

Upazila roundup

JAMALPUR

Nirmul body unit meet held

From Our Correspondent
July 5: Meeting of Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee was held at Sramik League office of the district recently.
The meeting was presided over by Advocate Motiur Rahman, Convener of Ghatak Dalal Nirmul unit Committee. It was addressed among others by Abul Hossain, Faruk Ahmed, Advocate Bakiyallah.
Later, they brought out a procession and paraded the main thoroughfares of the town demanding immediate release of the three members of the aforesaid committee.

KUSHIA

Int'l Day against drug abuse observed

From Our Correspondent
July 5: International Day against drug abuse and its trafficking was observed here recently.

In observance of the day, a discussion meeting was held at Collectorate Conference Hall with Nirmul Chandra Das, Assistant Director of the Department of Narcotics and Drug Control, Kushia in the chair.

Deputy Commissioner, Syed Hafiz Ahmed attended the meeting as chief guest. The meeting was addressed among others by S M Kausar, president, Zilla Press Club, Prof Nurul Islam Chowdhury, Advocate Abdul Quader and Abdul Halim, Deputy Director, Department of Youth.

The speakers stressed the need for social awareness among the people of the society to check moral erosion due to drug menace.

BORGUNA

Police action on newsmen protested

From Our Correspondent
July 5: A protest meeting against the police action on journalists at National Press Club was held at local Press Club recently.

Zakir Hossain Miraj presided over the meeting. It was addressed among others by Abdul Halim Himu, Hemayet Hossain, Jakir Hossain, Mosharrar Hossain and Rafiqul Islam Montu.

The speakers at the meeting strongly condemned the police action on the journalists in and around the National Press Club and demanded exemplary punishment to those responsible for the incident.
Later, they brought out a procession and paraded the main streets of the town.

KISHOREGANJ

JP demands Ershad's immediate release

From Our Correspondent
July 5: A meeting organised by Kishoreganj district unit of Jatiya Party was held at the local pourasava market recently.

The meeting was presided over by Advocate Md Nuruzzaman, ex-MP, acting president of the district unit. It was addressed among others by Advocate Md. Nurul Islam, ex-MP Abdul Latif Bhuiyan, A T M Mostafa, Mujibur Rahman Belal, Advocate Golam Rabbani Bulbul, Abdul Hannan Mollah and Rahima Khatun.

The speakers demanded immediate release of the deposed president H M Ershad. The meeting was followed by a big procession. The processionists paraded the main thoroughfares of the town and chanted various slogans in favour of their demand.

NARSINGDI

Manob Kallayn Party formed

From Our Correspondent
July 5: A new party Bangladesh Manob Kallayn Party has been formed here under Monahardi thana of the district recently.

A meeting was held at Central Office of the party at Moulvibazar intersect with Abdul Baten Master in the chair. It was addressed among others by Abdul Barez, Md Mohiuddin, Md Mujibur Rahman, Md Abdul Matkur Rahman, Habibur Rahman, Md Rafiqul Islam, and Nurul Islam.

Later, a 11-member executive committee was formed in the meeting with Abdul Baten Master as convener of the party.

BARISAL

Police arrest deer hunter

From Our Correspondent
July 5: One Hasim Biswas (65), allegedly a deer hunter of Patharghata thana under Borguna district was arrested by police recently.

According to local sources, Hasim Biswas was engaged in catching deer by nets for last five years in different places of these areas.

It is learnt, Patharghata Thana Magistrate recovered twelve deers and Hasim Biswas was arrested later in this connection. There are more deer hunters in these areas, it is gathered. Another report adds: A meeting of 31 union parishad chairman of Jhalakathi district was held here recently.

A 9-member executive committee of the Jhalakathi District Union Parishad Chairmen Association was formed in the meeting with Jahangir Khondaker, Chairman of Gava Union Parishad and Nurul Alam Gias, Chairman of Siddharkath Union Parishad as president and general secretary respectively.

AGRI-VARSITY

Annual milad mahfil held

July 5: The annual milad mahfil followed by a discussion session on the ideals of Prophet (SM) was held at the Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin auditorium recently under the auspices of the Bangladesh Agricultural University Employees' Association (BAUEA), says a press release.

Presided over by Md Prof Saifuddin Ahmed, the Convener of Deans' Council and Dean of the Faculty of Animal Husbandry as the chief guest and by Prof M R H Bhuiyan, president of BAU Teachers' Association, Alhaj M Z Islam, president of Officers' Association and A W Talukdar, Deputy Registrar as the special guests.

Termining Quran is the complete code of life, the chief guest in his speech underscored the need to know the religion in order to establish peace and happiness in our society.

RANGPUR

Hijacked truck recovered

From Our Correspondent
July 5: A truck loaded with 100 bags of paddy which was hijacked by a group of armed miscreants has been recovered recently.

The incident occurred at night at Bairatihat under Mithapukur thana. Aftab Hussain, at trader of Mahigonj purchased the said 100 bags of paddy worth Taka one lakh and loaded those on a truck. On the way, a gang of armed miscreants numbering about 10 to 12 hijacked the truck. The driver and other persons of truck were tied-up by ropes and left then in a jute field.

The miscreants while driving the truck along with the paddy towards unknown destination, the engine went out of order at Sonakat under Pirgonj thana, about 10 miles off from the place of hijacking.

The police on getting information brought it to the police station from where the owners released it. Nobody has so far been arrested in this regard.

MANIKGANJ

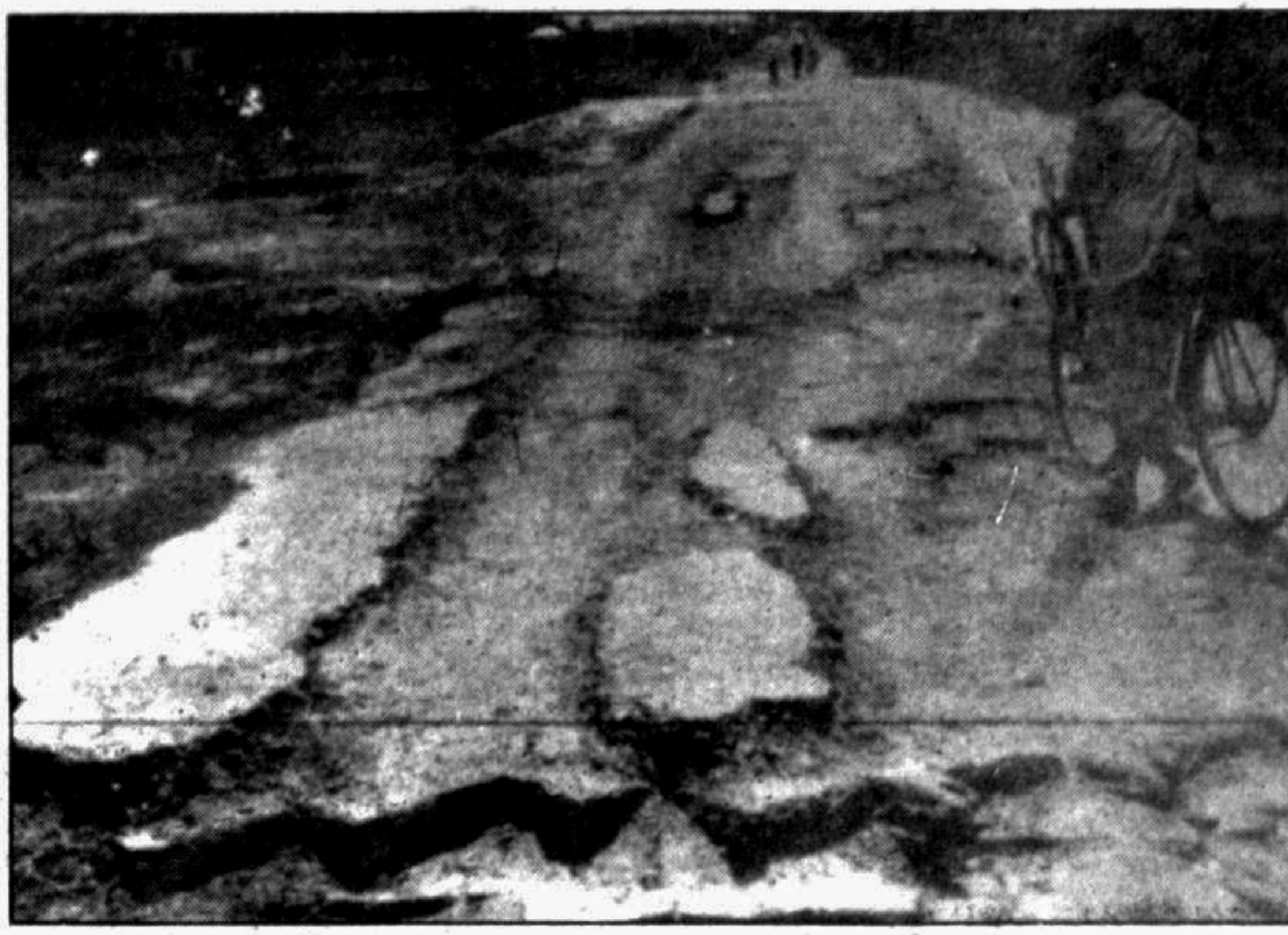
Number of landless on increase

From Our Correspondent
July 5: The number of landless people is increasing day by day on the three thanas of the district.

According to the local survey conducted by local NGOs the total population of the Daulatpur, Shibalaya and Hari-rampur thanas are over five lakh. Of them, 80,000 landless families. Eightyfive per cent people depend on agriculture and 15 per cent on different occupations.

Among the farmers, 50 per cent are landless, 30 per cent are marginal farmers and the rest 20 per cent farmers have land by which they can survive.

Besides, thousands of acres of land are being eroded by river Padma and Jamuna every year. The farmers having a few acres of land can not cope with the rising prices of agricultural inputs and daily necessities. As a result, they have to take loan from the local moneylenders at high rate of interest.



RANGPUR: The dilapidated condition of Station Road of the district town. — Star photo

Water-logging may leave 10,000 acres uncultivated

PATUAKHALI, July 5: About 10,000 acres of land in Lohalia Union in Sadar thana are feared to remain uncultivated this season due to water-logging which could be solved by erecting a dam, reports UNB.
Local farmers said two embankments were constructed at the neighbouring Kamapur and Jainkati unions for which rain and flood water accumulated in this area.

Some years back, a proposal had been approved for construction of the Lohalia embankment to save crops but the project has not yet been implemented.
Local farmers have urged the authorities to take an urgent steps for construction of the Lohalia Union embankment.

Scheme to popularise kakrol cultivation
A scheme has been undertaken to popularise Ridggold (kakrol) cultivation in Bauphal

thana of the district. Agriculture Extension Department has distributed a huge number of kakrol roots among the interested and trained farmers of the thana for wide cultivation of the vegetables in the area.

The farmers of the locality have also been trained for cultivating kakrol. Officials told UNB that the soil condition in the thana was favourable for its cultivation which is rich in nutrition value.

It is reported that the women farmers were also found interested in 'kakrol' cultivation in the thana. The women of poor and middle class families have already planted kakrol roots in the high land and homeyards.

It is expected that a huge quantity of kakrol will be produced in the thana in the coming season.

Welding shops create problems to residents

DINAJPUR, July 5: The mushroom growth of welding shops along the roadsides of the town has been creating problems to the dwellers for a long time, reports UNB.

Local people have urged the authorities to take steps to stop the unauthorised welding shops without further delay.

At least 160 welding shops have been set up beside the busy roads and residential areas like Station Road, Kachari Road, Paharpur Road, Jailkhana Road etc hampering movement of pedestrians and vehicles.

Minor girl killed in rail accident
A minor girl has been killed in a train accident near the Dinajpur Railway Station recently.

Town dwellers complained that sparkles from the welding shops often hit the eyesights of the pedestrians. School students are the worst victims. As a result, a large number of people have been suffering from eye complications.

Witnesses said the victim Lipti (7) daughter of Manik Miah of Bahusdanga village was run over by a goods train. She died on the spot.

The girl had gone to defecate on the railway line early in the morning, they said.



MADARIPUR: The tubewell of the government primary school at village Luxmiganj under Sadar Thana has been lying out of order for a long time. As a result, the teachers and the students have been suffering much for want of drinking water. — Star photo

Uncertainty grips social forestry programme

CHITAPANAWABGANJ, July 5: Uncertainty grips the Social Forest Programme being implemented in the northern districts of the country due to lack of proper planning, reports UNB.

Initially Taka 30 crore had been allocated for the project. More allocation was conditional on successful progress of the programme.

As a result, seven greater districts of the region have been threatened with desertification.

The districts which had been taken up under the programme were Greater Rajshahi, Pabna, Bogra, Rangpur, Kushtia and Jessore.

In 1982 Bangladesh Forest Department undertook a long term programme of tree plantation named Social Forest Programme with a view to protecting the environment in the region and to meet the fuel crisis.

The dead line for implementing the project was December 1987. But within the last 10 years, only 40 per cent of the project had been implemented. A few seminars and symposia were arranged to popularise the programme.

During the period, about 11,12,462 saplings had been planted but no trace of these trees could be found at present, a concerned source said.

Another massive plan of tree plantation taken up under the integrated Barind Development Project, also failed to achieve the target. Out of 47 lakh saplings proposed to be planted in the area, only 6 lakh were planted, but most of these died before growing up into trees for lack of care.

A report from Patuakhali says: District authority has taken up a massive programme of tree plantation under the nationwide tree plantation campaign.

A meeting was held in this regard at the DC office with all concerned officials of the district. Local forest officials said about 1,75,000 saplings of various timber, fruit and flower

Irregularity, malpractice in phone exchange

MAULVIBAZAR, July 5: Telephone subscribers of the district have complained of irregularity and malpractices by local employees of the department, reports UNB.
They alleged that some telephone operators help dishonest subscribers in getting local, inter-district and overseas phone calls quickly and easily.

The pay-off deal, they said, also covered the operators engaged in the international exchange in Dhaka.

The general subscribers also complained that their phones remain dead for days together but inflated bills are made every month.

An informed source said the government is being deprived of a huge amount of money in telephone revenue through such malpractice and corruption.

In case of emergency, the general subscribers are not given connection if they do not enlist themselves for regular pay-off.

An unidentified boy was crushed under the wheels of a truck on Dhaka-Sylhet Highway near Chondirpool recently, police said.

The underhand deal on monthly basis is fixed by the unscrupulous operators in exchange of deflated bills for innumerable domestic and overseas calls.
Some subscribers who include local travel agents and jewelers are engaged in doing business with their phones by utilising their agreement with the operators. These subscribers charge only Taka 400 for every overseas call made from their phones, it has al-

Police seized the Sylhet bound truck (No - Chittagong Na-4381) coming from Dhaka but the driver managed to escape.

Leading businessmen and industrialists of the district formed the committee at a meeting which was presided over by Syed Shahab Uddin Ahmed recently.

Call to resist drug abuse

COMILLA, July 5: In observance of the International Day against drug abuse and illegal trafficking, a discussion meeting and a colourful rally was held in Comilla on Friday, reports UNB.

Two separate cases have been filed with the police.

The discussion meeting was presided over by Shamsul Haq, ADC (Revenue), Comilla while Hedayatul Islam Chowdhury, Deputy Commissioner, Comilla was the chief guest.

2 boys killed in road mishaps
Two boys were killed in two separate road accidents last week, police said here on Wednesday.

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

Alauddin (14) was crushed under the wheels of a minibus (Dhaka Cha 3497) on June 24 on Gauripur-Homma Road. The minibus is under police custody but the driver managed to escape.

According to another report, Sonali Bank will disburse Taka 35.00 lakh in six thanas of the district for cultivation of Aus crop in the current season.

A case has been lodged with Daudkandi Thana.

Meanwhile, Taka 33.00 lakh has already been distributed among the farmers for the purpose, bank sources said.

In another accident at Kalachua on Dhaka-Chittagong Trunk Road, the same day, Khalil (12) was run over by a speeding bus which sped away after the accident.

The prospect of Aus production this year looks better than the previous year. Farmers informed that 'pamri' has attacked crop fields in the different thanas of the district, calling for immediate spraying of insecticides.

Enthusiastic villagers arranged a marriage of the two to clear the love-sick couple of the charges of illicit relationship.

Tk 26.75 lakh Indian sugar, yarn seized
Bangladesh Rifles in two separate raids have seized Indian sugar and yarn worth about Taka 26.75 lakh, official sources said here on Wednesday.

A tale of two hubbies
From Our Correspondent
PABNA, July 5: A woman, let her be as good as she may, has got to put up with the life her husband makes for her, at least in our country. This pattern has recently been broken. Alfa Begum's passion for another man has forced her husband Nasser Ali to live with a rival under the same roof. Alfa, daughter of Aziz Malitha of village Char Bhairabpur is now living with two husbands.

2 lecturers put under suspension
A meeting of the governing body of Janata College at Dumki in sadar thana was held here in the college office recently.

It all happened when Nasser Ali, an old newspaper trader went to Dinajpur to buy some papers. A lonely Alfa had her lover Mobarak Ali brought to make the most of her husband's absence. Praying villagers however threw cold water on her plans by catching the two red-handed in their act of fornication.

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

The condition of the waiting rooms at the station is pitiable. It becomes very hard to stay inside these cleaning. The waiting rooms are very small in size and the number of seats in these is also a small one, which can not cope with the ever-increasing number of passengers.

The governing 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 goods and trawlers were handed over to the customs officials.

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

The BDR seized all the 5 trawlers valued at Taka 8 lakh. In another raid the same battalion recovered Indian yarn worth about Taka 2 lakh from a residence at Jafarganj on June 26.

The goods and trawlers were handed over to the customs officials.

Blind school needs financial help

MAG-URA, July 5: The only blind school in the district town is beset with manifold problems causing inconvenience to the students, reports UNB.

Local people urged authorities to take necessary steps for modernisation and development of the school.

The academic activities of the school is being hampered due to shortage of teaching staff, fund and other educational appliances for a long time.

Medicine worth about Taka 50,000 have been stolen from a shop at Sachlapur Bazar in Sreepur thana of the district recently.

Established in 1983 with the assistance of Social Welfare Department the school earned a good will for its academic result and socio-cultural activities since its inception.

Local people urged authorities to take necessary steps for modernisation and development of the school.

Set up as an integrated project to educate the blind children of the district, the school is now on the verge of ruin which has at present only one

teacher against 50 students.

Moreover, it has become very difficult for the students to attend the classes due to lack of accommodation and essential furniture. Most of the students are to attend their classes standing for want of adequate benches.

Forest Department has also taken up programme of planting trees in the coastal areas of the district during the rainy season.

Local people urged authorities to take necessary steps for modernisation and development of the school.

Taka 5cr mango rotten due to strike
Another report from Chapainawabganj says: The mango traders of the district claimed they sustained a loss of about Taka 5 crore due to transport strike which halted movement of the fruit consignments to the markets.

Local people urged authorities to take necessary steps for modernisation and development of the school.

Another report from Chapainawabganj says: The mango traders of the district claimed they sustained a loss of about Taka 5 crore due to transport strike which halted movement of the fruit consignments to the markets.

Local people urged authorities to take necessary steps for modernisation and development of the school.

Hundreds of mango-loaded trucks were said to be stranded at different points of the roads.

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Other essential commodities including oil have registered abnormal rise in prices.

Local people urged authorities to take necessary steps for modernisation and development of the school.

Notes from Sylhet

From Our Correspondent

Sylhet, July 5: Eight bullock were burnt alive by the miscreants at village Haripur under Khajanchigon union of Biswanath thana of Sylhet recently.

According to the reports, the cow-shed in the house of one Mahmud Ali was first locked off from outside by the miscreants. Then it was set on fire keeping all the eight bullock inside it over previous enmity.

One septuagenarian man killed

A man was killed in a road mishap near the Golapganj Choumahani on Sylhet-Jaliganj road recently.

According to the reports, at about 10:30 am on the day of incident the victim Azir Ali (73) of village Rankeli under Golapganj thana was hit by a speeding motor cycle from behind while crossing the road. He died in the hospital.

A case in this connection has already been registered with the Golapganj Police Station.

Body of youngman recovered

The body of a youngman was recovered from a field near his village home recently.

According to the reports, the victim Kamal Miah (18) went out of his house to meet a relative in the same village. But he did not come back to the house.

His body was found at a paddy field about one kilometre off his house in the next morning. The throat was twisted with ropes, it is reported.

On getting informations, a police party went to the village and sent the body to the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital for post mortem.

Gang leader of hijackers recovered

A gang leader of hijackers was caught by the people and handed over to the police while trying to snatch away Taka 40,000 from a person at the Bandarbar area of Selhet town recently.

According to the reports, in the afternoon of the day of incident, one Abdur Rahman, an ex-member of Jarlia under Deraf thana along with some of his associates went to a saloon at the Bandarbar area of Sylhet town. He was there attacked by one Faizullah and his accomplices. He tried to snatch away Taka 40,000 from the victim Abdur Rahman with the help of some his associates at gun point. The people gheraoed them and caught the attacker Faizullah, but his accomplices managed to escape. He was later handed over to the police.

Rly Station beset with problems

The Sylhet Railway Station has been facing numerous problems for long.

Thousands of passengers travel everyday through this station.

The condition of the waiting rooms at the station is pitiable. It becomes very hard to stay inside these cleaning.

The waiting rooms are very small in size and the number of seats in these is also a small one, which can not cope with the ever-increasing number of passengers.

Journey without ticket had also increased alarmingly in the different lines around Sylhet for the last few months, due to absence of proper checking.

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