

Upazila roundup

BOGRA

Commits suicide for failing in SSC exam

Oct 4: An SSC examinee allegedly committed suicide by taking poison following the unsuccessful results of his examination Friday, reports UNB. According to family sources, Ranu (17), son of Md Ishaque Ali of Ponertika village in Shibganj upazila of the district took poison after the publication of the results when he learnt that he could not come out successful. Renu was rushed to the local Mohammad Ali Hospital where he died on the same day. He appeared at the examination from Shibganj centre. A case of unnatural death has been filed with the local police.

C'NAWABGANJ

Padma erosion takes serious turn

Oct 4: Erosion of the rivers Padma, Mohananda and Pagla has taken a serious turn in the district during the last few days, reports UNB. According to informed sources, nearly 700 homesteads and a vast tract of croplands have been devoured rendering hundreds of people shelterless. The worst affected areas are Namonimgachi, Alatoli, Panka, Udzpur. Meanwhile, cracks have also been developed on about two kilometres river banks of Mohananda at Namonimgachi. The homeless people are passing their days in extreme hardships. The affected people urged the authorities to take arrangements for their early rehabilitation.

KISHOREGANJ

Arrest of newsman condemned

From Our Correspondent Oct 4: Kishoreganj Branch of Sangbadik samity at a meeting Monday condemned the arrest of Gopal Chandra Saha, Gopalganj based correspondent of the Ititefaq. The meeting was presided over by Abu Bakar Siddique Hero and it was addressed, among others, by Subir Basak, Md Sayeeduzaman and Saiful Haque Mollah Dulu. The speakers demanded immediate and unconditional release of the correspondent.

JAMALPUR

1500 ponds lying unutilised

Oct 4: At least 1500 ponds in seven upazilas of the district have become derelict due to negligence by the share-owners, fisheries department sources said here, reports UNB.

A huge quantity of fish worth about Tk 4 crore could be produced if these ponds were rehabilitated and brought under pisciculture, they said. Sixty per cent of these ponds have got silted and dried up due to lack of maintenance. Dispute over share-ownership is said to be the main reason behind these water bodies getting into disuse. Concerned authorities have been asked to take measures for using these ponds for fish culture as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, catching of fish fry using current nets is continuing unabated in the district shattering the prospect of fish production. The fish fry are being sold openly in the district town and upazila markets at cheap rates despite Government ban on catching under-sized fish fry.

KUSHITIA

Diarrhoea claims 22

Oct 4: Diarrhoea claimed 22 lives and attacked 775 others in six upazilas of the district during the last fortnight, reports UNB. According to informed sources, eight people died in Sadar, nine in Daulatpur, two each in Mirpur and Bhramara and one in Kumarkhali upazilas during the period. When contacted, Civil Surgeon, however, confirmed 16 deaths and added that 59 medical teams with sufficient medicines including oral saline and water purification tablets have been working in the affected areas. He said that sinking of new tubewells and re-sinking of old ones are also needed to solve the shortage of drinking water problem.

JEHNDIAH

Old man killed in road mishap

Oct 4: An old man died in a road mishap near Vatabazar in Sadar upazila of the district Monday, reports UNB. According to police, the victim Alimuddin (60) was knocked down by a speeding truck while crossing the road injuring him seriously. He was rushed to Sadar hospital where he succumbed on the same day. The body was sent to morgue for post-mortem. The driver along with the killer truck fled away. A case was registered with the local police.

KURIGRAM

Housewife commits suicide

Oct 4: A housewife allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself from a tree in Fulbari upazila of the district, reports UNB. The victim Patani Begum (35), mother of five children and wife of Makbul Hossain of village Kismat Prankrisna in Fulbari upazila allegedly killed herself following a family feud recently. Her body was sent to morgue for autopsy. A case has been filed in this connection.

RANGAMATI

Important govt. posts lying vacant

Oct 4: Administration of Zurchari upazila here has been going through a crisis in the absence of top executive functionaries for the last for months, reports UNB. The posts of Upazila Mirbahi Officer (UNO), Assistant Commissioner, Relief and Rehabilitation Officer, Fisheries Officer, Livestock Officer and Food Officer have been vacant for a long time, the Upazila Chairman complained.

The UNO was transferred from the upazila last June and as a result, administrative bottlenecks have been created much to the inconvenience of the local people. All occasion of funds for the development projects and functioning of Upazila Parishad have already come to a standstill, he said. The Relief and Rehabilitation Officer, Fisheries Officer and Livestock Officer have been absent for the last 3-4 years, multiplying the misery of the people, in the remote and inaccessible upazila, nearly 100 kilometres away from the district headquarters. The Upazila Chairman and the local leaders have urged the government to fill up the vacant posts without any further delay in the interest of public services.

MAGURA

Unidentified body recovered

Oct 4: Police recovered the body of an unidentified woman from the river Kumar near Khamarpura Bazar of the district Sunday, reports UNB. On receiving information from the villagers, police recovered the floating body and sent it to morgue for post-mortem. Police suspected that the victim was killed after rape by the miscreants and they threw the body into the river to hush up the murder. A case has been registered with Sreepur thana in this connection.

MUNSHIGANJ

Road in bad shape

From Our Correspondent Oct 4: The only road connecting Munshiganj with Narayanganj is now in a deplorable condition. The road starting from the ferry ghat to Panchabati (Narayanganj) is not only narrow but also full of potholes, craters and depressions. Vehicles ply over it with great risk. The movement of both vehicular traffic and pedestrians is often obstructed on the broken and uneven parts of this busy and important road managed by the R & H. Everyday hundreds of vehicles move through it as it is the only way to connect Munshiganj Sadar and its four upazilas.

Despite repeated request the authorities concerned did not take effective steps to repair the road.



Train journey has become hazardous mainly due to bogie shortage. Moreover in most of the compartments there are no light and water. Photo shows passengers travelling on roof top of the train Balaka on Dhaka-Mymensingh route risking their lives. — Star photo

Post mortem suffers for want of morgue at Dinajpur town

From Our Correspondent

DINAJPUR, Oct 4: Morgue in Dinajpur town does not function for the last three years. The old morgue, located at Metharpathy in municipal area, was closed down by the concerned authorities on public demand. Post mortem is now being carried out at Thaju Thakurgaon and Rangpur district morgues as a temporary arrangement. After closure of the old morgue the postmortem was performed in other places of the town which was also strongly protested by the people. As a result, the government asked the concerned authorities to perform the post-mortem of Dinajpur district at Thakurgaon and Rangpur morgues. Thakurgaon is 36 miles from Dinajpur town while Rangpur is 50 miles away. The construction of new morgue at Dinajpur is urgently required and the people have demanded the construction of new morgue at Dinajpur district headquarters immediately. Almost all the link roads of three northern districts of Dinajpur, Thakurgaon and Panchagarh to other parts of the country are now in pitiable condition causing untold sufferings to the passengers. Most of the roads in these districts have developed potholes and cracks on many

points badly affecting the communication. The transport owners complained that their vehicles were being damaged on plying in bad roads causing huge financial loss to them. Road links of Dinajpur-Parbatipur, Dinajpur-Khanpur, Dinajpur-Buchaganj, Birganj-Khansama, Ranirbandar-Khansama, Dinajpur-Kaharol, Thakurgaon-Ranisankail, Pirganj-Balidangi, Panchagarh-Tetulia, Atwari-Panchagrah, Boda-Debiganj, Tetulia-Banglabandha, Tetulia-Panchagrah, Thakurgaon and Panchagarh were badly damaged during the floods in 1987 and 1988 and also due to heavy downpour recently.

Transport owners alleged that despite regular payment of road tax the authorities simply remained indifferent to the problems. On the other hand roads of Dinajpur, Thakurgaon and Panchagarh are now in so deplorable condition that it needs immediate repair for the smooth movement of the vehicular traffic and pedestrians.

Besides, in Panchagarh Pourashava, out of 32 kilometres roads only five kilometres are in good condition and the rest 27 kilometres are in so bad shape that even after slight rainfall they turn muddy and slippery.

One jailed for murder

MAULAVI BAZAR, Oct 4: A man was sentenced to life imprisonment on charge of murder by throwing acid, reports UNB. District and Sessions Judge Md Marziul Haque delivered the judgement recently. According to prosecution story, convict Babul Chandra Dev of Dakkhin Chamatkar village in Sadar upazila of the district threw acid on Joba Begum (17), of the same village on July 11, 1989 when she was working in the kitchen. She was rushed to the Sylhet Osmani Medical College Hospital with serious injuries and succumbed two days later. A case was filed and after investigation, police submitted chargesheet against the accused, who remained absconding since the incident. The judge, after examining the records and witnesses, awarded the punishment to the accused in absentia.

Notes from Habiganj

From Our Correspondent HABIGANJ, Oct 4: Eye disease has broken out in different places of the district. The people of rural areas in the district have been badly affected by this disease. The authorities concerned have been urged to take immediate antivirus measures to check the disease.

Miladun Nabi observed The holy Ed-e-Miladunnabi was observed throughout Habiganj district, with due solemnity and religious fervour recently. Different social and religious organisations and institutions chalked out elaborate programmes to observe the holy day. The programme includes Milad Mahfils, Waz Mahfils, seminars and discussion meeting. Local district administration and Islamic Foundation also arranged Milad Mahfils and discussion meetings on the life of the holy Prophet Mohammed (Sm).

Three arrested Banyachong police arrested three persons including a woman from the house of one Sunder Ali of village Dsh-mokkopara under Banyachong Sadar recently. Acting on a secret information the police raided the house and found them involved in anti-social activities. They were Parvin Akhter, Daughter of Azamanullah of village Jathrapasa, Golam Mia, son of late Sona Mia of village Choturanga, Rayerpara and Hira Mia, son of late Liyakatullah of village Deshmokkopara all under Banyachong upazila. Later they were produced before the Magistrate court, banyachong. The Magistrate remanded them into custody.

Dacoits loot cash, valuables KUSHITIA, Oct 4: Dacoits looted cash and valuables worth about Taka one lakh from a Kushitia bound minibus coming from Khulna on the Kushitia-Jehnidah road Monday night, reports UNB. Witnesses said the gang of dacoits numbering about 8 boarded the minibus in the guise of passengers, stopped the minibus seven miles off the town and robbed the passengers at daggers point. A case has been registered with Kushitia police in this connection.

Unemployment on the rise

From Our Correspondent

SIHERPUR, Oct 4: The number of landless and unemployed people are on gradual rise in all the five upazilas of the district. Of total population of over eleven lakh, 50 per cent depend on agriculture, ten per cent on different occupation and the rest 40 per cent are totally unemployed. But of the agriculturist 60 per cent are landless, 20 per cent with a few acres of land and the rest 30 per cent can be classified as land owners. Since cultivable land in proportion to the population is showing shortfall in output of foodgrains is a regular feature. Besides, hundreds of acres of cultivable land are eroded by the rivers Brahmaputra, Vogal, Karnazura, Dosanni and Maligee every year. As a result, the number of landless people are increasing alarmingly. The farmers having a few acres of land cannot cope with the prices of agricultural inputs. They cannot buy fertilizers, seeds, pesticides and even bullocks for cultivation due to poverty. They are deprived of irrigation facilities. Above all they cannot get even fair price for their produce. Consequently they are forced to sell off their land for subsistence. The educated unemployed persons are also on the increase giving rise to social unrest. Since there are no mills and factories in the district unemployment is the vexing

problem of the district. Besides, poor farmers are facing critical situation due to increase in price of all chemical fertilizers throughout the district. It is learnt that per bag of Urea is being sold at Taka 325 as against Taka 240 a few weeks back. A bag of TSP is sold at Taka 380 against Taka 270. The farmers alleged that fertilizer dealers are not giving receipt of fertilizers price. Unscrupulous dealers of fertilizer in connivance with a section of dishonest officials are engaged in creating artificial scarcity in the market to earn maximum profit, it is further alleged.

Distressed fishermen to get net, boat

RANGAMATI, Oct 4: The Local Government Parishad here has taken up a programme to distribute fishing nets and boats among the distressed and affected fishermen of the district, reports UNB. In its monthly meeting held on September 17 the Parishad decided to distribute fishing nets and boats to 750 families as part of the rehabilitation programme, Gautam Dewan, Chairman of the Local Government said. Heads of these 750 families, to be selected from Sadar, Baghaichari, Langadu, Naniarchar, Borkhal, Zurchari, Kaptai and Belaichari upazilas, will be provided with imported fine quality fishing nets and a boat each.

Low price baffles jute growers

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Oct 4: Sharp fall in jute prices in Chandpur district following non-opening of government and private jute purchasing centres has baffled the jute growers. Having no other alternative the grower are selling their jute to the local middlemen at Taka 150-200 per maund. It is feared that jute price may further fall within a short time.

According to the agricultural office sources, the production cost of jute is Taka 300-400 per maund. Thus the growers sustained a loss of Taka 150-200 per maund. The farmers alleged that sometimes they are forced to sell jute on credit while the middlemen and stockists have been taking advantage of the situation and depriving them of fair price due to lack of proper marketing system. The jute traders opined that the prevailing jute market is the impact of reluctance of jute exporter and millers who did not get advance this year to purchase jute. **Case against 5 for misappropriation** The Bureau of Anti-Corruption recently filed a case against five persons including the former Upazila Chairman, Tofazzal Hossain of Matlab upazila for alleged misappropriation of 86 bundles of C.I. sheets. It is learnt that government allotted 120 bundles of C.I. for 53 institutions of Matlab upazila, accordingly the C.I. sheets were lifted by the project committee and later on submitted master roll showing distribution. But on investigation the Anti-Corruption Bureau found that out of total 120 bundles, 86 bundles worth Taka two lakh have been misappropriated by the project committee.

Brahmaputra flood control embankment now a curse

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Oct 4: One hundred and thirty-five miles long Brahmaputra flood control embankment known as WDB bandh has become a curse for crores of people living in the western part of the embankment. It is learnt that the embankment was built in the mid sixties by the then EPWAPDA from Dhokhawa in Kurigram district to Bhcrakhola in Pabna district as protection to vast tract of croplands and homesteads of Kurigram, Rangpur, Gaibandha, Bogra, Sirajganj and Pabna. A large number of sluice gates and regulators were also set up to pass in and out flood and stagnant water. During the last three decades devastating erosion of the Jamuna has devoured different parts of the embankment. Since construction the sluice gates and regulators failed to serve the purpose for major defects. The WDB has spent crores of Taka on construction works. But people living in the western parts of the embankment are facing difficulties for water logging during the rainy season every year. The repair work is not possible on the embankment because a large number of intruders have occupied both

sides of the embankment for commercial purposes. Besides, more than three lakh erosion affected people of six riverbelts have taken shelter on the embankment. About 95000 erosion victims from Sirajganj district took shelter on the embankment. The WDB has been entrusted with repairing and maintenance works of the embankment while Agricultural Extension Department has taken up schemes of afforestation to protect the embankment from natural calamities. The afforestation schemes have failed due to illegal occupation of the embankment. It is alleged that some organized vested groups with the co-operation of some unscrupulous elements of WDB have unofficially leased out the embankment to shopkeepers. Local influential quarters allegedly have created a 'zamindari system'. Following such irregularities, maintenance works of the WDB are being hampered every year. During rainy season vast areas of the embankments are washed away. Recently Dhunhat and Sariakandi in Bogra and Sonali Bazar and Khudbandi in Sirajganj district have been washed away. In every rainy season the WDB takes up schemes to repair the embankment where huge amount of government fund is allegedly misappropriated because the embankment sides are only polished instead of extending new earth works. Due to water logging in the western part of the embankment vast tract of croplands remain uncultivated causing shortage of food production. Besides, the croplands of these areas are gradually losing productivity for massive use of chemical fertilizers.



Stands First Class First

AGRI-VARSITY (Mymensingh) Oct 4: Harendra Nath Borman stood First in First Class in the Irrigation and Water Management group of the B. Sc. Agri. Engg. (Hons.) Final examination of Bangladesh Agricultural University for the year 1988, says a press release. It may be mentioned that the above examination was held in the month of March, 1991. All through a brilliant student, Harendra Nath passed SSC examination in 1982 and H.S.C. examination in 1984 from the Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board of Rajshahi securing first division in both the examinations. He is the youngest son of the Late Dhiramot Borman and Mr. Jogendra Nath Borman, a veteran social worker hailing from the village West Dailjor of Lalmonirhat district.

Draught animal shortage hampers cultivation

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, Oct 4: Acute bullock shortage has been prevailing in four upazilas of the district posing threat to cultivation. According to the sources, about 60 to 80 per cent farmers do not have bullocks to till their lands. Consequently 25 to 30 per cent of land in the upazila remain uncultivated causing shortfall in crop production. Most of the farmers are working on share basis as they cannot afford to purchase bullocks due to sharp rise in their prices. The shortage is mainly due to loss of a large number of cattleheads during the tidal surge of April 29 this year.

Medicines scarce in Sadar Hospital District Sadar Hospital lacks in proper medical facilities. Everyday a large number of patients with complications return home disappointed for want of beds and medicines. Many emergency patients are found lying on the floor. Moreover shortage of equipment, apparatus, specialists and surgical consultants are hampering treatment seriously. There is no emergency power supply unit in the hospital. Very often surgeons have to use torch light in the operation theatre during power failure. Shortage of life saving drugs has become a common feature. Even paracetamol and red mixture are not available in the hospital.

Pests damage Aman plants on 12000 acres

PATUAKHALI, Oct 4: Standing Aman plants on about 12,000 acres of land have been damaged by Mazra and Pamri pests in Bakerganj upazila of the district in the current season, reports UNB. The worst affected areas are Dudal, Hailta, Kabat, Garururia, Goma, Padishipur, Darial and Durgapur.