

District roundup

RANGPUR

81,000 hectares of land under aus farming

May 14 : The Agriculture Extension Department has brought 81,000 hectares of land under aus and jute cultivation in the district in the current season, reports BSS. An official source said 64,000 hectares have been brought under aus paddy cultivation while 17,000 hectares under jute cultivation. About one lakh metric tons of aus paddy and 1 lakh and 70 thousand bales of jute are expected to be produced in the district this year, the source said.

KUSHTIA

Miscreants swoop on newsman

May 14 : Unknown miscreants swooped on a journalist and roughed him up seriously in the town Tuesday night, reports UNB.

The miscreants armed with lethal weapons attacked Abdur Rashid Chowdhury, Editor of the 'Dainik Bangladesh Barta' and secretary of Kushtia Zila Press Club, when he was returning home from his paper office by car at about 9 pm.

The miscreants also damaged the car badly. Chowdhury, who is also a member of Bangladesh Council of Editors, received head injury and was rushed to Kushtia General Hospital.

Meanwhile, president of the Kushtia Zila Press Club condemned the attack and demanded immediate arrest of those responsible for the incident.

Kushtia Police Super visited the Editor at the hospital and ordered an immediate investigation into the incident.

MYMENSINGH

WUS meet held

May 14 : The seventh meeting of the World University Service (WUS) National Executive Committee was held recently at the guest house of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) with the Vice-Chancellor Prof M M H Khan in the chair, says a press release.

The management budget of the WUS national programmes for the year 1993, as proposed by the General Secretary of WUS National Executive Committee Prof M M H Khan, was considered and accorded approval in the meeting. Besides, the meeting arrived at the unanimous decision to host the ensuing WUS Asia-Pacific Regional Conference at the capital city of Bangladesh.

It may be mentioned here that the WUS National Executive Committee for the years 1993 and 1994 comprises of 21 members representing nine universities of the country with the Vice-Chancellor of BAU as its Chairman and Prof M M H Khan and Prof M I Hossain of BAU as its General Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

Members from all universities except the University of Chittagong attended the meeting.

KISHOREGANJ

Hats, bazars in shambles

From Our Correspondent
May 14 : The hats and bazars in 13 thanas of the district are in pitiable condition causing immense sufferings to both customers and sellers. Lack of proper maintenance by the authorities concerned is the main reason behind the gradual deterioration of the condition of hats and bazars.

These markets came into being at local initiative but there is no proportional expansion of bazars to the growing population. Not a single bazar has drainage system. The situation worsens during rainy season when most of the hats and bazars go under knee-deep water. Congested places for selling fish, vegetables and other commodities and extortion of tolls by jaradars have multiplied the difficulties of buyers and sellers.

Absence of pure drinking water facilities in these markets is an added problem. All the district hats and bazars lack latrines and urinals. Filths and garbage are piled up hither and thither emitting bad odour threatening public health.

Shortage of sheds is another serious problem. Most of the hats and bazars sit under open sky, very few of them have tinshed structures. Shopping of different commodities on the adjacent roads and lanes of the hats and bazars in the district is a regular feature.

SATKHIRA

Palm juice takes one life

May 14 : A minor girl died and six others fell seriously ill after taking palm juice in Debhata thana of the district on Monday, reports UNB.

Villagers said the members of a family of the village Bayra in Debhata thana drank palm juice and fell ill. One minor girl, Khuku, of the family succumbed subsequently.

Another report from Pabna adds: An old man of Santhia thana, missing for four months, arrived his house Tuesday.

Police said Aheruddin Khan (65) of Sargam village was mysteriously untraced from January 12 from his village home.

His son Md Shaheed filed a case against his uncle and others accusing them for kidnaping his father.

Aheruddin on the same day met Additional SP of the district and informed him that nobody was responsible for this. He also declined to say anything about his absence for the last four months.

FENI

Survey reveals 38 mentally retarded

May 14 : Thirty-eight people have been found mentally retarded among 4,200 families of 20 villages and some localities in the town, a preliminary survey report said here Monday, reports UNB.

Feni district unit of Mentally Retarded Welfare Society conducted the survey.

The report said many aristocrat families made secret of their mentally retarded members.

The society has already been running a school for the mentally retarded and classes are being taken from 9 am every day in batches.

The society also began a fresh survey for listing the names of mentally retarded people at 564 villages of the district from Sunday.

General secretary of the society Advocate Samir Kar told newsmen that after proper survey the number of mentally retarded people may rise up to 2,000.

The society is learnt to have been involved in development and rehabilitation of the mentally retarded under the Comilla Matchant Area Project.

NARAIL

Number of fruit trees on the wane

May 14 : The number of fruit-bearing trees is gradually decreasing in the district due to indiscriminate felling by the traders, reports UNB.

The poverty stricken poor people of the district are selling their trees like mango, jack fruit, black berry, wood-apple, litchi, palm and other species to the wood traders to meet their livelihood costs.

The demands of wood have been increased largely due to its increased use in the brickfield and also for making furniture. On the other hand, the plantation of trees were not increasing proportionally. Squeezing of homestead land due to construction of houses also barred the rural people from tree plantation.

Despite the government ban, the brickfield owners are using wood for manufacturing bricks. A large quantity of wood is also being used in match and biscuit factories. Furniture factories and fuel wood traders are also purchasing huge quantity of wood every day to meet their requirement.

Experts said the wanton felling of trees is adversely affecting the environment causing ecological imbalance in the district.

They urged the authority to take necessary steps to stop indiscriminate felling of trees by the unscrupulous traders and brickfield owners.

MADARIPUR

Swimming training programme concludes

May 14 : Madaripur District Sports Office recently organised a week-long swimming training programme for 50 trainees, reports BSS.

Madaripur Paurashava Chairman Khalilur Rahman Khan inaugurated the training programme. The inaugural function was addressed among others by Dr Mohammad Serajul Huq (Tota) and District Sports Officer D K Mandal.

Mokhlesur Rahman imparted training to the trainees.



JESSORE: The Patibila Haji Shahjahan Ali High School of Chowgacha thana was badly damaged by the severe cyclonic storm that lashed the district recently. It has not yet been reconstructed causing much inconvenience to the students.
—Star Photo

Malaria kills 32, attacks 4592 in Sunamganj

SUNAMGANJ, May 14 : Malaria claimed 32 lives and attacked about 4592 people of the district during the last one month, official sources said, reports UNB.

Unofficial sources, however, claimed the death toll at 94.

The disease that broke out in 23 villages in Sripur North, Bardal North and Badaghat unions of Tahripur thana, Rangerchar unions in Sadar thana has been engulfing new areas.

Civil Surgeon office sources said 12 medical teams are working in the affected areas and so far blood sample of 2797 people have been collected for pathological tests.

The health department has also supplied 47,850 tablets among the villagers. Two temporary hospitals have also been set up at Kalagaan and Latma Bazar to combat the menace.

Pabna

Another report from Pabna says : Blood dysentery claimed two more lives and attacked 12 other children in Sadar thana, hospital sources said Monday.

They said Shumi (4) of Atua and Razu (2) of Shalgaria died of the killer disease Monday morning. Twelve affected children were admitted to Sadar Hospital in critical condition.

Officials said with the fresh deaths, the toll from the disease in Sadar thana rose to 10 and the number of those attacked to 37 during the last three days.

Six medical teams with 18 doctors were working in the affected areas to combat the disease.

Noakhali

Report from Noakhali states: Chicken pox has broken out in an alarming form in six thanas of the district alarmingly.

About 1000 people of the district so far have been attacked by the infectious disease with advent of dry season.

The children and women are the easy victims of the disease, said the local people. More than 200 people attacked by the disease in Sadar thana alone.

People alleged that due to scarcity of necessary medicines in the hospital and health complexes patients are to go to the village quacks seeking treatment.

Taking advantage of the situation, the quacks are charging high fees which is beyond the reach of the poor people.

They urged the authority to take necessary steps to combat the spread of the disease with-out further delay.

C'nawabganj

Another report from C'nawabganj adds : An old man was brutally killed allegedly by some guards of a mango tree in the district on Friday.

According to police the victims Wahidullah (55), a night guard of the under-construction PTI building in the town, plucked a green mango from a nearby garden. Seeing the plucking of mango, the guards of the garden started beating him and the ill-fated man died on the spot.

A case has been filed with the local police.

Another report adds : Three people were killed in separate road accidents last week in the district.

Police sources said, one Abdul Khalek (40) was killed and 20 others were injured when a bus plunged into a road side ditch on Rohampur-Bholahat road on May 5. The injured people were rushed to Sadar hospital and Gomastapur health complex.

In another accident Wajuddin, a rickshawpuller of village Dariapur and a five-year old child were killed in a road accident on Chapainawabganj-Rajshahi road May 1.

Police said the accident occurred when a truck hit the rickshaw near Dariapur village in Sadar thana of the district.

One gets 10yrs RI for snatching at B'baria

From Our Correspondent
BRAHMANBARIA, May 14 : Additional Sessions Judge, Second Court, Khademul Islam Md Belal sentenced one Md Alamgir 10 years rigorous imprisonment and fined Taka 10 thousand in default to suffer two years more on charges of hijacking.

Other two accused of the case Aktar Miah and Kajal Miah were acquitted.

The prosecution case in brief is that Jatindra Chandra Das and his wife Rita Rani Das of Maiddapara of the town were going to station by rickshaw early morning at about 5 O'clock on June 6 in the year 1991. About 100 yards from his house Md Alamgir and other two stopped the rickshaw showing knives and daggers. They forcibly snatched Taka 500 from the pocket of Jatindra and snatched ornaments from his wife injuring them in the belly and hands.

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132 commit suicide in one month

PABNA, May 14 : At least 132 people committed suicide in 12 northern districts of the country in the last month, police here said, reports UNB.

The dead included businessmen, women, students, youths, mental patients and government officials, the sources added.

Of the total dead, 27 people committed suicide in Pabna, 11 people in Sirajganj, 14 in Bogra, 9 in Joypurhat, 12 in Rajshahi, 22 in Natore, 4 in Naogaon, 7 in Chapainawabganj, 3 in Kurigram, 5 in Lalmonirhat, 8 in Nilphamari and 10 in Rangpur districts.

Family feud, poverty, mental disease, suffering from chronic diseases, failure in love affairs were the main causes of the suicide.

Several cases of unnatural deaths were filed with different police stations.

Another report says : Bus communication on the Nagarbari-Pabna highway came to a halt after some students of Puspapara Alia Madrasah damaged several buses following a brawl with transport workers over fare. The Pabna Motor Stramk Union enforced the bus traffic halt for an indefinite period protesting the rampage at about 10:30 am.

Another report adds : Five children died of dysentery in the district general hospital Friday.

Hospital sources said another 27 were admitted in the hospital with dysentery during the period.

Power supply erratic in Chuadanga

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, May 14 : Frequent power failure of 'Chuadanga Electric Supply' has become a regular feature in the district.

It falls particularly by the first part of night causing untold sufferings to the consumers.

Besides general consumers, a good number of industrial units small and medium including saw-mills, ice factories, chakki and paddy husking mills, oil mills, printing presses, studios, cinema halls, hospital patients and some other units have also been experiencing the same trouble in their respective business for this sort of power failure.

When contacted the Resident Engineer of Electric Supply told that the supply of energy to Chuadanga was being made from Khulna where power failure occurs. As such, the local authority has got

nothing to do with the situation, he added.

Another report adds: Smuggled goods worth Taka 68,21,993 were seized by the members of the law enforcing agencies and Task Force from the different border areas and haats and bazars of Chuadanga district during the last three months — January, February and March.

Of the total smuggled goods, worth Taka 67,44,541 were seized while being smuggled into the country and goods worth Taka 77,452 were seized while being smuggled out of the country.

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JHENIDAH: Fazlur Rahman Patal, State Minister for Communication is seen unveiling the plaque of Saikupa-Langalbandh road recently.
—Star Photo

Trucks kill 3 persons

RANGPUR, May 14 : Two pedestrians were killed near Pirganj Bus Stand when a truck took an attempt to overtake a minibus on the Rangpur-Bogra road here on Sunday, police and witnesses said, reports UNB.

The deceased were identified as Bholu, 30, and Azhar Ali (40). Both of them were waiting at the bus stand when the truck hit them.

According to witnesses, both the victims died on the spot when a Bogra-bound speeding truck lost control in an attempt to overtake a minibus and ran over the pedestrians.

Immediately after the mishap, driver of the truck managed to escape the scene with his vehicle. A case has been filed with the police. Another report from

Jamalpur adds: A man was killed and three others were injured when a truck skidded off the Mymensingh-Jamalpur road near Joypurhat, six kilometres east of Jamalpur town, and fell into the old Brahmaputra river on Monday.

The deceased was identified as Abdul Hakim (65). Injured Ali Akbar (22), Jaham Mia (35) and Omesa Begum were admitted to Sadar Hospital. All the victims are the inhabitants of Bokshtiganj thana.

According to Fire Service sources, the Bakshiganj-bound truck loaded with gunny bags and some passengers from Dhaka met the accident due to brake failure.

The driver and helper of the truck, however, managed to escape. A case has been filed with the police.

Beggars on increase

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, May 14 : Beggars are on the rise in the town and adjoining areas following influx of poor people from remote and cyclone-affected areas.

According to the informed sources, these helpless people have trekked into the town with the hope of getting better earning. Dwellers complained that with onrush of these people infectious diseases and anti-social activities have recorded a sharp rise vitiating the social atmosphere and creating panic among the public.

Besides, small children have taken manual jobs in hotels and restaurants and in different machinery shops to support their families squating in slums.

Moreover, many young women of these families took to prostitution jeopardising the social fabric. Residents alleged. Town dwellers called for immediate rehabilitation of these people.

Another report adds: Use of cowdung as traditional fertilizer has diminished sharply among farmers here resulting in the decline of land fertility.

Farmers said, application of the cowdung raises crop production without any adverse effect.

Problems cripple Khagrachhari town

From Our Correspondent

KHAGRACHHARI, May 14 : The Khagrachhari municipality of the hilly town of Khagrachhari has been smarting with multifarious problems depriving its 50 thousand dwellers from very minimum civic amenities and deserving facilities.

Once a hamlet, the Khagrachhari municipality established in December, 1984 with the promise to extend civic amenities, modern facilities and better life to the taxpayers, has absolutely failed to fulfill its minimum commitment. Doast Mohammad Chowdhury, a Councillor of the Local Government Council said.

Funds shortage
Facing an acute financial constraint from the very inception and lacking of government patronization, the municipality authority could hardly carry out any development activities towards the upliftment of its dwellers, officials alleged. Now it has been shouldering a recoverable amount of Taka fifteen lakhs in the form of different taxes, payable by its tax-payers. Not only carrying out of development activities, the officers and employees are not getting also their salaries regularly and timely, sources added.

Except a few, all the roads

in the municipality are kutcha besides a very few with brick-salling. The only road towards Khagrachhari Government Girls' High School has already been blown away with the mighty current of the engulfing Chengri river. The three-storied hostel building for the tribal students has been facing serious threat of the river. The culvert and the bridge besides the hostel have already been eroded in the river.

Scarcity of drinking water
Acute scarcity of water has been prevailing in the municipality except a few areas. The tube-wells and ponds in the different wards have become unworkable due to absence of repair and renovation. The garbage all the areas including Khagrachhari Bazar stocked in such a way that made the civic life deplorable. There found seldom a pucca drain in the municipality and all the kutcha drains found blocked due to absence of services. The drainage system is acutely miserable here.

The beauty of the district town has already lost due to construction of residential and commercial houses heater and thither most unplanned without obtaining any permission from the municipality, officials alleged. Especially, the kutcha and semi-pucca shops and houses built so haphazardly in the college-gate area may cause fire havoc at any time, sources added.

Improper parking
Buses and trucks found parking anywhere in the town causing serious traffic-jam, inconvenience to the public and frequent accident, though there is a modern bus and truck terminal in the municipality. Rickshaws are found excess in comparison with the area of the town and strength of people. A section of dishonest rickshaw-owners has been making rickshaws regularly and arranging those plying without any license with the floating distressed people. Rustam, a rickshaw-puller who was carrying this correspondent to the Weekly Parbat office on April 9 evening told that the owner of the garage from where he rented up this rickshaw, arranged engraving a municipality number to some 20 rickshaws. The owner had 30 independent number issued from the municipality. Rustam has come over here from a village of Rangpur district, passed class VIII from his village school. At present rickshaw accident has become

a regular phenomenon in the town.

The three passenger-sheds built by the municipality authority with a cost of Taka 2.25 lakhs have already been occupied unauthorisedly by tea and fruit-sellers, depriving the passengers from shed facilities ensuring their rain and sun bath.

No municipality facilities or minimum civic amenities have been extended to some wards since its commissioning, though the dwellers have been paying the taxes. Supply of electricity or water to Golabari in the municipality Ward No 3 is not made yet. No development works in road or other sectors in this ward have carried out.

Only public toilet

The only public-toilet of the municipality in Khagrachhari bazar has become unworkable since last one year due to lack of care and maintenance. Dens of local wine, gambling and prostitution have been existing in a lot of areas here where unsocial and immoral activities are going on in the eyes of the local administrations. Movement of pye-dogs and menace of mosquitos have increased alarmingly.

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RANGPUR: A procession of bullock-carts was organised in the town by the Rangpur Bhawaiya Parishad in connection with the observance of the Bengali New Year 1400.
—Star photo