

## District roundup

### GOPALGANJ

#### Man crushed under wheels

##### From Our Correspondent

June 6: A man named Panchu Bepari (70) was killed in a road accident on Gopalganj-Takerhat road recently. It is learnt that a passenger bus (Faridpur-Ba-126) was going to Takerhat from Gopalganj. When the bus reached near Bherarhat under Gopalganj sadar thana, the man was crossing the road as the bus was approaching him and he fell down under wheels. He died on the spot.

A case has been registered with Gopalganj PS in this connection.

### JAMALPUR

#### Farmers victim of low prices of paddy

June 6: Low prices of boro paddy in the markets of greater Mymensingh districts have been causing immense suffering and loss to the farmers, reports UNB.

It is learnt that during the current season boro paddy was cultivated on five lakh hectares of land in 65 thanas in six districts under greater Mymensingh region. The districts are—Jamalpur, Sherpur, Tangail, Kishoreganj, Netrakona and Mymensingh.

Production was satisfactory due to favourable weather though pest attack damaged some crops.

The peasants alleged that the cost of production has increased due to price hike of agricultural inputs.

About Tk 2100 is required to cultivate one acre of land to produce 15 to 16 maunds of boro paddy. At present one maund of boro paddy is being sold at Tk 120 in the village markets of Jamalpur, Sherpur, Tangail and Kishoreganj districts which is much less than the production cost.

### JHENIDAH

#### Minor boy injured in police, terrorist gunshots

June 6: A minor boy was injured as police and terrorists exchanged gunshots at a village in sadar thana of the district today Friday, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, police raided a house at Chandpara village this afternoon to nab a group of terrorists. Sensing the presence of police the miscreants opened fire on them. Police replied with 24 rounds of gunshots and caught three terrorists.

Sanjib (12) of village Khazura was injured in the crossfire.

### JHENIDAH

#### Truck driver killed in road accident

June 6: A truck driver was killed and his helper injured in a road accident at Narsinghapur in sadar thana of the district Friday, reports UNB.

Police said Kartik Chandra Biswas (35) died on the spot while his helper Adil Uddin (28) was injured when the truck fell into a ditch by breaking the railing of a bridge at about 11 am.

Adil was admitted to sadar hospital.

Another report adds: BDR raided a jewellery shop of one Santosh Kumar in Darshana and seized smuggled gold worth about Taka six lakh on Monday.

### JESSORE

#### Armed dacoits bag away valuables from night coaches

June 6: Armed dacoits swooped on a convoy of about a dozen night coaches from Dhaka on the Magura-Jessore linkroad and looted the belongings of passengers on Tuesday, the day before Eid-ul-Azha, reports UNB.

Police and witnesses said about a 40-strong gang with automatic weapons blocked the linkroad at Mugrdal, some 12 kilometres from Magura town, with "babla" trees to halt the coaches early Tuesday.

The dacoits, wielding firearms, robbed about Taka 4.5 lakh in cash and kind from the passengers bound for home to celebrate Eid-ul-Azha.

Driver Muhammad Fazlul Haq of a Bagerhat-bound coach, Soukhin, told UNB by telephone that nearly Taka one lakh was robbed from his bus.

Patrol police of Jessore escorted the buses to Jessore after the nearly 45-minute holdup.

### NARAIL

#### People victim of mosquito menace

June 6: People of the district town and its adjoining areas have been passing their days in miseries due to mosquito menace for the last couple of weeks, reports UNB.

Stagnant filthy water in both kutchha and pucca drains, marshy places, kutchha and pucca latrines, heaps of garbage beside the roads and water hyacinths in the ditches of the town area are the ideal breeding centres of mosquitoes.

Adulterated mosquito coils have flooded the local markets causing untold suffering to the low income group of people.

### KHULNA

#### People urged to maintain peace

June 6: Speaker Shaikh Razaque Ali gave a clarion call to all including the ruling BNP and the major opposition political parties to work unitedly towards consolidating democracy in the greater national interest, reports BSS.

The Speaker was speaking as chief guest at the installation ceremony of the newly elected students union of Sundarban Adarsha College in the city Wednesday. Presided over by the Principal of the college Sahidul Islam the installation ceremony was addressed among others by the Mayor of Khulna City Corporation Shaikh Tayebur Rahman, President of BNP City Committee Nurul Islam, Additional Deputy Commissioner Khulna Lutfor Rahman, Joint Secretary of BNP Nazrul Islam Manju, Professor Rabul Islam, former VP of the college Mollahmarul Rashid, newly elected VP Nazmul Haq Mukul and GS Mafzur Rahman Tiku.

Speaking on the occasion Shaikh Razaque Ali stressed the need for consensus in all matters of national interest. **SIRAJGANJ**

#### Prices of paddy falls

June 6: The price of paddy has surprisingly gone down and its now selling far below the production cost in local markets of all the 16 northern districts, reports UNB.

Farmers of the region said paddy per maund is being sold at about Tk 110 in the markets. But the cost of producing one maund paddy on an average is Tk 250, they added.

The farmers are receiving about Tk 140 less than the production cost of their product per maund.

The farmers of some districts are even forced to sell their product Tk 90 per maund. **GAIBANDHA**

#### Seminar on Islamic economy held

June 6: A seminar on implementation of Islamic economy was held lately at local public library hall with Poushaha Chairman Wahiduzzaman Khan presiding.

Gaibandha Adarsha Businessmen Forum conducted the seminar on the occasion of setting up a branch of Islami Bank here at Gaibandha.

The seminar was addressed by Shah Md Habibur Rahman, Associate Professor of Rajshahi University, Abu-zar Rahman, Manager, Islami Bank, Rangpur Branch, Abdul Katume, Associate Professor of Gaibandha Govt College, Md Abdul Baten Kadri, Hazi Musa Hakkani and Lutfar Rahman Balashi.

The speakers pointed out that the aim of interest free banking system is to establish social justice and optimum distribution of wealth in which Islami Bank could help through its interest free system.

### MADARIPUR

#### Sports meet of Degree College

June 6: A two-day sports meet and cultural function of Rajoir thana Degree College was held at the college premise recently, reports UNB.

Deputy Commissioner Abdus Sattar Miah was present at the concluding day of the function as chief guest which was presided over by Principal of the college Prof Abul Hashem Shepai.

The Deputy Commissioner also distributed prizes among the winners in the sports and cultural competition.

Among others who attended the function were A K M Musa Secretary of Zila Parishad and Thana Nirbahi Officer Mohammad Nizuddin Miah.



NATORE: Rickshaws without licence on increase. These cause traffic jam in the town. — Star photo

## Govt deprived of lakhs of taka as registration fees

### From Our Correspondent

NATORE, June 6: The government is deprived of several lakhs of taka as registration fees in four districts of Rajshahi division including Natore, Naogaon, Rajshahi and Chapainawabganj districts every year due to under valuation of property at the time of transfer of property in the registration and sub-registrar's offices.

The registrar, sub-registrars and staff in collaboration with deed-writers fix up valuation less than that of actual price of the property to be transferred through registered deeds, it is learnt.

It is further learnt that half of the amount deducted from the real value is taken as bribe and distributed among the corrupt staff of registrar's office and deed writers. Rest half of the amount goes to the purchaser of the property.

Besides, the corrupt staff is extorting excess fees in the name of registration-violating the existing rules in this regard. The illiterate people become the victims of such corruption.

### Seminar held

A 5-day seminar on 'The role of teachers' organisation in

Education Development' jointly organised by Bangladesh Government College Teachers Association (BGCTA), Bangladesh Teachers Federation (BTF) and Education International (EI), was inaugurated here at Natore Primary Training Institute auditorium recently.

Sailendra Kumar Adhikari, Deputy Commissioner, Natore inaugurated the seminar. Prof A K M Nazrul Islam, President of BGCTA, Natore presided. Khoda Buksh Chowdhury,

SP, Natore and Alituss Mathus, Co-ordinator of Education International Asia and the Pacific (EIAP) attended the function as special guests.

About 50 teachers of different colleges of the Rajshahi division took part in the discussion.

Among others the inaugural function was addressed by Principal Shamsul Haq, Prof Abdul Kuddus, Prof Abul Hashem and Prof M H Khaleel.

## One gets 2-year RI for smuggling

### From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, June 6: Tapan Kumar Rudra Judge, Special Tribunal Court No 3 convicted one Shaheedul Islam of Hawalkhali village under Sadar thana on charge of smuggling and sentenced him to suffer rigorous imprisonment (RI) for 2 years and a fine of Tk 500 in default RI for one month more recently.

The case in bribe is that the

local BDR personnel caught him red handed while he was coming from India with smuggled goods worth Taka 2305 and reached near Aichpara under Kalaroa thana on May 14, 1991 last.

A case was lodged with Kalaroa police station and after investigation police submitted charge-sheet against him.

## BRDB gives loans among landless to generate self employment

BARISAL, June 6: Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) has undertaken a programme to disburse Tk 6,31,31,000 as loan among 27,649 bittahin members including 19,244 women under 1,125 Bittahin Primary Samities in ten thanas of Barisal district during the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the nurseries are being developed in Muladi and Gopalganj of Barisal district, Rajapur and Kathalia of Jhalakati district, Bauphal,

BRDB has so far given training to 2,201 bittahin members in different trade in this district since its inception in 1990.

Of them, 685 members were given train in rearing poultry birds, 544 members in rearing cows, 171 members in beef fattening, 579 members in pisciculture and 222 members in vegetables cultivation.

The aim of these projects is to generate self employment opportunities.

Besides, BRDB had taken up another programme to plant 1,15,200 saplings of different trees in the district in this fiscal year, the source said.

Of them, a total of 1,06,068

saplings have already been planted in different areas of the district.

Another report says: The government has sanctioned Tk 5,14,600 for the development of sixteen nurseries in seven southern districts under Barisal Agriculture Zone (BAZ) in the current fiscal year.

According to an official source, the nurseries are being developed in Muladi and Gopalganj of Barisal district, Rajapur and Kathalia of Jhalakati district, Bauphal,

### Three degree examinees expelled

HABIGANJ, June 6: Three degree examinees were expelled for adopting unfair means from Habiganj Women's College Centre here Wednesday, reports UNB.

A total of 295 examinees sit for the examination from the district and so far 11 examinees were expelled from different centres in the district.

The degree examination under Chittagang University began on April 28 and today's examination was on first paper political science.

## Notes from Jhenaidah

### From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, June 6: A daring bus dacoity was committed at 10 to 12 buses and trucks at Keyabagan on Jhenidah-Jessore road recently.

According to reports, a group of dacoits barricaded the road at about 9 pm looted 10 to 12 buses and trucks. The dacoits looted cash and other belongings worth Taka more than a lakh and fled away.

### Two terrorists held

Jhenidah police arrested two terrorists from village Fursundi in Jhenidah sadar thana recently.

When two young-terrorists were sitting on the bridge at village Fursundi-Nari-Kelbaria, police challenged them and caught them with a Chinese axe and a dagger. A case was lodged with Jhenidah police.

### Dacoit held

The people of village Kurapara in Jhenidah pouara area caught a notorious dacoit with arms and handed over to police on the same night.

The arrested dacoit named Taher and his associates were creating panic.

On the day of occurrence the villagers gheraoed the houses of Ghani and Taher and caught Taher with a pistol while Ghani fled away blasting bombs at the villagers.

A case was filed with Jhenidah police in this connection.

### Ansars, VDP rally

Ansars and VDP rally was held at its district office premises recently.

Solaiman Hossain, Deputy Director, Ansars and VDP (Operation) and Ruhul Amin, Deputy Director, Khulna Division attended the rally as chief guest and special guests respectively.

Presided over by Mohammed Ali Akhanda, Deputy Commissioner of Jhenidah, the rally was addressed among others by Gholam Mustafa, Additional Police Super.

Later the chief guest distributed prizes among the Ansars and VDP member for their performances. The chief guest also planted a saplings in front of Ansars and VDP office.

### Zia's death anniversary observed

### From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, June 6: Death anniversary of Ziaur Rahman was observed by BNP and its front organizations in the district.

District and thana units of the party took up day-long programmes which include hoisting of flags, Quran Khani, feeding of destitutes, milad mahfil, special prayers and discussion meeting.

### Lack of civic amenities in Kalapara thana

BARGUNA, June 6: People of Kalapara thana have been passing their days in miseries due to lack of civic amenities, reports UNB.

Deplorable condition of roads, inadequate street lights, absence of proper drainage system, shortage of accommodation, lack of proper sanitary arrangements, mosquito menace, frequent power failure and acute housing problem are the main reasons behind the suffering of the people.

The thana headquarters is being expanded with the increase in the population but the thana parishad authorities could not provide the minimum civic facilities to the town dwellers.

Most of the roads in the thana area are extremely narrow and uneven. Cracks and potholes have developed at many points. The roads become muddy and slippery even following a slight rainfall. Rain water remains stagnant on the roads causing difficulties for the movement of pedestrians and vehicular traffic.

Moreover, the roadside ditches filled with filths and garbage are not cleaned regularly, as a result these places end up into mosquito breeding centres.

Absence of proper drainage system is another problem for the people of the town. Most of the street lights in the thana area have no bulbs, as a result the areas plunge into darkness just after sunset giving rise to the anti-social activities.

Acute shortage of housing also poses a problem for the people. New houses are not being constructed in proportion to the increasing number of people.

There is no recreational facilities either for the children or for the elderly people except a few cinema halls.

## CPE programme facing setback in Narail

NARAIL, June 6: The Compulsory Primary Education Programme in different thanas of the district is suffering setbacks due to shortages of educational appliances, reports UNB.

The district education office said lack of awareness among the rural poor particularly the farmers is hindering the advancement of the programme.

According to survey report, of the total one lakh children enrolled to government and non-government schools last year, nearly 25,000 failed to continue their education due to poverty.

It is learnt reluctance on part of the parents and guardians of the children is also responsible for low attendance rate in the schools.

They tend to believe, "Farmers children should be farmers," the survey said.

Moreover, the government schools are running in a de-

plorable state with no adequate class rooms and benches for providing accommodation for the students.

Lack of reconstruction works in schools which were damaged in natural calamities also adds to the problems in implementing the programme.

The reconstruction works are learnt to have been long pending due to fund shortages and departmental irregularities. As a result, students in many schools are taking classes in the open sky.

Local leaders urged the government to immediately remove the bottlenecks to make the compulsory education programme a success.

UNB from Natore adds: The offices of the Rajshahi division unit and Natore district unit of Bangladesh Government College Teachers Association (BGCTA) were formally inaugurated here on May 24.

## Chicken pox breaks out

DHAMRAI (Manikganj), June 4: Chicken pox has broken out in an alarming form in different parts of Dhamrai and Savar thanas in the last two weeks causing panic among the people, reports UNB.

About 400 people have been attacked so far by the disease which is engulfing new areas day by day.

Everyday a good number of people from remote areas are pouring into the thana health complexes and hospitals for treatment. But patients are compelled to return to their villages without having any treatment due to lack of necessary medicine in the hospitals, local people said.

The worst hit areas are: Rajashan, Katapur, Anandapur, Arapara in Savar thana and Sumbagh, Royail, Suapur and Anandanagar in Dhamrai thana where almost all members of most of the families are being attacked by the infectious disease one after another, local people added.

Children of the poor families are the worst sufferers as their parents can not provide them with necessary medicine due to abject poverty, local leaders said.

Meanwhile, taking advantage of the situation, some unscrupulous drug traders are selling necessary medicine at an exorbitant rate, it is alleged.

The Civil Surgeon said that chicken pox is a viral disease which usually breaks out with the advent of Spring.

The affected people urged

the concerned authority to take necessary steps immediately to combat the spread of the disease.

### Malaria in Sunamganj

A report from Sirajganj says: Malaria spread in an epidemic form in Taherpur thana of the district, claiming at least 52 lives in the last one and half months, officials said.

Some 20 of the deaths from the epidemic were reported in the last 12 days, said the Deputy Civil Surgeon. Unofficial sources, however, said the figure was much higher.

The killer disease has, so far, attacked more than 20,000 people in 11 remote villages in four unions of the thana.

### Daring dacoity at Satkhira

### From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, June 6: A daring dacoity was committed at the house of one Nimal Krishna Das of village Raripara under Tala PS of the recently.

It is reported that fifty to twenty armed dacoits with deadly weapons entered the house of Nimal Das forcibly and looted cash, gold ornaments, and other valuables worth about Taka one lakh. They also beat the inmates of the house.

## Handloom industry in Natore on verge of extinction

### From Our Correspondent

NATORE, June 6: Handloom industry in the district is on the verge of extinction due to lack of patronisation, shortage of funds and price-hike of the raw materials and accessories.

About 3,500 families of Baraigram, Gurudaspur, Lalpur, Bagatipara, Shingra and Sadar thanas of the district have been earning their livelihood by the handloom industry for years together. But fund crisis has compelled them to abandon their ancestral profession.

There was at least a handloom industry in almost all the villages of the six thanas.

The industry is facing manifold problems as the machinery for the industry has become expensive. On the other hand, the price of handloom products like lungi, napkin, saree and bed-sheets have gone up beyond the purchasing capacity of the common people.

Some weavers of Baraigram and Lalpur thanas informed that prices of raw materials, spare parts, woods and iron-rods have also increased. Besides, lack of skilled labours affecting the handloom industry, they added.

In addition smuggled Indian sarees, bed-sheets causes destruction of local handloom industry, they further said.

An unofficial survey report said that about 50 to 75 per cent housewives of these thanas use Indian sarees which are available at a comparatively low price.

### Fertility of land lessens

Indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers and continued cultivation of same crop on same plot of land are steadily destroying the fertility of soil in Lalpur, Baraigram, Gurudaspur, Shingra, Bagatipara and Sadar thanas of the district.

Cultivators having little knowledge about the soil components and use chemical fertilizers indiscriminately to get maximum production and thus the production capability of the soil decreases.

The growers are also seen

cultivating same crop on the same land without interval.

The farmers rarely use organic fertilizers including cow-dung. The production capability of land thus rapidly declines.

Production capability of soil is also being destroyed with heavy iron of underground water tubewells used for irrigation and siltation of sands on soil due to floods.

Experts suggest that chemical fertilizers should be used after testing of soil. Otherwise the production rate would be lowered and the time may come when the outcome will be less than the production cost, experts apprehend.

### Tree plantation programme at Rangamati taken up

### From Our Correspondent

RANGAMATI, June 6: In order to save environment the Forest Committee of the Local Government Council of Rangamati Hill District has taken up a programme to distribute about 1.25 lakh saplings worth over Tk 5 lakh in the ensuing tree plantation campaign among the interested planters, officials said.

The distribution will be made to individuals, government and private sectors as well as schools, madrasahs and colleges in every thana levels in the district free of cost, Abdus Salam Fakir, convener of the Forest Committee said.

Necessary maintenance, looking after and nurturing of those will be undertaken by the council for maximum survival, the convener added.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the council held recently with Parizat Kushum Chakma, chairman of the council in the chair. Ganendra Bikash Chakma, Montazuddin Ahmed and Mridul Kanti Dewan, councillors were present in the meeting.



PABNA: Pabna Gopal Chandra Institution, a century-old secondary high school requires immediate renovation. — Star photo