

News snaps

Service network of THCs discussed

NETRAKONA, Aug 10: A meeting of the Netrakona district health service committee was held on August 4 in the conference room of the civil surgeon here, reports BSS.

President of the Netrakona district health service committee Fazlur Rahman Khan, MP presided over the meeting. Additional district magistrate Amir Hossain, additional police super Matiar Rahman, civil surgeon and member secretary of the committee Dr Abdul Baset and thana health administrator of Netrakona sadar Dr Kamrul Huda, among others, spoke on the occasion. The meeting discussed matters relating to service network of different Thana Health Complexes (THC) and Netrakona sadar hospital.

Standing crops damaged

MAGURA, Aug 10: Two sluice gates of Kalidaskhali Beel remained locked for a long time due to technical reasons causing damage to standing crops on some 40,000 acres of land in Shalikhtha thana, reports UNB.

Witnesses said 23 beels in the thana continued to overflow as rainwater could not pass the gates, submerging Aman and Aus crops of the area. Official sources said the gates could not be operated properly as their screws were stolen long ago. The affected areas are Kanarbeel, Hizlee Beel, Burli, Kalimora, Chechuri, Zama, Kazla, Kumarkota, Patlar Beel, Gostra, Chandkhola, Bhuleda, Golakata, Zugir Beel, Salta, Kamarkoro, Moler Beel, Katal Kota, Choturbasisa, Singra, Dhaneshwargati, Borochara and Gongarampur Beel.

Youth falls from truck, dies

MANIKGANJ, Aug 10: One young man fell from a running truck and died near Joka bridge at Gheor on Dhaka-Aricha highway on Sunday, reports UNB.

Police said, the unidentified youth aged about 25 years fell down from the Aricha-bound truck. The body was sent to Manikganj sadar hospital morgue for autopsy.

Intensive crop farming scheme

KISHOREGANJ, Aug 10: Agriculture Extension Department (AED) has taken up an intensive crop cultivation scheme in 13 thanas here, reports BSS.

According to AED official sources, under the scheme Aus was cultivated on 23,895 hectares, jute in 6672 hectares, boro Aman on 116 hectares, vegetables on 2634 hectares and groundnut on 100 hectares. A total of 67,157 kilograms of seeds of transplanted Aman were distributed among the farmers.

Smuggled goods seized

KUSHTIA, Aug 10: BDR of Kushtia sector seized smuggled goods valued at approximately Taka one crore ten lakh during the last two weeks of the last month, reports BSS.

The goods were seized in raids led by Lt Col Salauddin, Major AKM Walid, Captain Jahangir and Captain Mahfuzul Huq. The seized goods included jute, phensidyl, wire, bicycle, cycle parts and saree. All seized goods were deposited to the Customs godown.

Cut rifle recovered

KUSHTIA, Aug 10: Daulatpur thana police recovered one cut rifle from Boalia village under Daulatpur thana recently reports BSS.

Acting on a tip-off police raided the house of Rifat Ali of village Boalia and recovered the cut rifle. Police arrested Rifat Ali.

Old man murdered

MADARIPUR, Aug 10: One old man of village Char Palordi in Kalkini thana was killed by some miscreants on August 1, reports BSS.

Police said, some miscreants called Saheb Ali, 60, out of his house at dead of night on August 1 and killed him. Previous enmity might be the cause of this murder, police suspected. The body was sent to Madaripur Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

185 uplift projects implemented

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 10: A total of 185 development projects under Food for Works Programme (FWP) in Sadar thana was implemented during the 1998-99 fiscal year, reports BSS.

The projects included construction of flood protection embankments and roads, re-excavation of irrigation canals, earth filling and renovation of religious and educational institutions. According to official sources, local administration implemented the projects in nine unions with 1,166 tonnes of wheat allocated by the Ministry of Relief and Disaster Management.

50 injured as BCL factions clash

SHARIATPUR, Aug 10: At least 50 people were injured, 15 of them with bullet, in an hour long clash between two factions of ruling party backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) near Naria College campus on Sunday, reports UNB.

Witnesses and police said the supporters of rival factions, one led by Zakir and the other by Shah Alam, clashed at 2 pm near the college. Eleven supporters of Zakir group received bullet wounds and four of Shah Alam group, BCL sources said. They were admitted to sadar hospital in a critical condition. Among them condition of Abdul Kader, Anwar Hossain and Abbas Ali of Zakir group and Nurul Islam of Shah Alam group was stated to be critical. Two policemen, Havildar Shahidul Islam and Naek Ayub Ali were also injured in their attempt to bring the situation under control. College sources said rivalry within BCL continued since the election of students union of Naria Government College held early this year. Zakir was elected president defeating Shah Alam.

Memo submitted to Rangamati DC

RANGAMATI, Aug 10: All-Party Unity Council on Sunday submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Rangamati demanding upgradation of Rangamati Government University College into a full-fledged university, reports UNB.

The council members, led by Shaymol Chakma, went to the DC office in procession and urged him to reach the memorandum to the Education Minister for prompt action.

Manpower shortage in various deptts

THAKURGAON, Aug 10: Official activities and health services in Ranikoil thana are seriously being hampered as 25 important posts in various departments, including the thana health complexes, have been lying vacant for long, reports UNB.

According to a competent source, local people are being deprived of proper treatment as the post of nine doctors in the thana health complex are lying vacant. The other vacant posts include scheme implementation officer, cooperatives officer, social service officer, statistics and ansar-VDP officers, assistant commissioner, sub-jailor, public health engineer and headmasters of two high schools.

BRDB loan for poor people

KHULNA, Aug 10: Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) under its poverty alleviation programme distributed loan totaling Taka 7,21,45,000 among poor people here in the fiscal 1998-99, reports UNB.

A total of 22,491 male and female cooperative members in nine thanas received the loan. Officials said the borrowers were being encouraged to take up small projects like poultry farming, pisciculture, betel leaf farming, cottage industry, net weaving and nursery. They said the loan disbursement and recovery rates of BRDB were satisfactory during the period.

Underconstruction roof collapses

THAKURGAON, Aug 10: A construction worker was killed and 25 others were injured when the roof of an underconstruction godown at the outskirts of the town collapsed on August 3, reports UNB.

According to a delayed report, the roof of the godown, owned by Ejabuddin Group of Industries at Thakurgaon road, broke down when some 100 workers were working together. The dead was identified as Belal 25.

60 low cost houses built

COMILLA, Aug 10: Sixty houses have been constructed in 14 unions here at a cost of Taka 12 lakh in the first phase of a soft-term low cost housing loan project, reports UNB.

Financed by Bangladesh Bank, the project is being implemented by Hilful Fuzl social welfare organisation of Chaudagram thana.

Housewife commits suicide

JOYPURHAT, Aug 10: Being failed to endure the sufferings of various physical complications, a housewife in Panchbibi Poursavaha allegedly committed suicide recently, reports UNB.

Police said Nasrin Khanam, 42, wife of Nizamuddin and mother of three, took her life by hanging herself from a ceiling fan of their house. An UD case was filed.

Discussion on disparity

Develop Rajshahi divn or face greater movement

From Abdul Wadood

RAJSHAHI, Aug 10: Speakers at a discussion held here have urged the government to reduce economic disparities between districts under Rajshahi division and other parts of the country.

The speakers said people in the northern region are being deprived of economic development of the country. They also warned a mass movement will be started if the grievances of the people of the region are not given due attention.

Held at a local community centre in the city on Aug 5, the discussion, 'Disparity to North Bengal and Identification of Problems of the Region', was presided over by Moshataque Ahmed Labu. It was addressed, among others, by Rajshahi Bar Association vice presidents Advocate Al Mamun Chowdhury and Advocate Kamaluddin, General Secretary Advocate Enamul Haque, Journalist Abdul Wadood, Khairul Bashar and Advocate Emdadur Rahman.

The speakers said one of the objectives of the War of Liberation was to ensure equal economic development in every part of the country. But this objective was not materialised, they added.

The speakers said only four per cent of the public sector employment go to the people of Rajshahi division while only two per cent in the private sector go to them.

Some speakers also said the present unitary system of government should be replaced and the country should be divided into some provinces to remove the disparity.

Some others suggested that separate body like CHT Regional Council be created to gear up development activities in the region.

However, few speakers said everything depends on good will of the governments and observed that the problem can be solved within the existing system.

They also suggested special allocation be made for the region in the national budget.

Convener of the meeting renowned industrialist and sports organiser Moshataque Ahmed Labu said as Rajshahi division produce about 45 per cent of the total food grains in the country, agro-based indus-

tries and fertiliser industry should be set up here.

He also urged the authorities concerned to set up an export processing zone in the region.

He demanded separate industrial policy be formulated for the region to expedite industrialisation.

Another report adds: In a meeting speakers protested the decision to transfer a division of Bangladesh Water Development Board from Rajshahi.

Held at the conference room of the divisional office of

Bangladesh Water Development Board on August 5, the meeting was organised by Rajshahi Office Sthanantar Pratiradh Committee (Rajshahi Committee for Resisting Transfer of Offices).

Presided over by the president of the committee, Shaful Islam Bulu, the meeting was addressed, among others by, city Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu, Moshataque Ahmed Labu, CPB leader Enamul Huque and WDB Contractors Association General Secretary Jamal Khan.



Trees for life: Rajshahi city mayor Mijanur Rahman Minu planting a sapling as part of the city corporation's tree plantation programme. — Star photo

He goes to school in morning, pulls rickshaw in afternoon

MADARIPUR, Aug 10: Badal, a 12-year-old boy of Thantali village in Sadar thana, goes to school in the morning and pulls rickshaw in the afternoon, reports UNB.

Badal, son of a day labourer and student of class V, wants to continue his education at any cost and he is determined to salvage his family from the mire of poverty.

"I have to pull rickshaw because my poor father is unable to bear my educational expenses," Badal said.

Badal's case is not unique. There are hundreds of ill-fated children in the district who are joining the labour market every day.

They pull rickshaws and work in garages, hotels and restaurants from dawn to dusk to support their poor families.

According to a survey conducted by an NGO, there are some 700 children in Sadar, Kalkini, Rajor and Shibchar thanas who are working in restaurants, garages, brick-fields and workshops.

The survey showed that these boys want to go to school, but unfortunately their helpless parents force them to work to add to their incomes, giving a rise to unauthorised child labour.

Another 10-year-old boy Farid, son of Nuru Bepari of

Ierpool in the town, works in a local tea shop from 7 am to 9pm everyday.

"I want to read to change my lot, but my parents force me to work as my father cannot run our seven-member family with his small amount of income," Farid said.

When asked a local school headmaster said the government's efforts to ensure education for all by the year 2000 have virtually failed to increase enrolment rate in schools.

"However, the government alone cannot change the situation, we need the united efforts of all to make its total literacy programme a success," he said.

BSF guns aim at Durgapur villagers

MYMENSINGH, Aug 10: Tension is prevailing among the villagers of Durgapur as the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) aimed guns at them the killing of two Indian intruders by the BDR on Sunday, reports UNB.

BDR also took their position to repulse any attack from across the border.

Meanwhile, BSF of Baghmara camp on Monday proposed to its counterpart at Bhabanipur border outpost for a flag meeting and returning the bodies of Indian nationals.

Two Indian intruders were shot dead by the BDR at Bhabanipur on Sunday when they were forcibly taking away cattle-head of the villagers.

Shallow engines driving passenger vehicles now

NATORE, Aug 10: As the life speeds up in rural areas, a section of people have started using shallow engines and power-tillers in vehicles for carrying passengers and goods in the northern districts defying the traffic rules, reports UNB.

According to an unofficial estimate, over 750 vehicles driven by shallow engines and power-tillers are plying on three national highways — Natore-Dhaka-Bogra highway, Natore-Rajshahi and Natore-Nagarbari.

Witnesses said more than 10,000 such vehicles are also plying on various roads and highways in 16 northern districts.

Sources at the BRTA regional office said these unit vehicles have no registration, fitness certificate, route permit and driving licences. Such vehicles are highly vulnerable to

mishaps, they said.

The history of using shallow engines and power tillers in vehicles goes back to early 90s. In the beginning, farmers used to carry their agricultural produce like jute, paddy, rice, wheat, potatoes and vegetables from their farmlands to the nearby village markets.

But later on they have started using these vehicles in carrying passengers too.

In the wake of massive use of such unit vehicles, motor owners and transport workers associations of the region staged demonstrations in different towns on various occasions, demanding steps against the use of such vehicles.

But the authorities were learnt to have failed to take action against those who are using such unit vehicles violating the traffic rules.

Housewife raped in Chuadanga

CHUADANGA, Aug 10: At the dead of night a housewife was raped at village Kanaidanga under Damurhuda thana of the district recently.

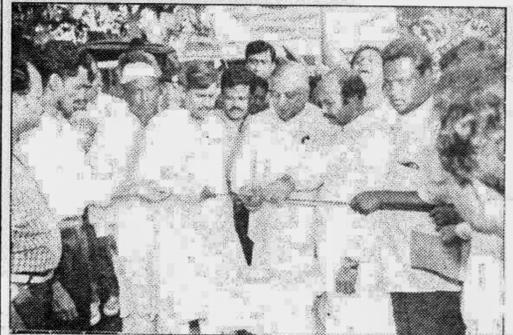
According to Damurhuda thana police, the victim from Meherpur district along with her husband Ayub Ali came to village and was staying at the residence of one Osman Ali, a relation to them.

At dead of night nine people of the village raided the house and forcibly took the 20 years old victim to a nearby field and violated her.

Hearing the hue and cry of the inmates of Osman's residence people of the locality rushed to the spot and the rapists fled away scene, leaving the victim unconscious.

A case was filed in this connection with the Damurhuda police station. But none is so far arrested.

Events of districts in picture



Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury inaugurating Alulal road in Sylhet on August 5. — CID photo

He languished in jail for 4 yrs for no fault

From Staff Correspondent BARISAL, Aug 10: An innocent man passed his four years in jail, although higher court freed him.

One Shyamal Chandra Debanath, 36, of Dakna village under Galachipa thana of Patuakhali, was sentenced 10 years in prison by the district and sessions (special tribunal) judge of Patuakhali SM Samad on October 8, 1992 under Arms Act.

Earlier, police arrested him with arms on April 9, 1992.

Later a writ petition was filed with the High Court against the verdict. On March 18, 1995 High Court passed an order releasing Shyamal which was duly sent to the concerned authorities in Patuakhali.

But Shyamal was not freed as per High Court order.

Later Bangladesh Rehabilitation Centre for Trauma Victims activists took up the matter and conducted investigation. And finally Shymal was freed from the jail on May 20, 1999.

Hotel employee killed in road accident

MOULVIBAZAR, Aug 10: A hotel employee was killed and an old man injured in separate road accidents in Srimongal of the district on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Mohammad Karim, 28, of Monotaz Hotel was run over by a speeding bus bound for Sadar thana from Srimongal at Habiganj area on Dhaka-Sylhet highway at 5 am.

The victim was an inhabitant of Noakhali. Police seized the vehicle and a case was filed.

In another incident, an unidentified old man at Shantibagh sustained serious injuries when hit by a truck from behind as he was crossing the road. He was sent to Srimongal Hospital.

Ransacking on college campus: 3 held in Faridpur

From Our Correspondent FARIDPUR, Aug 10: Three people have so far been arrested

in connection with a ransacking incident on Birshreshtha Abdur Rouf Degree College campus at Kamarkhal under Madhukhali thana.

Police arrested Zakir Hossain Mollah, lecturer of Kaderdi Degree College under Boalmari thana, Nasir Khan Nayan and Bashiruzzaman, students of Birshreshtha Abdur Rouf Degree College recently.

It is alleged that Zakir Hossain Mollah, a resident of village Arpara, after being failed to qualify himself as a lecturer of Islamic History in Birshreshtha Abdur Rouf Degree College the lecturer of Kaderdi Degree College along with his supporters went on rampage on the college campus on July 4.

Smuggled medicine seized

From A Correspondent Feni, Aug 10: Smuggled Indian made medicine was seized recently from a bus at Mahipal on Feni Bypass road.

Acting on a tip-off police challenged the bus and recovered 75 bottles syrup.

A case was lodged in this connection.

Crimes on rise in Pabna district

From Ranesh Maitra

PABNA, Aug 10: Incidents of robbery, extortion, theft and repression on women have increased alarmingly in the district in recent days.

On Friday night, a theft was committed in the house of Abdul Matin Khan, editor of local vernacular daily 'Nirbhara'. As all the inmates of the house were absent, the thieves broke into the house and took away cash 6,000 taka and ornaments and valuables worth about Tk 90,000.

On Wednesday night, another theft was committed in a jewellery shop at Sonapaty in the town. The thieves broke into 'Khushbu Jewellery' and decamped with ornaments and gold valued at about Tk 500,000. The thieves also took away cash 30,000 taka.

Two separate cases have

been lodged with Pabna Sadar thana police in connection with the thefts. But nobody was arrested.

Also on Wednesday night, a gang of armed muggers snatched an amount of 1,50,000 taka from one Saiful Islam Atal at Hemayetpur.

Victim Saiful Islam Atal, manager of a brick-field, was robbed Pabna-Paksey road. He was returning home from his work place. The victim was also stabbed indiscriminately.

Saiful Islam Atal was immediately rushed to Pabna General Hospital. None was arrested in this connection.

On August 3, a gang of armed muggers snatched an amount of Tk 30,000 from a cattle trader. The muggers intercepted the trader at Govindapur point on Pabna-Shillaidaha road and

forcibly took away the money.

In another incident on July 27 a schoolgirl was raped at Bera thana in the district. Family sources said the victim, a student of Aminpur High School, was returning home after attending classes on the date of occurrence. But she was interested by one Ripon and his two accomplices. At one stage, Ripon, forcibly took her to a nearby house and allegedly violated her.

A case was lodged in this connection.

Another report adds: Two women committed suicide in the district recently.

On August 1, a young housewife allegedly committed suicide in village Char Shibrampur under Hemayetpur union of Sadar thana. The housewife, Tali Kha-

toon, allegedly hanged herself with the ceiling of her bed-room following a quarrel with her husband Zahurul Islam and other members of his family.

Tali Khaton got married only one month ago.

An UD case was registered with Pabna Sadar thana.

In separate incident on August 6 at village Bharara under Sadar thana a young girl, aged about 18, allegedly committed suicide by taking poison.

The victim, daughter of one Moksdes Ali, took poison in her room due to some family troubles at about 11 am on the day, family sources said.



Waiting for work: Day labourers wait daily in the morning at Chowrongi square in Magura town to sell their labour. — Star photo



Reception to talents: Mahbubur Rahman, Deputy Commissioner of Pabna presenting gifts to Shaila Parveen, one of the brilliant SSC examinees who were accorded a grand reception recently by the Rotaract Club of Pabna. — Star photo



NATORE: Deputy Commissioner (DC) M Ishaque Bhuiyan speaking at the inaugural meeting of a three-day growers' training programme at the local Horticulture centre. — Star photo



MAGURA: A free eye camp was arranged jointly by Shalikhtha thana administration and Bondhon Shilpi Gosthi at Arpara Ideal Primary School. — Star photo



Eroded Chandpur Irrigation Project at Taskerandi in Haimchar thana of Chandpur district. — Star photo