

Upazila roundup

GAZIPUR

Workshop on pest control begins today

July 27: A four-day workshop on botanical pest control will be held at Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) here on July 28, a BRRI press release said, reports BSS.

Twenty scientists from India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) will participate in the workshop.

The workshop will review recent scientific advances in botanical pest control by collaborating countries and assess the status and needs in specific technical areas of botanical pest control and to formulate next work plan, the Press release said.

PABNA

PDB engineer, R&H officer arrested

July 27: Sub-Assistant Engineer of PDB, Pabna and a section officer of R and H, Ullapara were arrested with two prostitute girls from a hotel at Sirajganj recently.

It is learnt that police arrested Rajab Ali (50), sub-Assistant-Engineer and Abdul Hannan, Section officer with Silti Khatun (20) and Joana (18) from room no 9 of the hotel Malobka.

A case was filed with Sirajganj thana. In this connection.

SATKHIRA

BMA executives

July 27: The conference of the Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) was held at Satkhira BMA Auditorium recently.

Dr Aftabuzzaman presided over the function while it was addressed, among others, by Dr Abdul Momen, Dr Shyama Prasad Pal, Dr Rashed Reza Khan, Dr Jamshed Ali and Dr Mozammel Haq.

In the conference an 18-member executive committee of BMA Satkhira district unit was also formed with Dr Abdul Momen and Dr Shyama Prasad pal as president and General Secretary respectively.

Smuggled goods

The Customs and Excise department, Satkhira circle seized smuggled Indian goods worth Taka 30 thousand from different Khulna bound minibuses wear at Putkalgata on Satkhira-Khulna road recently.

Acting on a secret information customs personnel led by Chowdhury Mahubul Haq, Superintendent, Customs and Excise Satkhira Circle searched the buses and recovered Indian sarces.

BARISAL

Tk 16.11 crore agri-loan distributed

July 27: Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Barisal zone has distributed an amount of Taka 16.11 crore as agriculture loan among the farmers of 11 southern districts during the 1990-91 fiscal year, reports BSS.

The districts are: Barisal, Jhalakati, Bhola, Pirojpur, Patuakhali, Barguna, Faridpur, Madaripur, Gopalganj, Rajbari and Sarisapur.

According to an official source, the loan was distributed among the farmers to boost agricultural production.

MAULVI BAZAR

Rickshaws create traffic jam

July 27: The rush of unlicensed rickshaws violating traffic rules have caused a serious problem to pedestrians and vehicular movement in the town, reports UNB.

Dwellers complain that pullers are parking their three-wheelers indiscriminately creating the traffic jam.

These rickshaws mostly driven by boys aged between 8 to 10 years are responsible for frequent accidents, they added.

It is alleged that when a bus reaches at a stoppage, a lot of rickshaws gherao the bus blocking its door for which it becomes difficult for the passengers to get in and out of the bus.

In addition, they charge fares according to their will causing suffering to the passengers.

Law enforcers also remain indifferent to the growing menace.

It is alleged.

SHERPUR

Food crisis in flood-hit areas

July 27: Serious food crisis has been persisting all over the district resulting in further increase in prices of essential.

Food crisis has been very acute in flood affected areas and scarcity of pure drinking water is also prevailing. The river Brahmaputra had washed away crops on about 50,000 acres of land.

Besides, rice and wheat sanctioned under OMS system are being sold in blackmarket in all the upazilas of the district. Some dishonest dealers of food grains in connivance with a section of dishonest officials are engaged in the malpractice.

KISHOREGANJ

Rabindra-Nazrul Jayanti observed

July 27: In observance of Rabindra-Nazrul Jayanti a discussion meeting and cultural function organised by district Nabin Mela were held at the local Shilpaka Academy hall recently.

Presided over by Sheikh Masud Iqbal, the function was attended by Iqbal Hossain Khan, ADC(General). As chief guest. Among others advocate Fazlul Kabir, Md Abdul Latif, Karar Kayser and Samar kanti Sarker took part in discussion.

The cultural function was participated by Suchi, Mousumi, Ajmal, Jahangir, Sanjoy, Rema, Lima, Salina, Kahinur, Mani, Keya, Papri and Namita Saha.

SYLHET

Businessman robbed of Tk 2 lakh

July 27: A businessman of the town was robbed of 2 lakh Tuesday night by some miscreants, police here said, reports UNB.

The incident occurred when the victim Tara Miah, President of Khalighat Rice Traders Samity was returning home at around 8 pm on the same day.

Witnesses said three armed miscreants riding a motor-bike intercepted him at Subhanighat area of the town and snatched the amount at gun point.

SIRAJGANJ

Flood water recedes: diarrhoea breaks out

July 27: Water-borne diseases have broken out in all the nine upazilas of the district with the flood water receding gradually.

Chairmen of the affected upazilas told UNB that diarrhoeal diseases claimed seven lives and attacked more than 500 people during the last three days.

The dead included two in Sadar, one each in Belkuchi, Raiganj and Tarash and two in Kasipur upazilas, they added.

Official sources, however, put the death toll at two.

Water Development Board sources said the overall flood situation in the district improved as the water level of the Jamuna fell by 9 cm during the last 12 hours ending 6 am this morning.

BARISAL

River erosions render thousands homeless

July 27: Several thousand of people of Barisal and Bhola districts have been rendered homeless by the erosions of different rivers over the last few weeks, reports BSS.

The menace of erosion has taken a serious turn in some areas of these districts with the advent of the rainy season.

A large tract of land under Charkausa and Charmonal unions in Barisal district has gone into the river Kirtankhola. Several hundred families of these unions have become shelterless. The worst affected union is Charmonal which is surrounded on all sides by the rivers. Hundreds of acres of cultivable land in the district have gone into the river. The workshop of the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) has been threatened by the erosion.

About 5,000 people of the unions of Ilisha, Gazipur, Gangarampur, Kachia, Shilpur, Dhalia, Nazipur and Ghoserhat of Bhola district have been rendered homeless by the erosions of the mighty rivers of Meghna and Tetulia. The situation has deteriorated recently.



Jute, the golden fibre of the country, being dried at a village in Narsingdi district.

— Star photo

Passengers hostage to porters

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, July 27: Porters at different bus terminals, ferry ghats and railway stations of the country including Bhairab bus stand, ferry ghat and railway station let loose a reign of terror. Oppressive behaviour and harassment by the porters and hawkers to the travelling passengers in these places have been persisting unabated for a long time.

The passengers are virtually hostage to the porters.

It is learnt that any passenger carrying goods or luggage weighing over 5 kgs has to pay porter charge at the Bhairab Bazar bus stand. Besides, nobody can carry such personal luggage over 5 kgs on his

own. If any passenger does so, he has to pay coolie charge with penalty, according to the rules of Bus Sramik Samity Federation and Coolie Mazdoor Association at Kamalapur bus stand and Bhairab Bazar. Thus hundreds of passengers become victims of the porters and are insulted every day at Kamalapur bus stand. Apart from this, in the ferry ghat a large number of hawkers, vendors and beggars pose an unbearable annoyance to the travelling passengers who cannot get in or get down from the buses smoothly. Passengers are very often insulted and maltreated there by the porters and hawkers when they dare protest sometimes. The same practice goes on un-

interrupted at the Bhairab railway station. It may be mentioned that the Bhairab Bazar is a transit point for the bus and railways for the south eastern region of the country. Aggrieved passengers have urged the new administration and concerned authorities to look into their problems and take urgent necessary steps.

Rampant lifting of cattleheads has created panic among the poor farmers of Pakundia, Katiadi, Kishoreganj and Hossainpur upazilas of the district. The farmers alleged that the cattle lifters are stealing the cows and peeling off their skins.

According to the sources, 50 cows were stolen and skin

of ten others were peeled off recently. As a result, the panic stricken farmers are compelled to pass their nights in the cowsheds to protect their cattleheads.

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

Moreover, cattle lifters even demand ransom from the owners for releasing their cattle through their agents. The people of the areas demanded of the concerned authorities to take immediate measures to control the situation.

21 injured as students clash

From Our Correspondent

NANDAIL, July 27: Twenty on students were injured at Ishwarganj and Fulpur upazilas following clashes between two rival group recently.

It is learnt that a severe clash took place between the workers of the Chhatra League (S-A) and Jatayatabadi Chhatra Dal at the Ishwarganj College premises following an attack on the procession of Chhatra League during election campaign. The clash engulfed the entire college premises and lasted about six hours causing

severe injuries to 15 students including VP Abdul Malek and GS Kairul Islam. It turned furious at Fulpur bus stand leaving many injured including Abdul Khalek, Osman and Biplob of Chhatra League, Mafdul Haq and Mamoon of Chhatra Dal.

The UNO, Fulpur along with the police rushed to the spot and imposed section 144 to bring the situation under control.

The people of Mausuli demanded stoppage of Issa Khan

Express train at Mausuli railway station to reduce the sufferings of the passengers.

It is learnt that there is no train from Bhairab Bazar from 6 a.m to 2 p.m except Issa Khan Express at 9 a.m. which does not halt at Mausuli. On the other hand there is also no train from Mymensingh from 1 p.m to 8 a.m except Issa Khan Express which passes through Mausuli at 5 p.m without stoppage. As a result, the passengers are unable to travel by train from both the directions during the foresaid gaps of time which causes much inconvenience to the passengers.

Station Master at Mausuli told this correspondent that the income may rise to a great extent if Issa Khan Express is allowed to stop at this station.

Last audit and inspection report provided a recommendation in favour of Issa Khan's halt at Mausuli, the Station Master Mr Alauddin added.

Meanwhile, waiting rooms one for the male and another for the female passengers constructed at Mausuli Railway Station in early sixties need essential furniture, it is learnt.

The chairs, tables and benches supplied by the then government were damaged during the liberation war in 1971. But since then furniture was not supplied by the railway authorities, it is alleged.

Excessive fares being realised from launch passengers

PATUAKHALI, July 27: Excessive fares are being charged from launch passengers travelling through different waterways of the southern region, reports UNB.

Passengers alleged that staffs of launches do not maintain any rule in charging fares from them.

It simply depends on their whims, a passenger on board a launch on Dhaka-Barisal route said recently. They even threaten the passengers physically if they fail to pay heed to their demands, he added.

These launches often provide shelter to miscreants on agreed terms increasing the insecurity of the travellers, it is alleged.

The miscreants often jump into rivers from the running launches with passenger's belongings. These incidents are common on Dhaka-Barguna and Dhaka-Barisal routes.

Though some launches have Ansars, yet they remain indifferent to the growing problem, the passengers complained.

Besides, scarcity of drinking water and absence of toilets in these launches have made the situation more pitiable for the passengers.

Govt to reopen laid off mills gradually

From Our Correspondent

COMILLA, July 27: The State Minister for Textiles Major (Retd) Abdul Mannan said that the government would gradually open all the closed mills and factories to enhance the production. Halima Textile Mills will be reopened from August 1 and will go into production from September 1, he added.

The Minister was addressing a meeting at the mill gate which is laid off since 1986.

He further added that the government will strengthen the economy by boosting the agricultural production and setting up small industries. The government is determined about the reopening of the mills which are now closed or laid off.

He asked the management, workers and the labourers to work hard with utmost honesty and sincerity to make the country self-reliant. It is necessary to strengthen the hands of the present government to establish a self-reliant economy, the Minister added.

He called upon the mill workers to utilise every scope for rebuilding our economy with the spirit of patriotism.

The meeting was presided over by Captain (Retd) Nazir Ahmed and addressed, among others, by Mrs. Rabiya Chowdhury, Sramik leader Salamullah, Omer Faruk. Earlier, he inspected Comilla Chisti Textile Mill. He was accompanied by the Minister for Jute Ashraf Hossain Bhuiyan, Mrs Barkatullah Bulu MP, Marma Cheing MP, Halima Begum MP and Chairman, BTMC Sharif Ali.

Student's union election of Comilla Victoria College was held peacefully recently.

Full panel of Chhatra League win the election. Abdul Hai Bablu and Shamol Kumar Chandra were elected VP and General Secretary respectively.

HSC exam

HSC examination of 1991 will begin from September 12 as per the declaration of July 17, according to a Board notification. Details of the time schedule will be reannounced soon.

Notes from Madaripur

From Our Correspondent

MADARIPUR, July 27: Bangladesh Krishi Bank has undertaken a post-cyclone agriculture rehabilitation programme of Taka 16.85 crore in 11 southern districts.

According to BKB, the amount will be disbursed among the affected farmers to boost agricultural output in Barisal, Patuakhali, Jhalakati, Barguna, Bhola, Madaripur, Shariatpur, Pirojpur, Rajbari, Gopalganj and Faridpur districts.

According to the official sources, more than 71,3000 loanee farmers of these districts were badly affected by the last devastating cyclone and tidal surge.

Prices of essentials up

Prices of essentials have shot up in the town and the adjoining areas over the last few days with the implementation of VAT Edibles like soybean and mustard oil are being sold at Taka 42 and 45 per kg against Taka 38 to 40 per kg last week. Coconut oil is being sold at Taka 49 against Taka 42 per kg.

Each dozen of ball soap sells at Taka 115 against Taka 108 a few days back. Prices of different varieties of ball pen and refill have also registered a sharp rise.

Unlicensed medicine shop pose health hazard

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, July 27: Mushroom growth of unlicensed medicine shops in Sirajganj district threatens public health.

It is learnt that there are more than 3000 unlicensed medicine shops in the district. In remote villages, such shop owners are running their business and they are popularly known as village doctors. Life-saving drugs including higher antibiotics are sold in these shops without any prescription of registered medical practitioners.

It is alleged that tranquilizers are also sold from the unlicensed medicine shops to the drug abusers.

The only superintendent of Drugs Administration hardly visits the upazilas. Residing in Pabna he submits reports of greater Pabna district.

While contacted over telephone. The superintendent was not available to give further information.

Girl burnt to death

UNB adds: A girl was roasted alive and her elder brother sustained serious injury when fire gutted four thatched houses in Patkpara slum area in Sadar upazila here Friday, police said.

The victim, Nasima (12), daughter of a day-labourer Chandu Fakir, died on way to hospital. She was trying to hide under a wooden stool when the fire caught their entire house this evening.

Her brother Habibur Rahman (18) was rushed to hospital where his condition was stated to be critical.

Witnesses said the fire originated from the kitchen of their house and soon engulfed neighbouring thatched houses within minutes.

Local people after frantic efforts put out the fire.

Suicide

Baru Bibi (65) wife of late Asmuddin Howladar of village Manikpur under Shibchar upazila committed suicide by hanging herself. Family feud was the reason behind the suicide, it is learnt.

A case has been registered with the Shibchar thana in this connection.

Potters in distress

Hundreds of potter families have been facing various problems due to lack of requisite funds and scarcity of raw materials.

Moreover, growing tendency of using aluminium utensils instead of earthen once has rendered many potters unemployed.

According to the sources, potters families reside in groups in different areas of the district. Presently they are despaired of their profession as they have no working capital. They are unable to ensure any loan from the banks neither they can afford to buy raw materials as prices are beyond their purchasing capacity.

According to the potters there are some industrial concerns and commercial banks to look after the potter industry. But no major steps or initiatives have yet been taken by any of these bodies.

BSF returns bodies of 3 Bangladeshis

MEHERPUR, July 27: The Border Security Force (BSF) of India Thursday handed over three bodies of Bangladeshi nationals to BDR at Mujib Nagar border outpost (BOP), reports UNB.

The victims were identified as: Panchat Ali and Abu Jahel of Tangremath village and Motur Rahman of Ujalpur village in sadar upazila of the district.

Meherpur thana police handed over the bodies to their relatives. Deputy Commissioner of the district Mamtazur Rahman and BDR Commanding Officer of the 13th battalion Mustafizur Rahman confirmed the news.

BSF claimed that the victims crossing the border went to Shantnagar village in Tehatta thana of India for committing a theft Wednesday night. Later they were caught and beaten to death by the villagers, they added.

Woes of phone subscribers

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, July 27: The Government is incurring huge revenue loss every year due to mismanagement and malpractices in the local telephone exchange and NWD offices.

The subscribers and others with urgent messages for their and kins residing at far flung places have to wait for hours to gather to get a line. Where as anyone who bribes Taka 20 to 50 gets the line at once, it is alleged.

It is further alleged that some telephone holders have monthly contracts for talking hours together without any extra charges. Some operators in the district telephone exchange office have been collecting illegal money from the telephone subscribers. The amount is shared by the officials, it is learnt.

Besides, inspite of several transfer orders some officials are still working there because they got their transfer orders cancelled by means of illegal gratification.

Most of the lines under the local exchange remain disrupted for days together for which journalists fail to sent their messages to national

dialles in Dhaka.

Subscribers complained about frequent cross-connections and other disturbances in their telephone sets. The operators in local telephone office seldom attends to the trunk calls. Some linemen and

operators illegally realise money from the subscribers.

Moreover only eight channels of the NWD introduced a few years ago are now functioning. But as call load is too heavy only eight lines are unable to cope with the situation.

Besides, the telephone exchange of the Kishoreganj district town may go out of order at any moment if necessary steps are not taken for its repair. Switch room, truck board and inquiry board of the exchange are about to be inoperative.

The subscribers have to face various hassards like no call, miss call, cross connection and no dialling tone etc.

At least 400 applications for the new telephone lines are lying pending with the exchange. The regional authorities has no power to give new lines, it is gathered.

A high official of the department said that government has a plan to set up a new telephone exchange with 1000 lines to meet the demand of new subscribers. But it is impossible if adequate spare parts are no provided in due time, it is learnt.

Husband kills wife for dowry

MADARIPUR, July 27: A young housewife of village Charjanjal in Shibchar upazila was allegedly beaten to death by her husband, police said here today, reports UNB.

According to villagers, the husband Shamsu Howladar, a driver working in Dhaka, came home deserting his job a few days back. Since then he was pressuring his wife to bring Tk 4000 from her parents. On the fulfillment of his demand he claimed for more money.

The victim Rowshanara Begum (25), on the fateful day recently refused to bring more money from her poor father. At this Shamsu got furious and allegedly started beating her mercilessly killing her on the spot.

A case has been lodged in this connection.



State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Dr Khondaker Mosharraf Hossain inaugurating the electrification of Palli Bidyut Samity at village Airgaon under Daudkandi upazila in Comilla on Friday last.