

District roundup

SYLHET

One killed in road mishap

From Our Correspondent

Aug 25: A young woman was killed in a road mishap at Jaintapur area on Sylhet-Tamabil Road recently.

According to the reports, the victim Riddia (22), a member of the Khasia tribe of Bekuma Punji under Kulaura thana was on her way to the Mokampunji under the Jaintapur thana along with her companions. The tempo when reached at a place near the Jaintapur bazar suddenly collided head on with a speeding truck from the opposite side and the tempo turned turtle. The victim died in the spot while another injured person had been admitted to the Jaintapur Thana Health Complex.

The body was sent to the Sylhet MAG Osmany Medical College Hospital for post-mortem. A case in this connection had already been started with the Jaintapur Police station.

CHANDPUR

Betel leaf farming hampered

From Our Correspondent

Aug 25: The cultivation of betel leaf has been facing setback in Chandpur hampering the production to a pitiable condition.

Lack of inputs, high rate of production cost, paucity of loan, marketing facilities are the main causes of the setback of betel leaf cultivation in the area.

The prices of inputs such as bamboo, straw, oilcake, coirhead etc. have gone up. Absence of proper marketing facilities has put the growers in disadvantages. Due to lack of proper rainfall and irrigation facilities betel leaf cultivation decreasing day by day.

Another report adds: The mushroom growth of welding shops along the road sides of the town have been creating problems to the town dwellers for a long time. About one hundred welding shops have been set up beside the roads like Station Road, Comilla Road, JM Sen Road, Taltala Road, College Road, Natun Bazar Road etc.

KISHOREGANJ

Potters face fund crisis

From Our Correspondent

Aug 25: The potters of the district have been facing much difficulties and pottery is now on the verge of extinction.

Many families engaged in the cottage industry facing economic problem. Being unable to cope with the problems, many potters of the district have already given up their profession while others are also thinking of following the suit.

The prices of clay, dice, colour and other essential materials used in pottery have increased manifold.

On the other hand, the demand of their products is falling day by day. The potters of the district have no working capital to run their industry smoothly. As such, they are to borrow money from rich persons of the villages at high rate of interest. The potters urged upon the authority concerned to take measures for providing loan to them on simple terms so that they could run their industry to earn their livelihood.

COMILLA

Dacoits loot valuables worth Tk 1 lakh

Aug 25: Dacoits looted cash and valuables worth about Taka one lakh from the passengers of two buses and injured 20 of them on Dhaka-Chittagong Highway on Sunday, reports UNB.

Police said dacoits who were travelling by a Comilla bound night coach in disguise of passengers snatched passengers' belongings worth about Taka 60 thousands when it reached Jingtatali in Daudkandi thana.

Fifteen passengers were injured while trying to resist the dacoits before they decamped with the booty.

On the same night, dacoits looted valuables worth about Taka 40 thousand from a Lakshimpur bound bus at Mithiani in Chowddhagram. The dacoits injured five passengers.

AGRI-VARSITY

Two pipeguns recovered

From Our BAU Correspondent

Aug 25: Gouripur thana police recovered a country made pipe gun from road side ditch at Koltapara village.

A case has been filed with Gouripur police in this connection recently.

Meanwhile, Jamalpur Railway Police recovered one pipe gun and arrested two dacoits from Mymensingh bound GM local train on August 20. Arrested dacoits have been identified as Monyar (22) and Shakhawat (30).

RAJSHAHI

Slaughtering of sick animals unabated

From Our Correspondent

Aug 25: Indiscriminate slaughtering of animals at several places in the city and its adjoining areas has been causing health hazard and polluting the environment.

Local people informed that, old and sick cattle, buffaloes and rickety goats are being slaughtered in and around the city without certificate from the health inspectors.

According to local doctors, various intestinal diseases, tuberculosis and hook-worm are being transmitted into human body from the meat of diseased cattle.

JHENIDAH

2 abandoned pipe guns recovered

Aug 25: Police recovered two pipe guns along with eight rounds of bullets abandoned by dacoits at village Subarnasara in Kalganj thana of the district on Saturday, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, Kalganj police raided the spot where the dacoits were preparing to commit a dacoity. The dacoits, however, managed to escape leaving the arms and ammunition.

GAIBANDHA

Rival supporters clash leaves 10 hurt

From Our Correspondent

Aug 25: At least ten students received injuries, one of them seriously in a clash between two rival supporters at Sundarganj College recently.

A clash ensued between the supporters of Awami League and JSD (Inu) over some organisational enmity on college campus. Ten students sustained injuries. One Abu Jahed Khan of JSD admitted to local hospital in critical condition. The situation was however brought under control after police intervention.

JSD Sundarganj unit President Farhat Pramanik filed a case with local thana.

PANCHAGARH

Shortage of bullock hampers farming

Aug 25: Cultivation of land has been greatly hampered due to shortage of bullock in the district, reports UNB.

Villagers said acute scarcity of fodder compelled many farmers to sell their bullock.

Poor farmers have to take loans from bank to purchase bullock each of which now costs at least Taka 10,000. But the local banks allegedly disbursed only a small amount of loan to the poor farmers.

Local leaders have urged the bank authorities to distribute more loans to the poor farmers for purchasing bullock and agricultural inputs.

BARISAL

Police nab 109 persons on various charges

From Our Correspondent

Aug 25: Police arrested 109 criminals on various charges and recovered 6 pipeguns, 2 rifles, 1 gun, 1 revolver, 6 rounds of ammunitions, 5 rounds of rifle bullets, 3 rounds of gun cartridges, and 1 round of revolver bullet through operation August '92 from the different places of Pirojpur district.

According to police, of the arrested there are absconded convicts, pickpockets, thieves, dacoits, toll collectors, mas-tans and violence creators.



SYLHET: Finance Minister M. Saifur Rahman speaking at the civic reception given in his honour by the local pourashava recently. — Star photo

Ganges-Kobadak Project faces closure, 21 dists to suffer

From Our Correspondent

DINAJPUR, Aug 25: The Ganges Kobadak Project, biggest irrigation project of this region of the country, aimed at increasing agricultural production is threatened with closure because of unprecedented low flow of Ganges water from the upper stream.

Informed sources said that the process of desiltation has started in as many as 21 South-western and northern districts of the country.

The mouth of intake channel which feed three main pumps and 12 subsidiary pumps for the irrigation of 3.50 lakh acres of land in Kushtia, Chuadanga, Jhenidah, Magura and Jessore districts have been silted up.

As a result, the project authority had to undertake dredging at an expenditure of Taka one lakh per day for maintaining the water flow to the pump house.

Lowest flow of Ganges water was recorded at 14,000 cusecs in February during the last few

years and this year too it is no exception. This year emergence of innumerable chars in the middle of the main river Ganges indicates that huge quantity of water has been diverted to the upper reaches much ahead of dry season by India through Farakka causing dislocation of ferry service on Bheramara-Paksey Route.

To maintain the ferry service, Roads and Highways Department had already spent huge amount of money for dredging its route and frequently shifting the Ferry Ghat for the convenience of the riverine passengers.

Paksey Paper Mills which require huge water from the river Ganges has also been facing problems due to abnormal low flow of water. The mill authority has also utilised dredger as well as manual labour to fetch water in order to keep the mills running with extreme difficulties.

Water and soil experts said that low flow of water has increased salinity in 21 districts

of the country by forty per cent.

Experts apprehended that more than 1.20 crore acres of cultivable land in the affected districts may turn into an arid land. This phenomenon has been increasingly lowering the moisture content of soil and experts termed it a sure sign of desertification.

The reduction of moisture in the soil will hamper the crop production in greater Dinajpur, Rangpur, Rajshahi, Pabna, Kushtia, Faridpur and Jessore districts, they said.

Hence, the rise of surface water salinity and soil intrusion salinity owing the unflattering withdrawal of water of the river Ganges by India will force us to change the usual cropping pattern in those affected districts for our survival they added.

It is learnt that a proposal for over Taka 6.28 crore project for comprehensive study to combat desertification in Bangladesh is awaiting approval.

Improper use of pesticides damaging standing crops, fertility of land

BORGUNA, Aug 25: Harmful effects of improper use of pesticides on crops are being increasingly noticed in the district, local agriculture officials said here, reports UNB.

Many farmers, unaware of harmful effects of the pesticides, have been using it in disproportionate doses damaging crops on the field, one official said.

Besides killing the complementary insects, pesticides and insecticides of various

brand names have also been destroying soil fertility, he said.

Local leaders urged the authorities to train the farmers on rational and scientific use of pesticides to protect the environment and soil quality.

A section of the tribal students of the district are facing problems in pursuing education in various institutions.

Most of them are deprived of higher education owing to poverty. As a result, the reserve quota remains unutilised.

Minor girl drowned

DINAJPUR, Aug 25: A minor girl drowned in a pond at Pulbari Bus Stand in the town, reports UNB.

The victim identified as Marina (6), of Nimnagar, went to the pond to take bath with two other playmates recently. They all went down into the pond but Marina slipped away and could not come out.

Another report adds: Local police recovered a body from Kawganj village in Sadar thana here recently.

The body was identified as Abbas Ali (28), son of Joynal Abedin. The cause of his death could not be ascertained immediately.

A case was filed with Kutwal police in this connection.

Assailants kill youngman at Comilla

COMILLA, Aug 25: A youngman was killed by unknown assailants at Aranyapur near Kotwali police station recently, reports UNB.

According to police the victim Shahidul Islam (28) was called out of his house at 9 pm on July 31 by an unknown miscreant. Later he was murdered and hanged on a tree.

At late night, his wife along with family members went out in search of the victim and recovered the body. The reason behind the killing could not be known.

A case was filed with the local police.



GAIBANDHA: To stop the erosion, Water Development Board is erecting spur along the embankment at Rasulpur. — Star photo

Notes from Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 25: A special team of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) in a raid at Salanga Hat under Raiganj thana recovered smuggled Indian clothes worth amounting to about Taka two lakh recently.

It is gathered that Salanga Hat has turned into a den of smugglers for a long time. Acting on secret information, 20th Rifles Battalion led by Major Islam raided some shops and recovered Indian clothes. No case lodged with police in this connection.

2 hijackers held

Sirajganj police recently arrested two alleged hijackers from the residence of Sirajganj town. Arrested Shahidul Islam (28) and Mozammel Haque were wanted in connection with hijacking. A case has been lodged with Dhunat police station of Bogra district.

While absconding, Sirajganj police raided the house of the town and arrested the accused persons.

Labour sarder commits suicide

One Anwar Hossain (55), a labour sarder of Sirajganj Quami Jute Mills committed suicide at his Satanpara village by hanging himself on August 20.

Following family feud, Anwar Hossain committed suicide at 11 am by hanging himself at his residence.

Youngman electrocuted

One Abdur Rouf (27) of village Naodasallabari in Sadar thana was electrocuted when he came in contact with an unauthorised service wire on August 18.

It is gathered that the victim while coming from Khokshabari Hat with paddy seeds was touched by a hanged wire. He died on the spot.

A case has been lodged with Sirajganj police in this connection.

Tree plantation programme

Bhangabari Rajani Sangshad in Belkuchi thana observed tree plantation programme with Advocate Quamrul Islam Talukder in the chair.

Samar Chandra Sinha, TNO, Belkuchi and Mujibur Rahman, Thana Magistrate, attended the function as the chief and special guests respectively.

Local Agricultural Extension Department supplied 100 saplings to plant in the compound of Rajani Sangshad.

Power lines disconnected

Belkuchi Electric Supply Authority have disconnected 270 connections of the defaulting subscribers during last three days.

A special team of local Power Development Board (PDB) led by Sub-Assistant Engineer, Md Tofazzal Hossain visited the villages, Tamal, Randhunibari, Betil, Enayctpur, Ajugara and Mukundagati and disconnected electrical lines of 270 subscribers who failed to pay arrears bills during the scheduled date.

One held with 10 gram heroin

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 25: Narcotics officials arrested a man from Soyagobinda with 10 gram heroin and recovered 2 kilogram ganja from another house of the same area on Saturday, reports UNB.

Acting on secret information, police raided the house of Amjad Hossain and arrested him with the heroin. He was later produced before the Sadar thana court.

Local people alleged the number of heroin addicted people in the district is on rise during the recent days as heroin is being sold by a section of dishonest people in various parts of the district almost unabatedly.

Sources said spurious drugs including heroin, ganja and charash are easily available in Soyagobinda, Hosainpur, Goylaekdala, Dattabari, Janpur, Rahmatganj and Gurka areas of the town.

Local elite urged the authorities to take immediate action against the spurious drug sellers.

Businessman robbed of Tk 68,000

FARIDPUR, Aug 25: A leading businessman of the town was seriously injured and robbed of Taka 68,000 by some miscreants near Sardarbari bridge on Kestopur-Talma road yesterday, reports UNB.

Three miscreants, riding on a motor cycle, attacked Binoy Kumar Saha who was coming to the town in a rickshaw-van.

Binoy was rushed to the Sadar hospital with several cut injuries.

Shortage of teachers hampers education in Satkhira Govt. College

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Aug 25: Acute shortage of teachers hampers proper education in the local government college.

More than 50 per cent posts of teachers and demonstrators are at present lying vacant in the college.

When contacted, the Principal of the college informed that there are 16 departments in the college.

Out of the total 62 posts, 32 posts of teachers are lying vacant.

The vacant posts include 3 posts of English teachers, 3 in Philosophy, 2 in General History, 2 in Islamic History, 2 in Islamic Studies, 2 in Political Science, 2 in Chemistry.

Besides, six posts of

demonstrators, one each in Zoology, Botany, Geography, Physics, Chemistry and Biology are lying vacant.

Apart from the shortage of teachers, the college is also facing other problems hampering education of 1500 students of the college.

Absence of an auditorium hampers cultural activities of the students. The students of the college remain standing under the open sky during leisure period due to shortage of limited accommodation in the common room.

The playground of the college is situated at a low lying area where rain water remain stagnant almost round the rainy season hampering the regular games and sports of the students.

Call to maintain peace for economic emancipation

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Aug 25: Finance Minister, M Saifur Rahman has said that peace and stability were the preconditions for achieving economic development of a country. So, we should ensure the basic things with a view to ensuring our cherished goal of attaining economic emancipation, he said.

The minister was addressing a civic reception arranged by the Sylhet pourashava in his honour on Saturday noon.

The minister stressed the need for keeping the democratic trend undisturbed and called upon all irrespective of party affiliations to take part in the politics of building the country. Small and coterie interests should be sacrificed, he said.

The function was also addressed, among others, by Khondaker Abdul Malik MP while AFM Kamal, Chairman Sylhet Pourashava presided.

The minister later attend the installation ceremony of the Central Students Union of the Shahjalal University of Science and Technology.

After a long movement, against the autocratic rule, the people had voted the BNP to run the state, but the opposition was continuously creating obstacles to the government since its assumption of power, the minister added. It can not be allowed to continue for institutionalising the democracy, he said.

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RAJBARI: The tubewell inside the local sadar hospital lying inoperative for a long. Consequently, scarcity of pure drinking water is prevailing in the hospital. — Star photo

6-hr hartal protesting arrest of JP leader observed in Jessore

JESSORE, Aug 25: A half-day general strike called by the district unit Jatiya Party was observed here on Monday with reports of clashes between police and picketers, reports UNB.

The JP district unit called the strike to protest the arrest of its President Khaledur Rahman Titu in Dhaka later Saturday night.

During the strike from 6 am to 12 noon, all shops and offices remained closed and vehicles were off the road.

The strike was peaceful upto 11 am but the situation turned violent following an incident in the centre of the town when police baton-charged a group of picketers.

At one stage, picketers

lobbed five hand bombs on police forcing them to fire several rounds of blank shots to control the situation. In the melee, three policemen and several JP activists were injured.

Later, police picked up 14 activists of Jatiya Party (JP).

Assassination bid protested

A report from Narayanganj says: Central leaders of the Five-Party Alliance at a rally here on Monday demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of the real culprits involved in the assassination attempt on Rashed Khan Menon, MP.

Tree plantation in five S. dists going on

BARISAL, Aug 25: The tree plantation drive in five southern districts under Khulna Forest Extension Division of Barisal is in full swing in the current season, reports BSS.

An official source said government, non-government and socio-cultural organisations chalked out different programmes for tree plantation in these districts.

Meanwhile, 5,89,587 saplings of different varieties were sold among the people of the districts of Barisal, Jhalakathi, Pirojpur, Bagerhat and Khulna under Khulna Forest Extension Division, the source said.

A total of 9,66,795 saplings will be distributed in these districts during this season, the source added.

The government has sanctioned Taka 7,09,850 for the implementation of the tree plantation programme in this

division this year, the source said.

Of the total, 51,084 saplings will be sold from Gournadi Nursery, 98,000 from Kashiapur, 26,000 from Barisal Sadar, 94,500 from Jhalakathi, 43,500 from Pirojpur, 49,000 from Bagerhat, 24,000 from Rahimnagar (Khulna), and 25,500 from Pultana nurseries.

'Janmastami', the birth anniversary of Sri Krishna, was observed throughout Barisal district by the Hindu community with due respect and religious fervour on August 21.

Different temples took up elaborate programmes to observe the day in a befitting manner. The programmes included Sreekrishna Puja, Jhagabath path and recitation from Ramayan.

Dharmaraxini Sava chalked out a month-long programme in this connection.