

Upazila roundup

KUSHTIA

Medical college demanded

From A Correspondent

Dec 7: Kushtia Pourashava Branch of Kushtia Unnayan Parishad held a public meeting recently at Kushtia Housing Estate area with Ahsan Habib Swapan in the chair and demanded establishment of a Medical college at Kushtia foundation of which was laid by late President Ziaur Rahman.

The meeting called for dawn to dusk hartal on December 18 in support of their demand. The meeting also demanded construction of Bus terminal, completion of Dhaka-Rajbari road, transformation of Islamic University into a full fledged University. The meeting was addressed, among others, by Advocate Shamsul Huda, founder President of Kushtia Unnayan Parishad, Advocate Faruq Azam Mridha, Advocate Abdul Wahed, Nafis Ahmed Khan and Md. Serajuddin.

RAJSHAHI

Hats, bazars need improvement

From Our Correspondent

Dec 7: Hats and bazars in nine upazilas of the district are in a deplorable state causing much inconvenience to both the buyers and sellers.

Shortage of space, lack of initiative for maintenance of the markets and regular cleaning of the drains are the main problems.

Sufferers complained that these markets have no proper drainage system. As a result, in the rainy season the situation turns worse when all the markets go under knee-deep water.

Acute scarcity of drinking water has been prevailing in those markets. Besides, absence of urinal and toilet is posing threat to the health of the people.

Shortage of sheds is another serious problem. Most of the hats and bazars sit under open sky.

MYMENSINGH

Dacoities committed

From Our Correspondent

Dec 7: Dacoits looted away valuables worth Taka 10 lakh including cash taka one lakh in separate incidents in Mymensingh town, Nandail and Hahughat upazila recently.

A gang of dacoits attacked Messrs Prasku Flour Mill at Maskanda industrial area in Sadar upazila at midnight and looted away cash Taka 54,000 by breaking the locks of the almirah.

Another gang of dacoits broke open six almirahs of Muminonnissha Government College and looted away cash Taka 21,000.

A dacoity was committed at the residence of Azizul Haq Bhuiyan of Mayranga in Nandail upazila. The dacoits looted valuables worth Taka five lakh and injured two persons.

Meanwhile, a gang of dacoits looted valuables worth Taka two lakh from the house of Nur Aftab of Balidanga of Hahughat. Separate cases have been filed with concerned police station in this connection.

MUNSHIGANJ

Release of Moazzem demanded

From Our Correspondent

Dec 7: A meeting of the Jatya Party Munshigonj unit was held recently in the district office of the Jatya Party with Nur Muhammad OS, Munshigonj zila JP in the chair.

The speakers were Advocate Shahaesam, Shajahan Baga, Saiful Rahman and Jalal Commissioner. All the speakers demanded unconditional and immediate release of Shah Moazzem, the JP Secretary General. The meeting was followed by a procession that paraded the main streets of the town.

MAULVI BAZAR

BTRI documents damaged in fire

From Our Correspondent

Dec 7: Valuable documents of Bangladesh Tea Research Institute (BTRI), Sreemongol were damaged recently in a recent fire incident.

It is alleged that the Director, BTRI while walking in front of the office at night was informed by a night guard that a fire broke out in the office room. When the locked office room was opened it was found that valuable files including other materials were damaged by the fire. The fire however, was brought under control but

the cause of it yet to be ascertained.

A case has been lodged with Sreemongol police station. Sreemongol patrol police arrested three robbers Muhit (23), Swapan(25) and Anwar (25) recently.

It is reported that the said criminals challenged a mobile patrol police van with knife to commit robbery. But they got disappointed when they came to know that it was a police patrol van. They were arrested redhanded.

HABIGANJ

Dacoits loot valuables

From Our Correspondent

Dec 7: A dacoity was committed at Bahubal Bazar in the district recently.

It is reported that at late night a gang of dacoits entered different shops in the market and assaulted two guards Imanullah and Motin and looted away cash and other valuables worth Taka 20,000. The injured guards were later admitted to Bahubal Hospital.

A case has been started with Bahubal police in this connection.

Madrasa welfare assoc executives

Chunnergat upazila Madrasa Welfare Association was formed in a meeting held at Hazimulmullah Senior Madrasa office room under Chunnergat Sadar in the district recently.

Professor Maoulana AK Afsar Ahmed Talukdar presided over the meeting. A 17-member committee of Chunnergat Madrasa Welfare Association was formed with Professor Maoulana AK Afsar Ahmed Talukdar as President, Moulana Motur Rahman Helali as General Secretary and Moulana Sheikh Moshahid Ali as treasurer.

SHERPUR

TK 1.14 crore agri-loan exempted

From Our Correspondent

Dec 7: Sonali Bank main branch has written off Taka 1,13, 76319.23 agricultural loans of 2449 borrowers, according to a bank source. Sources said that a meeting of the bankers took the decision after reviewing the cases of borrowers who took up to Taka 5000 as agricultural credit. The exemption was done according to the directives of the government.

The sources also mentioned that the said amount excluded BRDB loans because the BRDB authority has extended the time period.

JAMALPUR

Irregularities in supply of seeds alleged

From Our Correspondent

Dec 7: The target of wheat farming in Jamalpur district may not be achieved this year due to short supply of seeds and irregularities in distribution among the farmers at government's fixed rate.

Official sources said that distribution of three varieties of wheat seeds is going on. It is alleged that a large quantity of seeds were sold at higher rate in black market by some dishonest dealers in connivance with some BADC employees.

Moreover, they had to purchase seeds from respective upazila godowns at higher rate instead of government fixed price. The seeds allotted as relief are also reportedly being sold in black markets. Reliable sources said that the godown authorities at upazila level with the help of middlemen are selling seeds in black markets. As a result the farmers are compelled to purchase seeds at exorbitant price.

MAGURA

Fish disease

Dec 7: Fish diseases have broken out in an epidemic form in four upazilas of the district, fisheries officials said, reports UNB.

The diseases known as ulcerative syndrome, have affected different varieties of fish like shoal, gazar, boal puti, magur and shing, they said.

Fishermen said the demand of fish had abruptly fallen in the local markets causing financial loss to them.

Nutrition experts feared that low income group of people who mostly live on fish are likely to suffer from protein deficiency following the outbreak of fish diseases.

Local people urged the authorities to spray lime water in the affected waterbodies to combat the menace.



Rural children find fun and frolic in catching fish from a pumped out pond — Star photo

Doctors, medicine inadequate in Maulvibazar hospitals

MAULVIBAZAR, Dec 7: Most of the health complexes in the district have been facing manifold problems due to absence of ambulance, shortage of staff and medical apparatus, reports UNB.

Thousands of people from foriling areas visiting the health complexes everyday return home disappointed due to absence of proper treatment.

Most of the complexes are operating with shortage of staff. X-ray machine, blood bank, dental or ophthalmic treatment facilities.

Emergency patients can not be moved due to lack of ambulance.

Moreover, paucity of pure water and lack of proper drainage system in the complexes are also increasing the sufferings of the patients.

It is alleged that valuable medicines including life-saving drugs supplied to the health complexes are being sold in the black markets.

Out of 500 pharmacies in six upazilas, most of them are running without drug licences, chemist and trained compounds, it is informed.

Local people have urged the authorities concern to take necessary steps to solve the problems immediately.

Siltation, erosion hit cultivable lands

Another report says: Siltation and soil erosion have seriously affected cultivable lands of six upazilas of the district hampering crop production.

The affected upazilas are Sadar, Kamalganj, Rajnagar, Kulaura and Barlekha.

According to informed source, at least 5000 acres of land including canals, ponds and tanks have been silted up due to recent floods here.

Plantation of trees including production of betel nut and mango have been affected seriously.

Agricultural production is also being hampered due to rapid decline of soil fertility here, experts said.

Frequent and excessive use of chemical fertilizers are said to be the main reasons for declining fertility, sources said.

Experts suggested that use of natural fertilizer and green manure would increase production.

The balanced use of chemical fertilizer may also be continued, they added.

Migratory birds

The number of local and migratory birds are gradually disappearing from the district due to indiscriminate hunting and scarcity of fish in the beels and haors.

According to experts, of about 550 species of birds normally seen here, 200 are winter birds which migrate from the Siberian region to avoid the biting cold.

Hunting and scarcity of fishes, main food of these birds, have compelled a large number of birds to fly elsewhere.

On the other hand, the number of hunters have increased considerably despite government ban on bird-catching or shooting.

Many poor people are trapping birds to earn money by selling them. Many embankments have been constructed on almost all the local beels and haors to protect the crops from the floods which are also creating obstacles to the free movement of migratory birds resulting fall in their numbers.

Local people have urged the government to devise ways and means following the example of the Soviet Union and other Western countries for protection and preservation of birds.

Girl kidnapped

Another report adds: A school girl was kidnapped from village Murshibadkura in Barlekha Upazila recently, police said on Thursday.

A group of armed miscreants attacked the house of Idris Ali at dead of night and entered the house forcibly and kidnapped Asia Khatun Shelly at gun point.

A case was registered with upazila police in this connection.

Barlekha Upazila Parishad of the district has taken up a programme to reconstruct and repair three government primary schools during the current financial year at a cost of Tk. 8.10 lakh.

Official said, Mural Government Primary School and Vularkandi and Chotoleka Government Primary Schools would be reconstructed.

Notes from Madaripur

From Our Correspondent

MADARIPUR, Dec 7: The bus journey on different routes of the district has become hazardous due to overloading, reckless driving and flittable conditions of roads.

The overloaded buses and coaches are driven in a way that accident may occur at any time. The drivers used to ply their vehicles in competition with others. They do not maintain any time-schedule for which the passengers especially the office-goers suffer much. The stop their vehicles at the points where they like to load passengers.

Most of the buses have got no fit-certificate. The drivers plying these sorts of vehicles have understanding with the law enforcing agencies. The old model buses which condition is very bad usually emit smokes that pollutes the environment.

Potholes have developed not only on local roads but also on the highways, it is alleged.

Prices of essentials

The abnormal rise of the prices of essentials has hit the people of the district. The fixed earner groups are the worst-hit.

At present one kg of rice is selling between Taka 12 and 16. The prices of vegetables are high in comparison with the last year. Beef is selling at Taka 50 per kg while mutton is selling at Taka 70.

The prices of pepper, turmeric, garlic, onion are also high.

Health complexes

The health complexes of Madaripur and Sariapur districts are beset with manifold problems for a long time.

The health complexes are suffering much for shortage of doctors, accommodation problem, scarcity of pure drinking water, proper drainage system, shortage of medical apparatus.

Most of the health complexes have no X-ray machine.

Hundreds of patients coming from far-flung areas for treatment return back disappointed without any treatment.

The supply of medicine is quite inadequate to meet the requirement of the patients. The patients are to buy medicines from the out side market at their own cost.

The people of the district have urged the concerned authorities to take necessary action to mitigate the sufferings of hundreds of patients of the districts.

ML unit confce

A conference of the district unit of Muslim League (Kazi Kader) was held here recently.

The conference was presided over by Advocate Md Jahangir. The conference was also addressed by Kazi Abdul Kader. President Muslim League who was present on the occasion as chief guest.

A UNB report says: Mosquito menace has been increasing in the town here with the onset of the dry season.

Silted drains and stagnant waters scattered all over the poua areas are the ideal breeding centres of mosquitoes. Students are the worst sufferers.

Local people alleged that the garbage dumped besides roads and markets were causing serious health hazards as well as polluting the environment.

Rivers, canals silted up Launch services face closure

From Our Correspondent

SHARIATPUR, Dec 7: The water transport, fishing and irrigation in the district are facing very much difficulties as most of the rivers and canals have silted up.

The important business centres like Bhojeshwar, Damudia and Angaria are likely to be closed due to the huge siltation of the rivers and canals of the respective localities.

The important rivers and canals need urgent dredging, the experts and businessmen of the locality feel.

Kirtinasha River flows from Sureshwar to Angarian has been silted up resulting in difficulties for navigation. The river at Dualchar point has also dried up. As a result, the launch services on Sureshwar-Dhaka and Angarian can not ply. It can be mentioned here that thousands of passengers travel on these routes.

A vast tract of the river Padma near Kodarpur has also been silted up for which the launches on Dhaka-Damudia had pass to a long distance that kills more time and fuel.

The canal from Goshairhat to Narayanpur and another canal from Palerchar to Kunderchar have also been silted up.

The over all siltation situation is so grave that urgent dredging of the mentioned rivers and canals is needed.

The concerned authorities have been urged to take immediate steps to dredge the rivers and canals to help continue the usual transport and business as well.

25 die of diarrhoea

Diarrhoea claimed 25 lives and has attacked more 600 people in different upazilas of the district.

Of the total, seven people died in Sadar upazila, 8 in Janjira, 4 in Naria, 2 in Damudia, 2 in Bhedganj and 2 in Goshairhat.

In all seventy-two medical teams are working in the affected areas which is inadequate to demand. The shortage of medicine is also hampering the treatment greatly. The local medicine sellers are charging higher prices of the medicine, it is alleged.

The paucity of pure drinking water is the main cause of the wide spread diarrhoea, the acting doctors expressed.

Two drowned

One Rani Begum (28) and her five-year-old child drowned in the river near Laximpur under Naria upazila when an engine boat sank in the river by which they were travelling recently.

The boat sank as it was overloaded, eye witnesses said. A case has been registered with the Naria police in this connection.

Rickshaws create traffic jam

BORGUNA, Dec 7: A huge number of rickshaws parked on the busy road and small lanes create traffic jam obstructing the movement of pedestrians, reports UNB.

According to a paurashava source, 10,000 rickshaws having valid licences ply on the roads. The number of unlicensed rickshaws would be more than double which created the difficult situation, they said.

The pavements are occupied by vendors in the busy commercial areas of the town, hindering the movement of vehicles and pedestrians.

The elite of the town urged the authorities to specify parking areas for rickshaws and apply traffic rules rigidly.

Woes of fishermen

Thousands of fishermen of the haor areas of Borguna and Patuakhali districts have been facing serious problems in the pursuit of their vocation.

Fishing inputs like nets and boats are beyond reach of the professional fisherman.

The fishermen cooperative societies, under the influence of high-ups, have been assisting mainly the non-professional fish traders, local fishermen complained.

Indiscriminate fishing by the non-professional fishermen is also posing a threat to the fish resources.

It is alleged that a section of them, have been using "current nets" which take out almost all sizes of fish at a time.

It is learnt that the traditional fishermen are leaving

their profession due to scarcity of fish and other related problems.

The provision of leasing out haors, beels and jalmahals to the genuine fishermen is not following except in some cases.

Genuine fishermen are frightened away from the leased out water-bodies by hired thugs of fish traders, they alleged, adding law enforcing agencies had been unresponsive to complaints.

Repression on women Non-registration of marriage among the poor has been one of the main causes encouraging repression on women and promoting divorces.

According to a random survey in some areas of Amtoli and Betagi upazilas, most of the marriages are not registered and wives are subjected to physical torture.

The survey revealed that due to lack of documents, wives cannot go for legal action against their husbands.

Taking this advantage, husbands find it easy to abandon their wives whenever they desire, consequently, many divorces resort to begging, prostitution and other means to maintain their livelihood, the survey added.

Marriage registrars in the rural areas allegedly charge higher registration fees than officially fixed rates.

Social leaders urged the government to fix minimum "mohrana" at Taka 15,000 and a token fee for compulsory registration to save the rural women from oppression.

Shortage of teacher hampers pry education in Rajshahi

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Dec 7: The Universal Primary Education Programme has been facing problems due to shortage of teachers, accommodation problem, shortage of furniture and lack of teaching appliances.

A total of 65 posts of primary teachers is lying vacant for a long time. Of the vacant posts, 36 posts are for headmasters and the remaining are the posts for assistant teachers.

The upazila wise breakup of the vacant posts is: Bagmara Upazila — eight posts of headmaster, 16 posts of assistant teacher, Tanore Upazila — four posts of headmaster and ten posts of assistant teacher, Chorghat Upazila — five posts of headmaster and two assistant teachers, Godagari Upazila — four posts of headmaster and one post of assistant teacher, Durgapur — five posts of headmaster and four posts of assistant teacher, Bagha Upazila — five posts of headmaster and four posts of assistant teacher, Paba — three posts of headmaster, Puthia — two posts of headmaster and Mohanpur — one post of headmaster.

The quota of teachers in government primary schools are not maintained properly, it is informed. Some schools have extra teachers while the others are facing shortage.

Most of the schools which were damaged by floods and cyclones several years back have not yet been repaired. Moreover, most of the schools have no door and window shutter for which the cattle and goats move freely in the class rooms.

There are shortage of benches for which the students had to seat on the bricks and chatais, it is alleged.

The supply of educational appliances such as blackboard, chalk and dusters is quite inadequate to meet the demand. Absence of toilets and non-supply of pure drinking water are regular feature.

The people of the district have urged the concerned authorities to take immediate steps to mitigate the sufferings of the students.

BMA unit polls

The biennial election of the Rajshahi Unit of Bangladesh Medical Association was held here recently.

Dr Kaiser Ahmed Chowdhury and Dr Syed Amjad Hossain were elected President and General Secretary of the unit.

JCD annual meet

The annual meeting of the Jatayatnabadi Chhatra Dal Raj-

shahi University Zoha hall unit was held here recently.

Chaired by JCD leader Abdus Satter, the meeting was addressed by Mr Harunur Rashid, Baha Uddin Bahar and others.

A 41-member Executive Committee of the Zoha hall unit was formed in the meeting.

12 face charge for assaulting newsmen

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, Dec 7: Police have chargesheeted 12 persons in connection with the assault of Press Club members at the Press Club Bhaban here, reports UNB.

The court issued warrant of arrest against 6 persons who are still absconding.

A group of miscreants armed with lethal weapons attacked the members of the Press Club Bhaban on September 19, injuring four journalists.

Chandpur eye hospital to organise 50 mobile camp

CHANDPUR, Dec 7: The Mazharul Haque BNSB Eye Hospital has taken up a plan to organise 50 mobile eye camps in the district and in some other districts of the country during this winter season, reports UNB.

According to hospital sources, it has three medical teams to run the mobile eye camps smoothly and 12 mobile eye camps will be organised in Comilla, Brahmanbaria, Shari-

atpur, Laximpur, Munshiganj, Tongi districts and in some other areas of the country.

The mobile eye camps will be arranged for nine days by Chandpur Rotary Club, Chandpur Rotaract Club, Central Rotary Club (Chandpur), Rotaract Club (Chandpur), Comilla Rotary Club, Comilla Rotaract Club, Narayanganj Rotary Club, Dhanmondi Rotary Club and some social welfare organisations and NGOs, it is learnt.

To make the eye camps successful, local eye camp committees and local upazila administrations will extend co-operation and assistances, the hospital sources added.

Talking to UNB, Dr. MA Ghafur, a hospital executive said that in each mobile eye camp, 100 cataract patients will be operated upon free of cost.

About 12000 patients, having minor eye trouble, will be given outdoor treatment along with requisite medicines free of cost at the outdoor. Each cataract patient will be given free of cost a pair of new spectacles too.

It may be noted here that the Mazharul Haque BNSB Eye Hospital is the lone eye hospital in greater Comilla district.

Besides, it is one of the 8th base hospital of the country being assisted by the Anshert-Hilfe, an organisation of Germany.



GAZIPUR: The best participants of the 3-month-long 'Sewing Training Course' organised the local Ansar VDP Training Centre for Women, receiving the prizes. —Star photo