

Steps to check erosion to be taken: Razzak

MUNSHIGANJ, July 10: Minister for Water Resources Akbar Razzak Tuesday said the present government would take positive measures to stop erosion of rivers throughout the country, reports UNB.

He was addressing the distressed people of river erosion areas of Bhaigayakul and Mawa of Sreenagar and Luahajon thanas of the district.

The minister said lakhs of people of the erosion-hit areas of the country become helpless and their standing crops and houses are washed away every year.

Razzak said present government is of the people and the aim of this government is to save the people, not to govern.

He called upon all to work unitedly to implement the dreams of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to build Bangladesh as Sonar Bangla.

Among others, women MP Segupta Yasmin and AL district unit president Dhali Moazzem Hossain accompanied the minister, said an official hand-out.

Erosion renders 1000 homeless in Rangpur

RANGPUR, July 10: Devastating erosion of river Teesta has been continuing for the past one week rendering at least one thousand inhabitants of Balapara union under Kaunia thana, Nohali union of Gangachara thana and Dahagram-Angorputa enclaves under Patgram thana homeless while five hundred hectares of land and crop field was destroyed.

According to local people, erosion intensified following receding of flood water causing untold sufferings to victims. Sources said flood control embankment along southern bank of river Teesta and Nohali and Balapara union worst hit by erosion. Shahabuddin, a resident of Dahagram-Angorputa enclaves and headmaster of Dahagram Government Primary School said erosion has so far devoured one hundred hectares of land. He urged immediate steps for the survival of erosion victims.

Wejkhali road in Sunamganj washed away

SUNAMGANJ, July 10: The Sunamganj-Sylhet highway has been threatened following washing away of Wejkhali road in sadar thana due to onrush of hilly waters, reports UNB.

The incessant rain and onrush of hilly waters causes damages to various roads in the district. The Wejkhali road as washed away due to erosion of the river Surma and heavy onrush of waters.

The pourashava authorities took steps to prevent the erosion but their efforts proved futile due to heavy pressure of water. The adjacent houses of the road are also facing erosion threat.

Local people said if the Wejkhali road is not repaired on an urgent basis, the Sunamganj-Sylhet highway may face extensive damage.

Drug addicts on rise in Jamalpur

JAMALPUR, July 10: A large number of youths have been addicted to phenisidyl syrup due to its easy availability in the district town, reports UNB.

According to an information, unemployed youths and students are the main customers of the spurious drug.

Despite the government ban, a section of smugglers bring the contraband from India to sell in the markets and the district town has become a den of illegal phenisidyl business.

The beginners first take the syrup casually but gradually become addicted to it.

Railway station, Shahapur adjacent to railway colony, Dayamoyee road, Sakalbar, Bakultala, Shekervita and Puratan Ghat are the main places where phenisidyl is easily available to the consumers.

An organised gang are engaged in marketing phenisidyl to earn windfall profit and a bottle is being sold between Tk 120 and Tk 180.

The members of the law enforcing agencies are allegedly not taking action against selling of the drug almost openly.

Seminar on technology in Gaibandha

Form Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, July 10: A seminar on 'local invented appropriate technology, its extension and application' was held at BD hall on June 29.

AFM Yahiya Chowdhury, Commissioner Rajshahi Division, was present as chief guest. The seminar was addressed, among others, by Anwarul Islam, Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology, Lulu Bilkish Banu, Shamsul Huq, Chief Scientific Officers, Mostaque Rahman, Motaher Hossain, Akhter Hamid Dewan, Senior Scientific Officers, Awlad Hossain Mia, Police Super.

The speakers discussed on the different aspects on biogas solar drier, preparation of pure water, improved hearth, vitamin Spirulina and improved house-building equipment. On the occasion, a two-day long exhibition on different local technology set up at the zilla parishad premises where about 20 stalls were erected by the concerned departments.

Attack on 'Feni Barta' editor condemned

FENI, July 10: Local unit of Bangladesh Journalists' Association condemned the attack on 'Weekly Feni Barta' editor and demanded arrest of the miscreants, reports UNB.

In a meeting at the association's office last week, the local journalists expressed resentment for not arresting the attackers even after two weeks of the incident.

Mir Hossain Miru was attacked and critically injured by a gang of hoodlums on June 20 in broad daylight when he was on duty at his office.

Presided over by association president Mahbubul Haque Peyara, it was addressed by Nurul Karim Majumdar, Abul Kashem Chowdhury, Abu Taher, Abdur Rahim, Osman Harun Mahmud and Tipu Sultan.

The speakers also demanded security of the journalists while performing their duties.

Helper falls from bus, dies

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, July 10: The helper of a passenger bus died as he fell from the bus on the Barisal-Barguna road yesterday.

Witnesses said, Belal Hossain, 16, fell down on the road from the running bus at Kalanka in Amtali thana. The bus was going to Barisal from Barguna.

The body has been sent to hospital for autopsy, police said.



RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY. Prof M Eusuf Ali, Vice-Chancellor of RU addressing the seminar titled, 'effects of changing environment on northern region of Bangladesh' at the university senate hall recently. — Star photo



SYLHET: A reception was accorded to Syeda Zebunnesa Haque, MP, here by the district Awami League and other organisations on Sunday. — Star photo

Law & order deteriorates in Sylhet division

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, July 10: The law and order situation has deteriorated in the Sylhet division during the last few weeks as the number of crimes of all types has increased in the region.

As many as 13 murders took place while 11 children, two young men and a young woman were kidnapped in the division during the fortnight ended on June 30. As many as 35 thefts and dacoities were committed, 8 hijackings took place and at least 12 violent incidents were also reported from the four districts of the division during the period.

Besides, 13 persons were killed in road accidents. Incidents such as, student clash, attack, looting and setting houses on fire had also been reported from different areas.

Murders

One Suratnenna, 55, was stabbed to death allegedly by her son Babul at village Ausha of Sylhet sadar thana on June 16. Abdul Hannan, 50, of village Ramjanpur under Nabiganj thana of Habiganj district was killed allegedly by his son-in-law on June 22 while Lutfur Ali, 28 and Taha Miah, 25 were killed at Bortali Beel of Jaki-ganj thana mysteriously on the same day by some unknown miscreants.

One Nuruddin, 30, was killed by a gang of alleged smugglers at village Mahishkher of Companyganj thana in Sylhet district on June 24 night. Manu Miah, 65, of village Sikanderpur under Chhatak thana in the district of

Sunamganj was killed allegedly by his two step brothers over some family feuds on June 25.

One Abdul Kadir, 12, was killed as a group of villagers clashed at village Richi in Habiganj sadar thana on June 26. The beheaded body of an unknown person was recovered from the Bonu Beel under Golapganj thana on June 28.

On June 29, the body of Sikandar Ali, 45 of village Gajal Majal of Jakiganj thana was recovered from Harinagar, Hajera, 15, of village Jamurail under Jakiganj thana was poisoned to death on June 1. The body of eighteen year old Badrul Alam of village Telikhal under Companyganj thana was found hanging with a tree near his village home on June 27, after he had been missing from his house for two days. A young housewife was killed mysteriously in Tahripur thana in the last week of June.

A number missing cases of children were reported during the fortnight in different thanas of the division. Those who had been missing include, Nasima, 13, of Badambagicha in Sylhet town, Jesmine, 12 of Bilpar of Sylhet town, Mainuddin, 8, Kazi Musa of the Jal-long border, in Gowainghat thana and Akhter Hossain, 14 of Paniga of Golapganj. All the children were missing from June 14 to June 18.

A gang of miscreants kidnapped Ripon, 25 of village Fatehpur under Rajnagar thana on June 14. A young girl was kidnapped by a group of miscreants from Ghouhatta area of Sylhet town on June 23 night.

Sunamganj poura budget

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, July 10: Sunamganj pourashava has okayed a budget for Taka 3 crore 11 lakh 52 thousand and 400 for the 1996-97 fiscal.

Dewan Mominul Meujdin, chairman of the pourashava declared the budget at a gathering of elites and pourashava commissioners in the Pourashava office Thursday June 27 last.

The new budget showed a proposed target expenditure of Taka 3 crore 4 lakh 50 thousand while the surplus will be at Taka 7 lakh 2 thousand and 400.

The proposed Revenue/Income had been targeted at Taka one crore 2 lakh 80 thousand while the government allocation as Development Assistance Funding had been expected to be Taka one crore 50 thousand. The targeted expenditure for executing development projects under the Annual Development programme had been set at Taka 2 crore 15 lakh. The amount would be spent for construction of roads, culverts, drains and for tree plantation, and others.

The chairman in his speech called upon the people to help implement the different development programmes. He said, we could not ensure many necessary facilities for the town dwellers in the past for different reasons. But, we will try our best in this regard in the days to come, with the help of people from all walks of life.

It may be stated here that, the pourashava imposed no new tax on the town dwellers, in the next fiscal.

Success in reducing child mortality

NATORE, July 10: The northern part of the country including Natore has succeeded in reducing child mortality and performance in primary education sector is encouraging, reports UNB.

But malnutrition is yet to be checked effectively, and pregnancy related complications still take a heavy toll of women particularly in rural areas.

According to an UNICEF report, 67 per cent of children in the under five age group are suffering from malnutrition.

Rajshahi division UNICEF Chief A T Siddiquee said in an exclusive interview with UNB that Bangladesh was heavily dependent on its human resources.

Malnutrition among children could well mean a general lowering of the efficiency of the people in the future, for malnourished children are unlikely to be able to realise their full potential when they grown up, he said.

As for primary education, the situation is showing signs of improvement. This is crucial, area as far as all development efforts are concerned.

Reproductive health of mothers is another issue which need to be taken up in all seriousness. The UNICEF report says, 600 women die every day in the world owing to pregnancy related complications.

In Bangladesh, 23,000 mid-birth death occur every year and a large number of women die owing to after effects of child-birth and pregnancy related complications.

According to the report, the major problem is that the rural women do not have access to modern treatment facilities and the need is to set up maternity centres with modern equipment in the rural areas of this region.

2 die in Khulna road accident

From Our Correspondent

KHULNA, July 10: Two persons were killed and one was seriously injured in a road accident at Boyra under Sonadanga thana yesterday.

According to police and witnesses, the accident took place when a passenger bus coming from Jessore collided head-on with a three-wheeler van.

Nadu Gazi, 40, a passenger of the van died on the spot, while the driver of the van - Ismail, 28, - succumbed to his head injuries at the general hospital.

Mansur, the helper of the van is under treatment at the hospital.

Police have seized the bus but the driver escaped.

One killed in family feud

PIROJPUR, July 10: A young man was killed and another injured in family feud at Maddyadhawa village in Bhandaria thana of the district today, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Kalam, 25. Injured Kader, 30, was admitted to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

Mosharrif, cousin of Kalam and nephew of Kader, was arrested in this connection.



Amit's choice computer science

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, July 10: Amit Bikram Dev (Kayan) wants to have higher studies in computer science. He secured the second position in the combined merit list of the general science group in the SSC examinations of Comilla Board.

He got 928 marks with 7 letters. "I was expecting such a result. I studied 8 to 9 hours a day," said Amit while talking to this correspondent.

Amit said, the merit and talent of the student could not be judged from the question bank system.

Amit Bikram Dev is the second among six children of Anil Chandra Dev, Vice-Principal, the Sunamganj Government College and Krishnapriya Dev, assistant professor of the Sylhet MC College.

Amit appeared in the examination from the Sylhet Government Pilot Boys' High School.



Naznin wants to be a doctor

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, July 10: Naznin Akhter Sheuli wants to be a physician in future. Sheuli, a student of Blue Bird High School, stood second among girls in the general science group in SSC examination of Comilla Board.

She also stood 17th in the combined merit list. She got a total of 896 marks with six letters.

Such a result was unexpected for me. I am satisfied enough with the result, though the examinations were not up to my satisfaction," said Naznin Akhter while talking to this correspondent.

She is grateful to her headmistress and two house tutors for the success. Sheuli is the second among three daughters of businessman Haji Intaj Ali and Anwara Khanan.

Sheuli studied about 8 to 9 hours a day after the test examinations.

Three persons sustained serious wounds in separate incidents of attack in the Balikandi, Nayagaon and Sylhet Bus stand area in Moulvibazar town on June 22. A gang of miscreants set the house of one M Hossain at village Baurbhag in Kanaighat thana on fire on June 20 night. They also fell the trees in the house as a sequel to a previous enmity.

Post election clashes between the activists of Awami League and Jatiya Party left at least 80 injured in different villages and thana headquarters of Dera and Shulla. Post election clash between AL and BNP activists also left 11 injured including some with bullet wounds in Rajnagar thana.

Govt poultry farm in Gopalganj facing manifold problems

From Our Correspondent

GOPALGANJ, July 10: The only government run poultry farm, located in the outskirts of the district headquarters, has been facing manifold problems.

According to the sources the varieties of poultry birds available here are white Leghorn of Italy, Fumy of Pakistan, Lowman Brown of Germany, Rhode Island Red (HIR) of England, Khaki Campbell of England, Indian Runner, Muscovy of USA and Jing Ding of China. Under the guidance of the government farm, eight private poultry have been set up in the district — three in Gopalganj Sadar thana, two in Tungipara thana and one each in Muktasapur, Kasiani and Kowalpara thanas.

When visited five of the eight private farms in the district, it is observed that Lowman Brown, Rhode Island Red, Indian Runner and Khaki Camell varieties have much demand and these are sold at the rates, what seems to be costly for the poor people. As there is no private farm selling developed varieties of hens and ducks, the interested people are to purchase them from the government farm at the higher rates. An official told this correspondent that as there is no scope of hatching by incubators here, the government farm has to bring the poultry birds from outside the district and to sell them at the higher rates.

Though there have been also demand for developed New Hampshire, Plymouth Rock (White and barred), white Cornish, Black Australorp, Black Minorca, Light

200 rice mills closed in Khulna

KHULNA, July 10: About 200 rice mills in the district remained closed throwing about 10,000 workers jobless, reports UNB.

Mill owners said the situation arose due to want of proper policy, government's inaction and import of rice from India in an unplanned way.

They said they could not compete with the price of the imported rice as the cost of rice production is much higher and hence they had forced to shut down their mills.

Meanwhile, most of the mill owners borrowed huge amount of loan from various banks. As they could not repay the loan due to the closure of their mills, the liability is gradually increasing with the addition of interest.

Month-long training programme for underprivileged villagers

By A Correspondent

Serve the people, a voluntary organization, has recently undertaken an extensive training for 600 under privileged villagers in Jhalakathi and Barguna district. The training course was inaugurated in the Nurullapur Adarsha Gram under sadar thana of Jhalakathi district. A similar training course was introduced in Amtoli and Bharghata thana of Barguna district, says a press release.

The training programme was attended by Begum Shahjadi, Chairperson of the organization. Speaking on the occasion, Begum Shahjadi urged the villagers to make good use of this training in their personal life. She pointed out that skill oriented training programmes, if properly used would help raise the income level of the people. She also advised the women to be cautious about their rights and privileges.

Syed Ahmed Faruque, secretary general of the organization, also spoke on the occasion. The organization is giving training on income-generation project, health, family planning, MCH, environment and tree plantation, consciousness and leadership.

The women are being given special lessons on the women's right and empowerment. The training programmes are being conducted with the co-operation of concerned departments of local administration. The training will continue for a month.



Participants at a training programme organised by the Serve the People at Jhalakathi.

Sussex, Aulesberry, Pekin, Rouen, Cayuga, Buff Cell and Crested white varieties in the district, but there is no supply of the varieties.

There is no electric tire brooding unit in the government farm and the poultry chickens cannot be properly reared there.

The growing hens and ranges shelters have been lying in poor conditions as they are not properly maintained and repaired since the farm was set up in 1986 on 3.5 acres of land.

The farm only one range shelter for the ducks. There is no pond in the farm for the proper development of ducks.

Supply of Fodder from Dhaka is much inadequate for the proper development of the poultry birds.

There is no supply of water to the farm. The caretakers have to face much problems in maintaining the farm as there is no generator of its own, sources said. Local people said that immediate steps are needed to bring the government poultry farm into full operation.

Farmers held protest rally in Jhenidah

JHENIDAH, July 10: More than 1,000 farmers and labourers brought out a procession in the district town Tuesday protesting arrest of eight people including a labour leader and two school boys, reports UNB.

The processionists held a brief rally in front of the DC office. National Democratic Front leaders Tozammel Hossain, Abdul Malek, trade union leader Khalilur Rahman and student leader Selim addressed the rally.

The speakers demanded the release of the arrested people and also abolition of Special Powers Act.

They also submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner to realise their demands.

Police arrested the eight people on June 5 while making a publicity in the town.

1083 tons of wheat distributed in Magura

MAGURA, July 10: Government has distributed 1,083 metric tons of wheat free of cost among the 2,888 distressed families under VGD programme during the last fiscal year, reports UNB.

Of the total, 195 metric tons were distributed among the 520 families at sadar thana, 663 metric tons among 1768 families at Mohanmadpur, 120 metric tons among 320 families at Sreepur thana and 105 metric tons among 280 families at Shalikhata thana.

Some 31.25 kg wheat were given to each family per month through 36 centres at 36 unions in four thanas of the district.

Gaibandha Rotary Club executives

Election of Gaibandha Rotary Club Board of Directors for 1996-97 was held on July 1. Those who were elected are Advocate Shamsul Alam Prodhon, President, Habibul Islam — VP, ATM Saifur Rahman Chowdhury — VP, Babu Bijoy Kumar Roy — Secretary, Abdul Latif Hakkani Joint — Secretary, ATM Ashraf Alam — Treasurer, Advocate Sekender Azam Anam — Bulletin Editor, Shamiul Islam Piplu — Club Service, S. J. A. Kader — Vocational Service, M.A. Hye Mandol — Community Service, Kazi Rezaul Hafiz — International Service, Liaquat Ali Bhuiyan — Sergeant at Arms, Dhulana Mia — Sergeant at Arms, Khandker Mofazzal Hossain — I.P.P.

Shahajada Anwarul Kadir was elected as president-elect for the year 1997-98.

Fishermen facing manifold problems

NOAKHALI, July 10: At least 15,000 fishermen of six thanas of the district are facing difficulties due to want of necessary fund and patronisation, reports UNB.

Local fishermen said pisciculture has been affected due to the drying up of waterbodies, inability of the fishermen to buy boats, fishing nets and other inputs.

Some fishermen also alleged that in the absence of soft term bank loans they are forced to borrow money from the local mahajans at a high rate of interest.

The number of non-professional fishermen are increasing day by day who are grabbing the facility of bank loans and other facilities, they added.

They urged the concerned authorities to create congenial atmosphere so that they can continue their age-old occupation.