

3 UP chairmen removed on different charges

GAIBANDHA, Feb 1: Three Union Parishad Chairmen of the district have been removed from their post on different charges. District Anti-Corruption source said, reports UNB.

Chairmen Mozammel Haque of Ballamjar union parishad and Anisur Rahman of Gidari union parishad under sadar thana were removed on charges of misappropriation of government money sanctioned for purchasing fertilizer.

Abdul Kafi, Chairman of Monoharpur union parishad under Palashbari thana has been removed for his involvement in a murder case.

Notes from Kishoreganj

From Our Correspondent KISHOREGANJ, Feb 1: The dacoits looted gold ornaments, other valuables and injured seven persons at batrish, most densely populated areas of Kishoreganj poura town recently.

According to reports, the dacoits numbering about 12 and armed with weapon entered the house of Babul Raxmit by breaking open the door at dead of night and looted ornaments, wrist-watch and other valuables at daggers point.

The neighbours, after hearing hue and cry rushed to the spot and tried to resist the dacoits. The dacoits indiscriminately stabbed the people and hit them with iron rods leaving seven persons injured. Of the injured persons Rabi Datta was later sent to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital in a critical condition while Nayan, Chayan, Alok and Mostafa Kamal were admitted into Kishoreganj Sadar Hospital. Two others were released after first-aid.

Eye camp
A 10-day long eye camp was inaugurated at the Bhairab M P Girls' High School by M A Hannan, TNO Bhairab recently. On the opening day 2000 eye patients from Narsingdi, Brahmanbaria and Kishoreganj districts enlisted their names for treatment. The specialists of Mymensingh unit of the National Blind Welfare Society volunteer their service and the eye camps.

This is the 18th eye camp being held under the sponsorship of the Bhairab Blind Welfare Committee on local contribution.

Dacoit held
Zahor Ali (34) an alleged pirate was nabbed recently by the Bhairab police from Mendipur village of Aganagore union.

He was involved in a number of river dacoities in Bhairab, Kuliarchar and Austagram thanas and has been absconding.

Tk 10 lakh goods gutted

Three jute godowns and one oil mill were burnt to ashes following a devastating fire that broke out recently at Belabo Bazar.

The damage was estimated to be over Taka 10 lakh.

The fire brigade from Narsingdi rushed to the spot and managed to extinguish the fire after an effort of two hours.

The cause of the fire could not be ascertained immediately.

4 students get stipend

The Karpur Nessa Foundation of Bhairab riverport town awarded stipends to four students of Haji Asmat College and Bhairab Rafiqul Islam Girls College for the academic year 1993-94 on the basis of merit.

The recipients of the stipends are Dilruba Afroz, Haji Asmat College Taka 3000, Rahima Akhtar, Haji Asmat College Taka 2400, Sohrab Ahmed Chowdhury, Haji Asmat College, Taka 1200, and Hasina Begum, Rafiqul Islam Girls College Taka 1200.

The stipend money was distributed by ex-commander A Rouf, President Karpur Nessa Foundation at a simple function which was attended by the teachers, guardians and students.

One killed in road mishap

One Jamal Udding (30) of village Lakshimpur under Kuliarchar thana of the district was crushed to death under the wheels of a passenger bus (Dhaka Metro-Ja 5192) at Shambupur railgate of Bhairab on January 17 last.

Police and witnesses said the bus was bound for Dhaka from Bhagalpur under Bajitpur thana. The accident occurred when he was getting down from the bus.

Police seized the bus but the driver and conductor escaped from the place.

A case was registered with Bhairab Police Station in this connection.



Preservation of food: A woman beggar is denying up breads which she collected on the occasion of Shabe-Barat for taking those later.

331 transformers stolen

SIRAJGANJ, Feb 1: A total of 331 transformers of Sirajganj Palli Bidyut Samity-1 (Ullapara) was stolen during last five years causing irregularity in power supply.

Of the total, 47 transformers were stolen in 1993. It is gathered that due to massive theft of transformers, power supply in Shahzadpur, Ullapara, Raiganj, Tarash and Belkuchi thana area under Palli Bidyut Samity (PBS) is disturbed.

Theft of transformers in remote village areas of the aforesaid thanas could not be resisted. A source of Sirajganj PBS informed this correspondent that 85 transformers of 5-KVA, 216 of 10 KVA, 27 of 15 KVA and three transformers of 25-KVA have been stolen.

Such massive thefts have caused inconvenience in smooth supply of power in remote village areas. The PBS lodged cases with the concerned police stations but the police failed to detect or recover any transformer as yet.

The consumers of the theft-affected areas have urged the authorities to instal new transformers to ensure irrigation in the ensuing IRRJ season.

Another report says: Historic 'Salanga Day' was observed in Sirajganj.

The day bears the memory of glorious participation of Sirajganj people against British rule under the leadership of

From Our Correspondent

21-year old Congress leader Abdur Rashid (later known as Moulana Abdur Rashid Tarkabagish) of Raiganj thana.

It is gathered that Abdur Rashid, a young leader of the then Indian Congress, was arrested by the British government for taking part in independence movement. On January 27, 1922, thousands of people brought out a procession protesting the arrest of Abdur Rashid which was resisted by the British police. About 4,500 processionists were either injured or killed by lathicharge and firing of police.

To recall the memory of the glorious day, Tarkabagish Smriti Sangsad arranged a discussion meeting at Begam Tarkabagish College of Dhangara. Besides, Awami League, BNP and other socio-cultural organisations also held meetings at the district headquarters to mark the day.

One held with revolver

One Abdul Mannan (34), son of late Moser Ali of village Char Tengral in Kamarkhanda thana was caught red-handed with one country-made revolver and a bullet of 303 rifle by the villagers.

The notorious terrorist while attempted on life of a villager was caught by the neighbouring people and was handed over to Kamarkhanda police.

A case has been lodged under arms act in this connection.

Four die of diarrhoea

Four persons of one family of village Deshigram in Tarash thana died of diarrhoea within a couple of days.

The victims are: Parash Mollah (39), Dukhuni Begum (32), Arathi Khatun (21) and Tufan Ali (15).

Diarrhoea in Tarash thana has taken a serious turn. Seven medical teams are working in the affected villages round-the-clock, reports district civil surgeon's office source.

Salma Khatun (10), daughter of Salam Hossain of village Moupur in Belkuchi thana lost both of her hands when a cocktail blasted in her hands.

The victim found the bomb in a packet. Taking it for a playing equipment she pressed it. The cocktail blasted and both her hands were lost. She is undergoing treatment at sadar hospital.

New club floated

A new sporting and cultural club, 'King Joy Club' has been floated at Belkuchi thana headquarters recently.

A meeting with Shaheen Haq in the chair was held where a 31-member committee of the club was formed. Abu Hena has been elected president and Rahim Newaz secretary.

Two to suffer life-term for murder, rape

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Feb 1: The Additional District and Sessions Judge, First Court, Sylhet while passing his judgement in a sensational murder case found one person guilty and sentenced him to suffer life-term imprisonment. The judge acquitted eight other accused persons of the charge 'brought against them in the same case.'

The prosecution story in brief is that one Khaled Khan of Majortilla of Sylhet Sadar thana was killed in an election violence in the year 1988. A case was registered with the Kotwali thana against Akhon Mian and eight other accused persons.

The police after holding investigations, submitted chargesheet against the accused persons.

The court after examining all the records and witnesses, found the principal accused Akhon Miah guilty and passed the aforesaid judgement.

The APP Noman Mahmud conducted the case.

Another report says: The Additional District and Sessions Judge and Special Tribunal, Sunamganj while passing his judgement found one person guilty on charge of violating a minor girl and sentenced him to suffer life-term imprisonment on January 22 last.

The prosecution story in brief is that, the accused Abdul Karim took Parvin Akhtar, the minor daughter of one Abdus Shahid of village Andabad under Sunamganj sadar thana on April 24 of 1991 to a paddy field forcibly. He violated her there.

The father of the victim registered a case in this connection with the Sunamganj police. After holding investigations, police submitted chargesheet against the accused.

The court after examining all the records and witnesses of the case passed the aforesaid judgement in absentia.

Sharp rise in prices of paddy, rice

JAMALPUR, Feb 1: Prices of paddy and rice have increased sharply for the past one week due to low production of the crop in the district during the current season, reports UNB.

According to local rice traders, shortage of paddy production in the district in the current season is the main reason behind the present crisis.

Agriculture Extension Department here also hold similar opinion and informed that only 1.5 lakh acres of land could be brought under cultivation instead of the targeted 2.5 lakh acres during the current season. Many farmers could not cultivate paddy due to price hike of inputs including seeds and fertilisers.

According to a survey in the local markets, the prices of coarse and paddy rice varieties per kilogram have increased by Taka 2.00 and 2.50 respectively between January 20 and 28.

District roundup

BARISAL
Plan taken up to increase vegetables production

Feb 1: Bangladesh Agriculture Extension Department, Barisal region, has taken up different programmes to increase vegetables production in Barisal division during the current winter season, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the department has taken up a nursery development programme for the purpose.

Various demonstration plots on vegetables cultivation around dwelling houses have been set up.

About 300 farmers have been given training on how to destroy the insects from the field.

Government has sanctioned Taka 4,90,000 for the development of nursery in the area this year, the source said.

CHAPAINAWABGANJ
Mosquito menace alarming

Feb 1: Mosquito menace in the pourasava area has assumed an alarming proportion causing untold suffering to the residents, reports UNB.

According to local people, stagnant water in the roadside ditches, derelict ponds and heaps of garbage have become the ideal breeding centres of mosquitoes.

Lack of proper drainage system in the poura area is the main cause of water stagnation. The drains are filled with filth and garbage polluting the environment.

Dwellers said garbage are being dumped here and there owing to absence of adequate dustbins giving rise to mosquito menace.

Students are the worst sufferers. It is impossible on the part of a student to prepare his lessons in his house after the sun down without the help of mosquito net.

Besides, the slum people who have no capacity to buy mosquito nets have been passing their nights in great distress.

The dwellers urged the concerned authorities to take effective measures to combat the mosquito menace without further delay.

KISHOREGANJ
Housing problem acute

Feb 1: Low paid employees of government and non-government, autonomous and private organisations are facing acute housing problem due to high rise of rent in Bhairab river port thana, reports UNB.

According to the tenants, monthly house rent for a house now varies from Tk 800 to Taka 2500 excluding the electricity bills and water charge while the owners usually want to realise their rent in advance and thereby create pressure on them.

The owners said that they had to increase the house rent due to abnormal rise in the prices of construction materials.

As a result, people from fixed income-group are to sublet government rented houses or live in messes with their families facing enormous problems.

Above all, well-to-do people have almost lost their interest to construct houses due to huge financial involvement following the price hike of building materials and lands.

Local people suggested that construction of government housing estates would help solve the problem to some extent.

RAJSHAHI
IBS founding day observed

Feb 1: Founding anniversary of the Institute of Bangladesh Studies (IBS) was observed here on Monday, reports UNB.

Vice Chancellor of Rajshahi University Prof Anisur Rahman inaugurated the seminar held at the seminar room of the IBS on the campus. Prof Mahmud Shah Qureshi presented the welcome address.

Seven papers, including 'Performance of Private Sector Banks of Bangladesh' and 'Growth of Industrial Entrepreneurship in Bangladesh: Dimension and Challenges', were read out in three sessions of the seminar.

The seminar was also addressed by Pro Vice Chancellor Alhar Uddin, Prof S A Akhand, Dr M Zaimul Abedin, past director of IBS Dr Priti Kumar Mitra and Rawshan Qadir, wife of founder director of IBS Prof S A Qadir.

FENI
Bar association executives

Feb 1: The annual election of the District Bar Association was held at Bar Bhaban on January 28 amid much enthusiasm, reports UNB.

Advocate Ibrahim Bhuiyan and Advocate Jakir Hossain were elected as president and secretary respectively.

Other office bearers are Bimol Chandra Sheel and Shahidul Haque vice-presidents, Shahidullah Chowdhury joint secretary, auditor Abdul Latif, treasurer Moinuddin.

In the election four general members and four zonal members were also elected which was conducted by the former president of the Bar Advocate Khairul Ahmed.

JAMALPUR
Chess contest concludes

Feb 1: Final chess competition arranged by the District Chess Association was concluded here at Bappi Electronic hall room on Saturday, reports UNB.

In the competition Sajal Ahmed Hanif and Abdullah Sultan Ahmed became champion and runner-up in the senior group.

In junior group, Rafiqul Islam and Khandaker Mursalin snatched the joint championship. In sub-junior group, Khandaker Ruhul Amin and Ekramul Basher emerged as the champion and runner-up respectively.

According to the Association about 39 competitors from seven thanas of the district took part in the competition.

The prize giving ceremony would be held later, official sources said.

MYMENSINGH
Press club office-bearers

Feb 1: The new executive committee of the Mymensingh Press Club was elected for the current year at its annual general meeting held here on Friday, reports BSS.

The office-bearers are: Vice Presidents-Advocate Wajedul Islam and A Z M Imamuddin Mukta (Dainik Bangla), General Secretary-A H M Motaleb of the Mymensingh Samacher and The Azad, Joint Secretary-Ataul Karim Khokan of the Dainik Jahan and Treasurer-Ziauddin Ahmed of the Insaaf and the Telegraph.

Besides, four sectional secretaries and seven members of the executive committee were elected.

The election was conducted by a three-member election committee headed by Pijush Kanti Ghosh. Two other members were: Prof Bashiruddin Ahmed and Shekhar Chakravarty.

The Deputy Commissioner of Mymensingh Motiur Rahman was the ex-officio president of the press club.

MALDEE COURT
41,000 hectares under boro cultivation

Feb 1: At least 41,000 hectares of land have been brought under boro paddy cultivation in the district, reports UNB.

According to Agriculture Extension Department, another 80 hectares of land were brought under the wheat cultivation with a target 152 metric tons of wheat.

For potato cultivation about 600 hectares of land were brought under cultivation to achieve the target of 6,600 metric tons. Besides, in 4,600 hectares of land at least 69,000 metric tons of sweet potato are expected to be produced.

Meanwhile, about 24000 hectares of land were brought under cultivation of vegetable to achieve the target of 45,600 metric tons.

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation has distributed high yielding variety seeds, fertilisers and other necessary inputs among the farmers at fair prices for the successful implementation of the schemes.

GAIBANDHA
Cold breeze disrupts normal life

Feb 1: Cold breeze coupled with drizzles disrupted normal life in the district which is in the proximity of the Himalayas, reports UNB.

The homeless destitutes and victims of river erosion in seven thanas of the district were affected by the intensified cold that gripped the riverine areas during the week. The sky remained foggy during the day, blocking visi-

District town in pitiable condition

Most people poor in Madaripur

Poverty has its own pensive look. In Madaripur, the look can be observed at every erosion-hit area of the district, through every dimly lit street of the town and the sad faces of the people.

Ebad Ali (65) of Madaripur town expresses his frustration after pulling rickshaw for 40 years. Now he is short of hearing and eye-sight. His maimed figure bends like a tensed bow as he struggles hard to keep the paddles moving ahead.

Ebad Ali is one of many rickshaw pullers who have thronged to Madaripur town after they became landless by the erosion of rivers.

Like others, Ebad Ali's family, which lost all its agricultural lands in less than two weeks by the erosion of river Ariakha, came to the town from Badshaganar village of sadar thana.

Father of four sons and three daughters, Ali earns Taka 40 to 60 a day from his services. Out of his total income, he has to pay Taka 20 to the owner of the rickshaw.

The money is not enough to meet the need of my family but what can I do at this age," he says. Ali's eldest son is now mature enough to earn but he has got his own family.

The rickshaw puller says that agricultural land was source in the 1146 square-

By Masud Hasan Khan back from Madaripur

kilometre district. There is no work in the villages. In town, competition is stiff.

The total arable land in Madaripur district is estimated at 2,15,215 acres. A good part of the land remains under the Padma, Ariakha and Kumar. District administration officials identify river erosion, lack of education and communication problem as the main reasons for poverty in the district.

One fourth of the nine lakh and 45 thousand people of the district is unemployed, according to the available statistics. Of the total only 12,000 people or 15 per cent own agricultural land.

Some political leaders and activists told this correspondent that the district is deprived of the development programmes as they voted for the opposition.

The C category town, Madaripur has now four thanas. There were ten thanas in the district. Four thanas were severed and merged with the neighbouring district.

The literacy rate in the district is 22 per cent. The number of primary school students is on wane.

Parents are to bring their children to work as they are

unable to extend education facilities to them.

Madaripur town is the lone municipal area in the district. The people have been pressing hard to declare Shikhar thana as a municipal town.

Deputy Commissioner of Madaripur, Abdus Sattar Miah told The Daily Star that construction of Madaripur-Shikhar road was urgently needed. The 102-kilometre metalled road was not enough.

"The rivers and the canals need re-excavation to remove heavy siltation," he said.

Madaripur was once a famous jute trading centre. With the decline in output of the 'golden' fibre, trading dwindled. There is no heavy mills or factories.

The lone Howlader Jute Mills has partially resumed its operation a few days back after a closure for some time and the Madaripur Textile Mills still remains shut down.

The BSCIC industrial estate just outside the town has only five biscuit and chanachur factories.

"If one compares Madaripur town with other ones, it appears as a big village or a ganj (trading centre)," a resident commented.

People of Madaripur expect that the government should immediately take up development programmes for the district. (to be continued)



BRAHMANBARIA: The sadar police seized 610 pieces of Indian sarees from a boat in the river Teesta recently.

Drug addiction killed 11 in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, Feb 1: At least 11 people died due to drug addiction in the district last year, unofficial sources said here on Monday, reports UNB.

According to the local people, heroin and ganja are being smuggled into the district through the border areas and many youths are being addicted to it causing concern among the guardians.

According to a survey report, about 25,000 people are addicted in all the nine thanas of the district.

Ganja is also being cultivated in remote char areas of five thanas of the district during the dry season, the report revealed.

The sources said many poor farmers have cultivated ganja

this year in Kazipur, Sadar, Belkuchi, Chowhall and Shahzadpur thanas violating the government ban.

However, many farmers in remote villages are also cultivating ganja on their courtyard as it looks like flower plants and thus can easily deceive the law enforcing men. The ganja plants are being cultivated in the areas since the last five years, the report added.

It may be mentioned that ganja cultivation is more profitable since it needs little care to grow. Each plant produces 2 to 3 kgs of ganja and per kg is being sold at Tk 5000.

Cold wave sweeping across the northern districts claimed four more lives here on Tuesday night, unofficial sources said.

Police arrested 9160 people last year

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Feb 1: Nine thousand one hundred and sixty persons were arrested on various charges during last year in six districts under Barisal division.

Of the total 2165 were arrested in Barisal 2128 in Patuakhali, 1585 in Pirojpur, 1177 in Bhola, 900 in Barguna, and 1205 in Jhalakathi.

Police also recovered 115 different kinds of arms which include rifle, revolver, pistol, shattergun, SMG, country made gun, pipe gun and 705 rounds of ammunition, 60 hand bombs, 17 cocktails, and 2 grenades.

Maximum number of arms have been recovered from different places of Barisal district and maximum Sarbahaara Party members were also arrested from this district police control room sources said.

Another report says Property worth about 50 lakh taka had been burnt to ashes when a devastating fire broke out at Kalia Bandar of Baufal thana under Patuakhali district on Wednesday night.

Eight shops and four houses were gutted in the fire incident, eyewitnesses said.

The fire was originated from the kitchen of one Siraj Gaz—it is learnt.

Another report adds: Bhola district police arrested 18 rioters and 12 lathals from different char areas of the Bhola district under Operation Meghna.



SYLHET: Kaiser Hamid, Captain of Sylhet District XI receiving the championship trophy. The team defeated Comilla District XI in the zonal final of Sher-e-Bangla Cup Football Match held here recently.