

Upazila roundup

MYMENSINGH

Rifle recovered from BAU teacher's house

Oct 19: Security guards recovered a cut-rifle from the house of a senior teacher of Bangladesh Agricultural University here recently, reports UNB.

Police said a 303 cut-rifle was found in the residence of Associate professor AKM Masud at about 6 pm when the University guards visited his house following a firing incident in which a school student sustained wounds in his leg.

They said Don, son of Professor Abdur Rahman of the University, was allegedly fired upon by his classmate Shuvra who is a nephew of Associate Professor AKM Masud (son of his wife's sister).

Shuvra was reported to have taken Don his maternal aunt's house at about 5 pm and allegedly shot at him in the drawing room.

Don was immediately rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital in an unconscious condition.

Motive of the firing could not be immediately ascertained by police.

A case has been lodged by Mohiuddin Howlader, a security guard of the Agricultural University, in this connection. None was arrested yet.

JESSORE

Tariqul visits flood affected villages

Oct 19: Social Welfare and Women Affairs Minister Tariqul Islam visited different water stagnant villages of Pagla and Sufala unions of Keshabpur upazila on Thursday, reports BSS.

Five out of nine unions of Keshabpur upazila have been remaining under water round the year for the last seven years.

During the visit the Social Welfare and Women Affairs Minister went from door to door of some villages including Krishnanagar by country boat to see the sufferings of the affected people.

The Minister talked to the local people who used to cultivate their land but now depending on fishing. He distributed some amount of GR cash among the affected people.

Mr Islam also visited several Puja mandaps and addressed a public meeting at Pagla under Keshabpur upazila.

MAJDEE COURT

Ban on polythene bag production demanded

Oct 19: Polythene bags have been polluting the environment and causing health hazards in six upazilas of the district, reports UNB.

The used bags are thrown indiscriminately blocking drains and ditches causing water-logging here and there much to the inconvenience of the people.

The bags are found lying on the roads and these are hampering growth of plants in croplands.

Local leaders suggested that mass motivation on the bad effect of polythene bags is needed to prevent environmental pollution. They also urged the government to stop production of polythene bags to check health hazards.

WDB completes nine projects

Oct 19: Water Development Board (WDB) has completed nine projects at a cost of Tk 11.39 crore in the district under the financial assistance of International Development Agency (IDA), reports UNB.

According to official sources, the project included construction of five sluice gates, three closures and 26 kilometres long flood control embankment.

With the implementation of the projects, a total of 18,000 acres of land will be saved from salinity and tidal surge.

About 16,000 metric tons of additional foodgrains are expected to be produced in the district annually, the sources added.

JHALAKATI

500 bundles CI sheets sanctioned for flood victims

Oct 19: Government has sanctioned 500 bundles of CI sheets and Tk 2.50 lakh under the rehabilitation programme of cyclone affected people of the district, reports UNB.

Official sources said, 116 bundles of CI sheets were sanctioned in Sadar upazila, 140 bundles in Nalchity and 122 bundles each in Katalia and Jhalakathi poura area of the district.

More than one thousand people of the district will benefit by the programme.

BARISAL

PHE will sink 4800 tubewells

Oct 19: Public Health Engineering Department (PHE) will sink 4,800 tubewells in southern districts of the country under pure water supply programme in rural areas during the current financial year, reports UNB.

The districts are: Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola, Jhalakathi, Bogura, Pirojpur, Madaripur, Shariatpur, Rajbari, Faridpur and Comilla.

According to official sources, 3,124 tubewells will be installed with the financial assistance of Saudi government and 1,673 tubewells with the financial assistance of UNICEF.

Of the total, 1648 tubewells are deep and the rest 3,152 are shallow tubewells.

Besides, 468 Tara pumps will be installed in Faridpur and Rajbari district under Faridpur division of Barisal circle during this period.

At least 14.50 lakh people will be provided with pure water in the rural areas of the districts.



A wooden bridge on thana council and Kautlia union road in Gazipur Sadar damaged long ago is yet to be reconstructed causing immense sufferings to the inhabitants of the area. — Star photo

Kidnappers active in Kishoreganj

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Oct 19: Kidnapping is on the increase in Katiadi upazila. Two girl students and a young girl were abducted by the miscreants within one month, it is learnt.

It is reported that a 12-year-old girl Tajmahal was forcibly taken away by the miscreants from her uncles house at village Mumurda. Uma Rani Sutradar (13), daughter of Khitish Chandra Sutradar of village Banigram and a student of Madyapara High School was kidnapped by miscreants at gunpoint recently. In another incident Shamsunehar (13), a student of Katiadi Girls School was abducted by a group of armed youngmen while she was on her way to school.

Separate cases were registered with Katiadi police station in this connection, but none has so far been rescued.

One person was killed and eight others were injured when a truck dashed against a tree on Kishoreganj-Mymensingh high way near Kanurampur recently.

The incident occurred when the driver of the truck lost control over the steering. The body of the deceased Anwar Hossain (30) was sent to the Kishoreganj Sadar Hospital for autopsy. The driver of the truck, however, managed to escape.

A case was filed with local police station in this connection.

Meeting

A regular meeting of Rotaract Club of Kishoreganj

unit was held at the Rafles Club recently with unit President Lutfur Rahman Potal in the chair while D. R. R. Ahmed, and Fazole Rabbi attended as chief guest and special guest. It was addressed, among others, by Selim Shazad, Ashim Chowdhury, Liton and Advocate Bidhan.

connection with the Kishoreganj Sadar thana.

2 killed, 25 injured

Two passengers were killed and 25 others injured when a passenger bus Rupanipa bound for Mymensingh from Kishoreganj skidded off the road and fell into the roadside ditch near Chowraasta on Nandail road recently.

Two passengers Shamsuddin (35) of Taljanga and Sreenibash (22) of Batrish were killed on the spot and 14 injured passengers were sent to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital and Nandail upazila health complex.

Nandail police recorded a case in this connection while the driver managed to escape from the spot.

Elder kills younger brother

Swapan (18) was killed by his elder brother at village Dampara of Kishoreganj Sadar upazila recently. Jalaluddin, the elder brother, in an altercation with Swapan got excited and at one stage hit Swapan with a dao on his head. Swapan later succumbed to his injuries at Kishoreganj Sadar Hospital.

A case was recorded in this

Siltation hampers navigation in Rajbari

From Our Correspondent

RAJBARI, Oct 19: Innumerable chars have emerged in the rivers Padma, Jamuna, Brahmaputra and their tributaries causing serious hindrance to navigation in Rajbari and Sirajganj districts.

Over 1000 small and big chars have emerged in the rivers hampering navigation in 175 mile-long river route from Daikha in Rangpur to Daulatdia in Rajbari districts.

Most of the tributaries of major rivers in these districts have been silted up disrupting river communication in rural areas. As such Baghabari river

port was closed a few months back jeopardising supply of diesel, chemical fertilizers, cement and other commodities to the northern districts of the country.

A competent source said that due to massive siltation in the rivers the ferry services in between Fulchhari and Bahadurabad-Sirajganj and Jaganathganj ghat are facing frequent disruption. No ferry can cross the respective rivers in due time resulting in wastage of a large quantity of diesel. Sometimes the ferry

boats get stuck in the chars. On the other hand a large number of small launch ghats were closed as the water level of the rivers and tributaries has gone down abnormally.

Body of one Ramzan Ali (35) of village Bagmara under Rajbari Sadar upazila was found near a local bazar.

According to the reports, the deceased went to his father-in-law's house at Kalyanpur under Alipur union and since then remained untraced. His body bore the marks of injury. A case has been registered

with the Rajbari police station in this connection. Vigorous police investigation is in progress but none has been so far arrested.

It is learnt that the deceased was a member of the local unit of Jaker Party. The party brought out a procession in Rajbari town demanding exemplary punishment to the culprits responsible for the murder.

One Shaifq (25) of village Komarpura of Alipur union under Rajbari Sadar upazila was stabbed to death recently near Allahdipur bazar.

Plantation of more trees underscored

From Our Correspondent

SHERPUR, Oct 19: A seminar on tree plantation was held at Noondir Bazar of Charnamuria union under Sadar upazila recently.

The theme of the seminar was the 'contribution of tree in maintaining ecological balance is unlimited'.

The seminar was presided over by Md. Mattur Rahman, Chairman, Charnamuria union while Md. Abdus Salam, Deputy Commissioner, Sherpur was present as chief guest and SP Sherpur Mr. Sultan Ahmed was the special guest.

Among others, Civil Surgeon Md. Lukman Ali, Sadar Upazila Chairman, Md. Atiur Rahman, UNO Ohiduzzaman and Agricultural Extension Officials were also present and spoke on the occasion.

The speakers in the seminar stressed the need for planting maximum trees with a view to maintaining ecological balance throughout the district.

The Deputy Commissioner said that the trees were the essential part of our life. He also added that the necessary ingredients for life like food, medicine could not be achieved without trees. After the seminar a tree plantation campaign was opened by the Deputy Commissioner by planting saplings on both the sides of the roads and highways.

Officers Recreation Club was formally inaugurated at Cricket House by the Deputy Commissioner in presence of a large number of officers, fans and elite of the town.

The inaugural ceremony was addressed by the Police Super, Additional Deputy Commissioner, ADM, ASP circle, Civil Surgeon, Ansar Adjutant, Chairman of Purasava and other elite of the town.

Deputy Commissioner Md. Abdus Salam, Convener of the Club Committee presided over the meeting.

A violated minor girl is fighting death in District Sadar Hospital bed. The victim Aemili (7) of village Boyra Puranpara under Sherpur Sadar upazila was raped by Mulad Hossain of the same area recently.

It is learnt that the ill-fated girl was abducted from her house and taken to a nearby house and was raped severely.

The victim was recovered by her relatives and was sent to hospital for treatment. Mulad Hussain has been absconding.

After medical test a case was started in this connection with Sherpur Sadar police station and investigation is in progress.

Notes from Kushtia

KUSHTIA, Oct 19: Target of Aman cultivation is likely to suffer a serious setback due to high price of fertilizers and pesticides, reports UNB.

High-yielding varieties of Aman paddy have been cultivated in 1.09 lakh acres of land this year with an expected produce of one crore maunds of paddy but due to flood about 10,000 acres of land have been badly affected.

Crops on about 5,000 acres have been damaged by pest attack. For proper irrigation, 233 deep tubewells, 2977 shallow tubewells and 350 power pumps have been working in the fields.

Cultivation of transplanted Aman paddy and rabi crops require maximum amount of fertilizers and pesticides but due to high prices the farmers could not purchase them.

Different varieties of fertilizer like Urea, Triple Super Phosphate (TSP) and Muriate of Potash (MP) are now selling at Tk 380, 275 and 220 respectively per bag of 50 kg while these were being sold at Tk 240, 245 and 200 per bag a month ago.

Competent sources said, as the government has no control over the prices of fertilizers and pesticides, businessmen are making brisk business at the cost of the farmers.

Money lenders active

Money lending business is flourishing in the district driving poverty stricken borrowers into severe indebtedness.

Informed sources said a section of money lenders invest thousands of Taka among the poor villagers at 10 to 15 per cent interest per month.

Farmers and poor sections of the villagers, borrow money for cultivation and to meet emergency needs by mortgaging their land or crops.

Money lending has increased in the district due to recurrent natural calamities badly affecting agricultural production.

Local elite have urged the government to make necessary laws to stop private money lending business.

Clothes seized

In an anti-smuggling drive BDR men seized a large quantity of foreign cloth valued at Tk one lakh at Bheramara market last week.

Upazila Magistrate Shaifq, Anwar and UNO Mashur Rahman, with the help of BDR, conducted the operation and arrested one smuggler.

The seized goods include 311 Indian sarces and 51 blouse pieces. The arrested smuggler was identified as Ashrafuddin.

Meanwhile, the police seized 17 Indian cows and six buffaloes in a similar operation.

House rent up

The low-paid employees of government, autonomous bodies and private organisations and also low-income groups are facing acute housing problem as the house rent has been increasing due to abnormal rise in the prices of construction materials.

A tenant these days has to pay a monthly rent of Tk 400 to 1000 excluding electricity, for a single room. Advance rent is also often demanded.

On the other hand, the price hike of construction materials discourages new construction of houses.

HABIGANJ

Diarrhoea claims 64 lives

Oct 19: Diarrhoea and other gastrointestinal diseases have so far claimed 64 lives in the district during the last one month, reports UNB.

Unofficial sources said the diseases that broke out in an epidemic form in most of the upazilas of the district have claimed more than one hundred people and attacked several thousands.

Everyday a large number of patients have been pouring into the Sadar and upazila health complexes with diarrhoea and stomach ailments.

A total of 107 patients were admitted to Sadar hospital alone during the last 10 days.

Due to shortage of beds large number of patients are going back home and passing their days without medicare.

MANIKGANJ

2 dacoits jailed

Oct 19: Two dacoits were sentenced to 10 years rigorous imprisonment on charges of preparing to commit a road dacoity, reports UNB.

The court also fined them Tk 5000 each, in default, to suffer six months' RI more.

According to the prosecution story, a gang of 18/20 dacoits while creating road blockades at Banajuri on Dhaka-Aricha highway to commit a dacoity police caught Lakkhan Chandra Das of Benpur village in Kalkotir upazila of Gazipur district and Khokan of Dhamrai upazila of Dhaka red handed on June 20, 1990.

A case was filed with Ohir thana and police after investigation submitted charge-sheet against them.

The Assistant District and Sessions Judge A F M Mustafa after examining the witnesses and records awarded the judgement on Monday.

The Assistant Public Prosecutor Mizanur Rahman Hazrat conducted the case on behalf of the state.

THAKURGAON

4.19 lakh affected by flood

Oct 19: At least 4.19 lakh have been affected by the recent devastating flood and onrush of hilly waters which destroyed 83,970 dwelling houses in Panchagarh and Thakurgaon districts, reports UNB.

According to official sources, nine people including two children died in the flood. Of them, three died in Boda, two in Panchagarh Sadar and four in Thakurgaon Sadar upazila.

The floods damaged 108 km road completely and 424 km partially.

Besides, crops of about 42,081 acres of land were completely and 1,30,703 acres partially damaged by the flood water while 201 educational institutions and 231 bridges and culverts were damaged partially or completely. About 3050 cattlehead also died in the flood.

Most of these people have been passing their days in great distress amid scarcity of food, pure water, clothes, medicare and shelter.

Massive rabi crop farming plan

From Our Correspondent

DINAJPUR, Oct 19: Three lakh acres of land will be brought under rabi crop cultivation in three northern districts of Panchagarh, Thakurgaon and Dinajpur districts during the current season.

According to the Deputy Director of Dinajpur Agricultural Extension Department, Taka five crore has been allocated by the government for Rabi crop cultivation in 23 upazilas of these three districts.

Different kinds of vegetables will be cultivated on 15,872 acres of land. The production target was set in Dinajpur 27,625 tons, Thakurgaon 16,250 ton and Panchagarh 7,509 tons.

Mustard in Dinajpur will be cultivated on 22,990 acres, in Thakurgaon on 28,600 acres and in Panchagarh on 10,625 acres. The production target

for mustard cultivation has been fixed at 17,965 tons in Dinajpur, 8,500 tons in Thakurgaon and 3,675 tons in Panchagarh district.

About 53,240 acres will be brought under Boro paddy cultivation and the production target has been fixed at 46,385 tons in Dinajpur district, 9,588 tons in Thakurgaon and 3,798 tons in Panchagarh district while 1,64,441 acres will be brought under wheat cultivation. Of them 89,185 acres will be brought in Dinajpur, 85,880 acres in Thakurgaon and 40,380 acres in Panchagarh district.

More than 2000 acres of land will be brought under peanut cultivation in 16 northern districts of the country during the current season. The production target has been set at 1,024 tons.

lands were ineffective in killing the pests. They said that the poor farmers could not afford to purchase the pesticides due to exorbitant rates in the open markets.

Besides, the farmers are handicapped due to the shortage of sprayers. Knowledgeable circles of the unions opined that if pest attack is not arrested immediately the prospect of Aman cultivation in

Role of female cooperators in uplift stressed

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Oct 19: A grand rally of female cooperators, of Mahila Cooperative Society under BRDB Satkhira was held at Satkhira auditorium recently.

Mrs. Farida Rahman, MP was present as chief guest while Mr. Abdul Mutalib, President, Satkhira Press Club and Syed Iftekhar Ali, Secretary, Red Crescent Satkhira unit were present as special guests. Mrs. Sanigtha Haq, ex-MP presided over the rally.

In her speech Mrs Farida Rahman said that Satkhira Mahila Cooperative societies under BRDB are marching towards the development of rural masses. She expressed her satisfaction at the all round development of these societies for the efforts of the women folk attached to these societies. She urged upon the women folk of the societies to work hard with honesty and sincerity

Pest menace alarming: aerial spray needed

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Oct 19: Pests have invaded Aman crops on 15,000 acres of land in seven unions of Ishardi upazila causing extensive damage to standing crops. The worst affected unions are Dasuria, Muladabi, Sara, Shapur, Laxmikunda and northern side of the Ishardi pourasaha.

It is also reported by the farmers that insecticides which they spray on their

RAKUB will give Tk 116 cr agri-loan

From Our Correspondent

THAKURGAON, Oct 19: Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank will disburse Taka 116 crore as agricultural loan during the current financial year.

It is learnt that the bank will disburse a short term loan of Taka 65 crore through its 294 branches in northern districts, to overcome the loss caused by the recent flood while another special programme has been taken up to disburse crop production loan of Taka 12 crore.

According to the Regional Manager, Thakurgaon out of 27,000 borrowers 17,339 involving a sum of Taka 10 crore 65 lakh have been exempted in the district from liabilities, those who took a loan of Taka 5000 each initially.

For the current financial year a target to disburse crop

production loan at Thakurgaon has been fixed at Taka 60 lakh but as on the date the bank in the district disbursed 10 per cent of the target through its 13 branches.

The intending borrowers who want to have credit facilities for transplanted Aman and potato farming are not getting loan due to non-availability of fund, it is alleged.

When contacted, a branch Manager of the Bank told this correspondent that there was no inflow of money, since January 1990.

As the recovery of outstanding loans is nil, on the other hand other commercial banks in the district do not entertain any loan application. But the Manager, Sonali Bank, Pirganj branch said loan for potato farming will start from October 15.

Meanwhile, adulterated insecticides have proved to be ineffective in killing the pests. It is strongly felt that if positive steps are not taken to curb the menace the situation may go out of control within two or three weeks. All the farmers demanded aerial spray throughout the district.

On the other hand due to price hike of insecticides

farmers are unable to spray their fields to eradicate the pests.

According to the farmers the leaves of the paddy plants are turned yellowish due to pest menace. If proper measures are not taken to combat the attack, the production may fall considerably.

On the other hand due to price hike of insecticides

these unions will remain blank. Our Sherpur Correspondent adds: Pest attack has been causing heavy damage to Aman crops on about 5000 acres of land under all upazilas of the district. 'Pamri' and 'Ledhi' pests have attacked vast tract of land in Charnamuria, Kamarersha, Charshepur, Bolyerchar under Sadar upazila, Nilukha, Belyua, Khoirakazir, under Sreebordi