

District roundup

NARAIL

Bidi factory owners evade tax

June 26: The government is being deprived of huge amount of revenue due to malpractices by owners of the bidi factories in the district, reports UNB.

According to informed sources, bidis are being sold unabatedly without band rolls in almost all the shops of the district.

It is learnt the factory owners do not use band rolls in their bid packets and often use old bandrolls for evading taxes, depriving the government of lakhs of taka as revenue.

Local people alleged the bidis are sold openly at the very nose of the law enforcing agencies, but no action is taken against the dishonest bidi traders.

They urged the authorities to probe into the matter and take immediate steps to stop the malpractices by the bidi traders.

PABNA

8 killed in several incidents

June 26: At least eight people were killed in several incidents in the district recently, reports UNB.

According to police, three women were allegedly committed suicide in Chatmohar and Bhangura thana.

The victims were identified as Renu (25) of Maddha Salikha village and Basiron (23) of Guakhara village in Chatmohar and Halima Khatun (22) of Pukurpar village in Bhangura thana. The causes behind their deaths could not be ascertained immediately.

Another housewife Sufia Khatun (25), of Khturpara in Sujannagar thana, was allegedly killed by her husband Kalimuddin over a family feud.

Sultana Khatun (15), a maid servant, of Chithulia village of Faridpur thana, was also allegedly killed by her house master Ismail Hossain.

Besides, three children, including two brothers, drowned in the flood water family sources said.

KUSHIA

Four commit suicide

June 26: Four people, including two housewives and a young girl, allegedly committed suicide at different places in Sadar thana recently, reports UNB.

The deceased were identified as Jasma Begum (26), wife of Abdus Satter of village Lakhimpur, Tarachand Mondal (15), son of Akheral Mondal of village Sankar, Khusrinnessa (77), wife of Badu Mondal of village Machbart and Hadiron (18), daughter of Shamsar Ali in Jhauia union.

All the victims committed suicide by taking poison. The reasons behind their deaths could not be ascertained immediately, police sources said.

Four cases were filed with local police in this connection.

Another report adds: Ratan Das, son of Bhaktia Das of Katda village in sadar thana, was killed by snake bite recently.

The victim was admitted to local General Hospital following a snake bite where he breathed his last.

JAMALPUR

AL protests municipal tax

June 26: District unit of Awami League brought out a procession in the town Thursday protesting the increased municipal tax imposed on the people of the area in the new budget, 1993-94, reports UNB.

The protesters demanded refixation of the tax levied on the Jamalpur municipality at the proposed budget at liberal ratio.

They alleged that the tax for the next fiscal year was increased by several times. Municipal authorities already relaxed the new tax to some extent following objections and applications from the tax payers.

Earlier, on Wednesday AL also brought out another procession demanding tax relaxation.

Meanwhile Jamalpur Chamber of Commerce and Industry in a statement urged the authorities to reconsider the demand for refixation of the tax on the basis of income.

B'BARIA

Young girl seriously injured

June 26: A young girl was seriously injured by her suitor at Allnagar village in Sarail thana last week when her father turned down the marriage proposal of the youngman, reports UNB.

Sabiha Khatun (17) received razor injury by Shamayal, a youngman of the same village, after her father refused her hand in marriage, family sources said.

The incident occurred when Shamayal after being refused went to Sabiha's house and tried to kidnap her. At one stage when his attempt failed he attacked Sabiha with razor injuring her seriously.

She was rushed to the Sadar hospital and later shifted to Dhaka Medical College as her condition deteriorated.

A case was filed with Sarail thana in this connection.

PATUAKHALI

Massive jute cultivation programme

June 26: About 80,000 hectares of land, in 10 districts under Khulna division, was brought under jute cultivation programme during the current season, reports UNB.

Of the total, 76,000 hectares of land were brought under cultivation of Tossa variety while the rest 4000 hectares were brought under local variety of jute, official sources said.

Around seven lakh bales of jute is expected to be produced after completion of the programme. Of the total, about six lakh tossa is likely to be produced, local officials said.

Sources, however, said the original target of land for the programme was about 1,12,796 hectares.

RAJBARI

Six projects under FWP completed

June 26: Six projects under Food for Works Programme have been completed in four thanas of the district under the auspices of local Water Development Board, official sources said, reports UNB.

A total of 2,823 metric tons of wheat was distributed for re-excavation of 32 km canals, buildings and repairing of flood control embankments.

With completion of the projects, about 8,000 metric tons of crops will be produced annually and 13,000 hectares of land will be brought under flood control and irrigation project, officials said.

M'BAZAR

One jailed for possessing drugs

June 26: A man was sentenced to two and a half years imprisonment in a judgement delivered by the Thana Magistrate court recently in Sreemangal for keeping in unauthorised drugs, reports UNB.

Court sources said Friday Thana Magistrate Ahmed Hussain also fined convict Dinesh Chandra Baidykar of Dokkir Moulashahi village in the thana Taka 500.

According to the case, police rounded up Dinesh with 2 kg ganja on May 19, 1990.

The court found him guilty and awarded with the punishment after examining the witnesses and evidences of the case.

MAGURA

One get 10-year RI for violating minor girl

June 26: The District and Sessions Judge last week convicted a person and sentenced him 10 years rigorous imprisonment (RI) for violating a minor girl, reports UNB.

The accused Golam Sarwar was also fined Tk 10,000, in default to suffer one year more rigorous imprisonment.

The court delivered the judgement on June 17 after examining the witnesses and evidences.

The prosecution in brief was that the accused Golam Sarwar, son of Azibar Rahman of village Kumarkota in Salikha thana, violated Selina Khatun (7) of Kumarkota while she was returning home on November 25, 1992.

Later, Selina's father filed a case with local police in this connection. After investigation police submitted chargesheet against Golam Sarwar.

Govt deprived of Taka 1 crore revenue per month in Rajshahi

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, June 26: The government is deprived of about Taka one crore revenue every month as some dishonest consumers in collusion with some corrupt officials put the metres of about twelve thousand telephone-sets in greater Rajshahi district out of order, a reliable source said.

It is learnt, there are approximately 14 thousand telephone sets in 19 auto exchanges in 16 northern districts under Nation-Wide Dialling (NWD) system.

In a recent drive, 56 telephone metres are found out of order in Bogra district and 100 metres in Sayedpur and Rangpur districts.

The authority has already transferred four corrupt officials of Bogra exchange and 9 of Sayedpur and Rangpur dis-

tricts.

There are similar complaints from other districts and steps have to be taken to solve them.

While contacted, the official of Tele-communication Department told this correspondent that only examples were created through these drives as if the other exchanges would be careful.

Another report says: A large number of children aged between 6 and 10 years of rural areas in different places under Natore district are engaged in various petty jobs instead joining to schools. As a result, continuous dropout from school going children in remote areas are increasing rapidly day by day.

It is learnt that poverty-stricken farmers instead of

sending their wards to school prefer to engaged them in some income generation work such as doing the job of cow-bye, rickshawpuller labourer in icecream factories, husking mills, saw mills, beater in hotels, restaurants, stalls etc.

It is therefore, a pity that at the early age the children are compelled to get themselves engaged in various occupations of physical labour for mere, survival.

Most of the formers in the districts either professional or landless, cannot afford to defray the educational expenses of their children.

It is also an irony that fathers want their children to be involved in any kind of job for a morsel of rice or for petty earnings.



MYMENSINGH: Recent rainfall has submerged a number of major roads in main town of the district. The picture shows a view of Station Road under knee-deep water. —Star photo

Huge lands of RH deptt under illegal occupation at Satkhira

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, June 26: A vast tract of land of the Roads and Highway (RH) Department of Satkhira district is being occupied illegally by a section of people in collaboration with the local officials of the department.

It is reported that at least 600 sheds, semi-pucca and pucca shops, residential houses and small industries have been set up on the land beside Satkhira-Munshiganj, Satkhira-Assassuni, Satkhira-Jessore and Satkhira-Khulna roads during the last few years.

Besides, a number of multi-storied buildings have also been constructed on the land belonging to Roads and Highways (RH) Department at Kaligonj, Chuknagar, Satkhira, Kalaroa, Navaran, Jhikargacha, Baganchira, Parulla, Nalban bus stand.

It is alleged that the shops and buildings sprung illegally have narrowed the roads further impeding the traffic

submitted to the higher authority but nothing has been done yet in this regard.

It is widely felt that the concerned department should take effective steps to stop such illegal occupation.

Another report adds: The District Teachers Association of Private Primary Schools brought out a procession in the town recently to realise their three point demand including nationalisation of the government registered primary school.

Their demands are: Nationalisation of all registered private primary schools, regularisation of the jobs of the private primary school teachers and fixation of their salary at Taka 1500 per month before the nationalisation.

The processionists gheraoed the District Primary Education office and submitted a memorandum containing their demand.

Erosion turns vigorous with advent of monsoon

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, June 26: With the advent of the rainy season erosion has turned serious rendering thousands of people homeless at least in and around six rivers of Barisal district. Erosion has also increased due to non-stop rain for some days with gusty wind and stormy weather.

Meanwhile, different crops worth about ten to fifteen lakhs of taka have been destroyed or damaged in the charlands along these rivers. Besides, it is feared that crops worth more than Taka one crore may be damaged or engulfed by the river erosion during this season. It is also feared that if erosion continues with its regular force in Meghna, Kalabadar and Tetulia rivers more than three thousand people may be rendered homeless in Lata, Kazirchar, Tulatala, Sreepur and Gobindapur villages of Mehendiganj thana; Badarpur, Badartuni, Moulavillages of Hizla thana, Kazirchar, Nandibazar, Bhasanchar of Muladi thana of the district.

It is learnt that large number of students do not attend classes due to different reasons including acute poverty of their parents. Besides, many schools have no requisite number of tables and benches for students to accommodate and continue classes particularly during rainy seasons.

Electric bills lying outstanding

Electric bills worth Taka 60 lakh is still lying outstanding in Jhalakati which followed a random disconnection of electrical power connections of the consumers. However, realisation of the outstanding bills is not satisfactory — the sources added.

30,000 children deprived of pry edn

About 30 thousand children of Jhalakati district are being deprived from primary education.

A correspondent from Jhalakati informed about 32 cases were lodged to realise about one lakh taka and another 35 to 38 cases may be lodged to realise additional one lakh taka. Outstanding

there are 480 primary schools in total in the district including 90 registered and 32 non-registered primary schools. Posts of teachers are about 1600 while the number of working teachers are 1526, the rest of the posts are still vacant.

According to sources, there are about 88,000 primary students in these schools in the district.

According to sources, there are about 5,000 ponds and 50 jalmahals in three thanas of the district, suitable for pisciculture, are lying unutilised for a long.

Most of the water bodies have either been silted or dried up due to lack of proper care. Unabated growth of water hyacinth is also hindering the pisciculture, local people said.

Fish production in the district could be increased by providing essential inputs like oil-cakes, urea fertilizers and credit facilities to the farmers, they added.

3 arrested

Barisal Kotwali police arrested Kazi Jafar (22) and Nurul Islam (25) of Comilla with 9 kgs of hemp (ganja) from town boarding of Sadar Road in the town on Monday last.

A case had been lodged against these accused under the Narcotics Control Act 1990 in this respect and they were taken to seven days of police remand.

A correspondent from Patuakhali informed that the sadar thana police with the help from the district Narcotics Control Department seized three kgs of illegal hemp from Shaikh Manjil in College Road in the town recently.

Police also arrested one ex-army man Nurul Islam in this connection.

Notes from Gaibandha

From Our Correspondent
GAIBANDHA, June 26: The primary schools of Gaibandha district have been facing multi-farious problems.

There are 723 government primary schools in all the seven thanas of the district which cannot provide better educational facilities for the students for want of furniture like benches, black boards, tables and chair. Moreover, there are even no roofs in many remote schools. Very few of them have tube-wells for drinking water as well as toilet facilities.

The local people urged the authority concerned to conduct a survey about the condition of schools and take steps accordingly to mitigate the sufferings of the students and teachers.

Power failure

Power failure in Gaibandha district head quarters has become a headache for the town-dwellers which is causing a great inconvenience both to domestic and commercial consumers.

Hardly a day passes without power disruption in the town including its busy commercial areas. Sometimes entire town including hospital plunge into darkness due to power failure without any prior notice.

This causes financial losses to small industrial units like rice mills, saw mills, ice cream factories and oil mills due to regular power disruption.

994 HSC candidates expelled

A total of 994 candidates have been expelled in nine centres of Gaibandha district during the first four days of this year's HSC examination for adopting unfair means.

This is the highest figure of expulsion in HSC examination recorded in the district. Due to enforcement of strong vigil the rate of expulsion increased in comparison with the past years. According to centre wise break up during the first four papers of examination as follows: Gaibandha Govt. College 40, Gaibandha Mohila College 14, Gobindganj College 115, Palashbari Govt. College 127, Sadullapur College 303, Sunderganj College 121, Shaghata College 108, Naldanga College 150 and Gaibandha Adarsha College 16.

Three invigilators including a hall super of Gobindganj Mohila College were expelled on charges of disobeying the expulsion order against two female candidates in the current HSC examination.

Rehana Akhter bearing roll no 946 and Nazma Dil Afia bearing roll no. 935 were expelled in second day for adopting unfair means in examination. But for some unknown reasons, they were given chances to sit for the next examination that was detected by the ADC (Gen). Later, the said candidates W&C again expelled from the examination centres and two invigilators named Jakirul Islam and Ataur Rahman and Hall super Waheddunnabi W&C expelled from the hall.

This year a sizable number of candidates have already dropped examinations due to enforcement of strict measure to curb unfair means in the examination hall. However, HSC examination is being conducted peacefully in the district.

Pisciculture can fetch Tk 20cr in Narail a year

NARAIL, June 26: The district can earn Taka 20 crore annually by producing two lakh tons more fish utilising the derelict water bodies, reports UNB.

According to sources, there are about 5,000 ponds and 50 jalmahals in three thanas of the district, suitable for pisciculture, are lying unutilised for a long.

Most of the water bodies have either been silted or dried up due to lack of proper care. Unabated growth of water hyacinth is also hindering the pisciculture, local people said.

Fish production in the district could be increased by providing essential inputs like oil-cakes, urea fertilizers and credit facilities to the farmers, they added.

Jamuna renders 600 homeless in Pabna

PABNA, June 26: Three villages in Bera thana were devoured by the mighty river Jamuna during the last three days rendering about 600 people of 125 families homeless, reports UNB.

The villages, eroded away by the river, are Madhupur, Ganapodiya and Sarsha, official sources said.

The erosion by the river, intensified following recent flood, also threatens the Bhojganj, Nakaha, Nagarbari, Raghunathpur and Khanpur villages.

Habiganj will soon have 100 bed modern hospital

From Our Correspondent

HABIGANJ, June 26: Construction work of long felt Habiganj modernised hospital here under Public Works Department (PWD) is going on in full swing.

The foundation stone of the hospital was ceremonially laid down here by the Finance Minister Saifur Rahman in presence of local DC, SP doctors, contractors, elites of other officials in December last year.

According to PWD sources, a total of Taka 7 crore 71 lakh was sanctioned by the government for the construction of a hundred-bed hospital. So far about 80 per cent work has already been completed. The hospital is divided into 4 isolation ward blocks.

Strajul Islam a contractor for the construction work of main hospital bhaban ward block-C said that, the roof slab casting work of ward block-C has already been started and it is expected to be completed within this week. The remaining construction work of the entire hospital buildings is expected to be completed by November this year.

When completed it will provide better medicare facilities to the people with modernised medical equipment by highly qualified doctors.

7 HSC students expelled

Seven HSC examinees have

so far been expelled for adopting unfair means in the examination hall from the local Brindaban Government College HSC examination centre, it is learnt from the principal, of the college.

In all 715 candidates including 192 females from Brindaban Government College centre and 150 candidates from local women college centre have appeared in the examination. Local district administration, college authorities and law enforcing agencies have taken appropriate steps to conduct the examinations in peaceful atmosphere.

Man killed in road accident

A man was crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck near Nuton Bazar in Bahubal PS on Dhaka-Sylhet highway recently.

The deceased was identified as Abdul Karim (55) of village Kujargaon under Bahubal PS.

It is learnt that, the speeding truck (Chatta-Metro-609) rammmed on the man while he was crossing the road. He died on the spot.

A case has been filed at Bahubal Police Station in this connection.

The police seized the truck and arrested the truck driver.

Unruly HSC examinees attack Kulaura College: 5 hurt

From Our Correspondent

MOULVIBAZAR, June 26: At least five college teachers including a Vice-Principal and an external invigilator were injured. When some unruly HSC examinees along with outsiders attacked the teachers of Kulaura Degree College Under Kulaura thana.

This untoward incident took place on the third day of the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examination. The examinees were protesting the expulsion order of an examinee and was demanding for withdrawal of the order. They also stormed and ransacked the college office and room of the principal.

The rampaging students allegedly attacked the teachers. Professor Kisholaya Acharyya, Vice Principal Abdul Goni and an external invigilator Abdul Malek, who came from Rajnagar college for scheduled duty and other 2 professors of Kulaura College were injured. Of them, condition of Professor Kisholaya Acharyya, a senior teacher of the college, was stated to be critical.

The rampaging students also detained them in a room of the college in presence of police for an hour, and local UP Chairman and other thana level officials rescued them after an hour.

It is alleged that, a student front of a major political party was involved in the incident. College authority later informed it to the district administration but no action against the alleged examinees or outsiders has yet been taken.

After this incident, panicky situation was prevailing the college as well as in other ex-

amination centres of the district.

Attack condemned

Teachers of Rajnagar College condemned the attack on teachers of Kulaura College including an external invigilator Prof Abdul Malek, who is a teacher of Rajnagar College and was appointed by the authority as External Invigilator to Kulaura College during HSC examination. At least 5 teachers were injured, when unruly HSC examinees attacked on the teachers at Kulaura College on the third day of HSC examination.

In a statement the teachers of Rajnagar College condemned the attack and demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of the culprits. They also condemned the silent role of administration concerning the incident.

Rathajatra observed

Rathajatra, a religious festival of the Hindu community was observed throughout the district with due religious fervour on June 21.

It may be mentioned here that drawing the chariot, carrying the effigy of Lord Jagannath, Subhadra and Balaram were the main features of this traditional festival that marked the annual sojourn of Lord Jagannath.

Mass participation in programmes for mentally retarded urged

DP Barua called for greater participation of parents, professionals and social workers in the programmes for mentally retarded. He said the rights of mentally retarded for education should be incorporated in the government plan for "universal education for all citizens by 2000 AD."

The Deputy Commissioner, Latif, assured to allot a suitable house to the SCEMRB branch for setting up an institute for the education and vocational training of mentally retarded in Sylhet.

The three sessions on health, education and rehabilitation were presided over respectively by Dr G R Mahmud, Civil Surgeon of Sylhet, Ziauddin Chowdhury, Primary Education Officer, Sylhet and Habibur Rahman, Deputy Director, Social Services Sylhet.

Those who participated in the discussion include Dr M A Raquib, retired Principal of Osmani Medical College, Dr Gopal Sankar Dey, Assistant Professor of Psychology, Osmani Medical College, Advocate Khondaker Mobassor Ali, Vice President of Sylhet District Bar Association, Advocate Abdul Hye Khan, Secretary, Sylhet District Bar Association and Vice-President of SCEMRB Sylhet branch.

The day-long programme split into three sessions on special education, health care and rehabilitation of the mentally retarded was participated by doctors, social workers, human rights activists and formulated recommendations for the Sylhet branch of the SCEMRB catchment area. The area groups — Feni, Comilla, Chittagong, Sylhet and Langkolt rural project in the grass root level activities for professional development, community awareness, social, health and educational and organisational development.

In his speech as chief guest

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