

District roundup

COMILLA

Two get four years RI for smuggling

July 11: Two people were awarded four years rigorous imprisonment each on charges of smuggling, court sources said here on Saturday, reports UNB.

The convicted Manik Miah and Momin Miah were also fined Taka 1,000 each, or in default, to suffer more one year RI.

The prosecution story, in brief, was that both the accused while entering into the Bangladesh territory with a bag of 81 pieces of Indian sarees on June 23, 1989, were arrested by the BDR patrol party.

Later, they were handed over to Chouddagram police. After investigation police submitted charge sheet against the accused.

After examining the records and evidences, the Additional District and Sessions Judge Mohammad Nurul Wadud awarded the punishment recently.

NARSINGDI

Ansar, VDP confce held

July 11: District Ansar and VDP annual conference and prize giving ceremony was held at the Town Hall, organisers said here on Saturday, reports UNB.

The prize giving ceremony was presided over by Firoz Salauddin, sadar thana TNO, on behalf of Deputy Commissioner. Abdur Razzak, Director Training was present as chief guest while Abul Kashem Khan, Deputy Director was present as special guest.

District Ansar Adjutant G M Haider, District Family Planning Officer Abdul Baki Khan and Basrudin Ahmed also addressed the occasion.

Abdur Razzak distributed prizes among the best Ansars and VDP leaders.

KUSHITIA

Ruling, opposition parties fail to chalk out pragmatic plans

KUSHITIA, July 11: Democratic Forum leader Dr Kamal Hossain said the ruling as well as opposition parties had failed to come up with pragmatic programmes to address to the people's problems because of their traditional politics, reports UNB.

He said the grand conference of his forum due in Dhaka from August 27-29 will identify the national problems and launch programmes to resolve the economic, political and social crises.

Dr Kamal, convener of the forum and conference preparatory committee, was addressing a meeting at the local Shilpakala Academy auditorium, organised by its district unit.

The meeting, presided by Barrister Amirul Islam, was also addressed by Shaikh Abdul Aziz, Shahjahan Siraj, Mostafa Mohsin Montu, Mofizul Islam Kamal, Mottur Rahman, Nurjahan Murshid and Advocate Akhteruzzaman Masum.

A 61-member district committee of the Grand Conference Preparatory Committee was formed at the meeting with Advocate Akhteruzzaman Masum as its convener.

The central leaders of the forum also addressed two rallies at Nadhpur and Laximpur on their way to Kushiya from Jessore Airport.

NOAKHALI

Mosquito menace alarming

July 11: Mosquito menace has assumed an alarming proportion in the district causing much inconvenience to the dwellers, reports UNB.

A large number of people have been attacked by malaria in all the six thanas following mosquito bite. People of the town and rural areas are equally effected by the tiny insect.

Official sources said at least 5000 people have so far been attacked by malaria in the district.

Roadside ditches filled with water hyacinths and the stagnant waters are the ideal breeding centres of the mosquitoes. Besides, garbage is dumped in roadsides and drains remained silted for months together in the absence of maintenance and care causing health hazard.

Students are the worst sufferers of the mosquito bite. Poor and sium people who cannot afford to buy mosquito nets are to pass their nights sleepless. Local people have urged the authorities to spray insecticides to check the growing menace.

BARGUNA

Basic civic amenities absent

July 11: The inhabitants of the sadar thana have been facing problems due to lack of basic civic amenities, reports UNB.

The roads have developed cracks and potholes at many points causing problems to the movement of pedestrians and vehicles due to lack of care and maintenance. After a slight rainfall these roads become muddy and slippery. Most of the roads are narrow and unfit for plying vehicles. Roadside ditches are filled with garbage giving rise to mosquito menace.

Moreover, lack of proper drainage system, inadequate street lights, shortage of accommodation facilities and river erosion has made the life of one lakh inhabitants miserable.

The problem of water-logging in the thana has aggravated due to lack of sufficient water sewerage arrangement. Low-lying areas of the thana go under knee-deep water even at the advent of monsoon causing misery to the dwellers.

The literacy rate of the thana is only 15 per cent as the educational institutions are beset with manifold problems. Most of the institutions cannot run smoothly for shortage of fund, furniture, teachers and other necessary educational appliances.

TANGAIL

11 Aleem, Fazil examinees expelled

July 11: A total of eleven examinees including five girls of Aleem and Fazil examinations was expelled for adopting unfair means in examination halls in Tangail Alia Madrasa Centre on Thursday, reports BSS.

According to an official source three were Aleem examinees and eight Fazil examinees.

A total of three hundred and fifteen examinees including twenty girls appeared in the Aleem and Fazil examinations in Tangail centre.

MADARIPUR

Discussion on Palashi Day

July 11: A discussion meeting on the historical Palashi Day was held recently under the auspices of the district unit of National Journalist Association, reports UNB.

Paying rich tribute to the late last Nawab of Bengal Sirajuddoula, the speakers said he was the symbol of the freedom and patriotism. He will be remembered for his courage and patriotism for all time to come.

They urged to all to take lesson from last Nawab of Bengal and follow his path for the good of the people and the country.

The meeting, presided over by the association president Belal Khan, was addressed, among others, by Forkan Ahmed, Subal Biswas, Abul Hasnat and Mizanur Rahman.

Local elite and political leaders were also present on the occasion.

LALMONIRHAT

Diabetes centre inaugurated

July 11: The newly established Diabetes Centre near Sadar Hospital was inaugurated here by Rajshahi Divisional Commissioner M Aminul Islam on Wednesday, says UNB.

A discussion meeting in this connection was held at sadar thana auditorium with the Deputy Commissioner Kazi Farid Ahmad in the chair.

The centre was established as a project of Lalmonirhat Foundation under the initiative of DC Kazi Farid.

The Divisional Commissioner assured of all possible help and cooperation for the successful functioning of the centre.

Azfar Hossain, DC, Rangpur, Abdur Razzak, DC, Gaibandha and Police Super of Lalmonirhat also addressed the meeting.

FENI

Saudi meat distributed

July 11: Saudi sacrificial meat of 600 rams were distributed among 6,000 poor people in five thanas and poura areas of the district on Thursday, reports UNB.

District Relief and Rehabilitation Department sources said the meat came from Saudi Arabia as a gift to Bangladesh which were distributed among the poor people of the district.

Of the total, 130 rams meat were distributed in sadar, 120 in Chhagalnaya, 85 in district Poura area, 95 in Sonagazi, 90 in Daganbhuayan, 80 in Parshuram thanas of the district, official sources added.



Peace For All arranged a rally at Harokandi under Alamdanga thana on the occasion of World Environment Day. — Star photo

Flood in Sirajganj, Jamalpur

Thousands affected, huge crops damaged

SIRAJGANJ, July 11: Rise in the water level of major rivers caused inundation of 60 more villages in four thanas of the district over the last 24 hour, affecting thousands of villagers, reports UNB.

About 4,000 people were marooned in riverside localities and 20,000 others affected in Kazipur, Belkuchi, Shahzadpur and sadar thanas during the period, according to villagers and officials.

With this some 4 lakh people have been affected, 48 educational institutions and offices as well as standing crops on one lakh acres of land damaged in the flooding in a fortnight.

Besides, some 2,500 people in six villages of Belkuchi thana were rendered homeless by erosion by the swelling river

Jamuna during the last 24 hours.

Water Development Board sources here apprehended that the Jamuna might cross danger level anytime as it was now flowing only 7 centimetre below danger level.

Fifteen villages in Kazipur, 35 in Tarash, six in Belkuchi and seven in sadar thana were inundated during the last 24 hours.

The worst-affected areas where the people were reported marooned include Singrabari, Tekani, Baggari and Panabari in Kazipur, Nakinpur, Thakurpara, Rajapur, Islampur and Ambari in Belkuchi and six villages in sadar thana.

A report from Jamalpur says: Crops on vast tracks of land were inundated by fresh floods

that affected 13 unions in four thanas of the district on Saturday due to sudden rise in the water level of the river Jamuna.

Officials said the Jamuna was flowing 15 cm above the danger level near Bahadurabad Ghat.

About 50,000 people were affected by the flood which inundated crops on some 22,000 acres of lands in Matherganj, Islampur, Dewanganj and Bakshiganj thanas.

The worst affected unions are Sathhari, Noarpara, Chinadali, Belgacha, Kulkandi in Islampur thana and Parramampur and Bahidurabad in Dewanganj thana.

3 lakh suffering from goitre in greater Jessore

JESSORE, July 11: There are about three lakh goitre patients in greater Jessore following absence of initiative from the Health Department to prevent it, said a source.

According to informants, patients suffering from the disease in Jhenaidah, Magura and Narail is large in number.

Informed sources said that growing youths both male and female, are being attacked with the disease and 90 per cent of them belong to poor class in affected areas, said a number of medical experts.

It is learnt that, mothers suffering from the disease is likely to give birth to a abnormal baby.

In a report, recently published by WHO, Nutrition, Food Science Institute of Dhaka University and Health Education Directorate, grave concern has been expressed on outbreak of the disease.

According to a report, lack of iodine in water and food is the main reason of the disease. It has underscored immediate need for thorough field survey by UNICEF and Health Directorate and take preventive measures against the preventing situation.

It has also been advised in the report that taking iodized salt is the only way to get rid of the disease.

Meanwhile, packets of iodised salt, have been made available locally to meet the requirement.

Research to study the disease was conducted recently at Nuclear Treatment Centre at Dinajpur. It has been found that deficiency of iodine in water, soil, food and environmental conditions is main reason for this disease. Lack of iodine in food causes swelling of thyroid gland which after few years or more appears visible on the neck.

To check the disease an anti-goitre drive was launched jointly by UNICEF RDRS and Health Directorate in 1985. Some medical specialists have urged upon the authority to take an extensive programme in this region as done in northern zone, for investigation into the situation.

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Notes from Jamalpur

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, July 11: A theft was committed in the house of Dr Abdur Razzak at Jamtoli under sadar thana here on last Wednesday.

Police source said, the thieves entered into the room by breaking the door and took away valuables worth of Taka 20,000.

A case has been registered with the local police station in this connection.

Best teacher

Moulana Abu Hanifa, Principal of Mularicha Al-Amin Samiria Madrasa has been awarded, Prime Minister's best teacher gold medal in a ceremony recently.

A Press Club at Bakshiganj thana headquarters of the district has been opened recently.

Professor Ahsir Ali and Sirkar Moraduzzaman were elected in a general meeting as President and General Secretary respectively.

Udichi council

The annual council at Jamalpur Udichi Shilpi Goust was held at local Gloocooj Factory ground here recently.

Professor Syed Abdus Sattar presided the annual council meeting while it was addressed among others by Rezaul Karim Siddiqui, Alok Bidaf, and Ali Imam Dulal.

Later, Syed Abdus Sattar and Shapan Rahman were elected President and General Secretary respectively.

Freedom Party office opens

The district unit office of Freedom Party was formally inaugurated at Station Road in the town here on Sunday last.

In this connection, a meeting was held here with Advocate Multi M Alam, President of district unit Freedom Party in the chair.

Tarak-Ben-Hossion Central Organising Secretary of the party was also present as a chief guest while it was addressed among others by Abul Kashem Khan, Iftekar Azam and Reza Khondokar.

34 HSC examinees expelled

At least 34 HSC examinees were expelled from the eight examination centres in the district during the period for adopting unfair means.

Farmers deprived of loans

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, July 11: The legal system of advancing loans to the small and marginal cultivators through pass books is not in practice, it is reported.

It is informed that a group of land lords is taking agricultural loans in fictitious names depriving the genuine poor recipients who are unable to produce security bonds.

This class of people (land lords) offer credit to the poor farmers at an exorbitant rate of interest. As a result, the poor farmers of six thanas of the district are gradually becoming landless in the absence of any programme of rehabilitation after their crops and dwelling houses were damaged in the natural calamities during the last few years. Most of the cultivators agree that they could continue farming as long as such small loans were extended for agricultural rehabilitation.

The bank officials sanction loans taking benefit from the recipients of loan for non-productive purposes, it is informed.

It can be mentioned here that most of the marginal and small cultivators are receiving notices from these banks to repay loans and other taxes just when they are passing their days in great hardship.

The experts said if modern technology is adopted for cultivation of the crops in the vast saline areas of the riverine Bangladesh, it may turn into a new kind of rice opening a new horizon for the people.

Dhanshi grows in plenty in the forest areas of Amtali and Patharhala thanas on 5,000 acres of land. It also grows in the Sundarban and coastal areas.

Kuwaiti palli to be set up at Feni

FENI, July 11: A Kuwaiti Palli will be established near Champak Nagar BSIC industrial estate in Chhagalnaya thana of the district this year, reports UNB.

In the first phase 30 houses will be constructed for 30 poor families. A three-member delegation of Kuwaiti Embassy have visited the site selected for the palli recently, organisers said.

Additional Deputy Commissioner of the district, Devashis Nag accompanied the delegation during the visit.

Government of Kuwait has extended help to build a cluster village for the poor people as a gesture of friendship and brotherhood between Bangladesh and Kuwait.

Local leaders said with the completion of the project the inhabitants of the palli will be provided with income-generating schemes to lead a decent life.

Bamboo production on decrease in Barguna

BARGUNA, July 11: Bamboo production in the district is decreasing day by day due to lack of proper orientation, maintenance and plantation programme of clumps for quite a long time, reports UNB.

The rural people who mainly depend on bamboo for various works including house-building and cottage industries have been suffering a lot due to its crisis.

Besides, the price of bamboo has shot up abnormally. Many people engaged in cottage industry are now suffering from unemployment, local people said.

The district was once famous for bamboo production. There were innumerable bamboo clumps on a vast tract of land but now most of them do not exist. Consequently the crisis has turned acute in the district.

No efforts are taken to save the bamboo clumps in those areas. The owners of the clumps are also ignorant about cultivation. The roots which remain under ground after cutting bamboo are uprooted indiscriminately and being sold in the markets due to shortage of firewood. As a result, the tender

bamboo plants are destroyed. Proper nursing enables a bamboo tree to give birth to at least 20 tender plants every year, agricultural experts said. Now-a-days due to lack of proper nursing and maintenance a bamboo tree gives birth only to two or three tender plants every year, they added.

As a result, bamboo production is not increasing in proportion to the growing demand causing price hike which has created adverse effect on both the day labourers and bamboo based cottage industries of the district.

About 90 per cent of the dwelling houses in this district are kutcha. The materials chiefly used in the construction of these houses include bamboo. Now a piece of medium size bamboo is being sold between Taka 70 and Taka 110. Most of the rural people cannot afford to purchase it at such an exorbitant price, local people said.

They urged the district agricultural department to take necessary steps to encourage the rural people to cultivate bamboo in large scale to meet the growing demand.



GAIBANDHA: Abu Zafar Sabu, Organiser speaking at the prize giving ceremony of book reading competition '92 of Bishwa Shahitta Kendra, local unit. — Star photo

Bus journey hazardous

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, July 11: Bus journey on Kishoreganj-Tarail, Kishoreganj-Pakundia, Kishoreganj-Chamraghat, Kishoreganj-Bhairab, Netrakona-Kendua, Netrakona-Atpara-Madan-Durgapur-Birishiri and Netrakona-Takurkonia has become hazardous.

Thousands of passengers travelling everyday on these routes for various purposes have been facing untold sufferings due to absence of necessary facilities.

Overloading, late running of buses, high speed, unnecessary stoppages and also rush driving have become regular feature.

Most of the buses, coasters and coaches on these routes are engaged in race to pick up passengers standing here and there on the roadside without considering the capacity of vehicles. The overloaded buses ply at maximum speed.

The vehicles which leave blacksmoke are plying on these routes causing a serious health hazards to the town dwellers while the disturbing sound of horns of the vehicles causes much annoyance to the dwellers.

The number of accidents has increased in recent days on these routes due to the worn-out condition of buses, reckless driving as well as bad condition narrow roads in these districts. The miserable conditions of the roads is greatly responsible for increased number of road accidents. In many points roads have become unfit for movement of vehicles. Cracks and holes have development on the roads. Two buses cannot pass at a time at a point due to narrowness of the roads.

The buses on the roads are always overloaded. As a result, most passengers become annoyed and suffocated during the long journey.

There is no waiting shed in any bus stoppages on Kishoreganj-Nikli, Kishoreganj-Pakundia, Kishoreganj-Chamraghat, Netrakona-Kendua, Netrakona-Alpara-Madan-Durgapur-Birishiri and Netrakona-Takurkonia roads. The woman passengers are the worst sufferers. They are forced to take shelter under the shade of tree or nearby tea stall during the rainy season.

Local leaders urged the concerned authorities to look into the matter and take immediate steps to mitigate sufferings of the passengers.

Cattle on decrease as slaughtering rampant

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA July 11: The number of cattle, goats and buffaloes in the district is decreasing due to rampant slaughtering of the kinds.

The indiscriminate slaughtering of sick cattle is also creating serious health hazard and is polluting the environment, local people complain.

According to sources, old and sick cows, buffaloes, goats and sheeps are being slaughtered indiscriminately at various hats, bazars and markets in the district.

Mutton and beef are being sold in the markets without prior permission from the concerned authorities.

Every day a huge quantity of meat is put up for sale in the markets mostly unhygienic way. Most of the butchers carry out this sort of illegal practices with the help of health and sanitation inspectors, local people alleged.

They urged the concerned authorities to check the trend in proper way. The local postmortem house, situated in a densely populated area in the town, is threatening public health as well as polluting the environment. Small from decomposed and unclaimed bodies kept for days together in the morgue, makes the environment unbearable for human habitation in and around the areas. Local people allege that dissection of bodies were performed in the house almost openly in unhygienic way and very often dogs and foxes are found carrying away the dissected parts.

They urge the concerned authorities to shift the morgue to some other places far from the dwelling areas to check health hazard. A source said that the local administration referred the matter to the Ministry of Health considering the public health few years back but no action has yet been taken in this regard.

Week-long tree fair begins

LALMONIRHAT, July 11: A week-long tree fair began here on Wednesday at Poet Sheikh Fazlul Karim Girls' High School premises, reports UNB.

Organised under the auspices of district administration the fair was inaugurated by Rajshahi Divisional Commissioner M Aminul Islam as chief guest. The function was presided-over by the Deputy Commissioner Kazi Farid Ahmed.

Terming the tree fair as exceptional in the district the chief guest called upon the people to plant at least one tree per person for maintaining the ecological balance.

Forest Department, Agricultural Extension Department, RDRS, a non-government organisation and local nurseries participated in the fair.

