

News snaps

Teenager commits suicide

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, June 1: A teenager has committed suicide recently by jumping under the wheels of a running train near Musull railway station.

The victim was identified as Khokon, 14, son of Aumju Mia. Police said, Khokon committed suicide following an altercation with his mother over a trifling matter. He jumped under the wheels of a local train 'Issa Khan'. He died on the spot. The body was sent to morgue for autopsy.

Separate incidents kill 2 teens

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, June 1: Two teenagers were killed in two separate incidents in Nagarkanda thana on May 20.

Sumon, son of Abdur Razzak of village Madanpur under Ramkantar union was seriously injured when a bunch of green palm fell on him suddenly. Some one was cutting the tree at that time. The victim was standing beneath the tree. He was immediately rushed to Faridpur Medical College Hospital (FMCH) where he succumbed to his injuries at dead of night. In a similar incident another teen named Milan of Gatti union died on the spot when a bunch of green palm tree fell on him. Two separate cases were lodged with Nagarkanda thana in these connections.

Technical fault in telegraph circuit

JAMALPUR, June 1: Local people are facing difficulties in sending important telegraphic messages to different parts of the country due to technical fault in the telegraphic circuit.

The sufferers said the process of sending messages is seriously hampered as important telegrams had to be sent by post for the last three years. Telegraph office sources said that a machine in the telegraph circuit suddenly went out of order paralysing the network. There is no telegraph office in Jamalpur including all the seven police stations.

Free medical camp

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, June 1: About 100 poor and distressed women were given free treatment and medicine at a medical camp held here recently.

Harisankarpur Mahila Unnayan Samity, a welfare organisation organised the camp in its premises situated in Ward No 12 of Kushtia Pourasabha. Dr Aminul Huq Ratan, General Secretary of Kushtia sadar thana Awami League examined the patients and prescribed medicine for them. Reza Sultana, President, Harisankarpur Mahila Unnayan Samity, Aktul Alam, officer of district women's Director and Enamul Huq were present.

Fugitive arrested

COMILLA, June 1: The Detective Branch (DB) of police arrested a fugitive from the Court Building area in the town on Sunday, reports UNB.

The arrested was identified as Saiful Islam alias Sohel of Kaptan Bazaar in the town. Acting on the confessional statement of Monzil and Jalal, who were arrested in a case on March 2, police raided the Court Building area and arrested Saiful.

Work progressing

FENI, June 1: The construction work of 35 barrack-type houses under Arsayan Project in two frontier villages of Parshuram thana is expected to be completed within the stipulated time, reports UNB.

Army personnel drawn from the 59th Division of Comilla Cantonment are constructing the houses — five in Baurguma and 30 in Guthuma villages — with financial assistance from Relief and Disaster Management Ministry. The construction work of the houses of Baurguma village started on May 12 and the army men completed 30 per cent of the works. On completion of the work, they will start construction of 30 more houses.

HSC examinees expelled

SIRAJGANJ, June 1: Two HSC examinees were expelled from Baghati Degree College centre in the sadar thana and arrested for adopting unfair means in the examination, reports APB.

Nurul Huda and Sohel Rana were caught by the Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO) when they were entering into the hall with answer scripts written outside during history examination, police said. The TNO handed them over to police who sent them to jail.

Shortage of pry teachers

SHARIATPUR, June 1: Primary education is hampering seriously in six thanas of the district due mainly to shortage of teachers, reports UNB.

Official sources said there are 1,643 posts of teachers in 396 primary schools in the district. Some 193 posts of teachers are lying vacant since long. Besides, school going children in the shoal areas, especially in Naria, Charatra, Naopatpara, Char-mohon in sadar thana, Kunderchar Barokandi in Jazira thana, Chakraborty Barokandi and Kachiketa in Vederganj thana are suffering from lack of education due to the shortage.

BNP leader killed

LAXMIPUR, June 1: A local BNP leader was killed by armed assailants at West Battola in sadar thana on Friday, reports UNB.

Police said about six armed men dragged Abdul Kuddus, 32, Vice-President, sadar thana BNP, out of his house while he was taking food at 3 pm and slaughtered him to death. A case was filed with the police.

Relief distributed

RAJBARI, June 1: District Red Crescent unit distributed relief materials including rice and pulses among the disabled people at its office on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Mohammad Amirul Karim inaugurated the distribution work. About 500 disabled people received the relief. Later on a discussion meeting was held aiming at finding ways of social rehabilitation of the disabled people. Presided over by the central manager of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society Fakir Abdul Jabbar, the meeting was also addressed by General Secretary Dilu Ahmed, central delegate Mohammad Sanullah, unit members Abdus Sattar Hafizur Rahman Hafiz, Zakir Hossain and Mohammad Dulal.

Drug trader gets 7-yr RI

JHALAKATI, June 1: A notorious drug trader was awarded seven years rigorous imprisonment (RI) with a fine of Taka 2,000, in default, to suffer to two months more RI in a case here on Tuesday, reports UNB.

The convict Raja Gomosta, 35, was known as 'phenisidyl emperor' in the town and also an accused of two other cases. Court sources said the case started after Raja was arrested from his residence with 62 bottles of phenisidyl on November 12, 1997. But after releasing on bail he continued the illegal trade and was arrested again with phenisidyl in last April. Judge of Special Tribunal Judge Court (2) Mohammad Nurul Haq after examining the records and witnesses found Raja guilty and awarded the punishment.

Valuables looted

LAXMIPUR, June 1: Four dacoities were committed in two days in different parts of sadar thana in the last week, reports UNB.

Police and local people said a daring dacoity was committed at the house of Dr Abdul Quader of Dhananpur village in Hamchhadi union on the night of May 14. The dacoits, numbering about 20 to 25, entered into the house by breaking open the door and decamped with valuables worth Taka Two lakh. On the same night, another dacoity was committed in the house of Kalimuddin Bhuiyan of village Kaldisherbag in Hazirpara union. The dacoits also looted valuables from the house of Noor Nabil after beating the house owner.

Bridge construction work progressing

TANGAIL, June 1: Bashail Thana Engineering Department is constructing a 108 feet long foot-bridge over the river Jhinaz on Natiapara — Kashil Road at a cost of Taka twenty nine lakh, reports BSS.

Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) is supervising the work to be completed within this year. A substantial development in communication sector will be made in the area after completion of the construction of the bridge, local people commented.

Wheat for uplift work

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, June 1: A total of 331 metric tons of wheat were allocated for 29 projects of road and other infrastructural development in 11 unions of Kumarkhali thana.

These were damaged by the unprecedented flood last year. About 80 per cent work have been completed and 20 per cent work will be completed very soon, officials said. Besides, 65 projects were taken up before the flood in the thana and 114 metric tons of wheat were allocated for the purpose. The projects have already been completed, said Atia Rahman Biswas, the project implementation officer.



The birth centenary of national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam was celebrated recently all over the country. At Natore a three-day programme was arranged befittingly at the local district council auditorium. Photo shows a local artiste rendering Nazrul songs on the occasion.

Nazrul's birth centenary celebrated at Trishal, Natore

By Staff Correspondent

The birth centenary of national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam was celebrated recently in Natore and Mymensingh in a befitting manner.

Our Natore Correspondent reports: Government, non-government and different socio-cultural organisations arranged various programmes including discussion, musical soirees and milad mahfils.

A three-day programme, organised by the district administration, was held at Natore district council auditorium on this occasion.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) M Ishaq Bhuiyan was present in the inaugural meeting of the three-day programme as the chief guest with ADM Sharif Ahmed in the chair.

The ceremony was also addressed, among others, by Prof Jargis Quadir, Prof Chandranath Chakrabarti, retired PII super-Ziaul Haq and

police super Abdul Bari Mia.

Our Mymensingh Correspondent says: A three-day long national level programme was chalked out by the District Administration at Darirampur in Trishal thana where Nazrul stayed in his boyhood in 1914. The programme continued from May 25 to May 27.

Dr M Amanullah, State Minister for Health and Family Welfare inaugurated the function at Darirampur Academy ground as the chief guest. Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) Prof Muhammad Hussain was present as special guest with Maulana Hafez Rahul Amin Madani MP in the chair.

The inaugural session was also addressed, among others, by Principal Matuor Rahman, Nazim Uddin Ahmed and others. The second day's session was

addressed by Begum Matia Chowdhury, Minister for Food and Agriculture as the chief guest and Pro-Vice Chancellor of National University Borhan Uddin Khan Jahangir and Poet Nurul Huda, Executive Director of Nazrul Institute as special guests. A K M Shamsul Islam, ex-principal of Ananda Mohan College presided over the function.

The function was also addressed, among others, by Prof Zatin Sharker, Altaf Hossain Golandaj MP, and Poet Gausur Rahman.

Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak addressed the last day's function as the chief guest while Azad Rahman, Director of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy was present as special guest with Mukarram Hossain, Principal of Teachers' Training College (TTC) in the chair.

On the occasion, Darirampur wore a festive look.

A huge pandal was erected to conduct the three-day programme. A 'Nazrul Mela' was held where hundreds of stalls were installed. People of all walks of lives visited the stalls every day.

The concluding session was addressed by Alhaj Rashed Mosarrafa, State Minister for Land and Maulana Hafez Rahul Amin Madani MP, as chief guest and special guest respectively. The Deputy Commissioner of Mymensingh, Md Rafiqul Islam presided over the function.

The three-day programme was also rounded up with cultural function like poetry recitation, drama, dance-drama and songs.

Earlier a colourful procession was brought out from the local town hall premises on May 24 on the occasion of Nazrul's birth centenary which paraded the main streets of the town.

Subscribers owe over Tk 31 cr to Jessore circle of PDB

From Atiur Rahman

JESSORE, June 1: Subscribers owe Taka 31 crore 70 lakh to the Jessore circle of Power Development Board (PDB) as electric bill.

This circle includes Jessore, Jhenidah, Magura, Narail and Satkhira.

According to PDB sources, the total number of consumers in this circle is 83,000 and their monthly bills come to Taka 7 crore 80 lakh.

During the month of March, a total of Taka 5 crore 92 lakh was realised out of the monthly bill of Taka 7 crore 80 lakh.

The total number of domestic consumers in this circle is 56,000 while that of commercial consumers is 17,000.

Besides, the number of industrial connections is 2,800.

According to a detailed information, the number of power consumers in the local town is 25,000.

Out of this, the number of connections in industrial units is 7,000.

Sources close to the local PDB office told that a total of Taka 14 crore 30 lakh are due to different government departments under this circle and Taka 17 crore 25 lakh to various private organisations.

Out of government departments Taka three lakh are due to Jessore Sadar Hospital, Taka three lakh 50,000 to Bagherpara

Health Complex, Taka 40 lakh to Jessore police line, Taka Three lakh to Saikupa Health

Complex, Taka Four lakh 28,000 to Moheshpur Health Complex, Taka one lakh 25,000 to Kotchandpur Health Complex,

Taka 2 lakh 53,000 to Shamnagore Health Complex, Taka 44 lakh to Jessore Municipality, Taka Two lakh to the

office of Deputy Commissioner, Jessore, Taka Five lakh to TNO office, Bagherpara, Taka Two lakh to TNO office, Jessore

sadar, Taka 70,000 to Jhenidah Jail, Taka 34 lakh to Jessore Public Health Office, Taka 41 lakh to Jhenidah Municipality,

Taka Thirty lakh to Magura Municipality, Taka One lakh to

Kotchandpur Municipality, said the source.

The monthly domestic consumers' bill in the local town is Taka 43 lakh and the total bill lying outstanding is Taka 2 crore 40 lakh.

When asked regarding steps taken by the authority in realising the outstanding bills, a source of local office of PDB on

condition of anonymity told that during the fiscal 1998-99, a total of 282 cases were filed in the court and 7,700 power lines were disconnected. During the

period a total of 323 unauthorised lines were disconnected.

Meanwhile, a complaint cell has been set up in the principal office of this circle.

Water crisis grips Rajshahi

From Abdul Wadood

RAJSHAHI, June 1: Acute scarcity of drinking water has been prevailing in Rajshahi district, especially in the rural areas, as the ground water level has gone down alarmingly.

Almost 80 per cent, somewhere 95 per cent of the hand tubewells have already been affected due to the fall, the District Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) sources said.

The people have been forced to use water from other sources, like ponds and ditches.

According to the PHED sources, there are about 90 thousand hand tubewells in nine thanas of the district. Out of the total, about 22 thousand tubewells have been installed

by PHED.

"Some 18 thousand PHED-installed hand tubewells capable of drawing water from a depth of 25 to 30 feet, have virtually become inoperative due to fall in ground water level," an official informed.

"Condition of the privately-installed hand tubewells are more serious as most of these tubewells have not been dug upto the desired depth for saving money," the PHED official added.

The ground water level has gone down to the depth of 40 to 65 feet in different places. As a result, the Tara tubewells, capable of lifting water from a depth of 50 to 60 feet, have also be-

come inoperative in some places. There are 8,733 Tara tubewells, including both the public and private ones in the district.

However, the Tara-2 tubewells, have remained operative. These are capable of drawing water from a depth of 100 feet. But there are only 149 Tara-2 tubewells in the district.

"We are thinking of replacement of other tubewells by Tara-2 varieties in future, especially in the vulnerable areas," said the PHED official. But it will take time due to shortage of funds, he said.

Meanwhile, the people suffering from acute scarcity of drinking water, are being forced to use contaminated water from

the surface water reservoirs.

While visiting Parila village in Poba thana, this correspondent saw all the hand tubewells had become inoperative except Tara tubewells.

In the Barendra region, situation is very worse. People in these areas are collecting water from any source available in the area.

Falling of ground water level is a normal phenomenon in Rajshahi region during the dry season. The situation had turned very serious due to continued drought and rainlessness.

"The situation will improve soon," said a PHED official. "As it has started raining"



(Left) Some women and children collecting drinking water from a deep tubewell far away from their houses at Rohanpur in Rajshahi district where acute water crisis prevails. (Right) A young Santal woman of Tanore collecting water from a contaminated pond.

Electrification changed rural people's life

MADARIPUR, June 1: Rural electrification in the district has ushered in a qualitative change in the economic and social life of the people, reports UNB.

Local people said the infrastructural development in the rural areas has been achieved to a great extent with the introduction of power supply. Side by side, agriculture sector has got a further boost in applying modern technology. As a result, the scope of rural employment is much higher now, they added.

Madaripur Palli Bidyut Samity was formed in December 1985. Official sources said till February this year, the samity has brought 331 villages under its network. Of the total villages, 107 are in Sadar thana, 88 in Kalkini, 13 in Shibchar and 105 in Rajoir thana. Besides, 18 villages in Moksudpur thana of Gopalganj district are also under the coverage of the samity.

There is a total of 1,47,060 km transmission line under rural electrification with a total of 34,253 subscribers.

The subscribers include residential 28,018, commercial 3,364, irrigation (deep tube well) 18, shallow tube well 1,403, LLP-320, irrigation subscribers

1,481 and industrial subscribers 410.

A young man of Char Muguria village Ataur Rahman said from the very beginning of the introduction of the electricity in his village he utilised the facility and became a self-reliant farmer of the area.

He said the socio-economic condition of his area is changing with the introduction of the rural electrification.

In many areas, the yield of crop has been doubled during the last few years. Because of the availability of electricity, the people could work at different places even after darkness, he said.

The farmer said electricity has also increased demands for various industrial and luxury goods including radio and television. The people are increasingly becoming interested in education and programmes like family planning.

The roads and other infrastructural facilities are also developing in the face of people's demand and increasing allocation from the government.

The unused labour force of the rural areas is being utilised in different small and cottage industries, which are booming day by day.

Murderer gets life term

From Shirin Akhter

CHANDPUR, June 1: The District and Sessions Judge, Chandpur, Anwarul Haque awarded life term imprisonment to a murderer.

The convict, Majibur Rahman Bakaul was fined Taka 5,000, in default, to suffer Rigorous Imprisonment (RI) for one year more for committing murder at village Dingavanga under Matlab thana recently.

The case in brief is that Majibur Rahman entered into the house of Shahana Begum, 35, of the same village at dead of night on November 30 in 1997 by breaking the doors of the house. He killed her with a sharp weapon following previous enmity. On hearing her screaming, a neighbour named Mizamur Rahman came out of the house to help her. The criminal also attacked him.

A murder case was filed with the local police station. Later the case was transferred to the District and Sessions Judge, Chandpur.

After examining the evidences and witnesses the district and session judge awarded the aforesaid judgement.

The case was pleaded by pp Jahurul Islam and APP Md Siddiqueur Rahman on behalf of

Body of maid servant found in lawyer's house

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, June 1: Body of a maid-servant was recovered from the house of her master, senior advocate and former president of Pabna District Bar Association on Sunday night.

Body of the nine-year-old named Tuni was recovered from the house of Advocate Abdur Razzaque in Gopalpur area of the town.

Police recovered the body from information lodged by the advocate himself.

Police noticed injury marks over the body of the ill-fated girl. Her body was sent to Pabna General Hospital on Monday for post-mortem.

Advocate Abdur Razzaque told that the girl had gone out of house for taking bath on Sunday, but did not return.

However, mystery shrouds over her death.



JESSORE: Assistant General Manager (AGM) of Khulna regional office of Jiban Bima Corporation (JBC) AKM Ilias Hossain recently handing over a cheque for Taka 3,40,941 being death claim to Fatema Begum, wife of late Abdur Razzak Khan, President of Jessore Chamber of Commerce and Industries who was insured with JBC in the local office of JBC.

People fed up with govt for unabated crimes, says Ershad

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, May 31: Deputy leader of the Opposition in Parliament Dr AQM Bodrud-Doza Chowdhury has termed the Prime Minister's announcement of ruling out the possibility of early election as her lack of confidence in winning it.

Chowdhury was addressing at a discussion meeting held at the Engineers' Institute here on Sunday afternoon. Chittagong city BNP and its front organizations organised the meeting on the occasion of the 18th anniversary of death of the founder of Bangladesh National Party (BNP) late President Ziaur Rahman.

Presided over by Chittagong City president of BNP Mir Md Nasiruddin, the meeting was attended, among others, by Wahidul Alam MP, Giasuddin Quader Chowdhury MP, Ameer Khasru Mahmood Chowdhury MP, Monzur Morshed Khan MP, and other local leaders.

He recalled the development activities during his nine years' tenure.

Among others, Dr T M Fazley Rabbi Chowdhury MP, Abdur Rashid Sarker MP, Mozammel Hossain Lulu MP, Lutfur Rahman Chowdhury MP and Wahiduzzaman Sarkar Badsha MP spoke on the occasion.

Bad days for Faridpur fishermen

From Abdul Matin Fakir

FARIDPUR, June 1: About 10,000 families of fishermen in eight thanas of the district have been facing untold miseries owing to financial hardship.

They along with their family members have been spending their days half-fed or unfed as there is little scope for them to do fishing because most of the abodes of fish such as 'haor', 'beel', rivers, ponds and other waterbodies have dried up. Besides, there are some terrorists and men of low morality who

allegedly take away fish from them without paying fair price.

There are 3,000 'beel', rivers, 'haor', canals and other waterbodies in the district. But they have lost their navigability. On both sides of these waterbodies thousands of fishermen have been living from generation to generation and earning their livelihood by fishing. As the waterbodies have dried up, they have been thrown out of their traditional profession. But they have no other job to eke out a living.