

Upazila roundup

DINAJPUR

Diarrhoea kills 6, attacks 159 in one month

June 15: Diarrhoea claimed six lives and attacked 159 others in five upazilas of the district during the last month, health officials said, reports UNB.

Of them, one each died at Chiribandar and Birampur upazilas, two each at Birol and Parbatipur upazilas.

Scarcity of pure water and consumption of adulterated food were said to be the main reasons behind the outbreak of the disease.

Affected people alleged that shortage of life saving medicines and oral saline packets has been prevailing in the diarrhoea-hit areas.

Local people have urged the authorities to take immediate steps to combat the spread of the disease.

MUNSHIGANJ

Govt committed to ensure edn for all

June 15: Food Minister M Sahmsul Islam said the present BNP government is pledge-bound to ensure the opportunities of education for all, reports BSS.

He was addressing as chief guest the scholarship awarding ceremony of Bazarjogini Joykali Bhumukhi High School here on Saturday organised by the former students association of the school.

Referring to the various programmes taken up by the government for evolving a pro-people education system in the country, he said the students should prepare themselves to be good citizens.

He called upon the students to prepare themselves for taking the future leadership of the country. The Food Minister urged them to render their services in social works in time of national need.

Deputy Commissioner of Munshigonj was also present on the occasion.

COMILLA

College student gets 7-yr RI for murder

June 15: A college student was awarded seven years rigorous imprisonment for killing a man over the possession of a disputed land, reports UNB.

The accused Joyal Abedin, a second year student of Chawddagram College was also fined Taka 5000, in default, to suffer two months, RI more.

The case, in brief, was that Joyal along with his three accomplices hit on the head of co-villager Kabir with a lethal weapon on 8.11.89 following a quarrel over the possession of the disputed land.

The Additional District and Sessions Judge Istiaq Hussain after examining the witnesses and records awarded the punishment and acquitted three others recently.

BARISAL

112 FWP plans implemented

June 15: Relief and Rehabilitation Department has completed 112 projects in ten upazilas of Barisal district at an allocation of 6,121 metric tons of wheat under Food for Work Programme (FWP) in the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the projects included excavation and re-excavation of 28 canals, construction of 80 roads and levelling of four playgrounds.

SATKHIRA

Supporters of football teams clash, one killed

June 15: A man was killed and 10 others were injured in a clash between the supporters of two football teams at Sara in Shyamnagar Upazila of the district on Saturday, reports UNB.

According to the witnesses, a football match arranged between the married and unmarried people of the locality following the Eid-ul-Azha day.

The clash occurred over the controversial decision of the referee over a hand ball during the game. At this, supporters of both the groups entered into the playground forcibly and attacked each other with lethal weapons killing Afifuddin on the spot.

The injured were sent to the upazila health complex. A case has been filed with the police.

KUSHTIA

Pistol recovered

June 15: Police recovered one pistol from Mongalbaria Bazar area recently, reports BSS.

On secret information, Town Sub-inspector of Kushtia Police Station conducted a search of a place along the house of Alhaj Nawab Ali at Mongalbaria Bazar and recovered one pistol.

According to police, some people were allegedly preparing for dacoity. As they sensed the arrival of police they fled leaving their arms.

A case has been recorded with the Kushtia police Station in this connection.

BRAHMANBARIA

Housewife sold by trafficker

June 15: A woman trafficker has sold a housewife and she was sent to India, it is alleged, reports UNB.

Informed sources said, the incident occurred at Tajkhal village under Bancharampur Upazila.

Santi Begum wife of Babul Miah was the victim of the woman trafficker.

One day, some one told Santi Begum that her husband now in Brahmanbaria Jail custody will be bailed out to day. They took Santi along with her two children and sent to Dhaka.

Later, she was sent to India through Jessore boarder.

A case was lodged against six persons in this connection with Bancharampur Upazila Court.

MANIKGANJ

Loadshedding frequent

June 15: Frequent loadshedding in the upazilas has been hampering irrigation for standing IRR-boro crops, reports UNB.

The upazilas badly affected by loadshedding are Shivalaya, Ghour, Daulatpur and Sadar.

It has been alleged that the frequency of loadshedding is sometimes as high as 15 times a day.

Regular supply is, however, maintained through manipulation with dishonest officials, some of the consumers alleged.

Anti-social and criminal activities have been reported from areas including the hats and bazars which remain in darkness for long periods everyday.

MAGURA

2 notorious dacoits held

June 15: Police arrested two notorious dacoits named Siru (28) and Alauddin (35) and recovered one pipe one gun with four rounds of ammunition from their possession at village Khanpur, reports UNB.

According to the police, the miscreants were involved in many dacoities, murder and criminal activities in the district and wanted by police for a long time.

Acting on secret information, a police party raided the house of Alauddin of village Khanpur and arrested them with the gun and ammunition.

A case has been registered with the police.

JAMALPUR

Regional Tableeg Ijtema begins

June 15: A three-day regional Tableeg Ijtema began at Islampur upazila here on Sunday morning, reports UNB.

About 20,000 devotees with 500 foreigners including delegates from India, Pakistan, Indonesia, Malaysia, China and Saudi Arabia attended the Ijtema.

The Ijtema, first of its kind after the Biswa Ijtema at Tongi was organised by the local unit of Tableeg Jamaat.

The Akheri Munajaat (final prayer) of the Ijtema will be held on next Tuesday: The Pesh Imam of Kakrail Mosque, Dhaka, will conduct the Munajaat.

SYLHET

Training on afforestation

June 15: A five-day-long afforestation training programme was held at Deai in Sunamganj district recently, reports UNB.

The training was jointly organised by the Gramin Jono Kalyan Sangad and Sylhet Divisional Forest Office.

At least 63 people from different organisations took part in the training programme.



BOGRA: The road between Bogra and Joypurhat damaged during 1988 flood is yet to be repaired.

Star Photo

Tk 28.41 cr smuggled goods seized in Jessore

Smuggling unrestrained in Bogra

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, June 15: The BDR personnel seized smuggled goods worth Taka 28.41 crore, recorded 6,842 cases and nabbed 483 alleged smugglers from different border areas of the district during the period from January 1991 to May 1992.

This was disclosed by the BDR Battalion Commander, Jessore, Lieutenant Colonel Mobarak Hussain in an exclusive interview with the Daily Star.

Giving in details of the account, the commander said that goods, worth Taka 21,22,68,689 were seized while smuggled into Bangladesh and goods worth Taka 7,18,98,580 were seized while smuggled out of the country during the period.

Presenting a year-wise account, the commander said that goods worth Taka 5,97,69,887 were seized while entering into Bangladesh and goods worth Taka 2,47,29,888 while going out of the country during the year 1990. A total of

2,515 cases was recorded and 197 persons was arrested during the period.

Goods worth Taka 9,40,51,193 were seized while carried into and goods worth taka 4,20,17,700 were seized while carried out of the country during the year 1991. A total of 2,968 cases were recorded and 206 persons were nabbed during this period.

Goods worth Taka 5,78,87,609 were seized while smuggled into and goods worth Taka 41,50,990 were smuggled out of Bangladesh during the period from January to May, 1992. A total of 1,319 cases was recorded and a total of 80 persons were arrested during the period.

In reply to a question, the commander categorically said that total stoppage of smuggling across the vast border is impossible without the cooperation of the public.

He however, underscored the need for whole hearted cooperation of the public to

achieve the end in this respect.

Bogra

Our Bogra correspondent says: Bogra is now one of the main transit-points of smuggling for which the local markets have been flooded by the illegal goods.

The smuggled goods reach here through Dinajpur, Rangpur, Joypurhat, Capatnawabganj and these goods are being transported to other places. The sale and transportation of these goods from Bogra are going on without any restriction.

The smuggled goods include sarees, glass, sugar, oil, pesticides, jira, elachi, onion and cosmetics.

Local people informed that the smugglers in collaboration with the law enforcing agencies use to smuggle various goods and sell those in different local markets.

Women mostly poor are selling Indian sarees from door to door. It is reported that

these women can supply any kind of sarees within a very short time.

Smuggled goods reach here by buses, trucks and trains. These goods are unloaded at Bogra and Joypurhat railway stations during day time.

It is learnt that the carriers of smuggled goods show ships issued by the smugglers to the law enforcing agencies and as per agreement the law enforcing agencies leave it. It can be mentioned here that the police and other agencies are regularly paid money for the illegal trade.

The smugglers throw the goods at Heli, Chaskat, Akkelpur railway stations in presence of the law enforcing agencies and the agents collect the same. Some of the night coaches and trucks carry these goods and also unload these at any time without any restrictions.

Smuggling in this district is increasing day by day for which local goods remain unsold and consequently the industries are badly affected.

Shortage in food stock, prices up

DINAJPUR, June 15: Severe shortage in the food stock in the district has shot up food prices with sympathetic increase in the prices of other essentials, reports UNB.

Open market operation to stabilise the prices failed to bring a marked change in the situation as the quantity of rice put on sale was too small.

Rice is being sold at Taka 17 for a kg of fine variety and Taka 14 a kg for coarse variety in the hats and bazars of the district.

Last year's flood hampered crop production which severely affected the poor people, local leaders said.

Prices of chemical fertilizer have also increased throughout the district, further hampering production this season.

Urea is being sold at Taka 320 per bag against Taka 200 a few weeks back. A bag of TSP is being sold at Taka 380 against Taka 290.

Farmers selling land to repay loans

Agriculturists in the district are reported to be selling out farmland to repay their outstanding loans.

Some of them said, natural calamities including flood last year destroyed crops on the fields and they could not procure new loans to rehabilitate.

Local people alleged that some employees of Bangladesh Krishi Bank and other commercial banks of the district distributed loans to non-productive sectors.

Marginal farmers have recently received notice to clear up the land and other taxes at a time when they are virtually empty-handed.

Local people also alleged that a group of middle men and rich landlords were taking agricultural loan in fictitious names depriving the genuine poor farmers who are unable to produce security bonds.

Law and order situation in the district has deteriorated in recent days causing concern to local people, concerned circles alleged.

Highway dacoity, theft, murder, gambling, rape, cattle lifting, hijacking, pick-pocketing, smuggling, murder and mugging have been rampant in different upazilas of the district, they said.

The miscreants allegedly

move about freely in and around the town, upazila headquarters and the adjoining areas with unauthorised arms and engage in criminal activities.

Open sale of ganja and liquor has also been reported in the town and the upazila headquarters.

Local people urged the authorities to take steps to check these anti-social activities in the district.

The BDR personnel of the Hilli border have arrested four people and seized smuggled gold and cash worth about 1.25 lakh.

Acting on secret information, the BDR party of Dinajpur Sector searched bodies of the four people on May 31 and recovered the gold and cash.

The arrested are Mukunda Chowdhury Datta, Gurupada Bhowmic, Gayanishi Bhowmic and Minati Datta wife of Mukul Datta all of Chai Khariya in Gabtali Upazila in the district of Bogra.

A case has been registered with Hakimpur thana in this connection and the seized goods have been deposited with the Hilli customs office.

Girls academy beset with problems

MAJDEE COURT, June 15: Majdee Girls' Academy is beset with manifold problems including shortage of teachers and educational appliances, reports UNB.

Established in 1965, the school is running without a full fledged headmistress for the last seven years and the existing teaching staff is quite inadequate for smooth functioning of the school.

Shortage of accommodation and furniture are also hampering the academic activities of the school. Number of class rooms, benches, black boards are insufficient to cope with the needs of the students.

Local guardians complained that due to various problems the last SSC examination results of the high school were not satisfactory.

They urge the school governing body to take necessary steps to solve the existing problems and help restore academic atmosphere properly.

Another housewife Zohra Begum (21) was allegedly beaten to death by her husband at Madhuram on Thursday, last.

Teachers accorded reception

CHITTAGONG, June 15: The Greater Chittagong Lions Club has accorded a reception to the distinguished teachers of the district at the Lions Foundation here recently, says a press release.

The teachers are: Mahmudul Haq of Chittagong Municipal School, Maulana Mozleuddin Khan of Shobania Alia Madrasa and Nabin Kumar Tripura of Khagrachhari School.

Professor Shafayat Ahmed Siddiqui, Principal, Agrabad Mahila College was present on the occasion as chief guest.

The function was presided over by Ln C M Koyes Sami, President of the club. It was addressed among others by Ln Didarul Islam, Nurul Maruf Khan, Ln Mahmudur Rahman Bakul.

Paddy on 15,000 acres under pest attack

From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, June 15: More than 15,000 acres of aus paddy land have been attacked by 'mazra' and 'pamri' pests in three southern districts of Bhola, Borguna and Patuakhali.

lakh twenty thousand acres of land, in Borguna.

According to Agriculture Extension Department pest attack is lesser in Bhola than the other districts. Only in this district, production has almost reached the target.

Due to continuous draught, the cultivation of aus paddy has been delayed. At the growing time, pamri and mazra pests have already attacked the paddy land.

According to official sources, aus cultivation will be more in twenty thousand acres of land in Bhola district.

Further, it is alleged that in many cases pesticides failed to control pests as pesticides which is being purchased from open sale market by the farmers are more or less adulterated. Farmers have urged the concerned authorities to take necessary steps to control the situation immediately.

One Amrita Pike (34) was killed by a group of hoodlums in Koshabor village of Darial Union under Bakerganj Upazila on Thursday night.

Police said, an armed gang of five to seven persons asked for subscription from Amrita Pike. Being refused, the gang members severely beat him and later killed with a ram dao.

A case was lodged in the Bakerganj Police Station in this connection.

According to Agriculture Department pests have already attacked at least 10,000 acres of paddy land in these districts and it is being increased day by day.

Meanwhile, district-wise break up of the attack are: In Borguna, 940 areas of land have been attacked while cultivated land is only 14,150 areas in Patuakhali, 770 areas of paddy land were attacked, cultivated land is about 20, thousand acres of land and in Bhola district pests attacked paddy land is not less than six thousand acres while cultivated land is about one lakh seventy thousand acres.

Targets of cultivation of boro and aus were about one lakh fifteen thousand acres of land in Patuakhali, and one

Erosion threatens govt offices 10,000 families homeless

JAMALPUR, June 15: At least 10,000 families in Madarganj Upazila of the district have been rendered homeless by the erosion of river Jamuna during last one year, reports UNB.

The meeting was addressed, among others, by Prof Abdul Mannan Chowdhury and Nayem Zanghri, central leaders of the committee, local AL leader Mirza Azom MP and Advocate Mofitur Rahman Talukder.

According to district and upazila administration, the affected villages are Char Nadagari, Atamari, Boonchithola, Shukhnagari, Char Gargaeron, Chandpur, Char Nangla and Fuljhur.

They reiterated the demand for setting up special tribunal to try the killers and collaborators of 1971.

Upazila Health Complex and upazila Parishad Complex are also threatened by the erosion.

Jaitiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) swept the students union election of Dewanganj AKM College held recently.

A large number of homeless families took shelter on the flood control embankment.

The JCD, the student wing of BNP, won 15 out of 17 seats, including Vice President and General Secretary.

After visiting the erosion-affected area, local MP Mirza Azom urged the authorities to provide relief and grants to the affected people to help them resettle without further delay.

Monir and Khokan were elected the VP and GS respectively.

He also requested concerned ministries to take up protective measures against erosion by the river Jamuna.

Awami League backed Chhatra League won the post of Assistant Drama and Amusement Secretary.

The district unit of 1971 Ghatok Nirmul Committee at a public rally here demanded execution of the People's Court verdict on Jamaat chief Prof Golam Azam.

Both JCD and BCL candidates for the post of Assistant Secretary for Girls Commonroom secured the same number of votes.

Three panels of JCD, BCL and Sangrami Chhatra Samaj Contested the election.

Bullock-driven oil mills need patronisation

DINAJPUR, June 15: The village oilmen (Kulu) of the district are in great difficulties as bullock-driven oil mills, the age-old cottage industry of this area, are now on the verge of extinction due to lack of patronisation, reports UNB.

eryday and the situation worsened over the last few months.

It is learnt that being unable to cope with the problems, many oilmen of the district have already given up their profession.

The local mills, factories, shops and press owners have been incurring huge loss in this account.

About 5000 families in different areas of the district had been engaged in this profession since long.

Businessmen of the town urged the authorities to take steps to ensure smooth supply of electricity.

Some of them disclosed that price of oil-seeds, bullock and other inputs have gone beyond their purchasing capacity and they are forced to turn to other vocations.

Open sale of note books

Power disruption hampers output

Frequent power disruption and voltage fluctuations are creating great difficulties to the town dwellers as well as hampering production in mills and factories.

Note books for school students are being sold almost openly despite government ban, some teachers alleged here.

Power supply goes off at least for four to five times everyday.

The government ban on publishing and selling note books up to class eight is being defied by book-sellers who are doing business in full swing.

A group of unscrupulous publishers are bringing out the books by using fake names.

Construction of stadium now uncertain

MAJDEE COURT, June 15: The construction of Begumganj Upazila Stadium of the district is still uncertain after 10 years of the project's approval, reports UNB.

Most of the books are full of errors, distortion of facts and lack information, they said.

A fund of Taka 3 lakh was sanctioned 10 years ago and the site for the stadium was selected, sources said.

The price quoted is also too high and the librarians do not sell text books without note books, local guardians alleged.

The fund lying as fixed deposit in a bank now stands at more than Taka five lakh. But a decision to inaugurate the work is not yet in sight, they said.

Financed by Danish government, the first phase of the project was started in 1978 and the second phase in 1985.

Meanwhile, sports activities of the upazila are being hampered due to lack of any playgrounds. Football and all other games are held in the school playgrounds.

The (NRDP)-2 Project covering areas of Mass Education, Health, Animal Husbandary, Fishing, Agriculture, Cottage Industry and Mass Communication Training, is being abandoned for want of fund.

The Mass Education Programme was closed in January this year.



CHITTAGONG: C M Koyes, President, Greater Chittagong Lions Club with the distinguished teachers who have been accorded a reception recently.

Star Photo