

News snaps

18 bottles of phensidyl seized

MOULVIBAZAR, Aug 18: Police recovered 18 bottles of Indian phensidyl from a shop in the town on Friday and arrested a man in this connection, reports UNB.

Police, acting on a tip-off, raided the shop near the mazar of Hazrat Syed Shah Mostafa Bogdadi and arrested Hanif along with the drug, the shop owner, Alal Mia, went into hiding after the raid. A case was filed.

Two bodies recovered

GAZIPUR, Aug 18: Tongi Thana police recovered two unidentified bodies recently from College Gate and Mill Gate areas under Tongi pourashava, reports BSS.

Police and hospital sources said, they were killed in separate road accidents on Dhaka-Gazipur road at College Gate and Mill Gate. Police sent the bodies to Gazipur Sadar Hospital for autopsy. Separate cases have been registered.

Tk 85 lakh sanctioned for road dev

MEHERPUR, August 18: The government has sanctioned Taka 85 lakh for the development of 15-kilometre Mujibnagar-Meherpur Road in the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to the Roads and Highway Department, under the project the road will be repaired and reconstructed, and several culverts will be built on the road. The work on the project will begin soon. The project has been taken up with the financial assistance from the World Bank.

Training institute to be set up

BANDARBAN, Aug 18: Chairman of Bandarban Hill District Council Thowang Cha Prue Master laid the foundation stone of a Vocational training institute at Meghla here on August 10, reports BSS.

The Facilities Department of the Ministry of Education has taken up the project at a cost of Taka 70 lakh in the current fiscal year. Chairman of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board Bir Bahadur MP, Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Siddiqur Rahman and Chief Scientific Officer of Soil Research Institute Jalal Uddin Soheb, among others, spoke on the occasion.

Blood donation programme

KUSHTIA, Aug 18: Professor Mohammad Kayesuddin, Vice Chancellor of Islamic University said, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is physically dead, but he is alive in the hearts of the people of this country, reports BSS.

Kayesuddin was speaking as the chief guest at a free medical camp and blood donation programme on Saturday, organised by Bangabandhu Parishad, Kushtia branch on the 24th anniversary of martyrdom of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Kayes said, the father of the nation was brutally killed by national and international criminals when Bangabandhu started work for the economic emancipation of the people. Prof Dr. Alauddin and Prof Dr. Abul Ahsan Choudhury spoke on the occasion as the special guests. Motiur Rahman Laitu, President Bangabandhu Parishad, Kushtia presided over the meeting. Bangabandhu Parishad also organised 'qurankham', 'milad mahfil' and destitute feeding at Amlapara on Saturday.

Advocacy meet

MEHERPUR, Aug 18: An advocacy meeting for the successful implementation of the voter's identity card, was held here at the DC office auditorium on August 11, reports BSS.

Deputy Commissioner of Meherpur Md Kamrul Islam presided over the meeting.

Body of old man recovered

MADARIPUR, Aug 18: Kalkini thana police recovered the body of an old man from a *danichha* field at village Charfate under Kalkini thana of the district on August 9, reports BSS.

The victim was identified as Nageendranath, 60, of village Charfate in Kalkini. The body was sent to Madaripur Sadar Hospital for autopsy. An unnatural death case was filed with Kalkini thana in this connection.

Eight robbers held

BRAHMANBARIA, Aug 18: Brahmanbaria police recently rounded up eight armed dacoits, reports BSS.

Acting on a tip off, police raided Shahabpur bridge area and arrested the dacoits. Police also recovered seven daggers and an axe from the possession. The arrested persons are Shishu Mia, Humayun, Malu Mia, Jamal Mollah, Aminul Islam, Suva Brahman, Haru Mia and Nasir Mia. A case was filed against them.

Co-ordination committee meet

GAZIPUR, Aug 18: The meeting of the Co-ordination committee of Gazipur Sadar thana was held at the conference room of Sadar thana on Monday. Saiful Islam Babul, Chairman of Basun Union Parishad presided over the meeting, reports BSS.

Ahsan Ullah Master, MP, Adviser of the Co-ordination Committee was present in the meeting as the chief guest. The meeting was attended by Shamsunnahar, TNO of Sadar thana, Shaiful Islam, Thana Project Coordinator and seven Union Parishad Chairmen. They discussed the project implementation of 1998-1999 financial year. A total of 158 development projects has been implemented till June 30, '99. The implemented projects included construction and reconstruction of roads, bridges and educational institutions.

Trees looted

BARISAL, Aug 18: A group of terrorists took away forcibly some valuable trees in broad daylight from the land of one Abdul Mannan Sikder of Azimpur village under Mehndiganj thana of the district recently, reports BSS.

A case was filed in the court of Magistrate First Class in this connection against 14 alleged terrorists. The case in brief is that about 20 terrorists took away 18 different varieties of trees forcibly after fanning them in a broad daylight from the land of Abdul Mannan Sikder. The alleged terrorists were jointly led by Siraj Hawlader and Haroon Bepari Master.

Glowing tributes paid to Bangabandhu in dists

People from all walks of life observed the National Mourning Day marking the 24th anniversary of martyrdom of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in all the districts on Sunday, reports BSS.

Different political parties, socio-cultural organisations, educational institutions and trade unions arranged elaborate programmes in observance of the day. The day's programme included hoisting of the national flags at all private and public buildings, placing of wreaths at the portrait of the Father of the Nation, wearing of black badges, Quran khawani, milad mahfil, discussion meetings and destitute feeding in almost all the districts.

Reports of observance of the day reached from Manikganj, Khagrachhari, Comilla, Myensingh, Chhagalnaiya (Juni), Brahmanbaria, Kishoreganj and Kushtia.

Our RU Correspondent reports: The university authority chalked out an elaborate programme to mark the day. The programme included hoisting of national and black flags, mourning procession, discussion meeting, children's art competition and Khatm-e-Quran.

At 6 in the morning national and black flags were hoisted at all buildings and dormitories. Both the flags flew at half mast.

A mourning procession was brought out carrying the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman from the 'Shabash Bangladesh Chattr' which paraded the main thoroughfares of the campus. The rally was attended by Justice Kamal Uddin Hussain, Vice-Chancellor (VC) Prof Sayeedur Rahman Khan and other high officials of the university. Besides, a large number of the students took part in the rally.

At 10 am, a discussion meeting was held at the Kazi Nazrul Islam auditorium on the life, works and contribution of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Justice Kamal Uddin Hussain was the chief guest, while Prof Abdul Khaleque, the former VC was the special guest. The new VC, Prof Sayeedur Rahman Khan presided over the meeting.



A big mourning procession led by the Vice-Chancellor of Rajshahi University, Prof Sayeedur Rahman paraded the campus streets on the occasion of National Mourning Day. — Star photo

among others, by the Life and Earth Science Faculty Dean Prof ABM Zohurul Haq, Rajshahi University Teachers' Association (RUTA) president and secretary Prof Abdur Rahman and Prof Ziaul Uddin, Prof Khairul Alam, Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leaders Sakhawat Hossain Shafiq, and Ehsamul Haq Pintu.

Earlier, at 8.30 am, a children's art competition was arranged at the Shaheed Smriti Shangrahasala premises.

In the afternoon, Khatm-e-Quran and a milad mahfil was held at the university central mosque.

Shaheed Smriti Sangrahasala remained open for public from 7 am to 2 pm.

The meeting was addressed,



Haridashpur village has been partially damaged recently by the Modhumati erosion in Gopalganj. — Star photo

Aman seed crisis in S-W region

JHENIDAH, Aug 18: Like many districts in northern region, farmers in southwestern region have run into trouble with Aman cultivation due to seed crisis, reports UNB.

They said an acute seed crisis was prevailing in the region as most seedbeds in 10 southwestern districts were damaged by floodwaters.

Some 7.36 lakh hectares of land in Jhenidah, Jessore, Magura, Khulna, Narail, Bagerhat, Satkhira, Kushtia, Chuadanga and Meherpur have been brought under Aman farming in the current season, fixing the output target at 14,32,732 mts.

According to local agricultural office, only 1,000 mts

seeds have so far been supplied to the districts against the demand for 36,003 mts.

Meanwhile, farmers accused the BADC dealers of selling seeds at an exorbitant price defying the rate fixed by BADC.

At present, a 10-kg bag of BR-30 and BR-32 seeds is selling at Tk 170 while BR-11 at Tk 180 against the BADC rate of Tk 140 and Tk 150 respectively.

"Yes, we have received such allegations, but we cannot take any action against the dealers due to free market system," said a BADC official on condition of anonymity.

But he said that they have adequate stocks of seeds to meet the demand of the region.

Another report from

Gaibandha says: Hoping a good weather, farmers here have embarked on massive farming this season.

Officials said some 5,500 hectares of land have been brought under Aman cultivation in the district fixing the output target at 91,961 mts.

They said high yielding variety of paddy would be cultivated on some 65,000 hectares, while the local variety on over 38,000 hectares.

All necessary measures have been taken to tackle any seed and seedling crises during the peak period of cultivation, they said.

"If things go well, a good harvest can be expected from here this season," said an official.

Sylhet road mishaps claimed 22 lives last month

MOULVIBAZAR, Aug 18: Some 22 people were killed and 130 injured in road accidents in greater Sylhet during the month of July, reports UNB.

The rise in road accidents was attributed to narrow, dilapidated roads, faulty vehicles and reckless driving.

An old street beggar Akuli Begum, 55, of Kankalia village was killed in an accident on Sylhet-Sunamganj road on July 3. At least 12 people were also injured in the accident.

On the same day, at least 10 people, including five women and four children, were killed and 50 others injured in a fatal accident at Araihasar on Dhaka-Sylhet highway.

On July 4, two accidents took place on the same highway leaving four people, including an expatriate, dead.

Besides, a passenger of auto-rickshaw was killed in a mishap when a coaster rammed into the vehicle on Dhaka-Sylhet highway on July 6. He was identified as Alamgir, 22, hailed from Mollapur village in Balaganj thana.

On July 9, a nine-year-old boy Sohel was crushed under the wheels of a running truck at Mokambari near Jaintapur on Sylhet-Tamabil road.

Apart from this, 10 people were critically injured in a road accident on Sylhet-Sunamganj highway on July 10.

On July 18, a professor of MC College was crushed under the wheels of a truck and another professor of the college injured. Later on, some people were also injured in clashes center-

ing the accident.

Two people were killed and 20 others injured in two separate accidents on Sylhet-Zakiganj road on July 19 and 23.

Abul Kalam, 18, a student of Madanmohan College, died on the spot when a tempo dashed his motorbike on way to Chhatak on July 29.

On the same day, a day labourer Monzu Mia, 40, was also killed in an accident on Dhaka-Sylhet highway near Ahmadnagar in Balaganj thana.

On July 30, Akbar Ali, 35, was killed in a road mishap on Sylhet-Sunamganj highway.

Acute fish scarcity in Jhenidah markets

From Delwar Kabir

JHENIDAH, Aug 18: Local people have been experiencing acute scarcity of fish in the district markets for the last two months.

Usually indigenous fishes like *tangra*, *pabda*, *puti*, *koi*, *sing* and *magur* flood markets in the rainy season every year. But this year these fishes have almost disappeared, triggering price hike.

Now lobster and some varieties of carp fishes are available in the markets, selling at high prices. Lobster is selling between taka 140 and 160 per kg.

Ruhi, *katta*, *mirgel*, *boal*, *chital* and some other large size traditional fishes are not easily available in the markets, fish traders said.

Moreover, supply of *hilsha* is almost inadequate, they said, adding that in the markets *hilsha* is selling between taka 120 and 130 per kg now compared to taka 80 last year.

trader in Jhenidah town, said they usually purchase 75 metric tonnes of *hilsha* from Barisal region a week. "But the quantity has drastically decreased to only five metric tonnes per week this season due to non-availability of the fish in *hilsha* producing areas.

Shambhu Nath Biswas, a fish trader at a Saikupa market, said he sells at least 10 maunds of various small size fishes everyday. "But this season I sell only about two maunds because of poor supply," he added.

According to Shambhu, a good number of fishermen in Jhenidah district have become jobless in recent days due to non-availability of adequate fishes in ponds and water bodies.

Local people said because of fish crisis prices of meat and egg are also increasing in markets.

Indian national sentenced for robbery

From Our Correspondent SATKHIRA, Aug 18: An Indian national was sentenced to seven years in prison on charge of robbery on August 10.

The convict was identified as Manindra Nath Mandal alias Tetul Dakat of village Amtali under Gosaba thana of South 24 Pargana district in West Bengal state of India.

According to prosecution, one Kawsar Ali and his associates of village Kalchini under Shyamnagar thana of the district went to the river Roymongal in the Sundarbans area for fishing on December 14, 1998 and came under attack by a group of Indian robbers led by Tetul Dakat. The robbers looted cash and other valuables. A case was lodged with police in this connection.

After few days of the incident, police arrested Tetul Dakat from the Sundarbans area.

District and sessions judge M A Shahidur Rahman found Tetul Dakat guilty of committing the robbery and announced the verdict.

Tk 1.41 lakh snatched from bank counter in Rajshahi

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Aug 18: A miscreant snatched 1.41 lakh taka from a man inside a bank here on Monday in broad daylight.

According to police, Aminul Haque, a cashier of a petrol station, went to Saheb Bazaar branch of Pubali Bank at about 11 am on the day. When he kept a bag containing taka 1.41 lakh on a desk of a bank counter a man from behind suddenly grabbed the bag and fled away.

Police arrested two persons in this connection but could not recover the money.

The owner of the petrol station, Babul Filling Station, filed a case in this connection with Boalia thana.

The incident has created panic among residents and bankers in the city.

Police, however, termed the incident an exceptional case.

Eight criminals held in Ctg

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 18: Eight criminals, including an absconding accused in Ward Commissioner Liakat Ali Khan murder case, were arrested recently.

DB police of Chittagong arrested Md Kamaluddin, 26, an accused in the sensational Liakat murder case, with the co-operation of local people from Chalita Toli area under Panchlala thana at around 4 pm on August 15.

Kamal is also an accused in another murder case. He was produced before the court here on August 16.

In separate drive, Double Mooring thana police arrested Arman Hasan Mamun in connection with a robbery case from Olonker crossing area on August 15.

Meanwhile, Chandgaon thana police, in two separate pre-dawn raids, arrested six criminals on August 16.

Police arrested one Faruq alias Mintu, 23, a notorious terrorist and accused in three cases along with his two associates, Jhantu and Abdur Rahim from Ghasiar para, Dulal, Saed Molla and Jashim Uddin were arrested in connection with robbery case from Bapery Para area.

Books donated

From A Correspondent

Feni, Aug 18: Education Ministry distributed books valued at about taka 8 lakh among 10 colleges in the district recently.

The colleges included Feni Government College, Feni Public College, Sonagazi Government College, South East College, Jhal Memorial College, Abdul Hoque College, Parshuram Government College, Fulgazi Government College, Chhagalnaya Government College, and Zia Mahila College, official sources said.

Each college received books worth taka 80 thousands.

New college named after Fazilatunnisa

TANGAIL, Aug 18: Alhajj Abdul Mannan, MP, met the local journalists at Tangail Press Club on Sunday and sought cooperation of all concerned for the improvement of Sheikh Fazilatunnisa Mujib Mohila Mahabiddyalaya, established by him near the press club, reports BSS.

The former minister said he had a strong and long cherished desire to do something in the name of the great lady who inspired Bangabandhu and us on many occasions, remaining in house during the need and emergency moments and even when Bangabandhu was in jail. This great lady used to monitor and supplied the needs from inside the house when Bangabandhu remained busy with meetings. Her silent contribution to the party and nation is remarkable. "We are grateful to her," Abdul Mannan added.

An academic building is being constructed for the college and admission is going on in science, arts and commerce groups.

It's poverty that pushed Samiran into 'Tana Party'

RAJSHAHI, Aug 18: We are infatuated with the bandwidth of crimes only by men. So, we hardly think women can indulge in serious crimes.

But the situation in the country's northern region proves us wrong. According to an unofficial estimate, some three lakh women in northern region are engaged in smuggling, reports UNB.

These women were being used either directly or indirectly by an organised gang of underworld people in carrying smuggling goods, including drugs.

These poor women, majority of whom abandoned by their husbands, carry contrabands to various towns and cities of the country from border areas of 16 northern districts.

The ages of these women, locally known as 'Tana Party',

range from 20 to 40. "I have not entered into this tunnel of destruction willingly, it's the poverty that pushed me into.... I also had dreams to have children and a small but happy family, but my heartless husband burned all my dreams," said Samiran Bibi.

Samiran was hooked by smugglers two years ago when her husband divorced her to pave his way for second marriage.

When these female smugglers became experienced, they start their own business employing 10-15 women in exchange of commission or wage.

Replying to a question Samiran said, "We do not go to border areas, *mahajons* supply us goods, which we either sell to some identified purchasers or transport those to a specific destination."

Now help is there for tea garden workers

SYLHET, Aug 18: For ages tea garden workers were deprived of basic healthcare facilities. Now help is there for them, reports UNB.

In response to the demand of tea garden workers, seven Labour Welfare Centres have been set up in six tea valleys in the greater Sylhet district for their treatment.

Of the centres, two have been set up in Monu Dolui valley and one each in North Sylhet, Balishira, Lashkarpur, Langla and Juri valleys.

Official sources said the government has provided financial assistance from its Development Fund for setting up the centres.

To make the tea garden workers aware about family planning, one labour welfare organiser has been appointed for every centre.

Apart from treatment facilities, arrangements also have been made in the centres for recreation of the tea estate workers.

But the workers alleged that the centres are too inadequate to provide treatment facilities to the workers of 140 tea gardens.

As per the existing tea garden rules, each garden is supposed to appoint one doctor for 700 workers. But there is no physician in the tea gardens for the workers.

They urged the authorities concerned to set up more centres, particularly in remote areas, for the treatment of poor tea garden workers.

Events of districts in picture



Trial demanded: The officers and employees of Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) brought out a procession in Kishoreganj town demanding arrest and punishment to the killers of Enam, son of a guard of a fertiliser godown. — Star photo



Brahmanbaria pourasabha chairman Md Helal Uddin addressing recently the annual general meeting of Brahmanbaria sadar thana TCC. — Star photo



Checking baby boom for prosperity: A colourful rally was brought out at Saikupa thana headquarters in Jhenidah district recently on the occasion of World Population Day. — Star photo



Workers of DCRDC, a local NGO of Cox'sbazar planted 4,000 saplings as part of their afforestation campaign. — Star photo



A large number of people loitering along the corridor of the magistrate's court in Magura hampering the court proceedings. — Star photo