

Upazila roundup

KISHOREGANJ

Blackmarketeers, students clash: 5 hurt

From Our Correspondent
July 1: Five persons including two students were injured in a clash over the issue of selling cinema ticket by blackmarketeers at Kishoreganj town recently.

According to reports, some student went to local Universal Cinema hall for witnessing a picture. At the end of the show a clash ensued between the students and blackmarketeers that lasted an hour in which two students namely Babul, Ataur Rahman and rickshaw-puller Taher, Mia Hossain and a businessman Abdul Matin received injuries.

Police, however, brought the situation under control.

RAJSHAHI

Quacks on increase

From Our Correspondent
July 1: The number of quacks (village doctors) is increasing rapidly in nine upazilas of the district.

According to sources, the problem of unemployment has become acute and over 70 per cent of the people of the district are living below poverty line.

A large number of graduates and HSC passed unemployed youths have chosen this profession to earn their livelihood in absence of jobs.

It is alleged that in most cases, treatment done by these quacks is wrong as diagnosis of diseases in most of the cases is incorrect due to lack of proper knowledge. These quacks also sell substandard medicines to the patients.

Social workers urged the authorities concerned to stop these illegal practice.

TANGAIL

Work for new voters list begins

July 1: Work for new voters list in Tangail Paurasava started on Wednesday according to the schedule announced by the election commission, reports BSS.

One registration officer, six assistant registration officers, thirty five supervisors and one hundred and thirty-five enumerators have been engaged for the preparation of the list from six wards of the list paurasava.

Preparation of draft roll for Gopalpur Paurasava also began on Wednesday according to report reaching here.

BARISAL

Training course on social leadership ends

July 1: A six-week long training course on social leadership concluded at the Barisal Development Society (BDS) premises Friday last, reports BSS.

Organized by the Barisal Development Society, 51 members of different non-government organizations participated in the training course.

The participants are from Barisal, Jhalakati, Gopalganj, Madaripur and Patuakhali districts.

On the concluding day a function was held under the chairmanship of Linus Adhir Das, Executive Director, BDS Nurul Alam Khan, DC, Barisal gave away the certificates among the participants. A cultural function was held at the end of the certificate awarding ceremony.

SIRAJGANJ

Police recover woman's body

From Our Correspondent
July 1: The body of a housewife was recovered from village Hatikumrul in Ullapara Upazila on June 20.

It is gathered that Firoza Begum (19) was married to Shah Alam of village Hatikumrul about six months ago. The husband had alleged illicit relationship with another woman. Following continuation of the relation even after marriage, the couple had a feud. On June 18 night, quarrel took place between them and Firoza was missing since morning of June 19. Later police recovered her body from a cropfield on the next morning.

Police said, fatal injury was found in her body. Husband Shah Alam was arrested. The body was sent the Sadar Hospital for autopsy after lodging a case with Ullapara police.

CHANDPUR

Cultivable lands losing fertility

From Our Correspondent
July 1: Cultivable lands in different upazilas of Chandpur district have lost fertility to produce desired crops.

The fertility of lands have been decreasing day by day due to extensive use of soil to produce number of crops all the year round. The population boom in the rural areas has made an unprecedented pressure on cultivable lands to grow more food for additional population to eat. The farmers can not keep their land fallow after harvesting of crops. They prepare the same land for the next crop.

According to agricultural experts that the production capacity of cultivable lands have been decreasing gradually due to excessive use of fertilizer. It is reported that about 60 per cent cultivable lands of the district have lost Sulphur and Zinc. So, these lands cannot produce desired crops.

The agricultural experts opined that the farmers should use Zinc fertilizer to add fertility of the land. The fertility of the soil is fast decaying in "Chandpur Irrigation Project" and "Meghna-Dhobagoda Irrigation Project". These lands are used to produce three crops round the year. So, the fertility of the soil are gradually decreasing.

SATKHIRA

Int'l Day against drug abuse observed

From Our Correspondent
July 1: International Day against Drug Abuse was observed here on June 26.

Different social organisations chalked out elaborate programmes to create mass awareness about the adverse effects of drug abuse and addiction.

The district administration arranged a seminar held at the Deputy Commissioner's conference room. Kabeer Rahman, Deputy Commissioner, Satkhira presided over the seminar.

The seminar was also addressed among others by Abdul Muttalib, President, Press Club, Abdul Jalil Mondal, Narcotics Inspector, Taimur Reza Chowdhury, ASP, Sirajuddowla ADC (General) of Satkhira spoke on the occasion.

MANIKGANJ

Hats, bazars in pitiable condition

From Our Correspondent
July 1: Hats and bazars of all the seven upazilas of the district are in pitiable condition causing great inconveniences to both the buyers and sellers.

Shopkeepers said that most of the hats and bazars have bad drainage system and the situation become worse during the rainy season. Absence of public toilets in the maximum hats and bazars have been causing immense problems to the people.

Moreover, filths and garbages are being dumped in the bazar areas emitting bad odour and helping the breeding of mosquitoes.

Local people and shop owners have demanded early development and proper maintenance of the markets.

NARSINGDI

Body of police constable recovered

From Our Correspondent
July 1: A body of a police man was recovered from the Meghna river which was floating under Raipura Upazila recently.

It is learnt that the victim was identified as Aminul Islam (30), a police constable of the Cox's Bazar Police Station.

It is further known that he came to Bhatrab to visit one of his relatives. The cause of his death could not ascertained immediately.

Another report adds: One minor boy was run over by a car on Dhaka-Sylhet Highway near Kukurmar village under Raipura Upazila recently.



BARISAL: Thousands of hilsa fishes have been rotting every day due to transport strike. — Star photo

Heaps of hilsa rotting at Barisal

From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, July 1: Hilsa and other fishes worth lakhs of taka have been rotting every day due to continuous bus and truck strike.

The fishermen of different southern districts catch fishes and come to Barisal for selling the collection which is ultimately transported to other places of the country. But for the transport strike, the huge quantity of fishes particularly the hilsa fishes are rotten every day.

It can be mentioned here that about 2,000 maunds of fishes are brought here from different places of the southern region of the country every day which are being sold to the traders of various places.

At least ten thousand maunds of fishes in packets worth Taka 1.5 crore have been lying at Barisal port under the open sky.

The fish traders told this correspondent that prices of fishes have decreased at least by Taka 200 per maund due to the on-going strike by the bus owners and workers.

Huge quantity of hilsa fishes are transported to northern districts every day by trucks.

The fishermen and traders have urged the government to end the transport strike and help them continue their trade which can also decrease the value of different goods includ-

ing fish.

The Election Commission has already started preparation of new voter list in more than hundred pourashava areas in the country.

Accordingly, preparation of voter list in Barisal and Bakerganj poura areas has also been started from June 24 and is likely to completed soon.

The electricity extension project to four southern districts of the country at a cost of Taka 37 crore is nearing completion.

The districts covered by this programme are Madaripur, Jhendah, Magura and Chuadanga.

The project is being aided by the International Development Association (IDA).

According to an official source, the programme includes extension and repair of 11 kv and 4 kv electric lines in these districts.

Besides, 239 transformers will be established in the project areas.

About 80 per cent work of the project have already been completed and the rest will be completed soon.

While completed, 20,000 residential and 200 commercial connections will be given in these districts, the sources added.

Prices of fertilizers have shown a surprise in the

markets of southern districts of Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola, Jhalakathi and Borguna since the last month.

Due to price hike of the fertilizers in these districts, production of IRRI and boro paddy have been affected greatly.

With the scope of price hike, a section of unscrupulous fertilizer traders have created artificial crisis of fertilizers and taking more price from the farmers. Some places fertilizers are actually short and hard to get.

It can be mentioned here that lakhs of farmers of southern region who had been affected by flood and continuous drought are the worst affected.

Prices of fertilizers in Barisal, Patuakhali, Jhalakathi and Borguna has increased at least 15 to 20 taka per bag.

The Urea is being sold at Taka 250 per bag which was sold at Taka 215 per bag few days before.

It is also to be mentioned here that prices of TSP fertilizer have increased in phases by Taka 40 to 50 per bag. Urea Taka 25-30 per bag and MP by Taka 50 to Taka 65 during last three months.

It is feared that due to price hike of fertilizers production of IRRI-boro and jute may be hampered greatly and may not reach the targets.

7000 saplings planted already

Massive afforestation programme

CHANDPUR, July 1: The Chandpur Zila Parishad has taken up a massive programme of afforestation involving an amount of Taka 2 lakh, says an official source.

The secretary of the zila parishad Abul Hossain told UNB that the afforestation programme was being implemented from the first week of this month.

About 7000 saplings of

Case against college managing body filed

JAMALPUR, July 1: A case has been lodged with the District Judge Court against the Managing Committee of Shaheed Ziaur Rahman College for occupying a private land foreverly, reports UNB.

It was alleged that 2.65 acres of private land was forcibly occupied by the Managing Committee of the college with the help of college students.

the banks of the Dakatia river between Natun Bazar and Puran Bazar area of Chandpur town.

The work involves an amount of Taka 3.86 lakh and is being executed by the local unit of Roads and Highways Department.

The work is expected to be completed within one month. When completed, the long-felt need of ferry services will be met.

Proper protection and supervision of all these 14,000 saplings will also be ensured by the zila parishad, he added.

Twentyseven HSC examinees from five upazila centres of the district were expelled for adopting unfairmeans in English first paper examinations on the third day Monday.

Of them, 11 were expelled from Kachua, 10 from Shaharasti, four from Matlab and one each from Hajiganj and Sadar upazila centres.

According to official sources, the examinations are being held in peaceful atmosphere and no untoward incident occurred so far.

Work has begun on the construction of ferry ghats on both

Tk 1.60 cr electricity bills remain unrealised

MADARIPUR, July 1: An amount of Taka 1.60 crore of electricity bills has remained unrealised in the town for a long time, report UNB.

The local Power Development Board sources said they started disconnecting the power line of the defaulting consumers after giving due notice.

Across the country

Century-old school in a state of decline

by Rajat Kanti Goswami

MAULVIBAZAR, July 1: Maulvibazar Government Boys High School has already crossed a hundred years of its existence. It was established in 1891. Arrangements for the "Centenary Festival" celebration, however, remains very much uncertain.

Although it is said that the Maulvibazar School was opened in 1891, there are evidences pointing to an earlier establishment. It will be hard to find many schools this old.

The fact is the school was started in 1885 as a "Middle English School" at Sayerpur Pargona of the present Maulvibazar town. After six years, it was upgraded as a "Higher English School."

There were no one founder of the century-old Maulvibazar Government High School. A number of enthusiastic persons started efforts to establish a Higher English School at Maulvibazar town and people of the locality joined them.

Mr Harakinkar Das, advocate, who was a local leader of the National Congress of Gandhijee, and also the first Vice-Chairman of the Maulvibazar Municipality took the first initiatives along with one of his friends, Mr Prasanna Kumar Gupta to establish such a school at Maulvibazar town.

The famous Gupta family of Dolia village under the sub-division donated land for the school. At that time they also collected cash donation from the people amounting to Taka 13 thousand. During that period (1891), Taka 13 thousand was sufficient money to set up a higher English school.

landed property, the school is in first position among the students of Maulvibazar.

It may also be mentioned here that during the British rule there were more than 5 government high schools in the areas of greater Sylhet. In the other parts of the country, there was only one government high school in each district. These schools were known as Zila schools. There were no Zila schools in Sylhet area because here were more than one high school under government management.

The school under calamities

The progress of the school was not very smooth. It suffered from calamitous problems at least three times.

In the year 1930, the then Director of Public Instruction (DPI) of Assam Mr Cunningham decreed that guardians of the students of the schools must sign a bond undertaking that their sons or wards will not be involved in politics. At that time anti-British movements surged under the banner of "Swadeshi-Andolon" all over the sub-continent. People from all walks of life supported and joined the movement. So Assam government wanted to block the students from joining the tide.

People of Sylhet protested at once against this circular and they built up a movement against the circular. At one stage students and the general people burnt Maulvibazar H E School as a part of the movement together with others such as Kashinath H E School

Shashi Bhusan Mali, Dr Mahendranath Dey who stood first class first in Mathematics from Calcutta University, Syed Mostafa Ali, the writer, Syed Martufa Ali, Nirad Baran Goswami who received gold medal on education from the Indian President, were the students of this school.

Editor of The Daily Star and internationally known journalist Mr S M Ali, Finance Minister Mr Saifur Rahman, former Minister Mr Zakaria Chowdhury, former Executive Director of ESCAP and Under Secretary of United Nations Mr SAMS Kibria, Managing Director Biman Bangladesh Airlines, Mr Abdul Muid Chowdhury, Chairman of National Revenue Board, Mr Nurul Hussain Khan, Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Finance, Mr Mofazzal Karim, Professor in Sociology of Dhaka University Dr Rangola Sen, former Divisional Commissioner of Chittagong Mr Ali Hayder Khan, Dr Khalilur Rahman, Doctor Satyabrata Dey, Dr Anadi Prasad Bhattacharjee were also the students of the school.

In the recent days it is not same old Maulvibazar Government Boys' High School. It has lost all lustre. Wholesale neglect is forcing the institution into an all-round decline. There is no head master for about a decade. Lack of accommodation and staff shortage are two main problems of the century-old school. Construction of a new building is in progress and when completed can help to some extent in meeting the accommodation pressure.



MAULVIBAZAR: The 100-year-old Maulvibazar Government Boys' High School building. — Star photo

Mr Harakinkar Das was elected as secretary of the Managing Committee of the newly established school and he continued in that capacity till 1914.

Eminent personalities of the society served the school as teachers. Mr Dwijendranath Niogee M. A. was the first headmaster of the school.

First graduate of the then Sylhet District Mr Sharat Chandra Chowdhury was the second head teacher. He joined the school in 1899. But Mr Chowdhury's services were terminated after a short while for his writings against the then British Government. "Devi Juddha" a book written by him was banned and forfeited by the then Government of Assam. "Sharater Gaan" (Songs written by Sharat) is even now very much popular in the rural areas of Bangladesh and West Bengal of India for its patriotic appeal. He was one of the three "Chandra" bards in the then Bengal. The other two Chandras were Hema Chandra and Nabin Chandra.

Nationalisation of the school

After the establishment, the school earned fame in the education sector of the then Assam Province of undivided India for its bright results in different examinations.

It may be mentioned, Sylhet district with its 5 Sub-Divisions — North Sylhet (Sylhet), South Sylhet (Maulvibazar), Habiganj, Sunamganj and Karimganj (now in India) formed Surma Valley of the then Assam Province of India.

In 1914, the then Assam government of undivided India had taken over the management of Maulvibazar H E School, and from that time it was upgraded as a government school.

After the nationalisation of the school, the Assam government acquired more land for its hostel, teachers accommodation and playgrounds. For its

of Maulvibazar, Portious H E School of Rajnagar, Pilot H E School of Sylhet and Raja G C Higher English School of Sylhet.

After 41 years of that occurrence, in 1971, at the end of "Liberation War" of Bangladesh, the school was again damaged by mine explosion. At that time the main building of the school was damaged totally, and 17 Muktiyoddhas were killed in that tragic incident.

In 1984, during the devastating floods of the river Monu, the school buildings were submerged and valuable documents were damaged. This flood also claimed the life of Mr Arju Miah, physical instructor of the school.

Golden Jubilee of the school was celebrated in the year 1942. Famous philologist Dr Mohammed Shahidullah was attended as chief guest, while D P I of Assam Mr Satish Chandra Roy attended as special guest in the festival.

Maulvibazar Government Boys' High School produced a cluster of stars. Some brilliant students of the school earned name and fame at national and international level.

Dr Syed Mujtaba Ali, the famous scholar and writer, educationist and the first Ph D degree holder among the Muslim community of Assam was the student of this school.

Eminent scientists Dr Surendranath Dhar and Dr

With a view to celebrating the centenary of the school, a committee comprising the district administration and enthusiastic persons was formed and in this connection some preparation was made, but all on a sudden all preparatory activity was suspended. There is now no sign of interest on the part of the district administration or the school authority in celebrating the centenary.

Old students of the school now living in the locality and working in various professions, blamed the Centenary Festival Committee as an incompetent one, because — according to them — most of the committee members were not the students of the school nor were they even connected with the school in any form. They also alleged that, during the formation of the Centenary Committee, former teachers, students and employees of the school were neglected by the authority concerned. Some quarters with the help of administration wanted to make political gain out of the event, old students said. When some leader of old students of the school disclosed this in a rally, then preparations of the centenary were suspended by the administration. The Deputy Commissioner is observing a silent role and he is the chairman of the Centenary Festival Committee.

HSC exams: 27 expelled on second day

KUSHTIA, July 1: Twenty-seven HSC examinees were expelled from 10 centres of the district on the second day of the examination today (Saturday) for adopting unfair means, reports UNB.

On the first day of examination on Thursday, 31 examinees were expelled from different centres of the district.

Massive aus farming plan

GAZIPUR, July 1: A scheme has been taken up to bring 55,087 acres of land under aus, 1297 acres under broadcast aman cultivation in the low lying areas and 3400 acres for summer vegetables during the current season, reports UNB.

According to Agriculture Extension Department, of the total, 20,000 acres will be brought under high yielding aus



KUSHTIA: People from all walks of life took part at a rally which was organised here recently in observance of International Day against drug abuse. — Star photo