

District roundup

JAMALPUR

Steps to combat terrorism urged

Aug 3 : Dr Kamal Hossain, Convener of Gonotantrik Forum urged upon all political parties and government Thursday to take united steps to resist terrorism in the country, reports UNB.

Dr Kamal while addressing a seminar at local public hall with Advocate Nazrul Islam Dulu in the chair also called upon the patriotic forces to be united under the banner of the forum to ensure exercise of democratic system and rule of law.

It was also addressed by Zil-ur Rahman Siddiquee, Barrister Amrul Islam, Maj Gen (Retd) Khalilur Rahman, Fazlul Halim Chowdhury, Prof Shaded Ali and Zahirul Islam.

DINAJPUR

Headmistress killed in road mishap

Aug 3 : Headmistress of local Balubari Govt Primary School was killed in a road accident here recently, reports UNB.

The Headmistress Mahabun Nesa wife of late Serajuddin was knocked down by a private car in front of Mohon Bakery at Munshipara on July 18. She was rushed to the general hospital where the doctors declared her dead.

A case has been filed with the police. She left behind four children, relations and well wishers to mourn her death.

MADARIPUR

Chopping of fruit bearing trees unabated

Aug 3 : Indiscriminate chopping of fruit bearing trees is going on in the district affecting ecological balance, reports UNB.

Brickfield owners violating government ban are using the firewood to burn their bricks instead of coal. The poverty stricken people are compelled to sell trees to maintain their livelihood.

Jackfruit, coconut, mango, palm and date trees are also being sold to the brickfield owners in large numbers.

While contacted the brickfield owners said short supply and comparative high price of coal compelled them to buy firewood. But official sources denying the allegation said stock of coal in the district is quite satisfactory and price is also within their reach.

FENI

Youngman commits suicide

Aug 3 : A youngman allegedly committed suicide following his failure to secure a job abroad, reports UNB.

According to family sources, the victim Mansur (25) of Shahenagar village in Poushura thana took several attempts and spent money to arrange a job abroad but everytime he failed. He was a graduate.

Local people said out of sheer frustration he hanged himself from a nearby tree recently. A case has been lodged in this connection.

HABIGANJ

Zila Sahitya Parishad meet held

Aug 3 : Speakers at a meeting of the newly formed 'Habiganj Zila Sahitya Parishad' stressed the need for giving incentives to new writers and to preserve the literary works of the district, reports UNB.

The meeting recently held at Rajnagar here decided to publish a book on the future activities and constitution of the parishad for mass circulation.

Presided over by Syed Hasan Imam Chisti, the meeting also decided to hold inaugural ceremony of the organization within three months at the local Islamic Foundation auditorium.

It was addressed, among others, by Sirajul Haq, Abdur Rouf Chowdhury, Syed Mostafiz Kamal, Syed Abdullh Tarsad, Md Ismail and Syed Taher Ali.

SATKHIRA

Body of fish merchant recovered

Aug 3 : Police recovered the body of a fish merchant from the Kakshali river near Kaliganj ferryghat on Friday, reports UNB.

The victim Golam Rabbani of Adab Chandipur village in Shyamnagar was called out by some unknown assailants from his house on Thursday. Later his body was found floating in the river next day.

The body bore several cut marks. Police sent the body to Sadar hospital for autopsy.

A case was filed with Kaliganj police.

BOGRA

Baby friendly unit inaugurated

Aug 3 : Baby friendly unit, the country's first child protection centre, was inaugurated at the Bogra Medical College Hospital here recently, reports BSS.

The unit was opened at a function arranged in observance of the World Breastfeeding Day and National Breastfeeding week all-over the country. The unit would be sponsored by UNICEF and World Health Organisation (WHO).

The inaugural function of the unit was addressed as the chief by Prof Mohammad Mobinul Haq, and addressed, among others, by Dr Gulshan Ara, Consultant of Bogra Mohammad Ali Government Hospital, Sajjad Hussain, Deputy Commissioner, Bogra and Sheikh Hyder Ali, Civil Surgeon, Bogra.

BARGUNA

Absence of separate ward: child patients suffered

Aug 3 : Child patients are suffering seriously in the absence of separate ward for them in Sadar hospital of the district, reports UNB.

The hospital has two wards, one for male and another for female and child patients. Due to rush of female patients child patients are deprived of proper treatment facilities, it is alleged.

Local leaders urged the authorities to build a separate ward for child patients in the hospital to ensure proper medicare to the children of the district.

KISHOREGANJ

Govt lands under private possession

Aug 3 : The government is being deprived of huge amount of revenue every year as a vast tract of land of the Roads and Highways Department have been occupied by some people of the locality in collaboration with the employees of the department.

A large number of sheds, semi-pucca and in some cases pucca houses have been constructed beside the roads and highways in the district during the last few years without the requisite permission from the concerned department.

Even big buildings have been constructed in the town by section of businessmen on the land of the authority which are hindering the usual traffic movements.

Agriculture lands and ponds of the department are being occupied by the public without any valid document from the authorities.

COMILLA

Breastfeeding Day observed

Aug 3 : In observance of the National Breastfeeding Day a discussion meeting was held at the Town Hall on Saturday, reports UNB.

Organised by the local Health Department, the meeting was presided over by Dr Shamsul Haq, district civil surgeon and addressed, among others, by Dr Zobaida Hannan, Dr Golam Anwar Khan, Razia Begum and Ali Ahmed, Deputy Director of Family Planning Department.

The speakers stressing the need for breastfeeding called upon all to create awareness about its utility as most of the children are suffering from malnutrition and diseases. They urged the people to make the breastfeeding campaign a success.

The also pointed out that rural mothers in most cases feed their children with breast milk up to 2 or 3 years.

Women from all walks of life attended the meeting. Selected breastfeeding babies were given prizes.



ST. MARTIN'S, COX'S BAZAR: Another day of hope for the unfortunate children of the earth. — Star photo by A K M Mohsin

Crop cultivation may fall alarmingly in Jamalpur

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Aug 3 : The cultivation of different kinds of crops during the season is likely to fall alarmingly in all the seven thanas of the district for multifarious reasons.

Untimely rainfall, shortage of fertilizer, irregularities in distribution of seeds, inadequate bank loan and price hike of fuel have been identified the problems hampering the cultivation much.

The regular flood, drought, heavy rainfall and other natural calamities have left the farmers economically crippled for they are unable to purchase even the bullock for ploughing the lands. The prices of bullocks are also high as the diseases have killed so many of the kind.

Fertilizers and pesticides have also left the farmers in problems. Some of the dishonest dealers of the district are selling the low quality of the BADC supplied seeds at an exorbitant price, it is informed. As a result, the farmers are compelled to buy the seeds and fertilizers from the open market at higher prices.

It is learnt that the farmers are not getting the loan from the nationalised banks including the Bangladesh Krishi Bank. The farmers informed that they are not given even the loan forms on the plea that it is out of stock. The cultivators also informed that some people are getting loans through the middlemen who have some illegal connection with the bank staff.

The different branches of Krishi Bank disburse loans to some non-profitable sectors like cinema hall, restaurants, buses and hotels.

The farmers further complained that some staff of banks use to harass them though the government has written off the debt upto Taka 5,000. The bank staff informed that they have not yet got any written directives regarding the loans.

The untimely rainfall has damaged the rabi crops in the district. The lands which were prepared for cultivation were also made unfit for cultivation.

The rain damaged the cultivated potato, onion and mustard plants. Taking the advantage of weather, the pests attacked and damaged the plants in large quantity. The farmers could not use the requisite quantity of pesticides for want of fund.

It can be mentioned here that a total of 3.5 lakh acres of land was brought under the cultivation of different kinds of crops during the current season.

An Agriculture Extension Department source informed that jute production during the current season would decrease considerably. The production will be only 50 per cent, in some areas of the district, it is informed.

The farmers have urged the concerned authorities to take steps to mitigate the sufferings of the farmers of the district in successful cultivation of different crops and help them produce the requisite quantity of crops.

Notes from Maulvibazar

From Our Correspondent

MAULVIBAZAR, Aug 3 : A three-day long refresher training programme of 'Svanivar Paribar Parikolpona Seba Prokolpo' was held recently at Kulaura thana parishad auditorium.

Twenty two union supervisor and Family Planting Volunteer from 24 villages of Kulaura thana were participated in the programme.

7 ATEO posts lying vacant

Seven posts of Assistant Thana Primary Education Officer (ATEO) in Kulaura thana have been lying vacant for a long time, hampering the normal functioning of the administrative works of primary education.

Local primary teachers of Kulaura thana have urged the authorities concerned to fill-up the vacant posts without further delay.

2 commit suicide

Two women allegedly committed suicide in two thanas of Habiganj district.

According to source, Shipra Das (14) of Katiara village under Madhabpur thana committed suicide by taking poison.

The cause of her suicide could not be known.

In another incident, Sandhya Rani Bagechee (35), wife of a quack Bipad Vanjan Bagechee and mother of three children of Gungumia village under Nabiganj thana allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself from a tree recently. The cause of her suicide could not be known.

Jubo Union confce held

The annual conference of Bangladesh Jubo Union, Kulaura thana unit was held at a local hotel recently.

The conference was presided over by Sirajuddin Ahmed Sohag while Maulvibazar district leaders of Jubo union and CPB were addressed among others.

A 29-member Executive Committee was also elected in the conference with Sirajuddin Ahmed as President, Mahbubur Rahman Mintu as Secretary.

Jatiya Party unit meet held

A meeting of Jatiya Party, Kulaura thana committee was held recently at Kulaura Public Library.

The meeting was presided over by Nawab Ali Abbas Khan MP while Abdul Kuddus Chowdhury, Ataur Rahman, Kamal Ahmed were addressed the meeting.

Speakers at the meeting demanding release of the party chairman and former president H M Ershad.

Adult Education Programme launched

MEHERPUR, Aug 3 : Adult Education Programme sponsored by Meherpur District Scouts began at Mayamari Government Primary School here recently, reports BSS.

Deputy Commissioner, Meherpur, Momtazur Rahman inaugurated and presided over the inaugural function. Among others Thana Nirbahi Officer, Meherpur, AKM Delwar Hossain, Prof. AKM Shamim and Syed Amrul Islam, Editor, The Weekly Mujibnagar spoke on the occasion.

Fifty sets of books were distributed among the adult students.

Pirates swoop on boat, 2 stabbed, one missing

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 3 : Two passengers were stabbed and another missing when armed dacoits swooped on a boat in mid Jamuna near Khashrajbari in Kazipur thana and looted thousands of pineapples recently, reports UNB.

The pirates in a group of at least 15 men armed with lethal weapons, raided two engine boats loaded with pineapples at around 7.30 pm, 5 km off Jagannathganj Ghat. The boats were coming from Modhupur with the fruits worth taka 60,000.

The dacoits shot blank fires and stabbed Jaker (35) and Anwar (30) when they resisted.

Eyewitness said another passenger Basat (28) jumped into the river and is still reported missing. The passengers were businessmen from Sarishabari thana of Tangal district.

Similar incidents have been reported during the week but police said the trouble spot is beyond their jurisdiction.

Meanwhile, police recovered one body from river Jamuna near Modhupur village in the Sadar thana. They identified the unknown woman as one of the six missing boat passengers which capsized on the river on July 28.

Our Correspondent adds:

Hats, bazars in pitiable condition in Sherpur

SHERPUR, Aug 3 : Most of the hats and bazars in the five thanas of the district are in pitiable condition causing difficulties to both the buyers and sellers, reports UNB.

According to informed sources, the hats and bazars have bad drainage systems and the situation turns worse during the rainy season. Wastes and garbage are being dumped in the bazar areas polluting the environment and breeding mosquitoes.

Moreover, absence of public toilet in almost all the trade centres are causing immense suffering to the people.

Erosion leaves 500 families homeless in Kurigram

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Aug 3 : More than 500 families were rendered homeless and 1,000 acres of land have been eroded by the river Dharla during the last fortnight in Fulbari thana under Kurigram district.

The affected areas are Pechai in Nowdanga Union, Charschimulbari, Roshonshimulbari in Shimulbari Union, Purba Dhaniram, Paschim Dhaniram in Borobhita Union and Zatin Narayan and Sonakazi of Fulbari thana.

Meanwhile, one and half kilometer long WAPDA barrage in the thana have already been grabbed by the river. Rest of the barrage is facing extinction.

While visiting the erosion hit-point at Borobhita, this correspondent found erosion-hit people passing days in great misery on the road and embankment.

It deserves mention that last year more than 5000 people had been rendered homeless and about 3,000 acres of cultivable land devoured by the erosion of the river Dharla in Fulbari thana.

Since the very starting of the erosion the helpless people repeatedly appealed to the concerned authority but no help has so far been extended to them nor has any higher official visited the erosion-hit areas, it is alleged.

UNB report from Barguna adds: Continued erosion by Bishkhali river has been rendering a large number of people of Begati, Bamna and Patharghata thanas of the district.

Economically solvent previously, these families have become destitutes and farm labourers and pavement dwellers.

During the last five to eight years the mighty Bishkhali swallowed Kakchira, Ramna Union, Bamna and Betagi Sadar thanas including thousands of acres of fertile land rendering about 500 people of 10 villages homeless.

Every year the flood and the river erosion destroy crops on thousands of acres of land and property but no constructive programme has been taken to protect the area from flood.

Blood dysentery claims 2 lives, attacks 100

GAIBANDHA, Aug 3 : Blood dysentery claimed two lives and attacked 100 others at Dakkhil Kholabari village in Sadar thana recently, reports UNB.

The victims identified as Farida Parveen (18), wife of Rostam Ali and Kolloi (8), son of Tajmahal of the same village, informed sources said.

No health officials have yet been visited the village although they informed the concerned authorities in due course, it is alleged.

Diarrhoea and dysentery have broken out in an epidemic form in different parts of the district.

Taking of impure water and consumption of adulterated food were attributed to the outbreak of the diseases.

No preventive measures have yet been taken to combat the menace, the source added.

The affected people have urged the district health department to take effective steps to check the spread of the diseases without further delay.

Another UNB report adds: Dacoits looted valuables and stabbed the house owner seriously at village Darbasta in Gobindaganj thana of the district Friday night.

According to the villagers, a gang of dacoits armed with deadly weapons entered the house of Binoy Chandra Babu (28) by breaking the door and decamped with the valuables.

Bablu was stabbed when he tried to resist the bandits. They also beat his wife mercilessly.

Bablu was taken to Gaibandha hospital in a critical condition where his surgical operation was performed.

A case was filed with the police in this connection.

8,000 acres of aus, aman under pest attack

BARISAL, Aug 3 : About 8,000 acres of aus and aman have been attacked by pamri and mazra poka in different thanas of Patakhali district under greater Barisal in the recent weeks, reports BSS.

According to an official source, a total of 1,01,98 acres have been brought under aus cultivation and 19,645 acres under aman seed-beds in six thanas of the district in this season.

5,403 acres were attacked by pamri and mazra poka in the district, the source confirmed.

About 2,588 acres were attacked by these insects in Sadar thana 250 kgs of insecticides were distributed among the farmers in the district, the source added.

BSS report adds: Facilities



MANIKGANJ: Suchana Sangeet Vidya Niketan, a local music organisation of the district arranged a cultural function at Amtala recently. Artistes are seen rendering songs. — Star photo