

National

Feni DIARY

10 unnatural deaths in seven days

From Our Correspondent
FENI, June 7: At least 10 unnatural deaths were reported in seven days from May 25 to May 31 in the district.

Of them, two alleged robbers were beaten to death by villagers at Sarajpur under Sonagazi upazila at night on May 26. The victims were identified as Anwar Hossain, 35, of village Charchanda and Suman, 22, of village Sarajpur. Three people were electrocuted at Alampur village in Daganbhuiyan upazila on May 26. The victims Rustam, 25, Giasuddin, 20, and Russell, 20, came in touch with a live electric wire snapped during storm on May 25. Farque, 22, of village Char Chanda under Sonagazi upazila was killed in a bomb blast while making bomb on May 25. Mohammed Ilias, 25, of village Charchanda under Sonagazi upazila was killed in lightning during storm on May 27 when he was returning home from paddy field. An alleged terrorist was shot dead by unidentified hoodlums at village Chaiagarh under Chhagalnayka upazila on May 25. He was identified as Tipu, 27, of village Dalal Bazar under Laxmipur district. Karimullah, 50, of village Hassanpur under Sadar upazila was crushed under the wheels of train at Hassanpur outer crossing on May 27. Khorshed Alam, 25, a Juba activist, was beaten to death by unidentified assailants at village Madhupur under Sadar upazila on May 31.

Fake police official held

A fake police official was arrested in the town recently.

Police said a man identifying himself as a police official tried to enter a house at Daktarpur in the town. But the housekeeper became suspicious about the man and raised a hue and cry. Then neighbours detained the man and handed over the man to police. The fake police official was identified as Shahadat Hossain, 40, of village Tanzirpar under Sadar upazila. Later the man was sent to jail.

850 bottles of phenisidyl seized

Police seized 850 bottles of Indian phenisidyl syrup and arrested three people in this connection from Muhuriganj under Chhagalnayka recently.

Acting on a tip-off, police intercepted a microbus on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Muhuriganj and seized the syrup, popular among addicts, and arrested the three. Iqbal Hossain, son of Sharif Hossain of Dewanhat, Chittagong, is one of the three. Identity of the two could not be known. A case was filed with Chhagalnayka police in this connection.

Three Jubo League men hurt in bomb blast

Three Jubo League activists were injured in bomb blast at village Char Chanda under Sonagazi upazila recently.

According to local people, Shepon, 18, son of Abdul Kalam; Mohammed Farid, 21, son of Md Hanif; and Jabol Hoque, 25, son of Mostafa, were injured while making bombs in a house of Mostafa in the village. The injured were rushed to a private hospital in Chittagong.

Two housewives beaten to death

Two housewives were murdered in Sadar upazila allegedly by their husbands recently.

Ferdous Ara Bilkis, 20, wife of Abdul Hossain of village Dumshda under Sadar upazila was beaten to death by her husband following an altercation over dowry. The husband used to create pressure on the wife to bring dowry from her father's house, neighbours said. In separate incident, Bibi Fatema, 28, of village Laxaura under Sadar upazila was beaten to death allegedly by her husband Mohammad Hanif following an altercation. The husband often created pressure on the wife to bring dowry from her parents' house.

Youth commits suicide

A young man committed suicide by taking poison recently at village Durgapur under Sonagazi upazila.

The victim was identified as Nur Islam, 20. The reason behind the suicide could not be known.

Nine held in Ctg

From Our Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, June 7: Nine people were arrested when they were illegally cutting parts of a ship at Sitakunda here on Monday.

The gang of thieves were engaged in breaking of the ship MV Renge which had been beached there for scraping after it had developed a hole at its bottom two months back, police said.



Golden paddy: Now is the peak season of IRRI-Boro harvesting. So the farmers of Jamalpur district are very busy in reaping their produce. Photo shows farmers and land labourers of Mollahpara under the Sadar upazila passing hectic time.

— Star photo by Muhammad Ali

Bumper production makes mango growers happy

KURIGRAM, June 7: A bumper production of mangoes in the northern region including Kurigram has made the mango growers happy this year, reports BSS.

Ripe mangoes of local varieties have already appeared in the local markets and the prices are also satisfactory for the growers. Collection of sophisticated varieties of mangoes is expected to begin from the end of June, according to the growers.

According to relevant sources, innumerable mango trees blossomed this year in more than one lakh hectares.

Awareness building programmes for the growers, conducted by DAE and other organisations, helped mango growers to apply pesticides in time for excellent yield of mangoes. Early rainfall was also helpful. More than 150 varieties of mangoes including Fazli, Langra, Khrishpati, Amrapali (Indian variety), Gopalbhog, Suryapuri, Surshanreka, Ma-

year's 'on-year' record. Only in Chapainawabganj district this year, the production may cross the level of one lakh tonnes of high quality mangoes.

The total production of mangoes including all varieties may cross the record of two lakh tonnes in the region this year due to very favourable climatic conditions.

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The growers, brokers, farias and mango traders are very happy this year, due to bumper yield of mangoes. Exhibitions of high quality mangoes are expected to be arranged in different places of this region at the end of June. About 30,000 people including pullers of rickshaws, carts, vans and day labourers are preparing themselves for harvesting and marketing of mangoes from now.

According to local experts,

number of mango processing and preservation stores should be set up in the region to avoid any perishing of the delicious

fruit. It can provide better prices to the growers and encourage export of the fruit abroad. Otherwise, huge quantity of mangoes may be perished this year for want of preservation facilities and timely marketing, they said.

According to Abdur Rouf, Deputy Director of DAE, Kurigram, the Amrapali variety of mango has a brighter prospect of mangoes including all varieties may cross the record of two lakh tonnes in the region this year due to very favourable climatic conditions.

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Tangail hospital in bad shape

From A Correspondent

TANGAIL, June 7: Patients are not getting proper treatment facilities at Tangail General Hospital due to shortage of physicians and health care facilities.

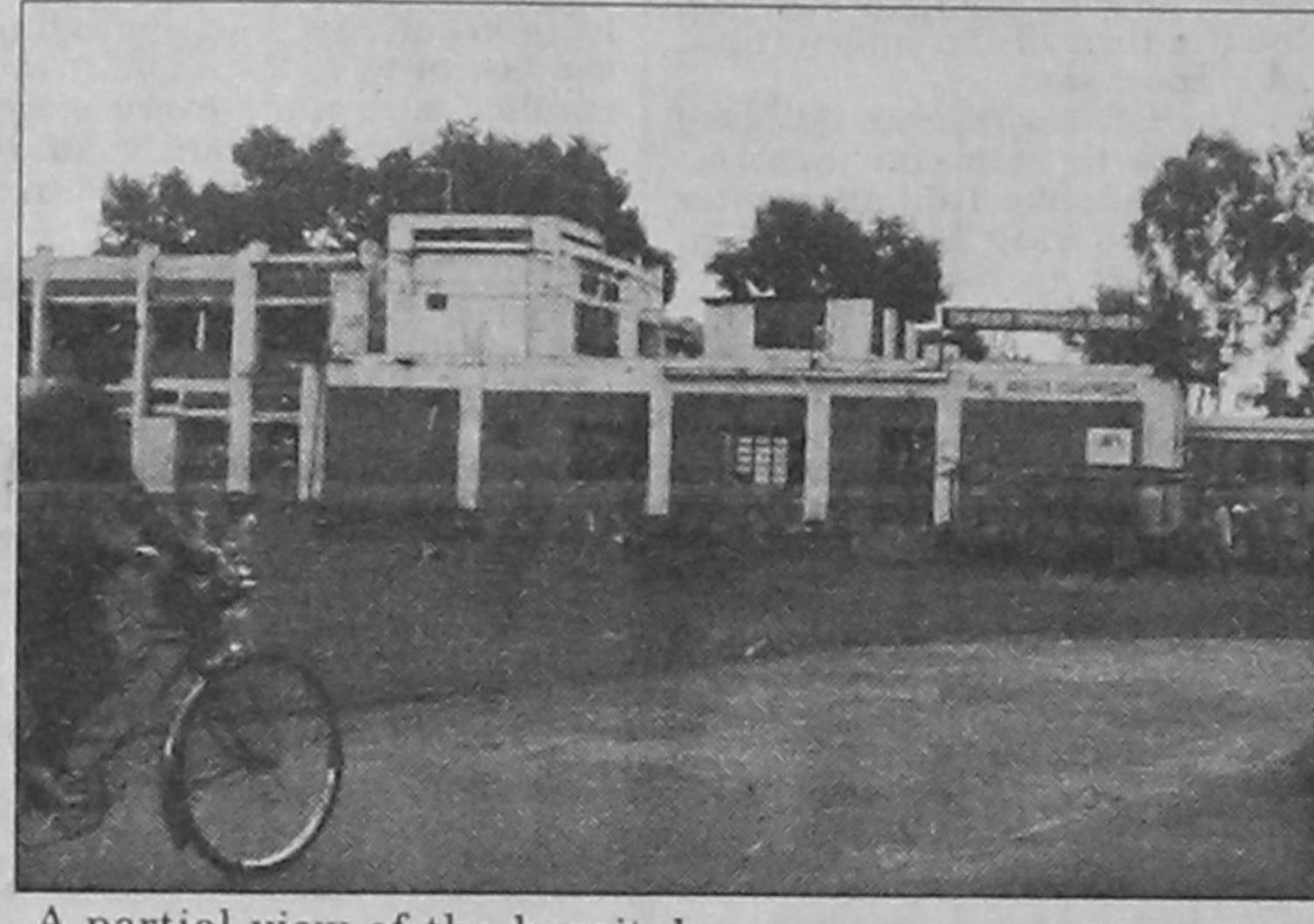
According to Tangail General Hospital sources, an average about 35 patients remain in the medicine ward against 25 beds, 25 patients in the gynaec-

ology and against 18 beds, 35 patients in the surgery ward against 24 beds, 25 patients in the orthopaedic ward against 18 beds, 25 patients in the ENT ward against 15 beds.

As the hospital has no adequate beds an average 150 patients are compelled to stay on the floors in different wards in the town though there are pathological and X-ray facilities with modern equipment at the general hospital.

Patients coming to the hospital for surgical treatment are often advised to go to particular clinics, it is widely alleged.

The lone ambulance of the hospital remains inoperative for a long time. But who cares? — Star photo



A partial view of the hospital. — Star photo

crowd side by side here and there on the floors creating an unhealthy environment which foils the disinfection measures and thereby increases incidents of infection.

Excess patients also create problems as they stay at the hospital with their attendants causing inconvenience to all.

In many cases patients of surgical treatment have to wait weeks after weeks for a surgical operation which is also a cause of rush in the surgical ward.

A post of medicine consultant and another post of surgery consultant have been lying vacant for a long time.

Posts of emergency medical officer, night guard, ward master have been lying vacant for a long time.

The ambulance service of the hospital is not satisfactory. Two ambulances are out of order for a long time and its driver has been receiving salaries without any service.

There is no any permanent blood bank in the hospital. So the patients do not get blood in emergency. They have to collect it through brokers at a high rate.

In most cases on-duty doctors ask the patients to get their tests performed from particular laboratories and X-ray clinics in the town though there are pathological and X-ray facilities with modern equipment at the general hospital.

A total of 33 lakh taka was sanctioned for medical and surgical instruments in the last fiscal (from July 1998 to 30 June 1999).

The quality of diet supplied to the patients is not satisfactory. Patients have to depend on

food supplied by their families. A total of taka 12 lakh was sanctioned for diet in the fiscal 1998-1999. An amount of taka 30 is sanctioned for daily diet per patient.

Established in 1976, the 100 beds general hospital is unable to accommodate the increasing number of patients. During its establishment, the population of Tangail was 13 to 15 lakh, but now the figure is about 40 lakh. So the increase in population demands more facilities in the hospital.

Tangail Citizens' Movement demanded recently to increase the number of beds from 100 to 250 at Tangail General Hospital.

The work order was issued on March and the work will start in the next month, which is likely to be completed by January 2001.

PDB sources said, it is contemplating to give the work order of Gas Turbine Unit-1 rehabilitation work of the plant to the same farm at a cost of Tk 9 crore.

The work order was issued on March and the work will start in the next month, which is likely to be completed by January 2001.

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Series of robberies in Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent
SIRAJGANJ, June 7: A series of robberies were committed at Nalua Majira village under Tarash upazila early Thursday.

Villagers said a gang of robbers numbering about 50 committed robberies in five houses of the village from 2am to 5am.

The masked robbers wearing half masks stormed the houses of Abdul Khaleque, Samad Sarker, Santa Khondoker, Monjurul Hoque and Abdul Aziz. The robbers, commonly known as Half Pant Bahini, looted Tk 5 lakh in cash and other valuables from the houses.

A case was filed in this connection, but no one was arrested.

Jessore Airport to be modernised

JESSORE, June 7: Civil Aviation Authority has taken up a scheme to modernise Jessore Airport, reports BSS.

The scheme will cost about Taka 24 lakh.

According to relevant official sources, Terminal Building of Jessore Airport will be refurbished and water management system, car park construction, Station Manager's office expansion and road construction will be done.

Some private flights have begun their flight operation programmes in Jessore. So it becomes necessary to further modernise the Jessore Airport befittingly. The government has taken up the development programme for welfare of the passengers.

Housewife burnt to death

BOGRA, June 7: A housewife was tortured and burnt to death allegedly by her husband in the Chawk Sutrapur area of the town on Monday, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Jesmin, 20, daughter of Chan Miah and wife of Shumu.

Family sources said Shumu tortured his wife and set fire on her body by pouring kerosene on Saturday. Then he took Jesmin to Mohammad Ali Hospital.

On the next day, she was shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where she succumbed to her burn injuries on Monday night.

The body was brought here on Tuesday.

Shumu and his family members used to torture Jesmin regularly demanding Tk 40,000 as dowry since her marriage a year ago.

An Indian contractor has been engaged to rehabilitate the second gas turbine of the plant at a cost of Tk 18 crore.

PDB is expecting to add the additional electricity in the national grid by January next.

International contracting firms Malaysia, France and India took part in the bidding and the Indian company got the work order being the lowest bidder.

The work order was issued on March and the work will start in the next month, which is likely to be completed by January 2001.

PDB sources said, it is contemplating to give the work order of Gas Turbine Unit-1 rehabilitation work of the plant to the same farm at a cost of Tk 9 crore.

There have been reports that a large chunk of wheat allotted for implementing the project under Food-for-Work Programme was misappropriated by the concerned people. So far, 70 per cent works on the project have been completed with low quality materials and it might be washed away by floodwaters anytime.

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