

News snaps

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib College opens
COMILLA, Aug 27: Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Technical and Commerce College was inaugurated at Nagolkot thana headquarters at a function on August 8, reports BSS.
The new college was inaugurated by Zainal Abedin Bhuiyan MP. The function was attended by local political leaders, academics, social workers and elite.



Making Motihar campus more greener: Prof Sayeedur Rahman Khan, Vice-Chancellor of Rajshahi University inaugurating the university's Tree Plantation and Protection Programme by planting a sapling inside the university school premises. — Star photo

Fishing trawler rescued
COXS BAZAR, Aug 27: Bangladesh Navy ship Khadem while on routine patrol rescued a disabled mechanised fishing trawler from the sea near Cox's Bazar recently, reports BSS.
The ill-fated trawler, F B Abul Hasnat Arman, was drifting in the sea for the last five days due to broken crank shaft. The trawler was later towed to the outer anchorage and handed over to its owner.

Taxes unpaid: Intervention sought
RANGAMATI, Aug 27: Having failed to realise a huge amount of overdue municipality taxes from different government and private organisations, Rangamati Pourashava has sought intervention of the Finance Minister in this regard, reports UNB.
Pourashava Chairman Habibur Rahman was learnt to have urged Finance Minister SAMS Kibria to help realise the overdue taxes when he visited the town recently. The Finance Minister has assured the chairman of taking all necessary steps in this regard, official sources said. They said Home Ministry owes a total of Tk 29.96 lakh in revenue to the Pourashava while Information Department Tk 9.69 lakh, R&H Tk 8.51 lakh, Local Government Division Tk 8.14 lakh and Establishment Ministry Tk 5.48 lakh.

Law and order reviewed
SATKHIRA, Aug 27: A meeting of the Ashasuni thana law and Order Committee under Satkhira district was held on Saturday in the thana parishad auditorium, reports BSS.
Dr Mukhlesur Rahman MP, who is also president of Ashasuni thana Awami League, presided over the meeting. Thana level officers, representatives of different law enforcing agencies and local elite participated in the meeting. The meeting called upon the people to cooperate with the law enforcing agencies to resist the anti-social elements and maintain law and order in the society.

Certificate cases filed against 2,121
MAGURA, Aug 27: Various banks, including Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB), have filed certificate cases against 2,121 loan defaulters in four thanas of the district, reports UNB.
Official sources said the unrealised farm loans of BKB, Agrani Bank, Janata Bank, Sonali Bank and Rural Development Board (BRDB) in the four thanas have risen to over Tk 2.71 crore. They said BKB has filed 1,395 cases against its defaulting borrowers while Agrani Bank 205, Janata Bank 395, Sonali Bank 5 and BRDB 121. Meanwhile, police have arrested a good number of loan defaulters while many others went into hiding to avoid arrest, police said.



Education for All: Md Rezaul Karim, Deputy Commissioner of Chandpur distributing scholarship money recently among the poor and meritorious students on behalf of Chandpur Foundation, a voluntary organisation. — Star photo

Road development schemes
CHUADANGA, Aug 27: The government has sanctioned taka 4.50 crore for the execution of four schemes under the Roads and Highways Department in the four thanas of Chuadanga district in the current fiscal year, reports BSS.
According to an official source, the work of the schemes include development of four-kilometre area of Alamdanga-Ioradah road in Alamdanga thana, six-kilometre area of Chuadanga-Meherpur road under Chuadanga sadar thana, four-kilometre area of Shantoshpur-Hashada road under Jibantagar thana and four-kilometre area of Darshana-Mujibnagar road under Damurhuda thana. The work of these schemes will be started by the end of next month.

300 tin-shed houses being built
RAJBARI, Aug 27: As part of the government's commitment to ensure shelter to destitute people some 300 tin-shed houses are being constructed in the district at a cost of Tk 60 lakh, reports UNB.
Karmojibi Kalyan Sanghstha (KKS), a local NGO, is implementing the project under the supervision of Bangladesh Bank. KKS Executive Director Fakir Abdul Zabbar said each of the 220-sft tin-shed houses would cost Tk 20,000. He said the house dwellers would have to repay the loan within 5-10 years with an installment of Tk 280. 50 to Tk 417.50 per month at 5 per cent rate. He said construction of 150 houses have already been completed and handed over to the people of Rajbari sadar, Pangsaha and Goalando thanas.

37-km road inaugurated
JHALAKATI, Aug 27: The newly constructed 37-km Rajapur-Kathalia-Amua-Bamna road in the district has been opened to traffic, reports UNB.
Communications Minister Anwar Hossain Manju inaugurated the road recently. Speaking on the occasion, he said the trend of damaging national property in the name of political programmes only causes huge loss to the national economy. Manju urged all concerned to shun the destructive attitude of damaging property in the greater interest of the nation. Earlier, the minister inaugurated the works on Amua Bandar protection embankment, according to a PID handout.

Three siblings electrocuted
RANGPUR, Aug 27: A desperate effort by three siblings to save each other when one of them came in contact of a live wire ended in loss of three lives at Menanagar Kuthial in Tala thana Wednesday, reports UNB.
The victims were identified as Anisul Haque, 20, Abdur Rahman, 18, and Sadequul Islam, 15. Villager said the three brothers went to a nearby beel for fishing at 10pm on the day where Anisul first came in touch of the live wire that ran through the beel. The rest two also fell prey to the live wire when they tried to save their elder brother. A pall of gloom descended in the village at the death of three young brothers.

Barisal violence AL, BCL deny involvement of partymen: 10 persons sued

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Aug 27: Habilder Nurul Islam of Amanatganj police filed a case against 10 persons in connection with the bomb attack and ransacking incident in the line on Monday night. He had been injured during the attack. Additional police force have been deployed there.
Syed Anisur Rahman, Publicity Secretary of the district Awami League also filed a case against 10 persons on Tuesday for the attack on his house in the area on Monday night.
On Wednesday, Yustif Ali and Samser Ali filed two cases with the sadar magistrate court for the loss of Tk 14 lakh for damaging and ransacking in the Aviruchi cinema hall complex. He also filed a case for loss of Tk two lakh for ransacking the house of Obaidul Haq Chand.
BNP district secretary here, Chand.
A very tense situation was prevailing in Amanatganj and its adjoining areas in the northern side of the town following an armed attack and ransacking incident followed by explosions of several hundreds of bombs and firing of gunshots since Saturday late night till Tuesday night.
During the attack by over 200 armed people after the brutal murder of Masum, a Juba League worker on Saturday night, at least three dwelling houses, some business establishments, Pura commissioner's office, Chanderhat office, PDB CBA office were ransacked and damaged.
The house and a Cinema hall of Obaidul Haq Chand, BNP district unit secretary were also damaged and ransacked.



Wrath of the Old Brahmaputra: Havoc created by the old Brahmaputra at Khagdahar in the sadar thana of Mymensingh district. — Star photo

Erosion threatens two thanas in Kushtia

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Aug 27: Erosion by the Padma and Gorai rivers has taken a serious turn in recent times in the district, affecting a large number of people in Daulatpur and Kumarkhali thanas.
The erosion has also been affecting houses, educational institutions, business establishments, culverts, roads and vast tract of arable land in the area.
The erosion has compelled inhabitants in the area to shift their homesteads to other places.
In Daulatpur four unions were badly affected. Standing aus crops on five thousand acres of land have been damaged by the erosion. Five hundred houses have been devoured by the erosion. Worst affected villages under Chilmari union include Chakr-ajapur, Purba Bazumara, Pashchim Udaynagar, Uttar Udaynagar, Charvabandadiar, Sarkarpara, Pashchim Amdani Ghat, Purba Amdani Ghat, Purba Ramkrishnapur, Pashchimchar Ramkrishnapur, Dakkhin Kharizathak, Uttar Kharizathak, Dakkhin Sarkarpara, Uttar Sarkarpara and Temadia.
The villages badly affected under Ramkrishnapur union are Sonatala, Sarkarpara, Charbhadra, Charuikuri, Bagmari, Madhugari, Islampur, Kharibona, Dhakipara, Bhagoth, Kharizathak purba, Loknathpur and Charpara.
The villages badly affected under Philipnagar union are Jotashi, Natunchar, Alinagar and Aberderghat. The villages badly affected under Maricha union are Laxminagar, Purardiar, Chilmari, Bhurkapara, Hatholapara, Koldiar and Machdiar.
The Deputy Commissioner of Kushtia recently visited the erosion hit areas and distributed relief materials among the victims.
The year by year erosion is also posing threat to 12-mile long Raita-Mohiskundi flood protection embankment. Witnesses said the surging waves directly hit the banks round the year. But during the current rainy season, the intensity of erosion has increase alarmingly.
Daulatpur thana administration has been facing uphill task to rehabilitate the erosion-hit people. The erosion has rendered them jobless.
The river Gorai continues to erode new areas in Kumarkhali thana. Pura bazaar, M N High School, Kumarkhali Degree College and some other business establishments have already been devoured by the erosion.
The erosion has now been threatening a large number of hand loom factories in Kumarkhali thana.
Kumarkhali residents have urged the government to take appropriate measures for the protection of the town.
They also have staged demonstration and enforced hartals in support of their demand.
The erosion by the Gorai has affected Jayanabad village under Kumarkhali, rendering 300 families homeless.
It has also been threatening the Ganges-Kobaddak (GK) Project, a gigantic irrigation scheme in the country, a canal at Chapra union of Kumarkhali thana, seven miles away from Kushtia town.

Two lakh women, children malnourished in 6 S-dists

NOAKHALI, Aug 27: When the country is heading towards food autarky, over two lakh women and children in six southern districts have been suffering from various diseases caused by malnutrition, reports UNB.
Hospital sources said 200-300 women and children with complaints of skin and intestinal diseases visit health complexes in Noakhali, Feni, Laxmipur, Chandpur, Bhola and Barguna districts everyday.
According to Poor Development Programme (PDP), an NGO, 75 per cent mothers and children living in char areas are suffering from anemia, weakness and other diseases. Most children of the 2-10 age group also have worms.
The Civil Surgeon of Laxmipur district said people in remote char areas are taking unwholesome foods due to acute poverty, inviting unwanted diseases.
Another source said the health department has virtually failed to ensure necessary medical services to the poor people as its field-level workers hardly take the trouble to visit remote areas.
Meanwhile, doctors at different health complexes in the district said they could not provide necessary treatment to the patients due to short supply of life-saving drugs.
"We are only providing medicines for fever, dysentery and some common skin diseases, but the patients are being deprived of other life-saving drugs," said a doctor at Sadar thana health complex of Noakhali district.
He said for successful implementation of the government's "Health for All by the Year 2005" programme we need a health policy that would ensure appropriate care to the country's malnourished mothers and children.



Innumerable cracks and potholes have been developed on Saikupa-Garaganj highway in Jhenidah district making it quite unfit for use. Yet vehicles are plying unabated on this highway resulting in untold sufferings to hundreds of passengers. — Star photo

Another massgrave discovered

From A Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 27: Another massgrave has been discovered at Garadha village under Shahajadpur thana.
Local villagers said, the farmers were cultivating their lands when they found some human skulls. Out of curiosity many more villagers gathered there.
The villagers apprehend that here is a massgrave of the Liberation War.
Local Rajackers, Al-Badars and Al-shams forces collaborated with the Pakistani occupation army and kidnapped many freedom fighters and local youths. Afterwards they killed them.
Local police visited the spot.

50 bottles of liquor seized in Pabna

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Aug 27: At least 50 bottles of illegal liquor and 300 bottles of Indian made phenidyl syrup were seized in two separate raids in the district recently.
A surveillance team of Department of Narcotics Control, Pabna, acting on a tip-off raided seven houses at village Bhatta Kowak under Ullapara thana in the district on August 19 and recovered 196 bottles of phenidyl; 19 bottles of foreign made liquor; eight bottles of local Carew & Company liquor; 164 empty bottles of wine and 113 fake printed labels of wine from the houses of one Mansoor Ali and six others.
One Yasin Ali of the village was arrested from the spot following recovery of various illegal drugs.
A case was registered with Ullapara police in this connection.
Another team, acting upon a secret information, intercepted a running Dhaka-bound passenger coach from Iswardi at the entry point of Pabna town on August 18.
The team recovered 109 bottles of phenidyl from the possession of a female passenger.
The team arrested the passenger who identified herself as Manwara Begum. She hails from Mymensingh district.
A case was lodged in this connection.

Fertiliser prices up in Sirajganj

From A Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 27: With aman and boro paddy farming nearing, prices of fertilisers have shot up in the district markets.
Cost of each bag of different fertilisers has increased by taka 50 during the last two weeks, market sources said.
In Sirajganj markets, only 15 days ago, urea was selling between Tk 265 and 270 per bag. But the fertiliser is now being sold at Tk 310 a bag.
In the last month, demand for the fertiliser was lower. But the demand has increased in recent days because of the peak season for aman cultivation, triggering price hike.
Farmers have attributed the price hike to artificial crisis of fertilisers in the markets.
If the fertiliser price hike continues, ensuing aman-boro farming will be hampered, local farmers said.

Parents indeed!

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 27: A boy was strangled to death by his cruel parents at Kalikapur village in Kazipur thana recently, reports UNB.
Villagers and police said father Azahar and stepmother Nargis brutally killed Russel when he was asleep.
They hid the body and told the villagers that Russel was missing and sought help to find him out.
But the suspicious neighbours informed police that the stepmother might have killed the boy.
Police arrested the parents who on interrogation confessed their guilt. On their confessional statement, the body of Russel was recovered from Isagara beel which was left in a sack.
According to the neighbours, Azahar in connivance with Nargis had poisoned to death his first wife, the mother of Russel. The matter was settled by village headmen with Azahar giving 20 decimal land in the name of Russel by registration.
The motive behind the killing of the boy was grabbing the land.

Night coach robbery

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Aug 27: Robbers looted cash and valuables from a night coach passengers recently.
According to victims, robbers in guise of passengers were travelling in a Khulna-bound night coach of 'Sohag Paribahan'. When the bus reached haor area along the Jhenidah-Dhaka highway, the robbers numbering about eight suddenly overwhelmed the driver and started looting at gun point.
Some 20 passengers were beaten up when they made some resistance and refused to hand over their belongings to the highway robbers.
The dacoits left the vehicle near Alamkhal bridge area. The incident was informed to Haigopalpur police outpost.

TIDP award

From A Correspondent

TANGAIL, Aug 27: An amount of Taka 45,000 was awarded to the winners of a growth centre competition recently at a function at Tangail Zilla Parishad auditorium.
Tangail Infrastructure Development Project (TIDP), a Bangladesh-German cooperation project arranged the programme. The programme was attended by Alhaj Abdul Manan MP, chairman of the standing committee for LGRD as the chief guest, Prof Dr S H K Yusufzal, former ambassador and member of the Planning Commission, Md Monowar Hossain Chowdhury, Chief Engineer of LGED and Dr H Tabatabai, director of German Development Cooperation, Dhaka were special guests.
TIDP had launched the competition in 1998 to provide an incentive to the growth centres to improve their management and maintenance practices. During the one-year competition period, six participating growth centres were assessed several times based on 20 different criteria. The winners were Aynapur Hat of Tangail sadar thana (Tk 20,000), followed by Barachowna Hat of Sakhipur thana (Tk 15,000) and Dhalapara Hat of Ghatal thana (Tk 10,000). The remaining growth centres received consolation prizes.
Two ex-ministers granted bail
SUNAMGANJ, Aug 27: A court here granted bail to two former ministers on Wednesday and Thursday, reports UNB.
The District and Sessions Judge Ikhtedar Ahmed granted bail to former State Minister for Land Kabir Hossain and State Minister for Establishment Nurul Huda.
A court issued arrest warrant against the ministers on August 22 following cases filed by the Anti-Corruption Bureau regarding leasing of water bodies in Dharmapasha thana.

'Shanti Nibas' for old men

FARIDPUR, Aug 27: Social Service Directorate will set up six homes for the old aged, styled as 'Shanti Nibas' in six divisions of the country at an estimated cost of Taka 9.99,90,000, reports BSS.
According to official sources, the concept of old-age home cropped-up with the change of social condition and family structures in our society. Old people, both male and female, become helpless having no support or security. In order to provide shelter, food and security to the helpless old persons, the government has evolved this humanitarian scheme.
Each 'Shanti Nibas' will have the facilities to accommodate 40 males and 60 females who are above 60 years. Each 'Shanti Nibas' will be set up attached to government 'Shishu Sadan' so that the orphans get parental affection from the residents of the 'Shanti Nibas'. The old people would also be able to get the feeling of family bondage instead of solitary life and deprivation.
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to lay the foundation stone of Dhaka divisional 'Shantinibas' at Faridpur, adjacent to government Shishu Sadan, tomorrow (August 28).
This 'Shantinibas' will cost Taka one crore sixty six lakh sixty five thousand.

Events of districts in picture



Trees for environmental equilibrium: Jyotindra Lal Tripura, chairman of Khagrachhari District Council planting a sapling recently in Mahalchhari thana of Khagrachhari hill district as part of the council's afforestation programme. — Star photo



Fund shortage: Construction work of Faridpur District Bar Library has been stalled for years together due to fund constraints resulting in great inconvenience to the practising lawyers. — Star photo



Helping poor neighbours: Md Abdul Latif, president of Kishoreganj Press Club distributing loans recently among the poor women at a function arranged by ASA, a non-governmental organisation. — Star photo



A colourful procession was brought out from the town hall premises in Mymensingh town recently in observance of the International Tribals' Day. — Star photo