

News snaps

Girl killed in road mishap

SATKHIRA, Aug 23: A minor school girl was killed in a road accident near Taltola area on Satkhira-Khulna road under Sadar thana recently, reports BSS.

Police sources said, a Patkeghata-bound pick-up van of a bidi company from Satkhira ran over one minor school girl Mursida Khatun, 10, daughter of Keamuddin of village Taltola near her village area while she was trying to cross the road. She died on the spot. Mursida was a student of class three of Fe-Shipli Primary School. A case was filed with Sadar thana in this connection. Police seized the pickup van, but the driver managed to escape.

Farmers' workshop

JESSORE, Aug 23: A three-month long farmers' workshop has begun in village Issae under Sadar thana of the district, reports BSS.

The workshop, organised for integrated insect control programme, was arranged by the Agriculture Extension Department. According to the Deputy Director of Agriculture Extension Department, 30 farmers have been trained up on how to kill and control insects by using modern methods of agricultural technology instead of using insecticides. Such programme will be continued. This initiative has been taken up in order to increase food production and keep the environment balanced. The Deputy Director told the news agency that DANIDA will financially support the programme.

Man gets life term for killing wife

SATKHIRA, Aug 23: A court here recently convicted a man and sentenced him to life term in jail for killing his wife, reports BSS.

According to prosecution, Fariduddin Gazi of village Sikra in Sadar thana, with the help of his second wife beat to death his first wife on July 4, 1992. The District and Sessions Judge after hearing 15 witnesses and examining records, found him guilty of murder and handed down the verdict. Gazi was also fined Tk 5,000, in default, to suffer one year more RI. However, the court acquitted his second wife for lack of evidence.

Breast Feeding Week observed

MANIKGANJ, Aug 23: Breast Feeding Week '99 was observed in the district from August 1 to 7 to make people aware the benefit of breast feeding, reports BSS.

A week-long programme was chalked out by the World Breast Feeding Week '99 Observation Committee on the occasion in the district and thana headquarters. The programme included rally, painting competition and discussion meeting. On the concluding day a prize distribution ceremony was held in the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner. Sheikh Mozaah Uddin, Deputy Commissioner, Manikganj presided over the function. Poushava Chairman Md. Ramzan Ali and Civil Surgeon Dr Md. Rashiduzzaman, among others, spoke on the occasion.

Quiz competition

CHANDPUR, Aug 23: A quiz competition for the school students organised by Chandpur Rotaract Club to mark the silver jubilee of Chandpur Rotaract Club was held at Rotary Bhavan here on August 6, reports BSS.

Chandpur Rotaract Club president Mohammad Mostafa presided over the function. Rotary District Governor M Ozaer Faruk and President of Chandpur Rotary Club Dr S M Shahidullah, among others, spoke on the occasion. Students of class nine and class ten of different schools under Chandpur district participated in the quiz competition.

Water crisis in Rohingya camp

COX'S BAZAR, Aug 23: Acute water crisis has been prevailing in five blocks of Rohingya refugee camp at Nayapara in Teknaf thana for the last few days, reports BSS.

Officials and inmates of the camp said the water pump in the camp went out of order resulting in the crisis. However, the authority has been supplying 50,000 litre water against the demand of 3 lakh litre for over 13,000 refugees in the camp.



Fruits for life: Pineapples have flooded the bazaars of Magura town in recent days. At present a pair of pineapple is being sold at the rate of Taka 20 at the local Puran Bazaar. — Star photo

Two with firearm, bullets held

SATKHIRA, Aug 23: Two people were arrested along with a revolver and two rounds of bullets from a shrimp farm at Fatikchik in Assasuni thana Saturday, reports BSS.

Being informed by the locals, police rushed to the shrimp farm and arrested Kamrul and Akter while they were preparing to capture the farm. They were sent to jail *hajat*.

Workshop

SATKHIRA, Aug 23: A day-long training workshop on "Disaster Management and Public Awareness" was held recently at the Deputy Commissioner's conference room, reports BSS.

Deputy Commissioner Saiful Alam, who is also the President of the District Disaster Management Committee, presided over the concluding function of the workshop. A total of 57 members of the District Disaster management Committee participated in the workshop. M Hamiduzzaman Khan Chowdhury and Abul Kashem were the trainers in the workshop.

Old age allowance distributed

SHARIATPUR, Aug 23: Some 400 aged women of Bhederganj thana were given Tk 100 each as old age allowance on the occasion of National Mourning Day on August 15, reports BSS.

Senior officials of the Social Welfare Department distributed the allowance in presence of local leaders. Union parishad chairmen, thana officials and business leaders were present at the function organised by the Social Welfare Department.

Man killed by miscreants

GAIBANDHA, Aug 23: One person was killed and 20 others were injured in an attack by some miscreants at Durgapur in Palashbari thana recently, reports BSS.

Witnesses said the assailants intercepted a Monoharpur-bound reserve bus at Durgapur and swooped on the passengers following an altercation over getting into the bus. The miscreants also ransacked the bus and looted valuables, including gold ornaments, worth over Tk 100,000 from the passengers. During the attack, Saiful Islam, 35, was killed on the spot. The injured were rushed to Palashbari Thana Health Complex. Police arrested a traffic police for his alleged involvement in the incident. He was identified as Nurul Mia.

Orientation training

CHANDPUR, Aug 23: A two-day orientation training on Hilsa fish was held recently at Chandpur Riverine Fisheries Research Institute here, reports BSS.

About 100 fishermen and fish traders from different parts of the district participated in the training programme. Prof Shamen Dewan, an expert on Hilsa fish of Bangladesh Agricultural University, Md Rafiqul Islam, Principal, Fish Research Institute and Minzur Rahman, District Fisheries Officer imparted training to the participants.

Academic bldgs built

JESSORE, Aug 23: The construction and reconstruction of 27 academic buildings, costing taka 6 crore 27 lakh have been completed, reports BSS.

The Facilities Department of Education Ministry has implemented the projects. According to the Facilities Department sources, construction of the largest auditorium in Jessoro Zilla School, boundary wall of regional scouts office, hostel building of Government Women Collage along with 13 new primary school buildings have been completed. Implementation of the projects has provided facilities to about 15 thousand students to study in a developed condition. Besides, the accommodation problem of the students has also been greatly solved.

Desolate look of BSCIC industrial estates

From Aroop Talukdar

BARISAL, Aug 23: Entrepreneurs are reluctant to set up industrial units in BSCIC (Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation) estates in Bagerhat and Jhenidah because of high prices of plots and terrorist activities.

Entrepreneurs said high price of plots is one of the main obstacles to setting up industrial units in the estate, besides various other problems.

BSCIC estate in Jhenidah is facing problems mainly due to terrorist activities. Entrepreneurs are not interested to set up industrial units as incidents of extortion and terrorist activities in area are increasing.

Many plots in several BSCIC estates across the country have remained unsold for a long time due to various reasons.

Fertiliser prices up in Jamalpur

From Our Correspondent JAMALPUR, Aug 23: Chemical fertilisers are being sold in markets in the district at higher prices than the prices fixed by the government.

According to farmers, one bag of urea of 50 kg is being sold between taka 320 and 340 as against government rate of taka 240.

Fertiliser prices have registered a sharp rise during the last two weeks, peak season for *ropa-amar* cultivation, farmers said.

TSP and MP are being sold at taka 450 and 470 per bag respectively in rural markets.

The crop growers also alleged that they are being harassed by fertiliser dealers when they refuse to pay higher prices.

When contacted some fertiliser dealers said they have to pay tolls to extortionists and dishonest employees of Jamuna Fertiliser Factory at Sarisabari, compelling them to sell fertiliser at enhanced rates.

Meanwhile, at a recent high level meeting of the Ministry of Agriculture Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina directed the authorities concerned to take immediate action against extortionists and dishonest traders.

Two killed in Barisal road accident

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Aug 23: Two people were killed and at least 15 others injured, four of them critically, in a road accident in Kataksthal area under Gouradi thana of the district recently.

According to witnesses, a Barisal-bound passenger night coach of Royal Paribahan from Khulna fell into a roadside ditch when the driver lost the control at Kataksthal on Barisal-Faridpur highway that left two passengers dead on the spot and 15 others injured.

Of the injured 12 were admitted to Gouradi Thana Health Complex and 3 others were rushed to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital.

The victims were identified as Moazzam Hossain, 50, and his son Yusuf Nabi, 4, of Borhanuddin of Bhola district.

The driver of the passenger coach, however, managed to escape the scene.

Employee of newspaper agency beaten

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Aug 23: An employee of a newspaper agency in the town was beaten up by newspaper hawkers recently.

Md Saiful Islam, manager of Paper Corner, was manhandled by hawkers Osman Ali Sarkar, Soleman Ali Sarkar and Moniruzzaman Sarkar all in front of the central mosque in the town. The hawkers are siblings.

Witnesses said that when the manager asked the hawkers to pay Tk 6,000 they owed to agency, he was beaten up.

A case was filed in this connection.

Three sentenced for possessing illegal arms

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Aug 23: Three persons were sentenced to 10 years each in prison on charge of possessing illegal arms recently.

The convicts were identified as Abu Bakar of village Atulia under Shyam Nagar thana; Mujib Shaikh of Shaikh Para under Sonadanga thana of Khulna district; and Monire Mollah of Fatepur village under Jessoro district.

According to prosecution, the accused were caught by local people when they were looting a shop, owned by one Khatib Molai, at Bajar Bathan-Noabekhi road in Shyamnagar thana in Satkhira district on September 24, 1998. Firearms were also recovered from them. They were later handed over to police.

Not only Kamrul, there are

been set up. Of them, 49 units

working. Of the 289 plots on 50.06 acres of land in Jessoro all the plots were sold. In the estate, 123 units were set up, of them 88 are in operation.

All the 82 plots on 18.46 acres in Kushtia were allotted for 25 industrial units of which 19 units are in operation.

Out of 96 plots 31 were sold to entrepreneurs for 18 industrial units in Satkhira. Only three units in the estate are manufacturing.

In Jhenidah, 17 plots out of 98 plots were allocated for official purposes. 11 industrial units have so far been established. But only one is active.

Out of 95 plots, 10 were allotted to entrepreneurs in Bagerhat BSCIC estate. Only

one unit is active out of 5 units.

In Barisal BSCIC industrial estate was set up on 131.99 acres of land, 243 plots out of 330 were sold. 75 industrial units were set up. Of them, 32 units are in operation.

98 plots out of 138, on 24.74 acres of land, were sold in Swarupkathi. Of 53 units established in the estate 39 are operative.

In Patuakhali estate was set up on 15.27 acres of land. Out of 79 plots, 18 are meant for official purposes. Only 6 industrial units were set up and of them 3 are in operation.

In Bhola estate, set up on 14.45 acres of land, 7 plots were allotted out of 93. There are four industrial units in black and white. But not a single unit is active.

Aus cultivation declining

NETRAKONA, Aug 23: Cultivation of Aus paddy in 10 thanas here is gradually declining, affecting the country's overall foodgrain output, reports UNB.

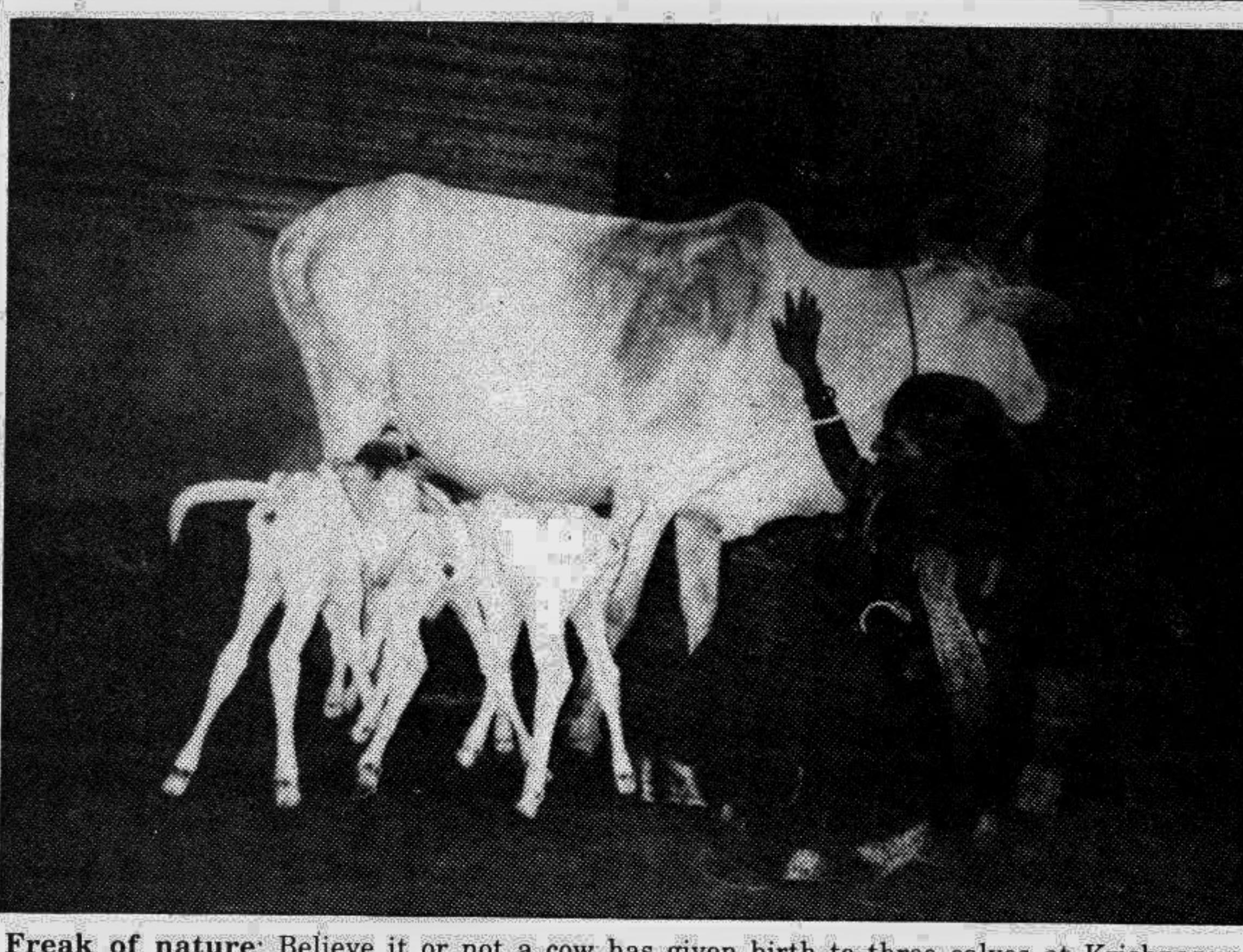
They are hopeful of achieving the production target as the farmers found enthusiastic in T-Aman cultivation to grow more foodgrains this season.

The thanas brought under the programme are Sadar, Atpara, Mohongonj, Madan, Kendua, Barhatta, Kalmakanda, Durgapur, Purba and Kaliajuri.

BSS from Chapainawabganj says: A total of 32,520 hectares in five thanas here have been brought under Aus cultivation in the current season.

The thana-wise break-up is: Chapainawabganj Sadar-5,925 hectares and production target 12,420 tonnes, Shibganj thana-1,495 hectares and production target 3,145 tonnes, Gommapur thana-7,945 hectares and production target 16,754 tonnes, Bulahat thana-1,870 hectares and production target 3,894 tonnes, Nacol thana-15,285 hectares and production target 31,702 tonnes.

Cultivation in 50 per cent land has already been completed, the Agriculture Department sources said.



Freak of nature: Believe it or not a cow has given birth to three calves at Krishnapur village in Magura thana recently. Photo shows the owner Maya Adhikari taking care of the calves. — Star photo

Erosion threatens PC pole plant at Aricha

From Abdul Matin Fakir

FARIDPUR, Aug 23: The existence of PC pole plant set up in 1988-89 financial year on 13.5 acres of land at Aricha on the eastern side of the Jamuna at a cost of Tk 60 crore is at stake apparently for lack of protection by the authorities concerned.

This plant capable of producing 10,000 electric poles every year may be eroded into the River Jamuna at any time causing disruption of electricity supply which will hamper greatly development works. This plant has so far manufactured 74182 electric

poles ever since its installation.

It is learnt from official sources that the plant installed in Chittagong, Ghorashal and Aricha produce 9 metres, 11 metres, 12 metres, 15 metres and 22.5 metres long electric poles which mostly meet the demands of electric poles of the country.

To protect this plant from the erosion of the Jamuna, Power Development Board (PDB) requested the Water Development Board (WDB) authority to take necessary steps in 1994. On the request of PDB, WDB prepared a project

involving Tk 80 lakh and sent it to PDB for placing the fund. But PDB reportedly did not place the fund on the plea that the project prepared by WDB did not ensure any guarantee for protection of the plant from the erosion.

Now what is urgently necessary is that the higher authorities of both PDB and WDB should jointly work out plans and programmes for the protection of the plant at Aricha and its immediate execution for the greater interest of the country as a whole.

Advocate Sajedur Rahman, president of the district AL, presided over the meeting held at the local Muslim Institute on August 12.

Among others, the meeting was addressed by Advocate Hanif Ali Sheikh, general secretary of the district AL, BCL leaders Mostarul Islam Alim and Arifur Rahman Masoom.

Meanwhile, the intra-party feud triggered over the post of general secretary of BCL. Arifur Rahman Masoom is holding the post who is an elected commissioner of Natore

On August 8, Masoom group activists hurled bombs and damaged a pathological centre on the sadar hospital road. Abdur Rahim Bachchu, 30, a passerby was injured in the incident, which police think, occurred as a sequel to a feud over quick pathological test.



Shameful child labour: Kamrul, a 12-year-old boy, pulling rickshaw. — Star photo

Child labour on rise in Netrakona

From Our Correspondent

NETRAKONA, Aug 23: The number of child labourers has been increasing here recently.

Hundreds of ill-fated children here have been turning into child labourers everyday. Kamrul, a 12-year-old boy of Dukdura village in the sadar thana, goes to school in the morning and pulls rickshaw in the afternoon. He is the son of a day labourer and a student of class five. He wants to continue his education at any cost. He is determined