

District roundup

SATKHIRA

Unregistered marriages on increase

From Our Correspondent July 27: Tendency of unregistered marriages has increased alarmingly in the district. Poverty and ignorance of guardians are the reasons of unregistered marriages. In many cases, unregistered marriages are severed by the bridegrooms demanding dowry. In remote areas, bridegrooms prefer such practice with a view to avoiding trouble arising out of divorce where the bride can not take legal action.

According to a survey in the district, only 30 per cent of the total marriages are being registered.

District Registrar office sources said, there are only 38 recognised marriage registrar offices in the district but hundreds of marriage registrar offices are found in different parts of the district most of whom have no licence. It is informed that such fake marriage registrars realise exorbitant fees from the guardians of brides and bridegrooms.

MANIKGANJ

2 young girls commit suicide over family feud

From Our Correspondent July 27: Two young girls committed suicide by taking poison under Dhamrai thana of the district recently.

Asia Khatoun Zogati (15), student of class ten of Jalshin Alokashi High School committed suicide over family feud. She hails from Solakria village.

Begum Hosnara, wife of Abul Hossain of Jalsha village under Dhamrai thana also committed suicide over family feud.

Separate cases had been lodged with Dhamrai thana in these connections.

Another report adds: Virus fever has broken out in different places of the district alarmingly.

According to the physicians, the symptoms of this virus fever are high temperature, pain and headache.

The worst affected areas are Satura, Daulatpur, Harampur and Manikganj Sadar.

SYLHET

Dacoits loot valuables worth Tk 4 lakh

From Our Correspondent July 27: Daring dacoity was committed in a house of Kuarpar area of Sylhet recently.

The dacoits looted gold ornaments, money in cash and other valuables worth about Taka four lakh from the house.

According to reports, a gang of dacoits attacked the house at about 2 am in the night. They entered into the house by breaking open the grills from the back side and asked the inmates at arms-point to hand over the keys of the steel Almirah. They then took away 57 tolas of gold ornament, Taka 8,000 in cash, clothes and other valuables from the house.

A case in this connection had already been registered with the Kotwali police station. Police has arrested one Ilias Mia of Kajaihar area of Sylhet town for his alleged involvement with dacoity.

KUSHIA

Vast land under aus farming

From Our Correspondent July 27: One lakh thirty eight thousand seven hundred sixty acres of land have been brought under intensive aus cultivation during the current season in six thanas of the district.

According to an official source, the acreage includes 50,580 acres under High Yielding Variety of aus and the 88180 acres under the different local varieties of aus. The achievement was 94 per cent of the total target. Under the programme, the target of aus paddy production had been fixed at one lakh twenty two thousand metric tons, the sources added. Sixty two thousand metric tons would be from the high yielding varieties and sixty thousand metric tons from local varieties.

Necessary measures have been taken up to ensure supply of different inputs, the sources informed. Sufficient amount of money had already been sanctioned by the government for distribution as loan among the farmers.

GOPALGANJ

One beaten to death

From Our Correspondent July 27: One Saiful Haque Sheikh (12), son of Awal Sheikh of village Teligati under Gopalganj Sadar thana was beaten to death by one Ulu Sheikh of the same village recently.

It is learnt that some ducks were eating Aus paddy in the field. At that time, Saiful reached the paddy field by a boat vis-a-vis the owner of the ducks Ulu Sheikh came to the paddy field by another boat and asked Saiful why he was beating his ducks. At one stage Ulu Sheikh started to beat Saiful mercilessly. As a result seriously injured Saiful died on the spot.

A case has been registered with Gopalganj police station in this regard.

KISHOREGANJ

Waiting rooms needed

From Our Correspondent July 27: Absence of waiting room in 13 thana courts including the district collectorate office Kishoreganj causing untold sufferings to those who come there for official purposes.

Affected people who come from remote areas of the thanas complained that they have to wait under open sky or to loiter in the corridor of the court building in absence of any sitting arrangement. Female are the worst sufferers.

Beside, these is no urinal and latrine at the court building. For this, the people have to face a lot of difficulties.

The local elite and affected people have urged the government to take necessary scheme for set up waiting rooms in every thana courts including district collectorate office immediately.

RANGPUR

Afforestation programme

From Our Correspondent July 27: Afforestation programme is going on in full swing in five districts, under greater Rangpur zone during the current season.

Under the programme, at least 8 lakh saplings of wood and fruit trees are being distributed in the zone among the people at a nominal price from 8 nurseries of the Forest Department.

Besides these, another 8 lakh saplings are being reared in different nurseries of the Forest Department for executing the intensive afforestation programme on 658 acres of land in the zone during the current season. The programme will be implemented under the supervision of the Forest Department.

CHUADANGA

Rousing reception accorded to football star

From Our Correspondent July 27: A rousing reception was accorded in honour of Master Mamun Hossain Joarder, a bright star of national football team at Chuadanga town football ground recently.

The reception was arranged by Chuadanga Pourashava authority. The Deputy Commissioner of Chuadanga was also present on the occasion.

Hundreds of people and football fans were present at the reception meeting.

In this connection, as fancy football match was also held at local town football ground which was participated by Chuadanga AKC club and Chuadanga Uddipon club.

In the match, Uddipon club won by defeating AKC club by 1-0 goal.

It may be noted here that Master Mamun Hossain Joarder hails from Chuadanga Joarder family. He is a bright star of national football team Abahani Krirachokra.

JAMALPUR

Rly station earns Tk 2.84cr

July 27: Tarakandi Railway Station earned Taka two crore and eighty four lakh by carrying fertilizers from Jamuna Fertilizer Factory during six months from December last, Railway sources said, reports BSS.

Fertilizer is being carried by Bangladesh Railway from Jamuna Fertilizer Factory at Tarakandi under Sarishabari thana to Chittagong Port.

The sources said that income will increase if more wagons can be provided.



GAZIPUR: The government sanctioned Taka 10 lakh for the construction of local stadium in 1982. But the work is yet to be completed after expiry of 12 years. — Star Photo

Smuggling unabated along border

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, July 27: Smuggling along the border areas of Jhenidah, Chuadanga and Meherpur virtually going unabated.

The markets of the border districts have been flooded with smuggled goods. The smuggled goods include saree, lungi, fruits, salt, sugar, vegetables, cosmetics and other goods.

The correspondent while visiting the border areas saw that the smuggling is going on large-scale. Hundreds of people are seen carrying contraband goods all the day long across the border.

A section of people of the border areas including the minor boys, girls and women are engaged in the unlawful deeds. A large number of people from other areas — Jhenidah,

Kaliganj and Chuadanga go to the bordering areas by buses during the early hours of the day and return back with contraband goods for selling on the markets.

Local people informed that hundreds of people are also carrying these illegal goods at night time also. The smugglers use to transport the smuggled goods to the distant places for selling those where they have agents.

Munshipur, Dhopakhal, Darsana, Gayaspur, Bannishapur, Jbannagar and Subalpur are the vital points of smuggling on these localities.

Besides smuggling, people use to cross the borders of both the India and Bangladesh frequently which the law enforcing agencies ignore.

The people of the localities informed that there are some 'dalals' who take Taka 200 per person to cross the border. These dalals have understanding with the law enforcing agencies, it is learnt.

It is also reported that these routes are controlled by masians who have good relations with the law enforcing agencies.

The incoming of the contraband goods is paralysing the market of the local goods as the prices of the smuggled goods are comparatively cheap. The sugar and textile sectors are the worst-hit.

An organised and influential group has been carrying out the illegal trade in cooperation with the law enforcing agency. This class controls the trade

from behind the scene. They have employed staff and agents who generally carry out the misdeeds.

The unemployed educated youths, poor women and children are carrying out the job for mere survival.

Local elite opined that if the rate of smuggling continues, the country's economic condition would be crippled in the near future.

Major Alam, Commanding Officer of Chuadanga 13 Battalion, BDR, told this correspondent that smuggling had come down to a considerable proportion.

The Commander disclosed that contraband goods worth Taka 6,88,76,141 were seized and 101 smugglers have been arrested during the last financial year.

Life returns to normal in Dahagram, Angorpota

PANBARI (Lalmonirhat), July 27: Normalcy is prevailing in the Tinbigha area during the last one month after formal opening of the historic corridor that has finally linked the two isolated Bangladesh enclaves with the mainland on June 26, reports BSS.

Life has returned to normal in the Dahagram-Angorpota enclaves as residents of the mainland and the two tiny enclaves, having nearly 16,000 population, are using the passage.

The BSS Special Correspondent Haroon Habib who is now on a tour of the once-isolated enclaves with virtually no connections with the mainland for about 45 years following 1947 Partition of India, observed a mood of jubilation among the people on both sides. They have been enjoying regulated but free passage ever since the corridor was ceremonially opened only a month ago.

This arrangement has been made in order to assess the volume of traffic. According to the local administration and border officials, the stipulated six hour-time for movement under the agreement daily at alternate hours — between 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. — would come into effect after the officials of the two countries meet on August 3 next.

No untoward incident

"There is no untoward incident so far and we hope things will improve further," says a Bangladesh official in the Patgram thana, which look after the two enclaves. The 178 metre-long tiny corridor was the outcome of the Indo-Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement signed between prime ministers of Bangladesh and India in 1974 and subsequently a follow-up agreement in 1982.

The modalities of the implementation of the two agreements were finalised in March this year under a fresh agreement signed between the present government under

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao. India took nearly 18 years to implement the agreement mainly due to long legal complexities and resistance by a section of Indian fundamentalist political organisation like Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Initially, as the corridor was declared open by the Indian authorities on June 26, the Bangladeshi citizens, including those of the enclaves, were allowed to use the passage for three hours daily but the duration has been extended to four hours later.

Dreams fulfilled

"Our dreams have now been fulfilled" said Shabir Rahman whom this correspondent met while he was returning to Patgram from Dahagram through the corridor after meeting his relatives. Tafizul Islam, the Union Parishad Chairman of Dahagram, who never got scope to meet the officials of his own Patgram thana attended a district-level meeting in the thana headquarters on July 25 for the first time since his election.

The light-fenced 178 metre by 85 metre corridor which

has been under strict control of Indian Border Security Forces and police provided the Bangladeshis a regulated movement. But the Bangladeshis in both the enclaves and Panbari, Patgram and adjoining areas of the mainland expressed happiness as they can now at least meet each others. "We are happy but we should get a day-and-night passage," observed Mufazzal Hossain, a 25-year-old peasant of Angarpota Enclave, whom this correspondent met on his way to Panbari on foot.

Emergency problems yet to be solved

"How we will move to Patgram Lalmonirhat or Rangpur if there is any medical emergency at night," asked Shamsul Islam, a junior school boy. The regulated day-time four-hour daily movement is yet to solve emergency problems like the one raised by Shamsul Islam.

Better road need

Movement in rainy season is difficult along the 14-kilometre-long Kutcha road often damaged from Patgram to Dahagram-Angorpota. "The Patgram-Dahagram Road should be built on an emergency basis, otherwise we can not just move," said a teacher of the only junior school of the enclave.

Due to this difficult communication system, no vehicle excepting motor cycles plied through the corridor so far even though the movement of vehicles is allowed. Both Indians and Bangladeshis are moving through the passage freely and peacefully towards their own destinations and it seems that the initial fear of the people of Kuchlibari of India about their possible difficulties in movement has been greatly removed with the smooth functioning of the corridor for the last one month.

Tight security measure by Indian law enforcing agencies was seen in the areas surrounding the corridor whose opening have been termed as the beginning of a new chapter of friendship and cooperation between India and Bangladesh despite the agitations by the Kuchlibari Sangram Samity (KSS).

The agitation opposing the transfer is almost defused. Indian police is reportedly shot dead two persons and arrested about 2,500 activists, mainly belonging to the Socialist Unity Centre of Indian (SUCI) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on or before the day of the historic transfer



RANGPUR: The people of Tinbigha corridor are seen waiting for entrance inside enclave on June 26 last. — Star Photo

Prospect of ginger export bright

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, July 27: There is a bright prospect of exporting ginger which grows abundantly in Kurigram, Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat, Rangpur, Dinajpur and Chittagong Hill Tracts through application of modern methods.

It is gathered that there is a wide demand for Bangladeshi ginger in the international markets, especially in Singapore, Japan, Canada, Germany and different Middle East states.

At present there remains a surplus of three to four lakh maunds of ginger every year.

During the pre-liberation period, raw ginger used to export to the then West Pakistan. It was dried there and then exported to Gulf states and other countries of the world.

It deserves mention that there are Research and Development Centres for rice, jute, wheat, cotton, tea and tobacco. But there is no such centre for augmenting ginger production. However, it is felt that, ginger production will rise tremendously if modern methods of cultivation is applied.

Now-a-days, ginger is being produced by applying primitive methods of cultivation. Moreover, the drying process of raw ginger is not a scientific one.

Ashraful Haque, a student of Kurigram Govt. College committed suicide by hanging himself recently in the house of his elder brother at Kurigram old town.

High school building may collapse at any time

From A Correspondent

BARGUNA, July 27: The half century old building of the Charakgachia High School may collapse at any time. This is the biggest non-government high school in Barguna.

The teachers and students now attend classes risking their lives. Despite repeated appeals of the students, teachers and guardians the authorities are seen inactive for unknown reasons.

The school, once, had glorious academic and extra-academic activities. Now fail to do any development work due to shortage of funds and absence of government grant.

The school authority did not even start the work of demolition.

The reconstruction of the

school building and repair of furniture should be done on an emergency basis, sources urged. The delay in reconstruction may cause collapse of the building at any time.

About 500 students in this school are under supervision of only 17 teachers. The number of classrooms is too inadequate to cope with the rising number of students.

The students are deprived of sports appliances and recreational facilities. The play ground gets water logged during the rainy seasons.

The school has a mini residential hostel where only 15 students are accommodated. They stay in humiliating condition due to shortage of accommodation.



CHANDPUR: The orphans of the local Shishu sadan are receiving mangoes and milk. — Star Photo

Preparations going on to observe Tagore's death anniversary

NAOGAON, July 27: The 51st death anniversary of Poet Rabindranath Tagore will be observed at Kacharibari premises of historic Patisar village in Atrai thana of the district on August 6, reports UNB.

Patisar Rabindranath Athletic Club and Kaligram Rabindranath Institution have jointly formed a committee to observe the day in a befitting manner.

Very often the Nobel laureate used to visit Patisar village and stay at Kacharibari with his wife for his zamindari purposes. The poet also composed several poems during his stay at Patisar.

A day long cultural programme which includes seminar, musical soiree, drama and recitation from Tagore's poem has been chalked out to mark the day.

Naogaon Charan Shilpi Gosthi, Naogaon Oikatan Shilpi Gosthi and Naogaon Recitation Parishad and noted intellectuals and artists are expected to take part, organisers said.

District branch of Biswa Sahitya Kendra (BSK) was opened here in a simple ceremony recently.

Presided over by Principal Md Bazul Huq, the function was attended by BSK President

and noted literature Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed as chief guest.

In his address Prof Sayeed advised the young generation to devote themselves in acquiring knowledge by reading more books. He reminded them that without proper knowledge they will not be able to shoulder the future responsibilities of the nation.

The function was also addressed by Principal Mujibur Rahman, Principal Tafazzal Hossain Sarker, Shyamal Bhat-tacharya, Prof Shah Alam Chowdhury, Prof Ataul Haq Siddique, Freedom Fighter Shaiful Islam Khan and Zahid Anwar.

A young man has been awarded three years jail term for kidnapping a minor girl, court sources here said.

The accused Abdul Majeed Bhutto was also fined Taka 1,000 or in default to suffer six months imprisonment more.

The prosecution story, in brief, was that Mahmuda Akhtar was abducted by the accused from her residence in the town last year.

District and Sessions Judge delivered the judgement recently.