

Upazila roundup

CHUADANGA

Indian held : gun recovered

From Our Correspondent

July 31 : Damurbuda thana police under Chuadanga district arrested one Indian national Babul Ghosh (24) along with a pipe gun and two rounds of ammunition from the village Boira under Damurbuda upazila in co-operation with the villagers and members of the Village Defence Party (VDP) recently. Four other accomplices including one Bangladeshi, however managed to escape.

According to police sources, Babul failed to give satisfactory account of his free movement in the village. On suspicion police arrested him and recovered a pipe gun and two rounds of ammunition from his possession.

It is learnt that the arrested Babul Ghosh is a resident of Shmulia under Chapra police station of Nadia district in West Bengal of India.

A case has been started in this connection with the Damurbuda police station.

MUNSHIGANJ

Construction of police line bldg suspended

July 31 : After completion of 60 per cent work of police line building the construction work has been suspended for unknown reasons after spending a huge amount. The same case also happened in the construction of court buildings in Munshiganj Sadar. As a result, the overall development work of Munshiganj district is being hampered. Munshiganj district town has one narrow road without footpaths. It was heard earlier that there would be massive development programme for Munshiganj town very soon but nothing has been done in this respect.

RAJSHAHI

RU Cultural Alliance executives

From Our Correspondent

July 31 : A 15-member executive committee of Rajshahi University Cultural Alliance was formed in a general meeting held at the teachers lounge of RU Arts faculty, with Mr. Abdus Salam in the chair.

Eminent story-writer Hasan Azizul Haq of Lakhok Shibir and Enamul Haq of Samakal were elected President and General Secretary respectively.

Other elected office-bearers include four presidium members, Shah Azam Shantonu (Bishawbidyalaya Theatre), Kishor Roy (Gonoshipi Sangstha), Dr. Prudroto Pal (Udich) and Shams Ibne Obaid (Swanon).

NETRAKONA

Primary education faces setback

July 31 : The Universal Primary Education Programme (UPEP) in all the 10 upazilas of the district has suffered a setback due to manifold problems, including shortage of school buildings, reports UNB.

Officials said classes are being held under the open sky as most primary schools damaged by natural calamities during the last few years are yet to be reconstructed.

Shortage of teachers and educational appliances also hampered implementation of the programme, they said.

Price-hike of educational materials, including papers and books, pushed many students from poor families to discontinue their studies.

Local people alleged that the quota of teachers in the primary schools were not being maintained properly and this was one of the main hindrances in implementing the programme.

BARISAL

Teacher shortage in BM college

July 31 : Government Brijomahan College of the town here has been plagued with manifold problems hampering smooth education, reports UNB.

According to college authority, of the 146 posts of teachers 56 are lying vacant for a long time.

About 6,000 students are studying Intermediate, B A (pass) and honours and master degree classes in 15 subjects, the sources said.

The department-wise vacant posts are : four in Bangla, one in Mathematics, five in Physics, six in Chemistry, one in Botany, two in Zoology, one

in Soil Science, seven in Management, five in Political Science, four in Accounting, five in Economics, two in Philosophy, one in Social Welfare, five in General History, six in Islamic History and one in Sanskrit.

C. NAWABGANJ

Power failure frequent

July 31 : Frequent power failure and load shedding have become a regular feature in the town and adjoining areas causing untold suffering to the dwellers and heavy loss to the business community.

According to informed sources, electricity goes off in almost every sundown plunging the entire town into darkness and giving rise to anti-social activities.

Erratic power supply and frequent load shedding have also been affecting production in the local mills, factories and workshops. The students are the worst affected.

Besides, fluctuations of voltage cause damages to electronic goods of the dwellers. Inadequate street lights also cause sufferings to the town people.

Dwellers have urged the authorities to take necessary measures to solve these problems without further delay.

RANGAMATI

Kaptai BNP executive body formed

July 31 : A 41-member new executive committee of Kaptai upazila unit of Bangladesh Nationalist Party was elected with Mohammed Belal and Bakhtiar Ahmed Chowdhury as President and General Secretary respectively.

The meeting held on July 20 also elected a new 31-member committee of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal with Arfin Chowdhury and Ashraf Islam as President and General Secretary respectively.

A 101-member new committee of Laugadu upazila unit of BNP was elected on July 19 with Abu Naser as the President. He was also the president previously.

Meanwhile, a new executive committee of the upazila unit of Awami League was also elected on July 23. Abdur Rashid was elected as its President and Naserullah as the General Secretary.

MYMENSINGH

Pests damage Aus crops on 25,000 acres

July 31 : Standing Aus crops on about 25,000 acres of land have been seriously damaged by Pamri pests in nine upazilas of the district, reports UNB.

Farmers fear that production of the crop will fall far short of the target due to widespread attack.

They said after the attack, paddy plants turn yellowish and gradually dry up. The worst affected upazilas are Sadar, Trishal, Gafarganj, Bhaluka, Fulbaria, Nandail, Ishwarganj, Gouripur and Phulpur.

The situation aggravated following the price hikes of pesticides and spray machines.

SYLHET

Rotary plan to sink 500 tubewells

July 31 : District Midtown Rotary Club has taken up a programme to set up 500 tubewells in three upazilas of the district, reports UNB.

The programmes were undertaken in view of the scarcity of pure water in the three upazilas, club sources said.

Rotarian and local member of the parliament L K Siddique inaugurated the programme recently by sinking a tubewell at Subanighat area of the town.

Office-bearers of the club were present on the occasion.

MAULVI BAZAR

Polythene bags block drainage

July 31 : Polythene bags dumped here and there are endangering health and sanitation in the town, reports UNB.

According to sources, polythene bags thrown into drains block the flow of water causing water-logging and polluting environment.

Many factories are manufacturing these bags but there is hardly any suggestion to the public on safe disposal of the used material.

Local elite have called for creating awareness among the local people about the hazardous effects of polythene.



SIRAJGANJ : Erosion of the river Karotoa threatens the Mazar of Hajrat Makhdoom Shah Dowla Shahid (R) at Shahzadpur upazila. — Star photo

Sirajganj flood situation improves

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, July 31 : Flood situation in the district is improving with the fall of water level in the Jamuna and other feeder rivers but erosion of the Jamuna, Karotoa and Fulzora have turned serious.

It is learnt that erosion of the Jamuna and other rivers have devoured 31 villages under Kaziupur, Sirajganj Sadar, Belkuchi, Chowhall, Shahzadpur and Raiganj upazilas rendering about 60 thousand people homeless.

The devastating erosion of the mighty Jamuna have washed away about one kilometre area of village Delua under Belkuchi upazila during the last 24 hours.

Due to the erosion of the river Karotoa, about 30 families of village Dargapara under Shahzadpur upazila are rendered homeless. The 600-year-old Shahzadpur Mosque and the Mazar of Hazrat Makhdoom Shah Dowla Shahid (R) is threatened and may be washed away any time. No measures have been taken as yet by the government to protect the Mazar from erosion excepting voluntary service of the religious minded local people.

The effort is not proved fruitful in absence of technical knowhow. Erosion of the river Fulzora have washed away major portion of Dhangara river port under Raiganj upazila. Shops of Dhangara bazar and nearby homesteads are devoured by erosion of Fulzora.

The erosion affected people have taken shelter on the Brahmaputra Flood Control Embankment.

Meanwhile higher authorities of Bangladesh Water

Development Board (BADB) have set up a probe body to find out the causes of breaches in WDB embankment at Sorali Bazar and Jhankal points under Kaziupur upazila which worsened flood situation of the district a few days back.

7 arrested

Seven persons including the resident Medical Officer of Sirajganj Sadar Hospital have been charge-sheeted by police in connection with Kunjalal murder case of Chowhall upazila. The RMO is accused of issuing forged postmortem report.

It is learnt that Kunja Lal Paul (45) of village Khamarganj under Chowhall upazila was mercilessly beaten by his neighbours following a dispute on taking tubewell water on April 8 this year. He died on April 11 while undergoing treatment at Sadar Hospital.

RMO Mokbul Hossain conducted the autopsy and submitted report of natural death. He also allegedly forged the 'surathal' report earlier prepared by police.

Freak of nature

JHENIDAH, July 31 : It is sheer freak of nature that a virgin cow has been giving milk for the last few days in Mazumdarpara of Satalakupa upazila in the district, reports UNB.

The cow, which belongs to Nazruddin Mollah of the village, is giving 1 kg milk per day, villagers said. People from far-flung areas are pouring into his house to have a glimpse of the wonder cow.

Smuggled Indian insecticides cause crop loss

From Our Correspondent

DINAJPUR, July 31 : Smuggled Indian insecticides are causing adverse effects on the crops and land all over Dinajpur, Thakurgaon and Panchagarh district.

According to informed sources, organised gangs of smugglers are bringing the Indian insecticides into the country in large quantity and selling them in the markets along the border belt at cheaper prices.

The Indian insecticide, Thiodin, banned for its harmful effect in India also, are eradicating all types of insects even those useful for land fertility. The poultry birds also become victims of this insecticide.

Market sources said that cultivators are purchasing these smuggled insecticides spontaneously as the local BADC godowns have been unable to ensure adequate supply of quality insecticides at reasonable prices in the open market. The farmers alleged

that the insecticides imported by the government are sold at high prices.

The agricultural experts said due to extensive use of Indian insecticides, the yield of paddy has registered a fall all over these districts.

It is felt that a massive campaign against Indian insecticide should be launched all over the country explaining the adverse effects on the crops and lands.

Illegal slaughtering

Unauthorised and scattered slaughtering of animals in unhygienic conditions at different spots within Dinajpur Pourashava area is posing a serious threat to the public health, according to Department of Environment Pollution Control sources.

Cattle, rams, cows buffaloes are indiscriminately slaughtered in New Town 2 No. Bazar, Bahadur Bazar, Chalkbazar, Railbazar, Phulbari Bus Stand, Pulhat, Suthari,

Kanchanghat, Chaulapatty, Ramnagar and many other places in pourashava area without making necessary hygienic arrangements.

It is alleged that the meats of the slaughtered animals are distributed in town markets without medical examinations. Aged, sick and injured animals are also slaughtered there and these meats are also sold at high price in local markets.

There is only one slaughter house in Dinajpur town which remain open for four days a week. Fifty goats and rams, 30 bullocks and 5 buffaloes are slaughtered daily on an average at different places of the town.

According to knowledgeable sources, only one tenth of the total requirement of meats are supplied from the slaughter house among 10 bazars in the town area. The bulk of the daily requirements of meat are supplied from unauthorised and unhygienic places.

Leprosy patients on rise in Rangpur

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, July 31 : The number of leprosy patients is increasing in four districts under greater Rangpur and Dinajpur zones.

According to the statistics there were one lakh patients in these districts but now the number has increased considerably. The worst-hit areas are Sadar Pratibhat, Chitribandar, Kanchshama, Kaharol, Pirgonj and Birol upazilas in Thakurgaon district, Boda and Debganj upazilas in Panchagarh and Sadar, Saidpur, Jaldhaka, Domar, and Dima upazilas in Nilphamari districts.

A 20-bed hospital at Nilphamari and two voluntary organisations at Parbatpur and Saidpur have been treating the patients but it is far from the requirements to fight out the disease, it is alleged.

A plan to establish a leprosy hospital and Saidpur few years back has been shelved due to unknown reasons.

People strongly demanded that the government should

establish hospitals and clinics for improved treatment to combat the disease.

Afforestation plan

A massive afforestation programme is being executed in 16 districts under Rajshahi Division during the current season. Taka 30 crore has been sanctioned by the government for implementation of the programme, which includes plantation of wood and fruit trees, widening of the existing forests and holding of the workshops and seminar on afforestation.

Founding anniversary

The fourth anniversary of Ranga Probat, a local weekly was observed here in a befitting manner recently.

To mark the occasion a discussion meeting was held at Gano-Granthagar with Advocate Shah Anisuzzaman, Editor of the weekly in the chair while Al-haj Shah Md. Abdus Salek and Mr. Nurul Islam were the chief and special guests respectively. Among others, Messrs Mahbulul Islam, Obaidul Majid, SM Khalil Babu and Mrs. Romena Chowdhury spoke on the occasion.

The meeting was rounded off with a lively musical soiree. The participants were Janate-Romman Tithi, Jannatul Ferdous Mithi, Pali, Kail, Panka and Biswanath.

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One stabbed to death

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, July 31 : A young man was brutally killed in broad daylight by some miscreants in Rajshahi city recently.

Eyewitness sources said, Abul Kalam (22), son of Daliluddin peon of Rajshahi Medical College was stabbed by one Nipe (25), son of Akmal Hossain and his associates in front of Rajshahi Medical College recently. Later he succumbed to his injury at RMCH on the same day.

A dispute over money is the cause of killing, it is learnt. A case has been registered with Boalia police in this connection.

3 killed in Brahmanbaria

BRAHMANBARIA, July 31 : Three people were killed in three separate incidents in the district yesterday police said, reports UNB.

Kamal Miah (35), son of Gulzar Khan of Mukardapur village in Sadar upazila, was crushed to death by a motor vehicle on the Comilla-Sylhet Highway near Shashat yesterday morning.

In another incident, Abdul Alim (80) of Daraan Nagar, also of Sadar upazila, was killed following a clash over fishing early hours of Monday.

Notes from Satkhira

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, July 31 : Gastro-intestinal diseases have broken out in different upazilas of the district following acute paucity of drinking water.

According to the sources, the paucity has become acute as 2,500 tubewells in Sadar, Tala, Kalaroa, Assasuni, Debhat, Kalligonj and Shyamnagar upazilas are lying inoperative for a long time.

Villagers alleged that poor maintenance of the tubewells is the main cause of the disorder. Concerned authorities have been informed about the matter but no steps have been taken either to repair or sink new tubewells, it is alleged.

In this back drop villagers are using impure water from ponds, canals, ditches and rivers resulting in the spread of the water-borne diseases like dysentery, diarrhoea and jaundice.

Pest menace

Standing Aus crops on 7,000 acres of land have been attacked by pests in seven upazilas of the district creating panic among the peasants.

According to the concerned sources, the pests known as Pamri, and Mazra, Poka have caused extensive damage to crops in Satkhira Sadar, Tala, Kalligonj, Kalaroa, Qebhata, Assasuni and Shyamnagar upazilas.

Green paddy plants after the pest attack become yellowish and dry up, the farmers said. Officials' initiative to prevent the pest invasion has been proved ineffective due to shortage of insecticides and spray machines.

It is alleged that the Agriculture Extension Department Authority depend on block supervisors about pest invasion but they prepare imaginary reports without visiting the affected areas.

It is learnt that most of the spray machines are lying inoperative in the upazila offices due to shortage of spares. Besides, most of the insecticides available in the market at exorbitant prices are adulterated.

Affected farmers urged the authorities to combat the menace without further delay.

Prices of essentials

Prices of essentials have shot up abnormally affecting the consumers of the district.

Consumers complained that unscrupulous traders raised the prices of the essentials in the plea of the implementation of Value Added Tax.

Market sources said per kg kerosene is being sold between Taka 20 to 22 against Taka 16 a few days back. Soyabean oil is sold at Taka 38 to 42 against Taka 32 last month, per kg mustard oil is being sold at Taka 55 to 60 against Taka 48 last month.

Prices of different varieties of rice under VAT have gone up by about Taka 15 to 20 per mound, prices of powdered milk, sugar, onion, garlic, ginger, pepper, potato, soap and vegetables have also gone up by 10 to 15 per cent over the last fortnight.

Besides, prices of cement, rods, bricks have registered an increase affecting the construction works. A bag of cement is selling between Taka 220 to 230 in the district, the sources added.

Cultural competition concludes

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, July 31 : The eight day long cultural competition arranged by Kurigram Samprok Shilpi Gosthi concluded recently with much enthusiasm. A large number of competitors participated in seven events of the competition in three groups.

On the concluding day, a prize-giving ceremony was held at the local Town Hall with Mr. Niloo Nandee, President of the Gosthi in the chair.

Headmaster Pran Ballav Karanjat and Khairul Alam, ADC, Kurigram were present as chief guest and special guest respectively.

The results of the competition are : Nazrul Sangcet : Group A-1st-Nishat Rahman, 2nd-Zannatul Ferdous, 3rd-Urmila Chakravarty.

Group B-1st-Mahbuba Nazring Zebin, 2nd-Keka Chakravarty.

Group C-1st-Bonani Ghos, 2nd-Shamoli Bhowmik, 3rd-Alamgir Prodhnan, Rabintra Sangcet :

Group A-1st-Bijoya Deb, 2nd-Mithun Deb, 3rd Sultana Haque.

Group B-1st-Mahbuba Nazrin Zebin, 2nd Keka Chakravarty, 3rd- Oparajita Zafar.

Group C-1st-Shamoli Bhowmik, 2nd-Rowshan Jahan Mita, 3rd- Bonani Ghos.

Problems grip Bajitpur poura area

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, July 31 : Bajitpur Pourashava area is plagued with a host of problems which include deplorable condition of roads, inadequate street lights, absence of proper drainage system, shortage of accommodation, lack of proper sanitary arrangement, mosquito menace, frequent power failure, absence of recreational facilities and housing etc.

The Pourashava authorities have failed to provide the inhabitants with minimum civic facilities. Roads in the Pourashava area are narrow and uneven. Cracks and pot-holes have developed at many points. A slight rainfall makes these roads muddy and slippery. Rain waters remain stagnant on the roads causing difficulties to the pedestrians as well as to the vehicular movement.

Moreover, roadside ditches filled with filths and garbages are not cleaned regularly and these have turned into mosquito breeding centres.

Mosquito menace has life miserable and it is impossible to work at night. Students are the worst sufferers who face extreme troubles in preparing their lessons.

Street lights Many street light posts are without bulbs in the Pourashava area. As a result, the areas plunge into darkness just after sunset and anti-social elements become active.

Construction of new houses is not increasing to cope with the rising population. The officials and other employees of various departments are facing problems due to accommodation problem. The condition unhygienic of the hotels and

restaurants is posing threat to the public health. Adulterated foodstuffs are freely sold in open places of the poura area which are ignored and left unchecked.

Recreational facilities are completely absent excepting a cinema hall. Necessity of a park is keenly felt here.

Conservancy service The conservancy service of the Pourashava areas is not at all satisfactory. There is no public toilet or urinal in the town area. Roads remain dirty will full of garbages, weeds and night soils. Apart from this some ditches inside the

Pourashava area remain felled with hyacinths for months together. There is no arrangement for cleaning this dirt regularly.

Absence of a waiting shed at Bajitpur bus stand causes much inconveniences to the travellers. A large number of passengers suffer much during summer and rainy season. There is no latrines or urinals on the bus stands. Passengers remain standing for buses under the open sky even in the rainy season and scorching heat of the summer.

Local leaders urged the road communication department to take immediate steps

to construct a shed in the bus stand.

The encroachment of roads by unauthorised persons also poses another problem to the town dwellers. The pye-dogs have become a menace who are found roaming here and there particularly in the meat and fish market.

Primary education in Bajitpur upazila is also facing serious setback. The Pourashava authority, however, have turned into a deaf ear to the public demand for immediate solution of these problems, though they are taking taxes in enhanced rate every year.



Harvesting of jute starts in full swing all over the country. Photo shows rural women extracting the natural fibre from the rotten plants at a village in Munshiganj district.