

Upazila roundup

HABIGANJ
BNP district committee dissolved

Oct 30 : The Habiganj district committee of BNP has been dissolved by an order from the centre and a 21-member convening body formed with Golam Murtaza as convener, reports UNB.

A letter issued on October 27 by Acting Secretary General of the ruling party Abdul Matin Chowdhury said the old committee was dissolved to strengthen the activities of the district unit, party sources said here today.

The new body has been asked to hold the conference of all units down to union level by December 31.

The new district leader, Golam Murtaza, was General Secretary of the dissolved body.

Abdul Hye Taher and Shaifur Rahman were made joint conveners.

COMILLA
Diarrhoea claims 5 more lives

Oct 30 : Diarrhoea claimed five more lives and attacked 10 others in Rasulpur village of Burichong upazila here during the last 3 days, reports UNB.

The victims were identified as : Surja Begum (50), Asma (5), Kohinor (5), Akram (7) and Marzina (7).

Sporadic cases of attack by the disease are reported from Sadar, Devidwar, Chandina and Chawddagram upazilas of the district.

District Civil Surgeon confirmed the sporadic attack and said preventive measures were taken in the affected areas.

KUSHTIA
Smuggled goods worth Tk 1 lakh seized

Oct 30 : Customs officials searched the Jamuna Intercity Express train yesterday at Jagti station and recovered Indian goods valued at Taka one lakh and fifty six thousand. The goods included sari, and cotton yarn.

In this connection two persons were arrested. Additional Police Super and, Assistant Collector of Customs were present at the time of search operations.

MAJDEE COURT
180 latrines installed by local NGO

Oct 30 : Unnayan Shahayak Kendra, a local non-government organisation isolated 180 latrines and six deep and 40 shallow tubewells in five villages of the district under its Flood Rehabilitation Programme, reports UNB.

The programme was implemented recently with the financial assistance of Terredes Homes (Switzerland).

The villages are : Aswadia of Sadar upazila, Alampur and Wasekupur of Begumganj upazila, Mohammadpur of Chakihil upazila and Aswadia of Sadar upazila of Noakhali district.

SYLHET
EPI evaluation meeting held

From A Correspondent

Oct 30 : An evaluation meeting of the EPI (Expanded Programme on Immunisation) was held on Thursday last, the concluding day of the 2nd National inoculation publicity week, at the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner's office. Mr Mujibul Haque, special advisor of UNICEF and former Cabinet Secretary attended it as the chief guest.

Mr. Md. Ishaque Bhuiyan, Deputy commissioner in-charge, Sylhet presided over the meeting while it was also addressed, among others, by Mr AFM Kamal, Chairman, Sylhet Paurashava. Mr Salah Uddin Mahmud, Civil Surgeon presented his report containing information on the achievement of immunisation programme in the district during the 1990-1991.

The chief guest urged upon all concerned to work hard with a view to making the national programme, a success. It may be stated here that, the EPI programme is being implemented with assistance from UNICEF.

Later, the chief guest gave away trophies among the winners of the 'Ma-o-Moni' football competition arranged on the concluding day of the week at the local stadium. Aided High School of Ma (Mother) group defeated Government Pilot High School team of Moni group by 4-0 goals.

KHAGRACHHARI
Sangbadik Samity executives

Oct 30 : The biennial conference of Bangladesh Sangbadik Samity, Khagrachhari district unit was held recently at the local Press Club with Mr Mahbul Alam in the chair, reports BSS.

Mr Golam Mostafa Chowdhury, Vice-President of Bangladesh Sangbadik Samity was the chief guest at the conference. A 10-member executive committee for the year 1991-92 was formed with Mr Tarun Kumar Bhattacharya and Mr Azizul Huq as President and General Secretary.

NETRAKONA
One killed in Netrakona bus accident

From Our Correspondent

Oct 30 : One person was killed and 10 others were wounded when a Shambhanj bound bus from the Shambhanj bus terminal fell in to a road side ditch at Majamaji on the Mymensingh-Netrakona highway yesterday morning.

Witness said the bus skidded off the road as the driver lost of the vehicle.

Madu Shaha (35) died on the spot while the injured passengers were admitted to different hospitals here. The driver managed to escape after the accident. However, the bus was detained by police.

SATKHIRA
Forest official injured in clash

Oct 30 : Assistant Conservator of Forest Kartik Chandra Sarker and six other forest employees were injured in a clash during a raid on a timber godown at Bardal bazar of Assasuni upazila here Sunday, reports UNB.

The clash occurred when forest officer and his men raided the bazar following a secret information that a huge quantity of Sundari, Pasur and Garan wood of Sundarban forest had been illegally extracted and stored at Bardal Bazar wood godown owned by Yunus Sana, Chairman of Bardal Union Parishad.

Forest officials said, a group of miscreants attacked the forest employees with deadly weapons suddenly injuring the officer and six of his men.

Forest officials had to open three rounds of fire to disperse the mob.

Nobody was injured in the firing, they said.

Local police confirmed the incident but they said none of the parties filed any complaint with them.

NETRAKONA
50,000 children suffer from skin disease

Oct 30 : About 50,000 children in all the 10 upazilas of the district have been suffering from skin disease and night blindness for a long time, reports UNB.

Children of age group 8-9 are the worst sufferers.

According to the local doctors, vitamin deficiency, malnutrition and lack of medicare facilities are aggravating the situation.

Health officials opined that mass motivation for primary health care and taking of vegetable and small fish are needed to meet vitamin deficiency.

FENI
PHE to install 837 tubewells

Oct 30 : Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) has undertaken a scheme to install 837 deep and shallow tubewells under pure water supply programme in the rural areas of five upazila of the district during the current financial year, reports UNB.

Of these, 196 shallow and 69 deep tubewells will be installed in Feni Sadar, 120 shallow and 24 deep tubewells in Daganbhuiyan, 135 shallow and 22 deep tubewells in Sonagazi, 128 shallow and 62 deep tubewells in Porsuram and 84 shallow and 28 deep tubewells in Chhaganaiya upazilas.



Ferry boats cluster around buckland bund in anticipation of passengers at a team time on a mid-day. — Star photo

Drug addicts on the rise, guardians helpless

NARAIL, Oct 30: The number of drug addicts is on the rise in the district resulting in further increase in anti-social activities.

The number of addicted youth both male and female has reached over 2000 affecting other youth in the district. It is gathered that male addicts between the age group of 14 and 35 are considered to be vulnerable while the percentage of female addicts is rising and many of them are married too.

The unemployed youth due to frustration get quickly addicted. Besides a large number of transport workers, small shopkeepers, restaurant owners, male and female college students and even a section of teachers and government officials and employees have become addicted to drug, it is alleged.

The drugs are available in the shops within the municipal areas and Bordia, all the road crossing and surrounding areas of the cinema halls of the district.

Being failed to procure money from other sources, these addicts take shelter under 'gurus' of the localities who easily recruit and train them as thieves, robbers and dacoits.

It is alleged that the whole process is continuing under the patronage of certain members of law enforcing agencies and political parties.

When criminals are arrested the political leaders rush to the police station and ensure their release. If any police officer refuses to comply, he is given threat of transfer which sometimes proved to be true.

Guardians of such mastans approach the police and other administrative authorities to detain their wards in prison to isolate them from their associates.

A renowned social worker of Narail alleged that the police personally know almost all the drug addicts, mastans and gurus and big and small liquor traders and smugglers but they hardly touch them.

Homeopathic stores have mushroomed at Narail town. These stores actually sell liquors in the name of medicines after obtaining drug licences. Drug licence authorities issues licences without checking, it is alleged.

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Fake NGOs cheat 6435 job-seekers in Gaibandha

From Our Correspondent

GAIKANDHA, Oct 30 : Fake non-government organizations (NGOs) have been making brisk business in remote areas of different districts and misappropriating huge sum of money from the jobless youngmen and women.

In June 1990 a fake NGO named Agro-Fisheries started functioning at local V-aid road of Gaibandha town and advertised for recruiting a lot of union, upazila and district level employees. Soon the organization engaged a large number of employees in exchange of Tk. 2,000 to Tk. 5,000 each as security money. But after few months the activities of the said organization found suspicious.

One day the job seekers gheraoed the district office of the organization demanding refund of security money. They caught six officers including one AGM and letter handed over him to Thana but other fake officers managed to escape with cash and documents. One such deprived job

seeker Parvati Rani told this correspondent that she was appointed by the said organization vide letter No. SF/10894 (3) dated 6.11.90 after depositing Tk. 5,000/- as security money. But during the tenure of her eight month services she received only Tk. 400/- as salary.

All such fake NGOs opened their branches for serving different purposes like women rehabilitation, small poultry farm, project for destitute women and interest free petty business loans. Accordingly the NGOs recruited large number of employees to cover up organizational structure up to union level. Before offering employment such organizations realised specific amount of security deposit. Soon after the collection of total amount the all these NGOs disappeared without notice.

During the past three years about 6,435 jobless youngmen and women were cheated by the fake NGOs in the district.

ent locations and published advertisement for mass recruitment on condition of paying specific amount of security money. They laid trap for the young jobless who fell easy pray of such NGOs.

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3 Shibir activists injured

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH Oct 30 : Three Chhatra Shibir activists were injured yesterday allegedly by Jatayabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists at government KMH College campus in Kotchandpur upazila of the district. Police and party sources said JCD and BCL (H-A) brought out. Two separate processions at college campus at 11-30 am on the issue of Dhaka University campus violence on Sunday. Suddenly a group of JCD activists from the procession attacked an injured the Shibir activists including two leaders namely Farook Ahmed, President, college unit and Ahsanul Kabir, Secretary of the Kotchandpur upazila unit and Library Secretary of the college students union.

Two injured Shibir leaders were admitted to Kotchandpur health complex.

Erosion renders 3000 families homeless

PABNA, Oct 30 : At least 3000 families have been rendered homeless by the erosion of the rivers Padma and Jamuna in nine upazilas of greater Pabna district during the last two weeks, reports UNB.

According to official sources, Meghal and Sonalbarar of Kazipur upazila, Hosenpur and Masihapur of Serajgonj Sadar upazila, Delua and Shohagpur of Belkuchi upazila, Shankalsh and Stalchar of Chowhall upazila, Tuthia of Shajadpur upazila, Stanghashan Rakshw and Madhupur of Bera upazila, Nazirgonj and Shakhagonj of Sujnagar upazila, Khaschar Shardiapur and Mularchar of Pabna Sadar upazila and Munhipara and Ruppur of Ishurdi upazila were washed away by the erosion.

About 200 people took shelter near flood control embankment and are passing their days in extreme hardship. The District Administration sources, however, said government distributed Tk 25 lakh cash among the victims.

The affected people have urged the authorities to take necessary scheme to protect the people from river erosion.

Miscreants loot sugar from customs official

From A Correspondent

SYLHET, Oct 30 : Sixteen bags of Indian sugar and dal were looted by a group of people from customs officials while they were on way to Sylhet after seizing the said goods. The incident took place at Golapganj Choumohani on October 25 last.

It is reported that, a contingent of custom officials seized 19 bags of smuggled Indian sugar and dal from a minibus at Chokria on Beanibazar-Sylhet highway. They took it upto Golapganj Choumohani and unloaded the goods there. When they were in search of a truck to bring the goods towards Sylhet, a group of people attempted to loot these from there. On getting information, police reached the spot. But in the meantime, already 16 bags of sugar and dal had been looted.

A case in this connection had been started with the Golapganj police station. None

has yet been arrested, it is reported.

Minor boy killed
A 14-year-old boy was killed by his master, owner of a tea-stall at Mokam-bazar of Golapganj upazila on Friday evening last. The alleged killer had been at large since the incident occurred, it is reported.

According to the report, the victim Abu Sayeed had an exchange of hot words with his master Shahrudin, owner of a tea-stall at about P. M. on the day of the incident. At one stage, Shahrudin became angered and attempted to stab Abu Sayeed with a life. He tried to run away from the stall. Shahrudin chased him and stabbed him severely at a play ground. Abu Sayeed died on the spot.

Police recovered the body and sent it to the M. A. G. Osmany Medical College morgue for postmortem. A case had been started with the Golapganj police station.

Steps taken to save crops from pest attack

RANGPUR, Oct 30 : Agriculture Extension Department has taken emergency measures to save standing crops from pest attack in the districts of Rangpur and Nilphamari, an official handout said yesterday. In Gangachhara upazila under Rangpur district 325 acres out of 500 acres of affected land have been prevented from pest attack by using different kinds of insecticides. About 225 kg of insecticide is being used by 52 spray-machines to control pest in the area.

Crop on 800 acres out of 1,500 acres of affected land has been saved from pest in sadar, Syedpur, Kishoreganj and Jaldhaka upazilas of Nilphamari district. About 325

kg of different varieties of pesticides is being sprayed by 111 spray-machines in the district. Relief Coordinator of greater Rangpur district Wing Commander (ret'd) Hamidullah Khan MP has visited the affected areas and directed the concerned persons to take emergency measures for controlling pest attack, the hand-out said.

Meanwhile, about 3,40,000 acres of land in Rangpur district and 2,34,000 acres of land in Nilphamari district have been brought under 'ropa aman' paddy cultivation, the handout said adding that an estimated 5.5 lakh tonnes of rice was expected to be produced from the land.

Facilities absent in Dinajpur Hospital

From Our Correspondent

DINAJPUR, Oct 30 : The General Hospital for 40 lakh people of Panchagarh, Thakurgaon and Dinajpur is now facing many problems, like shortage of medicines, inadequate number of doctors, nurses, beds, ambulance and absence of blood bank.

There are only 100 beds in the hospital which are inadequate to meet the increasing needs. There is no separate ward for septic treatment. The wardboy and sweepers have to work in the residences of the doctors, it is alleged.

The hospital have got four ambulances, of which three are totally out of order and the remaining one is also in a bad condition. Moreover, there is an emergency department in this hospital which needs at least three doctors on emergency basis to meet basic requirements.

Though it was declared a modernised hospital in 1980 and named General Hospital in 1988, it has no blood bank.

Besides, the indoor section is run with only one medical consultant and two medical officers.

patients come here every day is not below one thousand. One more medical officer and two clinical assistants are badly needed in this section.

As there is no boundary wall, the hospital has turned into a grazing field for the animals.

Aman production
About four lakh tons of Aman paddy may be produced this season in 13 upazilas of the district against the target of 3 lakh 90 thousand tons. Last year's production was only three lakh tons, it was learnt officially.

The area under ITAP cultivation was estimated at 1,41,000 acres whereas the actual area cultivated in the district is 1,44,000 acres of land.

According to the report, the area under HYV Aman and ITAP cultivation has been increased by about 41,000 acres compared to the last year. With the increase of HYV Aman cultivation, the area under local variety has decreased to 10,000 acres of land this year from 3,56,000 acres of land last year.

The local branches of different banks have so far distributed more than Tk 50 lakh among the cultivators during the current season in 103 union parishads under 13 upazilas of the district.

Govt firm to eliminate corruption

RUPGANJ (Narayanganj), Oct 30 : Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury today said, the present democratic government was determined to eliminate corruption and anarchy from every sphere of the society.

The government would put down all anti-social and anti-people elements with iron hand, he said and sought utmost cooperation of the people in this regard.

The minister was addressing a public meeting at Murapara degree college premises here. Presided over by local BNP leader Fozul Haq Manik, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Ataur Rahman Angur MP, Prof Rezaul Karim MP and Begam Ahsanullah MP.



KURIGRAM : Jatiya Party workers distributing relief goods among the flood-hit people. — Star photo

Relief work geared up in Kurigram

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Oct 30 : The Upazila Administration has geared up relief and rehabilitation work in the flood and diarrhoea affected areas of Kurigram Sadar upazila, according to the Upazila Parishad Chairman, Kurigram Sadar upazila Mr. Chowdhury Shaifur Islam, at the press conference held at his chamber recently.

He said that 138.85 metric tons of G. R. rice have already been distributed and 28,949 metric tons of wheat are under quick distribution among the destitute in the upazila. Test relief works have been started all over the upazila to create job opportunities for the unemployed people. In this connections 300,600 metric

tons of wheat are being spent. A sum of Taka 3,38,800 has been received so far as G. R. cash and another sum of Taka 1,25,000 as house building grant has also been disbursed. On the other hand, 375 pieces of sarees and 180 pieces of lungies have also been distributed.

Besides there normal VOD programme is continuing while, a special VOD programme is also under operation. The Upazila Chairman claimed that diarrhoea epidemic is under control. Meanwhile, some political parties including the Jatiya Party have been distributing relief goods among the destitute. Food scarcity is acute in

Chilmari, Rowmari, Rajtibur, Ulipur, Bhurungamari, Nageswari, Fulbari, Rajarhat and Kurigram Sadar upazilas of the district. Hungry people's desperate bid to survive by taking in edible were repeatedly the direct cause of the deaths resulting from diarrhoeal diseases and malnutrition. The situation in the district is rather appalling where relief materials so far distributed are inadequate compared to the vast mass of starving population. Meanwhile, a procession was brought out by the starving people at Ulipur demanding food immediately. The processionists also gheraoed the Upazila Parishad office and later submitted a memorandum to UNO demanding food for works.