

Upazila roundup

SHERPUR

Farmer killed

Aug 13: A farmer was killed by a gang of unknown assailants Saturday night at Hatigla village of Sadar upazila, police said, reports UNB.

Family sources said, the victim Sabed Ali (65) was ghaeroed by the miscreants on the fateful night when he came out of his house to see his cropland. The culprits hit him with sharp weapons causing his instantaneous death.

Police suspected that previous enmity over the possession of a disputed land might be cause of his death.

A case has been registered with the police in this connection.

RANGPUR

11 die of diarrhoea

Aug 13: Diarrhoea claimed 11 lives and affected 500 others in six villages under Pirganj upazila of the district during the last fortnight, official sources said, reports UNB.

The deceased were identified as Bakul (8), Rahima (50), Batashi (16), Bokuli (5), Shiraj (60), Motjan (55), Rowshanara (4), Fajar Ali (28), Obaidur Rahman (35), Bablu (25) and Pottiyaram (45).

The worst affected villages are Narayanpur, Bharoti, Bhakura, Jogotha, Radhika and South Maloncha.

Medical teams are working in every union of the upazila to combat the disease. Civil Surgeon said.

JAMALPUR

Freedom Party meeting held

From Our Correspondent Aug 13: A worker's meeting organised by district unit of Freedom Party was held at its office premises here on Aug 10.

The meeting was presided over by Reza Khandakar and it was addressed by Deputy Coordinator at district Freedom Party Nurul Haque, Shaiful Islam Badsha, Haroon-ar-Rashid, Alhaj Abul Hasheem and Jamal Sharif.

Later, a procession paraded the main streets in Jamalpur town.

KISHOREGANJ

2 chargesheeted for murder

From Our Correspondent Aug 13: Police chargesheeted two people of Sadar upazila on charge of committing a murder.

According to police, Rafiqul Islam of Sreemantapur village and Nazrul Islam of Rashidabad village stabbed to death one Abdul Mannan of Rashidabad village while he was returning from Latifpur Bazar on February 3.

Officer-in-Charge of Kishoreganj Police Station after investigation submitted charge-sheet against them under section 302/34 BPC on July 31.

Suicide

An insane pregnant mother with her two and a half-year-old son allegedly committed suicide by jumping into a pond at village Jhatashira in Sadar upazila here Thursday.

According to villagers, Ful Banu (28), wife of Sadrudin came out of her house at dead of night with her son Al-amin in her lap and jumped into the pond.

Both the bodies were recovered the next morning. Ful Banu was suffering from mental disorder, family sources said.

The bodies were sent to morgue for autopsy and a case has been filed in this connection.

GAZIPUR

Pharmaco AGM held

From A Correspondent Aug 13: The ninth annual general meeting of Pharmaco International Ltd was held recently at the factory premises at Chandra, Kaliakoir, of Gazipur.

The meeting was presided over by company's Chairman and Managing Director A K M A Mattin.

A large number of shareholders attended the meeting, says a Press release.

RAJSHAHI

Founding anniversary

From Our Correspondent Aug 13: The 108th founding anniversary of Rajshahi Public Library was observed in a befitting manner at library premises recently. Various programmes were chalked out including discussion meeting,

children's painting competition recitation and song contest in observance of the day.

Eminent story-writer Hasan Azizul Haque was present at the meeting as chief guest and gave away the prizes among the winners.

Chaired by Md. Abdul Hai, a social worker, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Lyricist Ruhul Amin Pramanik and A K M Jahangir Alam, General Secretary of the Public Library.

The function was followed by a musical soiree conducted by Rajshahi Shilpashram.

GAIBANDHA

49 Alim, Fazil, Kamil examinees expelled

From Our Correspondent Aug 13: A total of 49 candidates of Alim, Fazil and Kamil examinations were expelled from Mohimaganj Alia-Kamil Madrasa centre for adopting unfair means in the examinations in five days.

In all 536 candidates appeared from Mohimaganj centre under Gobindaganj upazila this year. Of the expelled 18 are Alim candidates, 18 Fazil candidates and 13 Kamil candidates.

Jubo Dal comfoc

Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal, Gaibandha Thana unit conference concluded here at the local public library hall recently. The conference was inaugurated by Rezaul Haq Sarker Rana, Rajshahi Divisional Organising Secretary and Alamgir Sarker, VP of central Jubo Dal was present as chief guest. The meeting was addressed by Sk. Abdus Samad Azad and Abdul Mannan. Later a Thana committee was formed with Wazed Ali President and Abul Hossain Sayed as Secretary.

BRAHMANBARIA

Mother, child crushed under train wheels

Aug 13: An unidentified young woman and her five-year-old child were crushed under the wheels of a running train near Pagachong railway station on Sunday night, reports UNB.

Police said the victims were travelling by Akhaura bound train from Dhaka and suddenly fell down from the train after a heavy jarring.

The woman aged about (25) and her child (5) died on the spot.

The bodies were sent to the Sadar Hospital for autopsy. A case has been filed in this connection.

BARISAL

Research cell set up in 8 medical colleges

Aug 13: The Bangladesh Medical Research Council (BMRC) has set up a research cell in each of the eight medical colleges in the country during the last two years, official sources said, reports UNB.

Other research cells will be set up this year in four of the post graduate medical institutions, official sources added.

Besides, the BMRC with the financial assistance of the World Health Organisation (WHO) is undertaking a programme to disburse over Tk 70 lakh among the post graduate students and researchers to conduct medical research.

Meanwhile, BMRC has already been allocated Tk 6.58 crore as grants for implementing projects aimed at improving education and training.

Officials said 13 projects have received financial assistance last year from the council and 21 such research projects are currently underway.

JHENIDAH

Nabin Samity Eleven in semi-final

Aug 13: Nabin Samity Eleven qualified for the semi-finals of Kishore Football League '91 defeating Holy Crescent Eleven 2-0 in the match played at Wazir Ali High School ground Friday, report UNB.

Uptal scored both the goals for the winners.

The other three teams to qualify for the semi-finals of the tournament organised by Kanchananagar Club are Rasel Samity Sangha Eleven, Dshari Eleven and Balak Samity Eleven.

The semi-final matches will be held on August 12 and 13.



This old woman is engaged in examining the huge stock of oysters collected by her family members from marshy tracts at Keraniganj upazila across the river Buriganga for slim chance of getting pearls. This has now become main profession for many villagers. — Star photo

1.86 lakh acres put under intensive Aman farming

KISHOREGANJ, Aug 13: About 1,86,555 acres of land have been brought under intensive Aman cultivation in 12 upazilas of the district during the current season.

According to the Agricultural Extension Department, High-Yielding Variety (HYV) of Aman and Pajjam have been cultivated on 1,26,955 acres and local variety on 59,600 acres. The production target has been fixed at 1,49,524 metric tons, sources added.

Of the total, 21,800 acres were brought under cultivation in Hossainpur, 35,500 acres in Kishoreganj Sadar, 26,500 acres in Pakundia, 30,000 acres in Katiadi, 32,000 acres in Karimganj, 8,000 acres in Tariat, 300 acres in Itna, 400 acres in Nikli, 105 acres in Austagram, 16,500 acres in Bajitpur, 15,950 acres in Kularchar and 4,500 acres in Bhatrab upazila.

Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADCO) has distributed seeds, fertilizers, insecticides and

From Our Correspondent

other inputs to the farmers for proper implementation of the scheme.

Bangladesh Krishi Bank and other commercial banks have already disbursed loans to make the plan successful.

Besides, Agricultural Extension Department has arranged 230 demonstration plots for teaching modern methods of Aman cultivation. Of them 50 plots are BR-22 variety, the sources added.

Beheaded body recovered

Beheaded body of Moti Miah (25) of village Lowhagaon in Bajitpur upazila of the district was recovered by police recently.

According to the Officer-in-Charge of Bajitpur Police Station, Moti Miah was called out of the house by two of his neighbours for enjoying VCR film on July 26 last. Since then he had been missing. Later his body was found near Bajitpur-Heluchia road, about one mile

away from his house.

A case was registered with the Bajitpur police station in this connection. The body was sent to Kishoreganj Sadar Hospital for autopsy. The accused is absconding.

Additional Superintendent of Police, Kishoreganj, S M Golam Mostafa visited the spot.

3 dacoits held

Katiadi police arrested three notorious dacoits and recovered one pigeon from their possession last week.

Acting on a tip, a police party led by Sub-inspector Abu-Baker Siddique ghaeroed a gang of dacoits while they were getting ready for committing dacoity near Gostara bridge on Gachihata-Bonogram road. Of them, Nurul Islam, Abu Baker and Akram Hossain were arrested with the help of villagers.

According to police reports, several criminal cases have been lying pending against them with different police stations.

Khulna BNP workers' conference held

From A Correspondent KHULNA, Aug 13: A workers' conference of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), Khulna metropolitan city unit was held at Maheshwar Pasha Public Hall recently.

The conference was inaugurated by Rubayet Hossain Babu, former VP of Khulna Government BL College, and was presided over by Sayeed Monirul Islam.

It was addressed, among others, by Sardar Atiur Rahman, Kalam Sikder and Shahidul Islam. A 51-member new committee was formed with Saifuzzar Rahman and Abdul Kalam Sikder as President and General Secretary respectively.

Fate of BSCIC estate uncertain

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Aug 13: The fate of Kurigram BSCIC Industrial Estate is still uncertain as the construction of the Estate could not be started during the last five years due to fund constraints.

A source disclosed that the process of setting up Kurigram BSCIC estate began in 1986 and 20 acres of land beside Kurigram-Ulipur road adjacent to Kurigram Textile Mills was acquired for the purpose.

Earth filling of the site on 15 acres of land has been completed. Five per cent construction works of administrative buildings and 3 per cent works of overhead water-tank in the site have been completed so far.

No plot has so far been allotted to any entrepreneurs, it is learnt.

An 18-member executive committee of Kurigram Hotel Restaurant and Bakery Association was formed recently in a meeting held with Seru Mia in the chair.

The office-bearers of the committee are: President — Seru Mia (Jonaki Hotel), Vice-President — Roghu Nath Paul (Laksmi Bakery), Kanu Deb (Shapia Hotel), and Susanta Poddar (Bus Stand Stall), General Secretary — Habibur Rahman (Beauty Hotel), Joint Secretary — Yusuf (Rupsha Majbar), Treasurer — Jhantu Banik (Tripti Hotel).

No English teacher in 90pc non-government colleges

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Aug 13: Over 80 per cent non-government colleges and 95 per cent senior madrasahs of the region have no requisite number of English teachers. As a result, English teaching in colleges and madrasahs is being hampered. In addition, the poor guardians of students are facing economic hardships.

According to the existing government rules, each senior madrasia requires a lecturer in English, an intermediate college two lecturers in English and a degree college three or more lecturers in English.

The institutions do not fulfil the existing government rules due to two main reasons — one is non-availability of sufficient

number of masters degree holders in English with requisite qualifications.

The colleges which are not financially sound could not recruit English teacher. Moreover, the number of yearly university products with second class masters and second class honours degree is poor.

Poor financial condition of the madrasahs is another factor which made the institutions difficult to appoint English teacher with requisite qualification.

In most cases the madrasahs have to appoint part-time lecturers in English who serve in the nearest colleges. Many madrasahs do not have even the part-time lec-

turers. The non-government colleges and senior madrasahs located in greater Rangpur, Dinajpur, Pabna, Rajshahi and Bogra districts in northern region are the worst sufferers in this respect.

There are many colleges and madrasahs which did not get a single application after advertisement in national dailies. In some cases applicants did not appear before the interview board even after submitting application and receiving interview cards for the post of lecturer in English.

In many colleges lecturers of other subjects earn a huge amount of money through private coaching in English in the absence of English teachers.

Contraband goods seized in N'ganj: 47 held

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Aug 13: One kilogram of hemp, ten bottles of phenidyl syrup, ten containers of country made wine were recovered and 47 persons were arrested in this connection from different areas of Narayanganj city recently.

Acting on a tip police raided Mathar patt (sweepers colony), Jimkhana, Tanbazar, Falpatti, Nitatganj, Mandalpara, Talah, Killarpul and recovered the contraband items.

The arrested persons were sent to jail hajat and a case has been lodged with Narayanganj thana in this connection.

The Charter Presentation ceremony of Rotary Club of Narayanganj Midtown was held at Narayanganj Club Auditorium recently.

Justice Abdur Rahman Chowdhury, former Judge of the Supreme Court was the chief guest while Rtn. Jalauddin Ahmed, District Governor, Rotary International was the special guest at the function.

Presided over by Rtn. Jamaluddin the charter president of Rotary Club, the charter presentation ceremony was addressed among others by CSR Rtn. PP, M A Awal and Mr M A Wahab past district governor. Mr Wahab also distributed charter certificates among the members of the club.

250 tubewells out of order

According to official sources 250 deep tubewells among 1237 are lying out of order for a long time in Rupganj upazila, Narayanganj.

In 1989-90, 60 deep tubewells and 12 shallow tubewells were installed but most of them showed trouble after installation. A decision to get the disordered tubewells operative was taken in the last fiscal year. But only 82 tubewells were reinstalled and 77 repaired. The number of tubewells sanctioned is very small compared to necessity. As a result, pure drinking water has become very scarce in the area.

Blood donation

A blood donation programme was held recently at Tolaram Government College premises under the auspices of Lions Club and Leo Club of Narayanganj city in co-operation with Shandhan, Dhaka Medical College unit.

The programme was inaugurated by Al-Haj Md. Badiul Alam, Principal of Government Tolaram College.

Students, teachers and Leo donors blood voluntarily. In all 43 bags of blood were collected which were handed over to Sandhani Blood Bank.

Tk 6.20 cr flood control schemes in Maulvi Bazar

From Our Correspondent

MAULVI BAZAR, Aug 13: The Water Development Board (WDB), Maulvi Bazar, has submitted a plan involving Taka 6,20,00,000 to the authorities concerned for implementation of several schemes during 1991-92 financial year. The scheme-wise break up is — Monu river project — Taka 91,50,000, Moulvi Bazar Town Protection Scheme — Taka 1,27,50,000, Hambamchera flood control project — Taka 3,00,000, Sharifpur flood control and irrigation project — Taka 2,25,00,000, Monu river flood control embankment project — Taka 1,32,000 and Hillhaor flood control and irrigation project — Taka 41 lakh.

Meanwhile, repair and reconstruction work of the Monu river embankment at Kadambari, Asarakapon and Kumarhati has already been started. A total of Taka 10 lakh had been placed under Water Development Board, Moulvi Bazar during 1990-91 financial year for implementation of these schemes.

Valuables worth Tk 3 lakh looted

PIROJPUR, Aug 13: Valuables worth about Taka three lakh were looted and 12 people injured in a daring dacoity on Sunday at Baburhat Bazar Nazirpur upazila of the district, reports UNB.

Price spiral hits low-income groups

From Our Correspondent

CHANDIPUR, Aug 13: Price hike of essentials following introduction of Value Added Tax (VAT) has multiplied the sufferings of the dwellers, it is alleged.

Local people and some traders attributed the price spiral to the unplanned implementation of the VAT. Traders sell all the essential commodities at exorbitant price which is beyond the reach of fixed income groups.

As there is no control over the market price, rice is now being sold at Taka 12 to 15 per kg, beef Tk 60 to 70 per kg, mutton at Taka 80 to 90 per kg, hilsa fish at Taka 60 to 90 per kg, soyabean oil at Taka 40 to 45, mustard oil at Taka 45 to 50 per kg. The prices of poultry birds, chicken and duck have registered upward trend during the current week.

A medium size chicken sells at Taka 50 while the price of four eggs is Taka 12 to 14. The prices of onion and garlic have also gone up and that of ginger and vegetables have recorded a sharp rise.

3 dacoities on Dhaka-Dinajpur highway

GAIBANDHA, Aug 13: Three separate dacoities were committed on Dhaka-Dinajpur highway near the town here Friday in which the dacoits decamped with valuables worth about Tk 1.90, police said, reports UNB.

About 18-12 armed dacoits forcibly stopped a mini bus and looted cash Tk 25,000 and gold ornaments from the passengers near Gosaibari bridge. They put barricades on the road.

The dacoits used the mini bus as barricade and committed two more dacoities.

Another dacoity was committed in a Gaibandha bound bus 'Sumi Enterprise' coming from Rangpur at the same place and decamped valuables worth about Tk 30,000.

In yet another dacoity valuables worth about Tk 1.35 lakh were looted from a bonded party bus bound for Gaibandha from Rangpur at the same place.

Earlier, the dacoits tried to stop an oil tanker (Dhaka-3354) to commit a dacoity at the same point.

Notes from Satkhira

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Aug 13: Tuberculosis is spreading alarmingly in the district due to lack of awareness among the people, hospital sources said.

At least two per cent people are affected by the disease every year though TB is curable if it is detected at the early stages. Inadequate medicines, absence of ambulance and other medical assistance have hampered treatment of TB patients.

Local people have urged the authorities concerned to organise orientation and motivation programmes to create awareness among the people to prevent the disease.

The number of child labourers are on the rise in the district. Teenaged boys and girls are compelled to take odd jobs for their survival most of whom are working as helpers in construction sites, hotels, restaurants, tea stalls, motor garages, cycle repairing workshops, welding shops, bakeries also as rickshaw pullers, hawkers, maid servants etc. Many children in border areas are engaged in smuggling.

The number of child labourers are nearly 75,000 in the district.

Many of these children are school droppers or left the schools due to economic hardships.

Drug addicts

The number of drug addicts are also on the rise in Satkhira town and its adjoining areas.

A large number of young people is getting addicted to pathedine, morphine, Phenidyl syrup, heroin and ganja etc.

The menace is degrading the young generation but no pragmatic steps have yet been taken to eradicate it.

This has created alarms among the guardians.

One dies from snake bite

One Ahmed Ali (45) of village Nalkura under Satkhira Sadar upazila died from snake bite recently.

It is reported that the victim while going to give fodder to his cattleheads in a cowshed was bitten by a snake at night and died later.

Another report adds: Asgar Ali (35) of village Macchhola under Satkhira Sadar committed suicide by consuming insecticide recently. Family troubles were the cause of suicide, it is learnt.

Pests damage crops on 12000 acres

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Aug 13: Standing Aus crops on about 12,000 acres of land have been seriously damaged and fresh areas are being attacked by pests in eight upazilas of the district creating panic among the farmers.

The pests locally known as 'Pamri', 'Mazra' and 'Thrips' have been causing extensive damage to crops in Hossainpur, Pakundia, Katiadi, Sadar, Kularchar, Bajitpur, Bhatrab and Karimganj upazilas.

According to farmers, after the attack, paddy plants turn yellowish and gradually dry up. Agriculture Extension Department (AED) sources said adequate preventive measures could not be taken due to acute scarcity of insecticides and spray machines.

Price spiral of the pesticides and spray machines in the market compounded the misery of the growers.

Local people alleged that most spray machines are lying unoperative in the AED office for want of spares.

It is also alleged that the authorities depend only on the reports of block supervisors who submit imaginary reports on pest invasion without visiting the affected areas.

Trains hardly maintain time-table, passengers suffer

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Aug 13: Irregular train timings in western zone of the country have been causing immense sufferings to the passengers.

The maximum number of trains in the southern part is running one to two hours late. As the trains do not maintain any time schedule, the passengers reach their destinations too late.

Besides, the number of compartments is meagre to cope with the rush of passengers. The compartments remain dirty always as they are

not cleaned regularly. Supply of water is absent in all the compartments. There are no waiting rooms in most of the stations. Latrines of both stations and trains are left uncleaned for days together.

It is alleged that present train timings are neither convenient for general public nor for the students of Rajshahi and Kushtia.

The trains very often run without any First and Second class compartments. As a result, the First and Second class ticket holders suffer much be-

cause they are compelled to travel in the over crowded Third class compartments. On the other hand the number of ticket-less passengers is increasing day by day. Beggars, hawkers and women carrying huge quantity of food grains, fruits from one station to another have multiple sufferings of the passengers.

Each train has a reserved compartment for electric supply but it is used for carrying passengers in exchange of illegal gratification.

The people of southern part of the country have demanded of the authorities concerned to solve the problems immediately.

Alamdanga police under Chuadanga district recovered a pigeon recently.

It is learnt that a police party headed by Police Officer-in-Charge of Chandernagore, police station while on patrol duty challenged a group of miscreants at Dhanbari under Alamdanga thana. The miscreants fled away leaving the pigeon.