

Construction work of Ullapara hospital not yet started

From Our Correspondent

May 18: Construction work of Ullapara hospital is yet to be started even after paying compensation money twice for the acquired land.

It is gathered that a total of 1.10 acres of land in village Bhattachakawak was acquired for the Ullapara hospital. Compensation money of land was duly paid. Later on 0.42 acres of land of the hospital complex was included in the by-pass road and prices of 0.22 acres of land was again paid to the land owners. Due to construction of by-pass road in hospital area, the construction of the hospital has been uncertain.

Late President Ziaur Rahman Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia committed to construct a 20-bed hospital at Bhattachakawak in Ullapara thana.

6 shibir activists acquitted

JHENIDAH, May 18: Jhenidah Tribunal Court Sunday acquitted six Chhatra shibir activists from the charge of terrorist activities, reports UNB.

The Shibir activists who were arrested under the Anti-terrorism Act are: Yousuf bin Abu Bakr, Zaid bin Mahfuz, Nuruzzaman, Shaful Islam, Suman and Md. Mohsin.

According to the prosecution, they were rounded up on November 6, 1993 for their involvement in damaging vehicles during a road-blockade created by them to protest the expulsion of some of their activists from the Islamic University and the terrorist activities of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal.

Public prosecutor M A Ansari pleaded for the government side while advocates Tofazzal Hossain and Omar Gani defended the accused.

Notes from Sylhet

From Our Correspondent

May 18: Five hundred ninety-eight pieces of forged notes of Taka 500 denomination (worth taka 2 lakh 99 thousand) were recovered from two members of an international gang of currency counterfeiters from Salutar Bazar of Sylhet sadar thana.

A BDR official informed that, two persons carrying the notes in a packet began quarrelling among themselves, suddenly at a stage, one of them made a hue and a cry. They were immediately gheraoed and the notes were recovered from their possession.

To other associates however, managed to escape during the gherao. On getting information BDR personnel from the nearby outpost reached the spot and took them into custody.

BDR suspected they were members of an international gang.

A case has been registered against them identified as Abdul Mannan of village Bismakandi under Gowainghat PS and Ahmed Hossain of Raynagar under Sylhet sadar PS.

Two girls electrocuted

Two minor girls were electrocuted at Telibazar area of Teti Union under Sylhet sadar thana.

Jarinia, 9 and Marufa, 4 inhabitants of a nearby kutcha colony met their tragic end of life when they came in touch with a live electric wire at about 11 am.

Electric wire in different areas of Sylhet were torned following a severe norwester in the midnight following Saturday. The PDB men did not take any step to repair the lines even after twelve hours. It caused the tragic incident which took two lives.

Torch procession

In protest against the recent hike in the prices of gas a big torch procession was brought out in Sylhet town.

The procession paraded the main streets and held a protest meeting at Ambar-khana point. The speakers called for immediate withdrawal of the increased price of gas, otherwise larger movement would be started, they asserted.

Diarrhea claims

six lives

Diarrhoea has claimed six persons in Banigram union of Kanaighat thana during the last two weeks. At least sixty others had also been suffering from the diseases in Baradesh Dakshin Gram and Baradesh Nayagram villages.

There has been acute scarcity of oral saline and other medicines in the affected villages. A medical has been demanded by the people as the diseases had been spreading to the adjacent villages.



SYLHET: Continuous erosion of the river Surma at Amolshid area of Zakiganj has engulfed a huge area during last few years. Effective steps should immediately be taken to arrest further erosion. — Star photo

Shortage of medicine, doctors in hospital People deprived of proper treatment in Satkhira

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, May 18: Inadequate number of doctors, shortage of medicines, beds and equipment in the hospital has been hampering proper treatment of the people of Satkhira district for a long time.

The 50-bed modernised hospital cannot cope with the increasing number of patients due to inadequate number of beds.

The existing beds can only meet 25 per cent requirement of the patients seeking admission. But surprisingly to note that this is the only hospital in the entire district comprising 18 lakh population which means that there is one bed for about 40 thousand people which is too meagre to meet minimum requirements worth mentioning.

It is essential that this hospital be converted into a 100-bed full-fledged modern hospital with adequate facilities such as experienced physicians, well trained nurses, instruments, and life saving drugs and with maternity, child welfare, dental, eye specialist with instruments and other arrangements.

If such arrangements are made the acute treatment problem of the people of this district may be minimised. Otherwise poor and middle class will have to embrace death for want of treatment.

At present most of the cots and bed sheets of the hospital have become worn out and are rarely replaced by new ones, it is alleged. A large number of patients both males and females who come from remote areas of the district, return without proper treatment for want of accommodation and medicines.

There is no ambulance in the hospital. The seriously ill patients cannot be shifted to Khulna or Dhaka for want of ambulance. In emergency cases the people can use the other vehicles on payment of Tk 2000 to Tk 3000.

The only X-ray machine in the hospital remains out of order most of the time. Patients are advised to have X-ray from private clinics. The water supply is almost absent and irregular and the patients and staff of the hospital take water from hand driven tubewell.

The drains, hospital floor and other places of the hospital are not kept clean and bad odour emits always. The latrines and urinals are hardly cleaned. There is no separate ward for patients suffering

from infectious diseases.

The government office timing is not maintained in the hospital and no doctors are available after 1-30 p.m., it is alleged. The visitors and outsiders visit the hospital every now and then and the patients feel disturbed.

Cows, dogs, and rams are seen moving inside the hospital compound. Sometimes stray dogs are seen roaming here and there.

When contacted, some doctors of the hospital informed the correspondent that there is no sufficient medicines in the hospital. Both indoor and outdoor patients are provided with only prescriptions. The poor indoor patients are to purchase medicines from markets. The patients of operation cases are to buy requisite materials.

There is no blood bank in the hospital and the patients are to collect blood from outside and sometimes bring blood from Khulna or Jessore. The diets supplied to the patients are not up to the standard, it is alleged.

It may be mentioned here that the construction of thana health complexes were completed few years ago but these are not equipped with necessary medical facilities.

One killed as rival outlaws clash in Jhenidah

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, May 18: One person was killed and a housewife was injured in a gunfight between two rival groups of outlaws at Malitha village in Sallakupa thana here last night.

According to reports Suranjan Kumar Mondal, 35, of Swarupnagar was killed in crossfire during the two-hour long encounter between Sarbahara Party (Ziauddin) and the Biplobi Communist Party of Abdul Haq.

At least three of the outlaws also might have been killed in the fighting and their bodies taken away by their comrades, the reports add.

The clash which began at 7 pm was a sequel to the killing of Shamsul Alam, chairman of the Sreekoil Union Parishad in Sreepur thana of Magura district, on May 9 by one of the groups.

A case has been filed with Sallakupa thana.

These thana hospitals should be made full fledged with minimum 50 beds with maternity, family planning, surgical, dental and other arrangements.

Apart from this, it is required that every union should be provided with health centres equipped with maternity and child welfare arrangements promised by the previous governments.

The Satkhira-Bhomra road has been lying in a bad shape causing untold sufferings to the travelling passengers.

This 15 kilometre long road was metalled in 1962 but for want of proper repair and maintenance the road has been damaged.

Innumerable potholes have developed on this road which are creating obstacles for the movement of vehicles. The transport workers said that plying of vehicles on this road will damage vehicles.

The owners of vehicles said that their repeated appeals, for repair of the road had gone in vain. They maintained that damage of vehicles not only causes loss to them but also causes loss of country's foreign exchange because the spare parts of the vehicles are imported.

The zilla parishad maintains the road but the authority did not take any measure to repair the road.

The anti-smuggling drive has been geared up throughout the bordering areas of Satkhira district during the last 16 months. The jawans of 35 rifles Battalion recovered the huge quantity of smuggled goods amounting to Taka 11 crores 21 lakh 30 thousand during the period.

Commencing from January 1, 1993 to April 30, 1994 last. A total of 139 cases were registered in 7 thanas and 185 alleged smugglers were arrested in this connection during the period.

According to the local BDR sources, the BDR personnel seized huge smuggled goods worth Taka 8 crore 9 lakh from different areas of the district during the period of January '93 to December '93 and Taka 3 crore 12 lakh 30 thousand during period of January '94 to April '94.

The smuggled goods which were seized includes, cow, sugar, salt, sarees, lungis, cosmetics, gold, utensils, medicines, union, blades, polyester, old garments, tape recorder, machinery, bi-cycle, cycle parts etc.



SYLHET: President, Bangladesh Prabin Hitoishi Sangha, Justice Abdul Wadud Chowdhury speaking at a reception arranged in his honour by the Sylhet unit of the organisation. — Star photo

Number of drug addicts on rise in Chandpur

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, May 18: The number of young drug addicts is increasing alarmingly in the district giving rise to the anti-social activities.

According to Narcotics Control Department office sources about twenty thousand people of the district have been addicted by various drugs.

Most of the addicts are young men and students who are addicted to various drugs like liquor, opium, phensidyl, Mritosangibani sudha etc. Most of the addicts visit pharmacies and medicine shop at night to procure the intoxicants.

Some dishonest traders in both urban and rural areas are selling drugs at a high price. The maximum of the addicts belong to age group 14 and 35 years.

It is alleged unemployment, family dispute and unhappy conjugal life were mainly responsible for inducing drug addiction. It is further alleged drugs are available in most of the medicine shops in town and in rural shops.

Despite govt ban

Extensive use of firewood in Gopalganj district

From Our Correspondent

GOPALGANJ, May 18: Despite government ban on firewood is extensively being used in the brick fields in Gopalganj district. There are over 40 brick fields in five thanas of the district most of them have no licence or VAT registration. The government has fixed Taka 60,000 as VAT for every brick field since 1992. It was Taka 10,000 back in 1991.

When contacted some brick field owners, said that they need not have valid licence in carry on the business as they have under hand dealing with the concerned officials.

Meanwhile, the government is being deprived of a huge amount of revenue as most of the brick manufacturers are running their business without licence or VAT registrations.

It is learnt that the brick field owners are using wood as fuel to manufacture bricks instead of coal for quite a long time.

It is mentionable that use of fire wood in brick fields is a punishable offence but the practice is going on under the very nose of the law enforcing agencies, local people said.

Taking ecological imbalance into consideration the government imposed ban on using firewood in the brick fields few years ago.

Some brick field owners said that they could manage firewood on credit but coal has to be purchased in cash. Following fund constraints the owners of the brick fields prefer to use fire wood as fuel.

Use of firewood, is causing destruction of valuable trees. On the other hand, the price of firewood is going out of control.

The people of the district have urged to the concerned authority to take necessary action against indiscriminate felling of trees for use in the brick fields. They also called for immediate action against the brick manufacturers who

are doing business without licence.

Gopalganj municipal area in poor shape

The Gopalganj pourasava has long been gripped with numerous problems depriving the dwellers of basic amenities which included dilapidated condition of roads, inadequate streets lights and lack of conservancy services.

Established in 1972, the pourashava stretches over about eight and a half square miles. According to the census report of 1981, its population stood at 45,000 and now it reached 55,000.

The pourashava possess a 188.89 kilometers of roads of them 36.42 kilometers are metalled and 128.82 kilometers are kutcha. Most of the roads in the pourashava area have developed cracks owing to lack of timely maintenance and repair works. The situation turns worse during rainy season.

The pourashava authority is least concerned about the drains. Most of the drains are filled with garbage due to which during rainy season the drains over flow the banks.

There are 150 light posts within the pourashava area. Most of which have no bulbs. Even the busiest pourashava roads and residential areas plunge into darkness after dusk for inadequate lighting arrangements.

There is only one market in Gopalganj poura area, Gopalganj Poura Bazar. This market remains dirty and unhygienic in the absence of conservancy services though poura authority regularly realise a large amount of revenue from these markets but they render no satisfactory services.

When contacted the chairman of Gopalganj Pourashava Hasmat Ali Sikdar Chhunu said, pourashava has been burdened with about taka one crore unrealised tax.

Intensive cultivation in 7 districts

Jute to be cultivated in 75,174 hectares of land

BARISAL, May 18: A total of 75,174 hectares of land have been brought under intensive jute cultivation in seven southern districts of Barisal Agriculture Extension Zone (BAEZ) during the current summer season, reports BSS.

The districts covered by this programme include Barisal, Faridpur, Madaripur, Gopalganj, Rajbari and Shariatpur.

According to an official source, the production target has been fixed at 7,30,158 bales of jute.

Of the total, 66,269 hectares have been brought under high yielding varieties of jute and the rest local varieties.

Altogether 5,370 hectares were in Barisal district, 22,300 hectares in Faridpur, 16,214 hectares in Madaripur, 9,300 hectares in Gopalganj, 12,640 hectares in Rajbari and 8,673 hectares in Shariatpur districts, the source added.

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) has distributed 30,740 kilogram seeds of high yielding varieties among the farmers of these districts.

Sufficient amount of loan has already been sanctioned by the government for the farmers of the region, the source added.

Four notorious members of the so-called Sharbahara Party have surrendered to the Kotwali thana police on

Saturday last, police sources said.

According to the source, a number of dacoity, theft, rapping hijacking, toll-collectors, murder cases are pending against them for a long time.

Police sent them to the court hazat, the source said.

Tk 1.13 cr projects for BM College

Construction work on two projects of Government Brojomohun University College of Barisal is progressing fast and is expected to be completed within June next.

The projects involve an expenditure of Taka 1.13 crore and included construction of a science building and a commerce building.

Over 1 lakh ton wheat output likely

A total of 1,06,950 metric tons of wheat is expected to be produced in eleven southern districts under Barisal Agriculture Extension Department Zone (BAEDZ) during the current season.

The districts are: Barisal, Jhalakati, Bhola, Pirojpur, Patuakhali, Barguna, Faridpur, Madaripur, Gopalgong, Rajbari and Shariatpur.

According to an official source, a total of 5,290 hectares of land have been brought under wheat cultivation in these districts under BAEDZ in this season.

District roundup

PABNA

Malaria breaks out alarmingly

May 18: Malaria that broke out in an alarming form in five villages of Chatmohar and Bhangura thanas claimed eight lives and affected 187 others in the last fortnight, official sources said, reports UNB.

However, the unofficial sources put the death figure at 20 and attacked about 500.

The dead were identified as Maziran Bawa (55), Torab Bepari (58), Hashem (15), Kamiruddin Malitha (70), Humukhan (40) and Joardar (22) of Handial, Hampur and Betarganj villages in Chatmohar thana and Sobeda Khatun (30) of Bhangura village and Tota Miah (60) of Khan Ada village in Bhangura thana.

Local doctors attributed the mosquito bite to the out-break of the disease. Millions of mosquitoes are being bred every day in the Atrai and the Ratnai rivers due to huge hyacinths and polluted water, they added.

Three medical teams have been working round the clock in the affected to contain the disease, it is learnt.

Another report add: A housewife at a village in Sujanagar thana of the district gave birth to three daughters at a time.

Monwara Khatun (25), wife of Asiruddin, a day labourer of Murshepur village earlier two times gave birth to twin children.

This time the newly born three babies died a few minutes after their birth, family sources said.

In their 10 years of conjugal life, Monwara gave birth to 14 children. Of them, eight are still alive.

DINAJPUR

Phensidyl syrup seized

May 18: Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) seized huge quantity of phensidyl syrup bottles from Kottola area of the town Sunday, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, BDR personnel raided the area and recovered 399 bottles of phensidyl syrup and arrested a man.

Another report adds: Indian Police handed over three alleged dacoits to the Bangladesh Rifles Sunday who were wanted by police in connection with several dacoity and other criminal cases.

Police sources said Gangarampur police of Raiganj district in India nabbed the three Bangladeshi dacoits when they entered into the Indian territory.

Kotwali police said the dacoits identified as Shamsul, Sirajul and Ashraf were involved in Tajpur Agrani Bank dacoity and other robbery and hijacking in the locality.

A case has been filed in this connection.

NARSINGDI

SSC examinee arrested

May 18: Police arrested an SSC examinee from the Brahmandi Government High School centre on Wednesday for not submitting his mathematics answer script after the examination of the said paper was over, reports UNB.

The examinee Mahbubul Haq (roll no 129060), has been appearing at the examination from the Baghat Noor Aftab High School.

According to the centre authority, Mahbub left the hall without submitting his mathematics answer script and came to appear at his next subject geography examination.

Hall Superintendent handed over the examinee to the police.

PATUAKHALI

Banks directed to renew loan for shrimp cultivation

May 18: Bangladesh Bank instructed the nationalised commercial banks, Krishi Bank and Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank to renew shrimp cultivation loan for the year 1993-94 in the coastal districts, reports UNB.

The Bank issued the directives to disburse loan for cultivation of Bagda and Golda shrimps in the coastal districts of Cox's Bazar, Chittagong, Khulna, Satkhira, Bagerhat, Patuakhali, Bhola, Barguna and Pirojpur.

For the districts of Patuakhali, Bhola and Barguna maximum credit limit for Bagda shrimp culture will be 60 per cent of the total cost including construction cost of embankment, sluice gate, project shed, guard room and purchase of fishing nets and boats.

Bangladesh Bank also requested the interested parties to contact the local branches of the above mentioned banks for detail information.

JESSORE

College teacher murdered

From Our Correspondent

May 18: Professor Sirajul Haque, of Nurail City College, was murdered by miscreants at Kundosi of Lohagara thana in Narail at midnight Monday last.

According to source a gang of unidentified miscreants butchered him while he was going home at Mongolhata from Lohagara Bazar. No reason of his murder could immediately be known. Police have already nabbed two persons allegedly for their involvement in the matter.

A half-day hartal was observed at Lohagara today to protest the dastardly murder of Professor Sirajul Haque.

Professor Haque, was the former chairman of Mollikipur unions or Lohagar thana.

COMILLA

Student leader stabbed

From Our Correspondent

May 18: The General Secretary of Comilla Law College Chhatra Parishad Farukh Ahmed Khokon was stabbed by some unknown miscreant in the evening recently in front of Kandirpara Kall Bari.

He was rushed to Comilla General Hospital and admitted there in a critical condition.

A case has been lodged with Comilla Kotwali thana in this connection.

In a meeting of the Oil distributors of the district was held recently. The meeting formed seven member "Comilla district oil distributors' samity" with messers Fazlul Haque Fazlu and Hedayetulla as its president and General Secretary respectively. Mr Zakir Hussain were elected Treasurer.

The foundation stone of Mia Abdulla Mahila College was laid by the founder, Mia Abdulla Wazed, MP in function held recently. It was presided over by Mr Nurul Haque, Principal-in-charge of the College.

Founder, Mia Abdullah Wazed, MP while addressing the function as chief guest said that more and more efforts are needed to equally educate the womenfolk of the country as they half of the nation.

KHULNA

Relief goods distributed

May 18: Jatiya Sangsad Whip Md Ashraf Hossain distributed about five hundred shares as relief among the destitute women of Diana, Jogipol, Teligati and Pabla of Khulna at Phulbari BK Government Primary and Pablafluiddin High Schools premises today.

The whip addressed a spontaneous gathering at Phulbari B K Government Primary School premises on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering he said that the government had been doing everything for alleviating the sufferings and miseries of the people by taking appropriated measures in time.

He said that the water stagnation problem of Beel Dakatia was being solved partly by taking effective steps by the government.

SATKHIRA

Housewife beaten to death

From Our Correspondent

May 18: One house wife was beaten to death by her husband recently.

It is reported that the killer husband Ayub Ali of village Mahmudpur under sadar thana beat his wife Amiran Nesa (28) mercilessly following family trouble on the day of occurrence and she died on the spot.

A case was lodged with Satkhira PS. The killer husband is absconding till writing of this report.

Nor'wester leaves 50 injured

JAMALPUR, May 18: At least 50 people were injured and one hundred kutcha dwellings damaged when a severe nor'wester hit the district on Sunday evening, reports UNB.

The worst affected unions are Awana, Pinbga and Pugalidigha of Sharishabari thana and Dewanganj union.

Standing crops on a vast tract of land were damaged and several hundred trees uprooted. At least 100 thatched houses were razed to the ground rendering the families shelterless.

A large number of telephone poles were also uprooted causing disruption of tele-link with various parts of the district including Jamuna Fertilizer Factory.