

Upazila roundup

RAJSHAHI
Pledge to keep campuses violence-free

Oct 18: Leaders of different political parties of the district on Tuesday pledged to maintain peaceful atmosphere in the campus and society, reports UNB.

At a joint meeting held at Rajshahi College premises, they expressed their determination to remove conspiracies and terrorism from the campus and all strata of the society.

City Corporation Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu was the chief guest at the meeting which was presided over by central leader of United Communist League Fazle Hossain Badsha.

JESSORE

Call to give democracy a solid base

Oct 18: The Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Minister Mr Tariqul Islam yesterday called upon the people to uphold parliamentary democracy to fulfil the hopes and aspirations of the toiling masses of the country, reports UNB.

The minister was addressing a cross-section of people as chief guest at the local Eidgah Mekan.

Mr Shahiduzzaman MP and Mr Moshirur Rahman MP also addressed the meeting.

Mr Tariqul Islam stressed the need for maintaining congenial atmosphere in all walks of life to give democracy a solid base and institutional shape. He said that BNP was pledged-bound to ameliorate the sufferings of the down-trodden and for a balanced socio-economic development of the country.

JHENIDAH

Diarrhoea claims 17 lives

Oct 18: Diarrhoea claimed 17 lives including 11 children and attacked about 2,500 others in the district during last 15 days, reports UNB.

The victims were identified as Zahura (26), Papiya (6), Hasan (6), Bazlu (6), Matiar (12), Khodeza (10), Babar Ali (50), Anwar (25), Shushil (12), Kanta (3), Mohsin (35), Sharbanu (32), Baby (7), Mintu (6), Amirul (20), Chutu (5) and another unidentified child.

The worst affected villages are Narayanpur, Shakipur, Moharajpur and Achintanagar of Sadar upazila. Omedpur, Dudraipur, Tallipur, Shubidpur in Kaliganj upazila and Rangpur, Pangerputa in Kotchandpur and Luzarpur, Jalipur and Jamidarpara in Moheshpur upazila.

A large number of diarrhoea and other water borne diseases gripped patients are pouring in different upazila health complexes and hospitals, it is learnt.

Villagers complained that the situation aggravated due to lack of pure water and other necessary medicine.

RANGAMATI
One killed by miscreants

Oct 18: A Chittagong University graduate, Lieutenant Ali Tahkur was killed by miscreants Sunday on his way to Chittagong in preparation for journey to his new employment in the Middle East, reports UNB.

According to police, the miscreants believed to be Chakma terrorists took his money and other belongings before throwing away the body in the jungle of Bangalhalia of Rajshahi upazila.

The body was recovered the next day and buried at his village home after autopsy.

Police said Bangalhalia, situated at the cross-roads of Rangamati, Bandarban and Chittagong districts was a crime-infested spot which Lajpat from Shukhishah village of Rangunia upazila had to pass through on his way to Chittagong.

Lajpat who graduated from the Chittagong University last year was scheduled to leave for Middle East on employment this month.

BRAHMANBARIA
Erosion renders 2000 families homeless

Oct 18: Over 2000 families of 18 villages under five upazilas of the district have been rendered homeless by erosion of the river Meghna, reports UNB.

The worst affected villages are: Manikupur, Charlapang, Gachhala, Nurjahanpur and Barikandi under Nabinagar upazilas, Goal Nagar, Kadamtali, Soualtalla, Fakirdia and Kachua under Nasir Nagar upazila, Kakuria, Pakuria, Rajapur and Aurail under Sarail upazila, Marichakndi, Ujanchar and Chafurhat under Banchharampur upazila and Lalpur under Sadar upazila.

Most of the homeless people are living under the sky and others have been shifting their belongings including bullocks to safer places.

A total of nine village markets have been devoured by the Meghna erosion. The markets are: Ashuganj old Bazar, Lalpur Bazar, Balahmuza Bazar, Ujanchar Bazar, Maniknagar Bazar, Salimganj Bazar, Chatalpar Bazar, Marichakandi old Bazar and Goal Nagar Bazar.

Informed sources said, the Ashuganj Silo godown and nearly 40 villages under Nabinagar, Banchhabarampur, Sarail, Nasirnagar upazila and Sadar upazila are now almost on the verge of being washed away.

The local Water Development Board (WDB) officials said that they visited the affected areas of Nabinagar and Banchhabarampur upazilas to see what could be done to protect the threatened villages.

RANGPUR

Punishment to housewife's killers demanded

Oct 18: Local people of Mahiganj area under the Rangpur pourashava submitted Wednesday a written application to the Deputy Commissioner demanding exemplary punishment to the killers of a young housewife, reports UNB.

According to them, Rokeya Begum (17) was tortured to death by her husband and brother-in-law Saturday and they hanged the body from the ceiling of their house to prove that she committed suicide.

Five hundred and two signatures of the area also submitted that the family members of the victim have been threatened by the killers not to proceed with the case. The applicants alleged the killers are also involved with various anti-social activities in the area.

PABNA

Misappropriation of relief goods alleged

Oct 18: Post-flood relief and rehabilitation programme undertaken by the government is going to be in vain due to misappropriation at the distribution level, local leaders and affected farmers alleged here, reports UNB.

About 80 per cent farmers of the district cultivated crops by borrowing from the ban but drought and floods damaged about 70 per cent of their crops this year, putting them into immense hardship. The situation further aggravated by unbridled price increase and lack of job opportunities.

Government, after being alerted about the situation allotted foodgrains and took measures to provide jobs to the unemployed people.

But 80 per cent wheat and rice under 'food for works programme' (FWP) and test relief had been misappropriated at the local level, they alleged.

Distribution of relief through upazila authorities, also proved inadequate to meet the requirements.

SIRAJGANJ

Release of Ershad demanded

Oct 18: Thirty-one lawyers of the district Bar Association Wednesday demanded immediate release of the deposed president Hossain Mohammad Ershad, reports UNB.

The demand came following a meeting of the lawyers with Advocate Lutfar Rahman in the chair. It was addressed, among others, by advocates Ashek-e-Khoda and Abdul Jabbar Khan.

They also condemned the attacks on Jatiya Party meetings on Ershad release day on October 10 in Dhaka and elsewhere in the country.



NARAYANGANJ: A devotee seeking blessing of the goddess Durga on the occasion of Vijaya Dashami, the greatest festival of the Hindu community at a puja pandal at Nitaiganj in the town on Friday. —Star photo

Flood renders 3,980 families destitute in Rangpur

RANGPUR, Oct 18: A large number of people have been rendered destitute in Pirgacha upazila of the district by the recent flood which washed away crops and destroyed their homes, reports UNB.

The district administration has confirmed that 22,640 people belonging to 3,980 families have been badly affected by flood and turned beggars.

The administration so far distributed 200 metric tons of wheat, 68 metric tons of rice and Tk 86,250 in cash among the distressed people of the upazila.

Three union parishad members of Iakumar union Zubad Ali, Muhtuddin and Rofzul Haque said they were staying away from their homes for fear of attack by the hungry villagers.

About hundred people died

in diarrhoeal diseases during the last one month, according to unconfirmed reports while officials confirmed four dead in diarrhoea and 27 by other diseases.

The upazila health and family planning office source said that worst affected unions are Tambulpur and Pirgacha Sadar. Nine medical teams were working in the affected areas.

Netrakona

BSS from Netrakona adds: The flood situation in the district further deteriorated as large areas under Kalmakanda and Purbadhala upazilas went under water with further rise in water levels of the rivers Someswari, Nital and Kongsra.

Besides, new areas of Durgapur upazila were also engulfed by descending upstream waters, turning the situation worse, officials sources told

BSS. The sources said that the descending waters in the district had caused loss of life and extensive damage to crop and property in the three upazilas.

Two persons including an old man and a lady in her twenties were drowned in Medabil, Kalmakanda were either damaged or washed away, the sources said. Transplanted Aman of 7,800 acres have already been washed away in the three upazilas. About 1,500 flood-stricken persons have taken shelters in various centres set up in the district.

Advocate MA Karim MP and Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad accompanied by the Deputy Commissioner of Netrakona visited the flood affected areas of Durgapur upazilas. He talked with the affected people and distributed relief among the people, the sources said.

Shoals make ferry services difficult

KUSHITIA, Oct 18: About 500 loaded trucks and buses remained stranded Wednesday on both sides of Bharamara-Paksey ferry ghat as ferry services have become almost inoperative due to emergence of shoals in river bed of the Ganges, reports UNB.

Out of four ferry boats, three have been withdrawn while one small boat is in operation with half of its capacity for the last few days due to poor navigability.

North Bengal-bound trucks loaded with imported onions from Benapole border are waiting for a long period in ferry ghat causing serious concern for the businessmen as these are likely to rot.

Officials of the Roads and Highways Department said dredging operation was expected to start soon and would take at least four days to begin operation of all ferry boats.

About 300 trucks laden with goods and relief materials remained stranded at Sirajganj and Ithauapur ghats for the last

five days due to shortage of ferries.

BIWTC sources at Sirajganj said the situation further worsened as water level of the Jamuna fell abnormally over the last few days with shoals at many points making it difficult for big ferries to ply.

Measures to start dredging on the troubled routes have not yet been taken by the authorities.

Of the five ferries, only two

are now operating. Two big ferries, Ketaki and Kishorec, have been transferred to other places and another named Jashohor was out of operation for the last five days.

Only Kukuloi and Faridpur were plying taking five hours to commute instead of usual two hours.

Relief goods from Chittagong and Dhaka were getting damaged due to prolonged delay at the ghats.

Hospital in disarray

SIRAJGANJ, Oct 18: Sadar Hospital and Health Complexes in nine upazilas of the district have been plagued with multifarious problems depriving the people of proper medicare, reports UNB.

People coming from remote areas are going back without proper treatment due to lack of bed, blood bank, emergency medicine and adequate number of doctors in most of the health complexes.

Normal functions at the Sadar hospital have been hampered and security threatened due to the absence of boundary wall, a doctor said.

There is no room to accommodate the growing number of patients, even on the floor.

Patients are pouring in at the hospital in large number every day due to the recent outbreak of diarrhoea and other water borne diseases.

Notes from Chuadanga

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Oct 18: About 100 rickshaw and van pullers of Jhenidah town ignoring downpour brought out a procession chanting various slogans and marched towards the Deputy Commissioner's office of Jhenidah to press home their demand.

They urged the Deputy Commissioner to evict the illegal occupants of rickshaw van stand at Chuadanga Bus Stand of Jhenidah town. They also organised a meeting earlier at Chuadanga Bus Stand in this respect.

Terrorism protested

Students of Chaklapara High School of Jhenidah town brought out a procession protesting terror and anti-social activities in the school area. They are also boycotting their classes from October 10.

It is reported that a group of youths engaged in anti-social activities in the school area attacked the residence of the Headmaster twice and assaulted him and the Assistant Headmaster Ibrahim Khalil on October 10 as the Headmaster protested their illegal activities. The students submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner, Jhenidah demanding the punishment of the culprits.

The Teachers' Association in a meeting warned the authorities that they would chalk and further programme if proper actions are not taken against the culprits.

Diarrhoea

Diarrhoea claimed 16 lives and attacked 200 others during the last 15 days in the district.

The affected upazilas are Jhenidah Sadar, Kaliganj, Kotchandpur and Moheshpur while the affected villages are Narayanpur, Maharajpur, Omedpur, Ranganputa, Dudraipur, Shubidpur, Babra and Achintanagar.

It is reported that everyday new patients are being admitted to upazila health complexes and hospitals.

When contacted repeatedly, District Civil Surgeon, Jhenidah declined to give any information about the disease. The authorities failed to take adequate measures to combat the disease, the villagers alleged.

5-party alliance meeting

Central leaders of the Five-party alliance in a meeting criticised the ruling party for its failure to curb terrorism throughout the country including educational campus.

Bimal Biswas of United Communist League, Nirmal Sen of Samik Krishak Samajbadi Dal, A F M Saiful Haq of Workers Party, Sharif Nurul Ambia of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (Inu) and Abdullah Sarkar of Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (Khaleq) addressed the meeting held at Agrani Bank square in Jhenidah town recently. Monwar Hussain President Jhenidah unit of JSD (Inu) presided over the meeting.

Kaptai Lake water inundates cropland

RANGAMATI, Oct 18: Abnormal rise of water in Kaptai Lake have inundated thousands of acres of cropland and damaged houses in seven upazilas of the hill district, reports UNB.

The affected upazilas are: Langadu, Baghachari, Borkal, Naniarchar, Belachari, Zurachari and Sadar.

Heavy rainfall coupled with downflow of water from the Lushai hills aggravated the situation affecting at least one lakh people, nearly half of them rendered homeless.

Crops on about 50,000 acres have gone under water and one third of the crops might have been perished, local farmers said.

Anil Bihari Chakma, Langadu upazila Chairman said nearly 30,000 people of seven union parishads in the upazila had been affected.

Rural hats, bazars need care

From Our Correspondent

DINAJPUR, Oct 18: At least 100 hats and bazars of Parbatipur upazila in the district wear a dismal look for lack of basic amenities causing utter inconveniences both to the sellers and buyers. The shopkeepers and traders of these bazars have to pay enhanced taxes to the government agents and local 'ejaradars'.

These markets set up at the local initiatives have been expanded to cope with the rising population. As such shopkeepers and vendors are forced to occupy most of the spaces meant the buyers.

In the absence of drainage system, most of the hats go under kneedeep water following downpour causing obstacles to business activities.

It is gathered that a huge amount of revenue is being collected from the hats but no effective measures have been

taken to improve the conditions of the bazars.

Most of the hats do not have any sheds except a few markets exposing the buyers and sellers to the mercy of sun and shower.

On the other hand, tolls are being collected at a higher rate than the government fixed rates by some unscrupulous 'ejaradars'.

The ejaradars collect tolls from both the buyers and sellers at their own will further adding to sufferings of the people.

Though notices have been served several times by the concerned authorities to put an end to illegal possession of the hat areas, no fruitful result has yet come and the tendency for illegal possession is on the increase.

Most of the bazars except a few ones have no urinals or lavatory much to the sufferings of the people.

Cattle disease alarming in Sherpur

From Our Correspondent

SHERPUR, Oct 18: A large number of cattleheads have been attacked with various diseases in all the upazilas of the district.

According to unofficial sources, at least 75 cattleheads have been lost and about 6000 were attacked. The diseases locally known as 'Khura' and Golafula cripple the affected cattle. As a result, they are unable to move and eat grass due to infection in jaws and hoofs. Besides, haemorrhoid, septicaemia, locally known as Golafula has broken out alarmingly. At present about 1200 cattleheads are suffering from the diseases in different flood affected areas in the five upazilas of the district.

It is alleged by the people that since the outbreak of the diseases no attempt for vaccination of the cattle and buffaloes were initiated by the livestock department. When contacted some livestock officials, they informed that the situation remained unchanged as the villagers more or less were reluctant to vaccinate their cattle.

Some people at Kamarchar told this correspondent that 15 cattleheads were lost during the last few days and hundreds of them are still suffering from these diseases.

Local people urged the concerned authorities to take effective steps in this regard.

On the otherhand acute scarcity of fodder has been persisting in different flood affected areas of the district as the drought and floods damaged grass and other kinds of fodder this year.

Informed sources said farmers have been facing difficulties in feeding their cattle-heads. At least 90 cows died due to continuous starvation. Fodder scarcity have also resulted in gradual loss of their health and sharp fall in supply of milk. Prices of straw have increased alarmingly in different parts of the district especially in flood affected areas.

Prices of oil cakes, bran and husk have also gone beyond the purchasing capacity of the farmers. Hundreds of cattle-heads through out the district have already been reduced to skeleton and many of them are on the point of death. As a result, current Aman cultivation and ensuing Rabi crops cultivation would suffer a serious set back.

Farmers urged the authorities concerned to take preventive measures to decrease the attack and to increase the production.

Education Ministry will implement 65 projects

From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, Oct 18: Education Ministry will implement 65 projects at a cost of Tk 7,83,02,927 in five southern districts of the country under Barisal education zone during the current fiscal year.

The districts to be covered by this programme are: Barisal, Jhalakati, Bhola, Projpur and Patuakhali.

According to an official source, 56 project will be financed by the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and the rest by the International Development Agency (IDA).

The projects to be implemented are the construction of six two-storeyed town primary schools, 47 rural primary schools, nine senior madrasahs and three office-buildings for education officers.

Of the total Tk 96,42,000 will be spent for the construction of the six town primary schools. Tk 5,15,88,281 for the construction of 47 rural

primary schools. Tk 1,15,43,697 for the construction of nine senior madrasahs and Taka 55,28,949 for the construction of office-buildings for the education officers, the source said.

Work on the projects will start soon and will be completed within this fiscal year, the source added.

200 tons wheat sanctioned

Another message adds: A total of 200 metric tons of wheat have been sanctioned for Daulatkhani and Borhanuddin upazilas of Bhola district under Food for Work Programme (FWP) during the current season.

According to an official source, the projects to be implemented are construction or reconstruction of roads, bridges and culverts and clearing of bushes and water-hyacinths and levelling of school play-grounds.

15.27 lakh acres put under Aman farming

MYMENSINGH, Oct 18: A total of fifteen lakh twenty seven, thousand four hundred and sixty five acres of land have been brought under intensive transplanted and broadcasting Aman cultivation in five districts of Mymensingh agriculture region in the current season, reports BSS.

The districts are Mymensingh, Jamalpur, Sherpur, Netrakona and Kishoreganj. An elaborate scheme has been taken up by the Agriculture Extension Department to make the programme a success.

The department has distributed 2,22,555 kilograms of seeds of Aman among the farmers.

According to an official source, 8,30,890 acres of land have been brought under high yielding varieties and patjam while 6,97,755 acres under local varieties. 36,820 acres of land have been brought under broadcasting Aman.

A total of 850 demonstration plots have been set up in

different districts of the region.

The source further said a total of Tk 31,49,500 have been spent under agriculture rehabilitation programme during this season.

Installation ceremony

Another message adds: The installation ceremony of newly elected office-bearers of Teachers Training College, Mymensingh was held here recently.

Professor Muhammad Ashadur Rahman, Vice-Chancellor, Agricultural University was present as chief guest on the occasion.

Presided over by Professor Md Salahuddin, Principal of the college the function was addressed by the newly elected Vice-President Mr Ruhul Amin and General Secretary Mr Altabuddin Akhand.

651 tubewells out of order in Gaibandha

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Oct 18: Public Health Engineering Department has so far sank about 15,276 hand driven tubewells in seven upazilas of the district for supplying pure drinking water.

Of the total tubewells, 651 went out of order due to lack of proper repair and maintenance. Of them 142 are in Sadar, 51 at Sunderganj, 110 at Sadullapur, 95 at Palashbari, 129 at Gobindaganj, 96 at Pulchari and 64 at Shaghata upazila.

A Public Health Department source told this correspondent that this year disordered

tubewells could not be restored due to fund constraints.

The combined task force of Narcotic and Liquor Department, Gaibandha circle in a drive launched on October 9 raided the village Mirpur under Sadullapur and recovered two kilograms of processed hashish and ten large size hempo worth Taka 10,000 from the house of one Chandmi. In another raid seven hempo were recovered from the house of Sirajul Islam cultivated illegally. The cost of the hempo was estimated at Taka 10,000. A case was filed with Sadullapur upazila court.

20 posts of teachers vacant

Twenty posts of teachers of various subjects in Gaibandha college are lying vacant since long hampering education to the students. Moreover Honours course in the college is facing total closure due to alleged negligence of concerned teachers and authority.

The college was set up in 1947 and nationalised in 1980. At present there are 1532 students on roll in different faculties. About 20 different posts of teachers are yet to be filled up of the vacant posts one each

in Bengali, English, Economics, Accounting, Chemistry and Physics, two posts in General History, Islamic History, Philosophy, Commercial Arithmetic, Botany and Zoology.

The college started Bengali honours course in 1985 but the said course could not be continued due to shortage of teachers and students. Moreover the existing teaching staff showed less interest on the restoration of honours course. Local elite urged upon the authority concerned to mitigate the sufferings of the students.