

'JS highest forum of solving nat'l problem'

DAUDKANDI (Comilla), May 25: Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain called upon the people to march forward to the production-oriented politics of BNP to help achieve the optimum goal of development of the country and give hard-earned democracy an institutional shape, reports UNB.

"The only motto of BNP politics is to attain the cherished goal of development of this country and its people", Dr Mosharraf Hossain said while addressing a workers rally of BNP and its front organisations at Daudkandi on Tuesday.

Terming Jatiya Sangsad as the nerve centre of national development activities and also highest forum of solving any national problem, the Minister said, it is imperative to make the Jatiya Sangsad effective and meaningful to strengthen the parliamentary democracy in the country.

The rally was addressed, among others, by district BNP vice-president Obaidul Hoq Bhuiyan, district Jubadal convenor K M I Khalil, Daudkandi thana BNP president Sadek

Hossain and secretary Shamsul Hoq.

"We should work in a body for making the Jatiya Sangsad effective and meaningful through our active presence in all its sessions if we want to flourish the parliamentary democracy", Dr Mosharraf Hossain added.

Referring to the opposition demand of care-taker government to hold the upcoming elections, the minister said, "it is simply unconstitutional demand as there is no existence of such government in the constitution". The demand for care-taker government is not only against the spirit of the constitution but also a sheer denial of people's verdict as people elected their government through adult franchise.

The Energy Minister while giving importance on working as per the dictum of the constitution to uphold its image and sanctity said, "constitution is the custodian of democracy and the people's right."

He again warned that violation of constitution only gives birth to indiscipline and political turmoil in the society, said an official handout.

Problems grip Chuadanga Sadar Hospital

CHUADANGA, May 25: The Chuadanga sadar hospital has been beset with multiple problems including dearth of accommodation, medicine, poor diet and toilet facilities etc. The hospital was established in 1971 with 50 beds when the population of the district was one-fourth of the present size. At present 80 to 100 patients are accommodated in the ward and verandas in an unhygienic condition.

The annual allocation of money for the hospital is inadequate. Moreover, dearth of medicines is prevailing in the hospital. The patients are to purchase medicines and other requirements from the market.

The condition of the operation theatre is deplorable. Dearth of instruments hampers the operations. The OT is not well furnished and well equipped.

The hospital wards are overcrowded with the patients. The bad condition of bed sheets, pillows, blankets and mattresses are also prevailing there.

The condition of female ward is deplorable. There is no proper system to accommodate the patients in the hospital. Both the medicine and surgery patients are accommodated in one bed.

The accommodation facilities for the female patients are very scanty. Many patients coming from far-flung areas are refused admission for want of hospital beds.

The sanitary condition in the kitchen as well as the wards is very bad. The tanks are found overflowing with dirt emitting bad odour, thus polluting the atmosphere in the hospital area.

There is no cholera and diarrhoea wards in the hospital. There is also no separate wards for the infectious diseases like pox, dysentery.

The unnecessary and untimely rush of visitors and mastans have become a threat to the patients.

Excepting the RMO and the eye consultant, all other doctors including the civil surgeon live outside the hospital compound. As a result the con-

cerned doctors are not found to discharge their duties timely, specially at night.

3 to suffer life term for murder

Three persons were convicted and sentenced to suffer life term for murdering a muazzin and committing dacoity and looting. Each of them were also fined Taka 5,000 in default to suffer one year imprisonment more.

The above conviction was given in a judgement by the learned Additional District and Sessions Judge (2), Chuadanga, Mr Azizul Hoque.

The persons who got life term are Lahu, Abu Taher Taha and Mohammad Montu. They were convicted under section 396 BPC.

Eighteen others charge-sheeted accused were acquitted in the case as no charges were proved against them in the trial.

The prosecution story in brief is that while dacoity was committed at some shops and residences of Jagannathpur bazar under Damurhuda thana of Chuadanga district, the muazzin of the local mosque was going to the spot after hearing the hue and cry of the inmates of the shops and residences at dead of night, while the dacoits shot the said muazzin to death on the spot.

The dacoits also opened fire while some other people of the bazar tried to come to the place of dacoity. As a result some persons were also injured.

The dacoits took away cash taka, clothes and sewing machine worth Taka 41,300 from there.

In this connection a case was started with Damurhuda police station. The accused persons were arrested by the police. Some of them confessed their guilt.

The police submitted charge-sheet against 21 persons in the case.

The learned court after examining the witnesses and case record convicted Lahu, Abu Taher Taha and Mohammad Montu for life and acquitted 18 others.

Despite huge deposit of pit coal

Trees being used for manufacturing bricks

MADARIPUR, May 25: Despite huge deposit of pit coal at the Pit Development and Exhibition project here, the brickfield owners have been indiscriminately using trees in manufacturing bricks, reports UNB.

Petro Bangla started exploring pit coal from Chouhaddi in Kendua union of sadar thana of the district since middle of the last year. It has already succeeded to explore a huge quantity of coal from the mine.

Sources said a huge quantity of pit coal have been lying deposited in the low-lying areas of greater Faridpur, Jessore, Khulna and Barisal districts.

According to mine experts upto 200 million tons of pit coal remained deposited in these districts. They said the coal found in the mine is high quality and easily combustible.

Petro Bangla has taken up the project for two years on trial basis. If it proves viable, the project may continue further and the government on the one hand would be able to earn huge revenue from it, and the cutting of trees for use as fuel would be decreased, on the other.

It was known that despite

the availability of coal, the brickfield owners have been using trees for burning bricks defying government ban. As a result, a large number of trees are being felled every day resulting in ecological imbalance in the area.

Dacoities committed in Patuakhali

PATUAHALI, May 25: A series of dacoities were committed at village Gerakhali under Patuakhali Sadar thana recently, reports BSS.

One villager was stabbed to death. The dacoits looted valuables worth about Taka fifty thousand from three houses.

About ten to twelve dacoits armed with lethal weapons committed dacoities at the houses of Shajahan Khan, Abdul Gani Muchhali and Bimal Dhupi at village Gerakhali. They looted cash and kind worth about fifty thousand taka.

As the dacoits were surrounded by the villagers they opened fire.



SIRAJGANJ: Devastating erosion of the Jamuna at Chatiantali in Sirajganj district.

—Star photo

Erosion of Jamuna devours new areas, homesteads

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, May 25: Water level in the Jamuna have started rising swiftly following the onrush of western hilly water. With rise in the water level erosion of Jamuna have been devouring new areas and homesteads.

In last one week, about 1200 families of Kazipur, Sirajganj Sadar, Belkuchi and Chowhall thanas have been rendered homeless.

It is gathered that every year with rise in water level of the Jamuna, erosion turns furious in the river belt thana areas. This year also, onrush of northern hilly water caused by heavy downpour have been

passing through the river Brahmaputra and Jamuna causing erosion in the riverine villages in Sirajganj district.

The worst affected villages are Meghal, Subhagacha, Natuapara and Tekani in Kazipur, Simla, Mestra, Mirpur, Saidabad and Chatiantali in Sadar, Randhuni Bari, Ranipura, Mulkandi and Zangalia in Belkuchi, Muradpur, Betil, Sihal and Enayetpur in Chowhall thanas.

During last one week, about 1,200 families of the erosion affected villages specially of Saidabad, Simla and Chatiantali under Sirajganj Sadar thana

have been rendered homeless.

The homeless people have taken shelter in different parts of the Brahmaputra Flood Control embankment.

The Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) have spent crores of taka to arrest erosion but all efforts were in vain except fruitful results from the groynes.

The people of erosion affected areas have urged the authority to take immediate steps of constructing more groynes to save vast tracts of land and homesteads from the devastating erosion apprehending in ensuing rainy season.

Piracy in fishing trawlers in Bay of Bengal rampant

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, May 25: Piracy in fishing trawlers and boats in the Bay of Bengal have become rampant. Hundreds of panic-stricken fishermen return to the shores in absence of security measures to protect them piracy.

About twelve dacoities were committed in the fishing trawlers in the Bay of Bengal during the last few months. Dacoities have also been committed in seven fishing trawlers and five boats near Golirdar, Mohekhali and Sonadia. A gang of armed dacoits numbering about ten to fifteen attacked the fishermen while they were returning after fishing.

The pirates looted trawlers, machine, fishing nets worth about Taka 25 lakh. Over a hundred fishermen were injured in other dacoities where the dacoits decamped with cash and goods worth about Taka 15 lakh at deep sea areas of Cox's Bazar in last four months. Some cases have been filed with the Cox's Bazar sadar thana and Mohekhali police station in this connection. In another incident, a fishing boat and fishing nets were robbed by the dacoits.

The river routes in Cox's Bazar have become the safe places for the pirates and consequently journey and carrying of goods in these routes is now risky. A large number of engine propelled country boats plying especially on Cox's Bazar-Mohekhali, Kutubdia-Cox's

Bazar, Matarbari-Cox's Bazar, Cox's Bazar-Dhaighata, Cox's Bazar-Banshkhal routes carry both passengers and merchandise. Pirates are active on these routes and boat dacoities are taking place every month.

In most cases, law enforcing agencies are not even informed about the dacoities.

The pirates use high powered engine boats and carry fire arms during the dacoity. The pirates are so organised that during police action, main culprits are not found. The local people have urged the concerned authorities to take steps to stop the dacoities on these routes for safe journey of the passengers and carrying of goods for meeting the requirement of the people of these regions.

Besides, in absence of proper security measures hundreds of fishermen have to return to their homes to pass hard days losing their boats and nets.

The fishermen and conscious people have urged the government to post naval forces and set up riverine police station to save thousands of fishermen from the frequent piracy.

Accommodation problem

Government, semi-government and non-government officials have been suffering badly due to lack of sufficient accommodation in the district headquarters for a long time.

Notes from Madaripur

From Our Correspondent

MADARIPUR, May 25: Private tuition has become a commercial practice in Kusthia town and its adjoining thanas.

Local people alleged that most of the teachers of both the government and non-government schools and colleges are engaged in private tuition to earn extra money.

The guardians alleged that the teachers hardly concentrate to teach the students sincerely in the class rooms. As a result the students find it difficult to understand their lessons in the class rooms.

Most of the students enrolled in primary and secondary schools and college usually employ their teachers as house tutors for intensive studies for good results in the examinations.

Local elite feel that private tutorial practice has become an extra professional business of the teachers.

Private coaching by the teachers in batches usually starts before and after the school hours. Teachers are said to earn handsome amount doing private coaching.

Private coaching is also being practised in the higher secondary and degree levels for securing good results in practical subjects.

Science students informed that it has become impossible to obtain higher marks without the aid of private tutors for having clear conception and thorough knowledge on the topics.

Farakka Day observed

Farakka Day was observed here Monday in protest against unilateral withdrawal of the Ganges water at Farakka by India and in demand for due share of water of the mighty river.

Bangladeshi Gabeshana Kendra (BRC) held a discussion meeting in the evening at its office premises to observed the day.

Presided over by the central Chairman Forkan Ahmed, the meeting was also addressed by Salim Farazi, Belal Khan, Abul Hasem Sohail, Borhanus Sultan.

The speakers, blamed India for unilateral withdrawal of the Ganges water violating international convention and urged all to be united to gain fair share of the Ganges water.

Chicken pox break out

Chicken pox that broke out in the district in an alarming form so far affected 150 people in four thanas.

The disease engulfed 15 villages of Sadar, Kalkini, Rajoir, and Shibchar thanas creating panic among the people.

It may be mentioned here that it is so far second time the disease has broken out in the rural areas this year.

Meanwhile, the local Health Department said that necessary preventive measures have been taken by the administration to contain the disease.

Due to persisting drought and excessive heat aus, aman, jute, IRRI-boro paddy, vegetables etc on one hundred fifty lakh acres of land are withering in Rajoir, Kalkini, Shibchar and Sadar thana.

Scarcity of drinking has been prevailing in the area as most of the ponds, canals, beels and rivers have dried up. Cattle are suffering much for want of water.

It is gathered that due to fall in water level about 40 per cent of the tubewells and shallow tubewells have gone out of order effecting irrigation in the area.

District roundup

JHENIDAH

Two killed in clash

From Our Correspondent

May 25: An uncle was killed and his nephew injured seriously by opponent group at village Padmanagar in Harinakundu thana of the district on May 20 noon.

According to police Aizuddin Mandal (45) and his nephew Rojder (25) was returning home after jumma prayer. Suddenly 20-25 persons lead by Ayub Ali of the same village attacked them and Aizuddin died on the spot.

Nephew Rojder was rushed to Jhenidah sadar hospital in critical condition.

A case was lodged with Harinakundu police in this connection and the body was sent to morgue.

Another report says: The pirates are active in the river Brahmaputra in the mid-stream of the river and also in the char areas for a pretty long time.

The passengers of the both country-boats and the shallow tubewell engine driven water crafts while travelling through the remote mid stream of the river, particularly in the eastern part of Sundarganj thana area, fell victim to the pirates who are allegedly moving there without any resistance.

The residents of the char areas are never spared from the tyranny of the pirates.

SAVAR

3 killed, 30 hurt in road mishap

May 25: At least three people were killed and 30 others injured in a road accident near Kalia of Dhamrai thana this morning, reports UNB.

Police and hospital sources said the mishap occurred when the driver of a Dhaka-bound mini bus lost its control and the bus plunged into a roadside ditch at 9 am. The bus was coming from Jhikha.

Two of the victims Sujon, 8 and another unidentified man aged about 35 died on the spot while another unidentified man aged about 55 succumbed at Dhamrai Health Complex.

Of the injured, 20 were admitted to the Dhamrai Health Complex and critically injured 10 others rushed to Dhaka for treatment.

The driver of the bus managed to escape. A case has been filed with the local police.

RANGPUR

Woes of patients at hospital

From Our Correspondent

May 25: The out-door patients have been facing untold sufferings in the Rangpur Medical College for long past due to indifferent attitude of the doctors concerned.

According to the allegations the doctors on duty never comes to the hospital in schedule time at 8 am, instead they are regularly attending to their duty two to three hours late.

Similarly the employees at the ticket counter are also found attending their duties after 9 am.

SIRAJGANJ

One commits suicide

May 25: A young housewife allegedly committed suicide at a village of Roayanj thana in the district on Sunday night, reports UNB.

Ahar Ali, a Union Parishad member, filed a UD case with the local police saying that Beauty Khatun (25), wife of Sukur Ali of Mouhar village, committed suicide by taking poison.

But her father Montaj Ali claimed that she was poisoned by her husband Sukur Ali following land dispute. They married five years ago.

The autopsy was done at Sirajganj General Hospital on Monday. Doctors found poison in her stomach.

HABIGANJ

One killed in road mishap

May 25: A man was killed in an accident on Dhaka-Sylhet highway near Mirnagar village in Madhabpur thana of the district recently, reports UNB.

Iqbal Hussain (35), Sub-Assistant Engineer of Sylhet Pourashava, was knocked down from behind by a Sylhet bound truck coming from Dhaka while he was trying to find out fault of his jeep. He died instantaneously, police and witnesses said.

Iqbal Hussain was going to his place of work driving the jeep, they added.

The autopsy was performed in the Habiganj sadar hospital.

Police seized the truck, but its driver and helper managed to flee the scene.



Professor R I Chowdhury, Vice-Chancellor of Chittagong University and Professor M Badiul Alam, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Chittagong University are seen in discussion with a group of under graduate students of USA when they called on them recently.

Chars emerge in Padma Kirtinasha river-beds

MADARIPUR, May 25: Innumerable chars and shoals have emerged in vast areas of the river-bed of Padma and Kirtinasha in Shariatpur district with the sudden fall in water level due to adverse effect of Farakka Barrage, reports UNB.

As a result, three river ports and 14 launch ghats remain closed for a long time.

Official sources said launch journey from Shariatpur to Dhaka, Chandpur and Narayanjan is being disrupted for hours together due to massive siltation at river Padma at Dulachar area, 11 km away from Noria sadar thana. Besides, the movement of cargo boat coming from Dhaka and Chandpur is being disrupted due to emergence of shoal at the river bed.

On the other hand, Padma and Kirtinasha, flowing by the side of Bogeswar, Angaria and Kazirhat ports and adjacent business centres, have dried up rendering the cargo movement of the ports inoperative.

Launch ghat of Wapda, Sadar, Kotapara, Vogeswar and Rajganj in Noria thana and Kumerchar, Khejurtala, Bilaspur, Akonkandi, Sadar, Kazirhat, Laokhola, Gopalpur and Joynagar in Jangia thana are not functioning for a long time.

Local people have to walk 8 to 10 miles to board a launch in Chandipur, Sureswar and Dulachar launch ghats which may go inoperative at any time. A project was taken up to

Engine driven boat increased in Barguna

BARGUNA, May 25: Plying of mechanised boats in large numbers in different parts of the district have thrown hundreds of traditional boatman out of profession, reports UNB.

The engine boats are ferrying passengers and cargo between Amtali, Banna, Patharghata and Sadar thanas of the district.

As the engine driven boats have steadily been increased over the years the traditional boatmen are passing hard days without having their daily earnings.

On the otherhand, journey by mechanised boat is often hazardous due to lack of system control. There is no device to control the speed of the boats during the journey and it cannot be halted swiftly in case of emergency.

In addition, these boats are driven in forward direction only as there is no gear box in it. Absence of lighting system is also causing accidents in the night frequently.



SYLHET: A big procession was brought out in Sylhet town to protest the recent hike in price of gas.

—Star photo