

News snaps

12 LGED projects implemented

COMILLA, Sept 21: The Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) implemented 12 projects at a cost of Taka 1.48 crore here in the 1998-1999 fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to an official source, of the total projects eight were executed at a cost of Taka one crore under rural development programme and four projects at a cost of Taka 48 lakh under other uplift schemes. The work of the projects included construction of rural roads, bridges and culverts for the development of rural infrastructure.

Boy killed in road mishap

MAGURA, Sept 21: A teenage boy was killed and 30 passengers were injured as a Jessor-bound bus skidded off the road and fell into a ditch at Araishati on Magura-Sreepur road on Sunday, reports UNB.

Passengers said the accident took place as the driver lost control on the steering. Kalam 12, died on the spot. Of the injured, 14 were admitted to sadar hospital while others given first aid.

24 schemes implemented

MADARIPUR, Sept 21: Madaripur Zila Parishad implemented 24 uplift schemes in four thanas during the last fiscal year, reports BSS.

The schemes included construction and repair of bridges and roads and renovation of union parishad offices. Of the schemes, the Zila Parishad executed eight from its own fund and the rest 16 schemes.

Father kills son

PIROJPUR, Sept 21: A young man allegedly poisoned to death his two-year-old son at Brunjhury village in Kawkhali thana following a quarrel with his wife over dowry on Friday, reports UNB.

Police said Al Amin poured poison into the mouth of his son, Jabbar, after his wife Jotsna refused to bring money from her father. Amin went into hiding after the incident.

Yong man killed in road mishap

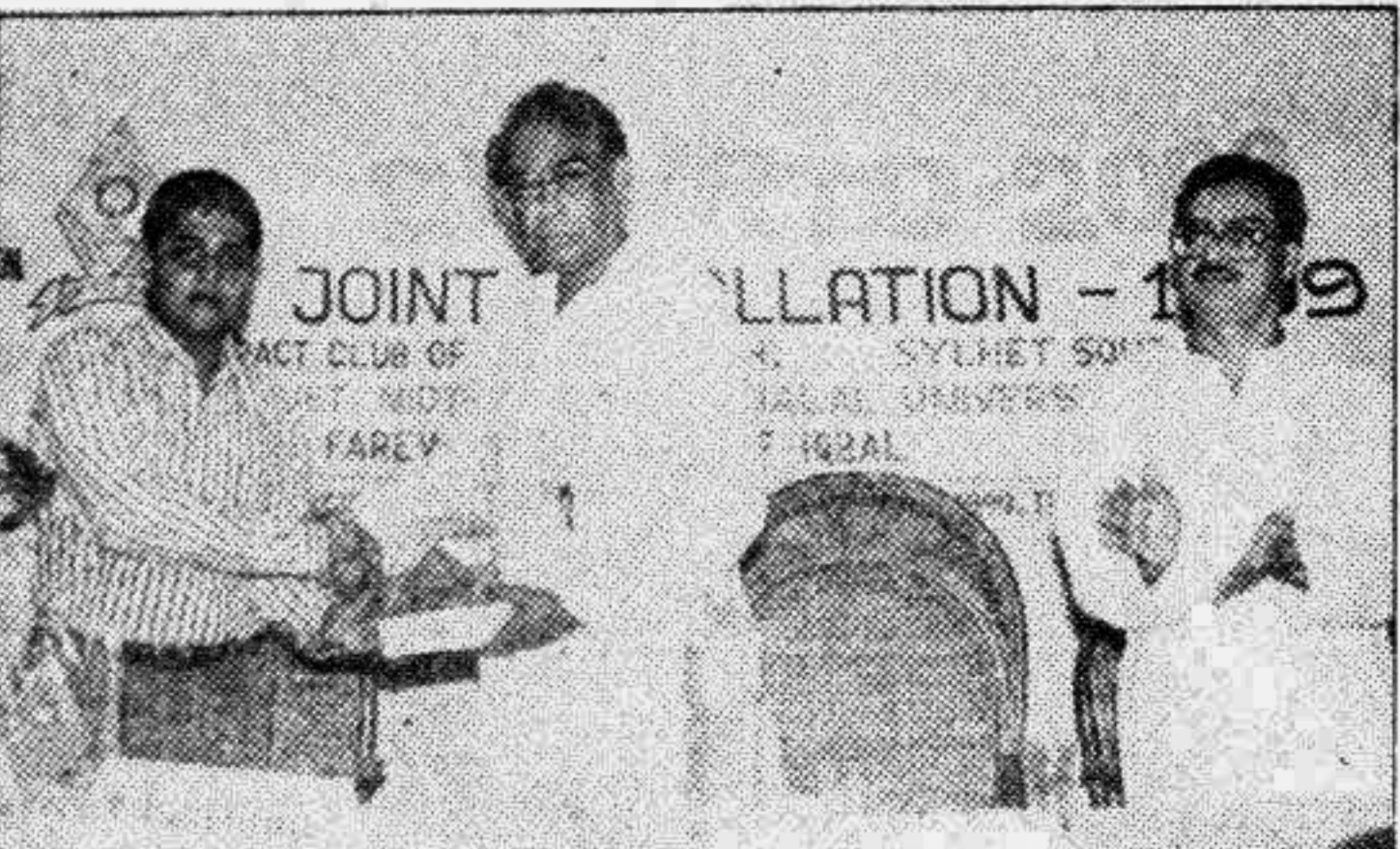
MADARIPUR, Sept 21: A young man was killed in a road mishap in Siddiq Khola area on the Madaripur-Takerhat road in Sadar thana on September 12, reports BSS.

Police and eyewitness said, the victim, identified as Manash Chandra Das, 30, of Madaripur PTI, was run over by a speeding passenger bus. He was taken to Madaripur hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

Two brothers drown

BOGRA, Sept 21: Two brothers, Ujjal, 12, and Shuman 8, drowned in the River Bangali at village Chaik Khanpur in Sherpur thana on September 13, reports BSS.

A local source said, Shuman and Ujjal went to the river for fishing at noon. Suddenly Shuman fell in the river. Ujjal tried to save him, but he failed and drowned. The villagers recovered their bodies next day, 2 km down stream from the spot.



Parliamentary Affairs Advisor to the Prime Minister Suranjit Sengupta handing over a crest to the chairman of the Installation committee on Friday at an installation ceremony of Rotaract Club of Sylhet. — Star photo



M A Mannan, Minister for Labour and Manpower giving away the Atish Dipankar Gold Medal '99 recently to Monowara Hakim Ali for her outstanding contribution in social service at Chittagong Shishu Academy auditorium. — Star photo

Unauthorised books being taught

KISHOREGANJ, Sept 21: Unauthorised books are being taught as text books in different schools and madrasas in all the 13 thanas here ignoring the relevant syllabus, reports UNB.

Sources said, a section of teachers in collaboration with publishers suggested the books as text through the National Curriculum and Textbook Board did not approve those. Students are being compelled to buy unauthorised books at high prices in the face of pressure created by the teachers who got financial benefits from the publishers. Besides, there is brisk business of guidebook in various parts of the district. A section of teachers forced the learners to buy guidebooks selected by them. According to rules the Board approve some books of private publishers to be taught in the class from VI to IX across the country. It includes Bangla, English, Grammar, Composition and Rapid Readers.

Tree fair concludes

BHOLA, Sept 21: A five-day tree fair organised by the Forest Department concluded at Natun Bazar premises here last week, reports BSS.

Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Mayez Uddin Khan attended the concluding function as the chief guest. Principal M Tajul Islam of Bhola Government College was special guest. Held at Bhola Town Hall the function was presided over by Jalal Uddin Ahmed, divisional forest officer, Barisal. Different government and semi-government organisations and individuals participated in the fair with their exhibits.

Timber seized

KHAGRACHHARI, Sept 21: The law enforcing agencies in a drive seized 2,000 ft timber procured illegally by unscrupulous traders from the River Maini and different saw mills under Dighinala thana during the last three days, reports BSS.

An official source said the timber was collected illegally from Narachhari Reserve Forest. The law enforcing agencies have recently started a drive against the unscrupulous traders and smugglers of timber.

Substandard goods flood markets

MANIKGANJ, Sept 21: The number of vendors carrying substandard Indian goods is increasing at an alarming rate in seven thanas, threatening the local industries, reports UNB.

These vendors, including women, sell smuggled goods from door-to-door at cheaper prices right under police nose. "Vending Indian goods has become a potential business in the district, but police are turning a blind eye to these travelling salespersons," lamented a schoolteacher. According to competent sources, a huge quantity of Indian goods are smuggled into the country through West-North and West frontier areas and supplied to capital Dhaka and its adjoining areas through different land and river routes everyday. They said police hardly check the bootleggers at different checkpoints on Dhaka-Aricha highway as they have underhand dealings with the smugglers. "People like Indian goods because Indian goods are cheaper than the local ones," said vendor Rajab Ali. The vendors usually sell Indian goods like saree, lungi, rice, pulse, sugar, salt, cosmetics, spices, electronic goods, spare parts of shallow engine, medicine, fertilizer and pesticides.

Pest-attack on Aman crops following flood in 8 dists

From Mozammel Haq

RANGPUR, Sept 21: Massive pest-attack on Aman crops across vast areas in eight northern districts has been reported.

With gradual recession of flood waters, pests have intensified their attack on crops.

Aman plants on vast areas across Rangpur, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Gaibandha, Nilphamari, Dinajpur, Thakurgaon and Panchagarh have been attacked by the most harmful varieties of insects. Day by day the pests have been damaging fresh crop fields due to lack of proper measures to check them, it has been alleged widely by the farmers.

In many areas, Aman plants have become brown and gradually those are being withered away. The Aman plants in the

vast flood ravaged areas have been rotten out after the recession of flood waters.

Agriculture Extension Department (AFD) admitted the loss on over 40 thousand to 50 thousand hectares of land across the aforementioned districts. Spraying of insecticides are going on in the affected areas, but in vain. The farmers alleged that Indian insecticides are available in the markets which are mostly adulterated. Those are being smuggled through different routes into the country rampantly smugglers.

The worst affected areas Rangpur sadar, Pargacha, Kaunia, Bargonj, Gangachara, Taragonj, Mithapukur, Gaibandha sadar, Palashbari,

Gobindagonj, Shadullapur, Lalmonirhat Sadar, Aditmari, Kalligonj, Patgram, Hatibandha, Kurigram sadar, Fulbari, Nageshwari, Bhurungamari, Dinajpur Sadar, Parbatipur, Fulbari Chhiring Bandar, Nawabgonj, Thakurgaon Sadar, Balladangi, Birgonj and Panchagarh Sadar, Debigonj, Atowari, Boda thanas and its neighbouring areas.

The Aman cultivation target has exceeded by 50 thousand hectare in the districts. The original target was 10,44,135 hectares and the production target was about 20 lakh metric tons. There are apprehension that due to ongoing pest-attack and preceding floods, Aman production will face a setback

during the current season, as happened in the last year in the region.

BSS from Brahmanbaria reports: Transplanted Aman paddy will be cultivated on 15,700 hectares in the seven thanas here in the current season.

According to the Agriculture Extension Department, 13,000 hectares have been brought under High Yielding Variety (HYV) of paddy while 2,700 hectares under local variety.

Agriculture Department officers and farmers say that plantation of seedling has already started and they hope that due to favourable weather prospect of transplanted Aman is bright this year.

Abundance of Hilsa in Barisal division

From Aroop Talukdar

BARISAL, Sept 21: Hilsa is available in abundance for the last few days in different places of Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola and Barguna districts under Barisal division.

Hilsa remained scarce for two months. But now in the mid-season fishing of Hilsa in the southern region particularly, an abundant supply of the fish is visible.

Sources from Kalapara in Patuakhali informed that Hilsa fish were abundantly available at Kuakata, Alipur, Mahipur, Khaigora, Barajalia, Rannabad and some other places along the sea shore. All the Hilsa depots

are filled up with the fish in these places.

Fishermen said, each trawler is now fishing Hilsa amounting to Tk 10 to Tk 20 thousand everyday from the sea.

As a result its price in the wholesale and retail markets registered a sharp fall this week.

The price of Hilsa has fallen significantly. Each maund of Hilsa is being sold at Tk 2 thousand to Tk 3 thousand in the wholesale market in the coastal areas and the other places.

During the mid-season of fishing its exporting has also

been increased than before.

At least three Hilsa fish exporters here are making up their losses incurred earlier at the advent of Hilsa season a few months ago.

During July last Hilsa fish was sold at Tk 5,500 to Tk 6,500 per maund according to size in the wholesale markets which has now come down to Tk 2,600 to Tk 3,000 per maund in the same markets.

Now four fish exporting firms are exporting Hilsa from Barisal town to India from March last which will continue till October this year. Usually they fetch at least Tk 10 to 15 crore in

Sweet water fish disappearing

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Sept 21: Sweet water fishes have almost disappeared from water bodies in recent days, creating acute fish scarcity in local markets.

Local fish traders said species such as ruhi, katla, mrigel, kalbaush, chital, kot, magur, singi, shoal, gazar, boal, pabda, sar-puti, tengra, puti and khoira are now getting dearer as supplies dwindle.

Fisheries Department officials said use of pesticides and chemical fertilisers on crop-lands is polluting waters of beel, haor, canals and rivers, the natural sources of fish, hampering production.

Besides, in most of the water bodies fish is being cultivated in unplanned way, they added. Moreover, fishing of fries is one

of the main reasons for declining production.

Total annual demand for fish in the district is 22,000 metric tons, but ponds and other natural water bodies produce 18,000 metric tons.

Our Faridpur Correspondent says: Fish traders said supply has declined abnormally in markets in recent days, triggering price hike. At present in markets only hilsa supply is satisfactory, they added. But hilsa is selling at higher prices.

Some fishermen said there are many ponds and canals, but no one is cultivating fish there. More water bodies should be brought under planned fish cultivation, they opined.

They also said water pollution caused by use of fertilisers

and pesticides is causing harm to fish eggs.

Our Sirajganj Correspondent adds: Prices of fishes have shot up in recent days in local markets, causing immense sufferings to common people.

Fish-traders have attributed the abnormal price hike to short supply of fish.

Mir Kaikobad, district fisheries officer, said if ponds and water bodies are cultivated properly, annual fish production will be increased.

At present, hilsa is selling at Tk 150 per kg, indigenous magura and shing at Tk 170 per kg and hybrid magur at Tk 230 in local markets. Besides small fish of rivers is selling between Tk 120 and Tk 130 taka per kg, market sources said.

'Unmarried mother' kills baby

From Our Correspondent RAJSHAHI, Sept 21: An unmarried mother killed her illegitimate newborn baby.

The incident occurred at Dubalhati-Rajbari in Naogaon sadar thana on Saturday. Police arrested the mother who has been under treatment in the hospital. She has been identified as Puni.

Puni, an adolescent daughter of late Solaiman Ali became pregnant as a result of love affair with a young man Rezaul, son of Shaharuddin of the neighbouring Paniapara village. Rezaul, husband of a woman with three children, refused to accept Puni.

Being a landless girl and working as a maid-servant in a family, Puni could not manage the situation. Ultimately she gave birth to a child on Friday. She hacked the child to death on the next day.

Puni confessed her guilt and said to police that her lover Rezaul had inspired her to kill the child just after delivery, but she had taken a day to convince herself to do it.

Post-mortem of the dead-body was done. Now Puni has been undergoing treatment in Naogaon Sadar Hospital under police custody.

A case was filed in this connection accusing Puni and Rezaul, but the later could not be arrested.

Three unnatural deaths in two districts

Three unnatural deaths were reported recently in Bagerhat and Chittagong, report agencies.

A young couple committed suicide by taking poison in village Trekhata village of Fakirhat thana in Bagerhat district on September 14.

Police and residents said Gayetri Rani Ghose, 22, daughter of Himangshu Ghose of Sathkha district, failing to tolerate mental and physical torture allegedly perpetrated by her mother-in-law took poison and died.

Ajit Kumar Ghose, 30, husband of Gayetri, shocked at the death also committed suicide by taking poison on the same day.

Residents said the mother of Ajit often used to torture Gayetri for dowry since her 3 years ago.

The post-mortem of the bodies were completed and a case of unnatural deaths was filed with the police.

In separate incident, one person was killed when a truck ran over him in front of Mustafa Vegetable Oil Mill under Sitakunda thana in Chittagong division on Dhaka-Chittagong highway Saturday.

According to police, the victim, identified as Kamal Uddin, 32, was run over by a loaded truck when he was giving signals to the vehicle just ahead of the truck.

Following the incident the

road communication between Dhaka-Chittagong remained disrupted for one hour since 9 am as angry workers of the mill put up barricade on the highway.

A case was filed in this connection.

Three commit suicide in Feni

From A Correspondent FENI, Sept 21: Three people committed suicide in Sadar, Fulgazi and Sonagazi thanas under the district recently.

According to police, Monowara Begum Lipu, 13, daughter of Abdus Salam of village Gunak under Sonagazi thana hanged herself to death on August 27. Cause of the suicide could not be known immediately.

In another incident, a college student committed suicide by taking poison at Chargram village under Fulgazi thana on the same day. The deceased was identified as Abdul Moteleb Salim, 20. He committed suicide following an altercation with his father, family sources said.

Hafiz Ahmed, 30, at village Bejoynting under Feni sadar committed suicide by taking poison on August 28.

Separate UD cases were lodged.

Moulvibazar DIARY

Agri-loan disbursed

From Our Correspondent MOULVIBAZAR, Sept 21: Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB), Moulvibazar branch has disbursed a total of Taka 91 lakh 57 thousand as agri-loan during the financial year of 1998-99.

According to the manager of BKB here they have disbursed Taka 3.92 lakh for Aus cultivation, Taka 4.12 lakh for Aman, Taka 6.86 lakh for Boro Taka 12.31 lakh for potato and Taka 0.22 lakh for vegetables farming. Besides this, Taka two lakh were distributed against self-reliance loan, Taka 6.31 lakh to landless people, Taka 94 thousand for dairy projects, Taka 3.28 lakh for pond based fishery project, Taka 79 thousand were distributed for purchasing power-tiller and Taka 15.32 lakh for purchasing cow and bulls and Taka 34.35 lakh were distributed in other agri-sectors.

BKB here has distributed Taka 6.40 lakh as agri-loan against its target of Taka one crore 40 lakh 40 thousand till 31st August of the current financial year.

Remarks protested

Members of Moulvibazar Press Club have protested the remarks made by some officials of Medha Prokhalpa here against the local newsmen at a recent press conference.

The protestors who are also correspondents of different national dailies and news agencies met in an emergency meeting at the press club auditorium recently.

The meeting was presided over by president of the club Radhika Mohan Goswami. The protestors asked the Medha Prokhalpa to beg pardon to the local journalists. They also said in case of their failure, the journalists of Moulvibazar Press Club will boycott some members of Medha Prokhalpa who attended the press conference where the remarks were passed.

Attack protested

Moulvibazar Press Club has condemned the attack on The Daily Janakantha office recently.

Moulvibazar Press Club expressed its resentment over the attack on the national daily at the flag end of a mass procession programme organised by the opposition alliance. Presided over by Radhika Mohan Goswami, President of Moulvibazar Press Club, the meeting was participated by local correspondents of different national dailies and news agencies. The club termed the incident as naked attack on democracy and freedom of press.

Sirajganj College principal's office ransacked

From Our Correspondent SIRAJGANJ, Sept 21: Activists of different student organisations brought out a procession in Sirajganj Islamia Government College premises and ransacked the room of the principal and teachers, demanding student election at around 11:00 am on Wednesday. Later on police charged batons and brought the situation under control.

The college authorities also suspended classes for the day.

Absence of field-level workers Flood victims deprived of healthcare facilities

KUSHTIA, Sept 21: Over five lakh people here, who are suffering from various waterborne diseases caused by the recent flood, are being deprived of healthcare facilities in absence of field-level health workers, reports UNB.

Recognising the fact, the district Civil Surgeon at a recent meeting said only union-level health workers are working to check the outbreak of diarrhoea and dysentery.

In another meeting, the Civil Surgeon, said 92 health teams are working in the flood-affected areas of 61 unions, a figure disputed by the local people.

The affected people alleged that they have not yet seen any medical team in their areas. NGOs, rather than the gov-

ernment medical teams, are working in the flood-hit areas to fend off the waterborne disease, they said.

Another report from Rajbari says: In an effort to assuage the sufferings of distressed people, Disaster Management and Relief Ministry under its VGF programme has allocated 657 mts of foodgrain for the district.

Officials said the grains would be distributed among 21,900 destitute families in the municipal area, Sadar, Goalunda, Pangsha and Baliakandi thanas.

Each family will get 10 kgs of rice every month under the programme for three months. The distribution began this month.

Events of districts in picture



Dr Mohammad Abdur Rob, Associate Professor of Geography Department, Dhaka University reading out a paper at a seminar on Transit arranged recently by Sylhet unit of Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sangskritik Sangstha. — Star photo



Jhenidha district unit of Bangladesh Teachers' Association brought out a procession recently in the district town as part of their country-wide programme. — Star photo



Cigarette is poison: Rajshahi University Vice-Chancellor Prof Sayeedur Rahman Khan leading an anti-smoking rally of students, teachers and officers on the campus recently. ADHUNIK, an anti-smoking campaigning organisation arranged it. — Star photo



A free dental camp was organised by Sylhet Dental Surgeons' Forum on Friday at the government orphanage at Bagbari in the divisional town. — Star photo



Municipal authorities' indifference: (Left):Drains built by Sailkupa Municipality a few months back have been broken down due to usage of 'low quality materials'. (Middle) The menace of pye dogs has increased due to negligence of the municipal authorities. (Right) Piled up garbages have become an ideal breeding ground of mosquitoes, but who cares? — Star photo