

Upazila roundup

SYLHET

One held with pipegun

From Our Correspondent
June 20 : The police of Jagannathpur PS recovered a pipe gun and arrested a notorious dacoit from village Mamudpur recently.

According to the reports, on getting secret information, a police party went to the house of one Asmat Ali of the said village and recovered a country-made pipe gun and three rounds of cartridges from the straw room of the house. They arrested Iskandar Ali, a veteran criminal, from the village for his alleged involvement in the matter.

The police further informed that there were a number of cases of dacoity and theft against the held person in the area.

Another report adds : Valuables worth about more than Taka one lakh were recovered from Haripur and Shalutikar areas recently by the BDR personnel.

According to the reports, a special patrol party of BDR conducted separate raids and recovered smuggled saree, lungi and bidi from the Haripur and Salutikar areas. On arrival of the BDR men, the smugglers managed to escape, it is reported.

JHENIDAH

Dhaka Varsity student commits suicide

June 20 : A young man allegedly committed suicide by taking poison at his residence in the town on the eve of the Eid day, police said, reports UNB.

Tauhidur Rahman, son of Advocate Shariful Islam of the town, was a student of Law Department of Dhaka University.

The reason for his suicide could not be known immediately.

A UD case has been filed with the police.

JAMALPUR

Nirmul Body, Jubo Command clash : 10 hurt

June 20 : At least 10 people were injured in a clash between supporters and opponents of the verdict of Gano Adalat (people's court) against Golam Azam, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the clash ensued when supporters of Jubo Command, Freedom Party and Jamaat allegedly attacked a procession of Ghatak Dal Nirmul Committee at Nayapara in the town this morning.

The Nirmul Committee took out the procession to drum up support for the dawn-to-dusk hartal on June 21.

The injured included general secretary of the district unit of pro-Awami League Chhatra League.

Later, a group of youngsters allegedly snatched away a microphone from a rickshaw in which supporters of Jubo Command were campaigning for its June 20 half-day hartal.

Tension was prevailing in the town following the incidents.

Police were deployed in various parts of the town to guard against further untoward incidents.

BARISAL

1182 acres of khas land distributed

From Our Correspondent

June 20 : A total of 1,182 acres of government khas land has been distributed among the landless farmers of Jhalakathi district recently.

Of the total, 539 acres in Nalcity upazila, 420 acres in Rajapur upazila, 170 acres in Kalishalia upazila, and in Sadar upazila 53 acres of land have been distributed among the farmers.

Another report adds : Sinking of 231 tubewells by Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department is to be completed soon in six upazilas of Patuakhali district during this current financial year.

The tubewells will be sunk with the financial assistance of Saudi government.

Sinking of these tubewells upazila-wise will be : in Patuakhali Sadar 41, in Kalapara 32, in Gaiachipa 56, in Mirzapur 36, in Baulal 42 and in Dashmina 24.

These tubewells are being installed with a view to supplying pure drinking water to the people of these upazilas.

MADARIPUR

Anti-social activities rampant

From Our Correspondent

June 20 : Theft, highway dacoity, gambling, cattle lifting, hijacking, smuggling, murder and mugging have been increased in different upazilas of the district recently.

It is gathered that miscreants move freely in and around the town, upazila headquarters and the adjoining areas with unauthorised arms.

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

Another report adds : A unit meeting of Ghatak Dal Nirmul Committee was held here recently.

The meeting was addressed by Ratan Kumar Das, Salauddin Ahmed and Saiful Ahmed Mithu.

MAULVIBAZAR

'Gentlemen Notice' to defaulter tax payers issued

From Our Correspondent

June 20 : Maulvibazar Pourasava authority have issued 'Gentlemen Notice' to the defaulter poura tax payers to recover arrear poura-tax recently.

It is informed that most of the tax-payers did not paid their tax regularly. So, an amount of Taka 76 lakh poura-tax is lying arrear since long.

When contacted some tax-payers of the town said they did not pay holding tax owing to tax increases by the authority at unreasonable rate. They told this correspondent that tax rate in 1983-84 was increased by 8 to 10 times in a year. So they stopped payment the tax from the year 1984-85 and at that time they lodged appeal against increased rate of tax to the authority. But the authority concerned never replied to their appeal. At that stage the dwellers of the town formed 'Nagorik Committee' to protect the rights of the town dwellers. They also added that poura facilities like drainage system, street lights and water supply are quite inadequate.

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BARISAL: A discussion meeting was arranged here in observance of the World Environment Day. A speaker is seen speaking on the occasion. — Star photo

Jute farming in Satkhira, Faridpur

Production likely to fall short of target

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, June 20 : The production of jute will fall short of the target in the district and else where of the country during the current season because of the adverse effect of the persisting drought and paucity of quality seeds.

Agricultural Extension department sources here told this correspondent that an intensive programme was taken to cultivate jute on about 30,000 acres of land in the district.

But only 15,000 acres of land have been brought under jute cultivation due to the above mentioned causes.

Sources said, drought, low price of the jute and scarcity of High Yielding jute seeds are the main factors which discouraged the jute cultivators.

Meanwhile, to encourage and patronise jute cultivation, AED has set up seven demonstration plots of High Yielding Varieties in seven upazilas of the district.

Our Correspondent from Faridpur says : The target of jute cultivation in eight upazilas of the district has not been achieved for the various problems including the severe

drought.

Being deprived of the fair price of jute last year, the growers of the district have reduced their average cultivation to a great extent. On the other hand, drought during the sowing season also forced the farmers to curtail the average of jute cultivation in the area.

According to District Agriculture Extension Department, 44,000 acres of land had been fixed for jute cultivation in eight upazilas of the district. But only 19,430 acres of land have been brought under the programme.

The upazila-wise break up of the cultivation is : Faridpur Sadar - 4110 acres of land, Charbhadrason - 120 acres, Nagarkanda - 3500 acres, Sadarpur - 1050 acres, Bhanga - 3270 acres, Madhukhal - 2120 acres, Boalmari - 3115 acres and Alifadanga upazila - 1145 acres.

Talking to this correspondent, the District Agriculture Officer opined that the prolonged drought was the main cause for the unexpected fall in the cultivation in the area.

Jatiya Sangsad Whip Ashraf

Hossain recently called upon the BNP workers to help consolidate the party at the grass root level for implementing the development programmes of the government.

Addressing as the chief guest separate rallies at Shyamnagar and Kaliganj the Whip said BNP had ensured the involvement of people from all walks of life in all activities of the government for its proper implementation.

In this connection, he said the success of the Canal Digging Programme lies on people's participation. He also stressed the need for materialising the ideals and dreams of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman for the progress and prosperity of the country.

Annual election of Satkhira District Bar Association was held Sunday at the Bar association hall here.

Advocate Abdur Rahim and Advocate Anwar Ali have been elected President and General Secretary respectively of the Bar association.

The election was conducted by senior Advocate Abdul

Gaffar.

Some 7m coastal people yet remain vulnerable

From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, June 20 : Necessary measures are yet to be taken by the government to save about 70 lakh people of the vast coastal areas from cyclone disaster and tidal bore.

Lakhs of people from the Sundarbans area to Teknaf of Cox's Bazar are living in the area as the hostages of the natural disaster. At present, the people of the area get only the weather signals for cyclone preparedness. But during the cyclone or disaster, they hardly get any shelter to save themselves from the disaster.

Practically, Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP) has only signalling system network but there is no such carrier by which they can shift the people in time to save them from natural calamities though there are 20,000 workers in CPP.

It can be mentioned here that CPP was formed after the

cyclone and tidal bore of 1970.

Later, about 70 lakh people from the coastal areas were brought under this cyclone preparedness network.

More areas like Sarankhola of Bagerhat, Mathbaria of Pirojpur and Banskhali of Chittagong are being brought under this programme.

It is learnt that people of some offshore islands of Bhola, Chittagong and Cox's Bazar are the worst affected. To save them particularly during the calamities, there are no arrangement except some cyclone shelters which are also not adequate according to requirement.

It is gathered that government built 238 cyclone shelters in the coastal areas after the unprecedented disaster in 1970. Besides, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society also built 62 cyclone shelters and 157 clay kilns to save the cattleheads

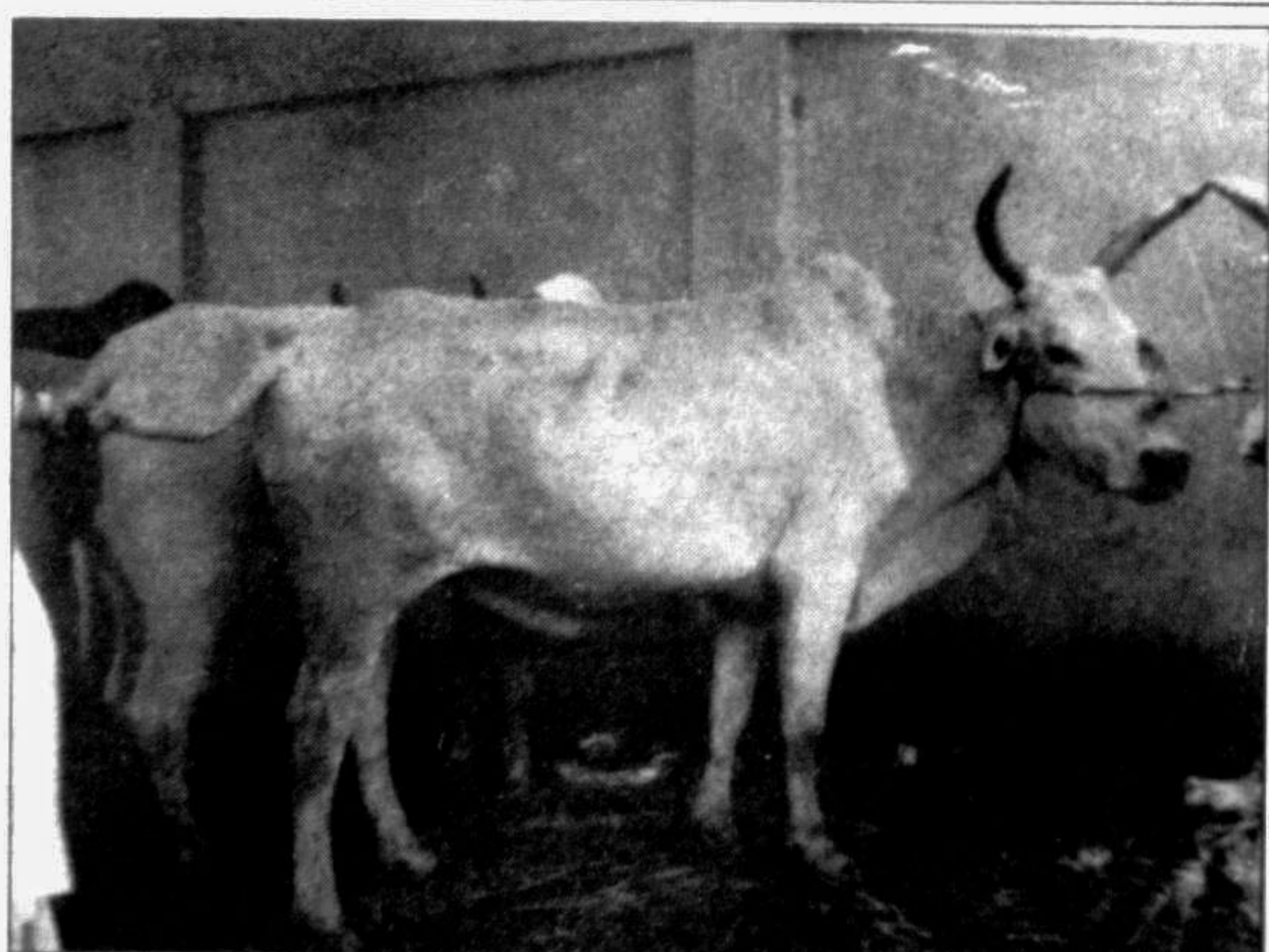
and other animals.

But it informed that due to absence of maintenance, conditions of the centres and kilns have become very bad.

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society is also constructing 40 more cyclone shelters in different areas of the coastal areas. Three hundred more multipurpose shelters are being built with the financial assistance of Saudi government and other governments with the technical assistance of the BUET.

The Relief and Rehabilitation department has completed the re-excavation of ten canals in nine upazilas of Barisal district recently under Special Canal Digging Programme of the government.

The upazilas under this programme are : Barisal Sadar, Bakerganj, Hiza, Muliadi, Mehendiganj, Babuganj, Banari-para, Gourmadi and Agstithara.



SATKHIRA : A partial view of Indian cattle seized here by BDR personnel recently. — Star photo

Debt-ridden farmers selling lands

MANIKGANJ, June 20 : The farmers of the district are reported to be selling out their farm lands to repay their outstanding loans, reports UNB.

The farmers could not repay their loans as natural calamities and river erosion destroyed crops in the district. They have been given no fresh loan for rehabilitation.

Farmers complained that some employees of BKB and other commercial banks of the district are advancing loans to non-productive sectors.

Farmers are getting notices for clearing their loans, compelling them to sell their lands to repay.

BSS report says : A rally of the district Ansar and Village Defence Party (VDP) was held at a local auditorium with Director General of Ansar and VDP Major General Sayed Hadrussaman attending as the chief guest recently.

With the Deputy Commissioner of Manikganj in the chair, the rally was attended by about 600 members of Ansar and VDP including Ansar Commanders, VDP union leader and members.

The Director General called upon them to play their role more firmly in maintaining law and order and making the country self-reliant. He asked them to devote themselves in production in agriculture cottage industry, rearing up domestic birds and animals and growing vegetables and fruits to improve their lots.

Our Correspondent adds : House rent has increased manifold at the district town due to acute shortage of accommodation.

At present, a single unit residential quarter is being let out at monthly rent of Taka 1500.

Fish scarcity acute

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, June 20 : Acute scarcity of fish has been prevailing throughout the district for the last one month.

Informed sources said that the pisciculture in the district has been badly affected due to massive siltation in the river Ganges and Gorai and in different beels and canals.

Meanwhile, unplanned use of chemical fertilizer and insecticide in crop fields has also affected the growth of different kinds of fish creating scarcity of the same and fall in its production.

On the other hand, hundreds of fishermen in the district have been facing numerous problems including shortage of funds and price hike of fishing materials.

It may be mentioned here that previously different kinds of fish were available in abundance in ponds, beels and rivers of the district but now the situation has become quite opposite due to indiscriminate fishing by non professionals.

According to fishermen, the existence of the professional fishermen is at stake and as a result, some of them have left their profession, some others migrated to other places for their survival.

Meanwhile, the price of meat has shot up due to scarcity of fish in the markets at the same time prices of fishes have increased causing

inconveniences to the low and middle class people.

Another report adds : A man was killed and two others were injured when part of an old dilapidated building at Roxy cinema lane of the town collapsed on them Sunday.

The dead was identified as Tajuddin (21) and the injured are Amirul (22) and Abdullah (20).

The dead body was sent hospital for autopsy.

Amirul was admitted to Kushtia General Hospital while Abdullah was released after first aid.

A case has been lodged with the local police.

BRDB disburses Tk 5 crore as loan

JAMALPUR, June 20 : Bangladesh Rural Development Board has disbursed Taka 5 crore as loan among the poor people of 39 upazilas of Mymensingh region under rural development project, reports UNB.

During the current fiscal year until May, the board also realised Taka 4 crore from the loans, official sources said.

Meanwhile, Taka 1 crore had been disbursed among the members of cooperative societies of BRDB in 23 upazilas of Sherpur, Tangail, Mymensingh and Jamalpur districts.

Civic amenities absent in Kishoreganj

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, June 20 : The people of Kishoreganj district town have been suffering a lot due to the absence of some basic amenities like proper drainage system, scarcity of drinking water, inadequate street lights, recreational facilities and deplorable condition of roads.

At present over one lakh people are residing in the pourashava area.

Most of the roads of the pourashava are badly damaged. The roads damaged once are not repaired for years together. Moreover the roads of the town are too narrow to accommodate two vehicles coming from opposite directions.

The town lacks of good drainage system. The existing drains are in a pitiable condition and are filled with filth and garbage. In the absence of

a good drainage system, many houses of the town go under-water even if there be a slight rainfall.

Most of the latrines in the town are service latrines. These are not cleared even once a month, it is alleged.

As a result, it creates bad odour in the locality. The existing nightsoil carts are too inadequate to serve the purpose.

Acute scarcity of drinking water is one of the burning problems of the town. The water supply is so inadequate that some people had to dig wells at tap-points to get pressure of water. Owing to scarcity of pure drinking water people of this area have been suffering from various intestinal diseases like dysentery and diarrhoea.

Besides, the iron content in the water is quite enormous and hence not hygienic to drink the water supplied here.

Accommodation problem is also acute here. In the private sector, accommodation facilities have not developed much. The situation precipitated further with the establishment of district headquarters as many new offices have been set up here. The fish and vegetables market in the town is in bad shape causing much sufferings to both the buyers and sellers.

There is practically no rickshaw stand in the town though some places have been marked as rickshaw stands. Increase in the number of rickshaws causing traffic jam. The passenger in Kishoreganj bus and coach stand are also facing difficulties for want of waiting sheds.

Lack of proper street electrification in the pourashava area has been causing much inconveniences to the town dwellers. The roads plunge into darkness just after the sunset. As a result, normal trafficking at night has become almost impossible and taking advantage of the darkness, criminal activities in the town have started increasing.

Moreover, the town lacks in recreational facilities. Since there is no park here both the children and adults feel rather suffocating. Sports activities in the town have received a setback in the recent time.

Chhatra Dal wins college union polls

MAJDEE COURT, June 20 : Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal won the Sonaimuri College Students Union election held recently, reports UNB.

Zahirul Hasan and Abdul Hannan of JCD elected Vice President and General Secretary respectively in the election.

In all 4 student organisations including Chhatra League (M-E) participated in the election.

Dacoits loot away gold worth Tk 1.50 lakh

MAULVIBAZAR, June 20 : A daring dacoity was committed at a house in Kurmatas village and they looted away valuables including 11 tola of gold worth about Taka one and half lakh under Kamalganj upazila of the district recently, reports UNB.

According to police, a gang of dacoits broke into the house of Dudh Nath Saha and decamped with valuables seized

Husband kills wife over family feud

KUSHTIA, June 20 : A housewife of village Barabadi in Sadar upazila of the district was allegedly killed by her husband on the day of Eid-ul-Azha, reports UNB.

Family sources said, Suraj Ali husband of the victim Rokeya (20) used to torture her every now then. And this was his second marriage.

The body was sent to Kushtia General Hospital for autopsy.

A case has been filed with the police but the killer husband is absconding since the incident.

Housewife beaten to death

SATKHIRA, June 20 : A house wife was beaten to death by her husband at Joynagar village of Kalara upazila of the district on Thursday, reports UNB.

According to police, Fatik Mandal struck his wife Sabitri Mandal (22), with a piece of brick over a family feud. Sabitri died on the spot.

Patik Mandal has been absconding since the incident.

Notes from Chittagong

CHITTAGONG, June 20 : Chittagong District police in a special drive rounded up 286 persons from different parts of the district on various charges since May 12 and recovered a good number of arms and ammunition during the drive, reports BSS.

This was stated at a review meeting of law and order situation held recently at the office room of the DIG, Chittagong Range with AIG, Special Branch Moazzem Hossain Khan in the chair. Senior police officials were also present at the meeting.

Hossain directed the police personnel to continue their effort to make the drive a success.

Motor cyclist killed in cross fire

Mujibuddin (50), a motor cyclist was killed in a cross fire between two rival groups of people at Bibirhat under Panchalash thana here recently, police said.

The motor cyclist came under fire and received bullet injuries when he was running towards Oxygen, from Muradpur.

Later he succumbed to his injuries at Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

The clash erupted when the two groups disputed overpossessioning the cattle shop at Bibirhat.

The Body of the victim was sent to the morg