

District roundup

PABNA PDB suspends 15 employees on charge of corruption

Aug 4: Power Development Board suspended 15 employees of Pabna commercial unit for their alleged corruption, malpractice and negligence of duties on July 30, reports UNB.

According to a PDB hand-out, the employees are: Md Abdur Rashid, Assistant Accountant, Abdul Muhit, Abdul Malek, Abdul Jalil, Rafiqul Alam and Obaidul Alam, Upper Division Clerks; Fazlul Haque, Nazrul Islam, Abdus Salam, Selina Akhter, Md Sharif Khan, Md Anwar Hossain, Lower Division Clerks; Shamsuddin, Metre Inspector, Md Ashraf Khan and Nur Mohammad, Metre Readers.

Official sources said further official action against the suspended employees is on.

AGRI-VARSITY Rotaractors' training camp held

Aug 4: The 5th Rotaractors' Training Camp (RTC) was held here at GTI dormitory recently, reports UNB.

Jointly organised by Graduate Training Institute (GTI) and the Rotaract Club of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), the week long training was attended by 22 Rotaractors representing various clubs of the country.

The concluding session of the camp was presided over by Prof M Mostafizur Rahman, Director GTI while Prof M Hossain of the Department of Biochemistry attended the camp as the chief guest.

The function was also attended by the Registrar, BAU A H Khan, Students Affairs Adviser Prof M Monsurul Amin and Rotarian A H M Khalequzzaman.

Termining the Rotaract a powerful movement, the chief guest said it had played a vital role in social service and development.

JHENDAH Pipegun, Chinese axe recovered: one held

Aug 4: Police arrested a man here and recovered one pipegun, one Chinese axe and one ramdao from his possession recently, reports UNB.

Acting on tip, police raided the house of Abdul Mannan alias Pata (26) of village Vadra in Harinakundu thana and arrested him with the arms.

Villagers said Pata was involved in terrorist activities in the area for long time. A case was lodged in this connection.

Another report from Comilla adds: A police contingent headed by a Magistrate raided the Polytechnic Institute Students Union Office at Kotbari Sunday and recovered four pipe guns, two kirich, three ramdaos and two hockey sticks.

A case has been filed but none was arrested in this connection.

DINAJPUR 5 held for involvement in producing alcohol

Aug 4: Police arrested five people for alleged involvement in producing and marketing alcohol from Jalpa Mardi village in Birganj thana, reports UNB.

Acting on tip, Narcotics officials with police raided a house and nabbed the miscreants while they were making alcohol.

They also seized 25 litres of Chulai and 65 litre of Hawra liquor along with brewing devices from the house.

The arrested are Jalsh Murdi, Lokman, Mamun, Zewshidul Krishna, Hemran Lakkhan Murdi.

MAULVIBAZAR Scarcity of medicines at FP centre

Aug 4: Child and Mother Welfare Department of district family planning centre is unable to function properly due to scarcity of medicines and unhygienic conditions in the centre, reports UNB.

It is alleged that most of the patients coming from far flung areas are to go back home without proper treatment for want of medicines.

Local people urged upon the authorities to look into the matter immediately and ameliorate the suffering of the poor patients.

RAJSHAHI Police seize 100 grams of heroin

Aug 4: The law enforcing agency personnel seized 100 grams of heroin from a Chapalnawabganj bound bus on Friday, an official press release said, reports BSS.

One person was arrested in this connection. The seized heroin was deposited with the Narcotics Department.

The press release also said that they had also recovered eleven persons including five women and a child from a Dhaka-Chapalnawabganj bus while they were being taken out of the country to Pakistan. These people were reportedly given assurance for job, the press release added.

MADARIPUR Sadar hospital beset with problems

Aug 4: The Sadar hospital is plagued with multifarious problems owing to lack of blood bank and shortage of medicines, doctors and nurses, reports UNB.

Patients coming from far flung areas are to go back disappointed in absence of proper treatment facilities.

Many emergency patients are being packed like sardines on the floor and veranda of the hospital due to shortage beds. Moreover, in the absence of blood bank, serious patients are to suffer a lot. They are to move to distant places for surgical operation incurring huge expenditures.

The doctors and other staff members of the hospital have also been facing serious problems in the absence of residential quarters.

Local people repeatedly urged the authorities to equip the hospital with modern amenities but no step has yet been taken in this regard.

COMILLA Smuggled goods worth Tk 1.75 lakh seized

Aug 4: Bangladesh Rifles seized smuggled goods worth about Taka 1.75 lakh in two separate raids in the town recently, reports UNB.

Acting on secret information, BDR men halted a tempo on Hospital Road and recovered huge quantity of Indian sarees, playing cards and cosmetics.

In another drive the BDR also recovered 500 bottles of phenisidyl syrup worth about Taka 50,000 from a rickshaw at Alekharchar on Dhaka-Chittagong highway.

Phenisidyl has become very popular among a section of drug addicts due to its sedative action and as a result smuggling of the drug has become rampant in recent days.

FARIDPUR 44,092 enrolled in draft voters' list

Aug 4: About 44,092 people including 209,094 women votes were enrolled in the draft voters' list of the district pourashava published recently, reports UNB.

According to District Election Office sources, the voters percentage is 5.54 per cent less than the past voters list where 46,680 voters were enrolled as the voters of pourashava.

Meanwhile, a single objection was filed against an inclusion in the draft voters' list on the last date of submission of objection.

BARISAL 53 development projects implemented

Aug 4: A total of 53 development projects were implemented in the district during last fiscal year, reports UNB.

Local Government Engineering Bureau has implemented these projects at an expenditure of Taka 2 crore 53 lakh.

The projects included construction a reconstruction of roads, bridges and culverts in the district.



RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY: The newly appointed Vice-Chancellor of Rajshahi University M Anisar Rahman (left) taking over the charge from outgoing VC Professor Amanullah Ahmed.

Darsana customs earns Tk 10 cr as revenue

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Aug 4: Darsana customs authority under Chuadanga district has earned Taka 9,90,01,609 as revenue during the last financial year.

According to an official source, of the total amount Taka 4,09,03,148 were earned from import duty, Taka 3,65,77,599 from VAT, Taka 51,80,709 from income-tax, Taka 50,11,668 from import fees, Taka 23,86,150 from travel tax, Taka 35,65,605 from sale tax and Taka 53,76,732 were earned from other sources.

It may be noted here that during the last financial year the revenue earning target from Darsana customs was fixed as Taka 7,50,00,000. As against which it earned Taka 9,90,01,609 which was 2,40,01,609 Taka above the target.

Another report says: Hundreds of farmers in the district have been passing their days in extreme agony following their growing indebtedness to the local banks especially to the Krishi Banks.

Natural calamities coupled with low price of agriculture products made the farmers unable to repay the loans they had taken from different banks.

Meanwhile several commercial banks including Krishi Bank issued notices to the farmers to repay their loans within the specified period.

Being perplexed by the notices farmers were compelled to sell their land and other domestic belongings to repay the loans as they incurred huge crop loss due to visitation of natural calamities, local people said.

Debtor said, they have no other alternative to repay the loans. More over, prices of land here has come down to a great extent due to increase in number of sellers.

It may be noted here that the only Krishi Bank has started about 200 cases with the local Arthorin Adalat for realising arrear agricultural loans and has served hundreds of notices to the loanees. The farmers of the district urged upon the authorities concerned to extend the time for repayment of loans and to exempt huge interest which have been imposed on them along with original loan.

Our correspondent adds: Handloom industries in three thanas of Chuadanga district like Chuadanga Sadar, Alamdanga and Jibannagar have been facing problems for want of cotton yarn and free access of Indian cloths in the country, as a result about 40,000 handloom industry workers are going to be unemployed very soon.

Besides a good number of handloom industries have meanwhile been closed down throughout the district.

According to the local weavers association source, it is learnt that more than 8,000 semi-automatic handloom industries located in Chuadanga Sadar, Alamdanga and Jibannagar thanas are threatened to be closed for want of cotton yarn. On the otherhand, free access of Indian cloths in the country has deteriorated the situation because the price of Indian smuggled cloth is cheaper than that of handloom products.

When contacted, some businessmen dealing in handloom trade said that they are to purchase yarn at high price from the blackmarket due to non-availability of cotton yarn of 80-counts. They alleged that the genuine weavers were not getting yarn at fair price due to defective distribution system.

Besides the price hike of dyes and chemicals has also increased the cost of production. It may be noted here that saree, lungi, dhuti, bed-sheet and napkin of best quality are produced here which are supplied all most all over the country. But now-a-days, the demand of handloom products has fallen due to over all economic crisis in the Country.

Arable land loses fertility

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Aug 4: Cultivable land in different thanas of the district has lost fertility to produce desired crops.

The fertility of lands has been decreasing day by day due to extensive use of soil to produce number of crops all the year round. The population boom in the rural areas has made an unprecedented pressure on cultivable lands to grow more food for additional population to eat. The farmers cannot keep their land fallow after harvesting of crops. They prepare the same land for the next crop.

According to agricultural experts, the production capacity of cultivable lands have been diminishing gradually due to excessive use of chemical fertilizer. It is reported that about 60 per cent cultivable lands of the district have lost sulphur and zinc. So, these lands can not produce desired crops.

The experienced circle opined that the farmers should use zinc fertilizer to add fertility of the land. The fertility of the soil is fast decaying in all the 9 thanas of the district namely Kurigram Sadar, Nageswari, Bhurungamari, Pulbari, Chilmari, Rowmari, Rajibpur, Ulipur and Rajarhat.

Our correspondent says: Milk production is declining rapidly in the district due to shortage of cows and fodder.

Sources said the number of cows is decreasing day by day because of large scale slaughter for beef.

Shortage of fodder and grazing fields have also affected milk production badly. Cattle disease which destroy a considerable number of milch cows, the sources added.

Imported powdered milk is, therefore, great demand which has shot up its price beyond reach of the fixed income group of people.

Our correspondent adds: Fish fry are being caught indiscriminately in different parts of Kurigram district defying the govt ban.

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

According to witnesses, huge quantity of different types of fish fry including ruhih, katal, mirigel, magur and shing are being sold in the markets of Kurigram Sadar, Vilpur, Chilmari, Rawmari, Rajibpur, Bhurungamari, Fulbari, Rajarhat and Nageswari thanas before the law enforcing agencies.



MADARIPUR: Madaripur police recently arrested one Alamgir Matubbar, a notorious dacoit with revolver.

Notes from Kishoreganj

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Aug 4: In the absence of a terminal at Kuliarchar launchghat hundreds of people have been undergoing much inconveniences in travelling from Kuliarchar to the district town.

It deserves mention that launch is the only means of communication for the people of the entire char area and Kuliarchar which serves as a veritable gateway to and from Nikli, Itna, Bajitpur, Mitamain, Austagram, Bhairab in Kishoreganj district and some parts of Sunamganj and Netrakona districts.

There is no waiting shed at the ghat where the people may take shelter in the face of scorching heat of the sun and rains. There is neither any urinal nor a latrine at the ghat which causes much inconveniences to travellers especially to the females. The importance of the launchghat is increasing day by day with the enhancement of business activities but the local authorities have been still indifferent to taking care of the ghat. No terminal has yet been constructed despite repeated public demands.

Sale of notebooks unabated

The sale of notebooks is going on unabated in Kishoreganj district headquarters and its adjoining areas.

Notebooks are being sold in most of the bookshops at Kishoreganj and different upazila markets despite government ban.

It may be mentioned here that government had imposed ban on publishing and selling notebooks up to class eight in order to discourage the dependence of the students on prepared answers.

It is learnt that some unscrupulous traders are publishing sub-standard notebooks with fake name and address. These notebooks are full of errors distortion of facts.

Some guardians alleged that these books are being sold at an exorbitant price in different markets of the district. It is further informed that most of the owners of the book-stalls do not sell test books without notes.

Local students and guardians have urged the concerned authorities to take stringent action against these illegal sale of note books.

Indian insecticides flood markets

Smuggled Indian insecticides are causing adverse effects to the crops and land all over the Kishoreganj, Netrakona and Mymensingh districts.

According to allegations, a section of well-organised smugglers blessed by the influential persons of the local administration are smuggling the Indian insecticides into the country and selling in the markets along the border belt in these two zones. These are being sold to the farmers at cheap price compared to the local insecticides.

The smuggled Indian insecticide 'Thiodin 13' abundantly available in Bangladesh markets along the border areas and it has great demand among the farmers due to cheap price and strong actions on the insects.

The Agricultural experts said that due to extensive use of Indian insecticides the yield of paddy has registered fall all over the districts.

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

Pottery industry on verge of extinction

Pottery in different parts of Kishoreganj district have been facing difficulties for long due to shortage of cash money and as such the pottery industry is now on the verge of extinction throughout the district.

This has spelled disaster to the life of many families engaged in the cottage industry for generations. Being unable to grapple with the problems, many potters of the district have already been given up their profession.

The prices of clay, dice, colour and other necessary materials used in pottery have increased manifold. On the other hand, the price and demand of their articles are falling gradually.

The potters have no working capital to run their industry monthly, as such, they are to borrow money from money lender at high rate of interest.

Transport is yet another problem. The potters have to carry their products on their shoulders for selling at distant markets. This puts them in a disadvantageous position in respect of marketing.

Work of Ujalkhalshi school office remains halfdone

RAJBARI, Aug 4: The construction work on office building of Ujalkhalshi High School remained halfdone for the last four years causing inconvenience to the teachers and other staff members, reports UNB.

The now-defunct Durgapur Upazila Parishad undertook the construction work in 1989 at a cost of Taka 2.45 lakh. But after completion of walls, the project has virtually been abandoned.

School authorities apprehended if the construction works is not finished immediately the walls will soon be damaged.

The aggrieved teachers said they had been using a community centre far away from the school as their office-cum-commonroom at much inconvenience.

The nascent institution of secondary education, having good results in student pass-out, is also facing various other problems which hamper further progress in its academic performances.

It has science division but no science building as yet. Teaching science without a science building along with laboratory facilities tantamounts to doing the impossible, said a concerned teacher.

The school has no commonroom for the students.

Particularly, girl students face vexing problems for want of commonroom. Classrooms and furniture are inadequate to accommodate about 400 students.

It has a playground, but it becomes unfit for use in the rainy season.

The Model Primary School adjacent to the high school is also smarting under various problems.

Its finished building is dilapidated and the roof damaged hampering education seriously.

Teachers and guardians urged the authorities concerned to take steps for urgent reconstruction of the school.

Another BSS report adds: Train communications between Rajshahi-Ishurdi was disrupted for about seven hours when two boggies of a Parbatipur local from Rajshahi derailed near Nandangachi station Friday evening.

Eye witnesses said, a relief train from Ishurdi reached the spot after three hours to salvage the boggies.

Hundreds of passengers of inter-city trains Padma, Jamuna and others had to suffer untold miseries at different stations for the incident.

However, train communications was restored at about 2 am of the next day, the witnesses added. None was injured in the incident.

Destitute families on rise in Maulvibazar

MAULVIBAZAR, Aug 4: The number of destitute families is increasing in the town and adjoining areas following the influx of below poverty line people from remote areas of the district, reports UNB.

The helpless people trekked into the town with the hope of better earning after they were rendered shelterless by natural calamities.

Dwellers complained that with their influx infectious diseases have broken out in the town causing panic among the people. Anti-social activities also are on rise vitiating the serene atmosphere, they added.

According to a private survey, children aged between six and 10 of these destitute families have taken up manual jobs in hotels, restaurants and in different machinery shops to support their family.

Moreover, many young girls of these families have taken recourse to prostitution jeopardising the social fabric, residents alleged.

Dwellers have urged the authorities to take up immediate rehabilitation scheme for these destitute families at the outskirts of the town and help enable them to lead a decent life.

Another report adds: An anti-smuggling conference was held under the auspices of district administration at District Customs Excise and VAT office with Additional District Magistrate (ADM) A M A in the chair.

The meeting reviewed the progress of the work which was attended by Customs Excise and VAT Super M A Sattar, Additional District Commissioner, Aminul Islam and Editor of the Daily Maulvibazar Barta, Bakshi Iqbal Ahmed.

The ADM explained the significance of the observance of Anti-smuggling drive and effects of smuggling in the country's economy and national progress. He expressed his determination to halt smuggling with the cooperation of the people.

Bamna beset with problems

BARGUNA, Aug 4: Bamna, one of the most important thanas in the district, is beset with manifold problems for a long time, reports UNB.

Crops on a vast area are being damaged every year by intrusion of saline water. Local farmers said crop production in the area has been seriously hampered by saline water through the Bamna-Bharani Canal.

Devouring vast land during the last few years, Bishkhali river erosion is another problem for Bamna people.

Local people demanded an embankment from Kalpatua to Bukabunia area to save crops and cultivable land from erosion.

The thana has a road network of about 230 miles of which 208 miles are kuteha which are again interrupted by the damaged bridges.

Frequent power failure in different areas in the thana has been a regular phenomenon.

Thana Health Complex is running without required number of doctors, other employees, medicine and medical equipment.

The hospital has only two male doctors. A lady doctors is needed here since long for women patients.

The thana headquarters has no sewerage system at all. Kucha public toilets are seriously polluting the environment and creating health hazards.

Local leaders demanded urgent solution of all these problems.

Another report adds: Most hotels and restaurants in the district are ignoring health and sanitation requirements and running in unhygienic conditions.

With the increase of population and development of the town numerous hotels and restaurants have sprung up on roadsides and bylanes.

It is alleged that these hotels store and prepare food in the most unhygienic and insanitary conditions.

These hotels are operating with the connivance of some dishonest officials of Health Department.

Token hunger strike staged at Satkhira

SATKHIRA, Aug 4: Over 500 displaced persons staged a token hunger strike in front of Deputy Commissioner's office in the town Saturday demanding enrollment as voters under Satkhira pourashava, reports UNB.

These persons displaced from their ancestral homes. They are not enrollment as voters in the current voters' list due to unknown reason.

Fish farming faces setback

BARISAL, Aug 4: Fish cultivation in the district has been facing setback due to lack of proper maintenance of rivers, canals and ponds, reports UNB.

Sources said hundreds of ponds have turned derelict without care for the last 10 to 15 years. Many others are full of water-hyacinths and became ideal breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

Local leaders urged the authorities to take a comprehensive scheme for cooperative fish farming using the sweat water bodies in the district.

Another report says: A two-day programme on 93rd birth anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam concluded at the Aswini Kumar Town Hall premises under the auspices of Barisal Nazrul Sangsad (BNS) on Friday.

B D Habibullah inaugurated