

Moulvibazar

DIARY

Phone exchanges go digital

OUR 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 it 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, Kamalgonj 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 Nekamura 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

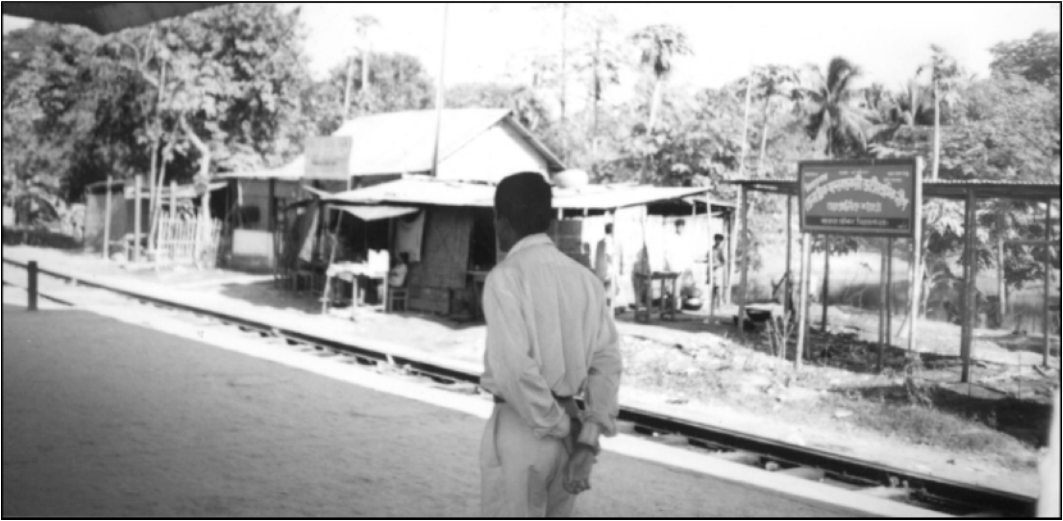
Politically influential people are grabbing public lands by raising unauthorised structures on both sides of the roads and highways of the district.

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



Unauthorised 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.

Panchagarh wheat farmers reap rich from good soil

UNB, Panchagarh

Wheat production in Panchagarh district is likely to break the previous records thanks to the weather for doing the favour and the authorities for taking necessary measures in time.

Agriculture officials said croplands of greater Dinajpur including Panchagarh are more suitable for wheat farming than any other crops, but the farmers once were unwilling to cultivate it because of their unawareness. Lack of fertilisers, quality seeds and irrigation facility can also be blamed for it.

Now the farmers here are in an upbeat mood due to good price of wheat despite its bumper production. They said moderate winter and loamy soils of the district have been

helpful for the wheat cultivation this year.

Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) also deserves credit for its positive programmes on wheat farming. In 1998-1999 fiscal, it took up various motivational programmes to encourage the farmers for wheat cultivation.

The department also provided training to the farmers and distributed agri inputs among them in time.

Giasuddin, a wheat farmer, said that he used to cultivate other crops and never opted for wheat because of ignorance. "I started wheat cultivation just last year and I had a good harvest," said a beaming Gias.

He said he cultivated wheat on 15 acres of land this year being motivated by DAE programmes.

The DAE brought 25,500 hectares land in five upazilas of the district under wheat cultivation this year with an output target of 80,650 tons.

In the wake of bumper production, Food Department has already embarked on wheat procurement and is purchasing it directly from the farmers at Tk 8.90 per kg.

It has fixed the procurement target at 7,200 metric tons, which the farmers said not enough to give them price support.

But a food official said they could not raise the procurement target due to lack of godowns.

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 Nizrandualia 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

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 Baroshingia Tupipara village in Aloakhoa 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 Azimnagar 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 Munserf 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-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital.

NEWS SNAPS

One murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

A man was stabbed to death at Alokdiar 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 hoodlums of Alokdiar and its neighbouring village Chala Shahbajpur. During the clash, rickshaw van puller Saiful Islam, a resident of Alokdiar 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 Shibbati and Kalitola in Bogra town recently.

The victims were identified as Biddyaat, 23, son of Mojahar Ali of Shibbati 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 Mushfiq 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 Mollikerber. 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