

## National

# Feni DIARY

From Our Correspondent

## 96 deep tubewells to be installed

FENI, June 12: A total of 96 deep tubewells will be installed in five upazilas in the district soon to ease the water scarcity problem, official sources said. According to local Public Health and Engineering Department (PHED) sources, of the deep tubewells, 27 will be installed in Sadar upazila, 17 in Sonagazi upazila, 26 in Dangbuliyan upazila, 14 in Porshuram upazila and 12 in Chhaglaniya upazila.

## Drug addict found dead

A drug addict was found dead in Gazicross Road area in the town last week.

The dead was identified as Mohammed Balal, 20. Residents said Belal, who used to take heroin, was infamous for his addiction in the area. No case was filed in this connection.

## Two convicted

A court here recently sentenced two people, including a primary schoolteacher, to five years' imprisonment for torturing a woman.

According to prosecution story, Swapani Chandra Paul, the schoolteacher, and his brother Shyamal Chandra Paul of village Kajirbag under Sadar upazila beat Sabita Rani Paul, wife of Shankar Chandra Paul of the same family following an altercation on May 20, 1997. After examining witnesses and records, the court found the two brothers guilty and pronounced the verdict.

## Two killed in road accident

Two people were killed and five others injured as a truck rammed into a roadside slum at Mohipal on Friday.

The dead were identified as Mohammad Shahid, 20, and Bayejid, 32. Witnesses and police said the accident occurred when a truck hit the slum after the driver lost his control. The injured were admitted to Feni Sadar Hospital.

## 450 bottles of phenisidyl seized

Police seized 450 bottles of Indian phenisidyl syrup and arrested five people in this connection from Subpur under Chhaglaniya upazila on Friday.

Acting on a tip-off, police intercepted a microbus and recovered the contraband from the vehicle. Five passengers of the vehicle were also arrested. They were identified as Mohsin, Nur Mohammad, Jahangir, Motiur Rahman and Jasimuddin.

# Pests invade C'nawabganj mango gardens

From Abdul Wadood

RAJSHAHI, June 12: Pest attacks have imposed serious threats on production of mango during the current season.

In Chapainawabganj, the main mango producing area of the country, pests have extensively attacked most of the mango gardens.

Though it was off-year for mango production, almost 70 per cent mango trees abundantly blossomed and grew mangoes. Early in the season, continued drought and later frequent storms and hailstorms made harms to growing mangoes. Despite these hindrances, experts and farmers were expecting a satisfactorily good harvest of mango during this season.

But recent pest attacks have put the expectation at stake.

Abdul Jabbar of Ranibati area in Chapainawabganj said upazila said, "one kind of worm of off-white colour with brownish stripe, measuring about 2 centimetres in length found in the mango that ultimately gets rotten." The infested mango is identified by a black spot on the green surface of mango. That spot is a result of boring the worm for entering inside the mango.

Most varieties of mango namely Gopalbhog, Langra, Mohanbhog, Kirshpat, Ranipachand etc. have been mature enough to be harvested shortly. At this stage, the pest attacks have appeared as a thunderstroke for the garden-owners and businessmen.

The garden owners are using different kinds of pesticides to contain the pest attacks but

nothing good can be done, they said.

"We have repeatedly contacted local experts of Agriculture Extension Department (AED) but their advises have also gone in vain," Abdul Jabbar said.

Pest control expert of AED, Chapainawabganj district office Rabindra Kumar Majumder said that the pest had been seen for last three to four years in a very limited number during the harvesting time of mangoes.

Neither the farmers nor the experts had cared the pest for its negligible harm in the past years. The pest attacked mangoes from the very beginning of this year in limited number, but suddenly the attacks have become very extensive and alarming," said Majumder.

Local people said that the pest had been completely unknown to them. The pest has probably come from the neighbouring Maldahar district of West Bengal of India," said Jabbar.

AED sources said, drought, storms and hailstorms destroyed at least 20 per cent of mangoes. The harm caused by the recent pest attacks would already be at least 15 per cent.

The amount of damage would be very higher if the pest attacks cannot be controlled immediately. The "Fazil" and "Ashishna" varieties of mango will remain in the tree for at least another two months.

Pest attacks have turned very serious in Chapainawabganj municipal area, Ranibati, Baragharia, Maharajpur, Gobratola and Balladanga of sadar

upazila; Rahanpur, Alinagar, Chodhulia, Bangabari, Boalia and Gomostapur of Gomostapur upazila; Gobalbari, Bholabati, Jambaria and Daldali of Bhabhati upazila and Shahabpur, Ghorapakna, Dhaingar, Monakosha, Daipukuria, Mocharupur, Binadpur, Shaupur, Chakkerti and Kansat areas of Shabganj upazila.

As a result, production of mango has fallen sharply this year. Consequently different variety of mangoes are being sold at high prices in the markets.

Huge quantities of mangoes are generally produced in greater Kushthia district. But production of mango has fallen by 50 per cent during the last 15 years for shortage of pragmatic policy and patronization. A large number of mango trees are destroyed every year for use as fuel in brick fields and tobacco factories.

Poverty stricken people in the mango producing areas sell their trees to maintain their families. Production of mango in the main mango producing areas like greater Rajshahi, Dinajpur and Rangpur districts has also fallen abnormally. Total production of mangoes in the country was 3 lakh tonnes in 1985. It came down to 1.80 lakh tonnes in 1991. A total of 45,000 hectares of land are now under mango cultivation, according to Agriculture Extension Department.

Greater Kushthia district is one of the good mango producing area. Meherpur district where considerable quantity of mangoes were produced although this year is the off-year. About 30 per cent mango trees were without any flower at the first stage but with the initiative of the owners of mango gardens some of those trees blossomed. But due to recent cyclonic storm which lashed greater Kushthia district several times in the month of May a large number of mangoes were lost.

Production per hectare is now four tonnes which was 6.0 tonnes in 1985.

About 5,000 people are engaged in mango production in greater Kushthia while more than 50,000 people are engaged in the same profession in greater Rajshahi, Rangpur and Dinajpur districts.

Traders and brokers from different parts of the country including Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Narayanganj come to the districts to buy Bangladeshi mangoes.

## 2 KNM officials suspended

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, June 12: Two officials of Khulna Newsprint Mills (KNM) have been placed under suspension and two others served with show-cause notice for their involvement in producing and supplying bad newsprint to newspaper owners.

The two suspended officials are Abdul Khair of the Wrapping Department and Md Shafullah, Assistant Manager, Warehouse. Two others who were served with show-cause notice are Mohammad Zakir, Superintendent of the Paper Machine Department and Abdus Samad Naqib, Assistant Chief Manager, Warehouse.

According to a source of KNM, the officials who were placed under suspension and served with show-cause notice did not try to improve the quality of newsprint despite enhancement of its price by at least Tk 4,000 per ton.

The allegation of frequent high handedness was brought against Zakir and Naqib. They allegedly delayed in delivery of consignments and favoured those who could offer tips for taking better quality of newsprint from the warehouse.

## Newborn baby murdered

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, June 12: A 42-day-old baby was murdered allegedly by his stepbrother at Koyelgati village under Sadar upazila here on Wednesday.

The deceased was identified as Suman, son of late Baghi Khan.

Police and family sources said stepbrother Rezaul strangled the newborn baby and left the body in a ditch near the house. The motif of the murder is to grab property.

# News snaps

## Allowance disbursed

RANGPUR, June 12: The disbursement of old-age allowances is progressing satisfactorily across the eight thanas here, reports BSS.

A sum of total Taka 1,56,87,000 were disbursed from April '98 to December '99 among the old persons. An amount of Taka 7,47,000 is being distributed among the listed 7,470 old persons, per head one hundred Taka in every month, in 83 unions of eight thanas. The disbursement of old age allowance has been highly hailed by the people of all walks of life.

## Temple needs repair

SHARIATPUR, June 12: The Bhojeshwar Temple at Naria thana, an important place for worship of the Hindu community is now in dilapidated condition and may collapse at any time, reports BSS.

The ancient Bhojeshwar Temple stands on the western side of the River Padma for 180 years. The relic of the temple reminds us of the past heritage and tradition. During the British rule, the members of the Hindu community used to look after the temple. The fund, without donation, made by the Hindu community used to meet the expenditure of maintenance of the temple. At present due to lack of fund the repair of the temple could not be done.

## LGED projects progressing

PABNA, June 12: Works on 338 rural infrastructure development projects in nine upazilas here are expected to be completed by June next, reports UNB.

Local Government and Engineering Department (LGED) is implementing the projects under Food-for-Work Programme spending 4,686 mts of grains. Upazila-wise breakup of the projects: Sadar-106, Atgharia-29, Sujanagar-36, Bera-31, Faridpur-20, Ishwardi-7, Bhangura-17, Sathia-42 and Chumdhur-50. Meanwhile, 95 per cent works of the projects have been completed while the remaining ones are likely to be finished by the next month, LGED officials said.

## Meeting on safe maternity

PANCHAGARH, June 12: A meeting on Safe Maternity Day (SMD), organised by local Information Department was held at civil surgeon's office here with civil surgeon Dr Joynal Abedin in the chair recently, reports BSS.

Among others, senior officials of local public offices including family planning, information attended the meeting. Besides, the president of the district Press Club also addressed the meeting.



**Coexistence with disasters**  
A primary school at village Kalar Char in Putigana Union under Phulbari thana of Mymensingh district was damaged by a recent nor'wester.

## Because of mother's inspiration

By Z A M Khairuzzaman

Ali Idris decides to donate his 5 decimal plot of land in his home town Habiganj for a charitable clinic.

He has taken the lofty decision at the inspiration of his mother.

"Most often my mother used to tell me and my brothers in our boyhood to live by helping others," told Idris who was born in a farmer's family at Shaitanagar in Habiganj. "My mother's words inspired me to begin charitable work at my birthplace" he said.

About his plan he told that he wants to construct a building on the plot using part of his savings which was meant for emergency medical treatment of himself and his family. According to his plan, there will be five shops in the ground floor which will be rented. Income of the shops will be used for running the clinic. The first floor will be used as a clinic and a doctor will reside there.

Gradually he will turn the second floor of the same building into a five-bed hospital. There will be a technical school in the third and fourth floors where school and college leaving boys and girls will get vocational training and prepare for their future career jobs or self-employment.

His conscience first woke up seeing pneumonia, diarrhoea, dysentery, hepatitis, TB and common diseases like cold and fever in and around his locality during his boyhood days which took many lives due to lack of health-care services. Even in this modern age many unfortunate poor people die of similar diseases though the diseases are easily curable. With faith full of good senses and braving all limitations, Idris who is now working as the Manager (Finance) of Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka has decided to begin charity at his hometown.

Ali Idris' father late Zahruddin was a farmer and a village chief who used to help neighbours and relatives with his limited resources. His mother also helped others. His wife Selina is also a social worker who is associated with some orphans in Dhaka. His only son Tarek, an Electrical Engineer in Boston, USA and only daughter Tania who studies in USA at undergraduate level in Computer Science also show enthusiasm in philanthropic work.

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