

Upazila roundup

PABNA
Weavers Gherao
DC office

July 17: About 500 weavers gheraoed the Deputy Commissioner's office here Tuesday morning protesting their eviction from Zila Weavers Samity market in the town, reports UNB.

They alleged without issuing prior notice, police evicted them from the market Monday morning.

District administration sources, however, said the market was constructed illegally on enemy property.

The protesters chanted various slogans against the Deputy Commissioner and demanded compensation of Taka 10 lakh for damaging their 42 shops in the market.

Later, they handed over a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner.

An 8-hour (10 am to 6 pm) hartal was observed in the town Monday at the call of the District Weavers Association to protest their eviction.

MYMENSINGH
10,000 marooned
in low-lying
areas

MYMENSINGH, July 17: About 10 thousand people remained marooned in low-lying areas of the sadar upazila as flood situation in the district worsened with onrush of water from the Brahmaputra, reports UNB.

Eight unions of Sadar upazila have been submerged by the swelling water of the major river flowing 2 cm above danger level here Tuesdays officials said.

They said standing crops on about seven thousand acre of land and about 26 thousand kutchas houses had been damaged partially or completely in Astadhar, Kushtia, Burarchar, Paranganj, Khaudkaha, Charashitta, Chariswardia and Charnokhla unions.

The flood control embankment along the river also came under threat due to fresh breaches at Shambuganj.

SHARIATPUR
Housewife
commits
suicide

July 17: A young house wife committed suicide following a family feud in Narta upazila on Monday, police said, reports UNB.

The victim, Kamala Rani (25), took her life by taking poison after she was smacked by her husband Babul Gosh on the fateful day.

Her body was sent to Sadar Hospital for post mortem. None has so far been arrested. A case was also filed.

PATUAKHALI

Four telecom
buildings will
be set up

July 17: Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board has taken up a programme to construct four telecom buildings in three southern districts during the current fiscal, reports UNB.

Official sources said an amount of about Taka 70 lakh will be spent for construction of the buildings at Damudia and Goshatrat upazilas in Charshitta district, at Balakandi upazila of Rajbari district and at Nagarkanda upazila of Faridpur district.

Telecommunication between the districts and the capital and other parts of the country will be greatly improved after the completion of the scheme.

17 projects under
execution

Water Development Board (WDB) is executing 37 projects to protect four upazilas of the district from flash flood and saline water intrusion, officials sources said, reports UNB.

Funded by IDA, the projects are being implemented at an estimated cost of Taka 11 crore in Goachipa, Kolapara, Mirzaganj and Sadar upazilas.

The schemes, include construction of closure dams, sluice gates and flash gates.

At least 15,000 acres of land will be saved from flash flooding and salinity after the completion of the schemes, it is learnt.

Besides, this will help produce additional 1000 metric tons of foodgrains.

COMILLA

JCD holds
protest meeting

July 17: Comilla unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) yesterday held a protest

meeting demanding punishment to those responsible for the attack on Comilla BNP office on Wednesday.

The meeting, held at the JCD office, was chaired by student leader Alauddin Ahmed and addressed by Mustaq Mia, Shafiqur Rahman and Amiruzzaman.

It was followed by a procession, which paraded the streets of the town.

A case has been registered with Kotwali thana yesterday regarding the attack on BNP office.

Nine party leaders were injured on Wednesday when some outsiders attacked the BNP office here.

SIRAJGANJ

Old woman
killed
in road mishap

July 17: An old woman, who was seriously injured in a road accident Monday, died here Tuesday, reports UNB.

Sakhira Bawa (60) was hit by a motor cycle near Serajganj Government College when she was returning from a public meeting addressed by the Prime Minister during her visit to the flood-hit areas.

Sakhira was rushed to Sirajganj General Hospital where she succumbed to injuries at 10 am Tuesday.

NETRAKONA

15 projects will
be implemented

NETRAKONA, July 17: Implementation of 15 projects taken up by Netrakona Pourashava at a cost of Taka 1,13,67,373 will be completed by December next, reports BSS.

The Pourashava Chairman said the projects are being financed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

The work of the projects included repair and reconstruction of 14 roads and a 200-foot bridge over the river Dahi.

JAMALPUR

Tree plantation
programme

July 17: Jamalpur Sadar Upazila Central Cooperative Association and Bank Limited has taken up a programme to transplant 60,000 saplings of different trees in the current season, reports BSS.

The programme was inaugurated by the deputy Director, Bangladesh rural development Board (BRDB) at a function held here recently.

Twelve thousand members of Upazila Central Cooperative Association will take part in the tree plantation programme.

KHULNA

Shrimp price in
overseas market
declines

July 17: Prices of Bangladeshi shrimp in the overseas market have declined in comparison to last year, reports UNB.

According to reliable sources here, the foreign buyers are reluctant to purchase the country's shrimp after the recent cyclonic storm and tidal surge.

American buyers have reportedly informed the frozen seafood exporters that Bangladesh shrimp have developed a virus carried by the April 29 cyclone.

Export Promotion Bureau is reported to have taken steps to clarify the position saying that there had been no evidence of such disease affecting the Bangladesh shrimp.

The local frozen food exporters said the export prices of different sizes of shrimp have been quoted at one to two US dollar per kilogram lower this year than that of last year.

They have called upon the government to launch vigorous efforts to explore new markets for Bangladesh shrimp.

SATKHIRA

Minor boy killed
in road mishap

July 17: A minor boy was killed on the spot Monday in a road accident at Labna area on Satkhira-Jessore road, police sources said, reports UNB.

The victim, Piku (12), son of Azhar Rahman of Naikura village of Sadar upazila was dashed by a Jessore bound speeding truck while he was crossing the road.

The driver, however, managed to escape with the vehicle.

A case was filed in this connection.



With the advent of monsoon, haors, khal, beels and canals are filled to the brim. Fishermen go far across the plains in the hope of earning more to help them during lean period. —Star photo

Flood situation deteriorates
Thousands marooned in Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, July 17: Flood situation in Sirajganj district continues to worsen though the river Jamuna has recorded a slight fall.

It is learnt that water level of the small rivers including Bhadrabati, Gumani, Bangalee, Fulzor, Idurasagar and Ichhamati are rising sharply inundating new areas of Tarash, Raiganj, Ullapara and Shahzadpur upazilas. Situation in affected Kaziipur, Sadar, Belkudi and Chowhali upazilas also remains unchanged. Heavy current of Fulzor threatens the existence of Dhangara river port in Raiganj upazila. Meanwhile, major portion of the market is devoured.

Communication of Dhangara with Raiganj has been disrupted. Overflowing of flood water over four points of Sirajganj-Kaziipur road caused suspension of motor service on this route.

Thousands of marooned people at Tarash upazila need to be rescued but strong waves in the waterbodies caused hindrances. Marooned people of the district could not be rescued and meanwhile more than 50 thousand homeless people have taken shelter on the BWDB embankment.

Major rivers rise
in Jamalpur

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, July 17: Water level of all the major rivers of the district are rising very fast due to continuous rains. The rivers have not crossed the danger level yet but the low-lying areas of the district have been submerged. Hundreds of acres of Aus, Jute and other crop fields went under water.

It deserves mentioned that onrush of flood water from the upper regions has rendered 2000 people homeless last year. The situation has aggravated after construction of Farakka Barrage which totally damaged crops on two lakh acres of land. These lands remain uncultivated during dry season every year for want of irrigable water from the Brahmaputra and Jamuna and in monsoon all the border

gates of Farakka are opened resulting in sudden discharge of water causing untimely floods.

UZ Chairman polls declared illegal

Khandokar Abu Baker District and Sessions Judge, Jamalpur recently declared Bakshiganj Upazila Chairman election illegal.

In the last year's upazila election Abdur Rauf Chowdhury, a Jatiya Party leader was elected Chairman defeating his nearest rival Professor Solaiman. Solaiman filed a case with the District Judge challenging the election illegal while Abdur Rauf is a defaulting loanee of banks.



KISHOREGANJ: Erosion by the river Meghna threatens Katpatty of Bhairab river port town. —Star photo

15 feared drowned in
Faridpur boat capsized

FARIDPUR, July 17: At least 15 persons were feared drowned when a mechanised boat capsized in the river Gorai near Kamarkhali Ghat yesterday, reports UNB.

Eyewitnesses said the boat carrying about 60 passengers from Narua of the neighbouring Rajbari district, capsized in midstream close to the Gorai bridge at 10-30 am.

The remaining passengers of the ill-fated boat were rescued by other boats.

The passengers were coming to attend the inauguration of the newly constructed Gorai bridge by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

Thousands of people streaming into Kamarkhali Ghat to greet Begum Zia saw the tragic incident helplessly.

At least 15 persons, according to the three rescued passengers, were feared drowned or missing.

The three rescued passengers are Afzal Hossain (40) of Cholarbari, Sirajul Islam (10) of Narua and Abul Kalam (35) of Krishnapur in Rajbari district.

Neither the bodies were found nor the boat was salvaged till 7 pm.

Gastroenteritis claims
14 lives in Gaibandha

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, July 17: Gastroenteritis has claimed 14 lives and some hundred others have been attacked by the disease in different areas of Gobindaganj upazila during the last fortnight.

Out of the total victims, one at village Sakpala, two at Tarunipara, one at Baiguni, two at Sonadanga, one at Poonter, one at Gobindanagar, one at Dharma, one at Saktipur and two at Kamdia under Gobindaganj upazila died of the disease.

Upazila health officials, however, admitted the death of 13 persons.

Initiative by the district health department is not adequate.

Brahmaputra
erosion hits
Gaibandha

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, July 17: Wide spread erosion of the river Brahmaputra hit Kamarjani Bander, ten kilometer off Gaibandha which is now on the verge of total extinction.

Meanwhile, about 600 feet of main embankment along the river eroded away by the surging water of the river Brahmaputra.

Nearly 200 homesteads including shops were wiped out due to extensive erosion. Many shops and dwellings have been eroded. Still three houses, one food godown, BJMC jute purchasing centre, two high schools three madrasahs, orphanage and two primary schools could not be shifted immediately which are now threatened.

Although Water Development Board (WDB) erected a ring embankment if failed to combat the erosion, local people blamed.

LLB results out

Rajshahi University has announced LLB final results of 1987 held in 1990 under the university.

According to old syllabus, 498 students appeared in the examination. Of them 329 came out successful. The percentage of pass is 66.66. Sixty four secured Second Class and the rest Third Class.

On the otherhand, according to the new syllabus, 228 students out of 290 came out successful. Of them 102 secured Second Class and the rest Third Class. The percentage of pass is 78.62.

Debate contest

The Annual Inter hall Debate competition of Rajshahi University was concluded here under the auspices of Rajshahi University Central Students Union (RUCSU).

Vice-chancellor of RU, Professor Amanullah Ahmed formally inaugurated the week long competition at Kazi Nazrul Islam auditorium, while Professor SAQM Haroonur Rashid, Treasurer, RUCSU was the special guest.

Students of 12 residential halls took part in the competition in two groups. Shahid Habibur Rahman Hall team, and Nawab Abdul Latif Hall team became champion in their respective groups.

Pottery

The traditional pottery industry in Rajshahi district is on the verge of extinction throwing hundreds of potters out of employment due to fund constraints and marketing facilities.

Many families engaged in the cottage industry since several generations are now facing untold suffering and about 5000 artisans are jobless. The craftsmen involved directly or indirectly with the industry deserting their ancestral occupation have now taken up manual jobs.

The prices of clay, dice, fuel and other necessary materials used in pottery have increased abnormally.

The potters have no working capital to run their industry. As a result, they borrow money from the money lenders at high rate of interest. Besides, the demand for pottery has decreased due to availability of aluminium and plastic utensils in the country.



CHANDPUR: Mr Zahirul Huq and Mr Ruhul Amin Gazi, President and General Secretary respectively of Dhaka Union of Journalists addressing a reception given in their honour by the Iqbal Memorial Sangsad at the Town Hall premises recently.

Narail lacks civic
amenities

Narail, July 17: Civic amenities are absent in the town here causing suffering to about one lakh inhabitants, reports UNB.

The subdivision was brought under Pourashava in 1972 and then expanded and further promoted to a district seven years back.

But the town is still bearing the trauma of narrow and uneven roads with innumerable potholes, clogged drains, garbage littered here and there, inadequate street lights, scarcity of safe water and lack of sanitation.

Residents complain that in absence of bins, garbage are dumped indiscriminately posing threat to health and sanitation. Besides, it helps in breeding of mosquitoes.

Moreover, frequent power failure has become a nagging problem for the dwellers. The town often plunges into darkness almost at every sundown

leading to the rise of anti-social activities.

Public Health Engineering Department sources said fund shortage has been delaying the implementation of water supply scheme in the town. Some hand tubewells have also become inoperative as ground water level fell abnormally.

Lack of public lavatories has forced many people to defecate on open places creating environmental pollution. The pourashava's conservancy service is also insufficient to cope with the situation.

As a result, they are passing sleepless nights. Besides, work in schools, colleges, hospitals and other business centers are being hampered. Ponds full of waterhyacinth, kutchra drains and stagnant polluted water around the ditches and bushes are the ideal centres for mosquito breeding. Town dwellers urged the pourashava authorities to take necessary steps to combat the menace.

Due to fund shortage the pourashava authorities are unable to combat the menace, it is learnt.

Mosquito* menace has assumed an alarming proportion causing untold sufferings to the town dwellers.

The mosquitoes are multiplying so fast that no one is left safe even in day time. The poor people are the worst sufferers

On the other hand sprayers available in the agricultural department are lying out of order for want of spare parts. Most farmers are unable to purchase the required quantity of insecticides due to exorbitant prices of the items.

It is reported that even after being informed of the situation no agricultural official visited the affected areas.

After the attack the plants grow yellowish and later dry off. Although the menace is rapidly engulfing fresh jute fields, no steps have yet been taken to curb the menace by the concerned authorities.

On the other hand sprayers

available in the agricultural department are lying out of order for want of spare parts. Most farmers are unable to purchase the required quantity of insecticides due to exorbitant prices of the items.

It is reported that even after being informed of the situation no agricultural official visited the affected areas.

After the attack the plants grow yellowish and later dry off. Although the menace is rapidly engulfing fresh jute fields, no steps have yet been taken to curb the menace by the concerned authorities.

On the other hand sprayers

available in the agricultural department are lying out of order for want of spare parts. Most farmers are unable to purchase the required quantity of insecticides due to exorbitant prices of the items.

It is reported that even after being informed of the situation no agricultural official visited the affected areas.

After the attack the plants grow yellowish and later dry off. Although the menace is rapidly engulfing fresh jute fields, no steps have yet been taken to curb the menace by the concerned authorities.

On the other hand sprayers

available in the agricultural department are lying out of order for want of spare parts. Most farmers are unable to purchase the required quantity of insecticides due to exorbitant prices of the items.

It is reported that even after being informed of the situation no agricultural official visited the affected areas.

After the attack the plants grow yellowish and later dry off. Although the menace is rapidly engulfing fresh jute fields, no steps have yet been taken to curb the menace by the concerned authorities.

On the other hand sprayers

available in the agricultural department are lying out of order for want of spare parts. Most farmers are unable to purchase the required quantity of insecticides due to exorbitant prices of the items.

It is reported that even after being informed of the situation no agricultural official visited the affected areas.

After the attack the plants grow yellowish and later dry off. Although the menace is rapidly engulfing fresh jute fields, no steps have yet been taken to curb the menace by the concerned authorities.

On the other hand sprayers

available in the agricultural department are lying out of order for want of spare parts. Most farmers are unable to purchase the required quantity of insecticides due to exorbitant prices of the items.

It is reported that even after being informed of the situation no agricultural official visited the affected areas.

After the attack the plants grow yellowish and later dry off. Although the menace is rapidly engulfing fresh jute fields, no steps have yet been taken to curb the menace by the concerned authorities.

On the other hand sprayers

available in the agricultural department are lying out of order for want of spare parts. Most farmers are unable to purchase the required quantity of insecticides due to exorbitant prices of the items.

It is reported that even after being informed of the situation no agricultural official visited the affected areas.

After the attack the plants grow yellowish and later dry off. Although the menace is rapidly engulfing fresh jute fields, no steps have yet been taken to curb the menace by the concerned authorities.

On the other hand sprayers

available in the agricultural department are lying out of order for want of spare parts. Most farmers are unable to purchase the required quantity of insecticides due to exorbitant prices of the items.

It is reported that even after being informed of the situation no agricultural official visited the affected areas.

After the attack the plants grow yellowish and later dry off. Although the menace is rapidly engulfing fresh jute fields, no steps have yet been taken to curb the menace by the concerned authorities.

On the other hand sprayers

available in the agricultural department are lying out of order for want of spare parts. Most farmers are unable to purchase the required quantity of insecticides due to exorbitant prices of the items.

It is reported that even after being informed of the situation no agricultural official visited the affected areas.

After the attack the plants grow yellowish and later dry off. Although the menace is rapidly engulfing fresh jute fields, no steps have yet been taken to curb the menace by the concerned authorities.

On the other hand sprayers

available in the agricultural department are lying out of order for want of spare parts. Most farmers are unable to purchase the required quantity of insecticides due to exorbitant prices of the items.

It is reported that even after being informed of the situation no agricultural official visited the affected areas.

After the attack the plants grow yellowish and later dry off. Although the menace is rapidly engulfing fresh jute fields, no steps have yet been taken to curb the menace by the concerned authorities.

On the other hand sprayers

available in the agricultural department are lying out of order for want of spare parts. Most farmers are unable to purchase the required quantity of insecticides due to exorbitant prices of the items.

It is reported that even after being informed of the situation no agricultural official visited the affected areas.

After the attack the plants grow yellowish and later dry off. Although the menace is rapidly engulfing fresh jute fields, no steps have yet been taken to curb the menace by the concerned authorities.

On the other hand sprayers

available in the agricultural department are lying out of order for want of spare parts. Most farmers are unable to purchase the required quantity of insecticides due to exorbitant prices of the items.

It is reported that even after being informed of the situation no agricultural official visited the affected areas.

After the attack the plants grow yellowish and later dry off. Although the menace is rapidly engulfing fresh jute fields, no steps have yet been taken to curb the menace by the concerned authorities.

On the other hand sprayers

available in the agricultural department are lying out of order for want of spare parts. Most farmers are unable to purchase the required quantity of insecticides due to exorbitant prices of the items.

It is reported that even after being informed of the situation no agricultural official visited the affected areas.

After the attack the plants grow yellowish and later dry off. Although the menace is rapidly engulfing fresh jute fields, no steps have yet been taken to curb the menace by the concerned authorities.

On the other hand sprayers

available in the agricultural department are lying out of order for want of spare parts. Most farmers are unable to purchase the required quantity of insecticides due to exorbitant prices of the items.

It is reported that even after being informed of the situation no agricultural official visited the affected areas.

After the attack the plants grow yellowish and later dry off. Although the menace is rapidly engulfing fresh jute fields, no steps have yet been taken to curb the menace by the concerned authorities.