

News snaps



Spirit of adventure: Three cyclists who began a tour from Dhaka University on September 17 reached Sylhet on Friday. On arrival here they met the Vice-Chancellor of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Prof Md Habibur Rahman and Prof Jafar Iqbal of the Department of Computer Science. The team members are: Md Mahbulul Ahsan, Salehin Khan Chowdhury and Md Mokaddas Hossain Bhuyian. They are on a tour to Sylhet and Chittagong division. — Star photo by Iqbal Siddiquee

Discussion on Tagore

From A Correspondent

MAGURA, Sept 28: A discussion meeting was held at the office of "Anirban Shahitya Sangsad" in observance of the death anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore on August 6. The discussion meeting was presided over by Rashid Ashraf while Tarikul Anwar (Tarun) spoke as the chief guest. The meeting was also addressed, among others, by M A Hakim, Ibrahim Ali Mondal, Dewan Zamrudin, Waliuzzaman Rinku, Khondoker Idris Ali and Khondoker Kobal Ali.

Two killed in train mishaps

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, Sept 28: A boy named Md Sajib, 7, son of Md Firuj Mia of village Wakhapara was crushed under the wheels of a running train — The Titas Comuter at near his house under Ashugonj Bandar thana recently. Sajib, a student of class two, was coming back from Bartala Primary School through the Ashugonj-Brahmanbaria railway line, the Titas Comuter train knocked down him from behind and crushed him to death under its wheels. Another unidentified boy was beheaded by Sylhet bound Joyontika train at Brahmanbaria railway station. According to eye witness, the boy was walking on the rooftop of the running train. While he was walking on the rooftop of the train, his head was dashed against the overbridge of the station and beheaded.

15 killed in road mishap

From Our Correspondent

MOULVI BAZAR, Sept 28: A girl was killed on the spot and 15 others injured in a road accident here recently. According to eye witnesses, a Kishoregonj bound bus coming from Sylhet fell into a nearby ditch by losing its control while it was trying to overtake a minibus on Sylhet-Dhaka highway at Sarker bazaar in Moulvibazar police station on September 22. As a result a girl of eight years old Nehara Begum by name was killed on the spot, she hailed from Bajitpur thana of Kishoregonj district. A team of two seriously injured ones were sent to Sylhet Medical College Hospital (SMCH) in a critical condition for treatment. Police rushed to the spot, rescued and seized the bus.

'Progress of the Nations' launched

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Sept 28: The launching ceremony of "The Progress of Nations-1999," an UNICEF publication on the situation of the children and women in the world was held at the hall room of Swapnil community centre in Rajshahi recently. Rajshahi City Corporation Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu unveiled the publication as the chief guest. Khan Shahab Uddin, Rajshahi Divisional Commissioner attended the programme as the special guest. Among others, Md Fazlur Rahman, Deputy Director of Rajshahi Divisional Information Office of UNICEF, Al Mumin M G Sarwar, Project Coordinator of UNICEF, Rajshahi, elite and journalists from 16 northern districts attended there.

BCL-JCD clash leaves 15 injured

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, Sept 28: At least 15 persons were injured in a clash between the activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Jayatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) at Bhatuka Degree College campus recently. The clash erupted when two processions of BCL and JCD which were brought out on the college campus confronted each other. At least two rounds of bullet shots and five rounds of cocktail blasts were heard during the clash. Of the injured Abu Sayeed, Saheeduzzaman, Shafigul Islam, Ashiqur Rahman of BCL while Harun, Enam, Ruba, Rabhani, Ujjal, Abul Kalam and Azad of JCD were admitted to Bhaluka Health Complex. Later on police brought the situation under control.

Girl abducted

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Sept 28: An 11-year-old girl at village Saheb Nagar was allegedly abducted by a gang of armed miscreants recently. Family sources said, Maya, 11, was taking the family members of his uncle home at the same village. At about 10.30 pm a gang of miscreants numbering four to five abducted her on gun point. Maya was reading in class five in local Narayanpur Biman School.

Two youths commit suicide

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Sept 28: Two youngmen committed suicide here recently. Police and hospital sources said, Rafique Mia, 17, son of Rusmat Ali of village Kallag in Bajitpur thana swallowed poison for unknown reasons. He was declared dead by the doctors while he was brought to the Zahurul Islam Medical College Hospital. In another incident, Saidur Rahman, 26, of village Maizhati in Pakundia thana hanged himself from the ceiling of the house. He was suffering from mental disorder, family sources said.

Jamalpur villages need power

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Sept 28: Remote areas of the Sadar thana is still out of rural electrification network. IRR-Boro paddy, the main crops of the thana and other varieties of crops cultivated in dry season need continuous irrigation. Local people said due to absence of power connections they are compelled to use fuel to operate their shallow and deep tubewells. They alleged that shortage of oil and its exorbitant price had been hampering irrigation activities. Irrigation has become costlier and more difficult in the remote areas during the summer season. Family welfare centres have been set up in this area with modern equipments which can not be operated without electricity. Perishable crops like onion and ginger are facing setback due to absence of preservation facilities.

Agri-lands shrinking alarmingly in Comilla

COMILLA, Sept 28: With the rapid expansion of human abodes racing with the country's ever-growing population, the acreage farmland in the district is shrinking fast forcing many agricultural labourers to leave their villages for big cities and towns, reports UNB. According to a study conducted by Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), members of unclear families are occupying farmlands for construction of new houses as the concept of combined family is getting unpopular. BARD conducted the study in 12 village of sadar thana to find out how much agricultural lands have been occupied for housing and it asked questions to 54 inhabitants of 88 new families. The study showed that 35 per cent farmers and 65 per cent rural people of other professions constructed new houses on arable lands after they were

separated from their combined families. Ninety-eight per cent of the lands were earlier used for cultivation. It revealed that 722 maunds of paddy and other crops worth Tk 9.48 lakh were produced every year before construction of houses on the croplands. The study also found that 61 per cent of the respondents bought lands for building homesteads while 30 per cent inherited their lands as ancestral property. Sixty per cent of the respondents said that they have to come out from their combined families for lack of accommodation while 13 per cent attributed it to family feud. Six per cent left their joint families for lack of congenial academic atmosphere and four per cent for maintaining privacy. The survey also found some polygamists who have to construct new houses for each of their wives. To check the unplanned construction of houses in rural areas, BARD has put forward a number of suggestions. The suggestions include formation of a modern land housing policy for rural people, local level planning and supervision by the local government for optimum use of land.

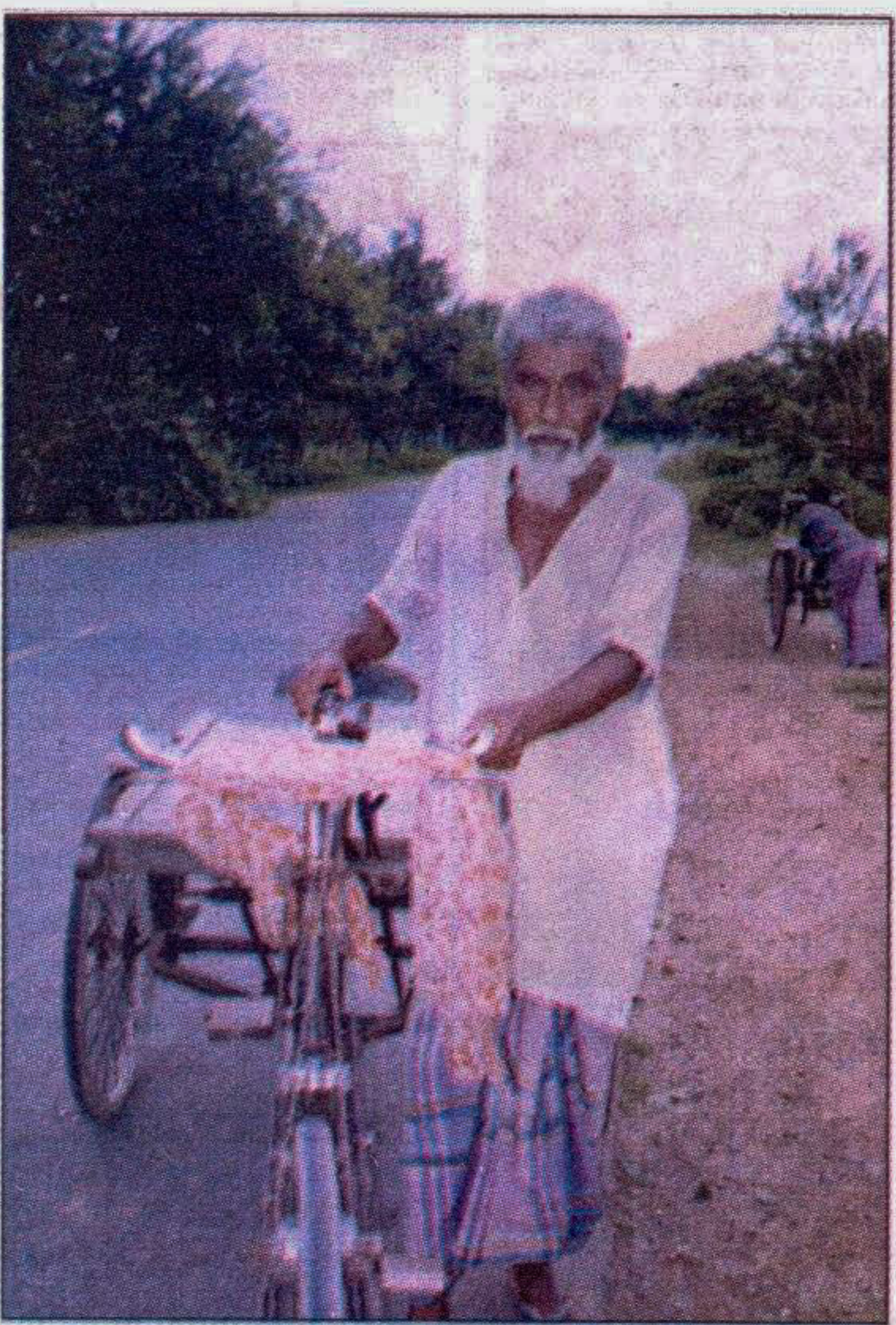
Army chief visits Gumti Embankment

COMILLA, Sept 28: Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Muhammad Mustafizur Rahman, Bir Bikram recently visited the Gumti Embankment in Comilla where army personnel have been carrying out repair work of the Embankment at Barpur under Burichang thana in Comilla district, reports BSS.

Delayed viscera reports denying justice

From A Correspondent

MAGURA, Sept 28: Delay in receiving viscera reports from laboratory in Dhaka has been an obstacle for a long time to early disposal of a large number of unnatural death cases. A total of 129 cases have remained pending with courts only because of non-availability of viscera reports, court sources said. Viscera tests are done on parts of human organs to find out the cause of death. In April this year 115 samples were sent to the lone viscera laboratory in the country. But the district authorities are yet to receive the reports. Authorities here said the laboratory usually take a long time to send the reports. A reliable source said even reports of some of the samples sent in 1995 have not been received till now by the authorities. Besides, authorities sometimes take much time to send samples to the laboratory. When contacted Civil Surgeon of Magura Fazlul Karim said it is hard for the lone laboratory in the country to send all the reports in time. More laboratories should be set up at least in divisional headquarters, he opined. Delays in sending samples and receiving report are depriving people of early justice. Nesaruddin, a rickshaw-van puller of village Kashinathpur under Sadar thana, is waiting for a viscera report to know the real cause of death of his daughter. His daughter Aleya allegedly committed suicide by taking poison on July 31, 1997. But Nesaruddin submitted a petition with police, saying Aleya was killed by her husband Humayun of village Defulia under Sadar thana.



Nesaruddin is yet to identify the killers of his daughter. Following the allegation, the sample of the body was sent to the viscera laboratory. But the report is yet to reach Magura. — Star photo

50,000 flood victims living under open sky in Bogra

From A Correspondent

BOGRA, Sept 28: About 50,000 flood affected people in eight thanas have been living under the open sky. District Relief and Rehabilitation Office (DRRO) sources said about 15,000 people of Shariakandi thana lost their houses by recent flood and by erosion of the Jamuna and Bangali. They took shelter on the embankment and other places under the open sky. More than five thousand one hundred people of Dhunat thana have living under the open sky. They had lost their houses due to flood and erosion by the Jamuna and Bangali. About 15 thousand people of Sonatola thana are now living under open sky. About 10 thousand five hundred flood affected people of Sherpur are now living under the open sky. The people have lost their houses due to flood and heavy rains. About two thousand five hundred flood affected people of Gabtoli thana are now living under the open sky. More than five thousand flood affected people of the Sadar thana are living now under open sky. Over two hundred people of Shabganj thana are now under open sky. In Adamdigi thana two hundred people have lost their houses due to heavy rains and flood. According to DRRO sources, the district administration urged the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation for house building grant of Taka 50 lakh, but till filing of this report no reply has been received by the concerned office.

Housewife beaten to death

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Sept 28: A housewife was beaten to death for dowry at Joyson village under Annada Nagar union in Pirgachha thana recently. Noor Islam, 35, beat his second wife Fatema, 20, mercilessly to death following a quarrel. Witnesses said Noor Islam used to create pressure on Fatema to bring dowry from her father.

Tree fair in Kushtia

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Sept 28: A week-long tree fair organised by Siddiq Foundation began on Saturday in Begum Hamida Siddiq Secondary School premises at village Baria in the Sadar thana, reports BSS. Food and Agriculture Minister Begum Motia Chowdhury inaugurated the fair. Deputy Commissioner Abdus Salam presided over the function. Qamrul Islam Siddiq, chairman of the Power Development Board (PDB), among others, spoke on the occasion.



Nazrul Joyanti: The birth centenary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam was celebrated fittingly by Rajshahi University Club executives in recent time. Photo shows Nilufar Yasmin, a local artist rendering songs on the occasion. It is surprising that the Rajshahi University authorities failed to celebrate Nazrul Joyanti due to 'fund shortage'. — Star photo by Kamran Reza Chowdhury



Enjoying fishing: Fishing with such nets is now a common scene in rural Bangladesh. This photo was taken recently from village Lakshimpur in Mohammadpur thana where a young man is seen fully absorbed in fishing unaware of his surroundings. — Star photo

Jhenidah DIARY

Editor of local daily sued

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Sept 28: An employee of Shahid Ziaur Rahman Law College here lodged a case against "The Daily Lok Samaj" recently, according to court sources. Abdul Mannan, Head Assistant of the college in his petition to the magistrate alleged that "The Daily Lok Samaj" published from Jessore printed a fake news item saying that the students were rushing to the college to collect question papers. MA Mannan lodged the case against the Editor of the daily Delwar Hossain Khokan and it's reporter Zahid Ahmed Liton.

Bus dacoity

From Our Correspondent

A bus dacoity was committed in a Jhenidah bound bus of Rasel Paribahan on Friday night. The dacoits allegedly looted valuables of the passengers worth about Taka 1.5 lakh, according to some passengers. Eye-witnesses said, a gang of armed dacoits who were traveling in the guise of passengers, suddenly swooped on the passengers at about 8 pm when the bus reached near Churaman Kathi. They left the bus after 20 minutes it reached near Barobazer in Kaliganj thana. Pickup, motor-bike seized

Youngman beaten to death

From Our Correspondent

Khairul Islam, 20, of village Bhabnagar Mohespur thana was allegedly beaten to death by some unknown miscreants recently according to police sources. Police said, a gang of youngmen called Khairul from his house at night. But he did not come back home. The next morning his body was recovered from near his house. BKB loans distributed

Arsenic menace grips B'baria

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, Sept 28: Arsenic contamination in waters of a large number of tube wells has been detected, creating panic among people. District Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) sealed the tube wells. Officials of the department asked local people not to drink arsenic contaminated water. Kasba thana is the worst affected area. Water of 129 tube wells in 10 unions of the thana have been found arsenic contaminated. Of them, 100 have been sealed off. A DPHE official said detection of actual quantity of arsenic in water is not being done in the area due to non-availability of field test instruments. At least 18 persons have been affected with arsenic contamination in the district. They are suffering from various skin diseases. When contacted an official of the district Civil Surgeon Office admitted the fact.

Efforts on to establish science based education

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Sept 28: State Minister for Planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir on Saturday said that the government is committed to developing the country based on science and technology, reports BSS. "The government has taken steps to develop the standard of science and technology-based education and its expansion in the country," he said while speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural function of the newly constructed two-story building of the Hazi Tamij Uddin Government Primary School at Ganeshpur. The building was constructed at a cost of Taka 14 crore. Dr Khan said that the government has been implementing huge development activities in different sectors.

"The present government being the people's one is accountable and transparent to them," he said. Dr Alamgir distributed the cheques for the money sanctioned for repair and reconstruction of mandirs and for the distressed women of the fiscal 1998-99 at a functions in Karunamoye Kali Bari. Later, he joined a discussion meeting to mark the 21st death anniversary of the late Awami League leader Dr Aftab Uddin Talukdar. Chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on Ministry of Planning H N Ashikur Rahman, local MP Anisul Haque Chowdhury, Deputy Commissioner of the district Moyazzem Hossain and local Awami League leaders accompanied the state minister.

Events of districts in picture



Service to humanity: Patients being treated at an eye camp arranged recently by Jallalabad Rotary Club and Sylhet Eye Centre in Sylhet. — Star photo



Meena Day: Meena Day was observed in Sylhet on Friday by UNICEF and the district information office. Md Ali Imam Majumder, Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet speaking at an advocacy meeting on the occasion. — Star photo



Bangladesh Agricultural University Vice-Chancellor Prof Muhammad Hussain awarding scarfs to the Rover Scouts after completion of their successful training recently on BAU campus in Mymensingh. — Star photo



Md Habibur Rahman, Divisional Commissioner of Sylhet speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural function of a five-day training course on "Disaster Management" for the Imams which was organised in the divisional town jointly by Disaster Management Bureau and Imam Training Academy. — Star photo