

District roundup

GAIBANDHA Erosion renders 100 families homeless

FARIDPUR Conference of poets held

June 11: At least 100 families of two thanas of the district have been rendered homeless on account of erosion by the rivers Jamuna, Brahmaputra and Manash, reports UNB.

The affected villages are Analerchara, Fallarghop, Raydasbari and Mollarchar of sadar, Kanchipara Saldpur and Falupur of Fulchhari thana.

Abnormal rise in water level and erosion is continuing with heavy showers for the past few days. Dwellings of thousands of families on the bank of rivers Teesta, Ghagot and Bangali are being threatened and during the rainy season the houses may be washed away.

The affected people took shelter on the embankment. They urged the concerned authority to sanction relief for their survival and grant money for their early rehabilitation.

Meanwhile, about 50 houses of pourashava are also facing danger of erosion by Ghagot river.

SIRAJGANJ 48 victim of heroin addiction

June 11: At least 48 people died of heroin addiction in 10 northern districts in last one year, says UNB.

A survey conducted by a social welfare organisation revealed that at least 21 people died in Sirajganj district while 10 died in Rajshahi, seven in Pabna, six in Natore, four in Natogon, nine in Bogra, eight in greater Rangpur, five in Chapainawabgonj, six in Dinajpur, three in Thakurgaon and four in Panchagarh.

All the people who died of heroin addiction are married and left behind their wife and children but no wealth to support them. As a result they are now begging from door to door to eke out their living.



COX'S BAZAR: The Save the Children Fund (UK) has undertaken a re-housing programme in Nhila union, Teknaf thana of the district recently. The union was badly affected by the recent cyclone which damaged several hundred houses. The re-housing programme includes distribution of cash amounting Taka 1.63 crore to each of the affected families of the area. The total cost of the programme has been provided by the Overseas Development Administration (ODA) of UK which will directly benefit about 3,300 families.

Supply of ice not enough Fish worth crores of taka rot in coastal areas

BARISAL, June 11: Fishes of various kind particularly hilsa worth crores of taka are being damaged in coastal areas of Barguna and Patuakhali districts every year due to shortage and non-availability of adequate amount of ice during the fishing seasons.

Fishermen from Patharghata of Barguna district said, "We have both the problems, piracy in the Bay and the other one is non-availability of adequate amount of ice during fishing season." In the second case, they said hundreds of tons of rotten fish are being thrown away into the Bay due

From Staff Correspondent thrown away in the Bay, or stolen by the pirates said one fisherman.

The government should take steps to arrange for proper fish preservation process in the coastal areas. Cold storages should also be set up in sufficient quantity to preserve the catch, according to a businessman who preserves only a small amount of fish. He said, ice producing factories should be increased to facilitate preservation of more catch of fish in the area.

Establishment of larger quantity of ice making plants is

preservation to only 300 to 340 trawlers and boats, the rest of the fish either rot in the open sky or preserved provided, enough ice is imported from Khulna, Barisal, Patuakhali and other surrounding region. "This is expensive," says one businessman. "It costs a lot of money and trouble to bring the ice. There are risks, he adds, if the lot of ice melts the whole of the money goes down the drain." Besides, he further explains, transportation takes a lot of time.

About 300 to 400 fishing trawlers and small boats come to Alipur Bander, about 10

Miscreants throw acid on housewife

MAGURA, June 11: A housewife at a village in Mohammadpur thana of the district received serious burn injuries when a gang of youths threw acid on her, says UNB.

According to the family sources, Padma Rani Biswas, 30, wife of Parimal Kumar Biswas of Pachunia village in the thana was often teased by three youths of the same village for some days.

At last the miscreants, identified as Dipul, son of Nogenranath, Tapan and Dilu sons of Sukumar, gave a proposal for illicit affairs which she turned down and informed the matter to her husband.

At this, the miscreants got furious and threw acid on her body while she was asleep.

Three get four years RI each for kidnapping

From Our Correspondent

MOULVI BAZAR, June 11: Sub-judge of Moulvibazar sentenced three persons to suffer 4 years Rigorous Imprisonment (RI) in different terms on charge of kidnapping of school-student girl at Baralekha under Moulvibazar district.

The prosecution story was that, one Afla Khatun Shely (14), a student of class eight of Baralekha High School was kidnapped by a gang of miscreants on October-25, 1991. A case was registered with the Baralekha thana police on October-27 against 18 miscreants and police, after investigation charged.

On the trail, the learned sub-judge found 3 of the accused guilty.

Caretaker govt lacks accountability: Huda

RAMGARH, Khagrachhari, June 11: Information Minister Nazmul Huda has said a caretaker government is a weak government which does not assume power with the support of the people and as such has no accountability to them, reports BSS.

The concept of a caretaker government undermines the right of franchise of the people, he added.

Addressing a rally at the Ramgarh Government College premises yesterday the minister said that there was no guarantee that a caretaker government would be a neutral and non-partisan government.

Referring to the Opposition demand for a caretaker government the minister said that the person who would head such a government would certainly be a voter and cast his vote in favour of a political party which meant that we would have love and support towards one political party. So the government under him might be a caretaker government but not a neutral one, he added.

Arranged by the local branch of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal in connection with a freshers reception the function was presided over by Prof Habibur Rahman, Principal of the Ramgarh College.

Huda reminded the exponents of the caretaker government of the fact that a government formed through the mandate of the people could not be supervised by a caretaker one. The government having the mandate of the people and which is account-

able to the people could only ensure an impartial and fair election, he observed.

He referred to the existence of laws, rule of law, independent judicial system, constitutional guarantee for ensuring free and fair elections and an independent election commission in the country.

Besides, there are laws for annulment of police where rigging is proved, he said.

The minister said that the only question now left before the nation was how to ensure free and fair polls. "The issue whether this can be achieved by a caretaker government or by any other means can only be resolved through national dialogue in the sacred floor of the Jatiya Sangsad," he observed.

Huda said that the present government was the fruit of a free and fair polls. Wherever and whenever the people had got the opportunity to exercise their rights of franchise freely the victory went to the BNP and none else, he said, adding "so we want fair polls, the people want it and the nation desires it."

The minister said that the opposition was afraid of achievements of the BNP government.

The opposition parties were now engaged in interrupting the pace of development by creating an anarchic situation through calling hartals and other indisciplined activities, he observed. The minister called upon the nationalist forces to be more united to thwart the evil designs of these vested forces.

Hundreds of tons of rotten fish are being thrown away into the Bay due to absence of proper preservation facilities. Thousands of tons of fish are caught and brought ashore. Unfortunately, the existing number of ice making plants cannot provide enough ice for preservation of the entire catch. As a result, much of the fish either rot or have to be dried.

to absence of proper preservation facilities. Thousands of fisherman may leave their age old profession if they are not protected from pirates in the Bay. Some of the fishermen who faced this problem have already given up this profession. Only one third of the total catch is actually brought ashore for marketing and the rest of the catch is virtually

very vital in the coastal areas. According to a reliable source, thousands of fishing boats and trawlers are engaged in fishing from Bay areas. The trawlers fish in the deep sea while the small boats fish in and around the coastal region. Thousands of tons of fish are caught and brought ashore. Unfortunately the existing number of ice making plants offer ice for

kilometres off Kuakata seashore everyday during peak fishing seasons to collect ice from the local ice making plants. The two small ice producing plants can supply only 360 to 410 cans of ice to the consumers, whereas, more than two thousand cans of ice is required for the fishing trawlers and boats.

Shortage of fish preservation facilities is seriously affecting the fish markets of the coastal belt areas. The flaws faced by these fishermen must immediately be removed, to boost fish production.

Short supply of seeds may hit aman cultivation in greater Jessore

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, June 11: Aman cultivation in greater Jessore district is expected to suffer severe set-backs following non-availability of seeds ahead of the sowing season.

According to informed sources, a large number of farmers are returning disappointed from the Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) sales centre at Jhumhumpur in the town, having failed to procure seeds. It is learnt that only 61 per cent of the total seeds required for Jessore, Jhenidah, Narail and Magura has been supplied to this centre. Two hundred forty-five tons of seeds have been supplied while the actual requirement is over four hundred tons.

It is further learnt that arrangements have already been completed for distribution of the seeds through 18 centres of BADC in the area.

A source said that BADC has enough stock of aman seeds to meet the entire requirement of the area. However, lack of permission from the head office has stood in the way. The BADC, on the other hand, can not produce more than five per cent of the total requirement for the farmers of the areas. This situation has further worsened the crisis in supply positions, the source added.

According to another source, total stock of seeds available with BADC this year was 3000 tons out of which 2,500 tons have been supplied

to 22 sales centres in the country and only 500 tons have been preserved as reserved stock for emergency supply. The total requirement for the current season is twelve thousand tons throughout the country.

How the deficit of seed supply will be met is the question for all concerned.

According to agriculture scientists seeds output from BR-10 and BR-11 varieties is maximum. However, lack of technical know-how and preservation process have led to such poor production of seeds.

It is also alleged that a group of people are further worsening the crisis. The sales centres are crowded by these group of people who purchase seed packets in huge quantities and later sell the same packets to the farmers at much higher rates.

College girl burnt to death after gang rape

PABNA, June 11: Unknown miscreants burnt to death a college girl of the Putangi village in Sadar thana allegedly after gang rape, police said, reports UNB.

Family sources said Shaila Parveen Champa of the Iswardi Government College was kidnapped from a marriage ceremony on Sunday by a gang of miscreants.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS 37 More fragile champ 20 Drumstick 1 Coffee: slang 39 Letter Willard, 1915-19 24 Silkworm 4 Luminary opener 2 Four-letter word of puzzle-dom 8 Too proper 40 Have bills 3 To be, in 25 "Damn!" 12 Raid the ice box 41 "Abracadabra" 4 Toulon 26 Garbage barge 13 Circle 45 Festive bash 4 Barber-shop 27 Facility goings-on 14 Emanation 48 Narrow-margin win 5 Fare, often 28 Water, to Jose 15 One not suited for running? 50 Seed coat "Diamonds 29 Tucker's partner - Forever" 7 Cheese-and-beer recipe 32 Rangers' domains 18 Bind in a bundle 53 Mid-eastern strip 8 Anorak 33 "MASH" locale 19 Wapiti 54 Opposite of avec 9 Actress 35 Non-Gentile 21 Army rank: abbr. 55 "L.A. Law" 10 Anger 36 Tempt-resses 22 Lab vessel alumna 11 Angered 38 Eucalyptivore 26 Zoo DOWN 16 USA 39 Disdainful rejection 29 Tom 1 Heavy-weight 42 Pallet 43 Far, in combinations 30 Nest-egg acct. RASH FUEL NOD ALLI ARGO OPA FLOTATION TUB TATTLE GRASS EF AWAIT 31 Pet-shop purchase PURR FIR PIAF ISO ALE ONE GATS LEN SNOW APPLY SN 34 Columbus sch. ALTAI SEANCE LEI QUOTATION EDO URDU CLOD CAN ERBAN HENS 35 Exemplar of patience 46 Coach Parseshian 47 Claiborne of fashion 36 Malt-shop treats 49 Sine-non link

Cryptogram puzzle grid with numbers 1-55 and letters A-Z.

CRYPTOQUIP ANMLKZT PYBVYMB JQRNB RXY QZNE M JQLS QZ VYP VMKP, AQP AYMP Q A M SPRXV AKPY. Yesterday's Cryptquip: CONCEITED TENOR, AT THE OPERA, WARMED UP WITH "ME ME ME." Today's Cryptquip clue: A equals F The Cryptquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

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