

District roundup

RAJSHAHI

Husband, wife stand first, 2nd in MSc examination

From Our Correspondent

July 28: Husband and wife have secured first class first and second position respectively from the Department of Zoology of Rajshahi University recently.

One Md. Tozammel Hoque, son of Nesh Mohammad of village Kawavasha under Gomastapur thana of Chapainawabganj district has secured first class first position in MSc from the Department of Zoology of Rajshahi University in 1988 (held in 1991). He did his thesis work on Silkworm DNA in his MSc course under the supervision of Dr. Rashidul Hoque.

His wife, Nasrin Hoque, daughter of Abul Hossain Mia of Pabna district stood first class second in MSc from the same department in the same year. She completed her MSc thesis on fisheries (Aspidoparia Morar) under the supervision of Dr. Abdus Salam Bhuiyan.

MYMENSINGH

Afforestation programme taken up

July 28: Mymensingh Forest Division has taken afforestation programme in 12,280 acres of land at a cost of Taka ten crore with the assistance of Asian Development Bank, reports BSS.

Under this project trees will be planted throughout the greater Mymensingh district, official sources said. The programme was started during the year 1987-88. 60 per cent works has been completed so far. It will be completed in 1994.

The project area covers Rasulpur Range and Bhaluka Range of Mymensingh district, Rangtia Range and Baltjuri Range of Sherpur and Jamalpur districts, and Durgapur Range of Netrakona district.

NETRAKONA

Seven projects under FWP completed

July 28: Seven projects under Food for Work Programme have been completed recently in five thanas of Netrakona district, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation allocated 372 metric tons of wheat for the execution of the projects. The projects included reconstruction of roads and embankments.

JAMALPUR

Attack on 'Weekly Jamalpur' condemned

July 28: Jamalpur unit of Bangladesh Sangbadik Samity held an emergency meeting at the Press Club and condemned the ransacking of office of the 'Weekly Jamalpur' and assaulting the journalists on July 20. Unit President Mosharrar Hossain presided over the meeting. It was addressed by unit members, reports BSS.

Speakers condemned the attack on the journalists and the weekly office. Later the journalists brought out a procession and paraded the main roads. They handed over a memorandum to the district administration demanding an enquiry and legal action against the culprits.

MADARIPUR

Campaign against Indian insecticide demanded

From Our Correspondent

July 28: Smuggled inferior quality of Indian insecticides have been causing adverse effect to the crops and land of the district.

According to the allegations, a section of well-organised smugglers led by the influential persons of the local locality are smuggling the Indian insecticides into the country and selling in the markets. These are being sold to the farmers at cheaper price compared to the local insecticides.

The farmers informed that the insecticides imported by the government are sold at high prices. Moreover, these are being adulterated before sale to the farmers.

It is felt that a massive campaign against Indian insecticide should be launched all over the country explaining the adverse effects on the crops and lands.

NARSINGDI

Punishment to killers of Mustafa demanded

July 28: Hundreds of people brought out a procession in the town today demanding exemplary punishment to the killers of Ghulam Mustafa, reports UNB.

Ghulam Mustafa (25), Office Secretary of the District Sports Association as stabbed to death by some unknown assailants on June 24 while he was returning home from the bazar.

Led by former Sadar Upazila Chairman Mezbuddin Iran, district BNP Organising Secretary MA Jalil, Tarik Ahmed and Jaglul Karim Riton, the processionists paraded the main streets of the town chanting various slogans in favour of their demand.

Later they handed over a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner of the district.

KISHOREGANJ

Primary, high schools in pitiable condition

From Our Correspondent

July 28: The condition of almost all the non-government primary and high schools in 13 thanas of the district has turned deplorable by negligence of the authorities, local people and leaders alleged here.

Most of the educational institutions do not have adequate furniture, classrooms and educational appliances hindering proper education.

Due to shortage of accommodation, students sit on the kutchra floor of schools. Many primary and high schools have no adequate number of benches, chairs, blackboards and other teaching appliances.

According to a report, about 90 per cent of these schools have no science building and educational equipment, no play ground and no drinking water facilities. The teachers of these schools have not been getting salary for long forcing them to take up other jobs for survival.

Fifty per cent of the schools are now having thatched rooms and twenty per cent are semi pucca. Besides, financial crises, poverty, lack of initiative by the guardians and other social factors are also hampering the education of children. Nearly 90,000 children are being deprived of primary education in the district.

MAGURA

BKB disburses Tk 2.41cr as agri-loan

July : Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) disbursed Taka 2.41 crore as loan among 3,871 farmers of four thanas in the district during the last fiscal year.

While taking to UNB, the Regional Manager of BKB, told that the bank also realised Taka 2.2 crore outstanding loans from the loanees during the same period.

The loans were disbursed to enable the farmers to buy necessary inputs including irrigation equipment and cattle and for pisciculture, officials said.

The loans were disbursed through BKB's 16 branches in Salikha, Sreepur, Mohammadpur and Sadar thanas of the district.

Rampant catching of fish fry is going on in different parts of four thanas of the district defying government ban, reports UNB.

Government has banned catching of fish fry below nine inches all over the country to increase fish production.

Local people alleged that huge quantity of fish fry including katla, ruhi, magur, mrigel, shing and species are being sold in the local markets before the nose of the law enforcing agencies.

BARGUNA

Removal of TNO demanded

From Our Correspondent

July 28: The BNP, Juba Dal and Chhatra Dal of Amtali thana unit, jointly brought out a procession at the town demanding immediate removal of the TNO of Amtali under Barguna district on charge of corruption.

The processionists paraded the main thoroughfares of the town chanting various slogans in protest against his corruption.

The demonstrators arranged a press conference at local Press Club. Md. Mohsin read out the written speech and described the alleged involvement of TNO Abul Qasem in corruption and misappropriation of Taka 1.5 lakh under post-flood agricultural rehabilitation programme. The speakers demanded TNO's immediate transfer.



LOUHAIJANG: In a riverine country like ours, boat is the only and main transport for the rural people during rainy season. Some small boats at the local hat are on sale. The price of each boat varies between Taka 500 and Taka 1000 according to size. — Photo by Mohsin

Journey by engine boat risky

Hundreds of traditional boatmen now unemployed

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, July 28: Hundreds of traditional boatmen have been passing their days under uncertainty as large number of mechanised boats are plying on different routes of the district.

It is learnt that the engine boats are ferrying passengers and cargo in Assasuni, Tala, Debhata, Kaliganj, Shymnagar, Kalaroa and Sadar thanas. As a result, hundreds of traditional boatmen of these areas have been passing hard days as they are unable to earn their livelihood.

It can be mentioned here that the number of engine boats has steadily increased over the years while journey by these boats is often hazardous and risky due to lack of proper system.

In most boats, there is no system for controlling the speed during the service time. A boat can not be halted in case of necessity or emergency. The light engine can ply in the boat towards forward but it can not lead to backward.

Instead of search light, the boat owners use low powered torch which can endanger the passengers at any time.

Cottage industry needs patronisation

The cottage industries of the district are on the verge of ruination for lack of incentive and patronisation.

It can be mentioned here that the fancy items made from bamboo, cane, jute and mutra had once glorious past but these have become a story of the past.

A large number of elderly men and women have become unemployed for shortage of fund and marketing of the products. The traditional products are ropes, dolls,

sikas, chairs and pats, etc.

A large number of women and men who have no work in rainy season, can earn through making such fancy goods which can also support the family very much.

The thana mahila samity, and other voluntary organisations can play vital role regarding the matter which can gear up the activities.

Local elites opined that training on tailoring, embroidery, cooking and pottery can help engage more men and women in the jobs and can earn a lot.

Besides, a number of youths who are moving here and there for jobs, can also earn their livelihood through the production such fancy items and this way they can be self-sufficient.

The weavers of the district have been facing difficulties for want of fund.

They informed that the price of raw materials and decrease in sale have put them in uncertainty.

The concerned authorities have been urged to look into the matter and take steps to redress the sufferings of these class of people.

5 get life-term, two to suffer 7 years RI for murder

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, July 28: The Additional District and Sessions Judge, Third Court Sylhet while passing his judgement in a case of Golapganj Thana found seven persons guilty and sentenced five of them to suffer life-term imprisonment and to pay fines of Taka 10,000 each in default to suffer one year more.

Two more accused to suffer rigorous imprisonment for seven years RI and to pay fines of Taka 5,000 each in default to suffer rigorous imprisonment for six months more.

Another accused in the same case was acquitted of the charge.

The prosecution case in brief is that one Hossain Ali of village Katakhal under Golapganj thana went to Saudi Arabia keeping his wife Meherunnessa in his village

home in the year 1985.

In his absence, Meherunnessa developed illicit relation with one Abdul Quader of the neighbouring house and a nephew of her husband Pakhi Miah. The younger brother of Hossain Ali tried to prevent them, but failed.

Following this, in the midnight following the October 8, 1985 the accused persons killed Hossain Ali and kept the body in a paddy field.

After registration of a case in this connection, police held investigations and submitted chargesheet against the eight accused persons.

The court after examining the records and the prosecution witnesses, found Pakhi Miah, Abdul Quaiyum alias Pekhal, Abdul Quadir alias

Kotai, Minhaj Uddin and Meherunnessa guilty and sentenced them all to suffer life-term imprisonment and to pay fine of Taka 10,000 each in default to suffer imprisonment for one year more.

The court also sentenced two more accused persons namely, Sunahar Ali and Abdul Hakim to suffer imprisonment for seven years and to pay fine Taka 5,000 each in default to suffer imprisonment for six months more.

The other accused Anjeb Ali was acquitted of the charge.

Among the convicted, Meherunnessa and Minhaj Uddin had been missing. Their sentence would be started from the moment of their surrender before police or arrest, the court said.

Notes from Barisal

From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, July 28: Facilities Department under the Ministry of Education has undertaken a programme to construct two primary schools in Patuakhali with an expenditure of 30 lakh taka during the current financial year.

Construction works of the school will be completed by the June next, it is expected. Besides, LGBE is continuing repair works of 73 primary schools in the Patuakhali district during this financial year.

Police arrest one Sarbahara man

Mostafa, a previous leader of so-called Sarbahara Party was arrested by the police for his alleged involvement with a hijacking incident at Uzirpur Bazar area recently.

It can be mentioned here that this Mostafa surrendered himself with his arms to Barisal Police Super responding to the call of general amnesty by the government last year.

It is gathered that Mostafa has to step down to crime activities as he is being feared to be killed by his opposite factions.

4 held with stolen sundari wood

Munshir Anwarul Haque of Forest Department under Khulna division with other 21 men of the department arrested 4 persons with stolen 'sundari woods' of about seven lakhs taka from Sutikathi village of Nesarabad under Perojpur district recently.

It is informed that some dishonest timber merchants are engaged with the business of stolen 'sundari woods' with the help of some department dishonest officers.

Two beheaded bodies recovered

Police recovered two unidentified, deformed bodies from Kakchira and Ramnagar area of Bamna thana of Borguna recently.

Receiving informations, Bamna and Betagi police went to Kakchira Char and Ramnagar Char and recovered the two floating bodies. Bodies could not be identified as those were beheaded.

Police apprehended that these two bodies may be of Abdul Mannan and Kalumia who were killed by the dacots group of Kanchan Ali in the house of one Rajab Ali of the same village.

Observer Unit of district correspondents

The Observer Unit of the district correspondents of the Bangladesh Observer was formed at a meeting held on Sunday at the Observer House with Abdul Muttalib in the chair, reports BSS.

According to a Press release, Abdul Muttalib, Satkhira Correspondent and Nuruzzaman, Jhenaidah Correspondent were elected President and General Secretary respectively of the unit.

Kazi Abdul Khalaque of Daulatpur, kamaruzzaman Chowdhury of Chatpur, Imdad Hossain Bhuiyan of Gazipur and Hasanatussaman of Pabna were elected Vice-Presidents of the organisation.

The other office-bearers are: Joint secretaries Gopal Dev Chowdhury (Srimangal) and Jamilur Rahman Dulal (Rajshahi), Treasurer—Mostaque Ahmed (Manikgonj), and Members—Jagadish Chandra Ghosh (Faridpur), Syed Mahfuzunabi Khokan (Pattaya), Nafiz Chowdhury (Jessore) and Golun Nabi Dulal (Jessore).

Traders on indefinite strike to protest toll collections

JHENIDAH, July 28: Shopkeepers and traders of the town observed an eight-hour strike on Monday protesting extortion and terrorism, reports UNB.

But, failing to get any assurance from the district administration to check terrorism, the Shopkeepers and Traders Samity extended the strike for an indefinite period.

The strike followed looting of a shop, Nadia Watch and Optic Service on Sunday night. Miscreants armed with lethal weapons snatched cash and watches valued at Taka 30,000 from the shop and damaged its furniture.

All shops and trading centres, including medicine shops, hotels, restaurants and petrol pumps, remained closed during the strike that began at 6 am.

Shopkeepers and traders at a protest rally at the local Post Office premises on Monday afternoon expressed grave concern over the law and

order situation. At least five incidents of robbery took place in the town in last one week.

Bus strike

Another report from Chuadanga adds: Playing of buses remained suspended in the Chuadanga-Jhenidah route from Sunday following a clash between the bus conductor and rickshawpullers.

The clash ensued at Dingadah Bazar in which several people were injured on the same day.

The bus workers later called for indefinite strike demanding probe into the incident and punishment of the persons responsible for the clash.

Another report adds: Nesa Khatun of Gulshanpara area of the town was allegedly stabbed to death by her husband Sirajul Islam on Sunday night.

The mother of the deceased Sarifunnessa was also received serious stab injuries in the incident. A case has been filed with the police.

Farmers cultivate aman on 2,47,000 acres

From Our Correspondent

BORGUNA, July 28: The district Agriculture Extension Department has taken up an extensive plan for aman cultivation on 2,47,000 acres of land in five thanas of the district during the current season.

The source further said that the department has set up 50 demonstration plots in five thanas of the district during the current season to acquaint the farmers with modern technique of cultivation for higher production.

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20 hurt in B'baria tornado

BRAHMANBARIA, July 28: At least 20 people were injured and 35 houses razed to the ground when a severe tornado swept over Rasulpur village of sadar thana of the district on Sunday noon, reports UNB.

Villagers said the severe tornado lasted only three minutes destroying the houses and a mosque. At least 18 families were rendered homeless.

Deputy Commissioner visited the affected area and distributed Taka 10,000 among the tornado victims.

BSS adds: Educationists and elite of the town held a meeting here recently with the Deputy Commissioner in the chair and decided to set up a primary school.



JHENIDAH: Thana Nirbahi Officer, Khurshid Alam is planting a coconut sapling at the local Fire Service office premises on the occasion of tree plantation programme. —Star photo

Malaria kills 3, attacks 200 in Netrakona

NETRAKONA, July 28: Malaria has broken out at Sanashipara, a remote village of Kalmakanda thana under Netrakona district, reports BSS.

The disease claimed three lives and attacked two hundred others at the village during the last fortnight.

The victims were identified as Shafiqul Islam (8), Tofazzal Haque (7) and Maleka Khatun (30), an unofficial report reaching here said.

But Netrakona district health officials were sceptic about the death reports. They however, confirmed the outbreak of the disease.

A medical team carrying antimalaria medicines rushed to the malaria affected village from Netrakona, Civil Surgeon office source said.

Work on three projects undertaken by the Public Works

Department in the district at a cost of Taka eight lakh is going on in following.

According to an official source, the projects include construction of the court of the district and sessions judge, carpeting of connecting road between the office of the police super and judge court, and reconstruction of a road under Kalmakanda thana complex.

Annual general election of Netrakona district Sports Association was held at its office premises here recently.

The Deputy Commissioner is the ex-officio President of the Association. Other office-bearers are Vice-Presidents Musim Uddin Chowdhury and MA Jabbar, General Secretary Abul Khayer Chandan and Treasurer Ganesh Chandra Sarker.



KUSHTIA: The local BDR personnel seized 880 kg sugar and 345 pieces of goat skin worth Taka 2,38,395 from a mechanised boat recently. A man was also arrested in this connection. —Star photo