

## News snaps

## Environment Day observed in Comilla

COMILLA, June 9: An elaborate programme was chalked out by different government and non-government organisations here to observe the World Environment Day on Thursday, reports BSS.

Rally, discussion meetings, essay and painting competitions were among the programme. A discussion meeting was held at the local town hall to mark the day. Mujibul Hoque MP was present at the meeting as chief guest, while Chowdhury Golam Mowla, Deputy Commissioner, Comilla was special guest. District forest officer Tapan Kumar Dey presided over the discussion.

## 2-day weekly holiday hailed

RAJSHAHI, June 9: Rajshahi Collectorate non-gazetted employees association hailed the two-day weekly holiday announced by the government, reports BSS.

M Amir Hossain, president of the association, in a statement said the two-day weekly holiday on Fridays and Saturdays had given the government employees an opportunity to perform their family and social responsibilities in one hand as well as to increase their working ability.

## Workshop on sugarcane cultivation

NARSINGDI, June 9: A three-day workshop of sugarcane growers of Narsingdi sadar, Shibpur and Monohardi thanas on modern method of sugarcane cultivation was held on May 30, 31 and June 1 in the seminar room of the Deputy Director of the Agriculture Extension Department here, reports BSS.

The subject-matter specialists discussed various modern method of sugarcane cultivation to achieve optimum production. Narsingdi is a sugarcane producing area and this year 890 hectares have been brought under sugarcane cultivation in this district.

## Jute cultivation scheme in Meherpur

MEHERPUR, June 9: About 10,000 hectares of land have been brought under jute cultivation in the two thanas of Meherpur district in the current season, reports BSS.

According to Agriculture Extension Department, 6000 hectares of land have been brought under jute cultivation in Meherpur sadar and 4,000 hectares in Gangni thana. The production target of jute has been fixed at 18,000 bales in Meherpur district this year. The BADC has supplied seeds while commercial banks and Krishi Bank will provide the jute growers with loan amounting to Taka 20 lakh.

## Efforts on to check river erosion

LAJMONIRHAT, June 9: Works for the protection of Daha-gram-Angarpota enclave from the Teesta river erosion and Burimari road from the Dhara river erosion are progressing fast, reports UNB.

Sources said placing CC blocks and bolder stones on a 1050-feet long bank on the left side of Teesta river are going on at a cost of Taka one crore. Meanwhile, 90 per cent work for protection of the Burimari road costing Tk 56 lakh has already been completed. Bangladesh Water Development Board has been supervising the works. The projects are expected to be completed this month.

## Bridges construction works progressing

MANIKGANJ, June 9: The construction of seven bridges at a cost of Taka 58,27,554 under PH 480 scheme in three thanas of the district in nearing completion, reports BSS.

According to an official source, among the bridges two in Daulatpur, two in Shibalaya and three in Ghor thana are being constructed. Meanwhile, more than 70 per cent works of the project has been completed. The rest of the work will be completed by June 30.

## 2 killed in separate incidents

GAIBANDHA, June 9: One Abdul Quddus, 70, of village Taraphari under Sadullapur thana of the district was electrocuted on June 4, family sources said, reports BSS.

The accident occurred when the victim had come in touch with a live electric wire of a sallow pump. A case of unnatural death (UD) has been registered in this connection. Earlier one Taju Mia of village Bhairampur under Sadullapur thana was killed by lighting on May 30 when he was standing on the door of his house during a norwester.

## Rain damages watermelons

NARAI, June 9: Watermelons worth about Tk 1.50 crore were damaged in Abhoynagar thana here due to the heavy downpour in the last few days, reports UNB.

According to an estimate about 200 farmers have been badly affected. The growers expected good harvest when the delicious fruit in the current season were almost ripe and suddenly their hopes were shattered when the croplands were inundated by the rain water. The poor farmers said they invested money taking loan from the banks and money-lenders to cultivate the crop with the hope of getting good profit but the natural calamity stood in their way.

## Young man killed in road mishap

SIRAJGANJ, June 9: A young man was killed and 25 others were injured when a bus and a truck collided head-on at Kundali in Raiganj thana on Bogra-Nagarbari highway on Friday, reports UNB.

The mishap occurred at 10 am when the Sirajganj bound bus hit by the Bogra bound truck from Nagarbari leaving the unidentified man, 30, died on the spot. Of the injured, 10 were admitted to Raiganj Hospital while four to Bogra Mohammad Ali Hospital in critical condition. Police seized both the vehicles, but could not arrest the drivers and helpers.

## Body recovered

RANGAMATI, June 9: The police has recovered the body of a man from the room of a residential hotel at Bonorupa in the town on Friday, reports BSS.

The body was identified as of one Sultan Ahmed, 55, who reportedly stayed in Hotel Alif at Bonorupa and was running small scale business of timbers, Kotwali police said. The body was sent to Rangamati Sadar Hospital for autopsy. A case of unnatural death was registered with the Kotwali police in this connection.

## Relief distributed among cyclone victims

BANDARBAN, June 9: The district administration has distributed an amount of Taka four lakh as cash dole and a sizeable quantity of other relief materials among 20,000 cyclone affected people of the seven thanas of Bandarban Hill District recently, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the relief materials included 103 metric tons of rice, 200 pieces of saree, 200 pieces of lungi, 100 tins of biscuit and three metric tons of chira (flattened rice).

## Tk 18 lakh realised as land dev tax

NOAKHALI, June 9: A total of Taka 18,94,173 was realised as land development tax in Noakhali district during last 11 months of the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the target was fixed at Taka 3,69,05,994 for the current fiscal. This year the target will not be achieved.

## Two kidnappers arrested

SATKHIRA, June 9: Two miscreants were arrested for kidnapping a teenage school girl on Sunday, reports BSS.

According to police, Pinki, 16, daughter of Ansar Ali of village Damdar in Phultala thana of Khulna district while going to school was kidnapped by some miscreants. They brought her to Kaliganj thana in Satkhira by a micro bus and were moving suspiciously. Later on information, police arrested Jasim and Yusuf in this connection and sent the girl to Phultala thana on the same day.

## Dacoit with pistol arrested

BHAIRAB (Kishoreganj) June 9: River police arrested a notorious dacoit and recovered a pistol from his possession at Darichandpur here Friday night, reports UNB.

Farid, an active member of inter-district dacoit gang, was released from jail recently and involved in dacoity again, police said. Farid and his gang was caught while taking preparation for committing robbery. However, other dacoits managed to escape.

## Madaripur BMA election held

MADRIPUR, June 9: The election of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA), Madaripur district unit was held at circuit house here recently, reports BSS.

A 23-member executive committee was elected with Dr M A Bari and Dr Mujibul Haq as president and general secretary respectively.



SYLHET: A colourful rally was brought out in the district town in observance of World Environment Day on Thursday.

— Star photo

## Langalbandh-Kushtia road in very bad shape

Monojit Kumar Das

MAGURA, June 9: The 50-kilometre road linking the northern part of Magura district with Kushtia town is now in a deplorable condition. As a result the people have to undergo immense sufferings. There was a road on the northern bank of Ganges Kobodak Project (GK project) canal under Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB). The road links Langalbandh, a big business centre with Magura district and Kushtia town.

But this road is not suitable at all for running loaded buses, trucks, even rickshaw vans due to lack of pucca (asphalted) road.

An official source of GK Project said, the authorities of the project took a programme to construct a pucca road on the northern bank of the main canal. It was running from WAPDA crossing of Magura town to Langalbandh, Amalsar, Tikerbil and Narua bazars are supplied from Kushtia town. In the rainy season all essential goods come from Kushtia business centres through Gorai river by engine driven country boats. But after the month of August and

September this riverine route remains fully closed every year due to drying up of the river Gorai. As a result, thousands of traders and passengers of these areas have to depend on road communication. But transportation of goods becomes costly in absence of a direct pucca road from Kushtia town to Langalbandh bazar in Magura district.

While talking to the local leaders, this corresponds learnt, a large number of people of the northern part of Magura and Jhenaidah districts who live on the both sides of Ganges Kobodak Project's main canal area are not able to communicate with Kushtia, Bheramara, Paksey, Iswardi, Pabna and Rajshahi due to deplorable condition.

The sufferers have appealed to the authorities concerned time and again for constructing a Pucca link road between Langalbandh bazar in Magura district and Kushtia town via Katlagari. But the authorities are yet to take any effective steps to mitigate their sufferings.

Some established businessmen of the northern part of Magura district told the correspondent that 70 to 75 per cent essential commodities including rice, atta, flour, sugar, oil, vegetables and various kinds of stationeries of Katlagari, Sartia, Khulumbaria, Gobindopur, Langalbandh, Amalsar, Tikerbil and Narua bazars are supplied from Kushtia town. In the rainy season all essential goods come from Kushtia business centres through Gorai river by engine driven country boats. But after the month of August and

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