

News snaps

Housewife beaten to death

MANIKGANJ, Aug 11: A young housewife was allegedly beaten to death by her husband at village Nihalpur in Shibalaya thana Sunday, reports BSS.

The victim was identified as Ozifa Begum, 30, the first wife of Pashan Sheikh, an employee of Anandamoyee Movie House at Aricha ghat. Villagers said Pashan severely beat his wife Ozifa on the day leaving her dead on the spot. The cause behind the killing could not be known. Later, police arrested Pashan's second wife Bokuli Begum in this connection. Pashan went into hiding soon after the incident.

Schoolteacher murdered

BOGRA, Aug 11: Unidentified assailants killed a schoolteacher at Kori Arjun village in Sadar thana Sunday night, reports BSS.

Police said rivals swooped on Ramjan Ali Mondal, 45, son of Chan Mahmood of Salna village, while he was returning home from neighbour's house at about 9pm. Family sources said Ramjan went to the neighbour's house to consult about a case on land dispute. Hearing Ramjan's screaming, local people rescued him. But he succumbed to his injuries on the way to home.

Eyes of extortionist gouged

PATUAKHALI, Aug 11: Angry people gouged the eyes of an extortionist at Payakunja ferry ghat in Sadar thana and handed him over to the police on Sunday night, reports BSS.

Police said, Babul Khan, 27, demanded illegal toll from Mostafa Mia, a trader at the ferry ghat. On refusal, he snatched away the cash at dagger's point and tried to run away. Mostafa raised a hue and cry inviting attention of the people. They came sharp, rounded up Babul, beat him mercilessly and gouged his eyes. Later, the police raided the ferry ghat and arrested Mostafa, an accomplice of Babul.

Fisheries week observed

NAGAON, Aug 11: The Fisheries office of Patnitola thana under Naogaon district organised different programmes in observance of the National Fisheries Week recently, report BSS.

A discussion was held on the occasion in the thana parishad auditorium. Thana Nirhabi Officer of Patnitola A S M Khurshidul Alam presided. Shamsuzzoha Khan MP was present at the meeting as the chief guest. Acting Principal of Nazipur Government Degree College Abul Hayat Ismail Hossain and Thana Fisheries Officer Shawkat Ali, among others, spoke on the occasion. Fish fry was released in the pond of Thana Parishad on the occasion.

Anjuman-e-Mofidul Islam meet

PABNA, Aug 11: A meeting of the convening committee of the Anjuman-e-Mofidul Islam, Pabna district was held on August 3 in the Diabetic Association auditorium here, reports BSS.

Shafiqur Rahman Khan, editor, Dainik Ichhamati, presided over the meeting. A 15-member committee was formed with Shafiqur Rahman Khan, Nuruddin Khan Babul and Shawkat Hossain as joint convenors.

88 schemes implemented

JOYPURHAT, Aug 11: Local Government Engineering Department implemented 88 development schemes in the district spending Tk one crore in the fiscal 1998-99, reports BSS.

The project works included construction of 163.16 km roads, 180.39 metre bridges, culverts and earth filling. Officials said works on 50 more projects, financed by the World Bank, under Rural Infrastructure Maintenance Programme-2 are going on in full-swing. The works included construction and reconstruction of 32 bridges and culverts and five roads. Thirteen more roads are also being repaired under the post-flood rehabilitation programme. All the project works are expected to be completed by the year 2000.



Rabindra Joyanti: Local artists of Natore rendering Tagore songs recently at a cultural programme organised by the Natore district unit of National Rabindra Sangeet Sammelan Parishad on the occasion of the death anniversary of the Nobel laureate poet.

Star photo by Anwar Ali

Cultivation of Taman

CHANDPUR, Aug 11: Transplanted aman paddy has been cultivated in 40,500 hectares in the seven thanas of Chandpur district in the current season, reports BSS.

According to the Agriculture Extension Department, 20,500 hectares under local varieties. The cultivation has already been completed. The production target has been fixed at 1,30,000 tons of paddy. Improved varieties of seeds and fertilisers were supplied to farmers by the Agriculture Department.

Wife killed for dowry

GAIBANDHA, Aug 11: A greedy husband allegedly killed his wife for dowry at Pyarapur village in Gobindaganj thana on Sunday, reports BSS.

Villagers said Sazu mercilessly beat his wife Nurunnahar, 20, as she could not bring money from her father. She later succumbed to her injuries. In a bid to hush up the murder, Sazu was learnt to have poured poison into his wife's mouth. According to the villagers, Sazu had been torturing his wife for dowry since their marriage 18 months back.

Reintroduce Rag Day

RAJSHAHI, Aug 11: Students of Mathir Hall of Rajshahi University Monday brought out a rickshaw procession on the campus urging the authorities to reintroduce the Rag Day, reports BSS.

Over 100 students riding in 50 rickshaws paraded the campus in the afternoon calling for immediate steps to restore the Rag Day. Expressing solidarity with them, students of the 1997 batch from all other halls of the university took out another procession and submitted a memorandum to the authorities to realise the demand.

Boys sent to hajat

MYMENSINGH, Aug 11: Two minor boys were sent to jail hajat for attempting to steal guava from the garden of Akua TV sub-station in the town recently, reports BSS.

The security guards of TV sub-station caught them from its garden and handed them over to the police as directed by the senior officials. Jamal and Maidul, students of Class II of the Harijan Palli School, were prosecuted to the court as thieves under 54 Cr PC and the court threw them into jail hajat. The boys were, however, granted bail by magistrate Shahid Ara Banu on Tuesday on security bond of Tk 2,000 each.

Meeting of blind association

COTILLA, Aug 11: The 8th General meeting of the Bangladesh Jatiya Andha Kallyan Samity, Comilla unit was held on August 3 at Bagichaonari here, reports BSS.

President of the Comilla unit of the organisation Nasir Ahmed Chowdhury presided over the meeting. Dr Zobaida Hannan, general secretary of the organisation, Treasurer Dr A M Selim, Dr Walilullah, Managing Director of Bakrabad Gas System Limited and Mainul Hasan, a member of the organisation, among others, spoke on the occasion.

Loan for unemployed youths

COTILLA, Aug 11: The Youth Development Directorate disbursed two lakh among 20 members of the Halidu Mahila Sangsta in Laksham thana under Comilla district on August 7, reports BSS.

Youth Development Director M Waliur Rahman distributed the cheques to the borrowers at a function. Deputy Director K M Amanur Rahman presided over. The borrowers will utilise the loan for self-employment activities including animal husbandry, poultry farming and small business.



Living beside river banks: Villagers of Chakrampur in Daulatpur thana of Kushtia district shifting their belongings to safer places due to erosion by the River Padma.

Star photo

Aman seed crisis in Feni

FENI, Aug 11: When the farmers are struggling to emerge from economic downturn, acute seed crisis here seems to squander the chances of good harvest this year, reports BSS.

According to Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), some 77,430 hectares of land in five thanas have been brought under Aman cultivation in the current season, fixing the output target at 1,49,535 mts.

But farmers alleged that due to acute seed crisis they could not yet start cultivation.

"We are certainly heading towards another poor harvest," said a farmer adding that flash flood already damaged their seedbeds twice during June and July this year.

According to sources, only 500 hectares of land have so far been cultivated here.

DAE officials said they set a target to bring 4,300 hectares of land under seed sowing programme here to tackle the post-flood shortage and 3,500 hectares of seedbeds have already been prepared under the programme.

But the growers refused the

figures provided by the DAE of officials saying that it's not possible to prepare seedbeds right at this time as most farmlands in Parshuram, Fulgazi and Chhagalnaiya thanas were still under floodwater.

They are trying to confuse the people with inflated figures," said a farmer.

While the DAE officials are expecting a bumper production, the farmers said it's unlikely to achieve the Aman output target this year.

UNB from Rajshahi says: The acreage under transplanted Aman in the northern region may exceed this year due to favourable climate and enthusiasm of the farmers in cultivating paddy.

BSS from Chandpur says: About 50,000 hectares of land have been brought under Aus paddy cultivation in the seven thanas of the district this year.

According to the Agriculture Extension Department, of the total land, 30,500 hectares have been brought under High Yielding Variety (HYV) of paddy and about 20,000 hectares under local variety.

The target of production has been fixed at 80,000 tonnes of Aus paddy in Chandpur district in the current season.

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Besides, there is a prospect of bumper production of Aman paddy if the weather continues to be favourable with required rainfall.

Local farmers said a significant rainfall was experienced in all the districts of the northern region from the beginning of the rainy season and the paddy fields are getting necessary water.

The farmers are happy: they have the capital to plant Aman paddy and are getting adequate prices for their crops. Wages of workers have not risen. The banks also allocated Tk 300 crore as agri-loan.

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National Mourning Day programmes in dists

In Gazipur: The district administration, district Awami League and its front organisations have chalked out elaborate programmes to observe the twenty-fourth martyrdom anniversary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman who was assassinated along with most of his family members on August 15, 1975 by a section of misguided army personnel, report agencies.

In Khulna: Awami League and its front organisations have chalked out separate programmes to mourn the assassination of the Father of the Nation.

The day's programme includes hoisting of the national flag at half-mast and putting up Awami League and black flag atop party offices.

A silent procession will be brought out in the city and a rally will be held at the Awami League, Khulna office.

Floral wreaths will be placed at the portrait of Bangabandhu. Holding of a discussion on the life and achievements of the Bangabandhu and a milad mahfil are the other highlights of the day.

Deputy Commissioner Md Rafiqul Islam presided over the meeting.

The programme includes

hoisting of national flag at half-mast, Quran Khwan, milad mahfil, seminar and discussion on the life of Bangabandhu and his contribution to the independence of Bangladesh and recitation of poems by the children.

Besides, Awami League and its front organisations, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Bangabandhu Parishad have chalked out separate programmes on the occasion.

In Satkhira: A 71-member National Mourning Day Observation Committee was formed at a joint meeting of the Satkhira District Krishak League, Sramik League, Mohila Awami League and Poura Awami League, held at the district Krishak League office on Thursday.

The programme was taken in a meeting of the officials, political leaders, heads of local educational institutions and representatives of the socio-cultural organisations held in the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner on August 4.

Deputy Commissioner Md Rafiqul Islam presided over the meeting.

The programme was presided over by the President of Bangladesh Krishak League, Satkhira district branch Sardar Anisur Rahman.

Sheikh Ashraful Haque, chairman of Satkhira Pourasava and Manzur Hassan were elected convenor and the member-secretary respectively of the 71-member National Mourning Day Observation Committee.

All dist headquarters to be brought under digital tech

SUNAMGANJ, Aug 11: Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad advised the opposition to take preparation for next general elections shunning the path of agitation, reports BSS.

He said on completion of tenure they (Awami League) would hand over power to a caretaker government.

"No use demanding election two years ahead the schedule," he said and called upon them to go to Parliament and point out the wrong doing of the government and get involved in development of the country.

The foreign minister said there cannot be long-march sitting in airconditioned cars.

He was addressing a function at Shaheed Abdul Hossain auditorium here marking the opening of a 1200-line new digital telephone exchange.

Asad said in this age of globalisation survival depends on bringing a qualitative change in the standard of life.

Addressing the function Home and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim said there would be no compromise in fulfilling Prime Minister's commitment for curbing terrorism.

"If law can't save those who were involved in the carnage at Udichi function and Kazi Aref's murder in league with the Jesore smuggler's syndicate, none else can save them, no matter how much powerful they are."

Nasim said peace, which now prevails in the southern region after conducting bombing operation, could not be achieved during last 20 years.

Hoisting in the town satisfactorily.

The installation of 800 digital lines is expected to be completed by November this year under the supervision of a Chinese firm.

A Trunk Automatic Exchange will also be set up in the town to provide modern telecommunications services to the subscribers.

The new digital lines and the telephone exchange are likely to be inaugurated by December next, obviating the long-time demand of the local people.

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