

Upazila roundup

GAIBANDHA

3 heroin sellers arrested

June 14: Gaibandha police arrested three heroin sellers from the Kuli Patti, or Gaibandha Railway Colony recently, reports BSS. On secret information, police raided Kuli Patti and arrested Rabi, Jati and a girl, Mukti. Police source said, they were allegedly involved in drug business. A case has been lodged with Gaibandha thana in this connection.

BARISAL

World Environment Day observed

June 14: The World Environment Day was observed in Barisal town and other upazilas of the district on Friday, reports BSS. A discussion was held to observe the day at Aswani Kumar Town Hall premise. Presided over by Bimalendu Haldar, District Education Officer, Barisal, the function was attended by, Abdul Khaleque, Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) as chief guest. Representatives of different departments and non-government organisations participated in the discussion. Leaflets, were distributed among the people highlighting the significance of the day. A rally was also held on the occasion. Participants of the rally also painted about 1,000 saplings in different places of the town.

NAOGAON

Construction of bridge now uncertain

June 14: Construction of the proposed Gayspur Bridge over the Chhoto Jamula River at Badalgachi Upazila has become uncertain, reports UNB. The project was approved and a tender was floated for construction of the 38 feet long bridge costing Taka 26.10 lakh. But the tender was withdrawn for unknown reasons. The villagers urged the government to construct the bridge immediately to facilitate communication in the area. Another report adds: The oath-taking ceremony of newly elected chairman and members of union parishad of Atral Upazila was held recently at the upazila conference room. The UNO Md Mukbul Hossain administered the oath. Local elite including ex-chairmen and members attended the ceremony.

JAMALPUR

JP rally for release of Ershad

June 14: Jatiya Party brought out a procession at the town here Monday evening demanding release of the deposed President HM Ershad, reports UNB. Organised by the district unit, the processionists paraded the main thoroughfares of the town and chanted various slogans in favour of their demand. Later, a public rally was held at ratgate premises. It was addressed, among others, by ex-MP Shafigul Islam Khoka, Alhaj Zakir Hossain and Jamila Begum and Nazimuddin. The speakers said, the former President and JP chief was implicated in "false case" to defame him before the eyes of the common people.

COMILLA

Smuggler held

June 14: One listed smuggler, Shushil Kumar Biswas, has been arrested by Comilla Kotwali police and produced before the court, which remanded him to jail hayat, reports UNB. His name was found in the list of smugglers prepared by Ministry of Home, police said. Another reports adds: Comilla Kotwali police recovered about 20 maunds of stolen copper wires worth about Taka 30,000 from Bara Alampur village in Comilla Sadar upazila. Acting on tip, a police party led by SI Abu Hasan Ali raided the area and recovered the stolen wires recently. None was arrested in this connection. Theft of electric wires was rampant in the district in recent days causing disruption in supply of electricity to the tubewells and cold storages where huge quantity of potatoes are about to be damaged. An organised gang of copper wire thieves are reportedly involved in pilferage of the electric cables. They reportedly smuggle the copper wires to the other side of the border.

SIRAJGANJ

Release of 2 dalal nirmul body members demanded

June 14: District Sports Association (DSA) staged a demonstration here recently demanding immediate release of two leaders of the Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee, reports UNB. Players and officials of the association as well as sports fans paraded the main roads of the town this morning demanding release of Awami League leaders Abdul Latif Mirza MP and Commander of local Muktiyoddha Sangsad Abdul Bari Talukder. They were arrested after Jamaat-e-Islami had filed a case against 51 people following the killing of its leader Abul Kashem in a clash between Jamaat and Nirmul Committee on May 13. The demonstrators also submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner.

MANIKGANJ

One killed, 15 hurt in road accident

June 14: A pedestrian was killed and 15 passengers sustained injuries in a minibus mishap at Charkhanda in Sadar upazila on Wednesday, reports UNB. Police said, the over loaded Aricha bound minibus from Dhaka crushed a pedestrian at the point and plunged into a roadside ditch at around 11 am. The deceased was identified as Abdul Kha (40) of village Gola in Sadar upazila. Among the injured one was removed to Dhaka Pangu Hospital in a critical condition while others were admitted to Sadar Hospital. The driver, however, managed to flee. A case has been lodged with the police.

CHAPAINAWABGANJ

Construction of Mahananda Bridge in progress

June 14: The construction work of the Mahananda Bridge is going ahead despite various adversities, reports UNB. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia had unveiled the plaque of the 3rd China-Bangladesh Friendship Bridge on August 29 last year. The 448.30-metre-long and 9.92-metre-wide bridge will connect the Shibganj and Bholahat upazilas with the district headquarters. Land requisition problem delayed the construction work of the bridge which started in the beginning of March last. The Chinese team comprising 64 experts is supervising the construction works but due to massive loadshedding and low voltage the work is being greatly hindered. Out of Taka 54 crore, China has provided Taka 28 crore and the rest is being borne by the government of Bangladesh.

MAGURA

Women held while selling step-daughter

June 14: Rejia Khatoon (40) of Salikha was caught redhanded while handing a teen-aged girl Beauty Begum (16), whom she had sold to a party of women traffickers, reports UNB. Rejia Khatoon, sold her step-daughter for Taka 2000 and while she was being handed over Beauty Begum cried loud attracting the attention of the villagers. The villagers caught Rejia Begum and handed her over to police. Arrested Rejia Begum confessed her crime to the police. A case has been registered with the police in this connection. Further police investigation is going on.

ARICHA

7 dacoities in two weeks

June 14: At least 7 dacoities were committed here in the river Jamuna during the last two weeks in which dacoits looted cash and cattle worth about Taka 20 lakh, police said, reports UNB. An organised gang of dacoits attacked the cattle carrying boats which ply in routes to and from Nagarbari-Talbaria, Rajbari, Pangsha, Balligasi, Baromali and Aricha in the Jamuna, they said. The armed dacoits mostly use mechanised country boats. Several cases have been registered in this connection.



SYLHET: An erosion-hit village in Balaganj Upazila of the district.

—Star photo

Erosion renders hundreds homeless in Sylhet, Kushtia dists

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, June 14: Vast area of land in four upazilas of the district have already been eroded by the river Kushyura. The erosion of the river has taken a serious turn during the last few weeks and hundreds of houses, religious and educational institutions in Nabiganj, Balaganj, Jagannathpur, and Biswanath upazilas are now threatened by the erosion.

Several hundred houses have been devoured by the river recently. Over 200 shops and one road of Sherpur Bazar have already been devoured by the river Kushyura.

Extensive loss of property have been caused by the erosion at Aloypur, Baghmaina, Sulikona, Patigaon and Raniganj bazar areas of Jagannathpur Upazila. More than 300 shops in Raniganj Bazar have been devoured by the river.

Besides, 25 more shops, Launchghat and a good number of dwelling houses in the area are now under threat of the erosion.

Two hundred acres of land in Paharpur, Komarkada, Fahadulla, Dighalbak and Jalalpur villages under Nabiganj UZ and 50 houses in Lamtapur, and Alipur villages had already been devoured by the river.

Several thousand people have become homeless due to the continued erosion in the said upazilas. The river is eroding new areas and more people are being rendered homeless causing great inconveniences.

If immediate steps are not taken by the Water Development Board, more areas including cultivable lands, dwelling houses and educational and religious institutions would be eroded by the river, it is apprehended.

Erosion of the Ganges

Our Kushtia correspondent reports: The erosion of the river Ganges has left over one lakh people homeless in

Daulatpur Upazila who have been passing their days in agony and leading a sub-human life.

The erosion of the river Ganges has devoured 13 villages in eight unions covering an area of 3000 acres of land. The eroded unions are, Philipnagar, Ramkrishnapur, Maricha and Chilmari. The erosion has devoured six primary schools, one Madrasa, nine mosques and six high schools and 18 culverts.

The erosion has also devoured a portion of Raita Mohiskundi Flood Protection Embankment constructed in 1972.

The erosion — hit people informed that the main river Ganges was flowing eight miles away from the present course in 1972. As a precautionary measure, a 12-mile-long Raita Mohiskundi Flood Protection Embankment was constructed in 1972. But the embankment has already been devoured by the erosion caused by the direct effect of Farakka Barrage

constructed by India.

The uprooted people have no land to live in or cultivate. They have got no money or source of income to maintain their families. The upazila administration have been facing problem to rehabilitate the unfortunate people. The relief materials so far distributed among them were too inadequate to meet the demand.

They have no job at the moment and as a result a considerable number of eroded people have sailed for unknown destination. Some of them have already engaged themselves in works like rickshaw driving, plying of push cart and other inferior jobs. The aged and unable people have resorted to begging for mere survival. Most of these people have been suffering from malnutrition and they easily fall prey of various diseases.

The authorities have been urged to take proper steps to stop erosion of the river and save Daulatpur Upazila.

20,000 deep, shallow tubewells for drinking water supply

From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, June 14: Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) has installed about 20,000 deep and shallow tubewells to ensure pure drinking water supply to the village people of the vast coastal areas in two phases.

Of the total, 15,930 are deep and 3,538 are shallow tubewells. The district-wise installation of tubewells are 2318 deep and 528 shallow tubewells in Barisal, 725 deep and 322 shallow in Jhalokati, 398 deep and 798 shallow in Bholia, 2403 deep in Patuakhali, 1463 deep tubewells in Borguna, 87 deep and 774 shallow in Madaripur, 363 deep and 890 shallow in Shariatpur, 18 deep

and 936 shallow in Gopalganj, 1,411 shallow in Faridpur, 468 deep and 571 shallow in Rajbari, 1472 deep in Noakhali, 421 deep in Feni, 541 deep in Luxmipur, 709 deep in Cox's Bazar, seven deep in Khulna, Nine deep in Satkhira, 213 deep in Bagerhat and 1112 deep tubewells in Chittagong.

Besides, 205 deep and 3,277 shallow tubewells have already been sunk in eleven southern districts under Barisal Circle during 1991-92 financial year and more tubewells are yet to be sunk.

Moreover, the Public Health Department will repair 92,921 deep and shallow tubewells in the 18 coastal districts.

According to departmental source, PHED has already installed 718 deep tubewells in six southern districts with the financial assistance of Saudi Government.

Dacoity, loot and hijacking have become a regular feature in town and the adjoining areas of the district.

At least 12 persons were killed and more than 250 were injured in armed incidents during the last six months in the district. The number of armed incidents will exceed 150 during the period.

During this time, one person was killed and 54 were

injured in Babuganj Upazila, four persons were killed and 18 were injured in Gournadi Upazila, one person was killed and 29 were injured in Bakerganj Upazila, one person was killed and seven injured in Mehendiganj Upazila, one person was killed and 27 were injured in Agailjhara Upazila and two persons were killed, eyes of two persons were gauged out and 11 persons were injured in Muladi Upazila of the district.

According to police, the so called Sharbahara partymen and some unruly frustrated young people are engaged in such incidents. Necessary steps are underway to curb the crime activities in the areas.

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Property worth several lakhs taka gutted

JAMALPUR, June 14: Property worth Taka several lakhs were gutted in two separate fire incidents in two upazilas under Jamalpur district recently, reports BSS.

Thirty poor families of village Janakipur under Bakshiganj upazila were rendered homeless in a fire.



AGRI-VARSITY: Mohiuddin Ahmed, a renowned photographer receiving an award of the Mymensingh Literary Award from VC of BAU, Prof M Ashraf Ali Khan at a function arranged at the local Town Hall recently.

—Star photo

Fund crisis hampers edn in 120 schools

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, June 14: A total of 120 high schools in six upazilas of the district have been facing manifold problems. According to sources, inadequate funds, lack of educational appliances, shortage of furniture and accommodation are the main problems. It is reported that most of the schools established under local initiatives have not received government recognition. The schools running without government financial help have been facing closure.

Due to accommodation problems, many students can not sit in the class rooms. Many school buildings which were damaged earlier by the natural calamities have not been repaired. The school student are to attend under the open sky.

Scarcity of pure drinking water is also acute in these institutions in the absence of tubewells. The number of drug addicts is increasing day by day in the

district. The youths are taking drugs out of frustration.

It is reported that the addicted youths are between the age group of 18 to 30 years. The unemployed youths, transport workers, young shopkeepers and students are the main drug users.

The drugs are easily available in medical shops. It is alleged that drug addicts are engaged in anti-social activities. The law enforcing agencies are silent about the illegal sale of drugs, it informed.

The influx of beggars has been posing a serious problem in Kushtia and its suburbs for the last few months.

A large number of beggars are pouring into the town everyday and creating much inconvenience to the dwellers.

The beggars are the affected people of the natural calamities who are coming to the town in large numbers.

Most of the families have no earning members. As a result, they resort to begging.

15 die of hydrophobia in Gaibandha

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, June 14: At least 15 persons died of hydrophobia and about hundred others received injuries in dog biting during the last 12 months in the district. Cases of dog bite have increased in remote areas as well as in pourashava areas due to rapid increasing of unclaimed dogs.

These dogs move here and there in search of food. Sometimes, dogs attack children and snatch away foodstuff from their hands.

Besides, very often mad dogs attack persons in group and bite them indiscriminately who later suffer from hydrophobia.

The concerned authority do not take any step to eliminate the unclaim dogs, it is reported.

It is very difficult for the patients living remote areas to arrange hydrophobia vaccine. The said vaccines are supplied by Gaibandha Pourashava at fixed price which the poor

people cannot arrange during necessity.

Moreover, the pourashava often runs shortage of vaccine. Being failure to arrange vaccine, patients are to go for herbal treatment. Consequently many dog bitten persons die for want of proper treatment.

Kholahati Probal Samity, a voluntary social organisation distributed 500 saplings of HYV Goyava among the students of local Kholahati No 2 Primary Government School recently.

On this occasion, a discussion meeting was held at school ground where S B Sarker, Additional, Director, Agriculture Extension was present as chief guest.

The meeting was presided over by the President of samity Kamrul Hasan Farook, a model farmer. Later, Saplings were distributed among the students.

Diversification of agri plans stressed

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, June 14: Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), Prof M Ashraf Ali Khan has said that the nation-wide programme of agricultural diversification was inevitable to accelerate national development process by ensuring environmental protection and balanced food supply, reports BSS.

He termed nineties as the decade of agricultural diversification and urged upon the agriculture scientists to engage their talent in developing technologies suitable for diversification of agriculture on priority basis.

He was speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural session of a day-long seminar on "Diversification of Agriculture in Bangladesh" held at the Agricultural Economics Gallery of BAU on Thursday last under the joint auspices of the Bangladesh Economic Association (BEA) and the Faculty of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology of BAU.

Presided over by Dr Mahiuddin Khan Alamgir, President of BEA, the session was addressed by Prof M Mustafizur Rahman, Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology and Prof M Latifur Rahman, Convenor of seminar organising committee.

'Plant trees, maintain ecological balance'

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, June 14: World Environment Day was observed at the district town and at the upazila headquarters recently.

On this occasion, the district administration and the non-government organisations chalked out a day-long programme which includes rally, discussion meeting and distribution of saplings.

A colourful procession participated by the men, women and children paraded the main thoroughfares of the town.

A discussion meeting was held at the local Kabi Jasimuddin Hall. It was presided over by Abdur Rahim, Deputy Commissioner. The speakers at the meeting stressed the need for planting trees to protect the environment.

A Tree Plantation Programme was inaugurated on the occasion by S M Shahjahan, ADC (General) as the chief guest. Ratan Kumar, AC, Forest of Faridpur was also present as special guest on the occasion. The local elites and government officials were also present on the occasion.

The ADC (General) called upon the people to plant trees along road side, homesteads and other fallow lands to maintain the ecological balance of the country.

The local NGOs have taken massive plans to plant trees in different areas of the district

during the season.

Police has arrested a dacoit and recovered one pipe gun from his possession in village Raghunathpur under sadar upazila.

According to informations a gang of armed dacoits was taking preparation for a dacoity near the Muchikhalli Canal.

On getting information, Shamsul Huq, Sub-Inspector, Kotwali Thana along with policemen rushed to the spot and asked the miscreants to surrender with their belongings.

The miscreants started firing and the police also had to fire to nab the criminals. Ujjal (28), one of the dacoits received bullet injuries from the firing.

The police at last was able to arrest Ujjal and the rest managed to flee.

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

2 activists of Biplobi Communist Party killed

JHENIDAH, June 14: Two activists of Biplobi Communist Party were killed on Saturday night allegedly by Sharbahara Partymen at Bankira village in Sadar upazila of the district, reports UNB.

4 lakh people suffering from protein deficiency

MADARIPUR, June 14: The protein output in the district is too meagre to meet the requirement of the people, reveals a survey report by Animal Husbandry Department, reports UNB.

Of the animal protein, meat, fish, egg and milk are the principal items. An adult requires 120 grams of meat, 40 grams of fish, one egg and 200 grams of milk daily.

At this rate, over seven lakh people of the district require at least 4,500 tons of meat, 15,000 tons of fish, 40 crore eggs and 75,000 litres of milk annually.

The district produces only 4,000 tons of meat and 4,000 tons of fish, four crore eggs and 40,000 litres of milk which is quite inadequate, the

report added. It has been estimated that about 4 lakh people of the four upazilas of the district can hardly get animal protein lack of which they have been suffering from protein deficiency diseases.

It may be mentioned that during the last five years the cattle have been declining due to low-birth rate, high mortality, and slaughtering of good quality cows.

Rat menace has increased alarmingly causing extensive damage to the standing crops on thousands of acres of land in 10 upazilas of Madaripur and Shariatpur districts.

The affected farmers have failed to combat the menace for want of necessary insecticides.

One beaten to death for killing wife

CHUADANGA, June 14: Angry villagers beat a man to death Sunday for killing his wife, police here said, reports UNB.

Family sources said Alam (25) threw acid on the body of his newly married wife Ramecha Khatun (18) in her father's house at Khasbagundia in Alamdanga upazila on Saturday for non-payment of dowry money of Taka 7000. She was rushed to the Chuadanga Hospital where she succumbed on the following day.

On hearing the death news of Ramecha the villagers got furious and beat Alam mercilessly. His body was sent to morgue for autopsy.

A case has been filed in this connection.