

Upazila roundup

KUSHIA
Diarrhoea claims 22 lives

Oct 22: Diarrhoea claimed 22 lives and attacked 620 others in four upazilas of the district over the last 10 days, reports UNB.

With this, the total death toll in the district rose to 60. Of the total, 12 died in Sadar, seven in Mirpur, five in Bheramara, 35 in Daulatpur and three in Kumarkhali upazilas.

Local Civil Surgeon office, however, confirmed 47 deaths in the district.

Doctors said paucity of pure drinking water and taking of adulterated food were the main reasons behind the outbreak of the disease.

A total of 59 medical teams have been working round the clock in different upazilas of the district to check the spread of the disease.

GAIBANDHA

One jailed for killing wife

Oct 22: District and Sessions Judge here has sentenced a man to suffer life imprisonment on charged of killing his wife, reports UNB.

The court also fined him Tk 3000 in default, to suffer one year rigorous imprisonment more.

The prosecution story is that Solaiman of village Kishamat Bagchi under Sadulapur upazila of the district brutally murdered his wife Momena Khatun a year back. A case was filed with Sadulapur thana and police after investigation submitted chargesheet against him.

The Judge Abdul Hye after examining the records and evidences awarded the punishment recently.

Public Prosecutor Advocate Rahmatullah Azad appeared on behalf of the state while Advocate Abdur Rahman defended the accused.

RANGAMATI

Stolen timber recovered

Oct 22: Forest officials here have recovered stolen timber valued at Tk 2 lakh from Bangalhalia under Rajshahi upazila of the district, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, a team of forest officials led by an Assistant Conservator recently raided a tribal under construction residential school at Bangalhalia and recovered more than 200 cubic feet of costly timber stored there reportedly for use by the contractor.

The timber consisted of valuable species of trees had been extracted illegally from the government reserved forest.

A case has been filed but no arrest has yet been made.

In another raid at the Pattiya range recently, 8 wood-cutters were caught while they were stealing timber from the reserve forest.

A large quantity of illegally extracted timber were also recovered from their possession, an official source said.

A case was filed and the arrested people were sent to police custody.

PANCHAGARH

Jute sells below production cost

Oct 22: Growers have been facing extreme hardship as jute prices have come down in the absence of buyers in different markets of the district, reports UNB.

Each maund of jute according to quality is now being sold between Tk 120 and 225 in the local markets which is much below the production cost.

According to farmers, production cost of per maund jute is Tk 400 but they are forced to sell their produce at throw away prices in the absence of government and private purchasing centres.

Taking advantage of the situation, a section of brokers have been purchasing jute at a very low price causing great suffering to the growers.

JHENIDAH

Attempt on JCD leader's life protested

Oct 22: District Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) brought out a procession here Sunday in protest against alleged attempt on the life of its President Abdul Malek, reports UNB.

A group of miscreants raided Malek's house Saturday night and fired gunshot but he managed to escape unhurt, JCD said.

The processionists paraded the main thoroughfares of the town and submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner demanding arrest and punishment of the miscreants.

NETRAKONA

Durga Puja celebrated

Oct 22: Durga Puja the religious festival of the Hindu community was celebrated in the district amidst pomp and gaiety, reports BSS.

At least 125 Puja Mandaps were installed in different places of Netrakona district. Netrakona district administration had provided all facilities for the celebration of Durga Puja in Netrakona district.

The Whip of Treasury Bench in Jatiya Sangsad Advocated M A Karim MP visited a number of Puja mandaps at Barabazar, Ukilpara and Malni road in Netrakona town. Talking to devotees at Malni Road Puja Mandap the Whip said the present democratic government under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia was determined to ensure religious rights to all people. The images of goddess Durga were immersed by the Hindus of the town in the river Mogra.

MAULVI BAZAR

216 deep tubewells will be sunk

Oct 22: Public Health Engineering Department, has taken up a programme to instal 216 deep tubewells in six upazilas of the district during the current financial year, reports UNB.

According to official sources, of the total, 36 tubewells will be sunk in Kamalganj, 60 in Kulara, 20 in Barlekha, 30 in Rajnagar, 14 in Srimongal and 46 in Sadar upazilas.

With the installation of the tubewells, about four lakh people of the locality will get benefit.

BRAHMANBARIA

Slum development project taken up

Oct 22: A slum development project has been taken up to rehabilitate the slum dwellers of the town, official sources said, reports UNB.

About 570 families of three slum zones under the Pourashava, Krishipara, Beparipara and Shmiral Kandi — will get benefit by the project.

Roads will be built and power and water supply, sanitation and drainage systems will be developed under the project which will be implemented by Local Government Engineering Bureau.

In the first phase of the project, 50 latrines, 12 tubewells and three garbage-closets are being set up.

Besides, the authorities have sanctioned Tk 48,000 to be distributed as loan to the slum dwellers for taking up income-generating ventures.

Obituary

Abdul Awal, father of the renowned poet Mahfuzullah died of brain haemorrhage at Sadar Hospital here yesterday. He was 95.

He left behind five sons, three daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

He was buried at Sharpur grave-yard this afternoon.

NARAYANGANJ

Valuables worth Tk 10 lakh gutted

Oct 22: Valuables worth about Taka 10 lakh were gutted when a fire broke out in the Dikbabur bazar her yesterday official sources said.

Four shops were damaged during the fire. The shops are: Habib Trader, Moushumi Trader, Shajalal Confectionery and Stationery and Aslam Store.

The fire originated from the back side of the Habib Traders, fire officials believe.

Fire brigades from Mondolpara and Haji para areas of the town rushed to the spot and brought the fire under control.

RANGPUR

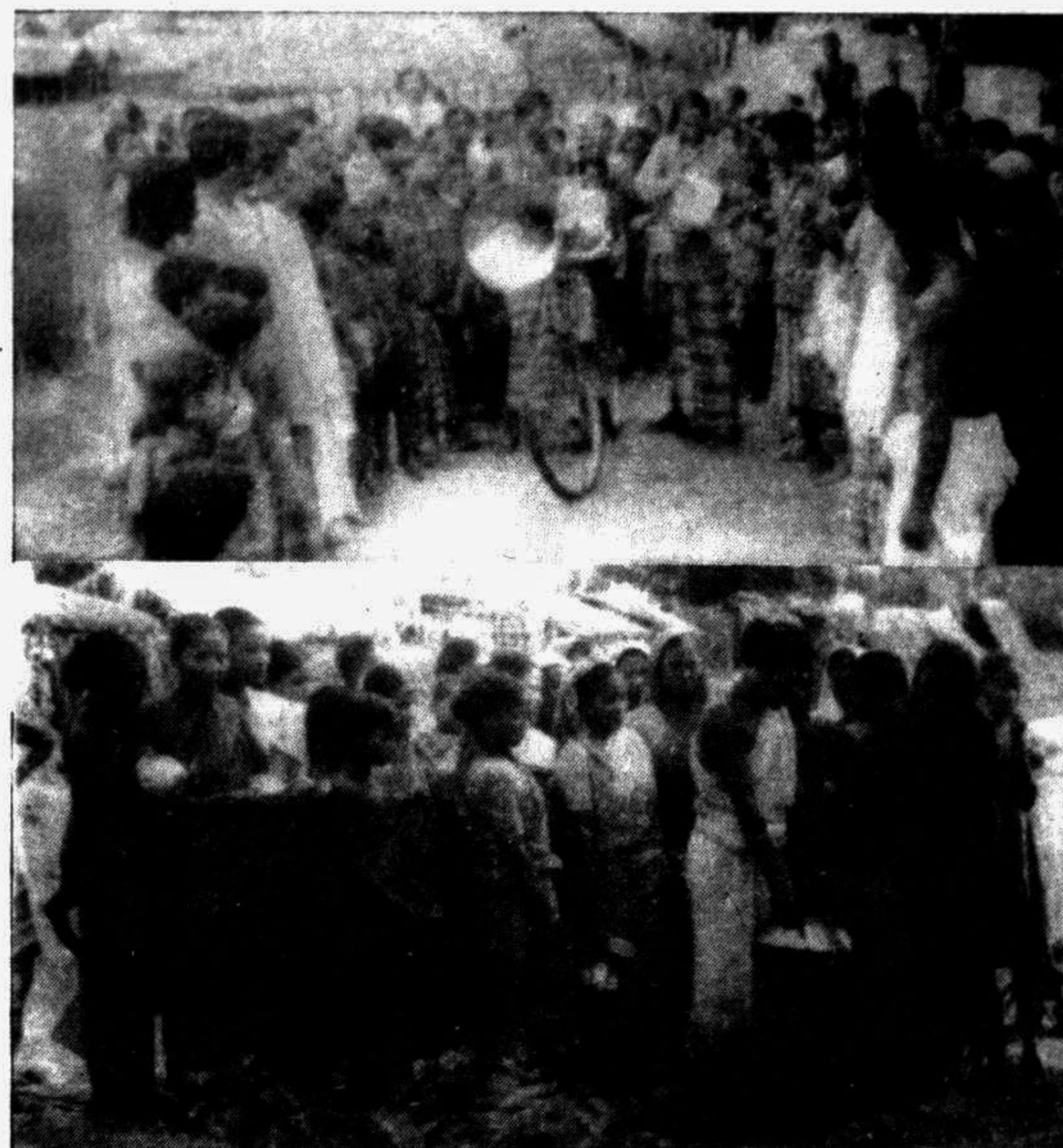
None died of starvation: DC

Oct 22: The Deputy Commissioner of Rangpur, Gias Uddin Ahmed, has said that there is no scarcity of food in the district and none had died of starvation, reports BSS.

The Deputy Commissioner was addressing a Press Conference on Sunday evening, and official handout said on Monday.

He said so far relief materials worth Taka 5.28 crore had been distributed among the affected people. The work on test relief is continuing and it would continue till the harvesting of new paddy crops, he said.

He said, the government, if necessary, would make further allocation for the district.



THAKURGAON : Miking for public awareness to combat diarrhoea by the workers of Rangpur-Dinajpur Rural Service (BDRS) at Pirganj (Top). A big queue for pure drinking water from a tubewell at Boirchuna area (Bottom). — Star photo

Diarrhoea claims 400 in Gaibandha so far

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Oct 22: Diarrhoea has claimed 400 lives and attacked 12,000 others during the last 40 days in the district.

It is learnt that the disease has broken out in an epidemic form in many places under the district. Gobinaganj and Palaashbari upazilas are the worst affected areas where the disease is spreading further in fresh areas. Most of the victims were children and women.

Contaminated drinking water, shortage of food, adulterated foodstuff are the main reasons behind the spreading of the disease. Although several medical teams are working round the clock in the affected areas but the disease could not be arrested. Terming the disease as strong diarrhoea, an official source confirmed 124 deaths and said that adequate measures were being taken and huge cholera vaccine, oral saline have already been

despatched to the affected areas.

One killed

One person was killed and three others received severe injuries in a clash over the issue of loading goods on ferry boat at Shahpara under Shaghata upazila recently.

According to report, on the day of occurrence some wooden furniture were taken to Shahpara Ghat on Sonatola Jumarbari road for shifting towards Kazipur upazila under Straiganj district. But a quarrel ensued among the boatmen over the issue of hiring boats. In one stage a clash took place between two rival groups. In which four persons received severe injuries. All of them were immediately removed to Bogra Md. Ali Hospital where one Farid, a student of Sonatola High School succumbed to his injuries.

3 injured

From Our Correspondent
Three persons were injured in a clash between two rival groups over the possession of a disputed plot of land and five dwelling houses were arsoned at village Barulpara under Sadar upazila recently.

According to a report one Jobber sold a plot of land to Tofazzal of the same village. Later Mofizul purchased the same plot. But the sale deed indicated the plot as home-estead. On the fateful day when Mofizul went to take possession of land he was resisted by the rival supporters and a clash ensued between the two groups. In which three persons received injuries. Meanwhile, rival supporters arsoned five dwelling houses. Fire brigade rushed to the spot and brought the fire under control. Two cases were filed with Gaibandha thana.



KISHOREGANJ : Construction work of the office of Kishoreganj district police line and SP office is yet to be completed due to fund constraints hampering over all work of the department. — Star photo

Corruption rampant in C'nawabganj municipality

From Our Correspondent

CHAPAI NAWABGANJ, Oct 22 : Chapai Nawabganj Municipality suffers from multifarious problems making it an ineffective body to extend minimum civic amenities to the residents.

Recently, a citizens' meeting was held in pourashava park in order to protest the rampant-corruptions of a section of the municipal staff.

The meeting was addressed by local political leaders and two former chairmen of the municipality.

The district unit of Awami League (AL) has sent memorandum to different concerned agencies narrating the plight of the towns people. The District Contractors' Association also lodged a protest with the Deputy Commissioner. It is alleged that work on IB projects at a cost of about Taka 14 lakh has been completed without inviting tender in local or national newspapers. Old bricks worth Taka 12 lakh were extracted from the road connecting the

Mohananda bridge. A huge volume of bricks was misused, it is alleged. No legal measure has been taken in connection with the theft of a stainless steel pipe. Huge amount of money was spent to repair an old mixture machine and work was distributed to the contractors of a particular political party defying rules and regulations. Spare parts of deep tubewells were purchased without floating tender.

Dysentery, influenza spreading fast

NAOGAON, Oct 22 : Dysentery, influenza and eye diseases have been spreading in all the 11 upazilas of the district, reports UNB.

At least one person from each family has been attacked by any of the diseases, creating a near-panic situation in the villages.

Change of weather, taking of adulterated food and post-flood scarcity of pure water are stated to be the main causes behind the outbreak of the diseases.

The recent flood destroyed two public libraries of Badaigachi upazila of the district.

Notes from Rajshahi

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAH, Oct 22 : The first death anniversary of student leader Naziruddin Jahad was observed here by different student organisations.

Jahad, President of BNP-backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), Ullapara Government College unit was shot dead during anti-autocracy movement in Dhaka city on October 10 last year.

The student organisations laid wreaths at the Shahid Minar, held rallies and brought out processions in observance of the day.

A rally organised by JCD, RU unit to commemorate the first death anniversary of Jahad was held on the University campus.

The JCD leaders paid homage to the persons killed during the anti-autocracy movement.

White Cane Day observed

International White Cane Day was observed here in a befitting manner as elsewhere in the country.

Various programmes were chalked out by different social and non-government organisations which included procession, distribution of posters and seminar.

National Blind Society, Rajshahi unit organised a discussion meeting on the occasion at its office building.

Rajshahi City Corporation Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu attended the function as chief guest while Nazrul Islam, Deputy Director of Radio Bangladesh was present as special guest. It was presided over by Dr Zobeda Khatun. Speakers at the seminar urged the well-to-do persons to extend their all-out help in order to make the blind people self-reliance in our society.

BCL conference

The annual workers conference of Awami League-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (S-A) Charghat upazila unit was held recently at the Charghat High School premises.

Shariful Islam, Vice-President of BCL (S-A) central committee attended the meeting as the chief guest. Presided over by Zakirul Islam, President, Rajshahi District unit, it was addressed, among others, by BCL leaders Fakrul Islam and Md Anwar Hossain.

Speakers at the conference called upon the workers to build the organisation strong under the dynamic leadership of Sheikh Hasina. A 37-member executive committee of BCL (S-A) Charghat unit was also formed in the conference with Md Ashraf Ali and Aktaruzzaman as President and General Secretary respectively.

Installation ceremony

The installation ceremony of the Rajshahi Darussalam Alia Madrasah Students Union was held on October 14 at the Madrasah premises.

Additional District Magistrate Abu Mohammad Abdullah attended the function as chief guest while Mawlana Majedur Rahman was in the chair.

Madrasah Students Union VP Mozammel Haque and OS Abdullah Faruk also spoke on the occasion. They sought co-operation from teachers and students to hold union activities smoothly.

Lalan's death anniversary observed

KUSHIA, Oct 22 : The 101st death anniversary of mystic poet Lalan Shah was observed here on Thursday with due solemnity. Thousands of Baqals from all over the country and abroad came to pay homage to Lalan Shah the great philosopher and mystic poet, reports BSS.

Kushia Lalan Academy organised a discussion meeting and a Lalan Geet function at the Lalan Akhra on the occasion. Deputy Commissioner of Kushia Syed Hafiz Ahmed presided over the meeting. Dr Tripti Bramma from West Bengal (India) also took part in the discussion meeting.

There are also allegations about the overbilling by a particular supplier. Illegal connection of water lines, construction of big building by the influential persons in the town defying the municipal rules and regulations and lack of coordination among the municipal employees are some other complaints most often put forward by the people.

Meanwhile, the district administration has ordered for probe into some corruption cases. Report of an enquiry conducted earlier is yet to be submitted to the authority.

The local political leaders along with the municipal dwellers demanded proper investigation of the corruption cases and trial of the guilty persons.

RDRS will open edn centres in 28 UZs

From Our Correspondent

DINAJPUR, Oct 22: Two hundred functional educational centres will be opened in 28 upazilas of 8 northern districts of the country by the Rangpur-Dinajpur Rural Service (RDRS) during the current year it is learnt.

The RDRS, a non-government organisation working in 8 northern districts of Panchagarh, Thakurgaon, Dinajpur, Nilphamari, Rangpur, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat and Gaibandha has chalked out an elaborate programme to promote literacy and education in observance of the International Literacy Year which was started in 1990.

These 200 functional educational centres will be opened

in five upazilas of Dinajpur district, three upazilas of Thakurgaon district, three upazilas of Panchagarh, four upazilas of Rangpur, two upazilas of Nilphamari, three upazilas of Lalmonirhat, one upazila of Kurigram and seven upazilas of Gaibandha district.

The functional educational centres aim at increasing literacy among the marginal and landless farmers of the districts. Besides opening of education centres, the organisation which is operated by Geneva based Lutharn World Service will publish posters and pamphlets. The RDRS will hold workshops and exhibition on literacy throughout the year.

Power failure cripples industrial units

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Oct 22: Frequent power disruption has crippled industrial units in the district. Erratic power supply has been a long standing problem in the district. Local, domestic and commercial consumers and town dwellers gave representation several times to the Power Development Board authorities but to no effect. Infact some corrupt employees give illegal connections. These illegal connections are vital causes for frequent power disruption.

Every day power disruption is reported. Besides, electric lines are not properly maintained. Corrupt businessmen in connivance with techni-

cians give illegal connections without metres. On the other hand illegal connections holders use high voltage, heaters and other machines for which the transformers often go out of order due to overloading. Heavy fluctuations in voltage cause damage electronic gadgets.

Lack of adequate number of street lights have been causing much inconvenience to the town dwellers. Most of the light posts of the town are without bulbs or with fused bulbs. Sometimes the town plunges into darkness after sunset giving rise to anti-social activities.

Loanees urged to repay outstanding loans

BOGRA, Oct 22 : The branch managers' conference of Rupali Bank Limited was held here on October 19 at Bogra Vocational Training Institute. State Minister for Finance, Majibur Rahman was the chief guest, says a press release.

In his speech the chief guest said that all-out efforts are needed to recover outstanding stuck-up loans of the Bank to revitalise the present economic situation now prevailing in the country. Since the stuck-up loans have created adverse effects on the country's economy, all officers and members of staff of the Bank should put in their best efforts for recovery of stuck-up loans for the greater interest of the nation, the minister added.

Referring to the bold steps adopted by the present government for recovery of stuck-up loans of the Bank, the State Minister maintained that the Bank's contribution for socio-economic development of the country was tremendous. He pointed out that the loans of the Bank which could not be repaid in time, had created

adverse effects on the overall country's economy. As a result, the desired goals of the Bank for economic activities of the country were being hindered. He expected that the loanees of the Bank would come forward to repay the Bank's stuck-up loans to help themselves as well as new prospective borrowers to avail of the new credit facilities from the Bank so that the country's economy would be revitalised.

Addressing the conference, the Managing Director of Rupali Bank Ltd, A K S M Tahir Hussain called upon the branch managers to work with discipline and dedication and to be more active in realising Bank's stuck-up loans. He pointed out that the performance of the branch managers in realising the stuck-up loans to the Bank would be taken into cognizance for future promotion of the managers concerned.

The conference was also addressed by Jalilur Rahman Chowdhury, General Manager and Yousof Ali Hawlader, Deputy General Manager and Zonal Head, Bogra of Rupali Bank Ltd.

Mymensingh lacks civic amenities

From BAU Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, Oct 22 : About three lakh dwellers of Mymensingh town have been facing a lot of problems in absence of basic civic amenities.

Most of the roads of the town are so narrow that two rickshaws can hardly ply side by side.

With the increase in population a few roads in the town were expanded. Besides, all the roads have become unfit for vehicular movement due to lack of timely repair. In rainy season all the roads of the town go under water.

The drains are not cleaned for months together. As a result, all the drains remain filled with garbage and after a slight rainfall most of parts of

the town specially Station Road, Swadeshi Bazar, CK Gosh Road, Madua Bazar, Hawker Market Chatta Bazar, Charpara areas go under water hampering movement of both pedestrians and vehicular traffic.

The main fish and vegetable market in the town has no shed. During the rainy season both the sellers and buyers suffer much.

Most of the light posts in the streets are without bulbs. The streets plunge into darkness just after sunset resulting in frequent road mishaps.

Moreover there is no children park or gymnasium or physical training centre in the town.



The handing over ceremony of huts constructed by Ramkrishna Mission for the cyclone victims was held at Kattali, Chittagong recently. Swami Aksharananda presided over the function. Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury, MP, delivering his speech as special guest. — Star photo