

Moulvibazar
DIARYPhone exchanges
go digitalOUR CORRESPONDENT,
Moulvibazar

The telephone exchanges of Kulaura and Borolekha upazilas of the district have been digitised.

Each of the exchanges now has a capacity of 500 phone connections. Home and Telecommunications Minister Mohammed Nasim inaugurated the upgraded telephone exchanges recently. In the inaugural function of the Kulaura exchange, the minister said the present government has brought a total of 36 districts under digital telephone network and plans to extend digital phone facilities up to the upazila level. According to local BTTB sources, an amount of Tk 1.20 crore have been spent to upgrade each of these exchanges.

Two beheaded
bodies found

Police recently recovered two beheaded bodies from separate places in the district.

Kulaura police recovered the beheaded body of an unidentified man from a ditch of the Bhaterra rubber garden on April 18. On receiving information from the rubber garden people, police rushed to the spot and recovered the beheaded body. Later, it was sent to Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy. A case was filed in this connection. In another incident, Kamalganj Thana police recently recovered the decapitated body of Parul Begum, 30, daughter of late Maloi Miah of Ubahata village under the thana. According to family sources, the victim was kidnapped. Police sent the body to Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital morgue for post-mortem and filed a case.

Moulvibazar
Chamber
AGM on May 12

The annual general meeting (AGM) of the Moulvibazar Chamber of Commerce and Industry will be held at the Bengal Community Centre at 11am on May 12. Members of the Chamber have been requested to attend the AGM, according to a press release.

Radio Japan
regional
director pays visit

Regional Director of the Bangla Department of Radio Japan, Kiaku Nakamura Chhan, recently visited Chhuto Dhamai Monipuri Shilpakala Academy under Baralekha upazila of the district.

The Academy accorded a reception to Kiaku on the office premises.

Land-grabbing goes
on in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Politically influential people are grabbing public lands by raising unauthorised structures on both sides of the roads and highways of the district.

About 200 acres of land stretching from New Dhaka Road to Bazar Station Road and Ullapara to Sirajganj ghat have already come under illegal occupation by such people. Moreover, a section of the local people is allegedly trying to grab lands in all areas including the sides and adjoining areas of the Sirajganj highway and many other places in the town. These people are reportedly doing this in connivance with the local Railway and Tahashil office officials.

Departmental hassles and pressure from local stalwarts always frustrate any move against these illegal occupants, sources with the land office here said.

They said that some land-grabbers, having the local political stalwarts and socio-cultural organisations as their shields against any punitive move, were also engaged in the activity.

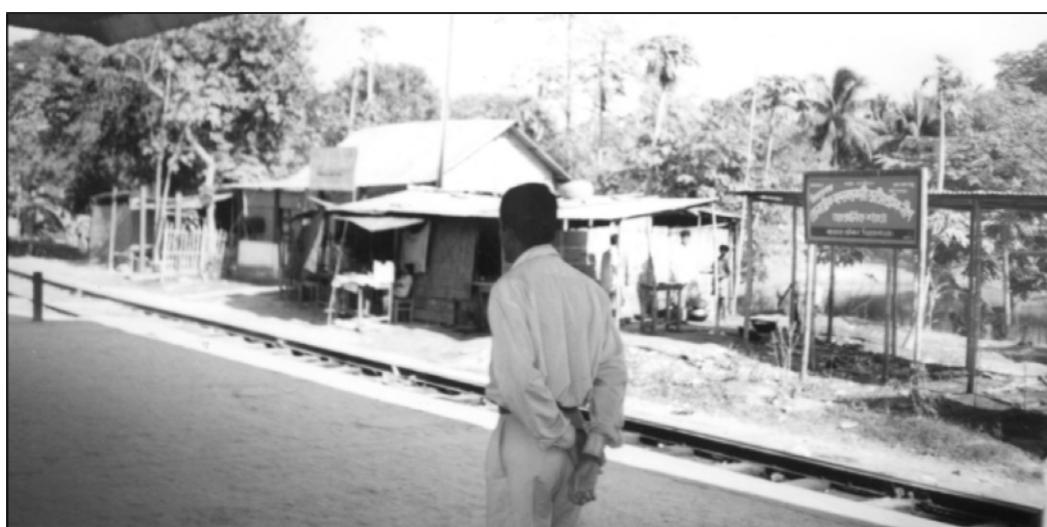
A leading social worker and political leader in the

town said, "There's hardly any denying of the fact that the land-office officials have something to do with the encroachment, as the authorities concerned often seem apathetic to these illegal structures on government lands."

"People often pay a certain amount of money to these officials on a monthly basis to keep their illegal structures erect on public lands," said a shop owner on the Dhaka Road.

Speaking on condition anonymity, another occupant at Station Road also cited such underhand dealings and contacts with the officials as a precondition to running businesses on unauthorised lands.

When contacted, the executive engineer of the Sirajganj Roads and Highways Department and Municipality Chairman Abu Mohammad Golam Kibria admitted that unauthorised structures were being raised on public lands under the very nose of the authorities concerned. However, they expressed their ignorance about alleged contacts with the officials regarding building of structures on public lands.



Unauthorized structures are seen along the western side of the rail line at Sirajganj Bazar Railway Thana. The district nowadays witnesses sprouting of such structures on both sides of the roads and highways.

210 families come
under Magura
Ashrayan projects

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

A total of 210 homeless families have been provided shelter under Ashrayan projects in the district.

Of these families, 40 were housed under Nizrardaulia Ashrayan Project at Magura Sadar, 60 under Monsha Ashrayan Project and 20 under Bongram Ashrayan Project in Mohammadpur upazila, 50 under Shingra Ashrayan Project in Shalikha upazila, 40 under Harindi Ashrayan Project in Sreepur upazila, official sources said.

It may be mentioned here that

due to poverty, the number of homeless people in the district is increasing at an alarming rate. Everyday hundreds of such people are rushing to the town for jobs. Most of them return to their villages, but a good number of the homeless people stick to the town for earning their bread.

They work here and there or look

for jobs during daytime. At night, these destitute people take shelter at bus stands, court building premises, on footpaths or anywhere they can lay their heads.

For rehabilitation of these homeless people, the government has implemented the Ashrayan (Housing) projects in three upazilas of the district. The agency in charge of implementing the same is offering credits to people sheltered in the project for making them self-reliant.

While talking to this correspond-

ent, the rehabilitated families at Niznabdali Ashrayan project expressed their happiness. "Ashrayan project has infused new blood into our veins," they said, thanking the government for taking such an 'exceptional' initiative for the poor. They now dream of a bright future for them as well as their next generations through different development activities.

600 houses gutted
in Panchagarh

UNB, Panchagarh

Some 600 dwelling houses were gutted in two fire incidents in Atoari upazila in Panchagarh recently.

In the first incident a fire at Laxmipur village in Mirzapur union parishad charred 250 houses along with food grains, ornaments and others valuables.

Some 20 goats were also roasted alive in the fire.

Villagers doused the flame before firefighters from Panchagarh and Thakurgaon reached the spot.

The second fire incident gutted some 350 dwelling houses at Baroshingha Tupipara village in Atoari union.

The fire originated from a lamp at a house soon engulfed the adjacent area leaving 40 families homeless.

Another report from Pabna adds:

A fire gutted 13 houses at a cluster village adjacent to Azimgarh Rail Gate in district on Monday.

Valuables worth about Tk 1.5 lakh were burnt to ashes and five people received burn injuries while extinguishing the blaze.

Fire Brigade sources said the fire originated from an oven at about 1 pm engulfed the whole areas, damaging the houses of eight families.

Firefighters from Ishwardi and Natore rushed to the spot and extinguished the fire after one-and-a-half hours.

Another report from Rangpur says: Eight people were killed and property worth over Tk 3.51 crore

gutted in 655 fire incidents in five northern districts under the greater Rangpur last year.

Among the victims, two each were killed in Kurigram and Lalmonirhat districts and four in Nilphamari district.

District-wise breakup of the fire incidents and loss of property:

Rangpur fire 199, loss Tk 90.20 lakh; Kurigram fire 120, loss Tk 91.25 lakh; Nilphamari fire 206, loss Tk 98.25 lakh; Lalmonirhat fire 68, loss Tk 15.83 lakh and Gaibandha fire 62, loss Tk 55.82 lakh.

Two killed
in Barisal
road mishap

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Two people were killed and eight others injured in an accident on Bund Road in Barisal town Saturday morning.

The dead were identified as Kuddus Mia, 50, and Munsef Mallick, 52.

The accident occurred when a sand-laden truck hit a three-wheeler tempo, which was going to Rupatali Bus Stand from Launch Ghat area. All the victims were travelling in the three-wheeler.

Critically injured Sohel, 21, Shamsul Haq, 31, Arif, 2, and Monir, 26, were admitted to Shere-Bangla Medical College Hospital.

NEWS SNAPS

One murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

A man was stabbed to death at Alokkdar village under Kamarkhanda upazila in Sirajganj district recently.

Police said Saiful Islam, also an activist of ruling Awami League-backed Sramik League, received stab injuries when he was caught in a clash between two groups of people of Alokkdar and its neighbouring village Chala Shahbajpur. During the clash, rickshaw van puller Saiful Islam, a resident of Alokkdar village, was passing the area. He succumbed to his injuries at Sirajganj General Hospital. A case was filed.

Two youths stabbed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Two youths were stabbed in two separate incidents at Shabat and Kalitola in Bogra town recently.

The victims were identified as Biddiyat, 23, son of Mojahar Ali of Shabat and Suman, 20, son of Abdul Khaleque of Dattabari under Bogra Sadar. The victims were admitted to Mohammad Ali Hospital. Police said the incidents occurred as sequel to previous enmities. Two separate cases were lodged.

Stolen motorcycles recovered

BSS, Sathkira

Police recovered four stolen motorcycles from Jhikorgachha upazila in Jessore and Sathkira and arrested four people for their 'involvement' last week.

Acting on secret information, Sathkira police raided Matikura village under Jhikorgachha upazila and recovered two stolen motorcycles. In the other drive, police recovered another two stolen motorcycles from North Katia village near Sathkira town. Police arrested Kamrul Hasan, Abul Kashem Member of village Matikura, Nurul Amin of village Magura and Shawan of village North Katia.

Cinema raided

BSS, Bogra

Customs personnel raided a cinema recently in Dhunat upazila in Bogra and seized a number of reels of blue films from there.

The hall owner used to exhibit obscene films along with regular Bengali feature films. Observing the unusual crowd, the Customs personnel raided the cinema. A case was filed with Dhunat police.

New school bldg opens

BSS, Habiganj

Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria last week inaugurated the newly constructed academic building of Habiganj High School at a ceremony.

Addressing the function, the minister said both the teachers and the guardians should be active for improving the standard of education. "The present government has undertaken different development programmes for schools to provide better education to all," he said. Among others, Enamul Haque Mostafa Shahid MP, Municipality Chairman Shahid Chowdhury, General Secretary of district unit of Awami League Mushtaq Hussain and Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Abdul Aziz and headmaster of the school addressed the function.

Tk 953cr distributed among youths

BSS, Barisal

Chief Whip Abul Hasanat Abdullah said in Barisal last week that the present government has distributed Taka 953 crore among the unemployed youths during the last 4 years and 10 months under the self-employment programme.

Abdullah was addressing a cross-section of people at Aswini Kumar Town Hall in the town on the occasion of handing over donation cheques from the Juba Unnayan Department. He distributed cheques totalling Taka 6.30 lakh among 69 different organisations of the district.

Four hurt as villagers clash

UNB, Bagerhat

A recent clash between two groups of people at village Madardia in Rampal upazila in Bagerhat left four women injured.

Villagers said the clash was a backlash to a longstanding land dispute between Babul Howlader of Madardia village and Syed Ali Kha of Molikerber. Babul Howlader set up a hatchery on the disputed land. On the day, a gang of terrorists, led by Syed Ali Khan, went to the hatchery for catching fish and stabbed four women when they resisted them.

The injured Hawa Begum, 26, Jobeda Begum, 65, Champa Begum, 40, and Shahida Begum, 35 were admitted to Sadar Hospital. Of them, the condition of Jobeda and Shahida were said to be critical.

8x3

8x3

8x2