

## News snaps

### Villagers clash leaves man dead

RAJSHAHI, Aug 14: A fierce clash between two groups of villagers left a man dead and 20 people injured in Chirghat thana Sunday, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Jonab Ali, 30, son of Hazrat Ali. He died on the spot. Witnesses said the clash between the people of Daulatpur and Salua villages took place at about 12 noon centering a love affair. Of the wounded, Alauddin, 30, Shahidul, 25, Lucky, 25, Zekar Ali, 55, Ayub Ali, 50, Hamidur Rahman, 42, and Minhajul, 19, were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

### Husband allegedly kills wife

PABNA, Aug 14: One young wife was slaughtered to death allegedly by her husband at Khidir village in Sathia thana on Sunday, reports UNB.

Police said the body of Rehana Khatun, 23, wife of Alhajuddin, was found in a pool of blood in her room after family members broke the door for not getting response for a long time. The door of the room remained locked from inside after Rehana and her husband had a quarrel over not getting child during their six-year married life. Police recovered the slaughtered body and sent for autopsy.

### Teachers' association meeting

MANIKGANJ, Aug 14: The triennial general meeting of the Manikganj unit of Bangladesh Government Secondary School Teachers' Association (BGSTA) was held on Saturday in the auditorium of Manikganj Government High school, reports BSS.

The meeting was presided over by Sultanuddin Ahmed, president of BGSTA, Manikganj unit and headmaster of Manikganj Government High school. The meeting was addressed, among others, by Md Matiur Rahman, President of the central committee of BGSTA, Maleka Begum, Headmistress, Narinda Government Girls' High School, Md. Shamsul Huq, Secretary General of BGSTA.

### Separate incidents kill two

MAGURA, Aug 14: A teenage boy has been struck by lightning to death in village Narsingdi of sadar thana, reports UNB.

Residents of the village said Prince, 10, son of Abdus Sattar, was standing at the doors of the kitchen during heavy downpour recently when the lightning struck him. His body was burnt. In another incident, Ashok Kumar, 32, of village Shibrampur committed suicide swallowing poison recently.

### Lightning kills degree examinee

NAOGAON, Aug 14: A college student was killed by lightning at village Beel-Krishnapur in Raninagar thana here last week, reports BSS.

Eye witnesses said the victim, Razzak had been working in his crop-land during torrential rain. A thunder-bolt splashed over his body and he died on the spot. Razzak was a degree examinee.

### Another housewife killed

JESSORE, Aug 14: A quarrel between a young man and his wife ended in killing of the wife at Sonatonkati village in Sarsha thana early Sunday, reports UNB.

Police said Ismail Hossain picked up a quarrel with his wife Rahima Khatun, 20, at the dead of night and at one point strangled her to death at his in-law's house. He fled the scene soon after the killing, but local people caught him later. He was handed over to police. Police recovered the body and sent it to hospital morgue for autopsy.

### Police nab two heroin addicts

SATKHIRA, Aug 14: Satkhira Sadar thana police in a raid nabbed two heroin addicted youths from the Shafi Super Market area on Saturday, reports BSS.

Police sources said, acting on a tip-off the Sadar police led by Sub-Inspector Refaat Chowdhury raided the Shafi Super Market area and arrested two heroin addicted youths, identified as Safiqu Islam, 22, and Habibur Rahman of Kamal Nagar village from a paribahan counter of the market. Police also recovered some match boxes full of heroin from their possession.

### Drain construction work

JESSORE, Aug 14: The construction work of 20 drains in the Jessori Municipality area under Middle Town Infrastructure Development Programme has been completed, reports BSS.

The drains have been constructed by LGED at a cost of Taka two crore 74 lakh. The inhabitants of the town have relieved greatly from water logging in the current rainy season as those drains have been constructed in due time. According to the chairman of Jessori Pousrasabha, 30 more drains are under their construction plan in the current fiscal year. The town dwellers will be completely relieved from water logging by the next two years after the construction of necessary drains.

### Training on bee keeping

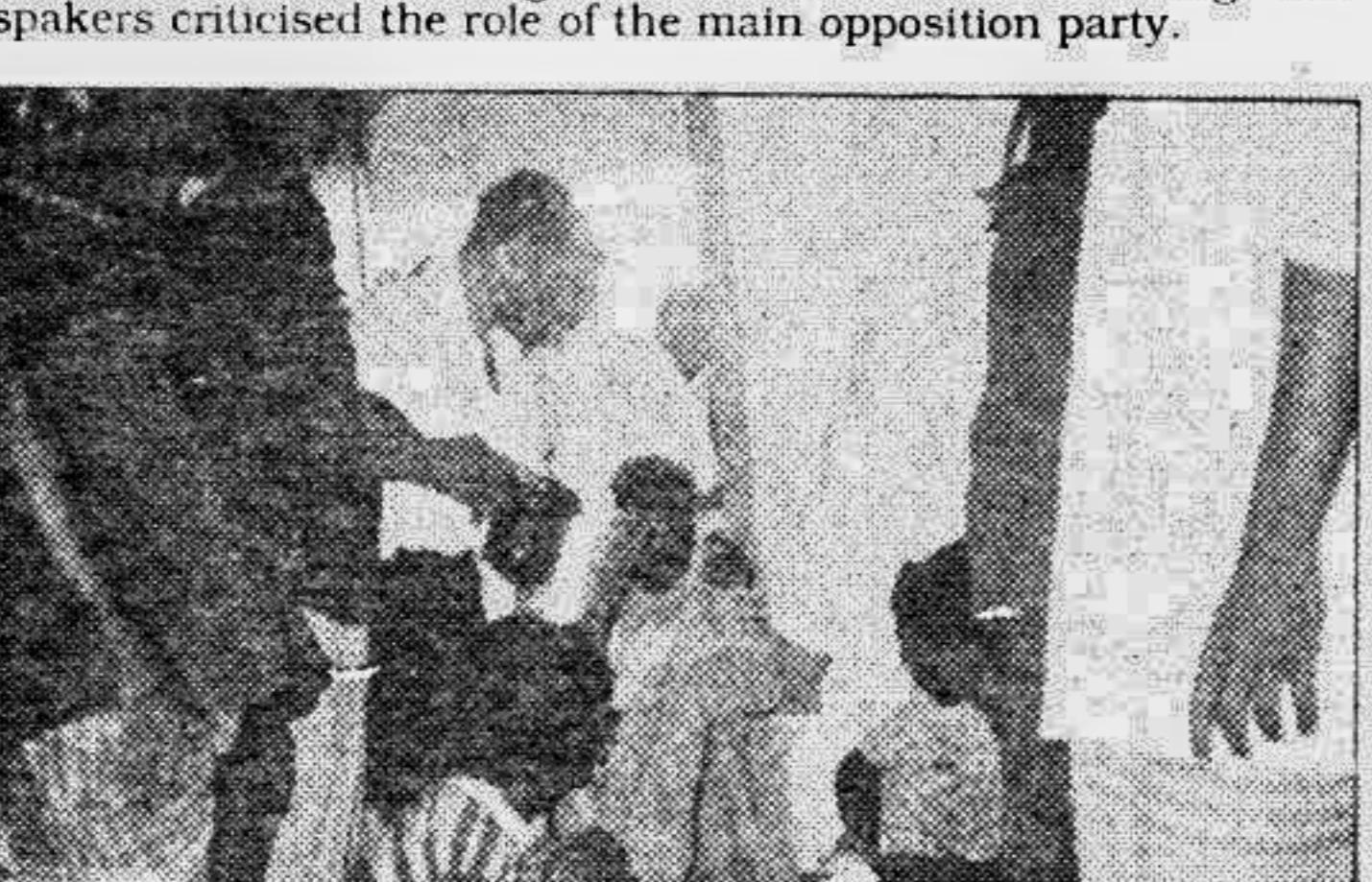
SRIMANGAL, Aug 14: A five-day training course on bee-keeping was held last week at GJMS Senior Madrasa premises here, reports BSS.

The Hunger Project, Bangladesh and Srimangal Jubo Foundation jointly organised the training programme. The main objective of the programme is to create self-employment opportunities especially for the youths. Twenty persons participated in the training. An experienced bee-keeper from Tangail district SM Shafeen imparted training to the participants.

### Violence condemned

MUNSHIGANJ, Aug 14: A public meeting organised by the local Awami League on Sunday at Poura Super-Market square here slated the violence and anarchy resorted to by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) in the name of observing hartal without any issue, reports BSS.

The meeting presided over by Jalaluddin, president of Munshiganj town Awami League, District Awami League president and former MP Mohiuddin Ahmed, District AL general secretary Lutfar Rahman, local leaders Tofazzal Hossain, Jamal Hossain, SM Amanullah, Shamsul Kabir, Shafiquddin, Advocate Abdul Matin, among others, addressed the meeting. The speakers criticised the role of the main opposition party.



Relief materials being distributed among the river erosion affected people at Islampur recently by a non-governmental organisation of Jamalpur. — Star photo

### Jobless youths cheated

NAOGAON, Aug 14: A cheat in Sadar thana here has disappeared taking Tk three lakh from some unemployed youths of the area promising them jobs in Europe, reports UNB.

Police said, Abu Hena Rabu, younger brother of Labour Ministry director Abu Wahed, took the money from Bretanta Paul, Bahadur Chowdhury and Tapash Sarkar giving them a false promise to send them to Sweden. Later on July 29, the cheat took them to Dhaka and then disappeared leaving them in a city hotel. When contacted his brother Wahed expressed his ignorance about the matter.

### Loan disbursement exceeds target

CHUADANGA, Aug 14: Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) has exceeded its loan disbursement target in the Chuadanga region during the last financial year, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the bank has disbursed an amount of Taka 13 crore 95 lakh 64 thousand during the last financial year in the Chuadanga region as against its disbursement target of Taka 10 crore 68 lakh 09 thousand. The amount of loan was disbursed among 11,377 loanees. The loan was given for cultivation of IRI-20, Aus, Aman, wheat, sugarcane and jute for purchasing cattle heads and agricultural instruments and for running business. The loan was disbursed through 10 branches of Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Chuadanga re-

# National

## Arsenic has invaded Moulvibazar dist

From Rajat Kanti Goswami

MOULVIBAZAR Aug 14: Arsenic has now invaded this district.

According to the Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) here, arsenic has been detected in tubewell waters of 10 unions out of 64 unions in six thanas here. PHED officials said, the tubewells' water of Nazirabad and Monumukh unions in the sadar thana was found in intolerable limit of arsenic. The department has already sealed off the tubewells. They have asked the people not to take waters of those tubewells.

PHED tested recently the tubewells' water from different villages under the aforementioned unions and identified 10

unions as arsenic contaminated area.

When contacted, an engineer

**Man sentenced to death for killing wife**

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Aug 14: A man was sentenced to death for killing wife in the district on Thursday.

Additional District and Sessions judge found husband Rezaul Haque alias Raja Khan guilty of killing his wife Salma Khatun.

Later police arrested the husband. He used to beat his wife for dowry, police said.

of PHED, Moulvibazar office said, they had collected tubewells' water by random sampling system. After collection, tubewells' water was tested at their laboratory for primary test and found content of arsenic. Later on the sample water was sent to Comilla for further confirmation of primary test.

During final test at Comilla, it was confirmed that tubewells' water of 10 unions in Kamalganj, Rajnagar, Kulaura, and sadar thanas was contaminated.

However, the PHED engineer added that it was difficult to test the water of all the tubewells in all the six thanas due to lack of necessary equipment and manpower.

### Principal awarded

SHERPUR, Aug 14: The Dhaka Board has awarded principal Akhtaruzzaman for his courageous role in checking unfair means in the HSC examinations this year, reports UNB.

The Board has highly praised Akhtaruzzaman, principal of Dr Sekandar Ali College, lauded his bold and courageous steps and awarded him Tk 10,000 in cash.

Founder of a number of educational institutions in the region, a devout teacher and a man of principle Akhtaruzzaman himself went round the examination halls and expelled a number of examinees.

The students used to respect and equally fear Akhtaruzzaman. He firmly repulsed the attack of a group of armed terrorists, counter-chased and caught some of them when they came to seek reverse expulsion of a student for adopting unfair means in English Second Paper examination.

It is due to his honesty, integrity and selfless devotion to promote education Sekandar Ali College was adjudged the best college in 1998.

**Sarbabora Party commander arrested**

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Aug 14: The Shingra thana commander of Purba Bangla Sarbabora Party and a terror of mid Chalan beef area Abdul Khaleque was arrested by Natore police from Ronbaghat in Nandigram thana of Bogra district on Friday night.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided Ronbaghat and picked him up.

Abdul Khaleque is an accused in the Oahab murder case and have his name on the terrorist list at Shingra thana.

Oahab was shot dead by the Sarbabora Party members at Bishash bazaar in Shingra on June 23. The killing occurred as a sequel to intra-party feud over toll collection.

**Tele links from Barisal snapped for 20 hours**

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Aug 14: Both the Nation Wide Dialling (NWD) and International Subscribers' Dialling (ISD) telecommunication systems and network remained disrupted to and from Barisal for nearly 20 hours from 4-15 PM on Wednesday till 11-15 AM on Thursday.

According to a T&T high official source here, telecommunications with Barisal and rest of the country and other countries of the world due to cable trouble in the tele-communications carrier service section here.

**618 bottles of phenisidyl seized in Pabna**

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Aug 14: A total of 618 bottles of Indian made Phenisidyl cough syrup were seized at Ataikula in Pabna district from a private car recently.

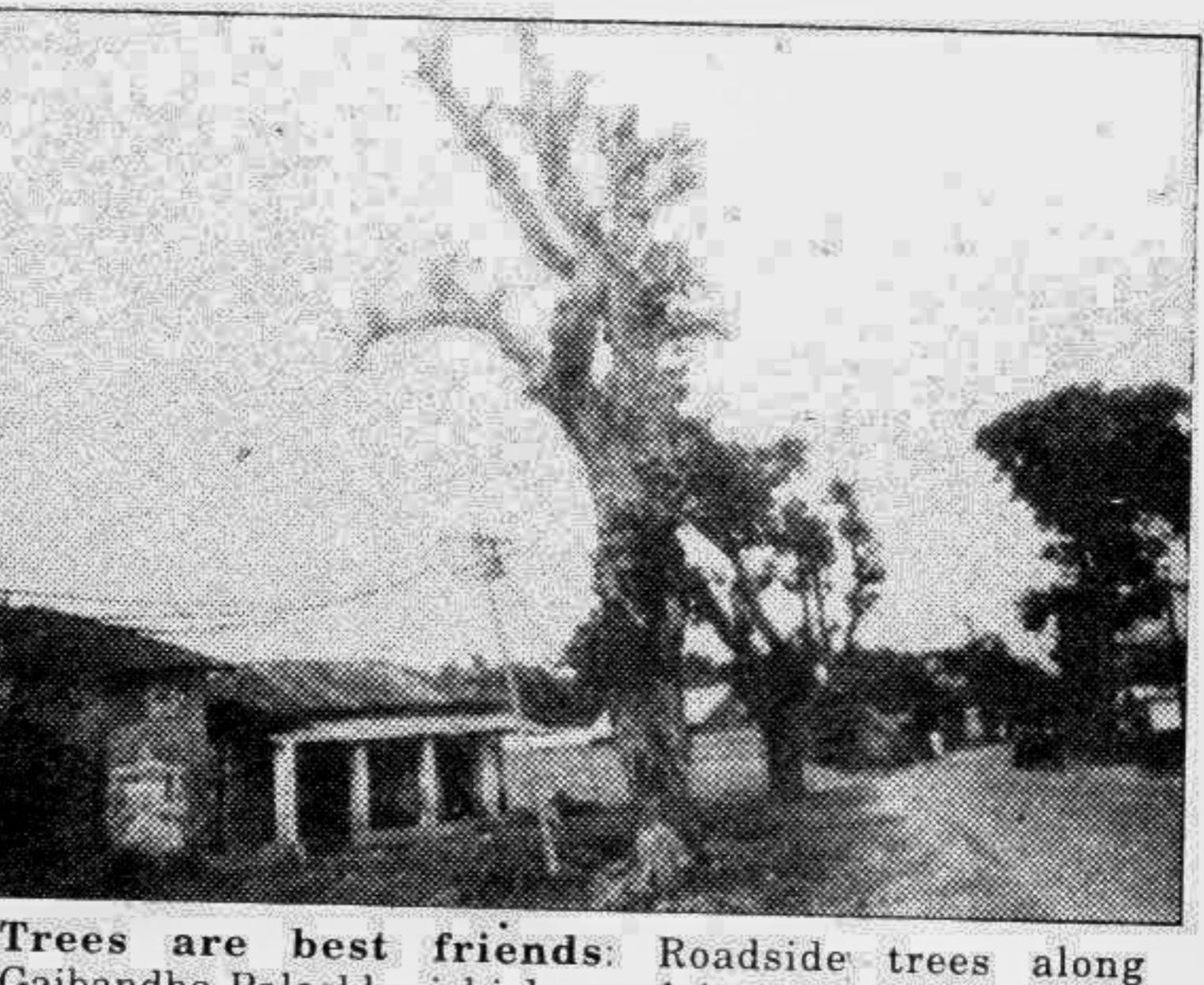
Four drug smugglers were also arrested from the vehicle, police said.

Acting on a tip-off police intercepted the Siraganj-bound car from Pabna (Dhaka-DA-871) and challenged the passengers.

Police then recovered 618 bottles of syrup from inside the car arrested four persons—driver Mohammad Ali, Shafiqul Islam, Zillur Rahman and Satya Ranjan.

A case was lodged with police in this connection.

## Events of districts in picture



**Trees are best friends:** Roadside trees along Gaibandha-Palashbari highway dying alarmingly due to outbreak of unknown diseases. But there is none to take care of the trees. —Star photo



The annual general meeting of Sheikh Kamal memorial body was held recently in a Chinese restaurant in Brahmanbaria. —Star photo



**Trainees awarded:** Poet Nurul Huda awarding the successful trainees of the recently held training course on Nazrul songs in Brahmanbaria town. —Star photo



**Anti-smuggling procession:** Faridpur district poultry farm owners association brought out a procession in the town recently protesting rampant smuggling of Indian eggs and poultry birds. —Star photo

## Plants dying due to lack of maintenance in Gaibandha

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Aug 14: Hundreds of plants and trees are dying every year in the district due to lack of proper maintenance.

On the occasion of tree plantation drive programme huge numbers of saplings are planted along roadside and embankments every rainy season by different government departments, non-governmental organisations and other voluntary organisations. But these saplings die within very short times because no one takes care of these newly planted saplings.

Meanwhile, many of the planted saplings along the roads and embankments are attacked with unknown disease, local people said. Not only saplings but also grown up trees of 10 to 15 years old die also of the unknown disease, they added.

Our Brahmanbaria Correspondent says: Villagers in all seven thanas of the district are facing acute shortages of bamboo, one of the main materials of rural house building materials.

Rural people usually build their houses or huts with locally available materials. For this they need bamboo, sops, hemp and mud. On the other hand, the sheets of corrugated iron and wood are needed for semi-concrete tin-shed houses. Most of the villagers live in bamboo-straw made cottages.

Many farmers cut down their bamboo and hemp clusters indiscriminately in the previous years to bring more lands under crop cultivation, creating acute scarcity of the

rural houses building materials in district. One large size bamboo is being sold between Taka 150 and 175 in the local markets.

Villagers said due to shortage of shan, leaves of hemp plants, they are now using the straw of paddy plants for making the sheds of houses, creating the severe crisis of fodder. As cattle heads are suffering from fodder crisis, crop cultivation on lands is also being hampered.

Meanwhile, the bamboo cultivation in the district has declined due to growers' lack of proper knowledge of scientific farming. Besides, most of the growers think that the bamboo cultivation is not profitable one.

Once clusters of bamboo and hemp plants were available in the eastern part of the district.

One Muhammad Ali of Paharpur village said over the years farmers have turned their lands of bamboo clusters into crop lands. Bamboo farming was not much profitable, he added.

The authorities concerned should take immediate steps to impart training to growers and help increase bamboo production, opined elderly people in the district.

## Gandhi Ashram working for social progress in 68 Noakhali villages

By S M Zahurul Alam

JOYAGRAM, Aug 14: Gandhi Ashram of Noakhali, through its various social welfare activities, has now firmly established itself as a philanthropic and development organisation based on Gandhian philosophy of rural development, peace and social harmony.

After the independence of Bangladesh, Gandhi Ashram was re-organised as Gandhi Ashram Trust headed by a Supreme Court judge. Development and extension services for the poor and disadvantaged classes were the main focus of the Trust, along with charitable functions. Improvement of living standard, both material and moral, has now become the cherished objective of Gandhi Ashram, said the present director of the organisation, Jharna Choudhury.

Choudhury said that the Ashram authority has plans to convert its two-story main building into a full-fledged Gandhi museum. Work on the plan is in progress, she said, adding: "When completed, the Ashram will attract a sizeable number of tourists."

Named after Mahatma Gandhi, the legendary figure in the independence movement of the Indian sub-continent against the British colonial rule, the Ashram is situated at Joya village in Begumganj police station of Noakhali district, about 36 kilometres from the district headquarters.

Establishment of Gandhi Ashram dates back to October 1946 when Mahatma Gandhi came to Noakhali on a peace mission following a communal riot and stayed there for four

months. In the course of his peace mission in the area by foot, when he reached the remote Joya, the then zamindar of the area, Barrister Hemanta Kumar Ghosh, handed over all his movable and immovable property to this great leader. A crusader for independence and communal harmony, Mahatma Gandhi established the Ashram there for the uplift and benefit of the toiling masses, irrespective of cast and religious beliefs.