

Upazila roundup

TANGAIL

Two killed in road mishap

Aug 28: Two passengers were killed and 15 others including women and children were injured in a bus accident on Sunday near Shohagpara on Dhaka-Tangail highway under Mirzapur upazila.

The accident occurred when the bus fell into the road side ditch. Injured persons were admitted to Kumudini hospital.

NETRAKONA

Law, order situation discussed

Aug 28: A meeting of the Netrakona district Development Coordination Committee was held at the conference room of the district collectorate office recently, reports BSS.

Presided over by Mr A H M Abul Kashem, Deputy Commissioner Netrakona, the meeting was participated by district level officers and upazila Nirbahi officers (UNO) of ten upazilas. The meeting discussed various matters including law and order situation, price hike of essential commodities and progress of overall development programmes undertaken in the various sectors in the district.

SATKHIRA

Contraband goods seized

Aug 28: police seized 7 VCRs and 288 pieces of Indian silk saree worth Tk four lakh and arrested two people in this connection from Mohishkur village of Sharsha upazila here Wednesday night, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, police raided the house of Wahidul and Samad of the village and nabbed them with the goods which were ready for smuggling.

The contraband items were later handed over to the local customs department. A case has been filed in this connection.

KUSHTIA

172 HSC examinees expelled

Aug 28: So far 172 HSC examinees were expelled for adopting unfair means in the examinations in eight centres of the district, reports BSS.

Examinees were expelled on the first day and sixty-nine 103 on the second day, an official source said.

A total of 5,135 students have been appearing in the HSC examinations in Kushtia district this year.

District administration has taken strict measures to maintain law and order in the examination centres and no untoward incident was reported.

BARISAL

CI sheet distributed

Aug 28: Barisal Development Society (BDS), a non-government organization, has started distributing CI sheets and other house-building materials worth Tk 17 lakh among the flood and cyclone-hit people of Ghorarpar under Gournadi upazila of Barisal district, reports BSS.

The programme was inaugurated by Mr. Abul Hasanat Abdullah, MP, at a function presided over by Mr. Linus Adhir Dah, the Executive Director of BDS, recently.

A total of 120 families will get CI sheets for the construction of dwelling houses in the first phase and 112 families other house-building materials under the programme.

NARAIL

Money lenders active

Aug 28: Money lenders have become active again in the Sadar upazila of the district charging the farmers high rate of interest against their foodgrains and land, reports UNB.

Local people said most of the farmers pressed by economic hardship had no alternative to approaching the money lenders.

Peasants are selling their Irri, Boro crops in advance between Tk 100 and 125 a maund to maintain their livelihood and to buy agricultural inputs.

Most of the farmers are also selling their draft animals to overcome their hardship. A large number of farmers

are engaged in jute, paddy and vegetable cultivation but poor production and high price of inputs have made it difficult for them to pursue their occupation.

Besides, crops on vast acres of land are damaged by frequent natural calamities like droughts, floods, hailstorm and tornado and cyclone.

GAIBANDHA

Floods damage crops worth Tk 5 crore

Aug 28: The recent flood has caused extensive damage to standing crops worth about Tk 5 crore in seven upazilas of the district, reports UNB.

According to Agriculture extension Department, standing crops on 5379 acres of land were damaged completely and on 9861 acres partially by the onrush of flood water and erosion of the river Jamuna, Brahmaputra, Teesta and Ghagot.

Of the total, aus paddy on 1521 acres of land, jute on 1650 acres, transplanted aman on 953 acres, sugarcane on 300 acres and vegetables on 500 acres were completely damaged, the sources said.

Local people urged the government to sanction long term agriculture loan on easy terms to boost production in the district.

MALJDEE COURT

Headmaster jailed for misappropriation of fund

Aug 28: Mofizullah, Headmaster of Hasanah High School here and Saidul Haq were sentenced to nine years and 2 years rigorous imprisonment respectively for misappropriation of government fund, reports UNB.

The Headmaster was also fined Tk 17,760 and Saidul Haq, Managing Committee member of the school Tk 7,760, court sources said.

According to the prosecution, they submitted a false statement on the number of teachers to draw government grant in aid from the treasury.

District anti-corruption filed a case at Begumganj upazila court in this connection. Police after investigation submitted charge-sheet against them.

Additional District Magistrate after examining the records and evidences awarded the punishment recently.

PIROJPUR

BKB distributes Tk 1.38 crore agri-loan

Aug 28: Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) distributed Tk 1.38 crore as agricultural loan in the district during the last financial year, reports UNB.

According to official sources, of the total loan, Tk 8.56 lakh was distributed for transplanted aman crop, Tk 28.55 lakh for rabi crop production, Tk 9.31 lakh for summer crop, Tk 34.00 lakh for purchase of draft animals and Tk 48.27 lakh for other agriculture related purposes.

The bank also recovered outstanding loans amounting to Tk 2.20 crore from its borrowers during the same period, the sources added.

The bank also distributed about Tk one crore in six upazilas of Patuakhali district during the last fiscal year.

Of total loan, Tk 24.80 lakh was distributed in Patuakhali Sadar, over Tk 4.00 lakh in Mirzapur, Tk 17.58 lakh in Bauphal, Tk 20.11 lakh in Dashmina, Tk 14.16 lakh in Galachipa and Tk 18.30 lakh in Kalapara upazilas of the district.

The loans were distributed for aus, aman, boro, irri, rabi-crop and purchase of cattle-heads, according to informed sources.

PATUAHALI

Post office needed

Aug 28: The people of village Gangar Char of Bara Batahata in Galachipa upazila here have been demanding a post office in the locality since long, reports UNB.

Villagers said that more than 10,000 people living in the village have to travel beyond four miles to avail the postal services from the Baharchar of Tungbaria post office.

A post office in Gangar Char is urgently required in the interest of the villagers and many of their relatives working outside at home and abroad.

It will also contribute to the revenue income of the government, they said.



Pushcart-pullers have been virtually thrown out of job due to continued strike by riverine transports in the port town of Narayanganj.

—Star photo

600 anti-socials active in Jamalpur

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Aug 28: About 600 'mastans' are allegedly active in anti-social activities in the district and other upazila towns. These miscreants are involved in smuggling, hijacking, robbery, snatching, extortion of money and eve-teasing, sources told The Daily Star.

According to informed sources, police sometimes raid the towns and on suspicion put these anti-socials in custody but for lack of specific charges against them they had to let these criminals free. Thus these miscreants continue their anti-social activities unabatedly. Late night crimes have increased to a great extent in recent days.

The miscreants often carry out their activities from the illegal small roadside shops which are also ideal dens for them. These criminals are usually hired by the influential quarters to take possession of vacant lands and abandoned houses etc. At least 150 persons including children are involved in hijacking in remote areas under Sadar upazila.

It is reported that the miscreants are active in Jamalpur Sadar upazila, Sarishabari Poura area, Dewanganj, Islampur and Melandah upazila headquarters, Randina.

Norundi, Piyarpur, Shanandabari, Dikpaith and other places.

About 100 illegal clubs and organisations have sprung up in different areas of the district. The miscreants use these places as their dens.

Competent sources said that no effective steps were taken as yet to stop the functioning of these clubs by the concerned authorities.

Collection of tolls and regular extortion of money are the source of income of these anti-socials. They use firearms, country made weapons and homemade bombs at the time

of attack, many affected people said. When contacted, a high police official said that they were aware of anti-social activities. According to him 100 miscreants were arrested recently for hijacking, robbery, extortion of money, eve-teasing etc.

He claimed that police has launched a drive against the miscreants resulting in decline in crimes in recent months. The task of bringing the miscreants to book would be much easier if the influential quarters stop patronising them, he added.

According to the Commissioner of Jamalpur

Pourasava, rate of crimes has gone up in the district town. Many incidents of snatching were reported in the town in last few days.

The reliable sources said that these miscreants work with the support and protection of influential quarters.

During the last one month at least 12 incidents took place in different areas of the town. Several dacoities were also committed recently in Jamalpur while police sources disclosed that they have nabbed 300 people during the last two weeks in connection with various crimes.

Chairman, Upazila Chairman, Mitamain, the meeting was attended by Mr Kazi Nasrul Islam, Deputy Commissioner, Kishoreganj as chief guest.

It was addressed, among others, by Md Lutfur Rahman, Superintendent of Police, Mr ASM Ruhul Amin, Deputy Director of Agriculture, Mr Ibrahim Khan, ADC (Revenue), Dr Md Fazul Haque, Civil Surgeon in-charge and Mr Tofazzal Hossain, Deputy Director, Family Planning.

Dies from snake bite

Rahima Khatoun (8), daughter of Nazmul Huda of village Machara under Hossainpur upazila of the district died from snake bite recently. It is learnt that when Rahima Khatoun came out of her cottage to respond to the call of nature the venomous snake from the nearby bush bit her and the following day she died.

Business dull in jute market

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Aug 28: Jute growers of Jamalpur are compelled to sell their produce at throw-away prices following glut in the local markets. Fresh jute that recorded the bumper production in the district has already flooded the markets.

But in the absence of government purchasing centres and buyers, the growers are compelled to sell their hard earned produce at nominal prices much below the production cost. Taking advantage of the situation unscrupulous traders are hoarding the item.

Market sources said that, a maund of fresh jute at present is being sold at Taka 250 to Taka 275 disheartening the growers. According to official sources, production cost of per

maund jute has stood at Taka 350 in the district this year.

Taking advantage of the situation smugglers have become active to smuggle out the item thus sheltering the national economy.

It is alleged that if fair price is not ensured a large quantity of jute would be smuggled out to India.

Kishoreganj

Our Kishoreganj correspondent adds: The target of jute cultivation is not achieved in ten upazilas of the district as the growers are apathetic to jute farming. Having been deprived of the fair price of jute last year, the growers of the district have reduced jute cultivation.

On the other hand, prolonged drought at the time of sowing jute seeds also forced the farmers to curtail the acreage of jute cultivation in the area.

According to the District Agriculture Extension Department (AED), total 1,79,200 bales of jute are expected to be produced from 50,000 acres of land in ten upazilas of Kishoreganj district this season. But only 36,370 acres of land could be brought under the programme. The upazilawise break up is Hossainpur 1,545 acres, Kishoreganj Sadar 3,060 acres, Pakundia 3,920 acres, Katiadi 7,735, Karimganj 9,330, Tarail 2,300 acres, Itna 70 acres, Nikli 1200 acres, Austagram 70 acres, Bajitpur 3,500 acres, Kuliachar 1,900 acres and Bhairab 1,750 acres.

It is reported that over the last few weeks prices of different grades of jute have fallen sharply in the local market.

With the arrival of fresh jute the prices took nosedive and is being sold at Taka 170 to 230 per maund much below the production cost. Production cost of per maund jute is between Taka 350 and Taka 400.

According to some farmers of Sadar and Kishoreganj upazilas, they had cultivated jute only for their personal requirement as they were denied fair prices last year.

RU Master's final exam suspended

RAJSHAHI, Aug 28: Rajshahi University Master's final examinations of 1988 scheduled to be held on September 2, 1991 have been suspended, reports BSS.

Fresh date will be announced later on, according to a Press release issued by the University of Sunday.

member Montu for allocation of houses in the proposed cluster village.

They have urged the government for their immediate rehabilitation.

The district and all the five upazila administration has taken up measures to hold the higher secondary examination free from malpractice as said by the district administration officials.

District and upazila level vigilance teams have been formed accordingly to check unfair means in examination halls. All concerned have been directed to maintain law and order situation in all the centres.

Anti-smuggling drive makes headway

From Our Correspondent

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Aug 28: Business activities in the district have declined due to anti-smuggling drives launched by BDR and task force, according to informed sources.

Transactions at hats, bazars and banks and other business establishments of the district were very poor during the last six months.

Before the anti-smuggling drives began the daily transactions were Taka six crore in several commercial banks of the district. But since the anti-smuggling drives have been launched the transactions have remarkably declined during the period.

BDR sources said that the drives automatically put restriction on illegal money flow in the markets which affected

all aspects of economic and social activities. They said that crackdown on smuggling and smugglers would continue despite pressure from a section of unscrupulous businessmen.

It is also learnt that BDR also seized contraband goods from markets and railway stations.

The business community alleged to the Deputy Commissioner that this type of operations and drives are illegal and unlawful because according to essential commodities law any essential item can be supplied of any district or subdivision or town if it is within a radius of five miles of the border area and Chapainawabganj is one of them.

Woes of betel leaf growers

From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, Aug 28: Hundreds of betel leaf growers of Nalchity and other areas of Jhalakathi district are facing numerous problems due to shortage of necessary fund and other inputs for betel leaf cultivation. The farmers are compelled to leave their profession as they are unable to earn their livelihood, it is learnt.

Devastating cyclone of last April 29 caused utter disaster to baraj and as a result, hundreds of betel leaf growers lost their financial steadiness.

Now it is evident that to re-set and rearrange their pan-baraj further, they are in need of financial assistance from the government or from any other sources.

Betel leaf growers of Sreeramapur, Brahmanpur, Satpalka, Raipur, Mallikpur, Malipur, Amirabad, Babruakathi, Barakathi and other unions of the

upazila are yet to back to their profession, due to poverty. Still they have not yet been provided with financial help or loan either from the government or from any other organisation.

Virus fever spreading alarmingly

NARAIL, Aug 28: Virus fever is spreading alarmingly throughout the district affecting body resistance of the poor undernourished victims, reports UNB.

On an average, two to three members of a family were affected by the virus that created panic among the people.

Villagers said no effective measures had yet been taken to combat the spread of the disease.

Notes from Kishoreganj

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Aug 28: A theft was committed in the house of Shamsul Huda of village Char Hajipur in Hossainpur upazila of the district recently.

According to the reports, the thieves entered the house by carving the earth and decamped with goods worth Taka 8000.

A case was registered with local police in this connection.

Boy drowns

Tusar (2) drowned in a pond at village Katta in Kishoreganj Sadar upazila recently. He went outside the house without the knowledge of his parents. Later his body was found floating in the pond behind the house.

Chhatra Union conference

The conference of Sadu-larchar unit of Bangladesh Chhatra Union was held recently. Mr Shahinuddin Khan, President, District unit formally inaugurated the conference.

It was presided over by Abul Kalam Bachchu and addressed, among others, by Mustak Ahmed, Priya Bhusann Roy, Enamul Haque and Aftabuddin Palash.

A 23-member committee was also formed with Jahangir Alam Bakul, Anwar Hossain Anu and Shaiful Islam Khukan as President, General Secretary and Organising Secretary respectively.

Law, order situation discussed

District and upazila level officials of different departments held a meeting in Mitamain Upazila Parishad Hall to discuss overall situation of the district.

Chairman, Upazila Chairman, Mitamain, the meeting was attended by Mr Kazi Nasrul Islam, Deputy Commissioner, Kishoreganj as chief guest.

It was addressed, among others, by Md Lutfur Rahman, Superintendent of Police, Mr ASM Ruhul Amin, Deputy Director of Agriculture, Mr Ibrahim Khan, ADC (Revenue), Dr Md Fazul Haque, Civil Surgeon in-charge and Mr Tofazzal Hossain, Deputy Director, Family Planning.

Cooperation of people sought to contain crimes

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Aug 28: To maintain and improve law and order situation throughout Alamdanga thana under Chuadanga a meeting of elite of the area was held at Alamdanga recently.

Mr Idris Ali Khan, Officer-in-Charge of Alamdanga thana presided over the meeting while Mr Abdur Rahim, Superintendent of Police, Chuadanga was the chief guest.

Among others the meeting was addressed by Advocate Musleruddin, Munshi Haroonur-Rashid, Ibaasaid Kochi, Shamsul Alam and Monfruzzaman Moni. The speakers in the meeting said that crime control is not at all possible without the co-operation of the people. The VDP and Ansar should play a vital role in controlling crimes because of shortage of police force. They added that Anti-social elements are always weak when common people remain alert.

The miscreants would never be able to take shelter in the society if people keep vigil on them, the speakers added.

Jibannagar thana police under Chuadanga district seized a huge quantity of smuggled goods from the different border areas and hats and basars worth Taka 1,38,550 during the last 13 months.

Sixteen persons were arrested and 18 cases were registered with the police station during the period.

Goods worth Taka 1,16,000 were seized while being smuggled to India from Bangladesh which included VCP, cardamom, Honda motorcycle. Goods worth Taka 22,550 were seized while being smuggled into Bangladesh from India. The goods included sugar, zira, saree, turmeric, bicycle and jute seeds.

Vigorous drive is being launched throughout Jibannagar thana to control smuggling.

'Resist unholy forces thru' referendum'

COMILLA, Aug 28: Commerce Minister M K Anwar yesterday called upon the people's representatives and officials to motivate the people towards spontaneous participation in the coming referendum, reports BSS.

He said the importance of the coming referendum was unlimited in respect of giving democracy an institutional shape through people's verdict even after the Jatiya Sangsad had passed a bill unanimously for switching over to parliamentary democracy.

The Minister was addressing as the chief guest a meeting on 'Importance of referendum-91' organised by elected representatives of local government council and its officials here, an official handout said.

Addressing the meeting, State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources Dr Khandker Mosharraf Hossain called upon the people to cast their 'yes' votes in the referendum in favour of a people's government in the country. He said the people should give their 'yes' votes in the coming referendum so that no 'unholy force' could seize power again, the handout quoted him as saying.

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