

District roundup

BARGUNA

Poultry, cattle diseases break out epidemically

From Our Correspondent

July 19: Poultry and cattle diseases have broken out in an epidemic form in the different thanas of Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola, Pirojpur, Jhalakathi and Barguna districts.

It is learnt that about 10,000 poultry and 20,000 cattle have been attacked by various diseases. Over 1,000 poultry and 500 cattle died of the diseases.

About 105 cattle died in Barisal district, 75 cattle in Pirojpur, 100 in Bhola, 95 in Jhalakathi, 90 in Patuakhali, 35 in Barguna district, according to an unofficial source.

The villagers informed that in spite of repeated appeals to the authority concerned, no effective step has been taken. Finding no other alternatives, the affected people are selling their poultry and cattleheads.

SYLHET

Daring theft committed

From Our Correspondent

July 19: A daring theft was committed at the thana parishad building of Sylhet Sadar recently.

According to the reports, a gang of miscreants entered into eight office rooms of Sadar thana parishad by breaking open the doors and took away Taka 29,931 in cash from the Wardrobe of the Education office, Taka 10,037 from the Wardrobe of the Fishery office and Taka 500 from the Co-operative office. They also ransacked the Livestock office, Statistics office and Sub-Assistant Engineers (Irrigation) office in the same night.

A case had been lodged with the police in this connection. The Deputy Commissioner and some other officials had visited the spot.

JAMALPUR

Meet on World Population Day

From Our Correspondent

July 19: Bangladesh Family Planning Association organised a discussion meeting at its office premises here recently in observance of the World Population Day.

Acting Deputy Commissioner AKM Wahedul Islam attended the function as chief guest while Abul Hasem, Deputy Director of Jamalpur Family Planning Department presided over the meeting. It was addressed among others by Civil Surgeon Asker Ali, Prof. Mujibur Rahman and Advocate Zahid Anwar.

The speakers stressed the prime need for checking population explosion in the country.

RANGAMATI

Relief worth Tk 5 lakh distributed

From Our Correspondent

July 19: Rangamati Sadar Zone distributed relief in cash and kinds worth about Taka five lakh among the affected people of the town following a clash between two rival groups of students on May 20 last which left 12 people injured and 69 houses and shops gutted.

Ten bundles of CI sheets have been donated to local Kathality mosque for its renovation. Lt. Col. Fazul Haque, the Zone Commander of Rangamati Sadar Zone told.

To rebuild houses in Bonarapur and Tribal Adam Area in the town, CI sheet alongwith other building materials were distributed, he added.

SATKHIRA

Sick cattle slaughtering unabated

From Our Correspondent

July 19: Sick cattle are being slaughtered indiscriminately in the slaughter houses run by Satkhira Pourashava, consumers informed.

Besides, butchers do not follow the rules even they are slaughtering animals in the markets in absence of pouza officials, witnesses said.

Large number of sick animals are slaughtered by the butchers everyday which are being sold comparatively at a lower price causing serious health hazards.

AGRI-VARSITY

BAU budget of Tk 23.60 cr approved

July 19: The annual budget allocation of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) for the fiscal year 1992-93 amounting to Taka 23.60 crore and the recast budget allocation for the fiscal year 1991-92 amounting to Taka 22.50 crore was approved by the Syndicate in its 196th meeting held on July 15, says a Press release.

The meeting was presided over by Prof. M Ashraf Ali Khan, the Vice-Chancellor and Chairman of BAU Syndicate. The Treasurer and Secretary of Finance Committee (FC) Alhaj M Z Islam presented the budget as recommended by the FC before the Syndicate. The members of Syndicate and FC attended the meeting.

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JHENIDAH

Sentimental daughter commits suicide

From Our Correspondent

July 19: A minor girl, Rokeya (12), daughter of Kabil Mondol being hurt by her mother's act committed suicide by taking poison recently.

Police and family sources said, Rokeya's mother went to her brother's house some days back keeping Rokeya at the residence at village Barishkhali in Harinakundu thana. In absence of her mother, Rokeya had to cook and feed the family members and to do all other household works which were over-burden to the little girl.

KUSHLIA

Jatiya Party demands Ershad's immediate release

July 19: Local Jatiya Party leaders in a meeting demanded immediate release of their party Chairman and former ousted President Hossain Mohammad Ershad serving a 13-year imprisonment, reports UNB.

The leaders in the meeting blamed the present government for implicating Ershad in 'false cases' one after another. They called upon the government to shun the path autocracy to give democracy an institutional shape.

Presided over by the district unit President Advocate Abdul Latif, the meeting was addressed, among others, by former Food Minister Korban Ali, Advocate Asgar Ali, Jatiya Juba Sanghati President of Kushtia unit Jahangir, Ahsan Habib Lincon, SM Azizul Hoq and Abdur Razzak.

The meeting was addressed by the Chief Whip of Jatiya Sangsad Khandaker Delwar Hossain, Central BNP leader Shamsul Bari Mia Mohan, Convenor Jatiyatadabi Tafsili Cell Kartik Chandra Thakur, ex-MP Lakshmikanta (AL), Convenor Tafsili Youth Forum Santosh Kumar Biswas and other leaders.

The Agriculture Minister said the people of the Tafsili community remained neglected, uncared and backward for hundreds of years. But no country could prosper keeping a section of it backward. So, the present government had stressed on developing the people of all backward communities including the Tafsili community.

Majid-ul-Haq said the government of Begum Khaleda Zia re-introduced stipends for the students of the community this year which has cut-off by the then government in 1972 in the name of secularism. The annual allotment for the said stipend was Taka five lakh during the Pakistan regime. This year the annual allotment had

been increased to Taka twenty lakh.

Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain said, people of all communities fought for independence in 1971 and now they had to fight untidely for economic emancipation with the spirit of Liberation War.

Earlier, Majid-ul-Haq unveiled the plaque of the 'Begum Khaleda Zia Girls' Hostel' of Shahid Smriti College which is under construction. He also planted a number of saplings at the college compound.

In the afternoon, the Agriculture Minister and the Chief Whip also addressed a meeting of the scheduled caste community at Niyar Bari village in Kotalipara thana under Gopalganj district.

Another report from Faridpur says: Agriculture and Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Minister M Majid-ul-Haq on Friday visited the River Research Institute at Faridpur.

Chief Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad Khondaker Delwar Hossain and senior government officials were present during his visit.

The Agriculture and Irrigation Minister visited different buildings and laboratories of the institute. He expressed satisfaction over the progress of the construction work.

The construction work of the River Research Institute was started near Faridpur town about 140 kilometres away from Dhaka in July 1989. About 50 per cent work of the construction had been completed so far, it was learnt.

A total of 425 people including 88 managerial and 269 technical staff and scientists is working in the DANIDA, UNDP and World Bank aided projects.

The objective of the River Research Institute is to conduct test and researches on river engineering problems including coastal hydraulic problems by means of physical and mechanical models in which the facilities of open air model and indoor models are available.

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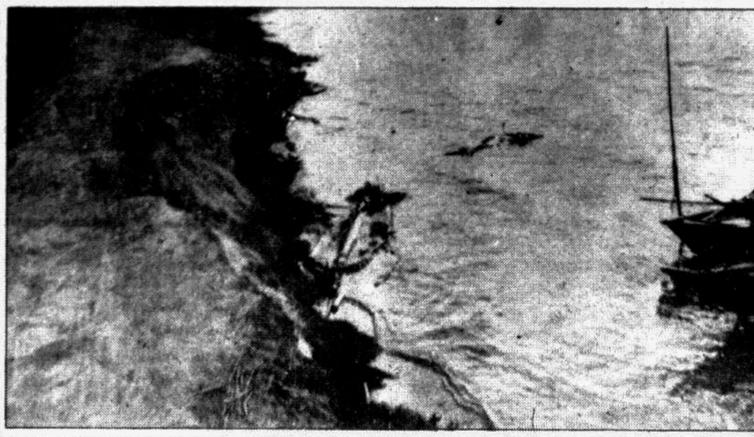
Last year the River Research Institute earned about Taka one crore from home and abroad by providing study and experimental reports. The institute got these works through open competition of international tenders.

Police later recovered her body from Bhagber Chatalband water reservoir. It is learnt that Anwara was being tortured regularly by her husband for the promised dowry money.

Her body was sent to Kishoreganj Sadar Hospital for post mortem and a case has been registered in this connection. The husband was nabbed by the police.

A body of a policy officer was recovered from the Meghna river which was floating under Raipura thana recently.

It is learnt that the victim was identified as Amrul Islam, a young Police Sub-Inspector of Medabpur Thana of Habiganj district met the tragic end of his life when he slipped into the river Meghna from the ferryboat at Meghna at Bhairab.



MANIKGANJ: The Padma-Jamuna Embankment at Hemganj is under threat of erosion of the Padma. Meanwhile, 1,000 acres of land and 200 dwelling houses of the area have been eroded. — Star photo

45 lakh people working in 3,40,000 small industries

CHITTAGONG, July 19:

About 45 lakh people have been employed in 40 thousand small workshops and over three-lakh cottage industries of the country, Azizul Huq, Director (Development and Extension), Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) said here on Saturday, reports BSS.

He said, this while reviewing progress of BSCIC activities of the year 1991-92 at a conference of officers of the corporation - based in Chittagong region.

Huq said, in Chittagong Division eight thousand people got employment during 1991-92.

One thousand one hundred twentytwo small and cottage industries were granted about Taka 30 crore as loans by different banks all over the country. The loan recovery position was also satisfactory, he said.

He pointed out that some banks were reluctant to advance loans to investors of small and cottage industries at five per cent interest rate and thus prospective investors could not avail necessary bank

loans. He stressed the need for better coordination among BSCIC, investors and banks for streamlining loan advancing process.

Huq also called upon BSCIC industrial plot allottees in Chittagong Division and elsewhere in the country to set up industries within one year of getting the plots. Those who will not do so will lose BSCIC plots as per law, he added.

The BSCIC Director said that necessary steps had been taken to develop BSCIC estate at Rangamati. There is prospect for setting up several thousand of small and cottage industries in the country every year, he added.

He also called upon BSCIC officers to work honestly to develop more BSCIC estates in the country.

The 19th death anniversary of A K M Fazlul Quader Chowdhury was observed here on Saturday through discussion, placing of wreaths at his grave and milad mahfil.

Fazlul Quader Chowdhury Memorial Council chalked out a day-long programme in ob-

servance of the death anniversary, a council press release said.

Members of the memorial council placed floral wreaths at the grave of late Fazlul Quader Chowdhury at Gohira. They also offered fateha there.

A discussion on the life and activities of the late leader was held at Amarchand Road office of the council here with Amdadul Huq Chowdhury in the chair.

M A Ansari, local Muslim League leader was the chief guest on the occasion. Advocate M A Wahab, Maksudur Rahman Chowdhury, Kazi Khalilur Rahman, Haji Jalal Ahmad, Muhammad Omar Faruk and a number of discussant took part in the discussion.

They recalled the contributions of late Fazlul Quader Chowdhury in the political field during British and Pakistan periods.

Late Fazlul Quader Chowdhury was a Central Minister and Speaker during Pakistan rule.

Govt firm to ensure equal right

SHASHIKAR (Madaripur),

July 19: Agriculture and Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Minister M Majid-ul-Haq said that the present democratic government led by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia was determined to ensure equal rights for all citizens irrespective of caste, creed and colour, reports BSS.

He was addressing a huge public meeting organised by Bangladesh Jatiyatadabi Tafsili Cell at the premises of Shahid Smriti College at Shashikar in Kalkini thana on Friday.

Presided over by Principal of the college Ganchsh Halder, the meeting was addressed by the Chief Whip of Jatiya Sangsad Khandaker Delwar Hossain, Central BNP leader Shamsul Bari Mia Mohan, Convenor Jatiyatadabi Tafsili Cell Kartik Chandra Thakur, ex-MP Lakshmikanta (AL), Convenor Tafsili Youth Forum Santosh Kumar Biswas and other leaders.

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Notes from Kishoreganj

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, July 19: The number of quacks (village doctors) is increasing rapidly in 13 thanas of the district.

It is learnt that the problems of unemployment has become acute and about 80 per cent of the people of the district are living below poverty line.

Informed sources said, 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.

The local elite and social workers urged the authorities concerned to stop these illegal practice and take necessary action against them.

One killed in rival clash

One Monju Miah of village Kokraral under Bajitpur thana was killed in broad-day light following a clash between two groups, eyewitness sources said.

The clash ensued over the plucking of blackberry by the children from a tree of the village. The younger brother of the deceased registered a case in this connection against 15 persons with Bajitpur police station.

The body was sent to Kishoreganj Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy. Later, police arrested one Lilu Hazi.

Dacoits loot valuables

A daring dacoity was committed in the house of one Siddique Miah of village Fulbaria under Bajitpur thana recently.

The dacoits numbering about 25 identifying them as police personnel called the house owner at midnight and at the point of arms entered the house and decamped with valuables including cash, six tolas of gold worth about Taka one lakh and 1050 US dollars.

Bajitpur police on registration of a case nabbed two persons in this connection.

Housewife slaughtered to death

One Anwara (20) of village Chatal Baghata under Katiadi thana of the district was slaughtered to death by her husband Delwar alias Fulmia recently.

Police later recovered her body from Bhagber Chatalband water reservoir. It is learnt that Anwara was being tortured regularly by her husband for the promised dowry money.

Her body was sent to Kishoreganj Sadar Hospital for post mortem and a case has been registered in this connection. The husband was nabbed by the police.

Police officer drowned

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Cotton velvets worth Tk. 1.50 lakh seized

The GRP, Bhairab, recovered 17 bundles of cotton velvets worth about Taka 1,50,000 smuggled across the border from Dhaka bound in a train Mahanagore Probhati at Bhairab Railway station of the district recently.

According to eyewitness and GRP sources said, the smugglers managed to load the bundles of the costly cotton velvets in the compartment of the train while it was passing over a border village Debgam near Akhaura when the train was going very slowly at the utter astonishment of the travelling passengers.

New post office set up

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, July 19: A new post office began its operation from June 30 last at Dargabari village Gakulnagar under Saifulalankani east union of the district.

The post office 'Gakulnagar Post Office' was inaugurated last month by the Inspector of Post Offices (Comilla North) M A Gafur.

The post office will cover three villages namely, Gakulnagar, Imannagar and Bishara. With the beginning of its operation the long felt need of the local people had been fulfilled.

Progress of agri scheme unsatisfactory

MADARIPUR, July 19: The

Taka 57 crore Agriculture Rehabilitation Programme in seven southern districts is progressing at snail's pace causing concern to the local leaders and agriculturists, reports UNB.

Government took up the programme in 1989 to increase agricultural production in Gopalganj, Patuakhali, Barisal, Bhola, Barguna, Jhalakathi and Pirojpur districts.

Sources said an amount of Taka two crore had been spent for the programme and over 1,000 demonstration plots had been taken up for development.

The programme had also been assured of financial assistance from the Asian Development Bank.

But agriculture officials here expressed their ignorance on what was actually obstructing work on the implementation of the programme. Local leaders said they feared the programme might be totally abandoned.

Some bidi manufacturers here have been selling bids without band rolls thus depriving the government of a huge amount of revenue, knowledgeable sources said.

At times, they use old band rolls to avoid duty, the sources added.

Local leaders urged the authorities to take necessary action against the dishonest factory owners.

People urged to resist terrorism for uplift

NABABGANJ, July 19:

Information Minister Nazmul Huda on Saturday called upon the people to build up massive mass resistance against indiscipline and terrorism in the society, reports BSS.

Huda was inaugurating a newly built Barilla Bridge in Baruaakhal Union here.

Addressing a gathering on the occasion, the Information Minister said the present democratic government led by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia was implementing development programmes throughout the country for the progress and prosperity of the people.

He said some quarters were active in destroying vehicles on the streets and creating indiscipline and terrorism for obstructing development works of the government.

Sounding a note of warning, the Information Minister said, there was no place for the terrorists in the society.

Huda underscored the need for peace and stability in the society for smooth implementation of developmental activities and said the government would resist indiscipline and