

Upazila roundup

KISHOREGANJ

Law, order situation deteriorates

From Our Correspondent
July 4: Law and order situation in Nandail upazila of Mymensingh district has deteriorated with the increase of crime like robbery, theft, murder, kidnapping, dacoity, cattlelifting, rape, gambling and divorce.

Gambling is a problem that has been demoralising the moral character of the youths of the area. Meanwhile, roaming gay girls are polluting the atmosphere of the town. Youths fall easy prey to them. The rate of divorce has alarmingly increased causing much concern among the local elites. The miscreants always move about with unauthorised lethal weapons including guns and engage in anti-social activities with impunity.

GAZIPUR

Power supply erratic

From Our Correspondent
July 4: Frequent power failure in the district has been hampering production in the mills and factories.

Local people and some officials complained that breakdown in electricity supply for two to three times everyday has become a common feature in various thanas of the district.

The schools, colleges, business establishments and commercial centres in Sadar, Rajnagar, Kulaura and Baralekha thanas are compelled to stop their normal activities which causes a considerable loss to the economy.

It is alleged that unauthorised connections given by some corrupt employees of the local Power Development Board cause overloading and voltage fluctuations.

BARISAL

Trade course likely to be introduced

From Our Correspondent
July 4: 'Trade Course' is likely to be introduced soon in lieu of Engineering Diploma Course in the polytechnic institutions of the country.

According to sources, Engineering Diploma Course is going to be abolished soon and Higher Diploma Course will be introduced in the institutions which will be equivalent to higher engineering degree.

Now, students of polytechnic institutions will obtain Trade Course certificate after completion of three years long studies and after passing the Trade Course they have to complete further Higher Diploma Engineering Course from Dhaka. It means, a student will have to spend five years to be a diploma engineer which is still now a three years course in polytechnic institutions.

PATUAKHALI

Governing body of Janata College meet held

July 4: A meeting of the governing body of Janata College at Dumki in Sadar thana was held here in the college office recently, reports UNB.

Minister for Post and Telegraph M Keramat Ali was present at the meeting which discussed various problems of the college, sources said.

The government body took the decision to suspend two lecturers of the college with immediate effect for alleged negligence to their duties and violation of office discipline.

The Managing Committee appointed a 3-member enquiry committee to investigate into the charges brought against the two lecturers.

MAULVIBAZAR

Sale of notebooks unabated

From Our Correspondent
July 4: The sale of notebooks is going on unabated in the district headquarters and its adjoining areas.

Notebooks are being sold in most of the bookshops of the district town and different thana markets despite government ban.

It may be mentioned here that government had imposed ban on publishing and selling notebooks up to class eight in order to discourage the dependence of the students on prepared answers.

SHARIATPUR

Pottery industry needs proper patronisation

From Our Correspondent
July 4: Pottery industry is now on the verge of extinction. Non-availability of raw materials, lack of working capacity and marketing facilities are the main causes of ruination of pottery in the district.

Thousands of skilled persons engaged in manufacturing of various kinds of earthen wares are facing economic hardship. Most of the people have given up their ancestral profession and have taken alternative jobs for livelihood.

Domsar and Kotapara of Sadar, Gorishar and Sujapur of Naria, Kartikpur of Bhedarganj, Dasar Jungle, of Goshairhat and Kalaya bazar of Damudya upazilas are the centres of pottery in the district.

Prankina Roy (60) a potter of Kalaya bazar is passing days in uncertainty sticking to the old profession finding no other alternative. At present he is engaged in making only tall because the other items like plates, bowls, pitches, pots, pans, toys, etc have no marketing facility.

CHUADANGA

Smuggled goods over Tk one cr seized

From Our Correspondent
July 4: Smuggled goods worth about Taka one crore eight lakhs and seventy five thousand were seized by the BDR men of 13 Battalion stationed at Chuadanga from the different places of six districts including two border districts during the last two months.

The districts from which the smuggled goods were seized are Chuadanga, Meherpur, Kushtia, Magura, Faridpur and Jhenidah.

It is learnt that the goods smuggled into the country included cattleheads, buffaloes, blouse pieces, sarces, sugar, salt, bicycle, spare-parts of bicycle, jute seeds, ganja, cosmetics, imitation ornaments, insecticides, medicine, pulse, table fan, wrist watch etc.

SATKHIRA

Cattlelifting rampant

From Our Correspondent
July 4: Cattlelifting has created panic among the poor farmers of the district recently.

It is gathered that at least 150 incidents have occurred in different parts of Kalaroa, Tala, Assasaint, Debhata, Kalingang, Shyamnagar and Satkhira Sadar upazilas during last five months.

The farmers informed that the cattlelifters in some places brutally peel skins of the stolen cows. They suspect that the cowlifters are the members of a well-organised gang. As a result, owners are compelled to stay in cowsheds at night to protect their cattlehead.

An organised gang of lifters backed by some influential quarters has been carrying on the heinous activities in the bordering villages, it is learnt.

In some cases, cattlelifters even demand ransom from the owners for the release of their cattlehead through agents.

COMILLA

Int'l Day against Drug Abuse observed

July 4: In observance of the International Day against Drug Abuse and illegal trafficking a discussion meeting and a colourful rally was held in Comilla recently, reports UNB.

The discussion meeting was presided over by Shamsul Haq, ADC Commissioner, Comilla was the chief guest.

Those spoke on the occasion included Prof Amir Ali Chowdhury, Principal Md Abdur Rouf, Dr Zobaida Hannan, Shamsunnahar Rabbi, Nurul Haq and Mostafa Ahmed.

The chief guest in his address called upon the social organisations and people of all walks of life to build a strong movement to resist drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

A colourful procession with posters and festoons inscribing slogans against drug abuse was also brought out. Prof. Bimba Natya Goshti, Junior and Student Chambers also observed the day with their own programmes.



MANIKGANJ: The erosion-hit families of the district are taking shelter on the sides of roads, bazars. — Star photo

610 families rendered homeless Padma, Jamuna erode crops on 50 acres in 3 days

MANIKGANJ, July 4: At least 610 families were rendered homeless in two thanas of the district due to continued erosion in river Jamuna and Padma during the last three days, official sources said, reports UNB.

Standing crops on 500 acres of land were also eroded by the river erosion in the worst affected Daulatpur and Hartrampur thanas.

According to official sources, about 200 houses of Borohota and Lautara villages of Daulatpur thana were washed away by the Jamuna rendering about 310 families shelterless.

The other affected villages at the riverside of the thana are Varanganur, Kamarpara, Paiksa, Ramnarapur, Boumdilaya, Borotia, Paikaldafitar and Bachamara leaving 155 families homeless.

In Hartrampur at least 155 families were affected as Padma swallowed parts of villages of Ramkisanpur, Vartikandi, Badarpur, Mad-

hyakandi and Ujankandi. Jamuna rose 12 cm at Aricha point Thursday threatening Aricha Ghat and its adjoining areas, BIWTA sources said.

A gang of dacoits looted valuables worth about Taka 63,000 from the passengers of a boat in river Jamuna on Thursday.

Local people said the gang of about 16 with deadly weapons swooped on the Aricha-bound mechanised boat from Kazirhat near Alokdia in Shibalay thana on Thursday morning.

A case was filed in this connection, but none could be arrested.

Another report from Manikganj says one more body of Wednesday boat capsized victims was recovered from the Jamuna near Kazirhat in Shibalay thana.

According to local people, the dead was identified as

Nazrul Haq (40) of Zianpur in Daulatpur thana. Another body was recovered Wednesday afternoon.

Police said two of the missing passengers were yet to be traced.

Maizdee Court

A report from Maizdee Court adds: Erosion by the river Meghna has rendered hundreds of families homeless during the last one month in the Hatiya thana of the district.

At least 2,000 families of the Harni-Chanandi area of the thana have been displaced and more 200 shops of Batankhali bazar have been washed away, according to the Chairman of the Harni-Chanandi Union.

He said shifting of T&T Office and the Tahsil Office started recently but the DC Road of the town, was now threatened.

The displaced families have taken shelter elsewhere on their own and have received no relief as yet.

Setting up of jute-base paper mill hits snag

Setting up of a jute-based paper and pulp mill in the country has hit snags as a Japanese organisation regretted a request for technical assistance for feasibility study.

Official sources told UNB that a delegation of the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF), which came here in May for fact finding on the project, instead, recommended that the government should formally request Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for technical assistance.

Giving importance to the project, the government included it in the Three-Year Rolling Programme under the

current Five-Year Plan. Directive to expedite its work also came from the Prime Minister's office, sources said.

Problem regarding the project implementation authority also persists as it has now become a concern of BCIC, though the Jute Ministry initiated it in 1988, they said.

Similar problem regarding site selection for the mills dragged on since then.

A French firm, Arel Engineering, which conducted a feasibility study in 1990, selected Kownia in Rangpur as the project site. An interministerial task force study in 1988 recommended Bhuaipur in Tangail as the site.

Reconstruction of 24 edn institutions going on

BARISAL, July 4: Facilities Department of the Ministry of Education has been executing 24 projects at a cost of Taka 1,92,60,015 in five southern districts under Barisal Zone, reports BSS.

The districts are: Barisal, Jhalakathi, Pirojpur, Bhola, Patuakhali and Barguna.

According to an official source, the projects include the repair and reconstruction of some government high school buildings damaged in 1991 cyclone.

The projects are being implemented with the financial assistance of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).



SYLHET: The members of the local unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal brought out a procession here on June 29 against the illegal transports strike. — Star photo

Effective measures a must to protect forest resources

MAULVIBAZAR, July 4: The dense reserve forests of the district are being plundered and its valuable trees and bamboo clusters are being felled indiscriminately, threatening ecological balance as well as depleting forest wealth, reports UNB.

Local leaders and environment workers said unauthorised logging mostly in connivance of dishonest forest employees is causing large-scale and rapid deforestation in the district.

Ways and means must be devised for the protection of forest resources along with planned and effective measures for bringing more land under forest, they said.

The Maulvibazar Forest Range comprises of five reserve forests namely West

Bhanugach, Barshijura, Satganj, Rajkandi and Dinarpur.

Each of these forest is again sub-divided into several beats. Each of these beats comprises of approximately 5 square mile with one beat officer and two guards.

These forests are full of valuable trees, firewood, bamboo, sugrass, canes and jungles.

These are the natural assets and pride possessions of the country. But these are being destroyed in different ways by the unscrupulous people for years together.

Local people have urged the authorities to take stringent action against the persons responsible for the destruction of forest resources.

Frequent power disruption in the district has been ham-

pering production in the mills and factories.

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It is alleged that unauthorised connections given by some corrupt employees of the local Power Development Board cause overloading and voltage fluctuations.

Rectified spirit is being freely consumed as alcohol by

the youths in the district town causing moral degradation, social leaders alleged.

They buy the spirit from homeopathic doctors and take it as alcohol by mixing water.

Some dishonest homeopathic practitioners are selling the spirit to the addicts at exorbitant prices, they said.

These practitioners have no licence to either practice or manufacture homeopathic medicine.

Accommodation problem

The Nursing Training Centre has been refusing admission to intending trainees for want of accommodation.

The centre has no building of its own and it is being housed in a rented building at

Rains increase sufferings of Rohingya refugees

COX'S BAZAR, July 4: The sufferings of over 2.60 lakh Rohingya refugees from Myanmar now sheltered at 13 temporary camps here have multiplied following torrential rains during the last few days, reports BSS.

Local Met office recorded 425 mm rainfall during the last four days.

Of the total refugees, one lakh have been living under open sky while others are under temporary sheds erected with CI sheets, polythene and leaves of trees. The temporary sheds have no protection against the torrential rains, the refugees said.

Large number of refugees are suffering from cold, fever and gastro-intestinal diseases, according to physicians.

Notes from Sylhet

From Our Correspondent

MADARIPUR, July 4: Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), pourashava unit held a discussion meeting on the 11th death anniversary of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman at district BNP office recently.

Advocate Muzibur Rahman presided over the meeting. The meeting was addressed among others by Convenor, BNP district unit Abdul Mannan Sikder, Enamul Haq Shahtin Howlader, Jhandar Ali, T M Kamrul Hasan Bada, Vice-President of Nazimuddin College Students' Union.

Rat menace

Rat menace has increased alarmingly causing extensive damage to the standing crops on 1000 acres of land in ten upazilas of Madaripur and Shariatpur districts.

It is learnt that the standing crops on vast tract of cropfield in the rural areas have been attacked by pests and rats.

Affected farmers have failed to combat the menace for want of necessary insecticides.

Farmers get Taka 30.42cr loan

Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKIB) has distributed Taka 30.42 crore as agricultural loan among the farmers of eleven southern districts of Barisal Zone during the first eight months of the current fiscal year 1991-92.

The districts are: Barisal, Patuakhali, Barguna, Pirojpur, Jhalakathi, Bhola, Madaripur, Shariatpur, Rajbari, Gopalganj and Faridpur.

Bank sources said that a total of Taka 72.20 crore was sanctioned for distribution as agricultural credit in the district during the fiscal year.

Book sellers assoc meet held

Bangladesh Book Publishers and Sellers' Association, Madaripur district unit arranged a discussion meeting to accelerate the activities of the association at its district office recently.

Al-Haz Muhammad Abdul Kader presided over the meeting.

The meeting was addressed among others by Sayed Ruhul Amin, Abdus Sattar, Eskander Ali, Mahbubur Rahman, Mahidi Hasan and A Khaleq Munshi.

Bidis being sold without bandrolls

Bidis are being sold here without bandrolls to evade taxes.

It is learnt that all the owners of bidi factories in four upazilas of the district, staff of Customs and Excise Department are directly involved in this malpractice.

Bidis are being sold without bandrolls in all the areas of the district town. Used bandrolls are collected from some whole sellers and retailers.

Local people have urged the concerned authorities to check the tax evasion for the great interest.

Health complex beset with problems

Rajoir Upazila Health Complex has been facing numerous problems for a long time.

Lack of X-ray machine, surgical instruments, blood bank and shortage of medicines are the main problem.

Most of the poor patients who come from the for-flung areas have to go back only with prescriptions as the hospital can not provide them essential medicines.

There is no blood bank in this health complex as well as serious patients have to move to the Madaripur, Barisal and Faridpur hospitals causing untold sufferings due to want of ambulance.

On the other hand, in absence of X-ray machine, poor patients are being deprived of proper medical treatment. Moreover, the hospital is not equipped with surgical instruments.

Local leaders have urged the authorities to equip the health complex with modern amenities.

Wife gets life-term for killing husband

RANGPUR, July 4: A housewife and three of her accomplices were awarded life-term rigorous imprisonment for killing her husband, reports UNB.

The accused were also fined Taka 5,000 each in default to suffer one more year of rigorous imprisonment.

The prosecution in brief was that the victim Anwar Hossain of village Kutirpara of Kaunia thana of the district was killed by her wife Rubi Khatoun and three of her accomplices on May 23, 1990 while he was asleep.

After investigation, police charge sheeted 11 people including his wife in this connection.

The District and Session Judge after examining the witness and records gave the judgment.

The other accused were Rahim Box, Shah Ali and Abdur Rashid.

Minor girl raped

A minor girl was raped in the village of Kismat Boshantapur of Badarganj thana of the district on Wednesday.

According to police, Mahbubur Rahman son of Kafil Uddin of the village forcibly took Sharifa (6), daughter of Mohil of the village in his room and violated her.

Seven others were acquitted of the charge.

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Drought results fall in jute farming target

MAGURA, July 4: Jute cultivation target could not be achieved in the district due to persisting drought and other natural calamities this season, reports UNB.

According to Agriculture Extension Department, of the total scheme of 40,261 acres of land only 10,000 acres could be brought under the jute cultivation.

Magura is one of the largest jute producing districts of Khulna Division. But farmers said low price in the market and natural calamities they are reluctant to cultivate jute.

They also alleged that they are to sell their produce far below the production cost in the absence of government purchasing centres in the district.

While taking to UNB some jute growers informed that jute production in the district is decreasing every year in absence of patronisation by the concerned authorities.

It may be mentioned that jute market of the district remained dull for last several years.

At least 200 political activists including a former Union Parishad Chairman of Sreepur Upazila of the district joined Bangladesh Nationalist Party recently.

The newcomers led by Khondokar Nasirul Islam ex-Chairman of Sreepur Union parishad met Principal Shamsun Nahar Ahmed MP and expressed their solidarity with the ideals and programmes of BNP in a simple ceremony, sources said.

Welcoming them Shamsun Nahar said to materialise the ideals of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman for economic emancipation of the common man and giving democracy an institutional shape there is no alternative to BNP.

She also called upon the party workers and newcomers for motivating people to participate in the development activities under the leadership of Prime Minister Begum Khaleka Zia.

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The main roads of the town are Syed Sikander Ali Road, Girls' High School Road, Hospital Road and Kalibari Road which go under water after a slight