

**Tributes to National Poet** 

National level Nazrul Joyanti celebration programmes will begin at Darirampur in Mymensingh district today. On the occasion the place wears a festive look. Picture shows (Left): The famous banyan tree at Darirampur under which Nazrul used to play flute during his boyhood. (Right): The proposed place for Nazrul University at Trishal. - Star photo

## Darirampur ready to celebrate Nazrul Joyanti today From Aminul Islam

People still remember victims

of Balaganj massacre

From Iqbal Siddiquee

MYMENSINGH, May 24 People of Darirampur are ready to celebrate the 101st birth anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam tomorrow (May 25) in a befitting manner

All preparations have been made by the Local District Administration, officials said.

Mymensingh District Administration have chalked out elaborate programmes to mark the day. The programmes include discussions on life and works of Nazrul's poetry recital, drama and other cultural competitions.

An executive committee headed by Md Rafiqul Islam. Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Mymensingh and 13 other subcommittees have been formed to make the programmes successful.

The three-day main programmes are part of the national level programmes to celebrate the birth anniversary of Nazrul.

Anandamohan

College students

go berserk

group of students of Anan-

damohan College went berserk on Tuesday in protest against

cancellation of the registra-

tions of 370 honours first year

students and demanding shift-

ing of the Honours Part-3 exam-

put barricade on railway level

crossing at Sankipara in the

town and set fire on the slippers

suspending railway communi-

and ADC (administration)

rushed to the spot and held dis-

dents also met with LGRD Min-

ister Zillur Rahman who was in

Mymensingh, and withdrew the

barricade at about 3 pm follow-

ing his assurance to sit for fur-

students brought out a proces-

sion in the town at about 11 am

protesting the cancellation of

their registrations by the Na-

tional University on charge of

hunger strike in the local Press

Club premises and submitted a

memorandum to the Deputy

Feud over love

affair between

two police families

between two police families

over a love affair has led to the

arrest of four people at Rupatali

Dighirpar of the town, reports

sued when Nusrat Jahan Roni.

18, daughter of ASI Ayub Ali of

sadar thana, eloped with Sohel

Rana, 20, son of ASI (APBN)

Mosharraf Hossain, posted in

have long been living in a luxu-

spread in the area, Roni's father

confined her in Kotwali thana

staff quarters and made ar-

eloped with Sohel on May 7.

rious building of the area.

Both the police families

As the word about the affair

Angered by the incident, ASI

case with his won thana and ar-

rested Sohel's sister Rozina Be-

Kalam and Sahamim Kazi on

the same day, and allegedly tor-

tured them in the police station.

musclemen who reportedly

ransacked the house of ASI

Outlaw arrested

in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent

Monday arrested an activist of

an outlawed party from from

Alamnagar area.

as Danny Kalam, 25.

KHULNA, May 24: Police on

The arrested was identified

Kalam, an armed cadre of

Purbo Banglar Communist

Party, was accused in several

cases, including murder, police

He also allegedly hired some

Locals said the trouble en-

BARISAL, May 24: A brawl

They also observed a token

Meanwhile, 370 first year

cussion with the students about

Representatives of the stu-

Hearing the news local SP

Witnesses said the students

ination, reports UNB.

cation from 11am.

their demands.

ther discussion.

Commissioner

Rangamati

Mosharraf.

forgery.

MYMENSINGH, May 24: A

The main programmes will be inaugurated at Darirampur Nazrul Academy ground in Trishal where Nazrul stayed for sometime in his boyhood.

Amir Hossain Amu, Minister for Food, will inaugurate the programme at 4 pm tomorrow (May 25) as the chief guest. State Minister for Relief and Disaster Management Talukdar Abdul Khaleque and Dr Anwarul Islam, Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) will attend the inaugural session as special guest. Moulana Ruhul Amin Madani, State Minister for Religious Affairs will preside over

The second day's programme will start at 3:30 pm on May 26. Prof Abu Sayeed, State Minster for Information, will present as the chief guest while Dr M Amanullah, State Minister for Health and Rahat Khan, Acting Editor of the Daily Ittefaq will

SYLHET, May 24: As the

26th May approaches every

year, people remember the vic-

tims of Balagani massacre with

During the turbulent days in

orators, members of Rajakar,

Al Badar and Al Shams forces,

brutally killed at least 78 inno-

In the afternoon on the 25th

cent people on the day at Bala-

May, the Pakistani soldiers sta-

tioned at Sherpur camp an-

nounced that identity cards

would be given to residents of

different villages for ensuring

their safe movement. After the

announcement, innocent peo-

ple from adjacent villages

crowded in Burunga High

School premises the following

day- the 26th May. They were

asked to gather in the school

large number of people Pak-

istani soldiers led by Captain

Nuruddin Khan encircled the

school premises, much to the

surprise of villagers, who went

there to collect ID cards. The

troops were accompanied by

some local collaborators- Abd-

Hearing the presence of a

ganj upazila in the district.

heavy heart.

compound.

attend as special guests. Md Mukarram Hossain, exprincipal of Teachers' Training College, Mymensingh will pre-

The concluding session will start at 3.30 pm on May 27 with Md Rafiqul Islam, DC, Mymensingh in the chair.

side over there.

Tofael Ahmed, Minister for Commerce will present as the chief guest, while Syed Ashraful Islam, Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism and poet Md Nurul Huda, Director General of Nazrul Institute will present as special guests.

Meanwhile, Trishal Press Club has taken a six-day long programme to mark the occasion. Various socio-cultural organisations and educational institutions of the thana headquarters have taken elaborate programmes.

Hundreds of stalls have been set up at Darirampur. The cultural programmes will start at 7

ual Ahad Chwodhury alias

Saad Miah of village Karanshi,

Gousur Rahman Chowdhury of

The enemy soldiers divided

village Moktarapur and Abdul

Khalique of Chhota Hajipur.

released most of the Muslims

few Muslims were detained.

But most of the Hindus and a

A villager Alais Miah was

sent to bazaar for bringing

ropes. The soldiers then com-

pelled some detained Muslims

to tie the legs and hands of the

Chakravarty, a primary school

teacher, some how managed to

escape the scene. Headmaster of

the school Preeti Ranjan

Chowdhury and another vil-

lager Ranu Malakar also man-

aged to escape. When they were

fleeing the school premises a

soldier opened fire on them.

However, they remained un-

hurt. Later they narrated the

horrendous story to the vil-

asked to sit under a tree on the

school campus. And the sol-

diers started firing on them.

At noon the villagers were

At the stage, Nibash

1971, the occupation Pakistani the villagers into two groups-

soldiers and their local collab- Muslims and Hindus. Later they

pm everyday during the threeday long programmes.

The entire area has worn a festive look. A fair will also be held at Darirampur.

Darirampur as well as for those of Mymensingh district.

Nazrul came here in 1914 (Bangla 1320) from Asanshole in India where he had been working in a bread bakery and

It is learnt that while Nazrul had been working at a bread shop of M Baksh in Asanshole, he was paid only take one per month with food, but he had no place to sleep.

So he used to sleep under the stair of a building where Kazi Rafizullah, a police Sub-Inspector and his wife Shamsunnessa Khanam resided.

in 1914 after completion of his final examination in class

Many died on the spot, But

many were still groaning. The

barbaric soldiers poured

kerosene on the injured and

burnt them to silence the groan-

ing. At least 78 people were

ity luckily. They are Nibash

Chakravarty, Gopendra Dev, Ji-

tendra Kumar Baidya. Kamini

Baidva, Thakurmoni Dev.

Shoshanka Dev and Ranjit Dev.

They are eyewitnesses of inci-

tachrya, school teacher Samar-

jit Charavarty, Nikunja Bihari

Chakravarty, Nitya Ranjan

Chakravarty, Nitya Rangan

Chakravarty, Biswatorhs

Chakravarty, Durgapada

Acharva, Jogesh Kar, Ra-

janikanta Dev, Rebaiti Mohan

Dutta, Ranajit Dev. Gajendra

Kumar Sen, Sukharam Sukla

Baidya, Nirode Sukla Baidya,

Raman Chandra Dass, Aswini

Kumar Dev, Sunil Malakar,

Khatar Malakar, Chittaranjan

Malakar, Chhoadhan Sutra

Dhar, Rabindra Sabdakar,

Prahlad Sabdakar, Moina Sab-

dakar, Benuram Sabdakar,

Dulal Namasudra, Dwarika

Advocate Ramaranjan Bhat-

But a few escaped the atroc-

killed on the spot.

During his study at Darirampur High School as a stu dent he was doing fairly well.

The then headmaster of the school, Mahim Chandra It is a glory for the people of Khashnabish, and all the teachers and the students of the school were charmed when Nazrul recited two poems named "Dui Bigha Zami" and "Puratan Bhritta" of Rabindranath Tagore at the annual cultural function of the

> But Nazrul felt very lonely here and he used to play flute sitting under a banyan tree. Sometimes, he also sat beside a beel named Thani Bangha to spend his leisure time.

But as they had no issue the couple became very kind to Nazrul and arranged for Nazrul's study. They sent him to their native village Kazir But Nazrul fled from Trishal Shimla in Trishal thana in 1914 (Banlga 1320).

Nazrul was admitted at Darirampur High School in

Namasudra, Sonamoni Nama-

sudra, Bihari Namasudra, Sa-

day Namasudra, Akhshay Na-

masudra, Aswaini Dass, Bra-

jendra Dass Mohendra Nama

sudra, Nandalal Paul, Paresh

Chandra, Dev, Pulin Chandra

Dass, Ramsehs Chnadra Dass,

Binov Chandra Dev, Gangesh

chandra Dev. Sunil Chandra

Dev. Shayan Chandra Dev Bi-

hari Chandra Dev, Dhirendra

Chandra Dev, Niranjan Dass,

Ananda Dev, Gopesh Chandra

Dev. Jatindra Chandra Dev.

Abhimanyu Dev, Satish Chan-

dra Dev. Gangesh Dhar.

Shayama Dhar, Rakhal Dhar

Rajendra Sabdakar, Paresh

Sabdakar, Harakumar Sab

dakar, Mahendra Sabdakar

Suroi Namasudra, Nirram Suk-

labaidya and Jatindra Kumai

Dev are among the 78 victims

The names of rest could not be

The bodies were dumped in a

ditch. The mass grave still re-

mains disregarded. Recently

only a boundary wall has been

government to erect a memorial

at the mass grave to preserve

the memories of the victims.

Local people have urged the

collected known.

class seven in 1914. But after three months, Nazrul shifted his lodging to the house of Bichotia Bepari at Trishal Namapara. Because, Kazir Shimla was five miles away from his school which was very difficult for a teenaged boy to walk regu-

But Nazrul never came to Trishal afterwards. It is also a regret that Kazi Rafizullah could not meet with Nazrul when he went to Calcutta in 1931. After receiving information, Nazrul made a telegram that he would meet with Kazi Rafizullah. But Kazi Rafizullah died in 1933 at Dhubri in Assam of India without meeting with Nazrul.

Still the people of Trishal and of Mymensingh district remember Nazrul as their dearest and nearest one.

Old people still says that Nazrul had charmed the villagers by reading 'Puthi.'

Landslides claim

40 every year

in hill dists

BANDARBAN, May 24: About 40 people die due to landslide every year in three hill districts, reports BSS.

Poor and landless people who made their houses at hillsides are usually the victims of such incidents.

Landslide in Bandarban has increased in the last 6 years. Hundreds of landslides occurred in Bandarban district last year, which claimed 15 lives. According to scientists, cut-

ting hills in unplanned way cutting trees and traditional "Jumm" cultivation are the main causes of landslide. Soil scientist based in Ban-

darban Jalal Uddin Soyeb is of the view that road construction in unplanned way is another cause of it. Landslide is not a natural

disaster. It is completely man made problem. Man can escape the disaster by using the hills in a scientific manner. Last year, 9 people including

women and children, died at Aziz Nagar of Lama upazila in landslide In 1997, there was a kilome-

tre long landslide in Charov Para under Kohalong union of sadar upazila.

Last year, 6 kilometres long road was destroyed due to landslide on Bandarban-Ruma road. A few years ago there were two landslides in college road area which claimed three lives.

#### Launch robbery in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent KHULNA, May 24: A launch robbery was committed on Sunday night in the river Rupsha near Labonchora under Khulna city.

Police said an organised gang armed robbers, numbering about 20, boarded ML Water King in the guise of passengers and unmasked themselves at convenient time.

They over powered the crew and looted cash and valuables worth Taka ten lakh from about 120 passengers at gun

The robbers stopped the launch at Jabusha under Batiaghata upazila and decamped with booty.

#### Three killed in Naogaon road accident

From Our Correspondent RAJSHAHI, May 24: Three people were killed and 10 others injured in a road accident at Badalgachhi upazila in Naogaon district recently.

Police said a Naogaon-bound minibus on Rajshahi-Naogaon road hit some roadside shops after the driver of the vehicle lost his control.

Abu Baker Siddique was killed on the spot and Gopal and Dulal succumbed to their injuries at Rajshahi Medical

Collage Hospital. The injured were admitted to Naogaon Sadar Hospital and Badalgachi Upazila Health

The victims were either the shop owners or customers. A case was filed in this connection.

Complex.

### News snaps

Smuggled goods seized

BENAPOLE, May 24: BDR jawans seized smuggled goods worth about Tk 5 crore from Jessore-Benapole road during their patrol in last three months, reports UNB.

The seized contrabands include Indian fertiliser, pesticide sugar, salt, spare parts, cosmetics, sari, lungi, China silk cotton, bronze, chicken and electronic goods. They also seized drugs worth of Tk 70 lakh during the period.

### Women deprived of allowance

NOAKHALI, May 24: Some 1,575 distressed women in Senbagh and Begumganj upazilas are not getting their monthly government allowance despite necessary instruction by the au. thorities, reports UNB.

Officials said the women were supposed to receive the government allowance from September 1999. Two lists of the women from the two upazilas along with their bank accounts were sent to Social Welfare office. But they have not yet received any allowance for reasons unknown.

#### Three children drown

MADARIPUR, May 24: Two little girls and a boy drowned in separate ponds in separate upazilas on the same day recently. reports BSS.

The victims were Rupa, 2, daughter of Arif Talukder of village Khowaspur in sadar upazila, Lita, 4, daughter of Ripon Matubbar in the town area in same upazila, and Anis, 3, son of Altab Hossain of village Tekerhat in Rajoir Upazila of Hospital and family sources said, they fell in the neighbouring ponds while playing on its banks. They went beyond their depth and died. The bodies of the victim were recovered on the same day.

#### Aman cultivation scheme

CHUADANGA, May 24: A programme has been taken up to bring a total of 3734 hectares under broadcasting Aman paddy cultivation in all the four upazilas in the current cultivation season, reports BSS.

The four upazilas are - Chaudanga sadar. Alamdanga Damurhuda and Jibannagar. According to an official source, of the total, 675 hectares will be brought under cultivation in Chuadanga Sadar, 1.675 hectares in Alamdanga, 500 hectares in Damurhuda and 884 hectares in Jibannagar. The cultivation work in now nearing completion. The production target of the broadcasting Aman paddy here in this season has been fixed at

#### Telecom network out of order

NETRAKONA, May 24: The Telecommunication network here was out of order for last 22 hours causing disruption to its link with capital and other parts of the country. The network resumed functioning from 10 am on Tuesday, reports BSS.

The dialing system became inactive due to technical faults developed in the micro-wave channel of the T and T Department. The local public and private officials, journalists and businessmen have suffered for this disruption. They could not dispatch their emergency and important massages to their respective destinations. Even many local journalists could not send news of the public meeting to Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia, held at Kalmakanda. Meanwhile leaders of the district Press Club in a joint statement issued here urged upon the concerned authority to make an inquiry into the incident of disruption of the system.



Punishment demanded

Members of some cooperative societies in Rajshahi brought out a procession in Rajshahi city demanding transfer and punishment to Reba Das, Joint Registrar of Rajshahi divisional office of the Directorate of Cooperatives for her alleged corruption and autocratic activities. - Star photo

#### HYV wheat seeds produced

RANGPUR, May 24: BADC growers in Mithapukur, Pirgacha and Sadar upazilas produced 900 mts of High Yielding Variety (HYV) of wheat seed worth about Tk 1.8 crore this year, reports

Some 1,100 acres of land in the upazilas were brought under Kanchan, Protiva and Akbor' varieties of wheat by BADC's 300 listed farmers.

#### Body recovered

KISHOREGANJ, May 24: Police recovered the body of a middle-aged man hanging from a tree at Nagua in the town on Sunday, reports UNB.

The deceased was identified as A Samad, 40, a PDB employee. He is believed to have committed suicide. A UD case was filed.

### Insemination programme

NARSINGDI, May 24: A total of 12.332 cows have been brought under artificial insemination programme here during the first 10 months of the current fiscal year, reports BSS. The artificial insemination is being done through 16 cen-

tres. The target for the year is insemination of 22,350 cows. According to District Livestock Office sources, out of the total 16 insemination centres, six are being run by frozen semen and the rest 10 by liquid semen. District livestock Officer, Nazim Uddin told that awareness on insemination programme has remarkably been developed and farmers are showing interest to develop high yielding variety of bullock. He also added that shortage of frozen semen in the centres might hamper the insemination target:

#### Ananda Mela concludes

CHUADANGA, May 24: The three-day "Ananda and Shishu Mela" concluded here at the local Jhenuik Primary and Girls High school premises recently, reports BSS.

The Mela was organsied by Bangladesh Shishu Academy. Chaudanga district office. Deputy Commissioner of Chuadanga A T M Ismile inaugurated the Mela.

In all 14 stalls were set-up in the Mela. Besides a cultural competition of the children was also held in the mela. Prizes were given to the best stalls and best competitors in the cultural functions.

#### Smuggled sugar seized

COMILLA, May 24: BDR seized 13,250 kgs of sugar smuggled from India from Amandanga in frontier Chouddagram thana on Friday, reports UNB.

Officials said the BDR men seized 265 bags of sugar worth about Tk 4 lakh from 23 rickshaw-vans. But there was no arrest. The haul was deposited with the customs office.

#### Municipal Tax unrealised MADARIPUR, May 24: The outstanding revenue of different

government and non-government organisations in Madaripur Municipality now stands at Tk 28.97 lakh, reports UNB. Of the amount, government organisations owe Tk 22.50 lakh while non-government organisations and individuals Tk 6.47 lakh to the municipality in revenue. The authorities have so far filed cases against 117 individuals and organisations for evading taxes. Of the government organisations, police department owes the highest amount of Tk 7.32 lakh followed by district administration Tk 4.30 lakh, thana education office Tk 5.81 lakh, Nazimuddin College Tk 3.72 lakh and Ul School Tk 2.38

# Hundreds of saplings die every year because of lack of care

From Akhteruzzaman Bablu

SIRAJGANJ, May 24: Hundreds of saplings are dying every year due to lack of proper maintenance.

On the occasion of tree plantation drive, every year a huge number of saplings are planted by various government, non-governmental organisations and voluntary associations beside the roads, highways, embankments and along rangement to marry her off other places. But the saplings with another man. But Roni die within a very short time because a lack of proper care.

It is alleged that some organ-Ayub Ali filed an abduction isations only plant saplings during the rainy season but they do not take care of the gum, her husband Mokleshur plants. Rahman and his brothers Abul

Local people alleged negligence and indifference of certain organisations in this re-

Most of the trees also get attacked with unknown diseases. So the government losses a good

Mainly roots of a tree are

attacked and after three or six months the tree dies. When contacted the local forest officer said many saplings and trees die because of floods. But locals have alleged some unscrupulous persons destroy many roadside trees using poisonous chemicals. When the trees start dying the unscrupu-

with some corrupt government officials. Local people have urged the 3,000 trees alongside the road

authorities concerned to take in 1986.

lous people illegally cut the

trees and sell those to the tim-

ber traders in collaboration

proper steps to protect the trees. They also urged the authorities concerned to take stern action against the culprits. UNB from Kurigram reports:

The trend of stealing trees from

government lands here is on the rise, undermining its afforestation programme. Witnesses said an organised gang in connivance with a section of officials and employees are logging trees from government lands alongside roads un-

der Roads and Highways De-

partment. The areas from where the trees are felling down on largescale include Nazimkhan, Singardabri, Chinai, Nageshwari, Bhurungamari, Durgapur, Ulipur, Chilmari, Fulbari, Jatrapur, Panchgachhi, Ghogadaha and Bhogdanga.

Trees on different roads and embankments belonging to Zilla Parishad and Water Development Board are also being There have been allegations

that the authorities concerned, including police, are not doing enough to check the rampant pillerage of government trees. In most cases, they are performing their duties by only filing According to an estimate.

were stolen from 10 km areas from Trimohoni to Rajarhat bazar in Sadar thana in last six months. A local NGO had planted

500 ipil ipil and shishu trees



One of many damaged trees near Sirajganj Zila Parisad situated on Bogra-Sirajganj Road. - Star photo