

News snaps

Life term for three rapists

JAMALPUR, Aug 6: Three people were sentenced to life term in jail by a court here recently for raping a woman in Sadar thana last year, reports UNB.

The convicts were identified as Sujon, Farid and Ekabor. According to prosecution, the accused picked up a woman of Chhonatia village from Dailpara while she was returning home from her sister's house in the evening and raped her in an abandoned house. After examining witnesses and records, the District and Sessions Judge found Sujon, Farid and Ekabor guilty of rape and handed down the judgement.

Valuables looted

KHULNA, Aug 6: A robbery was committed in a passenger bus in Sathkira district recently sources said, reports UNB.

Witnesses said a gang of armed robbers, numbering 7-8, on board a microbus intercepted the Khulna-bound bus from Sathkira, a few kilometres from Sathkira town. Boarding the bus, they started bating the passengers leaving four of them injured. The robbers decamped after looting cash and valuables worth about Taka 10 lakh from several traders travelling by the bus. They stabbed a passenger while leaving the spot.

Influenza, viral fever in Meherpur

MEHERPUR, Aug 6: Influenza and viral fever have broken out in the district affecting a large number of people, reports BSS.

According to local people and physicians, poor people and the slum-dwellers are the worst sufferers due to influenza during these rainy days. Almost every family has one or two patients suffering from viral fever, local people said.

Body recovered

JHALAKATI, Aug 6: Police recovered the body of a young man from Lebubunia area in Rajapur thana on Monday, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Abdul Khaleque, 35, son of Abdul Malek Howlader of Tarabunia. The cause behind the death could not be known.

Training on breast feeding

COMILLA, Aug 6: A day long orientation training course on breast feeding system was held separately at Chandina and Debidwar thana headquarters on Sunday, reports BSS.

Organised by district health department, the courses were inaugurated by Dr Mukhlesur Rahman, Civil Surgeon, Comilla. Forty thana health officers, medical officers, physicians and family planning visitors participated in the training courses.

Workshop on fish farming

SATKHIRA, Aug 6: A day-long workshop on fish farming on the occasion of Fisheries Week-99 was held at thana rural development board auditorium recently, reports BSS.

Sathkira Sadar Thana Fisheries Department organised the workshop. Thana Fisheries officer Abu Bakar Siddique and Extension Officer Taufiqul Islam were trainers in the workshop. About 80 unemployed youths, both male and female, ansar and Village Defence Party (VDP) members participated in the workshop.

Birth centenary of Nazrul

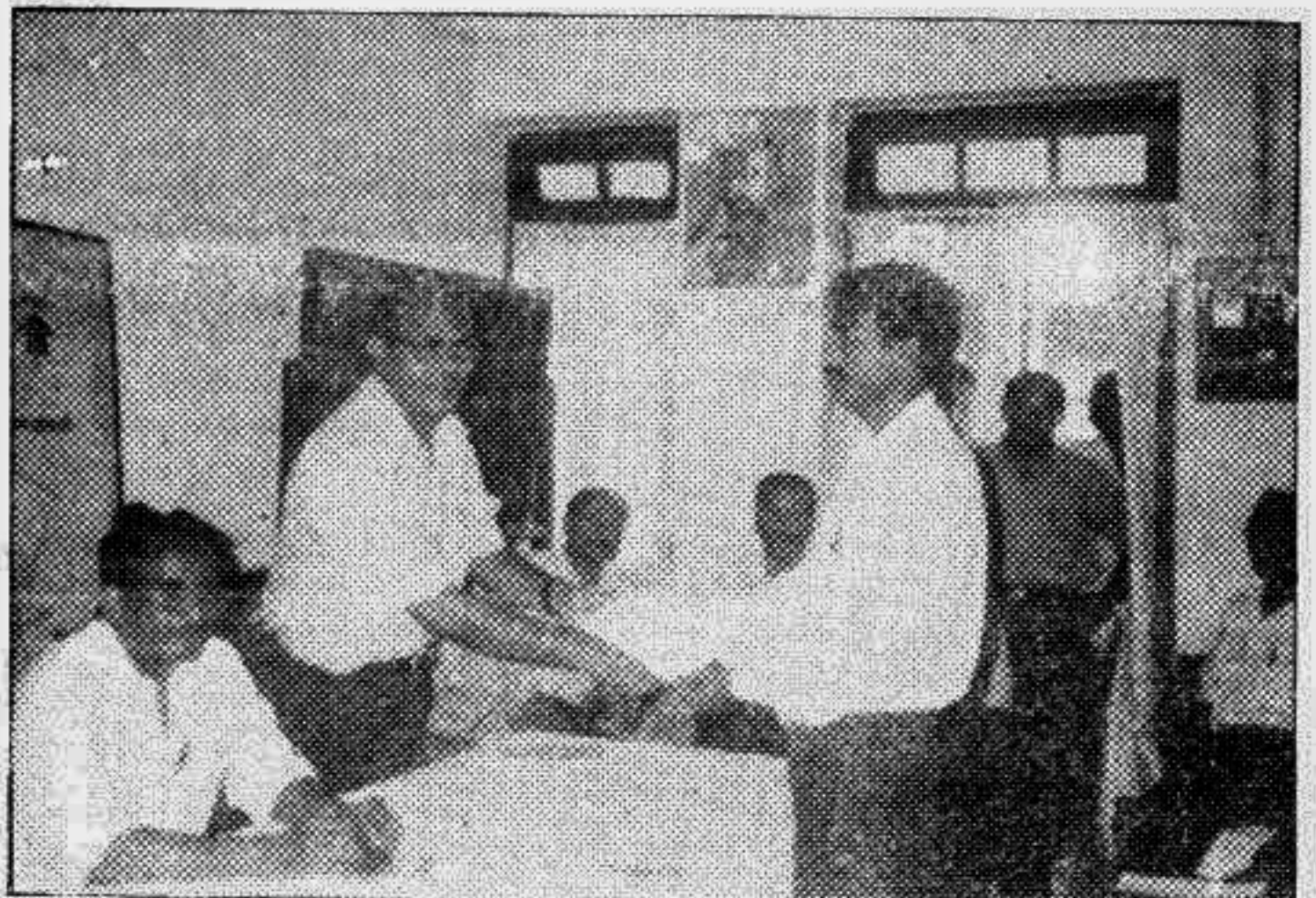
NATORE, Aug 6: Natore Sangeet Bidyalaya organised various programmes including Nazrul songs competition recently to mark the birth centenary of the national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, reports BSS.

The prize distribution ceremony of the Nazrul Sangeet competition was held last week at Natore Sangeet Bidyalaya premises. Fifty artists in four groups participated in the competition. Deputy Commissioner (DC), Natore, Mohammad Ishaq Bhuiya distributed prizes among the artists. The function was followed by a musical soiree.

Stipends distributed

CHANDPUR, Aug 6: Chandpur Foundation distributed stipends to 54 meritorious students at a function held in Chandpur Press Club auditorium recently, reports BSS.

Deputy Commissioner M Rezaul Karim was present on the occasion as the chief guest and handed over cheques to the students. The function was presided over by Dr M A Gafur, secretary of the foundation. Principal Motiur Rahman, former president of Chandpur Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Ali Hajj Jahanjir Akhand Selim and press club president Md Kamur-zaman Chowdhury, among others, spoke on the occasion. Stipends amounting to Taka 1,68,860 were distributed among 54 students.



Civil Surgeon of Barisal giving away certificate to a participant of a training programme on primary mental health at Uzirpur thana health complex. —Star photo

17 uplift schemes implemented

CHUADANGA, Aug 6: The Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) under its Rural Development Programme (RDP)-18 has implemented 17 schemes in three out of four thanas of the district in the 1998-1999 fiscal year, reports BSS.

LGED sources said, the government sanctioned Taka 1,07,22,000 for execution of the schemes in Chuadanga sadar, Alamdanga and Jibannagar thana. Four schemes were implemented in Chuadanga sadar, 12 schemes in Alamdanga and one scheme in Jibannagar.

Jute farming on 8,550 hectares

CHUADANGA, Aug 6: A total of 8,550 hectares have been brought under jute cultivation in all the four thanas here this year, but the target was fixed at 10,000 hectares by the agriculture department, reports BSS.

According to an official source, jute has been cultivated on 1795 hectares in Chuadanga sadar thana, 2,980 hectares in Alamdanga thana, 3,140 hectares in Damurhuda thana and 635 hectares in Jibannagar thana. Production target has been fixed at 8,000 bales of jute in the current season.

Seminar on shrimp culture

KHULNA, Aug 6: A day long seminar on problems and prospects of shrimp cultivation was held here recently, reports UNB.

Prof Dr Muhammad Saifuddin Shah, head of Fisheries and Marine Resource Technology Department of Khulna University presented the key-note paper in the seminar, marking the Fisheries Week. Chaired by Akhter Ali, Deputy Director of Fisheries Directorate, the seminar was addressed, among others, by Advocate Sheikh Nurul Huq MP, and Rezaul Karim. Over 100 shrimp farmers, traders, shrimp food producers, officials and Non-governmental Organisations (NGO) representatives attended the seminar.

HR commission of Nandail unit

MYMENSINGH, Aug 6: Human Rights (HR) Commission, Nandail Poursabha unit has been formed at a meeting of a cross section of people recently, reports UNB.

Elias Uddin Fakir Ranju presided over the meeting. The meeting was addressed, among others, by Advocate Iqbal Akhand, Prof Ishaq Mahmud, Advocate Abul Mansur, poura commissioner Noor-e-Alam Siddiqui, Kazi Humayun Kabir, Dr Sharafat Ali and Shaiful Islam Shamim. The meeting called upon the people to be aware of their fundamental rights. BSS

Man, son killed by rivals

JHENIDAH, Aug 6: A middle-aged man and his son were killed by their rivals at Bhagabannagar village in sadar thana on Wednesday, reports UNB.

The victims were identified as Ebadat Hossain, 40, and his son Lincon, 20. Witnesses said Ebadat's rivals hit him and his son with sharp weapons when they were making a drain to remove water from their land. Lincon died on the spot while his father died on way to hospital.

Seed crisis hampers Aman cultivation in Jessore

Mymensingh farmers losing interest in Aus farming

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, Aug 6: The cultivation of Aus paddy, which was once called a 'crisis food', is now gradually decreasing here, official sources said.

According to district Agriculture Extension Department (AED) sources, in 1997 a total of 1,21,500 hectares of land were brought under Aus cultivation in 12 thanas here, but in 1998 the figure came down to 1,06,000 hectares following various reasons.

This year AED brought 91,159 hectares of land under Aus cultivation here with a production target of 1,37,477 metric tons of paddy. Aus cultivation target now has come down in comparison with the figures of the last 10 years.

When asked, why the cultivation is coming down day by day, an official of the agriculture department told The Daily Star that due to various reasons including scarcity of quality seeds, erratic weather and unwillingness of the farmers to cultivate Aus for poor production, its cultivation has been waning gradually. He also said that after the beginning of IRR-Boro cultivation in large scale, the farmers pay little attention to Aus cultivation. The official also told this correspondent that after IRR-Boro harvesting, the Aus field is generally affected by pests severely causing its poor production. This is why the farmers are giving up

Nandail with a production of target 13720 MT, 6,500 hectares in Gouripur with a production target of 8,540 MT, 7,000 hectares in Phulpur with a production target of 8560 MT, 9,500 hectares in Iswarganj with a production target of 13720 MT, 5159 hectares in Haluaghat with a production target of 7,077 MT and 4,000 hectares in Dubaura thana with a production target of 6,600 MT of Aus paddy.

When asked by The Daily Star regarding fall in production, Helal Miah a farmer of village Naogon in Phulbari thana he told that due to long drought they cultivated Aus later on which will bring a poor production. He also said that many lands were also abandoned due to scarcity of seeds. Some other farmers also echoed the tone of Helal.

AED also took up Aus cultivation programme in four other districts of greater Mymensingh region.

The official sources said, 9,239 hectares of land were brought under Aus cultivation with a production target of 10,021 MT in Jamalpur, 20,770 hectares with a production target of 25,347 MT in Sherpur, 42,352 hectares with a production target of 53,498 MT in Netrakona and 32,316 hectares of land with a production target of 43,111 MT of Aus paddy in

MTs of paddy. Of the total 1,43,200 hectares under HYV and 1,19,080 hectares under local variety.

A total of 59,596 hectares of land will be cultivated in the ensuing Aman season in seven thanas of Jamalpur district with a production target of 1,00,848 MTs, 8,4070 hectares in fire thanas of Sherpur district with a production of 1,49,634 MTs in 11 thanas of Netrakona district, 1,08,250 hectares of land will be taken with a production target of 1,72,896 MTs while 60,720 hectares of land will be cultivated in 13 thanas of Kishoreganj district fixing a production target of 1,09,684 MTs of Aman paddy said the sources.

The sources added that more lands would be brought under Aman cultivation.

In Mymensingh district more lands will be brought under Aman cultivation in comparison with the last year. Last year, a total of 2,57,300 hectares of land were brought under Aman cultivation, but this year a total of 2,62,230 hectares of land would be cultivated which is 4,930 hectares more than that of the last year.

Our Jessore correspondent says: Aman cultivation has every chance of being hampered in 10 district of Khulna division following the current season and the crisis of seeds and fertilisers. As such the

seeds will be directly supplied to the farmers through their appointed dealers. Bangladesh Agriculture development corporation (BADC) is marketing the seeds through brokers and third parties, working as retailers, in gross violation of the instruction.

The result is that seeds are not available at the fixed rate.

Farmers told that seeds are available in the market and there is no shortage of it. They are facing problems in procuring the seeds. It is being sold by the brokers and by the agents of BADC at a higher rate in the black market.

According to a detailed information, these groups of dishonest businessmen are collecting seeds from BADC at the fixed rate and hoarding them in their godowns for future sale at higher rate.

Block supervisors and field workers of the Agriculture Department in rural areas, are reportedly advising the farmers to procure seeds from outside and not to depend on BADC.

When contacted a group of farmers told this correspondent that Aman cultivation was extensively damaged in the unprecedented floods last year and they don't have seeds in their stock.

They expressed apprehension and told that if the seed-crisis continues, the cultivation of Aman will fall short of target this year.

When contacted Assistant store keeper of BADC, Jessore told that the demand of Aman seeds was huge but the stock positions had been too limited.

BSS from Chuadanga reports: A total of 33,300 hectares will be brought under transplanted Aman paddy cultivation in all the four thanas here in the current cultivation season.

The four thanas are Chuadanga sadar, Alamdanga, Damurhuda and Jibannagar.

According to an official source, of the total land 7,125 hectares will be brought under cultivation in Chuadanga sadar thana, 12,675 hectares in Alamdanga thana, 7,600 hectares in Damurhuda thana and 5,900 hectares in Jibannagar thana.

The production target of transplanted Aman paddy in the current season has been fixed at 1,10,000 metric tons.

The cultivation work of transplanted Aman paddy of the current season in Chuadanga district has begun and expected to be completed by the current month.

Another report from Chhagal Nayia in Feni district says: Transplanted Aman paddy has been cultivated on 9,530 hectares in Chhagal Nayia thana under Feni district in the current season.

According to Agriculture Extension Department, 8,360 hectares have been brought under high yielding variety and 1,200 hectares under local varieties of Aman.

Production target has been fixed at 28,000 tonnes of paddy. Improved variety seeds, fertilisers and other inputs were supplied to the growers by the government to achieve the target.



An Aus paddy field at village Naogon in Phulbari thana of Mymensingh district.

—Star photo

their traditional cultivation gradually.

The cultivation target has not been achieved this year in the district, sources said. Out of the fixed 91,159 hectares of land, some 88,000 hectares have been cultivated, said an official.

AED sources said, 8,500 hectares of land were brought under cultivation in the Sadar thana with a production target of 13,220 metric tons (MT) of paddy, 7,500 hectares in Muktagacha with a production target of 12,260 MT, 10,500 hectares in Phulbari with a production target of 16,960 MT, 6,000 hectares in Trishal with a production target of 10,360 MT, 8,500 hectares in Bhaluka with a production target of 12,300 MT, 9,000 hectares in Gafarganj with a production target of 14,160 MT, 9,500 hectares in

Kishoreganj.

Meanwhile, as massive Transplant Aman (T-Aman) cultivation programme has been taken up in the five districts of greater Mymensingh region during the Aman season.

A total of 5,74,840 hectares of land will be taken under T-Aman cultivation in this region with a production target of 9,90,931 metric tons (MT) of paddy, official sources told here. Of the land 3,01,130 hectares will be brought under High Yielding Variety (HYV) while the rest 2,73,710 hectares will be cultivated under local variety.

According to District Agriculture Extension Department (AED) official sources, of the total, 2,62,230 hectares of land will be taken in 12 thanas of Mymensingh district with a production target of 4,57,876

prospect of Aman cultivation is bleak.

According to a source of local regional office of Agriculture Extension Department, the target in these 10 districts including Jessore, Jhenidah, Magura, Narail, Khulna, Bagerhat, Sathkira, Kustia, Chnadanga and Meherpur was fixed at 6,95,000 hectares of land.

To attain the target, seeds worth 2,78,00,000 Kg (kilograms) will be needed.

But the supply position is quite disappointing.

According to another source, the government has allocated seeds worth 13,90,000 kgs only against the required quantity. It is only five per cent of the total requirement, said the source.

Despite clear instruction from the government that the

Because of Tk 100

SHERPUR, Aug 6: A man seriously injured in a clash over realisation of only Tk 100 has met with tragic end after fighting 17 days at the Mymensingh Medical College Hospital, reports UNB.

Abdur Rahman, a farmer of village Kandapara in Nalitabari, took an advance of Tk 100 for selling his cow. Later on, he sold the cow to another at a higher price. This led to quarrel and finally into a bloody clash in which Ashraf Ali was killed.

Badly injured Abdur Rahman succumbed to his injury in the hospital.

Police arrested two people including a woman for their alleged involvement in the killing after a case was filed with Nalitabari police.

Kishoreganj — Tarail road in bad shape

KISHOREGANJ, Aug 6: The 20-km Kishoreganj-Nilganj-Tarail road is in a bad shape as no step has been taken over the last two decades to repair it, reports UNB.

Business at Nilganj and Tarail bazaar suffers due to difficulties in movement of goods and commodities.

Movement of all kinds of vehicles is disrupted as big holes and breaches have caused at place on the road.

Meanwhile, the communication between Sadar and Tarail thana has been stopped and the people now move through Nandail thana of Mymensingh district.

People of Nilganj alleged that they have to walk on the road as movement of all vehi-

cles including rickshaw and bullock cart rendered difficult.

The Kishoreganj-Nilganj-Tarail road is the only way to carry goods including sands and stones coming from Jalong and Sunamganj on river route to other parts of the greater Mymensingh.

Besides, transport of fish, jute and paddy has become difficult affecting the farmers.

The business community and local people have repeatedly urged the authorities to repair the road without any result.

Executive Engineer of Roads and Highway told that they have plan to renovate the road but could not implemented it due to lack of fund.



Nature's wrath: Vast tracts of lands and hundreds of homes going under water due to unabated erosion of the Padma in Rajshahi district. —Star photo

Currency forgers active

JESSORE, Aug 6: As the movement of Indian counterfeiters in Bangladesh has reportedly marked an increase in recent times, rural people in frontier areas are being swindled with forged notes everyday, reports UNB.

Illiterate people in rural areas of Jessore, Jhenidah and Sathkira districts are frequently falling prey to the forgers.

Earlier in June, police arrested seven people with forged notes from Kotwali and Jhikorgachha thanas.

Fourteen counterfeit notes of Tk 500 and 100 denominations were recovered from their possessions.

According to a competent source, some local forgers in connivance with the counterfeiters of Barasat and Barobazaar in Calcutta are spreading forged notes in Bangladesh.

He said the Bangladeshi swindlers get 50 per cent commission from the Indian fakers for distribution of forged currencies in Bangladesh.

Two houses ransacked in Barisal town

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL Aug 6: A group of armed goons ransacked and looted two dwelling houses in Kaunia area in the town recently.

A group of armed people numbering 20 to 25 attacked and ransacked the houses of Abdus Samad, a transport businessman and Abul Khair Sabuj, a cultural activist, in the town.

Reason of the attack could not be known immediately. A case was filed with Kotwali thana.

Police, however, arrested 10 people in this connection.

Events of districts in picture



Health for all children: Dr Mohammad Mainuddin, Civil Surgeon of Jhenidah feeding Vitamin-A capsule recently to a baby at village Lakkhipur. —Star photo



BRAHMANBARIA: Mia Abdullah Wazed, ex-MP speaking at a press conference at Brahmanbaria Press Club here recently which was arranged to resist unfair means in the examinations. —Star photo



Farewell to the revolution: Khondkar Ariful Islam, a member of Sramjibi Mukti Andolon surrendering arm to Sailkupa OC. —Star photo



Return of the son: Liakat Ali, an activist of outlawed Biplabi Communist Party surrendering his arm recently to the Sailkupa OC. —Star photo



Tota surrendering with his arm. —Star photo



New hope for growers: Plenty of Transplanted Aus saplings at Sailkupa hat on Tuesday has brought hope to the Jhenidah farmers this sowing season. —Star photo