

Upazila roundup

**SATKHIRA**  
**Royal Bengal Tigers kill 50 in Sundarbans**

July 19: At least 50 people were killed by Royal Bengal tigers during the last eight months in three forest range areas under Sundarbans in the district, reports UNB.

According to reliable sources, of them, nine were killed while collecting Gol leaves and firewoods, 17 while collecting honey and 24 while fishing shrimps.

The victims were killed during the months from November 1990 to June this year, the sources added.

**MAULVI BAZAR**  
**Five killed**

July 19: Five people died in separate incidents in the district over the last week, police said yesterday, reports UNB.

Nogendra (50), of Jatrapasha village in Sreenagar upazila allegedly committed suicide by taking poison.

The reason behind the suicide could not be ascertained.

Jitendra Sutradhar (25), of Paikpara village in Kulaura upazila succumbed to his injuries on way to hospital. The victim was stabbed by some unknown miscreants while returning home from local Nasirganj bazar.

A young housewife Khusbu Begum (25), of Atghor village in sadar upazila was allegedly killed by her husband Syed Ullah. She was hanged allegedly by the killer husband to hush up the murder. Police recovered her body and sent for autopsy.

Sreemangal police recovered a body of an unidentified man from the Bidhabil tea estate of the district. The body bore several cut marks.

Another boy Rashed Mia (11), son of Abdul Haque was crushed under the wheels of a Sylhet bound coaster (Sylhet-BA-6535) at Kurshi on Sylhet-Nabiganj road while he was crossing the road.

The driver, however, managed to escape with the vehicle. Separate cases were filed with different police stations.

**FENI**  
**Dacoits loot valuables**

July 19: Armed dacoits looted valuables worth about Taka 50,000 from a house at Panchgasia road in the town, police said, reports UNB.

According to witnesses the dacoits numbering 10 to 15 raided the residence of Wahiduzzaman and decamped with the booty at gun point.

After hearing alarm, police reached the spot and failed to arrest the dacoits.

A case was lodged in this connection.

**BARISAL**  
**117 posts lying vacant in health complexes**

July 19: At least 117 posts were lying vacant in different health complexes and health centres in the district, reports UNB.

According to official sources, posts of nine medical officers in nine upazila health centres, eight dental technicians, four pharmacists, one lower division clerk and 95 health assistants are lying vacant for a long time.

It is learnt that in the absence of a large number of staff, medicare facilities in the district have been facing a set back.

Local elite have urged the government to take immediate steps to fill up the vacancies.

**MAGURA**  
**Crop output drops**

July 19: Crop production in the district has been decreasing alarmingly due to sharp decline in the mineral constituents of soil, reports UNB.

According to agri-experts, shortage of necessary minerals like sulphur and zinc has reduced soil fertility. About 60 per cent land has been affected by the deficiency.

They attributed the paucity of mineral to unrestrained and overuse of chemical fertilizers in land.

Meanwhile, paddy production in some areas under Ganges-Kobadak project of Sreepur upazila has already been decreased by mineral scarcity.

**RANGPUR**  
**Awami Jubo League demands Kader Siddiqui's release**

July 19: Awami Jubo League will go for a dawn to dusk hunger strike on July 22 (Monday) demanding unconditional release of the Freedom fighter and Awami League leader Kader Siddiqui, reports UNB.

Local unit of the party disclosed the programme at a press conference here on Tuesday.

Kader Siddiqui was arrested on January 7 from a public gathering in Kushtia after 21 days of his return from India.

The movement will be intensified for the release of their leader if the present government fails to materialise their demand, they added.

**FARIDPUR**  
**Gorai Bridge opens to traffic**

July 19: Traffic movement on Gorai Bridge near Kamarkhali on Dhaka-Khulna highway has been started from Thursday afternoon.

The Executive Engineer, Roads and Highways Department, Faridpur, M A Sattar told UNB today that non-fixation of toll rate by the authority caused the delay of the traffic movement on the bridge.

Meanwhile, the bridge has been leased out and toll rate fixed at Taka 40 for each bus, truck and tank lorry, Taka 20 for each minibus, mini-truck and Taka 10 for each jeep and car, he added.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia formally inaugurated the bridge on July 16.

According to a survey, on an average at least 1200 motor vehicles used to cross the river through the ferries per day at Kamarkhali before the bridge.

**BRAHMANBARIA**  
**Beheaded body recovered**

BRAHMANBARIA, July 19: Bancharampur police recovered a beheaded body of a rice trader last week from near Gontar char area in Homna upazila of Comilla district, reports UNB.

According to police, the victim Mangal Mia of village Tantuakandi in Bancharampur upazila was kidnapped by the unknown assailants from Daulatpur launch ghat while returning home from Ramchandrapur bazar recently.

The miscreants looted his belongings after killing him. A case has been filed with the Homna police.

**RAMGARH**  
**Timber seized**

July 19: Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) has recovered smuggled timber worth about Taka two lakh from the Heako area under Ramgarh upazila, reports UNB.

BDR personnel recently seized two trucks loaded with costly teak timber when the area passing through transit point at Heako.

The timber were being pilfered from the government reserved forest.

BDR handed over about 500 cubic feet of timber, recovered from the trucks to the forest department. A case has also been instituted in this connection.

**4 killed in Bogra road accident**

July 19: Four people were killed and 30 others injured in a bus-truck collision near Mirzapur in Sherpur upazila early hours of Tuesday, police said, reports UNB.

The mishap occurred when a Lalmonirhat-bound night-coach from Dhaka collided head-on with a Nagarbari-bound truck at around 2 am.

**NETRAKONA**  
**Pests attack Aus crops on 1600 acres**

From Our Correspondent

July 19: Aus crops on about 1600 acres of land have been attacked by Maza and Pamri pests in the district.

According to farmers, leaves of attacked Aus paddy plants turned yellowish and subsequently dried up after the attack.

The affected upazilas are Netrokona Sadar, Kendua, Madan, Atpara, Barhatta and Purbadhala. Agricultural Extension office told this correspondent that only 10,000 acres of Aus land have been attacked by pests and preventive measure had been taken to contain the pest menace.



Flood victims who have taken shelter on embankment in Jamalpur passing agonising days in absence of any relief.

— Star photo

**Flood situation worsens further**

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, July 19: The flood situation in Jamalpur district has further worsened with the continuous rise in water level of the rivers Brahmaputra and Jamuna. At least 53 unions out of 67 of the district including low lying areas of the Pourashava have already been inundated. Flood waters have entered Jamalpur town. Road communication between the district headquarters to all upazila town are disrupted. Only ferry boats and rafts made banana trees are being used as the means of communications in the rural areas.

It is learnt that about eight lakh people at 53 remote unions in the district are now passing their days on rooftops, trees and bamboo made machans following the flood. They cannot leave their houses as the robbers raid the areas every night with mechanised country boats, it is alleged.

About five lakh people who have taken shelter on the WDB embankment are living in immense suffering under open sky. Meanwhile, prices of daily necessities including rice, atta, salt and fire box have gone up. Per kg rice is being sold at Taka 18 in the flood-hit areas. About eight lakh people

have been marooned by flood water. They are passing days without relief materials.

Standing crops including sugarcane, Aman seeds, Jute and other crops on more than seven lakh acres have been damaged.

Various diseases like diarrhoea and fever have broken out in the affected areas.

Dewanganj, Islampur, Madarganj and Sarishabari upazila courts and other officers have also gone under knee-deep water which is gradually rising.

Medicare could not be extended to the affected people at Madarganj, Dewanganj and Islampur upazilas as there were waist-deep waters on health complexes.

No shelters or relief camps have yet been opened in Jamalpur. A negligible number at marooned people has been rescued.

The most worst affected upazilas are Madarganj, Dewanganj and Islampur.

More than three lakh people have taken shelter at different flood control embankment, railway stations and railway lines.

Four thousands flood-hit people have been taken shelter in Jamalpur Public Hall.

Bahadurabai ghat railway ferry ghat is now seriously threatened the erosion of the river Jamuna. At least 60 shops were washed away by the erosion during the last six days.

The water level of the Brahmaputra at Jamalpur is flowing 89 centimetre above danger mark and Jamuna is flowing at Dewanganj 107 centimeters above red mark.

SM Khairul Basher Chisty, Convener of Jamalpur district unit of BNP urged the Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to help stricken people immediately. Awami League MP Abul Kalam Azad visited flood-hit areas and distributed some relief goods among the distressed people.

**Ministers visit affected areas**

LGRD and Cooperative and Relief and Rehabilitation Ministers Barrister Abdus Salam Tahukdar and Lutfor Rahman on Thursday visited flood affected upazilas of Sarishabari, Madarganj, Melandah, Islampur and Dewanganj.

These upazilas surrounded by the rivers were hit by the devastating flood.

The ministers visited some houses of affected upazilas to assess the extent of damage.

They personally inquired about the condition of the marooned people and assured them of every possible help both in cash and kind. The Minister directed the concerned officials to provide succour to the affected people.

Later in the afternoon, the two ministers reviewed the latest situation of the flood affected areas of the district at a District Relief and Rehabilitation Coordination Committee meeting at the Circuit House auditorium.

**Pabna**

UNB from Pabna adds: About 20,000 people here were marooned as swelling Jamuna engulfed 20 unions in four upazilas of the district on Thursday.

The Jamuna continued to swell and is now flowing 32 centimetres above the danger level, officials said.

District administration allocated Taka 60,000 and 10 metric tons of rice for the affected people. But the amount was inadequate, people alleged.

Meanwhile, erosion in Jamuna had rendered 2000 families homeless in Bera upazila.

About 5000 people have taken shelter at the flood con-

trol embankment here in the upazila.

People in Haturia, Nakalia, Pauranbhanga, Verakhola, Masumdia, Latipur, Kazirhat, Narayanganj, Shkhaganj and Rooppur villages in Bera upazila have been suffering a lot due to continuous erosion of the river.

Meanwhile, the government on Thursday constituted a one-member committee to inquire into the causes of breach in Sonalibazar Jhunkail embankment of the district.

Headed by Abdur Rashid, Chief Engineer of the Teesta Barrage Project, the committee will submit its report within 10 days.

The embankment breached on July 11 causing massive inundation of areas.

Bishnu Halder, executive engineer of Water Development Board here told UNB today "we are in no way responsible for the breach of the embankment."

The construction of the embankment was delayed as the affected farmers obstructed work despite providing grain and expediting compensation for acquiring the land, he said.

"We also informed the matter to the district administration and to the police but they did not help us", Bishnu added.

**Chandpur Govt College closed as students clash**

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, July 19: Chandpur Government College has been closed for a week following a clash between BNP-backed JCD and Awami League backed BCL activists. Fifteen students and three policemen were injured in the clash. Two seriously injured students were removed to Chandpur hospital and the rest were given first aid.

It is learnt that when Awami League was holding a public meeting at Court Station JCD processionists suddenly attacked the meeting. Police lathi-charged the processionists and dispersed them. Police arrested ten students including Mizanur Rahman Maghi General Secretary, Chandpur Government College Students' Union.

A case was registered with Chandpur police station.

**Beggars on rise**

Beggars are on alarming rise in Chandpur town causing great inconveniences to the town dwellers.

There has been a continuous influx of beggars both male and female from different upazilas of the district. A large number of beggars is coming from Haimchar and Matlab upazilas.

Most of the beggars are victims of river erosion. Poor people from rural areas facing acute food crisis and having no work are pouring into the town in quest of job to maintain their livelihood. But for want of job, most of them along with their dependents have been resorting to begging.

These destitute people throng in large numbers in various places like railway station, launch terminals, bus stations, different markets and corridors of different government offices.

The local elite have urged the government to take scheme for their early rehabilitation.

Earlier, the Minister inaugurated the Upazila Parishad building and released fries in the open water by the side of Upazila Parishad premises.

**Fake company cheats unemployed youths**

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, July 19: A large number of unemployed youths of Cox's Bazar district has been cheated by fake companies which have collected nearly Taka 10 lakhs from them on the pretext of providing them attractive jobs.

It is reported that fake company 'Agro Fisheries' opened a gorgeous office in Cox's Bazar town and job seekers thronged there in the hope of securing good job. The company allegedly having its head office at Dhaka collected

**Notes from Madaripur**

From Our Correspondent

MADARIPUR, July 19: Screening of Indian obscene films on commercial basis is going on unabatedly at different places of pourashava affecting the serene atmosphere.

A group of people in collaboration with law enforcing agencies are engaged in exhibiting blue films at different places of residential areas. People of different age groups including school boys are the customers of these film shows. They usually through the area and commit violence.

**Acid thrown on girl**

Acid was thrown on Farida Begum (17), daughter of Abul Kasem Sikder of village Kharakandi under Shibchar upazila recently by Hira Mia of the same village.

According to the police, Kasem Sikder refused the proposal of Hira Mia for marrying Farida. The father settled her marriage with Alamgir of the neighbouring village. On the night of the incident, Farida came out of the house to response to the call of the nature. Suddenly Hira threw acid upon her. Hearing the hue and cry of Farida neighbours came in haste and found her face and neck seriously burnt. She was rushed to the Shibchar Hospital where her condition is improving.

Shibchar police has started a case against Hira Mia and four of his absconding accomplices.

**Veneral disease**

Veneral disease are spreading alarmingly among the students due to increased number and free movement of gay girls in the main areas of the town. Youths are especially tempted by their ugly posture after dusk mostly in old town area.

**Power supply erratic**

Industrial units of the district are incurring heavy loss due to erratic power supply.

Informed sources said, sufferings of domestic consumers have also multiplied.

Power disruption at night for hours together has given rise to anti-social activities, people complained.

**BNP wants to establish rights of people**

SRINAGAR, (Munshiganj). July 19: Minister for Education and Cultural Affairs Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday said BNP government aimed at giving democracy an institutional shape for materialising the hopes and aspirations of the democracy-loving people of the country, reports BSS.

"The autocratic government had damaged all democratic values and institutions" he added.

The Minister was addressing at a reception meeting accorded to him here yesterday.

Presided over by local Upazila Chairman Kazi Artzul Hoq, it was addressed, among others, by State Minister for Posts and Telecommunication, Shamsul Islam, Amanullah Chowdhury Abdul Hye MP, wing Commander (TETD) Hamidullah Khan MP and Begum Shamsun Naher Ahsanullah MP.

The Education and Cultural Affairs Minister said BNP government would establish a corruption-free society based on social justice with the spirit of Bangladesh nationalism. "It will strive hard for making country's economy self-reliant and society happy and prosperous," he said.

Prof. Chowdhury said the BNP government wants to establish the rights of the people and allow them to enjoy all of their basic rights. He added that the government will launch a mass education movement for eradicating illiteracy.



MUNSHIGANJ: Digirpur Hat under Tongbari upazila threatened by the erosion of the river Padma.

— Star photo