



PHOTO: STAR

Brahmanbaria police officials holding a meeting at Ibrahimpur village in Nabinagar upazila to create awareness among people against crimes.

## Crimes down in B'baria as community policing pays

**SHEIKH SHAHIDUL ISLAM,**  
B'baria

Community policing has improved law and order in the district and created enthusiasm among people seeing its success in a short time.

It was introduced on May 1, involving people from all walks of life.

Highway robbery, piracy on rivers, snatching and abduction both in rural and urban areas have become rare after introduction of community policing. This was stated at a law and order review meeting, held on June 20.

The meeting was told that in April, five murders, three incidents of dacoity, three of piracy, and 22 incidents of violence against women were recorded in different areas of the district.

In about fifty days from May 1 to June 20, four murders, two incidents of robbery and 21 incidents of violence against women were recorded, according to sources in police and the administration.

On the other hand, tipped-off by members of Community Police, police nabbed 34 alleged dacoits and another 57 for other crimes in 50 days from May 1. In April, they had nabbed 13 dacoits and 15 others for various crimes.

Clash over trifles involving villagers often took place in different parts of the district earlier. This has virtually stopped as the members now quickly inform police if they apprehend any clash. Police takes action immediately. Four clashes involving villagers took place in April, but there was none since May.

Being close to the border, Brahmanbaria was a transit point for smuggling. This has also been reduced drastically.

All classes of people—students, teachers, workers, local elite, religious leaders, workers and women are involved in community policing in each community in urban and rural areas. Their number is about 12,000 now, according to Police Superintendent ATM Tareque

and Saidur Rahman. They hold regular rallies in their areas, also attended by the SP and other police officials. Besides law and order, the rallies discuss violence against women and children, dowry, child marriage, smuggling, drug control and anti-social activities and create awareness among people. This has also helped a lot in creating good relations between police and people. The SP said about 50 such programmes including 15 big public meetings were held in different areas of the district since May to create awareness and implore people to rise against crimes. Health care, family planning, tree plantation, fish cultivation and adult literacy were also discussed in the meetings. "The improvement in law and order is the result of Community Policing", the SP said. "The situation will improve further if we involve more people in such activities", he added.

## New inter-city train for Dinajpur from Saturday

A CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Drutajan Express, a new inter-city train will run between Dinajpur and Dhaka from Saturday, according to railway sources.

The new inter-city train service is expected to be inaugurated by Communication Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda at 7.50 pm on the day.

It will take about 9 hours 10 minutes for the 490-kilometre journey from Dinajpur to Dhaka.

The train will run for six days except Wednesdays. It will depart from Dhaka at 7:50 pm and arrive at Dinajpur at 5 next morning. The departure time at Dinajpur station is 9.45 am and it will arrive Dhaka railway station at 5.55 pm.

The train fare will be Tk 185 for economy class, Tk 250 for chairs and Tk 535 for seat in first class bath.

## 'Allocate more funds for Satkhira'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Speakers at a discussion meeting held at Sadar upazila auditorium here yesterday urged the government to allocate more funds in the national budget for overall development of the district.

The discussion titled, 'Poverty Reduction Strategy Plan (PRSP) and National Budget,' was organised by Satkhira chapter of Campaign for Good Governance with financial assistance of National Committee of Campaign for Good Governance, a citizens' organisation.

Anisur Rahim, president of the chapter presided over the meeting.

The speakers have urged the finance minister to allocate more fund to fulfill Satkhira people's 18-point demand.

Principal Asit Kumar Majumdar was present at the meeting as the chief guest.

Among others, it was addressed by The Satkhira Chitra editor Anisur Rahim, Principal Sheikh Abdul Wadood, Satkhira chamber of commerce and industries president Sheikh Azhar Hossain, Prof Abdul Hamid, BNP leader Kamrul Islam Farooq, Awami League (AL) leader SM Lutfor Rahman, Prof Babitra Mohon Das and Saidur Rahman.

Eminent economist Farooq Azam Abdus Salam presented the key-note paper while Madhab Chandra Dutta, director of a local NGO named Swadesh moderated it.

While addressing as the chief guest, Principal Asit Kumar Majumdar said, Satkhira earns huge foreign currency for the country by producing shrimp and frozen foods but it is being deprived of its due share of development fund. He urged the government to include the 18-point demand for the good of 18 lakh people in the district.

Other speakers told that being a remote district, Satkhira had been neglected in the annual development plan by the successive governments. People have been demanding more fund for development of their district for the last few years, but it had been ignored all the time, they alleged. They also urged the government to take appropriate measure for implementation of poverty reduction strategy plan.

## NILPHAMARI POSTAL SCAM: FRESH CASE AGAINST 7

# Defalcation of another Tk 1.48 cr detected

E A M ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

Defalcation of more Tk 1.48 crore from depositors' accounts by postal employees has been detected at Nilphamari Head Post Office.

A fresh case has been filed with Nilphamari thana after the detection by the probe body, sources said yesterday.

Seven postal employees have been charged in the fresh case filed on June 20 by Post Master of Nilphamari Head Post Office Torab Ali. They include the four sued in two cases filed earlier when misappropriation of Tk 2.84 crore was detected.

The three others charged in the fresh case are Abdul Salek, now Assistant Post Master at Rangpur Head Office; Golam Nabi Sarkar, Assistant Post Master at Gaibandha Head Post Office and Azaharul Islam, Post Master at Kishoreganj Upazila Post Office.

They were postal operators at

Nilphamari Head Post Office earlier.

The four others are Assistant Post Master at Nilphamari Head Post Office Mir Nural Islam Munna, Ledger Operator Ahmedul Islam Raju and postal operators Taslim Uddin and Liaquat Ali Khan, all charged in the previous two cases also. They are in custody now.

Golam Nabi Sarkar is under suspension now for his alleged involvement in a postal scam in Gaibandha Head Post Office.

Sources at the Head Post Office here said the Tk 1.48 crore defalcation was detected during probe in the last one month in different sections by the second investigation team. The investigation is continuing, they said.

The first five-member probe body formed at the directive of Post and Telecommunication Ministry conducted its investigation from April 4 to May 19.

After their departure, a new four-member probe body started

investigation in the last week of May at the directive of Post Master General, Northern (Rajshahi Division).

The new probe body is headed by Reazul Islam, DPMG of Dinajpur Postal Region and also acting DPMG of Rangpur Postal region.

The two earlier cases were filed on April 6 and 13 by the Post Master of Nilphamari Head Post Office when misappropriation of Tk 2.84 crore was detected in savings account and savings certificate sections.

Meanwhile, accused Postal Operator Taslim Uddin, who was absconding since the probe started, was arrested on June 7 when he appeared before a court here for bail after expiry of 28 days' bail granted by the High Court.

He was taken five days' remand by detective branch police. On the third day of his

remand he became sick and was shifted to Nilphamari Hospital and later to Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

The OC of Nilphamari thana, who is the investigation officer of the first case, told newsmen that some high officials of the postal department should be interrogated in this connection, but they are not giving time.

Some sources believe say the accused postal employees might have huge deposits with commercial banks in Nilphamari.

But the banks are ignoring an order by the central postal authorities in Dhaka to give statements of accounts of the accused and their close relatives and to stop payment from those.

When contacted by this correspondent, some lawyers in the town said the accused are trying to get bail from the High Court.



PHOTO: STAR

People suspecting Kala Azar infection crowd Kalmakanda upazila health complex on Tuesday for blood test.

## Kala Azar breaks out in Netrakona 132 attacked in two upazilas: Injection price doubles

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Kala Azar, a deadly tropical fever, has broken out in bordering Kalmakanda and Durgapur upazilas of the district, affecting a large number of people.

Sources at the low upazila health complexes said at least 132 people have been afflicted by the disease. Of them, 69 are in Durgapur and 63 in Kalmakanda.

They said the disease was first detected about a month ago. It spread because its treatment is costly for the people.

This correspondent visited Kalmakanda Upazila Health Complex on Tuesday and talked to some patients. They alleged that the injection for treatment of the disease is scarce at Kalmakanda upazila headquarter.

They have to buy an injection at Tk 200 to 250 against its normal price of Tk 119.

A patient needs 10 to 12 injections for recovery, sources at the

upazila health complex said. So a patient has to spend Tk 2500 to 3000 to recover, which is beyond the ability of the poor people.

Islamuddin, a patient, who came to Kalmakanda Health Complex from a bordering village of upazila, was admitted five days back. Islamuddin said he did not get any injection from the hospital since admission.

He said he is a landless daylabourer and has no money to buy the injection.

Another patient said he procured an injection by paying a hospital staff Tk 250.

This correspondent also saw a large number of people including

women and children waiting at the hospital for blood test for Kala Azar.

Golam Rabbani, Upazila Health Officer (UHO) at the health complex admitted that there is a crisis of the injection at the hospital.

He said 63 patients were admitted to the hospital since outbreak of the disease. Of them, 52 were fully treated and 11 are under treatment.

When contacted, Netrakona Civil Surgeon (CS) Dr. Md. Siddikur Rahaman said he took office on Monday and is yet to take stock of things upazila health complexes.

TK 21CR SOUGHT BY MINISTRY

## Barisal education board staff terms it 'extortion'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Employees of Barisal education board held a rally on the office premises yesterday protesting a decision by the education ministry to realise Tk 20.75 crore from all the education boards in the country for distribution of computers in educational institutions.

The programme was called by the Inter-board Employees Union Federation.

Speakers termed the decision to realise money "toll collection" and said they will build tougher agitation if the ministry does not change its decision.

Sources said, the education ministry is seeking Tk 7 crore from Dhaka education board, Tk 5 crore from Jessore board, Tk 3 crore from Rajshahi board, Tk 30 lakh from Barisal board, Tk 1.5 crore from Comilla board, Tk 50 lakh from Sylhet board, Tk 2.5 crore from Madrasa education board, Tk 50 lakh from technical education board and Tk 40 lakh from the National Curriculum and Text Book Board for distributing free computers to educational institutions.

Principal Md Anwarul Huq, chairman of Barisal education board and president of inter-board association, said authorities of education boards will take a decision in this regard at a meeting on

June 24. He hoped the matter would be settled amicably through talks with the ministry.

## Amtali-Kuakata road plan gathering dust

### Funding uncertain after June 30

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Re-construction of 25-kilometre Amtali-Kalapara part of Patuakhali Kuakata road has become uncertain due to alleged bureaucratic tangles.

The Tk 50 crore Danida assisted project is awaiting approval for about 10 months. The donors now say funds may not be released if the project is not approved by June 30, according to sources.

The Patuakhali-Kuakata road development project, involving Tk 126 crore, was taken up considering prospects of tourism in Kuakata and fish farming in the areas nearby. There is bright prospect of private sector fish hatcheries in the area, and many prospective investors have shown interest following the road development plan.

The 30 kilometre road from Patuakhali to Amtali has been reconstructed at a cost of Tk 44 crore, provided by Danida.

After completion of Patuakhali-Amtali portion of the road, Danida submitted a project in August last year for re-construction of the 25 km Amtali-Kalapara portion of the road.

But files on the project are still being shuffled among government departments, sources in Roads and Highways Department (R&H) here said.

They said the project proposal was sent to the communications ministry, with a note for approval.

The ministry sent it to the Cabinet Committee on Purchase, which returned it to the ministry, seeking comments from the ERD and IMED as it involved foreign assistance. The ministry then sent it to ERD and then to IMED.

The ministry had assured the R&H department that the project would be approved by December last year, sources said while talking to this correspondent recently.

Meanwhile, the donors also gave letters to the ERD and the ministry to hasten the approval. Finally, a letter from the ERD reached the donors that the project would be approved by June 1 this year.

On June 13, the donors at a meeting told consultants that they would not release the fund if the project is not approved by June 30.

Sources in the R&H said they do not know why the approval is being delayed. The project will become uncertain if the approval is not given by June 30.

They said construction of three bridges on the road has been planned with local resources in view of assurance of development of the Patuakhali Kuakata road. This will establish direct road link between tourist spot Kuakata and Patuakhali.

Seeing the prospect of good communication, many investors have come up with plans for fishery and tourism projects in Kuakata, they said.

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7.5x3