

Upazila roundup

BARISAL

2 Sarbahara activists held

From Our Correspondent
June, 24: Barisal Kotwali police arrested two so called out-lawed Sarbahara Party members from Charmonai union of the district recently. The arrested persons are Jalaluddin Gazi (26) and Mannan (28).
Police also arrested one Abdul Khaleque (28) from Jagua Union, a member of a gang of inter-district dacoits.
According to police, Abdul Khaleque was connected with a dacoity which was committed in that area three days before.
Another report says: Government has decided to make clay 'killas' in the vast coastal areas of Southern districts including Chittagong and Cox's Bazar.
Killas will be built with a view to providing shelters for the animals in the time of cyclonic disaster and tidal bore.
Every killa will be 20 inches high and will be built on the government khas land.
Deputy Commissioners will supervise the construction works of these killas under the Food for Works Programme. For this purpose, 166 metric tons of wheat have been allocated for each district.

CHANDPUR
Irrigation project plan taken up
From Our Correspondent
June, 24: Government has undertaken a scheme to repair the Chandpur Irrigation Project embankment at a cost of Taka four crore.
The project is financed by IDA credit and the Water Development Board is implementing the project.
Accordingly seven miles long flood protection embankment will be constructed. The work of the project has already been started. The work will be completed by July next.
It may be mentioned, the embankment of the project was damaged by the erosion of the river Meghna last year.

FARIDPUR

One dacoit killed, 5 arrested

From Our Correspondent
June, 24: One dacoit was killed and 5 others were arrested by police at village Charmassipur under Sadarpur upazila of the district recently.
It is learnt that police were secretly informed about the preparation of the dacoity in the river Padma on a boat. While the police reached near the boat, the dacoits trade gunfire to the police. At the same time, police fired five rounds to the dacoits.
As a result, one dacoit Kalam Hawladar (28) of village Bandarkhala under Shibchar Upazila of Madaripur killed on the spot and another five dacoits were arrested. They were Abdul Hamid, Anwar Bepari, Khaleed Faraji, Kazi Maskur Rahman and Dabir Munshi.
Gazi Ayesal Haque, OC of Sadarpur PS led the operation.
A case has been lodged with the Sadarpur PS in this regard.

BOGRA

Attack on newsmen in Dhaka protested

From Our Correspondent
June, 24: Bogra Union of Journalists held a meeting here at local Press Club on Tuesday to protest Sunday's police atrocities in National Press Club.
Condemning the police action against the journalists, they demanded resignation of Home Minister, Information Minister and the Inspector General of Police.
The union leaders expressed their solidarity with the programme taken by Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists.
Presided over by Pradip Bhattacharya, President of Bogra Union of Journalists, the meeting was addressed by Abdul Matin, Editor-in-Charge, Daily Uttarbarta, Zahidur Rahman, Editor Daily Chandrabazar and others.

JESSORE

Miscrants kill Jubo League activist

June, 24: Jubo League activist was killed by some unknown miscrants in the town on Monday night, police said, reports UNB.
The victim Shahid (20) was called out by the assailants from his residence at about 4 am and killed him with a sharp weapon. The reason behind the murder could not be known immediately.
Later police recovered the body and sent it to Sadar Hospital for autopsy.
Local Awami League and Jubo League jointly brought out a procession in the town protesting the killing.
Awami League MP Khan Tipu Sultan and Jubo League leaders demanded of the authorities to bring the culprits to book and give them exemplary punishment.
A case has been filed with the local police.

CHANDPUR

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SIRAJGANJ

18 pry schools under construction

June, 24: A total of 18 primary schools are under construction in 9 upazilas of the district at a cost of Taka 2 crore, reports UNB.
Islami Unnayan Bank is financing the project.
Official sources said, 80 per cent of the construction work has already been completed and rest of the work will be completed by August next depending on the availability of fund.
With the implementation of the project a large number of children will get education facilities.

LAXMIPUR

Reception to educationist

June, 24: Alhaj Sirajul Haq, a renowned educationist of Laxmipur, has been given a reception at the local Ideal Samad Government High School on June 19, reports ISS.
Although a brilliant student, Sirajul Haq (94), after having his Masters Degree in 1928 from the Dhaka University, went back to his locality and served the Laxmipur High Madrasa, now Ideal Samad Government High School as the Superintendent. He later founded the Laxmipur College and served as its first Principal.
Organised by Laxmipur Janakalyan Foundation, the reception was attended by Sanaullah Noori, President of the Council of Editors of the Daily Janata as chief guest.

RANGPUR

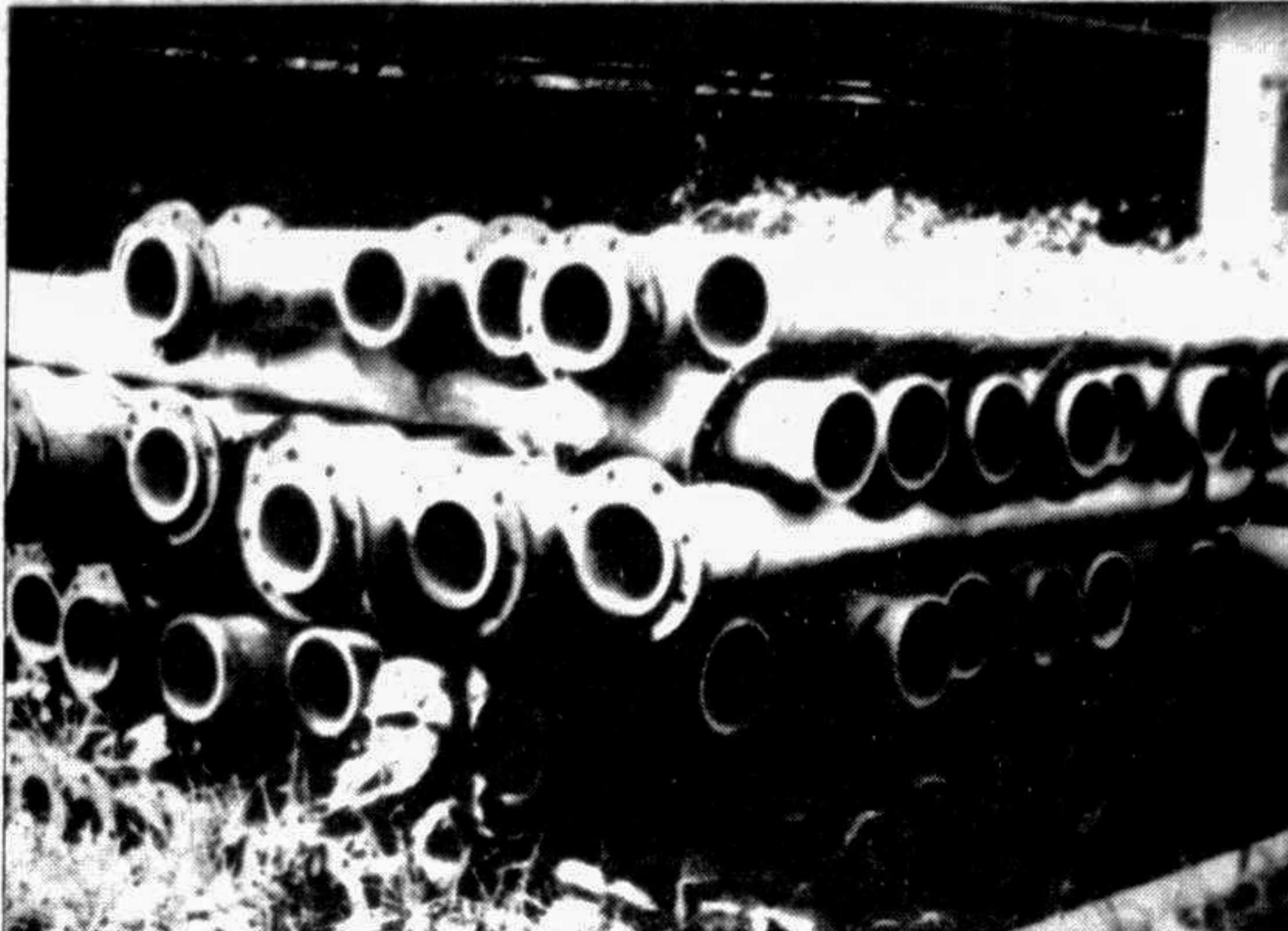
BDR men asked to discharge duties firmly

June, 24: Major General Mohammad Anwar Hossain, Director General of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR), has urged the members of BDR to discharge their duties firmly for curbing smuggling, reports ISS.
He was addressing the officers and jawans of BDR at Kurigram recently.
Maj Gen Hossain hoped the BDR jawans would help revitalize the country's economy by curbing smuggling.
Recalling the glorious contribution of the BDR jawans during the War of Liberation in 1971, he urged them to work with honesty and dedication for the overall development of the country.

JAMALPUR

527 projects implemented

June, 24: Relief and Rehabilitation Department has implemented 527 projects in four districts of Mymensingh region during the current financial year, reports UNB.
The districts are: Mymensingh, Jamalpur, Sherpur and Tangail.
About 3000 metric tons of wheat were utilised for implementing the projects under Food for Works Programme.
Meanwhile, works on other 23 projects under Annual Development Programme are progressing fast in Sherpur, Tangail, Mymensingh and Jamalpur districts. A sum of Taka 2 crore has been sanctioned for the implementation of these projects.
About 80 per cent work on the projects has already been completed and the rest is expected to be completed soon.



SYLHET: Huge quantity of irrigation equipment including pipes have been lying for a long time in the premises of BADC office at Sylhet. — Star photo.

Small farmers in clutch of money lenders

From Our Correspondent
NARSINGDI, June 24: The farmers of Belabo, Raipura and Monohordi upazilas are being exploited by the local money lenders in various ways taking the advantage of financial crisis.
The local money lenders are charging higher rates of interest from the small farmers and traders of the locality. The farmers are compelled to receive the loans as they are denied by the commercial banks including the Krishi Bank.
It is informed that the farmers who have loan with the banks are unable to apply for fresh loan. Some farmers complained that they are not given loan forms on the plea that there is no stock of it.
According to sources, the farmers are to sell their products immediately after the harvest at a nominal price to repay the loan with interest. Some farmers are seen selling domestic animals and utensils to pay off the loan. This class of farmers are often found passing days in half-fed condition.
A large number of farmers have already sold their bullock at a comparatively low price to maintain their families. As a result, they are unable to cultivate their lands. They till their lands either by spades or by hiring ploughs.
The village money lenders have no licence to deal in money lending business but have been continuing the business safely. The method of lending of this money lenders are so tactful that the borrowers have no way to escape from the clutches of these money lenders.
It can be mentioned here that the loan procedure has been made easier but the farmers are not getting loans from the banks.
The illegal trade of the money lenders has been making hundreds of farmers homeless.
Some farmers informed that they do not get the actual price of their products. They are to sell the goods immediately after the harvest and that is why they do not get actual value, a source informed. The people, who can hold it for some period, get better prices.
Being deprived of actual price, and the debt-ridden farmers are becoming poorer day by day.
The local farmers have urged the concerned authorities to take necessary steps to save them from ruination.

The number of wine sellers is increasing in different villages of Belabo and Raipura upazilas of the district.
It is informed that a class of people of the locality prepare the wine and they sell it at different village bazars and hats of the district.
The number of consumers of wine is also increasing in these areas as it is locally and easily available. The unemployed youths are found taking the wine regularly.
It is also reported that these youths are indulging themselves in various anti-social activities to manage the expenditure of their drinking. Some youths are selling their moveable and immovable property to arrange cash for the purpose.
The law enforcing agencies are not taking proper action against the illegal sale and consumption of the locally-made wine. It is reported that the law enforcing agency personnel are getting weekly payment to help continue the illegal trade.
Concerned authorities have been urged to take action immediately to save the youths from moral degradation.

Erosion of river Arialkha Hundreds become homeless every yr

From Our Correspondent
MADARIPUR, June 24: At least 5,000 families of Kalkini, Shibchar and Sadar upazilas of the district have been rendered homeless by the erosion of the rivers Arialkha and Padma during the last one year.
The affected areas are — Mahiserchar, Kalatala, Jafabad, Kalkapur in Sadar upazila, Nilokhi, Utrajl, Madborerchar, Shibchar in Shibchar upazila and Madra, Khaerhat, Bishgari in Kalkini upazila.
More areas of the district town now are under the threat of the erosion of the river Arialkha the areas are — Shantinagar, Puranbazar, the main road of the town, Tahshil office, Central Shaheed Minar.
It can be mentioned here that the erosion of river Arialkha devoured huge quantity of farm land and has left hundreds of people homeless.
The government earlier took plan to protect the district town from the erosion of the river which was also implemented but the continued erosion leaves the people of the district helpless and homeless every year.
The government is being deprived of huge amount of revenue due to the malpractice of the owners of the local bidi factory owners.
According to informed sources, the bidi factory owners do not use bandrolls on the packets and supply the same to the retailers. Sometimes, they collect used bandrolls from the retailers and reuse them on the packets.
On the other hand, the factory owners do not show the actual account of production to Excise Department personnel who have some illegal deal with the factory owners.
Bids are also being sold in open market in almost all the markets of the district which are also ignored by the law enforcing agencies for reasons not known.
The local people urged the concerned authorities to take necessary steps to stop the bad practice.
A bag of cement in the open market is being sold at Taka 272 as against Taka 248, bitumin per drum at Taka 2,000 as against Taka 1,400 and prices of various types of rods have increased by Taka 2500 per ton. The construction works of Building Division, LGEB and Road and Highways Division are being hampered greatly.

Construction materials' prices shot up
MANIKGANJ, June 24: Sudden price hike of construction materials like cement, rod and bitumin emulsion in different parts of the district have been hampering development work over the last three weeks, reports UNB.
Prices of Bangladesh Tobacco Company's (BTC) different brand of cigarettes have shot up in the local markets over the last few days.
According to market sources, Gold Leaf and Filter Capstan brands are being sold at Taka 50 per packet as against Taka 38 and 27 respectively.
Besides, Triple Five (555) brand is being sold at Taka 65 per packet as against Taka 43, the sources said.
It may be mentioned that BTC resumed production after a brief stopped due to some unavoidable reasons following the labour unrest.
While taking to UNB, a BTC official said the present the supply in the market is quite normal but some dishonest dealers are responsible for the artificial scarcity of the cigarettes in the markets.



MADARIPUR: A scene of erosion-hit area, Kalatala of the town. — Star photo.

Across the country

Birds love the centurion Durgasagar

By Aroop Talukdar

BARISAL, June 24: "Durgasagar Dighi", a man-made lake in Madhabpasa, about six miles from Barisal town, is now well known to tourists as well as thousands of migratory birds. In the winter season particularly, thousands of migratory birds including Siberian ducks come to this patch of water with a little beauty spot of a green island in the midst of the dighi.
There is an interesting story behind the Durgasagar Dighi. It is said that Raja Sib Narayan Roy of Chandradwip died some three hundred years back. There was, however, none other than his queen — Rani Durgabati — to succeed him. And a 'Sanad' (proclamation) had to be fetched from Dhaka which would enable her to rule over 'Chandradwip' in the absence of Raja Sib Narayan Roy.
Rani Durgabati by that time was carrying. Then a decision was taken unanimously that the 'Sanad' will be taken in the name of the coming child. Later, Ranjiban Roy, the most faithfully Dewan of the state received the 'Sanad' tacitly in the name of Durgakror Narayan Roy as the inheritor of Raja Sib Narayan Roy. Though later he was renamed as Jay Narayan Roy.
In 1187 BS according to the will of the people Rani Durgabati excavated a dighi on 47 acres of land at the cost of three lakh Taka in Madhabpasa which was named after Rani Durgabati — "Durgasagar Dighi." And the very next year a colourful festival was held to celebrate the excavation of the

dighi. Lakhs of people from Mithila, Drabir, Karnataka, Bhatpara, Nabadweep, Kashi, Agra and other places of the subcontinent joined with the local people in the celebration. All invites including Brahmins and Pandits of Chandradwep and other places were entertained for a month in Madhabpasa.
After the liberation was in 1972 then the government re-excavated Durgasagar Dighi creating a little green island amid the water, where now thousands of migratory birds find a loving sanctuary. This island was created to make the dighi more attractive to the tourists. The fishery department has undertaken some programmes to attract the anglers to the place. But, unfortunately, all these programme were halted on the midway with nothing achieved.
The "Durgasagar Dighi" is still beautiful with all of its natural beauty, with the chirping of thousands of migratory birds on its dark green island amid the vast dighi.



BARISAL: A view of the Durgasagar Dighi. — Star photo.

70 houses burnt to ashes in Khagrachhari

KHAGRACHHARI, June 24: About 70 houses were burnt to ashes in a devastating fire at Mastar Para area of the district headquarters on Monday, reports UNB.
The fire originating from an oven of a house at 11 am soon engulfed the adjacent areas causing extensive damage to property and dwellings. According to first hand report the loss was estimated at Taka 20 lakh.
Fire Brigade personnel rushed to the spot and brought the fire under control after over one hours of frantic efforts with the help of local people, official sources said adding seven people received burn injuries, three seriously, while extinguishing the fire.
The injured, whose identity could not be known immediately, were admitted to Khagrachhari Sadar Hospital, Samiran Dewan, Chairman of Local Government Parishad visited the spot and expressed sympathy with the members of affected families.

Six to suffer lifeterm for murder

MADARIPUR, June 24: Six people were awarded life imprisonment on charges of killing a man, court sources said here Tuesday last, reports UNB.
The convicted are: Lal Mia Howladar, Abbas Ali Howladar, Md Howladar, Aziz Howladar, Shahed Howladar and Chan Mia Howladar of Kabirajpur village in Rajoir upazila.
According to prosecution, the six accused in a group were enjoying a football match at the playground of Bismordi government primary school on June 30, 1991 at village Kabirajpur. At one stage they picked up a quarrel with another fan Nasiruddin of the same village over a trifling matter and killed him with a sharp weapon.
Police, after investigation submitted charge-sheet against them and the District and Sessions Judge after the examining the records and witnesses delivered the judgement recently.
Another UNB report adds: Police recovered the body of a housewife while being buried at dead of night at village Dhakikandi in Kalkini upazila of the district recently.
A case has been filed and so far none was arrested.

Paddy cultivation plan fails to achieve target

From Our Correspondent
JHENIDAH, June 24: The cultivation of aus and bona aman paddy has failed to achieve target in six upazilas of district in the on-going season due to late in rainfall.
The upazilas are: Jhenidah Sadar, Shaikupa, Harinakunda, Kaliganj, Kotchandpur and Moheshpur.
According to district Agriculture Extension Department (AED), a total of 81,992 acres of land was fixed for aus cultivation with a production target of 32.80 lakh maunds of paddy and aman on 24,070 acres with a production target of 4.80 lakh maunds of paddy.
Of the total, only 23,135 acres and 2720 acres of lands have been brought aus and aman paddy respectively. It is only 28 per cent to 30 per cent, AED source said.
A number of farmers told this correspondent that they have already given up their plan for aus and bona aman paddy cultivation as the sowing time of seeds has already passed in the month of Baishakh in the absence of rainfall.
As a result, the district will incur a loss of Taka 80 crore in terms of crops of about 27 lakh maunds of both the varieties during the season.
Indian goods, guns recovered: 3 smugglers held
SHIBBAYALAYA (Manikganj), June 24: River Traffic Police arrested three alleged smugglers, recovered three guns and seized smuggled goods worth about Taka 5.12 lakh from different buses at Aricha Ferry Ghat during the last six months, reports UNB.
On the basis of secret information, police raided the buses which were plying in between Dhaka and 36 northern and south-eastern districts of the country.
The contrabands include gold, silver and Indian medicine which were later handed over to the Customs authorities.
Several cases have been filed with local police.

Six commit suicide in four days

From Our Correspondent
SATHKHIRA, June 24: Six persons including four housewives committed suicide by taking poison in three upazilas of the district in four days.
It is reported that Shahidul Islam (25) of Baddypur Colony, Parul Begum (21) wife of Abu Taher of Jhowdanga, Abdur Rashid (24) of Machkhola and Jamuna Rani (45) of Ranichandapur under Sadar upazila, Aklima Khatun (23) wife of Shahidul Islam of Khalish Khali under Tala upazila and Shahimur Begum (21) wife of Hazrat Ali of Kauria under Kalaroa upazila took poison following family trouble.
All the bodies were sent to the Sadar hospital for post-mortem.
Separate cases were lodged with the police stations in these connections.
The annual general meeting of the Sathkhira Sarak Paribahan Samik Union was held at its office premises recently.
Abdul Halim Sheikh presided over the meeting while Professor Abu Ahmed, Habibur Rahman, M A Khaleq, Sheikh Harunur Rashid, S M Abdur Razzak and Professor Habibur Rahman spoke on the occasion.
Another report adds: The meeting of the Jatiya Party Sathkhira District Unit was held at the chamber of Advocate Abdur Rouf recently.
Advocate Sheikh Abdul Hossain, Advocate Abdur Rahim, Azibar Rahman, Abdus Satter and Mir Moazzem Hossain spoke on the occasion.

Dalal Nirmul members released on bail

JAMALPUR, June 24: Sadar Upazila Magistrate Tuesday released 11 members of Ghatlak Dalal Nirmul Committee on bail, reports UNB.
They were arrested following a clash between activists of Freedom Party backed Jubo Command and Ghatlak Dalal Nirmul Committee on June 18.
Another activist was also released on bail by the Madaripur Upazila Magistrate arrested on June 21.