

News snaps



Mourning for fellow colleague: The students of Sociology Department of Rajshahi University brought out a mourning procession on the campus following the death of Akram Hossain, a final year student of the department. — Star photo

Husband deserts wife for dowry

MOULAVIBAZAR, Aug 29: Demanding dowry a cruel husband tortured his pregnant wife and left home leaving her behind in her father's house in village Bhuzabal of Rajnagar thana, reports UNB.

Family sources said Doyarun Bibi, 22, was married to Abdur Noor, a cloth vendor. He was staying in in-law's house since the marriage a year ago. Of late, he was pressing for dowry of Tk 50,000. But her father Abdul Hamid failed to give such a big amount of money. The cruel husband mentally and physically tortured Doyarun, expectant mother in an advanced stage. And finally left home leaving behind his wife in distress and agony. A case was filed with the first class magistrate court.

Training course for teachers

HABIGANJ, Aug 29: A 12-day basic training course for teachers of 45 mass education centres in Baniachang thana began on August 21, reports UNB.

Manob Seba Sangstha, an NGO, in collaboration with local Union Parishad organised the course under Non-formal Education Programme.

Shilpakala office-bearers

NETRAKONA, Aug 29: The triennial election of Netrakona Shilpakala Academy was held on August 21, a press release said, reports BSS.

The ten elected members of the Executive Committee are Advocate Golam Mohammed Bimol, ATMA Razzak, Hitam Chowdhury, Prof Kamruzzaman Chowdhury, Sarwar Hussain Bhuiya, Prof Mustafiz Kamal Azad, Hafizur Rahman Khan, Sarwar Jahan Ranjan, Kamruzzaman Khan and Habibur Rahman Ratan. The Deputy Commissioner is the ex-officio president of the Shilpakala Academy.

Man crushed under wheels of bus

HABIGANJ, Aug 29: A man was crushed under wheels of a bus on Habiganj-Nabiganj road at Chairman Gate recently, reports UNB.

Police said Abdul Kheleque, 45, of village Haripur in Baniachang thana, was killed when a bus knocked him down in the area. Traffic on the road was disrupted for about three hours as local people put up barricade on it protesting the incident. Police seized the truck, but the driver fled the scene. A case was filed.

24 shops gutted

MADARIPUR, Aug 29: Twenty four shops were gutted in a devastating fire that broke out at Khowaspur Bazar in Sadar thana of the district on August 20, reports BSS.

The fire was reportedly originated from an electric short circuit in a shop in the night. The shopkeepers and the local people controlled the fire after three-hour long ceaseless effort. Shajahan Khan, MP and local Awami League leaders visited the spot.

Computer education centre

COMILLA, Aug 29: Launching ceremony of APTECH Computer Education Centre at Comilla was held on August 20 at Ashik Residential Hotel in the town, reports BSS.

Chairman of Public Administration Reforms Commission ATMA Shamsul Haque inaugurated the APTECH Computer Education Centre here. Managing Director of APTECH Computer Centre, Comilla, Lt Col (ret'd) Md Harunur Rashid presided over the function. Chief Engineer of Dhaka City Corporation Shamsul Alam Bhuiyan, President of Computer Association Dr Enamul Hoque, Country Representative of APTECH Tarun Mitra, President Comilla Chamber of Commerce Afzal Khan, advocate also spoke on the occasion.

Construction progressing

BARISAL, Aug 29: Construction of Baleshwar Bridge over the river Baleshwar on Pirojpur-Khulna Highway has been progressing fast in the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to Superintending Engineer office sources, construction of the 336-metre long and 10-metre wide bridge will be completed within this fiscal year. More than 60 per cent work of the project has already been completed. The road communications between Pirojpur and western part of the country will be easier and comfortable after the completion of the construction of the bridge. Construction work started in 1996-97 fiscal year.

Arms recovered, five held

FARIDPUR, Aug 29: Faridpur Kotwali police recently recovered six arms and arrested five people, reports BSS.

According to Superintendent of Police of Faridpur, police recovered on August 22 one country-made revolver with eight rounds of bullets from the possession of an alleged miscreant from Mominkhar hat area. Following night, patrol police in the town chased a group of miscreants and recovered one country-made shutter gun. Police also recovered four arms including two foreign made revolvers and arrested four alleged miscreants from the town on August 24. Vigorous police patrols to nab criminals and recover illegal arms in the district are under way, the Police Superintendent added.

Construction of Gabkhan bridge

BARISAL, Aug 29: Construction of Gabkhan Bridge over Gabkhan Channel has begun at a cost of taka 78.61 crore with the foreign exchange component of taka 49.54 crore on Jhalakati-Pirojpur highway under Barisal Circle, reports BSS.

According to Superintending Engineer office sources, the construction of 777-metre long and 10-metre wide 5th Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge will be completed within 2000-2001 fiscal year. A total of 11.38 acres of land were acquired by the government at a cost of taka 1.04 crore in the last 1998-99 fiscal year, the sources added.

Four get life term

KHULNA, Aug 29: The district court has sentenced 4 persons to life imprisonment for the murder of three men in village Barasat of Terokhada thana in 1993, reports UNB.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Hassan awarded the punishment in the sensational murder case. According to the prosecution, in a sequel of family feud two members of the Molah family were killed in a clash with Bhuiyan family in the village on April 18, 1993. A member of the Bhuiyan family injured in the clash later died in the hospital. Both the families filed cases with the police accusing 79 people for the murder. The judge after examining the witnesses awarded the maximum jail term to four and acquitted others.

Renovation of primary schools

NETRAKONA, Aug 29: The Local Government and Engineering Department (LGED) has taken up a project for repair and renovation of 72 registered non-government primary schools in ten thanas of the district in the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the government sanctioned taka 1.80 crore for implementation of the project. Under the project, the educational institutions are also being supplied with furniture including chairs and tables. More than 70 per cent work of the project has already been completed and the rest will be done by the end of next month. After the implementation of the project, the primary education network of the rural areas of the district will be improved to a great extent.

Suicide incidents up in Jhenidah

JHENIDAH, Aug 29: A total of 402 people committed suicide in six thanas of the district in the last seven months ending July 31, police said here, reports BSS.

Of the total suicide victims 83 per cent were female. A total of 142 committed suicide in Sadar thana 86 in Shaikhpura, 61 in Kaliganj, 40 in Moheshpur, 40 in Harinakunda and 33 in Kotchandpur thana.

According to a study 82 per cent of the female who committed suicide were married and 8 per cent unmarried. The highest number of cases were in the 15-29 age-group and 66 per cent of the victims were illiterate.

The cause of the suicides were mostly family feud (64 per cent), followed by incurable diseases (12 per cent) and dowry (7

per cent).

Last year, 790 people committed suicide while the number in 1997 were 808, the sources added.

Another report adds: A young woman reportedly committed suicide in Kaliganj thana of Jhenidah district on August 1.

Police said, Chare Khatun of village Vetakhoka under Kaliganj thana allegedly committed suicide by taking poison.

The victim was at her husband's residence. Family feud may be the cause of her committing suicide.

An unnatural death case was registered with Kaliganj police station in this connection.

UNB from Joypurhat says: Three people, two of them women, allegedly committed

suicide in separate incidents in the district recently.

They were identified as Ayesha Siddika, 43, and her sister-in-law Mohsina Begum, 21 of village Sukhanpukur in Panchbibi thana and Masud Rana, 24, of village Billa in Sadar thana.

Police and hospital sources said Ayesha and Mohsina killed themselves together by taking pesticides following a family feud.

They said Masud also took his life by taking pesticide after a brawl with his wife.

Another report from Myensingh adds: A college student, Shankar Kumar Bhadra, allegedly committed suicide by jumping on to a running train at Sankipapa level-crossing recently.

TLM programme in three districts progressing

Total Literacy Movement (TLM) programme is progressing satisfactorily in three districts, reports UNB.

In Madaripur: The work on 'Jotirmoy Madaripur', a pilot programme for mass education, is going on in full swing at 16 centres in Kalkini thana.

The Deputy Commissioner visited three centres on Monday and expressed satisfaction at the progress of imparting the knowledge of reading, writing and arithmetic to villagers, including women.

Ninety-five per cent of presence of the learners was found at the centres.

The 'Jotirmoy Madaripur' programme is part of the mass education scheme taken up in different districts to free the country from the curse of illiteracy by the year 2000.

The DC said the programme began in the district from July 14 aiming at educating two lakh

illiterate people by June next year.

Three remaining thanas of the district will be brought under the programme within few days, he said.

In Patuakhali: An ambitious plan to eradicate illiteracy from the district by 2001, local administration has decided to bring some 2,21,092 people of 11-45 age group under Total Literacy Programme (TLM).

This was disclosed at a meeting on TLM here on Thursday. Chaired by Deputy Commissioner Abdus Samad, the meeting was told that of the targeted people 1,03,532 are male and 1,17,560 female.

It was also informed that Literacy Implementation Association, comprising local elite, would implement the programme through 368 centres in seven thanas and three pourashavas from October next.

Primary Education Department will complete a survey on

illiterate people of the district by the current month.

In Comilla: The government has decided to eradicate illiteracy from the district by the year 2001 through Total Literacy Movement (TLM) Programme.

This was disclosed at a meeting of the District Mass Education Association, held recently at the DC's conference room with Deputy Commissioner Chowdhury Golam Mowla in the chair.

The meeting was informed that 170 education centres have been set up in 12 thanas and four pourashavas under 16 pilot projects for providing education to seven lakh illiterate people in the district.

Thana parishads and pourashavas concerned were provided funds for implementing the project.

The ADC has been asked to formulate a work plan for starting the main project of the TLM programme.



Professor Dr Anisuzzaman, Chairman of the Bangla Academy and Professor Dr Rafiqul Islam, Nazrul Professor of Dhaka University addressed a discussion meeting on Kazi Nazrul Islam to celebrate the birth centenary of the poet at the PATC Institute Chittagong recently. Chittagong University Bengali Department had organised the meeting. — Star photo

Aman farming scheme on 1,38,720 hectares in two dists

A total of 1,38,720 hectares of land have been brought under Aman cultivation in the districts of Kishoreganj and Feni in this season, report agencies.

In Kishoreganj, some 60,720 hectares of land have been brought under its cultivation, fixing the production target at 1,09,684 mts.

Officials said High Yielding Variety (HYV) of paddy would be cultivated on 36,820 hectares while local variety on 23,900 hectares.

The thana wise breakup of the lands is: Hossainpur-7,020 hectares, sadar-10,044, Pakundia-8,570, Katiadi-9,810, Karimganj-10,500, Bajitpur-5,500, Tarail-4,446, Kullarchar-3,696, Itna-50, Nikli-385, Ashtagram-150 and Bhairab-549 hectares.

Meanwhile, Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) has distributed quality seeds among the farmers at a nominal

price to achieve the production target.

The farmers were also imparted training on preparing

seedbeds, proper fertiliser application and aman cultivation.

In Feni, about 78 thousand hectares will be brought under its cultivation in this season in the five thanas.

According to District Agricultural Extension Department sources, about 57 thousand hectares will be brought under the high yielding varieties (HYV) and the rest under local varieties.

Agricultural department has established 70 demonstration plots to encourage the farmers to apply scientific method in cultivation and the department has fixed the output target of aman paddy at one lakh and fifty thousand tonnes in the season.

Meanwhile, cultivation in 60 per cent of the land has been done and the rest will be completed within this month.



Unabated erosion by the Brahmaputra has raised a great alarm in Gaibandha district. The river has already devoured two-kilometre area of Balashi-Gaibandha road. — Star photo



Spreading IT education: Aptech launched its 12th computer education centre in Comilla on August 20. The inaugural ceremony was addressed by Tarun Mitra, Country Operations Head of Aptech Bangladesh, A T M Samsul Haque, Chairman, Public Administration Reforms Commission, Dr Aminul Haque, President of Bangladesh Computer Society, Dr Samsul Haque Bhuiyah, Chief Engineer, Dhaka City Corporation, Advocate Afzal Khan, Principal, Bangabandhu Law College and Lt Col Harunur Rashid, Managing Director of Information Management Systems Ltd. — Aptech photo

Faridpur DIARY

College student electrocuted

From Our Correspondent
FARIDPUR, Aug 29: An examinee of MA class from Rajendra University College was electrocuted recently.

The victim, Toiazal Hossain Badal, a resident of West Alipur here came in contact with a live electric wire which was snapped near his residence on the previous day. He died instantaneously. Two incidents of this nature took place in the same locality last year.

Teen killed in road accident

A teenage boy was run over by a tempo on Faridpur Mominkhar hat road recently. The victim identified as Jabbar, 13, son of Baset Ali of village Char Madhabdia in sadar thana was crossing the road when he was knocked down by the tempo packed with passengers. He died on the spot.

Image of Narayan stolen

An image of God Narayan was stolen at night recently from the temple of Goshabari at village Gaganandi under Madhukhali thana.

The thieves entered into the temple at dead of night and took away the image made of stones and other valuables.

Man commits suicide

Ramchandra Ghosh, 32, son of late Narayan Chandra Ghosh of Jhiltuly area here committed suicide by taking poison recently.

The victim was a physically retarded person from the birth. Frustration might be the cause of the suicide.

Stolen car recovered

A stolen private car was recovered by DB police from the pound belonging to Mostafa Kamal alias Mukul Mia of village Dhuldi Joydebpur under Kotwali thana recently.

Acting on a tip-off a contingent of police led by S I Md Afzaruddin of DB police recovered the private car from under water of the pond. None was arrested.

Boy drowns

A little boy drowned in a pond here on August 17.

According to family source, the victim, Hirok, 8, son of Sharif Mia at Alauddin Khan Road, South Alipur in the Town, on the day of incident went to have a bath in the nearby pond. Suddenly he fell into deep water while bathing. After a search for sometime he was recovered and rushed to Faridpur General Hospital where the attending doctors declared him dead.

Lightning kills man

One person was killed and another injured in lightning on August 9.

According to local sources, around 11 am on the day of incident, Halim Fakir, 55, and his brother Awal Fakir, 45, of village Narayandia under Nagarkanda thana were cutting jute plants in the field when a thunderbolt hit them killing Halim Fakir on the spot and injuring his brother Awal Fakir. He was admitted to Nagarkanda hospital afterwards.

Ctg jail inmate dies

From Our Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Aug 29: An inmate of Chittagong jail died here Thursday morning. The deceased was identified as Anwar Hossain, 30.

According to prison sources, Anwar complained severe stomach ache at early hours Thursday. He was shifted to jail hospital at around 10 in the morning. Later his condition deteriorated. He died on his way to general hospital.

Anwar was arrested from Sitakunda thana area one week back.

55,000 VGF cards for 11 Bogra thanas

From A Correspondent

BOGRA, Aug 29: The government allocated 55 thousand Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) cards for 11 thanas here for the next three months.

District Relief and Rehabilitation Office (DRRO) sources said that 10 thousand five hundred VGF cards have been allocated for 21 union of sadar thana and six thousand cards for 12 unions of Shibgonj thana.

A total of five thousand five hundred cards have been allocated for 11 union of Gabtoli thana and six thousand cards allocated for 12 union of Sharakandi thana.

DRRO sources further said, three thousand five hundred VGF cards have been allocated

for seven unions of Sonatola thana and three thousand for six unions of Adamdighi thana, out of 55 thousand VGF cards, four thousand five hundred allocated for nine unions of Kahaloo thana, two thousand five hundred for five unions of Nandigram and five thousand for 10 unions of Dhunat, three thousand for six unions of Dupchanchia and four thousand five hundred for nine unions of Sherpur thana.

Besides, one thousand cards have been issued specially for Bogra, Sherpur and Shantahar Municipalities.

Administration sources said that each card holder would get 10 kg of rice in each month.

Events of districts in picture



Photo show on Bangabandhu: Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University Prof Muhammad Hossain viewing the photographs after inaugurating a photographic exhibition on the life and works of Bangabandhu recently at the university's central library. — Star photo



Welcome at RU: Prof Sayeedur Rahman Khan, Vice-Chancellor of Rajshahi University (L) welcoming Prof ATM Zahirul Haq (2nd from right), Chairman of University Grants Commission recently at the university. RU Treasurer Abul Fazal Haq (c) is also seen. — Star photo



Chittagong district unit of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society organised a rally in the city recently on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Geneva convention. — Star photo



Govt ban defied: Logs are being carried this way through hundreds of trucks from the rural areas of Jhenidah district every day threatening the environment. Usually these are burnt in brickfields by the owners who defy the government ban very off and on. — Star photo