

Upazila roundup

SIRAJGANJ

House ransacked

From Our Correspondent
Oct 6: A group of unruly people Friday ransacked the house of Abdul Bari, Deputy Commander of Sirajganj Muktiyoddha Sangshad at village Khaga under Sadar upazila following a feud over February 27 polls.

A case was lodged with Sirajganj police and two persons were arrested in this connection. The district unit of Muktiyoddha Sangshad condemned the incident and demanded exemplary punishment to those responsible.

JAMALPUR

Reception

From Our Correspondent
Oct 6: Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), Jamalpur district unit recorded a reception to Mr. Scrajul Haq MP and Deputy State Minister for Health and Family Planning recently. The reception meeting was held at the local public hall with SM Khairul Bashar Chisty, Convener of Jamalpur District unit BNP in the chair.

It was addressed, among others, by Begum Rahima Khondakar, MP, Advocate Abdus Subhan ex-MP, Advocate Aftabuddin Ahmed, Advocate Abdul Khaleque, Anzad Hossain Malik, Siddiqur Rahman, Nazrul Chowdhury, Farida Malik, Khondoker Ilias Mortaza, Humayun Kabir Talukdar, and Taposh Pathan. The minister assured the local people of his full co-operation in solving their problems and he also visited different flood and erosion hit areas of the Jamalpur Sadar upazila.

SIRAJGANJ

Agri-loan exempted

Oct 6: Local branches of Sonali Bank exempted agri-loans of 17,014 farmers of the district during the last seven days, reports UNB.

Since the recent government declaration to exempt agri-loans of up to Tk 5000, the branch has so far waived an amount of Tk 983,69,242.59 during the period, a senior official of the bank said.

Among the 19 branches of the bank in the district, 14 had extended the agri-loans to the farmers.

MADARIPUR

Street lights absent

From Our Correspondent

Oct 6: Lack of adequate number of street lights in the pourashava area has been causing much inconvenience to the town dwellers.

Most of the light posts of the town are without bulbs or with fused bulbs which create problems to pedestrians and vehicular traffic.

The town plunges into darkness after sundown giving rise to anti-social activities. Dwellers have urged the poura authorities to take adequate steps immediately to ease their sufferings.

BOGRA

Diarrhoea claims 35

From Our Correspondent

Oct 6: Diarrhoea claimed at least 35 persons and attacked over 2000 in Pirganj Sadar, Bahadurabad and Haripur upazilas under Thakurgaon district. In Pirganj pourashava area almost all members of every family have been attacked with this disease.

Minimum seven to ten days are required to cure the disease. Everyday a large number of patients of all ages is rushing to the hospitals and welfare centres, but returning disappointed for want of medicine. On a visit to the different upazilas it was observed that a large number of people is suffering from eye ailments. The disease is spreading rapidly to the rural areas. No effective medicine is available to combat the situation.

THAKURGAON

Eye disease breaks out

From Our Correspondent

Oct 6: Eye disease has broken out in Pirganj Sadar, Bahadurabad and Haripur upazilas under Thakurgaon district. In Pirganj pourashava area almost all members of every family have been attacked with this disease.

Minimum seven to ten days are required to cure the disease. Everyday a large number of patients of all ages is rushing to the hospitals and welfare centres, but returning disappointed for want of medicine. On a visit to the different upazilas it was observed that a large number of people is suffering from eye ailments. The disease is spreading rapidly to the rural areas. No effective medicine is available to combat the situation.

Taking advantage of the situation all sorts of eye drops and ointment are being sold at inflated prices.

SATKHIRA

2 housewives beaten to death

Oct 6: Two housewives of Chadpur and Shalghoria villages in Sadar upazila of the district were allegedly beaten to death by their husbands for dowry on Thursday, reports UNB.

According to family sources, the victim Jahanara, third wife of Kabir Sarder of Chadpur village was beaten mercilessly when she failed to bring dowry money from her poor father. She died on the spot.

Another victim Ferdousi Begum (20), wife of Rafique of Shalghoria village was tortured physically by her husband for dowry. She was rushed to the Satkhira General Hospital where she died on the same day.

Earlier pregnant Ferdousi was forced to leave her husband's house for non-payment of dowry money. Later she filed a case against her husband for her maintenance. But Rafique reached a mutual agreement with his wife and brought her back to his house. The bodies were sent to morgue for autopsy.

Two cases were filed in this connection.

KURIGRAM

Prices of essentials up

Oct 6: Prices of almost all essential commodities have registered a sharp rise in the district over the last few weeks affecting the fixme income group of people, reports UNB.

Prices of all varieties of rice have gone up abnormally in recent days. On an average the price of rice has increased by Tk 80 to 120 per maund. Medium quality rice is now being sold at Tk 14 per kilogram as against Tk 11 last week.

Each kilogram of flour is being sold at Tk 10.50 as against Tk 9.50 a few weeks ago. The prices of different varieties of pulses (dal) have also shown an upward trend in different town and upazila markets. Each kg of moshur dal now sells at Tk 28 which was sold at Tk 24 earlier.

Kerosene is being sold at Tk 18 per litre as against Tk 15, prices of all other essentials have also been increasing sharply.

Property worth about Tk five lakh was gutted in a devastating fire at Barialkandi Bazar in Rowmari upazila.

The fire originated recently from a pressure lantern of a stationary shop, soon engulfed the adjoining areas and charred 14 other shops with huge quantity of foodgrains and other essentials.

The fire was brought under control by the local people.

PABNA

Erosion renders 3,000 families homeless

Oct 6: At least 3,000 families in the district have been rendered homeless by erosion of the rivers Padma and Jamuna during the last five days, reports UNB.

Official source said, about 1700 families were rendered homeless by erosion of the river Jamuna in Bera and Sujannagar upazilas and another 1300 families in Pabna Sadar and Ishwardi upazilas by the river Padma.

Three villages Raksha, Sindhapan and Madhpur were washed away by the river Jamuna.

The existence of Ishwardi Airport, Atomic Energy Centre, Nagarbai ferryghat and Bera pump station have been threatened by the surging rivers.

Standing crops on about 500 acres of land were washed away over the last few days.

The affected village are Nakalia, Haturia, Gonapotlandia, Jadhupur, Purnavarenga, Natunwarenga, Kazirhat, Natibpur, Shakagonj, Nazirgonj, Sagorkandi, Talibandh, Saridraipur, Khashchar, Ruppur and Munshipara.

Government has already distributed 500 bundles of CI sheet and cash money Tk 3 lakh among the victims.

KUSHTIA

Customs collect Tk 6.35 cr revenue

Oct 6: Customs and Excise Department, Kushtia, collected Taka six crore and thirtyfive lakh as duty up to September 5 last, reports BSS.

During the corresponding period last year the department collected Taka five crores and twenty seven lakh.



NAOGAON: With the inundation of roads and highways by flood water road communication in many parts of the district has been suspended. Photo shows a tempo being ferried by a boat on the highway in between Hapania hat and Falimara bridge of sadar upazila. — Star photo

Floods leave trail of devastation

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Oct 6: The late moon soon flood this year along with ready croson of the river Padma and Mahananda left a trail of devastation in Rajshahi district.

Torrential rain and release of heavy flood water through Farakkah Barrage of India have caused flood in this region.

The flood has caused destruction on standing crops like IRRI paddy, transplanted Aman betel leaf and vegetables on 10,000 acres of land of the district.

The heavy current of flood water submerged crop fields of low-lying areas of Bagmara upazila damaging embankment.

About 2.20 lakh people of Rajshahi city, Godagari, Bagmara, Tanore, Charghat and Poba upazila were affected and over 15,000 dwelling houses collapsed so far.

Hundreds of cattleheads also perished in the flood. Thousands of people took shelter on the roads, highways and embankment.

Acute scarcity of food, firewood and pure drinking water has been prevailing in the flood affected areas of the district.

Due to paucity of pure drinking water diarrhoea and other waterborne diseases have broken out in flood hit

areas. But medicare is reportedly insufficient.

Inter-upazila road communication of the district is still disrupted as damaged bridges and culverts have been eroded.

The prices of essential commodities went up abruptly and their supply in the markets has registered a shortfall.

Education in most part of the affected areas was also hampered.

Meanwhile, government has allocated Taka 8.75 lakh, 140 metric tons of wheat and 501 metric tons of rice for the flood affected people of the district.

Power failure cripples industrial units

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Oct 6: Frequent power disruption has crippled small-scale industrial units in the district further raising the unemployment. Erratic power supply has been a long standing problem for the town dwellers. Local, domestic and commercial consumers gave several representation to the Power Development Board Authorities in this matter but to no effect. In fact some corrupt PDB employees give illegal connections on bribes.

These illegal connections are vital causes for frequent power disruption, it is felt.

Every alternate day the upazila and district towns plunge into darkness for hours together. The inhabitants on an average are deprived of electric supply for more than

seven hours a day. As almost all mills, factories, godowns, cinema halls, educational institutions, markets, offices, and commercial centres are located at the old town these industrial units incur a heavy loss.

Besides, electric lines are not properly maintained. Corrupt businessmen in connivance with technicians give illegal connections without metres.

On the other hand illegal connection holders use high voltage heaters and machines for which the transformers often go out of order due to overloads. Heavy fluctuations in voltage is creating panic among the consumers as most electronic gadgets go out as order.

Pests damage standing Aman crops

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Oct 6: Transplanted and broadcasted standing Aman paddy are threatened to be damaged by pest attack on hundreds of acres of land in four upazilas of the district.

The pests menace specially rice hispa has recently assumed an alarming proportion throughout the district. During the current season over 60,000 acres of land have been brought under transplanted Aman cultivation in Chuadanga Sadar, Alamdanga, Damuhuda and Jibannagar. Besides, over 20,000 acres of land have been brought under broadcasting Aman cultivation throughout the district.

Immediate steps and special programmes to control the widespread pest attack should be taken. Otherwise the production target of Aman paddy will abnormally fall in the district which may create serious food crisis in the district this year.

Law, order discussed

The meeting of Chuadanga District Law and Order Committee was held at the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner recently. Mr. Tajul Islam, Deputy Commissioner of Chuadanga presided over the meeting.

Discussions were held on 10 issues which included smuggling, teasing of school girls, irregular supply of electricity, illegal selling of rice, illegal VCR show and irrigation problem in Damuhuda upazila.

Red Crescent executives The election of Chuadanga district Red Crescent Society was held here at the Baid Jhunik Primary School premises recently.

Mrs. Bashira Mannan was elected Vice-President and Mr. Fazlur Rahman was elected Secretary of the committee.

Illegal occupants grab Roads & Highways land

From Our Correspondent

Bidis without bandrolls

Bidis are being sold without bandrolls in all 13 upazilas of the district causing heavy loss to the government.

According to the reports many bid factories in the district are selling bidis without bandrolls. The consumption of bidis has increased recently due to rise in the price of different brands of cigarettes.

In accordance with the existing law Taka 12 must be paid as excise duty for 1000

bidis in the form of bandrolls. It is found that owners of the bid factories supply their products in the markets without bandrolls. It is also observed that they use forged bandrolls and collect used bandrolls from the retail sellers to use it again.

Besides, the actual production of the factories is not shown in the paper for evading government duty. It is alleged that many customs officials help the factory owners in evading taxes. As a result, the government is deprived of huge revenue in this sector.

Civic amenities absent

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Oct 6: Civic life in the pourashava has become miserable due to deplorable condition of roads, absence of proper drainage system, lack of sanitation, poor arrangement of recreational facilities and mosquito menace.

Most of the roads within the pourashava area are narrow and uneven. Cracks and potholes have developed at many points impeding movements of pedestrians and vehicles.

Besides, roadside ditches are filled with filth and garbage causing bulk breeding of mosquitoes. Even after a slight rainfall water remains stagnant on many roads for days together due to absence of proper drainage system. Street lights are also inadequate and a large area of town plunges into darkness just after sunset giving rise to anti-social activities.

Housing problem has also become acute with the rise of

population in the town. Even rented houses are inadequate to cope with the rising demand. In absence of adequate recreational facilities youths are unable to enjoy their leisure time. The only children park in the town has become unfit for use for lack of proper maintenance and care.

Mosquito menace has made the life miserable. Students are the worst sufferers. They cannot concentrate on their studies owing to mosquito bites. In spite of repeated appeals the pourashava authorities are reluctant to remove the sufferings of the town dwellers.

Notes from Kishoreganj

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Oct 6: The Moushumi Shishu competition organised by Pakundia upazila Shishu Academy was held at the upazila auditorium recently. The items of the competition included debate, jari songs and wall papers. A good number of participants from different schools and organisations took part in the competition. Mr. Shamim Mahmud, upazila Nirbahi Officer, Pakundia distributed prizes among the winners.

Dacoit held

Gaffargaon police arrested a notorious dacoit with a country made pipegun and five rounds of ammunition and some booty from his house at village Daulpara under Gaffargaon Sadar Upazila recently. On receipt of a secret information Gaffargaon police led by Officer-in-charge raided the house of Abdul Mannan and recovered the stolen goods. A case has been registered with Gaffargaon police station in this connection.

According to the police, several cases are pending against him in various police stations.

Heroin recovered

Haluaghat police seized 100 grams of heroin worth about Taka 50,000 from the shops of Monsur Ahmed and Noor Mohammed near the hospital of Joyramkura recently. Police apprehended Monsur Ahmed and Noor Mohammed from their village Gorbakura under Haluaghat upazila. Later, on their statement police recovered the heroin. The smugglers are active and are sending smuggled goods by the route of Haluaghat border.

A case has been filed with Haluaghat police station in this connection.

30 injured in clash

At least 30 people were injured and household articles of three dwelling houses looted following a clash between two rival groups at village Nandula under Kishoreganj Sadar Upazila recently.

According to the police, the clash ensued between the two rival groups over a plot of cultivable land. Of the injured Anwara (40), Rahma (10), Wadud (14) and Saitar (22) were admitted to Kishoreganj Sadar Hospital.

A case was registered in this connection with Kotwali police station and police arrested six persons from both sides.

Body recovered

Kotwali police recovered recently body of a young girl (19) from a paddy field behind the house of one Abu Miah of village Mohinanda under Kishoreganj Sadar Upazila. Later, the police sent the body to Kishoreganj Sadar Hospital for autopsy. A UD case was registered in this connection with Kotwali police. The identity of the girl is yet to be known.

Escapee prisoner arrested

Meanwhile, police arrested an undertrial escapee prisoner named Jasimuddin alias Qaddus alias Nurul Islam alias Nizamuddin from his village home at Banati in Nandail upazila on Monday night.

TK 76.25 lakh land development tax collected

From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, Oct 6: The district administration has collected Tk 76,25,896 as land development tax for the last financial year from 10 upazilas of the district, reports UNB.

The rate of realisation of tax is 41 per cent.

The upazilawise breakup of tax collection is: Barisal Sadar— Tk 24,28,229, Bukerganj— Tk 9,77,719, Uzirpur — Tk 4,85,098, Babuganj— Tk 4,39,443, Gournadi — Tk 5,24,457, Agailjhara — Tk 5,73,824, Muladi— Tk 4,86,000, Hizla— Tk 4,96,769, Mchendiganj— Tk 7,09,718 and Banaripara — Tk 5,04,649.

Tax exemption upto 25 bighas of land has brought down the collection.

Housing problem acute in Faridpur

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Oct 6: Acute housing problem has been persisting in the district since long causing immense sufferings to the low and middle class employees of government, non-government organisations and other autonomous bodies.

According to the tenants, monthly house rent presently varies from Taka 1200 to Taka 2500 excluding electricity bill while the owners realise rent in advance creating pressure on the tenants.

Fixed income groups are unable to live in upazila towns with their families due to increased rents.

According to the house owners, increase in house rents is due to abnormal price like of construction materials.



JAMALPUR: Erosion takes serious turn at Bahadurabad ghat. — Star photo