

Upazila roundup

RAJSHAHI

RDA fails to implement projects for fund shortage

Nov 15: Rajshahi Development Authority (RDA) has been unable to implement its development programmes for lack of fund, an official source said here, reports UNB.

The government had allotted only Tk 12.32 crore in the last 13 years and the Authority managed to implement only five development projects at a cost Tk 7 crore during the period, the source said.

The RDA has undertaken 22 development projects during the current fourth five-year plan at a cost of Tk 84 crore.

The projects include construction of new roads, repair and extension of old roads, establishment of new residential area and building of market places, parks, city centre and bus-truck terminal.

But it is alleged that there has been no financial grant from the government during the last three fiscal years and the RDA's own resources were not adequate to meet the project cost.

Rajshahi Development Authority (RDA) was established in 1976 with a view to accelerating the development of divisional headquarters of Rajshahi.

MAGURA

Diarrhoea claims 10 lives

Nov 15: Diarrhoea claimed 10 lives and attacked about 400 people last month in three upazilas of the district, reports UNB.

The affected villages are: Tikarbila, Debinagar, Binathur, Borishat, Boraldah in Sreepur upazila, Parla and Satrujtpur in Magura Sadar upazila and Chandra in Salikha upazila of the district.

According to the Civil Surgeon's office, out of the total, seven persons died in Sreepur, two in Magura and rest one died in Salikha upazila.

Those who died were: Saloka (85), Ashok Kumar (5), Shampa (4), Hafizer (35), Anzooara (6), Habibul (5) and Aminuddin (50), in Sreepur upazila, Manik (20), and Satadal (40) in Magura Sadar and Seuly (4) in Salikha upazila.

The sources said that medical teams and medicines had been despatched to the affected areas.

GAZIPUR

Housewife strangled to death

Nov 15: A young housewife of Porababri area in Sadar upazila here has been allegedly strangled to death by her husband for dowry, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Rasida (18), whose body was found hanging from the ceiling of her house.

Rashida's parents complained to police that their son-in-law Muteleb killed her and hanged the body to make it appear like a suicide.

Police rushed to the spot and recovered the body from the house recently and sent it to Sadar hospital for autopsy where it was established as a murder.

Police arrested one Abdus Samad in this connection. But Rashida's father-in-law and husband managed to escape.

KISHOREGANJ

Son jailed for killing mother

Nov 15: Kenu Miah of village Purba Patdha under Sadar upazila has been awarded life imprisonment and a fine of Tk 3,000 for killing his mother, reports UNB.

In his judgement delivered recently Sunil Chandra Paul, Additional Sessions Judge said Kenu Miah wanted to marry the sister of his brother-in-law, which his mother Shakina Khatun opposed.

Kenu Miah got furious at his mother's refusal and strangled her with a rope on August 30, last year.

NARAIL

House rent up

Nov 15: House rent of the district town has gone up over the last few years beyond the capacity of the middle-income group of people, reports UNB.

At present, a single unit of residential quarters is being let out at a monthly rent of Tk 1500 which was less than half a couple of years back, a mid level tenant said.

The rent-hike both for residential and commercial purposes have been attributed to non-availability of land for house-building and lack of government initiative for solving the accommodation problem of the public servants.

BRAHMANBARIA

Kidnapped girl rescued

Nov 15: Police have rescued a ten-aged girl from village Muhamadpur under Islampur union of Sadar upazila and arrested the kidnapers, reports UNB.

The victim Hadisa Begum (14), daughter of Ashraf Ali was kidnapped by a gang of miscreants at dead of night on October 28.

The arrested are Marafat Ali, Nigar Ali and Sajjan Miah. The main accused Akhtar Miah is, however, absconding.

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

C' NAWABGANJ

Work on 18 family welfare centres will start soon

Nov 15: Work is to begin soon on the construction of 18 Family Welfare Centres (FWC) in 11 northern districts at a cost of Tk 28.26 lakh, reports UNB.

The Ministry of Health and Family Planning has taken up the scheme to extend family welfare facilities to the rural people.

The centres are being constructed with 90 per cent financial assistance of the World Bank, official sources said here.

The Family Welfare Centres will be set up at Islampur in Chapainawabganj, Tilua and Shahgola in Naogaon, Jamtoli in Sirajganj, Jangura and Falachar in Pabna, Naolabes, Goral and Jagabari in Lalmonirhat, Hariakati in Rangpur, Teptharibari, Khanama and Kamarbari in Dinajpur, Geduri in Thakurgaon, Habandha and Banglabanda in Panchagrah district.

JHENIDAH

Investigation training course begins

Nov 15: A week-long Investigation Training course has begun at the training auditorium of the Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB) here, reports UNB.

Organised by Bangladesh Human Rights Enforcement Society (BHRES) and assisted by USAID, the programme was inaugurated by Advocate Sigma Huda, Secretary General of the BHRES.

Twenty-five human rights activists from different branches of the organisation throughout the country took part in the first phase of the programme.

MADARIPUR

Rice price falls

Nov 15: The price of different types of rice recorded a sharp fall in the markets of the district this week, reports UNB.

Different variety of rice is selling at Tk 1 to 1.50 less per kg than last week.

Coarse rice is selling at Tk 11 per kg as against Tk 12 to 12.50 last week.

BARISAL

45,150 hectares to be put under wheat cultivation

Nov 15: Total of 45,150 hectares will be brought under wheat cultivation in ten southern districts of Barisal Agriculture Zone (BAZ) this year, reports BSS.

The districts are: Barisal, Pirojpur, Jhalakati, Bhola, Patuakhali, Rajbari, Faridpur, Gopalganj, Madaripur and Shariatpur.

According to an official source, the production target of wheat has been fixed at 89,046 metric tons in these districts. Of the total, 500 hectares will be brought under wheat cultivation in Barisal district, 50 hectares each in Pirojpur, Jhalakati and Patuakhali, 2,000 hectares in Bhola, 9100 hectares in Rajbari, 20,200 hectares in Faridpur, 3,300 hectares in Gopalganj, 3,900 hectares in Madaripur and 6,000 hectares in Shariatpur districts.

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) will supply seeds, fertilizers, insecticides and other necessary inputs to the wheat growers.



Communication system in rural areas especially the offshore islands is yet to improve. Boat is the only means of communication there. During weekly hat day (weekly market), farmers go to the hats with their agricultural produce like pepper, onion, garlic and vegetables etc. With the sale proceeds they buy other essentials. Photo shows a farmer carrying vegetables on the river bank looking with dismay at the boat which he has missed to board on—Star photo

Sherpur Govt College presents dismal picture

From Our Correspondent

SHERPUR, Nov 15: Sherpur Government College is beset with various problems. The college established with the donation of local elite in 1964, is the only college in the district. It was nationalised in 1980 and the then government allocated 10 acres of land for the development of the college. The site of the college is excellent but since its establishment by the local people no development work has yet been done. At present the students on roll are over 1100.

Moreover, the number of class rooms are too inadequate to cope with the rising number of students. As a result, the

students find it difficult even to sit comfortably. The number of fans are also not adequate.

According to a college official Mr. Raisuddin, many posts of teachers and other office staffs are lying vacant. Out of 80 posts of teachers 57 are still vacant and the remaining 32 teachers are unable to do justice on a large number of students. The post of librarian, office head assistant and cashier are still vacant. There is an ill-equipped mini laboratory room which can hardly accommodate science students. The science students have been triple after the introduction of B. Sc course and the two posts

of demonstrators are vacant in this department for a long time.

Besides, social welfare, general history, geography and most important Arabic subjects are yet to be introduced in the college. The collection of book is more or less nil in the library.

On the other hand teaching and non-teaching staff of the college have been facing acute housing problem in absence of residential quarters. They are compelled to live in rented houses which eat up a substantial portion of their salaries. Inadequate water supply and absence of toilets pose great

difficulties to the teachers, office staff, students specially the girl students. The existing college hostel can accommodate only 45 students. Besides, the college building is in a very deplorable condition the roof of which can be collapsed at any time.

Due to absence of transport facilities the students who came from far lung areas are unable to attend the classes in time. After upgradation into a government college yet no auditorium and even common room have been established. The college playground is encroached by the traders who keep raw materials and other goods. On the other hand the

playground is very low and during rain season water remains stagnant due to which students cannot use it regularly. The road connecting the college is in a very deplorable condition. The road running from Tinani Bazar to new bus stand is not only narrow but also full of potholes, craters and depressions. Vehicles are plying over it with great risk.

People of the district and students of the college feel that the present government and concerned authority should take steps on urgent basis regarding the overall development of the college.

Jamuna erosion renders 2000 families homeless

PABNA, Nov 15: More than 2000 families of eight villages of Bera and Sujanagar upazilas of the district were rendered homeless by the erosion of the river Jamuna over the last three months, reports UNB.

According to official sources, the worst affected villages are: Haturia, Nakalia, Dewantaria, Verakhola, Raghunathpur, Purnabhanga and Nagarbari of Bera upazila and Nazirganj of Sujanagar upazila.

Besides, Singhasan, Madhupur and Raksha villages have been totally devoured by the river.

Seven government primary schools and a high school have already been washed away and eight villages are about to be

devoured, official sources said. Most of the homeless people are living on the flood control embankment which is also threatened by the erosion.

Water experts attributed the massive erosion to emerging a 20-mile long char in mid Jamuna.

Meanwhile, government allotted 190 metric tons of wheat, 3,648 pieces of saree, 959 pieces of lungi and Tk 12.50 lakh cash for distribution among the affected people.

Local people, however, urged the government and NGOs to take effective measures to check the erosion and rehabilitate the erosion affected people.

Phone connections inadequate in Madaripur

MADARIPUR, Nov 15: The existing telephone system of the district is quite inadequate to meet the growing demand of one lakh town dwellers, reports UNB.

According to the official sources, at present there are only 400 phone connections in the town while a large number of applications for new connections have been pending with the local telephone office for a long time.

The demand for new lines has expanded with the upgradation of the sub-division to district.

The would be subscribers have demanded necessary steps for increasing the capacity of the telephone exchange.

Guest birds crowd haors, beels

From Our Correspondent

NETRAKONA, Nov 15: Guest birds have started crowding the khal, beels and haors of ten upazilas of the district.

According to the experts, with the advent of winter, different types of birds locally known as Dighari, Piggar, Kalghari, Sarils, Balhash Pankuri, Kuairia, Platinus, Rad Danga and Kaira fly into Bangladesh every year from many countries especially

Siberia to escape biting cold. About 300 species of such winter birds usually through different water bodies of Netrakona Sadar, Barhatta, Durgapur, Kalmakanda, Kendua, Atpara, Mohanganj, Modan, Khaliajuri and Purbadhala upazilas. Killing of these birds is going on indiscriminately violating the government ban. Killing of these birds should be stopped to keep ecological balance, experts opined.



PABNA: A colour rally parading the street in connection with the centenary celebration of Ananda Govinda Public Library recently. —Star photo

Jute procurement drive starts in Netrakona

NETRAKONA, Nov 15: Jute procurement drive '91 sponsored by Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) began here on Sunday, reports BSS.

Deputy Commissioner, Netrakona Mr AHM Abul Kashem inaugurated the jute procurement drive at a simple function held at Netrakona BJMC Jute Purchasing Centre.

Presided over by Mr. M. H. Yousof Manager of Netrakona BJMC Jute Purchasing Centre the function was addressed by jute growers, businessmen and local elite.

Bus passengers pay more, suffer much

NARAIL, Nov 15: Bus journey on different routes of the district has become hazardous due to overloading, reckless driving and pitiable condition of roads, reports UNB.

The overloaded buses, without having valid licences move on the roads at maximum speed. Buses, minibuses and coaches always engage in competition to pick up passengers without regard to the capacity of their vehicles, passengers alleged.

Most of the vehicles are in deplorable condition and emit

black smoke polluting the environment. The drivers do not follow time schedule which causes great inconvenience to the people specially office-goers.

The condition of roads and highways is also very bad with potholes and breaches at many points making them unfit for vehicular traffic.

The bus-conductors often demand fare at their will giving rise to frequent altercation with the passengers, it was further alleged.

10,000 leprosy patients in greater Sylhet

From Our Correspondent

MAULVI BARZR, Nov 15: About 10,000 people mostly of the tea garden area have been attacked by lethal leprosy throughout greater Sylhet region.

According to unofficial sources, about 10,000 people have been suffering from incurable leprosy at all upazilas in the district. The worst affected are residents of tea garden areas, a social welfare NGO source said. The victims are between the age group of 15 and 30. Among them, the number of males are more. Both contagious and non-contagious leprosy have broken

out while the non-contagious in an epidemic form. No steps have yet been taken to contain the disease.

5 killed in separate incidents

Another message adds: Five persons were killed in Maulvi Bazar district during the last two weeks in separate incidents, according to police.

Lukum Miah (55) and Anis Miah (25) two passers-by received serious injuries when they were hit by a coaster near Sherpur Chowmuhana on Sylhet-Dhaka highway of Sadar upazila. They died on way to Maulvi Bazar hospital.

An orphan Sayed (12) was also killed in a road accident at Daudpur on Sylhet-Dhaka highway at Maulvi Bazar upazila. He was a beggar.

Body of Sapna Bauree (27) a Tea Garden labourer of Chatalpur Tea Garden under Kulara Upazila was received by the police.

Earlier, she was kidnapped by miscreants. A case was registered with Kulara police and police arrested one person in this connection.

Another report from Nabigonj upazila of Habigonj says a 3-year-old girl drowned in a pond at village Digorbraman under Nabigonj upazila. The victim, daughter of Harendra Sutradhar went out of the house without the knowledge of her parents. Later her body was recovered from a pond behind the house.

Notes from Kishoreganj

KISHOREGANJ, Nov 15: A scheme has been taken up to bring 114,000 hectares of land under wheat cultivation in 13 upazilas of the district during the current season, reports UNB.

According to Agriculture Extension Department, 1580 hectares will be brought under wheat cultivation in Hossainpur, 1760 hectares in Sadar, 3640 hectares in Pakundia, 2240 hectares in Katiadi, 1200 hectares in Karimganj, 250 hectares in Tarail, 100 hectares in Itna, 120 hectares in Mitamain, 240 hectares in Nikli, 100 hectares in Austagram, 1020 hectares each in Bajitpur and Kullarchar and 730 hectares in Bhairab upazilas.

The Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) will supply seeds, fertilizers, insecticides and other necessary inputs to the farmers at fair prices for the implementation of the scheme.

Meanwhile, a total of 2,000 kgs of HYV wheat seeds had already been sold among the farmers of the area.

About 27,580 metric tons of wheat are expected to be produced during this season, sources added.

Boro farming

A massive programme has been taken up to bring 1.32 lakh hectares of land under boro cultivation in 13 upazilas during the current season.

According to Agriculture Extension Department, 1.18 lakh hectares will be brought under high yielding variety (HYV), 5195 hectares under pajam and the rest 8618 hectares under local variety.

Upazilawise breakup is: Hossainpur- 2852 hectares, Kishoreganj Sadar-4455 hectares, Pakundia-4256 hectares, Katiadi-8514 hectares, Karimganj-8465 hectares, Tarail-8740 hectares, Itna-2955 hectares, Mitamain-13900 hectares, Nikli-14,325 hectares, Austagram-22274 hectares, Bajitpur-9787 hectares, Kullarchar-5885 hectares and Bhairab upazila-6275 hectares of land.

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) distributed seeds, fertilizers, insecticides and other agri-inputs among the growers for the implementation of the programme.

Bangladesh Krishi Bank and other commercial banks have already disbursed loans to make the plan a success.

A total of 4,88,968 metric tons of boro paddy are expected to be produced in the district during the current season, official sources said.

Bamboo output falls

Production of bamboo is declining here due to lack of proper maintenance and planned plantation programme.

According to sources, about four thousand acres of land in 13 upazilas are utilised for bamboo production but extracted clusters are not replenished causing gradual shortfall in the common house-building material.

Woes of farmers

The distressed farmers of the district are being compelled to sell their crops in advance to the money lenders at nominal prices due to economic hardship.

The farmers hit by recent flood and other natural calamities are also being compelled to sell their households and domestic animals to maintain their livelihood.

The farmers alleged that they are not getting reasonable prices for their crops due to faulty marketing system.

Terrorism grips country: Nizami

JHENIDAH, Nov 15: Secretary General of Jamaat-e-Islami and leader of the Jamaat parliamentary group Matiar Rahman Nizami said the country is in the grip of terrorism and deteriorating law and order situation particularly on the campuses leading to closure of nearly 200 educational institutions excepting Chittagong University, reports UNB.

Nizami was addressing a public meeting at Jhenidah Agra Square on Friday. The present government will not be able to remain in power if the situation runs in this way, he said.

He said Jamaat had supported the BNP to overcome the deadlock after the February General Elections as no party could get absolute majority.

But in the Parliament Jamaat was playing the role of a constructive opposition instead of traditional one. The government was asked to act positively to solve the burning problems including law and order situation, terrorism, unemployment, waving of loans of the weavers and arrest the price hike of essentials, but the government failed to act accordingly, he said.