

District roundup

NAOGAON

Valuables worth Tk 40 thousand looted

June 22: Armed miscreants looted valuables worth about Tk. 40,000 and stabbed a passenger in a Naogaon bound bus on Rajshahi-Naogaon highway recently, reports UNB.

The dacoits numbering 10 got into the bus, in disguise of passengers, and took control of the vehicle.

They attacked the passengers when the bus crossed Mandra ghat and started looting belongings of the passengers.

They stabbed a passenger when he tried to resist them and snatched away goods and ornaments worth about Tk. 40,000 at gun points and managed to flee at Ranirghat.

COMILLA

BARD workshop concludes

June 22: A two-day long workshop on "a framework for future activities of Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD)" concluded at Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), Comilla recently.

BARD has been executing since 1989 a UNDP assisted project called "assistant to the development of BARD". The workshop was organised by BARD, says a press release.

A total of 50 high and mid level officials from different government and non-government organisation attended the workshop.

The main objective of the workshop was to review the recommendations of the consultants in the light of the past and present activities and mandates of the academy and to obtain comments of the scholars on these recommendations for preparing a framework for the future activities of the academy.

The session was chaired by Dr. Kshandana Mohan Das, Director General, BARD. Among others Md Abdul Quddus, Director (Research), Badaruddin Ahmed, Director (Project), M A Choudhury, Director (Training) of the Academy and K C Alexander, Chief Technical Adviser of the ADB project addressed the session.

JAMALPUR

Ansar, VDP rally held

June 22: A rally of Ansar and members of Village Defence Party (VDP) was held recently at the local Public Hall premises, reports BSS.

Brig. Abed Mia, Deputy Director General, Ansar and VDP was present at the rally as chief guest. Abul Kashem, Deputy Director, Ansar and VDP, Dhaka Division, Fuzur Rahman, Chairman, Jamalpur Paurashava and Anwar Hossain, Additional Superintendent of Police addressed the rally as special guest.

The chief guest distributed prizes among the members of Ansar and VDP cooperative societies.

Dacoits loot goods worth Tk 1.5 lakh

June 22: Dacoits looted cash and valuables worth about Tk. 1.57 lakh from a passenger bus at Nimshar on Dhaka-Chittagong trunk road recently, reports UNB.

Witnesses said a group of armed dacoits numbering 10 to 12 got into the Chittagong bound bus (Dhaka Ja-4275) from Dhaka in disguise of passengers and took control of the vehicle.

They attacked the passengers and looted cash and valuables at arms point and stabbed a passenger.

One electrocuted
A man was electrocuted at a village in Burichang thana recently, reports UNB.

Witnesses said Morshed Alam was electrocuted while he was switching off a electric fan.

He was immediately rushed to local health complex where attending doctors declared him dead.

Bank guard dipped to death
Miscreants allegedly dipped a bank guard to death in a water tank at Kalajuri in the town recently, reports UNB.

Police recovered the body while his relatives, including his step brother, were preparing for burial and sent it for autopsy.

JCD sweeps college union polls
Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) bagged 17 seats out of the 21 the Madaripur Govt Nazimuddin College Students Union recently.

The JCD leader Abdul Mannan Khan was elected vice president Mizanur Rahman and M Nasruddin Ahmed of assistant general secretary. The 4 seats went to BCL (Hasina).

JSS
An extended meeting of Jatiya Sangbadik Sangstha (JSS) Madaripur district unit was held at the local weekly Bartoman Eshara office recently with Belal Khan in the chair.

MOULVIBAZAR

Anti-smoking organisation formed

June 22: An anti-smoking organisation was formed with Dr Fakrul Islam and Prof Abdul Kalam Azad as President and General Secretary respectively, reports UNB.

The organisation, formed at Kulaura, will soon launch its activities and mobilise public opinion against smoking.

NATORE

Confce of National Savings Deptt held

June 22: The Divisional Conference of National Savings Department was held at the local Zilla Parishad auditorium recently, reports UNB.

State Minister for Communication Fazlur Rahman inaugurated the conference while Divisional Commissioner Aminul Islam attended the conference as the special guest.

Presided over by Abu Taher, Director of the Department, the two day conference was addressed, among others, by Abdul Mannaf, President of Natore Chamber of Commerce and Industries and Ataur Rahman, Assistant Director of Divisional National Savings Bureau.

MYMENSINGH

Tenta University VP visits BAU

June 22: Dr A El-Yamani, Vice-President, Tenta University (TU) of Egypt, called on Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) Prof M Ashraf Ali Khan at his office recently, reports UNB.

They discussed various issues related to mutual cooperation between BAU and TU in order to promote academic, research and other extra-curricular activities under the provisions of existing Bangladesh - Egypt Cultural Exchange agreement.

Prof Yamani also called on Deans, Head of the Faculties of Agriculture, Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology and Fisheries, the Coordinator of the Committee for Advanced Studies and Research Directors of BAU Research system and Graduate Training Institute.

A memorandum of understanding on exchange of expertise and knowledge between the two Universities was also agreed during the visit.

NARAIL

One commits suicide

June 22: One Monira, wife of one Abdul Daud of village Dopada under Lohagara Thana allegedly committed suicide by taking poison recently, reports BSS.

Police said Monira took poison following a feud with her family members. A case has been registered with Lohagara police in this connection.

70 pc inhabitants of Faridpur dist live in unhealthy condition

FARIDPUR, June 22 : A large number of inhabitants of Faridpur district do not use sanitary latrines due to ignorance about health and hygiene.

According to a source, about 70 per cent of the people suffer from diseases caused by unhealthy conditions. Almost all rural people defecate in nearby bushes, canals, beels, rivers and roadside places. Diseases like typhoid, paratyphoid, cholera, bacillary dysentery and other infectious diseases spread fast in these areas.

Another reason behind the spread of infectious diseases is accumulation of waste products which are found in the rural areas. About 50 per cent infants up to age of five years suffer from various diseases due to unhygienic habits followed by their mothers during cooking and serving the foodstuffs. The infants fall easy prey, specially to diarrhoea.

According to the survey only five per cent of the people use sanitary latrines and the rest 95 per cent do not use sanitary latrines because of financial constraints.

Hats face numerous problems

The Kanaipur hat and

Hajiganj hat under Faridpur sadar and Sadarpur thanas of the district have been facing accommodation problem, lack of pure drinking water, absence of drainage system and conservancy services.

For the last 40 years these two popular business centres, were not expanded in comparison with the increasing number of customers and dealers creating problems in business transactions. The roads inside these areas are not spacious enough to facilitate smooth movement of the customers. Besides, indiscriminate installation of new shops has further narrowed the space which has

been in bad shape for lack of renovation. The hat authorities however failed to take steps accordingly and keep the markets neat and clean. They realise a large amount as taxes from the shop owners.

Heaps of garbage and filth are always found in and around these hats polluting the atmosphere. There is no drainage system in these markets. During the rainy season these market areas are flooded.

The people in the market during business hours use contaminated water from the nearby ponds and canals as the tubewells seem to have gone out of order from a long time.

Jamuna, Padma erosion Vast areas of land flooded

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, June 22: Following sharp rise in the water level of the Jamuna and the Padma, erosion have turned furious and continues to wash away vast tracks of land and homesteads in greater Pabna district.

It is gathered that due to continuous and heavy downpour and onrush of hilly water, erosion of Jamuna have turned serious. Vast tracts of land and homesteads of riverbelt Kazipur, Sirajganj Sadar, Belkuchi, Chowhalli and Shahzadpur thanas in Sirajganj district and Bera and Sujannagar thanas in Pabna district have been affected by unabated erosion. During last one week, about 5000 people of seven thanas under Sirajganj and Pabna districts have been forced to live in open sky.

Besides, the protection scheme at Belkuchi at an estimated cost of Taka 80 lakh bears no utility for unusual delay in works. A large portion of the 'spar' constructed by Bangladesh Water Development Board at Belkuchi have been washed away by the

highly Jamuna.

Due to sharp rise in water level of the Jamuna, untimely flood situation of greater Pabna district have deteriorated. Standing crops of about 12,000 acres of land in the char areas under greater Pabna have been inundated by the flash flood water. The farmers failed to harvest crop on these inundated areas for rapid spread of water. A vast tracks of low lying land in the western part of Jamuna were also affected by flood water. Crops of about 300 acres of land in 'Chandi beel' under Belkuchi Thana also went under water.

The existence of the Brahmaputra flood control embankment in Khudbandi and Sonali-bazar under Kazipur, Satiantoli under Sirajganj Sadar, Meghulla of Belkuchi and Betil are threatened by continuous and devastating erosion. The situation is worst in Belkuchi Thana.

Locals who are affected have urged upon the higher authorities to take immediate and fruitful steps to arrest erosion.



This girl is giving her best try to pick up the jackfruit. This will be sent to local market for sale. This year the supply is very good, so the price is also quite reasonable and also within the reach of common people. —Star photo

Notes from Madaripur

From Our Correspondent

MADARIPUR, June 22: Jute production is likely to decline in all four thanas of the district this year as growers are reluctant to cultivate it.

According to the sources being deprived of fair prices during the last few years the farmers are preferring other crops in place of jute. Market price of jute is much less than that of the production cost, they alleged.

Budget hailed

President and Secretary General of Bangladesh Ghabehana Kendra (BRC) hailed the national budget for 1993-94 saying that it will help implement poverty alleviation programme announced by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

Termining the new budget as epoch making one, they said movement for building a self-reliant Bangladesh on the basis of justice and exploitation free society has to be intensified.

Charmugria College

The Charmugria College General Students Council organised a meeting at college ground. The meeting presided over Sarder Abul Fazil, principal of the college and president of the council.

A 21-member body was formed for the year 1993-94. Students leader Ataur Rahman Khan (MTU) was elected vice president, Sayed Mosarraf Hossain Salim general secretary and Md Jamal Bepari of assistant general secretary.

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The meeting was addressed, among others, by Forkan Ahmed, Salim Farazi, Subal Biswas and Abul Hasanul Sobel.

Works on six canals completed
The district and thana authorities have recently completed the re-excavations of six canals in

Recent floods in M'bazar Standing crops worth Tk 24.5 crore destroyed

From Our Correspondent

MOULVIBAZAR, June 22 : The recent devastating floods have destroyed 70 per cent of the standing crops and other properties of the farmers of the district causing great economic hardship.

The people, particularly the marginal farmers, have also been suffering much due to price spiral of essential commodities.

Relief operations by the administration and NGOs have been going on in full swing. But flood stricken people in remote areas complain that relief is quite inadequate and that many are in extreme miseries.

The flood that hit Moulvi-

bazar district following 59 breaches in the Monu and Dhahal river embankment inundated 29770 hectares of land damaging Aus, sowed Aman, vegetables and seedbeds.

According to district Agricultural Extension Department, crops on 3619 hectares of land has been damaged at Moulvibazar sadar thana, 4422 hectares at Sreemongal thana, 5290 hectares at Rajnagar thana, 2776 hectares at Kamalganj thana, 4639 hectares at Kulaura thana and 3685 hectares in Baralekha thana.

The Agricultural Extension Department also added that in

entire Moulvibazar district — 16,386 hectares land of Aus paddy, 3585 hectares of broad-casting Aman paddy, 451 hectares of seedbeds and 1,026 hectares of vegetable were damaged by the devastating flood since June 8.

The total loss of agricultural products estimated in the district stands at 24 crore 58 lakh 46 thousand taka. Of this, Tk 380.25 lakh in Moulvibazar sadar, Tk 175.12 lakh in Sreemongal thana, Tk 599.53 lakh in Rajnagar, Tk 346.34 lakh in Kamalganj thana, Tk 547.384 lakh in Kulaura and Tk 432.205 lakh in Baralekha thana.

15 industrial units shut down

There are at least 15 industrial units in greater Rangpur zone which have been closed down during the past few months, resulting in unemployment of over five thousand workers.

The industries includes — textile mills, weaving, tannery, bidi factories, shallow machine repairing workshops, and jute baling press, and detergent factory.

Large-scale smugglings of Indian goods from across the borders, shortage of working capitals, lack of marketing fa-

ilities, labour unrest and power failure are the main reasons for closure of these industries, according to a survey conducted by a group of members of the Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Rangpur.

The production target has been fixed at three lakh and thirty eight thousand metric tonnes of aman paddy during the season.

The seed beds have already been completed and the sowing of aman seedlings is expected to start from the current month of 'Ashar'.

Smuggled goods recovered
The anti-smuggling task force have recovered some quantities of Indian goods worth over Taka one lakh from Rangpur railway area and Badarganj markets recently.

The task force led by magistrates during its anti-smuggling drive recovered the smuggled Indian goods from different shops but none were arrested in this connection.

The recovered Indian goods includes — Sarees, clothes, utensils and bicycle parts.

One arrested for selling books
The Pirgonj police have arrested a person red-handed while he was trying to sell a huge quantity of free books from primary schools at Shatbari market recently.

Patients not getting proper treatment Problems grip Kishoreganj Sadar Hospital

KISHOREGANJ, June 22: The 50-bed Kishoreganj Sadar Hospital is not getting proper treatment, it is alleged.

The problems include shortage of physicians, accommodation, medicines, lack of modern diagnosis and pathological facilities, blood bank, security arrangements specially for the female nurses and modern operation theatre, absence of ambulance service and isolation ward for the infectious diseases.

The hospital set up with only 50 beds has not yet been expanded. The existing beds of the hospital can meet only 60 per cent requirement of the patients seeking admission.

With the heavy rush the patients are often found lying on the floor of the hospital. Many patients seeking admission go back disappointed. Most of the cots and bedsheets have become worn out and these are rarely replaced by new ones, it is alleged.

The ambulance of the hospital went out of order. The patients cannot be borne to the Mymensingh Medical College Hospital and Dhaka.

Sometimes, for better treatment the people can manage the ambulance of the Rotary Club for their use on payment. There is no blood bank in the hospital and patients have to rush to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital and Dhaka for this purpose. Patients in a critical condition die for want of blood.

The only X-Ray machine in the hospital remains unused. The diet supplied to the patients, is also not upto the standard, it is complained. The sanitary condition in the hospital is not satisfactory. The floors of the hospital are not cleaned regularly.

Due to bad smell from the bathrooms it is difficult for the patients to stay inside the hospital. There is no residential accommodation for the doctors, nurses and other staffs of the hospital. There is not boundary wall of the hospital.

Scarcity of life saving drugs has posed a great problems. Poor patients are worst sufferers and they can not afford purchasing medicines at exorbitant prices in the open markets.

Even gypsona, plaster, bandage, gauge etc are not available in the hospital. Major surgical operations are not done in the hospital for want of anaesthesia facility.

There are no consultants for medicines, gynaecology and doctor for ENT in the hospital. The doctors and employees of the hospital do not perform their duties properly, it is alleged.

Some doctors have private clinics in different areas. It is also alleged that some doctors without attending the patients at the hospital are found busy with their private practice.

There is not fullfledged superintendent of the hospital who is also the Civil Surgeon of Kishoreganj can not perform the function properly. The government office timing is not maintained in this hospital. No doctors is available in the hospital after 1-30 pm.

There are no waiting rooms for the out door patients although about 700 people come for treatment every day. The water and electricity supply arrangement in the hospital are also not up to the requirement. The hospital lacks modern clinical equipment like E.C.G. and Sonography.

Inferior quality building materials were used in the construction of the hospital. Many cracks have developed in the hospital within a one year of its construction. The furniture of the hospital were damaged.

Law, order situation

The monthly meeting of Kishoreganj district law and order maintenance Committee was held at the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner recently.

Maksudul Haque, Deputy Commissioner, Kishoreganj presided over the meeting and it was attended by Superintendent of Police, ASFS, Thana Nirbahi Officer, representatives of the educational institutions, Bar Association, Press Club and other members of the committee.

The meeting reviewed the overall law and order situation of the district and discussed various devices to control heinous crimes as murder, rape, theft, dacoity etc.

The meeting also urged all concerned to provide all-out cooperation and assistance to make the district free from crimes.

Farmers deprived of fair price of paddy

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, June 22 : Alarming fall in price of paddy in the northern region have caused immense sufferings to the growers.

At present, boro paddy in the rural markets of northern districts including greater Dinajpur, Rangpur, Bogra, Pabna and Rajshahi districts is being sold at Tk 90 to 120 per maund.

It is gathered that during the current season boro was cultivated in seven lakh hectares of land in 123 thanas under 16 districts. Production was, however, satisfactory.

While contacted some farmers said that about Tk 2100 was spent to produce 16 lakh to 17 maunds of paddy. But the market price remains much below compared to the production cost. They suffer loss

of up to Tk 500 per acre of land. The growers allege that due to price like of inputs like seeds, fertilizer and pesticides the cost of production has increased.

Due to abnormal fall of paddy price the farmers face immense sufferings. Taking the opportunity of low prices the hoarders in the meantime have been active to store paddy.

The government food godowns have also started purchasing paddy but the procurement is too poor to reach the target. Food officials complain that paddy stored in the godowns are wet and moistured.

Farmers are still selling paddy at the lower rates and in some cases they are being discouraged to cultivate the crop.

221 posts of pry teachers lying vacant in Naogaon

NAOGAON, June 22: A total of 221 posts of primary school teachers have been lying vacant in all the eleven thanas hampering primary education in the district for quite a long time, reports UNB.

Of the total posts 82 are head masters and the rest 139 are assistant teachers, sources said.

Local people complained that primary education programme in the district is suffering a great setback due to shortage of teachers.

There are 749 government primary schools in the district which have a capacity of 5,23,300 students. But the number of school-going children is decreasing day by day due to shortage of teachers and educational appliances. At present 2,34,300 students are attending in the government primary schools, sources added.

Local people urged the concerned authority to appoint new teachers in the vacant post and establish more government primary school to pave the way for successful the campaign for the universal primary education in the district as early as possible.



FARIDPUR: Police recently recovered huge quantity of firearms from different areas of the district. Health and Family Welfare Minister, Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf and Minister of State for Local Government and Rural Development, Abdul Hye inspecting the arms.