

Upazila roundup

GAIBANDHA

Preparation of voters' list inaugurated

June 26: Preparation of a new voter list was formally inaugurated here Thursday, reports UNB.

Retired Principal of local government college Abdul Matin Chowdhury was the first to enrol in the new voter list being prepared by the Bangladesh Election Commission.

A number of officials and elites were present at the simple enrollment opening ceremony.

Report from Comilla adds that enumerators engaged in preparation of a new voter list have begun to work on collecting data in the pourashava areas Wednesday.

Deputy Commissioner Hedayetullah in a meeting called upon all to extend cooperation to the enumerators in performing their duties efficiently.

He also urged the enumerators engaged in the voter list preparation to work with zeal and to make it a success.

DINAJPUR

Husband, wife killed in lightning

June 26: Both the husband and wife were killed by lightning at village Nawdapara in Parbatipur upazila of the district recently, reports UNB.

According to family sources, Shamiruddin (40) and his wife Shahida (25) including their minor son Shariful while sleeping in the same bed were struck by the thunderbolt at dead of night killing the couple on the spot. But their son miraculously escaped unhurt.

The house was also burnt in the incident.

PIROJPUR

Lawyers' boycott courts to protest posting of police official

June 28: Lawyers of the district boycotted the courts protesting the posting of a police official in the Pirojpur upazila Magistrate Court recently, reports UNB.

The police official Zillur Rahman, an ASI, has been accused of assaulting Advocate Nurul Haque.

Earlier, the lawyers observed hartal and boycotted the courts at Kowkhali and Pirojpur protesting the incident.

They also filed a case to the Magistrate Court to withdraw the police official immediately.

MUNSHIGANJ

Dacoits loot valuables from launch passengers

June 27: A launch dacoity was committed at Banglabazar of the district recently.

It is gathered that the dacoits boarded the Hasal bound launch, MV Hasal in disguise of passengers. It may be mentioned here that the launch started from Dhaka Sadarghat. As the launch left Banglabazar stoppage, the dacoits attacked on the passengers decamped on the passengers at gun point.

A case was filed with Munshiganj Police Station in this regard.

MADARIPUR

One killed, 30 hurt in road mishap

June 27: One young man was killed and 30 others injured in a road accident on Madaripur-Gopalganj Road near Gandhishwar recently.

It is learnt, a Takerhat bound bus skidded off the road and fell into the roadside ditch. As a result, one young man killed and 30 passengers were injured. Of them, 5 passengers were seriously wounded.

Later, the injured passengers were taken to the Gopalganj Sadar Hospital.

A case has been filed with the police in this regard.

Another report adds: Md Badal Howlader (22) of Chirapara village and Abdul Rahman (20) of Mahespurchar under Sadar Upazila committed suicide taking poison recently.

The case of the suicide could not be ascertained immediately.

Two separate cases were lodged with Madaripur Sadar thana in this connection.

SYLHET

Boat capsizes: 5 bodies recovered

From Our Correspondent

June 27: The bodies of five victims have so far been recovered after the boat capsized incident that took place at Sunamganj Sadar Upazila recently.

Two bodies were identified as Rajab Ali of village Jinarpur under Biswambharpur upazila and Javeda Khatun of village Jajria under the Sunamganj Sadar upazila. Police recovered those and sent to the Sunamganj Sadar Hospital for post-mortem. The police also recovered two other bodies, of which one had been identified as Yunus Ali while the other could not be identified immediately. The bodies were recovered from Sharifpur area of Jamalganj upazila and Jalipur of Sadar upazila respectively.

The police also recovered another body when it was found floating near Raipur area of Jamalganj upazila. It had been identified as Khalilur Rahman (25) of village Jajria under Sunamganj Sadar upazila. All the bodies had been banded over to the relatives of the victim, after performing post-mortem in the Sunamganj Sadar Hospital.

SIRAJGANJ

Cement prices up, construction works hampered

From Our Correspondent

June 27: Price hike and short supply of cement in Sirajganj district hamper construction works for about one month.

It is gathered that at present a bag of cement is sold between Taka 275 and Taka 300 in place of Taka 210. Sometimes required quantity is not available at higher rate due to short supply.

Consequently, construction works in the government, semi-government and private sectors are about to be stopped due to the reason.

While contacted, some cement dealers told this correspondent that cement is supplied in the northern districts from Khulna. But due to irregular shipment, crisis of cement persists in the northern region.

Taking the opportunity, some dishonest dealers are exercising irregularities in cement selling including shortage in weights and adulterations.

KISHOREGANJ

Father gets life-term for killing son

From Our Correspondent

June 27: Akhlakur Rahman Chowdhury, Additional Sessions Judge, First Court, Kishoreganj in a judgement delivered recently convicted one Lal Mia of village Atkapara in Bhairab upazila and sentenced him for life and to pay a fine of Taka 5,000 in default to suffer RI for another two years on charge of killing his minor son.

Lal Mia has been absconding since the murder and he was tried in absentia. According to the prosecution, in the morning of August 30, 1988 there had been exchange of hot words between accused Lal Mia and his wife Ful Meher on family matters. At one stage, Lal Mia picked up his ten-month old son Al-Amin from his mother's lap and threw him on the ground resulting in instantaneous death.

A case was registered with Bhairab Police in this connection and on completion, the IO submitted chargesheet against Lal Mia.

The learned judge, after examining the witnesses and evidences, found him guilty and awarded him the aforesaid punishment.

FENI

2 smugglers held, Tk 2 lakh goods seized

June 27: Bangladesh Rifles arrested three alleged smugglers and recovered Indian goods worth about Taka 2 lakh from their possession, official sources said here Saturday last, reports UNB.

BDR jawans raided some Noakhali bound buses at Jaylaskar area near its Feni headquarters recently and seized contrabands including spices, pulse, onion and utensils.

The arrested were identified as Nurul Afar and Shahidullah of village Gobindapur in Sadar upazila and Rafiqul Islam of village Charkapara in Comiganj upazila of Noakhali district.



CHAPAINAWABGANJ: Transport agencies use to unload goods parking the truck on the middle of the local Sadarghat Road. This creates problems to the people. — Star photo

Gaibandha town protection scheme needs fund

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, June 27: Gaibandha Town Protection Scheme could not be implemented due to constraint of fund.

The authority allotted only Taka 75,000 against an estimated amount of Taka four lakh for halting the erosion of the river Ghagot during the current fiscal year.

Water Development Board took up a programme to halt the erosion of river Ghagot at Bridge Road, Kalibaripara, David Co Para, Sandharpaty including loop cutting near Modern High School under Gaibandha Pourashava area. But the said scheme is yet to be approved by the concerned authority due to fund shortage.

Besides, a scheme for outting earth of the developed shoals at the midstream of river Ghagot near local Modhu Bidi Factory under Food for Works Programme is still lying with the higher authority for approval. The plan could help

divert the main channel from east bank of the river which is yet to be settled for some unknown reason.

Under the circumstance the local WDB authority took a temporary measure to stop erosion erecting bamboo spur. With a view to materialising the plan, local authority demanded a fund for the construction of spur on emergency basis. But they got a poor amount which is quite inadequate to serve the purpose.

Last year, the local WDB office submitted a project to protect the town from erosion amounting to Taka three lakh but the authority allotted only 50,000 against the requirement.

During the current fiscal year the authority sanctioned more Taka 75,000/- against the requirement of Taka four lakh. Consequently, WDB could not stop erosion after erecting bamboo spur. Last year, several dwelling houses were de-

voured by the river.

However, a permanent measure, should be taken to arrest the wide spread erosion of river Ghagot, the local people felt.

Abdul Mannan, an electrician of PWD of Palashbari Upazila was electrocuted when he came in contact with live power line while working on a pole. He is the inhabitant of village Darbastha under Palashbari Upazila.

Abdur Rashid, Sub-Assistant Engineer of WDB Gobindaganj Section was suspended on charge of gross negligence and irregularities in an embankment work.

An embankment under Nurul Beel Project is going on at Gobindaganj Upazila for protecting flood water in which Rashid was involved. During the physical verification launched by Chief Engineer, major irregularities and fault was found and he was put under suspension.

Erosion leaves 950 families of Manikganj villages homeless

MANIKGANJ, June 27: At least 950 families of 22 villages in three upazilas of the district have been rendered homeless by erosion of the rivers Padma and Jamuna over the last few days, reports UNB.

According to the local people, about 580 families were rendered homeless in Daulatpur Upazila and 800 acres of cropland in three upazilas were drenched by the rivers following heavy downpour since Monday.

The rest 370 families became shelterless in Hariampur and Shibabalia upazilas, the sources said. Water levels are on rise in the rivers Padma and Jamuna due to continuous heavy rainfall endangering 32 villages in Daulatpur, Hariampur and Shibabalia upazilas.

A mysterious cattle disease claimed 20 cows in Shibabalia Upazila of the district over the last two weeks, reports UNB.

The disease locally known as 'Astaraka' attacked the cows and their stomach become swollen abnormally resulting in

death, local people said. Local livestock officials also alleged that a gang of miscreants are engaged in mixing poison with the grass in the field which cause death to grazing cows.

The miscreants later collect skins from the dead cows for their material gain, they added.

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) has taken up Aricha Ferry Terminal Development Scheme at a cost of over Taka 3 lakh in the current fiscal year.

The work on the scheme including road construction in and around the ferry ghat has already been started and is expected to be completed within the next two months, official sources said.

With the completion of the scheme a long felt demand of the riverine passengers will meet to a great extent.

One chowkider liable for law, order situation of 6 villages

From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, June 27: There are about 14,000 chowkidars (village police) for about 85,650 villages of the district.

According to a statistics, one chowkider is to look after the law and order situation of six villages.

The chowkidars are responsible for the law and order situation of the villages. They are to identify the criminals in villages and, help the thana police personnel to arrest the accused in various cases of the area. Besides, they have to discharge other duties in connection with the performance of the Union Parishads. They are also found moving door to door to collect the taxes.

The salary of a village chowkider is only Taka five hundred of which 50 per cent are paid by the government and the rest amount comes from the fund of the union parishad.

These people can not meet their both ends with the poor amount. Consequently, they are to pass unhuman life.

TB hospital in pitiable condition

The only TB hospital for the people of six southern districts in Barisal is beset with manifold problems.

From the establishment of

this hospital, nothing has been done citable for the development of the hospital.

Due to absence of necessary medicare including doctor, nurse, sweeper, technician, X-ray films, patients are practically being deprived of proper treatment in this 20-bedded hospital.

The malnutrition of the people of the region including the TB patients are gradually increasing every year.

There are only two doctors and one technician for testing blood, cough and other things of the patients in the hospital.

Tk 74.75 lakh for 2 projects

MAGURA, June 27: The government has sanctioned an amount of Taka 74.75 lakh for the two projects in the district headquarters reports UNB.

The projects had been included in the annual development programme of 1991-92 fiscal year and work has already started.

Out of the total amount Taka 50 lakh will be spent for construction and extension of the district court building and rest for constructing the government officer's staff quarters in the town.

Bumper production of IRRI-boro in Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, June 27: Target of IRRI and boro cultivation in the district has exceeded yet the consumers have lost purchasing capacity to a larger extent.

It is gathered from a source of district Agricultural Extension Department that IRRI and boro have been cultivated in 2,30,000 acres of land against its target 2,12,099 acres of land.

As a result, the production has also exceeded the target and the paddy is sold in village markets at a cheaper rate.

During the current season, target of paddy cultivation in all the upazilas has been exceeded except Chowdhali.

In Shahzadpur Upazila, IRRI and boro paddy were cultivated in 32,500 acres against targeted 30,000 acres, in Ullapara Upazila 48,270 acres against 44,370 acres, in sadar

upazila 35,000 acres against 33,000 acres, in Tarash Upazila 36,000 acres against 33,000 acres, in Raiganj Upazila 35,500 acres against 32,200 acres, in Belkuchi upazila 9,015 acres against 6,730 acres and in Kamarkhanda upazila in 11,000 acres against 9,000 acres of land.

Target of paddy production was estimated at 4,67,598 metric tons but it will also exceed five metric tons.

A source of Sirajganj AED further informs that every year 3,83,615 metric tons of paddy are required to feed the people of the district. Current production has incurred surplus in food sector yet paddy in local market are remaining unsold.

The common people have post purchasing capacity in the district to a greater extent.

Six including a woman injured Attackers demand toll, loot valuables

JHENIDAH, June 27: Seven people including a woman were injured, four seriously, and valuables worth about Taka one lakh looted in a clash between two rival groups at Kaylanpur village in Sadar upazila recently, reports UNB.

According to the villagers, the clash ensued when a group of people numbering 50 led by Momen sardar suddenly attacked the rival group of Monirul Joarder with deadly weapons.

The attackers demanded tolls and looted household belongings including four cows, seven goats, foodgrains, gold ornament from the houses of Abdul Bari Joarder, Bashir Joarder, Lokman Joarder, Malek Joarder, Thandu Joarder and Mokammel Joarder, the sources said.

The incident was a sequel to previous enmity between the two groups.

Critically injured Monirul Joarder (28), Rezaul Joarder (26), Bari Joarder (45) and

Jobaida Khatun (40) were admitted to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital.

Police arrested Momen Sardar and three separate cases were filed with Jhenidah police.

A BSS report adds: A scheme has been undertaken to bring 81,992 acres of land under aus cultivation in six upazilas of the district this year.

According to an official source, 14,605 acres will be brought under aus cultivation in Jhenidah sadar, 4,607 acres in Kaliganj upazila, 8,345 acres in Kotchandpur upazila, 16,245 acres in Mohepur upazila, 24,180 in Shalikupa upazila and 14,010 acres in Harnakunda upazila.

In all, 25,120 acres of land will be brought under high yielding variety and 56,872 acres under local variety.

Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation will supply necessary seeds, fertilizers and insecticides among the farmers, the sources said.



RAJBARI: Weeds have grown on an electric pole of the local poura area which may cause accident at any time. — Star photo

Senior madrasah faces acute problems

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, June 27: The Kaunia Upazila Senior Madrasah is beset with various problems since long past.

Housed in a tin-shed, the madrasah is running in the dilapidated bhaban. Nobody look after its problems.

There is apprehension that the madrasah bhaban may collapse at any moment.

The madrasah was established in 1974 and at the initial stage Dakhil class introduced in it and subsequently in

1978 it got affiliation of Aleem. But till the date it could not introduce Fazil class due to lack of approval from the higher authorities. As a result, hundreds of students of the madrasah are being deprived of higher education.

Shamsul Islam, a farmer of Durgapur village under Mithapukur Upazila has produced highest 86 maunds of BR-14 variety Irri-boro paddy in one acre of land during the current season.

The price of the total paddy yield is around Taka 22,000.00 while he spent only a sum of Taka six thousand towards its production in his land. A crop cutting function was held recently which was attended by the higher officials of the agricultural extension officials of Rangpur and Dinajpur Zone and the Rangpur district.

A 10-member ILO team headed by Farida Arif had visited the cottage industries at Pirgacha and Tambulpur unions under Pirgacha Upazila recently.

The team exchanged views with the members involved in the industries and general people at Pirgacha Bazar and other places within the upazila. It also distributed a cash loan of Taka eleven thousand among the members of cottage industries.

Notes from Kishoreganj

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, June 27: The election to the executive committee of Shaheed Ekattar Smriti Sangsad was held here recently.

Md Mahmud Hasan Billal and Abdul Hye were elected President and General Secretary respectively for the next one year term.

Other office bearers are: Vice President Abu Bakkar Siddique, Assistant Secretary-Md Quayum Alam Rocky, Treasurer-Md Abdul Rashid, Social Welfare Secretary Abul Kashem, Drama and Sports Secretary-Abdul Hekim and Members Subodh Chandra Das and Md A Kadir.

Music school inaugurated

Karimganj Music school was formally inaugurated by Abdul Hamid, Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Karimganj recently.

In this connection, a discussion meeting was arranged and the same was addressed, among others, by S M Shawkat Ali, Upazila Magistrate, Shamsuddin Bhuiyan, Headmaster, Karimganj Pilot High School and Jyotindra Mohan Biswas.

Later, a variety show was held and it was performed by Mabbul, Subama, Abul Hashem and Lithe.

Miscreants take away cash

Miscreants took away cash of Taka 1600 from a truck driver at a place in between Poirhat and Madhyapara on Bhafrab-Kishoreganj Road recently.

The miscreants stopped the truck at peak hours on the road and snatched away the cash from the driver.

It may be mentioned here that the truck drivers while plying with loaded trucks over this road are being caught by the miscreants frequently.

Awami League unit committee formed

The biennial conference of Mahinanda Union unit of Awami League was held here recently.

Sadequr Rahman, Chairman, Mohinanda Union, attended as chief guest and formally inaugurated the conference. Chaired by Keramat Ali it was addressed, among others, by Advocate Ataur Rahman, Advocate Anwarul Hakim Khan, Nepal Chandra Das and Md Rafiqul Islam.

In the conference, a 39-member Mohinanda union committee of Awami League was elected with Md Abdur Rashid as president and Md Rafiqul Islam Bahar as General Secretary for the next two years.

Three drowned

Three children died from drowning in three separate incidents in Mitamain and Nikli Upazila recently.

According to a source, Rahima Khatun (4) of village Kathkhal under Mitamain Upazila was drowned in the river of Meghna when she went out of the house without the knowledge of her parents. A 5-year old boy named Alimuddin son of Inasuddin of village Mohankona under Nikli Upazila was drowned in a pond.

Chotar Akhtar Baby (3) was also drowned in a pond at village Purbia under same upazila. Later, her body was found floating in the pond. Deceased Chotar Akhtar Baby was the daughter of Md Shamsuddin.

Attack on newsmen condemned

NOAKHALI, June 27: A protest meeting was held at the local Press Club Tuesday against the police action on journalists on June 21 at the National Press Club in Dhaka, reports UNB.

The meeting condemned the police action and demanded exemplary punishment to those responsible for the incident.

It was presided by Rafiquddin Ahmed, President of Noakhali Press Club.

At, Majidee local journalist brought out a procession in the town demanding punishment of the policemen involved in Saturday's incident.

People from all strata took part in the procession including activists of Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee.

Chanting slogans they called for realisation of the demands raised by the BFWJ and DUJ.

The meeting held at the DC's premise was addressed among others by Abed Shapan, member of Jatiya Sangbadik Sangstha Central Secretariat, Gobindalal Das, Leader of Central Sangbadik Samity, Abu Zafar Sabu, Zila Press Club President, Dipok Pal, Muktyoddah Unit Commander and Shahadat Hossain, Convenor of Ghatak Nirmul Committee.