

**Upazila roundup**

**MANIKGANJ**  
**Dacoits loot valuables**

June 19: A gang of dacoits looted valuables worth about Taka 1.50 lakh from a cargo vessel in the river Padma on Saturday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the vessel MV Shoukat was heading towards Baghabari from Maoa when a group of dacoits numbering 10-12 attacked it with deadly weapons.

A case was filed with local police in this connection.

**KUSHTIA**  
**Processing of raw skin poses health hazard**

June 19: Storing and processing of raw animal skin in the town here have been causing health hazards to the inhabitants, reports UNB.

According to sources, raw skins are salted in the open air adjacent to residential areas emitting bad odour.

The situation turns worse every year after Eid-ul-Azha when skin dealers dump skins in unauthorised make-shift sheds and dry them in open places for months together.

Town-dwellers have urged the authorities to take necessary action in this regard.

**RAJSHAHI**  
**Power failure frequent**

June 19: Office files are being used to wave off heat as electric fans remain off most of the time and hand fans are expensive, reports UNB.

Who cares for the vital documents lost or destroyed as long as the authorities do not ensure uninterrupted power supply, some of the desk workers were heard saying here.

Local people complained that power breakdown had become a common feature in the metropolitan area and around affecting normal production in mills and factories and administrative work in the public and private offices.

**Assault on newsman protested**

June 19: Speakers at a rally here protested the alleged assault on the President of the local Bangladesh Sangbadik Samity and demanded exemplary punishment of those responsible for the incidents, reports UNB.

The victim, who is also a district correspondent of vernacular daily Banglar Bani was manhandled by some miscreants last week.

Chaired by Sadequr Rahman, the district correspondent of the Daily Sangbad, the meeting was also addressed, by local journalists Md Arzoo, Rashidul Islam, Nurul Hussain, Mashtur Rahman Khan, Manik Lal Banik, Pijush Kanti Acharye, Munsur Kamal, Ashiqul Islam, Syed Md Shajahan and Shahidur Rahman.

They also decided in the meeting held recently in the town not to cover news on political activities upto June 30.

Later the journalists brought out a procession and handed over a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner.

**BEHARIPUR**  
**58 FWP schemes implemented**

June 19: About 58 projects were completed under Food for Works Programme in the district during the current season, reports UNB.

Informed sources said about 3300 metric tons of wheat were utilised for the execution of the projects in five upazilas of the district.

Of the total projects, eleven were executed in Sadar, nine in Bhandaria, 11 in Nazipur, four in Khukhali, 10 in Madaripur and 13 in Nesarabad upazila.

The projects included construction and repair of embankments, roads and excavation of canals.

**PATUAKHALI**  
**BKB to disburse Tk 70 crore**

June 19: Bangladesh Krikti Bank (BKB) will disburse 70 crore as loan among the farmers of eleven southern district during the 1991-92 fiscal, reports UNB.

Patuakhali, Borguna, Bhoila, Barisal, Jhalakati, Pirojpur, Madaripur, Faridpur, Shariatpur, Rajbari and Gopalganj districts will be covered by the programme.

It is learnt that the bank will disburse Taka 800 crore as agri-loan countrywide during the next financial year.

Bank sources said plans have already been worked out in this regard and are likely to be effective on or from July 1.

**MADARIPUR**  
**Body recovered**

June 19: The body of Nizam Khalifa (30) of village Arza Duttapara, Shubchar was found in a fishing net near Utrali hat under Shubchar upazila. He had been missing since May 24, police said.

Syed Beqari, a friend of the deceased called him out from his house at night on May 24 and since then Nizam was missing.

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**C'NAWABGANJ**  
**2 jailed for bank robbery**

June 19: Two people were sentenced to ten years rigorous imprisonment each in absentia in connection with a bank robbery case, reports UNB.

Court sources said the convicts, Parul and Firoj of village Binodpur under Shubganj upazila were fined Taka 10,000 each and in default will suffer rigorous imprisonment for another year.

The District and Sessions Judge Azizur Rahman delivered the judgement recently.

According to the prosecution story, a gang of miscreants looted about Taka 8 lakh from a vehicle while money was being carried to the Agrani Bank branch of Binodpur on December 6, 1988. They stopped the vehicle at Ekbarpur by exploding hand bombs and snatched the amount.

A case was filed but the criminals went into hiding after the incident.

Following investigation, police submitted charge-sheet against the accused and the judge after examining records and witnesses awarded the punishment.

**NARAIL**  
**Nabaganga silted up**

June 19: The river Nabaganga flowing through Lohagara and Kalia upazilas of the district has been silted up posing threat to navigation and irrigation in winter, reports UNB.

Innumerable shoals have emerged at different points of the river endangering transportation of cargo vessels and motor launches.

The river bed, dries up at many points in the winter season and overflows it banks in the rainy season, inundating a large area of the district.

Locals have urged the authorities to arrange comprehensive dredging or excavation at the vulnerable points immediately.

**JAMALPUR**  
**IRRI procurement target achieved**

June 19: Procurement target of IRRI and Boro paddy by Food Department has been achieved in the district.

District Food Controller Mr Abu Taher told BSS that the target was fixed at 300 metric tonnes. The target has been achieved through 13 purchasing centres under seven upazilas in the district, he said.

**PIROJPUR**  
**2 shot dead in Jhenidah**

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**Erosion victims reconstructing houses**

JAMALPUR, June 19: The people of Dewanganj who had lost their homesteads due to erosion by the river Jamuna have started reconstruction of their houses on land reclaimed from the river bed after 28 years, reports BSS.

The river Jamuna had washed away about 2,000 acres of land in Dakatia, Char Dakatia, Char Magoorhat, Sinal, Khulabari Sakua, Char Bahadurabad and Sangsar Char mauzas. Hundreds of families had lost their homesteads and became shelterless.

The projects included construction and repair of embankments, roads and excavation of canals.

**INCESANT RAINS**  
**damage Aus paddy in Chandpur**

CHANDPUR, June 19: Aus paddy on about 30,000 acres of land at Chandpur Irrigation Project was damaged due to heavy downpour during the last week.

According to Water Development Board sources, about 70,000 acres were brought under high yielding variety of Aus at Chandpur Irrigation Project area in the current season. Many seed-beds and seedlings went under water due to heavy rainfall.

Chandpur irrigation project has been operating pumps to drain out the water from the inundated project area. Besides, Aus cultivation at Haziganj, Chandpur, Matlab, Haimchar, Shahrastra upazilas have been affected by incessant rains.

**IMMUNIZATION**  
**week observed**

June 19: On the occasion of National Immunization Week EPI Volunteers Forum, Comilla organised a workshop here recently, reports BSS.

Earlier, they organised a rally and a procession which paraded various slum areas in the town. They also held discussion meetings in Suvapur, Bhatpara, Asoktala, Race Course and Chartha.



Sands collected from the river Buriganga being stacked at Fatulla for sale. — Star photo

**Pulse production drops in Kurigram**

KURIGRAM, June 19: Pulse production in all the nine upazilas of the district has been decreasing fast creating numerous problems to the farmers. According to the sources, previously pulses like mug, mushur, mashkhalai, khesari, orohor, motor, chhola etc were cultivated in the district abundantly during Rabi season.

People of the district after consumption earned much by selling the surplus quantity in the hats and bazars and their economic condition was also satisfactory. On the other hand the farmers had enough fodder for their domestic animals.

Besides, the people did not suffer from malnutrition because pulses are highly nutritious.

But now cultivation of these pulses has been reduced to a great extent. They are cultivating IRRI and Boro on their lands instead of pulses. At present most farmers are facing acute scarcity of pulses and the prices of the item also has been increased because of its short supply. As a result, in the rural areas 90 per cent of the people have been deprived of necessary nutrition. On the other hand farmers are facing a serious problem in rearing their domestic animals for want of fodder obtained from the pulses.

Introduction of IRRI and Boro cultivation and decline of pulse cultivation have plunged the farmers into financial problems.

Meanwhile, production of IRRI-Boro is also decreasing, it is learnt.

Heavy rainfall during the last few days has paralysed the normal life of the town dwellers.

Low lying areas of the district have been submerged. As a result, poor people and daily labourers have been hard-hit.

On the other hand price hike of the essential commodities has marked a sharp rise in the markets.

**Mango growers urged to adopt new technology**

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, June 19: Agriculture, Irrigation, Flood Control and Water Development Minister, M Majidul Haq called upon the mango growers to adopt new technologies for increasing mango production, reports BSS.

The Minister was addressing a day-long farmers' rally on 'improved mango production technology' at Mango Research Station here on Friday.

Organised by Chapainawabganj Mango Research Station, the rally was addressed, among others, by Syed Manzoor Hossain, MP, Azizul Haq Mollah, MP, Agriculture Secretary K M Rabbani, FAO Resident Representative to Bangladesh P Z Meyers and a mango grower Md Shajahan Ali and Director General of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute.

The Agriculture Minister said the mango farmers could provide the nutritious food in a large scale as well as develop their economy through increasing production of the cash crop like mango. He said, during the last two decades mango production of the country had fallen to 1.50 lakh ton from 4.50 lakh tons. Per capita fruit intake was also reduced to half, he added.

Stressing the need for cultivating improved species of mango trees, its proper care, and replacing unproductive types of mango were exhibited.

The Agriculture Minister also addressed the district level officials at DC's conference room.

In the meeting the Minister reiterated the pledge of the BNP government for establishing a corruption-free administration and urged them to execute the development programmes with utmost sincerity and dedication.

**2 shot dead in Jhenidah**

JHENIDAH, June 19: Tokkel Ali (42), a JSD (Inu) worker and an ex-union Parishad member of village Gopalpur under Saikupa upazila was shot dead at Habibpur one mile off Saikupa Monday night by a gang of unidentified armed miscreants.

The victim who happened to be a small trader was working at a paddy husking mill at Habibpur. At about 9 pm the miscreants numbering seven or eight raided the mill, caught hold of him and shot him dead.

A case was lodged with Saikupa thana and the body was sent to Jhenidah hospital for autopsy.

In another incident Abdur Rashid Khan (45) of village Sabdarpur under Kotchandpur upazila was shot dead by unknown gunmen on June 16.

**One killed in road mishap**

One person was killed and 20 others were injured in a road accident at Kaligonj on Jessore-Kushtia road Tuesday morning. The accident occurred when a Jessore bound minibus skidded off the road and rammmed a road side tree killing an unidentified person aged about 25.

Of the injured persons, seven were admitted to Jessore, four in Kaligonj and three in Jhenidah hospitals.

The conditions of six injured were stated to be critical. ASP, Jhenidah, visited the spot.

**4 killed in well collapse**

Four persons met the tragic end of their lives at the bottom of a 20-feet deep well when the upper portion of the well collapsed on them.

The incident took place at village Baluakanda under Gafarganj upazila recently.

Fakhar Uddin (35), Abul Kashem (35), Alauddin (35) and Enamul Haq (22), got into the bottom of an unused well to lift the brick lying underneath.

Suddenly the bricks and earth of the upper portion of the well eroded into the bottom and the illfated persons were trapped inside the well and met the tragic death.

**Shambuganj bridge likely to open to traffic in Sept**

MYMENSINGH: The 464.30 metre long Shambuganj bridge on the river Old Brahmaputra constructed on Chinese aid is likely to be commissioned in September. — Star photo



**Train derails for third day**

FARIDPUR, June 19: Train communication between Rajbari and Kushtia has been disrupted following derailment of 502 down shuttle train at Pangsha and Kushtia railway stations today, reports UNB.

Operation of seven passenger trains including two intercity, trains, Jumuna and Titumir and Khulna Mail were suspended following the derailment of Kushtia-bound train.

The train was derailed twice on its route, first at Pangsha and later again on its way to Kushtia, Railway sources here said.

Two relief trains one each from Rajbari and Ishurdi were sent for rescue.

Four other trains were derailed in the last two days (Sunday and Monday) on Rajbari-Kushtia route.

**Sister beaten to death by brother**

SATKHIRA, June 19: Younger sister was beaten to death by her step brother on June 16 last.

It is reported that following family troubles the brother mercilessly beat his step sister Bhaduri (6) and mother Durga Rani (30) of village Debalay under Shyamnagar upazila. As a result they sustained serious injuries, and they were admitted to Shyamnagar Hospital in a critical condition. Later Bhaduri died.

**30 injured in road mishap**

Thirty persons were injured in a road accident near Puthia upazila on Dhaka-Rajshahi highway recently.

According to the eye witnesses the accident occurred when a Rajshahi bound passenger bus (Pabna-BA 374) was plunged into the road side ditch following brake failure. Of the injured nine were admitted to the Puthia Health Complex. The driver managed to escape.

A case has been filed with local police station in this connection.

**Seminar ends**

A month-long seminar on science course for college teachers under Rajshahi University sponsored by Institute for Advancement of Science and Technology Teaching concluded recently.

Vice-Chancellor of RU Professor Amanullah Ahmed gave away certificates among the participants as the chief guest in the concluding ceremony. Among others the seminar was addressed by Akhtaruzzaman and Sulaiman Ali.

**Death anniversary**

The third death anniversary of Shahid Jamil Akhtar Ratan, a student leader of BCM (Bangladesh Chhatra Maitree) who was killed in 1988 was observed on June 2 at RU.

A discussion meeting was held with Shahidul Islam in the chair. Among others, the meeting was addressed by Bangladesh Chhatra Maitree (BCM), RU unit, Babul Khan GS, Md Mohsin and Shahn Chowdhury.

**Ananda Mohan College students union executives**

MYMENSINGH, June 19: Golam Ferdous Zilu of Bangladesh Chhatra League (S-A) and AHM Masudul Alam Khan Tanna of Jatyatabadi Chhatra Dal were elected Vice-President and General Secretary of the Government Ananda Mohan College Central Students Union, Election Commission sources of the college said here yesterday, reports BSS.

**Drinking water scarce in Dinajpur**

DINAJPUR, June 19: Acute scarcity of pure drinking water has been prevailing all over the district of Dinajpur, particularly in the rural areas.

The number of tubewells sunk by the Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department are not adequate to meet the requirements of the people. Out of these tubewells, nearly 20 per cent are out of order for a long time. There is virtually no arrangement for repairing or resinking of these tubewells which have been causing untold sufferings to the people of this district, it is alleged.

According to an estimate, about 1,840 tubewells have gone out of order in 13 upazilas of the district. Besides, a large number of tubewells has also gone partially out of order. They require immediate repair and resinking.

**Valuables looted**

JHENIDAH, June 19: A gang of miscreants allegedly ransacked and looted away valuables worth about Taka three lakh from the office and official residence of Bangladesh Baptist Mission here Friday, reports UNB.

According to the mission, the looted household and official articles include electronic goods, crockeries, clothes, furniture.

The sources said hundreds of people came to the mission to purchase the auctioned articles on the day. At one stage a gang of miscreants started ransacking the mission and decamped with the booty.

Eyewitnesses said police, on information, rushed to the spot but failed to stop looting of the miscreants. But police said they arrived at the spot after the looting of valuables.

A case has been filed in this connection.

**Notes from Rajshahi**

**From Our Correspondent**

RAJSHAHI, June 19: World Environment Day was observed here by different socio-voluntary organisations in a befitting manner.

A seminar was held at the Rajshahi University under the auspices of Environment Centre to mark the occasion. Vice Chancellor of Rajshahi University Professor Amanullah Ahmed, attended the function as the chief guest while Professor Hai Shibli as special guest and the seminar was presided over by Professor Abdul Hamid.

Dr Shamsul Alam, Dr Syed Rafikul Alam, Wahidul Karim, Abdur Rahman and Professor MI Juberi read out six papers on environment, in the seminar.

Speakers at the meeting stressed the need for planting more trees to maintain ecological balance in the country.

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**A blood donation camp was opened on the occasion where 75 bags of blood were collected.**

Another blood donation camp was organised jointly by RU Rover Scouts and Rajshahi Medical College Sandhani unit held on June 13 at the premises of RU Central Library, where 56 bags of blood were collected.

Professor Jafer Raza Khan, Dean of Science Faculty of RU attended the function as chief guest and distributed certificates and coatpins among the donors.