

District roundup

BRAHMANBARIA

Dacoit held with pipegun

From Our Correspondent
July 15: Police arrested a notorious dacoit with a pipegun from Shahbazpur bazar under Sarail thana recently.

Acting on secret information, police raided the bazar and arrested one Cheno Mia with a pipegun. Police also recovered an Indian knife from his pocket. Cheno Mia, son of Ali Mia hails from Birasar village under Brahmanbaria sadar thana.

A case was filed with Sarail thana in this connection.

RAJSHAHI

Fish farming hampered

From Our Correspondent
July 15: Fish production has declined to a great extent in the Rajshahi district.

It is learnt that some three hundred ponds and forty jalmahals in nine thanas of the district have been lying uncultivated for a long time due to dispute over ownership of these ponds and jalmahals.

According to sources, more than one lakh maunds of different types of fish worth about Taka five crore could be produced every year in the district if the jalmahals and ponds were brought under pisciculture programme.

Most of the unused water-bodies have either been silted or dried up due to negligence. Besides, indiscriminate growth of water hyacinth are also hampering fish farming.

Local fishermen have appealed to the authorities concerned to take necessary steps to bring these jalmahals and ponds under pisciculture programme.

CHANDPUR

45 meritorious students get foundation award

From Our Correspondent
July 15: A total of 45 meritorious students of the district has been awarded monthly scholarships by Chandpur Foundation recently.

The scholarship holders are students of different universities, medical colleges and engineering colleges. These scholarship holders will receive monthly Taka 175. The scholarship holders were given cheques at a meeting of Chandpur Foundation held recently at the office of DC Md Yakub Ali, DC and Chairman of Chandpur Foundation distributed the cheques among the students.

Chandpur Foundation also awarded a gold medal to Md Nazmul Ahsan who stood first in the HSC examination in 1991 under Comilla Board.

GAIBANDHA

World Population Day observed

From Our Correspondent
July 15: World Population Day was observed here in the district as elsewhere of the country.

In observance of the day, a discussion meeting was held at local B D Hall where Abdur Razzak, Deputy Commissioner, Gaibandha was in the chair. Earlier, employees of district family planning office brought out a procession and they paraded main roads of the town.

Highlighting the significance of the day, Moshur Rahman Khan read out a paper on environmental imbalance with special reference to Bangladesh. Besides, those who addressed on the theme of this year's World Population Day a world in balance were Golam Mostafa, Police Super, Gaibandha, Dr Shamsuddin, Civil Surgeon, Akram-ul-Alam, Deputy Director, Family Planning.

KISHOREGANJ

Three died from snake bite

From Our Correspondent
July 15: Three died from snake bite here recently.

Fatema Khatoon (25) mother of three children of village Chouyala under Pombi union of Hossainpur thana was killed by poisonous snake bite in her house.

A nine-year old boy Khorshed Ali of village Halura under Nardail thana and Shilpi Akhtar (13), a student of Panchant High School of Nardail were bitten by poisonous snakes recently in their houses. Khorshed was bitten by a cobra while he was asleep in his house on a bamboo platform. They died on the spot.

SYLHET

Minor boy, girl crushed under wheels

From Our Correspondent
July 15: A minor girl was crushed under the wheels of a speeding bus on Sylhet-Dhaka Highway recently.

The road was blocked by the agitated villagers for three hours.

According to the reports, the victim Shaheda Begum (6) daughter of Abdul Khalek while crossing the road was crushed under the wheel of a speeding bus bearing No Sylhet Ba-4100 which was on its way to Jagannathpur thana having started from the Sylhet town. The accident occurred near the Bodikona Government Primary school.

The police sent the body to the Sylhet MAG Osmany Medical College Hospital for post-mortem.

A case in this connection had already been registered with the Kotwali Police Station. The driver had been taken into custody.

Another minor boy was killed in a road accident at Sherpur on the Sylhet-Dhaka Highway recently.

KUSHIA

Indian pesticides flood market

From Our Correspondent
July 15: Indian pesticides of inferior quality have flooded the markets of greater Kushia district.

These are being sold indiscriminately as the pesticide marketing companies have raised the prices of their products in view of huge demand in the market, it is learnt.

Due to ignorance of the farmers, about the bad affect of spurious Indian pesticides and cheap prices of the same, the dishonest traders are selling Indian pesticides in the rural markets. These are like agro-hecto, lodinhibel and acron-hilbish and these are freely sold at a very cheap price.

The agricultural scientists said that the extensive use of Indian pesticides decreases productive capacity and destroys soil fertility. The spurious pesticides are also causing health hazard and various kinds of ailments to the consumers of agro-products.

To save the fertility of land sale of contraband pesticides should be stopped and stringent action should be taken against those unscrupulous dealers and sellers as well, it is felt.

JHENIDAH

Mother, son killed in road mishap

July 15: A young mother and her minor son died in a road accident near Azad Rest House in Jhenidah town on the Jhenidah-Jessore Road recently, reports BSS.

Police said that a Jhenidah bound bus from Jessore dashed a rickshaw coming from opposite direction on Friday. The son who was travelling with the mother by the rickshaw died on the spot while the mother was admitted to the Jhenidah sadar hospital. She died on Sunday.

Police registered a case and seized the bus. The driver is absconding.

SIRAJGANJ

One electrocuted

From Our Correspondent
July 15: One Abu Sayed (24) of village Saratia under Sirajganj Sadar thana was electrocuted at village Randhuniari under Belkuchi thana recently.

The victim while climbed up an electric pole to extend unauthorised connection was electrocuted. Local people said that Abu Sayed used to work as electrical mechanic in the area.

On information Belkuchi Police recovered the body and lodged a UD case. The body was sent to sadar hospital for autopsy.

PATUAKHALI

Erosion threatens embankment

July 15: Balagachhia embankment in the paurashava area of Patuakhali has been threatened by the erosion of the river Lohalia, reports BSS.

In case the embankment falls Balagachhia will be cut off from the paur area. Meanwhile one hundred acres of land and fifty-five shops and dwelling house of the area have gone into the river.

Minister for post and telegraph Keramat Ali recently visited the affected areas of the town.



SYLHET: A number of government vehicles have been lying under open sky at district collectorate premises for a long time. — Star photo

Most river transports lack life-saving equipment

BARISAL, July 15: Most of the river transport in the southern districts lack adequate life-saving equipment and trained drivers and masters, reports UNB.

It is alleged that many launches of different capacities have been plying in various routes without trained drivers and masters. As a result, thousands of passengers have to continue their journey from one place to another risking their life.

Moreover, the owners of these passenger launches and cargo vessels hardly follow the existing rules and regulations of the riverine traffic.

There is a standing rule

that river transport should have necessary life buoys and other equipment to save the life of the passengers in times of great danger. But this is hardly followed.

Passengers complained that the double decker launches playing in long routes carry huge quantities of cargo, sometimes beyond their capacity. They urged the authorities to look the matter and take necessary measures to ensure their safe journey.

Eight Ansar and a villager were killed and 43 rifles and 959 rounds of ammunition looted here in several coach and launch dacoities during the last four years.

According to police

sources, most of these crimes were committed by the outlawed Sarbahara Party activists and the miscreants decamped with the booty chanting slogans of their party.

Police conducted several operations and recovered some of the stolen arms and ammunition. In an anti-terrorism meeting the district Police Super recently gave a call to the criminals to surrender their arms within a one week time.

He urged the people to cooperate with the law enforcing agencies to help nab the criminals. He said without their cooperation it will be difficult to curb crimes.

Dist Customs, Excise Dept realises Tk 263.15 cr

BRAHMANBARIA, July 15: The district Customs and Excise Department realised revenue including VAT over Taka 263.15 crore exceeding the target during the last fiscal year, reports UNB.

The target was fixed at about Taka 250.30 crore.

The main sources of collection of revenue were from Natural gas, brickfields, cinema hall, M S products and plastic products.

Meanwhile, 'Power' Development Board in the district has realised an amount of Taka 2 crore 75 thousand as arrears electricity bills during the last two months.

Officials said Taka 90 lakh was realised from Sadar thana, Taka 18.10 lakh from

Ashuganj, Taka 7.60 lakh from Akhaura, Taka 7.10 lakh from Nabinagar and Taka 21.22 lakh from Sarail thana.

Three people were injured, one seriously, in a clash between two rival groups recently over a land dispute at village Kajoli in Sreepur thana.

Witnesses said one Abdul Hakim Molla received serious injury when the rival group led by Roich Molla attacked him with deadly and lethal weapons. His two sons were also injured in the attack.

Hakim Molla (50) and his two sons Bakul Molla (30) and Kalam Molla (15) were admitted to Sadar hospital.

A case has been filed with the police but none was so far arrested in this connection.

Motorcyclist, companion run over by truck

CHITTAGONG, July 15: A motorcyclist and his companion were killed when they were run over by a speeding truck at Kalughat under Chandaogn thana Thursday last, reports BSS.

According to Chandaogn police while the victims, Baharullah (40) and Abdus Sukkur (45), were proceeding towards the city from Kalughat, suddenly a truck crushed the motorcycle killing them on the spot.

After autopsy, the bodies of the victims were handed over to their relatives for burial.

Police seized the truck but its driver and assistants managed to flee, police said.

Admission formalities in Faridpur Medical College going on

FARIDPUR, July 15: Formalities relating to admission in first year MBBS class in the newly established Faridpur Medical College have been going on and would continue till July 20, reports BSS.

According to a source of the college, of the total 50 selected students for First Year MBBS class, 13 are female and the rest are male students.

The newly set up medical college will start functioning at now defunct Faridpur Medical Assistant Training School campus where almost all facilities including hostel accommodations are readily available. The campus has already been renovated.

Few teachers including the Principal cum Project Director have already joined in the college. Beside, the auxiliary staff of the defunct medical school have also been absorbed in the college, the source said.

Classes would continue at this campus till new buildings are constructed for the college. New classes would start as per schedule, according to

the source. The World Population Day was observed here through holding of various programmes including rally, procession, discussion and seminars.

A colourful procession with banners, jestoons and placards

Rival groups clash leaves 25 hurt

SATKHIRA, July 15: At least 25 people were injured, four seriously, in a clash between two rival groups over the possession of a disputed land at Khanka in Kalganj upazila recently, reports UNB.

According to the villagers, while Hadi and his men were ploughing the disputed land the rival group opposed them which led to a violent clash. Both the groups used lethal weapons during the clash.

Seriously injured Hadi, Hasan, Kamruzzaman and Shakil were admitted to Kalganj hospital.

paraded the main thoroughfares of the town. The processionists chanted different slogans in favour of planned family and ecological balance. The procession was participated by government officials, members of the public and family planning workers.

A seminar on 'ecologically balance and a world for future generation' was held at local Kabi Jasmuddin Hall.

Speakers at the seminar called for strengthening the family planning movement to create public awareness for planned family consistent with our resources. They also urged all to make it a social movement. They called upon the people to take a vow for ensuring small family and keeping ecological balance.

The seminar presided over by A M M Forhad, ADC (Rev) of Faridpur was addressed among others by Professor Nazrul Islam, Family Planning Deputy Director Rafael Gomez and Civil Surgeon Kazi Syed Ahmed.



BRAHMANBARIA: Police arrested three notorious dacoits here recently. — Star photo

Across the country

Dredging needed to offer ships safe passage to Ctg Port

By Mohammad Amjad Hossain

From Sylhet, I headed for the port city of Chittagong by 'Paharika,' an intercity train covering a distance 381 kilometres. At Akhaura railway station the train stopped over for about half an hour. As soon as it had stopped, vendors, making their best efforts to get their goods sold at a fleecing price, huddle at the windows of the train. Most of them were carrying dear and 'foreign' fruits like grapes, oranges and apples, reportedly smuggled from the neighbouring country. Some of them were selling 'deshi fruits' bananas, liches and green coconut. The entire railway platform turned into a fruit market in no time.

While passengers of my compartment were remained busy in buying items of their choice, my mind flashed back to the battle-field during the liberation war in 1971. Adjacent to Tripura of India Akhaura is witnessed one of the fiercest fighting that took place between Bangladeshi freedom fighters led by the then Major KM Shafula, who later of became the first Chief of Staff of the army following independence and the Pak occupation army led by Major General Rahim.

Ironically the two generals met in a foreign land after six years as Envoys of their respective countries and became friendly. General Saifulah recalled the days of the grim battle on his bed in a hospital in KL and told me that it was General Rahim who took him to the hospital as soon as he had collapsed at the golf club because of heart ailment. Whereas the same General Rahim would not have been in pain to kill him at the battle-ground at Akhaura in 1971.

When I reached Chittagong it was four in the afternoon. To my surprise, I noticed some improvement in the communication sector neglected in the recent past despite the presence of representatives in the cabinet. There is scope for further improvement. While there was one modern shopping centre during Pakistani days, more fashionable shopping centres were set up to meet the requirements of the people of the sprawling port city.

I visited the Chittagong Port this time also, the last being in 1985 with a group of Chinese media people, who were in Bangladesh in search of materials for publishing special supplement in China pictorial to mark 500 the anniversary of the voyage of the first Chinese navigator Zheng He. Mr Zheng is reported to have come to Sonargaon on his way to India and Sumatra.

I was under the impression that Chittagong Port is for the express purpose of export of our products, but I found out that it is being used for the Port becomes delivery of imported goods while Mongla Port if Khulna sees the bulk of country's export items. Despite various constraints Chittagong Port is handling cargos, both bulk and container and has done remarkably well in comparison with other sea ports in South Asia. According to statistics of 1989-1990, the port handled 67,98,822 metric tons of imported goods while she exported 6,95,510 metric tons of cargo which clearly bore out the fact about Chittagong Port being an import oriented one. Being the biggest sea Port, Chittagong is having problems, at its estuary

because of the lack of depth. Dredging is necessary to maintain reasonable navigability to offer safe passage to ships drawing a maximum draft of 9.15 metres. Depth at Jetty berth ranges from 6.40 metres to 9.40 metres and depth at Mooring ranges from 8.8 metres to 10.5 metres.

The port authorities are also having problems with labours. Labour unrest has caused bad performances in loading and unloading cargo. She handled 8.5 million metric tons of cargo last year.

Incidentally, the port has 37 crore taka surplus revenue despite difficulties. I think, authorities deserve a pat on the back for their overall performance.

In contrast to the Port Authority, Export Processing Zones authority of Chittagong did not have any labour problem as the labourers are not permitted to form labour union there. As a result, firms mostly foreign firms either in joint venture or cent per cent foreign owned are working uninterrupted. A sizeable number of Bangladeshi firms are in operation there.

People of Chittagong have been experiencing serious difficulties because of power failures. To make things worse, there is shortage of drinking water in some areas which people jokingly termed as 'water shedding.' Efforts, I told, are being made to improve the situation. During my stay in the port city, I noticed that there has been flux of people streaming in to the city from rural areas in search of job. Therefore, planning is a must to arrest the flow of the 'job-hunting' people to the city as their services are needed for the agriculture.



GOPALGANJ: Kutubur Rahman, SP, Gopalganj inaugurating the tree plantation campaign of police by plant a coconut sapling at police line ground recently. — Star photo

Erosion takes serious turn in 3 dists Over 15,000 families homeless

JAMALPUR, July 15: At least 400 families in four thanas of the district have been rendered homeless by the continued erosion of the rivers Jamuna, Old Brahmaputra and Dashedani in last three days, reports UNB.

Thana administration sources said new areas in some 50 villages are being engulfed by the massive erosion of the rivers Jamuna and Brahmaputra.

Of the affected villages, 15 are in Bokshiganj thana, 10 in Masarganj thana, 15 in Islampur thana, and 10 in Sadar thana.

Witnesses said over the last

two years, at least seven schools, 26 offices including a thana administration office building were washed away by the surging rivers.

According to official sources, about 1000 families have been rendered shelterless since last June and most of them took shelter on the flood control embankment.

The affected families have urged the authorities to provide them with emergency relief and sanction grants for their early rehabilitation.

A report from Manikganj says: Three villages in Daulatpur thana of the district were favoured by the river Jamuna in last two days rendering 4000 families homeless.

Local people said about one square mile area comprising a mosque, madrasa and a primary school went to the river over the last few days.

Agriculture Minister Mazidul Haq, Chief Whip Delowar Hossain, Harun-ur-Rashid MP, accompanied by DC and SP visited the erosion affected areas of Shibaya and Daulatpur thanas on Saturday and assured the victims of all possible help.

Water Development Board sources said water level of the river Jamuna rose 12 cm on Monday.

Another report from Pabna adds: A total of 11000 families were made shelterless by the erosion of the mighty rivers Jamuna and Padma in nine thanas of Greater Pabna district over the last few days.

Water Development Board sources said the erosion took a serious turn due to abnormal rise in water levels of Jamuna and Padma.

District administration sources said standing crop on about 8000 acres of land, 2000 handloom factories, 10 office buildings including a thana office, three post offices and six

graveyards were devoured by the rivers during the period.

The worst affected villages are Sondalibazar, Nischintapur, Dayaganj and Malpur of Kazi-pur thana, Sayedabad, Am-lapara Bahirgola, Talbari and Mirpur of Serajganj Sadar thana.

Kaitola Pump Station at Nagarbari Ferryghat at Bera thana and Serajganj Sadar jail are threatened by the erosion.

About 7000 affected people took shelter on the flood control embankment. No rehabilitation work has yet been started by the concerned ministry.

Teachers' training college soon

BARISAL, July 15: A teachers training college will soon be established in Barisal, according to an official source, reports BSS.

The source said that a high power team led by the Director General of Secondary and Higher Education will visit Barisal this month to select site for the college.

This will fulfil the long felt demand of a teachers training school in the district.

Holy Ashura observed in Jamalpur

JAMALPUR, July 15: The holy Ashura was observed here and in Sherpur district with due solemnity, reports BSS. Quran Khwari, Milad Mahfil and seminar were held on the occasion to mark the sacrifice of Hazrat Imam Hossain (RA) on the Karbala to establish justice.

Stands first class first

Miss Musarrat Husain (Muna) stood first in first class in the B Sc Ag Econ (Hons) final examination of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) for the year 1989, held in the month of February 1992, says a press release.

HSC exams: 72 expelled in Kushtia

KUSHTIA, July 15: Seventy-two HSC examinees were expelled for adopting unfair means from 10 centres of the district on the fourth day of the examinations recently, reports UNB.

According to official sources, they were expelled while appearing at the English second paper examinations. Mentionable that 67 examinees were expelled while appearing at the English first paper examinations.