

Erosion forces 300 families homeless in Pabna

Feb 4. Some 300 families in Bera thana of the district were rendered homeless due to erosion by the river Jamuna during the last week, reports UNB.

The worst hit villages are Nayanpur, Vijayganj, Nakalia, Hatunira and Ganapadua, officials said.

Meanwhile, Kaitola Pump station, set up at a cost of Tk 40 crore, has been threatened as the river erosion has taken a serious turn due to drastic fall in the river's water level.

A baby boy, Reza Kader, 2, of Nakalia village, drowned in the river last week.

Alleged mastans held

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Feb 4: Two alleged mastans were arrested by the police from Batrish area of Kishoreganj town January 29 last.

Acting on a secret information, a police party led by Mollah Nazul Islam, Officer-in-charge, Kishoreganj sadar thana nabbed Sanjiban Sahal alias Falan and Altaf Hossain alias Minto. Police recovered one revolver from the possession of Falan and five rounds of ammunitions from Minto.

On the basis of their confessional statements, police later took Krishna, Mizan and Amin into custody. Of them Falan was involved in a number of criminal offences like robbery, extortion, teasing and was wanted by the police for long, police said.

A case was registered with Kishoreganj police station under Arms Act.

Committee formed to investigate escape of accused murderer

HABIGANJ, Feb 4: A two-member committee led by Additional District Magistrate has been formed to investigate into fleeing of a murderer case caused from the district jail on Tuesday last, reports UNB.

Akshir Miah, the main accused of the sensational murder case of Allauddin of village Kalenda in Chunarhat thana fled from the custody by deceiving the security forces.

Meanwhile, police arrested another accused of the case Shafiq Miah, who was on bail, from the main gate of the district jail on Wednesday last on charge of helping Akshir Miah to flee from the jail custody.

Another message adds: Police and army personnel in a combined operation in Ghanashyampur village in Chunarhat thana last Wednesday night recovered one pipe gun and some ammunition.

The law enforcing agencies following a tip-off raided a house of Manik Mia and recovered the arms. None was arrested in this connection.

New fax, telephone installed

RANGAMATI, Feb 4: A new fax and telephone have been installed at the local Press Club to facilitate the journalists to despatch news items to the national dailies, reports UNB.

Chairman of Rangamati Parbatya Zila Parishad Parijat Kusum Chakma on Friday last inaugurated the new fax at a simple function presided over by club president Mokshor Ali.

Parijat Kusum Chakma, who donated the fax machine last month, assured the Press Club members that he would extend his cooperation and help to construct its own building.

Ban on student politics extended

SYLHET, Feb 4: The authorities of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology have extended the ban on student politics on the campus till March 31 next, reports UNB.

Official sources said here yesterday the students have been asked to refrain from all kinds of political activities, including procession, rally, hartal and poster on the campus, during the period.

Husband awarded life-term for murder

PIROJPUR, Feb 4: The District and Sessions Judge has sentenced a man to life term imprisonment for killing his wife, reports UNB.

Court sources said the Judge Abdul Razzak has also fined the accused, Amulya Chandra Bepari, Tk 5,000.

According to prosecution, the convict following a family feud beat his wife Suchira Rani Bepari to death on April 9, 1995 and hung her body from a mango tree nearby their dwelling house to hush up the murder.

The Judge has punished the accused after he found him guilty after examining the witnesses and the evidences.

40pc crimes take place in Natore due to drug addiction alone

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Feb 4: Drug addiction is on rise in Banalata Sen's Natore, causing an alarming increase in social crimes and injustice in the society and grave concern among the guardians.

An estimate shows that the district, now, has about 10,000 drug addicts while there are about 4,000 drug addicts in the poura areas.

The crime situation in the northern district — Natore has deteriorated to a serious proportion during last several months because of drug addiction, said an official.

A reliable source informed that about 40 per cent of the crimes in Natore town are taking place due to drug addiction, and the scenario is almost the same in other five thanas of the district.

Most of the addicts are young and married and the intoxicating items include drugs, opium, tablets, liquor, Mritasanjibani sura, heroin, phenisidyl syrups and ganja.

Heroin, locally known as 'puria', a deadly drug is being sold in some areas of the town almost openly, local people complained. There are

about 500 heroin addicts in Natore district, estimates say. Phenisidyl syrups and ganja are other two devastating popular drug addiction which is being used here widely. The school and college students, frustrated youngsters, rickshawpullers and day labourers are the main customers of these drugs.

The estimate further says that there are over one thousand students drug addicts in the district.

A college student, who does not want to disclose his name, told this correspondent that he took only one bottle of phenisidyl syrup a day the first time, but now he can not live without 5 or 6 bottles a day! He further added that he lost his interest in all other works.

Names of girls have recently been reported in the list of drug addicts. The girls are mostly prostitutes, it was learnt.

The sources informed that an addicted person usually takes minimum four doses of drugs. Each dose costs Taka 10 to 60. So an addict has to

spend Taka 40 to Taka 240 daily that is impossible for most of the common people. That is why, some of them take adulterated drugs which are much cheaper and used usually twice a day. About 70 per cent of the addicted people can not afford the money from their own pockets. The addicted people sell even their households, commit theft and resort to snatching to meet the cost of drugs especially heroin.

Rectified spirit is also being freely consumed as alcohol by the youths in the town causing moral degradation. Residents complained that addicted young people buy the spirit from homeopathic doctors and take it as alcohol by mixing with water.

Some dishonest homeopathic doctors are allegedly collecting spirit from Natore Jamuna Distillery Company and inspite of having any licences to practise are selling the spirit to the addicts at exorbitant prices.

But, as the government rule, licences for rectified spirit are only issued to the bonafide homeo-medicine

manufacturers. Officials and experts warned that if the present trend of drug addiction continued, the number of addicts would be threefold in two to three years. The crimes will also increase proportionately. Experts said, Natore is used as a transit point for shipment of the smuggled drugs as the district is the gate-way to north Bengal region.

Some organised gangs are engaged in transporting all these drugs in co-operation with the members of the law enforcing agencies, it was alleged.

It was also learnt that the drugs are mainly being sold at Lalbazar, Horizol Colony, Chowkripur, Fulbag, Railway station areas, Kapuriapotty and different homeopathic drug stores in Natore poura areas.

Local guardians have urged the concerned authorities to take immediate measures to eliminate the selling of the drug to save the young generation from further ruination.

Tk 23 lakh missing from 'safe' of a bank

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Feb 4: Taka 23,10,600 was missing from Sonali Bank Mobaraganj Sugar Mills Branch under Kalliganj thana in Jhenidah district recently, it was alleged.

According to police sources, Birendra Nath Mallik, nightguard of the bank, was on duty in the night of January 31 when it happened. On next day on February 1 when the vault of the bank was opened, Taka 23,10,600 was noticed short. The guard was then absconding.

A case was lodged with Kalliganj thana. Police took the manager and the cashier for interrogation, it was reported.

It was learnt from the Sonali Bank sources that the branch had capacity to preserve Taka eight lakh only. But there was over Taka 24 lakh in the vault. The incident may have occurred with the collaboration of the manager and cashier of the branch, police suspects.

Tk 10,000 realised as fine in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, Feb 4: A team of police led by First Class Magistrate in a drive on Friday last realised Tk 10,000 from the owners of 27 motorcycles for plying on the streets without valid licences, reports UNB.

Police seized the motorcycles from the different roads of the town and they were released from the police station after realising the fine.

Waterlogging causes harvesting problem in Comilla

COMILLA, Feb 4: Farmers are facing problems in harvesting their paddy due to water-logging in almost every unions of the district, reports UNB.

The farmers said, harvesting on 40,000 acres of land has become uncertain as the waters remained stagnant in paddy fields due to incessant rainfall last November and unplanned road construction and barriers created in river-canal waters for fishing.

The farmers are in great anxiety as they lost their earlier crops due to various natural calamities.

The farmers of Baisgan, Hanabad, Soroshpur, Laxmanpur, Bipulapur, Natherpetia, Uttarhola, Khila, Urdia, Gobindapur, Jolshatua, Jholom, Muzaffarganj and Kandirpura unions of Laksam are worst affected.

Meanwhile, the paddy plants have started rotting due to water-logging which may create fodder scarcity in the area.

Cold claims five tribal refugees in Tripura

KHAGRACHHARI, Feb 4: At least five Bangladeshi tribal refugees died of severe cold at the refugee camps in the Indian state of Tripura last week, reports UNB.

According to a report from the other side of the border, about 50,000 Bangladeshis people waiting for repatriation at six refugee camps in South Tripura are suffering from biting cold due to lack of warm clothes.

The camps are Kathachhary, Karbuk, Shilachhari, Panchaampara, Lebachhara and Thakumbari — in Sarung and Amarpur subdivisions.

The temporary sheds built with polythene and bamboo cannot save the refugees from the shivering cold wave. Most of them are suffering from various diseases caused by cold.

Students keep BM College under lock & key

BARISAL, Feb 4: Different student organisations of the Government Brojomohan University College here kept 18 departments of science, arts and commerce faculties under lock and key for the whole day Thursday demanding increase in the number of seats, reports BSS.

The students also locked the offices of the principal, the vice-principal and the admission sections. College sources said there were 1400 seats in 18 departments of the college in first year honours courses while 8,833 applications have been submitted by students for admission this year.

COMILLA, Feb 4: A total of 10,755 certificate cases filed last year in the district are still waiting for disposal with outstanding loans of over Tk 36 crore, reports UNB.

Of the total, 10,017 cases were filed for arrear agricultural loan, 83 cases for industrial loan and 655 cases for other loans, official sources said adding only 324 cases were settled during the year.

The outstanding agri loan stood at Tk 25.48 crore, industrial loan at Tk 1.96 crore and other loans Tk 8.62 crore, the sources said.



COX'S BAZAR: Cox's Bazar Press Club President, Md Nurul Islam handing over a memorandum to Deputy Commissioner requesting him to make arrangements for parking space of inter-district buses which travel through the district every day. — Star photo

Prog taken to build bridges, culverts

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, Feb 4: Relief and Rehabilitation Department (RRD) has taken up a programme to build five bridges and two box culverts in Sirpur thana of Magura district in 1995-96 fiscal year, it was learnt.

According to the sources, an amount of Tk 19,21,312 will be spent to build bridges and culverts in Sirpur thana of the district under the annual development project of Relief and Rehabilitation Department (RRD).

It was learnt from the Sirpur thana Project Implementation Office source that allocation of the said amount, Tk 495,483 for construction of span T bridge at Sachlapur bazar — Durgapur road on

Hanu canal, Tk 4,16,068 for construction of span T beam bridge at Gabtala of 'Chhon-gacha Math', Tk 14,2826 for construction of Box culvert at 'Paikuya beel', Tk 2,44280 for construction of span slab bridge at 'Kachubasla' on WAPDA Garai river road, Tk 1,84758 for construction of span slab bridge at 'Majhall' on Kalinagar Beri road, Tk 61,023 for construction of box culvert at Kabilpur near Fajlar Rahman's residence and Tk 3,46,874 for construction of span T beam bridge at Charjoka near non govt primary school will be spent.

The work of the bridge will be started soon, sources added.

Armedmen attack peasants 60 injured, 3 seriously

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Feb 4: At least 60 persons were injured, 3 of them seriously when a group of people equipped with lethal weapons and firearms swooped on nearly two thousand families of a khash land (char area) near Kalijira bridge recently.

The victims are reportedly landless peasants who occupied their possessions on that land early hours of Tuesday last.

Runa Laila, Bangladesh district president of Bangladesh Kishan Savas told this correspondent that during 4-hour-long arson, looting, ransack and torture on the landless peasants the armed people set a reign of terror there in the area. She demanded exemplary punishment for those who are responsible for the incident and rehabilitation affected landless peasants on that khash land. Almost all the houses of the area were razed to the ground, she said.

Seriously injured Isahaque

Witnesses said, a microbus getting wrong signal to get on the ferry and tried to board the ferry suddenly fell into the river hitting by a passenger bus from behind losing its control. However, the driver Ratan of the microbus could come out of the vehicle's window and was saved. The bus was stopped on the edge of the ferry. Passengers of the bus with great panic could come out of the bus receiving several injuries.

Clinics often harass patients providing wrong treatment

From Our Correspondent

CHAPAI NAWABGONJ, Feb 4: Clinic business has become a very attractive business in Chapai Nawabgonj. In the name of treatment patients are being allegedly cheated and harassed in the hands of doctors. Recently a complaint of cheating and unauthorised operation has been made to the district Civil Surgeon against a well-known clinic of the town by a victim.

The complainant Tariqui Islam of Namosunkerbati under Nawabganj Pourasava, in his complain said that he admitted his wife Nazma Khatun in the Mahananda Clinic for operation having contacted for Tk two thousand including seat rent and medicine charges.

He alleged that inspite of having gynecologist, Dr Afjal Hossain, Dr Yusuf Ali and Mohabbat (compounder) themselves started the operation on October 1 last. They could not complete the operation within two hours as told earlier. After 2 hours Dr Afjal came out of the operation theatre and went out of the clinic. After half an hour he came back with Dr Mahtab E. Alam, a doctor of Nawabganj sadar hospital. They took one hour in addition to finish the operation.

After 3 days of the operation when the condition of the patient severely deteriorated, they denied the agreement and stopped supplying the medicine to the patient. After 17 days failing to improve the condition of the patient the clinic authority got the patient out of the clinic forcibly at 12pm inspite of the objection of the patient's husband.

At last being helpless Tariqui reached Dr Mahtab E. Alam and with his help he got the patient admitted in the same clinic on 24th October and the patient remained there upto 28th under the treatment of Dr Mahtab E. Alam. But as the condition of the patient did not improve he referred her to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

According to the allegation of Tariqui Islam, Dr Prof. Merina Khanam said that the operation was defective. The patient is still under treatment. He also alleged that he had to spend an amount of Tk 35 thousand in place of 2 thousand.

The complainant appealed to the Civil Surgeon to make an immediate investigation and take necessary action against such type of cheating.

Progress of compulsory primary education programme in Pabna hampered

From Ranesh Maitra

PABNA, Feb 4: Despite use of various methods to ensure imparting of primary education for all the children upto ten years of age, shortage of teachers and officers in different levels have seriously affected primary education in Pabna district. This has been hampering the progress of implementation of compulsory primary education scheme.

According to official sources, three posts out of nine thana education officers and five out of 39 Assistant Thana Education officers were lying vacant in the district.

Besides, in the government primary schools, 29 posts of Headmasters and 86 posts of Assistant teachers were also lying vacant.

The sanctioned posts of Headmasters are 644 and those of assistant teachers are 2,839 in this district and of them there are 615 Headmasters and Headmistresses and 2,753 assistant teachers are now working in 664 government primary schools at present.

In addition to 664 government primary schools, there are also 333 registered non-government and 113 unregistered non-government primary schools in the district.

It is gathered from Habibur Rahman Khondker, District Primary Education Officer, Pabna, that 21 government primary schools under Bharara union of Pabna sadar thana, 19 schools of Foliara union under Chalmohar thana, nine schools of Tantiandha union under Sunjanagar thana; 20 primary schools of Nag Demra union under Santhia thana; six primary schools of Luxmukunda union under Ishurdi thana; eight primary schools of Dhalarchar union under Bera thana; 14 primary schools of Bri Lahiribari union under Faridpur thana; 14 primary schools of Chandbha union under Agharia thana and 14 government primary schools of Dilpashar union under Bhangora thana were brought under the 'food for education' in the first phase of the scheme in Pabna district.

According to the said DPEO due to the implementation of the said scheme, 2,377 families of Pabna sadar thana, 1,713 families of Chalmohar thana, 978 families of Sunjanagar thana, 2,155 families of Santhia thana, 1,078 families of Ishurdi thana, 1,662 families of Pura thana, 1,861 families of

Faridpur thana, 2,098 families of Agharia thana and 1,525 families of Bhangora, in the respective unions of the concerned thanas (as has already been mentioned) have been benefited and the total number of students having been benefited under the said scheme, throughout the district stands at 18,366 of 125 schools.

The District Primary Education Officer told The Daily Star that according to a survey conducted by them there were 3,86,437 children throughout Pabna district in 1994 and out of them, a total of 3,31,055 boys and girls were admitted who the primary schools, thus, the percentage of a children admitted stands in total at 88 per cent. But the percentage of attendance according to the survey report was 72.5 while the percentage of drop-outs has been officially estimated at 51.76 per cent annually.

When asked regarding the steps taken by them to remove or reduce such an alarming number of drop-out of students in the primary schools, Habibur Rahman Khondker, DPEO, stated that the following steps were being taken by them:

a) Imparting training to the union and ward committees

tees formed under the compulsory free primary education scheme with regard to their responsibilities in this regard.

b) Imparting training to the chairman of school managing committees and teachers-cum-guardian committees for making them conscious and dutiful;

c) Holding mass-contact meetings with the guardians and 'Mothers' Rallies' and 'courtyard meeting for making them aware of the need of completion of primary education for their children;

d) For making irregular students conscious of continuing their studies till class V, students' brigades are being formed;

e) Cub-teams are being formed comprising the students and more sports and other extra-academic activities are being organised.

f) Imams of Mosques are being imparted training so that they could encourage guardians to send their wards regularly with schools.

g) For making the families economically self-reliant or solvent, motivational programmes for the students, on competitive basis, has been introduced for encouraging gardening, cultivation of vegetables, poultry farming etc.

Food for Education (FFE) programme has been introduced in 51 schools in the remote areas of the district so far. But the standard of education in these schools are reportedly decreasing day by day following negligence of the authorities, ignorance of the poor guardians and shortage of teachers, it was alleged.

At least four teachers are there per school under FFE programme. But the number of children of these school are far more than the normal.

Another source said, most of the children could not be enrolled in primary schools as their guardians prefer them to work for earning. Many students left schools, when their schools were damaged by floods, storms and other natural calamities.

Local elite have urged the concerned authorities to take proper and immediate steps for ensuring better atmosphere in education sector.

Shortage of schools, teachers Large number of students eligible to attend schools miss admission

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Feb 4: About 60,800 thousand children of Natore district are deprived of the light of primary education due to various problems like lack of schools, teachers and necessary atmosphere in the educational institutions, it was learnt.

According to a survey report, the total number of children of school-going is two lakh 76 thousand 900 in Natore district. Of the total, at least two lakh 36 thousand 100 children got admitted in schools. Among the admitted children, about 20 thousand children have dropped out from the schools.

The report also says that about 40,800 thousand children, eligible to attend schools, can not be admitted as there are no schools in about 800 villages in six thanas of the district.

About 8,000 children enjoy primary education facilities under the mass education programme of Islamic Foundation and under the 'sub formal school' programmes conducted by different NGOs.

According to official sources, there are at least 1,306 villages in six thanas of the district.

The source further said, there are about 406 government primary schools and 160 registered primary schools in about 566 villages of the district. There are no school in about eight hundred villages. For this reason, about 40,800 children could not be admitted in primary schools.

According to government rule, at least five teachers are essential for a primary school. Therefore, about two thousand 30 teachers are needed for the government primary schools in the district. But there are 1,763 teachers against the required affiliated posts in these schools.

The source added, about 44 important posts are lying vacant in the Government Primary Education Department. Of the vacant posts, 33 posts are of teachers, one post of the District Primary Education Officers two posts of Thana Primary Education

Officers, six posts of Assistant Thana Primary Education Officers and four posts of clerks-cum-typist.

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1995 witnessed increasing lawlessness in Jessore

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Feb 4: During last year 124 murders, 210 dacoities, 1332 hijackings and 12,000 other crimes were committed in eight thanas of the district, said police sources.

According to reports, 42 murders were committed in sadar thana alone. It included murders of Aminur at Sarapole, Arif at Mollapara, Rinku at M M College Munir and Bablu in the town. Among eight thanas including sadar, Chowgacha, Jhinkergache, Sharshe, Monirampur, Keshabpur, Obhainagore, and Bagherpura, maximum murders were committed in sadar thana during the year.

In sadar thana, 98 dacoities were committed, while in Keshabpur the number stood at 72.

In hijacking cases, sadar was highest with 800 such cases out of 1837 such cases 912 cases recorded in sadar.

Thirty four women were

raped in the district. Of them two in Bagherpura, one in sadar and one in Jhinkergache were brutally killed after being raped, the source

Housewife murdered in Comilla

COMILLA, Feb 4: A housewife was strangled to death allegedly by her in-laws at Kamodda village in Laksam thana recently, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Rabeya Khatun, 18, wife of Arifur Rahman who is working in a Middle Eastern country. They were married two years ago.

Police arrested her mother-in-law Anwara Begum on Tuesday last, the day following the killing following a case filed by Rabeya's mother.

said. A total of 107 men and women committed suicide and 132 other were killed in road accidents. This figure was more than that of 1994.

According to a statistical report, number of murder cases was 104, dacoity 112, hijacking 1100 and 8000 other cases were committed in 1994. In suicide and road accident cases the number in the out going year was somewhat less than that of 1994.

In 1995 was allegedly marked by the year of terrorism, lawlessness, anarchy and violence. Dominated by armed out lawed activists in different rural areas of all the eight thanas, law-abiding citizens and peaceful people have experienced reign of terror having been held hostage to this group.

Failure of police to take action against the criminal, led to this situation adversely affecting safety and security of people.

Boy killed, 15 injured in road mishap

BRAHMANBARIA, Feb 4: A boy was killed and 15 others were injured when two buses collided head on near Biwara Road on Sylhet-Dhaka highway recently, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, the Ashuganj bound bus from Kuti collided with another Sylhet bound bus coming from Dhaka on January 26 last killing Mahbubur Rahman, 5, on the spot.

The driver and conductors of the vehicle, however, managed to escape.

The injured were rushed to the sadar hospital. The body was sent to morgue for autopsy and a case has been filed with the police.

Bombs hurled at house of NDP Chairman in Pabna