

Sirajganj newsmen's mourning

From Our Correspondent SIRAJGANJ, July 23: A big mourning procession was brought out and street corner meeting was held here on Saturday morning demanding immediate arrest of the killers of journalist Shamsur Rahman.



Bamboo is still the main construction material of most villagers in Jamalpur district. Unabated destroying of bamboo clusters leads to bamboo crisis, resulting in its price-hike. Picture shows small traders waiting beside a road to sell bamboo at Narikel Bazaar in Sadar upazila.

Jute farming declines

From Our Correspondent

NETRAKONA, July 23: Jute cultivation has been declining in the district, one of the largest jute producing areas of the country, as farmers are opting for other cash crops due to low price of jute.

thirty metric tons of seeds in the district, which was insufficient. Our Jhenidah correspondent adds: Farmers in the district are also opting for other cash crops due to low price of jute.

Man killed in Rajshahi clash

From Our Correspondent RAJSHAHI, July 23: A man was killed and 13 others were injured in a clash between two factions of a school management committee at Bagha upazila here on Monday.

River erosion takes alarming turn in Netrakona, Faridpur

Erosion by rivers has taken alarming turn in Netrakona and greater Faridpur districts, rendering a large number of people homeless, report agencies.

Four unnatural deaths in Faridpur

From Our Correspondent FARIDPUR, July 23: Four unnatural deaths were reported in the district recently.

Unabated use of firewood in Narail kilns

From Our Correspondent NARAIL, July 23: Brick field owners here are using firewood as fuel in kilns in violation of government rule, causing severe environmental degradation.

Jubo League activist arrested

From Our Correspondent SIRAJGANJ, July 23: The Sadar thana police arrested one local Jubo League activist from the railway colony area at about 12 pm on Saturday on charge of assaulting three truck worker leaders.

River erosion takes alarming turn in Netrakona, Faridpur

Erosion by rivers has taken alarming turn in Netrakona and greater Faridpur districts, rendering a large number of people homeless, report agencies.

Local UP chairman called upon the authorities concerned to take necessary steps to save the villagers from further destruction.

Fish production dwindling

SHARIATPUR, July 23: Fish production has declined in the district due to absence of proper planning, dearth of capital, dispute over ownership of water bodies and complexities in demarcation of khas lands, reports BSS.

Under the law, such water bodies can be leased out for 20 years to any individuals or organisations for fish farming paying their owners a specific amount of revenue.

'None will be allowed to upset peace in CHT'

MOHALCHHARI, Khagrachhari, July 23: A congenial atmosphere has been created in the Chittagong Hill Tracts for peaceful co-existence of tribal and non-tribal people after the signing of the landmark peace accord in 1997.

Reception

BANDARBAN, July 23: Chairman of Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board (CHITDB) Bir Bahadur MP called upon all to work for the welfare of the disadvantaged section of our people, reports BSS.

Schemes underway to develop land ports

SATKHIRA, July 23: Commerce Minister MA Jallil has said the government is implementing massive programmes for the overall development of land ports in different parts of the country, reports BSS.

Minister Abdul Jallil on Thursday called upon the people from all walks of life to resist the anti-liberation forces conspiring against the ongoing development and democratisation process in the country.

Speaking at a reception accorded to the newly elected office bearers of Nasirabad College Students Union in the college premises, the minister said the anti-liberation forces of Jammatt-Shibir in the country are hampering the image of Bangladesh abroad.

Referring to the recent killings in Chittagong and journalist killing in Jessore, the minister said these vicious cycles which killed Bangabandhu in 1975 confining democracy in cantonment are now again active to stop the country's development efforts.

The Commerce Minister stressed the importance of land ports for the development of the country's economy and informed that Taka 5 crore had already been sanctioned for the development of Bhomra land port, an official handout said.

Referring to the political situation in the country, Jallil said under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is proceeding to achieve economic emancipation, conspirators have formed alliance to halt this process.

He mentioned various pro-people programmes like old age allowance, allowance for widows and for the distressed taken up by the present government.

Earlier the Minister held discussions with the users of Bhomra land port and assured them all possible assistance to resolve the problems they are now facing.

Another report from Mymensingh says: Commerce

Shailakupa Degree College limping with problems

From Delwar Kabir

JHENIDAH, July 23: Shailakupa Government Degree College in the district has been limping with manifold problems including dearth of teachers and classrooms, hampering academic activities.

College sources said the educational institution, which was established in 1969 and later nationalised in 1992, has been facing shortage of teachers. The crisis is acute in Bangla and English departments.

Only 13 subjects are available in the college. Subjects like Computer Science, Statistics, Philosophy, Social Welfare and Psychology have not been introduced in the college, much to the frustration of students.

When contacted, Vice Principal of the college said many posts of teachers have been lying vacant for a long time.

Another serious problem of the college is shortage of classrooms. "Classes of the college remain suspended during the HSC examinations due to shortage of classrooms," said a student of BA class.

Some students and teachers said although the college was nationalised, facilities were not given accordingly.

Teacher and students have urged the authorities concerned to resolve the problems of the college immediately.

BSS from Naogaon adds: Ninety-year-old Khatasharainagar Government Primary School in Raninagar upazila of the district is now facing various problems such as shortage of class-rooms teachers and furniture.

In an effort to give a boost to fish production, local Fisheries Department had undertaken a project to bring derelict ponds and other water bodies of the district under fish farming, but the scheme could not be implemented for reasons unknown.

As per the programme, some 52,379 small and large ponds out of 5,00,000 in Kushtia, Jhenidah, Magura, Narail, Jessore, Chuadanga, Meherpur, Khulna, Satkhira and Bagerhat were supposed to have been brought under fish farming.

Officials said it is possible to produce fish worth of Tk five crore every year by bringing the derelict ponds under the farming.



The children's park in Netrakona district headquarters has become a grazing field due to negligence by the authorities concerned. Locals have urged the authorities to take care of the park. --Star photo

News snaps



Haphazard parking creates traffic jam: Reconstruction work of Sirajganj Bus Terminal is going on, but there is no alternative place for parking the motor vehicles. Drivers have been parking their vehicles on busy streets of the town in a haphazard manner. Photo shows a traffic jam on the main road in front of the Deputy Commissioner's office due to whimsical parking of buses. --Star photo

Farmers deprived of fair price

SHERPUR, July 23: The benefit of government's grain procurement drive hardly reaches the genuine farmers as middlemen in collusion with a section of food officials prevent them from selling their produces at procurement centres, reports UNB.

BKB loan disbursed

NARSINGDI, July 23: Narsingdi region of Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) disbursed about Taka 21.11 crore as agriculture loan during the year 1999-2000 fiscal year, reports BSS.

Outlaw arrested

BOGRA, July 23: A suspected member of an outlawed party of Kushtia was arrested from this northern district town's hawkers market on Wednesday while trying to buy old police uniforms, reports UNB.

Cheques distributed

JAMALPUR, July 23: Over Taka 3 crore 25 lakh has been spent during the last fiscal for repair, renovation and development of mosques in different parts of the country, reports BSS.

BCUTA biennial confce

MYMENSINGH, July 23: The 4th biennial conference of Bangladesh College University Teachers Association (BCUTA), Mymensingh District Unit was held recently, reports BSS.

Students punished under PSA

MYMENSINGH, July 23: A court there on Wednesday punished a college student with two years imprisonment in a case filed under PSA, reports UNB.

Tablig Jamaat

JAMALPUR, July 23: A three-day Tablig Jamaat, arranged by district Tablig Jamaat, begins at the AKM college ground in Dewanganj on July 27, reports UNB.

Contraband seized

COMILLA, July 23: BDR Jowans seized contraband worth over Tk 17.84 crore from different frontier areas here in last one year, reports UNB.

M Ed course opens in Khulna

KHULNA, July 23: Masters of Education (MEd) course has been introduced for the first time in Khulna in Government Teachers' Training College (TTC) for the academic year 2000-2001 under the National University, reports BSS.

Loan for fishermen

BRAHMANBARIA, July 23: A meeting regarding distribution of loan among the members of Naziragar Mahakhalpur Poor Fishermen's unity was held at BRDB auditorium with BRDB Chairman on the chair, reports BSS.

Work progressing

SHERPUR, July 23: Work on the construction of Madhu Tila tourist centre in Nalitabari upazila at a cost of over Tk 3 crore is progressing fast, reports UNB.