

Upazila roundup

SIRAJGANJ

Notorious dacoit held

May 22: Police on Thursday arrested a notorious dacoit from a village in sadar upazila of the district, reports UNB.

Akhter Hossain, a former BDR man who claimed to be the Assistant General Secretary of Bhadrachal Union Juba League, was arrested from village Chhatiantal Thursday morning.

Police said 10 cases were pending against him on charges of dacoity and attack on female voters and a candidate in Bhadrachal centre ahead of last year's February 27 parliamentary polls.

DINAJPUR

AL district council meet held

May 22: The council meeting of district Awami League was held at the Town Hall on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Amir Hossain Amu, Joint Secretary of Awami League, was present as chief guest at the council.

Presided over by Abdur Rouf Chowdhury the council meeting was also addressed by Joint Secretary by Abdul Jalil, Organising Secretary, Tofael Ahmed MP, Chief Whip of the opposition in Parliament, Md Nasim MP and Begum Matia Chowdhury MP.

Amir Hossain said, the BNP government failing in running the country has started anti-Awami League propaganda to tarnish its image. He said if the Mujib-Indira agreement was against the interest of the country and sovereignty, the BNP government should cancel the agreement.

He also accused the government for giving shelter to the war criminal, Golam Azam and not executing the peoples court verdict pronounced on March 26.

COMILLA

Training plan on 'social forestry'

May 22: A training programme on "Social forestry" has been going on for village leaders of Greater Comilla district, reports UNB.

Jointly sponsored and financed by UNDP and FAO 1,500 village leaders are being imparted training on forestry in batches. The training began on March 1 and has been conducted in batches.

In 6 batches at different centres of Comilla district, 365 participants have already been imparted training. Another about 240 leaders would be given training in 5 batches until July next. The UNO's and local agriculture officials have been involved in the training programme which is designed to create awareness among the village elders on the need for plantation and environment protection.

The divisional Forest Officer said, about 4.18 lakh saplings of different trees had been grown for sale during the current season. Last year, the department raised about 4.30 lakh saplings and sold about 3,44,584 i.e. 80 per cent of the total saplings.

PABNA

Polytechnic Principal kidnapped?

May 22: Some armed men kidnapped Principal of Pabna Polytechnic Institute Md Abdul Kalam Azad on Thursday morning. He was rescued later, reports UNB.

About 15 miscreants wearing masks kidnapped the Principal from his college office at about 9-30 am at gun point. They also misbehaved his, police said.

Later, local people rescued Abdul Kalam when the microbus on which he was forcefully taken aboard stopped halfway due to mechanical trouble.

The miscreants, however, went into hiding.

The Principal was admitted to Sadar Hospital in a serious condition.

The students of Pabna Polytechnic Institute were demanding expulsion of its Principal on corruption charge for long.

They also brought out a procession in the town in favour of their demand recently. Additional Deputy Commissioner, Md Alaiddin said.

A case was filed with Sadar police in this connection. But none has been arrested yet.

Meanwhile, 20 to 25 students at the local Press Club denied that Abdul Kalam was misbehaved or kidnapped.

CHAPAINAWABGANJ

Rival groups of BNP clash, 15 hurt

May 22: An armed clash between rival groups in district BNP and its student wing left at least 15 people injured on Thursday, reports UNB.

Sources said the clash was an outburst of intraparty conflicts over the district BNP conference held up for a long time.

Witnesses said the trouble erupted when one group led by Sultanul Islam allegedly launched armed attack at Boro Indira crossing on their rivals led by Syed Manjur Hossain who were going to attend Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's public meeting at Godagari in neighbouring Rajshahi.

Of the injured, ten are activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal.

Tension mounted as the clash spread throughout the town. Police were patrolling the roads to maintain peace.

NETRAKONA

Dredging of Mogra river needed

May 22: The river Mogra has been drying up rapidly affecting irrigation and riverine communication in the district, reports UNB.

Irrigation is being hampered seriously for the last few years mostly in Netrakona sadar, Purbadhala, Atpara and Madan upazila, which depend on Mogra water for cultivation of aman and IRRI-boro crops.

Local leaders demanded digging at places and dredging at some points to make the river navigable and ensure adequate flow for irrigation in the dry season.

JHENIDAH

Miscreants throw acid on girl

May 22: An SSC examinee and her brother received severe burn injury when some miscreants threw acid on them on their way to the examination centre on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Sukarna Nazreen Linta (16), daughter of Serajul Islam of Chaklapara in the town, and her cousin Walid Hasan were rushed to the local clinic for treatment.

Witnesses said one Rafiqul Islam and his accomplices allegedly threw acid on them when they reached the gate of the examination centre at Fazar Ali Girls' School at 9-50 am and left the place quickly.

The reason of acid throwing could not be known immediately.

After the incident, local people brought out a procession demanding exemplary punishment to the culprits.

HABIGANJ

Smugglers kill UP Member

May 22: A Union Parishad Member of Ahmedabad Union in Chunarughat Upazila of the district was killed by some border smugglers on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Witnesses and relatives of the victim said, some smugglers attacked UP Member, Salek Bhuiyan (926) with deadly weapons in Amuroad Bazar near the UP Office when he was returning to his village Ganganagar after attending weekly union parishad meeting.

The miscreants cut off his two hands and two legs. He died on the way to Habiganj Sadar Hospital.

The body was sent to sadar hospital for post-mortem.

Sources said UP Chairman Abdul Latif and other members were allegedly patronising the border smugglers but Salek Bhuiyan strongly opposed it.

Salek had escaped a gunshot six months ago.

His father was shot to death by smugglers 10 year ago. He lodged a case against 12 people, including the UP Chairman.

MALDEE COURT

Smooth power supply demanded

May 22: Power failure has become a regular feature in the town, disrupting office work and production in mills and factories, reports UNB.

Local people said, power goes off in different areas of the town for one or two hours everyday and hampers normal life in the town.

Common people and businessmen of the town have urged the authority to take steps towards ensuring smooth supply of electricity.



PABNA: The tin-shed building of a school in Bera Upazila has been damaged by a recent nor'wester. —Star photo

500 big ponds, 50 jalmahals lying uncultivated

From Our Correspondent

MADARIPUR, May 22: Over 500 big ponds and about 50 jalmahals in four upazilas of the district have been lying uncultivated for a long time.

Local fishermen disclosed that if these water bodies are brought under cultivation, more than 1.5 lakh maunds of fish worth about Taka 20 crore can be produced every year in the district.

It is learnt that most of these ponds and jalmahals have been silted up due to absence of re-excavation. The unabated growth of waterhyacinths are also hampering the pisciculture programme largely.

The fishermen of the district can not cultivate fish due to acute crisis of fund. The cost to renovate the derelict ponds has risen considerably as the labour charges are high. On the other hand, the rise in the prices of fish food like oikake, urea and other items is hampering the farming considerably.

The fishermen of the district are not getting loans from the banks including Krishi Bank as they can not comply with the necessary formalities.

It is informed that a class of people who have connection with some of the bank officials are getting loans.

The Fisheries Department is also not taking any initiative to bring the water bodies under fish cultivation. When contacted, some officials informed that they have got no requisite fund to take plan to cultivate the waterbodies.

As the cost of pisciculture is high, the local people are also not interested to cultivate fishes in these ponds and other water bodies. Proper financial assistance can help them to continue the cultivation, it is informed.

Concerned authorities have been urged to take steps to facilitate the cultivation in the district.

The farmers of the district have demanded the introduction of crop insurance for the development of agricultural sector.

According to farmers, natural calamities like drought, flood and cyclone have become a regular feature in the country which damage the standing crops almost every year. As a result, they have to suffer

much hardships every year.

According to agricultural experts, about 30 per cent of the total crops are damaged every year by these natural calamities and the introduction of insurance can relief them a lot.

Service latrines in the town have been causing health hazards to the dwellers.

It is reported that these kind of latrines are not cleaned regularly for which bad odour emits always which pollutes the environment. The situation becomes worse during the rainy season.

While talking to this correspondent, some officials of Public Health Engineering Department told that there is sufficient number of low cost sanitary latrines in their stock but the public are less interested to use those.

The local poura authority is silent regarding the matter after repeated appeals to remove the system from the area for the interest of the public health.

The town dwellers have urged the authority concerned to take immediate steps to mitigate the public sufferings.

Revenue loss in 4 rly routes

Ticket checkers threatened

NETRAKONA, May 22: Trend of travelling without tickets on four railway routes of the district has increased considerably causing huge loss to the exchequer, reports UNB.

Inadequate ticket checkers on Netrakona-Mymensingh, Netrakona-Mohanganj, Mymensingh-Bhairab and Shamganj-Zaria routes has helped in increase of the malpractice, it has been alleged.

Moreover, vigilance is hardly seen on running trains during the duty hours creating hazards for the bonafide passengers.

On many occasions the ticket collectors are manhandled by the ticketless passengers particularly youngmen who travel in groups. Ticket Checkers told UNB. They are left at the mercy of the mastans, they complained.

"We are threatened of dire consequences from organised gang" they said.

Unity of nationalist forces stressed

BSS reports add: The minister for LG and Co-operation and Secretary General of BNP Abdus Salam Talukder has stressed the need for greater unity among the Nationalist forces for improving the living condition of the toiling masses of the country.

He said Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman highlighted the Bangladesh Nationalism and initiated 19-Point Programme for ensuring socio-economic improvement of the people.

The minister urged upon the BNP members to work sincerely for materializing the dreams of Shaheed Zia.

He was addressing the biennial conference of BNP Netrakona district unit Presided over by the Whip of Treasury Bench in Jatiya Sangsad Advocate M A Karim MP. The conference was addressed among the others by Abu Abbas MP, Begum Bari Asraf MP and Abdul Quddus Advocate, General Secretary of BNP Netrakona district unit.

UP Chairmen confce

A conference of the newly elected union parishad chairmen of Netrakona district was held at public hall here recently.

The conference was organised by Netrakona district administration to educate the chairmen about different development programmes initiated by present democratic government.

Deputy Commissioner Netrakona A H M Abul Kaasem inaugurated the conference. Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Netrakona Bimal Kumar Kundu, Advocate

Abdul Kuddus, General Secretary BNP Netrakona district unit, Advocate Fazlur Rahman Khan, Former President of Awami League Netrakona district unit, Advocate Gazi Mossarrat Hossain, President of School Teachers Association of greater, Mymensingh district, two union parishad chairmen — Abdul Barez Talukder and Jahurul Haque Hira among others addressed the conference.

Police officers' confce held

A conference of police officers of Netrakona was held at the district Police Headquarters here recently.

Deputy Inspector General of Police, Dhaka range Ashraf Huda addressed the conference as chief guest. It was attended among others by Superintendent of Police, Netrakona, Anwar Hossain Khan, Additional Police Super, Netrakona, Assistant Police Supers of Netrakona, Barhatta and Mohanganj circles and Officers Incharge (OC) of ten thanas of Netrakona district.

According to conference source it was designed to create more awareness among the police officers' about their perspective duties.

Notes from Maulvibazar

From Our Correspondent

MAULVIBAZAR, May 22: A three-day long training programme on "Multi-grade teaching" was held recently at Primary Training Institute (PTI) of Maulvibazar.

Organised by Academy for Primary Education Programme was inaugurated by Mrs Selina Banu, Deputy Director of the Academy for Primary Education, Mymensingh.

21 Headmaster and Assistant teacher from different primary school of the district were participated in the programme.

Miscreants snatch

Tk 10,000

Some miscreants snatched Taka 10 thousand from a passer-by and injured him at Rajnagar under Maulvibazar district recently.

It is reported that Ananta Deb of Bhumiura village of Rajnagar upazila under the district was returning home from Rajnagar with cash Taka 10 thousand. While he was reached at the bank of Kamala Ranir Dighee near from Rajnagar thana, miscreants attacked on him and snatched his cash.

Later he was admitted to Rajnagar Upazila Health Complex. A case was registered with police.

Course on tea planting

A day-long training course on "Tea Planting, Practice and Problems" was held recently at Bangladesh Tea Research Institute (BTRI) Officers Club, Sreemongal under Maulvibazar district.

AFM Badrul Alam, Acting Director of BTRI opened the training course. Hundreds of senior tea planters from different tea-gardens of the region participated in the course.

Lack of tele-link facilities

Kulaura upazila headquarter under Maulvibazar district has been lagging behind in the development stride for lack of quick and easy tele-link with Dhaka, Chittagang and other important place, businessmen complain.

The local traders said that absence of NWD system with the capital, port-city and other places made it difficult to contact and conclude deals which hampering economic activities in the upazila. It may be mentioned that this upazila is famous for its tea industry.

Electricity bills

Tk 80 lakh unpaid

Electricity bills an amount of Taka 80 lakh have remained unpaid at Maulvibazar district under the Rural Electrification Board (REB).

REB source said, most of the Public and Autonomous Organisations and Educational Institutes like upazila parishad, pourashava and school-colleges have not paid bills for power consumption. Their bills have remain outstanding for a long time.

Normal activities of REB have been hampering due to such unpaid bills, the source added. REB have given notice again and again to the defaulters but failed to realise the unpaid bills.

Khet Majur Samity unit meet held

A public meeting organised by Bangladesh Khet Majur Samity, Kamalganj upazila unit was held recently at Bhanugachh bazar.

The meeting was presided over by Mafizur Rahman, while Hafiz Maulana Danic, Central Leader of Gono Azadee League and Syed Abu Zafar Ahmed, District General Secretary of CPB attended as chief guest and special guest respectively.

Among others M. A. Malik, Ahmed Siraj and Abdul Mannaf were addressed the meeting.

Speakers in the meeting demanded to the government for separate budget allocation to welfare of country's khet majurs (field labour in agriculture) and to distribute khas land among them.

JCD bags majority in polls

FARIDPUR, May 22: Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) bagged all the seats in the Student Union election of Birasetha Munshi Abdur Rouf College in Kamarkhali upazila, reports UNB.

Kazi Shahabuddin Sohag and Yahiya Hussain were elected as Vice President and General Secretary respectively in the election held on May 14. JCD, student wing of BNP, pro-Awami League Chhatra League and Jatiya Party backed Jatiya Chhatra Samaj contested the election.

Shamsun Nahar Ahmed, MP and Principal of the college lauded the students for helping the authorities in holding the election free and fair.

Over Tk seven lakh goods seized

FENI, May 22: Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) have seized a huge quantity of smuggled sarees worth about Taka 3.70 lakh and arrested six people in this connection from separate places of the district during the last three weeks, reports UNB.

Official sources said, BDR acting on a secret information rushed to Mohipal Bus Stand and seized unclaimed 283 pieces of Indian sarees worth about Taka 1.05 lakh on May 2.

The BDR personnel also raided another bus at the stand and seized 442 pieces of Indian sarees worth about Taka 1.55 lakh on May 14.

At the Hawlader Basha Bus Stand they held a truck with 347 pieces of Indian sarees worth about Taka 1.10 lakh and arrested six people in this connection.

The arrested are: Shabad Alam, Shafi Ahmed, Shamsul Alam, Ruhul Amin, Aminul Hoque, Robtul Hoque of village Champaknagar in Chhaganlia upazila.

In another raid on the Mohanagar intercity train at Feni Railway Station, a BDR contingent seized 63 pieces of Indian sarees and a bicycle — valued at Taka 65,000.

A BSS report from Kushtia says: The law enforcing agency personnel seized contraband goods valued at Taka three lakh 32 thousand 235 in three separate operations in different areas of the district.

In another operation, they seized 20 Indian cattle from Bheramara upazila. They also seized Indian sarees, salt, padlock and imitation ornaments valued at Taka 27,735 from Halsha Railway Station under Mirpur upazila.

Jute cultivation on decrease

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, May 22: The cultivation of jute has been decreasing every year in the district.

During the last decade, the production target of jute has not been achieved here. Chandpur is one of the largest jute producing area of Bangladesh.

About 20 thousand acres of land were brought under jute cultivation during the current season. Jute plants in many areas have also been attacked by pests and other diseases. Jute plants become yellowish and dried up.

Every year jute production is going down in the district in absence of patronisation by the concerned authorities.

It is reported, farmers were not given jute seeds at fair prices. The farmers had to purchase seeds at a higher price. The farmers alleged that jute market was dull for last several years.

In the absence of stability of jute price, the cultivators did not get fair price for their production. Due to low price of jute, the farmers are now interested to grow paddy than jute. As a result, jute production is decreasing day by day in the area. Many government

and private jute purchasing centres of the district have already been closed.

Diarrhoea kills 15

Diarrhoea claimed so far about 15 lives and affected over one thousand in seven upazilas of Chandpur district.

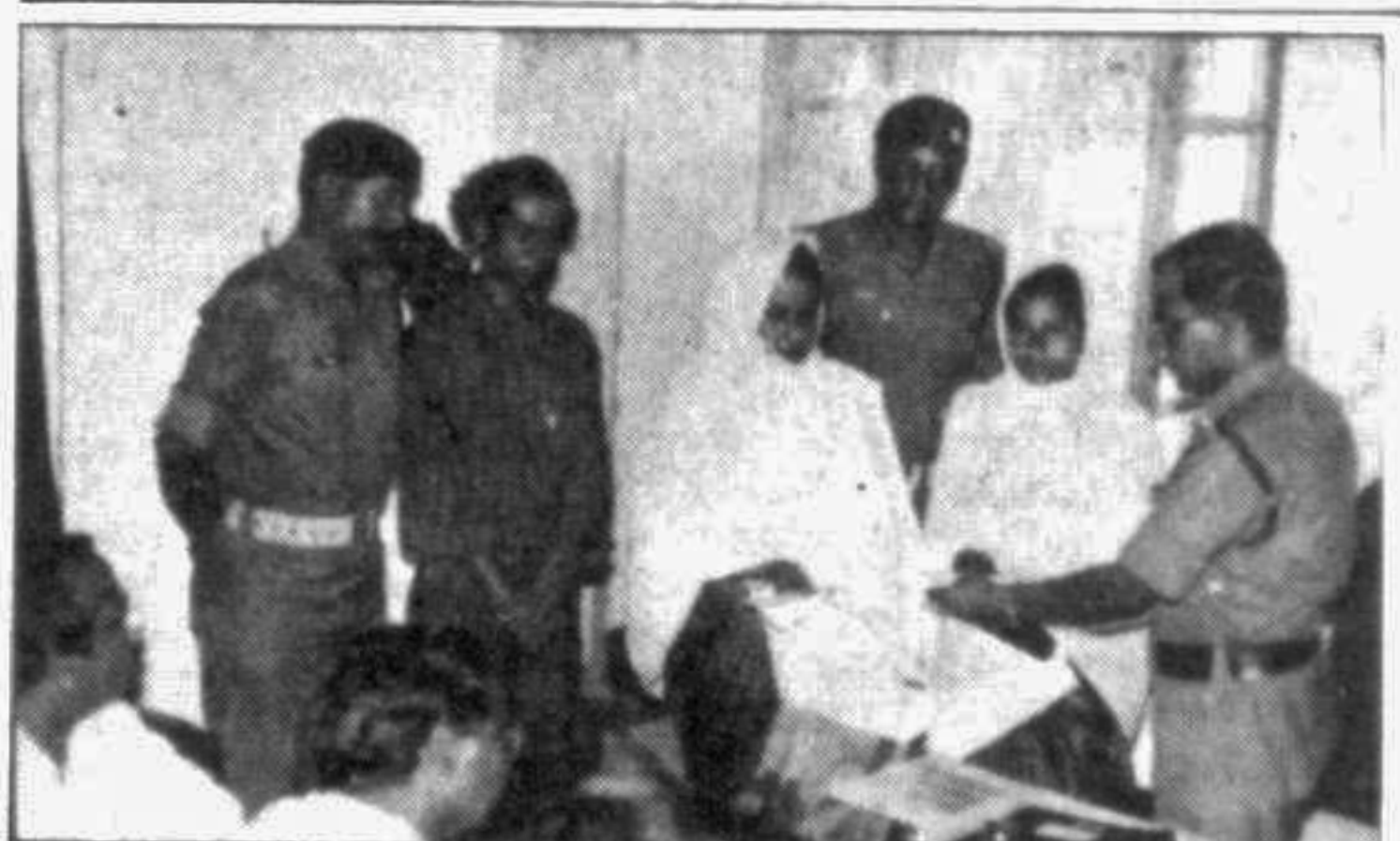
It is reported, every day at least one hundred diarrhoea patients are admitted at Matlab ICDDR,B centre. Besides everyday many diarrhoea patients are admitted in different upazila health complexes.

Dacoits snatch away cash, valuables

MAJDEE COURT, May 22: Masked dacoits snatched away valuables and cash Taka 5,000 from a house in village Anantapur of Begumganj upazila recently, reports UNB.

The dacoits numbering about 10 upon entering the house of Ali Akkas of the village tied the inmates and looted three watches, a radio set and cash. They were armed with lethal weapons.

None has been arrested yet.



MYMENSINGH: The mother and wife of Shaheed Firoj Zahangir receiving Taka 14,000 saving certificates from the local SP, Altaf Hossain Mollah. Each shaheed family got Taka 7,000 recently. —Star photo

Tk 1.10 cr to renovate archaeological relics

BAGERHAT, May 22: A number of projects to safeguard the ancient monuments and site of Bagerhat will be implemented at a cost of Taka 1.10 crore including a foreign exchange component of Taka 93 lakh, to be provided by the UNESCO, reports BSS.

The project, are expected to be completed by 1995.

This was stated by the officials of Archaeology Department when State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahanara Begum visited the archaeological relics here on Wednesday.

The State Minister was informed that the aims of the projects are to build a museum at the largest multi-domed mosques which is famed as "Shait-Gumbaj Masjid", re-excavation of large sweet water tank at the mosque premises and renovations of "Shait-Gumbaj", Bibi Begn's Mosque, Raza Khoda Mosque and Zinda Pir Mosque.

In mid-15th century, a Muslim colony was founded in the mangrove forest of the Sundarbans near the sea-coast in Bagerhat district by an obscure saint-general, named Ulagh Khan Jahan. He was the earliest torch bearer of Islam in the south who laid the nucleus of an affluent city during the regime of Sultan Nasiruddin Mahmud Shah then known as Khalitabad (present) Bagerhat.

The State Minister said these ancient monuments are playing significant role to uphold our history and traditional cultural heritage. She called upon the concerned officers to discharge their duties

with honesty and sincerity. She directed them to complete the projects on due time.

An earlier report adds: A joint delegation of the leaders of Khulna Union of Journalists, Khulna Press Club and Khulna Regional Newspaper Owners Association met the Speaker of Jatiya Sangsad, Shaikh Razzak Ali at the Khulna Circuit House and apprised him of the police excesses on the local working journalists.

They demanded a judicial enquiry into the recent incidents in Khulna in which some journalists were allegedly subjected to physical torture by the law enforcing agency. The journalists leaders submitted a memorandum to the Speaker contending their grievances.

The Speaker gave patient hearing to the journalists leaders and assured them of taking necessary steps in this connection.

Minor boy killed in road mishap

BRAHMANBARIA, May 22: An eight-year-old boy was run over by a speeding truck on the Comilla-Sylhet highway Thursday, reports UNB.

The Comilla bound truck hit Jahangir Alam Shapan while he was crossing the road. Shapan died on the spot.

He was the son of Abu Baker Siddique of Sushilpur village. The body was sent to the Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

A case has been lodge with the local police.



MAULVIBAZAR: Local artistes rendering songs at a function organised on the occasion of Tagore's birth anniversary. —Star photo