

Husband gets 14-year RI for killing wife in Mymensingh

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, May 29: Husband Rabintra Sarker has been sentenced to fourteen years rigorous imprisonment (RI) and a fine of taka five thousand in default to suffer RI for one year more on charge of oppressing his wife.

The judgement was passed on May 18 in the court of Rabiul Hasan, special Tribunal and second Assistant Session Judge.

According to the prosecution story, Archana Rani Sarker daughter of Girindra Mohan Sarker of Ramkrishna Mission Road, Mymensingh town was married with Rabintra Sarker son of late Surendra Sarker of Birishiri Dajinal village under Durgapur thana of Netrokona district about four years before. After marriage Rabintra was often creating pressure on Archana's family for a dowry of Taka fifty thousand.

On February 18, 1992 he took Archana from her father's house to his house and forced her to put signature consenting him for the second marriage. But Archana did not agree to do that. At this, Rabintra became furious and drove in a heated iron rod into her vagina when she was asleep at noon on February 20, '94.

Archana became unconscious due to heavy bleeding from her female organ. Rabintra told the neighbours that she had been attacked with sexual diseases. Then Rabintra abandoned her in the Mymensingh Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

Later, Archana's father was informed by the patients of neighbouring beds and he filed a case in the Kotwali PS against Rabintra Sarker and his four brothers. After the investigation, Police submitted chargesheet in the court against husband Rabintra Sarker.

Indian goods

rampant at Dhubaura

Indian goods are openly being sold for a few days in different hats and bazars at Dhubaura thana of Mymensingh district which is adjacent to

the Indian border. These goods are sugar, salt, bicycle, phensidyl, hemp, wine, heroin, glass, nets, tube-well pipes etc.

It is reported that the black-marketeers are running their business freely under the safeguard of the local influential persons of Kalshindur, Charupara Ghosegan and Dhubaura bazars of the thana.

Local people are compelled to remain silent as black-marketeers become very furious if some one wants to speak against them.

One elite of that area said on condition of anonymity that these illegal activities will seriously affect the country's economic condition. He also alleged that law-enforcing personnel are not active there and they are very rarely found in that area.

Scarcity of

card-phone cards

Cards of taka fifty and Taka one hundred of card-phone are not available on Mymensingh for about one month. As a result, general people are extremely suffering and government is also losing the revenue.

It may be mentioned that four card-phones have been installed at Mymensingh town to serve public interest. These are at T&T Officer, Chhota Bazar Post Office, Press Club and Medical College Hospital.

Persons who have no telephones and Telephone holders who have no direct dialing need the service of card-phone.

Four dacoities

in one night

Four dacoities were committed in a single night at Kuktugacha thana.

It is reported that at the night of May 13 a gang of armed robbers numbering 30 to 35 attacked Mollabari and Syed Munshibari of Bashiti village. Chakravarty bari of Jagannath village and Ramjan Hazi bari of Kutubpur village and looted valuables including gold ornaments worthing more than 2 lakh.

Telephone subscribers of Barguna face various problems

From Our Correspondent

BARGUNA, May 29: The telephone subscribers of the district of Barguna have been facing untold sufferings due to the malpractice of the local staff of the Telephone Department. It is alleged by the telephone subscribers.

Some of the telephone operators have understanding with a class of dishonest subscribers who get their internal and overseas phone connection easily. It is alleged.

The general subscribers do not get their connection after several reminders. The phone operators give lame excuses for the non-availability of the connection it is informed.

The subscribers, in case of emergency, are not given connection after a lot of request. On the other hand, the dishonest subscribers easily get it. They do not have to pay the charges even.

One subscriber informed that he pays monthly payments to the operators and for which they are given connections as early as possible. The subscriber also informed that the phone frequently and keep the line engaged for long time. The monthly payments also helps them keep their telephone sets always in order.

Storm kills 4 in Magura

MAGURA, May 29: A violent storm pounded a bazar in Shalikhtha thana Wednesday, killing four people and injuring some 50, reports UNB.

Officials and local people said the telephone exchange at Arpara Bazar collapsed under the lashes of the nor'wester that also damaged many shops and houses in the bazar and elsewhere in the district.

The casualties occurred in house collapse.

The dead were identified as Gmanendranath (35) of village Kulia, Nanigopal (40) and Akram Hossain (30) of village Turagachi and Rabiul Islam (32) of Kechhundi village.

Ten of the injured have been admitted to Magura Hospital while the rest 40 to Shalikhtha Hospital.

Of the 10 admitted to Magura Hospital, the condition of three — Alek Khan (65), Abdul Khaleque (70) and Hasina Begum (40) — was stated serious.

Power supply and telecommunication remained snapped following the storm that occurred at 4 pm. Several telephone poles broke down.

Damage to crops and houses was reported from rural areas.

The existing rule for advancing loan to the marginal cultivators of Barguna district through pass-books is not working properly. It is alleged.

Landlords and section of middle class people are taking agricultural loan in fictitious names depriving the genuine poor and marginal cultivators who are unable to produce security bonds. They lend money to the poor peasants at a high rate of interest.

Meanwhile a large number of cultivators of the district consisting of five thanas have become landless and destitute due to recurrent devastating floods, draught, and thousands of cultivators pass their days in misery following their indebtedness to the local banks.

Natural calamities coupled with abnormal low price of agricultural products made the cultivators unable to repay the loan they had taken from different banks, cultivators told this correspondent.

Meanwhile, several commercial banks including Bangladesh Krishi Bank issued notices to the cultivators to repay their loan within the specified period while the district was seriously affected by the devastating floods for several times in this year.

Being perplexed by the notices, cultivators were compelled to sell their land and other belongings to repay the loan as they incurred heavy loss of crops due to other natural calamities.

Due to oppression of landlords and money lenders who are the shyllocks of the age the poor cultivators had to sell out their land which were mortgaged to them due to financial stringency. Most of them are now living on begging.

It is alleged that a section of bank officials have been taking great benefit from the recipients of the free arranged non-productive loan.

On the contrary most of the poor and marginal farmers who took loan earlier are receiving notices almost every day to repay loan and other taxes; it is widely alleged.

The debtors said they have no other alternative but to repay the loans. Moreover, price of land throughout the district has come down to a great extent due to increase in number of sellers.

Barguna Zila Sadar Hospital meant for rendering improved medicare to rural people has long been groaning under manifold problems including shortage of beds, doctors, consultants, essential drugs and absence of blood bank, modern surgical apparatus and other essential appliances.



COMILLA: On the occasion of the 95th birth anniversary of national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam a three-day long programme was inaugurated. Agriculture Irrigation & Flood Control Minister M Majid-ul-Haq inaugurated the programme by hoisting national flag at Comilla Town Hall. Environment Minister Akbar Hossain see beside him. — Star photo

Number of landless farmers increasing in Kishoreganj

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, May 29: Landless and unemployed people are on gradual increase in all the thirteen police stations of Kishoreganj district.

The total population of the district is over twentytwo lakh. Of them, more than sixtyfive percent depend on agriculture, 10 per cent on different occupations and the rest are unemployed.

Among the agriculturists, more than 40 per cent are landless, 30 per cent with marginal lands.

According to reports, cultivable land in proportion is meagre, shortfall in output of foodgrains has become a regular feature in this district.

The cultivators having a few acres of land cannot cope with the prices of agricultural inputs. They cannot buy fertilizers, seeds, pesticides, bullocks and even a plough and harrow for cultivation due to great hardships and extreme poverty.

They are deprived of irrigation facilities as 'might is right' situation has been prevailing in the irrigation sector projects of the district.

Moreover, they never get even production costs of their

productive loan, it is further alleged.

It is reported that most of the marginal and small cultivators throughout the district have in the meantime received notices to clear up loan with huge amount of interests and other taxes within short time.

The existing rule for advancing loan to the small and marginal cultivators through pass-book are not working properly.

It is reported that a group of rich and middle landlords are taking agricultural loans in fictitious names in collusion with a section of dishonest bank employees depriving the genuine poor cultivators who are unable to produce security bonds.

This class of landlords lend money to the poor cultivators at an exorbitant rate of interests. As a result, the condition of the poor and helpless cultivators in going from bad to worse year after year and the number of landless day labourers is increasing day by day throughout the district at an abnormally high proportion and further worsening the position of antisocial activities which are on increase side by side.

But they are not getting loans as they are unable to provide requisite formalities. Bangladesh Krishi Bank and other banks of the district are distributing loans to non-productive sectors. It is widely alleged.

The employees of the concerned banks take "salami" from the recipients of the non-

Target of wheat output in Jhenidah not achieved

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, May 29: Target of wheat cultivation had not been achieved in last six years in Jhenidah district.

According to a source closed to Agriculture Extension Department six years ago in the year of 1987-88 target of wheat cultivation was fixed at 45 thousand 5 hundred acres but it was cultivated in sixteen thousand six hundred acres. Since then the target was not fulfilled in six years.

The source said, in 1988-89 the wheat cultivation target was fixed at fortythree thousand four hundred acres but the achievement was only thirty thousand twentyfive acres which was 76.97 per cent of the target. In 1989-90 the target was fixed at fortythree thousand nine hundred fortytwo acres and the achievement was thirty thousand nine hundred thirtyfive acres and the percentage was 67.33.

In 1990-91 wheat was cultivated in twenty thousand ten acres out of targeted twentyone thousand six hundred forty acres and the percentage was 70.88.

In six thanas as Jhenidah sadar, Salkupa, Harinakundu, Kaligonj, Kotchandpur and Mohepur, target of wheat cultivation was twentythree thousand six hundred forty acres and it was cultivated in twenty thousand two hundred ninety acres in the year of 1991-92. Here percentage was 68.45 only.

In 1992-93 wheat was cultivated in twentyfive thousand eight hundred thirtysix acres

out of targeted thirty two thousand one hundred 10 acres and the percentage was 80.46.

In the current season (1993-94) the target was fixed at thirty thousand one hundred ten acres and it was cultivated in twentythree thousand seven hundred six acres only which was in percent 83.36.

According to the source, high price and scarcity of quality seeds, disfavoured climate were mainly responsible for cultivation of wheat in less quantity of land.

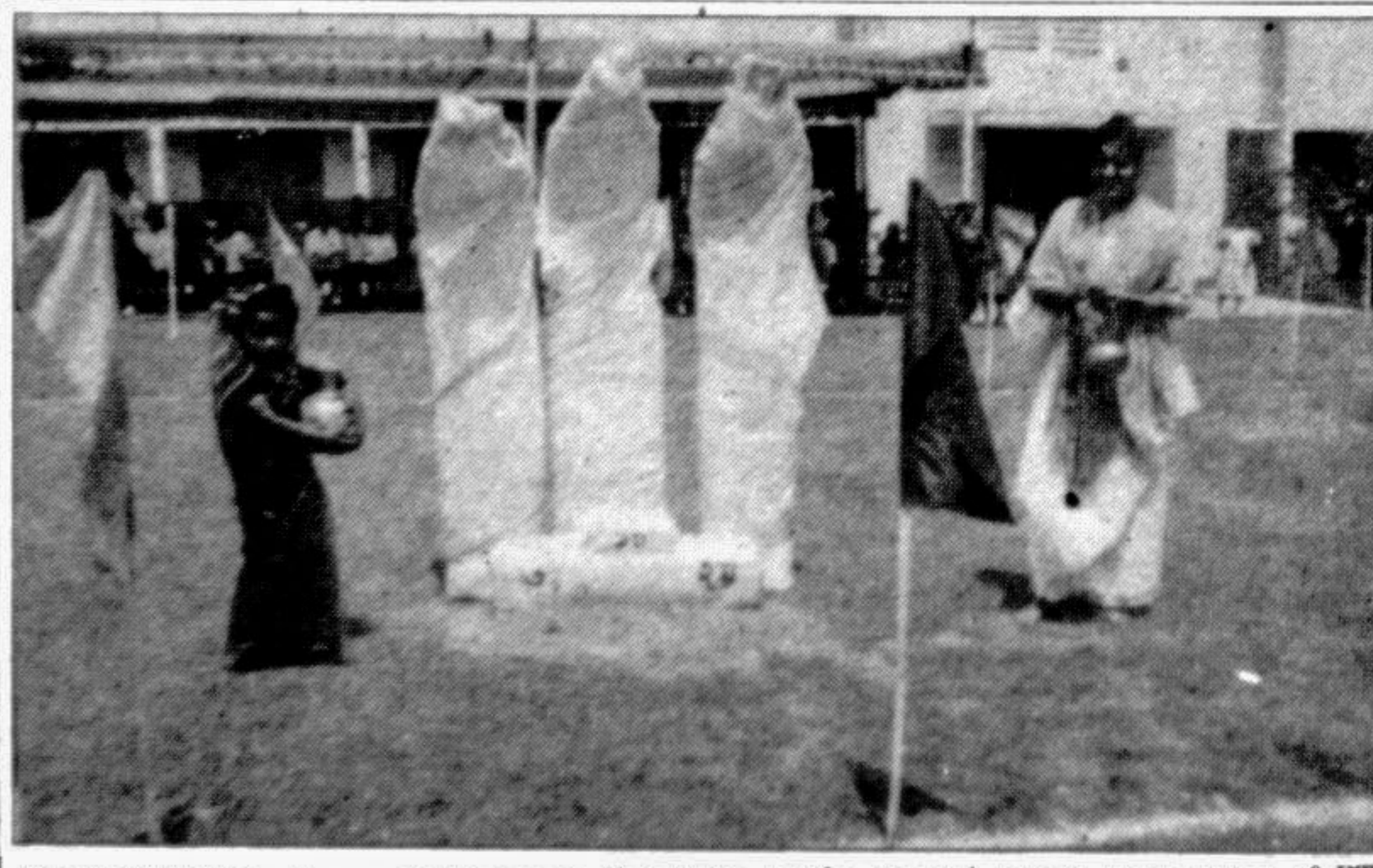
Further less price of wheat in the market could not motivate the cultivators, the source added.

One killed, 30 hurt in rival groups clash in B'baria

BRAHMANBARIA, May 29: A man was killed and 30 others were injured following a clash between two rival groups on Eid day at Barabari village in Sarail thana over plucking of jute plant leaves, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the deceased identified as Jamshed Ali (45) was killed on the spot when both the groups attacked each other on a trifle matter of plucking jute leaves. The seriously injured seven people were admitted to Sarail hospital.

A case was lodged with the police.



MOULVIBAZAR: An event Dress as You Like in the annual sports competition of PTI Experimental Primary School held at the PTI premises recently. — Star photo

Scheme to produce fry undertaken in Jamalpur

JAMALPUR, May 29: A scheme to produce some five lakh fry in the sadar thana Fry Breeding Centre has been undertaken during the current season, reports UNB.

Official sources said the fry will be sold to the farmers at a nominal price.

They said the fry worth about Tk 55 lakh are expected to be sold by December this year.

An official alleged that some local miscreants frequently attack the fry centre as it has no protection wall.

A seminar on 'Family: the abode of peace, security and progress' was held here recently observance of the International Day of Families.

Organised jointly by the district administration and the district Social Welfare Department, it was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner Hamidur Rahman and panel chairman of the pourashava Abdul Awal as chief and special guests respectively. Deputy Director, Social Welfare Department, Syed Ahmad presided.

The speakers stressed the need for increasing family ties to secure peace and tranquility in the society. They called for gearing up efforts in meeting the basic needs including providing security of children, more care to the old and retarded family members and respect to each other.

They said family is the primary unit of the society and its nourishment and prosperity are the pre-requisite for social peace and harmony.

Notes from Satkhira

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, May 29: The International Family Day was observed throughout the district in a befitting manner recently.

The district and thana administration planned out various programmes to observe the day.

To mark the occasion a big colourful rally participated by the teachers and students of different educational institutions and members of various clubs brought out from Shahid Abdur Razzak park in the morning.

They paraded the main thoroughfares of the town chanting various slogans.

In this connection a discussion meeting was also held at the local auditorium with professor Abdul Karim in the chair.

Samsul Huda, Additional Deputy Commissioner (general) was present as chief guest while Begum Jelena Chowdhury, Snigdha Haq, Mosharrif Hossain ASP Satkhira circle, Prof Maniruzzaman, Khalilur Rahman and Showkat Ali spoke on the occasion.

One gets 7 yr RI for dacoity

Tapan Kumar Rudra Additional District and Sessions Judge Satkhira convicted one Gaffar Sana of village Boreya under Kaligonj thana on charge of bank dacoity and sentenced him to suffer for 7-year rigorous imprisonment recently.

The prosecution case in brief is that the accused Gaffar Sana along with his accomplices armed with deadly weapon tried to commit dacoity at Ujirpur branch of Janata Bank under Kaligonj thana on September 18, 1991 last.

Shaftul Islam guard of the bank resisted them and was able to caught red-handed the said convicted Gaffar Sana.

A case was lodged with Kaligonj police station in this regard and after investigation police submitted chargesheet against him. The learned judge tried the case and found him guilty and awarded the said punishment.

Dacoity committed

A daring dacoity was committed at the house of one Sukesh Chandra Boral of village Nabatkat under sadar thana of the district and valuables worth Taka twentyfive thousand were also looted by the dacoits recently.

It is reported that a gang of dacoits numbering six to eight armed with deadly weapons raided the house and forcibly entered into house at dead of night.

They beat the inmates of the house mercilessly and looted away one TV set, bicycle, wall clock including cash amounting to Taka twentyfive thousand.

A case was lodged with Satkhira police station in this regard.

District roundup

MADARIPUR

Prices of rice gone up

May 29: Prices of different varieties of rice and soyabean oil have shot up in the local markets of the district in the last fortnight, reports UNB.

Pajam rice per kg is now being sold at Tk 15 against as against Tk 13 and per kg, coarse rice is selling at Tk 12 as against Tk 11. Besides, price of soyabean oil has shot up by Tk 10 which is now selling at Tk 52 per kg. The poorer section of the people are hard hit.

District Food Department sources said due to shortage of adequate stock of rice and soyabean oil in the government godowns they are not in a position to start open market sale operation.

Local people have urged the government to take immediate steps to bring down the price-hike of essentials by starting open market sale operation in the district.

RANGAMATI

Five houses gutted

May 29: Five houses were gutted and valuable worth about Tk 15 lakh burnt to ashes in a devastating fire at Contractor Para in the town on Friday night, reports UNB.

The fire originated from the house of Sujib Chakma and engulfed the adjoining areas which continued for one and a half hours destroying the dwellings and belongings.

On information, fire fighters rushed to the spot and extinguished the fire after frantic efforts with the help of local people.

Deputy Commissioner of the district Md Hasan, Police Super Nurul Anwar, Chairman of Rangamati Hill District Local Government parishad Gautam Dewan Chakma, Parijat KPM Sudipta Dewan and other government officials visited the spot.

BARISAL

More card phones booths to be installed

May 29: More eight card phone booths are going to be installed by T&T Department in phases in different districts of Barisal division soon, officials said, reports UNB.

At present nine card phone booths are in operation in these districts. Card phones were first introduced in the districts of Barisal and Patuakhali on April 20 last year.

Phone cards of Tk 50, Tk 100 and Tk 200 are being sold in different post-offices of these districts.

With the installation of new card phone booths a long felt demand of the local people would be met to a great extent.

Another report says: A total of 911 students from six southern districts of Barisal division were awarded primary scholarships this year.

About 11,872 students of Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola, Barguna, Jhalakathi and Perajpur appeared for the scholarship examinations from 40 centres in December 1993, officials said.

Of the total scholarships, 187 students were awarded with talent pool scholarships of Tk 50 per month and the rest 724 students general scholarships of Tk 30 per month, officials added.

Schools in Satkhira gripped with problems

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, May 29: Most of one hundred eighty six secondary and junior high schools in seven thanas of Satkhira district are plagued with various problems including teachers shortage, accommodation, want of furniture and other teaching accessories and educational appliances.

As a result standard of secondary education in the district is deteriorating day by day.

The paucity of subject wise teachers specially English Hindu religion and Agricultural science which have been made compulsory is hampering the secondary education to a great extent.

In one hundred eighty six secondary level schools, there is not a single one in which the students of the Hindu Community, are provided with religious instruction, although the subject is made compulsory.

It is to be mentioned here that four Government Secondary Schools also suffer from the same short comings as non-government ones.

Scarcity of English teachers has begun to prevail for making

KUSHITIA

Substandard life-saving drug flooded

From Our Correspondent

May 29: Substandard life saving drugs have flooded the markets of the town as well as rural areas of district.

It is alleged that mosses, fungus, flies etc are often found in many drug containers including saline and injections. The intake of such drugs endangers the lives of patients.

The mushroom growth of pharmaceutical factories was responsible for manufacturing the sub-standard drugs. It is further alleged. These companies obtain certificates from the concerned authorities and marketed their products with attractive publicity.

A section of physicians is patronising these sub-standard medicines. It is complained that the representatives of drug companies allure these physicians to prescribe their products by presenting attractive gifts.

JHENIDAH

Miscreant, toll collector held

From Our Correspondent

May 29: Kaligonj police arrested one armed miscreant and another toll collector on May 21.

According to reports, acting on a secret information a contingent of police force raided the house of Malu Das at village Bijpara under Kaligonj thana and nabbed him with a country-made pipegun later another contingent of police arrested notorious toll collector Hafizur Rahman from his house at Arpara of the same thana.

Six toll collection cases were filed earlier with police against Hafizur Rahman and he was wanted.

MOULVIBAZAR

Anti-social activities on rise

May 29: Anti-social activities are on rise in the district town deteriorating law and order situation and causing concern among the dwellers, reports UNB.

According to dwellers, crimes like theft, robbery, murder, gambling and prostitution have increased hampering the peaceful atmosphere of the town.

Meanwhile, hijacking and robbery has assumed an alarming proportion in the town causing acute problems to pedestrians and rickshaw passengers.

The guardians complained that moral degradation has been eating up the vitals of the young generation due to abnormal rise in the number of gay girls. These teen-aged girls are seen moving freely in different areas of the town enticing the youths.

Besides, rate of divorce has also increased in the district due to increasing poverty in the rural areas. These divorced women, mostly young, are resorting to flesh business to eke out their living.

Local elite have urged the authorities to curb the rising crimes by taking proper steps to help restore peace and security of the people.

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