

District roundup

BARISAL

Tiger Club to help generate employment

June 13: A volunteers' rally of Tigers' Club, a sister organisation of Syed Foundation of Bangladesh, was held at Muladi Degree College premises last week, reports UNB.

Founder of the foundation Syed Badrul Hossain was present as chief guest at the rally which was presided over by Muladi UP Chairman Abdul Mannan Khan, a foundation press release said.

It was addressed among others by Abdul Motaleb Pike, Mahiuddin Mia, Faruk Mollah, Amin Akand, Sree Mukteshwar, Mithu Khan and other local leaders.

The rally decided to undertake an employment generation scheme by providing agricultural appliances to unemployed youths for cultivating lands.

It also decided to grant stipends to poor and meritorious students, provide burial expenses of the poor and helpless and arrange accommodation facilities to the poor SSC candidates around the Muladi Examination centre.

Later, the chief guest gave away awards to 80 Tigers' volunteers for their outstanding contribution in curbing recent outbreak of diarrhoea which claimed at least 60 lives in the locality.

KISHOREGANJ

Blacksmith community face extinction

June 13: The blacksmith community in the district is on the verge of ruin due to manifold problems, including shortage of funds and patronisation, reports UNB.

The price of essential items like firewood, coal, iron and chemicals has shot up abnormally in the local markets while that of their products sharply decreased. As a result, the blacksmiths can not smoothly carry on their ancestral profession.

Many blacksmiths have already given up their age-old profession due to lack of patronisation and fund crisis, local people said.

The blacksmiths produce different kinds agricultural appliances such as daos, nails, knife, sickle and axes which are essential for agricultural production.

The affected blacksmiths urged the concerned authorities to come forward with loan and monetary help to carry on their occupation.

SATKHIRA

One killed in road accident

June 13: A bicycle rider was killed and two others were injured when a speedy truck hit them near Sakdoha bridge on the Satkhira-Khulna road Wednesday, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Nikamal (40) of Magorahata in Tala thana. Injured Babar Ali and Jotinuddin were admitted to Tala health complex.

Witnesses said the victims met the accident when the Khulna-bound truck hit them from behind while they were returning home.

The driver of the truck managed to escape along with the vehicle. A case was filed with the local police in this connection.

Another report says: Police recovered a country-made gun and one live cartridge in a raid from Balia Bazar Wednesday night.

None was, however, arrested in this connection. A case was registered with the local police.

DINAJPUR

Lightning kills eight people

June 13: Eight people were killed including three children and two others injured by lightning at BISIC area, Pulhat in the town Wednesday, witnesses said, reports UNB.

The dead were identified as: Azimunnisa (25) and her daughter Shefali Begum (8) of Prigachha, Babul and Joygan (8) of Chilahati in Rangpur district, Majbul Haq (9) son of Shamsul of Kaliaganj in Panchagarh, Nilu son of Abdul Khaleque of Ulipur in Kurigram district and Nilima and her mother Margina.

The wounded Muslim (5) and Shabina (7) were local mill workers.

JHENIDAH

15 injured in road mishap

June 13: At least 15 people were injured, four seriously, in two separate road accidents on Jhenidah-Jessore highway on Wednesday, police and witnesses said, reports UNB.

A speeding Jhenidah-bound truck, loaded with jack-fruits and paddy, fell into a roadside ditch after its driver lost control at Dalalmundia in Kalganj thana, injuring 11 people.

In another incident, four people were injured when a Jhenidah-bound bus also fell into a roadside ditch after it rumbled into a rickshaw van, loaded with passengers coming from the opposite direction, near Khalikhal area in sadar thana.

The injured were admitted to Kalganj health complex and Jessore Hospital. Of the injured, Hazrat Ali (35), Sankar (32), Pachu (40) and Reazul were stated to be critical.

Police seized both the vehicles, but the drivers managed to flee.

Two separate cases were filed with the police.

SIRAJGANJ

Jamuna erosion intensifies

June 13: With the rise of water level in the Jamuna, the erosion of the river has intensified at some points and fresh areas have been inundated in the district, reports UNB.

Officials and local people said some nine villages in Shahajadpur thana were inundated by onrush of water through a breach in the old embankment at Lautara.

Crops on about 25,000 acres were damaged by flooding in the affected villages of Potadia, Lautara, Begunbari, Kalamari, Madla, Barobeel, Nanulapur and Kashinathpur.

About 2,000 acres of cropland in Muniabari, Chhantantala, Narottara and Porabari villages of Sadar thana also went under water.

Meanwhile, erosion of the Jamuna has devoured almost 90 per cent of a groyen in Belkuchi thana that was constructed this year at a cost of Taka 40 lakh.

Water Development Board has been trying to protect the site by throwing cement concrete blocks.

The Jamuna erosion also grabbed a portion of the old embankment at Chormara-Jhunkaol in Kazipur thana.

MADARIPUR

Beggars on increase

June 13: Beggars are on increase in the town and its adjoining areas over the last few months following large scale influx of poor people from remote areas of the district, reports UNB.

According to sources, these helpless people have trekked into the town with the hope of getting better earning facilities.

With onrush of rural people, anti-social activities have increased in the town in recent days vitiating the social atmosphere, local people said.

Finding no other alternative, many young girls of these families took to prostitution vitiating the shrine atmosphere of the locality.

Many minor children have also taken manual jobs in hotels, restaurants, workshops and brick fields to support their families.

NARAIL

Khulna-Jessore highway beset with problems

June 13: The Khulna-Jessore highway, beset with manifold problems, is causing great sufferings to people of the locality, reports UNB.

Unplanned construction, lack of development works and violation of traffic rules are creating hazards on safe journey and enhancing accidents on the route.

According to passengers, accidents take place very often as the road is narrow, uneven and there are some risky turns without any danger signal.

Although it is one of the busiest road, there is neither any speed breaker nor traffic island on the way.

The 56 km long highway was seriously damaged as breaches are developed in many parts of the road.

Besides, rain water remain stagnant at various points on the road during the rainy season creating great impediments on vehicular movements.

Number of TB patients rising in Kishoreganj

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, June 13: The number of TB patients is increasing alarmingly in 13 thanas of Kishoreganj district. The only TB clinic in the district is beset with enormous problems causing much sufferings to the increasing number of patients.

The clinic established in 1964 is extending treatment facilities to the patients. Normally 10 to 15 patients visit the hospital every day and every year 1800 to 2200 new TB patients are admitted to the clinic, who get out-door treatment on fixed dates subject to prior appointment.

According to the sources, the overall environment of the clinic is not at all hygienic. Toilets and urinals remain dirty as they are not cleaned regularly. Water supply is totally absent.

Besides, in absence of boundary wall, a section of miscreants of the locality engage themselves in anti-social activities in the clinic compound after office hours.

Moreover, cattlehead including goats move freely which are left by the neighbouring people for grazing in the clinic compound polluting the atmosphere and creating health hazard to the patients.

There are 14 staff members including one medical officer and one junior consultant. Two posts of LHV are lying vacant

since long. Residential facilities are not provided to the staff. On the otherhand, roof of the clinic is in a very deplorable condition.

No steps have yet been taken to mitigate the sufferings. The junior consultant incharge and some local people stressed the need for improving the environment of the clinic area.

Another copy adds: Storing and processing of raw skins of the animals in residential areas of Bhatrab Pourashava is posing health hazard to the people and the pedestrians.

When the raw skins are salted in the open spaces adjacent roads, bad odour emits all along in the areas causing health hazard to the people of the town.

The situation turns worse every year after Eid-ul-Azha when the unscrupulous skin dealers become active in the collection of the raw skins from different areas and process the same for months together. In addition they have constructed sheds for this purpose in the residential areas with least consideration of the public annoyance and sufferings.

The people of the Bhatrab river port town of the district urged the concerned authorities to ensure appropriate steps to stop these activities in the area for the sake of public health and sanitation.

Lily production declines

Production of lily (shapla) has declined and its groves in the different parts of the country including Kishoreganj, Mymensingh, Netrakona, Tangail, Sherpur and Jamalpur districts are being destroyed due to lack of proper orientation, maintenance and plantation programmes.

Each and every beel, haor, pond, tank and marshy land in the greater Mymensingh district was once rich in lily. But lily is decaying and its production is now scanty in these beels, haor and ponds.

It may be mentioned here that lily creeper (Shapla lata) is used as vegetables in the wake of vegetable crisis in the rainy season. Its food value is not in any way less than any other vegetables. The food value is more than beet, radish, bean, cabbage and cauliflower, it is learnt.

The ripe seeds of lily is used to make fried grain (Khol) which is commonly termed by the villagers as 'dhyaper khol'. But now-a-days dhyaper khol has disappeared from the village markets.

Knowledgeable circles opined that it was the duty of all concerned to increase the shapla production at any cost because of its importance in our economic and social life.

Notes from Moulvibazar

From Our Correspondent MOULVIBAZAR, June 13: Electricity bills of amount of Taka 3 lakh 67 thousand have remained unpaid at 3 railway stations under Moulvibazar district.

A source of Power Development Board (PDB) said, Bhanugachh, Shamsnagar and Monu railway stations authority have not paid bills for power consumption. According to source, Taka 2 lakh 10 thousand of Shamsnagar, Taka 87 thousand of Bhanugachh and Taka 70 thousand of Monu railway stations have remain outstanding for a long time.

NAP (M) calls for unity

Central leaders of National Awami Party (NAP-Mujaffar) urged the pro-liberation and socialism minded leaders and workers of the country to unite in a greater platform.

They criticized the activities of those progressive parties, who are now engaged in hypocritical conversations on socialism.

NAP leaders were addressing a meeting of Sylhet regional committee, which held at Habiganj recently.

Former MP and president of Habiganj district NAP Chowdhury Abdul Hye presided over the meeting organised by Sylhet regional committee of the organisation.

Professor Emdadur Rahman, central organising secretary of the party and Ranesh Maitra, Maulana Abdul Hannan, and Radhika Mohan Goswami, the central body members attended as guests in the meeting.

NAP leaders in the meeting said that the government of Khaleda Zia had totally failed to control the deteriorating law and order situation and arrest price hike.

Attack on BCL (M-I) leader condemned

Leaders and workers of Bangladesh Chhatra League (M-I) Moulvibazar district unit protested the attack on former district secretary of the organisation Abdur Mohit Tutu by some miscreants.

In a statement, district president of Chhatra League (M-I) and other leaders of the organisation condemned the attack on former BCL leader and demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of the culprits.

Assoc of Advocate Bar

Moulvibazar District Association of Advocate Bar has celebrated the Birth Anniversary of great poets Rabindranath Tagore and Qazi Nazrul Islam.

The Association had organised a function at Bar Library auditorium recently this connection. Senior Advocate Abdul Matlib presided over the function while Advocate Ebadur Rahman MP attended the function as chief guest and Habibur Rahman Sub-judge and Nazrul Islam Assistant Judge were attended as special guests.

The function was addressed, among others, by former student of Kaviguru's Shantiniketon and District President of Journalists Association Radhika Mohan Goswami, Advocate Abdul Khalique PP, Advocate Shanti Pada Ghose and Advocate Mujibur Rahman.

Speakers of the function told that Bangla year 1400 has a significant one as it is the last year before the advent of the 15th century. They also paid rich tributes to poets Rabindranath Tagore and Qazi Nazrul Islam for their immense contribution for Bangla language and literature.

11 schemes taken up for ADP in B'baria

From Our Correspondent BRAHMANBARIA, June 13: Under the Annual Development Programme 11 projects of Bancharampur Thana of this district will be implemented. To implement those projects about 11 lakh taka will be spent.

The projects includes construction of bridges, culverts and the development work of ferry ghat. Meanwhile, the work of three projects has completed and rest of the projects will be completed by current financial year.

Note books sale rampant

June 13: Despite government ban, the sales of note books are on rampant in all the 13 thanas of the districts, reports UNB.

Local teachers alleged some unscrupulous traders were selling sub-standard note books ignoring government ban on publishing and selling note up to class eight. According to them, the notes are full of errors and factual mistakes and misguiding the students giving rise to failure in examinations.

It was also alleged that most of the bookstall owners do not sell text books without notes.

Jhenaidah Pourashava

Tk 2 crore 26 lakh budget announced

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, June 13: Jhenaidah pourashava announced of Taka 2 crore 26 lakh 10 thousand 8 hundred sixtytwo budget for the fiscal '93-94.

Anisur Rahman Khoka, chairman Jhenaidah pourashava in a press conference recently disclosed that Taka one crore two lakh fortyeight thousand was allocated for development with the assistance of government fund amounting to Taka sixtytwo lakh.

The chairman said they had not imposed new tax on poura people.

The authority will construct three children's parks in the town and an amount of Tk ninety thousand was allocated for mosquito eradication. Taka thirty thousand will be spent for Jhenidah Press Club.

The poura chairman said

adequate drains, culverts, roads will be constructed and electricity will be supplied in all areas of the pourashava as early as possible.

Two fountains will be constructed in front of Bata corner. All the ward commissioners, panel chairman and employees were present in the press conference.

7th June observed

A meeting of Bangladesh Awami League Jhenidah district unit was held at Chuadanga bus stand with Advocate Ayub Hossain in the chair.

Among others Matkur Rahman, Advocate Abdur Rashid, Mastur Rahman, Afzal Hossain, Enamul Haq Milan and Nazrul Islam participated in the discussion.

Gaibandha modern hospital

Needs proper attention

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, June 13: Gaibandha modernised hospital is long ailing with multifarious problems with patients wondering how better treatment they could receive at a time when the hospital itself needs to be treated.

Fifty-bed hospital in the district can not accommodate increasing rush of patients. Very often patients are seen on the floor and many of them return home for lack of accommodation. Local people have been urging for setting up a 100-bed ultra modern hospital in this respect from here.

Proper diagnosis of diseases can not be done in the hospital for want of specialist. The specialised doctors seen to possess very thin interest for staying in district head quarters even for a reasonable period. These doctors always tend to take postings in capital city or in any divisional or greater district head

quarters for their professional benefit. As a result, maximum posts of specialist remain vacant for years together. At present the hospital has only primary treatment facilities and nothing else.

The post of consultant surgeon in the hospital is lying vacant for the last one year which is an essential factor. As a result no surgical treatment is given here. The on-duty doctor simply refer the cases of even any minor surgical treatment to Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

Besides, the post of eye specialist is also lying vacant for last few months. Following the transfer of concerned doctors no such replacement against the post has been provided.

Very often the X-ray machine of the hospital go out of order. Sometimes it suffers from shortage of X-ray films. The patients who needs X-ray diagnosis are forced to have it done from private clinics at exorbitant prices.

The hospital do not possesses its own power generating set. As a result doctors and patients are to face immense trouble during the period of load shedding and power disruptions.

People of Gaibandha extremely demanded immediate posting of consultant surgeon here.

Concerned higher authority should consider the situation and take necessary measures to mitigate the suffering of the people.

been the cause of failure to reach the place, it was learnt. Just before this, Oliar Rahman of Muradgonj of the Kotwali thana was murdered on 19th April and Rahela Begum wife of Abdul Halim of Jessore Rail Road was killed on 26th April last. Besides two daring dacoities were committed at Mukul Oil Mills and Friends Oil Mill, both of Bhulatan road of Jessore town recently. The armed dacoits looted away cash worth Taka seventy thousand. Police rounded up some persons but the real culprits are yet to be arrested, said in source.

Mahamudur Rahman a Juboleague activist, was killed on 16th May last at 9-30 pm. A group of armed miscreants caught him and cut into pieces by Ramdao at Pulbari.

In fact, crimes of all kinds are happening at alarming rate. Surprisingly enough, the actual criminals are escaping police arrest causing people to groan.

5 get 10-year RI each for dacoity in Habiganj

From Our Correspondent

HABIGANJ, June 13: The Assistant Session Judge Habiganj Shamsunnahar Begum convicted 5 persons and sentenced them to suffer 10 years rigorous imprisonment (RI) and also to pay a fine of Tk 2 thousand each in default to suffer 6 months more imprisonment on charge of dacoity recently.

The convicted persons were: Dhampu Mia, Taher Mia, Anumia, Sansal Ali, and Samsu Mia.

The prosecution story is that on February 7, 1989 a daring dacoity was committed in the house of Advocate Nasruddin of village Goushpara under Bahubal thana. In this connection Nasruddin lodged a complaint accusing the 5 persons at Bahubal police station. Police after investigation submitted chargesheet against the accused persons. The learned Judge after examining witnesses found the accused persons guilty and passed the above sentence of imprisonment. A P P Nurul



These boats are mostly used for business purposes. Goods produced in the local villages are carried to other markets or 'hats' far away for marketing. —Star photo

Tk 205 cr sanctioned for bridges, roads construction in Jamalpur

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, June 13: The government has sanctioned Taka 205 crore to construct 102 roads and bridges for development of rural communications in Jamalpur district under LGED.

The construction works of the roads and bridges have already been started with the financial assistance from the World Bank.

The pacca roads are: Jamalpur-Sarishabari, Jamalpur-Muktagesa Sarishabari to Mahmudpur via Madaganj, Melandah to Mahmudpur, Melandah to Hoza Bari, Jamalpur to Bakshiganj, Bakshiganj to Dewanganj, Islampur to Gopindi-Gomicial to Dewanganj, Durmat Bazar to Melandah Bazar link road.

According to official sources Taka 55 crore has been sanctioned for construction of only bridges and culverts of the district.

The project is supposed to be completed by 1994-95 fiscal year.

On the otherhand, seven thana parishad engineering department were financially selected for reconstruction and construction of 42 primary school building for better edu-

cation. The construction work has already been started by the government.

Another report adds: Several banned items of medicines are said to be available at the registered and unregistered medicine shops in the district and some doctors have been prescribing these medicines despite their knowledge about the ban for a long time.

Some drug manufacturers re-excavation of 13 canals ends

June 13: Re-excavation of 13 canals measuring 45 kilometres in ten thanas of Barisal district under voluntary canal digging programme was completed here recently, reports BSS.

According to an official source, fifty per cent work was done under voluntary service and the rest under food-for-work programme government had sanctioned 487 metric tons of wheat.

About 14.5 thousand acres will get irrigation facilities from these canals and 66,648 metric tons of additional grains will be produced annually in the area, the source added.



This gigantic looking figure is the 'Lock Gate' as the locals call it. This gate was built during the British rule in this sub-continent to save Gopalganj district from over flow of water from river Madhumati. The whole structure is made of iron. Lack of maintenance has lead to severe rusting. —Star photo