

District roundup

COMILLA

BDR seizes contraband

June : Bangladesh Rifles in separate drives on roads and highways seized Indian goods worth about Tk 1.11 lakh in the last week, reports UNB.

BDR men following a tip-off raided Nimshar area on Dhaka-Chittagong highway, Chandpur in Kotwali thana and Jafarganj on Comilla-Brahmanbaria road.

The seized contrabands included 925 Indian crystal glass, five kgs of black pepper, one Indian bicycle and 296 pieces of Indian sarces.

BDR men had to fire two shots in Chandpur when the smugglers tried to escape with the goods.

Another report adds: A flag meeting between Bangladesh Rifles and Indian Border Security Forces was held near Bibir Bazar on May 24.

Sree Balabr Singh Hari, 100 BSF Battalion Commander led the BSF side while Lt Colonel Ekram Hussain, Commander, 29 Battalion of BDR headed the home side.

Cross-border crimes, smuggling and some other prickly issues were discussed in the seven-hour long meeting and both the sides agreed to take effective measures in this regard.

SIRAJGANJ

Poor boy murdered

June : A poor boy was killed Friday night at Islia village of Rayganj thana following a dispute over the sale proceeds of the collected sacrificial meat, reports UNB.

The boy, identified as Ananda (9) of the same village, was allegedly killed by Ranjit Das (25) and Gopal (32) when he demanded his legitimate share of the sale proceeds.

According to police, the victim along with his two co-villagers collected sacrificial meat begging door to door and then sold those in the market. But Ananda was deprived of the due share. When he demanded his share both the men became angry and called him out and killed him in a nearby field on the fateful night.

Police recovered the body from the field and arrested both the accused from their houses early Saturday, who later confessed their guilt.

The body was sent to morgue for autopsy and a case has been started with the police.

MYMENSINGH

Rotaractor's training camp

June : The student community should be involved with the Rotaractor's movement in greater numbers so that a healthy and normal academic atmosphere in the educational institutions could be maintained, reports UNB.

This was stated by the Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University Prof Ashraf Ali Khan while speaking as chief guest in the concluding session of the 6th Rotaractor's training camp.

The training camp held here at the Graduate Training Institute (GTI) dormitory on May 26, was jointly organised by the Rotaract Club of BAU and GTI. It was presided over by the Director of GTI, Prof M Tajul Islam.

The special guest, Student Affairs Advisor, Prof M Rafiqul Haque Buiyan, in his speech stated that the goal of social welfare should be to serve the distressed humanity.

The chief guest distributed certificates among the trainees. A total of 38 Rotaractors representing 35 Rotaract Clubs participated in the six-day long training camp.

MAGURA

Physicians urged to make people aware

June : Agriculture and Irrigation Minister M Majid-ul-Haq Sunday urged physicians to make the people aware about preventive measures against some common diseases in rural areas, reports UNB.

Presiding over a meeting of the 'Health Services Improvement Committee' here, the minister said the present government was determined to ensure health for all by the year 2000.

The overall health situation and existing problems of the hospitals and clinics came up for discussion.

Majid-ul-Haq said to achieve self-reliance, everyone needed to engage himself in the development activities. Sound health is prerequisite to contribute to the development process, he added.

He urged the concerned doctors to improve the quality of services in hospitals and clinics and keep them hygienic and clean.

GAIBANDHA

One gets life imprisonment

June : A man was awarded life imprisonment and fined Tk 1,000, in default, to suffer another six months prison term for killing his minor daughter, reports UNB.

In a judgement, delivered recently, District and Sessions Judge Kamrul Islam Siddique sentenced another man for three years' rigorous imprisonment and fined Tk 500, in default, to suffer six months more for helping the convict in the murder.

The prosecution story in brief was that on March 12 in 1989, Mohammad Ali of Singhirganj village in Sundarganj thana of the district killed his four-year old daughter Asma.

Mohammad Ali killed Asma on the bank of Teesta river with the help of his accomplice Shutku. Acting on tips, police recovered the dead body and filed a case with Sundarganj police and submitted charge-sheet against the accused.

After examining the records and witnesses, the learned judge awarded the punishment on May 18.

Advocate Rahmatullah Azad conducted the case in favour of the state while Advocate Siddique Hossain Selim defended the accused.

MANIKGANJ

Officers asked to visit schemes

June : Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain on Tuesday singled out the disintegration as the prime cause of hindrances to the country's development activities, according to UNB reports.

He was addressing as chief guest at a meeting here arranged for distribution of cheques of grants and relief materials among the people of the thana affected on account of erosion and natural catastrophe.

He called upon the patriotic and peace loving forces of the country to unite themselves sinking all petty differences for reaching a national consensus.

The Chief Whip asked the thana level officers and staff to explain the people about the development schemes undertaken by the government so that they could make better use of the facilities provided to them and involve them in the nation-building activities in large scale.

He also advised them to ensure timely inspection of all schemes so that they could be completed within the schedule time, said an official handout.

Delwar said people are now made focal point of all development activities initiated by the BNP government for reducing economic hardship of the teeming millions.

The present government is determined to establish a society free from corruption and terrorism and solve the unemployment problem phase by phase effectively, he said.

CHITTAGONG

Police seize contraband worth Tk 50 lakh

June 9: A special team of the Chittagong range police in a raid seized 6,500 master carton contraband cigarettes and 1000 kg of nylon yarn worth about Taka 50 lakh from Premasia village under Banakhali Thana about 80 km off Chittagong Sunday, reports BSS.

According to a police press release Monday, acting on a secret information the team led by Mohammad Salam, Deputy Inspector General, Chittagong Range, raided some houses in the village and found the contrabands.

Two persons, Fazlul Karim and Mahmudul Haq were arrested in this connection.

KHULNA

KUJ condoles death of K Chowdhury

June 9: Khulna Union of Journalists (KUJ) condoled the sudden death of eminent journalist Ranjan Kishore Chowdhury, says BSS.

In a statement the acting president of KUJ Makbul Hossain Minto and secretary A K Hiru recalled the contribution of late Ranjan Kishore Chowdhury to the cause of journalism and freedom of press.

His untimely death has caused a vacuum in the field of journalism, the KUJ leaders added. The KUJ leaders also condemned the attack on the daily Morning Sun and damage caused to the paper. The KUJ leaders demanded punishment to those involved in the crime.



Indian delegation on their way to Ramgarh.



Chakmas waiting for the return of their near and dear ones from India along the Bangladesh-India border Tuesday.



Sarees and lungis for distribution among the Chakma refugees.

Indiscriminate tree felling on rise in Satkhira

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, June 9: The number of fruit-bearing trees is gradually decreasing in the district due to indiscriminate felling by the traders.

The poverty stricken people of the district are selling their trees like mango, palm, coconut, date, jack-fruit, blackberry, wood apple, litchi and other species to the wood traders to meet their expenses.

The demands of wood have increased largely due to its increased use in the brick fields and also for making furniture. On the other hand the plantation of trees was not raised proportionately. 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 woods for bricks field industries. A large quantity of wood is also being used in match and biscuit factories. Furniture makers and wood traders are also purchasing huge quantity of woods every day to meet up their requirement.

Another report adds: Low prices of Boro paddy in the markets of Satkhira district have been causing sufferings and loss to the farmers.

It is learnt that the current season Boro paddy was cultivated on about 50 thousand acres of land in seven thanas of

the district. Production was satisfactory for favourable weather though hail storms damaged a part of the crops.

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

It is to be mentioned here that about Taka 2700 is required to cultivate one acre of land to produce 15 to 16 maunds of Boro paddy. At present one maund of paddy is sold at Taka 140 in the village markets of the district which is much less than the production cost.

It is to be mentioned also that fall in prices of jute since last few years has consequently decreased the cultivation of jute in the whole country. Consequently fall in the prices of paddy has been discouraging the farmers and creating frustration among the farmers.

It is learnt that due to abnormal low prices of paddy a group of hoarders are active to make stock of paddy. As a result the helpless growers are turned hostage to the hoarders and are being deprived of fair prices.

Knowledgeable sources have pointed that the government should raise paddy to ensure fair prices to the farmers.

Another copy says: A total of 135 hats and bazars in seven police stations of Satkhira district have been facing innumerable

problems for a long time. It may be mentioned that a huge amount of revenue is being collected from these hats and bazars every year but no such scheme has yet been taken for the development of these hats and bazars.

Besides it is alleged that 40 per cent collected revenue allocated for the development of these places is not spent properly and the authorities are reluctant to ignore these problems.

There is no drainage system in the markets as a result water remain stagnant on the roads for days.

Most of the roads in these hats and bazars are narrow. Cracks and potholes have developed at many points hindering the movement of vehicles as well as passers by.

Scarcity of pure drinking water is another problem. Most of the tubewells have been out of order for long but no steps have yet been taken to repair or re-sink these tubewells. Though most of the hats and bazars are situated under PDB or Palli Bidyut Samity, most of the hats and bazars have no proper lighting system.

Excessive collection of tolls by the lease holders was also reported from these hats and bazars and the law and order situation of the areas have also deteriorated in recent days.

Water supply programme undertaken in Gaibandha

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, June 9: A large scale drinking water supply programme was undertaken by the Public Health Engineering Department, Gaibandha for supplying of pure drinking water in rural areas of the district.

Under this programme the department will install 589 new hand operated tubewells during this current fiscal year. UNICEF will extend all possible financial assistance for the implementation of the programme.

Besides, the department will re-sink about 536 disorder tubewells after providing necessary repairing. On implementation of the programme shortage of acute drinking water will be overcome proportionately.

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Taka 56 lakh uplift project implemented

From Our Correspondent

NARSINGDI, June 9: Narasingdi Paurashava has implemented four development projects at a cost of Taka 56 lakh in the current fiscal year a paurashava source said, reports BSS.

The projects are repair and reconstruction of roads.

The fund was provided by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the source said.

20 kg Ganja recovered in Faridpur

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, June 9: Narcotics Control Department recovered 5414 ganja plants 20 kg processed ganja from Faridpur and Madaripur district recently.

Md Sadeque, Assistant Director of the Narcotics Control Department recovered one metric ton of ganja plants from the house of Ronjan Ali Mollah and Abdul Malek of village Baburchar under Sadarpur thana.

Md Abdul Rob recovered 5089 piece of ganja plants from the village of Chapatoli and Jikahati under Madaripur district. A case has been filed in this connection.

TBA workshop concluded

From Our Correspondent

June : A three-day long workshop on traditional birth attendants (TBA), sponsored by the Comilla branch of Family Planning Association of Bangladesh, was concluded on Thursday, reports UNB.

Across the Country

Woes of an enclave

By H B Khan

KURIGRAM, June 9: The suffering of nearly 15,000 inhabitants of our second biggest enclave "Kazirhat Batrigacha," next to Dahagram-Angorpota has been increasing to unbearable proportions over the 45 years it is cut off with mainland.

Situated in Durgapur union under Aditmari thana of Lalmonirhat district adjacent to Kurigram, the area of the enclave is 45 square kilometres. It is surrounded by Shoulmari of Dinhat thana of India in the east and north, Setai in west and Singimari Madnakura in south. The Indian river Singimari is flowing through the southern side snapping the only road link with the Bangladesh mainland.

Of the total population, 90 per cent are Muslims and the rest are Hindus. Rice, tobacco and jute are main agricultural products.

A vast tract of agricultural land belonging to the enclave's Muslims has gone to Indian side at the time of partition. These lands were in the possession of Muslims upto 1964 by paying land revenue to Indian government. After the 1965 Indo-Pak war all these lands were taken over by Indian government declaring them as enemy property.

Educational facilities are totally absent in the enclave. A primary school was established there during the Pakistani regime and two teachers were appointed to run it. But due to problems in receiving salary from the mainland crossing Indian territory at the risk of life, they gave up the job and the institution was closed down and later the kutchha fencing of the school was taken away by local people. Now only the tinshed with wooden poles is standing. The young people of the enclave are now going to Indian schools and colleges.

This is creating a member of problems. The certificates obtained from the Indian schools and colleges are not accepted while seeking jobs in

Bangladesh similarly in India they are facing the same fate being the citizens of Bangladesh. A large number of youths and elderly persons of the enclave with higher educational certificates from Indian schools and colleges have become day-labourers.

Medical and pure drinking water facilities are completely absent in the enclave as there is no hospital or health centre and even tubewells. Some quacks treat the ailing persons.

It also lacks hats and bazars. Before 1965, there was a hat at Kazirhat village. Subsequently it disappeared. At present the enclave people are procuring their necessities from the Indian markets. Similarly they are selling their produce to the Indians.

At least 80 per cent population of the enclave are daily wage earners and in the absence of jobs in their locality they are selling their labour to Indians at cheap rate and with their meagre earning they are leading their lives in great difficulty.

The law and order situation is alarming due to absence of any law enforcing personnel such as police in case of any crime, people of the enclave are to depend on village "shalish" to deliver verdicts after consultations with leading Indian persons. The erosion of the river Singimari flowing through the southern side of the enclave devoured a vast tract of land and if it continues to do so further the existence of this densely populated area will be at stake.

Nearly 15,000 people of this enclave could not enjoy the free air as citizens of our sovereign country. Only Indian coins are circulated in the enclave.

No development activities have taken place and no aid provided inside the enclave to remove sufferings of its inhabitants.

There is a strong demand among the people of this neglected enclave to solve all such problems by establishing a link with the mainland.

Shortage of bullocks hinders cultivation

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, June 9: Acute shortage of bullock is causing serious hindrance to cultivation in all the seven thanas of Brahmanbaria district.

Nearly 65 per cent families having no bullocks of their own are unable to till their land. Most of the farmers carry on their agricultural works on share basis as they cannot afford to purchase bullock to sharp rise in prices.

At present a pair of bullock costs Taka ten thousand to fifteen thousand or more. It has been observed that farmers till their land with spades. Many of them even use milch cows to cultivate their land, resulting in gradual reduction in the milk production.

According to survey bullock shortage prevails every year due to different kinds of disease and natural calamities. Besides that it is also alleged that some greedy and dishonest traders are found poisoning cattle-heads in different places of the district only to collect the skin.

On the otherhand slaughtering of bullocks has increased much following the scarcity of fish in the markets. Epidemics and diseases also take heavy toll as acute shortage of necessary medicines at the veterinary hospitals. It is noticed that in most cases butchers are not observing the meatless day once in a week.

Moreover bad communication is another factor it is learnt. Taking advantages of the situation of the farmers a section of cow traders is purchasing cattleheads from the farmers at nominal prices to be supplied to other places for slaughtering daily. If this trend continues for long time cultivation would be hampered to a great extent it is feared.

RAKUB disburses Taka 4.12 cr as loan

From Our Correspondent

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, June 9: The Rajshahi Kriahi Unnayan Bank (RAKUB) has disbursed Tk 4.12 crore as loans among the farmers in the district during the last eleven months of current fiscal year, reports UNB.

The bank has set a target to disburse Tk 4.96 crore among 4752 farmers of Shibganj, Bholahat, Gomastapur, Nachol and Sadar thanas of the district during the period.

This was disclosed at a conference of the Branch Manager of Rajshahi Kriahi Unnayan Bank of the district held at the Zila Parisad Hall recently.

The credit facilities were extended to the farmers for cultivation of aman, boro, wheat, sugarcane, mango, potato and other crops for boosting up their productions.

Presided over by Saiful Hossain Chowdhury, Regional Manager, the conference was attended by Jalilur Rahman, Managing Director of the bank as the chief guest and AKM Saidur Rahman as the special guest.

Thirteen branch managers of RAKUB in the district took part in the conference.

Miscreants kill school boy

From Our Correspondent

June 9: A school boy of Singagram in Harina Kunda thana of the district was killed by miscreants early Sunday, reports UNB.

Police said Jahidul Islam (18), a student of class nine of Priyanath High School, was attacked by the miscreants at Falast village while he was returning home riding a bicycle after enjoying a film show at about 10.00 pm on Saturday.

The miscreants snatched away his bicycle and injured him by exploding bombs. Jahidul was admitted to Harina Kunda Thana Health Complex with serious injuries. Later he was shifted to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries at 2 am.

A case was filed with local police but none was arrested in this connection.