

Upazila roundup

JESSORE

Seminar on role of NGOs in development held

From Our Correspondent

Aug 31: A two-day seminar on "co-operation of government organisation and non-government organisations (NGOs) in development" was held at Catholic Church auditorium under the auspices of Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB) recently. Gopo Gobeshona O Unnyan Foundation (GOUF) a research oriented development organisation working in Jessore and Chittagong districts was granted membership of ADAB on the concluding day of the seminar.

Presided over by the Chairperson of ADAB Jessore unit Mr. Arzul Haque Moni the seminar was participated by the high officials of different government departments including Divisional Live stock, BADC, Youth Development Parishad and representatives of over 40 NGOs including ADAB, CARE, Rural Reconstruction Centre (RRC), Gono Gobeshona O Unnyan Foundation and others.

MADARIPUR

Tk 16.11 crore agri-loan disbursed

Aug 31: Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Barisal zone has distributed Tk 16.11 crore as agricultural loan among the farmers of 11 southern districts during the 1990-91 fiscal, reports UNB.

The districts are Barisal, Faridpur, Jhalakhati, Bhola, Patuakhali, Pirojpur, Gopalganj, Rajbari, Barguna, Shariatpur and Madaripur.

Officials said the loan was distributed among the farmers to boost agricultural production in the district.

MANIKGANJ

Jute growers' future at stake

From Our Correspondent

Aug 31: Jute growers of seven upazilas in Manikganj, Savar and Dharmat upazilas in Dhaka district are unable to sell their produce for want of purchasers.

The local jute traders said they were not interested in jute business due to financial loss. The government jute purchasing centres have not yet started buying jute from the growers as they have not received any directive from the higher authorities, it is learnt.

The jute growers have urged the authorities to take necessary steps towards mitigating their suffering.

SIRAJGANJ

Flood control embankment damaged

Aug 31: Fifteen km of the total 16 km embankment of the Hurasang river flood control and irrigation project constructed with a cost of Tk 7 crore has been damaged by the recent flood, reports UNB.

According to the district WAPDA officials the whole work of the project was completed in last June but in July 91 the embankment has been damaged by the flood.

The project was financed by the World Bank which started during 1984-85 fiscal on the basis of the proposal by WADA here.

But it was alleged that nine kilometre of the embankment has been completed with major fault which caused the damage of the embankment. Local people also alleged large scale corruption and irregularities in implementing the project.

Crops on about 10,000 acres of land have been inundated due to the damage of the embankment, local people said.

WAPDA has prepared another project for the same work involving an amount of Tk 7 crore and sent it to the concerned ministry for approval, it is learnt.

The affected people demanded an immediate enquiry into the cause of the extensive damage to the embankment.

BRAHMANBARIA

Smuggled goods recovered

Aug 31: Bangladesh Rifles recovered Indian smuggled goods worth over Tk 9.05 lakh from an engine boat at Malaganon Beel here Monday.

reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, BDR jawans rushed to the spot and raided the boat and recovered the contraband goods.

The goods include 400 pieces of sarees and 150 bundles of cotton yarn.

Later the contraband goods were deposited with Akhaura customs office.

A case has been filed in this connection.

Suicide

One Nilufar Akhtar (16), an SSC examinee of Kaaba upazila allegedly committed suicide by taking poison, police sources said here today.

Family trouble was said to be the cause of her death, the sources added.

Family sources said she was rushed to the Upazila Health Complex where the doctors declared her dead.

A case has been filed in this connection.

FENI

Angling competition

Aug 31: A day-long angling competition was held at the local Rajajir Dighi yesterday, reports BSS.

A total of 200 anglers from Dhaka, Chittagong, Sylhet, Comilla, Noakhali and the locality took part in the competition. Mr. Mahbul Alam Tara gave away prizes among the winners in the afternoon.

Editor of the local weekly Roshnabad yesterday announced that the competitors who won first, second and third position in the competition would be given the weekly free of cost for the next one year.

PABNA

Ishurdi Govt College beset with problems

From Our Correspondent

Aug 31: The Ishurdi Government College has been facing multifarious problems due to shortage of classrooms and necessary appliances.

The college building has become dilapidated and there are only three classrooms to accommodate about 500 students.

The library has a poor stock of books to cater to the need of the students.

FARIDPUR

One commits suicide

Aug 31: A youth of village Sadipur in Sadar upazila of the district allegedly committed suicide Saturday by taking insecticide, reports UNB.

Police and hospital sources said the victim Moksad (22), allegedly gave away his life when his marriage proposal was refused by his father.

He was rushed to Faridpur General Hospital in a critical condition where he succumbed later.

A case has been filed in this connection.

PABNA

247 criminals arrested

Aug 31: Police arrested 247 criminals and recovered nine illegal arms and 42 rounds of ammunition from different parts of the greater Pabna district under the Operation Doorbar in the last week, reports UNB.

The recovered arms included two cut rifles, four pipe guns, two revolvers and one pistol, the sources added.

The arrest was made as per the listed criminals by the district administration to improve the law and order situation in the district.

RANGAMATI

Early disbursement of agri-loan demanded

Aug 31: The chairman of the local government Parishad here has asked for immediate disbursement of agricultural loan so that farmers could quickly recover their loss suffered in April 29 devastating cyclone.

Gautam Dewan addressing a development and co-ordination meeting here Monday, said economic condition of the farmers in the hill districts deteriorated considerably since the cyclone.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Aftabuddin Khan, Deputy Commissioner, Upazila Chairman and officials of the district.

He asked the upazila chairman to make a list of deserving farmers and arrange early disbursement of bank loan.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia laying the foundation stone of Mahananda Bridge at Chapainawabganj on Thursday last. —PID photo

Excessive fares, traffic rules violation make bus journey hazardous

GAZIPUR, Aug 31: Charging of excessive bus fares, deplorable condition of roads and violation of traffic rules have turned bus journey hazardous on different routes of the district, reports UNB.

According to passengers, the conductors are charging fares much above the normal rate and very often clash with the passengers, following alterations.

Besides, most of the roads are in bad shape and potholes and ditches have developed at many places making them unfit for vehicular movement.

Besides, the roads from Gazipur to Kapasia and Tongi to Kaliganj are too narrow to

pass two vehicles side by side.

Meanwhile, bus communication from river Balu to Kaliganj has also become hazardous due to shortage of ferry services. A ferry-boat plying there can not cope with the heavy pressure of traffic movement and as a result, vehicles remain stranded for hours together on both sides of the river.

Local people have been demanding a bridge on the river for a long time but nothing has yet been done in this respect.

Moreover, the Dhaka-Kaliganj road has crossed the Dhaka-Chittagong rail line at four points namely Tongi, Hyderabad, Bhadnu and

Daripura. But in the absence of adequate signal gate to control the movement of vehicles, accidents are taking place frequently.

It is also alleged that the vehicles do not maintain any timetable and dump road side passengers into the buses according to their caprices before the nose of the law enforcing agencies.

A pisciculture extension project has been taken up in three upazilas of the district at a cost of Tk one crore.

According to official sources, the experimental project covering Sreepur, Kapasia and Gazipur sadar will be implemented in three years.

Water bodies mainly ponds measuring one decimal and above in two unions of Sreepur, four unions of Kapasia and the whole of sadar will be initially included for development of fish culture.

Programme organisers will also hold a two-day training on modern fish farming methods. If the desired result is achieved from the experimental project, necessary steps would be taken for massive pisciculture in other parts of the country, they added.

Meanwhile, fisheries department of the district has completed the construction work of a mini hatchery at Sreepur at a cost of Tk 15.85

Land tax collection not satisfactory

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Aug 31: Realisation of land development tax in the district is not satisfactory. Only 33.27 per cent tax has been realised during the last fiscal year.

It is learnt that a total of Taka 1,04,84,875 was collected as tax against the largest of Taka 3,15,06,655.

A seminar on "Terrorism free Education Environment" was held at the teachers auditorium of Government Edward University College recently. Professor Muslem Ali, Principal of the University College presided over the seminar.

The main article was written and read by Mr Mustafizur Rahman, Lecturer in Economics department.

Professor Abdur Rashid, Principal of Government Shahid Babul College, Professor ASM Anisur Rahman, Head of the Department of Bengali, Associate Professor Solaiman Mia, Head of the Department of English and Assistant Professor Mohammad Nurun-Nabi focussed on the different points of the article.

A hand bag inscribed the title of the article was distributed among all as an incentive at the concluding seminar.

live at the concluding seminar.

Afforestation

A large-scale afforestation programme of the district is in progress. According to the Divisional Forest Development Office, about 2000 seedlings have already been transplanted at different institutions. Apart from this 18 miles of upazila road, five miles of railway, two miles of embankment and eight miles road of Roads and Highway Department will be afforested.

Notes from Madaripur

MADARIPUR, Aug 31: Valuables worth about TK 80,000 were looted in a daring dacoity in a house of a school teacher at village Godanradi in Kalkini upazila, police here said, reports UNB.

According to sources, a gang of dacoits with deadly weapons broke open the door of the house of Arun Chandra Roy recently and decamped with valuables including a colour TV, five tolas of gold and five watches.

On hearing alarm, local people rushed to the spot and caught one dacoit named Abul Kalam Sarder. He was later handed over to the police.

A case was filed with the police in this connection.

2 killed in bomb blast

Two people succumbed and six others sustained injuries in a bomb blast at the house of Hamid Fakir of village Dattapara in Shibchar upazila, police said here yesterday.

According to police the incident occurred recently when the victims Kamal Hossain (30) and Shamsul Hoq were making bombs with their associates in the house. The five others injured in the blast managed to escape.

Kamal succumbed to his injuries at Bhanga Upazila Health Complex whose both the hands were blown off and Shamsul Hoq died in police custody.

A case was registered with Shibchar police in this connection.

Drug addiction

Drug addiction has been spreading among the youths of the town, social workers said. According to hospital sources, a large number of youths were being addicted to liquor and sedatives.

The sources alleged that some dishonest shopkeepers were selling sedatives without asking for proper prescription and realising the dictated price from drug addicts.

The drug addicts often indulge themselves in anti-social activities like mugging, looting vitiating the social environment.

Chudanga BTA executives

From Our Correspondent

CHUDANGA, Aug 31: The conference of the Chudanga district branch of Bangladesh Teachers' Association was held here at the local Sreemonto Town Hall recently.

The conference was presided over by Mr Abdur Rahman, President of the Chudanga district branch of BTA.

Over 350 school teachers from the different secondary boys and girls schools of the district took part in the conference.

Al-Haj-SK Amanullah, Chairman Bangladesh Teachers' Association Federation was present as the chief guest while Maulana Habibur Rahman, local MP, Mr Arzul Haque Shah were present on the occasion as the special guests.

An 11-member executive committee was also elected in the conference for the Chudanga district branch of BTA for the next three years with Mr Abdur Rahman as president and Mr Khaled Masud as Secretary.

Power failure frequent

NAOGAON, Aug 31: Power disruption as become a regular feature in the district causing inconveniences and material loss to the consumers, reports UNB.

Production in power-run mills and factories and operation of power pumps were badly affected by frequent disruption in electricity supply, local people said.

Official sources said a project for 132 KV transmission line planned for the area to improve the power supply was yet to be implemented.

Power Development Board have been urged to expedite installation of the transmission line and arrange repair of the six transformers which have been out of order since long.

It is expected to contribute to the development of agro-based economy and meet the demands of fish in the district.

Besides, at Board Bazar near Tongi about four lakh fry of African Magur will be hatched out from the spawn weighing about 674 kgs.

It is noteworthy that for the first time Bangladesh is hatching out this fish fry when full grown will weigh two kgs each.

Meanwhile, local people alleged that unscrupulous fishermen are catching fry of different species indiscriminately by using current nets violating government ban.

Govt committed to socio-economic development

HIAZRATPUR (Keraniganj), Aug 31: Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan said here yesterday that peaceful environment of the country was the pre-condition for successful implementation of the people-oriented development programmes, reports BSS.

He said this while addressing a public meeting at Hazratpur under Keraniganj upazila.

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan, local Member of Parliament Amanullah Aman, Deputy Inspector General of Police, Dhaka range Ashraf Huda and Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka also addressed the meeting, according to an official source.

The meeting was held to review the law and order situation of the remote areas of the Singair, Nawabganj and Keraniganj upazilas of Dhaka and Manikganj districts.

The Industries Minister said that under the leadership of Begum Khaleda Zia the present popular government was committed to improve the socio-economic condition of the general mass. The Minister also said the government would ensure accountability in all spheres of life.

He ordered the concerned law enforcing authority to take appropriate measures to control and eradicate the anti-social activities

Pottery faces extinction

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Aug 31: Pottery, an age-old cottage industry is fast waning throwing thousands of artisans into uncertainty.

Scarcity and high prices of raw materials, dearth of purchasers and absence of financial assistance have been hindering prosperity of this ancient cottage industry resulting in its slow extinction. According to a survey there are at least 20,000 potter families in the Rangpur zone struggling hard for survival.

About a decade ago, earthenwares like plates and variety of pots used for various household purposes are popular among the rural masses and even among the urban people.

But with the increased marketing of modern utensils and the substitutes for earthen pots demands for the earthenwares have diminished throwing thousands of skilled potters out of profession.

Raw materials for manufacturing earthenwares are

scarce, financial assistance from the government and loan-giving agencies are hardly available and above all shortage of buyers have crippled the industry.

A large number of skilled potters have already switched over to alternative profession for livelihood. Many others are left unemployed. A small number of potter families has been running the industry amidst great hardships finding no other alternative for survival.

Two century old canal now garbage reservoir

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Aug 31: "Pran Shaher Khal" running in the midst of Satkhira has been polluting the environment of the town and its adjoining areas.

The inhabitants of the town alleged that the canal has turned into a garbage reservoir with regular dumping of wastes. Obstruction of the flow of Betna Khal linked with Khejur Dangi Khal has contaminated the water of the canal which has increased alarmingly water borne diseases.

It is mentionable that Pran Khal was dug in 1860 by the

then Zamindar of Satkhira Prannath Roy Chowdhury and re-excavated in 1901 by the British government. It was again dug in 1977 but nothing tangible was achieved. A Dutch and Swedish team who visited the Khal recently and agreed to help re-excavating work at a cost of Taka 50.10 lakh, but only Taka 30 lakh has been sanctioned so far.

The people of the area have urged the concerned authorities to formulate future plans after conducting appropriate research to reutilize the canal.

Drinking water scarce

Acute scarcity of drinking water has been causing widespread outbreak of intestinal diseases in different villages of Satkhira specially in Assasuni, Kaliganj, Debhata and Shyamnagar upazilas. The tubewells in the said upazilas supply concentrated salty water creating intestinal diseases, it is learnt.

It is also learnt that, more than 700 tubewells which went out of order about five months ago have not yet been repaired or resunk.

Reliable sources, said that the tubewells in rural areas go frequently out of order due to lack of proper care, repair and maintenance. Concerned officials seldom visit rural areas to check the condition of the tubewells.

Pabna Mental Hospital needs care

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Aug 31: The lone mental hospital of the country has been facing setback and engulfed with manifold problems due to utter negligence of the higher authorities. The hospital is not fully equipped with modern appliances and the patients are deprived of proper treatment.

The hospital has no boundary wall. In absence of this wall many mental patients flee away and villagers have easy access to the hospital compound.

The main building is surrounded by 11225 feet long and five inch wide wall which is also in a very deplorable condition. The people have broken many places of the wall to enter into the building easily. On the other hand villagers illegally installed many shops on the hospital land. Another 1000 feet boundary wall is immediately required. An outdoor service is re-

quired at the first gate where patients should be certified for admission.

Lack of adequate electrification is another problem of the hospital. Besides, load-sheddings always plunge the hospital into darkness. A 200 KV transformer of Public Works Department is not sufficient as its requirement is minimum 500 KV transformer. There is also a generator in

the area which always remain out of order. There is no post of electrician, line-man, plumber or helper. Water supply of the hospital is also irregular due to frequent power failure. A water tank and supply line of 2100 feet established 30 years ago, is the only source of water supply.

Water enters rooms through the leakage of the water tank. As a result, the building walls

are becoming weak which requires immediate repair.

Sewerage line of the hospital is also unsatisfactory. It has 4500 feet pucca and 2000 feet kutchra drains which are totally silted and emit bad odour always.

The only ambulance and a mini-bus have been lying useless for years together as the repairing costs of the vehicles is very high. On the other hand post of a mechanic cum-driver is also being lying vacant for a long time.

An automatic laundry plant was established along with the hospital right from the beginning but post of the boiler operator has not been created. As a result, the laundry plant is yet to start functioning and facing destruction.

Local people urged the authorities concerned to take immediate action to provide a healthy environment for the mental patients of the country.

