

Upazila roundup

**RAJSHAHI**  
Tk 4.47 cr BRDB loan disbursed

June 16: Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) disbursed over Taka 4.47 crore as loan among the poor people of 14 upazilas of Rajshahi and Chapainawabganj districts under North-West Rural Development Project (NWRDP) up to April this year, official source here said, reports UNB.

During the period over Taka 2.76 crore were recovered which was 65 per cent of the total loan disbursed.

Meanwhile, about Taka 39 lakh loan had been disbursed during the current fiscal year upto April among 17,813 members of BRDB in 14 upazilas of Rajshahi and Chapainawabganj.

The loans have been sanctioned on some eight trades like small business, poultry, animal husbandry, fisheries, carpentry etc.

**BHOLA**  
3 irrigation plans being implemented

June 16: Water Development Board (WDB) has been implementing three irrigation projects at an allocation of 5,700 metric tons of wheat in Bhola district under Food for Work Programme in the current season, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the programme included re-excavation of 33 kilometres of canal, repair of 17 kilometres of embankment and construction of six kilometres of embankment.

Meanwhile, 80 per cent of work of the projects has been completed.

When completed, 5,000 acres of land would get irrigation facilities.

**FARIDPUR**  
Young boy killed in road mishap

June 16: One young boy was killed when he was hit by a running truck recently in front of Alipur Graveyard within this town, reports BSS.

According to a hospital source Munnaf aged seventeen a labourer by profession was hit by the running truck when he tried to jump on to the truck. He received serious injury. He succumbed to his injuries at the Faridpur General Hospital after half an hour.

A case was registered with Kotwali police in this connection.

**COMILLA**  
50 members of Ansar-VDP get award

June 16: A rally of Comilla district Ansar and Village Defence Party (VDP) members was held in Comilla Town Hall premises recently, reports UNB.

Director General Ansar and VDP Major General Syed Badruzzaman, was the chief guest in the function which was presided over by Hedayatul Islam Chowdhury, District Commander, Ansar-VDP, Comilla.

Those addressed the rally included Akram Hussain, District Adjutant of Ansar-VDP, Shaif Ahmed, Additional SP, Nural Islam Majumder, Ali Ahmed and Kholnour Begum.

Fifty Ansar-VDP members were awarded prizes prizes by the chief guest for their best performance.

**NAOAGON**  
4 to suffer 10-yr RI for murder

June 16: Four people have been sentenced to 10 years rigorous imprisonment each for murdering their employer Rabi Das, reports UNB.

The convicted are Sanatan Rabidas, Rajen, Lagen and Sapania.

According to the case, the poor day labourers, all Shaukats, criminally assaulted Rabi Das for making very low payment for their work at Chathra Field on 25.8.1988 in Niamatpur Upazila.

Rabi Das belonging to Radaripur village of the same upazila was seriously injured and rushed to the hospital where he succumbed later.

Father-in-law of late Rabi Das filed a case and police after investigation submitted charge sheet against them.

Naogaon District Additional Sessions Judge Md Akhtaruzzaman Bhuiyan awarded the punishment recently.

**BARISAL**  
Essay contest on Jibananda

June 16: Jibananda Academy will hold an essay competition on Jibananda Das, a modern Bengali poet among school and college students, reports BSS.

The essay should reach Tapankar Chakrabarty, Secretary, Jibananda Academy, Art Villa Super Market, Sadar Road, Barisal on or before June 30.

For school level students, the essay should be "Jibananda kabitya prakriti" and for college students the essay will be "Jibananda kabitya otiya chetana".

**NOAKHALI**  
Sports organiser dead

June 16: A noted sports organiser and social worker Abdul Malek died at his residence at Sonapur in sadar upazila on June 5. He was 72, reports UNB.

Malek had been suffering from various diseases for a long time.

He was the Commissioner of local municipality for two terms and was associated with various socio-cultural and sports organisations.

He left behind his four sons, four daughters and a host of relations, friends and well-wishers to mourn his death.

His Namaj-e-Janaza was held at Ahmadiya High School Ground and buried at his family graveyard.

**BRAHMANBARIA**  
One held with 400 gram ganja

June 16: Police arrested a man and recovered 400 grams of ganja from his possession, reports UNB.

Acting on secret information, Narcotics Department officials recently raided the house of Farid Mia at village Aminpur in sadar upazila and recovered the contraband good.

They also recovered 10 ganja plants from a house at Madhyapara in the town.

A case has been filed with local police in this connection.

**DINAJPUR**  
Chicken pox breaks out

From Our Correspondent  
June 16: Chicken pox has broken out in the upazilas of Khansama, Kaharol, Debiganj, Boda, Nawabganj, Ghoraghat, Hakimpur, and Phulbari in greater Dinajpur district.

When contacted, Civil Surgeon Office told this correspondent that there is no effective drugs to overcome the disease. It is also learnt that during this season every year the disease breaks out in an epidemic form.

Most people of these upazilas are dependent on pond and canal water as because the concerned authority failed to install necessary hand tubewells.

**AGRI-VARSITY**  
BAU Masters' courses admission

From Our Correspondent  
June 16: The admission of the candidates finally selected for admittance into the M Sc (Ag) and M Sc (Agri Engg) courses of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) for the session of 1988-89 will be held on 20-25 June, 1992, says a notification issued by the Coordinator of the Committee for Advanced Studies and Research (CASR) of BAU. Intending candidates have been advised to collect their admission forms from the office of the Coordinator, CASR.

It may be mentioned here that the selection of candidates seeking admission into the Master's courses of BAU for the above session will be finalised on the basis of their results in Bachelor degree and the number of seats applied for in the departments.

**MEHERPUR**  
2590-ton HYV wheat seeds produced

June 16: A total of 2,590 metric tons of High Yielding Variety of wheat seeds were produced in 3,084 acres of land in the contact growers zone of Meherpur district in the current season, reports BSS.

According to an official source, of the total, 2,516.6 metric tons are of 'Kanchan' variety.

The target was also fixed at 2,590 metric tons in the district.



KURIGRAM: A boy is seen collecting lily creeper from a pond. — Star photo

Success of Tk 57cr agri programme uncertain

From Our Correspondent  
BARISAL, June 16: Due to negligence and absence of proper care of the concerned authority, the Taka 57 crore Agriculture Rehabilitation Programme for seven southern districts of Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola, Burguna, Jhalakathi, Pirojpur and Gopalganj is on the verge of failure.

The government took up the rehabilitation programme in 1989 with a view to increasing the agriculture product in the region. Seven districts have been brought under the programme and a zone was created.

At the initial stage a programme at a cost of Taka 2 crore was taken to impart training to the cultivators and over 1,000 demonstration plots were selected for practical experiences.

For the proper implementation of the programme, the Asian Development Bank sanctioned Taka three lakh. But the progress of the programme was very slow due to the negligence of the concerned authority.

From the very beginning, the Grameen Bank took up responsibility of implementing the programme. Want of practical knowledge, absence of proper initiative of the staff of the bank, the fate of the programme became uncertain.

It is informed that the Grameen Bank started implementation of the programme on commercial basis. Due to the wrong process, 300 IRRI-boro schemes under the programme were badly affected and consequently the farmers had to face economic crisis.

According to sources fresh schemes are yet to be taken showing the loss of the last year.

During last year, at least 121 IRRI-boro schemes were undertaken by the Grameen Bank in five southern districts under this agriculture rehabilitation programme.

It is informed that still now, more than three hundred power pumps are lying unused.

Meanwhile, about Taka six crore have already been spent for different schemes under this programme but the outcome of these schemes is negligible.

In these circumstances, concerned authority should take necessary steps immediately to make this rehabilitation programme a successful.

Irregularities in Sylhet PDB office on

From Our Correspondent  
SYLHET, June 16: Corruption and irregularities have been going on in the local Distribution Division Office of Power Development Board.

Some staff of the office have been engaged in such practices causing huge loss to the public money. Some of the irregularities were detected by the higher authorities but no action has been taken against the concerned employees or officials, during the last few months.

It can be mentioned here that some staff misappropriated about Taka 22 lakh in the name of advance in last year. When the matter came to the knowledge of the higher authorities, an enquiry team was formed. The team accordingly submitted its report on 19-10-91 showing gross irregularities, corruption and misappropriation of huge amount of public money in the Distribution Division of PDB, Sylhet. Though seven months have already been passed no action has yet been taken against the concerned officials, it is informed.

Drawing of huge money in the name of advance, fake vouchers, payment of different bills for purchasing different items at higher rate have become regular affair in the office. Some organised gangs are very much active in this regard, it is learnt.

Another report adds: The remaining works of Kailashitla Gas Filed under Sylhet Gas Fields Ltd had been finished recently. The concerned firm used countrymade steel poles instead of the Germany made poles as stated in the schedule of the work. But the bill was duly passed at the rate of the foreign made poles. The Deputy Director, Regional, Accounts Office stopped the payment of the second part of the bill. They stated that the countrymade poles costs Taka 9114 as against a foreign made pole costs Taka 29224. The Deputy Director sent the bill returned to the Executive Engineer and asked him to send the bill at the rate of countrymade poles as stated in the rate chart of the Electrical Equipments Directorate of the Power Development Board.

Woman run over by minibus

SATKHIRA, June: An unidentified woman was run over by a minibus near Kaliganj College Thursday, reports UNB.

Police said the accident happened when the mentally retarded woman was dancing on the road and hit by the speeding minibus. She was immediately rushed to the district hospital where she later died.

Another report adds: An old man allegedly committed suicide after failing to bring his newly married young wife to his house at village Tetulia of Kaliganj Upazila of the district on Wednesday night.



RAJSHAHI: The newly elected Secretary of the RU Ladies' Club Tahmina Absar (Left) is taking over the charge from the outgoing Secretary, Sima Hossain (Right). The President of the Club, Nargis Ahmed is on the middle. — Star photo

Lily output decreases

From Our Correspondent  
KURIGRAM, June 16: Production of lily has declined and its groves in Kurigram district are being destroyed due to lack of proper orientations, maintenance and plantation programme.

Each and every beed, haor, pond, tank and marshy land in the district was once rich in lily. But lily is decaying and its production is now scanty in these beels, haors and ponds.

It may be mentioned here that lily creeper is used as vegetables in the wake of vegetable crisis in the rainy season. Its food value is not in any way less than any others vegetables. The food value is more than beet, radish, bean, cabbage and cauliflower, it is learnt.

The ripe seeds of lily is used to make fried grain (khol) which commonly termed by the villagers as "Dhyaper Khol". But now-a-days, Dhyaper Khol has disappeared from the village markets.

Knowledgeable circles opined that it was the duty of all concerned to increase the lily production at any cost because of its importance in our economic and social life.

Eid-ul-Azha, the second biggest religious festival of the Muslims was celebrated in Kurigram with great enthusiasm and religious favour.

The biggest congregation was held at Kurigram Bazar Jam-e-Mosque.

Seven killed, 40 hurt in road mishaps

SIRAJGANJ, June 16: Five people were killed and 40 others injured, four seriously, in a bus mishap at a point near Kundulia village in Santhia upazila on Nagorbari-Bogra road Saturday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the Rangpur bound speeding coach from Dhaka (Dhaka Metro-Ja-040343) fell into a road side ditch killing four people on the spot. Another seriously injured passenger died on way to hospital. The mishap occurred when the driver lost its control.

The dead were identified as: Akhter (48) of Ullapara upazila, Abdul Hye (35), Mizanur Rahman (38), Abdul Momen (58) and Abdul Hamid (30) of Faridpur upazila.

The bodies were sent to Pabna General Hospital for autopsy. Of the injured 25 were admitted to Bera and Shahzadpur Health Complexes while others were released after first aid.

The driver and the helpers of the bus managed to escape. A case has been filed with the local police in this connection.

Another reports adds: Two minor boys were killed in two separate road accidents in two upazilas of the district recently police said.

Bablu (8) was knocked down by a speeding truck on the Sirajganj-Belkuchi road at Khidirbattala in Sadar upazila this afternoon when he was playing by the side of the road. He died instantly.

In another accident, an unidentified boy (10) was run over by another truck on the Nagarbari-Belkuchi road at Chandakona in Rayganj upazila while he was crossing the road.

Two separate cases were filed with the local police. A teen aged girl was injured seriously when a gang of miscreants threw acid on her body Thursday, police here said.

According to witnesses, while the victim Rozi daughter of Omar Ali of village Tantkanda in Shahzadpur upazila along with her parents was coming to the local bazar the miscreants led by Golemmiah attacked her and threw acid on her in broad day light.

Tk 3.73 cr land uplift tax unrealised

NOAKHALI, June 16: Land development tax amounting of Taka 3,72,319 has remained unrealised in six upazilas of the district, reports UNB.

Out of Taka 4,55,38,106, an amount of Taka 82, 58, 387 has been realised till April last, official sources said.

Upazilawise break up of unrealised land development tax: Sadar Taka 1,67,94,784, Begumganj-Taka 83, 21, 728, Senbag-Taka 11,43,560, Comaniganj-Taka 14, 94, 039; Chatkhil-Taka 11,15,260 and Haty-Taka 4,09,948.

Local leaders have demanded early and adequate measures to remove traffic congestion and environmental hazard on the Trunk Road and Chaumuhant market area.

They said hundreds of shops constructed illegally on both sides of roads were obstructing free movement of vehicles and pedestrians.

Buses, trucks, rickshaws stand haphazardly in the market creating traffic jam which sometimes last for hours together.

Garbages heaped at various places in the market are seldom cleared and drains blocked at places cause logging which pollute the environment.

Thousands of people and hundreds of buses, trucks, autorickshaws, tempos gather here, one of the important business centres of the district everyday, from different parts of the country.

Toll collector stabs cop

RANGPUR, June 16: A police constable was stabbed by a miscreant while prevented from collecting tolls from the traders of Station Bazar in the town on Wednesday, last, reports UNB.

Police said constable Mohammad Ali while on duty found local mastan Monowar Hossain collecting tolls from the bazar and when challenged the miscreant stabbed him grievously.

The cop rushed to the Rangpur Medical College Hospital. After the incident the same miscreant snatched away gold ornament and cash Taka 1000 from Selina Begum, assistant teacher of Alamnagar Girls' High School. She went there for shopping.

Later, police managed to arrest the miscreant and a case has been filed in this connection.

Police recovered contraband items worth about Taka 50,000 and arrested a man from a shop at Dhaperhat Bazar of Sadullapur Upazila on Monday.

Acting on secret information, CID police raided the bazar and recovered 78 pieces of high quality Indian saree from a hidden place of the shop.

Later, the shopowner Afzal Hossain was arrested. A case has been filed with the police.

Betel leaf farming faces setback in Kushtia

From Our Correspondent  
KUSHTIA, June 16: Cultivation of betel leaf has been facing setback in Kushtia district putting the growers in a pitiable condition.

Death of inputs, high rate of carrying cost, paucity of loan and marketing facilities are the causes behind the setback of betel leaf cultivation in the area.

Prices of inputs such as bamboo, straw, oil cake, coir thread etc have gone up but these are necessary for cultivation for betel leaf.

About 45 maunds of oil cake are required for one bigha of cultivable land of betel leaf. Sheds used for plantation of betel leaf are to change frequently. But high cost of bamboo which sells at Taka 90 each is impossible to erect sheds on the part of the growers.

Lastly, absence of proper marketing facilities for the product has put the growers in a discouraging position and its usual high cost fails to attract both internal and foreign market while compared with the production cost of this item at the neighbouring country.

Prospect of nut cultivation bright  
Prospect of ground nut cultivation in certain areas of greater Kushtia district has been proved very bright as well as lucrative.

Farmers of Alamdanga, Chuadanga and certain parts of Kushtia district where soil is sandy have achieved very encouraging yield of this cash crop in their field with the help and cooperation of Agriculture Extension Department.

Sandy soil with very less productivity is suitable for cultivation of ground nut and it can be cultivated in both Kharif and Rabi seasons and time required for cultivation

Notes from Jamalpur

JAMALPUR, June 16: A seven-day training course for family planning field workers under Dhaka Division has ended here recently, reports UNB.

Deputy Minister for Health and Family Welfare Sirajul Hoq inaugurated the course on May 23. A total of 43 field workers of 17 districts of the Dhaka Division participated in the course.

The Minister stressed the importance of motivating rural people for planned parenthood. He called upon the field workers to gear up family planning activities to effectively help check baby boom.

"The country's desired economic progress will be shattered if we fail to check population boom," he added.

Bangladesh Family Planning Association organised the course.

Farmers for write off loans  
Poor farmers of Laxmirchar union in Sadar upazila have urged the authorities to write off their bank loans as their crops had been damaged by drought and flash flood.

The farmers of village Char Jhatharapur took crop-loans from Sonali and Krishi Bank of Nandina Bazar Branch.

They said they were now facing terrible financial hardship and so are unable to repay.

The affected farmers also urged the authorities to sanction new loans to them to boost agri-production in the upazila.

College union election  
Election to central students union of Shaheed Ziaur Rahman College in sadar upazila and Kiamatullah Government College in Bakshiganj were peacefully held recently.

The entire panel of Jatyatabadi Chitra Dal (JCD) swept over the polls in the Shaheed Ziaur Rahman College Central Students Union with Anisur Rahman as Vice President and Enamul Huq Khan Milon as the General Secretary.

Bangladesh Chhatra League (M-E) bagged four seats including the VP and GS in the central students union election of Bakshiganj Kiamatullah Government College. Ziaul Huq Zia became the VP while Rathiul Huq Talukder Rubel was elected GS. Rest of ten seats were won by the JCD.

Coop body executives  
Election of Bakshiganj Upazila Central Cooperative association was held at its office recently.

Mr Mohammad Ali was elected Chairman of Executive Committee of the Association.

Executive committee of Bankshiganj Chamber of Commerce and Industry was formed recently. A M Nuruzzaman and Md Sekander Ali have been elected President and General Secretary respectively.

Eid-ul-Azha celebrated  
Holy Eid-ul-Azha was celebrated in Jamalpur and Sherpur districts with due solemnity on Friday, reports BSS.

Thousands of Muslim devotees offered prayers and sacrificed cattle and goats.

Improved diet was distributed at destitute centre, hospitals and jail.

National flag was hoisted atop government buildings and private houses. Special prayer was offered for peace and prosperity of the country and Muslim Ummah.

Anti-social activities rampant  
BRAHMANBARIA, June 16: Anti-social activities have become rampant in the district town in recent days causing immense trouble to the dwellers, reports UNB.

Uncontrolled movement of gay girls, use of drugs and violence in the district have become a common feature.

Gay girls move freely at various important places like Station road, Bar library and town hall premises specially after sunset.

Hospital sources said that patients reporting with venereal diseases include school and college going students in larger numbers. Many youngsters have become addicted to drugs, now sold almost freely in the town.

Sources said young people engaged in gambling in the nook and corner of the town frequently resort to loot, hijacking, kidnapping and forcible toll collection to procure money for the illegal sport.

Local people urged the authorities to check the menace and enforce law and order to stop anti-social activities.