

## National

## News snaps



State Minister for Information Prof Abu Syeed addressing as the chief guest at the handing over ceremony of new homes among the destitutes and landless of Bishnupur in Santhia thana of Pabna district on Friday. The houses were built with assistance from the house building fund. — PID photo

## Indian bidis seized

SATKHIRA, Aug 24: The members of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) seized huge quantity of Indian bidis worth Tk 1.65 lakh from Debhata border area recently, reports BSS.

The BDR members of 12 Battalion of Satkhira raided the Debhata border area of the district and seized about 11 lakh Indian made bidis smuggled into Bangladesh, the BDR sources said. The seized bidis were deposited to the Satkhira Custom authority. None was arrested in this connection.

## Seminar on compost manure

MAGURA, Aug 24: A day-long seminar on increasing soil fertility and production, preservation and use of compost manure was held at the district "khamarbari" here recently, reports UNB.

District Agriculture Officer Wazuddin Ahmed formally inaugurated the seminar. Eighty-eight people, including block supervisors, PPI, and junior agriculture extension officers working in the district, participated in the seminar. The participants were imparted training on modern methods of cultivation, use of pesticide, and production, preservation and use of compost manure.

## Plan to plant 2.15 lakh saplings

MAGURA, Aug 24: Agricultural Extension Department under the government's countrywide plantation drive has taken up a programme to plant 2.15 lakh saplings in the district, reports UNB.

Officials said the saplings would be planted on flood protection embankments and the compounds of schools, colleges and worship places in Sadar, Salikha, Sripur and Muhammadpur thanas. Meanwhile, the department has started plantation in some areas of the thanas and taken all necessary measures to protect the saplings.

## Tk 4.49 cr loan disbursed

NETRAKONA, Aug 24: Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB), Netrakona regional office disbursed take 4.49 crore as loan among the landless people of ten thanas of the district in the last fiscal year, reports BSS.

An official source said, a total of 26,559 members of 1,124 co-operative societies in ten thanas of the district received the loan under the self-employment and poverty alleviation programme of the BRDB. The borrowers utilised the loan for undertaking small projects including poultry farming, pisciculture, cottage industry and nursery.

## Man crushed under wheels of truck

MADRIPUR, Aug 24: A man was crushed under the wheels of a running truck near Bagherpara in sadar thana on Dhaka-Barisal highway recently, reports UNB.

Police said Delwar Hossain, 35, a bus driver, met the tragic end of his life when he tried to stop the truck for a lift near Sadar Bridge.

## Interest free loan disbursed

RAJBARI, Aug 24: Aiming to develop the socio-economic condition of rural people, Social Welfare Department disbursed interest free loan amounting to Tk 1.63 crore among poor villagers in four thanas of the district in the preceding fiscal, reports UNB.

Officials said of the loan, Tk 163.12 lakh was disbursed among 19,689 destitute families in Rajbari sadar, Goalanda, Punsha and Balikandi thanas. They said the borrowers were being encouraged to undertake small but income-generating projects like poultry and fish farming and cattle fattening. Besides, some 3,780 elderly people of the district received Tk 45.36 lakh under the government's old age allowance programme. The department also disbursed Tk 3.78 lakh among widows and abandoned women of the district.

## Four robbers arrested

SATKHIRA, Aug 24: Shyamnagar thana police in a raid Saturday arrested four alleged dacoits, two of them are Indian nationals, from Daigong river of Sundarban and recovered arms and ammunition from their possessions, reports BSS.

Police said acting on a tip off Shyamnagar police raided the area in Sundarban and caught the robbers red handed while they were preparing to commit dacoity in some fishing boats. The police recovered three fire arms and twelve cartridges from their possession. The dacoits are Shafiqul Islam and Abul Hosain of village Joykhali under Shyamnagar Thana and Arubindo Mondol and Shubhash Bhushan of village Ghoshpara under North 24 Pargona district of West Bengal, India.

## Tk 14.62 cr loan disbursed

MAGURA, Aug 24: Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) and other commercial banks disbursed farm loan totalling Tk 14.62 crore in the district during the fiscal 1998-99, reports BSS.

Of the total amount, BKB disbursed Tk 14.62 crore while Janata Bank Tk 1.73 crore, Sonali Bank Tk 99.71 lakh, Agrani Bank Tk 59 lakh and Bangladesh Rural Development Board Tk 6.32 lakh. Officials said the loan was disbursed for crop cultivation, poultry farming, buying cattle-heads and undertaking projects like pisciculture and cottage industry and cattle fattening. Meanwhile, the banks realised Tk 12.48 crore outstanding loans from borrowers during the period.

## Forest offices earn Tk 56.60 cr in 5 yrs

RANGAMATI, Aug 24: Local forest offices in last five years earned about Tk 56.60 crore in revenue by selling a huge quantity of smuggled timbers, reports BSS.

Six forest offices under Rangamati range earned Tk 51.60 crore while three other offices under Bandarban range the rest of the amount, official sources said. They said the timbers were sold in auction.

## BRDB credit programme

RAJBARI, Aug 24: Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) has taken up a Tk 7.50 crore credit programme for the district in the current fiscal year under self-employment projects for the rural poor, reports UNB.

Under the programme, BRDB will disburse loans among 11,500 members in 506 villages of four thanas in the district. The loans will be given to various productive sectors including crop cultivation, small business, pisciculture, poultry farming, cattle breeding and food processing. Besides, the Board will impart training to 7,000 association members on various programmes relating to income-generation.

## Computer installation ceremony

BRAHMANBARIA, Aug 24: Computer installation ceremony of Chaitanya School and College under Brahmanbaria was held recently. The function was presided over by Makbul Ahmed, principal of the college.

## Man killed by brother

TANGAIL, Aug 24: A man was stabbed to death by his younger brother in village Kharar Tek of Ghatlal thana recently over a quarrel on trifles, reports BSS.

The police said the victim Abdul Jabbar, a farmer, had altercated with his younger brother Newaz Ali when the latter refused to work in the field. At one stage, Newaz stabbed in the chest of his elder brother that proved fatal. Jabbar died on the spot. A case was filed with Ghatlal police.

## Voter ID card scheme in Jhenidah progressing

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Aug 24: About 75 per cent work of voter ID card programme in Jhenidah district has been completed, district administration sources said.

The voter ID card programme was started in the district in 1995.

In Jhenidah thana the number of voters is 206,076. Of them, 150,246 voters were provided with ID cards in the first phase while another 6,112 received cards in the second phase.

Number of voters in Kaliganj thana is 129,825. Of them 95,955 cards were distributed in the first phase. No card was reportedly distributed in the second phase.

In Maheshpur thana the number of voter is 147,217. Of

them 113,763 voters were provided with cards while another 10,099 in the second phase.

Sailakupa thana has 191,162 voters. Of them, 88,425 were provided with cards in the first phase and another 24,632 received cards in the second phase.

75,425 voters were provided with voter ID cards in the first and another 5,003 cards were distributed among voters out of total 92,733 in Harinakundu thana.

According to district election office sources, taka 144,55,027 was allocated from the ministry concerned in 1995-96 fiscal for the voter ID cards programme in the district.

Regarding a number of errors like name of voter and names of father and husband in cards, the DEO admitted the fact and said errors would be corrected later.

of the money was refunded.

In 1997-98 fiscal taka 909,685 was allocated. Of them, taka 8,35,958 was spent and the rest 161,727 was refunded.

Taka 1,78,330 was allocated for ID cards in 1998-99 fiscal. Of the total taka 11,70,625 was spent and the rest taka 537,707 was refunded.

When contacted Khondokar Mizanur Rahman, district election officer (DEO), said the last date of distribution of ID cards among the voters of the district was June 30 this year. But the authority has extended the period for another three months.

Regarding a number of errors like name of voter and names of father and husband in cards, the DEO admitted the fact and said errors would be corrected later.



Homage to Kabi Guru: Artistes of 'Alokdhara', a cultural organisation of Mymensingh thana paying rich tributes to Rabindranath Tagore at the Muslim Institute auditorium recently.

— Star photo

## Massive afforestation programme in dists

## Shortage of magistrates in Magura

From A Correspondent

MAGURA, Aug 24: Posts of six magistrates have been lying vacant for several months in the district, hampering both administrative and judicial activities.

Now about 1087 cases have piled up with courts. Early disposal of the cases has become uncertain because of shortage of magistrates.

Because of shortages of magistrates administrative activities are also being hampered.

## 7,151 road mishap victims treated in Tangail in 18 months

TANGAIL, Aug 24: A total of 7,151 people, injured in road accidents, were treated in Tangail Sadar Hospital during last one and a half years. Of them, 55 injured died in the hospital, according to hospital sources, reports BSS.

Dr Abdul Basset, Resident Medical Officer said, of the injured persons 4,368 were treated in the year 1998 and the rest 2,783 in this year, up to June 30.

Due to heavy rush of people injured in road accidents the normal treatment of other patients is hampered. The attending doctors in emergency have to face troubles in many cases due to want of requisite quantity of gauze, bandage, emergency medicines and blood.

If a trauma centre is established here then more easy treatment facilities could be provided, the RMO added.

## Bangabandhu's killers must be executed

CHITTAGONG, Aug 24: Home Minister Mohammad Nasrin on August 12 emphatically said that the verdict of the Bangabandhu murder case must be executed to establish the rule of law in the country, reports BSS.

"The killers will never be exempted from execution of the verdict and as such they are now only awaiting jaws of death," he said.

Nasrin said this while participating as the chief guest at a discussion held on the inaugural day of the four-day programmes taken by Chittagong north district AL in observance of the national mourning day. The discussion held at the local engineers' institution, was presided over by AL north district president and minister for Civil Aviation, Tourism, Housing and Public Works Engineer Moszharraf Hossain.

Mohammad Nasrin said when he was chief whip of the opposition during Khaleda Zia's government placed the indemnity ordinance bill in parliament, but the ruling party blocked its passage.

It is now clear that the opposition were now out to create anarchy and spread misleading propaganda against Awami League just to save the killers of Bangabandhu, Nasrin said.

Chittagong city mayor Alhaj A B M Mohiuddin Chowdhury participated in the discussion as special guest.

## Rains damage standing crops on 3,047 hectares of land in Magura

From A Correspondent

MAGURA, Aug 24: Standing crops on 3,047 hectares of land have been damaged and crops on 7,275 hectares submerged in four thanas here due to heavy rainfalls for the last few days.

At least 200 mud-built houses have been fully damaged and the concerned families have already left their houses for safe shelter.

Agriculture Extension Department said, heavy rainfall from August 12 to 15 inundated transplanted Aman paddy on 6,470 hectares, capsicum on 240 hectares and vegetables on 565 hectares of land. According to the sources, at least 10 per cent of the submerged crops might be damaged, it is apprehended.

AED sources added that due to heavy rainfall of from July 9 to 13 Aus paddy on 261 hectares, transplanted Aman on 879 hectares, vegetables on 325 hectares and seed-beds on 177 hectares have been fully damaged.

The farmers of Magura dis-

trict are now in anxiety for this great loss. While this correspondent contacted Agriculture Commissioner(DC) of Magura, AKM Rafiqul Islam to know whether any step had been taken to rehabilitate the affected farmers, he said "About 15 metric tons of rice have been distributed among the affected farmers as gratuity relief and steps will be taken within a very short time for further help", he said.

1,000 saplings to be planted on BAU campus

MYMENSINGH, Aug 24: Vice Chancellor (VC) of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) Dr Mohammad Hossain urged all to come forward to protect the environment by preserving depleting and rare varieties of trees, reports UNB.

## Dreams of Liberation War remain unfulfilled'

By Staff Correspondent

Eminent freedom fighter Maj Gen (retd) Mohammad Subed Ali Bhuiyan has said terrorism, bribery, corruption and other criminal activities are increasing day by day as a section of politicians are busy in making their own fortunes.

have also taken a serious turn across the country. "Taking bribe has become a right of the receivers. Bribery has been spreading in the society day by day," he added.

Referring to deteriorating law and order, Gen Bhuiyan



Maj Gen (retd) Bhuiyan addressing a gathering of ex-soldiers of Nabinagar thana in Brahmanbaria district on Saturday.

He regretted that the people of the country joined in the War of Liberation to free the nation from exploitation, economic emancipation and build a happy and prosperous nation, but the dreams are yet to be translated into reality.

Addressing a gathering of retired soldiers at Nabinagar thana in Brahmanbaria district on Saturday, he said the country has been rapidly proceeding towards ruination when countries around the world have been marching towards rapid development.

He said daily newspapers are full of bad news like terrorism, rape, murder, dacoity, snatching and many other criminal activities. This is not a good sign for the nation, he further said.

Besides criminal activities, he said bribery and corruption

said now it is very easy to murder a man but there was a time in our society when an accused had to face trial on charge of killing even a dog. He categorically said that the entire society is being ruined gradually due to failure of the politicians.

Addressing to the ex-soldiers, he advised them to work for establishing peace and discipline in the society and devote themselves in nation building activities.

Preserved over by retired Subedar Abdul Malek, it was addressed, among others, by Advocate Shah Zikrul Ahmed Khokon, Juba Dal leader Mohammad Kamaluddin, UP chairman Shafiqul Islam, Shahjahan Miah, thana Chhatria Dal leader Barkatullah Ratan and local journalist Gowranga Devnath Apu.



A sequence from "Bou", a drama organised recently on the campus by Rajshahi University Drama Association to mark its 16th founding anniversary.

— Star photo

## 1,880 uplift schemes implemented in 4 dists

26.22 lakh.

During the fiscal year, some 58 projects were implemented by allocating 604 metric tons of wheat and another 121 projects with 165 tons of wheat under the 'Test Relief Programme'. The projects include flood control embankment, kutchha roads, and earth filling of grounds in religious and educational institutions.

Another report from Barisal adds: The Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) implemented 327 projects in the 10 thanas in the last fiscal year.

According to an official source, the government sanctioned Taka 11,68,85,000 for implementation of 224 projects and 3,252 tons of wheat for execution of 103 projects.

The projects included development of haats and bazaars, secondary town infrastructure development, excavation of canals, reconstruction of rural roads and bridges and earth work in educational and religious institutions.

smooth supply of electricity.

Besides, three area offices and several complaint centres have been established.