

Upazila roundup

**KHULNA**  
22 get life-term for murder

June 20: Twenty-two people have been sentenced to life imprisonment in a sensational dacoity and murder case that took place 19 years ago, reports UNB.

The additional district and sessions judge Mohammad Taha Mollah awarded the punishment and acquitted five others including the main accused recently. Eight convicts were also sentenced in absentia.

The prosecution story, in brief, is that the accused led by Abdul Jalil Howladar armed with deadly weapons committed a dacoity at the house of Harinath Biswas of village Ghonabanda in Dumuria upazila on August 28, 1972. During the raid the dacoits killed his father Debendranath Biswas and decamped with the valuables.

Harinath Biswas filed a case with the police in this connection accusing 27 people. Police after investigation charge-sheeted them.

Abdul Jalil later turned approver and acquitted from the charge.

**RANGAMATI**  
Stored UNICEF medicines being damaged

June 20: A large quantity of medicines supplied by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is reported to be getting damaged in the Bandarban godowns, reports UNB.

According to informed sources, some medicines have expired the date and the rest are being damaged as these are stored a long ago in Lama, Roangchari and Bandarban sadar godowns.

No step has been taken for distribution of these medicines and no reason is given for the inaction, sources said.

When contacted, Dr Nurul Islam, the Civil Surgeon of Bandarban Hill district told UNB that if the medicines were not distributed immediately, those would be damaged soon.

After the devastating cyclone, the people of this hill district suffering from various diseases would get immediate benefit if these stored medicines are made available to them, he said.

The local elite urged the UNICEF authority to arrange distribution of the stored medicines immediately among the suffering and ailing people of the district.

**MALJDEE COURT**  
Water-logging hampers normal life

June 20: Around 90,000 town dwellers have been facing manifold problems created mainly by water-logging during the current rainy season, reports UNB.

According to informed sources, many roads including two in front of the collectorate and the judge court have gone under two to three feet water blocking and disrupting communication during the last 15 days.

The villages of Sreepur, Karimpur, Tajmahatul, Fakirpur, Gopari, Krish-narampur, Lakshmi Nar-ayanpur, Majde, Mad-hupur have been affected. Some kutcha and pucca roads have also been damaged.

Some other roads have developed cracks and pot-holes obstructing pedestrians and vehicular movement. The drainage system is also bad and inadequate.

Although a committee at the district level had been formed to suggest solution for the long standing water-logging problem, no action has yet been taken to mitigate the sufferings of the residents.

Besides, dumping of filth and garbage on roadside give rise to bulk breeding of mosquitoes.

**SHERPUR**  
Drinking water scarce

June 20: Paucity of drinking water has been persisting in Jhenaidah upazila causing serious sufferings to the villagers, reports UNB.

Officials said the scarcity was caused after nearly 200 tubewells went out of order due to lack of spare parts in the upazila.

**BARISAL**  
Power supply erratic

June 20: Erratic power supply in the town and its adjoining areas made living miserable in the areas, reports UNB.

Thousands of SSC examinees are suffering much due to frequent power failure, sources said.

Besides, the shopkeepers as well as pre-Eid shoppers are feeling insecure to buy and sell their commodities in darkness.

Publication of three daily newspapers from the town are regularly delayed by power disruption.

It is learnt that frequent power failure is continuing for some days for faulty power distribution system in these areas.

**MAGURA**  
2 gamblers arrested

June 20: Two gamblers were arrested from village Berakhachi in Sadar upazila of the district, police sources said.

Acting on a tip, police raided the village and arrested Didar Ali and Lokman Hossain with some gambling inputs.

The sources said the accused used to allure people in the name of gambling for earning easy money and they often take away their belongings forcibly.

The arrested were produced before the local court. Further police investigation is going on.

**Contraband seized**  
Police Wednesday seized Indian goods worth about Taka 50,000 from a bus at the bus stand here.

Acting on a tip, police raided the bus and seized the contraband including Indian saris, lungis, bi-cycle spares, cosmetics and crockeries. The Dhaka bound bus 'Duti' was coming from Jessore.

None was arrested in this connection. A case has been filed with the Sadar police.

**PIROJPUR**  
Acid thrown on school girl

June 20: A girl student received serious burn injuries when an angry youth threw acid on her at Chirapara village in Kawkhali upazila here Friday, police said, reports UNB.

The victim Ferdous Sultana Bina (15), a student of class ten and daughter of Fazlur Rahman Farazi while returning home from the house of her class mate, co-villager Abdur Razzak Farazi obstructed her way and renewed his marriage proposal to her.

Razzak got furious on her refusal and threw acid on her injuring her critically. She was rushed to Sadar hospital where her condition was stated to be critical.

A case has been filed in this connection.

**SATKHIRA**  
Dacoits loot Tk 3.18 lakh from bank

June 20: Armed dacoits broke into the Rupali Bank branch at Naltasharif bazar in Kaliganj upazila of the district Sunday night and decamped with Taka 3,17,979 in cash, reports UNB.

They also took away one double barrel gun, prize bonds and other valuable documents, police said.

The dacoits, numbering six, broke open the main gate of the branch and tied the guard before committing the dacoity. SP visited the spot but none was arrested so far.

**JHENIDAH**  
Unidentified body recovered

June 20: Police recovered an unidentified body hidden in a wooden box when a van puller took the box to the police station Wednesday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said a passenger unloaded the box from a Khulna-bound bus at Bata traffic island in the town and while trying to go to Chuadanga bus stand by a van was challenged by the local people. He then managed to escape leaving the box.

The van puller later took the box to the police station and a body of middle-aged man was found in it. The hands and legs of the body were tied up tightly.

A case has been filed in this connection.

Launches ply without survey certificates

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, June 20: Journey by motor launch from Narayanganj to different places is always hazardous. Overloading and poor maintenance of the launches are the most common complaints heard. Though major accidents are limited minor ones are numerous.

It is learnt that water transport propelled by less than 17 HP engine is not required to obtain any registration or fitness certificate under existing law. Frequently these transports violate river traffic rules and contribute to accidents. In foreign countries a brand new motor launch is allowed to ply for 20 years, where as our country's motor launches in which normally reconditioned engines are installed, run for more than 40 years in ramshackle condition. Failure of steering system and other mechanical trouble are inevitable for these old vessels. Besides gusty winds, inferior quality of wooden body, negligence of Serang are responsible for accidents. Even a good number of launches ply at night without search lights.

Bangladesh is the only country in the world where launches with wooden body are still in operation. In one of the launch disasters it was found that the roof of the launch was blown away. This was 'fantastic', an investigating officer observed. 'I do not know whether the roof was fastened with ropes or pasted with glue', he noted. Launch owners employ driver and masters having no competency certificates. It is also learnt that some drivers and masters obtain their competency certificates in exchange of 'fees'.

As to safety measures on board, the requirements by law are lifebuoy, jacket and fire-extinguishers. Although some launches have necessary safety system, this cannot be utilized in time of danger due to their lack of know how.

Under Inland Shipping Ordinance, 1976 every me-

chanically propelled vessel of above 17 HP should undergo annual survey, in which keel, hull, engine, navigation lights, safety equipment are checked and fitness certificates given. But this procedure is not followed strictly. Even more surprising 3000 vessels out of 6500 registered vessel ply without any survey certificate. Considering these problems and complications a comprehensive survey of the inland water transportation and navigational conditions of the country's entire 4000 miles river routes is of utmost importance.

Launch dacoity is also rampant. Every year hundreds of cases are recorded. Launch Owners association complains that Ministry of Home Affairs has not responded favourably despite repeated urgings by them.

About 75 launches are plying daily from Narayanganj to at least eight different routes of the country which include Munshiganj, Taitala, Shirajganj, Surashar, Chandpur, Gournadi, Torik, Motlab, Esoli, Howna, Ramechandrapur, Narsingdi, Gajaria and Rasulpur.

Launch owners have to pay various types of taxes such as income tax, mooring charge,

channel charge etc. The owners more or less sincerely want to pay these taxes excluding income tax. At present the owners of the vessels have to pay income taxes on unit basis and not upon capacity. But if this taxes were imposed on capacity of vessels the amount of tax should have increased largely. It is also learnt that about five per cent income-tax were realised by the authority for the last few years.

It may be stated that necessary steps should be taken immediately for realisation of this huge arrears.

When contacted, a spokesman of Launch Owners' Association said that about 56 per cent of passengers of our country travel through river routes and approximately 60 to 70 per cent merchandise is carried by the cargo vessels.

Though these river routes are playing a vital role in our economy, this sector is not getting proper supervision of the concerned authority for proper functioning of our river routes. Periodic dredging is necessary but the authority seldom takes step in this regard. As a result, the river routes are gradually becoming silted which is one of the main causes for upsetting ecological balance, sources added.

Witnesses said the JCD activists again ransacked the residence of Awami League leader Abdur Rouf and BCL activist Haider yesterday morning.

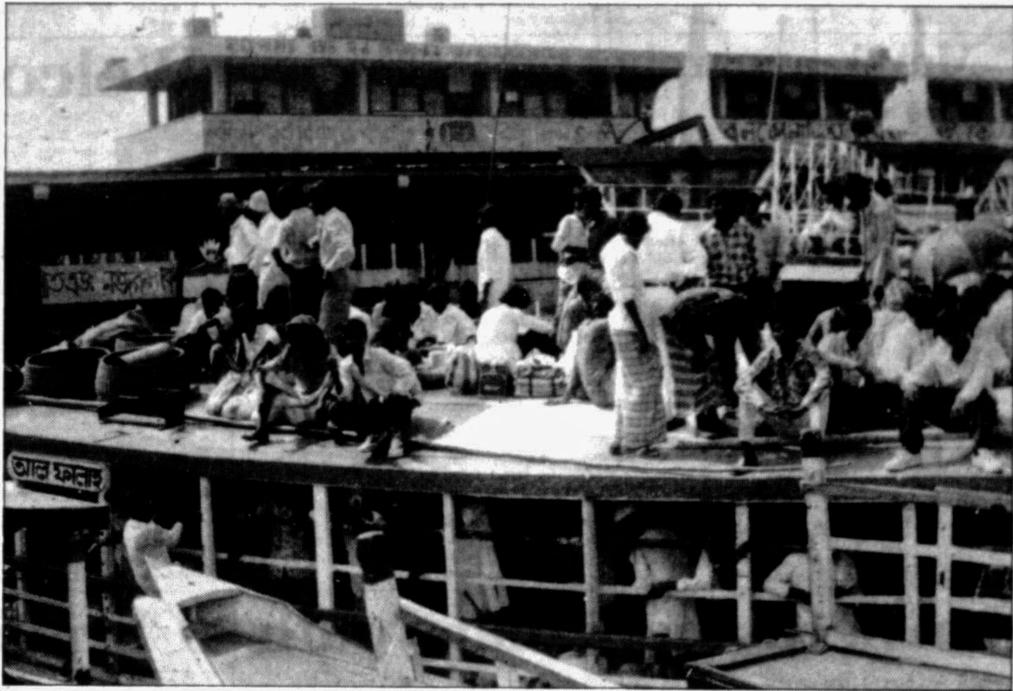
Among the 25 were the three JCD activists injured seriously. They were taken to the Sadar Hospital.

Police resorted to teargas shelling to control the situation and drove away the JCD activists from the arena.

At least nine people were injured during the police intervention, none of them seriously.

Once again at about 11-45, equipped with country-made arms and hockey sticks, the JCD activists took on the Chhatra Leaguers in the Victoria Quarter area. Another 11 people were injured amid chases.

The townsmen became panicky as the rampage of the belligerents continued into the afternoon.



NARAYANGANJ: Unconcerned about passengers travelling on the roof top of the launch.

—Star photo

Moheshpur UZ beset with problems

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, June 20: Moheshpur, the biggest upazila in Khulna division covering 161 square miles is beset with manifold problems like scarcity of water, drinking water, lack of education and health facilities, bad communication and civic amenities.

There are 12 union parishads with 206 villages and one municipality in the upazila.

Scarcity of pure drinking water has become the main problem for the local people. There are about 2000 tubewells but 40 per cent of the existing tubewells are lying out of order. As a result, a considerable number of people are using polluted water of canals,

ponds, rivers etc. On the other hand bad drainage system is polluting the atmosphere. Mosquito menace is yet another problem of the town dwellers.

No development has been achieved in education sector during the last 20 years. There is only one Intermediate college, 12 non-government high schools including one girls high school, four junior high schools, four junior madrasahs and ninety primary schools of whom 17 are non-government in the upazila.

There is no direct road link with the district headquarters of Jhenidah. Besides, during rainy season most of the roads go under water in the upazila.

The health complex at Moheshpur upazila headquarters is plagued with a host of problems. Due to acute shortage of medicines patients suffer much. A large number of poor people coming from far flung areas for treatment go back disappointed.

Besides, in absence of X-ray machine and ambulance in the health complex, creates untold sufferings to the serious patients.

There is no park in the town and in absence of auditorium people are unable to hold public functions.

The vast area of the upazila is deprived of electrification. Only few areas of pourashava have been electrified with erratic power supply causing much inconvenience to the people.

The people urged the concerned authority to undertake a comprehensive plan to mitigate the sufferings of the people.

BCL, JCD again clash in Sirajganj: 45 injured

SIRAJGANJ, June 20: At least 45 people, including five policemen, were injured as Chhatra League and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal activists resumed street fight yesterday, reports UNB.

Police fired 200 rounds of teargas shell to disperse the student activists of Awami League and BNP who again clashed at Sirajganj Government College and scattered in the town chasing each other.

Meanwhile, authorities closed the troubled college for Eid vacation from Wednesday.

An Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) was among those injured seriously. Three other seriously injured were identified as Saidur Rahman, GS of the college students union, Masum, Assistant Literary Secretary, and Milton, a student of the college, all are JCD leaders.

Yesterday's trouble occurred in a backlash to Tuesday's clashes between the

two arch rivals on the campus. Some 30 students were injured on Tuesday.

Campus sources said JCD activists, armed with hockey sticks and lethal weapons gathered at Amtola in the college premises to attend its scheduled protest rally at 10 am, which was postponed due to closure of the college.

Police and witnesses said the trouble started when JCD leader Shamim was hurt by a stone reportedly thrown by rival activists at about 10-30 am.

On the other side, BCL activists armed similarly, were seen standing near the Victoria Quarter area, 150 yards from the college premises.

Soon after Shamim's injury, about 300 JCD activists rushed towards the BCL men at the Victoria Quarter, where 25 people were injured in an hour-long chase and counter-chase. About 10 crackers went off.

Witnesses said the JCD activists again ransacked the residence of Awami League leader Abdur Rouf and BCL activist Haider yesterday morning.

Among the 25 were the three JCD activists injured seriously. They were taken to the Sadar Hospital.

Police resorted to teargas shelling to control the situation and drove away the JCD activists from the arena.

At least nine people were injured during the police intervention, none of them seriously.

Once again at about 11-45, equipped with country-made arms and hockey sticks, the JCD activists took on the Chhatra Leaguers in the Victoria Quarter area. Another 11 people were injured amid chases.

The townsmen became panicky as the rampage of the belligerents continued into the afternoon.

Cow lifters active Farmers pass sleepless nights

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, June 20: Rampant lifting of cattleheads has created panic among the poor farmers of Katiadi, Pakundia and Hossainpur upazilas of the district.

The farmers alleged that the cattle lifters are stealing the cows and are peeling off their skins.

According to the sources, 45 cows were stolen and skin of eight others were peeled off recently, as a result, the panic-

stricken farmers are compelled to pass their nights in the cowsheds to protect their cattlehead.

It is further learnt that the thieves break open the doors and locks of cowsheds to steal the cattle. Farmers suspect that an organised gang of lifters backed by some influential quarters has been carrying on the heinous activities in the bordering villages.

Moreover, cattle lifters even

demand ransom from the owners for releasing of their cattle through their agents.

The people of the areas demanded of the concerned authorities to take immediate measures to control the situation.

**Phone employees meet**  
Kishoreganj district unit of Bangladesh Telecommunication Sramik Karmachari Parishad organised a meeting at local T and T office premises recently and pro-tested the attack on Parishad leaders in Dhaka by some vested groups.

The protest meeting presided over by district Parishad President Pradip Kumar Bishnu, pointed out that a vested group was out to frustrate genuine demands of the telephone employees and workers.

**Child labourers**  
Child labourers are on increase in the town with the influx of floating population from rural areas.

According to International Labour Laws, children below the age of 15 are prohibited to take up hard work. But in Bangladesh children below 10 years and above are compelled to take up jobs of shoe shine, hotel boy, rickshaw puller, domestic servants and helpers in bicycle repair shops to earn their livelihood.

Notes from Faridpur

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, June 20: The B D R and the customs personnel seized 70 smuggled cows in a drive in the cow market of Tepakhola in Faridpur district recently.

Realising the presence of law enforcing agencies more than hundred cows have been shifted by the unscrupulous traders. The seized cows were sent of Chuadanga.

In another drive the members of Jatiyatabadi Juba Dal, Faridpur unit recovered 181 pieces of Indian saris from a place near Rajbari Road. It is learnt that while collecting the relief materials for cyclone affected people they recovered the saris from a man and deposited the same with Kotwali thana.

3 killed in road accident

Three persons were killed and 39 wounded in a road accident on Faridpur-Gottai road. One Babar Ali (35) died on the spot. Of the injured, nine were admitted to Faridpur Sadar Hospital three of them stated to be in critical condition.

It is stated that the driver of the bus Chittagong-BA-3891 lost control of the vehicle while smoking and the bus fell into a nearby ditch.

A case has been registered with Kotwali police. Both the driver and helper are absconding.

19 injured in mine blast

Nineteen persons were injured in a mine explosion while reexcavating an old pond at Kamarkhali in Faridpur district.

The injured are Dablu (20), Zakir (18), Firoz (10), Md Rezaul (10), Oenda (7), Irick Jan (3) and Panzu. Later they were admitted to Faridpur General Hospital.

Alleged killer arrested

Kotwali police under the leadership of Alauddin, A S I arrested Tutul, an alleged killer of Juba League leader Liyakat from village East Khabashpur.

Police sent Tutul to the court. Meanwhile, the demonstrators almost everyday paraded the streets of Faridpur town demanding punishment of the killer and withdrawal of investigating police officer.

**Obituary**  
Sree Shrish Chandra Gosh (90), a renowned teacher and veteran social worker died on May 28 in Faridpur General Hospital. He left behind six sons, three daughters, relations and a host of friends and students to mourn his death.

Thousands of people including Deputy Commissioner, Superintendent of Police visited the hospital to show their last respect to the renowned teacher.

The late Gosh served 20 years in Moizuddin High School as Assistant Headmaster, 10 years in Faridpur High School as rector, 10 years in Imambag High School as rector and 20 years in municipality as commissioner.

Besides this, he was the General Secretary of the District Teachers Association for 30 years, President of Ram Krishna Mission for 10 years, members of the government body of Rajendra College for 15 years.

**Aus crop**  
Aus paddy on both banks of the river Padma is being damaged due to increase in water level. More areas are being inundated and crops are being damaged everyday.



Best college teacher

From Our Correspondent  
PABNA, June 20: Dr. Md. Azizul Haque, Principal of Sirajgonj Government College was adjudged the best college teacher of Rajshahi Division.

Dr. Haque was born in Sirajgonj in greater Pabna district on May 31, 1936. He obtained First Division in Matriculation, I.Sc., and B.Sc. in 1951, 1953 and 1955 respectively. He acquired Masters degree in 1957 from the Dhaka University and Ph.D. in 1983 from Rajshahi University.

He has a 30 years' teaching experience. Besides, he is the author of 16 scientific research publications and two text books of degree-level.



MYMENSINGH: Sandhani, Mymensingh Medical College unit brought out a health rally on the occasion of its 13th founding anniversary at the town recently.

—Star photo