

Upazila roundup

JAMALPUR

Youths urged to work for national uplift

June 9: BNP Secretary General and LORD Minister Abdus Salam Talukdar on Friday called upon all to be imbued with the ideals of late President Ziaur Rahman for building the nation as a strong and prosperous one, reports UNB.

The present government is committed to implementing Zia's 19-point programme for national development, he said addressing the annual conference of the district unit of Jubo Dal, the youth front of the ruling party.

Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal, Talukdar told the conference, came into being to lead the youth in the right direction.

"The youth are the future of the country," the Minister said, adding they have to be trained up as responsible citizens so they can shoulder future leadership.

He said the nation expected the same glorious role in future as the youth had played during the language movement, liberation war and anti-autocracy movement.

GAZIPUR

IRRI-boro farming on 21.14 lakh acres

June 9: A massive programme to bring over 21.14 lakh acres of land under IRRI-boro cultivation during the current season is threatened by lack of seed supply and irrigation water, reports UNB.

Prolonged drought and fall of ground water level, rising of shoals in the rivers Shitalakhya, Kowrad, Goalia, Bongshai Balu and Turag, erratic power supply and load-shedding rendered the water lifting pumps inoperative hampering irrigation of 80 per cent of the crop lands in the area.

Agriculture Extension office source said only 20,000 acres of land could be supplied irrigation water. Most of the irrigation pumps have fallen out of order and rendered inoperative for diesel shortage and power disruption.

KUSHTIA

Minibus helper killed in road mishap

June 9: One Alam (27), helper of a minibus was allegedly killed under the wheel of the same vehicle while coming to Kushtia in the Saturday morning, reports BSS.

He was collecting bus fare from the passengers on the roof of the bus.

He suddenly fell down and went under the wheels.

The accident took place four miles from here on Kushtia-Jhenidah Road. He was the only son of Golam Mondal of Jhenidah.

PIROJPUR

Re-excavation of 10 canals on

June 9: Re-excavation work of ten canals in Bhandaria Upazila of Pirojpur district is going on in full swing, reports BSS.

According to an official source, Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) has been implementing the projects at an allocation of 561 metric tons of wheat during current season.

Meanwhile, 90 per cent work on these projects has been completed.

When completed, about 15,000 acres of land would be brought under irrigation facilities in the area, the source said.

DINAJPUR

Gay girls on increase

June 9: The number of roaming gay-girls is increasing rapidly in and around the town, local people alleged, reports UNB.

According to report, railway station, slums near the rail line and Nurul Amin Market of the town have virtually turned into dens of gay-girls.

Since the elimination of the brothels in the town, the prostitutes were scattered in different areas in the absence of their proper rehabilitation by the administration.

Girls from poor family and divorced women are mostly engaged in the immoral activities to maintain their livelihood.

Local people urged of the authorities to take immediate steps to rehabilitate the gay girls to enable them to lead a decent life.

NETRAKONA

Folk singer dead

June 9: Reputed folk-singer Ali Hossain Sarkar (70) died of old age complications at his Shibganj Road residence here recently, reports BSS.

Ali Hossain Sarkar was associated with a number of socio-cultural organisations. Once he was a close associate of rebel Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam. He actively participated in the War of Liberation in 1971.

The folk-singer was awarded as many as 140 prizes. He held many musical performances in different countries of Europe.

PATUAKHALI

Eight projects implemented

June 9: Local Government and Engineering Bureau (LGEB) has implemented eight projects in six upazilas of the district during the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

The projects were implemented under Food for Works Programme and about 1000 metric tons of wheat were utilised for the purpose.

Work is in full swing on 23 other projects in Mirzaganj Upazila under the Annual Development Programme.

According to official sources, about Taka 30.50 lakh will be spent on implementation of the projects.

According to the report, 80 per cent work on the projects has been completed and the remaining work is expected to be completed soon.

HABIGANJ

14 awarded life-term for murder

June 9: Nine people were convicted to life imprisonment for murder in two separate judgements here recently, reports UNB.

Md Zahurul Islam, District and Sessions Judge, Habiganj, convicted four people and sentenced them to life term and a fine Taka of 1000 each for murdering a woman.

Convicted are: Haris Ali, Dhanu Miah, Faizor and Manuhar of village Mokrapur of Baniachang Upazila.

According to the prosecution, convicted Haris Ali along with others killed his wife Noorjahan Begum on November 11, 1988. Her body was recovered from a paddy field after three days. Except Dhanu Miah, the other convicts are still absconding.

In the another case Abdul Mannan, Additional District and Sessions Judge convicted five people to life term and a fine of Taka 1000 each for murdering three persons.

CHITTAGONG

30500-line digital phone exchange soon

June 9: Work on a 30,500-line Digital Telephone Project in Chittagong would start soon, Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan said here on Friday, reports BSS.

Addressing the members of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industries (BCCI) at the Chamber House here, the Minister said the project would be executed with a French grant and local resources.

He said the government had given due consideration for implementing the project at the earliest as Chittagong, being an important port and industrial city, needed modern digital telecommunication system.

MADARIPUR

Girls for reinstatement of 2 teachers

June 9: Some 100 female students of a local degree college took to the street here on Friday demanding cancellation of its adhoc committee and reinstatement of two teachers, reports UNB.

Witnesses said students of Madaripur Sufia Mohlia Degree College, who went on an indefinite strike on May 18 to press home their 7-point demand, marched through the roads of the town on Friday afternoon seeking government intervention to resolve the crisis.

They demanded that Deputy Commissioner of the district be made Chairman of the college managing committee and two lecturers, Jinnatul Fardous Ara and Mohammad Masud Hossain, reinstated with immediate effect.

The processionists chanted slogans warning that they would not return to their classes unless their demands were met.



BOGRA: No, these are not abandoned vehicles. These are in service on Bogra-Dhunot route. — Star photo

10,000 acres fallow land in Habiganj tea gardens

From Our Correspondent

MAULVIBAZAR, June 9: About 10,000 acres of land in different tea garden areas under Habiganj district remain fallow every year.

A source of the tea industry said that these unutilised lands are under 32 tea gardens including Surma, Rasidpur, Lalchand, Raghunandapur and Deundi tea estates. These lands are quite fit for tea plantation. But the concerned authorities have not taking any step to bring the vast area under tea cultivation.

The source mentioned that if these lands were brought under the cultivation, more than 10,000 unemployed tea labourers could get employment opportunities and the production of tea would increase by thousands of pounds.

Greater Sylhet is known for tea gardens and production. The country earns a handsome amount of foreign exchange every year through export tea.

Medical facilities inadequate

More than one lakh labourers and other related employees are working in this sector. But the medical treatment facilities for the labourers are

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quite inadequate. Tea garden employees including the labourers are deprived of the medical facilities due to non-implementation of the government approved medical facilities, it is informed.

Some labour leader informed this correspondent that according to Tea Plantation Ordinance '77 each tea garden must appoint one MBBS doctor and provide full medical facilities to the employees.

According to shops, factories and Establishment Act the owners should provide one MBBS doctor each unit of 1750 members. The Labour Law also confirms the appointment of a Labour Welfare Officer in each tea garden. But the owners of maximum tea gardens do not abide by the rules and regulations of the government.

Some of the companies have medical dispensaries and doctor but the supply of medicine there is quite nil. Some companies have appointed part-time doctors who visit the garden once a week but with no medicine supply.

There is no medical facilities in private tea gardens. Tea

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gardens under multinational companies arrange comparative better medical facilities which is also not as per the government rule.

When contacted, a management source of a tea garden admitted the fact and said that same condition is prevailing in all the companies of the country.

One held with 2 revolvers

The BDR personnel arrested an old man alongwith two foreign made revolver from the Ferryghat of Chhatak upazila recently.

According to the reports, on getting secret informations, some jawans of the Chhatak outpost of BDR went to the Ferryghat and arrested the old man named Abul Kashem (75) from there. He was later on handed over to the police of Chhatak Upazila.

A case in this connection had been registered with the police.

Boat capsizes, one drowned

One drowned in a boat capsized in the River Kushiyara while crossing the river at Dighalbak ferryghat recently.

According to the reports, on the day of incident, a good number of people were returning home after enjoying a football match nearby field. While they were crossing, the river by a small country boat, it drowned in the river due to overloading. All of them managed to swim ashore but one failed.

His body was recovered later on.

Zia's death anniversary observed

The 11th death anniversary of the founder of BNP and late President Ziaur Rahman was observed here recently.

The Sylhet district unit of BNP arranged a discussion meeting at No. 2 Bar Library Hall with Luthfur Rahman, former MP and President-in-Charge of the committee in the chair. Khondaker Abdul Malik MP and Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee of BNP was present as chief guest in the function while it was also addressed among others by Fatch Yunus Khan, Vice-President of the district committee, Advocate Abdul Gaffar General Secretary of the district committee, Advocate Faruque Chowdhury, Convener of the Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Forum, Sylhet and Advocate Noman Mahmud, Vice-President, Zia Smriti Sangsad, Sylhet district unit.

Installation ceremony held

Installation ceremony of the newly elected office bearers of BMA, Sylhet Unit, was held at the Osman Medical College Hospital recently.

State Minister for Land Kabir Hossain, Deputy Minister for Health and Family Planning Sirajul Haque attended the function arranged on the occasion on June 2.

They called upon the doctors to devote themselves in serving the distressed humanity. They pointed out that the poorer section of the people in the society are deprived of primary health care. They need special care on humanitarian ground.

Presided over by Prof MA Raqib, President of the BMA unit, the function was addressed, among others, by Dr Gazi Abdul Haq, Secretary General of BMA Mujibul Haque, Dr Harunur Rashid, Dr. Shamirur Rahman and Dr Shakil Ahmad.

Md Abdul Quddus, District & Sessions Judge, Sylhet sentenced one to suffer imprisonment for life for killing his cousin recently. The judgement was delivered in absence of the accused.

The prosecution case in brief is that, the victim Faisal Ahmed Kuti had personal enmity with his cousin brother named Jhinuk of village Faridpur under the Fenchuganj upazila of Sylhet district on March 18, 1990, the accused Jhinuk hit Faisal with a dagger at a colony of Natural Gas Fertilizer Factory at Fenchuganj on his chest. He was declared dead when he was taken to the Fenchuganj Upazila Health Complex.

Notes from Sylhet

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, June 9: A minor girl was killed in a road accident in Sylhet recently.

The accident took place near the Dighali Health Complex at Shaheb Nagar of Biswanath Upazila under Sylhet district at about 11 AM when an 8-year old girl Hasna was crushed under the wheels of a speeding minibus. The victim was then crossing the road alongwith her mother.

According to the reports, the victim, daughter of one Amir Ali of village Barkapon under Sunamganj came to her maternal grandfather's house a few days ago. On the day of incident, she went to the Dighali Health Centre with her mother and met the tragic end of her life while returning from there. The killer minibus which was on its way to Sylhet from Jagannathpur managed to escape just after the accident.

A case in this connection had already been registered with the police station. The body was sent to the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital for post-mortem.

Financial assistance to Daukandi college assured

RAJSHAHI, June 9: State Minister for Land Kabir Hossain today said the BNP government was determined to ameliorate the socio-economic condition of the people through developing rural communication network, reports BSS.

With this end in view, he said, the government was taking necessary steps to construct roads in Rajshahi area and other parts of the country.

The State Minister was addressing a public meeting at Daukandi Degree College ground under Durgapur of the district.

The meeting was addressed, among others, by Principal of Daukandi Degree College Giasuddin, member of BNP central committee Sattar

Mandal, General Secretary of District BNP Advocate Kamrul Monir and General Secretary of District Jubo Dal Tofazzal Hossain Tapu.

Kabir Hossain said the present democratic government believed in work not in words. He said the BNP government had fulfilled election pledges exempting taxes up to 25 bighas of land and agricultural loan up to Taka five thousand.

The State Minister called upon the people to carry forward the development programmes of the government aimed at attaining self sufficiency.

Kabir Hossain assured of providing financial assistance to the storm affected Daukandi College and for the development of Daukandi School.

Fodder scarcity acute

JAMALPUR, June 9: Acute scarcity of fodder is prevailing in the district for the last few months, reports UNB.

The last floods and the current drought have allegedly caused extensive damage to the grass and the other fodder.

Most of the grazing fields have either been completely damaged or withered away by the drought and floods. As a result, the cattle are starving for want of fodder all over the district.

At present there are about 20 lakh cattlehead in the district. Of them, five lakh are bullocks, four lakh cows, two lakh calves, 50,000 buffaloes, eight lakh goats and the rest 50,000 are rams.

The total number of poultry birds is around 24 lakh. Of them, 20 lakh are hens and the rest four lakh are ducks. The number of both poultry and cattlehead are decreasing day by day in the district for want of food and outbreak of diseases.

Dollar drafts and cheques sent by Bangladeshis working abroad have been missing from postal despatches almost in a regular manner over the last few months, some of the victims alleged here.

A section of unscrupulous employees of local post office as well as some in the foreign post office in Dhaka are involved in this, they said.

A large number of people of

the district staying abroad including various Middle East countries are sending their cheques by posts.

The Assistant Post Master of Jamalpur Head Post Office, received two complaints recently from the recipients who said they received empty envelopes from New York.

The drafts and cheques taken out of the mails are encashed from the foreign exchange branches of banks in connivance with dishonest bank employees, they added.

16 smugglers held with Tk 49.60 lakh goods

FENI, June 9: In an anti-smuggling drive Bangladesh Rifles seized contraband goods worth about Taka 49.60 lakh and arrested 16 people during the last month, official sources here said, reports UNB.

The BDR conducted the drive at Feni Railway station, Kazinbag, Mohipal, Master Para, Hazari Bari and other different places of the border areas.

The contraband items include 5291 pieces of Indian sarees, timber, sugar and medicine. Later the goods were handed over to the local customs officials.

Cyclone, flood, erosion render hundreds homeless

DINAJPUR, June 9: The cyclone, flood and erosion rendered a large number of people homeless and turned them destitute creating problem and posing threat to the town dwellers, reports UNB.

The development work in the district were curtailed and food for works programme remained suspended due to non-availability of wheat in stock which caused unemployment and forced the people to resort to begging.

They crowded the offices and business areas for alms an act on roadsides and on the WAPDA embankment.

It is alleged that many of them are also involved in anti-social activities.

Bamboo output decreasing

Bamboo production has been decreasing rapidly in the greater district of Dinajpur. The production has declined

due to rampant extraction and lack of proper maintenance.

It is learnt that clusters have now almost vanished creating scarcity of bamboos in these areas and consequently prices of bamboo have gone beyond the purchasing capacity of commonman.

Scarcity of bamboo is also creating bad effect on the bamboo based cottage industries.

Meanwhile, repair and construction work of kutcha houses in the rural areas are being hampered for want of bamboos.

About 90 per cent people in rural areas depend on bamboo as it is the basic material for the construction and repair work.

A bamboo is being sold between Tk 60 and Taka 75. The local people have appealed to the government to take steps to increase bamboo production

to mitigate the suffering of the poor.

Farmers of the district demanded introduction of crop insurance for development of Agriculture Sector.

According to farmers, natural calamities like drought, flood nor'wester and cyclone are regular features in this region. They face great hardship almost every year due to massive damage of crops.

In this backdrop, introduction of crop insurance is imperative to save the farmers. This system will be a guarantee for them against their crop loss, experts observed.

Crop insurance system has proved its worthiness in many countries of the world, they added.

Uncontrolled plying of rickshaw and illegal parking in and around the town have been creating problems to the town dwellers for a long time.



BARISAL: A meeting of the local elites was held here recently at the office-room of the proposed 'Amirta Lal Dey College' where a 37-member organising committee was formed with DC as President and Bijay Krishna Dey as Secretary. Bijay Krishna Dey, Amirta Lal Dey, the founder, Yousuf Khan, Nikhil Sen, Principal Md Yunus Khan, State Minister for Education and Debendra Nath Sen were present at the meeting. — Star photo

Two murders leave people in panic

COMILLA, June 9: Two murders in the district have kept the local people in a state of shock and panic throughout last week, reports UNB.

Safura Khatoon (18) was kidnapped from her house in village Panua in Laksam upazila on May 27. It was alleged that some youngmen of the area failing to woo the pretty teenager caught hold of her from the toilet near her residence at dead of night, violated her one after and another and killed her brutally.

The disfigured body with her nose, ears and breasts cut off by sharp blade was found later in a crop field near the house.

Police investigation is going on but no arrest has yet been made.

The second murder was committed in Comilla Sadar upazila on May 30 where Kashem Ali (40) was beaten to

death out of previous enmity, according to police. His body was thrown in front of Suagonj Union Parishad office in broad daylight.

Mariam, wife of the victim lodged an ejarah with kotwali police against 23 people. In this case also, no arrest could yet be made.

A newly built Family Welfare Centre (FWC) in Maimamati Union of Buriachang upazila was formally inaugurated by Hedayatul Islam Chowdhury, Deputy Commissioner, in a brief function held on May 29.

The function was presided over by Zahurul Islam, Chairman, Maimamati Union Parishad. While Khorshed Alam, UNO, Buriachang was the special guest.

The chief guest Hedayatul Islam Chowdhury planted a sapling in the premises of the FWC.

Tk 60,000 Indian fish seized

JHENIDAH, June 9: Police seized a large quantity of smuggled Indian Ruhi fish from Kotchandpur Bus Stand here and nabbed three people in this connection on Thursday, reports UNB.

Acting on secret information, police rushed to the bus stand and recovered the fish weighing about 600 kg worth about Taka 60,000.

The arrested Monir Hossain, Zahidur Rahman and Sohrab were sent to jail hjat. A case has been filed in this connection.

Local people alleged that a huge quantity of fish and other contraband goods are increasingly being smuggled into the country through the different border areas of the district.

An employee of Mubarakganj Sugar Mills near here was killed in a road accident Thursday.

Police said the accident occurred when a speeding bus dashed his motor cycle from behind near Kalganj College.

He died on the way to Kalganj Hospital.

A case was filed with police.

The District Awami League biennial council meeting was held at local coronation hall on May 26.

People block road for four hours

KUSHTIA, June 9: Local people of Khadimpur village in Mirpur Upazila blocked the Kushtia-Ishurdi Highway for about four hours Friday to protest the killing of a bus helper, reports UNB.

Eyewitnesses said while a minibus was lifting passengers from the Khadimpur bus stand another bus hit it from behind on Thursday. At this an altercation ensued between the two helpers and at one stage the minibus helper pounced the bus helper Reazul Islam of the same village who fell down on the road and was run over by the minibus.

Best teacher in Naogaon

NAOGAON, June 9: Headmaster of Naogaon Government Zila School, Altaf Hossain has been selected as the best teacher of the district, reports UNB.

Son of Advocate Mozaffar Hossain, Altaf Hossain obtained his B Ed. Degree in 1964 securing First Class from Rajshahi Teachers' Training College. He obtained his graduation from Rajshahi College in 1956.

He received higher training on school administration and supervision in America in 1966 under International Fulbright Scholarship.