

District roundup

NARAIL

Shortage of bullock hits farming

Apr 12: Acute shortage of bullocks has been persisting in the district causing serious hindrance to cultivation, reports UNB.

According to sources, about 70 per cent farmers of the district have no bullocks. As a result 60 per cent land could not be cultivated last year.

On the other hand, most of the farmers have been tilling their lands by hiring bullocks as they can not afford to buy bullocks.

A pair of bullocks is being sold between Taka 10,000 and Taka 12,000 in different markets of the district which is beyond the capacity of the poor farmers.

Sometimes, they till their lands with spade and draw harrows by themselves.

Moreover, cattle diseases take a heavy toll every year. But no necessary steps have yet been taken by the Livestock Department to arrest the disease, it was alleged.

On the other hand, slaughtering of bullocks and cows has increased considerably following scarcity of fish in the market.

BARISAL

Projects under Test Relief Plan completed

Apr 12: Projects under Test Relief Programme in ten thanas of Barisal district have been completed recently, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the government sanctioned 1,042 metric tons of wheat for implementation of these projects in the current fiscal year.

The projects included repairing of roads, cleaning of bushes, jungles and water hyacinths of ponds or tanks, repairing of educational institutions, mosques and temples and construction of bamboo bridges.

Of the total, 94 projects were completed in Barisal Sadar thana, 189 projects in Bakerganj, 32 projects in Babuganj, 44 projects in Wazirpur, 83 projects in Gourmadi, 50 projects in Agaljhara, 40 projects in Mehendigonj, 37 projects in Hizla, 82 projects in Banaripara, 31 projects in Barisal Paurashava and 37 projects in Muladi thanas of the district.

CHUADANGA

Lions Club hands over rickshaw

From Our Correspondent

Apr 12: On behalf of Lions Club of Dhaka Purabi-District-315 A Bangladesh a rickshaw was handed over to a local rickshawpuller named Siraj Ali at a function held here at the local railbazar Chand Market.

The Deputy Commissioner of Chuadanga M Tajul Islam who was present on the occasion as the chief guest handed over the rickshaw on behalf of the club.

The advisor of Lions Club, Dhaka, Purabi who was also present on the occasion presided over the function.

The rickshaw was handed over under the permanent rehabilitation programme of the club.

The function was arranged by the Chuadanga district Probin Kalyan Samity.

KHULNA

Seminar held in observance of World Health Day

Apr 12: Participants at seminar on 'Taka care of life and resist terrorism and carelessness' here on Wednesday called for exerting concerted efforts to ensure health for all by the year 2000, reports UNB. Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP) organised the seminar at its conference room in observance of World Health Day.

Speaking as chief guest, Mayor of Khulna City Corporation Syed Tayebur Rahman said government efforts to ensure 'Health for All by 2000 AD' should be supplemented by NGOs and private initiatives.

Carelessness generates terrorism and accidents which result in a crippled society, he said.

Vice-Chancellor of Khulna University Dr Golam Rahman, Divisional Commissioner Abdur Mukhtar Chowdhury and DIG Ashraf Huda were among those who spoke at the seminar presided over by KMP Commissioner Rafiqul Alam Khan.

MYMENSINGH

Seminar held

Apr 12: A seminar on 'Factors affecting toxin concentration in lathyrus sativas' (Khesari) was held on Monday at the library bhavan of the Bangladesh Agricultural University, reports BSS.

Organised by Bangladesh Agricultural University Research and Education System (BAURES), the seminar was presided over by prof Zahirul Huq Bhuiyan, Rabul Haq, a Ph D student, Department of Bio-Chemistry, participated in the discussion as resource person.

Prof Farnande Lambain of Belgium and Prof Muhammad Hossain of Bangladesh Agricultural University participated in the discussion.

LALMONIRHAT

50 hurt in five separate clashes

Apr 12: At least 50 people were injured in five separate clashes in the district over land disputes, police said on Wednesday, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, 12 people were injured when two groups locked in a clash over the possession of a plot of khas land at Gorubil in Kaliganj thana of on March 26. Of them, Saifuddin (50) was sent to Rangpur Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

On March 19, in another clash at village Botla, 13 people were injured. Of them, Attar Rahman (30), Gulam Mustafa (28), Aminur Rahman (28), Dil Mamud (50), Ekramul Haq (32) and Shamsul Haq (30) were admitted to the local health complex.

On March 15, at least 7 people were injured in a clash over the possession of a disputed land at village Latabar in the same thana. Of them, Sultan Ahmed (35), Sohrab Ali (30), Alema Khatun (25) and Johora Khatun were admitted to local health complex.

In another clash at village Sebakkas of the thana, four people were wounded on the same day. Of the injured, Sharafat Ali (40) was rushed to the local health complex while others were released after first aid.

CHITTAGONG

Relief goods sanctioned for fire-victims

Apr 12: State Minister for Relief Lutfur Rahman Khan visited the fire-hit Kadam area in the port city on Tuesday, reports UNB.

He went round the fire-gutted houses and talked to the affected people. He enquired about their welfare and expressed his deep sympathy.

The State Minister sanctioned 15 metric tons of rice, 100 pieces of saree, 100 pieces of lungi and cash Taka 50,000 as gratuitous relief for the fire victims.

He assured them that the government would provide all possible help for their relief and rehabilitation.

Mayor of the City Corporation Mir Mohammed Nasiruddin, Syed Wahidul Alam MP and Serajul Islam accompanied the state minister during the visit.

Later he inspected the Chittagong relief godown at Halishahar and the stock of CI sheets at Chittagong sea port which was recently imported by the Ministry of Relief.

SATKHIRA

Housewife beaten to death

From Our Correspondent

Apr 12: One housewife Hafiza Khatun (20), daughter of Samsur Rahman of village Jamsur under Sadar thana was beaten to death by her husband recently.

It is reported that deceased Hafiza got married twice before but was divorced for failure to meet up the demand of dowry within short period.

Later, she got married with Nasiruddin of village Hazipur under the same thana a year back. But Nasir was not also the exception after one year of marriage he demanded the dowry but the poor parents of Hafiza was unable to meet up the demand. As a result, he tortured her off and on and on the day of occurrence the cruel husband beat her mercilessly and she become unconscious. At that time, the killer husband poured liquid pesticide into her mouth and forced her to take inside consequently she died. The neighbours informed the matter to the police. But the killer husband managed to escape.

A case was lodged with Satkhira ps in this regard.



POPULAR SWEET POTATO: Now is the harvesting season of sweet potato. Children are collecting potatoes. — Star photo

Firewood use rampant in brickfields

PATUAKHALI, Apr 12: Trees of the district are on the verge of extinction due to rampant use as firewood in the brickfields violating the government restriction, reports UNB.

Local people alleged that a huge quantity of firewood is being used in the brickfields instead of coal. At present, firewood is being sold between Taka 80 and Taka 90 per maund. The brickfield owners prefer firewood to coal for use in manufacturing bricks due to its cheap price, they added.

Fruit bearing trees like mango, jackfruit, date and other valuable trees are being felled in huge numbers for use in the brickfields every day, they added.

Sometimes, the brickfield owners allure the poor people to sell their trees by giving advance payment.

Besides, trees are found openly piled up in saw-mills and in some brickfields for use in manufacturing bricks.

Under Forest Preservation Act use of firewood in the brickfields is prohibited. But law enforcing agency is not

taking any action against the violators, they said.

Experts said use of firewood in the brickfields can be stopped by arranging supply of L P gas to manufacture bricks.

Local people urged the concerned authority to take proper step to stop use of firewood in the brickfields.

Bidis sold without bandrolls

Another report says: The sale of bidis without bandrolls in all the six thanas of the district is going on causing heavy loss to the government.

Many bidi factories in the district which employed hundreds of workers are selling bidis without bandrolls. Meanwhile, the sale of bidis has increased during the recent times due to the rise in the prices of different brands of cigarettes.

As per existing law Taka 37 must be paid as excise duty for each 100 packets of bidis. But the owners of the bidi factories supply their products to the markets without bandrolls, local people alleged.

Sometimes, the owners of the bidi factories use forged or

used bandrolls. Besides, the actual production of the factories is not shown in the papers for evading government duties.

Local people also alleged that the owners of bidi factories were continuing their evil practices with the help of some dishonest officials.

They urged the concerned authorities to take strict measures against this malpractice.

3 FWP projects to be implemented

Three projects under Food for Works Programme will be implemented in Galachipa thana of the district during the current fiscal.

Official sources said 210 metric tons of wheat were sanctioned for implementation of the projects.

The projects include excavation of canals and construction of roads.

About 3,000 hectares of lands will come under irrigation facilities after execution of the projects, contributing to additional food production in the locality.

The projects are expected to be completed by next June.

Notes from Brahmanbaria

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, Apr 12: Independence Day was observed all over the district in a befitting manner.

On this occasion, elaborate programmes were taken up by government and non-government organizations.

National flags were hoisted at top of the public and government building. A function was arranged at the circuit house for the disabled freedom fighters and Shaheed families. Deputy Commissioner Abdul Matin was present as chief guest while Additional District Judge Shah Alam, Thana Nirbahi Officer Enamul Hoque and Unit Commander Tajul Islam were present as special guests. Deputy Commissioner distributed some gifts among the freedom fighters and members of the Shaheed families. Special prayers were offered at the mosques, churches, temples. Special foods were supplied in the jail, hospitals etc.

Ma-O-Moni Gold Cup Tournament begins

Under the auspices of Bangladesh Football Federation, Zila Sports Association arranged a 45 days long training camp for under 14 years players of Chittagong Division 'Ma-O-Moni' Gold Cup Tournament at the Niaz Mohd Stadium of the district from April 1.

State Minister for Shipping Al-haj Harun-ur Rashid inaugurated the training camp. 30 players from different districts of Chittagong division have participated in the camp.

In the inaugural function, it was addressed among others by Deputy Commissioner Mohd Abdul Matin, Secretary Zila Sports Association Advocate Enamul Hoque Helal, Police Super Habibur Rahman and Additional Zila Magistrate Shah Alam.

Meet held on canal re-excavation

A discussion meeting on re-excavation of canals programme of the district held at the Deputy Commissioner's Conference Room under the chairmanship of Al-haj Harun-ur Rashid, State Minister for shipping on April 2.

State minister in his speech, directed the concerned programme authority to complete the re-excavation of canals by April 15. In the meeting the progress of the re-excavation of canals of the seven thanas of the district were discussed.

Ukil Abdus Sattar Bhuiya MP, Deputy Commissioner Mohd Abdul Matin, Kazi Mohd Anwar Hussain also spoke in the meeting.

Indian goods seized

A special squad of BDR 32 Battalion in a raid, recovered 550 meters Indian velvet clothes worth about Tk 5 lakh from a boat in the Titas river under Nabinagar thana.

Another report adds: BDR 32 Battalion in a raid, seized Indian sarees worth about Taka 1.52 lakh from village Shuhilpur under Sadar thana.

In another raid, BDR personnel recovered Indian goods worth about Taka 5.64 lakh from the Dhaka bound intercity train Upaban.

Later, the recovered goods deposited to the customs.

Tk 2.37cr contraband goods seized

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Apr 12: Bangladesh Rifles seized a huge quantity of contraband goods worth about Taka 2.37 crore from Mohishbari in Godagari thana of the district Thursday night, reports UNB.

BDR sources said two Chapainawabganj bound trucks from Dhaka were unloading huge quantity of spices and other contraband items and tried to smuggle those to India.

Help resist elements out to divide nation

CHITTAGONG, Apr 12: Leaders of Chittagong University Jayotabadi Shikkak Parishad called upon all nationalist forces on Saturday to unitedly resist those elements out to divide the nation by raising different slogans, a press release of the parishad said, reports BSS.

The parishad leaders were addressing an Independence Day-cum-Eid Re-union function at the university arts building lounge with parishad convener Prof. Mahfuzul Huq presiding. Prof. AJM Nuruddin Chowdhury, Dean of the Faculty of Commerce attended the function as chief guest while Prof. Hafizullah Khan, Prof. Kazi Ahmad Nabi, Prof. Abul Kalam Azad, Prof. Nurul Islam and Prof. Yusuf Sharif Ahmad Khan addressed it.

They said that the country needed strong unity of the people to solve many problems

including Farakka issue and law and order situation of the country. They also called for resisting infiltration of alien culture into Bangladesh.

Another report adds: Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury MP, on Tuesday called for investing more power with local government institutions to help accelerate development programmes at the village level.

Speaking at a meeting of union parishad chairmen and thana level officers of Rauzan thana here, Chowdhury said, union parishads should be the important base for carrying on development activities at village level. Maximum number of people will also be able to participate in development programmes when union parishads are given more power for development activities, he added.

782 people sterilized in six months

MAJDEE COURT (Noakhali), Apr 12: At least 782 people were sterilized in six thanas of the district during the period from July to December, '92, official sources said, reports UNB.

During the period, 1266 women were given Copper-T and 6122 people were given injections as temporary measures of birth control. Besides 5302 pieces of condom and 19,038 oral pills were distributed among the fertile couple.

According to family planning department, several programmes taken up during this year to motivate the people for planned parenthood are going on in the district in full swing. An official said the people are gradually taking interest to keep their families small.

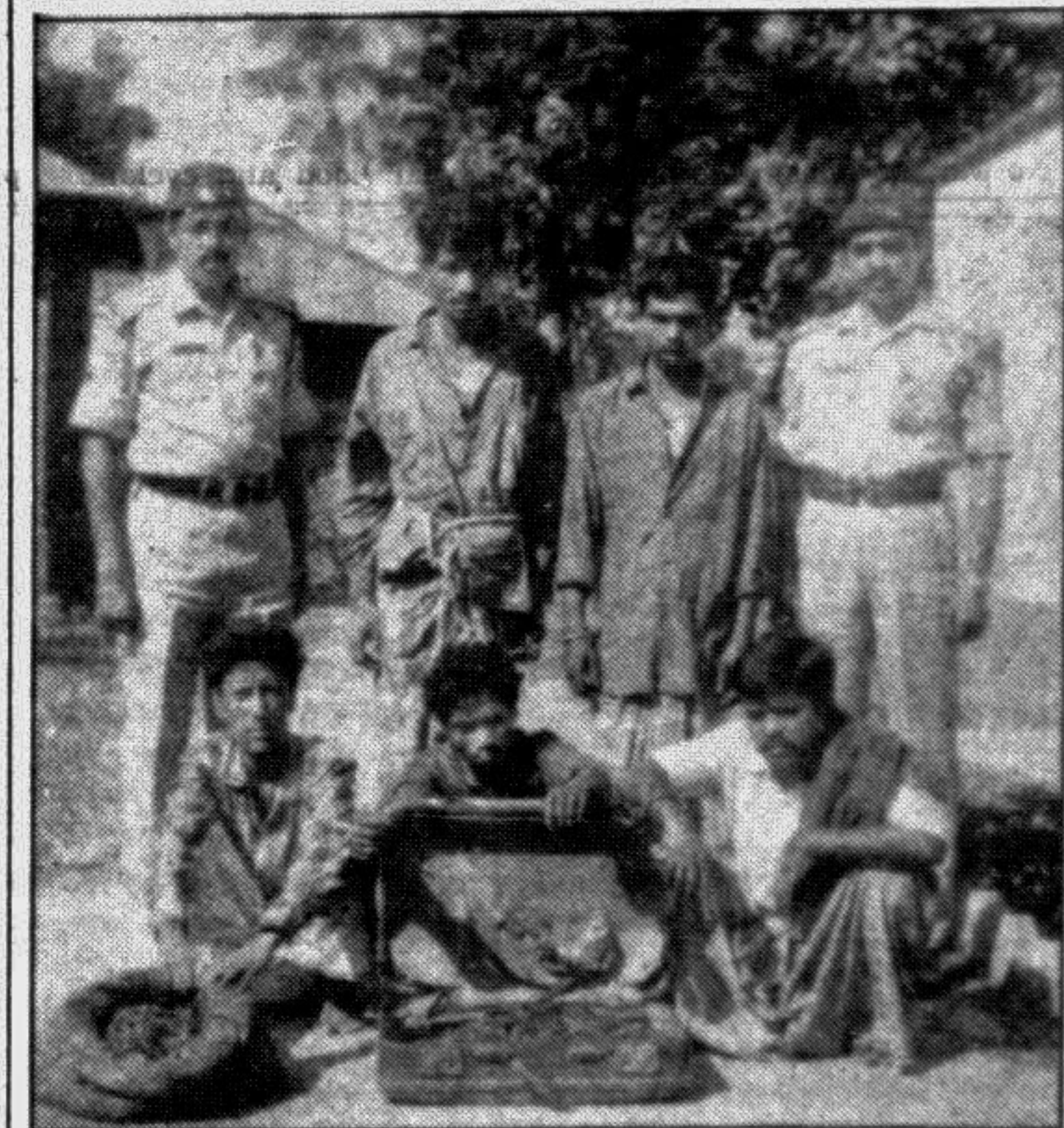
Another report adds: Local people and socio-cultural organisations condemned the killing of Humayun Zahir, Vice-Chairman, United Commercial Bank Limited (UCBL), and demanded exemplary punishment to the killers.

They expressed sympathy to the bereaved family and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

The prominent businessman was shot dead by miscreants at his residence in the capital's posh Dhaimondi residential area Thursday.

Among those who sympathised with the bereaved family and demanded trial of the killers are Advocate Abul Kalam Chowdhury, General Secretary of Noakhali Ummayan Bastabayan Parishad, Prof M Hanif, General Secretary of the district Awami League, Saiful Azam Jahangir, General Secretary of the district Sports Association, Anwar Mirza, President of the district Chamber of Commerce, and A B M Jubair and Abdul Kader, President and General Secretary respectively of Noakhali Press Club.

Late Humayun Zahir was a member of Noakhali Bar Association.



NETRAKONA: Kotwali thana police recently arrested five persons with stolen letter types. — Star photo

Money lenders charge higher interest rates

BRAHMANBARIA, Apr 12: A section of unscrupulous money lenders are charging high interest rates from farmers of the district causing immense sufferings to them, local people alleged, reports UNB.

The lenders invest their money at interest rates ranging from 10 to 15 per cent per month in all the seven thanas of the district, they said.

Finding no other alternatives poor farmers of the locality borrow money from them on such terms to cultivate their land and meet emergency needs.

Natural calamities like flood, drought and cyclone affect agricultural production every year and taking advantage of the situation the money lenders do brisk business, the affected farmers said.

Local people urged the government to introduce effective laws to stop private money lending business and take action against the greedy lenders.

Another report adds: Police arrested seven people on charge of attempting to kill a school boy at Sharif village in Sadar thana of the district last week.

Police said a group of people rescued Masud Parvez Selim while Bulbul of Gaturia village and his six accomplices were allegedly trying to bury him alive on April 1.

Local people said Bulbul (20) fell in love with Bilkis Begum (11) of the same village. But Masud, maternal uncle of Bilkis, did not take the matter

casily and rebuked Bulbul.

At this, Bulbul became furious and he along with his accomplices called Masud out from the school and took him into a graveyard where they mercilessly beat up and later tried to bury him alive there.

On hearing cries of Masud, the people rushed to the spot and rescued him. They also rounded up the miscreants and later handed them over to the police.

Masud was admitted to Brahmanbaria Sadar hospital.

Meet held to restore discipline in traffic movement

CHITTAGONG, Apr 12: A meeting of the transport owners and workers held at the conference room of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) here Tuesday took a number of decisions to restore discipline in city's traffic movement, reports BSS.

According to a CMP press release, the meeting presided over by CMP commissioner, Osman Ali Khan decided that all buses and mini-buses plying between Chittagong city and southern region will load and unload passengers at the Bhaddarhat Bus Terminal and all city buses, and taxis and rickshaws will stop at their respective stands. No vehicle shall be parked indiscriminately on the roadside.



SYLHET: Munajat was offered after laying the foundation stone of a diabetic hospital. Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman recently laid the foundation here. — Star photo