

Upazila roundup

NETRAKONA

Jute production decreases

From Our Correspondent

May 25: Jute production in the district may fall short of the target during this season for want of seeds and necessary capital.

Officials said, about 40,000 acres of land have been brought under jute cultivation in all 10 upazilas of the district. But the scarcity of jute seeds is posing a threat in achieving the target.

It was reported that in the open market jute seeds are being sold between Taka 40 and 50 per seer which is beyond the purchasing capacity of the drought-hit farmers.

Upazila Seed Inspector said the seeds which had been distributed among the farmers by Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation were not germinating.

Another report adds: A business man, Syed Hafiz Ahmed (35), of Hossainpur was electrocuted here recently.

Later he was rushed to the sadar hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

The body was sent to morgue for autopsy. An UD case was lodged with police in this connection.

MAULVIBAZAR

House rent up

May 25: House rent has increased manifold at the town over the past few years due to acute shortage of accommodation, reports UNB.

At present, a single-unit residential quarter is being let out at a monthly rent of Taka 1500. In many cases, the house owners realise advance rent from the tenants.

As a result, many tenants, especially the fixed income group, find it difficult to pay the rent.

Due to accommodation crisis, a large number of professionals have been living alone in the town leaving their families at village homes.

The accommodation crisis, both for residential and commercial purposes and rent hike have been attributed to non-availability of land at reasonable prices and lack of investment and government initiatives of house-building in this commercial centre.

RANGPUR

Group of lawyers boycotts Bar Council election

May 25: A group of lawyers of the district bar could not cast their votes to Bar Council election Sunday due to strong resistance by another boycotting group of lawyers.

The group earlier at a requisitioned meeting decided to boycott bar council election. The intending lawyers could not reach the polling booth set up at the chamber of Rangpur Sub-Judge fearing violence.

Later, a large number of lawyers alleged they could not exercise their votes due to utter insecurity and lawlessness in the polling centre.

They also demanded fresh date for casting votes at Rangpur centre.

GAIBANDHA

Minor boy crushed to death

May 25: A boy of village Narikelata in Sadar Upazila was crushed to death in a truck mishap on Thursday, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, the speeding truck lost its control and dashed the biscuit factory in Badialkhat bazar killing the boy on the spot. The victim, orphan Nantu (12), son of late Anwar was packing biscuits inside the factory.

The Gaibandha-bound truck also damaged two nearby shops. A case was filed with the police.

BANDARBAN

Property worth Tk several lakhs gutted

May 25: Property worth several lakh Taka were gutted in a fire at village Semdulupara, ten kms from Bandaban hill district headquarters, recently, reports UNB.

Reports reaching here said the devastating fire originated from a kitchen.

Two rice mills, six shops, dozens of thatched houses and two thousand mounds of paddy were burnt to ashes.

SIRAJGANJ

BSCIC plans to set up 40 industrial establishments

From Our Correspondent

May 25: Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) have taken up a scheme to set up 40 industrial establishments at Sirajganj Industrial Area of BSCIC recently.

It is gathered that development works of the area have been started at cost of Taka 2.5 crore. Ten acres of land divided into 67 plots have been acquired at Sialkote by the side of Sirajganj-Bogra-Pabna Highway.

While contacted, a source at Sirajganj office of BSCIC told this correspondent that the works will be completed by June next and on installation of the industrial establishments, 600 persons will be appointed.

KUSHTIA

Bus journey hazardous, risky

From Our Correspondent

May 25: Bus journey on different routes from Kushtia has become hazardous and risky.

Thousands of passengers travelling every day on these routes have been facing much inconvenience due to absence of minimum amenities.

Over-loading, late running and rash driving have become a regular feature. Besides, the buses do not maintain any time-table.

It is alleged that most of the buses, minibuses and coaches running on Kushtia-Meherpur, Kushtia-Daulatpur, Kushtia-Ishurdi, Kushtia-Khulna, Kushtia-Bheramara routes are old and worn out.

Passengers are found travelling on the roofs and on the footboards at the risk of their lives. The overloaded buses play on the maximum speed and very often are involved in road accidents. Sometimes, the buses go out of order on the way causing untold sufferings to the passengers particularly to the women and children.

It is further alleged that conductors misbehave with the passengers. There is none to look after the situation.

FARIDPUR

Tagore's birth anniversary observed

May 25: The 131st birth anniversary of poet Rabindranath Tagore was observed here recently by various socio-cultural organisations with due fervour, reports BSS.

Faridpur Shilpakala Academy and Biswa Shahitya Kendra, Faridpur branch, jointly organised a discussion meeting followed by musical soiree at Shilpakala Academy premises.

Speakers at the discussion meeting paid rich tributes to the poet for his immense contributions for Bengali language and literature.

The discussion meeting was presided over by Principal (Retd) Apurba Krishna Ghose. Among others, Md Abdur Rahim, Deputy Commissioner of Faridpur, Radha Gobinda Saha and Professor Md. Shahjahan participated in the discussion. The discussion was followed by a musical soiree.

KURIGRAM

Zila Ayeenjeebe Samity formed

From Our Correspondent

May 25: A 19-member executive committee of Kurigram Zila Ayeenjeebe Samity was formed here recently.

The election of the samity was conducted by Nazrul Islam Khan, Asstt Commissioner, Kurigram Sadar Upazila.

Advocate A Z M Asad, Advocate Nozir Hossain, Advocate Enamul Haque Chand and Advocate Khalid Rahman were elected President, Vice-President, General Secretary and Treasurer respectively of the executive committee of Ayeenjeebe Samity.

Another report adds: Rat menace has increased alarmingly in nine upazilas of the district causing extensive damage to the crops.

Standing crops and vegetables on hundreds of acres of land in rural areas have been invaded by rats.

Affected farmers failed to check the menace due to lack of necessary insecticides.



BOGRA: No, they are not accused. The rope has been used for the safety of the passengers travelling on bus roof. This has become usual now-a-days. —Star photo

Mango output falls by two lakh tons

From Our Correspondent

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, May 25: The production of mango in the country has decreased by two lakh tons during the last 10 years.

The production of mango was over three lakh and 36 thousand tons which came down to one lakh 80 thousand tons in 1991. It can be mentioned here that the production of mango in seventies was about five lakh tons.

While the production of mango is coming down in the country, the demand for mango and its by-products is going up with the passage of time.

Experts opined that our country can easily boost mango production and thereby its by-products including juice, sauce, and amatta. The country also can earn huge amount of foreign exchange through export of mangoes and its by-products, they expressed.

In Bangladesh, mango is cultivated on only 46,000 hectares of land. In seventies, the position of our country was fourth in the production of mango but our position is now 10th.

India produces 90 lakh tons

India is now holding top position in exporting mango. Apart from it, Pakistan, Brazil, Mexico, China, Philippines are ahead of Bangladesh.

Mango also grows in Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Haiti, Tanzania and United Kingdom. The countries are applying higher technologies in mango production. The total mango

production in the world is one crore and forty-two lakh tons. Out of the total, India produces only 90 lakh tons.

Various types of mangoes such as lengra, fazi, gopalbhog, khirsa, sarnarkha, rangapali, ashina are exported by India in large quantity. India earns a considerable amount of foreign exchange through export.

In Bangladesh, Chapainawabganj, Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Rangpur and Kushtia produce different kinds of tasteful mango.

In Chapainawabganj, mango grows abundantly on 17,000 acres of land on about

Workshop on rabi crop farming

CHUADANGA, May 25: A four-day long workshop for the growers of rabi crops was held at Alamdanga upazila under Chuadanga district recently, reports BSS.

Organised by Agriculture Extension Department, the workshop, was inaugurated by Deputy Director, Agriculture Extension Department, Chuadanga Mansur Rahman. The inaugural function was presided over by Agriculture Officer of Alamdanga upazila KM Altaf Hossain.

A total of 133 farmers participated in the workshop. They were imparted training on modern method of cultivation and preservation of various rabi crops and seeds.

'Hang Azam, ban Jamaat-Shibir'

RANGPUR, May 25: Nirmul

Committee leader Jahanara Imam on Sunday warned people of anti-independence conspiracy by Jamaat-Shibir activists, alleging that they have consolidated their position with modern arms and financial support from some foreign countries, reports UNB.

The anti-liberation Jamaat-Shibir clique has emerged as a strong force after receiving arms and money from foreign countries, including Pakistan, to grab state power and foil the country's independence, she told a crowded rally at Rangpur Public Library Ground on Sunday afternoon.

Jahanara Imam called for greater unity of all pro-liberation groups to unitedly foil the conspiracy of Jamaat-Shibir axis and force the government to execute the March 26 verdict of the 'Gano Adalat' (people's court) against Golam Azam.

'Hang Golam Azam', 'Ban Jamaat-Shibir', were some of the slogans shouted by those attending the rally, organised by the District Ghatok-Dalal Nirmul Committee.

Central leaders of the Nirmul Committee Nirmal Sen, Mirza Sultan Raza, Kazi Arif Ahmed, Mohammad Afzal and Principal Ahad Chowdhury also addressed the rally, presided over by Nazrul Islam Advocate, the convenor of Rangpur District Nirmul Committee.

Another report from Sirajganj says: The district BNP leaders on Saturday blamed both the Ghatok-Dalal Nirmul Committee and the Jamaat-Shibir axis for what they said unleashing terrorism in the country in the name of

Gano Adalat.

Speaking at a street-corner meeting near the BNP office, they demanded immediate halt to terrorism, arrest of those accused of it and security of public life.

Referring to the May 13 incident in the town where one person was killed and many injured, they alleged the groups were acting in a pre-planned conspiracy to jeopardize the hard-earned democracy.

The local chapter of the ruling party will hold a meeting here May 25 to press the demand.

200 BCL workers join JCD

NETROKONA, May 25:

About 200 workers of Bangladesh Chhatra League (pro-Awami League) of Netrokona Government College led by Nayan Datta, Vice-President of the college students union, formally joined the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal here on Saturday imbued with the ideals of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman, reports BSS.

Netrokona Government College Unit of the JCD held a reception to welcome them at the college campus. Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad MA Karim was present on the occasion. Abdul Quddus, local BNP leader and Lutful Hog Marshal, student leader spoke at the reception.

Criticising the dubious role of the Awami League, he said the people of this country would foil their conspiracy.

57 Degree examinees expelled

GAIBANDHA, May 25: Fiftyseven Degree Examinees were expelled for adopting unfair means in the first day examinations Sunday in the district, reports UNB.

According to official sources, 42 candidates were expelled from Gaibandha Government College and Government Mahila College sub-centres while 15 were expelled from Sadullapur Centre. A total of 4687 examinees were appearing at the three centres.

The examinations were held peacefully. But the examinees of Polashbari College have been facing much inconveniences as the examinations could not be held at Polashbari Centre due to unknown reasons.

It is learnt from a dependable source that Japan is willing to import better quantity of mango and its by-products.

The only juice plant, Multiple Juice Concentrated Plant set up at a cost of Taka 20 crore at Kalurghat of Chittagong in order to make paste from mango and other fruits has been closed down.

Prior to the closure of the plant, it used to make paste from anaras and tomato. There was a plan to set up a mango processing factory at Rajshahi but the fate of the proposed plan is still unknown.

Centre makes little progress

A Mango Research Center was set up at Chapainawabganj at cost of Taka 10 crore in 1984 aiming at increasing mango production and find out high producing mango quality but this make no progress. It is informed that proper research could not be done for want of appliances.

One killed, 40 hurt in road accident

MYMENSINGH, May 25: A man was killed and 40 others sustained injuries, 10 seriously, in a bus mishap at Dawkhala on Mymensingh-Fulbaria Road Saturday, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, the Fulbaria bound speeding bus (Mymensingh-HA-43) fell into a roadside ditch while it was crossing the point.

The deceased was identified as Abu Bakar Siddique (30) of Ambuzhati village in Fulbaria upazila. The seriously injured were admitted to the Mymensingh Medical College Hospital while the rest were sent to Fulbaria Upazila Health Complex.

A case has been lodged with the police.

Transport strike on Kushtia-Poradah Route

KUSHTIA, May 25: Transport owners and workers on Sunday began a three-day strike on Kushtia-Poradah route demanding immediate reconstruction of the road, reports UNB.

The road has become unfit for playing any kind of vehicles for lack of maintenance over the last 30 years since its construction in 1962 by Kushtia Zila Parishad.

Transport owners complained that their repeated appeals for reconstruction of the road went unheeded.

At a meeting at Poradah Bazar on Tuesday, the transport workers and the local people demanded immediate reconstruction of the road by Kushtia Zila Parishad.

But the Parishad, the proper authority for reconstruction and maintenance, is running without its Chairman for the last one year.

BSS report says: At least seventeen examinees were expelled on Saturday on the first day of Degree Examination for adopting unfair means in three examination centres in the district.

Four candidates were expelled from Kushtia centre,

four from Amla centre and nine from Kumarkhali centre. There are four centres in the district including one in Bheramara. There was no expulsion from Bheramara centre.

8000 apply for 720 seats in Islamic Varsity

Our Correspondent adds: Eight thousand students have applied for admission into the honours classes of the Islamic University for the academic session of 1991-2.

According to university source, a total of 720 will be admitted in 12 subjects under four faculties. There are only 60 seats for each subject in the university.

Meanwhile, eleven teachers of the Islamic University who were dismissed earlier by the former Vice-Chancellor, Dr Sirajul Islam have been reinstated in their respective posts.

It can be mentioned here that these teachers, after losing their jobs filed writ petition before the High Court Division of Bangladesh Supreme Court challenging their dismissal.

Storm damages 1000 dwelling houses

DINAJPUR, May 25: Storm that lashed the three upazilas of the district recently damaged thatched dwelling houses and properties worth about Taka one crore, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, the storm with windspeed of 60 to 70 miles accompanied by rain and thundershower damaged at least 1000 houses.

The storm also damaged standing crops on vast areas of land, uprooted trees and electric poles in Sadar, Birganj and Bochaganj upazilas.

The shelterless people have been facing serious problems due to absence of relief materials from the administration.

The affected people urged the authorities to provide them with adequate relief and grants to help their rehabilitation as early as possible.

A girl of Dariapara in the town allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself in her house recently.

Police said, Ismat Ara (19) daughter of rickshawpuller Yusuf Mia committed suicide following a family feud.

The body was sent to morgue for autopsy. A case has been registered with the police.

Law regarding cutting of trees likely

From Our Correspondent

SHERPUR, May 25: A law regarding the cutting of trees along roadside and in home-steads in under the active consideration of the government.

This was expressed by the Deputy Commissioner, Md Abdus Salam while he was addressing a seminar on the role of trees in preservation of environment.

Organised under the auspices of the district administration, the seminar, was addressed by the district and upazila level officers and local elites.

The Deputy Commissioner said, tree plantation can help increase domestic resources and save the environment from pollution.

Abdus Salam said that huge use of trees in different fields including the brickfields affecting the environment.

The DC called upon all to

plant trees in a massive way to maintain the environment.

Earlier, he planted a sapling at the premises of the Local Circuit House.

He also called upon the law enforcing agencies to help protect the trees planted at various places including the roadside.

Works on 47 projects in five upazilas of the district are nearing completion.

According to official sources, the Local Government Engineering Bureau (LGEB) has been implementing the projects at a cost of Taka 4.5 crore. The Asian Development Bank, has been financing the projects.

The works on these projects include construction of bridges, culverts, pucca and kancha roads in the upazilas of the districts.

'Organisers of Gano Adalat creating anarchy'

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, May 25: Acting Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami, Abbas Ali Khan here on Sunday said the organisers of the so-called 'Gano Adalat' were creating anarchy at the dictation of their foreign masters to frustrate the development process of the country, reports UNB.

He was speaking at a meeting organised by the district Jamaat-e-Islami at the local Pura park with Rafiqul Islam in the chair.

The meeting was also addressed by Latifur Rahman MP, Ataur Rahman, Taslim Anam and Nasiruddin MP.

The speakers demanded unconditional release of Prof Golam Azam. They also said the 'Gano Adalat' were out to eliminate Islam in the name of

upholding the spirit of the Liberation War. They urged the people to resist the Gano Adalat and save the country from chaos and anarchy.

A total of 97 fire incidents took place in the district during the last four months destroying property worth about Taka 17.94 lakh.

According to informed sources, three people and five cattle were roasted alive in the incidents. Most of the fire originated from kitchen and burning cigarette ends.

Local fire brigade personnel in their timely action saved property worth about Taka 9 lakh during the period.

But the only fire service station in district town cannot cope with the increasing fire incidents. Moreover, the firemen always cannot move outside the pourashava areas due to various limitations.

Every year fire destroys property worth lakhs of Taka in Shibganj, Bholahat, Gomostapur and Nachole upazilas in the absence of fire stations there, local people said.

Local leaders urged the authorities to set up fire stations at every upazila headquarters to save the life and property of the people.

Two students were arrested for misconduct and a total of 101 examinees expelled on Saturday for adopting unfair means in four centres of the district on the first day of the Degree Examination under Rajshahi University.

Of the total, 2,231 candidates in the district, 122 were absent.



SYLHET: A rally against smoking was brought out here recently by the Anti-drug and Anti-smoking society. —Star photo