

Founding day of BARD observed

From Our Correspondent

COMILLA, June 3: The 35th founding day of the Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) was observed May 27 through colourful functions including a discussion meeting on the 'past-present and future of the BARD'. It was presided over by the Director General of the BARD, Dr Salehuddin Ahmed while Azizul Haq, Ex-adviser and executive of the BARD was the chief guest. Dr Mohd Solaiman, Director Administration, and joint Director Mr Khairul Kabir, among others addressing the function.

The chief guest in his speech commemorated the past of the BARD and suggested some activities for the future. He attached much importance on proper use of water, afforestation, health and nutrition, family planning and pisciculture. He advised to work with hand to hand with the rural mass.

Director General BARD in his presidential address said that every one attach to nation building work should work with dedication and sincerity.

Other programmes held on the occasion included reunion, millad mahfil, sports competition and a musical soiree.

Five striking teachers hurt in baton charge

JESSORE, June 3: Five district leaders of Teachers' Action Liaison Committee, including a female one, were injured as police baton-charged on a sit-in outside the Jessore Education Board office here today, reports UNB.

The teachers of the non-government schools and colleges staged sit-in for the third consecutive day to protest the distribution of answer scripts of the SSC examination among some teachers opposing the on-going strike called by the liaison committee.

The committee alleged that police suddenly swooped on the striking teachers along with district Jubadal president Abdur Faroque and his associates leaving five of them injured.

Of the injured, Shawkat Ali of the Nowapara College in Avoynagar thana and Ratan Ghosh of the Zhikargachha High School in Zhikargachha thana of Jessore district and Abu Masum of the Pathargata College in Borguna district were admitted to the Jessore Sadar Hospital in serious condition.

The other injured teachers are Jabeeda Begum, Head Mistress of the Rupdia Girls' High School in Kotwali thana and Sekander Ali.

Officials said Jessore Education Board authorities could not distribute the answer scripts due to the demonstration.

Notes from Kishoreganj

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, June 3: Note books are being sold with impurity in almost all the libraries in the district headquarters town despite government ban.

Government has banned note books upto class VIII to discourage the prepared answers. But measures are not taken to execute. The order by the concerned authorities of the district.

Moreover, book traders are publishing substandard note books with fictitious names of authors and publishers which is full of errors and distortion of facts. These books are being sold at exorbitant prices in different markets of the district.

Number of rickshaws increase

The increase in the number of rickshaws has been causing a lot of sufferings to the residents of Bhairab riverport town over the last two years. At least 4500 rickshaws are now plying on the narrow 16 miles puca roads within 5.07 square miles area of the pourashava.

The roads specially in the main commercial areas of the town remain all along blocked by rickshaws causing hindrance to the movement of pedestrians.

The people while moving on the roads of the main town have to remain stranded from place to place for rickshaw.

The school going children are the worst sufferers. Apart from this, the rickshaws from the outlying unions of Bhairab pourashava make entry into the town aggravating the situation.

On the other hand quite large number of rickshaws both of Bhairab pourashava and outlying unions reportedly ply within the pourashava without obtaining any licence from the concerned authorities. Moreover, the rickshaw puller care a little about traffic laws and ignore traffic signals causing fatal road mishaps.



COMILLA: One of the biggest sculptures of Buddha was recently unearthed at Bhozbazar excavation site near Kotbari of the district. The solid bronze sculpture weighs 1,600 kilogram standing 1.4 metre high and measures 1.2 metre in width. According to the local historians, the sculpture was made during 7th or 8th century AD. The sculpture is believed to be the biggest archaeological discovery in Asia. Seventy more terra-kota sculptures were unearthed from Lalmai-Moinamoti hill area this year. Excavators believe there are more similar sculptures lying underneath. The Buddha sculpture is estimated to cost over Taka one crore. — Star photo

Mymensingh municipal authority offer little to its inhabitants

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, June 3: Mymensingh Municipality is one of the oldest municipalities in the country. The inhabitants of the municipal area are deprived of minimum facilities of the municipality. It is gripped with innumerable problems for a long time even though it is one of the biggest district towns of the country.

Urban people alleged that people from different parties and opinions had been empowered to run the municipality after independence but all of them have failed to take real and proper steps for mitigating the public sufferings.

Mymensingh Municipality was established on April 8 in 1869. It has been upgraded to first class Municipality on June 23 in 1986. But this municipality could not do progress in comparison with that of other big districts.

Now its area is 8.37 square miles and it is divided into 7 wards. About two lakh and 42 thousand people are its inhabitants and holdings are about 14 thousand. 211 regular employees are working here and 467 sweepers are on master roll. Its metalled road is 75.66 kilometres and 120.67 km is unmetalled.

In the Moderate Town Development Programme, many dilapidated roads have been reconstructed which were in very pitiable condition a few days ago. But at the same time, the work of gas line is going on. As a result, earth-heaps are remaining by the road side. Gas-line contractors are neither removing earth nor repairing the dug roads. Municipal authority is not taking any action in this regard.

Vehicles-jam is a very common feature of the town. Hawkers-shop on the foot-path of main roads and rickshaw stands here and there are making obstacles in main roads. On the other hand, lanes of the mohallas are so narrow that two rickshaws can hardly cross.

At Machhua Bazar Station

Embankment threatened by river erosion

SATKHIRA, June 3: The embankment constructed by Water Development Board near the river Kholepara at Durgabat under Shyamnagar thana is being threatened by river erosion, reports UNB.

It may collapse at any time and inundate villages around the embankment. Vast crop-fields and shrimp enclosures are also likely to be submerged due to onrush of river water if necessary measures are not taken immediately.

Two arrested on various charges

SERAJGANJ, June 3: Two persons — a warrantee and an alleged dacoit — were arrested in the district Tuesday, reports UNB.

Of them, Mostahar Ali 26 was wanted in different cases including assault on a local BNP MP, ballot box snatching, murder of Kamarkhand thana BNP president Jamat Ali and stabbing a Juba Dal leader.

Road and in front of No. 1 police sub station trucks are always loaded and unloaded, as a result vehicles jam is there.

Mymensingh is known as a town of rickshaws. According to municipality, now 4998 rickshaws ply in this town. But actual number is much higher than that. Rakeless driving of the unskilled rickshaw-pullers and defective rickshaws help create traffic jam.

Sanitary system of the municipality is still very old. Thousands of people come everyday to the town. But sufficient public toilets are not here. As a result, they are compelled to urinate hither and thither. The municipality has only four public toilets.

3985 service latrines are still in the municipal area. Gas, formed from these latrines, is very harmful for health and it is obstacle for maintaining sound and beautiful environment of the town. Municipal authority does pay heed to these complaints for that.

About 12 tons of wastes are gathered in its 92 dustbins and other places everyday. Municipality can clear only eight tons of waste. The rest are remaining gathered by the road side day after day.

Water supply is not sufficient for the urban people. Municipality can supply only 14 gallons of water everyday while the demand is 30 gallons. Most of electricity posts are not equipped with bulbs. As a result, a vast area always remains in darkness for long period.

Mymensingh Municipality is facing serious problem for the stagnation of water. Main roads and hat-bazars go under water even after a moderate shower. Then people's normal life seriously hampered. Defective

drainage systems is known as the main cause for stagnation of water. To remove this problem, authority took a plan few years back. But no real steps are taken till now.

When contacted Municipal chairman Delwar Hussain Khan Dulu said that they are trying utmost to solve the problems of the town piled up during the long time past. He mentioned that Town Hall auditorium is being reconstructed as a modern one with five hundred seats which was a long demand of the people. Chairman stressed on the public awareness as it is a must for solving most of the problems of the town.

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It is reported that the



NARAYANGANJ: The road side drains in Ramkrishna Mission area have no covering. The open drain pose threat to public health. The municipal authority has been ignoring safety of the inhabitants. — Star photo

Three feared drowned in boat capsized

SYLHET, June 3: Three people were feared drowned after a boulder laden boat capsized in the Gowain canal in Gowain thana during a heavy rainfall early Thursday, police said Friday, reports UNB.

The three people met the misfortune as they were asleep inside the boat when it capsized in the canal.

The victims were identified as Zaman Miah 35 of Burburia village in Banchharrampur thana of Brahmanbaria district, Modris Ali 40 and Babul Miah 35 of Gowain Ghat thana of Sylhet district, police said.

Meanwhile, the overall flood situation in the district has worsened further with the inundation of new areas in Gowain Ghat thana due to incessant rainfall and on rush of waters from the hilly areas across the border.

The newly affected areas are: West Jafong, Alir Gaon, Lengura, Rostompur unions of Gowain Ghat thana and 12 No union of Jointapur thana.

The road communication between the district headquarters and Gowain Ghat thana remained cut off since Wednesday due to the worsening flood situation.

Standing crops on vast tract of lands of the affected areas have gone under water incurring a huge financial loss to the farmers.

Freedom Fighter seeks justice

RANGPUR, June 3: A freedom fighter, who was assaulted by a group of local people on the Eid day at Mahoganj Shahi mosque in Kotwali thana, is now seeking justice, says UNB.

The freedom fighter, Manir Hossain, who is now undergoing treatment at Rangpur Medical College Hospital, was beaten mercilessly by the people after he protested a whimsical 'fatwa' of the Imam at the mosque.

His wife, Shamsunnahar Munir, at a press conference on Tuesday alleged that the local police were reluctant to the case.

She urged the authorities concerned to look into the matter.

Dates worth Tk 3.75 lakh seized

CHITTAGONG, June 3: Customs officials in a drive on Tuesday seized 21 metric tons of dates worth about Tk 3.75 lakh from a clearing and forwarding agent in the port city, reports UNB.

The dates, imported from Saudi Arabia, was seized from Jhoom Enterprise, a clearing and forwarding agent, for violating 'customs rules, official sources said here Friday.

They said the concerned company, which could not be identified immediately, imported 121 metric tons of dates surpassing its permit to import 100 tons.

On information, the customs officials challenged the Jhoom Enterprise while its workers were unloading the dates and seized the additional 21 tons.

For their survival parents as well as the children seek work.

Children between the age of nine to fifteen are mostly found working in restaurants, small mill and factories, motor workshops, welding shops. Sometimes, these children are seen working as rickshaw-pullers, mechanics at cycle repairing centres, brick field labourer and construction labourer.

These children are paid very little either as trainees or part timer. Most of the job seekers are bound to work at the minimum salary, as they have got no other alternative.

Witnesses said the accident occurred when the driver of the truck lost its control and fell into a road side ditch near Sonapur bazar under Sudharam thana. The injured were passenger of the truck sitting over the loaded truck.

All the injured were admitted to Noakhali General Hospital. The driver managed to escape immediately after the accident.

A case was registered with Sudharam police in this connection.

The person were injured here when a speeding truck fell into a road side ditch on the Sonapur-Char Jabber road Sunday.

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All the injured were admitted to Noakhali General Hospital. The driver managed to escape immediately after the accident.

A case was registered with Sudharam police in this connection.

District roundup

BARISAL

Massive wheat cultivation project undertaken

June 3: An ambitious scheme has been undertaken to cultivate wheat in Barisal agricultural zone during the current season, reports UNB.

According to Agriculture Extension Department, 55,000 hectares of land will be brought under the wheat cultivation in the zone comprising Barisal, Patuakhali, Barguna, Bhola, Jhalakathi, Pirojpur, Madaripur, Shariatpur, Gopalganj, Faridpur and Rajbari districts.

Besides, the Agri Extension Department of Barisal has set up 240 demonstration plots to acquaint the farmers with modern methods of wheat cultivation.

It is expected that the implementation of the scheme about 1.70 lakh tons of wheat will be produced in the zone.

Another message adds: Facilities Department of the Ministry of Education has undertaken two projects to construct new buildings for science and commerce faculties of the BM University College.

The projects would cost about Taka 1.15 crore, official sources here said.

Construction work of the two buildings is progressing fast and is expected to be completed by the end of the current month.

SATKHIRA

One awarded life-term for murder

June 3: A man was awarded life term imprisonment Tuesday for murdering his wife, court sources said, reports UNB.

The court also fined him Tk 1000, in default, to suffer another one year more.

According to the prosecution story, Abdus Sobhan of Chandpur village in sadar thana of the district mercilessly beat his second wife to death following a family feud on February 12, 1987.

After examining the witnesses and records Additional Sessions Judge Tapan Kumar Rudra delivered the judgement aimed the crowd court.

Another report from Chuadanga adds: Police recovered some arms from a house at Chandipur village in sadar thana on Wednesday.

Acting on a tip, a police contingent led by Sub-Inspector Shamsul Haque raided the house of one Abdur Razzak and recovered four country made guns after digging the floor of his house.

A case was filed with the police.

CHITTAGONG

Contributions of Nasiruddin, Ashabuddin recalled

June 3: Leaders of Chittagong University Teachers Association here Thursday expressed profound sorrow at the death of centenarian journalist and Saogat editor Mohammad Nasiruddin and eminent writer and veteran politician Prof Ashabuddin Ahmed, reports BSS.

In their condolence messages Dr Mohammad E Fazul Alam and Dr A N M Munir Ahmed Chowdhury president and general secretary respectively of the association said their contributions in the fields of journalism, literature and politics must be remembered by the nation.

They conveyed sympathy to the members of their bereaved families and prayed for the eternal peace of the departed souls.

Another report adds: Police arrested an alleged dacoit with arms and ammunition from Moralkandi village in Shibchar thana recently.

Police, following a tip-off, raided the village and nabbed Chan Miah with three pipe guns, one bullet and one dao when he long with his accomplices was preparing to commit a dacoity.

RANGAMATI

Shortage of drinking water

June 3: The town dwellers have long been facing numerous health hazards as the Public Health Department failed to supply pure water, reports UNB.

Local people alleged the supply water of the department from Karnapuli lake is not safe for drinking as it is usually found contaminated causing frequent outbreak of water borne diseases in the area.

Besides, a large number of residences have been built on either sides of the lake making its water contaminated by filth, they said.

The number of tubewells in the town was also reported to be quite inadequate to meet the demand of drinking water as most of them have gone out of order. No effective measures have yet been taken to repair them.

RAJSHAHI

Smuggled goods worth Tk 93 lakh recovered

June 3: The BDR personnel of 20 rifle battalion seized Indian contrabands worth Taka over 93 lakh by conducting anti-smuggling drive at different places of the district during May this year, reports BSS.

The seized contraband were deposited to the Rajshahi customs office and narcotics department respectively an official handout said Thursday.

Five smugglers were arrested and handed over to the police in this connection.

KHULNA

Adequate fund demanded for KCC

June 3: Khulna Unnayan Parishad brought out a procession Thursday in the city demanding adequate allocation in the coming budget for the development of greater Khulna, reports UNB.

The procession of about 4000 people marched from Shaheed Hadis park at 10 am and after parading the main streets of the city terminated at the same place.

The Parishad demanded allocation for constructing bridge on river Rupsa, setting up of Export Processing Zone (EPZ) at Mongla Port, airport and Cadet College in Khulna and early completion of Dhaka-Maowa road.

Later, they held a meeting presided by its President Abu Mohammad Ferdous.

Earlier, the Parishad called a dawn to dusk hartal on June 23 in Khulna to press home their demands.

Another report says: Facilities department of the Education Ministry is implementing a project to develop 13 educational institutions of the district at a cost of Tk 1.17 crore during the current fiscal.

The institutions are Khulna BL University College, Government Women's College, Azam Khan Commerce College, Pioneer Government Women's College, Khulna Zila School, Khulna Government Girls High School, Dumuria Government Boys School, Coronation Government High School, Chalna Bazar Government School, Paikgachha Government High School, Paikgachha Government Girls School and Fultala Government High School.

MDARIPUR

Workshop on discipline, peace concludes

June 3: A three-day workshop on establishing peace and discipline in colleges was concluded on Tuesday at the Peace Centre at Khalia under Rajoir thana of the district, reports UNB.

Jointly organised by Sampreeti and Society for Peace and Development, the workshop was attended by the members of the Sampreeti Rajoir College Peace Cell, educationalists, journalists and social workers.

Papers on 'Conflicting resolutions and peace efforts' and 'Importance of peace in generating academic atmosphere in colleges' were also presented in the workshop.

The speakers emphasised on the joint and concerted efforts of the government, political parties, guardians, teachers and students to establish peace in educational institutions.

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JAMALPUR

One killed, 25 hurt by tornado

From Our Correspondent

June 3: One, Halima Begum was killed and 25 others were injured when a house collapsed at Dikpath area under Jamalpur sadar thana here recently by a devastating tornado.

The tornado lashed 1,500 houses and damaged paddy on 5,000 acres of land.

Another report says: At least 41 persons were arrested from the district for anti-social activities during the last 10 days according to official sources.

The arrested persons were involved in different anti-social activities including dacoities, cowlifting, burglaries, and pick-pocketing.