

District roundup

MAGURA

UP chairman arrested

June 8: Police arrested a union parishad chairman of Sadar thana for his alleged involvement in kidnapping a housewife on Saturday, reports UNB.

Benzir Ahmed, chairman of Atharakhada Union Parishad, along with seven people raided the house of Kismat Ali at village Niznanduali on May 1 and kidnapped his wife Khushi Begum (25) in broad day-light, police said.

A case was filed with local police. But the housewife could not be traced yet.

MADARIPUR

Number of divorces increased

June 8: The number of divorces has increased in an alarming rate in most of the rural areas of the district, said a survey report, says UNB.

According to the survey conducted by some local social welfare activists, more than 10,000 marriages were severed during the last five years in four thanas of the district.

They attributed the high trend of divorce due to dowry, poverty, polygamy and immoral activities. Moreover, high fees for registration which the guardians can not afford, deteriorating the situation.

On the other hand, due to non-registration of marriages, these poor women are being deprived of being protected by the rules of law.

Successive marriage without the permission of the first wife is also reported from remote areas.

Local people urged the government to take stern action against polygamy and ensure registration of marriages at a nominal fee to save poor rural women.

SUNAMGANJ

Youngman killed

June 8: A youngman was killed at Shologhar area in the town Saturday over a traffic matter. Police and witnesses said one Jishu, 22, picked up quarrel with his neighbour Arabindu, 25, for hiding an umbrella and at one stage stabbed him with a pair of scissors. Arabindu succumbed to his injuries in Sadar Hospital. A case was registered with police in this connection, reports UNB.

SATKHIRA

4 killed in separate events

June 8: Four people were killed in separate incidents in the district in the last week, police said here Monday, reports UNB.

One Ratsuddin of Kashibari in Kaliganj thana was struck by lightning while saying Magreb prayers at Bamuner Ghar on Friday.

Jehar Ali Gazi (40) of Parulia village in Debhaha died on the spot when a distraught cow attacked him.

Hasanuzzaman (12) son of Salam of Chachai in Kaliganj and Monirul (10) of Shyamnagar died of unnatural deaths.

Another message from Comilla adds: A middle aged man of Nazrul Avenue in the town allegedly committed suicide following a family feud.

RANGAMATI

27 lakh saplings for distribution

June 8: The local Forest Directorate has started distribution of about 27 lakh saplings among the interested people of greater Chittagong districts in order to contain ecological balance and to encourage afforestation, reports UNB.

Of those, Chittagong Hill Tracts South Division will distribute 5 lakh, Rangamati jhoom control division - 2 lakh, Chittagong forest division - 9 lakh, Cox's Bazar forest division - 4 lakh and 3 forest divisions of Bandarban district will distribute over 4 lakh saplings to implement the programme.

The saplings made ready for distribution from the different nurseries of the Forest Directorate which included both fruit-bearing and timber trees, official sources said.

BRAHMANBARIA

PDB realises Tk 1 crore as arrear bills

From Our Correspondent June 8: Power Development Board (PDB) has realised the arrear electric bill amounting about Taka one crore from different parts of the district and disconnected more than one thousand electric connections.

The arrear bills collected from Sadar thana Taka 58 lakh, from Siraj thana Taka 5 lakh 75 thousand, Nabinagar Taka 6 lakh 30 thousand, Akhaura Taka 7 lakh 75 thousand and from Ashuganj Taka 18 lakh. While more than one thousand electric connection has been disconnected for not paying the electric bill.

The disconnected lines are at Sadar thana 75 lines, Ashuganj 300, Siraj 250, Nabinagar 289 and at Akhaura thana 400 electric lines disconnected.

SIRAJGANJ

Rail link restored

June 8: Rail communication via Sirajganj station which remained suspended from Saturday was restored this morning, official sources said, reports UNB.

Rail communication came to a halt following the derailment of six boggies of the Inter-city Padma Express train due to faults in wheels at the Sirajganj station.

COMILLA

Int'l training course ends

June 8: A three-week long international training course on Poverty Focused Rural Development for Asia-Pacific Commonwealth countries concluded at the Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), reports UNB.

The course sponsored by Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation (CFTC) was organised by BARD, says a BARD press release.

A total of twenty high and mid level officials from Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Western Samoa attended the training course.

The general objective of the course was to equip the participants with knowledge and skill of rural development programmes for poverty alleviation in an effective manner.

Md Mahe Alam, Secretary, Rural Development and Co-operative Division (RDCCD) chaired the session and distributed certificates among the participants. Dr Kahanada Mohan Das, Director General, M A Qudus, Director (Research), M A Chowdhury, Director (Training) of BARD also addressed the course.

MYMENSINGH

Annual rally of Ansar, VDP held

June 8: The annual rally of Ansar and Village Defence Party (VDP) of Mymensingh district was held at the local Public Hall premises recently, reports BSS.

The director general, Bangladesh Ansar and VDP Major General Syed Badruzzaman was present as chief guest on the occasion.

Presided over by AFM Mattur Rahman, Deputy Commissioner of Mymensingh the rally was addressed among others by M A Quasem, Deputy Director Ansar and VDP, central zone, A T Ahmedul Haque Choudhury, police super, Mymensingh, A K M Mizanur Rahman, District Adjutant of Ansar and VDP, Nazmul Haque Tara, commissioner, Mymensingh Pourashava, Abu Taher, unit leader Bhaluka Thana Ansar and VDP and Shirina Akhtar unit leader Trishal Thana Ansar and VDP.

The chief guest distributed prizes among the members of Ansar and VDP for best performance in social welfare activities.

NARAIL

1500 attacked by Chicken Pox

June 8: About 1,500 people were attacked by Chicken Pox which has broken out in an epidemic form in different parts of the district, reports UNB.

Narail and Kalia pourashava in Sadar thana are learnt to be the worst affected areas.

Everyday a large number of people from far flung areas of the district are pouring into thana health complexes and hospitals for treatment. But most of them went back disappointed due to lack of medical facilities, local people said.

Children of poor families are the worst sufferers as most of the parents can not provide expenditures for their treatment.

Local people urged the concerned authorities to take necessary steps to check out spread of the disease.



A group of girls playing and at the same time keeping eyes on the cows grazing aside.

—Star photo

Vast area of land lying unutilized

Cultivation may fetch Tk,200 cr

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, June 8: Crops worth Taka two hundred crore may be produced annually if all the fallow arable lands in ten districts of Khulna Division are brought under cultivation said an expert on agriculture.

According to a detailed information total such land in these areas is seventy-five thousand acres. Thirty-five thousand acres out of the total is arable. It is learnt a sizeable amount money can also be earned through cultivating shoals and saline land.

A source said that a total of thirty-three lakh, twenty-two thousand one hundred fifty-eight acres of land have been brought under cultivation while the actual land available for cultivation is slightly over fifty-five lakh ninety thousand eight hundred twenty-nine acres.

At present, the total of fallow arable land is thirty-five thousand acres, the source said.

According to unofficial reports the exact quantity of such land is much higher than the figure released. This vast tract of land is lying without any use of cultivation for reasons more than one. It could not be known exactly if any step at all has been taken by the government or public for cultivation of this land. When contacted a source of Agriculture Extension Department informed this correspondent that process was in progress to bring the entire land under cultivation shortly.

If more than two crops are

grown on these land an estimated total production may exceed worth Taka two hundred crore said a source. It is also learnt that no cultivation is carried on a vast tract of shoals and saline land. In some cases, it is cultivated but once a year only.

Cultivation of potato, peeper, IRRI, boro, jute etc. is prospective on these land if done through irrigation with full application of modern know how and technology. This venture is found to yield maximum income covering deficit of food demand. Concerned department should brook no delay to come with a massive programme for cultivation of these shoals and saline land on priority basis.

Notes from Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent

June 8: Two officers of Baghabari Milk Processing Factory were suspended for alleged corruption.

Following complaint against the two officers, a three member enquiry team visited the factory of milk vita at Baghabari in Shahzadpur thana and suspended Nurul Islam and Abu Bakker as the complaints against them were primarily proved.

Eye camp held

A 3 week-long eye camp was held at Chandakona Union Parishad office under the auspices of Bangladesh National Society for the Blind (BNSB), Sirajganj.

A total of 35 patients were operated upon cataract and about 500 eye patients were given outdoor treatment.

Property worth Tk 2 lakh gutted

Four houses and valuables worth about Taka two lakh gutted in a devastating fire incident in village Purbu Luxmikola under Raiganj thana.

Fire originated from the house of Skendar Ali recently from electric short circuit and spread to the neighbouring houses. Four persons including Skendar Ali were injured while extinguishing fire.

Project faces setback

June 8: Allocation to Belkuchi protection project of BWDB is increased to Tk 80 lakh from Tk 24 lakh. Due to frequent change in estimate and design, the project faces setback.

Sirajganj Operation & Maintenance (O&M) Division of Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) Look up a scheme to protect Belkuchi from the erosion of Jamuna at the cost of Tk. 24 lakh. The scheme included construction of a 40 feet spar and dumping of RCC boulders. Afterwards the design and estimate was changed and decision was taken to construct seven spars of 100 feet each at the cost of Tk. 4.5 crore. At last two spars of 40 feet and dumping of 55,000 cft. of boulders were finalised at the cost of Tk 80 lakh. The project was supposed to be completed by 30 days.

Two dacoits arrested in Moulvibazar

From Our Correspondent

MOULVIBAZAR, June 8: Two members of a gang of dacoits were apprehended by Moulvibazar police from a rickshaw near Chandnighat Bridge of the town recently.

The dacoits had prepared themselves for committing dacoity in a village of Rajnagar thana area.

The dacoits were traveling through Moulvibazar district town on a rickshaw. On suspicion, police challenged them and later they were arrested. They allegedly confessed their crime to the police.

Police also recovered two pipeguns, four round of bullets and four daggers from their possession. A case has been registered with the police.

Motor launch not yet salvaged

June 8: Sunken motor launch M L Sagarika not yet recovered and local people trying to lift the illfated launch overloaded with passengers. On way to Bhanpur it capsized and about ten passengers were missing. A large number of relatives assembled in Sirajganj ghat.

Tk 3 cr road construction project on in Sylhet

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, June 8: Works on the construction of Deral Madanpur Road is going on in full swing.

When contacted, an official source informed this correspondent that, a total of about Taka 3 crore would be spent in completing the works of the project. The works includes, earth filling, construction of culverts and carpeting. The works is expected to be completed by the month of July next, the source added.

When completed the road would benefit to one and a half lakh people of Deral and Shulla thanas of Sunamganj district, the source said.

New executives

A new executive committee of the Haniman Homico Medical Association was formed in the general meeting of the organisation recently with Nripendra Chandra Devnath, president in charge in the chair. The new committee was formed with Dr Ranadhr Paul and Dr

Namor Ali as its president and secretary respectively for the term-1992-93.

3 hurt as PDB men, villagers clash

Three persons were injured in a clash between the employees of Power Development Board (PDB) and villagers at a village under Beanibazar thana recently.

According to the reports, on the day of incident, when a transformer in the electric line at village Suptala caught fire, local people informed the PDB employees of the matter. But they did not pay heed to it. After about two hours, a group of PDB men went to the village, they had exchange of hot words and at one stage they clashed.

Shelmur Rahman, a SSC examinee and two employees of PDB were injured. They were taken to the hospital.

A case in this connection has been registered with the police.

Acute shortage of medicine in Barguna

BARGUNA, June 8: Scarcity of medicines in hospitals, health complexes and health centres has become acute causing immense sufferings to people of the district, reports UNB.

Out-door services of most of the hospitals here have become almost paralysed, local people complained. They alleged that doctors are reluctant to attend the out-door patients due to the shortage of medicines.

Everyday, thousands of patients from far flung areas of the district are pouring into the hospitals. While, many of them go back without necessary medicare facilities. Some of the patients complained that most common drugs including Dettol or Savlon are not even available in rural health centres.

Usually, admitted patients of these health complexes and

hospitals are to procure medicines from open-market. On the other hand, some dishonest officials are reportedly involved in selling of medicines to open-markets from the storage of the hospitals and health complexes.

According to official sources, about taka 2.5 lakh is sanctioned annually for each of the hospital and Taka 30,000 for every union health centre as against the requirement of Taka five lakh for the hospitals and one lakh for the union health centres to meet necessary expenditures including purchasing of medicine and surgical instruments.

Local people urged the concerned authorities to ensure supply of medicines in thana health complexes and union health sub-centres on emergency basis and take steps to check pilferage of medicines.

Massive cultivation plan

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, June 8: A massive programme has been taken up to bring a total of 94,489 hectares of land under the cultivation of Aush and Bona Aman paddy under the 'intensive summer crops cultivation programme' in Sylhet district during the current season.

Under the programme, the target of paddy production had been fixed at 1,14,069 metric tonnes. It includes, 32,000 metric tonnes from the High Yielding Varieties (HYV) of Aush, 42,728 metric tonnes from the local varieties of Aush and the rest 39,341 metric tonnes from the Broadcast Aman.

When contacted an official source informed this correspondent that, the area to be brought under the programme in different thanas is as follows: Sylhet Sadar - 2600 hectares High Yielding Varieties (HYV) of Aush, 6200 hectares of local varieties of Aush, and 5375 hectares of Broadcast Aman, Gowainghat - 740 hectares of HYVs of Aush, 5224 hectares of local varieties Aush and 6660 hectares of Broadcast Aman, Balaganj - 2050 hectares of HYVs of Aush, 4800 hectares of local varieties of Aush, and 6040 hectares of Broadcast Aman, Companyganj - 220 hectares of HYV Aush, 1100 hectares of local varieties of Aush and 1940 hectares of

Broadcast Aman, Biswanath - 2100 hectares of HYVs of Aush, 4250 hectares of local varieties of Aush, and 3560 hectares of Broadcast Aman, Fenchuganj - 500 hectares of HYVs of Aush, 1720 hectares of local varieties of Aush, and 1100 hectares of Broadcast Aman, Golaganj - 2050 hectares of HYVs of Aush, 4780 hectares of local varieties of Aush and 1150 hectares of Broadcast Aman, Jaintapur - 630 hectares of HYVs of Aush, 3200 hectares of local varieties of Aush and 1120 hectares of Broadcast Aman, Kanaighat - 1560 hectares of HYVs of Aush, 4100 hectares of local varieties and 3820 hectares of Broadcast Aman, Jaktiganj - 2100 hectares of HYVs of Aush, 4150 hectares of local varieties of Aush and 1410 hectares of Broadcast Aman and Beanibazar - 1450 hectares of HYVs of Aush, 3200 hectares of local varieties of Aush and 3480 hectares of Broadcast Aman.

The source further informed that, necessary steps were being taken to help the farmers with different inputs. The different commercial banks including the Bangladesh Krishi Bank will also disburse special loans among the farmers of the 11 thanas, the source added.

The Agricultural Extension Department have also taken different measures with a view to making the whole programme a success, the source said.

Town protection works along river Kumar in full swing in Faridpur

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, June 8: A town protection work have been started by Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), at the cost of taka 1.76 crore to save Faridpur town and its adjoining areas from the erosion of river Kumar. The construction of modern protection work is going on in full swing.

According to a source of Bangladesh Water Development Board, Faridpur division so far completed construction works of 2600 feet of river banks for protection. River Kumar is a tributary of river Padma.

Of the total of 2600 feet of protection area, 400 feet covers along the Ambikapur cremation

site, another 400 feet covers along the Ansaruddin High School site to protect Ambikapur railway bridge, 1200 feet covers near new Alimuzzaman bridge, 100 feet wide area covers near Ram Mandir and finally 500 feet of river bank were constructed near Shariatullah market.

JCD sweeps college union polls

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, June 8: Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) swept majority seats in the student union election of Nabinagar Government College of the district ended peacefully recently.

Out of total 16 seats Chhatra Dal won 13 seats with vice president, general secretary and assistant general secretary while Chhatra League bagged rest of the 3 seats.



Farmers busy with weeding out in the paddy field.

—Star photo