

Upazila roundup

**JHENIDAH**  
**5 students injured in clash**  
 From Our Correspondent  
 August 3: Five students were injured in a clash between Chhatra Mollry and Chhatra League (JSD-Inu) at government KC College hostel here on Monday afternoon. Of the injured Assaduzzaman (22) and Anup (21) of BA students of Chhatra League (Inu) were admitted to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital.  
 The trouble started between the two rival student organisations on the issue of occupation of hostel seat. Eyewitnesses said at the time of clash panic-stricken students were seen fleeing jumping from the 1st floor of the hostel. They used sticks hockey stick iron rod, bricks etc. Hall super with the help of police brought the situation under control.

buy agricultural inputs for cultivation, had to depend on the money lenders.  
 They said the peasants were selling Irri-boro crops to them in advance at Tk 100 to Tk 125 per maund to maintain their livelihood.  
 The farmers who can afford to wait for the harvesting period do not get fair price of their produce.  
 Besides, the price of bullocks has recorded sharp fall and most of the farmers have already sold their draft animals due to economic hardship.  
 A vast number of farmers in the district were engaged in cultivation of sweet potatoes in char areas. But poor production and lower price of the item have caused serious set back to the growers of the sweet potatoes.  
 Potatoes are selling at Tk 125-135 per maund which is too meagre in comparison with the production cost, farmers said.

**PATUAKHALI**  
**Crop production decreases**  
 August 3: Crop production has been decreasing alarmingly due to sharp decline in the mineral soil in six upazilas of the district, agricultural experts said, reports UNB.  
 The shortage of sulphur, zinc, and other necessary minerals which caused adverse effects on soil fertility.  
 Officials at the local Agriculture Department attributed the mineral deficiency in the region to unrestrained and over use of chemical fertilizers in the land.  
 Farmers said paddy and other crop production in Bauphal, Golachipa, Mirzagonj, Dashmina and Kalapara upazila has decreased to a great extent due to mineral scarcity in the soil.  
 Experts suggested that farmers should be encouraged to use natural manures and avoid chemical fertilizers in the interest of maintaining fertility and mineral constituents of soil.

**GAZIPUR**  
**PTI starts functioning**  
 From Our Correspondent.  
 August 3: A new Primary Training Institute (PTI) has been established at Gazipur district headquarters at a cost of Taka two crore. The institute started its functioning on July 15 last.  
 Facilities Department under the Ministry of Education constructed the institute to impart training to 200 primary teachers at a time. A multi-storied academic building, women's hostel, hostel super's quarter, staff quarter and boundary wall have been constructed.

**MADARIPUR**  
**Red Crescent office-bearers**  
 From Our Correspondent.  
 August 3: Election of office-bearers of the Madaripur unit of Red Crescent Society was held recently.  
 Md Sayed Shirajul Hoq and Md Sorwar Alam were elected Vice-President and Secretary respectively.  
 Four members were also elected. They are — M Jahandar Ali Jahan, A Zabbar Mia, Fariduddin Ahmed and Shamsul Hoq Howlader.

**SIRAJGANJ**  
**Housewife commits suicide**  
 August 3: A housewife was allegedly killed by her husband at village Tamal of Belkuchi upazila, police said here Yesterday, reports UNB.  
 The victim Surju Banu (22) married to Abdul Majid four years ago. But they have no child.  
 According to family sources, Majid suspecting his wife's affair with the co-villager Anjad used to torture her at regular intervals.  
 On the fateful day recently Majid picked up a quarrel with his wife and allegedly beat her to death and threw the body into a nearby ditch to hush up the murder.  
 Police later recovered the body and sent to morgue for autopsy.  
 A case has been filed in this connection.

**NOAKHALI**  
**AED seed distribution programme**  
 MAIJDÉE COURT (Noakhali), Aug 3: District Agriculture Extension Department has taken up a programme for distribution of seeds, seedlings, fertilizers and other inputs among the poor farmers in six upazilas of the district, reports UNB.  
 The post cyclone Agricultural Rehabilitation Programme costing Tk 72.22 lakh, is going on in full swing and it is expected to be completed shortly, official sources said.  
 The distribution of inputs is part of the programme, they said.

**BARGUNA**  
**Money lenders active**  
 August 3: Money lenders are doing brisk business in the district by giving loans to farmers at high interest against their crops in the field, reports UNB.  
 Local people said majority farmers, facing economic hardship and being unable to



Though winter is far away, preparations for winter vegetables are afoot in some areas. Photo shows farmers sowing seeds of cauliflower — a winter vegetable — with the hope of marketing the item much ahead of schedule at a village in Joydevpur. —Star photo

**Substandard medicines on sale**

**DINAJPUR, Aug. 3:** Substandard life-saving drugs have flooded the markets of the district of Dinajpur for the last few months.  
 Worms, fungus, flies are often found in many drug containers including saline and injection, it is alleged.  
 The mushroom growth of many drug companies are responsible for manufacturing of the sub-standard drugs, knowledgeable sources opined. It is alleged that the medicine companies do not bother to collect certificates from the authorities for marketing their products.  
 It is learnt that a section of the physicians are patronising the sub-standard drugs by prescribing it to the patients at the under request from the drug dealers.  
 Many medicine shops have been opened in remote areas of villages without the proper drug licence which are allegedly selling spurious medicines risking the lives of the patients.  
 The local people have demanded punishment to the

persons responsible for manufacturing and selling spurious drugs endangering the lives of the patients.  
**The TB Clinic** at Dinajpur established in 1970 is now beset with manifold problems. The clinic has no X-ray machine which is very important for diagnosis of the disease.  
 The clinic has no stretcher and waiting-room for patients. Scarcity of drugs is also another problem in the clinic.  
 Meanwhile, Irri-Boro production in all the 13 upazilas of the district of Dinajpur has registered a sharp fall this year mainly due to short supply and price hike of fertilizers and diesel.  
 Official sources admitting the abnormal price hike said that Irri-Boro production has fallen by 30 per cent this year due to fertilizers and diesel shortage.  
 According to official sources and farmers, the prices of fertilizers on average rose to Taka 500 per bag although the government fixed the price at Taka 201.25.  
**From Our Correspondent**  
 The total requirement of Urea fertilizers was 35,000 tons in the district this year, whereas BADC supplied only 20,000 tons. As a result, 60 per cent of the total land remained fallow. The target of Irri-Boro cultivation this year was fixed at 5.65 lakh acres.  
 When contacted, a dealer told this correspondent that the fertilizer factories at Ashuganj and Ghorashal failed to supply fertilizers as per requirements.  
 Frequent disruption of power supply is 13 upazilas under Dinajpur district is causing heavy loss to industrial and agricultural sectors.  
 The Bangladesh Power Development Board (PDB) maintains supply through Saidpur distribution centre to different upazilas of the district. In all these places, many new industrial units have sprung up depending on electricity. Most of these units are incurring loss in production for erratic power failure.  
 The price of Triple Super Phosphate (TSP) has also gone up in the district. TSP is being sold at Taka 280 to Taka 300 per bag of 50 kgs as against government fixed price of Taka 216 per bag.  
 The cultivation of Aman crops in the ensuing season will be hampered for want of TSP in the Rajshahi and Khulna divisions.  
 It may be mentioned here that 49 lakh acres of land will be brought under Aman cultivation in these two divisions. At least 135 metric tons of TSP will be required during this season, but the government is importing only 34,000 metric tons of TSP and there will be a shortfall of 91,000 metric tons of TSP in the country, it is learnt.  
 It is apprehended that the Indian fertilizers which are of inferior quality, will capture markets of these two divisions.  
 The government should take immediate measures to check the price spiral of TSP to help attain self-sufficiency in food in the country.

**5000 homeless in Jamalpur floods**

**From Our Correspondent**  
**JAMALPUR, August 3:** Flash floods rendered 5000 families homeless destroying three mosques, one school, one hat, and 50 shops within last 10 days.  
 Kulkandi, Chinaduli, Belgassa, Gothail in Jamalpur upazila have been washed away by the erosion. Jute, Aus, Aman seedlings, sugarcane and other seasonal crops in two lakh acres have been damaged by the flood water gushing through innumerable breaches in the 14-mile long flood control embankment of the Brahmaputra river.  
 As 3000 feet Haridhar embankment have been devalued by the river communication of Jamalpur with all other upazila headquarters has been snapped.  
 Besides, 95 per cent of Aman seedlings all over the district have been totally damaged by the flood water. Thousands of homeless people have taken shelter on roads and embankments. Scarcity of food, drinking water and other essentials is prevailing in the flood hit areas, it is reported.

**Draft animal shortage hampers farming**

**From Our Correspondent**  
**KISHOREGANJ, August 3:** Acute shortage of bullocks is causing serious obstacle to cultivation work in Kishoreganj, Mymensingh and Netrakona districts.  
 According to the knowledgeable sources, 60 to 70 per cent families having no bullocks are unable to till their lands. Consequently a considerable acreage of lands in these districts remain uncultivated every year. Most of the farmers carry on their agricultural works on share basis as they cannot afford to purchase bullock or cow due to sharp rise in their prices.  
 At present a pair of bullock costs Taka 6000 to 10,000 or more at different markets. Sometimes the farmer till their land with spades. Many of them even use milch cows to cultivate their land resulting in gradual reduction in the milk production.  
 According to a survey, bullock shortage prevails every year due to various diseases that takes a heavy toll of cattleheads and natural calamities.  
 Every years a large number of cattleheads is lost due to floods. Besides, it is also alleged that some greedy cobblers are found poisoning cattleheads in different places of the districts only to collect their skin.  
 On the other hand slaughtering of bullocks has increased much following the scarcity of fish in the markets. Epidemics and diseases also take heavy toll as those cannot be fought effectively due to her

**Notes from Rangpur**

**From Our Correspondent**  
**RANGPUR, Aug 3:** Bamandanga Bazar, an important and popular market in Sunderganj upazila is plagued with manifold problems for a long time. It lacks drainage system, electricity and other amenities creating immense sufferings to both shopkeepers and customers. During the rainy season, the bazar remains submerged in stagnant water and mushroom growth of shops in a haphazard way causes much inconvenience to the people. It is alleged that the authority concerned earns much revenue leasing out the market annually by auction.  
 On the other hand, about crops on 300 acres of land in five villages of Manjuria union under Palaashari upazila are being damaged every year by stagnant water for lack of drainage system.  
 According to the local people an area of 10 decimal land in a canal been silted up few years back. As a result, rain waters cannot pass through the canal which is causing inundation of these crop field and total damage to crops every year.  
 The affected farmers repeatedly approached the upazila and other authorities concerned to remove the silts by excavating the canal but to no effect.  
 They demanded that the authorities concerned should take an appropriate measure to remove the water stagnation problem of these areas and give a redress to the sufferings of hundreds of villagers of this remote corner of the country.

**Police asked to contain crimes**

**From Our Correspondent**  
**COMILLA, Aug 3:** Inspector General of Police Tayebuddin Ahmed asked the police personnel to take drastic action against the anti social elements with the help of people to maintain law and order situation.  
 He was addressing a discussion meeting on the prevailing law and order situation at the police conference room in Comilla. The meeting was addressed, among others, by MA Karim, DIG of Police, Chittagong range, Hidayatul Islam Chowdhury, DC, Comilla, Amzad Hossain, SP, Comilla, journalist Gulam Mustafa Chowdhury, Principal Dilwar Jahid, ex-Pourashava Chairman, Abdul Awal, MA Motaleb, ex-President of High Court Bar, Comilla Bench, Editor of weekly Purbhassa, Wahidur Rahman and Abdul Haarith Babul.  
 The IGP stressed the need for concerted efforts to contain the anti-social activities and urged the people to cooperate with the police in this regard.

**BAU adopts 11-point code of conduct**

**Bangladesh Agricultural University** authorities have adopted an 11-point code of conduct to maintain peaceful and proper academic atmosphere on the campus. BAUCSU and all the student organisations of the university have accepted the decision, a press release of BAU said in Dhaka on Monday, reports BSS.  
 According to the regulations, the student organisations would not arrange any meeting, procession or gathering without the prior permission of the authority everyone would refrain from making any personal criticism, slanderous speech or slogan.  
 It urged upon all concerned not to invite any outside guest speakers as far as practicable and not to move with a procession in the residential hall areas.  
 The law enforcing agencies have been asked to take any measures to recover fire arms and other weapons from any place of the campus.  
**Dacoits kidnap girl student**  
 Dacoits kidnaped a girl and looted ornaments and cash from a house at Mirzapur union under Mithapur area recently.  
 According to the information, a gang of armed miscreants raided the house of Bhupesh Chandra Sarker at Putimari village and kidnaped his daughter Sathi Rani (15), a student of class ten and during their raid they looted away the ornaments and cash amount worth Taka 90,000.  
 A case has been registered with the police in this connection.

**8 lakh suffer from goitre in 8 northern districts**

**From A Correspondent**  
**cause of goitre.**  
 A pregnant mother with iodine deficiency gives birth to a disabled child.  
 Out of eight lakh patients, about two lakhs are children and the rest are people between the age of 21 and 45 years.  
 To check goitre in greater Dinajpur district UNICEF, RDRS (NGO) and the health department had taken up a joint programme in 1985. Similar programme was also taken up in Kurigram Sadar, Rowmari, Gogachara, Gaibandha Sadar, Sadullapur, Nilphamari Sadar, Jaldhaka, Lalmonirhat Sadar, Patgram and Debiganj upazilas. The programme has been extended to Ulipur, Aditmari, Chilimari and Pirgacha upazilas.  
 The Dinajpur-Rangpur Rural Sangasitha (RDRS a NGO) at Thakurgaon continued to supply iodised salt at normal price to the affected people of Thakurgaon Sadar, Baliadangi, Pirganj, Ranjankail and Harpur under Thakurgaon, Bochaganj and Birganj under Dinajpur, Boda

**Crops on 30,000 acres damaged in Chandpur**

**From Our Correspondent**  
**CHANDPUR, August 3:** Crops on about 30 thousand acres of land in "Chandpur Irrigation Project" was damaged due to water logging within the embankment area. Due to Water logging following continuous and heavy rainfall over 30 thousand acres of cultivable land have gone under flood water within the project area. As a result standing crops like paddy, jute, sugarcane, green chilli have been badly affected. Due to incessant rainfall seedlings in vast areas have been damaged.  
 It is reported that Chandpur Irrigation Project's main pump house at Char Bagadi is out of order since last month.  
 Its main transformer is damaged. Bangladesh Water Development Board, Chandpur office told this correspondent that the damaged transformer would be repaired soon. It may be mentioned "Chandpur Irrigation Project" is one of the biggest Irrigation Projects of Bangladesh Water Development Board. The project was established in 1976 at a cost of Taka 80 crore. The project was financed by World Bank. The project area covers an



**KHULNA:** Procession brought out by the members of the Action Committee comprising Khulna Union of Journalists and Press Workers Union parading the street demanding implementation of the fourth Wage Award on July 31 last. —Star photo