

Upazila roundup

NETRAKONA

Travelling without tickets rampant

From Our Correspondent
May 31: Trend of travelling without tickets on four railway routes of the district has increased considerably causing huge loss to the exchequer.

Inadequate ticket checkers on Netrakona-Mymensingh, Netrakona-Mohanganj, Mymensingh-Bhairabatta and Shamganj-Zaria routes are helping to increase the malpractices, 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 menhanded by the ticketless passengers particularly young men who travel in groups, ticket checkers told this correspondent. They are left at the mercy of the bastards, they complained.

"We are threatened from organised gang," they also said.

JHENIDAH

One more Sharbahara Partymen gunned down

From Our Correspondent
May 31: One more Sharbahara Partymen was gunned down at the village of Kanshi under Sadar Upazila of the district Thursday night.

Police and villagers said, Abdur Rashid, a member of the so called Sharbahara Party was called out from his house by some people and shot at.

The incident occurred in a nearby paddy field at about 9 pm.

Villagers said, he might have been killed by his own partymen following internal conflict.

Another Partymen was also killed on Tuesday by his own partymen.

CHAPAINAWABGANJ

14 cattelifters nabbed

From Our Correspondent
May 31: Niamatpur and Nawabganj thana police arrested here 14 cattelifters with 21 cattelifters in separate drive recently.

It is learnt that acting on secret information Niamatpur thana police raided Sadral and Bhatkundu villages and arrested four cattelifters named Saidur, Mannan, Majidul and Tajabul with 10 cattelifters.

In another drive, Nawabganj police arrested 6 cattelifters named Anisur Rahman Chutu, Mafizul, Samser Ali Fensu and Arafal with cattelifters from Barendra area.

Besides, four cattelifters were caught red handed by the local people of Narendrapur village under Sadar Upazila recently. Later, local people handed them to Nawabganj police.

PABNA

Palli Bidyut Samity earns Tk 2.61 cr

From Our Correspondent
May 31: The local Palli Bidyut Samity earned Taka 2.61 crore from its subscribers during the period 1990-91 financial year.

During the period, the Samity supplied 26,75,812 kilowatt hour electricity to the consumers of the various areas of the district.

The General Manager, Pabna Palli Bidyut Samity disclosed that informations in the general meeting of the Samity. Another report adds: A workers conference of the Jatiya Party Vagur Upazila was held recently.

Presided over by Professor Matul Islam, President Vagur Upazila Jatiya Party. The conference was addressed among others by Advocate Mohammad Samsuddin, former MP and others.

NAOAGANJ

Oath taking ceremony

May 31: The oath taking ceremony of the newly elected chairmen and members of the Sadar Upazila was held recently at the Upazila Parishad auditorium, reports UNB.

Rajshahi Divisional Commissioner NA Habibullah attended the function as chief guest.

Deputy Commissioner U KA Zain conducted the oath.

The function, presided by UNO Prabhan Chakraborty, was also attended by ex-chairmen and members.

A musical soiree presented by students of local schools followed the ceremony.

CHUADANGA

3 persons held in murder case

From Our Correspondent
May 31: Three persons were arrested by Chuadanga thana police in connection with night guard Raja killing case recently.

It may be noted here that the 70 year old night guard Raja was killed by the miscreants while he was performing his night duty as a guard in the local Raibazar area at dead of night on March 8 last.

The arrested persons are Shahin of village Pirojkhal under Chuadanga Sadar Upazila, Haider and Azizul of Chuadanga Pura College Para.

Police also seized a hand axe, one Ramda and two daggers from arrested Shahin's residence.

Earlier one Faruk of local Farpara was arrested by the police in this connection. Faruk confessed to the police of his involvement in Raja killing. He also named the above three persons of their involvement in Raja killing case while confessing to the police. It may be noted here that a case has been started earlier in this connection with Chuadanga thana police under Sections 302 and 394 BPC.

Investigation is going on. TSI of Chuadanga thana investigating into case.

MANIKGANJ

Bangladesh Teachers Assoc confce held

From Our Correspondent
May 31: The biennial conference of Bangladesh Teachers Association of Manikganj district unit was held here at local Town Hall recently.

The President of the association Md. Kamrozaman and Secretary General Chowdhury Khorshed Alam attended the conference as chief and special guests.

The conference was presided over by Abdul Hakim, Headmaster of Teroshi High School. Addressed among others by Alauddin Bhuiyan, Monish Chakrobarty, Kholliur Rahman, Promoth Nath Sarker and Arshed Chowdhury.

Later, a 31-member executive committee was formed with Arshed Ali Chowdhury and Kashi Nath Sarker as President and General Secretary respectively.

RAJSHAHI

Goitre patients on rise

From Our Correspondent
May 31: A large number of people in sixteen northern districts have been suffering from goitre due to iodene-deficiency.

A survey report revealed that more than nine lakh people have been attacked by goitre in four districts. These are Thakurgoan, Panchagar, Nilphamari and Dinajpur districts. This disease is spreading due to poor percentage of iodene in the water, soil and food of the northern region, experts said.

Iodene mixed salt is the main preventive measure for the disease, doctors suggested. But this specialised salt is not available in the rural hat and bazars. Moreover people are not still aware about the reason of the disease, it is alleged.

People urged the government to take necessary steps for supplying iodized salt in the rural hats and markets and to create public awareness about the disease through mass-media and field workers.

SYLHET

One held with revolver cartridges, toy pistol

From Our Correspondent
May 31: Sylhet Kotwali Police recovered 6 rounds of revolver cartridges and a toy pistol from two places of the district town recently.

According to a police source, a party of petrol police challenged a youngman on a motor-cycle at Surma Market point and recovered 6 rounds of revolver cartridges from his possession. Police took him into the custody alongwith the motorcycle. He hails from village Keshabpur under Jagannathpur upazila of Sunamganj district. The arrested person named Abdul Jahed was involved with illegal arms business, the police said. A case has been lodged with the Kotwali police.

In another incident, a police official went to a hotel in the Mohajarpatti area and recovered Indian toy pistol and dolls worth about Taka 15,000 from a room of the hotel and arrested two boarders from there.



RAJBARI: The erosion-hit people of Sadar upazila have taken shelter on flood embankment and have been passing subhuman life. — Star photo

Fresh areas threatened Erosion of Padma leaves 20,000 families homeless

From Our Correspondent
RAJBARI, May 31: The erosion of the river Padma has taken a serious turn.

The river has devoured five village under Debogram Union of Goalundo sadar upazila and 20,000 families have become homeless. The erosion of the river has started from the Mizanpur Union of Rajbari sadar upazila.

Dr AKM Amjad MP along with the Deputy Commissioner, Rajbari visited the erosion affected areas and distributed relief materials among the erosion victims.

Meanwhile, the government has sanctioned Taka seven lakh cash and 100 bundles of corrugated iron sheets for the eroded people of the district.

The district administration has already distributed seven metric tons of rice, six metric tons of 'chira' and 200 pieces of sarees and lungis among the erosion victims of the area.

The erosion-hit people have taken shelter on embankment and leading a subhuman life.

Earlier reports say that about 20,000 erosion-hit people of Goalundo and Pangsua upazilas are staying on the embankment.

According to reports received here, due to the erosion of river Padma, thousands of families are being eroded every year and they are taking shelter on the embankment.

The homesteads and crop fields of Habasapur, Joshal, Chhara, Joykrishnapur, Bahadurpur, Saingram, Balarampur and other adjoining areas under

From Our Correspondent

Pangsua upazila have so far been devoured by the mighty river. More fresh areas are going to the river beds every year swelling the number of distressed people.

The uprooted people have no land for building houses sheds of their own. They have no money or source of income to earn their livelihood in these days of economic stringencies.

Tk 8.32 cr for construction of 3 embankments

RAJSHAHI, May 31: Water Development Board has undertaken a project to construct three embankments in the district at a cost of about Taka 8.32 crores, official sources here said, reports UNB.

The embankments will be built to protect Rajshahi City, Sardah Cadet College and Godagari Rail Market from erosion by the river Padma.

Rajshahi City protection embankment will cost Taka 1.66 crore and Godagari Rail Market Protection Embankment Taka 4 crore.

It may be mentioned that vast areas of Rajshahi stretching from Godagari in the west to Chharghat in the south-east face severe erosion every year in the rainy season. Hundreds of homesteads are also perished every year in the river.

As a result, a large number of people also take shelter on both sides of the Morra Padma Embankment and have been passing days and nights under thatched sheds.

Due to lack of medical facilities, many people mostly children fall easy prey to various diseases.

At least eleven educational institutions, 14 mosques and good number of hats and bazars, government offices, commercial and industrial establishments in eight upazilas which were close to the river bank await devoured by the erosion of the river.

The landless people of Goalundo Upazila are not getting possession of the allotted lands.

According to informations, about 60.02 acres of khas land were distributed among the landless male and female members of the locality by the administration. But the landless persons are not getting possession of lands as some influential people of the locality are already in possession of the same.

The deprived persons have lodged complaints with the higher authorities concerned in this regard but nothing has been done for the recovery of the lands.

The landless people of the area have urged the government to take immediate steps to recover the lands and give those to the deserving persons.

Help establish rule of law

KUSHITIA, May 31: Speakers at a seminar here called for adhering to Islamic principles to uphold human rights and establish rule of law and democratic dispensation in the country, reports UNB.

"Islamic laws can meet the demand of the ages and the fast changing society," said Amanullah Khan, Chairman of UNB while speaking as chief guest at the seminar on "Rule of Law and Islam" at the Islamic University.

Islam is a complete code of life, he said adding that it has given guidelines to deal with the problems of an individual, a family, a society or a state.

In this context, Khan said the modern election procedure of the democratic government was derived from that of Khalafayeh Rashideen.

"Islam is not merely a political thought or a means to gain political will, it is an ideal code of ethics which covers all aspects of life and society."

Senior Advocate of Bangladesh Supreme Court Alhaj Saad Ahmed was the key-note speaker while Deputy Commissioner of Kushitia Sayed Hafiz Ahmed attended as special guest.

Departmental head of the Law and Muslim Jurisprudence of Islamic University Mahububul Haq Joarder presided over the seminar.

Organised by Ideal Law Students Organisation, the seminar was addressed by Hasanuzzaman, Ashraf Ali, Anwar Zaid, Nakhir Uddin Ahmed, Amirul Islam, SM Sulaiman and Jafrullah.

Our correspondent adds: The 93rd birth anniversary of

the National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam was observed here in a befitting manner.

Different socio-cultural organisations chalked out elaborate programme to observe the day.

Kushitia Nazrul Academy organised a function at Shilpakala Academy auditorium to mark the day. Syed Hafiz Ahmed, Deputy Commissioner, Kushitia while delivering his speech said that Nazrul is the source of inspiration of our national unity and independence.

The function was rounded off with a cultural programme participated by local artistes. Kushitia Tamuddun Majlis has also arranged a similar function at Islamic University auditorium on the occasion.

Terrorist held

MAGURA, May 31: Police has arrested Enamul Haque (19), a known student terrorist of Magura Town, from a suburban village of Nijnanduali, reports UNB.

Police said, Enamul and his associates had been involved in many criminal activities and terrorism and was wanted by police.

Enamul and his group were manhandling Arab Ali of village Nijnanduali on May 21 when police swooped on him and seized a Chinese axe and sharp weapons from the possession of the group.

A case has been registered with the police station in this connection and the arrested were forwarded to the court.

Further police investigation is going on.

10,000 divorces in one yr

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, May 31: About ten thousand marriages have been severed in seven upazilas of the district due to non payment of dowry, polygamy and immoral activities during the last one year.

According to a survey report, poor women are the worst victims of the situation. Due to non-registration of marriages, oppressed women can not take legal action against their husbands.

Most of the marriages were conducted without registration due to ignorance of the poor guardians. The poor guardians are not aware of the legal aspect and benefit of the registration of the marriages. Demand for higher fees by the marriage registration authorities in remote villages, the guardians are neglecting the registration.

Non-payment of dowry and other demands of the brides are causing the incidents. Besides, defying the govern-

ment restriction, many people resort to polygamy in rural areas without the permission of the wife.

It is reported that due to absence of legal protection in the registration deeds, divorce has been increasing day by day in different rural areas of the district. Many guardians can not effort legal action due to financial difficulties and in the rural areas the victims do not like to go to court due to their ignorance.

Dacoits, in disguise of passengers, looted valuables from other travellers of a Chandpur-bound minibus on Dhaka-Chittagong Trunk Road Sunday night.

They injured four of the passengers before decamping away with the booty.

According to police, when the minibus (Dhaka Metro Char-8246) reached near Khadghar of Chaudina upazila, dacoits attacked and looted valuables.

Bullock-driven oilmills on the verge of extinction

From Our Correspondent

DINAJPUR, May 31: The village oilmen (Kolu) of Greater Dinajpur district have fallen in difficulties as bullock-driven oilmills, the age old cottage industries of this area are now on the verge of extinction due to lack of patronisation.

It is learnt that being unable to overcome the problems many oilmen of different upazilas of Dinajpur, Thakurgoan and Panchagarh districts have already given up their profession.

About 2,500 families in different areas of these districts were engaged in this profession for a long time. Most of them are village oilmen by birth and earn their livelihood on oil.

These oilmen locally known as 'Kolu' reside in groups in different villages of these three districts. Some of the oilmen said that prices of oil-seeds, bullock and other inputs have increased.

Prices and demand of the bullock-driven oil are low in markets. The prevailing situation has forced many village oilmen to become day labourers.

Acute shortage of bullock has been prevailing throughout the Greater Dinajpur district for a long time posing threat to the cultivation.

It is learnt that 60 to 70 per cent families of Greater Dinajpur district have no bullock to fill their lands. Consequently, about 60 per cent land of the districts could not be cultivated properly. Most of the farmers carry agricultural work on share basis as they can ill afford to buy bullock or cow due to the sharp rise in their prices.

Farmers often hire bullock to till their lands. Sometimes they till their lands with spades and draw the harrows themselves. Many of them use milch-cows to cultivate the land resulting in gradual reduction of milk production.



SYLHET: The drivers of buses and trucks have occupied the proposed site of Osmany Uddayan for parking purposes. Neither the pourasava authority nor the law enforcing agency is taking any action against the unauthorised use. — Star photo

64,300 hand tubewells working in dist

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, May 31: The Public Health Engineering Department (PHE) has completed the installation of the targeted 1,085 hand driven tubewells in the rural areas of five districts under greater Rangpur Zone during the current fiscal year.

The re-sinking of the targeted 2,280 choked-up tubewells have also been completed during the same period.

The department has been continuing the fielding of 672 number of tara deep-set tubewells, of which at least 654 tubewells have already been completed and the rest 18 are to be fielded by the end of the current fiscal year.

A spokesman of the Public Health Engineering Department said that with the completion of the installation of targeted 1,085 tubewells, the total number of hand driven tubewells so far installed in the zone stands at around 66,000 of which 64,300 are in running condition and the rest 1,700 out of order.

The PHE is further carrying out the distribution of sanitary latrine sets in the rural areas of the zone at low price under the Rural Sanitation Programme.

It has so far distributed 14,013 sets of sanitary latrines in the zone. The distribution of the rest latrine sets is in progress.

The anti-smuggling task force in a sudden crack down at the Rangpur Railway Station area has recovered at least five hundred pieces of Indian sarees and lungies.

The task force has been constituted with the representatives of the district administration, BDR, Customs and Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Rangpur.

The Rangpur Railway Station area is a free trade centre for selling all kinds of Indian goods.

Erratic power supply

Frequent power failure and fluctuations in voltage have been causing sufferings to the Satkhira dwellers.

The erratic power supply in the district is increasing the sufferings of both domestic and commercial consumers.

It is complained that hardly a day or night passes without disruption of two to three hours power supply.

Local people urged the concerned authorities to take the necessary measures to mitigate the sufferings.

Rickshaws on rise

Increased number of rickshaws have been creating manifold problems and traffic jams in and around the district town.

The number of rickshaws is multiplying day by day in the town areas. Most of the rickshaw pullers do not have licences and they do not use light or lamp after sunset.

Town dwellers alleged that the rickshawpullers demand unreasonable fare from the passengers while they do not have any knowledge of traffic rules. As a result, they often block the roads creating problems for both vehicles and pedestrians.

High schools beset with problems

One hundred fifty three high schools in seven upazilas of the district are facing manifold problems.

According to sources, inadequate funds, lack of educational appliances, shortage of furniture and accommodation are the main problems.

Due to accommodation problem many students have to remain standings in the classrooms. Moreover, many school buildings damaged earlier by natural calamities remain un-repaired forcing the school management to hold classes in open sky.

Scarcity of pure drinking water is also acute in absence of tubewells in these institutions.

Notes from Satkhira

From Our Correspondent

May 31: A three days long National Education Week '92 concluded here recently.

Katebur Rahman, Deputy Commissioner, Satkhira attended in the function as chief guest and distributed prizes and certificates among the best teachers, educational institutions and winners of cultural competitions.

Satkhira Government College became the best college in the district while Satkhira Government High School, Satkhira Government Girls High School and Alla Madrasa, Satkhira became the best boys school, girls school and madrasa respectively.

Shawkat Ali, Vice-Principal, Satkhira Govt. Mahila College, Amcena Begum, Headmistress, Satkhira Government Girls Shamsur Rahman of Madrasa became the best teacher of the district respectively.

Nirmul Committee unit meet held

A meeting of Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee of Tala upazila unit was held at the local high school maiden recently.

S M Alauddin presided over the function while Syed Kamal Bakht, President, Satkhira district Awami League was present as chief guest on the occasion.

The function was also addressed among others by S K Mujibur Rahman, S K Abu Nasim Moina, S M Fazlul Haque, Rashiduzzaman, Mir Zillur Rahman, A K M Sirajuddin, S K Nurul Islam and Ekhtiar Hossain.

Tk 2 lakh smuggled goods seized

The BDR jawans of 35 Rifles Battalion recovered smuggled goods worth about Taka two lakh from a Dhaka bound night coach recently.

According to local BDR sources, acting on secret information, the BDR personnel led by Lt. Col. Mozammel Hossain searched the night coach at Mirjapur on Sathkha-Khulna Highway and recovered smuggled goods worth about Taka 2 lakh.

Dacoits loot cash, valuables

Dacoits looted cash and valuables worth about Taka 3 lakh from four houses in Tala upazila of the district on Wednesday.

Police sources said a group of dacoits numbering twenty stormed the houses of Shusil Shaha, Uttam Shaha, Ashoke Shaha and Nakul Shaha in the dead night. Equipped with deadly weapons the dacoits exploded several crackers to create panic in the area before entering the houses and then decamped with the valuables.

They also beat up the inmates while they tried to resist the dacoits.

In another incident, thieves stole away valuables worth about Taka 1 lakh from the house of Prof Rafiuddin of Sathkha Government College on Wednesday.