

Moulvibazar DIARY

11-man committee of community police

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

The first launching anniversary of community police of TC Market area of Moulvibazar town was held at its office recently.

Presided over by Shafiqur Rahman, president of the TC market area community police, the function was attended by AKM Shahidul Haque, police super, Moulvibazar and Al-haj Mahmudur Rahman, chairman of Moulvibazar Municipality as chief guest and special guest respectively. It was addressed, among others, by Mostafa Miah, Qazi Mortaj Ahmed, additional police super, Musharraf Hussain, inspector of police and Sirajul Islam.

Earlier, an 11-member committee of community police was formed with Sirajul Islam as president, Abdur Raqib as executive president and Nilimesh Ghose as general secretary.

FFs' allowances distributed

A total of Taka six lakh 33 thousand 600 has been distributed among poor freedom fighters at first phase of allowance distribution programme. The allowance is being given to the freedom fighters by the district Social Welfare Department of the government.

The allowance distribution ceremony was held at local sadar upazila parishad auditorium recently. Deputy Commissioner of Moulvibazar GKM Nurul Ameen presided over the function, while Whip of Parliament Md Abdus Shahid attended as chief guest. Central joint secretary of Awami League Md Azizur Rahman and Begum Husne Ara Wahid MP, attended as special guests.

A total of 352 poor freedom fighters received allowances of six months at the rate of Taka 300 per month.

Barni UP by-election

By-election of Barni union parishad under Baralekha upazila of Moulvibazar district was held recently.

According to Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Baralekha the post of chairman of Barni union parishad fell vacant following the death of its chairman a few months ago.

A total of three candidates contested for the post of chairman of the union. Md Samir Uddin Ahmed was elected chairman receiving 2,749 votes. His nearest rival Md Tanam Uddin got 2,736 votes while the 3rd position was secured by Md Jainal Abedin with 2,721 votes.

BCL founding anniversary

The 53rd founding anniversary of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), student wing of the ruling party, was observed in Moulvibazar recently.

The district unit of BCL brought out a colourful rally in the town on the day. A discussion meeting was also held at the local children's park with district BCL president Mujibur Rahman Jasim in the chair. The meeting was addressed, among others, by district BCL general secretary Ruhul Ameen Ruhel, Raihan Ahmed and Sujit Das.

New action committee

The new committee of Moulvibazar district unit of the Development Action Council of Sylhet division was formed recently.

Mayeen Uddin Ahmed Chowdhury, Advocate Md Abdur Raqib and Selim Ahmed were selected president, general secretary and organising secretary respectively. Other office bearers of the committee are: vice presidents: Advocate Qumruzzaman, Advocate Md Afzal Hussain, Mainuddin Ahmed, Dr M A Matin, Md Anwar Khan, M A Salam and Md Mokaddas Ali. Joint secretaries: Mahmudur Rahman and Ibrahim Khalil, finance secretary: Ahsan Ahmed, publicity secretary: Syed Abul Kalam Azad, international affairs secretary: Md Masud Ahmed, office secretary: Biplob Das, cultural secretary: Hafiz Abdul Quyum, library secretary: Abdul Hannan, social welfare secretary: Lukman Hussain Chowdhury, sports secretary: Shafiqul Islam, women's affairs secretary: Ato Chhaya Bhadra. Members: Advocate Kamal Uddin Chowdhury, Golam Nizam, Md Mahmud Ali, Md Moshahidur Rahman, Syeda Arefa Hussain, Manwara Begum Chowdhury, Shahiduzzaman Ansar, Dipankar Das and Ajoy Kar.

Khan Jahan Ali Airport work going on at snail's pace

UNB, Khulna

Work on the long-cherished Khan Jahan Ali Airport is going on at snail's pace due to bureaucratic tangles.

No body knows when the airport will be opened as the earth filling work has yet not been completed in the last five years.

It is more interesting that the farmers still grow paddy on lowlands acquired by the authorities.

The authorities first took initiatives to set up the airport at Phultala Mashiali, 17 kms off the city in 1961. But the project was cancelled in 1968 due to reasons unknown.

Later, the authorities selected the site for airport in Bildakatia area and completed some semi-pucca roads. However, the plan was later cast off just after independence.

Another plan to set up the airport at Katakhalia on Khulna-Mongla Highway was discarded during the Ziaur Rahman regime in 1980.

At last, the authorities concerned selected the site at Failla in Rampal upazila and acquired 95 acres of land there in 1995.

Former Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia laid the foundation stone of

the airport on January 27, 1996 after the name of Pir Khan Jahan Ali.

The construction work on the airport was again stopped after Awami League government assumed power in June in the same year.

However, construction work resumed after two years under the supervision of Civil Aviation Authorities.

The proposed airport would not be able to meet the requirement of the industrial belt of the region due to its small size.

An airport needs minimum 4,000-ft runway, but Khan Jahan Ali Airport is being constructed only with 2,500-ft runway. As a result, many of the domestic airplanes, including GMG aircraft, would not be able to operate from the airport.

The airport is badly needed, as there is only one airport in this region at Jessore, 65-km off the city.

It was known that on average, 50,000 passengers travel on Dhaka-Jessore route every year and majority of the passengers, mainly businessmen and traders, are from Khulna.

Fast completion of the airport is necessitated following establishment of an EPZ at Mongla and declaration of the world's largest mangrove forest, the Sundarbans, as the World Heritage site by UNESCO.



PHOTO: JAHANGIR ALAM

Once Garo women of Netrakona district were happy because they owned enough croplands. But now-a-days they turned pauper, because of power of the influentials who grabbed their lands tactfully. At present they earn their living selling their cheap labour. (L-R) Four Garo women are seen returning home after working in the white lead mine at Bijoypur under Durgapur upazila in the district, while two young Garo women have set for the nearby market to buy the essentials through a hilly path of Bijoypur.

Eight outlaws arrested in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Police on Tuesday arrested eight armed cadres of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) in Khulna city.

The arrested outlaws were identified as Rafiqul Islam, Abul Kalam Azad, Ebadat Hossain Taru, Babu, Suman, Salahuddin, Taj Muhammad and Badal.

All the outlaws are accused in different criminal cases, police said.

Outlaw Suman is one of the accused in SMA Rab murder case.

Two killed in Sirajganj road ACCIDENTS

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Two people were killed and two others injured in two separate road accidents in Sirajganj district on Saturday.

Police said a truck hit a passer-by at Konabari on Dhaka-Dinajpur Road at about 8:30 in the morning, killing him on the spot. The victim was identified as Rabiul, 40, of Konabari village under Kamarkhanda upazila in Sirajganj district.

After the accident, the angry villagers put up barricades on the highway, disrupting traffic movement for hours. Later, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

The other accident took place on Sadar Thana Road when a motor cycle hit a police van in the morning. Three people were riding on the motorcycle. One of the three people died in hospital. He was identified as Monwar Hossain, 23, son of Safi of Hossainpur area in Sirajganj town. Two separate cases were lodged.

Youth killed in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

A young man was gunned down on Wednesday by unidentified hoodlums at village Hapania under Sadar upazila in Pabna district. The victim was identified as Tipu, 26.

Police sources said a gang of armed miscreants numbering about 25 at midnight attacked the house of the youth and shot him. He died on the spot.

Details could not be known.

3 PDB officials sued in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Anti-corruption Bureau on Wednesday in Chittagong filed a case against three Power Development Board (PDB) officials and a private company official for embezzlement of fund.

Mohammad Sirajul Haq, Assistant Inspector of district Anti-corruption Bureau, filed the case Doble mooring police station against Kazi Bashir Uddin Ahmed, superintendent engineer (operation and maintenance, circle north), PDB, Chittagong; Kazi Humayun Reza, Director (C&M), PDB, Chittagong; Md Abul Hossain, assistant director (commercial operation, southern zone), PDB, Chittagong; and Md Shahjahan Saeed, Managing Director, Lucky International Ltd, Chittagong.

In the petition, it is stated that during the period from September 1999 to December 1999 the accused together got involved in racket, causing a financial loss of Tk 10.50 lakh to PDB.

Rampal BNP president arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Rampal upazila BNP President Mizanur Rahman was arrested from his residence at Mongla town.

The BNP leader was found in objectionable condition with a sex worker of Banishanta red light area under Mongla upazila, police said.

Rahman and the sex worker were sent to jail on Friday morning, police added.

Meherpur dist assoc office bearers



President GS

A 25-member executive committee of Meherpur Zila Samity (Meherpur district association), based in Dhaka, was announced at a meeting recently, says a press release.

Amir Uddin Ahmed, joint secretary of the government, and Md Jahangir Alam, senior assistant secretary of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, were made president and general secretary respectively for the tenure of 2001-2002.

Other office bearers of the organisation are: Vice Presidents-- Helaluzzaman, Mozaharul Hannan, M Abdul Wadood and M Shahabuddin; Joint Secretaries-- M Ahsanullah, M Mizanur Rahman; Organising Secretary-- M Shahidul Haque; Treasurer-- M Naimuddin; Publicity Secretary-- M Shahidullah; Office Secretary-- M Amzad Hossain; Women Affairs Secretary-- Nazma Haque; Sports Secretary-- Syed Jahangir Kabir; Cultural Affairs Secretary-- M Shahidul Islam; and Members-- M Serajul Islam, M Nasir Uddin, Qazi Mominul Islam, Rafiqul Islam, Abdur Rashid, Mozammel Haque, Atiar Rahman, Sanwar Hossain, Faridul Islam and Asadul Islam.

Bumper output of potato in Chandpur district likely

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

Bumper output of potato is expected in Chandpur during the current season.

According to the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), about 20 thousand hectares of land has been brought under potato cultivation.

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC)

and DAE supplied seeds and other agricultural inputs to the potato growers.

Potatoes are grown abundantly in Chandpur sadar, Matlab and Hajmchar upazilas. In some areas the target of production on each hectare exceeded more than 60 thousand metric tons.

Meanwhile, the farmers have started collecting potato from the field. Because of abundant supply of

potato in the local markets prices of potato have come down. Potato is now being sold at Tk 5 to 6 per kg. The price is much less than the production cost, it is alleged by the potato growers.

In absence of adequate space in cold storages, most of the growers are not in a position to store potato for selling at a higher price. They are now in need of money to repay their loans and other expenses. So the poor farmers are compelled to sell

their products at low price. There are only six large cold storages here for preservation of potatoes. Rich people and businessmen have already booked these cold storages in advance.

Poor and marginal growers find it difficult to preserve potato. The middlemen are now buying potato in bulk and making preparation to store potato in cold storages. They want to sell these potatoes in the lean period to get much profit.

Warm clothes distributed among poor

UNB/BSS

Blankets and warm clothes were distributed among the cold-hit poor people of Sunamganj, Magura, Netrakona, Pirojpur and Khagrachhari districts by the Relief and Rehabilitation Ministry, district administration, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society and philanthropists.

Sunamganj District Administration distributed 2,475 pieces of blanket among the poor people.

Three hundred fifty blankets were distributed among the poor in Sadar upazila, 225 in Derai, 250 in Dharmapasha, 200 in Jagannathpur, 325 in Chhatak, 175 in Doarabazar, 125 in Jamalganj, 175 in Tahirpur, 100 in Shalla and 125 in Biswambarpur upazilas and 100 each in Sunamganj, Derai, Chhatak and Jagannathpur municipalities.

Besides, some 25 blankets were distributed among the fire victims at Narkila village in Shalla

upazila. Some 30 slum houses were gutted as hoodlums set fire on them on December 30 last year.

Magura District Administration and Bangladesh Red Crescent Society distributed 760 blankets among the cold-hit poor people of the district.

Of the total, 560 blankets were sanctioned by the Relief and Rehabilitation Ministry and the rest 200 by the Red Crescent Society.

Deputy Commissioner AKM Rafiqul Islam along with Police Super M Akbar Ali and society officials distributed the blankets.

A total of 5275 pieces of blankets were distributed among the cold-stricken distressed people of 10 upazilas and four municipalities under Netrakona district.

Official sources said Upazila Nirbahi Officers and municipality chairmen directly supervised the distribution process in their areas.

Of the total blankets, 2525 pieces of blankets

were sanctioned from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund and 2750 pieces of blankets were allocated from the Relief Ministry for mitigating the sufferings of the cold-hit people.

Warm cloths were distributed among the poor and destitute of 10 unions of Swarupkathi upazila of Pirojpur district recently.

One businessman M Shahidul Islam distributed the warm clothes including saree, lungi and pullover to the poor people of the locality.

One thousand pieces of saree, lungi and pullover were distributed in a week here.

Khagrachhari District Administration distributed warm clothes among the poor people.

The programme was started here from January 15. The Deputy Commissioner sent 900 pieces of blankets allocated from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund to all eight upazilas of Khagrachhari including municipality for distribution among the poor people.

Its time for IRRI cultivation

PHOTO FEATURE: AKHTERUZZAMAN BABLU



Farmers throughout Sirajganj district are now busy with IRRI cultivation. This season most farmers have decided to use the High Yielding Variety (HYV) of Chinese seedlings. Some of them are seen (top left) ploughing land with tractors in a modern method, while four others (top right) pick up saplings from a seedbed for plantation and also for sale in a nearby market. Two farmers (bottom left) have set for a rural market to sell the saplings and (bottom right) finally the growers are engaged in planting IRRI saplings in their land.

NEWS SNAPS

Step to protect people from flood

UNB, Bogra

The government has undertaken a Tk 70-crore project aiming at protecting vast areas in Sariakandi and Dhunat upazilas under Bogra district from erosion by the River Jamuna. Under the project, Water Development Board (WDB) will construct spurs at village Hasnapara and Chandanbaisha in Sariakandi upazila and Sahorabari and Banijan in Dhunat upazila.

Officials said the work on the project would be completed before the next monsoon. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina while visiting the erosion-prone area in February 1998 had assured that measures would be taken to protect the local people from recurring floods.

Two killed in Madaripur road mishap

UNB, Madaripur

Two people were killed and 10 others injured in a road accident on Faridpur-Bansal road near Tantbari in Madaripur Sadar upazila recently.

One of the dead was identified as Dilip Poddar, 40, son of Nikhil Poddar, of Kundupara village in Rajor upazila. Police said the accident took place when a Barisal-bound bus from Tekerhat collided with a microbus. Police seized the bus.

Clash leaves man dead

UNB, Jhalakati

A clash between two families over fetching water from a tubewell left a man dead and two people injured at Goalkanda village in Jhalakati. Sadar recently. Police said Shubhash Chandra Halder, 35, his brother Makhon Chandra Halder and Shukumar Khorati, 45, were injured when a clash took place between the family members of Shubhash Chandra Halder and Shukumar living in the same house.

The injured were rushed to a local hospital where Shukumar Khorati died. Meanwhile, Shubhash and Makhon fled the hospital. A case was filed in this connection.

Plaintiff of false case arrested

UNB, Bogra

Police arrested the plaintiff of a false case filed under PSA from his Helenchapura house in Bogra Sadar upazila last week.

Police said Nurul Islam, 45, son of Ashiq Ullah, filed the case under PSA against 10 people on March 31, 2000 accusing them of damaging the wall of his house. But his allegation was proved false after police investigation. Later, a counter case was filed against Nurul Islam with court permission.

Old age allowance misappropriated

UNB, Naogaon

A UP member in Badalgachi Upazila allegedly misappropriated old age allowance under Naogaon district Tk 1,800 drawing it against three dead men recently. Official sources said Kola union parishad member Shahidul Islam drew the allowances from Badalgachi Sonali Bank branch against late Jaker Shah and late Fulmon Bewa of Jharghonia village and late Shamsheer Ali of neighbouring Chaktahar village on false documents.

Janif died on March 6, Fulmon on April 24 and Shamsheer on October 13 last year. As the incident leaked out locals lodged a written complaint with the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) and other high officials demanding stern action against the forger. Social Welfare Department is investigating the matter. Meanwhile, it was learnt that Shahidul Islam, in a bid to escape from criminal charge, deposited the cash to the bank.

Money reallocated

UNB, Madaripur

Chairman of Chhilarchar Union Parishad in Madaripur Sadar upazila has allegedly reallocated the money of Annual Development Programme to a number of fake institutions. Twelve members of the union including three female ones filed a complaint with the UNO in this regard.

In their written complaint they alleged that Chairman Azibar Bali sanctioned Tk 39,796 and seven mts of foodgrains in favour of a non-existent primary school and a non-government primary school named after his father Marafat Bali. Besides, he also allegedly allocated Tk 20,000 in favour of two fake religious institutions and earth filling works for an approach road of a non-existent bridge.

Two alleged terrorists arrested

UNB, Jhalakati

Two alleged terrorists were arrested when they went to Sadar thana in Jhalakati district Sunday to know whether any case was filed against them. Police said a group of terrorists demanded Tk three lakh from three brickfield owners at Nabogran Bazaar in the upazila and beat up a policeman.

Later, a case was filed against them about which they had no idea. As two of them - Rahman and Arif - went to the police station to know about it, they were put behind the bars.

Eight alleged criminals arrested

UNB, Jhalakati

Eight people were sued Monday for trying to rape a girl in Sadar upazila under Jhalakati district.

Police said Rafiqul Islam of Darshana village along with his accomplices entered into the house of his neighbour Badsha Mia Sunday night, took his daughter to a nearby place and tried to rape her. Villagers rescued the girl hearing her screaming. Later, a case was filed against Rafiq and his accomplices.

23 cows lifted

UNB, Rajbari

Armed robbers snatched 23 cows from cow traders from near Chandana Bridge on Rajbari-Kushtia Road under Rajbari district Sunday night.

The robbers, numbering about 25, took away the cows, worth about Tk two lakh, while the cow traders were taking those to their houses from Pangsha Bazaar. A case was filed in this connection.

Fertiliser distributed

UNB, Sherpur

Some 11 mts of mixed fertiliser were distributed free among 948 flood-affected farmers in Nakla Upazila under Sherpur district Monday. Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury distributed the fertiliser at a function here.

Deputy Commissioner of Sherpur Abul Kalam Azad and Deputy Director of Department of Agriculture Extension Abdur Razzak were present. Earlier, some 32 mts of fertiliser were distributed free among poor farmers.

35 community clinics set up

UNB, Pirojpur

Thirty-five community clinics have been set up in Pirojpur district costing Tk 73.15 lakh. Of the clinics, five have been constructed in Bhandaria, two in Koukhal, nine in Mathbaria, eight in Nazirpur, six in Sadar, and five in Nesarabad upazilas. Official sources said 29 more clinics would be set up in the district by June next.

The government has undertaken a programme to implement 25 development projects in three upazilas of the district in the current fiscal. Of the projects, 10 each will be implemented in Mathbaria and Bhandaria upazilas and seven in Nesarabad. The projects, including construction of roads, bridges, culverts, primary schools, development of bazaars, installation of deep tubewells and latrines, will be implemented with financial assistance from ADB.

274 more FFs get allowances

UNB, Barguna

Some 274 distressed freedom fighters of Barguna district have received allowance for six months under a countrywide government programme.

Deputy Minister for Food Dharendra Devnath Shambhu distributed Tk 3.45 lakh among the freedom fighters as allowance for six months from July at a function at Barguna Circuit House Tuesday and at Belagi TTDI auditorium the following day. Fifty-eight helpless freedom fighters in Sadar, 30 in Amtali, 42 in Belagi, 49 in Banna and 35 in Patharghata will receive Tk 300 each per month until their death under the programme.