

Upazila roundup

GAIBANDHA
Diarrhoea claims four more lives

Oct 12 : Four more persons died of diarrhoea in the district during the last three days to bring the death toll 110 in the last five weeks, reports BSS.

According to Civil Surgeon office source, 15 died in Sadar Upazila, 20 in Palashbari, 24 in Gobindaganj, 20 in Sadullapur, 4 in Fulchhari, 4 in Shaghata and 23 in Sundarganj upazila. A total of six thousand 748 persons were attacked with the disease all over the seven upazilas. About five hundred patients have so far been admitted to Gaibandha Modern Hospital and seven upazila health complexes.

A total of 95 medical teams are working in the affected areas.

NETKAKONA
Attack on BNP activist protested

Oct 12 : Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and its front organisations brought out a large procession Tuesday in protest against the alleged attack on BNP activist and leaders in Mymensingh and Chittagong.

The processionists raised different slogans and paraded the main road of the town. Before dispersal a meeting was held in front of the office of the party which was addressed by district level leaders including Advocate Abdul Kuddus, ATM Chunnun Salauddin and Nazrul Islam.

COMILLA
Children's rally held

Oct 12 : A children's rally was held by Agni Jharer Pakhi, a children organisation on the occasion of Universal Children's Day, report BSS.

The rally was attended by several thousand children. The rally was addressed, among others, by Mary Rod Kaoski, chief of field operation of UNICEF Dr Zobiaida Hannan, Mrs Hedayet Sabina Afroz, President of Comilla Station Club.

On this occasion another discussion meeting was held at Comilla Town Hall jointly by Comilla Women Station Club and Agni Jharer Pakhi.

The meeting was presided by the President of Station Club Hedayet Sabina Afroz.

RANGPUR
Sit-in in front of DC office

Oct 12 : About 3000 workers of JSD (Inu) and Chhatra League (N-S) jointly staged a sit-in demonstration in front of DC and SP offices here Tuesday demanding arrest of the killers of Habibuzzaman Habib, reports UNB.

Habib, a student of Rangpur Carmichael College and activist of Chhatra League (N-S) was shot dead on September 25 mid night.

They earlier brought out a procession and paraded main streets of the town chanting slogans demanding immediate arrest of the killers of Habib.

A rally was held after the procession at Kachari Bazar square in which the speakers alleged that the killers of Habib was moving freely before the nose of the administration.

The three-hour long sit-in hampered the traffic movement in the town and hindered the normal functioning of the offices of DC and SP.

Later a memorandum was submitted to the DC by the Chhatra League (N-S) to press home their demand.

HABIGANJ
Moushumi competition held

From Our Correspondent

Oct 12 : A 'Moushumi' competition was held at Habiganj Press Club with great enthusiasm recently.

Sponsored by Bangladesh Sishu Academy, Habiganj district branch, the competition was inaugurated by Advocate Mansuruddin Ahmed Iqbal.

TANGAIL
11 pry school buildings constructed

Oct 12 : Eleven primary school buildings one each in an upazila of the district were constructed in last fiscal year at a cost of Tk 60 lakh, reports BSS.

Official sources said that the buildings were constructed to expand accommodation facilities of primary schools. More primary school houses will be developed in phases, the source added.

KURIGRAM
Eye diseases break out

Oct 12 : Eye disease that broke out in an alarming proportion in the district has attacked hundreds of people in nine upazilas of the district, reports UNB.

A large number of patients from rural and urban areas have been rushing everyday to the hospitals and health complexes seeking treatment. But due to shortage of essential medicines treatment is being hampered greatly.

Local doctors said vitamin deficiency and taking adulterated food and one kind of virus attack are the main reasons behind the outbreak of the disease.

Meanwhile, prices of essential medicines like eye-drop and eye-ointment have shot up in the markets causing great inconvenience to the poor buyers.

It is alleged that a section of unscrupulous medicine traders creating artificial scarcity in the market are earning wind-fall profit.

PATUAKHALI
Polythene bags cause health hazard

Oct 12 : Polythene bags have been causing health hazards and polluting the environment in six upazilas of the district, reports UNB.

Informed sources said, the used bags are thrown indiscriminately blocking the drains and causing water-logging much to the inconvenience of the people.

Local leaders suggested mass motivation on the ill-effect of polythene bags to prevent pollution of environment.

SATKHIRA
2 commit suicide

Oct 12 : Two people including a housewife in Kaliganj upazila of the district allegedly committed suicide by taking poison, police said today, reports UNB.

According to police Ahsan Gazi (85), of Napharkathi village allegedly committed suicide recently due to poverty.

In another incident, Sandha Rani (33), wife of Gobinda Ghose of village Arman allegedly committed suicide by taking endrin recently following a family feud, villagers said.

They said Rani was being tortured by her mother-in-law since her marriage. But on the fateful day she could not bear the torture and met the tragic end of her life by taking poison.

Two separate cases were lodged with upazila police in this connection.

KHAGRACHARI
3 Jatiya Party processionists injured

Oct 12 : Three processionists of Jatiya Party were injured, one seriously, in a clash with rival groups at college road here Tuesday, reports UNB.

Jatiya Party brought out a procession in the town demanding release of the party chairman and former President H M Ershad, JP. He led the Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) for the attack.

According to witnesses, the processionists while passing the college road, a group of youngsters attacked the procession with lethal weapons.

The seriously injured JP activists Emdad Hossain Pradip was rushed to the local hospital.

BRAHMANBARIA
Housewife beaten to death

Oct 12 : A young housewife was allegedly beaten to death by her husband for dowry in Raja Mariakandi village in Sarail upazila of the district, reports UNB.

According to police, the victim Feroza Begum (20), married four years, back with Nabi Hossain was being tortured for non-payment of dowry money promised by her poor father.

On Sunday night the cruel husband became furious when Feroza expressed inability to bring money from her father and beat her mercilessly injuring her critically. She died on the following day, family sources said.

The body was sent to Sadar hospital for autopsy.

A case was registered with local police.



GAIBANDHA : The river Brahmaputra grabbed a vast tract of land at Fulchhari upazila. Photo shows a building dismantled to save the bricks and rods from the mighty river. —Star photo

Jobless people crowd Rajshahi

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Oct 12: Influx of floating people and beggars in large number from flood-hit rural areas to Rajshahi city has been posing a great problem.

There has been continuous influx of beggars from different upazilas of the district. They are coming in large numbers from Charghat, Godagari and Bagha upazilas. Most of these people are victims of the recent floods and river erosion.

Due to acute crisis of food and having no work in flood-affected areas hundreds of jobless people with their dependants are pouring into the city in search of work for their sustenance. But failing to get any job many of them including women and children have been resorting to begging.

Meanwhile, most of the flood relief centres of the district have already been closed but post flood rehabilitation programme is yet to be started in many parts of the affected areas. With the influx of beggars crimes like theft and pickpocketing have also become rampant. After the sunset these floating people take shelter in groups on bus terminals, railway station, verandhas of government offices and commercial buildings. Besides, new slums are also growing in different parts of the city.

Social workers of the city urged the concerned authorities to take early rehabilitation programme like food for work for these jobless people.

Bus journey hazardous

Bus journey on different routes of the district has become hazardous due to overloading fare-hike, reckless driving and pitiable condition of roads.

Thousands of passengers are travelling at a great risk of their lives in 15 routes of the district everyday. The number of accidents has increased in recent days.

The overloaded buses have been plying at maximum speed and are very often involved in road accidents. Most of the drivers of these routes have no valid license, it is alleged.

The conductors charge fares much above the normal rate and in most cases are engaged in altercation with the passengers.

Bus drivers do not follow any time-table which causes much inconvenience to the people especially to the office goers.

Besides, buses, minibuses and coaches are engaged in competition to pick up passengers standing by the side of the roads without considering the capacity of their vehicles. Most of these vehicles are in deplorable state and emit black smoke causing serious health hazards to the people.

The condition of roads and highways, is pitiable and many potholes have developed at many points making them unfit for vehicular movement.

Absence of a bus stand at Baneshwar Bazar causes much inconvenience to the passengers. The situation becomes worse during the rainy season when the passengers have to wait for the buses under the open sky.

Moreover, most often transport strike on Rajshahi-Natore and Rajshahi-Bogra routes due to dispute between the transport associations and illegal toll collectors causes immense suffering to the passengers.

JCD rally

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) backed Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) Rajshahi University unit brought out a procession and held a rally on the campus demanding immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of the killers of Dr Milon.

Held in front of the university library, building the rally was addressed by JCD RU unit President Harunur Rashid and General Secretary Bahauddin Bahar.

Speakers at the rally said that BCL (S-A) has resorted to act of terrorism having failed to face JCD politically.

They said that this organisation provided shelter to the suspected killer of Dr Milon and created violence on the campuses. They called upon the students to build resistance untidely against terrorism in the educational institutions of the country.

Panchagarh presents a dismal look

PANCHAGARH, Oct 12: Thousands of pourashava dwellers of the town have been facing a lot of problems due to lack of civic amenities, reports UNB.

According to informed sources, out of 30 km roads in the pourashava, only 5 km roads are in good condition and the rest 27 km are in bad shape.

Cracks and pot-holes have developed on different roads where rain water remain stagnant even after a slight rainfall.

Besides, pourashava markets are also in deplorable condition causing inconvenience to the buyers and sellers. The shops and sheds have been constructed in an unplanned manner.

Established in 1985, at least 50,000 people have been residing in the pourashava.

Scarcity of pure water has been prevailing in the town as no water supply system has yet been established in the pourashava. The pourashava authorities have sunk only 272 tubewells, among them, 50 per cent remained out of order for a long time.

Power failure is a regular phenomenon in pourashava and the town plunges into darkness after sundown giving rise anti-social activities, the sources added.

In the absence of recreational facilities mental growth of the children are being hampered greatly.

and adequate number of doctors.

Filthy water and garbage are not cleaned regularly from the compound of the hospital emitting bad odour and creating health hazards to the patients, it is alleged.

Patients coming from far flung areas are going back without proper treatment due to lack of bed and emergency medicines.

Some patients complained that most of the doctors remain busy with their private practices and they are hardly available in the hospital during office time.

Local people urged the authorities to expand the bed strength of the hospital and solve other problems to ease the sufferings of the patients.

School in precarious state

The condition of 103-year-old Pilot High School in Boda upazila of the district has long been in precarious state hindering proper education.

According to informed sources, the school, built in 1888, do not have adequate furniture, space and educational appliances to cope with the increasing number of students.

The dilapidated science building of the school may collapse at any time. It is learnt that the repair work could not be undertaken due to fund constraints.

An amount of Taka 10 lakh is required to repair the same, school authorities said.

The science equipment are being damaged day by day for want of repair of the building causing problems to the students, the sources added.

The Managing Committee of the school urged the authorities to provide fund for necessary repair work of the school building without further delay.

Kabir visits diarrhoea-hit areas

Oct 12 : State Minister for Land Mohammad Kabir Hossain visited the diarrhoea affected areas of Nohali and Alamabdi unions of Gangachara upazila under Rangpur district yesterday, reports BSS.

He visited diarrhoea affected people at the local medical centres and distributed relief materials among the affected people.

Earlier, the State Minister visited the rehabilitation activities of 42 landless families there and addressed a cross section of people.

Mr Kabir said the government deployed all its limited resources for wellbeing of the distressed people and took all necessary measures to bring an end to sufferings of the common man.

He expressed his satisfaction over the distribution of relief materials. He also visited some test relief projects. He distributed some relief materials at Rajendrapur of Rangpur Sadar upazila.

Wing Commander (Retd) Hamidulla MP was present during the visit.



KHULNA : A scene from a cultural function performed by the students of Khulna preparatory school on the occasion of KG Inter-school art and cultural competition held here recently. —Star photo

NWD doesn't function properly in Satkhira

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Oct 12 : Nation wide Dailing (NWD) system introduced by Telephone Department has caused frustration among the subscribers of Satkhira due to irregular service.

Most of the time the NWD channels remain out of order and offer busy tones much to the inconvenience to the subscribers.

Only eight channels have been put into operation from Satkhira to all other places connected with NWD. Out of eight channels two are defective from the very beginning and could not be put into order as yet.

The six channels now working are too inadequate to cope with the need of about seven hundred subscribers of Satkhira.

Complaints in this regard to the higher authorities of Khulna and Jessore which control Satkhira and adjoining areas have been proved futile to the utter frustration of the subscribers.

Afforestation plan

Afforestation programme was undertaken at Kaliganj upazila in collaboration with the Upazila Parishad.

The programme was inaugurated by Mr. Monsur Ahmed, MP, where Upazila Nirbahi Officer and other upazila level officials were present.

Under the programme a total of 5000 saplings of different kinds of trees like Mehgani, Shishu, fruit-bearing trees etcetra will be planted on both sides of the road and also in front of the Upazila Parishad Bhaban.

Ten people including a football player were injured in a clash between rival groups of soccer fans outside the Satkhira stadium.

The clash ensued following the transfer of a player Nasruddin from Sultanpur club to P.K. Union club. Later the clash spread to the town and some shoe shops were ransacked.

The injured player belongs to P.K. Union Club. Two separate cases were lodged with the Satkhira police station in this connection.

Water logging leaves 75000 acres fallow

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Oct 12 : Water logging is hampering crop production on about 75,000 acres of land in beel areas of the district.

There are big and small beels in Bakshiganj, Dewanganj, Madarganj, Sharshabari, Melandah, Islampur and Jamalpur Sadar upazilas covering about 75,000 acres of crop lands.

A dependable source of the Water Development Board says that in the absence of necessary outlets stagnant water cannot be drained out from the beels and crop farming has become impossible for many years resulting in loss of nearly 30 lakh maunds of paddy worth about Taka 60 crore per year.

The source opined that the higher lands in beels can easily be turned into arable lands if a sound drainage system is introduced by digging 53 miles of linking canals with the river Brahmaputra.

Besides, water can be stored during lean period by constructing regulators and sluice gates at suitable places and the preserved water can be utilized for cultivation of paddy, the sources added.

A source close to Jamalpur Water Development Division said that the authority submitted a Taka 30 crore plan for the Re-excavation of the Brahmaputra and drainage system to extract stagnant water of the beels a few years back, but no effective steps have yet been taken by the higher authority in this regard.

Chandpur-Matlab road needs early repair

CHANDPUR, Oct 12 : Chandpur-Matlab upazila road has been in deplorable condition for a long time causing inconvenience to thousands of people, reports UNB.

Everyday, about 60 to 70 baby-taxi and many other vehicles ply along the road which is the only way to link Matlab upazila with the district headquarters.

Many diarrhoeal patients who come to Cholera Research Hospital at Matlab upazila headquarters using the road also faces serious problems.

In the absence of maintenance and repair work since the 1988 flood the road has developed many cracks and pot-holes at several points causing problems to pedestrians and vehicular movement.

There are three bridges including two Bailey bridges on the road. The Bailey bridges have become dilapidated and any accident may take place at any time.

When contacted, a local Roads and Highways (R&H) official told UNB that due to fund constraint no repair work could be done as yet.

Local elite have urged the authorities to take immediate scheme to repair and renovate the road.

Dredging on Jamuna in progress

MANIKGANJ, Oct 12 : The dredging work on the river Jamuna near Daulatdia Ferry terminal is progressing fast to facilitate the ferry services, reports UNB.

The BIWTA sources at Daulatdia said about five lakh cubic metre of earth would be dredged from the river bed involving an amount of Tk 2.50 crore.

Rapid recession of water level in the Padma and Jamuna and emergence of 50 shoals in river beds have greatly been hampering the movement of riverine vessels over the last few days.

The shoals have emerged due to heavy siltation in the river beds, the sources added.

The large size riverine vessels have already stopped plying on Aricha-Daulatdia route and that of small vessels are engaged in carrying passengers and cargo with great risks.

Potters need patronisation

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Oct 12 : Pottery, an age-old cottage industry of the district has been facing multifarious problems due to price hike of raw materials and shortage of fund, reports UNB.

According to a random survey, there are at least 2000 potter families in the district struggling hard for survival as the demand for earthen-ware have gone down in the markets.

The potters alleged that in the absence of loans by the banks they cannot afford to buy raw materials like clay, dye and other inputs at exorbitant prices causing great problem to continue their ancestral occupation.

About a decade ago, earthen-ware like plates and other utensils used for various household purposes were popular among the rural and urban people. But with the increased demand of modern utensils as the substitutes for earthen ones, the pottery industry is diminishing fast throwing hundreds of skilled potters out of profession.

Housing problem acute

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Oct 12 : Acute housing problem is persisting in the seven upazilas of the district since long causing immense sufferings to the low paid employees of the government, non-government organisations, non-government educational institutions, autonomous bodies and private establishments. Fixed income groups are unable to live in upazila towns with their families due to increased rents. They live in messes and rented rooms.

People are reluctant to built new houses due to huge financial involvement of construction materials and lands. Local people suggested that construction of government estates would help solve the problem to some extent.

Three commit suicide

Three persons including two women committed suicide by consuming pesticides in two upazilas of the district during the last two days.