

National

Road accidents on rise in districts

Road accidents are on rise in various districts in recent time, report agencies.

In Laxmipur, two people were killed and four others wounded in three separate road accidents on Saturday.

Police said a little girl Sumarai, 6, daughter of Badesud of Nandanpur village in sadar upazila was crushed under the wheels of speeding bus at Dala Bazar on Laxmipur-Raipur road.

Another boy Rajib, 9, was run over by a Dhaka bound bus from Ramgati on Laxmipur-Noakhali road, just one kilometer off the district town.

In yet another incident four pedestrians were injured seriously when a Rajpur bound speeding bus hit them at Madan Bridge in the town.

Injured Shahjahan, Sumon, Rakib and Shamsu were rushed to the local hospital. Seriously injured Shahjahan was later shifted Dhaka Pangu Hospital. Separate cases were filed with the police.

In Rangpur, two people were killed and 11 others injured in separate traffic mishaps in Pirganj upazila recently.

Police said an old man, Jovad Ali, was killed and 11 people were wounded when a bus went down a roadside ditch at Bismile on Rangpur-Bogra highway.

Seven of the injured were admitted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital. The body was also sent to the hospital morgue for autopsy.

In another incident, Rezaur Rahman, 35, was killed when a Rangpur-bound minibus hit his motorcycle on the highway. He was on way to Laldighi.

Separate cases were filed.

In Bagerhat: An old man was killed in a road mishap on Bagerhat-Khulna highway in front of Collectorate Bhaban here recently.

The victim was identified as Abdul Hamid Sarder, 92, of Khadwar in the town.

Witnesses said the accident took place when a bus knocked him down while he was crossing the road. He succumbed to his injuries at a hospital.

Another report adds: A schoolgirl, who was injured after she fell down from a tree, died at sadar hospital recently.

The victim was identified as Jasmine, 10, a student of class III and daughter of Atiar Sheikh of Badamtala village in sadar upazila.

In Mymensingh: A traffic mishap in Muktagachha upazila on Mymensingh-Tangail road left two youths dead recently.

Police said Mokhesur Rahman, 27, of Bademajhia village and Nazrul Islam, 17, of village Garbhazal were critically injured when a bus hit their bicycle at Bapki Crossing in the morning.

Mokhesur succumbed to his injuries at Muktagachha Upazila Health Complex while Nazrul at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

Police seized the bus, but the driver fled the scene. A case was filed.

In Barisal: A schoolboy was killed in a road accident on Barisal-Korapur highway recently.

Police said Ziaul Haque, 12, was injured when a Barisal-bound truck hit him while he was crossing the road. He was admitted to a local hospital where he died after admission.

The truck driver was learnt to have been arrested by a policeman soon after accident, but he escaped mysteriously.

Another report adds: The body of a 14-year-old girl was recovered from Baharchar Khudrakathi village 10 hours after her abduction recently.

The victim was identified as Sima Akhter, daughter of Yunus Howlader of West Bhubertdia village in Babuganj upazila.

The body was sent to hospital morgue for autopsy. A case was filed.

In Sherpur: Two people, one of them a woman, were killed and another man was injured in separate road accidents in the district recently.

The deceased were identified as Golap, 66, of Islampur in Jamalpur and Nurjahan Begum, 30, of Daudara Katabari in Nalitabari upazila.

Police said Golap was crushed under the wheels of a truck as he fell down from it on his way home.

Nurjahan was killed and another person injured when a bus went down a ditch near Noabel Bazar in Nalitabari upazila. The injured was admitted to a local hospital.

Separate cases were filed.

Another report adds: The body of an unidentified little boy was recovered from a rubber garden at Shandhakura village in Jhenigati upazila on Saturday.

The body was sent to hospital morgue for autopsy. A UD case was filed.

In Mymensingh, another motorcyclist was killed and two other riders were injured when a bus rammed into the bike at Muktagachha recently.

Police said the accident occurred at about 5 pm leaving three motorbike riders — Dillip, 22, Utpal, 20, and Murad, 22 — injured.

Of them, Dillip succumbed to his injuries at night at the Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

Police seized the bus, but the driver managed to escape.

In Magura: A collision between two trucks at Ramnagar in sadar upazila left the helper of one truck killed and 10 others injured recently.

The victim was identified as Khokon, 35.

Police said the accident occurred early in the morning injuring the helper and 10 others travelling by the trucks. Later Khokon succumbed to his injuries at sadar hospital.

Doctors at the hospital said condition of six other injured — Prabir, Noor Hossain, Badiar, Ershad, Kabiruddin and Akbar was critical.

Meanwhile, a young man was electrocuted at Kazi village in Sreepur upazila today. Lutfar Rahman, 30, met the accident when he came in touch with a live electric wire.

In Chapainawabganj: A traffic mishap at Palsa on Rohonpur road left a motorcyclist dead and another injured recently.

The deceased was identified as Bidhan Babu, 35, of village Ranibar Chandraipur in Shibganj upazila.

Police said motorcyclist Bidhan Babu died on the spot and his fellow traveller Sadyo Kumer was injured when his bike crashed into a truck coming from opposite direction.

The injured was admitted to a local hospital.

Police arrested the truck driver and his helper from the scene. A case was filed.

In Gopalganj: A bicyclist was killed and his co-rider wounded when a bus dashed the cycle on Kashiiani-Gopalganj road recently.

Hospital and police sources said, the cyclist Nazrul Islam, 28, died on the spot and his co-rider Dalim, 24, was injured at Mardhinapur area in sadar. Dalim rushed to sadar hospital here in critical condition. The driver along with the bus escaped from the spot.

In Bagerhat: An unidentified man was crushed under the wheels of a truck on Khulna-Mongla highway near Khajuria bus-stand in Fakirhat upazila recently.

Police said the accident took place when a truck knocked down the middle-aged insane man while he was crossing the road. He died on the spot.

A case was filed with the police in this regard.

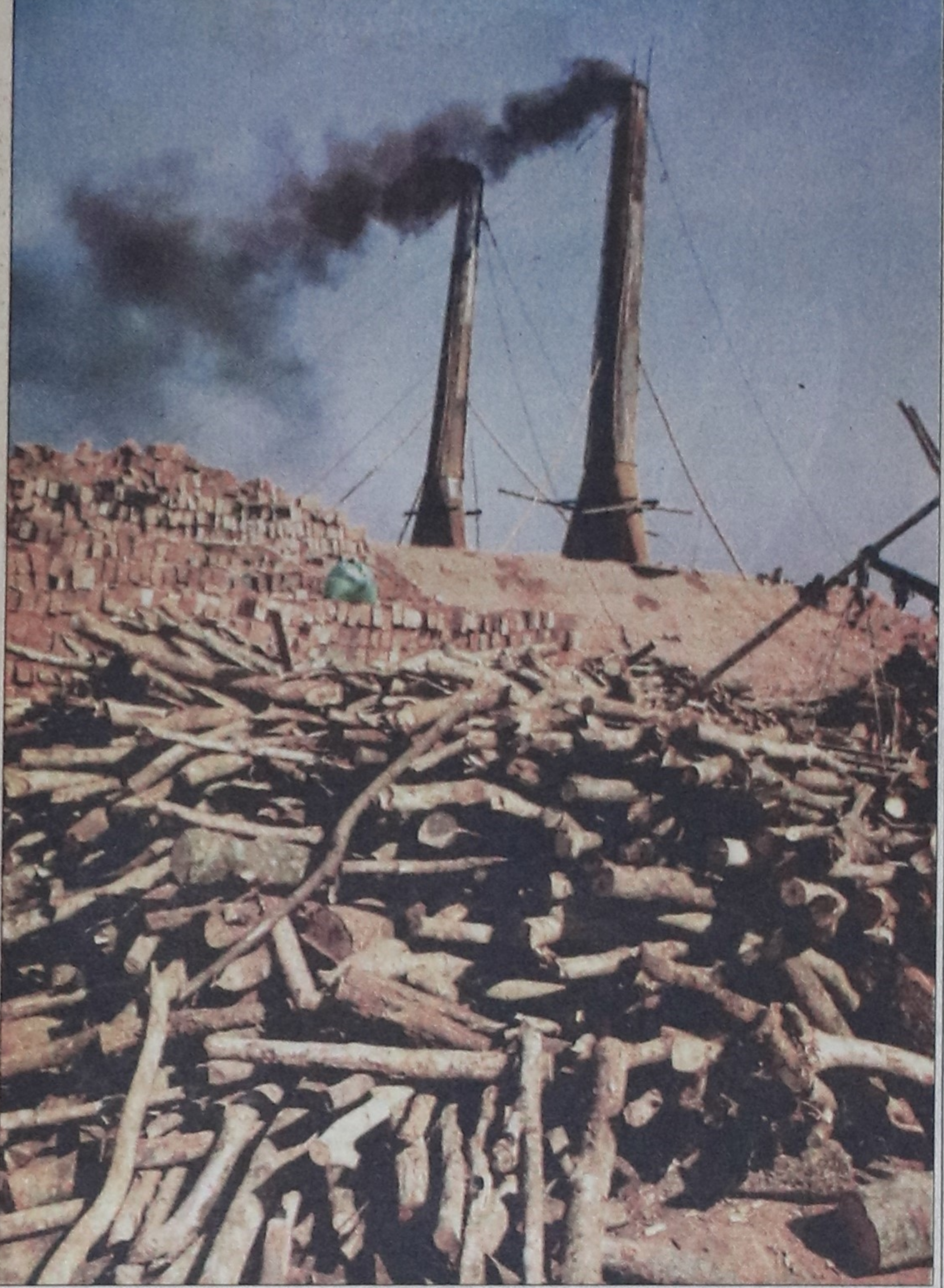
In Barguna: A boy was killed in a traffic mishap on Barguna-Betagi road in sadar upazila recently.

Police said the accident took place at about 2 pm when a tempo collided with a tractor at Kheurtala area.

Ehramul Haque, 15, who fell down from the tempo during collision, died on the spot.

Police seized the tempo and tractor but the drivers of both the vehicles managed to flee the scene.

A case was filed with the police in this regard.



Fortune at the cost of people's health: Fuel wood being stockpiled for burning bricks at a brick field near Gazipur. The practice is legally prohibited but it is widespread. The entire area has hundreds of brick fields which emit poisonous smokes 24-hours a day.

Nasim asks police to arrest Belal's killers

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, July 5: Home and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim declared here on Tuesday that whoever he the killer of Belal Hossain, 42, president of Saidabad union Awami League and chairman of the union parishad, he must be brought to book.

The minister pronounced this at a condolence meeting held as chief guest at Saidabad High School premises on Tuesday afternoon which was presided over by Md Ajahar Ali Khan, President of the Sadar upazila Awami League.

He also cautioned the police department that he would accept no excuse in this case. He said that the killing incident occurred in his own constituency with a view to destroying the peaceful atmosphere here. He further announced that all other terrorists would also be nabbed. In this context he asked the police department to bring back law and order in the northern region as police did in the southern districts.

Among others, District Awami League President Motahar Hossain Talukder, General Secretary Golam Abu Yusuf Surja, Shahidul Islam Talukder and K M Hossain Ali (Hassan) spoke.

The minister visited the house of the deceased and consoled the bereaved family members following the meeting.

Belal Hossain was murdered in broad day light on Sunday morning in Degree Char area near Bangabandhu Bridge West Police Station.

The Home Minister also visited the Kzipur spar area where he inquired about the progress of the work there.

Rangpur DIARY

Reception
From Our Correspondent
 RANGPUR, July 5: A reception was accorded to reputed freedom fighter and industrialist Tipu Munshi at Pirgachha upazila here.

Presided over by Serajul Islam Prodhan, Pirgachha upazila unit commander, the reception was attended, among others, by Tipu Munshi, Dhaka city Awami League secretary of science and technology Laisuz-zaman, and former MP and president Rangpur district Awami League Shah Abdul Rezaque. The freedom fighter was given the reception for his contribution to rehabilitating disabled and distressed freedom fighters. Tipu Munshi also declared a donation of Taka 50,000 to the newly formed Pirgachha Upazila MuktiJodda Kalyan Trust and Taka 100,000 to Pirgachha Railway Station Mosque and Taka 12,000 for development of a temple.

Lightning kills three
 At least three people were killed and two others injured in lightning in Rowmari union under Jalhdhaka upazila recently. Details of the incident could not be known. The dead were identified as Anil, 40, Anjul, 25, and Dinesh, 32.

Two cops assaulted
 Pirganj thana assistant sub-inspector along with one constable was assaulted by some miscreants when they went a remote village under the upazila to arrest a terrorist recently.

According to witnesses, the ASI, Amjad Hossain, and a constable acting on a tip-off rushed to Latimithpur village to arrest terrorist Fazul Rahman alias Dudu. But terrorists attacked the cops and assaulted them, forcing them to leave the village.



Office bearers of Comilla Assoc in Rajshahi
From RU Correspondent
 RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, July 5: The biennial election of Greater Comilla District Association of Rajshahi unit was held here recently.

Chairman of Anthropology Department of Rajshahi University Prof AHM Zehadul Karim and teacher of Political Science Department of Rajshahi University Tareq Fazal were elected president and general secretary respectively of the organisation.

Other office bearers are: vice presidents- Prof Abdus Salam Bhuiyan, Prof Golam Mawla Chowdhury, Dr Delwar Hossain and Abu Taher; joint secretary-Md Rafiqul Islam, treasurer-Hafizul Islam Chowdhury; organising secretary-Humayun Kabir; publicity secretary-Md Abu Taher; cultural and sports secretary-Monsur Ahmed Khan; office secretary- Abu Musa Sarker; members- Prof Abul Basher Mian, Prof Rakib Uddin, Golam Muhammad Chowdhury, Zasiuddin, Md Misanur Rahman, Kazi Kamal Uddin, Khondkar Abdul Manan, Nurul Islam, Daudul Islam, Nazrul Islam, Prof Abdul Halim and Naznin Siddiqua.

150 cattle looted in Rajshahi
From Our Correspondent
 RAJSHAHI, July 5: At least 150 cattle were looted from cattle traders at gunpoint at Godagari upazila here recently.

Some 20 cattle traders were injured when they tried to resist the attackers.

Of the injured, Shariful Islam, 25, Shamsul Haque, 30, Dulal, 28 and Pterul, 32, were admitted to Premtolli Health Complex in critical condition.

According to police and witnesses, armed terrorists demanded Taka 25 per cow from the traders and as they refused, the terrorists snatched the cows away and beat the traders.

CU BCL factions trade gunshots
From Our Correspondent
 CHITTAGONG, July 5: Two rival factions of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) of Chittagong University unit traded gunshots on the Saturday night.

But no one was injured in the incident involving Mamun Uddin and Nasir group of the ruling party Awami League-backed BCL, campus sources said.

The incident took place following an untoward incident that occurred the previous day.

Farmers owe Tk 17.15 cr to GK Project
From Our Correspondent
 KUSTHIA, July 5: Farmers' owe bills amounting to Tk 17 crore 15 lakh for using irrigation water to GK Project authorities.

During the last 20 years, the farmers have not paid any bill to the authorities, although notices were served on several occasions, GK Project sources said.

Kusthia, Jhenidaha, Chaudhanga and Magura were identified as crop deficit areas before the commissioning of the project. Now the GK Project has become a boon for farmers in the districts.

Experts said it's unlikely that the government will be able to achieve its target health for all by 2000 if it fails to eliminate malaria from the hill districts, which have been the spotlight of the disease for decades.

An earlier report says: Malaria that staged a comeback from here claimed 17 lives in first four months of the current year.

According to health officials, some 13,000 people were also afflicted with the disease during the period.

They said a large number of people everyday through three health complexes in Sadar, Naikhangchhari and Lama for blood test to detect malaria.

Unofficial sources claimed that the death toll from the disease would be much higher than the official figures as those are based only on the deaths that reported from government hospitals.

Meanwhile, locals alleged that the government steps taken to combat the disease are too inadequate.

BSS from Barisal says: Viral fever has broken out in an epidemic form affecting both the children and the adults in Barisal city.

The fever starts with uneasiness, loss of appetite, headache, sneezing and sore throat. After one or two days, the body temperature reaches as high as 105 degrees Fahrenheit.

According to physicians, the fever is associated with body ache, dry cough and upper respiratory tract infections.

In the case of children, the fever in found to be associated with vomiting and febrile convulsion. The fever persists for five to seven days and no specific medication is required. The physicians further said, A large number of people including children have been suffering from this viral fever in this city and the adjoining areas for some days.

Malaria comes back in Khagrachhari dist

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Another report says: The number of tuberculosis (TB) cases has been increasing day by day alarmingly here in this divisional headquarter, an official source said.

According to a survey conducted by the Barisal TB clinic, a total of 1,222 TB patients have been identified here in the last one year. Of them, 459 are in Barisal town while 763 are in the rural areas.

According to the survey, 248 persons who were carrying TB germs had been identified here in 1995, 202 persons in 1996, 147 persons in 1997, and 218 persons in 1998. But the figure jumped up to 1,222 in 1999.

Dr Aftab Uddin Ahmed, civil surgeon of Barisal, told that TB is totally under control.

BSS from Brahmanbaria says: Viral fever has broken out in an epidemic form affecting both the children and the adults in Brahmanbaria.

The fever starts with uneasiness, loss of appetite, headache, sneezing and sore throat. After one or two days,

News snaps



Service to humanity: The 24th installation ceremony of Rotary Club of Agrabad in Chittagong on Sunday where President of the club Syed Mahmudul Huq presided over while Ambassador of the European Union graced the occasion as the chief guest. A new committee of the club for the year 2001was also formed there.

Joypurhat Municipality budget
 JOYPUZHAT, July 5: Joypurhat Municipality has announced a Tk 4.44 crore budget for fiscal 2000-2001, reports UNB.

Municipality chairman Khandakar Waliuzzaman announced the budget last week at the municipality auditorium in presence of local elite, journalists and municipal officials. While announcing the budget the municipality chairman said in the budget there was no proposal to impose any new tax. Of the budget, Tk 2.94 crore will come from its own resources while the rest from the government grants.

Woman trafficker arrested
 GAZIPUR, July 5: Police arrested a woman for her alleged involvement in trafficking a child in Joydevpur upazila on Sunday, reports UNB.

Police said Meherzan, wife of Khaleque of Mouchak Shajpur Mesherke, tactfully took away Jewel, 10, of Badekol Mesher village from Chandana crossing in the upazila on June 1. Later the woman sold the boy to Khaleque at Nandail crossing in Mymensingh. After the leakage of the matter, local people led by a union parishad member caught the woman along with her son and handed them over to police. Julekha Begum, mother of Jewel, filed a case against seven people with the police.

1,375 arrested
 COMILLA, July 5: Police arrested 1,375 people on various charges and seized arms and smuggled goods worth Tk 12 lakh from different parts here during the month of June, reports UNB.

Police Super Mukbul Hossain Bhuiyan told that police recovered the contraband goods, arms and stolen goods in separate raids in 13 upazilas of the district. The seized goods include 3,600 bottles of phensidyl, 40 kilogram of hemp, 150 sacks of Indian sugar, 15 cartons of foreign cigarette, 1 microbus, 31 cameras, Indian sarees and gold ornaments. Besides, police seized 13 pistols, 3 revolvers, one pipe gun, and three other arms. District Police Administration also took departmental action against eight cops including two ASI for violating the service rules.

Post vacant
 NETRAKONA, July 5: The post of five out of 10 upazila sub-registrars have been lying vacant for long here causing problem to both the buyers and the sellers of land, reports UNB.

Besides, government is being deprived of huge amount revenue as a large number of deeds have been lying pending for registration in Barhatta, Alpara, Madan, Bahadurkandi and Khaliuraj upazilas in the absence of sub-registrars. The sub-registrars of Mohonganj, Netrakona, Kendua and Durgapur upazila have been burdened with more duties as they are performing additional responsibilities for the five upazilas. Local elite called the authorities concerned to look into the matter and take necessary steps to mitigate the sufferings of the people.

Drug possessor convicted
 NARSINGDI, July 5: A court here recently sentenced a man to life term rigorous imprisonment for possessing drugs, reports UNB.

The court also fined the convict, Abdul Manan Munna, Tk 1,000, in default, to suffer one month more in jail. In another section of the same case, Munna was awarded two years, of RI and fined Tk 500, in default, to suffer one month more RI. According to prosecution, police recovered huge drugs from the house of Munna at village Chuto Gathaichar in Sadar Thana and arrested him on August 20, 1990.

Loan distributed
 PIROJPUR, July 5: Youth Development Department distributed soft-term loan totaling Tk 1.96 crore among youth here in 11 months of the current fiscal, reports UNB.

Officials said the loan was disbursed against 2,550 small projects under the government-sponsored Self-employment Project. Upazila-wise breakup of the projects: Sadar-324, Sharupkati-365, Bhandaria-420, Kauhkhali-528, Mathbaria-484 and Nazirpur-429.



Changing food habit: Maize cultivation has gained popularity in the northern region including Sirajganj district. With the active cooperation from the District Agriculture Extension Department Sirajganj farmers of nine upazilas have grown 100 tons of high yielding variety of maize by bringing 100 acres of land under maize farming in this season. The farmers are now more interested in cultivating the crop in view of profitability and low production cost. This shot has been taken recently from Pipulbaria area under Sirajganj Sadar police station.

Cotton farming may fall short of target
PANCHGARH, July 5: Target of cotton cultivation may not be achieved in Thakurgaon zone due to non-favourable climates in the current season, reports UNB.

The production target was fixed at 3,260 bales of cotton from 1,150 hectares of land under Thakurgaon zone comprising three districts of greater Dinalpur.