

Robberies in Manikganj, Narsingdi

MANIKGANJ, July 31: Armed dacoits looted Taka 3 lakh from the passengers of a night coach on the Dhaka-Aricha highway injuring 10 of them in the attack, recently reports UNB.

Police said seriously wounded helper Nawshad (18) of the Darshana-bound bus was admitted to a hospital. The rest were released after first aid.

A gang of dacoits who boarded the bus at Gabtali in disguise of passengers, overpowered the driver at gun point near Golora in sadar thana at about 9:45 pm and snatched valuables, including eight tolas of gold ornament, and about Tk 65,000 from the passengers.

The bandits fled when the bus reached Moujan, 3 km off the Manikganj bus stand, at about 10:15 pm.

There was no police or anar guard in the night coach, and no police patrol seen on the highway during the holdup.

Another report says dacoits looted valuables worth about Taka one lakh from two adjacent houses at Kamargaon village in Shibpur thana.

A gang of armed dacoits numbering 30-35 entered the houses of Absaruddin and his brother Siraj Master simultaneously by breaking the doors at mid-night.

Family sources said the dacoits entered the houses and beat the inmates and looted cash, gold, clothes and other goods. The robbers managed to escape with the booty.

A case has been filed with the Shibpur police.

The houseowners alleged that while the dacoits swooped on their houses they sent Nazrul Islam to the nearest police outpost situated in the local bazar for immediate help but in spite of arresting the dacoits they beat the informer in their camp mercilessly.

They also said they informed the matter to the Police Superintendent of the district for necessary action.

Local people alleged that the dacoities and other criminal activities in the area are being held with the connivance of some dishonest police officials.



GAIBANDHA: The water level in river Brahmaputra continues to rise engulfing hundreds of acres of land. The Fulchhari thana parishad building was also threatened by the river erosion.

Achievement of BINA scientist

Summer tomatoes in markets soon

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, July 31: The scientists of Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture (BINA), Mymensingh have invented two new varieties of summer tomatoes.

BINA scientists have been successful to produce the new variety of tomatoes by making cross multiplication between Bahar, a high yield variety of winter tomato and a foreign variety of summer tomato.

Shamsad Begum, a Senior Scientific Officer of BINA has been working with summer tomato for a few years. She informed that summer-tomato generally becomes small in size and sour but the size and taste of this summer variety is almost as that of the winter variety.

One plant gives 12 to 16 and average weight of each one is 100 gram. It contains much vitamin C. She mentioned that its research work is almost in final stage and it will be possible to take this variety to the field of farmers very soon.

It is also reported that it will be used to prepare different kinds of foods such as salad, soup, vegetables and various subsidiary. The farmers will also be benefited by increasing demand of summer tomato as it is a untimely production.

The seedling of this tomato would be planted in March. Tomatoes will be available after 60 to 70 days. Thirty to thirty five tons of tomatoes is expected to be produced in one hectare of land. The land, where water does not stand is to be selected for tomato cultivation. The roof, empty place

and house-premises may be used for tomato garden. Polythene is to be used as cover to give it protection from excessive rain and bamboo poles not to lean the tomato plant.

BINA scientist are carrying their research with paddy, jute, pulse, oil-seed and chemical manure. UFSH (High yield variety), their research products and its technology have been very much popular to the farmers. This variety of summer tomato is one of their successful research works.

The Graduate Training Institute (GTI) of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) has conducted 27 training course, and five national workshop in the last fiscal year.

In 1993-94, five hundred graduates of 16 organisations including some experts and scientist from India, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka participated in the training course, while 250 teachers, officers and journalists took part in the five workshops.

The subjects of the training programmes were agricultural research, project preparing, irrigation management, statistics in research, technology transfer and communication, office management, technical report writing, population-education and agriculture and nutrition.

The senior professors and officers of BAU and officers and researchers from Agriculture Research Institute (ARI), Agriculture Research Council (BARC), Agriculture

Extension Directorate, Research Development Academy, Rice Research Institute (BIRI), Jute Research Institute, Atomic Research Institute, Fisheries Research Institute (FRI), Pakistan Agricultural Research Organisation, India Agricultural Research Council IGO and 10 Researchers from Nepal. A total of 25 foreign researchers took part in the training programme.

The topics of the workshops were Environment, Agroforestry, Agricultural Development Journalism, Animal Husbandry Development, BAU Farm Soil. One expert from India, BAU Professors and Senior Officer of different organisations local journalists participated in the workshop.

Besides, 24 valuable books including 4 on training methods, 10 on Training Evaluation Report and 4 on workshop report have been published by GTI.

Since the establishment of GTI in 1976, it conducted 13 International Training Programmes, 260 training courses and 32 workshop and it published 110 valuable books. One half yearly Journal 'Bangladesh Journal of Training and Development' is being published regularly since 1988. 12,000 teachers, researchers and officers took part in the GTI training and workshop till June 30, this year.

The training course is conducted by GTI Director Prof. Dr. Md. Tajul Islam, Prof. Ameer Hussain, Prof. Md. Mustafizur Rahman, Prof. Dr. Md. Jubed Ali Mirza, M. Hazrat Ali and Dr. Md. Muzahar Ali.

Notes From Kushtia

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA July 31: Frequent power failure, voltage fluctuation and loadshedding have become a regular feature in Kushtia now-a-days causing untold sufferings to the consumers. Industrial consumers have been put to great financial loss as production in mills and factories have gone down keeping the labours idle due to frequent power failure.

Maintenance of steady voltage is yet another problem faced by the consumers. Often voltage comes down to 130 in place of 220 causing damage to electrical instruments of the consumers. Reported complaints in this regard was lodged but to no purpose. Utter negligence in duty and lack of proper maintenance are responsible for the power disruption.

Roads in bad shape

Almost all roads within Kushtia pourashava are in very pitiable condition causing untold sufferings to the town dwellers.

It is learnt that absence of proper and timely repair and maintenance for a long period has turned these roads unserviceable. Innumerable potholes have developed on many points creating obstacles in the movements of vehicles and pedestrians.

The heavily damaged roads are Barwaritala Road, Sirajuddowla Road, RCRC Road, S B Road, Mir Mosharrar Hossain Road, Rajaball Khan Chowdhury Road, and the road connection GK Rest House and plying of vehicles in these road has become risky and hazardous.

Plantation campaign

Tree plantation campaign is going on and in this connection district administration has set up a 10 day tree sapling nursery fair at collectorate premises in collaboration with district forest department for distribution of tree saplings at reduced rate among the people.

In this connection massive publicity through loudspeakers in various corners of the district has also been arranged. The fair was inaugurated by local MP KM Abdul Khaleque in presence of huge gatherings. Twelve stalls have been erected in the fair and large number of people visit the fair to purchase saplings at reduced rate of Tk 2.00 each while in out side these saplings were being sold at Tk 5.00 each.

Crop insurance demanded

The farmers of Kushtia have demanded introduction of crop insurance for the development of agriculture. Natural calamities like drought, flood, tidal wave cyclone, nor wester and pest attack are frequent in Bangladesh. The farmers of the country face hardships following the massive damage of their crops.

According to the agriculture experts, every year over 30 per cent crops valued at Taka 700 crore are damaged by the natural calamities in the country.

Sale of drugs

The indiscriminate use and sale of intoxicant and other drugs has assumed an alarming proportion in the district.

The number of toxicant and drug addicted is rising among the adolescents speedily. In order to combat tension in life stemming from failure in love an unemployment they are being addicted to drugs. If it is not checked it will create grave social problem the social leaders said. According to a statistics at least 10 per cent of the population is suffering from mental disorder and most of them suffer from various drugs.

District roundup

B'BARIA

Private tuition affecting normal education

July 31: Private tuition and coaching by most of the teachers have been hampering normal education in schools and colleges in the district for quite a long time, says UNB.

Local people alleged that most of the school and college teachers are engaged in private tuition and coach students in batches almost every day of the week to earn additional money.

These teachers are charging Tk 300 to 1,000 per student a month which is beyond the capacity of the lower middle class and poor people.

It is alleged that teachers give more attention to private tuition and do not carry out their classroom duties in schools and colleges sincerely.

It is also alleged that the teachers do not attend their institutions regularly, and can not complete the syllabus in time.

It has become quite impossible for the poor students to do good results in the examinations.

The guardians have urged the authorities to look into the matter and take necessary measures.

PIROJPUR

'Caretaker govt no alternative to an elected government'

July 31: A caretaker government is no alternative to an elected government and it cannot be democratic at all. State Minister for Education Principal Md Eunus Khan said here, reports BSS.

Inaugurating the conference of Nazirpur thana BNP, he said some quarters are creating chaos and confusion in the name of caretaker government. Eunus Khan said that freedom of press and human rights have been ensured during the present BNP government and people are conscious to consolidate the democratic values in the society.

Presided over by Sirazul Islam the function was addressed by Gazi Muzazzaman Babul and Mahmood Selim.

About one hundred leaders and workers of Jatiya Party under the leadership of former district president and general secretary of Pirojpur district Jatiya Party Shahidul Islam Niru and Abdur Razzak Muna joined BNP on the occasion. A 71-member Nazirpur thana BNP committee has been formed with Nazrul Islam Khan and a Rahman Sheikh as president and general secretary respectively.

Later the State Minister laid the foundation stone of Shaheed Zia College to be constructed at a cost of Taka 25 lakh.

CHITTAGONG

Students asked to make best use of govt facilities

July 31: Communications Minister Oli Ahmed has called upon the students to make the best use of the government steps for the development of education in the country, reports BSS.

The minister was addressing three separate teacher-student gatherings at Potiya Government College at Potiya, Darulul Alia Madrasa in Chittagong city and Jafar Ahmad Chowdhury College in North Saptakia recently.

He said government has allocated Tk 25 lakh to each of the selected colleges while Tk three thousand and eight hundred crores in national budget under education head. The present government has given stress for education sector because without education no real development and prosperity could be ensured. To exercise democratic right education is a must. He called upon the students to build their career properly.

Professor K M Mobarak Ali, Principal of the college presided over the function.

Among others, Md Farhad Iqbal, Ex VP, Aorangazeb Tusher, present VP, Abdur Razzake GS, Prof Shamsul Haque, Abdul Kashem, Shamsul Haque, Abdul Hamid, K H Abu Taher, MP and Anwara Habib spoke on the occasion.

KHULNA

Dredging work of Mongla Port begins

July 31: Dredging work of Mongla Port began recently to increase the navigation facilities of the port, says BSS.

The Water Development Board is doing the dredging work. Port sources said that a total of one lakh cubic metre of silt would be removed at a cost of Taka one crore eight lakh sixty-eight thousand. With the completion of the ongoing dredging work ships with a draft of eight metre would conveniently be berthed at the jetty. The entire dredging cost will be borne out of Mongla Port's own fund, it was learnt.

SYLHET

Housewife strangled to death

From Our Correspondent

July 31: A young housewife was strangled to death at village Mathiura under Beanibazar thana in the night following Monday last.

The victim Jesmin Begum, 25, was asleep along with three of her children in the night of incident. She was found dead in the next morning.

On getting information, police took the body and sent it to the Sylhet MAG Osmany Medical College Hospital for post-mortem.

Police has arrested the father-in-law, three brothers-in-law and two servants of the house in the next day, following the registration of a case in this connection. The victim's husband had been in the Saudi Arabia.

KISHOREGANJ

Girl students face transport problems

July 31: Girl students of different schools and colleges in the town and suburbs have been facing difficulties due to absence of transport facilities, reports UNB.

According to official sources, there are three girls schools and one government women's college in the town where more than 3000 students are attending regularly.

The guardians of the students said they are compelled to send their daughters to their respective educational institutions on foot, crossing a number of busy roads taking great risks of their life.

Reckless driving of the buses and trucks and innumerable rickshaws parked helter and skelter creating traffic jam have been keeping the guardians in great anxiety.

Moreover, many girl students who walk to their respective institutions are often teased by unruly and wayward youths, it is alleged.

Local guardians have urged the authorities to take measures to solve the transport problems of the girl students.

TANGAIL

Installation ceremony

July 31: The installation ceremony of students union of government Moulana Mohammad Ali College was recently at its campus, reports BSS.

Lutfar Rahman Khan, State Minister attended the function as the chief guest.

In his speech he said that the government of Begum Khaleda Zia has earmarked Tk three thousand and eight hundred crores in national budget under education head. The present government has given stress for education sector because without education no real development and prosperity could be ensured. To exercise democratic right education is a must. He called upon the students to build their career properly.

Professor K M Mobarak Ali, Principal of the college presided over the function.

Among others, Md Farhad Iqbal, Ex VP, Aorangazeb Tusher, present VP, Abdur Razzake GS, Prof Shamsul Haque, Abdul Kashem, Shamsul Haque, Abdul Hamid, K H Abu Taher, MP and Anwara Habib spoke on the occasion.

MYMENSINGH

Police asked to discharge their responsibility sincerely

July 31: Inspector General of Police (IGP) A S M Shahjahan has called upon the members of the police force to discharge their responsibility sincerely and serve the people as their friends, reports BSS.

Addressing a gathering at Bhaluka Thana under Mymensingh district recently the Inspector General of Police said people would always come forward to extend cooperation to the police if they are assured good and sincere service.

Presided over by Deputy Inspector General of Police Dhaka Range B I Siddique, the function was conducted by Police Super Mymensingh Shahidur Rahman Bhuiyan. Among others the function was addressed by Alhaj Amanullah Chowdhury MP, Deputy Commissioner A F M Matiar Rahman and Dr Amanullah. The Inspector General of Police directed the police force to organise similar mass contact programme in every thana.

Mushroom growth of hotels poses threat to health

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, July 31: Recent mushroom growth of hotels in three thana Sadars of the district and in district headquarters at Chuadanga poses a great threat to public health.

With the development of the towns and consequent increase in the population these hotels and eating houses have grown up in the lanes and by lanes.

It is reported that most of these hotels are kept dirty and unclean, food supplied by them are in most cases prepared and stored in a most unhygienic manner.

It is alleged that there is none to look after the harmful activities throughout the district as well as the three Municipal areas of the district like Chuadanga, Alamdanga and Darsana.

The concerned authorities including the thana and district administration are also reluctant to solve the problem for a long time.

As a result the opportunists are continuing their illegal motive freely and fearlessly.

It may be pointed out that since the charges in the recognise residential hotels and restaurants are to high in Chuadanga town and there is no such hotels in the Thana headquarters the people who come here from the different places for various purposes specially for business purposes have no other choice but to go to these hotels.

As such the people of this district feel that the concerned authority should immediately come forward and look into the sanitary condition of these hotels and restaurants and for the greater interest of the people. These hotels should be closed down as the owners of those hotels do not bother about sanitation in the hotel premises it is observed.



SHERPUR: The Deputy Commissioner of the district, Ataur Rahman Majumdar opening a 5-day long tree planting programme recently.

Teachers engaged in private tuition

PATUAKHALI, July 31: Studies at schools and colleges are being hampered due to increasing practice of private tuition by a good number of teachers in the district headquarters, says UNB.

Local people alleged that most of the teachers are engaged in private tuition and coaching students in batches to earn additional income.

These teachers are charging Tk 300 to Tk 1,000 per month for every student for coaching. It is alleged that the teachers are giving more attention to private tuition than attending the classroom duties sincerely.

Some guardians alleged that the teachers do not attend their classes regularly and take no responsibility to complete the syllabus. As a result, the poor students who can not afford private tutors have been suffering badly.

Young girl receives acid burn injuries

SATKHIRA, July 31: A 12-year-old girl in Debhata thana on Thursday received serious burn injuries as her lover threw acid at her after she refused his marriage proposal, reports UNB.

Murshida, daughter of Akkas Ali of Bidanga village, was admitted to Shakhipur Hospital in a critical condition.

Family sources said the accused Shahadat, of the same village, and his two friends — Amjad and Shahidul — took Murshida out of the house and threw acid on her face and body.

Annual planning conference of BARD held

The Annual Planning Conference of the Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) was held at Comilla recently. A two-day long planning conference was inaugurated by Dr Salehuddin Ahmed, Director General, BARD.

The conference was attended by high level officials from different ministries, planning commission, government, non-government organizations and international agencies involved in rural development activities in Bangladesh.

The objectives of the conference was to review the training, research and action research activities of BARD during 1993-94 and to formulate plan for 1994-95.

10 lakh hectares of land brought under aman cultivation scheme

RANGPUR, July 31: A scheme has been taken up to bring districts of greater Rangpur and Dinajpur zone in the current season, says UNB.

According to Agriculture Extension Department sources, of the total land, 6.67 lakh hectares will be brought under high yielding variety and the rest 3.66 lakh hectares under local variety.

Officials said 1,53,300 hectares will be cultivated in Rangpur, 1,22,250 hectares in Gaibandha, 1,56,760 hectares in Kurigram, 60,640 hectares in Lalmonirhat, 1,06,674 hectares in Nilphamari, 2,2,100 hectares in Dinajpur, 96,484 hectares in Thakurgaon and 97,000 hectares in Panchagarh.

Kushtia, Daulatdia highway complete

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, July 31: The construction work of Kushtia-Daulatdia highway is almost complete, an official source said.

According to the source, the 145-kilometre long road construction work is being implemented at a cost of Taka 157 crore 14 lakh with financial assistance from Asian Development Bank (ADB).

This road was brought under the project in 1989 which was scheduled to be completed by April 23 1992. But only 12 per cent of the total work was completed during the time.

Later the authorities extended time for completion of work for Daulatdia-Kamarkhal part by March 1995 and Kamarkhal-Kushtia part by October, 1994.

This project covers construction of the whole road anew, including 9 pipe culverts, 41 box culverts, 2 bridges, and reconstruction of 25 culverts, 2 bridges, 25 culverts, and construction of a

bypass and a bridge over river Nabaganga near Jhenidah town.

The source said, 90 per cent of the work has been completed so far and the rest 10 per cent might be completed during the scheduled time.

The source disclosed that more than a sum of Taka 43 crore would have to be spent over and above the tender amount of Taka 157 crore as the construction work was delayed.

Jhenidah Zilla Parishad implemented 14 projects at a cost of taka one crore fifty five lakh fifty thousand for construction of roads and building this fiscal year.

According to a source close to Zilla Parishad told The Daily Star that they have completed the development works of road between Baksipur and Piragati at a cost of Taka fifteen lakh, HBB of Barabazar-Mangalpa at a cost of Taka twenty lakh,

construction work of rest of the portion of Bakshpur-Piragati at a cost of Taka thirty one lakh sixty thousand, development of Paglakana road at a cost of Taka five lakh construction work of Azampur union Parishad in Mohepur thana at a cost of Taka two lakh ninety thousand, road development of Landia to Bakribazar via Surat at a cost of Taka ten lakh, more than Taka nine lakh for the same project, reconstruction of Simla-Rokanpur Union Parishad office building at a cost of Taka seven lakh, water-bond Makadam road of Hat-fazilpur at a cost of Taka ten lakh, HBB of Kalliganj-Kola road at a cost of Taka ten lakh, development of rest portion of Harinakundu-Porahati road at a cost of Taka twelve lakh, brick work of Mohepur-Hasadah road at a cost of Taka ten lakh, development of Darlapur-Gobindapur to Narikelbaria road at a cost of Taka eight lakh and HBB of Harinakundu-Porahati bazar road at a cost of Taka five lakh.



CHANDPUR: Eleven pirates were caught by police from the river Meghna recently on secret information.