

National

News snaps

Old man abducted

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, June 7: An old man was abducted recently by a group of miscreants at village Atua Jungle in Bildora union of Halaughat thana here.

The victim was identified as Lal Mamud. According to the victim's family, a group of miscreants entered into the house of Lal Mamud at dead of night and abducted him. The miscreants demanded Taka three lakh as ransom while leaving the spot. Police are yet to rescue the victim or nab the culprits.

Teen drowns

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, June 7: A teenage boy of village Puayel in Boalmari thana drowned recently.

According to local source, the victim, Shapan, son of Ananda Saha was playing near a pond when he suddenly fell down there. After searching for half an hour he was recovered from the pond. From there he was rushed to Boalmari hospital where the attending doctor declared him dead.

Youth dies in train mishap

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, June 7: A youngman was crushed under the wheels of an inter-city train at Islampur station on June 2 afternoon.

The victim was identified as Golam Mostafa, 24, of village Boira in Sarisabari thana. He met the tragic end of his life when he jumped out to get down from a speeding Teesta inter-city express train near Islampur station, according to eye witnesses. After autopsy the body was handed over to his relatives.

Father killed by son

From Our Correspondent

NETRAKONA, June 7: A father was brutally killed on Monday last by his son here at village Aragong in Atpara thana.

The victim, identified as Abdus Sattar (Dandu), 50, was killed by his son Jahangir Alam (Edumia), 22. Police sources said son of the deceased sold out a jackfruit tree without the consent of his father. A quarrel ensued between the two when the buyers came to cut the tree. At one stage the angry son hit his father with a lethal weapon. He was shifted to Netrakona Sadar Hospital where the on-duty doctor declared him dead.

3 JSD Ganabahnimen surrender

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, June 7: Three armed activists of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) Ganabahnimen surrendered in the court with arms and ammunition on Tuesday.

They were Saidur Rahman, 27, and Phoolbabu, 22, of village Ratanpur and Badshah Mollah, 40, of village Bisnupur in Salkupa thana. A total of two rifles, two pistols, one charger and eight rounds of rifle bullets were deposited during surrender, court sources said.

Free eye camp held

From A Correspondent

MAGURA, June 7: A seven-day free eye camp was held recently in Arpara Adorsho Government Primary School.

It was jointly organised by Shalikhah thana administration and "Bondhon Shilpi Gosthi". Kopotakhko Lions club, Jessore collaborated in the programme. Advocate Biren Shikdar MP, inaugurated the eye camp, while Lion Ratna Rahmatullah, Lion Dr Azizul Haque was the special guest. A total of 350 patients got treated from the eye camp. A total of 33 patients were operated upon.

Indian sugar loaded trucks seized

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, June 7: Two trucks loaded with Indian sugar were seized by anti-smuggling task force recently.

The task force was led by magistrate Ashrafur Huq while BDR Jawans collaborated with the team. They also seized a Honda motor cycle and money amounting to Taka 44 thousand 425 from Trimohani on Kustia-Bheramara road, three miles away from Kustia. Four persons were arrested in this connection. The arrested persons are Mozbar, Rafiqul, Nazrul Islam and Shah Alam. The seized goods which included 553 bags of sugar. The goods and money have been deposited with Kustia Customs personnel.

Clash over harvesting: One killed

SIRAJGANJ, June 7: A farmer was killed and 20 others were injured in a clash between two groups of villagers over harvesting at Melandaha in Shahjapur thana on Tuesday, reports APB.

Of the injured, nine were admitted to different hospitals in Sirajganj, Shahjapur and Bera in Pabna. Police said the victim named Abdul Wadud, 39, died on the spot.

Training on IPM

COMILLA, June 7: A day long training on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) was held at Jamirapara Primary School premises in Chandina thana on June 2, reports BSS.

About 250 farmers, agriculture officers and field workers attended the training. Agriculture Extension Department organised the training course. Additional Director Abdul Matin Talukdar was the chief guest in the training course. Deputy Director Abul Hossain Mollah, Thana Agriculture Officer Serajul Islam and Agriculture Officer Mritunjoy Roy spoke on the occasion.

Election of Galachipa Poursabha

PATUAKHALI, June 7: The election of Galachipa Poursabha was held on Saturday amid tight security, reports UNB.

The voter turnout in the election was 68.77 per cent.

Abu Taleb Miah was unofficially elected chairman (3,347 votes) defeating his nearest candidate Haji Mohammad Shahjahan (2,999 votes).

Aklima Begum in Ward-1, Anjuman Ara Begum in Ward-2 and Hafiza Islam in Ward-3 were elected from the reserved women seats.

The elected commissioners are Mostafizur Rahman (ward-1), Belal Hossain (ward-2), Hamed Khan (ward-3), Susil Chandra Biswas (ward-4), Nazrul Islam (ward-5), Jahangir Hossain (ward-6), Harun-or-Rashid (ward-7), Khalilur Rahman (ward-8) and Borhanuddin Dulu (ward-9).

The election of the poursabha was postponed following a delimitation case of a ward.

They are deprived of salaries for one year

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, June 7: All the staffers of the Dehydration Project here are living with their families in sub-human condition.

This is because they are not getting their salaries for the last one year.

There is one such project in the district like five others in other parts of the country.

The employees are working round the clock to produce oral saline for diarrhoea patients. But payment of their salary remains stopped since April 1998 till filing of this report.

It seems the authorities concerned have no headache for the people who are in misery.

According to official record, there are 29 officers and staffers under this project.

They have been worst-hit during the current economic crisis.

A spokesman of the project employees told The Daily Star that despite assurance from the Health Minister to expedite the payment of their salary, there had been no improvement of the situation.

Forest resources on the wane

KISHOREGANJ, June 7: Forest resources are on the wane in the district due to indiscriminate felling of trees, reports UNB.

The malpractice is going on by a section of people in connivance with some forest officials causing degradation to the environment.

Local administration remained silent on the issue, although there is official ban on cutting government trees, said the local people.

Most of the trees alongside the Kishoreganj-Bhairab, Kishoreganj-Mymensingh, Kishoreganj-Chamranghat, Nikli-Kishoreganj, Pakundia-Kishoreganj, Kishoreganj-Hosainpur, Katiadi-Bajitpur, Kuliarchar-Bhairab roads and other places in the district have already been cut off by the dishonest people.

The number of trees is very thin along the roadsides, though the authority planted saplings of various species including Segun and Raintree about two years back.

Moreover, use of trees in the brick-fields as firewood is widespread despite the ban. There are nearly 65 brick-fields in the district and bricks and manufactured in the month of November and December.

It is apprehended that if the illegal practice goes on unabated, the forest resources here will disappear soon creating environmental hazards, said locals.

They called upon the authorities concerned to take effective measures to stop the malpractice for the greater interest of the people and environment.

Police, BNP clash: Widow of dead victim sues 18

JAMALPUR, June 7: A total of 18 persons including a TNO and a magistrate were sued in a murder case here recently.

Fatema, the widow of Montaz Ali filed the case in a magistrate's court in Jamalpur, against Sarisabari TNO Abul-Musaddaqe Azad, Magistrate Mirinal Kanti, ASP Moituddin, OC of Sarisabari thana Abdus Salam and 14 other constables of Sarisabari thana.

Montaz Ali was shot dead on April 25, in a class between supporters of BNP and Police. The clash ensued when BNP supporters imposed barricade on roads-preventing State Minister for Religious Affairs Maulana Nurul Islam from attending the governing body meeting of local Mahmuda Salam Women's College at Sarisabari.

Following the complaint from the widow the magistrate ordered a judicial enquiry into the murder. Magistrate Faruq Alam will enquire into the matter on the spot on June 2.

Meanwhile, OC of Sarisabari thana filed a fresh case against 38 persons belonging to BNP and also against the witnesses of the murder case filed by the widow. All of them were hiding apprehending police harassments.



The birth centenary of national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam was celebrated recently throughout Bangladesh in a befitting manner. In Sylhet colourful programmes were chalked out by various educational institutions and other organisations on the occasion. Photo shows Prof. Md. Habibur Rahman, Vice-Chancellor of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology speaking at a symposium organised by Angkar, a socio-cultural organisation on the university campus to pay rich tributes to the poet.

— Star photo

Jackfruits rotting due to lack of preservation

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, June 7: Growers have produced jackfruits abundantly in the district in the current season due to favourable climate.

But the growers are not getting fair prices of their produce for want of marketing facilities.

It is learnt that due to bad road communication growers have failed to supply jackfruits to the cities and in other places in proper time.

There is no cold storage in the district for preservation of the fruit. As a result, the growers have no other alternative but to sell their fruits at lower prices.

Quality jackfruits are produced in Shahjapur, Rashidpur, Digpait and Titalpala of Jamalpur Sadar thana. The growers have reaped a bumper production of jackfruits this year.

The markets here are flooded with this seasonal fruits. The growers have failed to stock their produce properly and are compelled to sell those at throwaway prices. Traders from other parts of the country could not communicate with the growers in remote areas of the district due to bad communication. As a result the growers who take huge quantity of fruits by carts, vans or other transports have to sell their fruits at lower prices.

According to a survey there are about six lakh jackfruit trees in the district. Each tree bears 50 to 60 jackfruits every season. On average about three crore jackfruits are produced in seven thanas of the district every year which are worth about Taka 40 crore. But due to lack of storage and transportation facilities huge quantities of jackfruits are damaged every year.

Jackfruit is a very nutritious food which contains 1.8 gm of protein, 0.30 gm of fat, 26.01 gm of calcium, 7 gm of iron, 0.11 gm of vitamin B, 0.15 gm of vitamin B2 and 292 gm of

vitamin A. In addition to that the seeds of jackfruits are used as vegetables. Other parts of the jackfruits are used for animal feeding.

The jackfruits growers have

urged the authorities concerned to improve the communication facilities and make proper arrangements for preservation and processing of the valuable fruit.



A 140-year-old jackfruit tree still bearing fruits at village Binander Para of the sadar thana in Jamalpur district.

— Star photo

A new school where Santal children will learn in their language

From Abdul Wadood

Mustafizur Rahman and others.

Eminent short story writer Prof. Hasan Azizul Haque said that the hateful oppression of the state mechanism had pushed the Adibashis people to lead an inhuman life though they were sons of age-old civilisation and culture.

He observed that the common Banglaeese citizens were also victims of extortion but the Adibashis suffered more than them.

They are deprived of the right of taking education in their own language as the state has not extended the fundamental human rights to the Adibashis, he said and stressed on constitutional recognition of the Adibashis to save their old language from extinction.

Anisur Rahman Malik ob-

served that Bangladesh was neither a country of one language nor a country of one ethnic group. "But Bangladesh is not ready to accept the separate existence of the Adibashis," said Prof. Syed M. Hashemi of Grameen Trust.

He vowed to fight for building a society to ensure equal rights for the Adibashis, aboriginal tribals and Banglaeese.

Prof. Zulfikar Matin said that the state should take measures to let all the individual cultures to bloom. Relation of trust between the Banglaeese and other ethnic groups would not only make good to Bangladesh, but also add to the human culture, he said.

General Secretary of Swa-Ummay (self-development), an NGO, Mustafizur Rahman Khan said that the Banglaeese had established the dignity of Bangla in 1952 by sacrificing their lives.

"The Santal children know paddy as 'Horho', bird as 'cherhe', flower as 'Baha' and so on. In the schools they see their known world completely changed and get a shock at the very beginning. Furthermore, they cannot establish close intimacy and agreement with the classmates and the teachers for difference of language and social status. Thus they get frightened and lose hope and ultimately discontinue their study," he said.

On a query whether the Santal children, reading in separate schools in separate language, would fail to enter into the mainstream, Anil Marandi said that would not happen as the children would learn Bangla language side by side.

He urged the government to open required number of separate schools for the Adibashis in their own languages all over the country.

Moneylenders reaping benefits of bumper IRRI-Boro paddy

PABNA, June 7: The moneylenders across the northern districts, including Pabna, have been netting out quite a fortune from bumper production of IRRI-Boro paddy in the current harvesting season, reports APB.

The lenders, according to local sources, had been for years extracting huge profit, creating a "vicious circle" of want for the farmers who brought about the bumper cropping by hard labour.

During a brief field-level visit to Pabna, Gaibandha and Sirajganj districts last week, the correspondent talked to a good number of farmers.

The peasants said they usually go through economic hardship during the months of December to April every year. Moreover, they have to spend substantially for irrigation and to buy different agri-inputs during the period.

As a result, they become compelled to go to moneylenders around them for borrowing money at prohibitive rates of interest. They pay the loan in kind, in the shape of paddy, after the harvest.

Abed Ali, a farmer of Kachhikata village in the district, said he loaned Tk 3,000 from a local lender and now he has to give 30 maunds of paddy to pay the debt as per terms.

Another farmer, Razab Ali of Charpara village of Jhumerbari union, has to give 42 maunds of paddy to a lender against a loan of Tk 3,700 to pay his loan.

Several growers of Gaibandha sadar said they have to pay the paddy against their borrowed money at the rate of one maund paddy for every Tk 100 even after a month's period.

The farmers also said they had to pay one-fourth of the harvested paddy to the owners of shallow tube-wells as irrigation charges.

Under the circumstances, the farmers are not being able to enjoy the fruits of bumper production of paddy at the cost of their hard labour to the houses. The moneylenders are reaping the benefits to their houses easily without having done anything.

Father-in-law killed by son-in-law

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, June 7: A father-in-law was killed and a grand father-in-law was injured by a son-in-law at village Konabaghail in Trishal thana recently.

According to police and family sources, Jaddhi got married to Romena, daughter of Nurul Islam three months back. But Romena came to her father's house at Konabaghail recently without informing her husband.

On the day of the incident, Jaddhi along with a gang equipped with sharp weapons came to his father-in-law's house and asked him about Romena. When his father-in-law named Nurul Islam said that Romena did not come here then his gang on swooped Nurul Islam and his grand father-in-law Rostum Ali, injuring them critically.

Nurul Islam, 50, died on way to Trishal Thana Health Complex.

Silk worm producers need financial support

NATORE, June 7: Sericulture here is facing setback due to lack of financial support to the silk worm producers, reports UNB.

About 20,000 sericulturists, who are mainly dependent on cocoon breeding, have been virtually rendered jobless, as suspended since 1997 for balancing, modernization, rehabilitation and expansion (BMRE) work.

The authorities are not in a position, according to Bangladesh Sericulture Board in Rajshahi, to provide logistic support or buy cocoon from the sericulturists due to financial constraints.

Production in the factories of Rajshahi and Thakurgaon remained closed as the BMRE works are going on at a snail's pace, said sources.

Without official support, apart from Rajshahi and Thakurgaon districts, the sericulturists of Natore, Rajshahi, Chapainawabganj, Pabna, Rangpur, Dinajpur, Bogra, Jhenidah, Comilla and Gazipur, nurture silkworm in mulberry tree for feeding cocoon.

In July 1995, the government allocated Tk 7.69 crore including Tk 6 crore to Rajshahi silk factory for the BMRE of the two factories.

"The work of BMRE is going on and we expect to complete the task by June 1999," said a senior official of Rajshahi silk

factory. But a source of the factory said the repairing and replacing works were going on at a snail's pace owing to fund crisis.

The financial crisis also hampered the extension programme including training, motivation and sapling of mulberry tree and silk-egg production.

Following the debacle, 20,000 farmers of these areas involved in cocoon production and silkworm nursing are in great difficulties.

On the other hand, the internationally recognised and reputed Rajshahi silk industry is on the verge of closure.

Feni road mishap death toll rises to six

From Our Correspondent

FENI, June 7: Three more injured victims of Monday's road accident on Feni by pass road near Lalpur died on Monday.

They are: Ruhul Amin, 35, Abdul Quddous, 50, and Abul Khair, 33.

The total death toll is now six in the accident.

The accident occurred on Monday last on Feni bypass road near Lalpur. Three persons died on the spot and 30 others seriously injured.

No preservation facilities

Huge quantity of fish perishing every year

NOAKHALI, June 7: A huge quantity of various species of fish, caught by the fishermen from the Bay and the river Meghna in coastal areas, are being perished every year due to lack of preservation and marketing facilities, reports UNB.

The government incurs losses of Tk 50-75 crore every year as about 25,000 tonnes of fish are being rotten yearly due to the reasons, said the leaders of Bangladesh Nationalist Fisheries Cooperative Association and Bangladesh Fishermen Association.

A modern fish port, set up on 122 acres of land on the bank of the river Karnaphuli at a cost of Tk 5.30 crore in between 1965-66 and 1970-71 fiscal years remained closed due to the negligence of the authorities concerned, the sources said. The authorities did not take any measures to resume the port again.

Another three fish centres, set up at Barisal, Khuppara and Patharghata, could not be used for preserving and marketing of the catches because of undue interference of a section of

fish traders. There are 440km water bodies in coastal areas of the country while 48,365 sqft in the Bay. There are about one crore fishermen engaged in fishing from the water bodies.

Fishermen caught a total of 10.27 lakh tones of fish, including 2.50 lakh sea-fish during the fiscal year 1993-94, the sources said.

Of the total, about 25,000 tones of fish were perished due to lack of preservation and marketing facilities, depriving the government of Tk 50 crore revenue.

Besides, the fishermen in Noakhali and Laxmipur districts incur a loss of Tk 100 crore every year as a huge quantity of fish, caught by them during the season, are rotten due to lack of processing and preservation facilities, said fisheries association here.

Local fishermen urged the government as well as NGOs to come forward in resolving the problems to meet demand of protein of the country and earn foreign currency.



Eminent short story writer Prof. Hasan Azizul Haque distributing books among the Santal children. — Star photo



A shop being carried away by a truck of Narayanganj Poursabha following launching of an eviction drive recently. — Star photo

Valuables worth Tk 70,000 stolen

NOAKHALI, June 7: Thieves took away valuables worth about Tk 70,000 from two NGO offices of Rayerpur thana headquarters in one night, police said, reports UNB.

They said the muggers entered into the Proshika office by breaking its grills and took away a VCR, a cassette player and other valuables worth about Taka 50,000 recently. In another theft at BRAC office on the same night the thieves unlocking the office entered into it and took away valuables worth about Taka 20,000.

Labourer dies as bag falls on him

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, June 7: A labourer of a husking mill at village Kholabari in the sadar thana died when a gunny bag of rice fell upon him.

The victim identified as Mozammel Haq, 35, was carrying the gunny bag on his shoulder to another place on May 24. Suddenly he slipped and fell down on the ground. The bag of rice fell upon him resulting in severe injuries. He was rushed to the Gaibandha hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

Largescale unfairmeans in exam

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, June 7: The local district administration took stern measures to prevent the large scale copying in HSC examination halls here.

Armed battalion of police has been deployed in Bheramara and Daulatpur centres. On the sixth day of examination, 57 candidates were expelled from the Bheramara centre on charge of adopting unfair means. The number of expelled examinees from this centre rose to 126 in six days of examination.