

News snaps

Training programme on animal husbandry

MANIKGANJ, Jun 29: A month-long training programme on animal husbandry, poultry farming and pisciculture was inaugurated at Dauli Government Primary School in Garpara union of the sadar thana on June 19, reports BSS.

The training programme was inaugurated by M Nazrul Islam, Project Director of Youth Development Directorate. The inaugural function was addressed, among others, by Awami League leader Col (ret) M A Malek, Borhan Ahmed, Executive Editor, the Daily Janakantha, Aftab Uddin, President, the Dhaka-based Manikganj Samiti, Engineer Abdur Razzaque, Secretary, Manikganj Samiti, and M Ramjan Ali, Chairman, Manikganj Pourashava. A total of 35 unemployed male and female youths are taking part in the training.

School teacher succumbs to injuries

THAKURGAON Jun 29: A school teacher of Haripur thana seriously injured in a clash during a cricket match succumbed to his injuries at Rangpur Medical College Hospital last week, reports BSS.

Khalilur Rahman, a teacher of Torra High School under Haripur thana was injured seriously when a clash ensued between two groups of people during a cricket match on June 9. He was sent to Rangpur Medical College Hospital where he died on June 10. A case was filed with Haripur thana in this connection.

Discussion meeting

NETRAKONA, Jun 29: A discussion meeting on "Post Independence Cultural Activities of Netrakona District" was held at local press club recently under the auspices at Netrakona Pratyasha Sahitya Gosthi, reports BSS.

Presided over by Nasim Akhtar Talukder, vice-president of the organisation, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Prof Nani Gopal Sarker, President of Netrakona district JSD (Rob), Golam Ershadur Rahman, Assistant Headmaster of Netrakona Datta High School, Hithen Chowdhury and Monir Hossain Barua, general secretary of Pratyasha Sahitya Gosthi. The meeting was followed by a musical soiree based on patriotic songs.

2 phensidyl traders held

MANIKGANJ, Jun 29: The Narcotics Control Department arrested two people from Baichal village in Sadar thana on Thursday for illegal trading of 70 bottles of phensidyl, reports UNB.

The department, on information, raided the village and recovered the phensidyl worth of Tk 12,000 from Pintu Chatterjee and Abdul Kuddus. They were sent to jail *hazat* after handing over to the police. In another drive, the department also arrested another man from Das Cabin near Shahced Rafiq road in the town on Wednesday and recovered two bottles of phensidyl from his possession. The arrested was identified as Kamal Chandra Das of Banajuree-Durgabari area in Ghior thana. Separate cases were filed against the arrested people under Narcotics Control Act.

Father, son commit suicide

RANGPUR, Jun 29: A young woman and her son allegedly committed suicide together by taking poison at Anandanagar village in Peergachha thana on Wednesday, reports UNB.

They were identified as Amini Barman, 25, and Amal, 15. The cause behind the alleged self-murder could not be known immediately, but local people said there was land dispute between the mother and the son. The bodies were sent to hospital morgue for autopsy. A UD case was filed with police in this connection. Another report from Manikganj also says: A teenage girl allegedly committed suicide by taking poison at Golara village in Satura thana on Tuesday. Police identified the victim as Samurta Akter, 15, who died on way to Manikganj Sadar Hospital. The dead-body was sent to hospital morgue for autopsy. A UD case was lodged with police in this connection.

Outlawed activist held

JHENIDAH, Jun 29: Police arrested a local leader of outlawed Biplobi Communist Party from Motijheel thana area in Dhaka recently, reports UNB.

Police, acting on a tip-off, arrested Ayanal Huq alias Titas. Police said Titas, an infamous terrorist, was wanted in connection with several criminal cases in Jhenidah, Jessore and Khulna areas. He was sent to Jhenidah thana *hajat*.

Diabetic Samity inaugurated

KURIGRAM, Jun 29: Bangladesh Diabetic Samity, Kurigram district branch, was inaugurated here by the Deputy Commissioner on Friday, reports UNB.

A rally was held in front of its office after the inaugural ceremony with Pura Chairman Kazul Islam in the chair. Among others, Prof Mostafa Bin Khandakar, President of Kurigram Chamber of Commerce, Chowdhury Shaiful Islam, General Secretary of Zila Kria Sangstha and member of BCB Dr Mahfuzur Rahman Majnu, former District Education Officer Mafiz Uddin and secretary of the Samity Dulal Bose addressed the rally.

Business establishment ransacked

MAGURA, Jun 29: A gang of terrorists stormed the business establishment of a freedom fighter near WAPDA crossing Bus stand in Sripur thana here on Wednesday and ransacked and looted valuables worth about Tk 2 lakh, reports UNB.

Police said the gang numbering 50 to 60 led by one Muktar Hossen attacked the business enterprise of Mahatab Hossain when he denied to pay them toll. The miscreants also threatened him with dire consequences if he files any case with the police. The victim fled the area for fear of life and remained in hiding in Magura town. Later, he filed a case with the police on Saturday. Meanwhile, District Muktiyoddha Sangsad Unit Commander Khan Ali Raza urged the authority to arrest the attackers and save the life of the victim.

Women trafficker arrested

GAZIPUR, Jun 29: Police arrested a women trafficker along with three minor children from Ershadnagar in Tongi on Monday, reports UNB.

Police said, local people caught Rina, 22, when she was taking away alluring the children identified as Sajjad Hossain 4, Afzal Hossain 3, and Sabina 4, from the area. Rina, who hailed from Munshiganj, was handed over to the police. The rescued children are now in police custody. A case was filed with the Tongi police station.

Ice-cream factories defying rules

KISHOREGANJ, Jun 29: Some 120 factories here have been producing ice-cream in an unhygienic condition and without water purifying equipment causing the spread of gastroenteritis diseases, reports UNB.

Local people alleged almost all the ice-cream factories in 11 thanas of the district are engaged in production violating the factory rules. They said most of the factories, set up in an unplanned way, do not have water purifying equipment. Water from the nearby pond, river or other open water-bodies is being used in these factories without going through proper purification process. This is a serious threat to the public health, they said adding, the consumers, mostly children and teenagers, are being attacked by different water-borne and skin diseases.

Rice sanctioned for calamity victims

RANGAMATI, Jun 29: Rangamati district administration has sanctioned 5.5 tonnes of rice for distribution as relief among the people affected by natural calamities recently in Baghaichhari and Zurachhari thana of the district, officials said, reports BSS.

Five tonnes of rice was allocated for the affected people of Baghaichhari thana while 0.5 tonnes for Zurachhari thana. The allocation was made following the visit of chairman of the task force on tribal refugee affairs Dipankar Talukdar MP to Baghaichhari thana on June 16, officials said.

Housewife killed by husband

MYMENSINGH, Jun 29: A housewife was allegedly murdered by her husband at Shahidkona village in Fulpur thana on Tuesday, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Mushedha Begum, 20, mother of a child. Police sources said, at one stage of altercation over family feud her husband Suraj Ali attacked and strangled her to death. Police sent the body to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy. The accused, Suraj Ali went into hiding after the murder. A case has been filed with the police.

7,830 old people to get allowance

NETRAKONA, Jun 29: A total of 7,830 poor people from 85 unions of 10 thanas under Netrakona district will be provided with old-age pension allowance, an official source said, reports BSS.

The government has taken up the old-age pension allowance programme to rehabilitate elderly poor people of the country. Under the programme each pensioner will be getting Taka 100 per month. Meanwhile, thana level coordination committees comprising thana level government officers, manager of local Sonali Bank and some elected public representatives have been constituted to prepare the lists of recipients of the pension allowance, the source said.

Pisciculture affected by siltation in rivers

KUSHTIA, June 29: Acute scarcity of fish has been prevailing in the district for the last one month, reports UNB.

The pisciculture in the district has been affected due to massive siltation in the rivers Ganges and Gorai and in different canals and other water bodies.

Unplanned use of chemical fertilizer and insecticides in crop fields has also affected the growth of different species of fish. Hundreds of fishermen have been facing numerous problems due to the shortage of food and price hike of fishing materials.

Earlier, different species of fish were available in abundance in rivers, ponds and other water bodies in the district, but now the situation has become quite opposite due to indiscriminate fishing by non-professionals.

According to a source, the existence of professional fishermen is at a stake now, some of them have already left their profession while others migrated to other places for survival.

Indiscriminate catching of fish fry in different parts of the region defying the government ban is another cause of the scarcity of fish. The government has banned catching of fish fry below nine inches all over the country with a view to boost fish production.

According to witnesses, fish fry are being sold in the markets of Sadar, Bheramara, Mirpur, Kumarkhali, Khoksha and Daulatpur thanas. The matter was brought to the notice of Fisheries Department on several occasions, but no steps have yet been taken by them.

Fish which was once available abundantly in the beel and haor areas of Bheramara, Kumarkhali, Mirpur and Sadar thanas, has now been decreased alarmingly due to indiscriminate fishing of fry by the dishonest fishermen. It is learnt that about 6,000 ponds in different parts of the region are lying uncultivated since long.

Local people said, about 50 per cent of the ponds in the area have been silted and dried up due to lack of maintenance. A large number of ponds are also covered with water hyacinths hampering fish cultivation.

Experts said, 7000 metric tons of fish can be produced annually if these ponds are properly cultivated.

They added, the authorities should take schemes for re-excavation of silted ponds and introduce scientific methods of fish production here.

Death anniversary observed

FARIDPUR, June 29: The 17th death anniversary of Adel Uddin Ahmed, a former central minister of Firoz Khan Noon's cabinet, member of the East Bengal Legislative Assembly and member of the erstwhile Pakistan was observed on Friday through different functions including *mitad*, *mahfil* at his family residence here, family sources said, reports BSS.

Advocate Ahmed was member of parliament between 1954-1958. He was also founder-member and former president of Faridpur district Awami League.

Adel Uddin is remembered for introducing a bill of amendment for making Bengali and Urdu as the state languages of the then Pakistan which was unanimously passed in the Constituent Assembly and subsequently incorporated in the 1956 Constitution of Pakistan.

Villagers gouge out eyes of Sarbahara leader

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, June 29: One Sarbahara leader was arrested by Dashmina Police along with arms on Saturday.

Before his arrest, angry villagers of Betagi in Dashmina of Patuakhali district have gouged out his both eyes.

According to police witnesses, Abul Bashir, 30, a Sarbahara leader of the coastal area was caught by the local villagers in the morning following a secret information. He was wanted in connection with a number of terrorist activities and several other cases for a long time.

According to witnesses, angry villagers caught the Sarbahara leader and beat him mercilessly. Later they

gouged out his both eyes. Afterwards, the villagers handed him over to police in a critical condition along with a fire arm and bullets.

It has been alleged, several groups of armed Sarbahara members unleashed a reign of terror in at least 12 villages of the Sarbaharamen were allegedly engaged in collecting a huge amount of toll and doing terrorist activities in Baulf, Dashmina, Galachipa thana areas of Patuakhali district for months together.

Once the local people decided to face the terrorists jointly with a view to getting rid of the terrorist activities of Sarbahara men.



SYLHET: The divisional sports association organised Olympic Day Run here on Friday. — Star photo

Workshop of newly elected UP chairmen, members at Gopalganj

From Our Correspondent

GOPALGANJ, June 29: A day-long workshop of the newly elected Union Parishad (UP) chairmen and members was held at the Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) office premises in the district town recently.

The workshop was organised by BRDB, Gopalganj district branch under Rural Development Project - 5.

The day-long workshop discussed on various issues including torture on women, divorce, cattle and poultry rearing, business, small business, handicrafts and cottage industry, vegetable cultivation, fish culture and afforestation.

A total of six newly elected chairmen, nine women members and five male members of the district attended there. Nasiruddin, Deputy Commissioner, Gopalganj was present as the chief guest. Earlier, he inaugurated the workshop. Mohammad Zamiluddin, Senior Assistant Director of BRDB, Gopalganj presided over.

Number of drug addicts rising in Satkhira

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, June 29: Number of drug addicts has increased in the district causing grave concern among the peace-loving people.

It has been gathered, smuggled Indian phensidyl syrup has flooded the markets of the district. Some organised gangs are allegedly engaged in smuggling of the drug.

About 700 bottles of phensidyl syrup were seized in different areas of the district by officials of the Narcotics Control Department, Satkhira, BDR personnel and police from January 1 to May 30 last.

The seized drugs were deposited with the local Customs Department. Youths and teenagers, who can not afford to buy costly drugs, are taking phensidyl syrup, it is learnt. A bottle of phensidyl is being sold at taka 1-50 to Taka 125 in the markets.

The drug is being smuggled from India through different routes of the border areas of sadar, Shyamnagar, Kalaroa, Kaligonj and Debhatra thanas in the code name 'dail' mala' and min, local people complained.

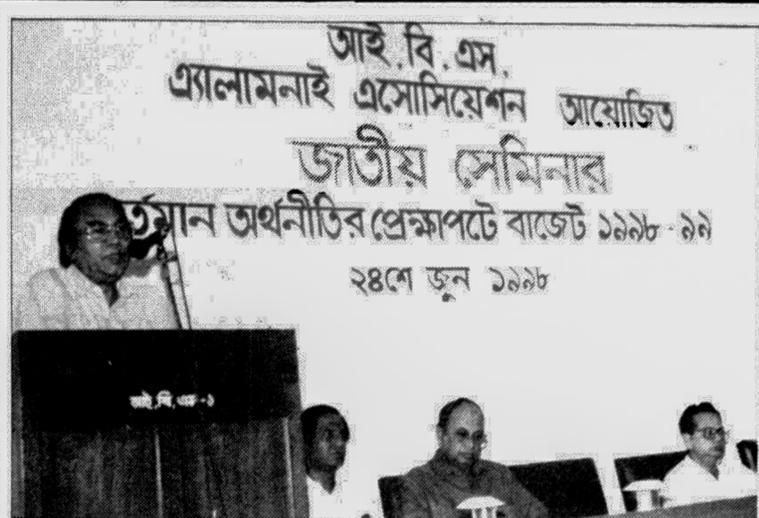
Some dishonest teashop and hotel owners, small bidishops owners and pharmacy owners in the town and bazaars of the district are involved in smuggling of phensidyl syrup. The syrup is sent to remote areas through their agents.

The addicts come to these hotels and restaurants after sunset and take the drug. These hotels and restaurants stop selling of tea after dusk.

Apart from drug stores phensidyl syrup is available at stationary shops. Some people are engaged in supplying the drug to the doorsteps of the addicts to earn substantial profit.



JHENIDAH: Md Amjad Hossain, SP, Madaripur distributing certificates among the participants who attended a five-day training course on 'Fact Finding, Reporting and Documentation of Human Rights Violation' held at Madaripur Legal Aid Association training centre recently. — Star photo



RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY: Vice-Chancellor Prof Abdul Khaleque addressing as the chief guest a seminar on budget arranged by IBS alumni association here recently. Pro Vice-Chancellor Prof Saidur Rahman was also present. — Star photo

Pakshey Bridge: Land acquisition going on

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, June 29: The preliminary work on the construction of Pakshey Bridge over the river Padma at Bheramara-Pakshey Ferry ghat has already been started.

Acquisition of land for the purpose has been going on. The foundation of the bridge will be laid by this year end. The bridge will cost Taka 595 crores and 56 lakhs.

The Project Director (PD) of Pakshey Bridge Construction Project, Shidul Islam said, the 2.15 kilometre long and 18.10 metre wide bridge will require 200 acres of land. The land will have to be acquired on the eastern and western part of the river. A total of 83 acres of land will be acquired from Pabna district. The Japanese Government will provide Taka 300 crores and 70 lakhs, while the rest amount will be borne by the Bangladesh Government.

A contract in this respect was signed between the two governments in March last year. Another final agreement will be done in the next month. One 10 kilometres road, connecting both sides of the river will be constructed according to the PD of the project.

4 youths arrested on charge of double murder

TANGAIL, June 29: Police arrested four youths from different parts of the district on charge of a sensational double murder case here on Sunday, reports UNB.

One of the accused, Zahid was arrested along with a revolver from a house of Adalat Para in the town. Other arrested are Shahidul, Shaheen and Malek.

Police said Mohon Pal, 47, and Narayan Chakrabarti, 26, two employees of a local dealer of a multinational company were killed by armed assailants while they were sleeping in the shop. The miscreants also looted Tk 3.5 lakh in cash from the shop.

Another injured Sohrab is undergoing treatment at Tangail General Hospital. Another report from Jhenidah adds: Police arrested a leader of Biplobi Chhatra Moitry (BCM) from Chanda cinema hall in the town on Saturday.

Zahid Chowdhury, president of BCM, was arrested in connection with a case filed against him.

Clash leaves one dead in C'nawabganj

From Our Correspondent

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, June 29: One people was killed and five others were injured, one seriously in a clash between two feuding groups of people at Madhabpur village in Nachole thana recently.

According to the police sources, the victim has been identified as Abu Taher, 25.

Another victim, Afsar, 70, was taken to the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) in a very critical condition.

The clash ensued from a conflict over the possession of land, eye witnesses said. A case has been filed with Nachole thana in this connection.

Jamuna erosion renders 38 families homeless

JAMALPUR, June 29: Thirty-eight families of Banachitholia village in Maderganj thana lost their homesteads due to erosion by the mighty Jamuna in last few days, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the river erosion has taken a serious turn due to onrush of water from hills, devouring a large number of homesteads.

Baljujee UP Chairman Shibli Bari said the homeless people, majority of whom are day labourers, in his union have been passing the days under open sky.

He apprehended, some of the villages in his union might go into the gorge of the river at any time if the water level of the river continued to rise.

Sources at the district relief office said, arrangement has been made to allocate 16-kg of rice to each affected family member.

Gaibandha Newsletter

Cash, valuables looted from bridal party

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, June 29: A gang of highway miscreants snatched away cash and valuables worth over Taka 60,000 from the members of a bridal party at Boardghar in Palashbari thana recently. Nirranjan Kumar Sarker, the bridegroom of village Basudevpur along with his newly married wife and other bridal party members were returning home from Kashinathpur by an auto-rickshaw. When the vehicle reached at Boardghar near Rangpur-Bogra highway a gang of miscreants armed with deadly weapons intercepted the vehicle of the bridal party. They snatched away cash and valuables from them.

During the raid the miscreants stabbed Madan Mohan Sarker who was later removed to Palashbari health complex. A case was filed with Palashbari thana in this connection.

Meanwhile, the association has set up 54 literacy centres on experimental basis in five thanas under the financial assistance of the concerned thana parishads. The target of this programme was envisaged to erect a total of 8,885 centres for the education of 1,40,326 female and 1,26,138 male learners in five thanas namely Gobindaganj, Palashbari, Shaghata, Sadullapur and Fulchhari. Besides, similar programmes are being conducted by local NGOs at Gaibandha sadar Sunderganj thanas.

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Saplings distributed

The Forest Extension Department, Gaibandha recently distributed 1,000 saplings of fruit and wood among the students of five primary and five high schools in the sadar thana, under the national tree plantation programme. On this occasion a discussion meeting was held at Jhenesher Government Primary school where Sirajul Islam, Headmaster of the school presided over. The meeting was addressed, among others, by Mokbul Islam, Ranger, Forest department, Abdus Sattar, Thana Education Officer, Shaiful Islam.

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Zahid Chowdhury, president of BCM, was arrested in connection with a case filed against him.

One Killed in road accident

One rickshaw van puller was killed when a passenger night coach ramed into a roadside husking mill at Muradpur on Bogra-Rangpur highway recently. Early in the morning on the day a Rangpur bound night coach suddenly ramed into the mill at Muradpur as the driver lost control over wheels.

As a result an unidentified rickshaw van puller was crushed under the wheels of the vehicle and died on the spot. The mill house was partially damaged.

A case was filed with the concerned thana. Police seized the coach.

Total Literacy Movement Programme

Illiteracy Alleviation Association, Gaibandha has undertaken a programme to remove the curse of illiteracy from village society under Total Movement (TLM) programme in five

thanas of the district. The main objectives of the programme are to literate ignorant people within the age group of 11 to 45 years and will extend further education if the situation deserves so. The programme will also ensure cent attendance in primary schools and to resist dropout of students.

Besides, the programme will create awareness among the people about family planning, general health care, agriculture, sanitation and tree plantation.

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Thunderbolt kills woman

Dawlatunnessa, 30, a house wife of village Keshabpur in Gobindaganj thana died when a thunderbolt struck her in the evening on June 13. The victim was engaged in household work when a powerful thunderbolt fell upon her. She died on the spot.

Child drowns

A five-year-old child Masud drowned in a pond at village Chhinnipatol Shaghata thana on June 12. The ill-fated child was playing on the bank of a pond adjacent to his father's dwelling house. Suddenly he fell down the pond and drowned. Later his body was recovered from the pond. Newlywed woman commits suicide.

Newly-wed woman commits suicide

A newly-wed woman has committed suicide on the next day of her marriage. Poor Manjila, 17, committed suicide on June 12. The ill-fated child was playing on the bank of a pond adjacent to his father's dwelling house. Suddenly he fell down the pond and drowned. Later his body was recovered from the pond. Newlywed woman commits suicide.

According to her family source, the victim was in deep love with a young man for a long time. The matter was exposed among the villagers. A village arbitration was held where they arranged a marriage of both the lovers. But soon after the marriage the bridegroom denied the marriage and fled away with his father. The bride could not overcome the shock and decided to end her life. She committed suicide by hanging herself with her own scarf in the bed room. An unnatural death (UD) case was filed with the sadar thana.

Huge Indian contraband items seized

COMILLA, June 29: Bangladesh Rifles seized huge Indian contraband items worth over Tk 30 lakh and arrested two people from different border areas here during the current month, reports UNB.

The arrested were identified as Muhammad Didarul Alam and Muhammad Nurul Islam.

Sources said BDR men arrested Didarul from Suaganj area in Sadar thana on Tuesday along with a truck carrying about 50 maunds of Indian fish worth over Tk 19 lakh.

Another patrol team seized various Indian contrabands, including saree, bed cover and other materials worth over Tk 90,000 from Subarnapur area of the same thana on June 17.

BDR also recovered about 111 cubic feet of Indian timber worth about Tk 70,000 during patrol duty in Gazipur area of Sadar thana on June 16.

Besides, BDR members recovered huge Indian contrabands worth about Tk 9 lakh in different operations in the border lines of the district from June 1 to 24, said the official sources.

These contrabands include Indian wine, phensidyl, sugar, salt, spices, milk powder, different types of cloths, pesticides, electric goods, timber, fish, bicycle, toiletries and cosmetics.

The election was conducted by Md Emran, the district Election Officer - 2 and Election Commissioner of Brahmanbaria Press Club.

The six other posts of the executive body were elected uncontested. They were for the post of Vce-President Muhammad Arzoo, (Ittefaque), another Vice-President - Sk Md Shahidul Islam (The Daily Star), Joint Secretary - Dipok Chaudhury Bappy (Khabar), Office Secretary Ashiqul Islam (Ajker Kagoj), Finance Secretary - K A M Rashidul Islam (Inquillab) and member - Badal Guh (Rupaly).

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B'baria Press Club executives

From Our Correspondent



BRAHMANBARIA, June 29: The biennial general election '98 of Brahmanbaria