattles and valuables worth lakhs of taka have also been damaged. Ten out of 14 unions of the bordering Durgapur and Kalmakanda thanas, have been submerged, official sources said. About 500 Kutcha houses have been washed away by the flood waters.

The unions are Birishiri, Kakayergor, Bakaljora and Gaokanda unions in Durgapur thana, and Karnai, Rangehati, Kalmakanda sadar union, Langura, Pugla and Barkapon unions in Kalmakanda had gone under water.

Road communication between the district headquarters and Durgapur sadar remained snapped as a good portion of Shamgonj-Birishiri road at Krishnapur was badly damaged by the onrush of water.

Moreover, the affected people are suffering from various kinds of water borne ailments.

## Three with hemp held

NETRAKONA, Aug 1: Three persons with six kg hemp were arrested by Netrakona police on July 24 night. They were Matin, 40, Abdur Rahman, 30, Muklesh Ali, 50, who hails from Biswambharpur in Sunamganj district.

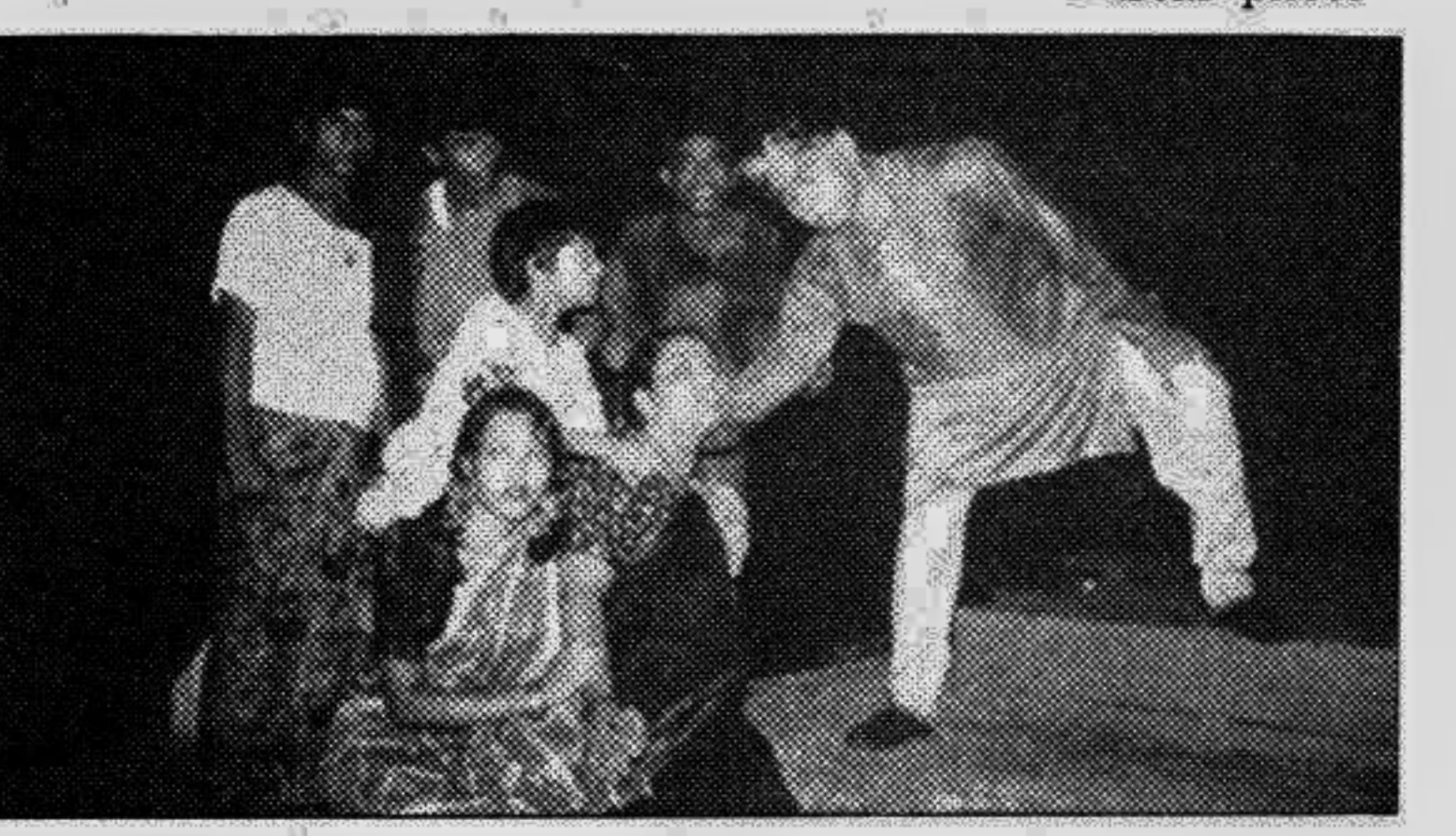
## Events of districts in picture



Roots: Folklore expert and former vice-chancellor of Rajshahi University Prof Mazharul Islam inaugurating the Folklore conference '99 at RU Senate Hall. —Star photo



Return to healthy life: Community police of Chandpur zone 01 urged misguided people to shun drug addiction by bringing out a rally in Chandpur town recently. —Star photo



Kheali Group Theatre, a drama group of Barisal enthraling the audience by their unique performance in a recently staged drama titled 'Swaran'. —Star photo

## Tk 80 cr road development plan in S-dists

From Aroop Talukdar

BARISAL, Aug 1: An amount of over Taka 80 crore has been allocated for the development of communication sector in Barisal division this year.

Of the total over Taka 25 crore will be spent for the construction of Doarika bridge over Barisal-Faridpur highway, Taka Two crore for the construction and development of the Ilisha-Bhola-Charmani road, Taka Six crore for Barisal-Bhola-Laxmipur road, Taka One crore for the construction of Agailghara-Paisarhat bridge, Taka Two crore for the construction work of Bhola ferryghat, Taka Seven crore for the construction of Gabkhan bridge at Jhalakati, over Taka 30 crore have been allocated for different thana road links in the division, Taka Two crore for the construction of Patuakhali bridge and Taka 10 crore for the construction work of Barguna-Patuakhali-Kuakata road.

It is to be mentioned here, even after two decades of independence no citable development was achieved in the industrial sector in the southern districts due to backward communication sector.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina stressed the need for overall development of this region during her visit here on June 12 in observance of the golden jubilee ceremony of Awami League.

Another housewife gang raped. JHENIDAH, Aug 1: A young housewife was gang raped by some voluptuous men at village Chaklapara in Jhenidah Poursabha on Friday night, reports UNB.

Police said the culprits picked a 27-year-old housewife while she was returning home from her sister's residence and raped her in a jackfruit orchard. The victim, mother of two, was missing until she was rescued by local people.