

Upazila roundup

PATUAKHALI

WDB executing projects worth Tk 96 lakh

Nov 8: Water Development Board (WDB) has been implementing six schemes at a cost of Tk 96 lakh in Mirzapur upazila of the district, reports UNB.

Of the total schemes, four are drainage channels and two closure dams.

Official sources said 30 per cent work on the schemes have been completed and the remaining works will be done by December next.

When implemented, about 2000 hectares of land will be saved from salinity and flash flood, the sources added.

According to another reports, Local Government and Engineering Bureau (LBER) has taken up a programme to execute 34 schemes at an estimated cost of Tk 93 lakh in the district in the current fiscal year.

Official sources said, World Bank will finance the schemes which include construction of roads, bridges and culverts.

C'NAWABGANJ

Diarrhoea claims 7 more lives

Nov 8: Diarrhoea claimed seven more lives and attacked hundreds of others in Shibganj and Sadar upazilas of the district in the last two weeks, reports UNB.

The victims were: Faku (5), Tipu Sultan (6), Shulu (12), Nur Mohammad (17) and Fakur Mia (50) of Shibganj upazila and Monirul (5) and Shahidul Haq (9) of Sadar upazila.

Scarcity of pure water and adulterated food were attributed to the outbreak of the disease.

PAENA

Lightning kills 3 fishermen

Nov 8: Three fishermen were killed and two others injured by lightning at a village in Sujannagar upazila of the district Tuesday night, reports UNB.

Local people said that the victims Ramech (55), Shushil (35) and Samojit (27) died on the spot after being struck by lightning while they were fishing in the river Padma in village Bangrakandi.

The seriously injured were admitted to the Sujannagar health complex.

BARISAL

Siltation hampers navigation

Nov 8: Navigability has been reducing at an alarming rate because of heavy siltation of rivers and canals in the southern districts, reports UNB.

The Bishkhali river along the Barisal-Bagerhat route, Baherchar point along the Kalia route, Pangasia point along the Barisal-Bhola route, Mollarhat point in the Madhumati river, Diara point along the Barisal-Dhaka route, are some of the important river routes, which have silted up causing difficulties to smooth water transportation.

Dredging has started on some points of Kirtonkhola river but work is going on very slowly. It is feared that dredging work may not be completed within the stipulated time.

COMILLA

Press Club executives

Nov 8: Annual general meeting and election of Nangalkot Press Club were held on Saturday at Nangalkot upazila Parishad auditorium, reports BSS.

Principal Dewar Jahid, President, Comilla Union of Journalist presided over the meeting. Dr. A K M Kamruzzaman MP was present as chief guest while journalist Mr M G Mahfuz and UNO Nangalkot Mr Lehazuddin Choudhury were present as special guests.

The meeting was addressed, among others, by President of Laksam Press Club, Mr MA Jalil, President of Choudhaganj Press Club Mr Motahar Hossain Jamal, Mr Ali Akbar Massom, Syed Nurur Rahman, Professor Jamshuddin Ahmed, Mr Humayun Kabir, and upazila BNP President Advocate Nazrul Islam.

Professor Jamal Uddin Ahmed, Mr Abdul Karim and Mr Shamsuddin Didi have been elected President, General Secretary and Treasurer respectively of the Press Club for the year 1991-93.

JAMALPUR

Crushing starts in Zeal Bangla Sugar Mills

Nov 8: Dewanganj Zeal-Bangla Sugar Mills Ltd commences sugarcane crushing for 1991-92 crushing season from today (Friday), reports UNB.

Mill sources said that a total of 13,600 metric tons of sugar is expected to be produced by crushing 1,60,000 metric tons of sugarcane this season.

Last year, the mill produced 13,962 mt. tons of sugar.

MAULVI BAZAR

Housewife commits suicide

Nov 8: A young housewife of Nabiganj upazila allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself recently, police said, reports UNB.

The victim kamalpati (27) of village Sakua took her own life out of unbearable pain in her stomach, it was learnt.

A UD case was registered with upazila police in this connection.

MAGURA

513 metric tons wheat distributed among destitutes

Nov 8: A total of 513 metric tons of wheat have been distributed among 5,479 destitute families in four upazilas of the district under VGD programme during the last three months, reports UNB.

According to district Relief and Rehabilitation officials, each selected family received 31.50 kg wheat per month through 37 centres.

Of the total wheat, 160 metric tons were distributed in Sadar, 94 metric tons in Sreepur, 86 metric tons in Salikha, 165 metric tons in Mohammapur and eight metric tons in Municipal area.

SYLHET

Osmani Medical College Students Union polls held

Nov 8: The election to the MAG Osmani Medical College Students Union was held at the campus peacefully on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Jattayatbadi Chitra Dal (JCD) bagged 6 including the post of Vice President while Chitra League (A-A) bagged 13 posts including that of General Secretary in the 20-seat union. Chitra Oikka got a lone post.

Vice President and General Secretary elected are: Ziaul Karim Zia and Sohail Ahmed respectively.

BRAHMANBARIA

Development activities discussed

Nov 8: A meeting of the district development and co-ordination committee was recently held at the Circuit House with the Deputy Commissioner, Brahmanbaria, Mr. Khabiruddin Ahmed in the chair, reports BSS.

District-level officers and Upazila Nirbahi Officers (UNO) of Brahmanbaria district participated in the meeting.

The meeting discussed progress achieved in the developmental activities in different sectors including health and family planning, agriculture, education and forestry.

KUSHIYA

2 dacoits arrested

Nov 8: Police arrested two alleged dacoits Tuesday for their involvement in a dacoity in Bheramara upazila Saturday night, reports UNB.

The dacoity was committed in the house of Moulvi Baksh Maittha of Parankhali Bazar of Juntadaha union in which the dacoits looted valuables worth about Tk one lakh.

Police also recovered some looted goods including a bicycle and utensils from the possession of arrested Feroz and Moslem.

PATUAKHALI

8 FWP projects completed

Nov 8: Eight projects under Food for Work Programme were completed in Mirzapur upazila of Patuakhali district against 340 metric tons of wheat during the current season, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the projects included repair and reconstruction of roads and embankments.



COMILLA: Farmers harvesting Aman paddy at a village in Comilla. —Star photo

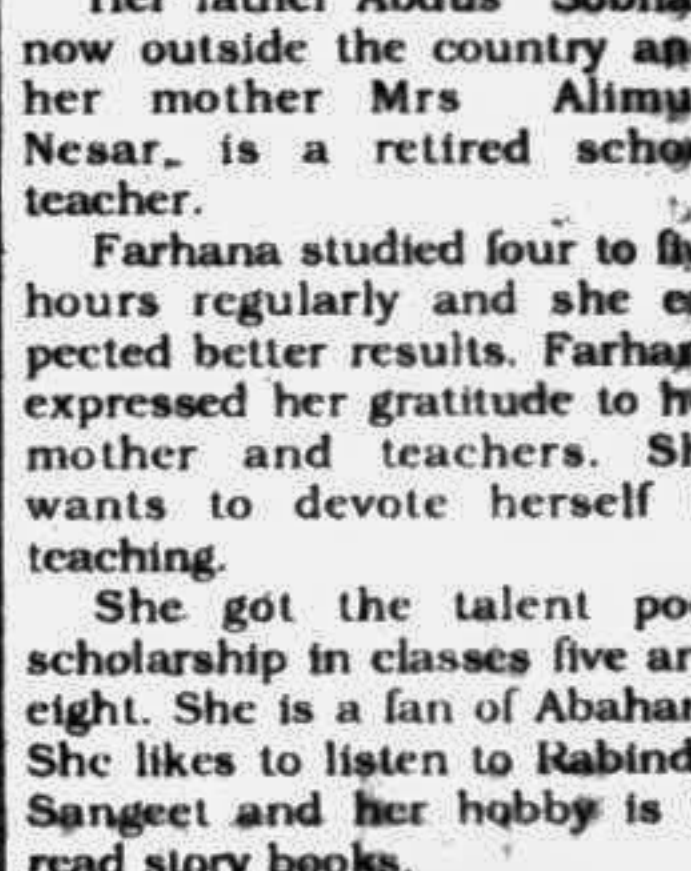
Betel leaf growers need patronisation

From Our Correspondent
SATKHIRA, Nov 8: The betel leaf growers in the district are facing manifold problems. As a result, cultivation of betel leaf in the district is decreasing gradually.
It is learnt that at present about 15,000 families of Tala, Assasuni, Kalaroa, Debhata, Sadar, Kaliganj and Shyamnagar upazilas of the district have been engaged in betel leaf cultivation. But due to lack of inputs, bank loans, marketing facilities and high rate of transportation the cultivation of betel leaf is decreasing. On the other hand, prices of inputs such as straw, oilcake, fertilizers and jute stalk have increased abnormally. But according to the growers, the market price of their products has not increased proportionately.
Some growers said that huge quantities of oilcake were required for betel leaf cultivation. Sheds over betel leaf plantation have to be changed at least three times a year. But now-a-days bamboo prices are ranging from Taka 60 to 80. Watering cost is also high. Due to lack of communication facilities the growers are unable to market their products. As a result, the middlemen are making much profits by purchasing it at much lower prices.
Five persons including four housewives committed suicide last month in Satkhira Sadar Upazila.
One Mostema Khatoon (30), wife of Alauddin of village Bashghata under Sadar upazila committed suicide by consuming liquid pesticides on October 26. Family feud was the reason behind the suicide.
Aklima Khatoon (17), wife of Abdur Rahman of village Barakhamar under the same upazila committed suicide by consuming poison on October 27. Family troubles were learnt to be the cause of her committing suicide, it is learnt.
Aysha Begum (25), wife of Abdus Sattar of Fingri of the same upazila committed suicide by taking pesticides on October 28.



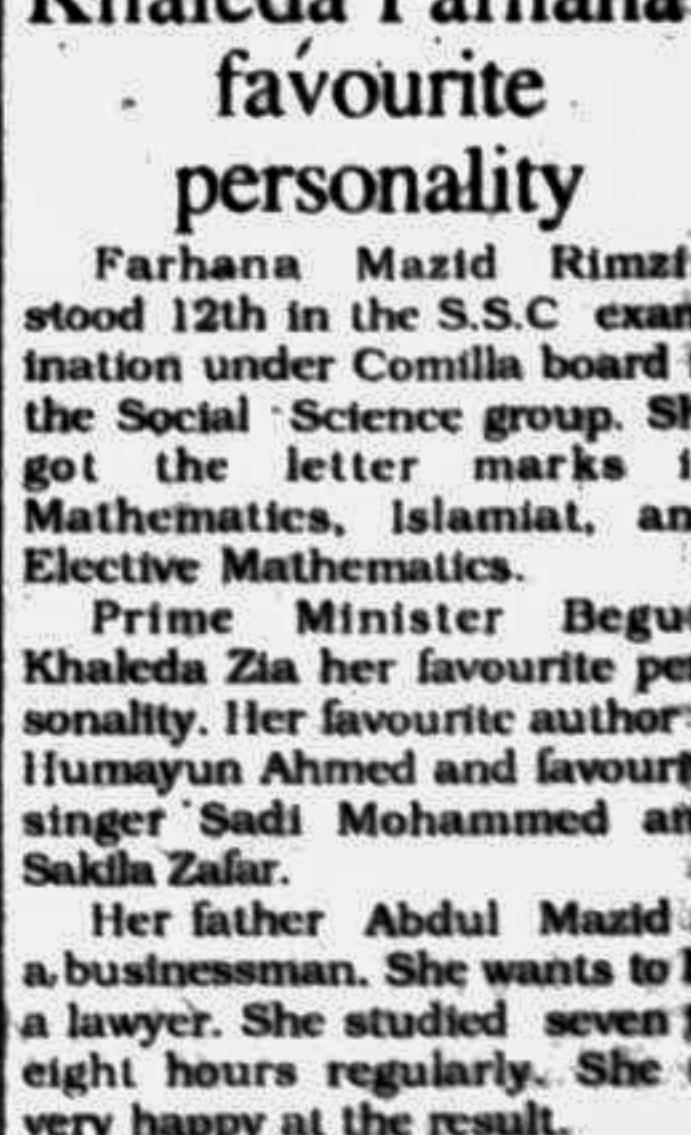
Dilshad wants to be a teacher

From Our Correspondent
COMILLA, Nov 8: Farhana Dilshad stood 11th in S.S.C examination held this year.
Appearing from Social Science group she secured letter marks in English, Mathematics, Islamiat, and Food and Nutrition. Her total mark is 705.
Her father Abdus Sobhan now outside the country and her mother Mrs Alimun Nesar, is a retired school teacher.
Farhana studied four to five hours regularly and she expected better results. Farhana expressed her gratitude to her mother and teachers. She wants to devote herself to teaching.
She got the talent pool scholarship in classes five and eight. She is a fan of Abahani. She likes to listen to Rabindra Sangeet and her hobby is to read story books.



Khaleda Farhana's favourite personality

Farhana Mazid Rimzim stood 12th in the S.S.C examination under Comilla board in the Social Science group. She got the letter marks in Mathematics, Islamiat, and Elective Mathematics.
Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia her favourite personality. Her favourite author is Humayun Ahmed and favourite singer Sadi Mohammed and Sakila Zafar.
Her father Abdul Mazid is a businessman. She wants to be a lawyer. She studied seven to eight hours regularly. She is very happy at the result.



Nila wants to be a professor

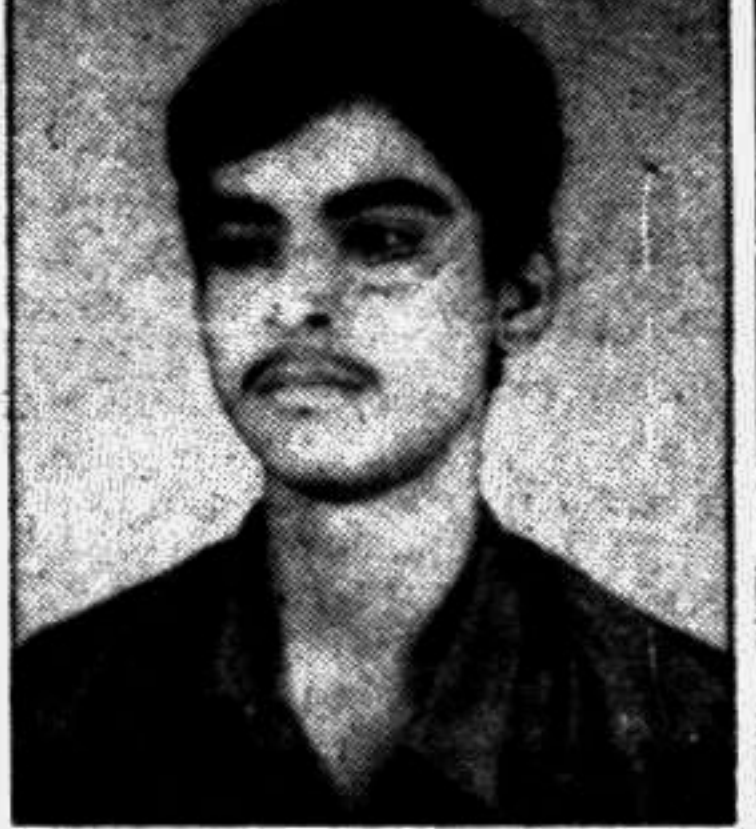
Saktinaj Rahman Nila student of Comilla Fatmunnisa Government Girls School stood 14th in the S.S.C examination in the Science Group under Comilla board.
Nila secured letter marks in Mathematics, Islamiat and Elective Mathematics. Her total mark is 694.
Nila got the talentpool scholarships in class five and eight. She expected better results.
Nila's father Bazir Rahman is a retired food officer. Her hobby is to read books and she is a fan of Abahani. She wants to be a professor in future.

Text book price hikes puzzle guardians

From Our Correspondent
COX'S BAZAR, Nov 8: Guardians are facing hardships due to abnormal price hike of text books prescribed by different high school authorities ignoring the order of the National Curriculum and Text-Book Board.
According to the government rule, all educational institutions are to use approved books by the Text Book Board for the primary and secondary schools. But many school authorities select books according to their choice. English grammar and translation and composition book approved by the National Curriculum and Text Book Board costs Taka 37 whereas an unauthorised grammar book costs Taka 85 prescribed by some school authorities.
Guardians are of the opinion that measures should be taken to check the evil practices for the interest of education.
Fish production declines
Fish production in ponds and other water bodies is being hampered due to negligence of concerned authorities, according to a recent survey report. With planned cultivation over 25,000 metric tons of fish can be produced, the quantity which is twice the requirement of the district. Presently 5,800 metric tons of fish are yielded. At present most of the water bodies are either silted up or lying uncared for. Due to conventional fishing practice and negligence of the fishery department a vast scope of natural resources exploration is being left unattended.
According to the district fishery office, there are 5,609 ponds, 60 beels totalling 12,500 acres and 50 miles long river in the district. The fish cultivation is further hindered as some fishermen are using plastic nets defying the government ban. Such practices destroy fish fry.
The fishermen of Cox's Bazar district are catching fish fries below nine inches from the ponds, rivers and sea despite government ban. A section of fishermen of Kutubdia, Moheskhal, Teknaf including Sadar upazilas of the district is indiscriminately catching fish fries of ruhi, katla, mrigal, glasscarp, silver carp and other species by current nets hampering the natural growth of the fish and fish resources.
It is learnt that the district fishery department has taken up a programme to release fish fries in the ponds and open water bodies of the district. More than four lakh fish fries have been released in the ponds and open water bodies of the district. The production of fish has declined following various diseases.
Protein deficiency
According to the survey report from the district Animal Husbandry department, the protein output in the Cox's Bazar district is inadequate to meet the requirement.
It has been estimated that about five lakh people of the district can hardly get the animal protein due to which they have been suffering from protein deficiency.

Woes of fishermen

From Our Correspondent
RAJBHARI, Nov 8: About 20,000 fishermen in four upazilas of the district are faced with an uncertain future as the price of fishing appliances went beyond their purchasing capacity.
Since last year fish production has declined abnormally following price hike of fishing nets and boats. A fishing boat is being sold at Taka 1.5 lakh which is beyond their purchasing capacity. They are also allegedly being deprived of government loans from Fishermen Co-operative Societies. Besides, absence of bank loan in this sector has aggravated the situation.
Moreover, genuine fishermen do not get haors, beels and jalmahals on lease while non-fishermen in connivance with vested quarters are getting lease of water bodies. Meanwhile, a large number of fishermen has already left their ancestral profession and has taken up other jobs.
Blue films are being exhibited throughout the district seriously affecting the moral values of young girls and boys. Video clubs which sprang up over the last few years in different places of the district have been arranging shows of obscene films on commercial basis. The dishonest video club owners in collusion with local influential persons are engaged in this heinous trade. Besides, anti-social activities have alarmingly been jeopardising the social security in the town.



Latif 14th in Science group

Reza Latif, student of Comilla Zilla School stood 14th in S.S.C examination this year in science group. He secured letter marks in Mathematics, General Science, Islamiat, and Elective Mathematics. His total marks 807.
His father Abdul Latif is a lawyer and mother Mahmudu Kamrun Nahar is a school teacher.
Reza got the talent pool scholarships in Class five and eight. He wants to study Computer Science. He studied 6 to 7 hours regularly.
Reza likes to listen to song and read books. He is a fan of Abahani. His parents and teachers inspired him to achieve this result, he says.

Comilla Hospital in sorry state

COMILLA, Nov 8: Comilla general hospital is beset with multiple problems including fund shortage, accommodation problems and poor diet, reports UNB.
Official sources said that the hospital needs more beds to accommodate the patients who stay in an unhygienic condition.
During the period from July 90 to June 1991, a total of 36,126 patients were treated in the out door and 6,485 including 4,488 female patients were admitted in the wards. The budget allocation for Medical and Surgical Requirement (MSR) only 15 lakh was considered to be too small to meet the cost of ever increasing patients.
The budget constraints stand in the way of improving the quality of food supplied by the hospital.
The patients are to purchase every thing they need even in case of operations from outside the hospital.
The operation theatre is reportedly ill-equipped though a reputed surgeon and a gynecologist have been posted here. There is, however, no specialist for anaesthesia.
The sanitary systems in the wards are in a very deplorable condition due to abrupt increase of users. Very often the sanitary tanks are found overflowing with dirt emitting bad smell and thus polluting the atmosphere of the whole hospital area.
Situating near the Dhaka-Chittagong Highway, the hospital emergency service and out-door patients department have to handle a very large number of patients from the road particularly accident victims.
The hospital's sanitation and sewerage services have almost broken down creating an unhealthy atmosphere all around.

Problems grip health complexes in Gopalganj

From Our Correspondent
GOPALGANJ, Nov 8: Gopalganj Sadar hospital and health complexes in four upazilas of the district have been plagued with multifarious problems depriving the people of proper medicare.
Hundreds of people coming from remote areas are going back without proper treatment due to shortage of beds, life-saving drugs and adequate number of doctors. There is no blood bank in the hospital. In most of the health complexes there are no waiting rooms and toilets for the outdoor patients. Normal functioning of the upazila health complexes are hampered due to the absence of boundary wall. One of the doctors in the hospital said that there is no room to accommodate the growing number of patients even on the floor.
Patients are pouring in to the hospital in large numbers everyday due to recent outbreak of water-borne diseases.
A fisherman Kalu Fakir (35) of Naniker under Mukshedpur upazila of Gopalganj district was killed by some unidentified miscreants.
According to his family sources, while Kalu Fakir was catching fish in the beel beside his village a group of unidentified miscreants beat him severely. As a result Kalu fell in the water. Other fishermen hearing his hue and cry reached the spot but could not trace him out. They recovered his body from the beel next day.
A case has been registered with Mukshedpur police station in this connection.

1.33 lakh employed under TR plan

From Our Correspondent
THAKURGAON, Nov 8: A total of 1,33,000 people have been employed temporarily in five upazilas of the district under Test Relief works programme.
The number of beneficiary families under TR programme is 40700, GR-39193, VGD(Special)-25354 while Rangpur-Dinajpur Rural Service (RDRS) an NGO feeds 8000 families.
A total of 1700 metric tons of foodgrains have been distributed among the destitute families under different programme taken by the Government to mitigate their post-flood sufferings. It may be mentioned here that the total number of families in the district is 1,62,554. Under Open Market Selling (OMS) programme 479 metric tons of rice and 150 metric tons of Atta were sold in different markets to check the price spiral. But, though an amount of Taka 15 lakh has been sanctioned for post-flood agriculture rehabilitation programme in the district, the amount is yet to be collected by the authority concerned, it is learnt.
An amount of Taka 47 lakh has been disbursed among 1160 borrowers in the district by different banks, which is 25 per cent of the target for Aman production loan, as on October 19. Sonali Bank did not start lending. A source of the bank told this correspondent that they would start disbursement for wheat cultivation in time.
On the other hand, the Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank in the district, could not entertain the loan applications, for lack of funds.

400 cases lying pending in C'nawabganj

From Our Correspondent
CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Nov 8: About 400 cases are lying pending in the district and upazila courts due to shortage of judges and magistrates.
It is learnt from a reliable source that 250 cases in the court of Assistant Judge and 120 cases in Magistrate court are lying pending. As a result, the litigants have become hopeless and many accused are left without convictions.
On the other hand the post of Assistant Commissioner has been lying vacant for the last four years in the same upazila creating disruptions in the administrative works.
With the recession of flood water diarrhoea has broken out in an alarming proportion in the district. According to unofficial sources, eight persons died and thousand others have been attacked by the disease in the last 15 days. Another eight persons were admitted to various hospitals in critical condition. Official sources, however, confirmed two deaths.
District Civil Surgeon said that the medical teams are working in different places in the five upazilas of the district. Scarcity of pure drinking water was said to be the main cause of the outbreak of the disease while dysentery and gastro-intestinal diseases also claimed three lives.
Trains run late
Irregular train timings in western zone of the country have been causing immense sufferings to the passengers.
Most of the trains in this zone often run five hours late, as the trains do not maintain any time schedule.
On the other hand train compartments lack basic amenities. The number of compartments is too meager to cope with increasing number of passengers. The compartments remain always dirty as they are not cleaned regularly.
The water supply in the compartments is absent. Latrines are left uncleaned for days together. Besides, many hawkers and women carrying huge quantity of foodgrains, sugar, salts, fruits from one station to another multiply the sufferings of the passengers.