

National

News snaps

Obtains scholarship.
From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, Aug 8: Safwan Elisan Soadha, a student of Mymensingh kindergarten Nazrul Sena School, obtained talent pool scholarship in class two scholarship examinations held under the auspices of Bangladesh Pre-cadet and Kindergarten Association in 1998.

He also secured second position among the six talent pool scholarship holders. Son of AZM Shafiqul Islam, principal of Kishoreganj College and Sabina Yeasmin Swapna, Soadha has sought blessing from all.

Training on loan management

MADRIPUR, Aug 8: A three-day training course on production and loan management for the income generating projects concluded here at Kalkini Thana recently, reports BSS.

A total of 40 owners of income generating units participated in the training course organised by the Kalkini unit of Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC). At the inaugural function, Assistant General Manager, BSCIC Madripur Kazi Mehdi Hasan called upon the unit owners to utilise the loan money in their projects in a proper way for creating employment opportunities for the unemployed youths.

Scarcity of fish

MAGURA, Aug 8: Scarcity of all kinds of fishes led to price hike of subsidiary commodities in the district to the suffering to the people, especially the low income group, reports UNB.

The price of Hilsa shot up beyond purchasing power of most people. Availability of sweet water fish is far less than the previous year. Silver carp, Glass carp and American Rohi are available but the price is much higher. Tk 100 and over per kg. Hilsa was selling at prices varying from Tk 120 and 130 per kg. Scarcity of fish has pushed up the prices of chicken, beef and mutton.

TLM programme in Comilla

COMILLA, Aug 8: The government has decided to eradicate illiteracy from the district by the year 2001 through Total Literacy Movement (TLM) Programme, reports UNB.

This was disclosed at a meeting of the District Mass Education Association, held recently at the DC's conference room with Deputy Commissioner Chowdhury Golam Mowla in the chair. The meeting was informed that 170 education centres have been set up in 12 thanas and four pourashavas under 16 pilot projects for providing education to seven lakh illiterate people in the district. Thana parishes and pourashavas concerned were provided funds for implementing the project.

T-Aman farming on 94000 hectares

TANGAIL, Aug 8: Transplanted Aman on 94,000 hectares in 11 thanas of the district was targeted to be cultivated in the current season, reports UNB.

Of the total, some 60,000 hectares would be brought under HYV Aman paddy cultivation while the rest local variety. The production target was fixed at 87,000 metric tonnes, said officials. District Agriculture Extension Department has already taken up necessary steps to make the programme a success.

Tk 4.78 lakh for health complexes

MAGURA, Aug 8: Public Works Department has allotted Tk 4.78 lakh to repair and reconstruct three thana health complexes under the Annual Development Programme this year, reports UNB.

The complexes are Kharaiapur Health Complex in Shreepur, Mohammadpur Health Complex and Shalikhia Thana Health Complex. An official said on completion of the work that will begin in August and continue till December, the health service and facilities in the complexes are expected to increase.

Two robbers beaten to death

CHITTAGONG, Aug 8: Two alleged dacoits were killed in a mass beating at South Halishahor in Bandar thana on Friday evening, reports UNB.

Police said another three dacoits also came under the mob attack when a gang of 14-15 were planning to commit dacoity sitting at the Meher Alzal School premises at about 7 pm. Sensing their intention, local people chased the dacoits and caught five of them. Others managed to escape throwing their arms in the school pond. Two of the robbers whose identity could not be known immediately died on the spot while the injured were rescued by police and sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

Bodies recovered

BARGUNA, Aug 8: Bodies of two fishermen, victims of Monday's fishing trawler capsized, were rescued from the Bay of Bengal on Thursday night, reports UNB.

Local people said fishermen Khalil, 40, and Alamgir, 20, of village Munshiganj in Patharghat thana of the district were missing since their trawler was caught by a storm and sunk in the Bay on Monday (August 2) with 11 fishermen. Nine fishermen except Khalil and Alamgir were rescued by nearby trawlers. The sunken trawler was salvaged.

Loan disbursed among youths

MADRIPUR, Aug 8: Youth Development Department has disbursed Taka one crore 30 lakh as loan among unemployed youths in four thanas of the district, reports BSS.

According to official sources, the loan was given under self-employment and poverty alleviation programme. A total of 1,700 youths including girls in Kalkini, Rajori, Shibchar and Sadar thanas received the loan under this programme. The Youth Development Department has imparted training to 1200 unemployed youths so that they can take up income generating schemes like pisciculture, poultry farming, cow fattening, afforestation, nursery, tailoring and handicrafts, official sources added.

15 convicted for smuggling

RAJSHAHI, Aug 8: A court here Wednesday sentenced 15 people to 14 years' rigorous imprisonment for smuggling, reports BSS.

Additional District and Sessions Judge ATM Golam Kibria also fined them Tk 10,000 each, in default to suffer one year's RI more. The convicted are: Abdul Hannan, Amirul Islam, Shamsul Islam, Hamidul Islam, Bazlul Karim, Saidur Rahman, Ramzan Ali, Abdus Salam, Jamiruddin, Bulbul Ahmed, Abdulrahman, Mintoo Mondol, Sintoo Mondol, Niranjan and Muktadir. According to prosecution, police caught the accused persons red handed with smuggled goods while they were entering into Bangladesh territory from across the border on August 18, 1997.

98 uplift projects implemented

CHUADANGA, Aug 8: A total of 98 development projects were implemented in the four thanas of Chuadanga district in the last fiscal year at an allocation of 889 tonnes of wheat, reports BSS.

According to an official source, 25 projects were implemented in Chuadanga Sadar thana, 36 projects in Alandanga thana, 26 projects in Damurhuda thana and 11 projects in Jibannagar thana. The implemented projects included construction and reconstruction of roads and development of educational institutions in the rural areas.

Workshop on pry edn

BARISAL, Aug 8: A workshop on "Development of Primary Education" was held in the Aswini Kumar town stall here recently, reports BSS.

Director, Primary Education Department of the Ministry of Education AK Mirja Md. Shahidul Islam presided over the workshop. Organised by the District Primary Education office the workshop was sponsored by the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The workshop was addressed among others by District Primary Education officer AK Majumder, Assistant Director of Primary Education Md. Mahfuzul Islam, LGED Executive Engineer Sukumar Kar and education officer Sawkat Farook. District and thana level officers of the Primary Education Department participated in the workshop.

Aus cultivation on 19,000 hectares

CHUADANGA, Aug 8: A total of 19,000 hectares has been brought under aus cultivation in all the four thanas of the district in the current cultivation season. The four thanas are Chuadanga Sadar, Alandanga, Damurhuda and Jibannagar, reports BSS.

According to an official source, of the total land 4,400 hectares have been brought under cultivation in Chuadanga Sadar, 8,300 hectares in Alandanga, 5,000 hectares in Damurhuda and 1,300 hectares in Jibannagar. During this season a total of 38,000 tonnes of Aus paddy would be produced in the district.

Young girl raped in Jamalpur

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Aug 8: A young girl from Bogra district was raped at Bahadurabad ghat in Dewanganj thana in the district recently.

According to police, the 18 years old poor girl went to Mymensingh town with a woman to seek a job. But having failed to manage one she was returning home by Ekota inter city train. On her way to home some miscreants numbering about eight assured her of finding a job for her at Jamalpur station for work. But they took her in a solitary place of the ghat and violated her and left her in a critical condition.

Following the incidents the GRP personnel rounded up one Abul, 25, of village Kulkandi near the ghat.

The victim was admitted to Jamalpur General Hospital for treatment and medical test.

Young girl raped in Jamalpur

Acute crisis of food in Satkhira

From Abu Ahmed

SATKHIRA, Aug 8: An acute crisis of food has been prevailing in seven thanas here.

There is also little job opportunity for day labourers. A large number of jobless villagers have been migrating to the district town from villages. As a result the number of beggars has been increasing.

A prolonged drought and other natural calamities have created the acute food crisis. Prices of essentials have shot up abnormally. Prices of foodgrains and other essential commodities have gone beyond the purchasing capacity of about 60 per cent of people. The situation has worsened further

due to disappearance of some essentials from the local markets.

At present rice is being sold between Taka 520 and Taka 580 per maund. Despite moderate supply of fish, its prices show a higher trend. The minimum prices of ordinary lungi and saree are Taka 100 and Taka 180 respectively.

Every day hundreds of people have been rushing in the town in search of job. But there are little job opportunities here.

A large number of able bodied beggars mostly women are now seen loitering in the town. Besides, young women have resorted to immoral activities as the suitable substitute for beg-

ging.

About eight lakh agricultural labourers of the seven thanas of the district have been passing hard days for want of work.

A large number of boys are working in restaurants in Satkhira. These boys work from dawn to dusk in exchange of a small amount as remuneration. Almost all of them belong to poverty stricken families. Finding no other alternatives they are compelled to do such petty jobs.

The Social Welfare Department should come forward to save these children from deprivation and repression.

Discussion on life of Sheikh Kamal

BRAHMANBARIA, Aug 8: A special general meeting of 'Sheikh Kamal Smriti Parishad' was held at a hotel here on August 2, reports BSS.

President of the organisation Advocate Abdul Quiyum presided over the meeting.

The meeting was addressed, among others, by Syed Mohammad Arif, Prof Md Ashraf, Rehana Begum Rani, Prof Endadul Huq, SM Aslam, Sukumar Chandra Saha, Ratna Dey, Tofazzel Hossain Tarek, Ferdousi Begum Kali and Md. Shamsul Huq.

The meeting unanimously decided to organise functions on August 20 to observe the birth anniversary of the valiant freedom fighter Sheikh Kamal, who was killed on August 15, 1975.

The programmes included discussion meeting on the life of Sheikh Kamal and cultural functions.

State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed is expected to attend the function as the chief guest.

Erosion
Sherpur flood control dam threatened

SHERPUR, Aug 8: A flood Control Embankment at Sherpur ferryghat along the Old Brahmaputra is under threat from erosion of the river, reports UNB.

Roads and Highway sources said erosion by the Brahmaputra has already grabbed about 30 ft of the 400 ft Brahmaputra Flood Control Embankment at the ghat in last two days.

Officials said erosion by the river has been very strong due to change of the course of current with recession of water. It also hit the feeder road.

The work of piling earth continued to protect the embankment from erosion.

Besides, the authorities have also taken steps to construct a diversion road at the point threatened by erosion in a bid to continue road communication.

An emergency allocation of Tk 9 lakh has been made for construction of the diversion road.

FEMA founding anniversary celebrated

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Aug 8: The fourth founding anniversary of the district unit of Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA) was celebrated here in a befitting manner on July 24.

The district unit executives arranged a discussion at Faridpur Press Club with the unit president Advocate Golam Rabban Babu Mridha in the chair.

The discussion was addressed, among others, by the local Bar President Advocate Ahmed Hossain Mia, Press Club President Syed Imran Azam, freedom fighter Abul Faiz Shah Newaj, journalist Abdul Matin Fakir, Abdul Ali Sikder, Prof Azaduddin Ahmed, Oliur Rahaman and Shahjahan Mondal.

The speakers highlighted the activities of the district FEMA and urged its members to take FEMA programmes to the grass root level to make the people aware of their political rights.

Two killed in Natore road accident

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Aug 8: Two people were killed and 50 others, including 15 women, injured near Baidya Belgharia under Sadar thana on Natore-Naldanga road on Thursday night when a bus carrying a bridal party fell into a roadside ditch after the driver lost control.

The dead were identified as Nazrul Islam, 32, and Shahjahan, 50, of the Baidya Belgharia village. They died on the spot.

The bus was returning home from Deaghat village under Singra thana of the district. The bridegroom Abdul Halim Talukdar escaped unharmed.

The injured persons were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital and Natore district hospital.

A case was registered with police in this connection. Police seized the bus (Natore Ba-10).

Events of districts in picture



Mourning: A session of H'and and N'aat arranged by the Natore unit of Islamic Foundation on the occasion of national mourning.

—Star photo



Rural menace: Dr Mohammad Mainuddin, Civil Surgeon of Jhenidah addressing a seminar recently titled "Reaction of Arsenic Contamination on Human Body, Detection of Arsenicosis Patients and Management" at the civil surgeon's office.

—Star photo



Healthy youths for healthy nation: The Ahmedpur unit of Bangladesh Shito-Ryu Karate-Do Association of Rajshahi recently celebrated its fifth founding anniversary with a colourful rally.

—Star photo



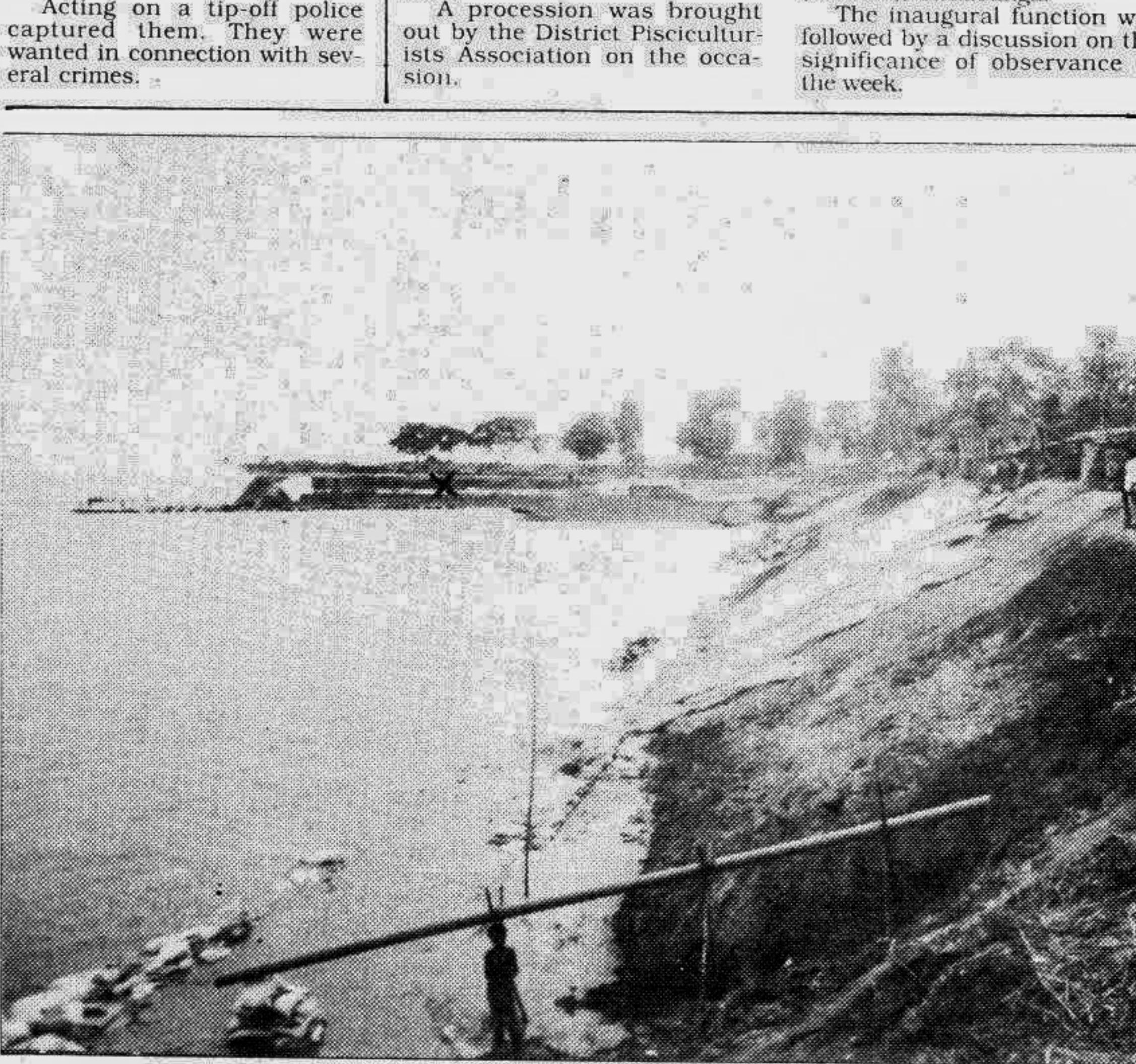
Fruit is energy: Seasonal fruit guava rich in Vitamin C and other nutrients have flooded the bazaars of Magura in recent days. It is specially good for lactating mothers and teething babies. Forty kgs of guava is being sold at Taka 200.

—Star photo



Officials and staffers of Natore Agriculture Extension Department recently bade farewell to their deputy director Md Rezaul Karim who is speaking on the occasion and principal agriculture officer Md Abdus Salam who is sitting on the rostrum.

—Star photo



—Star photo by Abdul Wadood