

Upazila roundup

PANCHAGARH

2.10 lakh acres put under Aman farming

July 20: About two lakh and ten thousand acres have been brought under intensive Aman paddy cultivation in five upazilas of Panchagarh district in the current season, reports BSS.

According to Agriculture Extension Department source, high yielding variety of Aman has been cultivated in 1.50 lakh acres of land while local variety in about 96,000 acres.

Different varieties of Aman have been cultivated in 48,000 acres in Boda, 32,000 acres in Atwari, 26,000 acres in Tetulia, 46,000 acres in Debiganj and 49,000 acres in Panchagarh Sadar Upazila.

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) has supplied improved variety of seeds, fertilizers, insecticides and other inputs to the farmers for attaining optimum output.

BRAHMANBARIA

Dacoits kill advocate

July 20: Dacoits have killed an advocate and decamped with valuables worth about Taka 50 thousand at Kazipara in the town early today, police said, reports UNB.

Advocate AKM Belal (37) succumbed to stab injuries at Brahmanbaria Hospital shortly after his admission.

Witnesses and police said the dacoits numbering about three entered the house of Belal at about 3 am on Thursday.

Belal was repeatedly stabbed when he tried to nab the dacoits.

On hearing hue and cry from Belal's residence, his neighbours rushed to the spot and nabbed one of the dacoits but others, however, managed to escape.

The arrested was identified as Kamal Ahmad (28) of Kuti village in Kashba upazila.

A case was filed in this connection.

JHALAKATI

One killed in bus accident

July 20: A BRTC bus skidded off the road Wednesday killing its conductor and wounding 25 others near here, reports UNB.

The bus carrying 60 passengers was bound for Jhalakati from Barisal fell off at Rayapur, seven km off the town while trying to overtake another bus coming from the opposite direction.

The driver lost control and the bus fell into a ditch hitting road side trees. Fire brigade and police with the help of the local people rescued the bus and the body of the conductor Nasir (25).

A case has been filed in this connection.

FENI

2 boys killed

July 20: Two boys were killed in two separate incidents in the district over the last week, reports UNB.

In one incident, Tajul Islam (6), son of Ayub Ali of village Muzilish Pur in Sadar upazila succumbed to cartridge injuries on Saturday.

According to villagers, the victim's cousin Md Yusuf (25), while hunting birds near his house with an air gun suddenly hit Tajul missing the target. He was rushed to a local clinic where he succumbed.

Another teenaged boy Kishorel Bonik (16), died on the spot when he fell down from the roof of a speeding bus near Matubhuiyan in Daganbhuiyan upazila on Feni-Majdee road on July 12.

The driver fled with the vehicle and a case has been lodged in this connection.

BOGRA

Dacoits attack night coach, loot valuables

July 20: Armed dacoits attacked a night coach, assaulted the passengers and decamped with valuables worth about Tk. 75,000 at Kalitola in Gobindaganj upazila, police said here yesterday, reports UNB.

According to passengers the dacoits numbering 15-16 armed with lethal weapons stooped the Dinajpur bound coach when it reached near Kalitola on Bogra-Rangpur highway on Monday night.

The dacoits beat the passengers indiscriminately when they raised alarm. A case has been filed with local police in this connection.

Mentionable that one microbus was also hijacked by the robbers on the same spot a few days back.

RANGPUR

2 killed in separate incidents

July 20: Two people including a young housewife were killed in the district in separate incidents over the last two days, reports UNB.

The housewife Mohosena Begum (18), of village Boldipukur of Ranipukur union was allegedly beaten to death by her husband on Wednesday when she protested his affair with a woman.

In another incident Abdul Hye (35), of Ratanpur in Pirgachha upazila died on the spot when his younger brother Abdul Aziz struck him with a dao Thursday.

The clash between the brothers ensued over the share of money.

Cases were filed with police.

KISHOREGANJ

4 drown in boat capsizes

July 20: Four people including a young mother and her two minor sons were drowned when a boat capsized in a haor in Karimganj upazila Wednesday night, reports UNB.

Police and villagers have been searching for 7 others missing since the accident occurred at 10 last night.

The dead were named Jotsna Rani Bhowmik (25) and her son Jewel (6) and Rubel (8) and her relative Shilarani (8).

The boat was overturned by squally winds in the vast haor at village Charitola, about 40 kilometre from here, when they were travelling to village Dhara in Itna upazila.

Police and villagers searched out the four bodies today, while the 7 others are yet to be spotted.

A GD was registered with Karimganj police in this connection.

MYMENSINGH

BAU to hold postponed part of B.Sc Ag exam

July 20: The examination of the postponed part of the B.Sc Ag (Hons) Final examination for the year 1988 of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) will be held on July 25. The examination of the paper on Entomology (Theory) will be taken at the BAU Mymensingh Centre and the BAU Dhaka Centre at 9.00 a.m. on the day, says a press release.

The decision was taken at the emergency meeting of BAU Syndicate held on July 16 and 17.

All halls of residence of BAU will remain open for the resident students on and from July 21 and all classes and related academic activities of BAU will begin on and from August 3.

Press Club office-bearers

July 20: The annual general meeting and election of the executive committee of Mymensingh Press Club was held on July 12 at the club auditorium.

The meeting was presided over by Md. Ashraf, Deputy Commissioner and President of the Club and the election was conducted by M.A. Zahid, District Election Officer.

The new office-bearers are: President (ex-officio): Md. Ashraf—Deputy Commissioner. Vice Presidents: Professor Abdul Razzak—Editor of the local Daily Azker Bangladesh and Prof. Abdul Quasem General Secretary Md. Nowab Ali—Mymensingh correspondent of The Daily Star, Joint Secretary. A.H.M. Moteleb—The Daily Azad, Treasurer: Advocate A.K.M. Munzurul Haque.

BARISAL

Road construction work in progress

July 20: Construction work on seven kms road in Sadar upazila of the district has been progressing fast, reports UNB.

The LORD ministry has taken up the scheme with the allocation of 70 metric tons of wheat under the post-flood rehabilitation programme.

With the implementation of the scheme, road link between the district town and the upazila headquarters will improve to a great extent.

Meanwhile, another report adds that at least 2,850 metric tons of wheat were disbursed among the 7600 destitute families of five upazilas of the district.

The wheat were distributed under Vulnerable Group Development Programme (VODP) of the government during the last financial year.



This farmer spraying insecticides in his vegetable field at a village in Kishoreganj district.

—Star photo

Over 9 lakh saplings will be distributed

BARISAL, July 20: A total of 9,26,441 saplings of different trees will be distributed among the people of 38 upazilas of five southern districts from eight different nurseries under Khulna Forest Extension Department (KFED) of Barisal district in the current season, reports BSS.

The districts are: Barisal, Jhalakati, Pirojpur, Bagerhat and Khulna.

According to an official source, the plants are being sold at a nominal price of Taka 0.75 to Taka two only per sapling.

The plants include mehganj, shishu, raintree, Karal, Arjun, Shilkarai, ipil-ipil, kadam, akashmani, segun, jhau, lemon, hog-plum, papaya, orange, sveda, kamaranga, coconut, nut, pomegranate, jack fruit, amlaki, guava, olive, kadbel and eucalyptus.

Of the total, 1,75,662 saplings are being sold from Kashipu nursery, 1,80,271 saplings from Jhalakati nursery, 65,069 saplings from Fultala nursery, 81,098 saplings from Bagerhat nursery, 41,480 saplings from Khulna nursery, 84,353 saplings from Barisal Sadar upazila nursery, 1,59,296 saplings from Pirojpur nursery and 1,39,212 saplings from Gourmadi nursery.

The selling of the plants has already been started.

Rickshaws create traffic jam in Cox's Bazar

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, July 20: A huge number of rickshaws on Cox's Bazar roads and indiscriminate parking of vehicles in the busy areas and occupation of footpaths by small traders create traffic jams obstructing the movement of pedestrians and traffic.

According to pourashava sources, 2,100 rickshaws having valid licences ply of the roads but the number of rickshaws without licences is more than double. Rickshaws having licences of the adjacent union within 12 miles of the town, also ply on the roads making the situation more difficult. Besides, lack of traffic knowledge of rickshaw-pullers multiplied the problem.

Indiscriminate parking of rickshaws in the busy commercial areas of the town create traffic jams. The places for rickshaw parking should be fixed and implementation of the traffic laws may ease the situation.

The footpaths are occupied by the traders in the busy commercial areas of the town and it is hindering the movement of pedestrians.

Relief rice worth Tk 22.63 lakh misappropriated in Pabna: 6 sued

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, July 20: Five cases against six persons associated with the town Jatiya Party have been instituted by the District Anti Corruption Bureau for alleged misappropriation of 230 metric tons of gratuitous relief rice worth Taka 22,63,230.

The Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation sanctioned the rice during the month of November and December, 1990 in the names of several fake social welfare organisations.

Ishrat Ali Jennah of Radhanagar College Para, Organising Secretary of Pabna District Jatiya party and Gulam Mustafa, son of Mumtazuddin of Radhanagar lifted 60 metric tons of GR rice worth Taka 5,90,400 in the name of Pabna Dushta Kalyan Samity of Gopalpur on 11-11-90. Instead of distributing the rice among the poor people they sold the entire quota and grabbed the money.

A case has been filed under section 406/410/420/109 BPC.

In another case Abdul Karim, son of Alhaj Sadek Ali, Krishnapur, Pabna town lifted 30 metric tons of GR rice in the name of Prantik Samaj Kalyan Samity for distributing among the poor on same date under D.O.N. 0093104 and sold the whole consignment and misappropriated the sales proceeds.

A case has been filed under Section 406/419/420 BPC.

Another one Gulam Mustafa, son of Mumtazuddin and Shamim Ara, secretary Dushta Kalyan Samity of Radhanagar, Pabna town lifted 35 metric tons of GR rice worth Taka 3,44,400 and grabbed the entire sales proceeds.

Gulam Mahboob, son of Abdul Majid of Krishnapur Pabna town lifted 35 metric tons of GR rice sanctioned in the name of Krishnapur

Bittahen Mahila Samity worth Taka 3,44,400 and misappropriated the amount after selling the rice.

A case has been registered in this connection.

Earlier 15 more cases were instituted by the Anti-Corruption Department against one Jatiya Party leader of Pabna town, among them five of Bera and nine of Santhia upazila. One among the five was Afzal Hossain, son of Taher Ali of Salgaria of Pabna town who lifted 65 metric tons of GR rice in the name of Bithahen Samabaya Samity and grabbed the entire sales proceeds. A case has been started under section 406/419/420 BPC.

The District Anti Corruption Department instituted nine cases against nine persons of whom eight are members of Union Parishad and the remaining one a businessman of Santhia upazila for alleged misappropriation of

193 metric tons of GR rice sanctioned by the Former Minister of State for Relief and Rehabilitation Major (RTD) Manzoor Khader in October, 1990. All the nine accused persons are members of Jatiya Party of Santhia upazila and none of them has been arrested by the police yet.

Two housewives committed suicide in two different incidents.

Charitannesa (45), wife of Bahadur Pramanik and mother of six children of village Paterhari under Atgoria upazila committed suicide by hanging herself with a rope on July 2.

Bad temper with her daughter-in-law was the cause of her suicide, it is learnt.

Asma Khaton (20) of village Nag-Demra under Santhia upazila committed suicide by drinking acid on June 30. Misunderstanding with her husband was the cause of suicide it is learnt.

112 post-mortems performed in Kishoreganj hospital

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, July 20: One hundred and twelve bodies were postmortemed at Kishoreganj Sadar Hospital morgue during the last six months.

According to the Sadar Hospital sources, postmortem of 13 bodies were performed in January and February, 20 in March, 26 in April, 14 in May and 16 in June. The bodies were sent to morgue by 13 police stations in the district. It deserves mention that total 154 bodies were brought to the Kishoreganj Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy last year.

The estimated budget of the

Kishoreganj Pourashava for the fiscal year 1991-92 was passed in a special meeting held recently at the premises of the pourashava office. Alhaj Mazharul Islam Bhuiyan, Chairman, Kishoreganj Pourashava presided over meeting.

According to the pourashava sources, total 1,46,15,000 Taka was earmarked in the budget estimated under various heads of expenditure for the year 1991-92.

The major portion of the expenditure would be met by the income from tax and lease of the hats and bazars.

Conversation: DU Vice Chancellor

(continued from Page Five)

questions. In the first place it will take some pressure off Dhaka University. At the same time, it is likely to create an elitist class, which may among the academics do not like. After all, a university has a social function, and a democratic government perhaps would like to see an egalitarian society to grow. If we are going to have an institution where one can get higher education, just by spending 1,000 times more money than people can afford here at Dhaka University, then that would really be buying education. I am sure that in such an institution, definitely the quality is likely to be better. But then, in the long run, this may not be very beneficial to the maintenance of equilibrium in the society.

Private universities, under certain restrictions of course, can grow but that is an idea of a capitalist society. Since the people of this country are looking forward towards an egalitarian society, that may not be appropriate to the aspirations of society.

DS: But there is another school of thought that if our education was not so cheap, perhaps it would be more valued? For example, if a student was paying certain amount of money as fees, then he might not be easily inclined to miss his classes.

VC: There is such a school of thought, and I have been told about that by many people. But at the university, the students stay and so I don't know how that can help matters. Institutions in this country which have been run along that line, such as the Cadet colleges, are running better, their management is better, they are spending more money. But I think if you can spend more money even on Dhaka University, we can turn it into a much better institution. But I am not personally against any private university as such, with the slight reservation that I have already stated.

DS: You became Vice-Chancellor during the time of the last regime, of president Ershad, and you saw the transition from one regime to another. Did you have any problem in adjusting your position to the change that took place?

VC: I have not faced any problems as such. If you forgive me, I shall open up a little personal chapter. I think I was one of the very few, with the widest possible experience of university administration. To give you an example, before I became Vice-Chancellor, there

was not a single statutory body in the university on which I did not sit at some time or the other. On top of that, I was the only one who was elected to the Syndicate — which is the highest executive and decision-making body of the university — three times. So I served on that body for a very, very long period, and I saw through all the intricacies of the administrative machinery here. So, it is absurd to suggest that it (vice-chancellorship) was given to me on a platter, that would be wrong.

DS: Do you sometimes feel that you are sitting on a hot seat? It's a dangerous seat?

VC: I would say that it is, but at the same time, I would say that the Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University enjoys a high social prestige.

But, if you would allow me to digress a little bit here, when I was appointed, I came here with a lot of ideas and imagination, but I found that many problems were left unattended for long, unfortunately. My predecessors were all highly distinguished persons, but at the same time, I have a feeling that some of them swaggered into this position only for the fancy of it, and could not or did not really try to do enough for the improvement of this institution. As a result, the problems I inherited were enormous.

Let me give you some examples: for several years, many of the important committees did not meet, and many of the problems remained unsolved, for five, six, seven years; then some of the problems that cropped up with the increase of student population of teachers and needs of the institution, that should have been taken care of, but were not taken care of. For example, the question of land. The government took away land from the Dhaka University from time to time by requisition. But very little attention was paid to recover these lands. I have recovered only a little bit of it, and I am trying to recover some more. During the 16 months that I have been in office, I have been grappling with all these and many other old problems which has made my task all the more difficult.

But at the same time, I wouldn't say that I am frustrated or that I have given up all hopes. I am still hopeful that things can be made better, and I am looking forward to a better future for the university.

DS: Thank you, Mr Vice-Chancellor, for your time.

Delay in school bldg construction affects students

From Our Correspondent

MAULVI BAZAR, July 20: The construction of Maulvi Bazar Government Boys High School building is going on at snail's pace.

According to an official source, construction of the building has been taken up in 1986-87 financial year at an estimated cost of Taka over 10 lakh which left incomplete and some of the works have not yet been started causing difficulties to the students.

It may be mentioned that the school was established in 1891 and has its glorious past with alma mater of many renowned persons. The school building is in so dilapidated condition that it may collapse at any moment. It was declared unfit by PWD authority long before though classes have been running at the risk of life.

The school has been running without regular headmaster since 1980. The present roll of students is 900.

Uplift schemes

A scheme has been taken up by the Local Government Engineering Bureau (LGEB) to repair and reconstruction of roads and bridges under ADB assisted flood rehabilitation project in Moulvi Bazar district for which Taka two crore 50 lakh has been allocated.

According to the official sources, for the first phase of the scheme Taka 1,11,500 has been allocated during 1990-91 financial year which include 12 projects. The projects include repairing of four kilometre Munshi Bazar-Shamshernagar road and two bridges on the same road, repair work of one kilometre each of Kamalganj-Deorachara road, Kanakpur-Podinapur road and Mustafapur-Azomeru road. Taka 32,90,000 has been allocated for the four kilometre road and two bridges.

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Notes from Sherpur

From Our Correspondent

SHERPUR, July 20: The eighth annual meeting of Sherpur Sadar Central Co-operative Limited was held at the training hall recently.

The Deputy Commissioner, AKM Kamaluddin was the chief guest. He called upon the concerned officials and members of the Co-operative Limited to render their actual services for the greater interest of food production to mitigate the food needs of local people.

The meeting was presided over by the Chairman of BDRB, Advocate AKM Fahad and addressed, among others by Sadar Upazila Chairman Atiqur Rahman, ex-Chairman of the Cooperative Limited Iltasuddin, Pourashava Chairman, Lutfur Rahman, Civil Surgeon, Dr. Azharul Haq, Salim Hasan Khan, Ashar Ali and Abu Harase Mohammad Idrisul Ali.

JCD meeting

The biennial meeting of Nakala college unit of Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal was held at the college compound recently.

The meeting was presided over by Md. Manzurul Haque and a 21-member executive committee was formed. Md. Delwar Hossain Dulu and Md. Manzurul Haque were elected President and General Secretary respectively.

2 held

One Omer Faruque alias Khoka and Depati Rani of village Bajad Bajadhi was apprehended by Nakala police for their immoral activities at night. Nakala upazila police registered a case against them and both were produced before the upazila court. Upazila Nirbahi Officer cancelled their bail petition and sent them to jail.

Rice misappropriated

Chairman of Kurikhania Union Parishad under Sreebordi upazila allegedly misappropriated 66 maunds of rice allocated by relief and rehabilitation department recently.

According to the sources, the rice was allocated by the authorities concerned for the renovation of bad kutcha roads. The respective Chairman Sirajul Haque took delivery of the rice and sold the whole quantity in black market and misappropriated the whole amount.

Gastro-intestinal disease rises

PATUAKHALI, July 20: Gastro-intestinal and skin diseases have assumed an alarming proportion in the villages of Patuakhali and Barguna districts, reports UNB.

Doctors said patients with diarrhoea, dysentery, jaundice and skin diseases are pouring into different health centres every day.



MUNSHIGANJ: This wooden bridge on Goltali Nowpara Hat Road damaged long ago is yet to be repaired.

—Star photo