

News snaps

Child workers on rise in Kishoreganj

KISHOREGANJ, July 6: The number of child workers is on rise in different parts of the district, reports UNB. The poor children aged below 15 years who are expected to go to school at this age are forced to engaged themselves in different kinds of manual works to earn their livelihood. They are found to be working as helping hand in motor garage, bicycle and rickshaw workshops, welding shops and in hotels and restaurants. Some of the children are also working as hawkers and many are found to be plying rickshaw. The child workers receive very nominal wages. Those who are working in houses as servant often face torture by their employers.

5 members of gamblers' ring arrested

MYMENSINGH, July 6: Police arrested five members of a gamblers' ring in an operation on Tuesday at Chechua Bazar in Muktagachha thana of the district, reports UNB. Acting on a tip-off, police raided the den of the gamblers and arrested Sajul, 18, Majibor, 25, Abdur Rashid, 35, Joimat Ali, 18, and Rabbani, 15. A case was filed in this connection.

Housing projects for the poor in Rajbari

RAJBARI, July 6: A total of 16 development schemes have been implemented by the district council here at a cost of Tk 1.07 crore during the last fiscal year, reports UNB.

The schemes included development and reconstruction of different roads, bus terminals and passenger sheds including the construction of a 10 km long road. Meanwhile, the government has undertaken three housing projects in three thanas of the district for the rural poor. The earth works of the Ashrayan project at Ruppur, Nashratshahi Ramchandrapur and Tenapacha have already been started with the allocation of 328 metric tons of wheat. Other infrastructure development work will start after the completion of the earth filling work, official sources said.

1.4 lakh hectares for aman cultivation

RANGPUR, July 6: About 1,40,500 hectares of land have been brought under Aman cultivation in eight thanas of the district during the current season, reports UNB.

District agriculture officials said that of the total land, nearly 1,11,523 hectares were brought under high yielding variety and the rest 28,980 hectares under local variety. The thanas are Pirganj, Mithapukur, Badarganj, Taraganj, Pirgachha, Gangachara, Kaunia and Rangpur Sadar. The production target of paddy has been fixed at about 2,50,900 metric tons of HVY variety and 40,000 metric tons of local variety, said the sources.

Over 600 tubewells to be set up in Sylhet

SYLHET, July 6: Public Health Engineering Department has taken up a programme to set up and repair more than 900 tubewells in the district at a cost of Tk 1.36 crore, reports UNB. Of the total, 236 shallow tubewells, 307 Tara and 60 ring tubewells will be set up in 11 thanas of the district while 314 will be repaired. Officials said the works are going on in full swing. With the implementation of the programme, drinking water supply in the district will be improved to a great extent.

Outlaw beaten to death

JHENIDAH, July 6: An activist of an outlawed party was beaten to death by a mob at Fulbari village in Koatchandpur thana here on Tuesday night, reports UNB. The victim was identified as Mustafa, 30, an activist of outlawed Purbabangla Communist Party. Local people alleged that Mustafa was involved in various criminal activities in the locality including rape and extortion of money for long.

Body exhumed

SYLHET, July 6: The body of a young man was exhumed on Monday from the grave at village Mahal in Goinghat thana after 10 days of his burial, reports UNB. The body was sent to Osmany Medical College hospital morgue for autopsy. Police said, the body of Kamaluddin, 22, was exhumed in presence of a Magistrate and was sent to the morgue following a complain filed by his mother and wife that some unidentified miscreants called him out of his house at the night of June 19 and murdered him.

337 uplift schemes completed

RAJBARI, July 6: A total of 337 development schemes under Disaster and Relief Ministry in four thanas of the district have been completed at a cost of 1,954 metric tons wheat, reports UNB.

The work under rural infrastructure and maintenance project included construction of mosques, temples, educational institutions and roads. Besides, the Facilities Department launched a programme to develop 21 educational institutions in four thanas of the district. The work is expected to be completed by December next at an estimated cost of Tk 3.62 crore. The programme included development of 14 government and non-government secondary schools, three madrasahs, two primary schools including construction of a 50-bed hostel of Rajbari Ideal Women's College.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Directorate of Health,
Central Drug Stores
30, Shahid Tajuddin Sarani
Tejgaon, Dhaka

Memo No-Health/S-9/Trans-Contr/97-98/9622 Dated: 30.6.98

Tender Notice

Tenders in sealed cover separately in group-based are hereby invited from the experienced, reliable, trusted Bangladeshi truck owners/transport contractors with valid licence for appointing one or more transport contractor for transporting goods of Health Department from Chittagong metropolitan area to Dhaka metropolitan area, repacking, rewrapping in 'ka' group and from Chittagong metropolitan area and Barabkunda to any district headquarters, thana and head quarters of Bangladesh (excepting Dhaka metropolitan area) and from Dhaka metropolitan area to any district/thana headquarters and repacking, rewrapping in 'kha' group during the year 1998-99.

- Each set of schedule of tender including terms and conditions can be procured till 3.8.98 everyday during office hours from the Clearance Section, Central Drug Store, Tejgaon Dhaka on payment of Taka 750.00 (seven hundred and fifty only) non-refundable as the cost in favour of Director, Store and Supply, Central Drug Store, Tejgaon and by depositing in 36 Health and Population Control head in Bangladesh Bank with the original copy of chalan and through an application in the pad of the company.
- Tenders will be received in the sealed tender box kept at the office of the Director, Store and Supply, Central Drug Store, Tejgaon, Dhaka till 11-30 AM on 4.8.98 and tender box will be opened by the tender committee the same day i.e. 4.8.98 at 12-noon before participants in tender or their nominated representatives (if anyone remains present).
- Original copy of Pay-Order/Bank Draft/Treasury Chalan for Taka 1,00,000/- (one lakh) only for 'ka' group and Taka 1,00,000/- (one lakh) only for 'kha' group as the earnest money refundable in the form of Pay-Order/Bank Draft/Treasury Chalan will have to be deposited in "revenue" head in favour of Director, Store and Supply, Central Drug Store, Tejgaon, Dhaka along with the tender at the time of depositing the tender.
- No tender schedule will be sold on the day of submitting tender and no tender will be received after the expiry of the date and time mentioned.
- The authority is not obliged to accept any tender and reserves the power to cancel/reject any or all tenders partly or fully without assigning any reason.

Brig. Zahir Uddin Ahmed
Director, Store and Supply
Central Drug Store
Tejgaon, Dhaka

DFP-14704/1-7-98
G-1561



MYMENSINGH: State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed and BAU Vice Chancellor Dr Muhammed Hussain speaking at the seminar on 'Role of Mass Media for Development of Agriculture' held at the conference room at the Agricultural University recently.

Cotton cultivation hit hard in Rajshahi zone

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, July 6: Cotton production in Rajshahi zone which included Natore is being hampered due to lack of credit facilities, scarcity of quality seeds and problems in marketing. According to official sources, 6,000 bales of cotton are being produced on an average in Rajshahi zone comprising ten thanas of Natore, Rajshahi and Naogaon districts annually. A total of 6,500 acres of land against the target of 8,000 acres have been brought under cotton cultivation this year in 16 units of the zone, fixing the production target at 6,700 bales of cotton, the sources said. A local expert said that cotton cultivation is more profitable than that of other cash

crops like sugarcane and jute. "If proper steps are taken, more 12,000 acres of land could be brought under cotton cultivation in the zone," he said, adding that there are 20,000 acres of land in the zone suitable for cotton cultivation, of which 15,000 acres of land are economically viable. Said Rezaul Karim, a cotton grower at Bagatpara thana of Natore: The per acre production cost of cotton is estimated at Tk 5,000 to Tk 5,500. But most of the small and marginal farmers are unable to afford the production cost. Official sources said that scarcity of quality cotton seeds is a stumbling block for cotton production. The total demand for quality

seeds is estimated at about 600 maunds for Rajshahi zone. Whereas the cotton Development Board (CDB) supplies a maximum of 300 maunds every year. So far, the CDB has purchased about 2,500 maunds of cotton against its procurement target of 4,000 maunds of cotton this year. The CDB procures cotton directly from the growers at the rate of Tk 1,040 per maund to ensure the supply of quality seeds. But growers show less interest to sell their produce to the CDB as the private traders pay more for the same. The traders at local markets are buying cotton at Tk 1,100 to Tk 1,200 per maund.



RAJSHAH: Rajshahi University Vice Chancellor Prof Abdul Khaleque inaugurated the computer cell of the Social Science Faculty on Thursday.

Traffic jam causing problems on long routes

PABNA, July 6: Heavy traffic congestion near hats and bazars on the highways in North Bengal has been disrupting seriously the movement of vehicles specially the long-distance coaches and trucks carrying perishable commodities, reports UNB. A total of 140 long-route coaches of the 16 northern districts used to ply through the highways of the district. But the movement of these vehicles is being hampered seriously due to the absence of any initiative to resolve the severe traffic jam by the authorities concerned. Local people said the situation is being deteriorated in the recent months. Most of the hats and bazars are located on both sides of highways and shop owners are gradually grabbing the space thus narrowing the roads. This trend has made traffic movement very difficult in some places, complained some drivers. Such market places include Ataikula, Bonogram, Dulai,

Chinakhora, Kashinathpur, Pushapapara, Tebunia, Dashedia, Shahidnagar, Kormoja in Pabna district, Talghachi, Boalia, Ullahpara, Chandaikona in Sirajganj, Rajapur, Bonopara, Ahamedpur, Kolomlia, Singra, Baneshwar in Natore, Putia in Rajshahi, Gobindaganj, Shalashbari in Gaibandha, Shothibari in Rangpur and Mahastan, Nandigram, Dhanaidoho, Sherpur in Bogra. The passengers of Pabna-Nagarbari, Nagarbari-Rangpur, Dinajpur, Rajshahi-Nababganj, Nagore-Bogra routes are suffering most as they sometimes remain stranded for hours together. Besides, ambulances carrying serious patients and fire brigade vehicles are to wait for long on the way due to the traffic jam. The people have urged the authorities to take pragmatic steps to resolve the problem in order to ensure smooth vehicular movement in the long routes of the region.



SYLHET: A procession in the town in observance of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

Two jailed for possessing illegal arms

JHENIDAH, July 6: Two people were awarded jail terms on Thursday by a court here for possessing illegal arms, reports UNB. Assistant Sessions Judge Chandan Kumar Sinha in a judgment sentenced Azharul Islam Rony, 20, and Manik, 19, to 10 and seven years of RI respectively. The prosecution, in brief, was that the two accused were arrested by the police during a search in a Dhaka-bound passenger night coach near BSCIC Industrial Estate here last year for illegally possessing a shotgun and a dagger. After examining the records and witnesses, the judge awarded the punishment.

Workshop on arsenic problem

GAIBANDHA, July 6: A day-long workshop on Arsenic problem and in search of safe water was held at local Gano Unnayan Kendra auditorium recently. The workshop was jointly conducted by Disaster Forum-Bangladesh and Gano Unnayan Kendra, Gaibandha. The workshop was presided over by Monsur Raja Chowdhury, ADC (General). The speakers in the workshop expressed concern at the increasing rate of arsenic pollution in tubewell water and gave the emphasis on making people aware about the fatal consequences. The speakers also suggested to use safe water from pond, river and well after proper boiling and purifying. Over one hundred persons from different professions joined the workshop.

Leprosy on the rise in Gaibandha

GAIBANDHA, July 1: The number of leprosy patients is increasing alarmingly in Gaibandha district. This was revealed in a survey conducted by an NGO. Gaibandha-Jaipurhat Leprosy Control Project conducted the survey in 1997 and found 18,758 persons affected by leprosy in Gaibandha district. Many of the patients concealed their condition fearing social boycott and remained silent till the disease took a serious turn. According to the survey report, the highest number of leprosy patients, 6763 persons, was found in Gaibandha sadar thana. Besides, 1752 were registered at Sadullapur, 1683 at Shaghata, 264 at Fulchari, 3463 at Gobindaganj, 1677 at Palashbari and 31,156 at Sunderganj thanas. When contacted, project chief Keshob Chandra Roy told The Daily Star that the project mainly identifies leprosy patients and renders services for the treatment of the patients. The organisation has been working since 1995. And a total of 2,930 leprosy patients have been treated. Of them, 1091 still remain under treatment, but the rest returned to normal life after their recovery. Apart from Gaibandha district, the NGO is also working at Jaipurhat district where total leprosy patients are 5,235. Of them, 2,930 were brought under treatment. After treatment, 2,559 patients recovered and the remaining patients are still under treatment. The NGO is conducting 21 leprosy clinics in Gaibandha and Jaipurhat districts. In these clinics, patients are being treated free of cost.

'Rupsha bridge to be built'

KHULNA, July 6: State Minister for Relief and Disaster Management Talukder Abdul Khaleque reiterated the ruling party's commitment to fulfil its election pledges in phases and said that Rupsha bridge, a long time demand of the people of Khulna, would be constructed, reports BSS. He said a team of Japanese experts would be visiting Rupsha River area on July 8 to do a feasibility study. The team will submit a report soon to the government, after which a contract is expected to be signed between the two countries for construction of the bridge.

Jute cultivation target not achieved in Mymensingh

MYMENSINGH, July 6: Jute cultivation target in the greater Mymensingh region could not be achieved in the current season as growers showed less interest to cultivate the crop on their land, reports UNB. According to the Agriculture Extension Department, only 62,690 hectares of land in five districts of the region have been brought under jute cultivation for the current year against the target of 84,762 hectares. Of the total land, 13,720 hectares have been cultivated in Mymensingh district, 10,350 hectares in Netrakona, 15,390 hectares in Jamalpur, and 6,730 hectares in Sherpur. But in the Kishoreganj district, jute was cultivated on 16,500 hectares of land against the target of 15,545 hectares.

Farmers of the region expressed disappointment that despite growing demand of the 'golden fibre' in the region, they do not get the fair price of jute due to lack of government patronisation. Finding no other way out, they are forced to produce paddy on their land. "We can't cover our production cost cultivating jute, but make a good profit by producing boro paddy or other crops on the same land. Now we cultivate jute only to meet our household demand," said Abdul Mannaf of village Kalapara in Nandaail thana. The farmers here also said that the government should take immediate steps to patronise the cultivation, ensuring fair price of the crop.

Kushtia Newsletter

From Our Correspondent

KCCI election

KUSHTIA, July 6: Election of the Executive Committee members of the Kushtia Chamber of Commerce and Industries was held on Tuesday. Two panel contested the election. In group 'A', 572 voters and in group 'B', 226 voters cast their votes. Those who were elected in Group 'A' are Alhaz Nasiruddin Mridha, Abdus Satter, Aktaruz-zaman, Mizanur Rahman Khan Babul, SM Mattiar Rahman, SM Alamgir Alem, Paban Kumar Surekha, Mofizur Rahman, Alhaz Meser ali, Nazrul Islam, Gazl Imam Tarek and Afazuddin Ahmed Jinnah. In group B, those elected are Aatur Rahman, Mokarram Hossain, Moazzem, Mahabubul Alam Ratan, Shahidul Islam Monju, Mizanur Rahman Mirza and Barkat ali Mahajed.

One Indian arrested

KUSHTIA, July 6: Kushtia police arrested one Indian national from Majampur Gate area on Tuesday. The arrested was identified as Nikhil Mondol, 28, a resident of Karimpur thana of Nadia district under West Bengal. Nikhil Mondol entered Bangladesh through Pragpur border without any passport. When he got off a bus, the traffic police, on suspicion, challenged him. Later he was taken to Kushtia police station where he admitted the fact. A case has been registered in this connection.

Daring dacoity

KUSHTIA, July 6: A daring dacoity was committed in a house at Chourhash near Kushtia town on the night of June 29. About 10 armed dacoits stormed into the house of one Kata Pal at about 11 PM and looted valuables worth Taka 30 thousand. Before leaving the

place, the dacoits stabbed Kata Pal as he cried for help. Later, the neighbours took him to Kushtia General Hospital. A case was registered with kushtia police station.

Child trafficker held

KUSHTIA, July 6: One child trafficker along with two abducted children has been arrested by Kumarkhali thana police recently.

It is reported that one Shahidul Islam alias Shamim of Aruapara Kushtia kidnapped Faruq, 10, and Reza, 6, from Shymgonj of Khokhsa thana. While he along with the children was crossing river Gorai, local people became suspicious about his movement and caught him immediately. The kidnapped children started crying and told that they have been abducted. Then the trafficker tried to flee, but the people caught hold of him and handed over him to Kumarkhali thana police.

They later held a rally with Sunam Hasan in chair. It was addressed by Dipankar Saha Dipu, General Secretary of central committee, Zahidur Rahman Zahid, former VP of Kushtia Govt. University College students Union, Abdul Huq, Abir Hasan and Rajib Parvez.

93 injured in B'baria clashes

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, July 6: At least 93 persons were injured in separate clashes in the district in nine days from June 19 to 27. According to reports, on June 27, at least 50 persons were injured in a clash at Rasulpur village under Nabinagar thana of the district. The clash between two rival groups lasted for three hours, leaving 65 persons injured. Of them, 26 persons were admitted to Brahmanbaria sadar hospital. The seriously injured persons were identified as Kawsar Mia, 18, Billal Mia, 24, Shiru Mia, 25, Marid Mia, 45, Joy Mia, 32, Imam Ali, 24,

Shah Alam 40, Momin Mia, 24, Abdur Rauf, 55, Khokon Mia, 25, Ismail Mia, 18, Amir Hussain, 20, Liakot, 12, Taru Mia, 50, Faruk Mia, 24 and Nannu Mia 40. On June 25, two rival group locked in a clash over catching fishes, leaving at least 18 persons injured. Eight critical injured persons were admitted to Brahmanbaria sadar hospital. They were identified as Au, 27, Saydur Rahman, 27, Swapan, 22, Mohiuddin, 40, Kayes, 40, Sachhu, 26, Babul, 24 and Johir, 18. The rest other were given first aid at Sadar hospital and clinics.



'Black tip' disease affects mangoes in C'nawabganj

From Our Correspondent

CHAPAI NAWABGANJ, July 6: Black tip disease of mango has broken out in Shibgonj, Bholahat, Gomostapur and the sadar thana of the district. As a result, a large number of mangoes is being perished, incurring loss to the growers. The disease which starts with a yellow spot and it turns deep black at the last stage on the mango skin was identified as the black tip disease by a group of scientists of Mango Research Centre at Chapai Nawabganj in 1995. According to these scientists, this disease is caused by the smokes coming out of factories and industries. Some mango garden owners said more than 70 per cent mangoes

of the gardens located near brick-field have already been affected this year. There are many brick kilns within the distance of five hundred yards from the mango gardens. These are at Rajarampur and Moharajpur in Sadar thana, at Burimari in Gomostapur thana and at Bargachhi and Bholahat sadar in Bholahat thana. The garden owners have alleged that while giving permission to build brick kilns, no rules were followed. Even after complaining with the survey report made by the scientists of the Mango Research Centre, no measures were taken up by the concerned authority.