

Upazila roundup

KACHUA

Students asked to acquire knowledge

Nov. 29 : State Minister for Establishment Mohammad Nurul Huda on Thursday called upon the students to pursue knowledge with utmost sincerity and devotion, reports BSS.

He was addressing a conference of the local unit of Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) at Bangabandhu College premises here.

Referring to the glorious role played by the students in the anti-autocratic movement, Mr. Huda said the students now would have to play a similar role in consolidating the hard-earned democracy. Today's students are the future leaders of the country, he added.

He advised the students to equip themselves with adequate knowledge and be imbued with nationalistic feelings.

RAJSHARI

Release of JCD leaders demanded

Nov. 29 : A faction of Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal district unit on Thursday brought out a procession demanding release of arrested party workers and resignation of State Minister for Cultural Affairs Jahanara Begum, reports UNB.

Three Chhatra Dal activists Khokon, Farid and Latif were arrested under Special Powers Act recently on charges of various criminal and terrorist activities.

The processionists paraded the streets of the down chanting slogans against the State Minister and demanding release of the detained JCD activists.

Later, they held a rally in front of the Deputy Commissioner's office and handed over a memorandum.

The rally was addressed among others by Abdul Razzak, Convener of the district JCD and Abu Sayed a student leader.

Jahanara Begum is expected to visit here on November 30.

NAYARHAT

Action against mismanagement ordered

Nov. 29 : Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan on Thursday urged the Dhaka Leather Complex authority to set-up all possible modern equipment and apply appropriate technology for producing quality leather in future, reports BSS.

He made this call while paying a surprise visit to the under-construction Dhaka Leather Complex here.

Talking to the production officers of the complex, the Minister expressed the hope that the skilled production officers of the complex would be able to produce international standard exportable leather. He assured all possible help from government side in this regard.

During the visit in the production, the Minister paid his dissatisfaction over the quality and purchase price of some laboratory instruments and furniture. He also expressed dissatisfaction over the low standard of the newly constructed administrative building. The Minister ordered the authority to take immediate action against the concerned quarters.

Dhaka Leather Complex is the joint venture project of BCIC, Bangladesh and Strojimport, Czechoslovakia. It is expected that the complex will go into trial production in July and in commercial production in October next year.

NARAIL

One gets life term for murder

Nov. 29 : The District and Sessions judge sentenced a man of village Islampur in Kalta Upazila of the district to life imprisonment on charge of murdering his wife, reports UNB.

According to the prosecution, a quarrel was caused between the husband Babul Sheikh (35) and wife Saleha Begum (23) on August 27, 1990 on a trifle family affair. At one stage, Babul got furious and hit Saleha with a scythe causing her instantaneous death.

A case was filed with Kalta police and after investigation, police submitted charge sheet against Babul.

MALJDEE COURT

123 posts of pry teachers lying vacant

Nov. 29 : Some 123 posts of primary school teachers have been lying vacant for long hampering education in six upazilas of the district, reports UNB.

According to District Primary Education Office sources, 19 posts have been lying vacant in Sadar, 26 in Hatiya, 11 in Senbag, 42 in Begumganj, 13 in Chatkhil and 12 in Comaraganj.

Posts of two ATOs in Begumganj, one each in Senbag and Hatiya and two posts of clerk-cum-typist in Hatiya have also been lying vacant hampering official works seriously.

The post of Assistant District Primary Education Officer is also lying vacant. The District Primary Education Office housed in a dilapidated house is in bad shape. Valuable records and documents cannot be maintained properly due to lack of accommodation. Many of them have been damaged by insects.

A plan for construction of the office building has been lying pending for consideration of the higher authorities for a long time, the sources said.

PABNA

7 heroin addicts held

Nov. 29 : Police arrested seven alleged heroin addicts from different areas of the town Thursday, reports UNB.

Police said, arrested Abdur Rafique (28), Dawalazam (45) Shahidul Hossain Shahid (30), Abdur Rashid (28), Altaf Hossain (29), Makul (25) and Chand Ali (32) were involved in different anti-social activities.

The alleged criminals were sent to jail hazat.

Pabna police also arrested three alleged mastans from Tebunia Area on the same day. They are: Shajahan (22), Shohel (24) and Kushum (20).

BORGUNA

Economic crisis hits blacksmiths

Nov. 29 : Blacksmiths of Borguna have been changing their ancestral profession in the face of manifold problems including high cost of working tools, reports UNB.

The blacksmiths of Amtali, Betagi, Patarghata, Bamna and Sadar upazilas said that many of them turned to day-labourers in the absence of credit by the commercial banks.

The prices of rod, coal and other necessary inputs have shot up in the markets beyond their purchasing capacity. Cost of production has also gone up forcing the consumers to use substitutes, they said.

They urged the authorities to supply credit to them to continue with their ancestral occupation.

RAJSHAH

Contraband goods seized

Nov. 29 : Bangladesh Rifles seized smuggled goods worth about Tk 1.25 lakh from three boats coming from India near Kholabona-Shonakandi border area Wednesday, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, BDR jawans ambushed in the border area and fired 8 rounds of bullets into air when they found the boats on the river Padma.

The smugglers managed to escape leaving the goods in the boats.

Police seized the contraband goods which included sarries, cardigans, shawls and suit.

MAGURA

5 dacoities in a week

Nov. 29 : Five dacoities were committed in Sreepur and Sadar upazilas of the district in the second week of this month looting cash and valuables worth about Tk 3.10 lakh, reports UNB.

According to the police, a daring dacoity was committed at the house of Rabul Islam of village Barotpara in Sreepur upazila of the district on November 12 midnight.

The gang of about 20 armed dacoits decamped with cash, gold ornaments, cloth and household articles worth about Tk 1.50 lakh from the house.

In another dacoity on the same night and in the same village, cash, gold ornaments and household articles worth about Tk 30,000 were looted from the house of Santosh Kumar.



Harvesting of Aman paddy is going on in full swing all over the country. Despite recurrent floods, record Aman production is expected in Greater Sylhet this year. Photo shows farmers returning home carrying the harvested crops at a village in Golopganj upazila. — Star photo

Betel leaf growers need help

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAH, Nov. 29 : The betel leaf production in Rajshahi district has decreased to a great extent due to increase of bamboo, fertilizers, oil cake and pesticides, prices.

Betel leaf is cultivated on large scale in Mohanpur and Paba upazilas of district and the grower sell it out to the markets of Bangladesh. There are over 400 betel leaf growers in the district who have been facing much difficulties due to floods, drought, price hike of agricultural inputs and shortage of capital. As a result they are gradually losing interest.

It may be mentioned here that the growers could earn about Taka two lakhs from per acre production a year. But the rise in production cost has decreased the amount of return.

Besides, the growers have been deprived of the bank loans which are now badly

needed to continue the cultivation of betel leaf.

The betel leaf growers urged the concerned authorities to extend financial assistance to mitigate their sufferings.

The railway passengers of northern districts have been facing acute problems due to inadequate number of compartments and irregular services.

The number of compartments for the passengers travelling on different routes from Parbatipur, Santahar and Ishwardi junctions is quite insufficient to cope with the onrush of the passengers. As a result, the passengers are bound to travel on roofs and footboards of the trains.

Besides the trains often run two to three hours late causing inconveniences to the passengers. Even inter-city express

trains can hardly maintain the schedule of time-table. The trains often run without first and second class compartments and as such the gentlemen are compelled to board the overcrowded third class compartments. The old and female passengers face much difficulties to board the train at different stations. The toilets are regularly found dirty and this unhygienic condition of the toilets vitiates the atmosphere of the train.

Some passenger bogies sent for repair Syedpur railway workshop are reported to have stranded for want of technical staff and necessary fund, it is alleged.

The number of passengers without ticket is increasing day by day. The attendants of inter-city express train allow additional passengers in lieu of illegal bribes, it is alleged.

Waiting rooms at most of

the important railway stations are unhealthy. The latrines at the stations are quite unfit for use. The scarcity of drinking water at stations has aggravated the situation. Some of the stations on the Ishwardi-Chilahati line have no sheds on the platform. As a result the passengers are compelled to wait under the open sky. Moreover, there is no waiting rooms in almost all the stations for third class passengers.

When contacted, railway sources informed that shortage of railway slippers, partly damaged bridges and culverts, single rail lines, shortage of stones beside railway tracks were the main causes of delay.

The passengers on this route urged the concerned authorities to take necessary steps to ensure timely journey with improved facilities.

Post-flood rehabilitation work in progress

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Nov. 29 : The post-flood rehabilitation work is going on in full swing in all the affected areas of the seven upazilas of the district.

The government has already distributed 605 metric tons of rice, 50 metric tons of wheat under test relief programme. Taka 2,35,000 had also been distributed for the affected areas.

A total of Taka 28 lakh and 70 bundles of CI sheets was sanctioned under the programme to distribute among the homeless people as house building grant.

The government further sanctioned a huge quantity of relief items including cash Taka, wheat, rice, CI sheets for the flood victims of seven upazilas of the district under the test relief programme.

The upazila wise break up of the relief is: Eight metric tons wheat, 103 metric tons rice, cash Taka 36,892 and 120 bundles of CI sheet as house building grant for Shariatpur upazila — sixty-five metric tons of rice, seven metric tons of wheat, cash Taka 42,400 for relief, and 120 bundles of CI sheet as house building grant for Madarganj upazila — eighty metric tons of rice, five metric tons of wheat, cash Taka 40,500 and 100 bundles of CI sheets as house building grant for Islampur upazila — sixty-five thousand and five hundred metric tons of rice, three metric tons of wheat, cash Taka 14,000 for relief and 70 bundles of CI sheets as house building grant for Melandah upazila — fifty-three metric tons of rice, four metric tons of wheat, cash Taka 19,500 for

relief, and 70 bundles of CI sheets as house building grant for Dewanganj upazila — 46,500 metric tons of rice, three metric tons of wheat, cash Taka 14,500 for relief, and 70 bundles of CI sheets as house building grant for Bakshiganj upazila — 124 metric tons of rice, five metric tons of wheat, cash Taka 21,000, for relief, 100 bundles of CI sheets as house building grant for Jamalpur Sadar upazila — 48 metric tons of rice, 15 metric tons of wheat, cash Taka 10,000 as relief, and 50 bundles of CI sheets as house building grant Jamalpur pounashava areas.

A source of the District Relief and Rehabilitation Department said that 187 metric tons of wheat had specially been sanctioned by the department for 6000 families under Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) Programme of the district.



Mustafa Allama a freedom fighter and sports organizer addressing the installation ceremony of Fenchuganj Degree College Students Union, Sylhet as chief guest. — Star photo

Tribal students protest raping of school girl

RANGAMATI, Nov. 29 : About 300 students of local schools and Rangamat Government College took out a procession in the town protesting the rape of a tribal school girl allegedly by two non-tribal youths Saturday, reports UNB.

The agitated students submitted memoranda to the Chairman of the Local Government Parishad and the Deputy Commissioner of the district demanding immediate trial of the alleged rapists.

Chairman of the Local Government Parishad Gautam Dewan condemned the heinous act and assured them of finding out the culprits.

Doya Mala Chakma, daughter of Haradhan Chakma of Balukhali village in Sadar Upazila of the district, was raped allegedly by two non-tribal youths in a boat while she was returning home Wednesday evening.

She is a student of class nine in local Rani Doyamoyee High School.

Erosion renders 5,000 homeless in Shariatpur

From Our Correspondent

SHARIATPUR, Nov. 29 : The large-scale erosion of the mighty Padma has left 5000 people of seven villages of the district homeless who are now passing a miserable life.

The seven villages of Naria and Bhedarganj upazilas have already been engulfed by the river and more areas are on the way to vanish. Most of the villagers have lost their dwelling houses, crops and other belongings by the erosion of the river. The students of the areas have also lost their schools and madrasahs.

The villages Ibrahimpur, Kartikpur, Charbagha, Tarabonia and a bazar under Bhedarganj upazila have also been affected by the massive erosion. More than 600 families have taken shelter in Char Jamalpur and Diara villages of Kodalpur union under Goshairhat upazila. Other victims of the areas have sailed for unknown destinations.

The erosion of the river also affected the Padma canal running from Damudya launch gate to Burthar bazar.

It may be mentioned here that the canal is the only means of communication of the district.

Navigation hampered

Silted rivers have posed a serious threat to water transport, trade and business and fisheries in the district.

It is to be mentioned here that the district is surrounded by rivers and the only means of communication with Dhaka is

headed by the upazila Magistrate.

The Biswanath upazila unit of Bangladesh Human Rights Enforcement organisation formed an enquiry team headed by its Legal Advisor. They after holding enquiries, disclosed the report at a press conference at Sylhet Press Club recently. It gave a vivid picture of large-scale corruption of the Attestation employees in the area.

People have demanded immediate enquiry and punitive measures against the concerned employees of the department.

The Annual General meeting of Sylhet Palli Biddyt

Law order situation deteriorates

The law and order situation of Sakipur Union of Bhedarganj upazila of the district is deteriorating day by day. It has learnt that anti-social activities have become rampant. Miscreants in groups are found enjoying ganja and blue films inside the boats frequently. As a result, the youths of the upazila are getting demoralised. Guardians remain anxious for the security of their school and college going girls. Theft and dacoities have also been increased alarmingly.

Large-scale corruption in land records

From A Correspondent

SYLHET Nov. 29 : Corruption and irregularities have gone extreme in the Attestation of Land Records now being done in the Biswanath upazila of the district for the last few months. Field-level as well as the upazila level employees are directly involved with these unfair practices, it is alleged. Besides, the innocent people are being compelled to compensate due to the absence of coordination among the functionaries of Registry office, Revenue office and Tahsil offices.

According to the allegations, the attestation officials are realising huge amount of money from the people in general for attesting their land records properly. Those who do not agree with their

proposal, they are being harassed, even after having proper documents and necessary papers, it is alleged.

In protest against such irregularities, the local leaders of different political parties and other organisations held a number of meetings, and processions at the upazila headquarters. Memoranda were also handed over to the authorities. But no result has yet been achieved. Besides, the corrupt employees being angered are — now creating much sufferings and financial loss of the people it is further alleged.

One Arafatullah of village Sathpur under Deokalash union was beaten up by the Attestation employees at the Kaljuri Attestation Office fol-

lowing which he lodged a case with Biswanath P.S. One Abdul Musabbir Khan of the same union parishad was, also manhandled by them. He lodged a complaint with the Human Rights organisation. Another poor farmer registered a written complaint which is now under enquiry with the U.N.O. A primary school teacher Tara Mish and his brother were kept under lock and key at the Upazila Settlement office by its officer and employees and later were handed over to the police. The incident had created a serious reaction in the upazila.

It is further reported that more than 50 complaints have been lying pending for enquiry with the 3-member team

headed by the upazila Magistrate.

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The Annual General meeting of Sylhet Palli Biddyt

Samity was held at the samity premises recently.

Brigadier Zahed Lafti, Chairman, Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board was present as chief guest.

Prof. Rafique Ahmed, President of the Samity presided over the meeting, while it was also addressed among others, by Mr. Maksudul Karim, Superintendent Engineer, Dhaka Zone, Mr. Ahsan Habib, Director (Management) and Mr. Charles Overman, Team leader, National Rural Electricity Co-operators Association of America (NRECA).

A large number of subscriber-members of the Samity from different areas attended the meeting.

Cotton yarn worth Tk 6cr lying unsold

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Nov. 29 : The production of Sunderban Textile Mills is on way to be stopped as the mills cotton yarn worth over Taka six crore is lying unsold for seven months.

According to the mill sources, the authority of Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC) has increased the prices of cotton yarn several times. The mill

authority has to send their products to Dhaka for sale as there is no provision to sell it to the local dealers. As such the cost of production increases further.

On the other hand, the local markets have been flooded with Indian cotton yarn which are also sold at a comparatively low rate.

It can be mentioned here that the Sunderban Textile Mills had so far been a profitable concern, since its inception. The closure of the mill will render about 1500 labourers jobless.

The Satkhira unit of Bangladesh Federation of Teachers Association brought out a procession in the town in support of their demands. Their demands include implementation of new pay scale, withdrawal of stay order on teachers welfare trust, promotion of teachers and decrease of the prices of educational appliances.

Procurement of Aman paddy begins

DINAJPUR, Nov. 29 : The country-wide aman procurement drive for the current season was formally inaugurated by Food Minister M. Shamsul Islam in a function at the central storage depot here in Tuesday, reports BSS.

He said, to attain the target of procuring 4.25 lakh metric tons of foodgrains (in the form of rice) during the current season, taka 429.25 crore had been earmarked. Of the target, 3.14 lakh metric tons of food grains representing 73.88 per cent of the total would be procured from 16 districts of Rajshahi division.

Presided over by Food Secretary, Ataul Haq, the function, was addressed by State Minister for Communication, Fazlur Rahman and Begum Khurshid Jahan Haq, MP from the greater Dinajpur.

The Food Minister said the objective behind the drive was to ensure fair price to the cultivators for their produces. Keeping the prices of foodgrains stable and building a security food reserve were also the objectives of the drive, he said.

Mr. Shamsul Islam said the government this year had added Taka 25 per maund to fix the price of aman rice at Taka 245 which was more than the international price. The price was increased keeping in view the interest of the cultivators and to enable them to get a better margin of profit.

College teachers wear black badge to realise demands

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANG, Nov. 29 : The teachers of the district unit of the Bangladesh College Teachers' Association, a component of Bangladesh Federation of Teachers Association started a programme in support of their 15-point demands on Tuesday.

As a part of the programme, 225 teachers of non-government colleges have started wearing black badges. They have in the meantime started on-hour abstention from duties, an association source informed.

Earlier the teachers of the district unit on Thursday last submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner in support of their demands.

Their demands include nationalisation of services of the teachers of private colleges, implementation of new pay-scale and removal of disparity of government and non-government educational institutions.

One killed

One Showkat Hussain (12) was run over by a speeding truck and died on the spot.

It is reported that the victim was run over by the killer truck when he was crossing the road at village Protab under Ullapara upazila recently.

The driver fled away with the truck. The body was sent for autopsy.

A case had been registered with the Ullapara police station in this connection.

Lawyers hold rally

The lawyers of the local district bar brought out a procession in support of the country-wide central co-ordination committee programme to realise the six-point demand. The demands include Withdrawal of upazila courts, repeal of black laws including Special Power Act and separation of Judiciary from Administration.

People urged to help uproot campus terrorism

DAUDKANDI, Nov. 29 : Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr. Khandker Mosharraf Hossain has called on the teachers and students to help the government uproot terrorism from the country's educational institutions, reports UNB.

"Anti-democratic forces are trying to foil the democratic process by resorting to indiscipline and terrorism in the society and the campuses" he told a teachers-students gathering at Gourpur Munsif Fazlur Rahman Government College here on Tuesday.

The minister urged the people to resist any attempt against social peace and stability.

Speaking on the occasion, State Minister for education Principal Yunus Khan said the government is determined to maintain congenial atmosphere in the academic institutions at any cost.

20 fall ill after taking Sreepuri tablets

MAGURA, Nov. 29 : At least 20 people in Shalikhia upazila of the district fell ill Tuesday by taking Sreepuri tablet, a Kabirazi medicine, reports UNB.

Of them, Tarapada Biswas (50), and Kamrul Islam (20), were admitted to Shalikhia Upazila Health Complex.

When contacted, Upazila Medical officer confirmed the news.

The victim alleged that they had purchased the tablets from local markets on good faith but after taking the tablets they fell ill.