

District roundup

NETRAKONA

Widespread rainfall causes fresh flood

July 23: Widespread rainfall for consecutive four days and on-rush of hilly water from across the border has triggered off fresh flooding in the low-lying areas of Khaliaguri, Mohanganj, Durgapur, and Madan thana under the Netrakona district, reports BSS.

Quoting an official report, Deputy Commissioner, Dewan Asaruddin told BSS here that three major rivers Someswar, Kangsha and Dhanu have recorded a sharp rise in their water level at different points including Durgapur and Khaliaguri during the last 24 hours.

The rivers are likely to cross danger level at anytime if the rainfall continues.

Meanwhile, normal life has been severely disrupted in Netrakona district town following the inclement weather which forced people to remain indoor. Vehicular movements are also disturbed in the town as many roads went under rain water which remained stagnant in the absence of drainage system.

KUSHTIA
Two minor boys lost hands in cocktail blast

July 23: Two minor boys, Nayan (2) and Mostafa (4) lost four of their hands in a cocktail explosion Sunday morning in their home at Kalishankarpur in the town, reports BSS.

These unfortunate boys have been admitted to Kusthia General Hospital in a critical condition.

According to reports, they got a cocktail in their house and took it for fun. As they were sporting with it, the cocktail exploded and dismembered their hands.

NARAIL
Anti-social activities on rise

July 23: Anti-social activities in the town are on increase in recent days vitiating the life of the dwellers, reports UNB.

Gambling, drug abuse, leasing and free movement of gay girls have become the common features in every day life.

Spurious drugs are being sold in different markets almost openly. Local people alleged that a section of influential people are patronising the mastans for their selfish ends.

Local elite alleged that the gay girls are moving freely in search of customers. Youths are being allured by them near the cinema and market places.

The guardians have appealed to the concerned authorities to take immediate steps to nab the gay girls and other anti-social elements to ensure peaceful life in the town.

GAZIPUR
Husband of 2 wives commits suicide

July 23: A young man allegedly committed suicide at Andermanik village in Kaliakoir thana on Sunday, police said, reports UNB.

Family sources said Badal Miah (30) who had two wives was suffering from financial stringency and could not maintain his family. The wives used to pick up quarrels with him for this reason.

On Saturday night the two wives again abused him for not providing food and necessary amenities to them and threatened to desert him. On the following day at 12 noon Badal allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself from the roof of his house.

Police visited the spot and a case has been filed in this connection.

LALMONIRHAT
One killed by lightning

July 23: A man was killed by lightning in Patgram thana of the district on Sunday, reports UNB.

Family sources said, Sabed Ali (35) of village Bhanderdah died when a thunderbolt struck him. He met the tragic end while he was working in the field. Three cows were also killed in the incident.

Another report adds: A man was run over by a speeding truck near Sharanmati Bridge on Lalmonirhat-Patgram Road Friday.

Police said, Mozaffar (14) of village Durgapur in Aditmari thana was killed while returning from Hurmuri Hat.

The driver managed to flee the scene with his vehicle.

A case was filed with the local police.

BRAHMANBARIA

Maintain law, order, officials asked

July 23: State Minister for Shipping Harun-Al-Rashid on Monday called upon the government officials to put in their best efforts in maintaining law and order to ensure socio-economic development of the country, reports BSS.

He was addressing a meeting on Brahmanbaria district law and order committee, held here at the Deputy Commissioner's conference room.

The Shipping Minister said the programmes of the present government had generated momentum in development process. Maintaining law and order was a must to continue the process unhindered, he pointed out.

Harun-Al-Rashid urged the officials to discharge their duties with dedication, responsibility and sincerity so that members of the public could get maximum services from them.

Later, the state minister attended the meetings of the district narcotics control committee and district anti-smuggling committee.

He sought cooperation from all to create awareness about evil effects of narcotics, and smuggling among the common people.

FENI
Smuggled timber seized

July 23: Bangladesh Rifles seized smuggled timbers worth about Taka 1.18 lakh from various saw mills in Chhagalnaiya bazar here last week, reports UNB.

Following tip-offs the BDR jawans raided five saw mills in the bazar and recovered the smuggled timbers on July 13.

The BDR filed cases against the owners of the saw mills.

Another report adds: Two people died of unnatural deaths in the district, police said on Wednesday.

In one incident, Abdul Munaff (40) was killed by lightning on July 16 at Pathapur village in sadar thana.

He was killed on the spot by the thunderbolt while he was working in the field.

Another young man allegedly committed suicide at his village house at Nigkura in Chhagalnaiya following an altercation with his father.

The victim Jasmuddin (25) allegedly committed suicide by taking poison on July 15.

A case was filed with the local police.

FARIDPUR
Mosque based edn programme in progress

July 23: Government sponsored mosque based informal education programme to be implemented through Islamic Foundation has been progressing satisfactorily in this district, reports BSS.

A meeting to coordinate and review the programme was held here on last Friday at local Islamic Foundation office. K M Nurul Huda, Deputy Commissioner of Faridpur attended the meeting as chief guest while it was presided over by Abdullah Khan Alam, Deputy Director of Islamic Foundation, Faridpur. It was attended by the imams of the concerned mosques.

According to an official source, the programme is under implementation at 12 centres of Gotti union of Nagarkanda thana of this district since January last. Imams of the mosques are conducting the informal education programme for four age groups ranging from 4 to 35 years.

About 500 students of all age groups are getting lesson on Bangla, Arabic, Arithmetic and Islamic knowledge. Learners are being provided with reading materials free of cost.

The government took up this programme throughout the country at an estimated cost of Taka seven crore as part of the programme 'literacy for all by 2000 AD'.

KHULNA
School girl crushed to death

July 23: A school girl was crushed under the wheels of a speeding bus at Daulatpur thana on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Police said Shahnoor (8), a student of class five of Mohsin Primary School was run over by a Jessore-bound bus near the Daulatpur Bus Stand at about 10.30 am. She met the tragic end of life while she was going to school.

Police seized the bus but the driver managed to flee.

Road communication on the route remained suspended for half an hour following the accident.

A case was lodged with the local police.



KUSHTIA: The BDR jawans led by Major Gazi Salahuddin of Kushtia Sector recently seized seven trawlers loaded with Indian salt worth Taka 5.74 lakh from the river Padma. — Star photo

Tk 7 cr Hurasagar project fails to serve purpose

SIRAJGANJ, July 23: The Hurasagar Project of Shahzadpur thana at the cost of Taka seven crore fails to serve the purpose. Due to major defects in planning and alleged irregularities the embankment of the project was washed away at many points causing sufferings to the people.

It is gathered that the Operation and Maintenance Division of Sirajganj BWDB took up the scheme in 1987 to protect 20,000 acres of cropland from the flood and water logging.

The IFAD of the World Bank has sanctioned Taka seven crore to implement the project. The project included construction of 16-kilometer embankment, two regulators, four flashing gates, three check structures and two retired embankments at Charpechakola and Manakasha.

The project on 195 acres of land was completed in 1991. In the same year, the regulator constructed at the cost of Taka 48 lakh collapsed and could not be saved even after spending additional Taka 52 lakh due to

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alleged irregularities and unplanned change in the site. When the regulator was reconstructed, the embankment was washed away. It was detected in an enquiry that unlimited corruption and defect in design brought such fate to the project.

Sirajganj office of Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) have proposed to reconstruct the project at the cost of Taka two crore and wheat amounting to 3,300 metric tons. Only 250 metric tons of wheat was available from WFP which may complete only 15 per cent of the project.

As in the previous years, the Hurasagar Project area was inundated in last fortnight causing water logging in the cropland of Shahzadpur thana.

Two minor boys drowned

Two minor boys drowned in village Mukundagati under Belkuchi thana.

Masud (4) drowned on July 15 in flood water in front of their house.

Notes From Gaibandha

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, July 23: A public gathering to improve the law and order situation in remote areas of the district was held at Dharmapur bungalow ground recently under Sunderganj thana. Local Abahani Club and library arranged the gathering.

With a view to preserving security of life and property in remote areas, the meeting was arranged as a motivational programme through mass contact in different areas.

Abdur Razzak, Deputy Commissioner, Gaibandha was present as chief guest while Golam Mostafa, Police Super, Abdul Aziz ADC and Basir Ali, ASP were present as special guests. The meeting was presided over by TNO Sunderganj thana, Shah Arun Kumar.

The speakers emphasised the awareness of people to form social resistance against crime.

122 accused persons absconding

A total of 122 accused of different criminal charges remained absconding under Gaibandha Sadar thana for a long.

According to police, all these accused moving at large avoiding arrest warrants and carrying out different evil practices.

Out of total, 16 accused hail from Pourashava, seven from Kuptola, 20 from Shahpara, 14 from Malibari, 17 from Ballanjhar, 12 from Gidert, 17 from Ramchandrapur, seven from Badiakhal, seven from Boali, four from Kholahati, three from Ghagoa and two from Moller Char.

Adulterated food

Sale of adulterated food stuff throughout Gaibandha district has become a regular feature. Sale of exposed food stuff in markets, roadside sweetmeat shops, hotels have also been noticed without any hesitation causing serious health hazards.

As a result, intestinal diseases have been increasing alarmingly. Children are the worst sufferers.

One killed

One Hasan Ali (20) of village Chandipur under Palashbari thana was crushed under the wheels of a speeding bus recently. The victim was crossing the road at Palashbari while a loaded speeding bus from Gaibandha dashed him.

A case was filed with Palashbari thana.

Bank dacoity in Faridpur

FARIDPUR, July 23: A daring bank dacoity was committed at Sonali Bank Krisnapur branch in Sadar Thana of the district Wednesday night.

Burglars took away about Taka 63,000 from the vault of the bank.

MA Gafur, OC of Sadar Thana told UNB Correspondent that no FIR has been lodged by the bank officials. He said, the night guard on duty left the branch yesterday night without prior permission as his son was seriously taken ill.

Nine fishermen feared dead in boat capsizes

COX'S BAZAR, July 23: Nine fishermen are feared dead while another survived miraculously when a fishing boat capsized in the Bay of Bengal of Sonadia island Wednesday night.

The boat was returning to Maheshkhali after a good day's catch but was caught in gusty wind and sank.

Problems hampered in 100 high schools

From Our Correspondent

MADARIPUR, July 23: Over 100 secondary schools in 10 thanas of Madaripur and Shariatpur districts have been plagued with manifold problems seriously hampering education.

Sources said, the schools have been facing problems like shortage of accommodation, furniture, water supply and play ground. Fund constraints, shortage of teacher and science laboratories have further aggravated this situation.

Most schools established under the local initiatives have not yet received government recognition. Without government financial help, these schools are on the brink of closure.

Due to shortage of accommodation and furniture the students are to attend their classes standing causing untold sufferings.

Many schools damaged by natural calamities have not yet been repaired and students are compelled to attend their classes under open sky.

Local leaders have urged the authorities concerned to take immediate step to solve the problems of these schools.

Kashia — now a cash crop

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, July 23: A tall species of grass locally known as 'kashia' is becoming a cash crop in Kurigram, Rangpur, Gaibandha, Lalmonirhat and Nilphamari districts of greater Rangpur. But no government scheme has been taken up to cultivate the cash crop or to inspire the peasants to expand its cultivation.

The grass can be used in the mattress industries, alternative to hemp plants for roof of hut, raw materials of paper mills. The poor people use it for internal partition of Kutcha houses or for main fencing of the house.

'Kashia' is not a planted crop. It grows abundantly on the banks and shores of rivers and in marshy areas during the early winter.

In the past, farmers used to collect 'Kashia' from the shore of Brahmaputra, Dharla and Teesta rivers free of cost but in recent days shores are shared by the local influential men just before the beginning of the season to even hard cash without any investment.

A medium size bundle of 'Kashia' is being sold at Taka 20 to Taka 30 in retail and Taka 10 to Taka 20 in wholesale market.

A cotton mattress is sold at Taka 500 while a 'Kashia' made mattress cost only Taka 100 to 150. The durability of Kashia made mattress is longer than that of carpus cotton mattress. It becomes familiar to the mattress makers as an ingredient available at cheaper rates.

It will be a more profitable crop if we make wide publicity to our rural people. There is a wide market of 'Kashia' here.

The government may take effective measure to cultivate the 'Kashia' as cash crop.

Erosion devours 85 pc area of five unions

JAMALPUR, July 23: About 85 per cent area in five unions of Islampur thana of the district was eroded in the mighty river Jamuna during the last three years, reports UNB.

Affected unions are: Kulkandi, Belgacha, Chinadully, Shaphduri and Noapara.

During the period innumerable dwelling houses, offices, educational institutions, business centres and vast tracts of cultivable land were engulfed by the river Jamuna rendering 25,000 families homeless.

The erosion took a serious turn this year with the incessant rain over the last few days. Bahadurabad Railway Ferry Ghat, Gothali Bazar and Jamalpur-Dewanganj Road at the Kankalkusha point have been threatened by the erosion of the river of old Brahmaputra. The road is only 15 feet away from the river.

A large portion of Madarganj thana headquarters have been devoured. Different offices of the thana have already been shifted to different places. Many buildings are being sold in auction. The thana health complex building is just 10 feet away from the erosion site.

Water Development Board so far failed to check the erosion. However, the board has taken a 20-crore taka emergency programme to stop the continued erosion but the work is yet to be started.

Farmers deprived of loans

Our Correspondent says: Corruption and irregularities have been reportedly carried out in the Hazrabari and Melandah branches of Sonali Bank in Jamalpur for the last one month.

A number of local people have brought the allegations against the Manager and some other staff of the branches before the higher authorities.

It is informed that the poor and marginal farmers of the locality are being deprived of necessary agricultural loans from the bank even after following all the necessary formalities.

It is learnt that due to the irregularities a big amount of allocated credit money remains with the bank every year. The farmers are to seek loans from the local money lenders at much higher rates.

When contacted, an official source informed that enquiry will done against the allegations.

2620 loan cases pending

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, July 23: Two thousand six hundred twenty certificate cases have been lying pending in different courts of Jhenidah district for a long time.

Out of the total, one thousand eight hundred seventy-seven cases are with Bangladesh Krishi Bank, five hundred seventy-six cases Sonali Bank, one hundred seven cases with Janata Bank, twenty-seven cases with Agrani Bank and thirty-three cases with Rupali Bank.

Most of these cases were filed to recover loans upto Taka five thousand which the government has written off. Farmers informed that they were not getting proper cooperation from the bank authorities in this regard.

UP members confce

A conference of Saikupa thana UP Members Association was held at local thana parishad auditorium with Khalilur Rahman, Chairman, Saikupa Pourasava in the chair.

Among others, UP Chairman, Serajul Islam Makhani, Mukter Hossain Mirhata, Lutfar Rahman Tulu, Nazrul Islam Joarder, Raihanuddin, Nazrul Islam Mia and Abul Hossain participated in the discussion.

Later, a 31-member executive committee of Saikupa thana UP Members Association was formed with Gholam Nabi and Raisul Islam Sazzad as president and secretary respectively.

Fazil examinee expelled

Khalilur Rahman, an examinee of Fazil examination was expelled from Jhenidah Siddiqia Madrasha recently by a magistrate while adopting unfair means in the examination.

Trafficker arrested

Fifteen persons including four women and one child were handed over to Mohesapur police recently from Bajrapur in Mohesapur thana while they were being taken to Pakistan through India.

Reports say that these 15 persons were being take to the house of Abdu Salam of village Bojrapur in Mohesapur for trafficking. The villagers suspected the arrival of unknown people and later handed those 15 people to police alongwith the agent, Mokarram (50) of Laksham in Comilla.

It may be mentioned here that Mohesapur, Jibannager, Darshana and other border areas of Jhenidah and Chuadanga districts have been used as the golden point for trafficking of men, women,

Villagers at Sarbaharamen's mercy

BARISAL, July 23: The Sarbaharamen have increased their activities further particularly in some thana areas of Barisal, Projpur and Jhalakathi districts recently. Thousands of people of these areas have become hostage in their hands.

According to the local people, members of Kamrul and Zia groups have already created a 'reign of terror' through their ransacking, extortion, raping, killing and armed terrorism throughout the southern districts.

It may be recalled that Nizamuddin alias Kamrul was brutally killed at Uzerpur of Barisal after a fierce gunbattle with the opposite group members in August 1990 and his body was recovered by police from a barren area after two days.

After killing of Kamrul, his partymen and followers had to go underground following a police chase. Sarbaharamen were also chased by the police after the Rashed Khan Menon's killing attempt.

Local people say, that continuing chase and arrest by the police particularly almost about a year last Sarbaharamen were almost in hibernation.

After the killing of Kamrul, Zia group dominated some areas of these districts and reunited under the leadership of second grade leaders. Factional

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kuds during that time reached to its peak through killing of at least six partymen of both sides in two months.

The activities of the Sarbaharamen were lesser in the southern districts during last six months of '92 but in '93 their activities have already been renewed. According to informed sources, by now the main group of the Sarbahara Party has, setup their 'safe den' or 'ghati' in the vast guava garden of Aighar-Kuriana in Swarupkathi thana under Projpur district from where they are conducting different operations dominating the beel area — Guthia, Swarupkathi and its adjoining areas.

Two killed, 5 injured by lightning

BARISAL, July 23: Two persons died instantaneously while five others were injured, four of them critically in lightning at Nutan Bazar under Bakergonj thana of the district, recently Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital sources told BSS.

The sources said that the victims were gossaping at a grocery shop of one Harun-ur-Rashid when the lightning struck them.



RAJSHAHI: Professor M Anisur Rahman, VC of RU speaking at the freshers reception and farewell ceremony of the Physics Department of the university held here recently. — Star photo