

Upazila roundup

BRAHMANBARIA

Minor boy killed as two boats collide

July 4: A minor boy was killed and ten others were injured when two engine boats collided at Enderson canal near Ullapara in Sadar upazila, police said here today, reports UNB.

Sujan Mia (3), son of Minnat Ali of Sarkarpara in the town died on the spot after he was hit by one of the boats.

The injured were rushed to different health centres with serious injuries.

A case was filed.

MAULVIBAZAR

Indian bidi recovered

July 4: Police recovered Indian bidi worth about Taka 60,000 from a coaster near a bridge here, reports UNB.

Acting on a secret information, police stopped a running coaster near Barak bridge on Dhaka-Sylhet highway and seized the contraband recently.

Police seized the coaster-band and arrested the driver Tajud Ali and helper Salim of the vehicle.

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

PABNA

3 BCL activists arrested

July 4: Police Monday arrested three student activists of Chhatra League (S-A) in connection with Aslam murder case, reports UNB.

The arrested are Kamrul Hasan Mintu (25), former General Secretary of Pabna Edward College students union, Babu, worker of Chhatra League and Hasan Kabir Arif, former VP of the college.

Aslam, a local leader of Chhatra League was allegedly killed by the workers of Chhatra League (S-A) on June 16, 1988.

JHENIDAH

Double murder

July 4: Tabibur Rahman allegedly killed his wife and the only daughter on the Eid day at village Shimnagar under Kotchandpur upazila here, reports UNB.

Police said the reason was not known but vigorous investigation was going on to solve the double murder mystery.

According to sources, on the fateful day, Tabibur picked up a quarrel with his wife China Khatun (30) and she died after being beaten up by him.

His daughter Tania (5) was said to have been killed when she declared she would disclose the murder to the villagers.

But police said there were conflicting versions on the murder.

The bodies were sent to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital for post mortem.

Prices of essentials rise

Prices of some essential commodities have shot up in local markets here on the assumption of fresh imposition of tax.

Soyabean oil now sells in the market at Taka 40 per kg as against Taka 32 last week. Ball pen and re-fill are being sold one Taka higher than before.

Prices of other kinds of edible oil and soap have also gone up. But the price of rice, however, remained more or less static.

BETAGI

Roads in sorry state

July 4 Betagi upazila has been going economically backward owing to lack of easy communication to the headquarters, reports UNB.

Roads leading to the upazila town are in deplorable condition causing much inconvenience to movement of pedestrians and vehicular traffic. It is not only difficult but also time consuming for the people to come to the upazila.

Many cracks and potholes have developed on the Sadar road, Barar road and college road threatening vehicular transportation.

Trucks and buses often go inoperative after plying on these roads, owners of vehicles said.

Besides, water-logging and indiscriminate dumping of

garbage have made the roads and lanes inaccessible and the environment polluted.

SIRAJGANJ

Minor girl rescued

July 4: Police Monday rescued a minor girl from the town area after she was missing for 17 days, reports UNB.

Three people were also arrested in this connection.

Police said Sharifa Akhter (15), daughter of a police constable of Rahmatganj village in Sadar upazila was kidnapped by a gang of miscreants led by Akhteruzzaman (24) of Khidramatia village of Belkuchi upazila on June 13.

Akhter, forcibly marrying her, took Sharifa to Pabna and went round different districts. When he arrived with her at Sirajganj town ending his sojourn, police swooped on them and rescued the girl.

Police also arrested Akhter's brother Majedur Rahman (30), and a co-villager Selim (26).

Sharifa is now under police custody.

FENI

2 killed in truck mishap

July 4 Two people were killed on the spot and another sustained serious injury when a speeding truck fell into a roadside ditch near Podua on Dhaka-Chittagong highway, police said here today, reports UNB.

The deceased were identified as Horihar Shaha (22) and Parimal Shaha. Seriously injured Kabir Ahmed was rushed to the Sadar hospital. All of them were the loaders of the truck.

Witnesses said the accident occurred recently when the driver of the Feni bound truck (Dhaka Metro NA-9494) lost control over the steering.

Police seized the truck. But the driver, however, managed to escape.

A case was lodged in this connection.

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Call to wage war against drug traffickers

DINAJPUR, July 4: The International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking under the aegis of the United Nations was observed all over the district on June 26 last. Different socio-cultural organisations held rallies, processions and discussions in observance of the day.

Dinajpur Zila Press Club arranged a discussion meeting on the occasion with Nurul Amin Chhanda in the chair. It was addressed by Nurul Islam Sarker, Alhaj Abdul Majid, Sadakat Ali Khan, Maniruzzaman Babla, Shahin Hossain, Anwar Hossain, Shaful Islam and Mrs Nazmun Nahar Begum.

Nurul Islam Sarker called upon the people to come forward to create social awareness about the disastrous effects of drug and take a pledge to free the country from this menace. He said, during the last autocratic regime drug addiction, specially to heroin, spread in a big way. If this situation continue uninterrupted, the entire social, economic and national systems would be destroyed one day.

He said during the past regime many people who were well placed both socially and politically had allegedly been reported to be linked with abuse of drug and illicit drug trafficking. He said, "now is the time to be vocal against oneself, the family, the society and the nation".

Referring to the report ten per cent of the addicts coming to the hospitals were drivers. He said this contributed to increase road accidents. He said

strict measures should be taken to addicted drivers so that they do not get driving licence.

Al Haj Abdul Majid said drug addiction is a social disease which can destroy a family, a society and a nation. It is a social crime and every religion prohibits drug addiction, he said.

Sadakat Ali Khan dwelling at length on the history of introduction of this vice in human society he said. China first realised the growing menace of drug abuse early in this century and had initiated an effort for international drug control. Since then there has been an alarming rise of drug abuse all over the world, and the drug trafficking as an in-

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ternational business with its own economic and political power was established, he added.

Mrs Nazmun Nahar called upon all voluntary and social organisations to launch a united and integrated movement to safeguard the society from the ill effects of the illicit use of drugs.

Nurul Amin Chhanda said the educated unemployed youths in the rural areas and the youths of the well-to-do families in the cities and towns being addicted due to frustration.

Gaibandha

Our Gaibandha Correspondent adds: A seminar on 'social awareness against drug

abuse' was held under the auspices of Ahasania Mission, Gaibandha unit at the local Mohila College auditorium in observance the International day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

Abul Basher Ahmed Chowdhury, Deputy Commissioner, Gaibandha was present as chief guest while Mofazzal Hossain, Principal of the college presided.

Those who addressed among others are Dr AKM Shamsuddin, Civil Surgeon, Gaibandha, Saiful Alam Saja, Mrs. Rowshan Ara Farid and Co-ordinator of the unit Abedur Rahman Shawpan.

Earlier a procession was brought out chanting slogan

"we want drug addiction free fair life."

Chuadanga

Our Chuadanga Correspondent adds: "International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking" was observed in Chuadanga on June 26 last. In connection with the observance of the day a seminar was held here at the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner of Chuadanga.

Tajul Islam, Deputy Commissioner of Chuadanga presided over the seminar. Among others who took part in the seminar were Omar Ali Mollah, ADC, Revenue, Chuadanga, Rowshan Ali, Principal, Chuadanga Girls College, Quamrul Arefin, President, Chuadanga Press Club, Harun-er-Rashid, ex-Zila Parishad member and Ekramul Haque Joarder, Chairman, Chuadanga Pourashava. Dr Aminur Rahman Shah, Civil Surgeon, Chuadanga read-out a script in the seminar on the subject of the day "drug abuse and illicit trafficking".

The speakers in the seminar stressed the need for motivational activities with a view to checking drug abuse and its illicit trafficking. The speakers urged upon all concerned to take collective responsibilities to check this severe social crime for the greater interest of the country as well as the future generation.

The Deputy Commissioner in his speech sought co-operation from all for saving the nation from abuse of drug and its illicit trafficking.



PABNA: This is how addicts take heroin in the open air vitiating the whole structure of the society. —Star photo

Pests attack 20,000 acres jute field in Jamalpur

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, July 4: Jute plants over 20,000 acres of land have been attacked by pests in Dewanganj, Islampur, Madarganj, Melandah, Sharihabari, Bakshiganj and Jamalpur Sadar upazilas.

According to unofficial sources, the jute plants attacked by the pests locally known as "Lada Poka" Sanega Poka and a kind of brown grasshopper turn yellowish and later dried off.

Although the menace is rapidly engulfing fresh jute fields but no steps have yet been taken to curb the menace by the concerned authorities. On the other hand sprayers

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available in the agriculture office are lying inoperative for want of spare parts.

Most farmers are unable to purchase the required quantity of insecticides due to exorbitant prices of the item. Experienced quarters opined that in absence of effective measures the situation will take a serious turn and will go out of control. Confirming the extensive pest attack in seven upazilas of the district, a top official of Islampur Agriculture Office said that in spite of their best efforts to stop the menace they are unable to do needful due to the serious shortage of insecticides and

spray machines. It is alleged that even after being informed at the situation no agricultural officials have visited the pest infested areas.

Mr. Kamal Luhani and Bazlur Rahman Bhuiyan, Director and Deputy Director of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy recently visited Melandah Upazila Shilpakala Academy.

A meeting was held at Shilpakala Auditorium with Mr. Asadullah Farazi in the chair and it was addressed, among others, by local Upazila Chairman Abdul Hai Bachchu, Ashrat Asmat Pasha, UNO, Motiur Rahman and others.

Civic amenities at Maulvi Bazar absent

From Our Correspondent

MAULVI BAZAR, July 4 About 50,000 residents of Maulvi Bazar municipal area are facing multiple problems due to absence of necessary amenities and civic facilities in the town.

The roads are narrow and numerous potholes have developed at different points causing untold sufferings to both vehicles and the pedestrians. On the other hand rickshaws pullers park their rickshaws on both sides of the main roads which cause serious difficulties to the pedestrians.

More over, due to absence of proper drainage system water remains stagnant on the roads in the rainy season. As a

result, mosquito menace assumed on alarming proportion causing unbearable sufferings even at day time. Stagnant water in the ditches and ponds and heaps of garbage on the road sides are ideal mosquito breeding centres. The situation becomes more worse just after sunset as nobody can pass a single moment peacefully. The municipal authority seems to have a deaf ear to the public sufferings.

Acute shortage of public toilets and urinals poses problem to numerous town dwellers.

People coming from outside the town are the worst sufferers who often respond to nature's call on roadsides.

Siltation hampers riverine transportation

BARGUNA, July 4 Riverine transportation in the district has been hampered by massive siltation in rivers Payra, Bishkhal and Kakdhone, reports UNB.

According to sources, innumerable shoals have emerged on these waterways making navigation impossible beyond the rainy season.

Trade and commerce diminished to insignificance as transportation of goods by big cargo vessels has become almost impossible.

Local people have demanded adequate and timely measures to restore navigability of the water-routes.

Child labour

Child labour and juvenile delinquency have been increasing in the town with the influx of destitute families from the rural areas, social workers said.

Rendered homeless by natural calamities and landless by unscrupulous and greedy money-lenders, they converge at the district town for survival.

5 students injured in Narail clash

NARAIL, July 4 At least five students were injured in a clash between supporters of Jatyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Chhatra League (A-A) at Ruppang in Sadar upazila Sunday, police said, reports UNB.

Of the injured, Mahub (15) and Chandan (18) were admitted to Sadar Hospital with serious wounds.

Witnesses said two processions brought out by the rival groups clashed with deadly weapons when they faced each other.

Police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control. They arrested 11 students from the spot with lethal weapons.

Some angry students took out a procession in protest against arrest and damaged some shops of Rangpur market.

Pabna roads in bad shape

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, July 4: The roads of Pabna town are in deplorable condition posing threat to pedestrians and vehicular movement.

Numerous potholes and cracks have developed at many points which cause serious accidents specially on 'Pabna-Dhaka and Rajshahi-Dhaka routes.

Narikel Bagan Road, Ataikula Road, Haji Mohammad Road, Mohsin Road of bazar area are also in very bad condition. Beside, water remain stagnant after slight rainfall in these roads adding sufferings to pedestrians and vehicles.

On the other hand Sirajuddaula road of Dilalpur area, hospital road of Shalgaria

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area, Sadar gorashan road of Krifpur area are very much damaged.

Moreover, Kabi Bande Ali by pass road which was constructed last year with bricks is not at all fit for movement of vehicles.

Ishurdi upazila a big business centre of the district lacks minimum civic amenities.

Absence of good roads, sanitary arrangements, proper drainage system, recreational facilities and modern markets are the main problems.

Most roads in the town are very narrow and have developed numerous potholes and cracks which impede smooth movement of both vehicles and pedestrians. Water remains

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stagnant after a slight rainfall multiplying the sufferings of the inhabitants.

Due to lack of drainage system dirty waterweeds and garbage are accumulated everywhere which work as breeding centres of the mosquitoes. Stagnant filth emit bad odor polluting the whole area of the town specially bazar area and Ambagan area.

Absence of public toilets and urinals force people to respond to call of nature in the bazar area and beside many important building walls.

The people of Ishurdi upazila urged the concerned authorities to look into the matter immediately.

Children suffer from intestinal, skin diseases

PATUAKHALI, July 4 Hundreds of children have been suffering from intestinal and skin diseases and deprived of proper medical facilities in six upazilas of the district, reports UNB.

About 70 per cent children in Kalapara, Dashmina, Mirzaganj, Bauphal, Galachipa and Sadar upazilas are suffering from malnutrition and other diseases due to what social workers said "lack of knowledge about basic health care" in their parents.

Acute scarcity of necessary medicines in different hospitals has been hampering treatment.

Most of the medicines of health centres and hospitals are being sold in blackmarkets. Social and political leaders of the district stressed on the urgent need for basic health education of the parents and improving health care facilities.

Erosion threatens Kurigram embankment

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, July 4: The 25-mile long road-cum-embankment from Kurigram to Chilmari under Kurigram district is threatened by erosion of the river Dharia.

It is learnt that the embankment is being used by two lakh people of the surrounding areas.

The erosion which has taken a serious turn at Moghabasha in Kurigram Sadar upazila and it is apprehended that if erosion continues further the embankment will be devoured within a very short time. While visiting the erosion hit areas, this correspondent found that Sobhania madrasa, Mazagram primary school, Moghabasha high school and primary school, bazar, union parishad office, health centre, Senior Khamar High School and Khamar school are also threatened by the erosion of Dharia.

Prize-giving ceremony

The annual prize distribu-

Notes from Nandail

From Our Correspondent

NANDAIL, July 4 A local newspaper reporter was assaulted by a gang of miscreants at Dhubaura upazila recently.

Ashit Das Keshab's house was ransacked and set ablaze while he was attacked by the armed miscreants at late night.

The attack was against the report despatched by Ashit on misappropriation of the wheat of a project for Dhubaura upazila, which was published in Dainik Jahan, an Agricultural Daily published from Mymensingh.

A case has been filed with Dhubaura police station in this connection. It is learnt.

Fake journalists

A fake journalists with others were arrested at Trishal upazila recently.

It is learnt that one Azizur Rahman along with his collaborator Kismat Ali arrived at the upazila headquarters in a baby-taxi and approached different offices in semblances of BSS correspondent and staff photographer respectively.

It is further learnt that they demanded bribe from the officials. On suspicion the officers contacted the police, failing to respond to the police interrogation they were arrested along with taxi-driver.

Later they confessed foul game while Azizur Rahman told the police that he is an inhabitant of Bheorganj upazila under Shariatpur district.

Pry, education body

Nandail upazila Primary Education Committee was formed with Upazila Chairman Abdul Matin Bhuiyan, Upazila Education Officer Mukta Hossain, Upazila Engineer Azizur Rahman as President, Vice-President and Secretary respectively.

Besides, other members of the committee Gazi Abdus Salam Bhuiyan BP and Md Abdul Karim were elected Vice-chairman's representative and teacher's representative respectively.

Power supply erratic in Chuadanga

CHUADANGA, July 4 Erratic power supply in the town and adjoining areas has made the life and living of the residents miserable, reports UNB.

Town-dwellers complain that the areas plunge into darkness almost at every sundown allowing the miscreants better scope to operate.

Hijacking, looting and other anti-social activities have increased manifold in the town over the recent months, due to what many residents say, power failure in the evening.

Owners of mills and factories alleged that their production decreased by about 50 per cent due to intermittent power breakdown.

Many inhabitants also complain that their electric and electronic appliances are getting inoperative because of power disruption and voltage fluctuations.

Gojaj river bridge to be complete soon

FARIDPUR, July 4 The Taka 22 crore Gojaj bridge over the river Gojaj at Kamarkhali on Dhaka-Khulna highway will be opened to traffic soon, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the work on the bridge will be completed by mid-July. The bridge, a British aided project, is 623 feet long and 22 feet wide having seven spans and eight pair of pillars.

308 commit suicide in Satkhira

July 4: A total of 308 people committed suicide in the district during the last 6 months, according to police records, reports UNB.

Of the total, 257 were women who took their lives due to poverty, maladjustment in marriage, dowry demand

and failure in love. The upazila wise breakdown is: Satkhira Sadar-93, Tala-60, Kalaroa-80, Debhata-14, Kalganj-20, Asasuni-24 and Shyamnagar-17.

Muggers took away Taka 60,000 from Abdullah Biswas of Bhanukhali village pointing a

sharp knife and stabbing two of his companions.

Eye-witnesses said Biswas was returning home from Khulna with the money recently when a gang of 4/5 people stopped him on the way near the Gangri river bank and looted the amount.