

News snaps



State Minister for Information Prof. Abu Syeed addressing as the chief guest at the handing over ceremony of new homes among the destitute 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 bidi worth over 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 taka 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

MADARIPUR, 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 Sadhur 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, Pungsha and Baliakandi 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 Hossain of village Joykhali under Shyamnagar Thana and Aurobindo Mondol and Shubhshikha Bhushan of village Ghoshaba under North 24 Pargana 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 UNB.

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 UNB.

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 also impart training to 7,000 association members on various programmes relating to income-generation.

Computer installation ceremony

BRAHMANBARIA, Aug 24: Computer installation ceremony of Chainer School and College under Brahmanbaria was held recently, reports BSS.

R A M Obaidul Muktaadier Chowdhury, private secretary to the Prime Minister, was present on the occasion as the chief guest. 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 Ghatail thana recently over a quarrel on trifling matter, reports UNB.

The police said the victim Abdul Jabbar, a farmer, had altercation 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 Ghatail police.

Voter ID card scheme in Jhenidah progressing

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Aug 24: About 75 per cent work of voter identity (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 sadar 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.

Of the total amount taka 125,28,782 was spent while rest

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.

Massive afforestation programme in dists

Massive afforestation programmes have been taken by the government and various organisations in different districts, reports BSS.

A report from Chapinawabganj says: State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Prof. Jinnatunnessa Talukdar visited Chapinawabganj district to attend the tree plantation programme arranged by Bangladesh Krishak League of Chapinawabganj Unit at Gobrala Girls' High School, 10 miles from Chapinawabganj town on Tuesday.

She planted three saplings of different kinds of trees in the girls' school campus in presence of some thousand members of Krishak League. The function, presided over by president of the district Krishak League, was addressed, among others, by Harunor Rashid Hawlader, Secretary General of Bangladesh Krishak League and Samsul Hoq, Advocate, Secretary, Chapinawabganj Awami League.

A message from Chuadanga

says: The Agriculture extension Department has taken up a programme to plant 112,000 different kinds of saplings in all the four thanas here in the current tree plantation season.

According to an official source, 28,000 saplings of different trees are now being planted in each thana of Sadar, Alamdanga, Damurhuda and Jibamangar.

So far 40,000 saplings have been planted and the plantation is in full swing.

The saplings include teak, mango, jack fruit, guava, lemon, coconut, nut, shishu and ipil-ipli.

The Forest Department has also taken up separate programme to plant five lakh saplings in the four thanas in the current season.

Another report from Chittagong says: Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Mayor A B M Mohiuddin Chowdhury inaugurated sapling distribution programme here recently.

A function held in this connection at Asma Khatun City

Corporation School and College premises was presided over by Ward Commissioner Niaz Muhammad.

CCC will distribute 1.5 lakh saplings of fruit-bearing and valuable trees among the students. CCC has taken up this programme in order to encourage students to plant trees to improve their surrounding environment.

Another report from Tangail adds: A five-day Tree Fair began here at Paurasabha Shahid Smriti Udyan on Saturday.

The fair was inaugurated by former minister Alhaj Abdul Mannan, MP.

District Administration and Forest Department organised the fair.

A total of 30 stalls of saplings of different fruit bearing trees and timbers have been set up. A good number of plant lovers are visiting and purchasing saplings from the fair everyday.

Similar programmes have also been chalked out in many other districts.

Loan for jobless youths

A total of Taka 104 lakh 85 thousand was distributed as loan among unemployed trained young men and women in Narsingdi and Rangamati districts to generate employment opportunity, reports BSS.

About Taka eighty lakh was distributed as loan among the unemployed young educated men and women in the six thanas of Narsingdi district during the last financial year.

The loan was distributed under Youth Development Project to enable the unemployed youths to be self-reliant.

According to Deputy Director of Jubo Unnayan, Narsingdi, this loan was given for different projects like small industries, poultry, dairy, pisciculture and tailoring.

The initiative was taken up by the government to help 687 educated young men and women of the locality to attain self-employment. Relevant officers have been engaged to supervise

proper utilisation of the allocation.

Rangamati Hill District Unit of Youth Development Directorate has disbursed Taka 24 lakh 85 thousand as interest-free credit among 222 unemployed trained youths living in 10 thanas of the district to generate their employment opportunity.

Chairman of the Task Force on Repatriated Tribal and Internal Refugees Rehabilitation Affairs, Dipankar Talukdar, MP, inaugurated the disbursement of loan as the chief guest at the end of the discussion meeting held in observance of National Mourning Day on August 15 at Rangamati municipality auditorium.

The unemployed youths were trained in sewing, poultry, dairy, nursery, typewriting and shorthand trades before the disbursement of the loan.

Meanwhile, State Minister for Relief and Disaster Man-

agement Talukdar Abdul Khaleque stressed the need for education and proper guidance to our younger generation with a view to achieving the desired goal of economic development.

He was speaking as the chief guest at the opening of a new academic building of Khulna Zila School.

Presided over by Azhar Ali Talukdar, Deputy Commissioner, Khulna the inaugural function was also addressed, among others, by Sarder Abdur Rashid, Rupsha thana Awami League Secretary, AL leader Abdus Satter Khalifa, Jubo League leaders and the headmaster of the school.

The academic building of the school has been constructed by the government's Facilities Department at a cost of Tk 17 lakh.

Later on the state minister attended a governing body meeting of the Sundarban Mohila College.



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

A total of 1,880 development schemes were implemented in four districts during the fiscal year of 1998-99, report agencies.

A report from Chapinawabganj says: A total of 528 development schemes, costing Tk 8.61 crore, were implemented here in the last fiscal year (1998-99).

Of the total, Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) executed 447 schemes with cost involvement of Tk 2.40 crore under its Annual Development Programme.

The schemes included development of agriculture, irrigation and physical infrastructures, and construction of educational institutions.

The remaining projects were implemented by Primary Education Directorate, Public Health Engineering Department (PHED), Public Works Department (PWD) and Water Development Board (WDB).

The works included construction, reconstruction and expansion of nine government and 30 non-government primary schools, installation of

50 deep tubewells and construction of four court rooms, fire service stations and barracks.

A message from Sherpur says: A total of 829 schemes were implemented here during the fiscal 1998-99 under the Rural Infrastructure Renovation and Maintenance Programme.

Official sources said some 4,315 metric tons of wheat have been sanctioned to execute the schemes.

Of the projects, 257 have been implemented under general sector of Test Relief (TR) programme, 348 under special TR programme, 82 under general sector of Food for Work Programme (FWP), 61 under special FWP and 81 under post-flood rehabilitation programme.

The works included renovation, construction and reconstruction of rural roads, hats and bazaars, mosques, madrasahs, eidgahs, graveyards, shrines, educational institutions and playgrounds.

Besides, 246,019 metric tons of wheat have been sanctioned for the development work under

the "Asrayan Project" in Nal-tabari and Jhenaidah thanas during the last fiscal year.

The government also allocated 10,056 VGD cards for providing wheat to destitute women from July 1999 to June 2000.

A report from Magura says: A total of 196 development projects costing Tk 1,26,77,000 were implemented in Sadar thana here in the just ended fiscal year (1998-99).

Thana Nirbahi Officer M Mashur Rahman informed that of the total amount Tk 32.97 lakh was spent for the construction of 10 registered Primary School buildings and Tk 17.76 lakh for the repair of 39 non-government primary schools and 69 government primary schools.

Other projects were: Construction of 30 'kutcha' and 25 metalised roads (Tk 29.75 lakh), sinking of 16 tubewells (Tk 7.40 lakh), agricultural rehabilitation (Tk 7.42 lakh), construction of sanitary latrines in 21 educational institutions (Tk 4.93 lakh), and 24 culverts (Tk



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

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 Basid, Resident Medical Officer based, 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 Nasim 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.

Nasim 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 Mosharraf Hossain.

Mohammad Nasim said that 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, Nasim 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 paddy 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 Deputy 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 ruin 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.

Presided 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 Chhatra Dal leader Barkatullah Ratan and local journalist Gowranga Devnath Apu.

20 unions brought under electrification programme

From Our Correspondent

GOPALGANJ, Aug 24: Twenty unions out of 69 in the district have so far been electrified under Rural Electrification Programme by Gopalganj Pally Biddut Samity.

According to Gopalganj Pally Biddut Samity sources, so far 8,850 electric connections have been provided, benefiting about one lakh people of the district, which the population of about fifteen lakh.

The unions are under three thanas of the district. The thanas are Tungipara, Kotlilpara and Sadar thana.

The electrification programme was started in 1998 in Gopalganj district on commercial basis.

So far 6872 domestic, 1589 commercial, 185 industrial, 30 irrigation and 174 miscellaneous connections were provided to subscribers.

Three transmission sub-stations were constructed in three thanas of the district for the

smooth supply of electricity. Besides, three area offices and several complaint centres have been established.

While talking to this correspondent General Manager of Rural Electrification Board of Gopalganj district said all unions of the district will be brought under rural electrification programme in phases.

Police recover 87 live bombs

SATKHIRA, Aug 24: Kaliganj thana police in a raid recovered 87 live bombs from Kashiabi village under Kaliganj thana of the district on Tuesday, reports BSS.

Police sources said, acting on a tip-off Kaliganj thana police led by OC Hemayetuddin raided Kashiabi village and recovered 87 live bombs from behind the house of one Darbar Sardar of the village.