

Upazila roundup

C' NAWABGANJ

Smuggled goods worth Tk 3.74 cr recovered

July 8: Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) recovered goods worth about Taka 3.74 crore from border area and arrested 43 alleged smugglers during the last six months.

According to BDR, the smuggled goods worth about Taka 91.96 lakh were seized while being smuggled out to India and Tk 2.82 crore while being smuggled into Bangladesh.

The goods include Indian sarees, cattleheads, sugar, salt, bicycle, pulses, onion, polyester cloths, soyabean oil, coconut oil, et cetera.

The recovered goods were handed over to the local customs department.

At least 901 cases were registered with respective police stations in this connection.

JHALAKATI

Construction of 13 primary schools on

July 8: Construction of 13 primary schools is underway in four upazilas of the district during this year, reports UNB.

Facilities Department under the Ministry of Education is executing the project at a cost of Taka 55 lakh in Sadar, Nalchiti, Kathalia and Rajapur upazilas.

About 4000 children of the district will be able to pursue their studies after the completion of the project.

Meanwhile, Water Development Board (WDB) here has undertaken a scheme to re-excavate 32 canals in Sadar upazila under Food for Works programme.

According to sources, 510 metric tons of wheat worth about Taka 31 lakh will be utilised for excavation of the canals which besides facilitating irrigation will help produce additional food crop.

PATUAKHALI

11 family welfare centres nearing completion

July 8: Construction of 11 family welfare centres at a cost of Taka 1.50 crore is nearing completion in four upazilas of the district, reports UNB.

Funded by the World Bank, the centres are being constructed in Sadar, Galachipa, Dashmina and Bauphal upazilas, according to sources.

Meanwhile, Local Government and Engineering Bureau is implementing 25 uplift projects here at a cost of Tk 25.80 lakh.

The schemes included construction of bridges, culverts and roads. The projects are expected to be completed by the end of this year.

RAJBARI

Baridal party attacked: 5 injured

July 8: Five people including a Ward Commissioner of the town were seriously injured when a band of hoodlums attacked a bridal party Friday night, reports UNB.

The injured are: Md Shajahan (30), Commissioner, Golam Mowla (35), Selim (45), MA Mannan (55), and Anwar Hossain (50).

Witnesses said the attack came in a sequel to a trifling incident over demanding money from bridegroom's brother by a group of local "mastans."

Heated exchange of words followed and some gangsters attacked the wedding guests when they were returning home. The attackers used hockeysticks, randa and rods.

A case was filed with the Rajbari police.

PABNA

3 killed in road accident

July 8: Three people including a teen-aged girl and a rickshawpuller were killed in an accident near Maligha here on Pabna-Iswardi highway Saturday, police said, reports UNB.

The victims were identified as Muktar Hossain (24), Yasmin (14-two rickshaw passengers and the puller Hashem (30).

According to witnesses, they were killed on the spot when a Nature-bound speeding bus hit their rickshaw from behind.

The driver of the bus managed to escape. Police seized the bus and a case has been lodged in the connection.

JAMALPUR

Area demarcation meeting held

July 8: A meeting on area demarcation of Jamalpur and Bogra districts was held recently, reports BSS.

Mr. Babool Chandra Roy, Assistant Commissioner (Land) Sarishabari Upazila represented Jamalpur district and Mr. Shamsul Haque, Revenue Officer, Sariakandi Upazila was present for Bogra district.

The meeting solved the problem of demarcation in between Jamalpur and Bogra district.

MAGURA

TK 18.42 lakh for primary education office

July 8: Facilities Department sanctioned Taka 18.42 lakh for construction of primary education office buildings during the current financial year under annual development programme, reports UNB.

According to official sources, the construction work will be started from next month and is expected to be completed by January 1992.

Meanwhile, 10 government primary school buildings were constructed at a cost of Taka 40.47 lakh in four upazilas of the district during the last fiscal year, the sources added.

Of them, two each were constructed in Sadar and Mohamadpur upazilas, three each Sreepur and Salikha upazilas.

BARISAL

218 SSC examinees expelled

July 8: A total of 218 Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinees were expelled for adopting unfair means in the examination halls in Barisal district in the first two days of examinations.

Eighty four examinees were expelled from different centres and sub-centres of the district on Sunday and the rest on the second day of the examination on Wednesday.

A total of 13,596 candidates have been appearing in this examination from 11 centres and 11 sub-centres of the district this year.

The examinations are being held smoothly and peacefully.

TANGAIL

Installation ceremony

July 8: Installation ceremony of Tangail district Sports Association Committee was held Monday at Bhasani Hall, reports BSS.

Mr Sadeque Hossain State Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation attended the function.

SATKHIRA

Girl dies from snake bite

July 8: Jahanara Khatun (16), daughter of Sukurail of Jaggannathpur under Satkhira Upazila died from snake bite recently, reports BSS.

She was bitten by the snake as she was asleep in the veranda at night.

Witnesses said the attack came in a sequel to a trifling incident over demanding money from bridegroom's brother by a group of local "mastans."

Heated exchange of words followed and some gangsters attacked the wedding guests when they were returning home. The attackers used hockeysticks, randa and rods.

A case was filed with the Rajbari police.

Kishoreganj Red Crescent executives

July 8: Advocate MA Afzal and Lutfor Rahman Chowdhury (Helal Chowdhury) were elected Vice President and General Secretary respectively of the local unit of Red Crescent Society for 1991-92.

The election was held recently at the annual general meeting of the district Red Crescent Society with Kazi Nasirul Islam, Deputy Commissioner, Kishoreganj and President of the Society in the chair at local S.V. Govt. Girls' High School premises.

Kazi Nazrul Islam, is the ex-officio President of the Society.

Five members were also elected in the meeting. They are: Khaleda Fanchi Begum Rana, Sandip Roy, Md. Kabir Lashkar, Naresa Roy and Md. Rafiqul Islam Mukul.

Three other members of the society will be nominated by the President later.



Scarcity of drinking water persists mostly in rural areas due to shortage of tubewells. Photo shows children set out for procuring drinking water at a village in Noakhali. —Star photo

Sugar industry on the verge of collapse

From Our Correspondent

DINAJPUR, July 8: Border marketing policy pursued by Indian traders has thrown Bangladesh sugar industry into total chaos.

Country's sugar mills are loaded with huge volume of sugar remaining unsold in the wake of low price Indian sugar flooding local markets.

One lakh metric tons of sugar worth Taka 300 crore are learnt to have remained unsold in 16 sugar mills in the country. The situation is so serious that mill authorities are unable to pay salaries of employees and outstanding bills to sugarcane suppliers.

According to reports, Indian 2000 bundles CI sheets sanctioned

BANDARBAN, July 8: Two thousand bundles of CI sheets have been sanctioned by the Relief and Rehabilitation Ministry for distribution among the families in Bandarban hill district affected by the recent devastating cyclone, reports BSS.

Dwelling houses of a large number of people in different upazilas of the district were badly damaged by the cyclone of April 29.

An official source said rehabilitation work in the district is going on in fullswing.

sugar has occupied all the district upazila hats and bazars of Rajshahi and Khulna. This sugar is bringing more profit to the traders because contra-band sells at Taka 22 to 26 per kilogram (kg) at the maximum against Taka 27.75 per kg for local product.

Due to higher financial benefit and to avoid unnecessary harassment of sugar mill officials the traders prefer to sell Indian product at higher profit.

Hundreds of women, children and men are carrying sugar packets of five to 30 kg from border areas by bus every day.

It is further learnt that at least 2000 sugar sale shops have been set up in different Indian border markets to procure sugar at the rate of Rs. 9.50 Indian currency per kilogram.

According to market experts there is no alternative but to reduce the price of local sugar equal to that of Indian sugar (not over Taka 20 per kilogram).

If authorities do not go for

further reduction sale, none could check smuggling of Indian sugar, experts say. It will have a long-term damaging impact on the country's sugar industry.

They also warned that under this adverse situation, a huge quantity of stockpiled sugar many melt following prolonged storage.

The country has produced over two lakh metric tons of sugar in 1991 cane crushing season through its 16 mills, crossing the target. The domestic demand of sugar is about 2.50 lakh tons.

Hides, skins prices fall

PATUAKHALI, July 8: The prices of hides and skins of sacrificed animals has shown a downward trend in most of the southern district this year, reports UNB.

According to sources, skins and hides of cows and goats have decreased by Taka 300 and 100 respectively.

A standard size of cow's skin is now being sold at Taka 300 instead of Taka 600 last year and that of goat at Taka 50 to 75 instead of 150 last year.

Local people informed that decrease in prices is due to lower rate offered by the purchasing agents.

Beggars on rise

Beggars are on alarmingly rise in different upazila and district towns here causing great inconveniences to the dwellers.

According to sources, there has been a continuous influx of beggars both male and female in these areas over the last few months.

Poor people from the rural areas facing acute food crisis and having no work are pouring into the upazila headquarters and the district town in quest of job facilities to maintain their livelihood. But for want of job opportunities most of them along with their dependents have been resorting to begging.

These destitute people are thronged in large numbers in various places like bus stations, launch terminals, stadium areas and corridors of different government offices for begging alms.

Monu devours fresh areas

MAULAVI BAZAR, July 8: Fresh areas in Monumukh union in Sadar upazila were devoured as erosion by the river Monu took a serious turn during the last week, reports UNB.

According to sources, a vast tract of land in Monumukh bazar in the union has already devoured by the river. The surging waters of the river also engulfed a mosque and a food godown over the same period.

Every year hundreds of acres of land go into the river rendering a large number of families shelterless. But local people alleged that nothing significant has yet been done to rehabilitate the shelterless people.

Local people have called for taking immediate steps to check erosion and provide relief to the affected people.

False ration cards

A total of 5,399 false ration card holders were detected in the district by the officials of Food Department.

The investigation committee of Palli Ration Dealers and Card holders, formed after the fall of the autocratic regime of Ershad recently detected the false card holders.

Dealership of three people have already been cancelled and steps are on to streamline the anomalies, official sources said.

Palli Rationing System was introduced during the Ershad regime and union and ward-wise ration dealers were appointed by the then MPs violating the rules of Food Department in most cases, it is alleged.

There are at present 30,642 ration card holders and 70 dealers in the district, it is learnt.

Five hurt in JCD-BCL clash in Jhenidah

From Our Correspondent JHENIDAH, July 8: Five persons received injuries in a clash between Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal and Awami League-backed Chhatra League at Kaliganj Friday evening.

Both the parties brought out processions to protest the Dhaka Jagannath College incident and at one stage clashes ensued. Two handbombs were hurled, injuring five persons. Tension is prevailing in the Kaliganj area.

Smuggled goods drive local products out of market

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, July 8: River port of Bhatrab has become a paradise for the smugglers. Spurious and smuggled goods have flooded the port town exceeding all previous records.

The smuggled goods mostly include spices, sarees, sugar, jira, cattleheads, pulses, cosmetics, turmeric, onion, chilli, cumin seeds, cardamom, etc. These are entering Bhatrab Bazar through Akhaura border and bordering areas of Brahmanbaria and Comilla districts and on sale in the market without any restriction. This illegal entry of Indian

goods have badly affected the local traders. Worst of all is the entry of cheap and low quality Indian printed sarees which have engulfed Bhatrab Bazar.

Most of the smugglers are rural women who procure these from the agents and sell from door to door at prices ranging from Taka 100 to Taka 200.

The traders of Bhatrab informed that smuggled goods enter through Kanchanpur, Sripur via Brahmanbaria and Ashuganj by buses, trucks and trains from Akhaura. Afterwards they are unloaded at Bhatrab railway junction and

Meghna Ferry Ghat. Besides, the agents of smugglers throw away illegal goods from local trains and Sylhet mails at the outer signals of the railway junction. These illegal activities are going on in full swing with active support of the police, it is alleged.

President of Bhatrab Shilpakala Academy, A K Nurul Haq and Convener of Bhatrab Mukti Jodha Sangsad, Tajul Islam alleged that the local administration is responsible for such corruption and also due to the inaction of local law enforcing agency.

It is gathered that at the

railway junction, one of the leaders of the smugglers produces coupons for the goods seeing which the railway staff allow the smugglers and goods in compliance with previous deal.

Local merchants and traders also disclosed that smugglers carry cartons of 555, Benson cigarettes and Burmese betelnuts by intercity Mahanagar train coming from Chittagong.

Local people also alleged that even if the smugglers are caught red handed, police do not take proper action and the smugglers are left unpunished.

Problems grip Hasan Ali High School

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, July 8: The Chandpur Government Hasan Ali High School is beset with various problems for a long time. The school is the only government boys' high school in the district head quarters.

The institution has been facing accommodation problems in respect of class rooms. Shortage of water supply, hostel accommodation, number of teachers, scientific equipment lack of transport facilities and playground are some other major problems. There is no Headmaster in the school for a long time. So administration and academic atmosphere are hampered.

The school in each section has a capacity of accommodating only 30 students. But the school authorities are compelled to admit more students in each section in ever year. Many guardians are requesting the school authorities to open a hostel in school campus which has become very essential.

Many cracks are found in newly constructed building of the school. Rain water soaks through cracks. The Facilities Department could not do repair work of the school for a long time.

The school has a playground which is encroached by different organisations. So the students can not play properly in the field. The field is very low. As a result, water logging is a regular feature. The field requires to be raised further. In the absence of transport the students cannot attend to their classes timely from distant areas of the town.

Syllabus are hardly completed timely and students have to suffer. Every year it is found that syllabus could not be finished, so students have

to depend on private tutors. Annual prize-giving ceremony and other extra curriculum activities are not held properly. Results of the SSC Examinations of the school are not satisfactory.

Diarrhoea claims 48 lives
Diarrhoea has claimed at

least 48 lives so far and afflicted 1500 persons in different upazilas of Chandpur district during the last one month. The badly affected upazilas are Chandpur Sadar, Faridganj, Matlab and Haimchar.

Scarcity of pure drinking water in the rural areas is one of the main causes of the out-

break of the disease. About 2000 tubewells are lying out of order in rural areas of the district.

Meanwhile, scarcity of oral saline has been reported from rural areas.

According to Civil Surgeon office sources, about 50 medical teams are working round the clock in the affected areas.

Dacoits kill 3 in Bheramara

KUSHTIA, July 8: Three people were killed and seven others injured, six with bullet, when dacoits fired on villagers during robbery in Bheramara upazila late Friday night, reports UNB.

The shootings took place in Gblapnagar Bazar where the villagers encircled the armed gang and later at a nearby village at about 2 am, police and witnesses said.

Shariful (30) and Jubu Biswas (35) died on the spot in

the first shootout while Bishu (25) succumbed to bullet wounds on way to Bheramara Health Complex.

Five others injured here were admitted to the Bheramara Health Complex. Three of them were named Apurba Kumar Pal, Munna and Double.

After the incident, the dacoits attacked the house of Mokhtar Hossain at a nearby village, Maharajapur, and fired

at him, injuring him seriously. They also beat up his wife mercilessly.

Seriously injured Mokhtar was admitted to the Kushtia General Hospital.

The dacoits decamped with valuables worth about Taka 40,000 looted from the house after their dacoity bid in the bazar was foiled, police said.

Two cases were filed with Bheramara police, but none was arrested so far.



Rural children find it fun and frolic in catching fish from a pumped out pond at a village in Rangpur. —Star photo