

National

District roundup

RAJSHAHI

Production of silk declines

June 17: Silk production has been declining in the district for the last five years due to various reasons including shortage of capital, inconsistency in policy, labour unrest and weak management system, reports UNB.

Bangladesh Sericulture Board sources said during current season 3.89 lakh kgs of cocoon have been produced which was 5.05 lakh kg during the year 1992-93.

Besides, raw silk or yarn production has also been declining for the reduction in production of cocoon. The production of yarn was 0.21 lakh kg till April of this year which was 0.28 lakh kg during the 1992-93, the source added.

Earlier, to ensure the supply of yarn, government reduced yarn imported tax from 30 per cent to 7 and a half per cent. But it could not improve production. Moreover, the imported yarn captured the market as it is being sold at a lower price than that of country made one.

About 4.57 lakh metre silk cloth have been produced during the last year, the sources added. On the other hand, about 25 per cent of 10,000 private sector looms have been stopped during the last five years due to decline in production of silk and cocoon.

COMILLA

Daring dacoity, Tk 1.50 lakh looted

June 17: Valuables worth about Tk 1.50 lakh were looted in a daring dacoity at a residence in the town on May 7, reports UNB.

Police said, a gang of dacoits entered the residence of Hosna Ara Begum, daughter of Advocate Nazrul Islam at dead of night by cutting the window grills. They tied the inmates at gun point decamped with the booty.

A case was registered with the police.

Another report says: An auto-rickshaw-passenger was killed and other two people were injured in an accident on Comilla-Lakmai road on May 6.

Witnesses said, the vehicle met the accident when it collided with a bus heading towards Comilla.

FENI

Two meet unnatural deaths

June 17: Two people including a housewife met unnatural deaths on the same day at Dagonbulyan thana in the district, reports UNB.

The dead were identified as Jharna Begum (22) of Abulnabi village and Abdul Haq of Karimulahpur village. The incidents occurred on May 30.

According to neighbours, Jharna was strangled to death by her in-laws who later poured poison into her mouth to prove that she committed suicide.

Abdul Haq was found dead mysteriously at his house. Local people suspected that he was killed by poisoning.

MAGURA

Two commit suicide

June 17: A young man and his teen-aged girl friend allegedly committed suicide together by taking poison in sadar thana, hospital sources said, reports UNB.

They are: Nargis Begum (15), daughter of Eradat Hossain of village Batikabir in Magura sadar and Golam Hossain (22) son of Abdul Makek of village Madhalupur of the same thana.

According to villagers, Nargis and Golam had an affair for a long time. The guardians imposed a tight restriction on them when they came to know the matter.

Finding no other way out both the paramours took poison to commit suicide at a time on June 6. They were rushed to sadar hospital where they succumbed on the following day.

SIRAJGANJ

30 injured in clash

June 17: Some 30 people were injured in a clash over the grazing of cattle between the villagers of Nukali and Alokdia is Shahjadpur thana recently, reports UNB.

Several hundred trucks and buses were halted in traffic jam on the Bogra-Nagarbari highway during the hour-long clash.

Police said six of the injured were admitted to Putazia Health Complex.

Shahjadpur police intervened and brought the situation under control. None was arrested. A case was lodged.

NETRAKONA

Eye disease breaks out

June 17: Conjunctivitis, a contagious eye-disease has broken out in an epidemic form in almost every part of the district, reports UNB.

Most affected thanas are: Atpara, Madan, Kendua and sadar thanas. Symptoms of the disease included eyeball-swelling, fluid discharge from the effected eye, sensation of foreign elements inside the eyes inflammation and turning the eyeballs red.

It is reported that Chlorophyll ointment which is usually prescribed by doctors for this type of disease is not working.

SHERPUR

Target of jute output may not be achieved

June 17: The target production of jute in the district could not be achieved this year due to shortage of inputs, farmers said, reports UNB.

Agriculture Extension Office said about 20,000 acres of land was earmarked for jute cultivation during the current season but only 17,250 acres of land could be brought under the cultivation.

According to farmers a good number of them could not prepare land for the cultivation of jute due to short supply of seeds and lack of irrigation facilities.

BSF men interfere in bridge construction

LALMONIRHAT, June 17: Construction of a bridge at Dahgram-Angarpota enclave was suspended due to interference by the Indian border guards on Wednesday, says UNB.

According to villagers, armed BSF men crossed 40 yards into the Bangladeshi territory and compelled the workers to stop the construction of the bridge, which is nearing completion.

Chairman and two UP members of Patgram Union met the BSF officials and apprised them of Wednesday's incident.

However, the Indian side reportedly turned down their request to allow them to resume construction. The Chairman also informed the nearest BDR camp of the situation.

Till late Thursday night, the dispute could not be settled.

Three arrested on charge of kidnapping

NARAYANGANJ, June 17: Police in a drive arrested three people early from different areas of the town for allegedly kidnapping a teenaged boy from Nimgoli, reports UNB.

Bimal, Hanif and Kali were accused of kidnapping Gopal Chandra Sutradhar on June 7. They picked him up into a microbus from in front of a hotel.

The suspected kidnappers demanded Tk five lakh in ransom from Gopal's father, Sri Krishna Sutradhar. They phoned Khokon Sutradhar, uncle of the victim, on June 9.

Krishna informed the Anti-Terrorism Committee, a non-government organisation, and police of the incident.

Khokon Sutradhar informed police that the gang had already taken Tk two lakh from him by threatening to kidnap his nephew.

Shoals emerge in rivers in southern districts

KHULNA, June 17: River traffic in 14 routes of the southern region of the country is being hampered as numerous shoals have emerged in nine rivers affecting commercial activities adversely, reports UNB.

Boatmen said a large number of shoals have emerged in different parts of the Kotpokhsha, Bhadra, Bhairab, Nabanganga, Madhumati, Chitra, Kumar, Begtai and Fati rivers.

They also said water level in the rivers has also fallen sharply due to adverse effect of the Farakka.

On the other hand, salinity of the river water has been increasing intensifying the problems of the farmers.

According to experts if immediate steps are not taken to increase the flow of river water by adopting alternative arrangements the entire region will face gradual desertification.

They also stressed the need for regular dredging in the river-beds to remove the silts to help keep navigation possible.

Numerous traders and brokers from different parts of the country including Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and

Rajshahi.

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