

Upazila roundup

MAULVI BAZAR

Rajanagar College beset with problems

From Our Correspondent

July 10: The Rajanagar College of Rajanagar upazila under Maulvi Bazar district with roll strength of over 300 students has been smarting under various problems. The college established in 1972, lacks recreational facilities. It is also facing shortage of fund, acute accommodation problems, absence of science building auditorium, poor library facilities, want of furniture and causing suffering to the students.

The college authority started construction of first floor of the existing building in 1990 but after spending an amount of over Taka two lakh the first floor of the building has been left incomplete for want of fund. The existing class rooms of the college cannot accommodate the students.

The science classes have been opened from 1988 session but there is no science building and the science equipment are kept in teacher common room.

KISHOREGANJ

2 sisters drowned

From Our Correspondent

July 10: Two sisters Hosna and Hasina (5) of village Amandi in Pakundia upazila drowned in a pond adjacent to their houses recently.

It is learnt that the victims slipped into the pond while they were playing beside it.

In another incident one Belayet Hossain (13) a student of Manglabaria Alya Madrasa unfortunately drowned in a pond at village Hossaindi under the same upazila of the district.

Later their relatives and villagers recovered both the bodies from the pond.

JAMALPUR

BNP meet held

From Our Correspondent

July 10: The biennial Conference of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) of Melandah upazila unit was held at local government girls high school on July 3.

The conference was presided over by Ahmed Ali Khan Loton, SM Kahrul Bashir Chisty, Convener of Jamalpur district unit BNP attended as chief guest while among others, it was addressed by Azam Khan, Anisur Rahman, Nure Alam Talukdar, Abubaker, Abdus Salam, Fazlul Qader Helal, Munwar Hawaidar, Advocates Ahmed Hossain and Abdus Salam.

A subject committee was formed with 20 members to form a new Executive committee.

C' NAWABGANJ

2 sanitary workers killed

From Our Correspondent

July 10: Two persons were killed and one was injured while working in the soaking chamber of a person were sanitary latrine due to formation of poisonous gas on June 26 last.

It is learnt that Eusuf Ali (32) and Sadiqul (11) belonging to Rahanpur under Gomostapur upazila died immediately after they entered into the soaking chamber. When the third person entered the chamber he raised a hue and cry seeing them inert. Other workers rescued all while the third person was sent to the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital where he, however, survived.

SATKHIRA

312 commit suicide in 6 months

From Our Correspondent

July 10: About 312 people have committed suicide in Satkhira district during the last six months. Of them 90 per cent were women.

Poverty, Polygamy of husbands, dowry and failure in love were cited to be the main reasons for the suicide.

Ninety-three committed suicide in Satkhira Sadar, 22 in Kaliganj, 15 in Debhata, 25 in Assassuni, 17 in Shyamnagar, 80 in Kalaroa and 60 in Tala.

Post office

Age old post office of Ishwaripur under Kaliganj Upazila of the district is on the verge of collapse.

The post office was built in

1899. The pucca wall and tin shed was reconstructed at a cost of Taka 55,000 during eighty but cyclone of 1988 destroyed it completely.

The then Union Parishad Chairman of Ishwarpur illegally took away wooden furniture and other valuables for his personal use. Later the Chairman under the pressure of local people assured rebuilding of the post office but no step has yet been taken in this regard, it is alleged.

PABNA

Heroin addicts on rise

From Our Correspondent

July 10: The number of heroin addicts in the district has increased alarmingly following inflow of heroin from some neighbouring countries.

At present, the total number of heroin addicts in the district is about 6000.

According to the doctors, a heroin addict may expire within a few weeks if proper preventive measure including necessary antidote are not taken in time. But no steps have been taken in the district for proper treatment and rehabilitation of the heroin addicts.

On the other hand, as heroin being a very costly item, addicts are sinking into tremendous hardship and resort to theft, hi-zacking and other antisocial activities.

COMILLA

Plea to withdraw VAT

From Our Correspondent

July 10: The Association of Comilla Chamber of Commerce urged the government to withdraw the Value Added Tax (VAT).

The speakers in a discussion meeting said industrial sector will be hampered due to the new system. They said specially the cottage industries will face various problems for introduction VAT.

They mentioned that the VAT system is good for the developed countries but it the poor country like Bangladesh it will affect the poor businessman. They also threatened that they will launch a movement if VAT is not withdrawn.

Mr Afzal Khan President of Comilla Chamber preceded over the meeting.

JHENIDAH

2 Sarbahara Party activists held

July 10: Police arrested two people, said to be members of outlawed Sarbahara Party, in a pre-dawn swoop yesterday on village Dhananjoypur in the Sadar upazila, reports UNB.

Two pigeons and 21 rounds of bullet were seized from them, police said.

Acting on a tip, police raided the house of Nurul Islam at 3 am and caught Nekbar (35) of village Rupda and Ibadat (30) of Hatfajilpur in Shalukupa upazila.

A case was lodged in this connection.

5 passengers stabbed

Five people were stabbed during a daring bus dacoity on the Jhenidah-Jessore road in Keyabagan area of Kaliganj upazila Sunday night, police said.

The bandits stabbed the bus driver, the conductor, the helper and two passengers and robbed all inside the vehicle.

They sneaked into darkness after looting valuables worth about Taka 50,000.

A gang of about 14 dacoits boarded the Kushtia-bound bus in Jhenidah in the guise of passengers and stopped it at dagger's point, witnesses and police said.

Earlier, another bus dacoity was committed Friday night on the same road, passengers said.

Local people said law and order situation had deteriorated alarmingly creating disquiet in the area.

PATUAKHALI

Taxes Bar Assoc executives

July 10: The annual general meeting and election of Patuakhali Taxes Bar Association was held at the bar office premises on Monday with Abdur Rab Munshi in the chair, reports BSS.

A nine-member committee was formed with Abdur Rab Munshi as President of the Association and Abdus Sobhan as General Secretary for the year 1991-92.

Tarak Chandra Saha was elected Assistant Secretary.



Irrigation is hampered due to shortage of deep and shallow tubewells in different parts of the country. But where electricity is yet to reach, people there irrigate their land in traditional way. Here two minor boys irrigating their land by a traditional equipment locally known as 'Doan' at a village in Dinajpur district. — Star photo

Accommodation problem

Officials reluctant to work in Khagrachhari

KHAGRACHHARI, July 10: The district headquarters in yet to become habitable for the officials even eight years after it had been upgraded from a sub-division, reports UNB.

Officials of the government, semi-government offices and other agencies find the accommodation problem more distressing than they could imagine before being posted here.

Very few of them can live with their families and many employees are sheltered in slum areas.

"We are lonely, disappointed and disinterested in

work with our families living in other towns", a postal department official told UNB.

Even a single accommodation is difficult to get and so newly transferred officials immediately start lobbying for re-transfer, he said.

There are only three apartment buildings, set up in 1986 at office-tilla, which can hardly accommodate five per cent of the officials serving here.

Very old and dilapidated tin shed houses accommodate another three per cent but they pass their days in nightmare fearing collapse of the worn-

out structure anytime.

House construction by locals is also not satisfactory for fear of tribal insurgents and consequent unsettled situation.

A message from Rangamati adds: An emergency meeting of the co-ordination committee for relief and rehabilitation of the hill district fixed some priorities for distribution of relief to the cyclone affected people of the district.

Presided over by Goutam Dewan, Chairman of the Local Government Council, the meeting was attended by the Deputy Commissioner of the

district, Upazila Chairman, Upazila Nirbahi Officers and local elite.

The meeting re-allocated relief to the upazila administration for proper distribution.

It was decided that the worst affected 3,500 people of every upazila, enlisted in group 'A', will get one bundle of corrugated iron sheet and Taka 500 per family.

Besides, 3,250 families from eight upazilas of the district, enlisted in group B and C will get Taka 1,000 per family.

Construction work of college begins
A report from Bandarban

Alarming rise in river piracy

MANIKGANJ, July 10: At least 60 people were injured and valuables worth over Taka 36.50 lakh looted in piracies during the last one month on the rivers Padma and Jamuna and their tributaries, reports UNB.

According to police, a group of armed buccaneers carried out several operations on cargo vessels, launches, oil tankers, fishing trawlers and boats in different waterways of the district.

Pirates attacked a boat carrying cattle near Maosa ghat the day before the Eid and took away the animals along with cash amounting to about Taka four lakh. Fifteen people were also injured during the operation.

A cargo vessel was looted at the same point some days later. Valuables worth about Tk. two lakh were looted from the vessel which was going from Bagabari to Narayanganj. Nine people were also injured.

Armed pirates also looted valuables worth about Taka five lakh from an Aricha boat launch near Daulatdia recently.

Twenty-five people were attacked in the incident.

In another incident on Monday last, buccaneers attacked five boats and valuables worth about Taka 1.50 lakh and five fishermen were seriously wounded during the attack.

Moreover, valuables worth over Taka 24 lakh were said to have been looted in several piracies in oil tankers, cargo vessels and passenger launches and boats during the period.

Notes from Gaibandha

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, July 10: Work on three flood control and irrigation projects under Water Development Board is progressing fast in the district.

Government has sanctioned Taka three crore 13 lakh for the implementation of the projects.

This year in Nurruller beel project a sum of Taka one crore 56 lakh was allotted for the construction of six and a half kilometre long main embankment, two regulators, a small sluice gate and repairing in different points of old embankment at Gobindganj upazila.

It may be mentioned here that earlier Taka two crore 65 lakh 11 thousand was sanctioned for the project.

Population of Bangladesh

From Page 8

Five Year Plan, some practical measures were taken in the light of the experience of the third plan. It is hoped that during the Fourth Five Year Plan period the maternal and infant health and the Family Planning programmes will be successfully implemented and it will be possible to reduce the growth rate of population to a tolerable level.

The world population is now increasing at the rate 1.7 percent. At present the total population of the world is 540 crores. According to the demographers, the present growth rate of the world population will continue till 1995. It means that, due to the effect of population growth, there will be a continuous high pressure on the total consumable resources. Such adverse effect on the resources will be more greater in the developing countries than in the developed ones. The main reason is that the consumable assets of the developing countries are much less than those of the developed ones. and, consequently, dependent on the developed countries for economic and technological development. It is notable that the growth rate of population in the developed countries is much less than that in the developing countries. For instance, the growth rates of population in Canada, Japan and Germany are 0.8, 0.4 and 0.1 respectively. Whereas, among the developing countries, the rates in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Zambia are 6.7, 2.9 and 3.8 percent.

As an inevitable consequence of high population growth rate, there are increasing poverty and disruption of ecological balance in the developing countries. Natural disasters such as drought, floods, tidal surge etc. are increasing. Added to these problems, the upward trend in population growth may deepen their socio-economic crisis. 95 percent of the world population growth in the next five years will take place in the developing countries. In such a context, Bangladesh and other developing countries have no other alternative but to bring about a balance between population, development and environment. Hence the World Population Day is being observed at the initiative of the United Nations since 1990 to create world wide awareness about adverse effect and reaction of population growth.

Fish farmers hostage to local 'mastans'

From A Correspondent

SIMRAIL (Siddirganj), July 10: Fishes worth about Taka 20,000 were looted by a group of miscreants from a private fish farm 'Bhandari Motsha Khamar' at village Simrail under Siddirganj thana on Sunday night.

The miscreants (local mastans) it is reported, numbering about five looted the fishes from the farm a threatening the guards at dagger point.

A case has been lodged with Siddirganj police in this regard.

It may be mentioned here

Tk 1.75 lakh sanctioned for cyclone victims

CHANDPUR, July 10: Government has sanctioned about Taka 1.75 lakh and other food and clothing materials for the cyclone and tidal surge affected people of four upazilas of the district, reports UNB.

The upazilas are: Matlab Faridganj, Habiganj and Shaharati.

According to District Administration, government has allocated 10 metric tons of rice, 20 metric tons of wheat and 400 pieces of new sarees and lungis and 100 tins of biscuits for the affected people.

About Taka one lakh has been sanctioned for the victims of April 29 cyclone and tidal bore and for those who have been rendered homeless by erosion of the Meghna at Matlab upazila, sources added.

Government has granted gratuitous relief of Taka 20,000 and allocated 10 metric tons of wheat for the affected people of Faridganj upazila and Taka 5,000 for the victims of other cyclonic storms that severely hit Faridganj upazila on May 8 and may 9.

Government has also sanctioned Taka 50,000 as gratuitous relief for Habiganj and Shaharati upazila.

that, stealing of fish has become rampant in the area. A group of organised gang is stealing fishes from different fish farms in the area by current nets.

There are about 40 private fish farms in Adamjee, Simrail and Mizmiti which provide at least 10 per cent requirement of fish of the metropolis. But due to disturbances and stealing of fish by local mastans the farmers are incurring a huge loss and as such losing interest in continuing their business.

Government is encouraging pisciculture to meet the protein deficiency and a good number of farmers being imbued with government scheme have established many big and small fish farms in the area. But if stringent measures are not taken to protect their farms they will lose incentive in this regard and government's effort to popularise pisciculture will fail.

The farmers have urged the authorities concerned and the law enforcing agencies to take appropriate measures against the mastans for healthy growth of pisciculture.

Diarrhoea claims 39 lives in C' Nawabganj

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, July 10: Diarrhoeal diseases claimed 39 lives and attacked 1500 others in the district over the last two months, according to sources, reports UNB.

At least 20 people died of the diseases in Radhanagar, Parbotipur, Rohanpur and Alibangor villages during the same period. Five people each died in Shibganj and Sadar upazilas while the disease claimed 6 people in Nachol and 3 in Bholahat upazilas.

Scarcity of drinking water and consumption of unwholesome food were said to be behind the outbreak of the diseases.



CHANDPUR: Fishermen in Chandpur Irrigation Project area brought out a procession in the town to press home their demands. — Star photo

Engine shortage hampers train communication

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, July 10: Train communication in different sections under Lalmonirhat division is in disarray due to acute shortage of locomotive engines resulting in untold sufferings to the passengers.

The number of locomotives is very few. Only 75 heavy and light locomotive engines are now in operation in different sections under the division, out of which 39 are lying in workshop for major repair and 21 of them could not be repaired for want of adequate spare parts. The remaining 36 engines are now in operation without any rest very often many of them go out of order.

According to a report, maximum Hangarian light engines are working without vacuum system which could not be replaced for want of spare parts.

During the last five months railway authority suspended 42 trains due to shortage of

engines. Moreover, running engines went out of order at 146 points in different sections.

More locomotive powers together with adequate spare parts should be supplied in this division for the interest of smooth communication. It is widely felt.

Decomposed body tied in a gunny bag of a notorious dacoit Dada Mia of village Chaigaria Gobindapur under Sadullahpur

upazila was recovered by the police recently. The victim committed several dacoities in the areas, it is learnt.

Police suspect that the victim was killed by his accomplices on disagreement over sharing booty.

On filing a case by the victim's brother, police in a drive recovered the decomposed body of the victim. Police arrested Abdus Samad and Hira Mia in this connection.

Irregular appointment of college teachers alleged

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, July 10: Irregular appointment of teachers at Jhenidah Noor Mohila College has been detected recently.

Noor Nehar Mohila College sources said with a view to opening degree course the college authority advertised in a vernacular daily to fill up 19 posts of teachers to be selected through viva voce test.

About 200 candidates applied for the posts. Contrary to press advertisement a written examination was held for selecting some candidates. It was alleged that question paper has been leaked out and even it was not prepared properly.

There was also complaints about favouritism in examining answer papers of some candidates.

Among the candidates some were the relatives of the employees of the local adminis-

tration and the Principal of the college. Dependable sources said Chairman of the college Governing body personally took the responsibility of setting question paper. The candidates demanded the higher authorities of holding free and fair reexamination. Viva-voce examination is yet to be held.

According to the official sources, total 32 people died and 3466 others were attacked in the district since the outbreak of the disease from April last.

The situation may go out of control if further steps are not taken in the affected areas, it is gathered.

Civil Surgeon said that meanwhile steps have been taken to combat the disease.

5 arrested in Feni

FENI, July 10: Police arrested five people including a woman from different places of the district in connection with murder and arms cases during the last week, reports UNB.

They also recovered two guns with 17 rounds of bullets from their possession.

Police nabbed Shamsun Begum of village Daypara in Porshuram upazila for her alleged involvement in killing a housewife Hosne Ara Begum (30). She was killed on May 27 last.



KISHOREGANJ: Students of Patharipara Government Primary School in Karimganj upazila attending classes in the open as the roof of the school was blown away by a storm a few months back. — Star photo