

Upazila roundup

NETRAKONA

150 join JCD

From Our Correspondent
July 22 : A total of 150 leaders and workers of Jatiya Chhatra League (A-A), Bangladesh Chhatra League (S-A) of the district joined the Bangladesh Jatiya Chhatra Dal here in a simple ceremony recently.

The function held with Nurul Islam Khan in the chair was addressed among others, by Abdul Kuddus, Abu Taher, Lutful Huq and Sabina Dewan.

Mother, son kidnapped

A young housewife named Ferdous Begum Lovely (24) and her son Ranga (5) were allegedly kidnapped by one Tuhi three months ago from Fulpur upazila headquarter, it is learnt.

Police failed to trace them yet. A case has been filed in this connection.

DHAMRAI

Public awareness on rheumatic fever stressed

July 22 : Speakers at a meeting on rheumatic fever held here recently stressed the need for prevention and control of rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart diseases especially among the children, says a press release.

Addressing the meeting held at Dhalkunda Primary School, noted cardiologist Brigadier (ret'd) A. Malik called for growing awareness among school children on rheumatic fever which often lead to rheumatic heart diseases.

Brig. Malik, who is the Honorary Advisor to the pilot project for prevention and control of rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease, advised the teachers and parents of children to remain vigilant about sore throat which produces rheumatic fever.

Project Director Prof. KMHS Sirajul Haque called upon the local administration to extend all out cooperation in increasing awareness among the people on the rheumatic fever and its effects.

Abdur Rahman, UNO also addressed the meeting which was presided over by Rafi Uddin.

SIRAJGANJ

Abducted girl rescued

July 22 : Police rescued a teenaged girl after 45 days of abduction from Panchphonshy village of Faridpur upazila in Pabna district on Saturday, reports UNB.

Sohela Aktar Happy (16) daughter of Abdur Rahman, a retired employee of the Deputy Commissioner's office here was abducted by one Afzal Hossain of Amlapara of the town.

Police arrested both of them and sent to jail hajat.

BRAHMANBARIA

Death condoled

July 22 : A condolence meeting on sad demise of Advocate AKM Belal was held Saturday at the Bar Library auditorium here with Advocate Abdus Samad in the chair, reports UNB.

Advocate Belal was stabbed to death on July 18 by the burglars while committing theft at his residence.

The speakers urged the authorities to bring the criminals to book and give exemplary punishment without further delay. The meeting was also addressed by advocates Nurul Huq, Shariful Islam, Quamruzzaman, AKM Shamsuddin and Abu Taher.

Later a silent procession was brought out to mourn his death which paraded the main thoroughfares of the town.

RANGPUR

Rly west zone earns Tk 88.42 cr

July 22 : Bangladesh Railway west zone has earned over Taka 88.42 crore while the target was fixed at Taka 87 crore during the last fiscal year, reports UNB.

Railway spokesman said this income was over 24 per cent than that of the fiscal 1989-90.

During this period, the railway earned Taka 25.23 crore from passengers, Taka 45.34 crore from cargo, Taka 4.81 crore from parcel booking and Taka 13.4 crore from other sources, he added.

GAIBANDHA

Flood situation improving

From Our Correspondent
July 22 : Overall flood situation in the district continued to improve steadily on Sunday

as the rivers Brahmaputra and Ghagot basin were in recession. Thirteen unions of four upazilas have been affected by flash flood which caused extensive damage to standing crops and portions of embankment at different points of Kamarjani and Fulchari areas.

The road communication with Sudnarganj upazila is yet to improve as an under construction bridge went under water.

BAGERHAT

Sundari wood seized

From Our Correspondent
July 22 : The staff of Dhyangmari forest office under Chandpai Forest Range recovered Sundari wood, stolen from Sundarbans from the river Pashur under Mongla upazila recently. The market price of the recovered Sundari wood is estimated to be Taka one lakh.

A case was registered with Mongla PS in this connection.

A dacoity was committed in a passenger trawler bound for Taleswar (under Kachua upazila) in Bemarta canal near Bemarta High School, a crime point of Bagerhat Sadar upazila recently.

PABNA

Seminar on drug abuse held

From Our Correspondent
July 22 : A day-long seminar on "Anti-smuggling and misuse of drugs" was held at Islamic Foundation, Pabna recently.

The seminar was presided over by AKM Saiful Islam, the Deputy Director of Narcotics Control Department Dr. Md. Adiluzzaman, Civil Surgeon, Pabna was present as the chief guest.

Hartal call

Pabna Edward College Students Union has called a full day hartal at Pabna on July 25.

In a Press conference at Edward University College Students Union office, the leader of the union declared the programme to press home their demand for release of ex-leaders of the College Students Union including Vice-President Hasan Kabir Arif and General Secretary Kamrul Hasan Mintoo.

Their programme includes handing over of memorandum to DC, procession, strike at all educational institutions of Pabna on July 23 and the full day hartal on July 25.

FARIDPUR

113 projects implemented

From Our Correspondent
July 22 : A total of 113 projects have been implemented in eight upazilas of Faridpur district under the Food for Works Programme in the current fiscal year.

The total allocation for the implementation of the projects were 5904.724 metric tons of wheat and 116.954 metric tons of rice. Of them, 98 projects have been implemented by utilizing the wheat and 15 projects have been implemented by the said rice.

The projects are, road connection from upazila Sadar, bridge, culverts, construction of schools and madrasa.

CHANDPUR

364 tubewells installed

From Our Correspondent
July 22 : In an attempt to facilitate drinking water supply to 7 upazilas of the district, Public Health Engineering Department installed 364 tubewells during the last fiscal year, reports UNB.

Funded by UNICEF, the tubewells were sunk in Matlab, Sadar, Faridganj, Hajiganj, Kochna, Shahraoti and Haimchar upazilas.

In addition, 450 tubewells were re-sunk in the upazilas over the same period, official sources said.

At least 12,000 people of the upazilas got benefit after the tubewells were installed.

JHENIDAH

Quadruplet

July 22 : A young housewife of village Oslabaria in Sadar upazila gave birth to quadruplet on Wednesday, reports UNB.

According to family sources, Mazubibi (25), wife of Abul Hossain, a day labourer gave birth to three sons and a daughter. But the two sons died a few minutes later. The mother is doing fine, the sources added.



RANGPUR : A view of the erosion of the river Teesta at Gongachara.

— Star photo

Pirates active in Pashur river

From Our Correspondent

BAGERHAT, July 22 : Pirates are now very much active in the river Pashur at Mongla Sea Port and its adjoining areas, according to reports received here. The pirates raid the foreign ships and the local barges and loot valuables at night.

It is learnt from Mongla harbour authority that a gang of pirates raided a foreign ship M.V. Bola carrying the national flag of Panama at night recently and looted ropes of the ship of different kinds worth Taka 2 lakh.

According to another report, pirates raided another Panama flag carrying ship in the river Pashur at Sundarban base green area at the night of July 2 and looted ropes and tarpaulins of the ship. But no case was lodged with the police.

It is also reported that dacoities were committed in two barges and in a tug boat at Mongla port at a single night a few weeks ago.

It is stated that a gang of armed dacoits raided a cement

loaded barge (K.S. Wai-369) just in the evening and looted cement worth Taka 5,000 after assaulting the two staff members of the barge.

At the mid night on the same day armed dacoits raided another barge (BG-2) and a tug boat (BP-12) at the port and looted cash and other valuables worth Taka 17,000.

Two separate cases were lodged with Mongla PS in connection with the piracy.

Businessman shot dead

Khondokar Mujibur Rahman (30), a businessman of Bagerhat district town was shot dead at night near his historic Saigumbaz mosque in his own village Sundraghona, 6 kilometers off here recently.

It is reported that at the night of occurrence some miscreants tried to commit a theft in his house but in vain as he suddenly work up. Then they fled away. But the deceased ran after them and when he reached the place of occurrence running more than one

kilometer path, some other miscreants (not the thieves) opened gun fire on him. As a result, he sustained grievous bullet injuries on his person. He expired only after a few minutes on his way to Bagerhat Sadar hospital.

A murder case was registered with Bagerhat Police Station. But nobody was arrested till the writing of this report.

2 girls rescued

Mongla police arrested Badsha (35) and Maiful(27), two woman traffickers and rescued Peeari Begum (14) and Rekha Khatun (13), two sisters while the formers were trying to sell the girls to Banishanta brothel, situated on the river Pashur at Mongla Sea Port recently.

It is reported that Pearl Begum and Rekha Khatun are the daughters of one Abdus Samad Kazi, village Barisal under Morrelganj upazila in the district of Bagerhat. The woman traffickers allured the sisters assuring good jobs at

Mongla and they (sisters) were taken to Mongla. They were kept in a house at Charabari. When everything was settled to sell the girls to two agents of Banishanta brothel, police being informed of the matter raided the house at Charabari, arrested the woman traffickers and rescued the girls. But the agents of Banishanta brothel were managed to escape. Police sent them to the court of Upazila Magistrate of Mongla where they (woman traffickers) confessed their guilt.

Liquor recovered

Mollahat police of the district recovered 231 bottles of foreign liquor from a private car (No. Chittagang Ka-9200) bound for Dhaka at Mollahat ferryghat recently.

Acting on a secret information, the police of Mollahat PS raided the ferryghat and recovered the foreign liquor from the car and arrested one Moslem Uddin alias Saheen and one Golam Iftekhar in this connection. The driver of the car managed to escape.

Pests damage Aus crops on 25,000 acres

From Our Correspondent
MYMENSINGH, July 22 : Standing Aus crops on 25,000 acres of land have been seriously damaged by 'Pamri poka' in nine upazilas of the district.

According to the farmers, leaves of Aus crops are being eaten up by these pests. If authorities do not take proper measures to combat the menace the Aus paddy production will fall considerably.

Besides, due to price hike of insecticides and shortage of spray machines farmers are unable to spray their fields to eradicate the pests.

The affected areas are Myrmensingh Sadar, Trishal, Gafargaoon, Bhuluka, Fulbaria, Nandail, Ishwarganj, Gouripur and Phulpur upazilas.

An appeal for help

From Our Correspondent
MADARIPUR, July 22 : Mojibur Rahman alias Badsha (42) whose right leg was amputated above the knee at Suhrawardy Hospital in Dhaka a month ago has lost one of his heart valves. Attending doctors found the other valve too weak to function normally. He needs immediate replacement of valve for his survival, the doctors said.

The only son of his widow mother, Mojibur Rahman suffered from Embolism, an ailment which causes blood clot and that was the reason for amputation of his leg following Gangrene. He had to spend the last ounce of his means for the treatment at Suhrawardy Hospital.

Mojibur Rahman is a low-paid employee of the Assistant Judges Court at Shibchar upazila in Madaripur District. He hails from Madaripur.

The District and Sessions Judge of Madaripur Mr Mohammad Zulfikar Ali has appealed to the generous members of the public to extend all possible help for the treatment of Mojibur Rahman. Mojibur Rahman served the District and Sessions Judge's Court before his transfer to Shibchar. At least Taka one lakh is needed for the replacement of heart valve, according to doctors.

Mrs Shahnaz Begum, wife of Mojibur Rahman, in a statement has also urged for immediate financial help. Any contribution may kindly be sent to District and Sessions Judge, Madaripur, (Phones : 582 and 583).

Oppression of fishermen in Kishoreganj alleged

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, July 22 : The Fisherman Association of Bajitpur brought out a procession recently against alleged oppression on them demanding restoration of lease right and protection of fisheries. They also submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner, Kishoreganj and held a Press conference.

They said that the Noahata Fishermen Samabaya Samity comprising fishermen of five unions and adjacent villages of river banks earned an open bid

of lease of water body for three years in their favour. The government accordingly handed over possession of the Bangla Charabada Beel and accordingly the society carried out their round the clock activities for the last few months. But some influential quarters forcibly catch fish in their farm frequently and torture samity's guard. One guard was injured recently and later admitted to the hospital. A case was registered with Bajitpur Police Station. They complained about the mastans who threat society

members and cause loss of fish by illegal catches.

The processionists, after parading the main thoroughfares of the upazila town submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner through the UNO Alaul Haq. Upazila Chairman gave a patient hearing and addressed the rally in front of the parishad office.

Later the protesters held a press conference in the local Press Club hall room. Samity Leader Jagdish Das Narayan addressed the conference.

Tk 4 cr electric bill lying unrealised in Mymensingh

From Our BAU Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, July 22 : Electric bills amounting to Taka four crore has remained unrealised in Mymensingh district, official sources said.

The department-wise outstanding bills are: Mymensingh Jute Mills-Taka 1,36,60,000, Bangladesh Agriculture University-Taka 40,87,000, Polytechnic Institute - Taka 31,00,000, Public Health Engineering Department-Taka 24,85,000, Railway - Taka 18,35,000, BDR - Taka 9,27,000, Bangladesh Nuclear Agri-Research Institute-Taka 7,40,000, District Administration-Taka 5,60,000, Medical College-Taka 5,57,000, District Jail-Taka 5,39,000, FIR-

Taka 3,13,000 and Girls Cadet College-Taka 1,20,000.

Besides, 2,876 electric lines were disconnected for outstanding bills in 1990.

Mrs. Jannat Ara, first Additional District and Sessions Judge, Mymensingh sentenced five persons to life term for killing two sisters.

Court sources said that the convicts were also fined Taka 5000 each and in default to suffer two years RI more. The connected persons are Kazaluddin, Mizan, Zobaed, Ali and Nurul Islam.

According to the prosecution story, a group of miscreants attacked Altab Ali's house and killed his two daughters

Shabina and Farida of Porabari under Trishal upazila on December 1, 1987.

A case was filed with police after investigation police submitted chargesheet against them. The judge after examining the evidences sentenced the five accused to life term.

JP rally in Sherpur

From Our Correspondent

SHERPUR, July 22 : The district Jatiya Party arranged a workers conference at the Sherpur town hall on Monday last.

The meeting was presided over by district unit president, Abdul Wadud Abu and addressed among others by ex-Chairman, Sadar Upazila, Sherpur, Shah Abdur Rahim Chowdhury, Joint Secretary Md Shahjahan Ali Chasy, Jatiya Sramik Party district leader Md Abdul Halim, Jatiya Juba Samity leader, Md Mattur Rahman Mott, Member district unit Md Ahmanullah Ahman and Vice President, Md Kafizuddin Mia.

A procession brought out after the conference paraded the main streets of Sherpur town chanting slogans demanding release of former President H M Ershad and other Jatiya Party leaders and to withdraw the Value Added Tax (VAT).

Erosion renders thousands homeless in Rangpur

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, July 22 : With the onset of monsoon, erosion devastations have intensified all over the five districts of greater Rangpur zone causing immense sufferings to the thousands of villagers who have been turning to pauper overnight losing their hearth and homes to the river bed.

According to the information received here from far flung areas of the zone, erosion devastations are turning to worst day by day leaving hundreds of families homeless and shelterless everyday.

The worst erosion hit areas of the zone are Gangachara, Kaunia, Pirgacha, Badarganj, Dimala, Aditmar, Hatibandha,

Kaligonj Lalmonirhat Sadar, Chilmari, Rowmari, Fulbari, Nageshwari, Kurigram Sadar, Fulchari, Shaghata, Sundarganj and Gaibandha Sadar upazilas.

An unofficial survey conducted by an NGO, claimed that over one lakh people have been routed from their ancestral homestead and took shelter on the embankments, railway lines, abandoned wagons, flood shelters, roadside places and other areas erecting temporary sheds over their heads only to pass nights. Most of these families are passing agonising days for want of relief source of earnings and medical aids.

Low-lying areas submerged in Barisal

From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, July 22 : With the increase in water level of Kirtankhola, Sugandhya, Sandhya, Paira, Meghna and some other rivers the lowlying areas have been submerged. Though the waterlevel is under the danger mark, in some places it is about to cross the danger point.

Water level has started rising in different rivers from Thursday last and still remained unchanged.

Meanwhile, flash flood has already inundated lowlying areas in the town, char areas and hundreds of thatched houses

rendering poor families shelterless. Hundreds of acres of land and seedbeds in all villages have gone under water.

River communication

Riverine transportation to and from Barisal, Dhaka, Khulna, Pirojpur, Bhola, Patuakhali and Borguna districts is yet to be improved. Lakhs of people of southern areas are facing utter troubles in journey particularly by riverine transport which is the major and vital means in these districts.

The daily Rocket steamer service between Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal route has been reduced to four days in a week. On the other hand Barisal-Khepupara-Patuakhali-Amtali 'sea truck' service have already been stopped. Besides, the coastal steamer services between Chittagong-Sandwip-Hatia-Daulatkhanda-Barisal have been curtailed from three days to one day or two days a week.

As a result, river communication between Monpura and offshore islands of Bhola and Bhola District headquarter is yet to be started. Thus about 50 offshore islands still remained isolated from the District headquarters.

After the liberation war to regularise riverine transportation, concerned authority decided to collect two passenger vessels. Later two ferry vessels were purchased and turned into passenger vessel providing airconditioning system with an expenditure of Taka 40,00,000. These two passenger vessels Shaheed Emdadul Haq and Shahid Belayat are not at all suitable for plying in our river because of its heavy drafts and fibre propellers. Though these vessels are not in regular service but the salaries of the crews and other staff are being paid regularly by the authority concerned.

Power subscribers suffer for REB-PDB tussle

From A Correspondent

SYLHET, July 22 : The three substations constructed by the Rural Electrification Board (REB) at a cost of Taka three crore are yet to be given connections due to tussle between REB and PDB for the last few months.

It is reported that, the REB constructed three substations at Khakhikapon of Balagonj upazila, Sheola of Beanbazar upazila and at Sylhet Sadar few months back. About Taka one crore had been spent for each of these substations, an official source informed.

Displaced CHT people seek exemption of loans

RANGAMATI, July 22 : The displaced people in the district of Chittagong Hill Tracts have appealed to the government for exemption of long outstanding loans on the ground of their being rendered destitute by the activities of the Chakma miscreants, reports UNB.

In separate petitions submitted through the local government councils, representatives of both non-locals and tribals said they had to live in the cluster villages and makeshift shanties away from their homes and land for fear of insurgent attack.

Fifty per cent of those who had been given agricultural land and loan in 1978-80 have either died or changed their places of residence, they said.

Others, majority of whom were non-locals who received loans for agriculture, weaving and horticulture have been living in abject poverty in cluster villages and slums near the upazila headquarters.

Notes from Madaripur

From Our Correspondent

MADARIPUR, July 22 : Rowshan Ara Begum (24), daughter of Dabir Mullah and wife of Shamsul Howlader of village south Charjanajal under Shibchar upazila was beaten to death by her husband for dowry recently.

Shamsul Howlader, a driver, working in Dhaka came home deserting his job and was paid Taka 4000 by his father-in-law. Being unable to get more he became enraged and beat his wife to death.

Obituary

Dr Rezaul Karim Howlader (57) a reputed MBBS doctor of Madaripur town died of heart failure on July 6 at his Madaripur residence. He left behind his wife, mother, three sons and four daughters and a good number of admirers to mourn his death.

Jute output may decline

Jute production is likely to decline in all four upazilas of the district this year as growers are reluctant to cultivate the natural fibre.

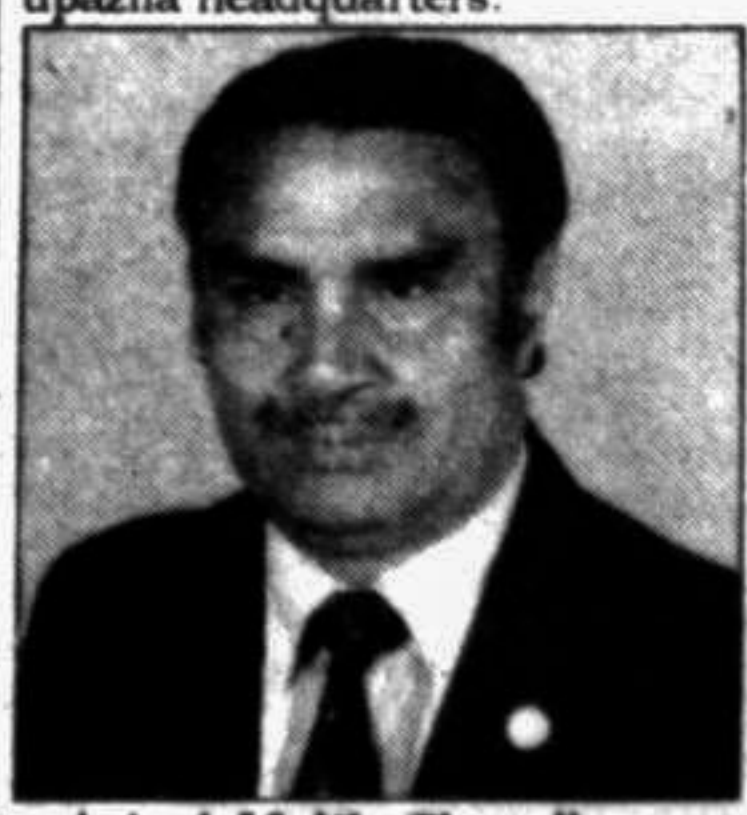
According to the sources, being deprived of fair prices during the last few years the farmers are preferring other crops in place of jute. Market price of jute is much less than the production cost, they alleged.

According to the district agriculture extension department land earmarked for jute farming this year may not be covered.

Paribahan Sramik union

The election of Madaripur district Paribahan Sramik Union was held peacefully on July 5.

In all 337 voters cast their votes to elect 14 members committee for a term of two years. Md Shahjahan Khan (ex-MP) was elected President while A Karim was elected Secretary.



Azizul Malik Chowdhury Red Crescent Society executives

From A Correspondent

SYLHET, July 22 : The bi-annual election of the executive committee of Sylhet District unit of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society was held here recently.

Mr Azizul Malik Chowdhury and Mr Inran Chowdhury were elected Vice-President and General Secretary of the committee respectively. The Deputy Commissioner is the ex-officio President of the committee.

The other members of the newly elected committee are Dr Abdul Hai, Mr MA Karim Chowdhury, Mr Motnuul Hoq Chowdhury, Mr Sohul Ahmed Chowdhury and Mr Abdul Mannan. Nominated members are Prof Mahbub Ahmed, Mr Dildar Hossain Selim and Mr Kamal Ahmed.



MADARIPUR : Mojibur Rahman alias Badsha with his amputated leg now awaits replacement of heart valve. — Star photo