

Upazila roundup

PABNA

Street lights inadequate

From Our Correspondent

Aug 27: Tack of adequate number of street lights in the pourashava areas of Pabna town is causing much inconveniences to the dwellers of the town.

Most of the light posts have no bulbs creating problems to pedestrians as well as to vehicular movement. Most of the time the town plunges into darkness after sunset due to frequent power failure and load-shedding giving rise to anti-social activities.

Town dwellers alleged that the authorities after repeated complaint took no action in this respect.

FENI

2 killed in road accident

From Our Correspondent

Aug 27: Two passengers were killed when the mini-bus in which they were travelling hit a road side tree near Dulamia Cotton Mill in Dagan Bhuiyan upazila on Feni-Majdee highway Sunday, police said, reports UNB.

Of the dead one was identified as Ismayel (30) of Gouripur village in Ramganj upazila.

Witnesses and police said the ill-fated bus (Dhaka, Cha-4772) dashed the tree as the driver lost control over it. The two passengers were sitting on the front bench and they died on the spot.

None of the other passengers were injured.

Police seized the vehicle which had been damaged but the driver managed to escape.

A case has been filed with the local police in this connection.

KURIGRAM

2.9 lakh acres to be put under Aman farming

Aug 27: A scheme has been taken up to bring 2.9 lakh acres of land under intensive aman cultivation in nine upazilas of the district during the current season.

According to Agriculture Extension Department (AED), about 1.7 lakh acres will be brought under high yielding variety including pajam and 1.1 lakh acres under local variety.

Of the total land, 28,000 acres will be cultivated in Fulbari, 58767 acres in Nageswari, 38420 acres in Bhurungamari, 25632 acres in Rajarhat 56967 acres in Ulipur, 21737 acres in Chilmari, 17690 acres in Riwamari, 9795 acres in Rajshahi and 35387 acres in Kurigram Sadar upazila.

Meanwhile, the department has fixed the production target at 2.2 lakh metric tons of paddy during the current season.

For the successful implementation of the scheme, Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation distributed seeds, pesticides and other necessary agricultural inputs among the farmers at fair prices.

RANGPUR

Lightning kills teenage girl

Aug 27: A teenage girl was killed by lightning at Mohiganj area of the town on Wednesday, police sources said, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, the victim Monowara Begum (13), while returning home amid heavy downpour lightning struck her to death.

The body was sent to hospital for autopsy.

GAIBANDHA

Printing press workers hold rally

Aug 27: Thousands of workers here held a rally in support of the 7-point demands of the Printing Press workers of the district, reports UNB.

The Chief Advisor of Press Samik Organisation and Editor of the weekly Ganaprahare Mazid Mukul presided over the rally.

The meeting decided that a vigorous and coordinated movement would be launched if the 7-point demands of the press workers were not accepted immediately.

After the meeting, the employees brought out a big procession and paraded the main roads of the town.

Later, the processionists met the officials of the district administration and discussed their demands and grievances.

RANGAMATI

2 cyclone-damaged transformers yet to be repaired

Aug 27: The two transformers at Mohalchari Sub-Station damaged by the last April 29 cyclone, are yet to be repaired causing power crisis in the Nantiarchar and Mohalchari upazilas here, reports UNB.

The power house at upazila headquarters has remained inoperative suspending supply of water to the hospital, government and private offices and the consumers in the two upazilas, sources said.

The Power Development Board (PDB) sources said, a new transformers could not be transported to the area because the bridge on Manikchari-Mohalchari road was not suitable for heavy trucks.

But the local people rejected the plea saying trucks loaded with 8-9 tons of cargo are plying regularly on the bridge.

The local people have urged the authorities to replace the transformer as early as possible and relieve them of the sufferings.

SATKHIRA

Arms recovered

Aug 27: Police recovered one Indian made pipe gun and one beyonet from Sultanpur and Kamalkati bazar area of the town under Operation Durber drive Sunday, reports UNB.

In another drive BDR personnel recovered 160 pieces of Indian sarces and huge quantity of Indian drugs from Chuknagar bazar on the same day.

Later the contraband items were handed over to the local customs department.

None was arrested in this connection. Separate cases were lodged with the police.

BRAHMANBARIA

Decomposed body recovered

Aug 27: Police recovered a decomposed body of a young man from Goal Beel in Nabiganj upazila of the district Saturday, reports UNB.

According to the police, the victim identified as Mukles Miah (23), son of Askar Ali of Goal village was beaten to death by some miscreants while fishing in the beel Thursday evening.

The body was sent to Sadar hospital for autopsy.

A case has been filed in this connection.

JAMALPUR

Dacoits loot bazar

Aug 27: A daring dacoity was committed at Benuatchor Bazar in Islampur upazila of the district Friday, police here said, reports UNB.

According to the shopkeepers, the dacoits numbering about 10-12 armed with cut rifles and other deadly weapons broke open the doors of the shops one after another and decamped with cash and valuables worth about Tk three lakh.

High ranking police officials of the district visited the bazar. A case has been filed with Islampur police station in this connection.

COMILLA

Smuggled goods recovered

Aug 27: Police recovered Indian smuggled goods worth about Taka 1.15 lakh from a Chittagong bound mail train here Sunday night, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, a police party led by Additional SP and accompanied by a First Class Magistrate searched the Nasirabad Express at the district railway station and recovered the contraband goods.

The goods included Indian sarces, lungi, spares, spices, glass and other luxury items. Later the contraband goods were handed over to the local customs departments.

A case has been filed in this connection.

NETRAKONA

61 HSC examinees expelled

Aug 27: A total of 3,394 HSC examinees appeared in nine centres in Netrakona district this year, reports BSS.

Sixtyone examinees were expelled in six centres for adopting unfair means on the first day of examination. The examination held peacefully.

Netrakona district administration has taken different measures to ensure law and order and conduct the examinations in a peaceful manner, an official source said.



Collecting leaves of 'arohar', a variety of pulse, at a village in Savar. The leaves are said to have good medicinal value, particularly in the treatment of liver ailments including jaundice. — Star photo

Sugar worth Tk 2 lakh embezzled

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Aug 27: Sugar worth Taka two lakh has been misappropriated from the Mobarakganj Sugar Mills recently.

According to the report, a certain percentage of sugar is being paid to the growers through vouchers against their supplied sugarcane to the mill.

Local businessmen in collaboration with some dishonest employees of the mill have stolen away weightment receipt books and prepared 90 false vouchers forging the seal and signature of the authorised persons. The organised gang placed the forged vouchers and lifted the sugar.

When contacted, the General Manager of the mill admitted the fact and told that a five-member committee headed by Mr Matur Rahman, Administrative Officer of the mill was formed to make enquiry into the matter.

While contacted, Mr Matur Rahman disclosed that sugar worth Taka 186,950 had been misappropriated by placing the forged growers vouchers of two cane purchasing centres namely Sandarpur and Raibra.

He added that six employees were involved in this malpractice. He, however, declined to disclose their names.

BNP meeting protests terrorism

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) organised a public meeting at local Agrani Bank square last week protesting terrorism and blackmarketing. Mr Moshitur Rahman MP was the chief guest while Advocate Qazi Abdul Haq, President of Jhenidah Sadar upazila, BNP was in the chair.

Moshitur Rahman in his speech said that his government would eradicate all types of terrorism and blackmarketing from the country at any costs. Corruption, bribery, favouritism etc have its firm roots at all levels of the society and party leader Begum Khaleida Zia is determined to free the society from all such crimes.

Criticising the AL he added that AL was sheltering the persons who are engaged in many terrorist activities.

He urged all to unite under the banner of BNP and give firm co-operation to the government to make it more powerful to uprooting such crimes from all levels of the society.

Among others the meeting was addressed by Abdul Wahab MP, Advocate, Abdul Majid and Siddiqur Rahman.

Kurigram Sangbadik Sangstha executives

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Aug 27: A 21-member Executive Committee of Jatiya Sangbadik Sangstha (JASAS) Kurigram zila unit was formed recently in a meeting held at the local Town Hall premises with Mr K M Ali Samrat, Editor of the weekly Dharla in the chair.

The office-bearers of the Executive Committee are — President Mr K M Ali Samrat, Vice-Presidents — Montiazul Hossain, Sahiful Alam, General Secretary — Fazley Elahi Swapan, Joint-Secretary — Monnaf Ali, Organising Secretary — S M Harun-ur-Rashid, Finance Secretary — A Khaliq Farooq, Publicity Secretary — Raju Rahman, Office Secretary — Jahaagir Alam, Sports and Cultural Secretary — Bhupati Bhushan Barman, Education and Social Welfare Secretary — Rafiqul Islam Dulal.

Besides, ten other members were also included in the executive committee.

580 tubewells sunk

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Aug 27: Public Health Department of Pabna has installed 580 hand tubewells so far in 71 union parishads of the district. According to a source, the programme has been started with a view to supplying pure drinking water in rural areas. The target was fixed at sinking

710 hand tubewells in the district. The upazila-wise breakup is: 100 in Pabna Sadar upazila, 40 in Ishurdi, 50 in Atghoria, 80 in Chatmohor, 50 in Barguna, 60 in Faridpur, 180 in Santhia, 20 in Bera and 100 in Shujanagar upazilas.

Absence of waiting sheds at Gaspara bus-stand on Pabna-Ishurdi, Pabna-Rajshahi, and Pabna-Kushitia bus route has been causing immense troubles to the passengers.

It may be mentioned that, many passengers who come from far flung areas of Pabna districts have to wait for hours together under the open sky and take shelter in the nearest shops, hotels during rain. Moreover, there are no toilets and urinals in the bus terminal of Gaspara.

People have urged the authorities to make necessary arrangement to construct passenger sheds at Gaspara bus terminal.

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

Tofael urges govt to hold fair by-elections

BHOLA, Aug 27: Awami League Organising Secretary Tofael Ahmed MP yesterday called upon the Acting President and the Prime Minister to take necessary steps for ensuring free and fair by-elections to the vacant seats of the Jatiya Sangsad, reports BSS.

Addressing a series of public meetings in Daulatkhan and Borhanuddin upazilas, he said if the tactics of terrorism and rigging were resorted to in the by-elections the country's historic transition to parliamentary democracy would turn out to be a futile exercise. On top of it, the people would lose interest in the coming referendum, he added.

He regretted that the cyclone and tidal bore affected people of the coastal belt were yet to get agricultural and housebuilding loans. Work on the reconstruction of the damaged educational institutions had also not been taken up as yet, he said.

Mr Tofael Ahmed expressed his concern for stopping the repair work of the damaged embankments under the food for works programme. He called upon the concerned authorities to take up the repair work of the damaged embankment and reconstruction of the Bholia-Barisal and Luxmipur regional high ways on priority basis.

Mass participation in referendum underscored

PANCHAGAR, Aug 27: Law and Justice Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz yesterday asked the representatives of local government bodies to motivate people for massive participation in the ensuing referendum, reports UNB.

The referendum would be a decisive factor for switching over to parliamentary form of government, he said addressing a meeting of the local government bodies, officials and elite.

Mirza Hafiz said the people of Bangladesh were proud of their spontaneous participation in the last parliamentary election as well as the unity and consensus arrived at for the passage of constitution amendment bill, which has been acclaimed by the comity of nations.

Tolerance and respect to the opinion of others is imperative for establishing democratic values and institutions, he told the meeting.

Listing the welfare-oriented activities undertaken by the BNP government within a short span of time, he urged people's cooperation in maintaining congenial atmosphere to carry forward development programmes.

Mirza Hafiz also called for massive tree plantation on vacant land and both sides of highways.

Nasim demands trial of killers of 4 AL leaders

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 27: Chief Whip of the Opposition Mohammad Nasim yesterday said the people will not spare the government if it fails to put on trial the killers of the four national leaders who were murdered in Dhaka Central Jail, reports UNB.

The holy Quran as well as our Constitution provide for the trial and punishment of killer, he told a public meeting held near the Elliot Bridge in the town.

Nasim was apparently referring to November 3, 1975, killing of four Awami League leaders Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, M. Mansur Ali and AHM Qamruzzaman.

The meeting was organised by the party district unit to celebrate the recent merger of BKSAL with the Awami League.

Nasim, also Publicity Secretary of the Awami League, said that the 11th and the 12th constitution amendment bills were unanimously adopted for the sake of democracy and greater national interest.

2 get life-term for murder in Gazipur

From Our Correspondent

GAZIPUR, Aug 27: Mr Mohammed Matur Rahman, Additional District and Sessions Judge, Gazipur in a judgement delivered recently sentenced two persons to transportation for life for murdering one Asraf Ali, a 70-year-old man in Gazipur Sadar upazila. The convicted persons Jamir Ali and Kashem Ali of village Dirasram in Sadar upazila are brothers. Abed Ali, father of the convicts was acquitted of the charge.

The District and Sessions Judge in his judgement awarded the punishment to the accused persons for transportation for life and a fine of Tk 10,000 and in default to suffer two years RI more. Besides, the convicted persons were also awarded 10 years RI and a fine of Tk 3,000 more under Section 307/34 BPC in default to suffer three years RI more.

1800 maunds wheat misappropriated

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, Aug 27: Project Chairman of Tarundia Union Parishad in Iswarganj upazila has allegedly misappropriated 1800 maunds of government wheat allotted under Food for Works Programme in 1990-91 fiscal year.

According to the sources, Tarundia Union Project Chairman lifted 126 metric tons of wheat allocated for the repair of six kilometre-long Konapara road but the project chairman allegedly misappropriated 1800 maunds from it.

The project labourers lodged separate complaints against the project chairman and submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner of Mymensingh, Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation and Local Anti-Corruption Department. But no action has yet been taken, it is alleged.

Mr M I Hafiz, Additional District and Sessions Judge Mymensingh sentence two persons to life-term on the charge of killing a minor boy Chan Mia of village Kochuri under Nandail upazila recently. According to the prosecution story, on March 26, 1989 victim Chan Mia was on way to local bazar to sell the pigeon when Tahernabi and Giasuddin kidnapped and killed him.

A case was filed with police who investigated and chargesheeted the accused. The Judge after examining the evidences and witnesses, sentenced them to life-term.

Unfit buses ply on Chandpur routes

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Aug 27: Journey by bus on Chandpur-Comilla, Chandpur-Malab and Chandpur-Kachua routes have become hazardous and overloading of buses often causes accident on these routes.

It is learnt that buses plying on these routes are of deplorable condition and often face engine troubles on their way. The condition of roads is also dilapidated. It is reported that the law enforcing agency can not find out the drivers responsible for the accidents as they use fake name and addresses without having any valid licences.

Besides, the bus conductors realise excessive fare and often misbehave with the passengers. They do not maintain any time table. Absence of waiting shed at the bus stand at Talata causes much inconveniences to the passengers. There is no toilet or urinals at the bus stand. Passengers have to remain standing for buses under the open sky.

Sometimes buses could not be accommodated in the bus stand. There is no rickshaw stand in the bus stand. Rickshaws are parked hither and thither. Local people urged the authorities to take immediate steps to construct sheds on bus stand and rickshaw stand to mitigate the sufferings of the people.

UZ courts need waiting rooms

From Our Correspondent

MADARIPUR, Aug 27: Absence of waiting rooms in four upazila courts of the district has been causing untold sufferings to the litigants.

The people who come to the court from remote areas complained that they have to move around the court premises for their respective cases, but due to lack of any seating arrangement and shed they suffer much and the situation turns worst during summer and rainy season.

Mushroom growth of hotels and restaurants on footpaths in the district has been posing threat to public health. Most of these hotels and restaurants which have sprung up in lanes and by-lanes in abundance prepare foodstuffs in a very unhygienic way which is certain to cause many ailments. Besides, these are also hindering smooth movements of transports. It is alleged that pourashava authority is least concerned about this matter.

Shifting of UZ courts to district HQ demanded

RANGPUR, Aug 27: The district Ainjibi Samity brought out a procession Thursday demanding immediate shifting of upazila civil and criminal courts to the district headquarters, reports UNB.

The processionists paraded the main thoroughfares of the district chanting various slogans to press home their demands.

Later a rally was held at the local Shahid Minar in which the speakers also demanded separation of judiciary from administration and to repeal Indemnity Ordinance, Special Powers Act and other anti-people black laws.

The rally was addressed, among others, by Advocate Nazrul Islam and Advocate Moshur Rahman, President and Secretary of the Samity respectively. Residents of the areas com-



AGRI-VARSITY (Mymensingh): The Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) Prof. M. Asdur Rahman delivering presidential speech in the installation ceremony of BAU club executives elected for the year 1991-92 held at the club premises recently. — Star photo