

National

Bail prayer rejected

From Jahangir Alam
NETRAKONA, Aug 26: The bail prayer of 35 BNP and JCD activists were rejected in a case under Public Safety Act (PSA) recently.

They appeared before the concerned court for bail. Two were arrested earlier.

Court sources said, on February 17 a clash took place between Awami League and BNP at Kendua upazila centering a prize distribution ceremony of a school.

At one stage BNP leader Rafiqul Islam Hilali fired on the Awami League activists by his own licensed gun and a few of Awami League activists were injured.

A case was filed with Kendua Police Station under PSA accusing 42 BNP and JCD activists including Rafiqul Islam Hilali on February 18.

After six months on August 16 they appeared before the court and prayed for bail. But the concerned Magistrate Court rejected the bail prayer and sent all of them to jail.

Man killed in Naogaon road accident

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Aug 26: A man was killed and nine others were injured, three of them seriously, in a road accident at Naogaon town on Sunday afternoon.

The dead was identified as Nipu, 42. The three critically injured - Dulal Chandra, 40, Muslam Uddin, 45, and Insan Ali, 35 - were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

According to police and witnesses, the accident occurred when tempo auto-rickshaw collided with a truck. The dead and injured were travelling in the auto-rickshaw.

Two new varieties of Clone tea evolved

From Our Correspondent

MOULIBAZAR, Aug 26: Bangladesh Tea Research Institute (BTRI) at Srimongal has evolved two new varieties of Clone tea - namely BT-12 and BT-13 recently.

A ceremonial presentation function of the newly introduced two varieties of Clone tea was held at BTRI officers' club, Srimongal recently.

Chairman of Bangladesh Tea Board (BTB) Brigadier Dhanjal Islam and Member (Research and Development) of BTB Hasan Imam attended the function as the chief guest and the special guest respectively.

It was addressed, among other, by the General Manager of Gems Finley PLC MA Kashem, Director of BTRI AFM Badrul Alam, Director of the Project Development Unit (PDU) SA Hasib and Senior Tea Planter Lutfor Rahaman.

Chief guest of the function Brigadier Dhanjal Islam hoped that the newly introduced BT-12 and BT-13 varieties of Clone tea will be helpful to promote tea production along with maintaining its quality.

AFM Badrul Alam, Director of BTB told the journalists that the BT-12 and BT-13 was introduced following a long time research of tea researchers of BTRI, Srimongal. These varieties of tea are more productive and qualitative than that of other species. It will be able to protect from insects and pests and also able to adjust in drought.

A circular issued in the ceremonial presentation described that BT-12 species of Clone is a mixture of Monipuri-Assam variety, and BT-13 is a mixture of Assam-Agro-type are considered as model Clone.



(Left): Most crop fields of Shyampur and Shahapur have been devoured by the River Padma during the last four years in Rajshahi district. (Right): An open air primary school at Ranipara under Shujanagar upazila. The River Jamuna devoured the school situated in Sirajganj district.

— Star photo

Rajshahi city slums erosion victims' last resorts

From Abdul Wadood

RAJSHAHI, Aug 26: Several hundred families residing alongside the banks of the rivers are being rendered homeless and landless by erosions every year in the district, but nobody cares about them.

Neither the government nor the non-government organisations (NGOs) think of us," said Salimuddin of Shahapur village in Charkhat upazila. "They give some relief materials and even do some rehabilitation works for the flood-hit people. Some help are also extended to the families whose houses are burnt by catching fire. Even the storm hit people are also given some kinds of assistance. But the families rendered homeless, landless and wealthless by river-erosions are no unfortunate that nobody comes forward to help them," he said.

"We are really unfortunate. We can draw attentions of none. Nobody feels for us," said Abdul Hye, coming from Lalpur in Natore, now residing at the railway slum in Meherchandi area of Rajshahi city.

Shahadat Ali Mondol of Matikata in Godagari upazila who is now residing with his family in a hut erected on the slope of the Godagari bypass road said in despair, "Nobody enquires about where we are going to, where and how we are taking shelter, what we are

eating and what our future is."

There are the mighty rivers Padma, Mohananda, Baral and Baranai - which are flowing through the district of Rajshahi.

The Padma and the Mohananda devour their banks through out the year, but become very furious during the rainy season. The Baral and the Baranai erode lands only in the rainy season.

Godagari, Poba, Rajshahi city corporation area, Charkhat, and Bagha are worstly affected by river erosions.

Neither the district administration nor the Water Development Board (WDB) have any statistics regarding the erosion-affected people. In the rainy season, they are considered as flood-hit people and are given some relief materials, district administration sources said.

Actually there is no specific assistance or rehabilitation programme for erosion-hit people, we are really unfortunate. We can draw attentions of none. Nobody feels for us," said Abdul Hye, coming from Lalpur in Natore, now residing at the railway slum in Meherchandi area of Rajshahi city.

Shahadat Ali Mondol of Matikata in Godagari upazila who is now residing with his family in a hut erected on the slope of the Godagari bypass road said in despair, "Nobody enquires about where we are going to, where and how we are taking shelter, what we are

eating and what our future is."

There are the mighty rivers Padma, Mohananda, Baral and Baranai - which are flowing through the district of Rajshahi.

The Padma and the Mohananda devour their banks through out the year, but become very furious during the rainy season. The Baral and the Baranai erode lands only in the rainy season.

Godagari, Poba, Rajshahi city corporation area, Charkhat, and Bagha are worstly affected by river erosions.

Neither the district administration nor the Water Development Board (WDB) have any statistics regarding the erosion-affected people. In the rainy season, they are considered as flood-hit people and are given some relief materials, district administration sources said.

Actually there is no specific assistance or rehabilitation programme for erosion-hit people, we are really unfortunate. We can draw attentions of none. Nobody feels for us," said Abdul Hye, coming from Lalpur in Natore, now residing at the railway slum in Meherchandi area of Rajshahi city.

Shahadat Ali Mondol of Matikata in Godagari upazila who is now residing with his family in a hut erected on the slope of the Godagari bypass road said in despair, "Nobody enquires about where we are going to, where and how we are taking shelter, what we are

upazila headquarters and market places. Some others take shelter on the khas lands and road-slopes available nearby. They become labourers, rickshaw-pullers and beggars.

Some, especially the young males and females do unfair jobs for their living. Somebody become 'carriers' of the smugglers' clique. They carry contrabands, mostly phenylid from India to the destinations in Bangladesh.

Rajshahi City Corporation

sources said that there had been no slum in the city area just about 15 years ago. Slums are increasing both in number and size very rapidly since early nineties. Poor people from Pabna, Sirajganj, Gaibandha, Kurigram, Bogra, Natore and other districts are coming to the city.

Erosion-hit people comprise the larger part of this floating and slum population.

Rajshahi city corporation has some kinds of programme to help these floating and slum people. It extends some health care facilities, safe water supply and development of roads in the slum areas. Some other government and non-government organisations are also working in the slum areas in different sectors like health, education, self-employment and micro-credit and savings programme.

— Star photo

30 pc Sirajganj dairy farms exist in papers only

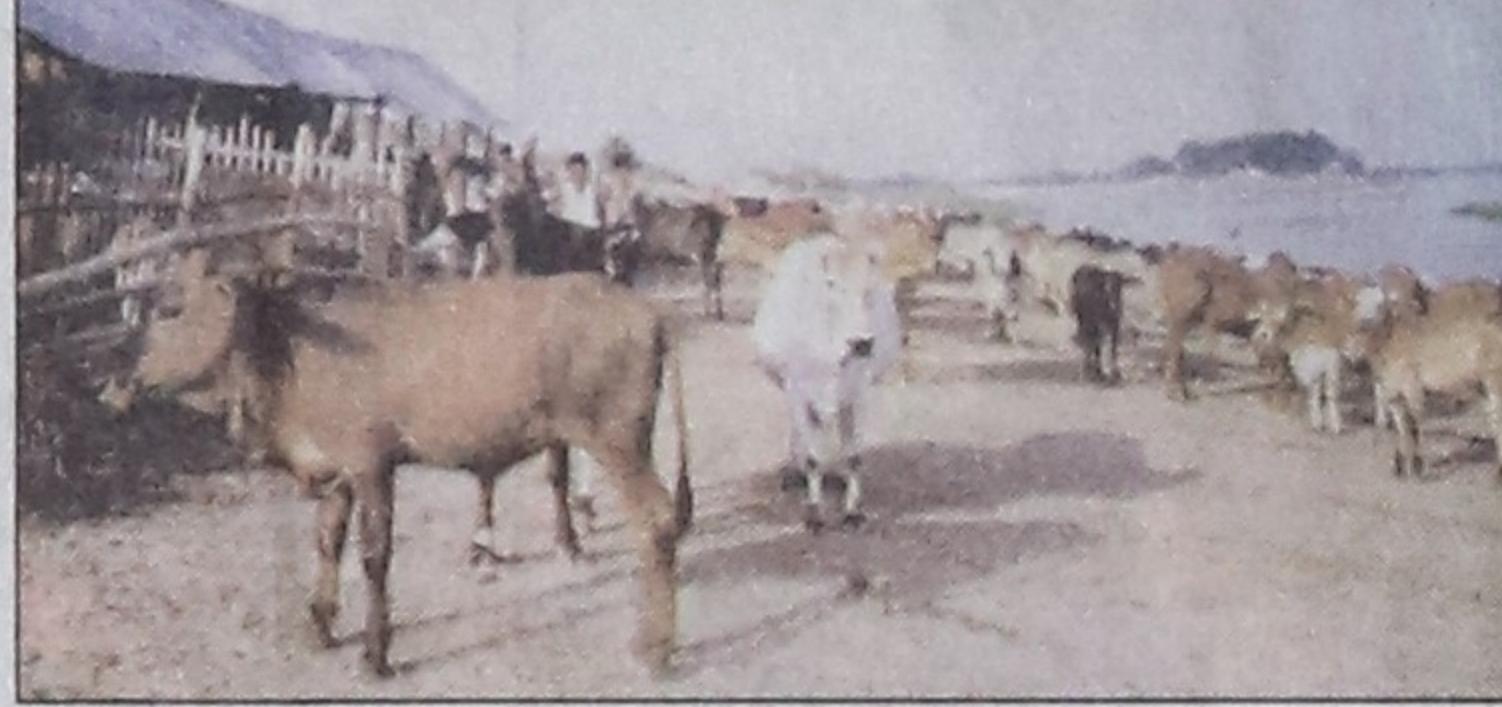
From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 26: The government is getting loser due to misappropriation of grants by so-called dairy farm owners throughout the district.

Thirty percent dairy farms here do not exist in reality. Owners of these so-called dairy farms invest money in some other business by allegedly selling cows of their farms. This is because of absence of government's monitoring system.

Bangladesh Government has been encouraging establishment of dairy farms since 1990 to decrease dependence on foreign powder milk. Within five years tangible success was achieved and people's dependence on powder milk decreased significantly. Despite success 30 per cent dairy farms disappeared an amount of Taka 4 crore 90 lakh 61 thousand 500 was sanctioned by the government for establishment of dairy farms in 16 northern districts.

A ceremonial presentation described that BT-12 species of Clone is a mixture of Monipuri-Assam variety, and BT-13 is a mixture of Assam-Agro-type are considered as model Clone.



This is a typical dairy farm at Baghabari in Sirajganj district where many so-called farm owners took bank loans and other government benefits which they allegedly misappropriated.

— Star photo

was raised with five cows. Each cow gave five litres of milk. Various so-called farm owners sold their cows on various occasions and in reality they showed to the government the same cows which allegedly belonged to other farms. Many unscrupulous farm owners also showed to the government false

farms which had no existence at all in reality. But they allegedly misappropriated a good amount of government money this way.

Proper monitoring system by the government would help check such unhealthy trend. As a result the government would also be benefited this way.

He called upon all human rights organisations and activists to take a joint stance against these anti-human terrorists.

Santhal leader's killing protested

From A Correspondent

NAOGAON, Aug 26: Director General of Bangladesh Guru Rabidas (Dham) Mission Master Kanailal Rabidas Malihanta, in a statement protested the recent barbarous killing of tribal leader Alfred Saran and burning of Bhimpur Santhal settlement in Mahadevpur upazila.

He said that such middle-age barbarity is unthinkable in a civilised society and expressed concern that the weaker minority communities such as the tribals are falling victims to the unabated greed of the influential and musclemen.

In the recent incident the hired goons of two influential land lords of the area raided the Santhal locality of Bhimpur.

He demanded of the government exemplary punishment for the marauders and all connected with such abominable act of crime, and proper relief and rehabilitation of the victims.

He called upon all human rights organisations and activists to take a joint stance against these anti-human terrorists.

— Star photo

was raised with five cows. Each cow gave five litres of milk. Various so-called farm owners sold their cows on various occasions and in reality they showed to the government the same cows which allegedly belonged to other farms. Many unscrupulous farm owners also showed to the government false

farms which had no existence at all in reality. But they allegedly misappropriated a good amount of government money this way.

Proper monitoring system by the government would help check such unhealthy trend. As a result the government would also be benefited this way.

He called upon all human rights organisations and activists to take a joint stance against these anti-human terrorists.

Realising the fact 'Unnayan

Dhara' has taken Sustainable Agriculture and Environment Development Programme Human Rights Development Programme, Community Health Development Programmes in Jhenidah Sadar, Sajlikupur.

the women and children of the

district were socially disad-

antaged, neglected and eco-

nomic vulnerability. Due to

endless poverty, malnutrition

of pregnant mothers and chil-

dren, malnourished diseases, psycho-

social trauma and depression,

injuries and for lack of treat-

ment a large number of people

become disabled. Malnourished

mothers give birth to disabled

children. They are neglected in

the family as well as in the so-

cieties recently from Abadpur village in Rani Nagar upazila.

The body was identified as Ismail Hossain Mondal, 50, haled from Madhupur village.

News snaps

Land tax heaps up

COMILLA, Aug 26: Outstanding land development tax of different government, autonomous and semi-government organisations here has leaped up to TKO 5.23 crore, reports UNB.

Official sources said these organisations could not pay the tax due to their fund constraint. Although officials claimed that the rate of revenue collection is satisfactory, only TKO 3.310 lakh was recovered from these organisations in the preceding fiscal year.

Sugarcane plantation begins

KUSHTIA, Aug 26: Farmers of Battall embarked on sugarcane plantation with a formal opening on the cropland of Dr Utpal Sen Gupta on Monday, reports UNB.

On the occasion, they also held rally with Deputy Director of Agricultural Extension Department Anwarul Haq in the chair. MD of Kushtia Sugar Mill Muzaffar Hossain Chowdhury, GM (Agril) Rezaul Karim, GM (Machinery) James Joy Mollik, GM (Finance) Jamir Ahmed, CBA president Zahidul Islam and general secretary Rezaul Karim also attend the programme.

Janmastami observed

BANDARBAN, Aug 26: A three-day long Janmastami ceremony of Hindu community concluded in Bandarban district town on Wednesday, reports BSS.

In this connection, a colourful procession was brought out on Tuesday. It was led by the Chairman of Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board Bir Bahadur MP. The procession paraded main roads of the town. On the second and third day religious programme, discussion and cultural programme were held.

Janmastami in Gazipur

GAZIPUR, Aug 26: Janmastami, marking the birthday of Hindu God Sri Krishna, was observed here on Tuesday last in a befitting manner, reports BSS.

The Puja Uddipan Parishad chalked out various programmes including discussion, rally and cultural function to celebrate the Day. A discussion meeting was held at Joydevpur Bortola presided over by Prof Mukul Kumar Malik.

Boy killed in road mishap

BARISAL, Aug 26: The divisional headquarters had gone without most of the national dailies on Monday last as the Barisal-bound paper carried from Dhaka fell into a road-side pond at Kashipur on Barisal-Dhaka highway in the morning hitting a rickshaw van which left one little boy Abu Bakar, 14, seriously injured, police said, reports BSS.

The suffering of girl students beggar description. They are to attend their classes at Baitulman premises nearly four km away from the original college campus in the town either by rickshaws or by college buses huddling together with their male counter parts.

The concerned authority

should take measures immediately to remove the problem for the betterment of education.

Seminar on land right, democratisation

From A Correspondent

RAJBARI, Aug 26: A day-long seminar on Land Right, Man-Woman Relations, Development and Democratisation was held on Monday at Rajbari District Shilpkala Academy Auditorium.

The inaugural session was presided over by Abdul Kader, Executive Director Samata and addressed, among others, by Alf Eliason, first secretary, Swedish Embassy.

The main paper on land right was presented by Sarwar Alam, Director, Samata and discussed by ADAB Director Shamsul Huda and DU Professor Mesbah Kamal.

The main paper on Man-Woman Relations and Development was presented by Zafunnahar Shelly, Gender Coordinator Samata and discussed by Executive Editor of fortnightly Ananya Dil Moniwar Moni, Director of Bangla Academy Selina Hossain and Gender Consultant of Prip Trust Dr Nivedita Das Purakayastha.

The main paper on democratisation was presented by Amjad Hossain, central co-ordinator of Samata and discussed by Secretary General of BPUJ Akther Ahmed Khan, Director of Bangladesh Human