

District roundup

COX'S BAZAR

Shrimp worth Tk one crore washed away

Aug 24: Shrimps worth nearly taka one crore from 50 shrimp projects in Cox's Bazar district were washed away following high tide in the Bay on Thursday night, according to the district Shrimp Cultivators' Association, reports UNB.

The Association sources Friday said water entered into the project areas Thursday night as the high tide, five feet higher than the normal level, had caused breaches to the embankments.

Some 500 houses in low lying areas of Kutubdia, Maheshkhali, Teknaf and-sadar thanas of the district have also been damaged.

TANGAIL

Body recovered

Aug 24: Tangail police recovered the body of one Shahidul Haque (30) of village Rathkhola Alows under sadar thana on Monday from village Berabuchna, reports BSS.

Shahidul Haque was allegedly killed by some miscreants on Sunday night while he was returned home from his brother in laws (sister's husband) house.

A case has been registered with the sadar thana None has so far been arrested.

PANCHAGARH

'Come forward with constructive criticism'

Aug 24: Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar has called upon the opposition parties to come forward with constructive criticism for giving strong footing to democracy, reports BSS.

He said, BNP government is working with sincerity and honesty for achieving socio-economic emancipation of the people.

The education minister was speaking as chief guest at a reception accorded to him at pourashava premises at Panchagarh recently.

Presided over by Chairman of the pourashava Shahidul Islam, the meeting was addressed by local MP Mozahar Hossain and President of District BNP Dr Abdul Aziz.

The education minister said, the present government has taken steps towards eradicating anarchy and violence from the campus and the society as well for giving democracy an institutional shape.

MAGURA

20 injured in rival groups clash

Aug 24: At least 20 people were injured, 10 seriously, in a clash between the supporters of two rival groups at Changhacha village of Sreepur thana, police said, reports UNB.

The seriously injured Abdul Hai (45), Abdul Hakim (30), Arab Ali (35), Sukuran Neasa (35), Akmal Sheikh (35), Nowsheer Ali Sheikh, Hamidul Islam (22), Zahurul Haque (30), Ohidul Sheikh (20) and Nurjahan Begum (35), supporters of Abdul Malek Sheikh were admitted to Sadar Hospital.

The clash ensued on August 13 between the supporters of Abdul Malek Sheikh and Badaruddin Mollah as a sequel to previous enmity. Both the groups attacked each other with sharp weapons, iron rods and stones.

Separate cases were filed with the police.

PATUAKHALI

Card phone booths installed

Aug 24: Two card phone booths have been installed in the town here on Saturday in the premises of Head post office, reports UNB.

The booths were installed by Bangladesh Telephone Shilpa Sangstha to facilitate the local people to convey their messages in home and abroad.

Local people expressed their satisfaction at the installation of the card phone booths.

Another report adds: A police team led by a Magistrate recovered 52 current nets in a raid on rivers at Galachipa thana on Saturday.

Mentionable that a huge number of current nets are being used in the several rivers of the coastal thanas for catching fish and fries despite government ban.

According to a report, more than 5000 fishermen are using current nets for catching fish in the open water bodies.

JESSORE

Opposition creating obstacles to normal life

Aug 24: Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Minister Tariqul Islam has said, the opposition political parties have been creating obstacles to the normal life of the people by calling frequent hartals, reports BSS.

He was addressing a public meeting at Barandipara in Jessore recently.

The minister said, the vested quarters have been trying to disrupt the development trends of the country when the present government have been striving to streamline all the working sectors paralysed during the autocratic regime.

The present government have ensured the freedom of press, but he said, Awami League during their regime took away people's democratic rights.

The minister said, the present democratic government have been working for increasing production in all productive sectors.

BARISAL

'Sincere efforts can increase fish output'

Aug 24: State Minister for Education Principal Md Eunus Khan called upon the people on Monday to take pisciculture as a permanent vocation to boost national economy, reports BSS.

The state minister, speaking on the concluding day function of the pisciculture fortnight here, said that the government would encourage pisciculture in all the water bodies of the country to engage the interested persons in this sector.

Presided over by Mamta Uddin, Deputy Commissioner, Barisal, the function was also addressed by M A Rashid, Divisional Commissioner, Barisal, Principal Md Abdur Rashid Khan and Ahsan Habib Kamal of Barisal Municipality.

MAJDEE COURT

2 electrocuted

Aug 24: Both the father and his son were electrocuted at Anantapur village in Begumganj thana of the district last week, says UNB.

The victims were identified as: Abdul Mannan Chowdhury (55) and his son Jamal Hossain (22).

Local people said, Abdul Mannan was electrocuted as he touched a electric wire while working in the field.

Later, Jamal Hossain met the same fate when he tried to save his father.

SHERPUR

250 families rendered homeless

Aug 24: About two hundred and fifty families were rendered homeless by the erosion of the Brahmaputra in five unions of sadar thana of the district during the last one month, reports BSS.

The river also eroded agricultural land measuring about four hundred acres in village Vagaldi under Char Pakhimari union. The chairman of the union Elias Uddin said that these people had been passing their days in extreme hardship.

Dulal Uddin Sarkar, Chairman of Nalkura union said that twenty five families of Farabad village were rendered homeless by the erosion of Brahmaputra.

Both the chairmen appealed to the government to supply relief materials for these helpless people.

FENI

Fresh areas inundated

Aug 24: Fresh areas in three thanas of the district were inundated in last two days following swelling of the river Muhur, on rush of hilly waters from across the border and incessant rains, officials said, reports UNB.

Water Development Board sources said the river Muhur at Parshuram point was flowing 40 cm above the danger mark.

The affected thanas are Sonagazi, Chhaoalnatiya and Parshuram.

The Muhuri Flood Protection Embankment at Shahpur point in Sonagazi thana was threatened by flood waters and it might collapse at any moment.

The Feni-Khagrachhari road went under one foot deep water near the Subodhpur Bridge in the town and crops on 12000 acres of land in the three thanas were damaged.



KHULNA: Foreign Minister ASM Mustafizur Rahman is opening a sapling fair at New Market here recently. — Star photo

Catching of fish fry by current nets rampant

RANGPUR, Aug 24: Massive catching of fish fry by the 'current nets' has been causing threat to the fish production in five districts of greater Rangpur zone.

According to informations, a section of fishermen ignoring government restrictions openly using current net, in catching fish in the ponds, beels, canals and rivers.

As a result, fish production is now on decrease. The fish fry is being caught and sold in the markets.

A high official of the Fishery Department expressing his grave concern over indiscriminate use of current nets in fishing despite government restrictions, said that fish wealth is now in great threat. He called upon the district administration and law enforcing agencies to enforce strictly the government prohibition in catching fish fry and use of current nets and mosquito nets in fishing.

There are around ten thousand tanks, ponds, beels, canals, rivers and their tributaries scattered all over the zone. Most of them are in derelict state. Government step to provide financial assistance towards development of pisciculture is allegedly far from requirement.

Every year, government is spending huge money towards re-excavation of derelict water to dies. But bulk of government fund is allegedly being misused for which the pisciculture programme has been facing problems.

There are allegations that the production of fish fry in hatcheries is much below the requirements. As a result, the farmers are not getting fish fry as required.

Experts believe that the planned pisciculture would surely solve the existing fish crisis.

Another report says: Under the financial assistance of UNICEF, the Public Health Engineering Department has installed five thousand and 265 tubewells in 10 districts in northern region during the last fiscal year.

The districts are: Rangpur, Gaibandha, Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Nilphamari, Dinajpur, Panchagarh, Thakurgaon, Bogra and Jatpurhat.

Of the installed tubewells, three thousand nine hundred and five are hand driven and the rest one thousand and 360

are tara deep set pumps. Besides sinking of these tubewells, a programme for repairing and resinking of two thousand and two hundred out of order tubewells was taken up by the PHED in these districts during the same period.

But the target of the resinking programme could not be achieved due to financial problems, it is informed.

Meanwhile, a section of police officials in cooperation with some local people have been trying to disturb the function of the newly formed anti-drug committee at Mithapukur, it is reported. Some youths of Mithapukur thana area had formed a drug resistance committee in a sincere effort to create a strong resistance against indiscriminate drug use in the their thana areas.

The committee members however caught two drug traffickers and sent them to the thana police along with the ganja bidis recovered from their possession. The police officials instead of taking the case against those arrested persons, uttered ill words and warned the anti-drug committee members not to come further with such cases.

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From Our Correspondent

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Notes from Barisal

BARISAL, Aug 24: A total of 475 criminals including 111 members of so-called Sharbahara party have been arrested by the police in Barisal range in last fortnight in a special drive launched from July 25, a police source said, reports BSS.

According to the source, the reserved police force and the local police personnel jointly conducted special operation.

Of the total, 213 criminals including 107 member of outlawed Sharbahara party have been arrested in Barisal district. They were arrested from Wazirpur, Babuganj, Mehendiganj, Banaripara, Hizla and Barisal sadar.

Seventy-eight criminals were arrested in Patuakhali district, 45 in Bhola district, 39 in Barguna district, 54 in Jhalakati district, and 46 in Pirojpur district.

Besides, police seized eight different fire-arms and 22 rounds of ammunition from the possession of these persons the source said.

According to informations, this situation started following the introduction of ATP and F-28 aircraft. Absence of conveyer's belt at Jessore Airport has intensified the problem victimising Biman to suffer revenue losses. Surprisingly, the authority is silent regarding the matter.

A reliable source told this correspondent that even a coffin can not be accommodated in the aircraft. Mechanism of the cargo doors is not suitable to handle cargo in domestic airport of the country, the source disclosed.

It is however learnt that ATP is a modest aircraft in size and accommodation to carry 62 to 70 passengers with a provision to carry cargo upto 1080 kg.

Biman now operating two flights a day on this route suspending cargo booking which causes revenue loss of Taka 3,88,800 per month.

Jessore Airport is the only link of Khulna Division comprising ten districts of Western Zone with the Capital.

Technical difficulties of the aircraft in loading and unloading have been identified as the reasons behind the stoppage of cargo handling.

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It is however learnt that ATP is a modest aircraft in size and accommodation to carry 62 to 70 passengers with a provision to carry cargo upto 1080 kg.

Biman now operating two flights a day on this route suspending cargo booking which causes revenue loss of Taka 3,88,800 per month.

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