

News snaps

Target of Boro production fails

SUNAMGANJ, Jun 23: The target of Boro production here has been failed in the current season due to shortage of rainfall and seedlings, reports UNB.

The Agriculture Extension Department sources said Boro crops have been cultivated on 1,38,650 hectares of land in the district and the target was fixed at 3,03,000 metric tons. But the cultivation was badly affected due to continuous drought and shortage of seedlings. After the harvesting of the crops frustration loomed among the farmers as the yield stood at about 50 per cent of the target. The worst affected thanas are Tahirpur, Biswambarpur and Sadar.

Rly passengers being cheated

MYMENSINGH, Jun 23: An organised gang of miscreants are engaged in deceiving the passengers at the railway station here in the town, reports UNB.

According to sufferers, the cheats make friendship with the passengers and take away their belongings making the senseless after feeding poisonous foods. Station sources said the cheats in two days took away valuables and cash worth over Tk one lakh from the passengers. Four passengers were admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital in an unconscious state. Three of the victims were identified as Abdul Azz, 45, a school teacher of Khaled Haider Memorial High School of Rampura, Dhaka, Musa Siddiqi Babul, 25, a service holder of Chittagong and Titu, 35, an inhabitant of Gaibandha.

Shortage of physicians in health complexes

NAOGAON, Jun 23: The medicare facilities in the district have been facing serious setback due to shortage of physicians and staff members for long, reports UNB.

According to the district Civil Surgeons office, some 58 posts of physicians out 154, have been lying vacant in Sadar Hospital and other thana health complexes and health centres for a long time. Besides, some 133 posts of officials, nurses and other employees are lying vacant shattering the medical service facilities of 25 lakh inhabitants of the district. Local leaders have urged the authorities concerned to take steps to fill up the vacant posts without further delay.

Stipend distributed among female students

RANGAMATI, Jun 23: A total of Tk 5.82 lakh stipend has been distributed among 250 female students of the district this year by the Local Government Council, reports UNB.

Besides, the council distributed a total of Tk 28.18 lakh stipend among 1,158 female students over the last nine years. This was disclosed by Council Chairman Ching Ku Roaza in stipend distribution ceremony at the council auditorium recently. Besides, the council also distributed some 402 metric tons of rice as relief from the development fund of 1997-98 fiscal year budget under the Ministry of Relief and Disaster Management.

Body recovered

MUNSHIGANJ, Jun 23: The Sreenagar thana police of the district recovered the body of an unidentified man, 30, recently from a ditch near the Umpara Road, reports BSS.

According to the police, the body had a tightened noose around his neck. The unidentified man was strangled to death by his assailants before being dumped into the road-side ditch, police suspected. The body was sent to Narayanagar morgue for autopsy. A case had been stated with Sreenagar thana in this regard.

Environment Day observed

CHUADANGA, Jun 23: World Environment Day was observed here recently, reports BSS.

In observance of the day the Chuadanga district administration chalked out a programme which included rally, procession and discussion meeting. The rally was held at the office premise of the Deputy Commissioner, Chuadanga. The rally was participated by the local government officials, school teachers, students and elites of the town. The discussion meeting was held at the local Sree-Monto Town Hall. Deputy Commissioner of Chuadanga presided over the meeting. The speakers in the discussion spoke on the days them "For Life on Earth-Save Our Seas."

Tk 52.17 lakh road dev project at Madaripur

MADARIPUR, Jun 23: Madaripur pourashava has taken up a programme for the construction and reconstruction of 31 roads in different areas of Madaripur pourashava, reports BSS.

An amount of Taka 52,17,500 would be incurred for implementation of the programme. Chairman of the pourashava told recently the road construction would be completed within three months.

Fish fry being caught indiscriminately

KISHOREGANJ, Jun 23: Fish fry are being caught indiscriminately depleting the government ban at different parts of the district, reports UNB.

According to local people, a section of fishermen are fishing fry of Ruii, Katla, Magur, Mrigel, Puti, Boal, Kalibaas, Shoal, Sling from rivers, canals and haors at Sadar, Tarail, Karimganj, Bajitpur, Itna, Mitamain, Austagram, Bhairab, Hossainpur, Fakundia, Katiadi, Nikli and Kullarchar thanas here. Everyday a huge quantity of fry are being sold at different markets of the district before the nose of the law enforcers. It is also learnt that some fishermen are using current nets for fishing the fry, though the government banned the use of such nets.

Family feud claims life of school boy

SIRAJGANJ, Jun 23: Family feud claimed the life of a school boy at Sabbisva Alokdia village in sadar thana recently, reports UNB.

Police and family sources said Mithu, 11, a student of Class VI of Sabuj Kanon School of the town, was found dead at a nearby sugarcane field. They said a group of unidentified people took away Mithu while he went outside his residence. They killed him by strangulation and left the body in the field. They body was sent to Sirajganj General Hospital for autopsy.

Aus farming scheme in Netrakona

NETRAKONA, Jun 23: About 41,000 hectares will be brought under Aus paddy cultivation in the 10 thanas of Netrakona district in the current season, reports BSS.

An official source said, of the total land 19,000 hectares will be brought under high yielding variety and 22,000 hectares under local variety of the paddy. The production target of Aus paddy has been fixed at 56,840 tonnes, the source said.

Agri loan distributed among farmers

NOAKHALI, Jun 23: Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) disbursed Tk 12.68 crore as agri loan among the farmers in the district through its 17 regional branches during the current fiscal till June 16, reports UNB.

According to BKB sources, this year, its loan disbursement target was Tk 15.31 crore. It has already realised Tk 12.56 crore outstanding loan while Tk 9.32 crore had been realised during the corresponding period in the last fiscal. BKB has filed 3133 certificate case against the defaulter farmers. It realised Tk 34.96 lakh during the current fiscal after settlement of some 153 cases.

Beheaded body recovered

MUNSHIGANJ, Jun 23: The sadar thana police on Saturday recovered beheaded body of an unidentified youngman from a canal at Uttar Kazikasba under Rampal union, reports BSS.

According to police, the decomposed body was hidden under water hyacinth of the canal. The severed head was however, recovered from a nearby place. The youngman in his twenties might have been killed more than a week ago, police suspected. A UD case was filed with the sadar thana in this connection.

Minister witnesses progress of dam work

MADARIPUR, Jun 23: Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak recently witnessed the progress of work of the second phase of Madaripur Town Protection Embankment Project, reports BSS.

The minister directed Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) to complete the rest of the work of Madaripur Town Protection Project in due time in the public interests. The work of the project began in July 1996-97. Half of the work of the project has been completed by now. Razzak also visited the site of Taka 17 lakh Fatepur Colony Protection Embankment to witness the progress. The minister also visited Ferdous Jute Mills in Gopalganj. State Minister for Textile AKM Jahangir, Lt Col (ret'd) Farooq Khan MP, and Awami League leader Mukul Bose were also present on the occasion.

Admin asked to help cyclone victims

NILPHAMARI, Jun 23: LGRD and Cooperative Minister Zilur Rahman has directed the local administration, LGED and Public Health Engineering Directorate to assess the damages caused by the cyclone and stand by the side of the affected people with relief materials, reports BSS.

The minister also expressed deep concern at the damage caused by the cyclone in Chittagong.

LP gas scarcity takes serious turn in 16 districts of N-region

NATORE, Jun 23: Scarcity of Liquefied Petroleum (LP) gas has taken a serious turn in 16 districts of northern region including Natore, reports UNB.

At present per gas cylinder is being sold between Tk 600 and Tk 750 which is more than double of the actual price.

The consumers said, the problem cropped up due to the short supply and improper distribution system.

Sources said, the total number of LP gas users in 16 districts is 25,050 with 4,940 users in Bogra alone.

According to Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, the problem was created due to continuous short supply of LP gas cylinders in view of the growing demand. The demand for LP gas cylinders now stands at about 1,00,000 per month, the sources

added.

Taking advantage of the situation, a section of people are making abnormal profit at the cost of the consumers.

The distributing companies — Padma, Meghna and Jamuna — supplied about 2,32,800 gas cylinders to the consumers over the last 11 months of the fiscal 1987-88. But it met only 5.38 per cent of the total demand.

The BPC sources said, there was a supply of 34,400 gas cylinders against the demand of 70,000 till the 20th of the current month.

LP gas cylinder distribution system has been introduced in 1980 in the region. Since then, the demand for LP gas has been on rise. Distribution agents are still being appointed in the districts, but the supply didn't increase proportionately.

Over the period, except in very few cases, the users could not get cylinders at the BPC's fixed price.

There are 191 licensed and about 70 unlicensed LP gas dealers in the northern region, the sources added.

Import of refined oil for irrigation purposes caused the slump in LP gas production, BPC sources said. About 2 per cent of the LP gas is obtained as by-product in the petroleum refining process.

The Eastern Refinery produces only 18,000 mts of LP gas in a year, but this is far short in view of the demand.

The refinery, which is expected to be overhauled soon, has the possibility of producing less LP gas for certain period pushing the crisis more acute.



SYLHET: Zillur Rahman, General Secretary of Awami League and LGRD Minister speaking at a reception accorded to him recently by Burunga Union Unnayan Sangstha in Balaganj thana.

Wife stabbed to death allegedly by husband

MYMENSINGH, Jun 23: A young housewife was stabbed to death allegedly by her husband at Charkalbari in Sadar thana here on Sunday, reports UNB.

Nurjahan, 21, wife of an auto-rickshaw driver Solaiman, 30, was stabbed in the chest at their house at about 4 am when she refused to give him money deposited to her by her mother, police said.

Nurjahan was taken to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital in a critical condition where the doctors declared her dead.

Family sources said Solaiman became addicted to gambling and has been pressing her wife for money. Nurjahan's mother deposited Tk 7,000 to her on Saturday.

A case was lodged with Sadar thana in this connection and the accused husband remained absconding.

Cruelty to women: 7 get life-term RI

MAGURA, Jun 23: Seven persons have been awarded life term rigorous imprisonment (RI) recently for cruelty to women.

The convicted persons are: Bimal Ghosh, Bidyut Ghosh, Gobinda Ghosh, Basudeb Ghosh, Ashit Ghosh, Nirod Ghosh and Subodh Ghosh of village Birpur under the sadar thana of the district.

Md Golam Rabbani, Additional District, Sessions and Tribunal Judge, Magura delivered the judgement.

The prosecution story in brief is, the convicted persons entered into the room of Anna Rani, an orphan girl of the same village with arms and violated her in a field. Then the convicted persons confined the victim and her mother after her abduction at the point of arms. The miscreants made them cripple so that they can not file any case in this connection.

24 hurt in clashes at Shailakupa, Kaliganj

JHENIDAH, Jun 23: At least 24 people were injured in two separate clashes at Shailakupa and Kaliganj thanas here on Thursday, reports UNB.

Police and witnesses said some 20 people were injured in a clash between two rival groups of local Awami League and BNP supporters at village Baguta in Shailakupa thana over lifting of jakruts from a tree claiming the ownership by both the groups.

Both the groups used ram-dao, lathi, brick, dhal and other lethal weapons in the fierce clash.

Local BNP MP MA Wahab alleged, police arrested three

workers of his party — Saiful, Daud and Noor Ali — from the village and tortured them taking to the local police station implicating them falsely.

Tense situation was prevailing in the area. A police camp has been set up at the village to avert further clash.

In another clash four people were injured at village Hardevpur in Kaliganj thana on the same day.

The injured Rafiqul, Sadekul, Kashem and Zulhaq were admitted to the local health complex.

Separate cases were filed with the police.

Cattle lifting on rise in Kishoreganj

KISHOREGANJ, Jun 23: Cattle lifting is on alarming rise in different parts of the district creating panic among the farmers, reports UNB.

An organised gang of thieves lift cows from the sheds of farmers at dead of night and some lifters return the same after realising ransom money.

The cattle lifting has increased in Sadar, Karinganj, Itna, Kotiadi, Mitamoin, Niklee, Hossainpur and Tarail thanas.

A total of 150 cows were lifted from different areas of the district during the last one month, police sources said. The farmers are now passing sleepless nights at their respective cow-sheds to protect their animal.

Meanwhile, the farmers of Niklee thana recently staged a demonstration and held a rally in the thana headquarters protesting the increasing cattle lifting.

The speakers at the rally condemned the local adminis-

tration for their inaction in this regard and blamed the vested quarters for their upper hand in the heinous act of cow lifting.

Meanwhile, the poor farmers have started selling out their cows to save them from the hand of the lifters.

The local farmers urged the authority to take necessary measures for checking the theft without further delay.

Tendons of legs of Khulna Jubo League activist cut off

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Jun 23: Tendons of two legs of Nasir, 25, a Jubo League activist were cut off by some unidentified young men at Jinnah Para on Saturday night.

Nasir was attacked as a sequel to previous enmity over sharing of toll-money, police said.

He was admitted to Sadar Hospital.



RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY: Rasheda Khaleque, President of Rajshahi University Ladies Club, presenting a gift to the vice-chancellor of the university during the annual general meeting of the club recently.

Jamuna erosion victims in misery

JAMALPUR, Jun 23: Continuous erosion of the river Jamuna at Guthail area in Is-Jampur thana of the district during the last 10 years rendered over 20,000 people destitute and damaged properties worth over Tk 25 crore, reports UNB.

The river devoured over 100 villages and the protection dams since independence, said Golam Hossain, Chairman of Belgachha UP.

Over 5,000 families of five unions in west Islampur have been rendered homeless by the erosion of the river. They also lost about 10,000 acres of crop land.

The erosion victims have been passing their days in great hardships as no steps have yet been taken to rehabilitate them.

Finding no other way out many of them are maintaining their livelihood by resorting to begging.

The affected people urged the authority to take immediate steps to rehabilitate them for the sake of humanity.

Seminar on computer, information technology

COMILLA, Jun 23: A day-long seminar on computer and information technology sponsored by the Institute of Computer and Information Technology (ICIT) of the University of Comilla was held recently in the diabetic association auditorium here, reports BSS.

Former minister and noted social worker Aziz-ul-Huq attended the seminar as the chief guest.

Dr Habibur Rahman, acting vice-chancellor of the university presided over the seminar. Prof. M Abdus Sobhan, Executive Director of Bangladesh Computer Council, Prof. M Lutfar Rahman, Director, Computer Centre of the University of Dhaka and Dr M Alamgir Hossain, Assistant Professor of Computer Science Department of the University of Dhaka participated in the discussion.

Aziz-ul-Huq underscored the importance of computer in the life of today and tomorrow, and said computer technology has ushered in a new era in solving unemployment problems of the educated youths.

Shortage of judges in Laxmipur

LAXMIPUR, Jun 23: The judicial activities in the district are being hampered seriously due to acute shortage of judges, reports UNB.

According to official sources, some 2,000 cases remained pending in the district for long causing untold sufferings to the litigants. At present, seven out of the total nine posts of judges have been lying vacant.

Of the total, the posts of three Assistant Judges remained vacant for the last few months causing pressure on the case disposal process. Only one Assistant Judge at Raipur Court is now working in the district.

The only Additional Assistant Judge went abroad for higher training three months back and both the Sub-Judges were transferred from the district two months back.

The officials said both the District and Additional District Judges have already got transfer order and no replacement has yet been made.

There are four Judge Courts in the district where only one Assistant Judge is now working.

Local leaders have urged the authority concerned to fill up the vacant posts of judges without further delay to ease the sufferings of the people.

Jangalia UP by-election today

GAZIPUR, Jun 23: The by-election to the post of chairman of Jangalia Union Parishad under Kaliganj thana will be held on June 24, reports BSS.

Gazipur election office sources said, the chairman post fell vacant following the death of former chairman Fazul Haque on May 2.

Three candidates are participating in the by-elections.

Valuables worth Tk10 lakh looted from shops

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, Jun 23: A dacoity was committed at Chaturbari Bazaar in Shailakupa thana at dead of night on June 9, according to the police and shopkeepers.

About 25 to 30 armed dacoits looted valuables worth Taka 10 lakhs from 18 shops at Chaturbari bazaar. The dacoits came to the bazaar by truck at dead of night and created panic by blasting 8 to 10 bombs. They entered into the shops of Ranojit, Hakim Molla, Abul Hossain, Amjad Ali, Sattar Molla and others forcibly. They broke open the doors of the shops and looted cloths, sewing machines, fans, tape-recorders, stationery goods and cash worth about Taka 10 lakhs. At least 8 to 10 shopkeepers were injured by the dacoits. A case was lodged with Shailakupa thana.

Several old buildings in Mymensingh in bad condition

MYMENSINGH, Jun 23: Several old buildings including the Collectorate building here are in dilapidated condition threatening the security of the concerned officials and employees, reports UNB.

The buildings, housing the District Cognisance Court, Trial Court, District Record Room, and CID and BRTA offices, are being used though PWD declared these unfit for use in 1995.

The buildings, constructed in early last century, are being used due to non-availability of alternative office space, said the official sources adding that many valuable records are being damaged and destroyed in the record room as rain water leaks through several breaches developed in different parts.

Additional District Magistrate Munir Hossain Miah told that the district administration

has requested the higher authorities to construct the buildings afresh demolishing the old ones.

He said the work at the record room remained suspended for about one month in September last year due to serious breaches in its roof.

Executive Engineer PWD, MA Ghani said the department has declared the buildings as unfit in 1995 though these structures expire their usability early in the current century.

A task force of the Ministry of Housing and Public Works visited the buildings in February last and approved a budget of Tk 50 lakh for repair of the roofs keeping the walls intact. But, the officials said, the repair work could not be started as there is no alternative allocation for shifting the offices now housing in these buildings.

Football fans ransack Magura PDB office

MAGURA, Jun 23: Being angered by sudden power failure during a World Cup match, football fans here ransacked the local PDB office on Sunday night, reports UNB.

Police said the district town plunged into darkness at about 10:30 pm while the match between Argentina and Morocco was going on.

The agitated people ransacked the PDB office and damaged five passenger buses on Magura-Jessore road.

Police rushed to the spot and fired six round of shots and lobbed two tear gas shells to disperse the mob.

Three police personnel were injured during the melee. Of them, condition of constable Nurul Islam was stated to be critical.

Additional police force have been deployed in the area to avert further untoward incident.

Another reports from Natore says: Irregularities in the local Power Development Board (PDB) office have been causing

immense sufferings to the power consumers and depriving the government of huge revenue.

The local consumers alleged that some PDB officials and employers of the district are making money by adopting unfair means ignoring the sufferings of genuine subscribers and interest of the government.

They also alleged that these unscrupulous men have been earning a lot by allowing illegal power connections, meter-reading and excess billing. They allegedly maintain secret link with some local mills, factories, shops, hotels and other business establishment owners.

Besides, the shortage of electricity mainly due to innumerable illegal connections is covered by excessive load-shedding causing untold sufferings to the consumers.

The subscribers urged the higher authority to probe into the matter and take immediate steps against corrupt officials and employees of the power office.



CHAPAINAWABGONJ: State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Prof Zinnatunnessa Talukdar exchanged views recently with the local journalists at press club here.

Farmers being deprived of fair price of IRRI-Boro paddy

NAOGAON, Jun 23: Farmers in the district are being deprived of fair price of IRRI-Boro paddy in the current season due to its low price in the market, reports UNB.

The farmers said they have become frustrated with the market price as it merely covers their production cost and they are unable to make any profit to make up the losses they incurred in the last Aman season.

"We can't make any profit by selling the paddy as the price is much low," said a farmer who came to a local market with his products.

Excessive supply of IRRI-Boro in the hats and bazars of the district and shortage of buyers are said to be the main reasons behind the low price of the paddy.

At present, paddy is being sold between Tk 200 and Tk 245 per maund at different hats and bazars.

Officials of Agriculture Extension Department here said production cost of per maund of IRRI or Boro paddy stood at Tk 200 to Tk 225. They said the cost this year was much less due to the availability of fertiliser

in the market and adequate timely rainfall.

Meanwhile, the farmers said the target of paddy procurement fixed in the district during the current season is much less due to inaction of the officials concerned.

Couple surrenders to police after killing a man

TANGAIL, Jun 23: A couple has surrendered to police after killing a man at village Dhitpur in Sadar thana of the district Saturday noon, reports UNB.

Police said Yunus Ali and his wife Sufia Begum came to Sadar thana and confessed to killing Hasan Ali, 30.

The couple told police they had killed Hasan as he tried to violate Sufia at their home at Dhitpur village.

But the victim's father-in-law alleged that the couple had killed Hasan as he went to their house to realise a loan. He filed a case in this connection.

Police sent the body of Hasan Ali to Tangail General Hospital on Saturday for autopsy.

10 commit suicide in Jhenidah, Sylhet dists

JHENIDAH, Jun 23: At least nine persons including three women committed suicide in three thanas of Jhenidah district in two days last week, police and hospital sources said, reports BSS.

Majedul village Methapukur, Mokbul of village Taltope under sadar thana, Pulok of village Pulhury under Shailakupa thana and Fulsurat Bibi of village Bagpara under Kaliganj thana allegedly committed suicide on June 14.

Taher Ali of village Dholo-hara Chondro, Kalu of Methampur, Nurjahan of Aushia, Kashem of village Mingram under Shailakupa thana and Johra Kahtun of Folla under Kaliganj thana reportedly committed suicide on June 12, the source said.

Separate UD cases have been filed with respective police stations.

UNB reports from Sylhet: A sexagenarian allegedly committed suicide by taking poison at Chanpur village in Balaganj thana here on Monday.

According to family sources

One killed, 5 hurt in Gopalganj road accident

From Our Correspondent

Gopalganj, Jun 23: One person was killed and five others were injured in a road accident near Chapal ghat on Gopalganj-Chapal road recently.

A loaded truck was coming to Gopalganj from Chapal ghat. When the truck reached reached half kilometre path from Chapal ghat the truck hit a rickshaw van from behind. As a result one Hoshneara Begum, 35, wife of Abdul Wahab died on the spot and 5 others were injured. 2 of them seriously and admitted to Gopalganj Sadar Hospital in a critical condition. The admitted persons are: Matiar Rahman, 35, and Naim Hossain, 20.