

Upazila roundup

NARSINGDI

Mother elopes with daughter's husband

From Our Correspondent
June 19: One son-in-law eloped with his mother-in-law at the village Vangertake under Shibpur upazila of the district recently.
It is learnt that Sona Mia married one Shameem Ara Begum, daughter of Kuwait Ali of the same village one year ago.
The son-in-law, Sona Mia fell in love with his mother-in-law. At one stage, he divorced his wife Shameem Ara and eloped with his mother-in-law.
Another report adds: Seventy eight poisonous snakes were caught from the house of Edris Ali near Khanabari railway station under Raipura upazila of the district recently.

COMILLA

Seminar on health, FP

June 19: A motivational seminar on "Health, Nutrition and Family Planning" for the newly married couples was held in Loarchar Primary School of Burichang upazila recently, reports UNB.
Organised by local branch of Family Planning Association of Bangladesh, the day-long seminar was attended by 25 couples.
The speakers dwelt at length on the disadvantages of early marriage.
The seminar was formally inaugurated by Honorary Treasurer, Aflabur Rahman as chief guest.
Presided over by Shafiq Charan Bhoumik it was also addressed by Abul Kashem, Kamruzzaman and Dr Syed Ashraf Hossain.

MANIKGANJ

Bidis being sold without bandrolls

From Our Correspondent
June 19: Bidis are mostly being sold here without bandrolls to evade excise duty causing huge revenue loss to the government.
It is alleged that Halim and Shoncr Bangla Bidli Factory owners in the district are involved in this malpractice in collaboration with local Customs and Excise Department officials.
Local people said, in many cases bidis are being sold with used bandrolls collected from the retailers to deceive the authorities.
Besides, the actual production of the factories is not shown in the paper submitted, to the excise officials.
Local leaders have urged the authorities to check the duty evasion and take punitive actions against the unscrupulous factory owners.

Another report adds: Mohammad Alam (35) of village Kucharchar under Iltorampur upazila of the district was killed in a road mishap on Dhaka-Aricha highway recently.
The accident took place when a Chitr bound truck from Aricha lost its control and hit a rickshaw van. As a result the rickshaw van driver died on the spot.

KISHOREGANJ

One commits suicide

From Our Correspondent
June 19: One middle-aged man, Shukur Mamud (50) of Vhatia village under Karinganj upazila of the district committed suicide by hanging himself from the tree, near his house recently.
The reason behind the incident could not be known. The body was sent to the Kishoreganj Sadar hospital for postmortem and a case was filed with Karinganj police in this connection.

CHUADANGA

Two to suffer life-term for murder

From Our Correspondent
June 19: The learned Additional District and Session Judge Chuadanga-1 Mostafa Enamul Haque sentenced one Bablu and Hawaya Khatun to suffer life-term imprisonment on charge of killing one Shahjahan of village Subdia under Chuadanga Sadar upazila recently.
The learned court examined 13 witnesses and found both Howaya Khatun and Bablu guilty and convicted them to suffer imprisonment for life.
The prosecution story in brief is that there was a love affair between accused Bablu and Howaya Khatun. Howaya Khatun was the wife of deceased Shahjahan of village Subdia under Chuadanga Sadar upazila. Bablu was the younger brother of deceased Shahjahan.
There was a secret love affair between Howaya Khatun and Bablu. One day Shahjahan came to know the matter. Both Howaya Khatun and Bablu decided to kill Shahjahan and one day Bablu took his elder brother the husband of Howaya Khatun to a field of the village for cutting grass where Bablu hacked his elder brother Shahjahan to death in collusion with his sister-in-law Howaya Khatun. The mother of deceased Shahjahan started a case against accused Howaya Khatun and Bablu. The IO of the case submitted chargesheet against Howaya Khatun and Bablu.
At present there are two teachers for 200 students of the school.
Shortage of accommodation, necessary furniture, absence of tubewell, pucca latrine and play ground are the main constraints for smooth functioning of the school.
Several cracks have developed at many points of the roof and walls of the school building which may collapse at any time. The situation worsens during the rainy season. The school house needs reconstruction and renovation on emergency basis.



RAJBARI: The erosion affected railway lines are being removed on Bhatiapara route and the local station is also under threat. — Star photo

Erosion of Jamuna 2000 lose homestead in one week

SIRAJGANJ, June 19: Following the water level rise in the river Jamuna and its tributaries, erosion has been washing away crop lands and homesteads in four riverine upazilas of the district.
The affected upazilas are Kazipur, Sadar, Belkuchi and Chowhali.
During the last week, more than ten villages have been eroded rendering over 2,000 families homeless. About 5,000 acres of crop land have also been eroded by the mighty river of Jamuna.
It is gathered that with the water level rise in Jamuna, blow of current hits the western bank and erosion continues throughout the rainy season.
Every year, people residing by the bank of the river, keep them alert to shift their homesteads. The local Operation and Maintenance Division of Bangladesh Water Development Board has not yet been successful to arrest erosion even after spending crores of government money during the last few years.
More than two lakh people of the district have been rendered homeless as over 2000 villages were eroded by the river Jamuna. The damage of the Brahmaputra Flood Control Embankment at different points causing extensive loss to the crops and houses in the western part of the embankment.
The 175-mile-long embankment popularly known as the WAPDA Bandh from Dohkawa of Kurigram district to Bherakhola of Pabna district was constructed in the mid of 1960 to protect the crops and houses. During the last ten years, erosion washed away the major portion of the original embankment and part of it have been reconstructed. The WDB do the earth cutting work of the embankment every year on the eve of the rainy season which keeps the work incomplete. As a result, the embankment is working as curse rather than saving them from calamities.
Due to the devastating and continuous erosion, lakhs of people have taken shelter in the WDB Bandh and residing under uncertainty and unhygienic condition.
The villages washed away during the last ten years include Manikpatal, Tekani, Boro Tekani, Naturapara, Maizbari and Boropakhia in Kazipur Upazila, Mesra, Chowdhuripara, Ranigram Golla, Ghurkha, Saidabad, and Chaitanpati in sadar upazila, Nakliata, Randhunipara, Delna, Shohagpur, Khidramatia, Luxmipur, Bangua, Meghulla and Mulkandi in Belkuchi Upazila, Bettli, Enayetpur, Malipara, Stahal, Nowhata, Munshiganj, Khaskawlia and Natia in Chowhali Upazila.
Other than the Jamuna, the tributaries including Karotia, Baral, Fulazor and Bangalee rivers also was away houses and crop lands during rainy season.
The historic mazar of Hazrat Makhdoom Shah (R) of Shahzadpur is only a few years away from the erosion point of river Karotia.
While inaugurated the national level Programme on Rabindra Nath Tagore, the Prime Minister, Begum Khaleda Zia, instructed the WDB authority to take protective measures to save the dargah from erosion.
A project amounting to Taka 1.85 crore has been taken up but the work on it is yet to be started for the reasons 'not known'.
The number of eroded and rootless people are increasing day by day in the district due to the continuous erosion in these areas.
The people of the vast areas have urged the concerned authority to take up a permanent erosion control plan and help property worth crores of taka.

Kacharibari of Tagore needs care

NAOGAON, June 19: The Kacharibari of Tagore's Zamindari at Patisar in the district which depicts the past memories of Nobel laureate poet Rabindranath, is now on the verge of destruction due to lack of proper maintenance and care.
Patisar, a small village in Atria upazila of the district is replete with Rabindra memories as the great poet visited several times and lived in the village in 1895, 1896 and in 1937.
Rabindranath was charmed with the scenic beauty of the village and its surroundings and composed many poems like Chhattali, Duranta, Asha, Purnima etc during his stay in the village.
In Chhattali, the poet gave a vivid description of Patisar and its surroundings.
Rabindranath also started his cooperative farming and banking at Patisar for improving the economic condition of the peasants. He introduced mechanised cultivation in this village first.
The Kacharibari which is now being used as government Tahsil office may be turned into a museum preserving the memorials of poet Rabindranath Tagore. It could be a place of interest to the tourists.
The people of the locality urged the authorities to take immediate steps to protect the Kacharibari of the great poet.

Betel-leaf growers face funds crisis

From Our Correspondent
BARISAL, June 19: About six lakh betel leaf growers of eleven districts are in utter problems as the cultivation return is poor.
According to some growers, the price hike of different inputs like bamboo, oil cake, rope, fertilizers and labour cost have put them in difficulties to continue the cultivation of betel leaf.
Betel leaf growers of Barisal, Patuakhali, Dhola, Jhalokathi, Pirojpur, Borguna, Madartpur, Shariatpur, Faridpur, Gopalganj and Rajbari have been facing the same problem and their cultivation is on the verge of closure.
The growers informed that due to absence of proper initiative of the concerned authorities, the quantity of export of betel leaf has decreased considerably. Besides, the growers are not provided with necessary loan facilities from the Krishi Bank and other commercial banks for which they are almost unable to continue cultivation.
For mere survival, many growers of the districts have given up the hereditary and traditional profession.
Our Correspondent from Satkhira reports "Betel leaf production is decreasing gradually in the district due to various problems faced by the growers for some time past."
It is learnt that about 5,000 families of seven upazilas of the district are engaged in betel leaf cultivation but due to lack of necessary inputs - bank loans, marketing facilities and high transport cost, they are unable to continue the cultivation.
On the otherhand, prices of inputs like oil cake, straw and fertilizers have increased abnormally but the price of their product have not been increased proportionately.
It can be mentioned here that huge quantity of oil cake is required for betel leaf cultivation while the sheds over the betel leaf plants have to be changed at least twice in a year. For the shortage of capital, the growers are unable to do so and as a result the production is affected. At present, a medium size bamboo is sold between Taka 80 and 100.

One to suffer lifetime for killing brother

SIRAJGANJ, June 19: The District and Session Judge has awarded life term to a person for killing his step brother, reports UNB.
The prosecution in brief was that elder brother Abu Taher of sadar upazila of the district called out his step brother Masud for shopping on January 3 in 1988. Later, the dead body of Masud was found in a paddy field on the following day with his neck wrapped with a rope.
Abu Taher has been absconding since then.
After examining the witnesses and records, the judge gave the judgement in absence of the accused.

BDR man, 5 others killed in road mishaps

From Our Correspondent
KURIGRAM, June 19: Four persons including a BDR man were killed while atleast 50 others injured in a bus accident that took place at Kaunia 17 miles away from Kurigram on June 16 morning.
Witnesses said the night coach coming from Dhaka to Kurigram of Jaba Paribahan (No-BA-8674) fell into a road side ditch while the driver lost its control killing four people on the spot at about 6 am.
The victims were identified as BDR sepoy Harun-Or-Rashid (35), Selim Ahmed (33), Rabi Ghosh, Supervisor of the night coach aged about 28 and the other one could not be identified.
Fifteen injured persons were admitted into Kurigram hospital in a critical condition and the rests were sent to Rangpur MCH for treatment, it is learnt.
UNB report says: A truck-bus collision on Khulna-Jessore Highway tonight left one person killed and 40 others injured, 10 seriously, police and witnesses said.
The body, lying with Fultala police, could not be immediately identified.
Among the injured, nine were admitted to the 250-bed hospital in the city and three others to sadar hospital.
Witnesses said the bus turned turtle after it collided with a Khulna-bound truck from Jessore at Shesh Shimana, 35 kilometres from Khulna city, at about 9.30 tonight.
UNB reports adds: One person was killed and two others injured in a bomb explosion in front of the Kotwali police station on Wednesday midnight.
The victim was identified as Kesto (25).
Police super of the district was present at Kotwali thana during the incident.
Details of the incident was not known immediately.

Flood control project nearing completion

MAULVIBAZAR, June 19: The 79 lakh taka Shaka Barak Flood Control and Irrigation Project in sadar upazila of the district is on progress and will be completed soon, reports UNB.
The water development board had taken up the project in 1989-90 fiscal year with the financial assistance from International Development Association to protect about 10,000 acres of land from early flood of Kushiara and Shaka Barak and to provide irrigation in the dry season.
The main works of the project included construction of a regulator on Kamarkhal near Sarkerbazar and construction of 9 kilometers of flood control embankment from Manumukh to Sadhuhati.
On completion of the project, about 760 metric tons of additional paddy will be produced in the area.
Anti-smuggling hunt
In an anti-smuggling hunt, Sreemangal police seized 35 pieces of Indian sarce and 20 pieces of tubelights from Saigona area on Dhaka-Sylhet highway.
Action on information, police raided the area recently and seized the goods. Sensing police appearance the smugglers left the place leaving behind the contrabands.
A case has been filed with the police.
Local leaders alleged that the smugglers are active in different areas of the district in spite of the so-called drive against them.
BNP unit committee formed
The annual conference of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), Kulara upazila unit was held here at the upazila headquarters recently.
A 51-member committee was formed with Abdur Rahman and Saiful Alam as President and General Secretary respectively, said the sources.

Introduction of crop insurance demanded

MAGURA, June 19: The farmers of the district demanded introduction of crop insurance for development of agriculture sector.
While taking to UNB some farmers told that they face great hardship almost every year due to massive damage of crops by the natural disasters.
Visitation of natural calamities like drought, flood, norwester, tornado is a regular feature in the country and these are the main reasons for the crop damage, they added.
Experts said introduction of crop insurance system has proved its worthiness in many countries of the world. It is now imperative in Bangladesh, to introduce the system in order to save the affected farmers.
The crop insurance system will be a guarantee for the farmers against their crop loss, they added.
A total of 2014 applications were filed for 20 posts of primary school teachers in four upazilas of the district.
According to an official source, of the total applicants 1496 are female and the rest are male. Of the vacant posts, five are for headmasters and 15 for assistant teachers.
Due to absence of employment opportunities a large number of unemployed educated youths of the district have been forced to apply for only 20 posts

Works on Tk 14cr fresh Barendra project in progress

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, June 19: Work is in full swing on the Barendra Integrated Area Development Project which had been revived by the government with an allocation of Taka 14 crore for the last three months of the current fiscal year, reports UNB.
A 10-member committee formed by the government is supervising the work which includes, in the current phase, installation of 500 deep tubewells, electrification of 170 others, excavation of 100 canals, re-excavation of 100 ponds, plantation of 10 lakh saplings and construction of four kilometres of pucca roads.
UNB correspondent visiting the project reports that resumption of work renewed hope and raised enthusiasm among the farmers who expect a bumper production this year from the hitherto barren land.
The five-year project estimated at a cost of Taka 395 crore was undertaken in 1985 for all ground development of Barendra area.
About 12,67,400 acres of land in 15 upazilas of Chapainawabganj, Rajshahi and Naogaon were brought under this project.
The project included installation of 3,000 deep tubewells, re-excavation of 14,000 ponds and 305 miles canals, plantation of 55 lakh saplings, modernisation of 22 nurseries and eight hatcheries and construction of 145 kilometres of pucca roads.
The works of the project were badly hindered due to financial constraints during the past regime. Only Taka 110 crore was allocated during the last Five-Year Plan.
Only 1,500 tubewells were installed, 1089 ponds re-excavated, 47 Km pucca roads constructed, 22 water grid were built, 20 nurseries and five hatcheries were modernised, 6 miles of canals were excavated and 37 lakh saplings were planted during the period.
The work then came to a halt for want of financial allocation and lack of interest of the autocratic regime.
Fish Production in the district has declined despite having a large number of waterbodies and favourable situation.
Administrative, financial and the problems stood in the way of optimum utilisation of inputs for pisciculture, concerned sources said.
According to the Fisheries Department, annual production of fish in the district has come down to 3,900 metric tons as against the minimum requirement of 11,700 tons.
There are 7659 ponds, 80 miles of rivers and 56 beels of 10,600 acres of land in the district, they said.
According to pisciculturists, the production could be raised to 20,000 metric tons if the irregularities in the Fisheries Department were removed, the waterbodies leased out to genuine fishermen and proper planning and strategies for development were adopted.
They said frequent outbreak of ulcerous diseases and unabated use of current nets have also been responsible for depletion in fish resources.
About 2,336 district ponds owned by the government and silted rivers need to be re-excavated, hatcheries are lacking and traditional fishermen are denied loans or financial assistance, the sources added.
The sources said, as a result of indifference by the authorities to the need for removing the bottlenecks a large section of traditional fishermen have given up the profession.
A couple of years ago, there were about 8,000 fishermen in the district, the number now stands at only 3,000.
Milk production in the district is on the decline due to lack of maintenance of the existing dairy farms, reports UNB.
About 23 dairy farms, each having 150 to 250 cows are not taken proper care of, sources at the Livestock Department said.
Production can be raised if the farms are provided with balanced fodder and veterinary care and training in scientific methods, they said.
A housewife allegedly committed suicide at village Shampari in Sadar upazila of the district by taking poison recently, reports UNB.
The victim Lufia Begum (35), wife of Harun-or-Rashid is believed to have taken her life over family feud.
The body was sent to Sadar hospital for autopsy. A case has been filed with the police.
Son kills mother
A mother was brutally murdered by her step son following a family feud, police said here today.



BOGRA: Bogra Theatre brought out a procession on the occasion of the 20th founding anniversary recently. — Star photo