

## News snaps

### Housewife beaten to death

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

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 Bokul Begum in this connection. Pashan went into hiding soon after the incident.

### Schoolteacher murdered

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

Police said rivals swooped on Ramjan Ali Mondal, 45, son of Chan Mahmood of Saina 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 Payrakunja ferry ghat in Sadar thana and handed him over to the police on Sunday night, reports UNB.

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 Mustaf, an accomplice of Babul.

### Fisheries week observed

NAOGAON, Aug 11: The Fisheries office of Patnitala 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 Nirbahi Officer of Patnitala 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 Shaukat 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 Shaukat 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 UNB.

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 artistes 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 T-aman

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 Pyrapur village in Gobindganj thana on Sunday, reports UNB.

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 Mathar Hall of Rajshahi University Monday brought out a rickshaw procession on the campus urging the authorities to reintroduce the Rag Day, reports UNB.

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 hajjat

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

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 Pali School, were prosecuted to the court as thieves under 54 Cr PC and the court threw them into jail hajjat. The boys were, however, granted bail by magistrate Shahan Ara Bhanu on Tuesday on security bond of Tk 2,000 each.

### Meeting of blind association

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

President of the Comilla unit of the organisation Nasir Ahmed Chowdhury presided over the meeting. Dr Zobaidda Hannan, general secretary of the organisation, Treasurer Dr A K M Selim, Dr Waliullah, 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

COMILLA, Aug 11: The Youth Development Directorate disbursed taka two lakh among 20 members of the Haludia Mahila Sangstha in lakhsham thana under Comilla district on August 7, reports BSS.

Youth Development Director M Walur 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 UNB.

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 seed shortage and 3,500 hectares of seedbeds have already been prepared under the programme.

But the growers refused the

figures provided by the DAE officials saying that it's not possible to prepare seedbeds right at this time as most farmlands in Parshuram, Fulgazi and Chhagalainya 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 favorable climate and enthusiasm of the farmers in cultivating paddy.

Agriculture Department sources said the target of transplanted Aman cultivation in 16 northern districts has been fixed at 16.58 lakh hectares.

Of the target, Aman on about 50 per cent land has already been planted and the rest will be completed within next 15-20 days, the sources said.

The production of Aman may also exceed its target of 31.60 lakh metric tonnes as more lands in all the 16 districts were

brought under cultivation.

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.

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.

## National Mourning Day programmes in dists

Elaborate programmes have been chalked out by the government and a number of political, social, cultural and trade bodies across the districts 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.

In Gazipur: The district administration, district Awami League and its front organisations have chalked out elaborate programmes to observe the day in a befitting manner.

An official source said, the day will begin with the hoisting of the national flag, black flag and party flag at half-mast atop all government and non-government buildings.

Other programmes include children's rally, discussion meetings, milad mahfil and distribution of food among the poor people.

In Mymensingh: A comprehensive programme has been taken up by the district administration as per directive of the government to observe the 24th death anniversary of the father of the nation in a befitting manner.

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 includes

hoisting of national flag at half-mast, Quran Khawari, 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 Observance Committee was formed at a joint meeting of the Satkhira District Krishak League, Samik League, Mohila Awami League and Poura Awami League, held at the district Krishak League office on Thursday.

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

Sheikh Ashraf Haque, chairman of Satkhira Pourasava and Manzur Hassan were elected convener and the member-secretary respectively of the 71-member National Mourning Day Observance 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 UNB.

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 Abul Hossain auditorium here marking the opening of a 1200-line new digital phone exchange.

Azad 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 combined operation, could not be achieved during last 20 years.

The Home Minister termed slums the dens for terrorism and said "fake NGOs who brought money from abroad showing the slums are patronising terrorism".

Nasim said all the district headquarters would be brought under digital technology by year 2000.

Later on, both the ministers inaugurated the Sunamganj new digital telephone exchange talking to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in Dhaka.

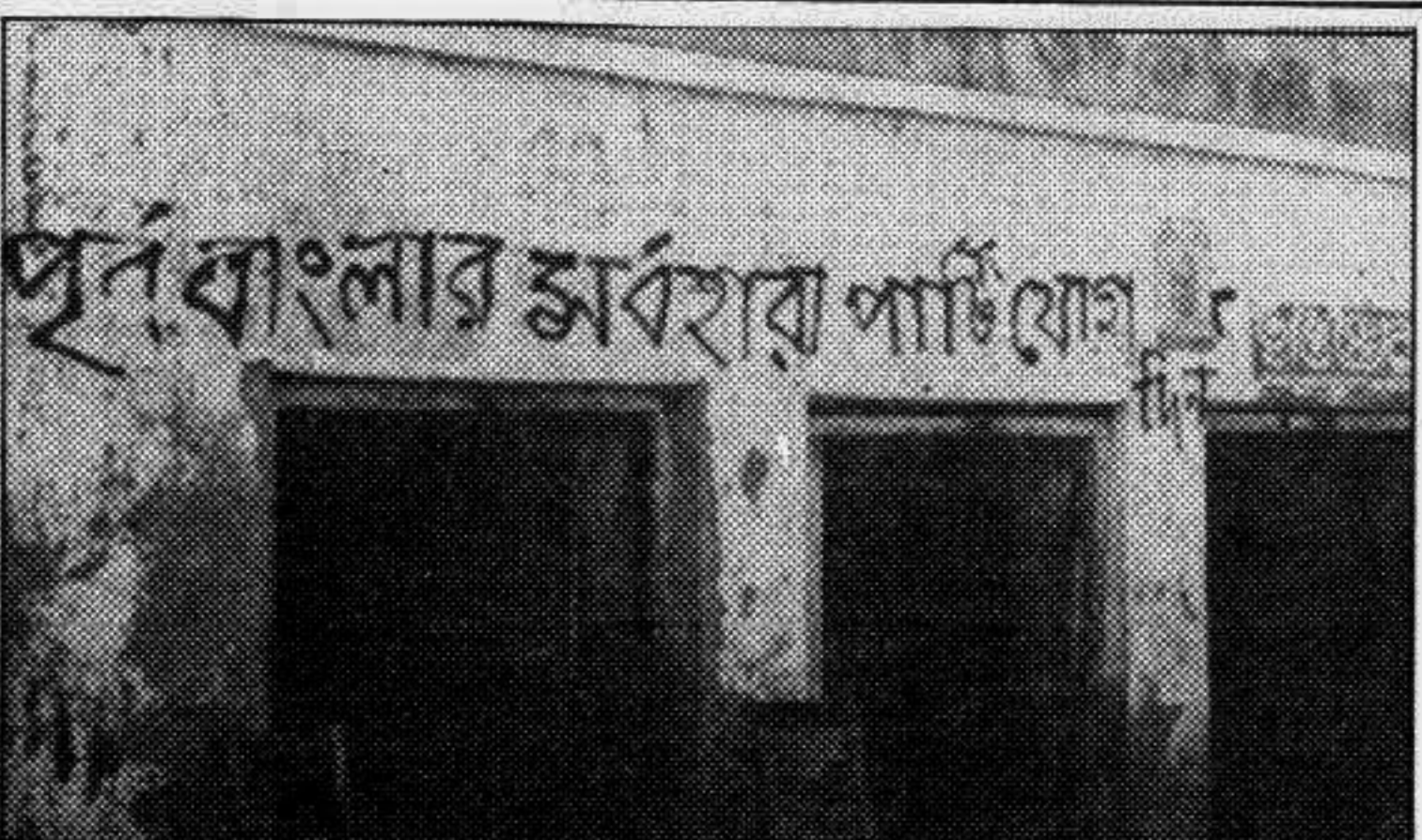
UNB from Comilla says: Works on the much-awaited digital telephone line are pro-

gressing 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 longtime demand of the local people.



**Outlaws active again?:** A few months ago a group of outlawed Sarbaharamen came to Ayash, Biash and Sabgari villages in Chalan Beel area to collect tolls and committing dacoity. They wrote slogans in favour of their party at that time at Sabgari bazaar. Their presence has raised a great concern among the police administration and villagers alike.

— Star photo

### SM Sultan's memory to be preserved

NARAIL, Aug 11: The government has allocated Tk 2.25 crore for the current fiscal to preserve the memory of the great artist S M Sultan, reports UNB.

State Minister for Youth and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Qader said this inaugurating a three-day programme at the Victoria College compound marking 76th birth anniversary of the artist.

The State Minister also said that Tk 3.25 crore was sanctioned to set up a Youth Training centre in Narail.

He distributed a cheque of Tk one lakh 23 thousand and certificates among the trained youths of the area.

### Law and order situation worries Workers Party

NAOGAON, Aug 11: A public meeting organised by the Bangladesh her Workers Party, Naogaon district unit was held at the local Shaheed Minar premises on Friday, reports BSS.

The meeting was presided over by Shahid Hasan Siddiqui. Local Workers Party leader Towfiqur Rahman Khan, Lalul and student leader Mosaddequl Islam, among others, addressed the meeting.

The meeting expressed deep concern over the law and order situation and urged upon the government to take strong measures to nab the anti-social elements.

### Rajshahi WDB office besieged

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Aug 11: More than 100 people under the banner of Rajshahi Committee for Resistance to Transfer of O&M Division (RCRTO&MD) laid siege to the office of the Chief Engineer of BWDB of Rajshahi Division on Monday to protest the shifting of the operation & Maintenance (O&M) Division-2 of Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) from Rajshahi.

However, the second day of the three-day's 30-minute strike was observed on the day from 10 am to 10:30 am in the city to protest the shifting of the office.

RCRTO&MD has also called upon the city dwellers to observe a half-day general strike on Thursday.

### Two night-coach robberies in Pabna

From Ranesh Maitra

PABNA, Aug 11: Incidents of night-coach robbery have increased in the district in recent days.

Two night coach robberies were committed on Sunday and Saturday.

An Ishwardi-bound night coach, Badal Paribahan, from Dhaka came under the attack of highway robbers near Maligachha under Pabna Sadar thana at 11 pm on Sunday.

The robbers, who disguised themselves as passengers, overwhelmed the driver and looted cash and valuables worth about taka 90,000 from passengers at gun's point. The robbers compelled the driver to drive the bus in usual speed.

Another night coach, Raja-Badsha, also bound for Ishwardi from Dhaka fell victim to robbers at Puspapara under Sadar thana on Saturday.

The robbers overwhelming the driver looted cash and valuables from passengers and left the vehicle at Tebunia.

### Four unnatural deaths in Feni

From A Correspondent

Feni, Aug 11: Four incidents of unnatural deaths were occurred in the district during the last week.

A minor girl committed suicide at village Bashpadua under Parshuram thana on August 8.

Police and family sources said Rehana Akhtar 10, killed herself by taking poison following a quarrel with her mother.

In another incident, Rokeya Begum, 18, of village Sotra under Chhagalainya thana, committed suicide by taking poison on August 4. The reason behind the suicide could not be known immediately.

One Nurul Islam, 45, of village West Shahab Nager under Parshuram thana, committed suicide by taking poison on August 2 night. He was rushed to thana health complex, where doctors declared him dead.

The reason behind the suicide could not be known immediately.

A minor boy was crushed under the wheels of a pickup van on August 5.

The boy, Salaududdin, 6, was crushed the wheels on Feni-Chhagalainya road near Subadar Bazar while crossing the road. Separate cases were lodged in these connections.

### Man-eater kills one

SATKHIRA, Aug 11: A man-eater killed a man at Kalagachi Forest area in the Sundarbans under Shyamnagar thana on Friday, reports BSS.

The victim was identified as Mujibur Rahman, 40, of village Munshiganj in Shyamnagar thana.

According to his family sources, Mujibur was fishing in Horinghata canal at Kalagachi range area in the Sundarbans with others. Suddenly a man-eater attacked them and took away Mujibur in deep forest.

## Events of districts in picture



**Launching of the RESS OF NATIONS - 1999**  
দেবী সানুহের অগ্রগতি-১৯৯৯  
প্রতিবেদন উপস্থাপনা  
RAJSHAHI-22 JULY 99

Mijanur Rahman Minu, Mayor of Rajshahi city corporation addressing as the chief guest at the launching ceremony of the Unicef publication --Progress of Nations'99 at a restaurant in Rajshahi.

— Star photo



**Service to humanity:** Lions Club of Narayanganj Midcity and Leo Club of Narayanganj Midcity jointly arranged a programme of blood donation and tree plantation at Moishtek in Sonargaon of Narayanganj district on Saturday. Bangladesh Red Crescent Society collaborated in making the programme a success.

— Lions Club photo



**Preparing for the worst:** One day training workshop on disaster management was held recently at Gaibandha Zilla Parishad auditorium.

— Star photo



Munajat being offered following opening of a newly constructed road in Jamalpur town recently by the local municipality chairman.

— Star photo



**Reception:** M Ishaq Bhuiyan, Deputy Commissioner of Natore presenting a trophy to Abdullah -al-Mamoon Ashrafi, president of the district Kho-Kho welfare samity on the occasion of a reception accorded to the association for securing the third place in the First National Kho-Kho competition.

— Star photo



National Red Cross and Red Crescent Day was observed recently in Netrakona town.

— Star photo