

Notes from Sylhet

From Our Correspondent.
SYLHET, Apr 17: The Additional District and Sessions Judge, Sylhet while passing his judgement recently in a murder case of Beanibazar thana found one person guilty and sentenced him to suffer life-term imprisonment on charge of killing his wife. The court also sentenced him to pay a fine of Taka 10,000 in default or to suffer one year more.

The prosecution case in brief is at about 11-30 pm on the May 14, 1992, Moinul Haque of village Sridhara under Beanibazar thana had an exchange of hot words with his wife over some family feud. At one stage, he hit his wife, Lili Begum with a sharp weapon, causing her instantaneous death.

A case was registered with the Beanibazar police station on the following day by the brother of the victim. The police after investigations, submitted chargesheet against the accused Moinul Haque. As many as 22 prosecution witnesses were produced before the court.

Youngman murdered

A youngman was killed in the hands of his opponent group at village Barkipur under Gowainghat police station of Sylhet district on Tuesday morning.

According to the report, the attackers asked Abdul Khaleque, father of Abdur Rahman for the money they were to get from Ataur Rahman. At one stage, they tried to snatch away the cow from Abdur Khaleque, while he was on his way to a nearby field. As Abdul Khaleque made a hue and cry, Ataur Rahman then swooped on him with the blade of a plough. He was sent to the Sylhet MAG Osmany Medical College Hospital with serious injuries where he succumbed to his injuries on the next morning. Postmortem was conducted.

One killed in road mishap

A minor boy was crushed under the wheels, of a speeding minibus on Deral-Sunamganj-Madan road recently.

Traffic movement on the road was stopped for about two hours, following the accident.

According to the report, the victim, Shaheb Ali, 10, of village Shrifpur was crushed under the wheels of a speeding minibus when he was crossing the road close to his house at about 4-30 pm. He died on the spot. The driver and helpers managed to escape just after the accident.

The agitated villagers later blocked the road. On getting information, a police contingent from Deral reached the spot and freed the road from blockades after two hours. Police seized the vehicle.

2 NGO men charged with raping girl

Kotwali police today filed a case against two employees of an NGO on charge of molesting a village girl.

Police sources informed that Ayesha Begum, 16, daughter of one Alauddin of village Charigram under Zakiganj thana was brought to the vocational training institute of the organisation at Khadinagar, Sylhet town for being provided training on tailoring. She was interned for three days in a room where two employees raped her.

Ayesha was given first-aid in the Sylhet MAG Osmany Medical College Hospital. Following the deterioration of her condition she was taken to the Zakiganj Thana Health Complex and then brought back to the Osmany Medical College Hospital.

Police further informed this correspondent that some employees of the NGO took away the victim from the hospital yesterday.

On getting information, police rescued her and the girl was re-admitted to the hospital this afternoon in a critical condition.

Hospital sources said the victim had been gang-raped.

The girl's father lodged a case against Helal and Lutu, employees of a leading NGO working in Sylhet.

Imam killed, 5 others hurt over land dispute

SAVAR, Apr 17: The Imam of a village mosque was killed and five others were injured as he tried to settle a land dispute between two groups of villagers at Kamarpara of Dhamrai thana Wednesday, reports UNB.

Police said, Abdus Samad 30 died instantaneously Thursday morning when one, Jahangir hit him in his head. The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College hospital morgue.



GAIBANDHA: Teachers of non-government schools brought out a procession recently demanding nationalisation of their services. —Star photo

Over 14,000 children benefit Food for Edn Programme

NOAKHALI, Apr 17: Some 14,327 poor children of six thanas of the district are being benefited under Food for Education Programme launched four months ago, reports UNB.

Officials said that the programme has been launched in the district from last December at one union of each thana to help the poor children to implement mass education scheme.

They said, 47,100 kilograms of wheat per month were distributed in Char Mathua union of sadar thana, 35,985 kgs in Natesware union of Begumganj thana, 37,470 kgs in Nabipur union of Senbag thana, 34,470 kgs in Shahapur union of Chatkhil thana, 29,940 kg in Sonadia union of Hatiya thana and 29,940 kg in Char Fakir union of Companigonj thana.

It may be mentioned that the student who attended more than 85 per cent of the total classes received 15 kgs of wheat per month.

Pricehike of newsprint

Price-hike of newsprint for the last one month at Matjdee and Choumuhni markets has seriously affected the printing and publication industries.

Traders said, short supply was the main reason behind

the price spiral of newsprint as well as white bond.

Besides, prices of books have also gone up in the markets. Local people alleged that taking advantage of short supply of newsprint, some unscrupulous traders have increased the prices of newsprint and bond to earn

Two roasted alive in a devastating fire incident

CHITTAGONG, Apr 17: Two children were burnt alive, about hundred thatched dwelling houses and ten different kinds of shops were gutted in a devastating fire that broke out in a slum at West Madarbari under Doublomorning thana here Wednesday evening, reports BSS.

According to fire brigade and police sources the fire, which broke out in one of the houses and engulfed the entire slum, raged for more than two hours.

The two children who were inside the house could not escape the fire and were roasted alive.

Eleven fire units fought the fire to bring it under control. The cause of the fire could not be ascertained immediately.

windfall profit.

The local elite have urged the concerned authority to ensure smooth supply of newsprint to check its price hike.

15 edn institutions constructed

Facilities Department of Education Ministry completed construction of classrooms, hostels and academic buildings of 15 government colleges and schools of the greater Noakhali district in the last fiscal year.

According to official sources, over Taka 3.41 crore was sanctioned for the implementation of the schemes.

The educational institutions which were brought under the programme are: Hatiya Dwp Govt College, Noakhali Govt College, Nakhali Govt Mahila College, Chaumuhani Govt College, Kabirhat Govt College, Sebagh Govt College and Noakhali Govt Girls High School in Noakhali district; Ramgati Govt College and Ramganj Govt College in Lakshampur district and Fulganj Govt College, Feni Govt College, Chhaganaiya Govt College, Sonagazi College, Teachers' Training College and Feni Govt Pilot High School in Feni district.

Taka 9.5 crore project to install 4,610 tubewells

BARISAL, Apr 17: At least 4,610 deep and shallow tubewells will be installed at a cost of Taka 9.50 crore in 11 districts of southern region of the country in the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

Public Health and Engineering Department (PHED) has taken up the programme to install the tubewells in Barisal, Patuakhali, Borguna, Pirojpur, Jhalakathi, Faridpur, Madaripur, Gopalganj, Bhola, Rajbari and Shariatpur districts of Barisal circle with the financial assistance from UNICEF.

Of the total tubewells, 800 deep and 1,250 shallow tubewells will be installed in Barisal, Jhalakathi, Bhola and Pirojpur districts; 800 deep tubewells in Patuakhali and Borguna districts and 200 deep and 1,480 shallow tubewells in Faridpur, Rajbari, Gopalganj, Madaripur and Shariatpur districts, PHED sources said.

After the installation of the

tubewells scarcity of drinking water problem will be solved to a great extent.

About 300 metric tons of wheat have been sanctioned for re-excavation of 15 kilometre long canal in two thanas of the district in the current dry season.

According to relief and rehabilitation office, more than 450 men and women have been working on the projects every day. Work on the projects is progressing fast.

Officials said, 40 per cent work on the projects has already been completed and the rest is expected to be finished soon.

Meanwhile, Barisal pourasaha has taken up a programme to reconstruct and repair six roads in the town at a cost of about Taka 90 lakh during the current fiscal.

The roads are: Hathkola Road, Bagura Road, Kaunia Road, Bazar Road, Swa Road and Shahid Zia Sarak.

Ghani business needs loan, patronisation

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Apr 17: The age old ghani (mini oil mills) business in the district has been gradually vanishing with increasing number of mechanised oil mills set up in the town areas.

According to reports, about 500 such ghani business centres have been facing closure due to competition with the mechanised oil mills already in brisk business. Many ghanis have been closed down largely due to price differences. Grinding oil seeds at a mechanised oil mill cost much cheaper and at the same time it offers larger quantity of oil than at a manual oil mill. This difference has already cost employment of many oilmen and may send many more in the streets. About 15,000 such mill workers are reportedly working in these ghanis, half of them are seeking other types of job.

About Taka 1200 is needed to run a ghani, according to an oil mill owner. However, the poor oilmen can hardly invest this amount as the production cost has increased in recent period.

Moreover, there are no such loan disbursement system to patronise the ghani business. So, the ghani businessmen have become helpless.

Meanwhile, imported edible oil including soyabean and pam oil have flooded the local mar-

kets, further affecting the oil business community of the district.

The edible oil available in local markets are cheaper and ready for cooking and other purposes all of which add to the misfortunes of ghani business.

Ghani business was once popular exclusively for its purity. As the mechanised oil mills started to take over from the ghanis, pure ground oil also started to vanish, according to many consumers. This new era of consuming impure edible oil has certainly affected the community.

If this change in quality of edible oil is allowed to further flood the markets, hundreds of oilmen will be thrown in the streets.

A tragic end!

RAJBARI, Apr 17: Two minor girls of a village in sadar thana drowned when they went to wash their hands in a nearby pond after playing a game, reports UNB.

According to family sources, Shilpi, 5, daughter of Mangal Sheikh and Puja, 4, daughter Ramendra Chandra of Sajnandra village went to the pond on April 7 after playing a game with mud and green leaves.

Programme to remove water supply crisis

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Apr 17: An extensive programme has been taken up to remove water supply crisis in Sylhet town area, according to municipal officials.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) funded project will cost Taka 25.46 crore which has already been sanctioned.

Under the project, two deep tubewells will be installed including repair works of three ill fated deep tubewells. Two water treatment plants will also be set up for supply of pure water. New water supply pipelines will be extended.

At present only 18 lakh gallons of water is supplied as against minimum requirement of 64 lakh gallons, says AFM Kamal, Chairman of the Municipal Authority. He further added, with the recent expansion of the town area, demand for water supply in the town has increased to an estimated 130 lakh gallons a day. At present the town area spreads over 29.14 square kilometres against previous area of only 8.41 square kilo-

metres.

The Chairman further informed that the project works are scheduled to start in July this year and are expected to be completed by end of 1998-99 fiscal year. Public Health Engineering Department has been given the task to complete the project, says another official.

15 hurt in train dacoity

Armed dacoits injured at least 15 passengers and an employee of an inter-city express train here last Wednesday night.

The dacoits also looted valuable including gold ornaments and cash from the passengers of 'Jayantika Express' when the train reached the Rashidpur railway station from Dhaka.

According to passengers, 10 dacoits stormed a first class compartment of the train and beat up the inmates.

The dacoits also stabbed an employee of the train catering section.

Hats, bazars in bad shape

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Apr 17: About 80 hats and bazars in 4 thanas of Chuadanga district are in bad shape.

The thanas are: Chuadanga sadar, Alamdanga, Damurhuda and Jibannagar.

Lack of proper maintenance is said to be the reason for the gradual deterioration of the condition of the markets at the towns and rural areas of the district.

There is no drainage system at the hats and bazars. As a result, rainwater remains stagnant causing inconvenience to the buyers and sellers.

Most bazars and hats, have no tubewells or any other sources of water. The tubewells in some hats and bazars go out of order frequently and it takes several months to commission it again.

Shortage of space in the hats and bazars have become another problem. The population has increased everywhere

but the existing hats and bazars have not been expanded. Arrangements for latrines and urinals in the markets are absent.

The condition of three daily markets of the town is so bad that are causing much sufferings.

There is no drainage system and cleaning arrangements though thousands of people go there for shopping every day.

Another report says: Beggars are increasing at Chuadanga town every day creating much inconvenience to the residents.

The beggars including male, female and children who are coming to the town from the rural areas are seem to be destitutes.

District roundup

MAGURA

Govt pledge-bound to eradicate illiteracy

Apr 17: The Agriculture and Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Minister, Majidul Huq said here on Saturday that the present government was pledge-bound to eradicate illiteracy from society to bring about desired balanced development of the country through providing job opportunities and creating self-employment provision for vast multitude of our rural population, reports BSS.

The minister was formally inaugurating two separate newly constructed buildings at Ghasiara and Kodla government free primary schools in Sreepur thana under Magura district.

The two school buildings were constructed at a cost of Taka eight lakh by the Local Government and Engineering Department fund.

Speaking on the occasions the minister urged the people to motivate the children to avail of the opportunities accorded by the present government in a bid to wipe out illiteracy from the society. He also advised the teachers to improve the standard of education.

Later, the Agriculture Minister attended the installation ceremony of the students union of Sreepur Degree College.

COMILLA

Assault on PDB men protested

Apr 17: Local Sarbadalo Biddut Sramik Karamchari Oikya Parishad on Wednesday held a rally in front of PDB office premises protesting the assault on their colleagues by an organised gang of hoodlums, reports UNB.

Witnesses said, a gang of local mastans attacked seven PDB employees, including an assistant engineer and two sub-assistant engineers, when they were working at Fultali transformer to remove its earth fault on April 7.

President over by Tofazzal Hossain the rally was addressed, among others, by Khorsheed Alam, Abdul Khaleque, Ali Haider, Mokhlesur Rahman and AK Kamaluddin.

The parishad leaders addressing the rally warned that they would launch a greater movement if the culprits were not punished soon.

Later, the parishad at a press conference explained the details of the incident. "We are not feeling secure in carrying out our professional duties at Fultali area" the parishad president told the newsmen.

RAJSHAHI

More road network assured for development activities

Apr 17: State Minister for Land, Kabir Hossain said, the over-all development of the country was impossible without qualified manpower and accordingly the government had attached top priority to develop the education sector, says BSS.

He was addressing a number of gatherings regarding seven educational institutions taken under development programme at Boalia, Paba and Matthar thana in the district Wednesday.

The minister said, to develop the communication system of the district, a construction work of a three kilometre-long pucca road from Katakhal Bazar to 'Ranhat' of Matthar thana would begin soon. He assured construction of another three-km long pucca road from Bargachi high school to Bargachi bazar.

The city mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu was also present on the occasion as special guest and he declared that no holding tax would be increased in the city area for next five years.

He urged all to rally round the uplift efforts of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to go ahead with all development activities.

COX'S BAZAR

Tk 50 lakh charity goods gutted

Apr 17: The office and godown of OXFAM, a British charity, at Dandamia Rohingya refugee camp, was gutted by a fire Tuesday night, reports UNB.

Inmates of the camp extinguished the fire before it could spread to the thatched houses where about 25,000 refugees live.

BARISAL

300 primary schools reconstructed

Apr 17: Local Government and Engineering Department (LGED) has completed the reconstruction works of about 300 primary schools in 10 thanas of the district recently, says UNB.

The LGED implemented the reconstruction works under Post-Cyclone Rehabilitation Programme (PCRP), officials said here Friday.

Each school has been provided with four rooms to accommodate some 200 students, the sources added.

PANCHAGARH

Programmes to develop non-government schools, colleges

Apr 17: Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar said, the government has taken several programmes to develop the infrastructure of the non-government schools, colleges and madrasa in the country, reports UNB.

The minister was speaking as chief guest at the foundation laying ceremony of new buildings of Bhajanpur College, Tetulia College, Haradighi High School and Azznagar High School in the district.

He said, the government is determined to bring both qualitative and quantitative changes in the education system.

The minister said, National University was established to restore academic discipline and Open University was established to spread non-formal education among the people.

Compulsory primary education and Food for Education Programme are being implemented for eradicating illiteracy from the country by the year 2000, he added, said a PID handout here Friday.

JHENIDAH

50 people injured in armed clash

Apr 17: Fifty people, including 10 policemen were injured, following an armed clash between two groups of people at a fair in Kotchandpur town Friday, police and local people said, reports UNB.

The clash ensued when two groups of people locked into an armed battle over a Baishakhi Mela held at Solemanpur in Kotchandpur town.

Seriously injured including three policemen and a student were admitted to local hospital.

The clash could have occurred due to an intra-party conflict of the local BNP supporters, police believe.

NOAKHALI

Chicken pox breaks out

Apr 17: Chicken pox has broken out in all the six thanas of the district creating panic among the people, local people said, says UNB.

Begumganj thana is the worst affected area. Almost every family of the villages Toyag, Nadana, Sonapur, Deuti, Gopalpur, Amanullahpur and Bazra union of the thana were affected by the disease.

According to doctors, high summer temperature, lack of cleanliness, consumption of adulterated food and unhygienic surroundings were the main reasons behind the outbreak of the disease.

Moreover, the number of patients are increasing in rural areas rapidly as villagers are unknowingly using belongings of chicken pox patients, they observed.

NAOGAON

Biennial council of Awami Jubo League held

Apr 17: The biennial council of the district Awami Jubo League was held here last week, party sources said Friday, reports UNB.

District Jubo League Convenor Al-Haj Shahiduzzaman Sarker presided over the council while the party's acting President Advocate Nurul Majeed Humayun inaugurated.

Addressing the council the leaders urged the party men to continue its ongoing movement to unseat the ruling BNP as it failed to fulfil the hopes and aspiration of the masses.

Later, a 45-member executive committee of the Jubo League has been formed with Tuhin Reza and Mehdi Hassan as its president and general secretary respectively.



SIRAJGANJ: Boulders have been dumped to prevent erosion of the one kilometre long town protection embankment near the district sub-jail. —Star photo