

## District roundup

### M'BAZAR

#### Environment pollution causing health hazards

July 6: Environment pollution has been causing health hazard in the rural and urban areas of the district, reports UNB.

In the absence of sanitary latrines the rural people are to defecate in the open polluting the environment. Roadsides, banks of rivers, canals and ponds are found full of night soil.

Moreover, the farmers store cow-dung adjacent to their houses and are living in an unhygienic condition. As a result, the villagers have been suffering from various diseases like dysentery, malaria and skin diseases.

The condition of the district town is also poor. The markets are dirty, drains are almost silted and toilets are emitting bad odour due to lack of maintenance. Garbage are dumped here and there.

Blood, bones and remains of slaughtered animals are thrown near the slaughter houses of the town polluting the environment. Old and sick animals are largely available in the cattle markets of six thanas of the district where butchers buy them at cheaper rates.

Moreover, wastes of bread and biscuit factories, hotels and restaurants are thrown in roadsides causing constant health hazards.

### COMILLA

#### Development programme inaugurated

July 6: Uratodjanagar Basti Unnayan Prakalpa in the town, a socio-economic development project for the slum people, was formally inaugurated here recently, reports UNB.

Chairman of Comilla Pourashava Kamaluddin Choudhury was present as Chief guest at the function, presided over by Sardar Shahjahan.

Speakers said the Prakalpa aimed at developing the social and economic infrastructure of the down-trodden.

It is expected that with the implementation of the project the slum people will get themselves involved in income generating vocations undertaken by the management to improve their pecuniary condition.

### CHITTAGONG

#### 302 rounded up by police

July 6: Chittagong Metropolitan Police rounded up 302 people from different parts of the port city last Wednesday, reports UNB.

Of the total, Kotwali thana police picked up 111 people, Doublemooring thana 60, Bandar thana 36, Panchlaih thana 42, Pahartali 38 and Chandganj 15.

Police later released 50 people on good report from concerned authorities.

### SIRAJGANJ

#### Invigilator assaulted

July 6: An invigilator of HSC Examination at the Government Sadatpur Degree College was assaulted by some miscreants here at Sadatpur on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Police said Lecturer of Bagbati College Badur Rahman, who came to Sadatpur as external invigilator, was gheraoed and injured by the miscreants led by one Rana in the evening while returning home in the district town after performing his duty.

Being informed, police rushed the scene and rescued him from the hold of miscreants.

Earlier, Badur Rahman had suspended a candidate for half an hour on charge of adopting unfair means in the examination.

A case was registered with the local thana in this connection.

### B'BARIA

#### 650 grams of ganza seized

July 6: Police on a joint mission with the Narcotics Department recovered 650 grams of Indian ganza from a house in Medda in the pourashava, and arrested a person in this connection recently, reports UNB.

Police in a joint raid at the house of Md Abdur Razzak Miah, seized the banned drugs from his possession and arrested him.

A case has been filed in this connection.

### PATUAKHALI

#### BKB branch to open soon

July 6: Bangladesh Bank has issued licence for opening a rural branch of Bangladesh Krishi Bank at Pukurjona Bazar of sadar thana, reports UNB.

Bank sources said the branch of BKB will be opened soon for distribution of credit to the local farmers.

Krishi Bank sources said another branch will be also opened soon at Begot in Madhukhali union of Faridpur district.

With the opening of the branches local farmers will get facilities to boost agri-output.

### GOPALGANJ

#### Bail petition rejected

July 6: The District and Sessions Judge rejected the bail petition of six accused persons suspected to be involved in an attempted murder case of Freedom Fighter Abul Kalam Mollah on Monday, reports UNB.

The learned judge also ordered to sent the accused Haider Ali, Idris, Nizam, Mizan, Elahi and Khokon to jail hayat and fixed the date of hearing on July 10.

Earlier, the fugitive accused surrendered before the Tungpara thana magistrate court and the magistrate sent them all to the jail hayat on Sunday. On the following day, they were produced before the court of the District and Sessions Judge.

According to complaint, the accused on June 4 attacked Kalam Mollah at his house at village Bashbaria in Tungpara thana and beat him mercilessly and at one stage they took an attempt to kill him by stabbing grievously.

Later, he was sent to Tungpara Red Crescent Hospital in a critical condition.

Mollah's wife filed a case against the seven people in this connection with Tungpara police on June 9.

### FENI

#### Valuables worth Taka 10 lakh gutted

July 6: Some six shops and valuables worth about Taka 10 lakh were gutted in a devastating fire that broke out at Sadar Bazar in Parshuram thana recently, reports UNB.

The fire burnt a tannery shop to ashes and destroyed five other shops including valuables.

The origin of the fire could not be known.

Fire servicemen from the Feni town rushed to the spot and with the help of the local people brought the fire under control.

### SATKHIRA

#### Three get life-term for murder

July 6: A young husband and his two accomplices were awarded life term for killing his 18 year old wife Monwara Begum recently, reports UNB.

Additional Sessions Judge Sedhendu Kumar delivered the judgement after examining 14 witnesses.

According to the prosecution, Mujibur Rahman took her wife Monwara out on plea of seeing film in a local cinema house at night on September 22, 1989. On way they were joined by Mujib's friends Jehangir and Shaheed. Monwara was hacked to death by her husband and his two friends.

Police investigated into the murder, held the killers and prosecuted to the court.

### MANIKGANJ

#### 3 killed, 30 hurt in road accident

July 6: Three people were killed and 30 injured, two critically, when a minibus skidded off the Dhaka-Aricha highway and plunged into a ditch at Jaigir in the district last Wednesday, reports UNB.

The dead were identified as Nurul Islam (32) of Gurudaspur in Natore district, Suresh (31), a bandsman of a bridal party, and the supervisor of the minibus whose name could not be known.

Witnesses said a passenger-packed Dhaka-bound minibus, which also carried 32 bridal party members, tumbled into the 20-foot-deep ditch at Jaigir as the driver lost control.

Eleven people were admitted to the Manikganj Sadar Hospital where the condition of two bandsmen — Shyamol (28) and Subal (30) — were reported critical.

Sources said the bridal party was coming at Savar. Following the accident, the wedding became uncertain in Hindu belief.



COMILLA: Pottery items are being carried away towards market for sale.

—Star photo

## Fishing season begins

## Piracy likely to increase in Bay

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, July 6: With the advent of fishing season thousands of fishermen from different places particularly from southern districts like Barisal, Patuakhali, Barguna, Bhola, Pirojpur, Khulna, Bagerhat and Jhalakathi have reached the Bay of Bengal with their fishing boats and trawlers for fishing.

Meanwhile the supply of fish to the markets of Kuakata, Malipur, Talaita and Patharghata along the coastal belt has increased. The supply of fishes has also been increased in the internal fish markets. Besides, truck-loaded hilsa fishes are also being sent to the border districts.

As the fishing season approaches piracy and dacoity are likely to increase in the Bay. During last year pirates and dacoits looted fishes, fishing nets, engine spare parts including cash an fishing boats.

It is learnt, small number of patrol boats cannot control dacoity and piracy in the Bay, local people opine it is simply impossible.

It may be mentioned here that government decided to

form the 'coast guard' troops for controlling piracy and dacoity particularly in this season but that decision is yet to be implemented. It is urgent to save the fishermen from the hands of local and foreign pirates.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Navy have mobilised forces with patrol boats to curb piracy and dacoity but their efforts some times seem futile as the coastal area of the country is very big.

Preservation of fishes in the coastal area is also a problem as there is no requisite number of ice factories and cold storages. Ice becomes very costly and search to meet the requirement particularly during the fishing season. Some fishermen informed that they are to throw tons of fishes into the sea water as they cannot preserve fishes due to absence of necessary ice and processing system.

The concerned authorities have been urged to take steps to set up ice-factories and cold storages along the coastal areas particularly in the southern region. The

fishermen seek loans for purchasing their fishing inputs and continue fishing.

### Demonstration plots

BSS adds: The Agriculture Extension Department will set up 16 demonstration plots on an experimental basis in four thanas of Barisal district in the current season to educate people about modern methods of cotton cultivation.

An official source said these plots will be set up in Barisal sadar, Bakerganj, Babuganj and Gourmadi thanas. Each of these plots would be ten decimals in size and the variety of cotton to be sown would be 'rupali'.

Meanwhile, 9,600 grams of seeds have been distributed among the growers for cultivation in demonstration plots.

Besides, fertilizers and insecticides will be supplied to the farmers free of cost to make the programme a success, the source said.

Of the total, two demonstration plots have been selected in Barisal sadar thana, four in Bakerganj, eight in Babuganj and two in Gourmadi thana.

## Majid addresses BPS conference at Mymensingh

## Development of disease-resistant varieties of crops underscored

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, July 6: The Minister for Agriculture, Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Major General (Rtd) M Majid-Ul-Huq said the integrated system of crop disease management must be strengthened in order that the country's goal attaining of self-sufficiency in food could be reached in a planned manner.

He also laid special emphasis on developing disease-resistant varieties of crops and had assured necessary steps for proper utilisation of skills and expertise of the concerned scientists engaged in evolving new crop varieties.

The minister was addressing as chief guest the inaugural session of the fifth biennial conference of Bangladesh Phytopathological Society (BPS) at the Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin auditorium of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) on June 27.

Presided over by the president of BPS Prof G A Fakir, the conference was also addressed by the Vice-Chancellor of BAU Prof M Ashraf Ali Khan as the chief patron and the Executive Vice-Chairman of BARC Dr M S U Choudhury as the special guest. The address of welcome was delivered by Prof. H Ashrafuzzaman, while the introduction of the delegates representing various organisations was conducted by Prof. M Bahadur Meah. Dr Ismail Hossain gave the vote of

thanks.

In his presidential speech, Prof. G A Fakir said, there are as many as 1000 types of plant diseases prevalent in our country causing heavy loss in crop production to the tune of Tk two billion annually. Terming this situation as great challenge to the process of agricultural development, he urged upon all concerned to come forward for proper solution of this problem of utmost importance.

The chief guest also distributed awards to eleven distinguished plant pathologists of the country. The awardees are: Dr. M Ishaque Jalal Uddin Talukdar, Dr Quazi Akhter Ahmed, Dr Abdul Jabbar Miah, Dr Ibn-E-Golam Samad, Dr M A Wadood Mian, Dr Hasan Ashrafuzzaman, Dr Ashraf Ali Khan, Dr S A Miah, Dr Golam Ali Fakir and Dr Hamiz Uddin Ahmed.

## RU Senate meet now on Aug 3

RAJSHAHI, July 6: Election for the representatives of the registered graduates to the Rajshahi University Senate has been shifted from July 12 to August 3, reports BSS.



SYLHET: An Indian delegation of youths visited the National Training Academy here recently. Samrita Kaur Gill led the team. The other members of the team also seen in the picture are: Jessica Warri, Shayamasi Mukherjee, Sheikh Nabir Hossain, Mirza G H Baig, Dipak Kumar Mohapatra and Proshanta Kumar Shahoo. —Star photo

## Anti-social activities on increase in Madaripur

From Our Correspondent

MADARIPUR, July 6: Anti-social activities in different parts of the district on rise causing grave concern among the dwellers.

Local elite allege that immoral activities are carried out by anti-social elements openly in various public places.

The Shilpa Nagori, Trolerghat, river bank (Shaheed Bachchu Sarani), old town, Leake via Sarak areas have become dens of gamblers, gay girls and drug addicts, they alleged.

The unabated sale of drugs in the market has aggravated the situation, they said.

The inhabitants urge the authority concerned to take

steps to curb the missing trend of anti-social activities.

## Launch terminal lacks warehouse facilities

The BIWTA launch terminal at Madaripur lacks warehouse facilities for the preservation of transportable goods by launches and cargo vessels.

The pontoons provided for this important and big launch terminal ghat are not in good condition which can hardly accommodate temporary storing goods. The goods loaded and unloaded from launches and cargo vessels are often damaged by sun and rain.

The terminal ghat is leased out every year to private parties at reasonable rates.

## Tk 2.5 cr development schemes in Faridpur

FARIDPUR, July 6: Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), Faridpur division has implemented five schemes at a cost of Taka 2.50 crore in the financial year 1992-93, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the schemes included construction of town protection embankment, flood protection embankment, construction of water structures including drainage and irrigation canals.

According to the executive engineer of Faridpur division, 2,600 running feet of town protection embankment was done at an estimated cost of Taka one crore and fiftyfour lakh. The scheme was designed to protect Faridpur town areas from the erosion of the river Kumar. In this

scheme latest river erosion protection technology was adopted where cement concrete blocks with filtration were used, he said.

The other scheme's namely Shakpaldia Flood Control, Drainage and Irrigation (FCDI) scheme was implemented at an estimated cost of Taka 62 lakh. The scheme included eight small drainage outlets, ten irrigation channels, twenty kilometers embankment, four kilometers drainage channels and two regulators. This scheme would help irrigate 1220 hectares of land.

Another scheme is Boro Manikdi FCDI was executed at a cost of Taka 31.60 lakh. This scheme would help irrigate 2,592 hectares of land. The other two schemes included maintenance of two beels for irrigation facilities.

## 22 schemes executed in five pourashavas

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, July 6: Twenty-two schemes were executed in five pourashavas in the district during the current fiscal, a source said.

According to a source, six schemes in Jhenidah and three in Sailakupa pourashava, four schemes in Kaliganj and 'Mohespur' each and two schemes in Kotchandpur thana have been executed under the Test Relief Programme to make the schemes a success. More than thirtyfive metric tons of wheat were allotted.

The schemes cover repair and maintenance of kutcha roads, cleaning of bushes, development of educational institutions and earth works of the pourashava, the source added.

### 3 students expelled

Three student leaders of the Islamic University Chhatra League (M-I) were expelled by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Abdul Hamid recently. They

are: Afsar Ali, Anwar Hossain and Azizul Hassan.

According to sources, the VC was man handled by a group of students a few weeks ago on the campus and the VC took the decision.

Bangladesh Chhatra League (M-I) and Samajtantrik Chhatra Front condemned the expulsion of three students and demanded withdraw of expulsion orders.

### JCD worker beaten up

Atal (20), a worker of Bangladesh Jatiyatadabi Chhatra Dal of Sailakupa thana was beaten up mercilessly by a group of students recently near Sailakupa thana.

Earlier report says, that Atal attacked a student namely Miraz of Jatiya Chhatra Samaj at Kabirpur.

A case was lodged with Sailakupa thana. Atal was later rushed to Sailakupa hospital.

## Two embankment projects completed in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, July 6: Two embankment projects were completed in Kazipur thana on Wednesday at a total cost of 1493 metric tons of wheat, reports UNB.

Official sources said Water Development Board implemented the 4.310 km long Korbandi and 3.45 km Chudmara alternative embankments in joint collaboration with the World Food and Agriculture Organisation.

The FAO had granted the wheat in January for construction of the embankments to protect vast areas of Sadar and Bazitpur thanas from flood waters.

Local people, however, alleged they did not get payments as yet for acquisition of their lands for the projects. They urged the concerned authorities to take appropriate

steps to ensure their early land payments.

### 3 minor boys drowned

Another report says: Three minor boys drowned in ponds in four thanas of the district during last two days.

The victims were identified as Hannan (12), son of Hafizuddin and Badal (10), son of Shabdul of Kudrason village in Tarash thana and Moslim (12), son of Abdul Pramanik of Charkeant in Kazipur.

Police and family sources said the boys were met the tragic end of their lives while they were trying to learn how to swim in ponds.

Meanwhile two people died by snake-biting in two thanas during the same period.

The deceased were Joynal (20), son of Abdul Hakim of Isla village in Rayganj thana, and Mur Mohamm 'Jiarinahata village in Sadar thana.

## Power failure rampant in Narail

NARAIL, July 6: Electricity consumers here are facing manifold problems due to frequent load shedding and over-billing, reports UNB.

Local people complained that due to frequent load shedding production in mills and factories is being hampered seriously.

Power failure has become a regular feature as the poorly managed overhead lines develop faults during heavy rainfall in the town.

A number of consumers complained that the newly replaced metres are defective as they give erratic reading of the actual quantum of electricity consumed by the consumers.

When contacted, the Sub-divisional Engineer of PDB, Narail, told UNB that no over-

billing has been made except in the cases where metres are found tampered or having no seal.

Another report says: Public health is threatened due to unhygienic condition of the hotel and restaurants in the district headquarters.

A good number of hotels and restaurants have sprung up on the roadsides and in by-lanes during the last few years. Most of the hotels and restaurants store and prepare food in unhygienic manner causing health hazards to the customers.

These hotels are being run in collaboration with some dishonest officials of Health and Sanitation Department, it is alleged.

## Notes from Chandpur

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, July 6: Massive tree plantation campaign started in Chandpur from July 1. In this connection Md. Yakub Ali, DC, Chandpur inaugurated a tree-plantation programme at Chandpur Circuit House premises in presence of large number of people.

About one lakh saplings will be planted throughout the district during the current season.

### Jute farming

About one lakh hectares of land in seven thanas of Chandpur district was brought under jute cultivation programme during the current season. Of the total about 60 thousand hectares of land were brought under cultivation of Tossa variety while the rest were brought under local variety of jute. The prospect of jute is bright this year.

### Clinic set up

An eye clinic for children under age five has been set up at village Gulbarh under Kachua thana recently. The clinic is sponsored by Bangladesh National Society of Blind, Chandpur unit in cooperation with financial assistance of Royal Commonwealth Society for Blinds.

### Dacoits arrested

Four dacoits were arrested, while committing dacoity at a passenger launch named MV Morning Sun recently. The launch was heading for Dhaka from Chandpur at Shahatali Launch Ghat.

### Seedlings damaged

Aman seedlings on about 10 thousand acres of land were damaged at Chandpur Irrigation Project and Matlab Meghna-Dhanagata Irrigation Projects due to heavy rainfall.

The farmers are riot getting seeds for seedlings. So, the target to cultivate aman in about two lakh acres of land may not be achieved. It is reported that due to mechanical trouble the Irrigation Projects cannot be properly operated.

### Diarrhoea claims 40

Diarrhoea has so far claimed about 40 lives in seven thanas during the last one month. About five thousand people were attacked by diarrhoea. The worst affected thanas are: Faridganj, Kachua, Matlab, Haimchar.

Most of the victims are children and women. About 56 medical teams are working in different areas to check the disease. Scarcity of pure drinking water, consumption of adulterated food and nutrition seem to be main reasons of the outbreak of the disease.

## Anti-terrorism Act 14 acquitted of charges in Sylhet

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, July 6: The District and Sessions Judge, Sylhet M A Quddus while passing his judgement in a case under Anti-terrorism Law acquitted all the 14 accused persons of the case recently.

The prosecution case in brief is that, the police of Balaganj thana registered a case against the former union parishad chairman Mahmud Ali and 13 others on charge of snatching away of ballot box from the Shahjalal Alia Madrasah Centre under Goalashah Centre under Goalashah union parishad on the 1st of October of 92 during union parishad election.

The court after examining all the records of the case and witnesses found the accused persons not guilty and acquitted them all of the charges brought against them.