

Non-govt teachers in Chandpur, Satkhira observe hunger strike

CHANDPUR, May 14: At least 500 striking non-government high school and college teachers observed a day-long token hunger strike at Chandpur Foundation premises on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Organised by the district unit of teachers' action liaison committee the strike from 6 am to 6 pm was observed at the call of the central leaders. The gathering was addressed by Principal Tarikulah, Prof Moniruzzaman, Safayat Ahmad, Shakhawat Hossain, Ali Mahmood, Jibon Chakrabarty, Arun Majumdar and some political leaders.

They urged the government to fulfil the legitimate demands of the striking teachers and resolve the crisis without further delay.

Another message from Satkhira adds: The striking teachers of the district observed the token hunger strike at the premises of central shaheed minar.

They called upon the government to remove disparity between the government and non-government teachers for the greater interest of the nation.

Another report from Jhenidah adds: At least 400 teachers took part in the dawn to dusk token hunger strike at the local Agrani Bank square.

After the strike the teachers at a meeting called upon the government to fulfil their 4-point demand and help create congenial atmosphere in the educational arena.

BAU Science Conference on June 21

AGRI-VARSITY (Mymensingh), May 14: The eighteenth Science Conference of the Bangladesh Association for the Advancement of Science (BAAS) will be held on June 21, 1994 at the Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) campus instead of May 14, 1994 due to unavoidable reasons, according to a notice issued by the BAAS authority, says a BAU press release.

He became mad!

DINAJPUR, May 14: Yes, Upen was lucky. His lottery ticket number matched the first prize holder of Bangladesh Sports Association 3rd Lottery. But alas! it all went in vain. Upen went mad writes UNB.

This all happened in Haripur village in Kotwali thana.

Upen Chandra, son of Bhabesh Chandra Roy, of north Haripur village in Kotwali thana, bought five lottery tickets from his daily wage ignoring daily meals of his family members.

Upen, a saw-mil worker at Kanchan Ghat area of the town, did not inform his family about the lottery tickets at all. He suspected that they will not take it easily for spending hard earned money in such a foolish way.

He kept all the five lottery tickets under his bed and always carried the ticket numbers in his pocket. After the draw he checked his tickets number and found that he won the coveted first prize.

The draw was held on May 7.

Later, he informed the lucky results to his employer Khademul Islam. Khadem went to Upen's place to see the tickets, but found the them missing from the secret place.

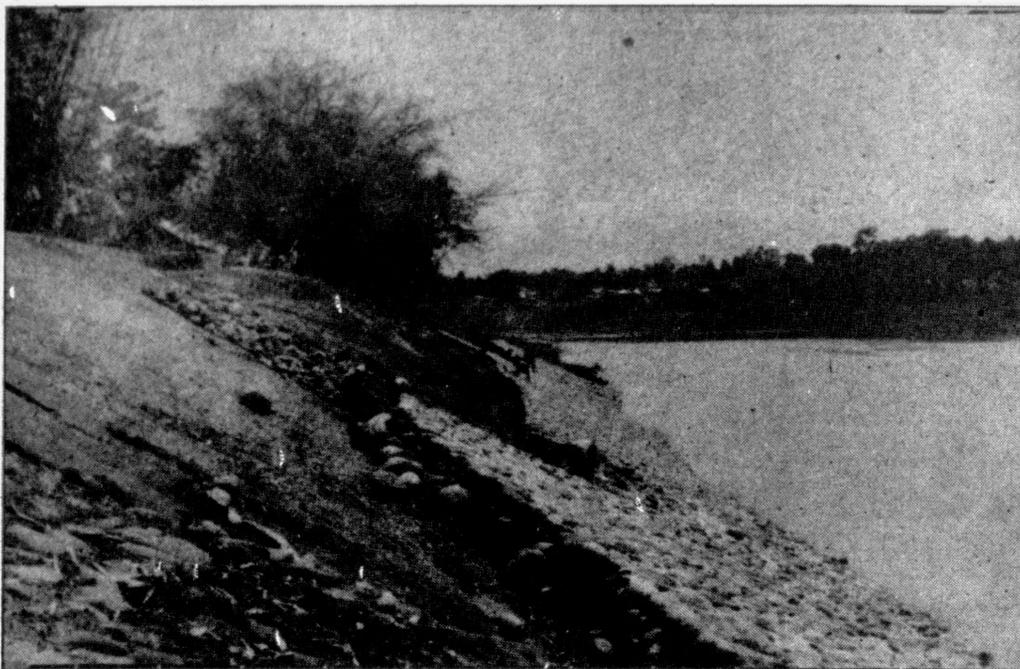
Upen at last found his treasures but they were in pieces. Upon seeing the tickets in such a condition Upen reportedly became mad since the incident.

Six held with stolen gold ornaments

From Our Correspondent MALJDEE COURT (Noakhali) May 14: Shudharam thana police have arrested six miscreants and recovered twenty two and half tolas of gold ornaments and other goods from Kanchanpur, Devipur and Shailaghatia in Shudharam thana of Noakhali district recently.

Acting on a secret information, Officer-in-Charge, Mohammad Hossain, S I Bijoy Kumar Nath, S I Gazi Enayet Kabir with their forces raided Kanchanpur, Devipur and Shailaghatia and recovered the looted gold and other goods recently.

The arrested were identified as Abdur Rahim, Imamuddin, Nurul Amin, Shamima Khaton of Devipur, Shahe Alam and Abul Kalam, of Shailaghatia under Shudharam thana district.



SYLHET: Embankment protection work along river Surma is in progress in Hyrabond area of Jakiganj thana of the district. — Star photo

Acute shortage of water hampers irrigation in Chuadanga

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, May 14: Due to acute water shortage in the river Padma the irrigation facilities to about 3,50,000 acres of land in 25 thanas of Chuadanga, Kushtia, Meherpur, Jhenidah, Magura and some parts of Jessore and Narail districts under G-K project has been hampered.

Over 1,20,000 cultivators are likely to be deprived of producing one crore maunds of Aus paddy during the current cultivation season.

The withdrawal of water flow by India through the construction of Farakka Barrage in India has caused the shortage of water, it is learnt.

The Water Development Board (WDB) completed the Ganges-Kabodak (G-K) project in the year 1982-83 in phases which was started in the year 1953-54 with a view to irrigating 3,50,000 acres of land of 25 thanas of the south west region of the country including Kushtia, Chuadanga, Meherpur, Jhenidah, Magura, Narail and Jessore districts.

In the G-K project area there are 24.28 miles of barrage, 942.01 miles of irrigation canals, 602.58 miles of drainage canal, 2 pump houses, 1 power house, 1 closer, 3433 bridges and culverts and 2177 hydraulic structures.

At present there is a need for supply of about 13 megawatts of electricity but only five to six megawatts of electricity are being supplied in the project area. As a result, normal work of the scheme is also being hampered seriously.

It is learnt that there are three main pumps in the project area with a capacity to preserve 1300 cusecs of water

each and 13 supporting pumps with a capacity to preserve 125 cusecs of water each. All these pumps depend on the water of the river Padma and are now threatened by falling water level.

This renders timely extension of irrigation facilities to the command area impossible.

And production this season of about one crore maunds of Aus paddy worth about Taka 2500 crore has become uncertain.

Drought in four thanas

Severe drought situation in four thanas of Chuadanga district has still been persisting. Lack of rainfall and an alarming fall in the ground water level led the irrigation system in the district to a near collapse.

Continued drought accompanied by hot spell has pushed the ground water level to maximum low.

During the last three days hundreds of old people have fallen ill due to scorching heat. Most of the sources of water like river, canals, ponds and wells are drying up. Standing Aus paddy and sugarcane plants are damaged for want of water.

Sugar output exceeds target

The Darsana Sugar Mills of the district has produced 16,400 metric tons of sugar by crushing 1,85,000 metric tons sugarcane during the current cane crushing season (1993-94).

The crushing of sugarcane ended on April 28. The production target of the mills was fixed at 15,400 metric tons

this year while it has produced 16,400 metric tons in this season.

The working days of the mills during the current season was 175 and average recovery was 8.85 per cent.

The implementation work of 26 schemes under Food for Works Programme (FWP) at a cost of 642 metric tons of wheat in four thanas of Chuadanga district is now going on in full swing. It is expected to be completed by the current month.

In the meantime about 70 per cent work of the total schemes has been completed.

Of the total schemes, seven are being implemented in Chuadanga sadar thana, eight in Alamdanga thana, six in Damurhuda thana and five in Jibannagar thana.

The schemes include repair of roads and earth levelling in fields of different educational institutions.

Food for Edn programme

The distribution work of wheat under "Food for education programme" in 45 government and non-government registered primary schools in four thanas of Chuadanga district are going on in full swing now.

In every month over one lakh kgs of wheat are being distributed among the 7,500 primary school students of the district. As a result about 5,000 destitute families of the district are being benefited every month under the programme. According to an official source under the "Food for education programme" which

has been introduced by the government during the current financial year, 12 primary schools under Sankarchandra union of Chuadanga sadar thana, seven schools under Jamjami union of Alamdanga thana, 14 schools under Notipota union of Damurhuda thana and 12 schools under Jibannagar union of Jibannagar thana have been taken up where a total of about 7,500 students are being taught.

Under the programme each student is getting 15 kgs of wheat per month. However, students not exceeding two from the same family will get the facility.

The attendance of the students must be 85 days in every 100 days and their parents must be holding land below 50 decimals.

Arms recovered

Police have recovered huge quantities of arms and ammunition from four thanas of Chuadanga district during the last two months.

Police have also arrested six persons during the period on charge of possessing illegal arms.

The recovered illegal arms and ammunition included one cut-rifle, two Indian shutter guns, one country made pipe gun, 22 rounds of rifle ammunition, 15 rounds of gun ammunition, two revolvers, one foreign made double barrel and double barrel country made guns, one fired ammunition, and four rounds of revolver bullets.

The arrested persons were Abdul Bari, Abdul Majid, Hashem Shaikh, Azizul Hoque, Abdul Majid and Golam Bari.

Eight missing in boat capsize

PABNA, May 14: Eight people were missing when a boat capsized in the river Padma near Kamalpur in Sujanagar thana of the district recently, reports UNB.

Police said, that the boat carrying onion was caught in a storm while on its way to Dhaka from Sujanagar at 2 am. Four others managed to swim ashore.

The missing people could not be identified yet although investigation was going on.

One killed by tiger

BAGERHAT, May 14: A young man was killed by tiger Thursday at Dharanikhal in Sundarbans when a small group of people went there to collect wood, reports UNB.

Police confirmed that Mosharrif Hossain, 32, was taken away by a tiger as he was cutting wood in Swarankhola Range area.

Companions of the victim raised hue and cry, beat drums and tins in a bid to rescue him. At this the man eater left the prey but dead.

The body of Mosharrif Hossain was recovered after about an hour.

About a fortnight ago two wood cutters were killed by royal Bengal tiger in the Sundarbans within a span of two days. More than 10 people were killed by tiger in the area during this year. Forest officials said.

A group of miscreants Thursday snatched goods worth about Taka three lakh from a French ship anchored at Mongla port.

Police said five people wielding daggers allegedly snatched cash dollar, briefcase, air ticket and other valuables from the captain of MV Salasdoor.

Security guard of the port caught one of the bandits, Beal, while they were fleeing. A case has been filed with Mogla thana police.

12,000 teachers observe hunger strike in Faridpur

FARIDPUR, May 14: The striking teachers of non-government schools and colleges in the district observed a token hunger strike on Wednesday, reports UNB.

About 12,000 teachers of different non-government high schools and colleges in the district took part in the day-long hunger strike to press home for their four point demand.

Meanwhile, Teachers Action Liaison Committee, Faridpur district branch, blamed the government for leakage of question papers, mismanagement in the ongoing SSC examination and sufferings to the examinees.

At a press conference held on May 10 the teachers accused the Education Minister for the crisis and sought personal intervention of the Prime Minister to overcome the prevailing situation in non-government high schools and colleges.

Number of beggars on rise in Kishoreganj

KISHOREGANJ, May 14: The number of beggars is on rise in the town day by day causing much inconveniences to the dwellers and polluting the environment, reports UNB.

The beggars mostly floating people affected by the natural calamities are pouring into the town in large numbers from rural areas to maintain their livelihood.

Having failed to find any job, these floating people took resort to begging for bare survival. It is also alleged that most of the young women beggars who cannot earn their livelihood have restored prostitution giving rise to the anti-social activities in the town.

These girls can be found roaming at station areas and cinema hall premises after the sun-set to draw the attention of customers.

Different infectious diseases have broken out due to beggar's on rush to the town. Most of them are regularly seen responding to nature's call in open drains and on walkways polluting the environment.

Local elite apprehended that the influx of these morbid and moribund people to the town would continue unless they are not rehabilitated properly.

They urged the concerned authorities to construct vacant centres at the outskirts of the town for them and take income-generating schemes to mitigate their sufferings.

Lily output declines

Production of lily (shapla) has declined and its groves are being destroyed due to lack of proper orientation, maintenance and plantation.

Every beel, haor, pond, tank and marshy land in Netrokona, Mymensingh, Sherpur, Jamalpur and Kishoreganj was once rich in lily. But it is decaying and production is now scanty in these areas due to siltation of the beels and haors.

Lily is being used in many purposes. Its creeper is used as vegetable and its ripe seeds are used to make fried grain (kholi), which is commonly known as *Dhyaper Kholi*.

Its food value in any way is, not less than any other vegetables. According to local physicians, its food value is higher than beet, radish, bean, cabbage and cauliflower. Lily is collected during the rainy season.

Local people urged the agriculture officials to take schemes to cultivate lily in open waterbodies by imparting training to the farmers.

Pye-dogs on rise

Alarming rise of pye-dogs in the district headquarters has become a menace to the town-dwellers for quite a long time.

The pye-dogs with scabby skins are seen roaming about here and there in the town and the pedestrians can hardly avoid their contact while walking along the roads and lanes.

School-going children are the worst sufferers. On their way to school the pye-dogs often follow them and the panic stricken children are to run for shelter, said the local guardians.

These dogs can be found in the meet, fish, milk and molasses markets causing a lot of troubles both to the buyers and sellers.

District roundup

BRAHMANBARIA

Donation for mosques

May 14: State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Harun-Al-Rashid Thursday distributed cheques worth Tk 1.32 lakh for 64 mosques of the district, reports UNB.

Speaking on the occasion, the state minister said, present government has been making all-out efforts for development of religious institutions of all religious communities.

He urged the Imam community to play a vital role in nation building activities side by side discharging their own responsibilities.

Deputy Commissioner of the district chaired the function held at his conference room which was attended by the chairmen of the concerned mosque committees.

SAIDPUR

Group photography of stranded Pakistanis begins

May 14: Group photography for the issue of Pakistani identity cards for the stranded Pakistanis was started here on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Organised by Pakistan High Commission and Rabita Al Alam al Islami, the programmes was formally inaugurated by chief patron of the SPGR (Nasim) Nasim Khan, at a function at Bansari camp in Saidpur on May 10.

The SPRGE leaders expressed their gratitude towards Bangladesh Government and Pakistan High Commission for extending cooperation for the issues of the identity cards which will help enable them to go to their much expected homeland Pakistan.

The function was also attended by general secretary of the SPGR (Nasim) and some local leaders.

MALJDEE COURT

Armed robbers storm houses

May 14: A gang of armed robbers stormed three houses at a village in Sadar thana of Noakhali district and decimated away cash, valuables and belongings from the inmates last week, reports UNB.

The dacoits armed with lethal weapons first swooped on the house of Ledu Mia at Masampur village and looted money and gold ornaments. They beat up Ledu Mia's wife when she resisted.

Afterwards, the dacoits raided the houses of Aminullah Master and Serajul Huq of the same village at the same night and looted goods and cash from the inmates.

Separate cases were filed with the local police in this connection.

Meanwhile, people of Aswndia union were passing their days in fear and panic as law and order in the area deteriorated further.

At least six dacoities were committed in Aswndia union during the last fortnight.

SIRAJGANJ

One run over by speeding truck

May 14: A man was run over by a speeding truck at Balsabari in Shahjadar thana on the Bogra-Nagarbari highway Wednesday, reports UNB.

Police said one Hossain Ali (37) was knocked down by the Bogra-bound truck from Nagarbari when he was crossing the road this morning. He died on the spot.

The driver fled away. A case was filed with the local police in this connection.

FARIDPUR

'BNP govt making parliament ineffective'

May 14: Awami League President member Begum Sajeda Chowdhury MP accused the BNP government for making the parliament ineffective by ignoring opposition demand for election under a care-taker government, reports UNB.

She was addressing Awami League workers meeting at Madhukahli and Boalmari thana headquarters on Thursday.

Reiterating the demand for election under a care-taker government Sajeda Chowdhury said, "No development of the country and no good to the people are possible under the rule of the present government."

The meetings was also addressed by Mosharrif Hossain MP, Abdur Rouf Mia MP, Dr Kazi Abu Yusuf MP, Aji Rahman, President Bangladesh Mohila Awami League and Bipul Gosh, General Secretary district unit of Awami League.

PABNA

Road links with rest of country suspended

May 14: Road communications of the district with the rest of the country was suspended Tuesday due to a transport strike called by a faction of the District Motor Sramik Union, reports UNB.

The indefinite strike was enforced Monday night by the BNP-backed faction of the union to protest alleged rigging in the union election held Sunday.

Striking transport workers alleged that Awami League candidates Mohammad Rafiqul Islam Rafiq and Sarwar had won the posts of President and Line Secretary by false voting.

Witnesses said the BNP supporters blocked the road by large trunk of trees snapping the district's communication with Dhaka, Rajshahi, Bogra, Jessore, Kushtia, Rangpur and Dinajpur.

More than 500 buses and trucks, and some 5,000 bus passengers coming from different parts of the district were stranded in Sadar thana following the road blockade.

Local people and stranded passengers said the district administration was yet to take any step to end the stalemate.

HABIGANJ

Uplift works of non-govt schools on progress

May 14: Development works of 33 non-government educational institutions in eight thanas of the district costing over Tk 2.75 crore are progressing fast, reports UNB.

Official sources said the works initiated by the Facilities Department of Ministry of Education are expected to be completed by July next.

Of the total, fought High schools in Sadar thana, three in Bahubal, five in Chunarughat, seven in Madhabpur, two in Lakhai, three in Amirganj, three in Baniachang and three in Nabiganj will be renovated.

Construction works on the project include construction of three class-rooms in each institution costing Tk 7.81 lakh.

Besides, two academic buildings at a cost of Tk 25 lakh will be built at Habiganj Women's College and Shah Jalal Intermediate College in Madhabpur thana, the officials said.

MAGURA

One killed in road mishap

May 14: A young man riding motor bike was killed by a running truck at Kashedi on Magura-Kamarkhali highway, reports UNB.

Witnesses said Khagendra Nath Biswas (35) died on the spot while his co-rider Jamiruddin (35), badly injured, was admitted to Magura hospital.

FARIDPUR

Tagore's birth anniversary observed

May 14: The 133rd birthday of 'Bishwakabi' Rabindranath Tagore was observed here in a befitting manner, reports UNB.

Different social, cultural and juvenile organisations arranged discussion meetings and cultural functions on the occasion.

Shilpakala Academy organised a discussion meeting attended among others by Deputy Commissioner KM Nurul Huda.

It was followed by a cultural show participated by noted artists of the locality.

Bangladesh Journalists Association and Kabi Jasimuddin Parishad jointly organised a discussion meeting on the life and works of the poet.

Shahtiya Sangskriti Unnayan Sangstha, Shapla Doel, Udichi, Natya Sangstha and Aniket also arranged discussion meetings and cultural functions on the day.

KISHOREGANJ

Kaliachapra Sugar Mills laid off

May 14: The Kaliachapra Sugar Mills in the district was laid off today Wednesday, throwing more than 450 workers and employees into uncertainty, reports UNB.

The Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation decided to lay the mills off for 45 days due to recurring financial loss, officials said.

Earlier, 323 workers have retired from job taking the advantage of so-called golden handshake. The mill has incurred a loss of Tk 40 crore since its establishment in 1970.