

District roundup

KUSHITIA

Discussion on mango plantation

June 5: A discussion on mango plantation was held at the office of Kushtia Agriculture Extension Division here, reports BSS.

Abdur Rouf, Additional Director of Jessore Zone Agriculture Extension Department was chief guest at the discussion. Mozammel Haq, Agriculture Extension Officer, Kushtia presided over the function. A number of horticulturists discussed various aspects of mango production.

The speakers were of the opinion that mango production is a very profitable business as mango worth about taka one lakh could be produced in an acre of land.

JHENIDAH

Dacoity leaves 2 persons injured

June 5: Failing to rob a house in broad day light, a group of dacoits Wednesday sprayed bullets and hurled bombs leaving at least two persons injured, reports UNB.

Police said 7 gunmen raided the house of Abul Biswas of Lauola village to commit dacoity at around noon. Alarmed by the cries of inmates of the house, villagers chased the dacoits.

While fleeing the gunmen fired indiscriminately and hurled bombs.

Halfz (17) with bullet injury in the chest was admitted to Jhenidah hospital while Anis (15) injured by bomb, was treated in clinic.

FARIDPUR

Dacoits hurt seven bus passengers

June 5: Seven persons received injuries, one of them seriously, when dacoits threw their down from a Khulna-bound night coach from Dhaka last Sunday night, reports BSS.

According to Kotwali police, a group of armed dacoits numbering ten boarded the coach 'Diganta' at Gabtali bus terminal in the guise of passengers. As the coach crossed the river Padma by ferry and started for Khulna the dacoits went into action. They overpowered the driver and took control of the wheels. The dacoits looted the valuables of the passengers and pushed those who resisted down from the running bus.

They also hit the passengers with but it of knives. The dropping of passengers was noticed by the driver of a Faridpur bound coach from behind. He drove his vehicle closely behind and compelled the masqueraders to get into Faridpur town. The dacoits who blindly drove into the town had to halt near a patrol block. Police chased the bus and caught one dacoit with some looted goods. Others managed to escape.

One passenger was admitted to hospital and other were released after first aid.

One passenger was admitted to hospital and other were released after first aid.

One passenger was admitted to hospital and other were released after first aid.

One passenger was admitted to hospital and other were released after first aid.

One passenger was admitted to hospital and other were released after first aid.

One passenger was admitted to hospital and other were released after first aid.

One passenger was admitted to hospital and other were released after first aid.

One passenger was admitted to hospital and other were released after first aid.

One passenger was admitted to hospital and other were released after first aid.

One passenger was admitted to hospital and other were released after first aid.

One passenger was admitted to hospital and other were released after first aid.

One passenger was admitted to hospital and other were released after first aid.

One passenger was admitted to hospital and other were released after first aid.

BARISAL

678 held on various charges

June 5: In a week-long special drive Barisal range police arrested 678 people from different districts of the division on various charges and seized some arms and ammunition, reports UNB.

Of the arrested 516 were absconding being accused in various cases and the rest 162 were detained on different charges.

Police recovered three pipeguns and 61 rounds of ammunition from Barisal and Pirozpur districts during the drive that began on May 18.

Districtwise figure of the arrested are: Barisal-155, Patuakhali-149, Bhola-175, Jhalakathi-66, Barguna-58 and Pirozpur-75.

The DIG of Barisal range said all possible measures were being taken to check the criminal activities in the region.

BRAHMANBARIA

One held while committing dacoity

June 5: One dacoit was round up by the passengers while committing dacoity in a Brahmanbaria bound bus near Sonarampur in Ashuganj thana, police said, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, a gang of dacoits numbering about 8 boarded the bus in the guise of passengers from Ashuganj ferry ghat on the night of May 17. When the bus reached near Sonarampur, the robbers attacked the driver injuring him badly and resorted to looting the valuables of the passengers.

When one SI of Ashuganj police station on patrol duty came to the spot the dacoits started fleeing with the booty. But the passengers caught hold of one of the dacoits identified as Selim of Bhatrab.

One dacoit was round up by the passengers while committing dacoity in a Brahmanbaria bound bus near Sonarampur in Ashuganj thana, police said, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, a gang of dacoits numbering about 8 boarded the bus in the guise of passengers from Ashuganj ferry ghat on the night of May 17. When the bus reached near Sonarampur, the robbers attacked the driver injuring him badly and resorted to looting the valuables of the passengers.

When one SI of Ashuganj police station on patrol duty came to the spot the dacoits started fleeing with the booty. But the passengers caught hold of one of the dacoits identified as Selim of Bhatrab.

One dacoit was round up by the passengers while committing dacoity in a Brahmanbaria bound bus near Sonarampur in Ashuganj thana, police said, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, a gang of dacoits numbering about 8 boarded the bus in the guise of passengers from Ashuganj ferry ghat on the night of May 17. When the bus reached near Sonarampur, the robbers attacked the driver injuring him badly and resorted to looting the valuables of the passengers.

When one SI of Ashuganj police station on patrol duty came to the spot the dacoits started fleeing with the booty. But the passengers caught hold of one of the dacoits identified as Selim of Bhatrab.

One dacoit was round up by the passengers while committing dacoity in a Brahmanbaria bound bus near Sonarampur in Ashuganj thana, police said, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, a gang of dacoits numbering about 8 boarded the bus in the guise of passengers from Ashuganj ferry ghat on the night of May 17. When the bus reached near Sonarampur, the robbers attacked the driver injuring him badly and resorted to looting the valuables of the passengers.

When one SI of Ashuganj police station on patrol duty came to the spot the dacoits started fleeing with the booty. But the passengers caught hold of one of the dacoits identified as Selim of Bhatrab.

One dacoit was round up by the passengers while committing dacoity in a Brahmanbaria bound bus near Sonarampur in Ashuganj thana, police said, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, a gang of dacoits numbering about 8 boarded the bus in the guise of passengers from Ashuganj ferry ghat on the night of May 17. When the bus reached near Sonarampur, the robbers attacked the driver injuring him badly and resorted to looting the valuables of the passengers.

When one SI of Ashuganj police station on patrol duty came to the spot the dacoits started fleeing with the booty. But the passengers caught hold of one of the dacoits identified as Selim of Bhatrab.

One dacoit was round up by the passengers while committing dacoity in a Brahmanbaria bound bus near Sonarampur in Ashuganj thana, police said, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, a gang of dacoits numbering about 8 boarded the bus in the guise of passengers from Ashuganj ferry ghat on the night of May 17. When the bus reached near Sonarampur, the robbers attacked the driver injuring him badly and resorted to looting the valuables of the passengers.

When one SI of Ashuganj police station on patrol duty came to the spot the dacoits started fleeing with the booty. But the passengers caught hold of one of the dacoits identified as Selim of Bhatrab.

One dacoit was round up by the passengers while committing dacoity in a Brahmanbaria bound bus near Sonarampur in Ashuganj thana, police said, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, a gang of dacoits numbering about 8 boarded the bus in the guise of passengers from Ashuganj ferry ghat on the night of May 17. When the bus reached near Sonarampur, the robbers attacked the driver injuring him badly and resorted to looting the valuables of the passengers.

When one SI of Ashuganj police station on patrol duty came to the spot the dacoits started fleeing with the booty. But the passengers caught hold of one of the dacoits identified as Selim of Bhatrab.

One dacoit was round up by the passengers while committing dacoity in a Brahmanbaria bound bus near Sonarampur in Ashuganj thana, police said, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, a gang of dacoits numbering about 8 boarded the bus in the guise of passengers from Ashuganj ferry ghat on the night of May 17. When the bus reached near Sonarampur, the robbers attacked the driver injuring him badly and resorted to looting the valuables of the passengers.



MEGHNA GHAT: Life style of typical fishermen. These men, while off duty, make a good family together, one helping the other. One is cooking while another looks for any defects in the fishing net. Just behind the scene is the Meghna Bridge. — Star photo

Problems hamper education in 200 high schools

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, June 5: About two hundred non-government secondary schools in the district are beset with various problems hampering the education of one lakh students.

It is reported that these schools are in dilapidated, scarcity of furniture, accommodation, science building, play ground, library, common room and shortage of fund are hindering the smooth education process in these institutions.

Many schools are housed in poor condition. Some schools are said to have holding classes in open space. In most of the schools scarcity of pure drinking water are reported.

Only ten percent of the schools possess library facilities. There is no separate common rooms for female students. Almost all schools except a few are facing acute fund crises.

Patient's welfare association formed

A meeting of a cross section of people was held at DC's conference room recently.

Md. Yakub Ali, D C Chandpur presided over the meeting. The meeting decided to form a welfare association for the patients of Chandpur hospital.

A committee was formed with the following members. Dr. M.A Rashid, Dewan Abdul Awal, Dr. S M Shahidullah were elected as President, Secretary and Treasurer re-

spectively of the association.

Farmers deprived of fair paddy prices

New Irri-boro paddy and rice appeared in the hats and bazars of the district. The growers of paddy are selling their produce at a lower price for want of buyers.

Food Department has not however started procurement of paddy. Farias and middlemen are reported to take advantage of the situation and are depriving the farmers of fair prices.

The paddy is being sold below the production cost of between Taka 130 and 140 per maund.

AGM of dist bar association

The annual general meeting and election of Chandpur District Bar Association was held recently at the bar association auditorium.

Abdul Matin Patwari presided over the meeting. Asrafuddin Ahmed Khan, Iqbal Bin Basher were elected as President and Secretary respectively for the next year.

Teachers hold condolence meet

Several condolence meetings were held in different institutions at the sad demise of Captain (Rt) Karimuddin Ahmed.

Karimuddin Ahmed died in USA on May 17. He was Principal at Chandpur Govt.

College and Womans College for a period of ten years.

The meeting was held at Chandpur Govt. College with Principal Amin Ahmed in the chair. The meeting was addressed among others by Prof. Badiur Rahman Chowdhury, Prof. Tazul Islam, Prof. Mohammad Hossain Khan, Prof. S M Shahidullah.

Drugs with expiry dates being sold

Sub-standard drugs are being sold in seven thanas of the district, it is reported.

There are about 200 hundred drug stores in the district. Most of these drug stores do not possess any licence. A section of dishonest businessmen are selling drugs below quality to the poor. It is reported some drug sellers are themselves prescribing and selling medicines having expired date labels.

Private tuition hampers education

Most of the teachers in schools and colleges are engaged in private tuition hampering the proper education of the students in the district as alleged by the parents.

The students who get support of private tutors do better results in the examinations but the poor section who cannot afford private tuition fees are in great trouble.

12th death anniversary of Zia observed

BOGRA, June 5: The 12th death anniversary of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman was observed Sunday at his village home Bagbari under Gabtoli thana in a befitting manner, says BSS.

The day-long programme included memorial meeting, special prayer for the departed soul of late President Ziaur Rahman, Quran Khwani and feeding of destitutes. Thousands of villagers attended the day long programmes to pay their tribute to Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman.

A total of 25 sewing machines were handed over to the destitutes of the area. This would fulfil the assurance given earlier by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, when she last visited Bagbari village a few months ago, to make them self reliant.

Helaluzzaman, MP, handed over the machines. The relatives of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman and BNP leaders and workers also attended the function.

The doctors association of the district organised a free medical treatment camp to mark the occasion. A number of operations were made on the day.

Talukdar in his speech urged all to extend their whole hearted support and cooperation to the BNP government to make the 19 point programme of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman a total success.

Jamuna erosion leaves 500 families homeless

SIRAJGANJ, June 5: At least 500 families in 27 villages of four thanas of the district were rendered homeless due to erosion by the river Jamuna in the last 48 hours, reports UNB.

The affected thanas are Kazipur, Chouhali, Shahjadpur and Sadar.

Kazipur UP Chairman said a ring-embankment at Patagram-Singbari was washed away by erosion of the Jamuna.

A total of 2,450 families were rendered homeless during the last one month.

Indian cows worth Tk 2 lakh seized

SATKHIRA, June 5: Some 49 Indian cows worth about Taka two lakh were recovered in Sadar thana last week, says UNB.

Witnesses said the Chairman and members of Satkhira Gona Union Parishad recovered the cows while being smuggled into Bangladesh from India.

The alleged smugglers fled after being challenged by the parishad leaders.

The cows were later handed over to the local customs.

Annual school sports day held

NAOGAON, June 5: The annual sports and cultural competitions of Jahangirpur Government College in Mohadevpur was held recently, reports UNB.

Akhter Hamid Siddique Nanu MP attended the function as chief guest, presided over by Principal SM Yunusur Rahman.

Later, the function was followed by a musical soiree, participated by students of the college.

Mothers, children need medicare facilities

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, June 5: Expectant mothers and children are being denied of proper medicare here as almost all the maternity and child welfare centres have been plagued with manifold problem.

Kurigram Maternity and Child Welfare Centre and other maternity clinics run under government or private initiative in Kurigram town have lost their essence to render services to the children and expectant mothers. Severe administrative lapses and shortage of medical apparatus have disarrayed test centres and clinics.

Sufferers complain that expectant mothers travelling from remote areas of the district go back without treatment due to shortage of beds and medicines in the only such centre, established in the sixties under government patronisation.

Besides, inadequate staff worsens the condition of the admitted patients.

Relatives of the patients alleged that at times a day passes but medical attendants are rarely seen.

Patients are also seen lying on floor of the centre due to shortage of accommodation.

Scarcity of fish acute

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, June 5: Acute scarcity of fish has been prevailing throughout the district for the last few months.

A number of leading traders of fish told that pisciculture in the district had been badly affected due to massive siltation of the rivers Surma, Kushiya Manu, Sonai, Plain, Khowal, Gowain, Sari, Chela and others, canals and haors for long. Unplanned use of chemical fertilizers and insecticides in the crop fields has also affected seriously. The growth of different kinds of fish creating scarcity of the same and fall in the production.

On the otherhand, thousands of fishermen in the district have been facing numerous problems including shortage of funds and price hike of fishing materials.

It may be mentioned here that, previously different kinds of fish were available in abundance in the ponds, beels and rivers of the district but now the situation had totally been changed due to indiscriminate fishing by the mighty non-fishermen people.

A number of fishermen said, the existence of the professional fishermen is at stake and as a result, some of them have left their profession. Some others had migrated to other places for better earning and survival.

Meanwhile, the price of meat has shot up due to the scarcity of fish in the markets at the same time prices of fishes had increased much causing much inconveniences to the people in general, especially, the low-income group and middle-class ones.

Massive afforestation plan

From Our Correspondent

RANGAMATI, June 5: In order to contain ecological balance and to encourage afforestation in the personal as well as other government and private sectors, the different offices of the local Forest Directorate have started distribution of about 27 lakh quality saplings among the interested planters of Chittagong and Chittagong Hill Tracts region.

Of those, Chittagong Hill Tracts South Forest Division-5 lakh, Rangamati Jhoom Control Divisions-3 lakh, Khagrachhari Forest Division-2 lakh, Chittagong Forest Division-9 lakh, Cox's Bazar Forest Division-4 lakh and 3 forest divisions in Bundarban Hill District will distribute more 4 lakh saplings to implement the call of the Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in planting trees with a view to save the environment.

The decision was taken in a regular meeting of the Council held on Sunday (May 30).

The council will take necessary steps to nurture the saplings.

The saplings made ready for distribution among the interested planters in the different nurseries of the Forest Directorate included both fruit-bearing and timber valued trees, officials said.

Another report says: Forest Committee of the Local Government Council of Rangamati Hill District has taken up a programme to distribute about 1.25 lakh saplings worth Taka five lakh, official sources said.

The saplings will be distributed among schools, madrasahs and colleges of every thana in the district free of cost to protect the environment.

The decision was taken in a regular meeting of the Council held on Sunday (May 30).

The council will take necessary steps to nurture the saplings.

Betel leaf farming facing setback

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, June 5: Cultivation of betel leaf has been facing setback in the district putting the growers in acute hard ship.

Dearth of inputs, high rate of carrying cost, paucity of loan and marketing facilities are the causes behind the setback of betel leaf cultivation in this area. Prices of inputs such as bamboo, straw, oil cake, choir thread etc. have gone up.

About 35 to 45 maunds of oil cake are required for one bigha of cultivable land. Shades used for plantations of betel leaf are required to be changed frequently but high cost of bamboo which sells at Taka 80 to Taka 100 per price has made it impossible to erect shades.

Lastly absence of proper marketing facilities for the product has put the growers in a discouraging position and eign markets as the production cost of this item at the neighbouring country in much lower.

The growers of betel leaf have urged the authorities to provide soft term loan to continue their age-old occupation and ensure marketing facilities for their product.

Our Kurigram Correspondent adds: The betel leaf growers of all the nine thanas of the district have been facing many fold problems due to price hike of necessary inputs and lack of marketing facilities.

At present about 5,000 families of the district have been passing their days in miseries due to lack of inputs, bank loans and marketing facilities causing rapid decline in betel leaf production.

When contacted some betel leaf growers told this correspondent that the prices of inputs such as straw, bamboo, fixture, choir, oil cake, fertilizer and jute sticks have increased abnormally. But the market prices of their products have not increased proportionately

School students victim of manifold problems

NAOGAON, June 5: Naogaon Parry Mohan Girl's High School has been facing manifold problems, causing much sufferings to the students, reports UNB.

There are shortages of class rooms, teachers, laboratory rooms and accommodation. The school was established in 1909 and is now the lone government girl's school in the town.

Local people urged the concerned authorities to take immediate steps to remove the problems of the school for greater interests of female education.

Two notorious criminals held

SAVAR, June 5: Police arrested two notorious criminals from Katlapur village of Sadar thana and recovered huge arms and ammunition from their possession last week, reports UNB.

Acting on a secret information police raided the house of Abdul Mannan and arrested Abdul Khaleque (18) and recovered one pistol, one cut rifle and 13 rounds of bullets Monday (May 24).

Police also recovered a Pakistan made revolver and 14 rounds of bullets from Shahabuddin's house in Jangalia village and arrested him in this connection.

Both the criminals were on the police wanted list in connection with several murder cases.

BARISAL, June 5: Due to shortage of necessary fund in particular the construction work of the Patuakhali-Kuakata Road is yet to be completed after long ten years.

The construction work of 70 km long Patuakhali-Kuakata via Amtali and Kalapara Road was in under taken 1980-81 financial year. Public Works Department (PWD) estimated the cost would total Taka 17.17 crore for the road which was supposed to be completed by 1989-90 financial year. But during this long period only half of the road was seen to be completed. According to sources five to six years were spent only for earthfilling work.

Later, carpeting and related works have started from

this year. It is still not clear how long would it take for the completion of the construction road.

Another report says: Dabiruddin Sheikh, District Assistant Sessions Judge of Bhola recently sentenced eleven dacoits in connection with a passenger launch dacoity in 1989.

Nine of them, who were identified as Bani Madhab, Mozaffar, Khalil, Mokles Alamgir, Al Amin, Mostafa, Dulal and Abul Kalam were awarded 14 years of RI and other two six years of RI with fine of Taka five thousand or to suffer another year of RI each in default.

Three convicts of this case are still absconding.



CHANDPUR: A cobbler is seen busy repairing shoes. This poor man runs his family just out of his daily income. — Star photo