

Six snatchers rounded up in Brahmanbaria

BRAHMANBARIA, May 16: Six alleged snatchers were rounded up by the police in separate incidents in the last week, reports UNB.

According to police, one snatcher was caught by a guard of Janata Bank of the town while the snatcher along with his two accomplices was snatching cash Tk 4,500 from a client of the bank on May 10.

The arrested was identified as Idris Miah. A case was lodged in this connection.

In another incident, local businessman Habibur Rahman was robbed of while shopping in a shopping centre at T A road. He said he drew cash Tk 96,000 from IFIC bank and while paying the shopkeeper a gang of hijackers snatched away the entire amount.

A case was filed and police later rounded up five snatchers named Masum, Ramzan Miah, Ahmed, Hiru Miah and Mukhliss Miah from the town in this connection.

Meanwhile, in a broad day light on May 8, a rickshaw passenger was robbed of Tk 54,000. According to the victim, while he was going to Paitra by-pass road with the amount in his bag, an unidentified passenger shared his rickshaw at Kalibari crossing.

When the rickshaw reached at the by-pass the unidentified man got down from the rickshaw and fled away.

Later the bag holder found in his astonishment that his bag was cut off and there was no money in the bag.

Foundation of Gazipur district jail laid

GAZIPUR, May 16: The government is planning to set up one industrial unit in each jail of the country where the prisoners will be able to involve themselves in income generating activities, reports BSS.

This was informed by Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury at the foundation laying ceremony of Gazipur district jail.

Jute Minister ASM Hannan Shah and State Minister for Science and Technology Prof M A Mannan attended the function as the special guests while Inspector General of Prison Brig. Abul Hossain explained different aspects of the jail.

Matin said the jails of the country would be turned into correction centres gradually so that after release the prisoners could lead a healthy social life. "Several recommendations of the Jail Commission have already been implemented and the rests will be implemented in phases, he said.

Speaking on the occasion ASM Hannan Shah said the foundation laying ceremony of the Gazipur Jail was the reflection of the government's steps to develop the country's infrastructure.

After completion 800 prisoners could be accommodated in the jail to be built on six acres of land at a cost of Taka 8.85 crore.

Truck plunges into ditch, 4 killed, three hurt

SIRAJGANJ, May 16: Four people were killed and three others injured seriously when a loaded truck turned turtle and fell into a road-side ditch Saturday morning near Stalkhor poultry farm of sadar thana on New Bogra road, reports UNB.

Among the dead, three died on the spot. One was identified as Jobdul, 55, of Bahuga in sadar thana while the identification of two others could not be known immediately. All the passengers were cattle traders, local people said.

The other victim, identified as Abdul Hamid, 40, who received head injuries, succumbed at the Sirajganj General Hospital at 4 pm, hospital sources said.

The bodies were sent to morgue for autopsy. Witnesses said, the driver of the cattle loaded Sirajganj bound truck coming from Bogra lost control and plunged into the ditch at 9 am.

The driver and the helper managed to escape. Police seized the truck and a case has been filed.

Fugitive JCD leader held

PABNA, May 16: Police arrested a fugitive JCD leader, Montajur Rahman, from his Hemayetpur residence in a raid, reports UNB.

The Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader, wanted in seven cases, has been absconding for one year, police said.

He was sent to jail. JCD Pabna district committee activists demonstrated in the town against the arrest and demanding immediate release of their leader.



MADARIPUR: The mighty Arial Khan river is gradually dying. Water level has abnormally fallen threatening navigational routes. Picture shows a part of the river in Shibchar thana. Communication through this river from the area had to be suspended recently due to largescale formation of small chars (shoals)

Vast areas in Kurigram remains uncultivated

KURIGRAM, May 16: About 10,000 acres of land in different char areas under Kurigram and Lalmonirhat districts remain uncultivated every year. These chars are suitable for ground nut cultivation.

A source of Agriculture Department disclosed that ground nuts are cultivated on a few acres of land in the char areas. More lands are cultivated to grow sesame (teel), Kaun, and "dhoeyencha".

In some parts of char land, tall grass (locally known as Kashia) grows which are used as fodder and in dwelling houses. Natural causes do not permit to grow high yielding variety of crops in the sandy land.

Agricultural experts opine that sandy char land is suitable for ground nut production. About 30 maunds of ground nuts may be grown here per acre. But due to lack of proper motivations such a prospective cultivation is being ignored.

Only a few cultivators of the areas cultivated ground nuts with their own initiative.

It may be mentioned that a vast areas of river belt Kurigram and Lalmonirhat districts possess char land where ground nuts may be grown abundantly.

It is felt that planned scheme and assistance to the growers may encourage them

in ground nut farming.

The best union parishad chairman Zafar Ali was accorded a hearty reception by leaders and workers of Awami League, Kurigram district unit recently.

In this connection a discussion meeting was arranged at the local pourashava auditorium with Aman Ukil local Awami League leader in the chair.

Among others, Amjad Hossain Talukder, MP, Nozir Hossain Sarkar, Sheikh Reazul Haque Babul, Nuruzzaman, and Nurul Islam took part in the discussion.

Zafar Ali was adjudged the best union parishad chairman with other 41 union parishad chairman of the country and awarded gold medals by the government recently. He is the chairman of Kanthalbari union Parishad of Kurigram sadar thana and general secretary of Kurigram District Awami League.

Six families were rendered shelterless following a devastating fire recently at village Kashipur in Fulbari thana of Kurigram district.

Originating from the Kitchen of one Abu Taleb the fire soon spread around and destroyed all the houses of six families with all household belongings. The total loss was

estimated at about Taka 5 lakh.

From Our Correspondent

Seminar on Trading

A seminar on "Identification of Export Trade" jointly organised by Rajshahi Export Promotion Bureau and Kurigram Chamber of Commerce and Industries was held recently at the Kurigram chamber bhaban.

Presided over by Chowdhury Shafiqul Islam, President of Kurigram Chamber of Commerce and Industries, the seminar was attended by Kobad Hussain, Director, Rajshahi Export Promotion Bureau as the chief speaker.

Among others, Muhammad Abdul Haque, Deputy Commissioner, Kurigram, Chowdhury Shafiqul Islam, Ashraf Ali, Deputy Director, Kurigram BSCIC, Alok Karanjai and Abdul Aziz participated in the discussion.

Farmers' rally held

A farmers' rally was held at Fulbari thana sadar under the aegis of shallow owners and loanee farmers Association recently.

Presided over by Delwar Hossain, a local farmer, the rally was attended by Abdul Karim and Nurunnabi, President and secretary of the association respectively as the

chief guest and special guest respectively.

The rally was addressed, among others, by Majibur Rahman, Sekendar Ali, Badal Ahmed, Abdul Karim, Nurunnabi and Delwar Hossain.

After the rally a memorandum was handed over to thana Nirbahi Officer, Fulbari.

Skin diseases break out

Skin disease and stomach ailments broke out in an epidemic form in the town and different villages in nine thanas of Kurigram district.

Adulterated edible oil such as ghee, butter oil, mustard oil and milk, being sold openly in the local and village markets, are the main causes of the outbreak of the diseases.

Besides, sale of unwholesome eatables in hotels, and restaurants have worsened the situation.

It is alleged that the unscrupulous traders are indulged in this nefarious practice.

About 35 percent children between the age of five and eight years are living under breadline in the district.

A recent survey revealed that 30,000 children in nine thanas of the district are suffering from malnutrition and leading distressed lives due to

Daring dacoity committed in Kushtia

KUSHTIA, May 16: A daring dacoity was committed on Thursday night at the shops of Haji Ashraf Ali and Ganesh Das at Brabazar in the town, reports BSS.

The dacoits armed with deadly weapons broke open the door of the shops and made good their way with cash and kinds worth over Tk fifty thousand. Before they left the place the dacoits exploded bombs to create panic in the area. The superintendent of police and the officer-in-charge of Kushtia police station visited the place of occurrence. However none has so far been arrested.

A theft was committed on Wednesday broad daylight in the house of Professor Kamaluddin of the Islamic University at Mazampur.

Prof. Kamaluddin only a few hours back left the place for Dhaka to enjoy the Eid vacation.

extreme poverty.

The poverty stricken children are forced to take jobs as hotelboys, shoe polishers, brickfield labourers and bay servants to support their families.

Besides this, a large member of children are working in different industrial concerns despite prohibition of child labour by the ILO depriving themselves of universal Primary Education.

Chess Competition

The prize giving ceremony of chess competition '94 arranged by Kurigram Daba club was held recently at club premises with much enthusiasm.

Presided over by Munir Hussain, President of the club the prize giving ceremony was addressed, among others by K M Elahi Kazi, Secretary, Daba club, Shafi Khan and Munir Hussain.

Kalim Khan, a renowned businessman of Kurigram was present as the chief guest and gave away prizes among the successful competitors.

The recipients of the prizes were Zoumul Hque Dalu (1st), Hidar Ali 2nd, Golam Mortuza 3rd, Aminul Islam 4th, K M Elahi Kazi 5th, Baduzzaman 6th, Nurunnabi 7th, Nabarun Chatterjee Moon 8th, Kaisar Ali 9th and Rafiqul Islam 10th.

10 lakh students brought under CPE programme

BARISAL, May 16: A total of 10,63,040 students including 5,12,758 girls have been brought under Compulsory Primary Education (CPE) programme in 38 thanas of six southern districts under Barisal division during the current academic year, reports BSS.

According to primary education office sources, the total number of school-going children in the six to ten year age group in this division is 11,37,633.

The percentage of turn up is 92.

Of the total 3,35,136 students including 1,61,443 girls were admitted to schools in ten thanas of Barisal district 2,04,153 students including 1,32,860 girls in Bhola, 1,36,922 students including 67,969 girls in Pirojpur, 95,245 students including 46,129 girls in Jhalakati, 1,06,986 students including 56,586 girls in Barguna and 1,84,598 students including 89,500 girls in Patuakhali districts, the source added.

Besides, 51,733 students of 40,440 families in six southern districts of Barisal division have been brought under food-for-education programme during the current academic year.

Earlier the minister had a meeting with the government officials, public representatives and local elite at thana headquarters. He enquired about different matter with the local people and reviewed the progress of rehabilitation programmes taken after cyclone of 1991 and the damage by the recent cyclone.

Betel leaf cultivation badly damaged Tk 15 lakh sanctioned for rehabilitation

COX'S BAZAR, May 16: Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Abdullah Al-Noman recently visited some cyclone hit areas of Mohekhali thana under Cox's Bazar district and distributed various relief materials including rice, shares and lungis to the distressed people at the Boro Mohekhali union parishad premises, reports BSS.

Addressing the local people, assembled there the fisheries minister said, improved cultivation of betel leaf and betel leaf farming in Mohekhali were badly affected by the recent cyclone in spite of less damage to other field.

He said, Taka 15 lakh was sanctioned for the rehabilitation of betel leaf cultivation in Mohekhali thana in view of its

importance in our national economy.

He recalled the devastation of cyclone in 1991 in Mohekhali and said that about 26,000 bundles of CI sheet and more than Taka one crore were sanctioned for house building in Mohekhali distribution of CI sheet would continue for those who are really affected by the recent cyclone, he said.

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District roundup

NARSINDHI

Misappropriation of water body protested

May 16: The people of Sheelmandi union in sadar thana organised a rally on Tuesday protesting UP chairman's alleged misappropriation of a waterbody, reports UNB.

Abdul Hannan, chairman of Sheelmandi union parishad, allegedly grabbed the "Masimpur Beel" a waterbody of 500 bighas of land at Shahe Protap near Dhaka-Sylhet highway, under a fake deed in the name of his father Sundar Ali.

When the matter came into light, the local people brought out a protest procession and submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner of the district for taking necessary action in this regard.

Later they held a protest rally demanding punishment to the chairman. Presided over by Sirajul Islam Sarkar, it was also addressed by Babul Sarkar, Rahsid Nowsher, Habibur Rahman, UP members Hiron, Mizan and Mohabbat Ali.

It may be mentioned that the local people have been cultivating fish in "Masimpur Beel" and earning their livelihood since British period. The then Jamindar gave the beel to the local people for making their livelihood by fishing, it is learnt.

Local people also said the government tried several times to lease out the beel but could not do so due to their united protest.

They urged the concerned authorities to look into the matter and take necessary steps so that they can regain the ownership of the beel to maintain their livelihood.

PABNA

Hotspell claims two

May 16: Two day-labourers succumbed to sunstroke at Atalikola Bazar in sadar thana Sunday as hotspell continued to sweep the country's northern region without respite, says UNB.

Hospital sources said, Asiruddin, 40, of Nazipur and Tozaffal Hossain, 26, of Goyeshpur villages fainted at the bazar under a scorching sun at noon.

They were rushed to sadar hospital where attending doctors declared them dead.

Local met office recorded temperature at 42.6 degree Celsius Sunday.

JAMALPUR

Electricity supply workers hold conference

May 16: A conference of Bidyut Sramik-Karmachari Oikya Parishad of Sherpur district was held at its office here at Sadarghat road on Thursday, reports UNB.

Presided over by Raisuddin Ahmed, the conference was addressed by general secretary of central committee of the organisation Abdus Salam as chief guest.

Among others, local union leaders Abdur Rashid, Akhter Hossain Talukdar and Abdul Baten spoke on the occasion.

The speakers urged the workers to forge a greater unity under the banner of Sramik-Karmachari Oikya Parishad to win the coming CBA election.

LALMONIRHAT

RDRS workers protest forced retirement

May 16: Some employees of Rangpur-Dinajpur Rural Service (RDRS) Sunday protested forced retirement and demanded their jobs back, reports UNB.

They told a press conference at the local press club that the RDRS authorities ordered on May 11 the retirement of 156 employees of Kurigram, Thakurgaon and Lalmonirhat units in a notification signed by Alan Armstrong, Director of the NGO.

Without assigning any reasons, the protesters said, the authorities also locked the gates of the RDRS offices suspending all ongoing project works in 28 thanas in four districts, including Nilphamari.

The works include construction of culverts, bridges, schools and colleges and tree planting at a cost of Taka 50 lakh.

The press conference was addressed by SR Khan, Assistant Engineer, and Mojibur Rahman, Assistant Project Administrator.

Earlier, they submitted a memorandum of their demand to the Deputy Commissioners of the four districts.

TANGAIL

Projection meeting of JCD held

May 16: A projection meeting of the Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal was held at Karatia Sadat University College premises for the ensuring college students union election. The college students union election will be held on May 18, says BSS.

Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal has nominated Selim-Badal-Noman panel for the election.

Jute Minister ASM Hannan Shah and State Minister for Industries Lutfur Rahman Khan were present at the projection meeting as the chief and special guests respectively.

Chhatra Dal Central Committee President Fazul Haque Milon, Tangail pourashava chairman and some student leaders spoke on the occasion and asked the students to vote in favour of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal nominated candidates.

SAVAR

Hijacked goods truck recovered

May 16: Police Sunday recovered a rice loaded truck from Mirzapur in Gazipur district which was hijacked on the Dhaka-Aricha highway at Hemayetpur Saturday midnight, reports UNB.

Police said, a gang of miscreants numbering about six blocked the road with a truck, and hijacked the Dhaka bound truck coming from Dinajpur at gun point.

They fled with the truck loaded with five tons of rice after tying up the driver.

Later, Savar police recovered the truck along with the goods Sunday afternoon.

None has been arrested yet in this connection.

A case has been filed with the Savar thana.

BARISAL

Prospect of cotton cultivation bright

May 16: The experimental cotton cultivation in Barisal district has been found successful during the current season, reports BSS.

According to an official source, Bangladesh Agriculture Extension Department (BAED) took up a programme to cultivate cotton on 16 demonstration plots, ten decimal each, in four thanas of the district in the current season.

About 40 kilograms of good quality rupali variety of cotton seeds have been produced in each of these demonstration plots.

Two demonstration plots were set up in Barisal sadar thana, four in Bakerganj, eight in Babugonj and two in Gournadi thanas.

Seeds, fertilizers and insecticides were supplied free of cost among the farmers, the source said.

The prospect of cotton cultivation in these areas is bright, the source said.

PATUAKHALI

One outlawed Sarbahara Party member held

May 16: Police arrested one outlawed Sarbahara Party man from village Majhgram of Chiknikandi union under Gachhipa thana recently, reports BSS.

Police said that the man introduced himself in many names, and was a terror of the area. He had been committing terrorist activities in the area for a long time. But local people did not give out his name to the police for fear of the man. Police was searching him for a long time.

On a tip police recently made a raid of the village and arrested him.

MAJDEE COURT

Foreign obscene films being exhibited

May 16: Rampant exhibition of foreign obscene films through VCR is going on in all the thana headquarters including Majdee Court town causing demoralization of the young people for the last two months, reports UNB.

English and Hindi obscene films, including blue ones, are being shown at different places in the town on commercial basis, local people alleged.

The youths gather at these places at night and enjoy the films by purchasing tickets at Tk 10 each, they added.

Some guardians alleged that exhibition of blue films through VCR has been vitiating the social atmosphere in the town.



BARISAL: A group of females are rendering song at the Asurini Kumar Hall organised by 'Barisal Natak' recently.

—Star photo