

Upazila roundup

MAJDEE COURT

3.40 lakh acres put under Aman farming

August 4 : A total of 3.40 lakh acres have been brought under intensive aman cultivation in six upazilas of the district during the current season, reports UNB.

According to Agriculture Extension Department, high yielding variety of aman including Pajam has been cultivated in 1.09 lakh acres and local variety in 2.31 lakh acres.

Of them, 1.37 lakh acres were brought under cultivation in Sadar, 7,380 acres in Begumganj, 29,975 acres in Senbag, 4,980 acres in Chaikhal, 50,725 acres in Companiganj and 1.10 lakh in Hatia upazilas, the sources added.

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) has supplied seeds, fertilizers, insecticides and other inputs among the farmers for the successful implementation of the scheme.

PANCHAGARH

Tk 1.70 cr sanctioned for 46 culverts

August 4 : Government has sanctioned Taka 1,70,37,000 for construction of 46 culverts in five upazilas of the district during the current fiscal year.

Of the amount Taka 21.11 lakh has been sanctioned for construction of six culverts in Atowari upazila, Taka 23.73 lakh for six culverts in Debiganj upazila, Taka 23.44 lakh for 9 culverts in Tetulia upazila, Taka 57.66 lakh for 14 culverts in Boda upazila and Taka 42.40 lakh for 10 culverts in sadar upazila.

The construction works has already been started and is expected to be completed by June, 1992.

With the implementation of the schemes road communication in the district will be improved to a great extent, it is learnt.

JHENIDAH

Woes of phone subscribers

August 4 : Inadequate telephone services have been causing inconveniences to the local subscribers for a long time, reports UNB.

Officials said the local exchange has a capacity of 400 telephones while about 1,000 applicants have been waiting for a long time to be the subscribers. Besides, only one trunk board operates here with one operator.

During the peak hours it becomes tough to get line and to manage the traffic as well. Local journalists, businessmen and others are suffering for not getting line timely.

Local people urged authorities to take immediate measures for increasing the capacity of the present exchange to meet the demand of the subscribers.

BARISAL

Diarrhoea claims 376 in 6 months

August 4 : Diarrhoea claimed 376 people and attacked 34,769 others in six southern districts during the last six months, Health Department sources said here yesterday, reports UNB.

The districts are: Barisal, Jhalakathi, Pirojpur, Patuakhali, Bhola and Bogra.

Taking of adulterated food, impure water and lack of health care were attributed to the main causes of the outbreak of the disease.

People urged the authorities to take necessary steps to check the spread of the disease.

RAJSHAHI

Diarrhoea claims 42 in 5 dists

August 4 : Forty-two persons, most of them children died of diarrhoea and other water-borne diseases in five districts of the northern region during the last month, official sources said.

According to Divisional Health office sources, at least 3760 persons were also attacked by the diseases that broke out in an alarming proportion in 20 upazilas of the districts last month. The affected districts are: Rangpur, Dinajpur, Bogra, Kurigram and Thakurgaon.

Among these, Bogra is the most affected area where 24 people died and 2690 persons attacked in six upazilas of the district during this period.

Scarcity of pure drinking water and flood are the causes

of diarrhoea in these areas, it is learnt.

A total of 407 medical teams have been working in the affected upazilas to officials added.

Deputy Director of Health Rajshahi, sources said the overall diarrhoea situation in these districts is now under control and supplies of necessary medicines to the affected areas is adequate.

MAULVI BAZAR

Tk 35 lakh allocated to purchase seeds

August 4 : The government has allocated Taka 35 lakh for purchasing seeds and fertilizer for rehabilitation of the flood affected farmers of the district, reports UNB.

Official sources said a seven-member committee headed by ADC (General) has been formed to assess the requirement of seeds.

Farmers said the cultivation will be hampered to a great extent if the supply of Ropa Aman seeds is not ensured immediately.

MUNSHIGANJ

Bid to kidnap school girl foiled

August 4 : Miscreants failed to kidnap a school girl of the AVJM Government Girls High School recently due to the strict vigil of the female gatekeeper. The gatekeeper was harassed and threatened by the miscreants. It was gathered that some young vagabonds gather and roam within the gate areas of AVJM Government High School and Munshiganj Girls High School during school hours disturbing the students.

KISHOREGANJ

Housewife commits suicide

August 4 : A newly married housewife named Parveen (18) committed suicide by hanging herself from a tree at village Basurehar in Hossainpur upazila of the district recently.

Father of the victim Md. Idris Ali and other relatives source said, she was suffering from mental disorder. Later, police recovered the body.

An unnatural death case was lodged with the Hossainpur police station in this connection. The body was sent to Kishoreganj Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

BARISAL

Contraband seized

August 4 : Police have seized contraband items from the crew of a trawler at the Kirtan Khola river near Palashpur outskirts of the town, reports UNB.

According to police sources, the seizure list included 944 Indian sarces, 660 pieces of luggage, 10 rolls of clothes, three bags of 'zira' and one suitcase of 'khair'.

They suspected that the banned items, recovered from the possession of the crew recently, were brought by them through the Sundarbans area.

Police arrested three crew and seized the trawler.

GAIBANDHA

580 pry teachers not getting remuneration

August 4 : Over 580 teachers serving in 145 different registered primary schools recruited under compulsory primary education programme in the district are not getting their remuneration since January this year due to lack of fund allocation.

The programme was first implemented in the district in 1990. Since then out of total 152 registered primary schools 145 institutes were brought under this programme in which four additional teachers were recruited in each school with a remuneration of Taka 500 per month. Accordingly it needs Taka 2,90,000 every month to meet up the salary of the teachers. But for some unknown reason this year concerned authority did not place fund as yet.

As a result, being deprived from marginal remuneration the teachers are facing hardship as well as suffering from frustration that adversely affected the programme.



CHITTAGONG : Road communication between Chittagong and Cox's Bazar disrupted following submersion of a portion of Chittagong-Cox's Bazar road causing immense sufferings to the travellers. — Star photo

Smuggled Indian goods flood markets

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Aug 4 : The sale of contraband goods is on increase in Kishoreganj markets.

The contraband goods are Indian sarces, spices, sugar, jira, pulse, cutpieces, crackers, cosmetics etc and these goods are being sold in the market without any restriction. Indian sarces are entering the commercial centre from the bordering areas by an organised gang of smugglers.

A section of smugglers backed by a powerful circle was involved in smuggling. A big margin of profit attracts them to smuggling.

On the otherhand, contraband cigarettes like Benson, 555 etc are available at Kishoreganj market and these brands of cigarettes are coming here regularly from Chittagong. Besides, a section of smuggler was smuggling medicines from India, the production of which is banned in Bangladesh.

The women smugglers move from Kishoreganj to Bhairab, Brahmanbaria, Akhaura and Comilla by train for collecting Indian sarces and other items. Smuggling of Indian sarces and crackers has surpassed the previous records.

Agricultural production has been adversely affected by the mineral deficiency in soil in all 13 upazilas of the district.

Agronomists said, shortage of minerals like sulphur and zinc in soil caused decline in paddy production over the last year.

They attributed unstrained use of chemical fertilizers in croplands to be the cause behind the decrease of soil productivity.

The worst affected upazilas are : Kishoreganj Sadar, Hossainpur, Tarail, Katiadi, Pakundia, Karimganj, Kuliarchar, Bajitpur and Bhairab. Mineral deficiency has affected about 50 to 65 per cent cropland in the upazilas, they added.

Cotton worth Tk 3.62cr will be produced in Jessore zone

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, August 4 : Bangladesh Cotton Development Board, Jessore zone will produce 4,53,00 maunds of cotton worth Taka 3,62,00,000 this year. In all 45,250 acres will be used for the purpose, sources said.

Relevant Department sources said that cotton will be grown under 27 units of the zone, which are Jessore, Khajuria, Chowgacha, Jhikargacha, Sharsa, Keshabpur, Montampur, Jhapa, Barobazar, Bagchar, Shyamkur, Moheshpur, Nepa, Zinnah Nagar, Kotchandpur, Gurudah, Jhenidah, Shaikupa, Magura, Sreepur, Kalaroa, Shaikpara, Ichakanda and Sharojitpur.

The sources further said that in order to increase per acre production of cotton HYV cotton seeds like D.L. 90 are being distributed among the farmers. The new variety seeds would grow 15 maunds of cotton per acre instead of 10.

Jessore Customs and Excise Department earned Taka 200 crores during the last three years and recorded 478 cases.

According to the sources of Jessore Customs and Excise Department out of the total earnings Taka 100 crore was earned as excise duty and the rest 100 crore was earned by recovering smuggled goods.

The heads of the earnings were Taka 1,42,34,678 from smuggled Indian goods. Taka 27,27,369 from held goods under excise duty cases, Taka 94,87,02,415 as excise duty, Taka 2,34,91,631 from auction sale of goods from departmental stores and Taka 1,99,35,251 by depositing goods in the President's Relief Fund.

It is further learnt that Indian goods worth Taka 20,78,730 were recovered in 1988-89 financial year and 108 cases were also filed during the said period. Goods worth Taka 33,14,848 were recovered while being smuggled in from India in 1989-90 and 155 cases were recorded during the period in 1990-91.

The recovered Indian goods included motor parts, cycle parts, sugar, sarce, three-piece and cosmetics, the sources reported.

8 Bogra villages hit by Jamuna erosion

From Our Correspondent

BOGRA, Aug 4 : Erosion of the river Jamuna has taken a serious turn in three upazilas of the district following the recession of flood waters, reports UNB.

The worst affected areas are Karnibari, Mathurapara, Deluabari, Adbaria, Tekamgura, Chandanbaisa and Kamalpur villages of Sariakandi upazila, Taktani and Chukalnagar villages of Sonatola upazila and Bandarpaika and Gossainbari villages of Dhanat upazila.

The affected people have urged the government to supply them with relief materials including drinking water and medicines immediately.

Hundreds of dwelling houses and vast areas of croplands have been devoured in the district so far. The distressed people have taken shelter on the flood control embankment and town areas.

Patients coming from far flung areas go back disappointed owing to accommodation crisis in the hospital whereas emergency patients are packed on the hospital floor and verandah.

It is alleged that many patients face untimely death due to blood crisis in the hospital. Besides, shortage of medicines and apparatus are adversely affecting emergency operations.

Patients and their attendants have urged the relevant authorities to take proper steps in this regard immediately.



MUNSHIGANJ : Erosion of the river Jamuna threatens Aricha Ferry ghat. — Star photo

BCL demands resignation of RU VC

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, August 4 : Pro-Awami League Chhatra League Rajshahi University unit today demanded resignation of the Vice-Chancellor and the Proctor for their failure to take steps to check campus violence, reports UNB.

At a press conference here, the BCL leaders accused Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) of unleashing a reign of terror in educational institutions including Rajshahi University.

They alleged the student activists of the ruling party were creating violence under the protection of law enforcing agencies to entrench their influence over those institutions.

The July 26 incident leading to closure of the university is nothing but the eventuality of their activities," a BCL leader said.

Accusing some BNP workers associated with local administration of their involvement in the violence, they demanded punishment of those responsible.

They also demanded reopening of the university, proper treatment and compensation to the injured students.

At least 18 Chhatra League (A-A) activists had been injured in the clashes at RU since July 23, they told reporters.

Held at the district Awami League office, the conference was attended by Rabiul Alam Buda, acting President of RU unit, Shariful Islam, Secretary, Abdus Sattar, Vice-President, and Shakilur Rahman.

Brahmanbaria hospital needs care

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, August 4 : The fifty-bed Brahmanbaria district hospital is beset with manifold problems due to lack of blood bank, shortage of medicines and absence of ENT specialist. The accommodation problem is also acute.

According to the sources, the patients coming from far flung areas go back disappointed owing to accommodation crisis in the hospital whereas emergency patients are packed on the hospital floor and verandah.

It is alleged that many patients face untimely death due to blood crisis in the hospital. Besides, shortage of medicines and apparatus are adversely affecting emergency operations.

Patients and their attendants have urged the relevant authorities to take proper steps in this regard immediately.

'BNP doesn't believe in whims of individual'

RANGPUR, Aug 4 : State Minister for Information Mohammad Nurul Huda has called upon the people to be vigilant against those elements who were hatching conspiracy against the government which came to power through people's verdict, reports BSS.

Addressing a gathering of cross-section of people here the State Minister said some vested quarters were active in destabilizing the society including the educational institutions.

Begum Khurshid Jehan Huq, MP and district president of local branch of BNP also spoke on the occasion.

The State Minister recalled that following the ouster of the autocratic Ershad regime the same coterie was trying to undo the positive atmosphere created through the relentless efforts of the government which meanwhile successfully tackled the natural as well as man-made ordeals.

He called upon the party workers to overcome the challenge.

Mr. Huda also spoke at the biennial conference of the Radio Drama Artists Association at Rangpur town.

He described drama as a medium which was much more powerful than the political speeches and statements. Recalling the role played by the dramatists and the artists during the last mass-upsurge against the autocratic rule Buda urged them to remain careful about the needs and rights of the society.

The spirit of Bangladeshi nationalism, must be upheld by the media so that the commitment to the people can be realised, he pointed out.

He said BNP as a political party did not believe in whims and caprices of an individual rather earnestly desired in the realisation of the democratic tenets. He said in changing the present system of government BNP is sincere when it (BNP) believe that the opposition also had the similar responsibility.

Begum Khurshid Jehan Huq, MP, Begum Shaheda Sarkar, MP, former Minister Dr R A Gani, Special Assistant to BNP chief Mr M A Jalil and Ala Ferodous spoke on the occasion. Later on he visited the Rangpur radio station and two ailing BNP local leaders at the hospital.

Gurudayal college students union polls Aug 7

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, August 4 : Election of Gurudayal Government College Students Union will be held on August 7.

According to the college authorities, 71 candidates from different student organisations are contesting for the post of 18 office-bearers while the number of voter is 1977.

Four panels were submitted in the polls. Bangladesh Chhatra League (S-A) submitted Selim-Shaheen-Shafiqul panel, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal submitted Rabbani-Mitu-Bahar Panel, Islami Chhatra Shibir submitted Fazal-Farhad-Zewel panel and Jatiya Chhatra League, Bangladesh Chhatra Union, Bangladesh Chhatra League (N-S) and Samajtantrik Chhatra Front jointly submitted Kanak-Enam-Peter panel in the election.

Meanwhile, preparations for holding the polls peacefully have already been done by the college authorities. No untoward incident occurred till now.

Prize-giving ceremony

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Aug 4 : The prize giving ceremony of Social Marketing Company was held recently at Kurigram.

In this connection a discussion meeting was arranged at the office premises of Kurigram Bank Samity with Dr. Nural Haque in the chair.

Dr. Mattur Rahman, Civil Surgeon Kurigram was present as chief guest while Saleh Ahmed Chowdhury, Regional Manager of Social Marketing Company was the special guest. Among others, Habibur Rahman took part in the discussion.

The recipients of prize for selling of Norguest pill of the company for birth control are : 1st (Television) Sunil Kumar Chakravarty, Kanthalbari, Kurigram. 2nd— (Steel Almirah) Ranjit Kumar Sarker, Nageswar, Kurigram and 3rd — (fan) Dr Narendra Nath Sarker, Ulipur.

The whole function was conducted by Rezaur Rahman, sales officer of the company. It was rounded off with a tea-party.

One gets life-term for murder in Satkhira

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Aug 4 : Mr Abdur Rab Miah, District and Sessions Judge, Satkhira sentenced Omedul Islam of Basanthapur under Kalaroa upazila to life imprisonment and a fine of Taka 5000 in default suffer RI for another two years on charge of murder.

According to the court sources, Moslem Dafader of Basanthapur under Kalaroa upazila called the victim Abdul Aziz from his house on November 11, 1987 at 9 pm for watching paddy in the field and after one hour on hearing hue and cry of Moslem the relatives of the victim rushed to the spot where they found slaughtered body of Abdul Aziz.

A case was lodged with Kalaroa police station in this connection. After investigation the police submitted chargesheet against Omedul Islam, Moslem Dafadar and Sakhtina Khatoun.

The learned judge found Omedul Islam guilty and awarded him the said punishment. The co-accused Moslem and Sakhtina were acquitted.

BRTC

Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation in a rejoinder on a news photo captioned 'PABNA : The BRTC bus terminal built at a cost of Taka one crore has now turned into a cattle-grazing centre' published in our issue of July 27 clarified that the terminal is no more a cattle-grazing centre as it has been pressed into operation on July 8 after a lapse of three years.