

SNAPS

Training for UP

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A three-day training programme for elected Union Parishad chairmen and members concluded at Shaghata upazila recently. The training was organised at the initiative of Gaibandha Deputy Commissioner Abdus Sabur. Upazila Engineer Nurul Islam, Golzer Rahman of BRDB and Shafiqul Islam of Agriculture Extension Department conducted the programme.

68 uplift projects implemented

UNB, Pirojpur

The Relief and Rehabilitation Department implemented 68 uplift projects in the district in the last fiscal year utilising 522.50 metric tons of rice. Of the total projects, eight were implemented in Sadar, five in Zianagar, 10 in Nazirpur, 11 in Bhandaria, five in Kaukhali, 16 in Mothbaria and 13 in Nesarabad upazilas. The projects include construction and reconstruction of roads and embankments, earth filling and excavation and re-excavation of ponds.

27 agri projects implemented

UNB, Khagrachhari

The Zila Parishad implemented 27 projects for the development of agriculture in eight upazilas of the district in the last fiscal year involving over Tk 78 lakh.

The projects include construction of drains, box culverts, embankments, dam and supply of agricultural machinery.

Liquor, hemp seized

UNB, Khagrachhari

Members of Narcotics Control Department seized five liters of liquor, 500 grams of hemp, and liquor making materials from Khagrachhari poura area Saturday. A team led by a first class magistrate conducted drives at College Road



PHOTO: KM REZAUL HAQUE

A boon for some and bane for others.. as floodwater recedes, farmers in Shovaganj area under Sundarganj upazila transplant aman seedlings on lands enriched with fertile alluvial deposit (left), while erosion by the Brahmaputra has intensified at Karibari in the Sadar upazila (right) in Gaibandha district. The photos were taken on Saturday.

196 firearm licenses cancelled in Bagerhat

UNB, Bagerhat

Licenses of 196 firearms have been cancelled by the district administration after scrutiny.

The licenses were cancelled for various reasons including death of the owner, unauthorised transfer and non-purchase of firearm after issuance of license.

A total of 916 firearms were deposited under a government order during the last "Operation Clean Heart" by joint forces.

Prisons to have video links with courts

More 129 under-trial prisoners to be freed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal.

Prisons will have video links with courts to ensure regular appearance of under-trial prisoners.

The system will be introduced first in Dhaka and then expanded countrywide, Inspector General of Police (Prison) Brig Gen Zillur Rahman said during a visit to Barisal Central Jail on Wednesday.

This is part of a master plan to improve the condition of prisons, which should not only be places of punishment, but also of correction, he said.

Like the correction centre for male juveniles at Gazipur in Dhaka, a separate centre for females will be set up at Kona Bari, he said.

Separate prisons for female prisoners are being planned. For

jails at divisional headquarters, day care centers will be opened for children of female prisoners, the IG Prison said.

More 129 under-trial prisoners (Hazati) detained for periods more than their probable punishment terms will be freed soon. Twenty-nine such prisoners were freed earlier.

An order has been issued to

scrutinise and list all prisoners of this type.

He expressed his dissatisfaction over irregularities at Barisal Central Jail. He ordered the jail authorities to improve sanitation facilities for prisoners.

Reconstruction of the two old three-storey buildings declared abandoned by the PWD would begin soon, he added.

Bus fare hike protested in Ctg 10 hurt as people clash with transport workers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Local people declared the Chittagong-Nazirhat road off-limits to transports for six hours on Saturday, raised barricades and

clashed with transport workers, protesting fare hike.

At least 10 people were injured at different points as people under the banner of Chittagong-Nazirhat Passenger Parishad attacked and damaged a good number of buses that tried to ignore the restriction.

Protesting the attack, the owners suspended plying of buses on Chittagong-Khagrachhari, Chittagong-Rangamati and Rangamati-Khagrachhari routes.

They called for help from the administration to realise fair at what they called governed fixed rates on these routes. Otherwise, they threatened an indefinite transport strike.

People said bus owners unilaterally raised the Chittagong-Nazirhat fare to Tk 15 from Tk 12 on July 21.

Bus owners said the fare was raised after discussion with the administration. The injured included Noor Md Basek, Sultan Ahmed, Abdus Salam, Md Shafi and Nurul Abser, who were treated at local medical centres.

7 fishermen abducted from Sundarbans for ransom

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Abduction for ransom in the Sundarbans is continuing despite the on-going combing operation there by joint forces including coast guards.

Pirates belonging to Razzak Bahini abducted seven fishermen from Shapla area under Shupati forest station on Wednesday and demanded Tk one lakh ransom. They set a deadline till Monday (today) for payment of the ransom.

The pirates set free one of the fishermen to bring the ransom within the deadline.

The six held hostage are Panna, 35, Biren, 40, Jabbar, 33, Rashid, 52, Abinesh, 30 and Selim, 31. They went to the Sundarbans from Kathaltala and Chardoeni under patharghata upazila, sources said.

Alleged outlaw arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

An alleged member of outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) was arrested with arms at Gopinathpur village under Mirpur upazila Saturday night.

Police arrested the outlaw Shadhin, 26 during a raid on his house and recovered one shotgun and two bullets from his possession.

He was sent to Kushtia jail on Saturday.

Murder of minor boy Alleged killers threatening victim's family

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sakhina

Alleged killers of eight year-old Sajib, released on bail, are now threatening the victim's family to withdraw the case or to face "dire consequences".

Mahabubur Rahman Sajib, son of Prof Manirul Islam of Bahara village in Debhata upazila, was slaughtered in a bush at the village on August 30 last year.

Police and local people said the incident could be a sequel to previous enmity over land.

The killing sparked protests by people, who brought out processions demanding punishment of the killers.

The father of the victim filed a case with Debhata thana. Police arrested Anwarul Islam Anu, Akhtarul Islam, Shariful Islam Bhutto, Anisur Rahman and Sakhina Khatun. Another accused, Abdul Alim, is absconding.

The case was transferred to CID for investigation, which submitted charge sheet against the accused on June 26.

Horrific tale of a woman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Miscreants, after killing her father over a land dispute, abducted Sharifa, gangraped her and perpetrated inhuman torture as her mother filed a case for the killing.

The incident took place on Friday at Paranpur village under Chitalmari upazila in Bagerhat district.

Seventy-year-old Motaleb Shaikh was killed three months ago. His wife Aklima Khanam filed a case with Chitalmari thana, accusing ten persons.

The accused abducted their daughter Sharifa Khatun, 27, from her father's house Friday morning at arms point and kept her confined in the house of Hanif Shaikh, one of the accused in the murder case.

According to neighbours, Sharifa was stripped off clothes and gangraped by the abductors. They beat her with a hammer and poured dust of dried red chilli into her private part.

On information, her elder brother Zahidur Rahman rush to

Barhobaria police camp. Police recovered her from the house of Hanif Shaikh in an unconscious state and sent her to Chitalmari health complex.

In the afternoon on Friday, she was sent to Bagerhat Sadar Hospital in a critical condition. Sharifa regained consciousness at about 6-30 am on Saturday.

Dr Abdus Salam of Bagerhat Sadar Hospital told this correspondent on Saturday that Sharifa is not yet out of danger as she sustained severe injuries in her private part and also in other vital parts of body.

When contacted, Bagerhat Police Superintendent Mesbahuddin Ahmed said he has ordered drastic action against the culprits.

But none was arrested till 4 PM on Saturday. Meanwhile, the alleged abductors of Sharifa have threatened her mother Aklima with death if she files any case for torture on her daughter. They have also threatened Aklima to withdraw the murder case, sources said.



PHOTO: STAR

Returning to the homestead as the floodwater is receding. Life has to be started anew as flood has washed away everything. The photo was taken from Bhutmari village under Dhunot upazila in Bogra recently.

Deadly Dengue looms in CHT, no preventive step

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Any preventive measure is yet to be taken one year after a research team found "lots of Aedes mosquito larva" in different areas of malaria-prone Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT). Aedes caused deadly Dengue.

This was stated by Rangamati Deputy Civil Surgeon AZM Mezbahuddin at a workshop here on Thursday.

The research was conducted by ICDDR, B (International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh) during July-September last year.

Asked by a journalist whether any preventive measure was taken, Mezbahuddin replied, "No measure was taken as that was a research only."

"That (research) was not a government event", he said.

"Even then we informed the chairman of Rangamati Hill District Council (RHDC)", he added.

Responsibilities of government health bodies were transferred to the Hill District Councils of Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban after formation of the councils in 1989, sources said.

The Rangamati Hill District Council chairman was available for comment.

The workshop on Thursday with the title "Malaria in the CHT", held at a local restaurant, was organised jointly by the Hill Tracts NGO Forum (HTNF) and CARE-Bangladesh.

Chakma Circle chief King Debasysh Roy was in the chair.

Doctors having experience in fighting malaria, including experts from WSHO (World Health Organization) took part in the workshop.

Workshop at Moulvibazar told Gram Sarker will curb privileges of local bodies

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Speakers at a day-long workshop here have said Gram Sarker will curb privileges of elected chairmen and members of Union Parishads (UPs) and create chaos in rural areas.

Gram Sarker will be constituted with 13 people to be selected by ruling party leaders and two elected UP members, they said.

About 50 elected representatives from different UPs in Moulvibazar took part in the workshop, organised by the Autonomous Union Parishad Advocacy Group (AUPAG), a voluntary organisation.

They discussed responsibilities and constitutional rights of UP chairmen and members.

If Gram Sarker is formed, local members of parliament (MPs) will run the UPs at their will. The MP's

men will run all activities including implementation of development programmes and elected representatives will have nothing to do.

Siraj Uddin Ahmed Badshah, chairman of Bhukshimul UP under Kulaura upazila, presided over the workshop, held on Wednesday at a community centre in the town.

Rafiqul Islam Sarker, chairman of the Hunger Project, Bangladesh, was the chief guest. Abul Hussain, 'national convener' of AUPAG; Mainul Hussain its Sylhet divisional convener; Saifuddin Ahmed, Programme Coordinator of the Hunger Project and Saykat Shubhra Aych were present.

At the workshop, a 15-member Moulvibazar district committee of AUPAG was formed with Sirajuddin Ahmed Badshah as its convener and Abu Sufian, Khela Rani Pal and Main Uddin Ahmed as joint convenors.

