

Upazila roundup

GAIBANDHA

Aman seeds distributed

From Our Correspondent

Aug 16: About 3,000 kilogram Aman seeds were distributed among the destitute and marginal farmers of Gobindaganj upazila under agriculture rehabilitation programme in this current season. A total 5,000 kg Nigershall late variety seeds were distributed among the farmers of different upazilas with a view to erecting seed bed for the cultivation of late HYV transplanted Aman. The seeds were sold among the farmers at a price of Tk 11 per kg.

COMILLA

2 killed in road mishap

From Our Correspondent

Aug 16: Two persons were killed and ten others injured in a road accident on Comilla by-pass road at Paduar Bazar near Comilla town recently. The accident occurred while a truck dashed a night coach from behind. Seriously injured five persons were admitted to Comilla Sadar Hospital. The dead persons were yet to be identified.

MAULVI BAZAR

Opening of cinema hall protested

From Our Correspondent

Aug 16: A big public meeting was held at Rajnagar Bazar recently in protest against the decision of opening a cinema hall at Rajnagar upazila headquarters. The meeting was presided over by Al-Haj Ajmal Ali Khan, while among others Moulana Abdur Razzak and Mr. Mubarak Ali spoke in the meeting. The meeting in a resolution demanded cancellation of permission of cinema hall without delay. The processionists also handed over a memorandum to Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Rajnagar.

Rice misappropriated

Forty metric tons of rice worth Taka five lakh have been misappropriated by the project committee member allocated for repairing and reconstruction of embankment in Kadipur union of Kulara upazila under Maulvi Bazar district. It is further alleged that forty bundles of CI sheets allocated under relief and rehabilitation programme in Kadipur union was also not properly distributed. Separate cases are under investigation with local Anti-Corruption Department in this connection.

RAJSHAHI

Jute Mill Sramik Union executives

From Our Correspondent

Aug 16: The annual CBA election of Rajshahi Jute Mill Sramik Union was held recently peacefully. A total of 1,350 voters cast their votes among 2,450 voters in the polls. Rustom Ali and Abdus Sobhan were elected President and General Secretary respectively. Other elected office-bearers are Vice-President - Abu Taleb, Asstt General Secy - Anisur Rahman and Enamul Haque, Treasurer - Emdadul Haque, Organising Secy - Akkas Ali, Publication Secy - Md. Abdul Hakim, Office-Secy - Azam Shafulah, Social Welfare Secy - Abdus Sattar, and Sports Secy - Md. Ashraf Ali.

BRAHMANBARIA

One killed, 13 injured in clash over fishing

Aug 16: A man was killed and 13 others injured following a clash over fishing at Jalapur village in Sadar upazila of the district, police said yesterday, reports UNB. According to police, the clash ensued between the rival groups over fishing in a pond of the village recently. The victim Ful Miah (46), died on the spot. The seriously injured five people have been admitted to Sadar hospital while the rest were released after first aid. A case was filed in this connection.

FENI

Two killed in kerosene container blast

Aug 16: One woman and a girl were killed and two others sustained serious injuries in a kerosene container blast in the house of Idris contractor of village Ahmedpur under Sonagazi upazila, police said here today, reports UNB.

According to villagers, a kerosene container blasted suddenly on Monday while Goinahar Begum was pouring kerosene from the container into a lamp with the help of her daughter Putul. Putul died on the spot. Goinahar was rushed to Sonagazi Health Complex where she succumbed following day.

The seriously injured were identified as Rafiqul Islam (40), husband of Goinahar and his mother Sobura Khatun (60). They are being treated at the same health complex. A case was lodged with the local police in this connection.

Another message adds: A boy Milton (12), was seriously injured in a bomb blast while working in road-side near his house in Badura village in Sonagazi upazila on August 12. He was admitted to the Feni Sadar hospital.

CHUADANGA

Under trial prisoner dies in hospital

Aug 16: An under trial prisoner died at Sadar hospital Wednesday morning, district sub-jail authorities said, reports UNB.

Officials said the victim Fakir Mohammad Mondol (41), was taken to the hospital from sub-jail at about 2:35 am in a critical condition where he died of high blood pressure. But family sources alleged that the prisoner was admitted into the hospital with multiple injuries and succumbed without treatment. District administration has asked to carry out post mortem of the deceased.

The victim was in jail since August 6, 1990 in connection with a case with the special tribunal court.

PABNA

Contraband items worth Tk 50 lakh recovered

Aug 16: Narcotics Control Department recovered huge quantity of contraband goods worth about Tk 50 lakh from different places of the district during the last six months, reports UNB.

The recovered narcotics included 137 grams of heroin, 10 kg and 94 plants of ganja, 250 grams of bhang, 27 litre of chowli wine, 1264 kg of jawa, 45 litre of tari and 57 litre of country made other liquors.

AKM Saiful Islam, Deputy Director and Shree Jatin Mukharjee, Assistant Director of the Department told UNB that a total of 89 cases were filed and 89 people arrested from different areas of the district in this connection.

LGBE office

Aug 16: Construction work on Local Government Engineering Bureau (LGBE) office has been completed at a cost of Tk 23.30 lakh in Chhattani area of the town, reports UNB.

The inaugural ceremony of LGBE office was held on Tuesday. Deputy Commissioner Md Abu Solaiman Chowdhury and Project Director, Rural Development Project of LGBE Md Abdul Karim were present as chief and special guests on the occasion. Mohammad Musa, Executive Engineer of Pabna LGBE presided the function. Michael James, Project Engineering Adviser of World Bank was also present at the function.

RANGAMATI

Time bomb recovered

Aug 16: A time-bomb was recovered from a shop of Shubhalong Bazar of Barkal upazila here and local security forces detonated it, reports UNB. Official sources said the bomb was placed inside a plastic jerrican and kept in a shop. The shop keeper saw the jerrican on August 11 and out of apprehension informed the local security forces. It was then recovered and detonated without any problem.



Pickles prepared from a variety of sour fruits have great attraction to children and the old alike. Photo shows buying from a vendor pickles kept in uncovered pots on a van at a village in Comilla. This may cause hazards to health. — Star photo

Over 2 lakh children suffer from malnutrition in Dinajpur

From Our Correspondent

DINAJPUR, Aug 16: More than two lakh children in 13 upazilas of the district of Dinajpur are suffering from malnutrition following various diseases, according to an unofficial survey conducted here recently.

Mothers and children have been the victims of various water-borne diseases due to flood and drought. Many children are getting crippled or blind for want of nutrition. The children of these upazilas have been suffering from stomach ailments, blood

dysentery, malaria, diarrhoea, pneumonia, skin diseases, whooping cough, night blindness, etc.

According to child specialists, to meet the requirement of the body, the children from the age of 5/6 months should be given milk, calcium, iron, vitamin C and food containing folic acid. These are found in sufficient quantities in vegetables, pulses, egg, rice powder, suji, rice and fresh fruits. But as the majority of the people in rural areas are poor, they cannot afford to buy such fruits for

their children. Thousands of sugarcane growers gheraoed Joipurhat Sugar Mills authorities for immediate payment of their outstanding dues.

Growers complained that the mills authorities purchased sugarcane worth Taka two and a half crore, sources added. The mills office has been kept under lock and key for the last few days.

Growers have urged the district administration to help clear up their dues and save them from clutches of starvation.

Property gutted

Properties worth about Taka 5 lakh were gutted in a devastating fire at East Hashampur under Khansama upazila of the district on Monday last.

According to eyewitnesses, the fire originated from straw stacked near the house of Shaitish Chandra Roy gutted at least 20 nearby houses. The Union Parishad Chairman visited the affected areas after the incident.

Hungry children do it!

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 16: Some children and minor boys on Tuesday snatched away some relief materials from Kazipur Upazila Parishad premises. The incident took place when Chairman of Gandhali Union Parishad was taking some relief materials for distribution.

Later on police recovered a tin of biscuits major portion of which was eaten.

The children told the Upazila Chairman and Upazila Magistrate who visited the spot that devastating floods and erosion rendered their guardians unemployed and they did it being hungry.

Illegal occupants threaten flood embankment control

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Aug 16: The existence of Old Brahmaputra flood control embankment stretching from Doikhowa in Kurigram to Jamalpur Sadar upazila is at stake due to unabated encroachment by a section of people.

It is alleged that illegal occupants have constructed a large number of shops and dwelling houses on the embankment and rented them to several small traders and landless people. These illegal installation is causing serious problems to repair and maintain the embankment which is leading to destruction of forest resources.

The embankment was constructed several years back to protect cropland from flood waters. It plays a vital role in flood protection as it covers a vast tract of Jamalpur district, Bangladesh. Water Development Board (WDB) is entrusted with the responsibility of its maintenance and saplings of various trees were planted on the embankment. A huge amount of money was spent for this afforestation. But the illegal occupants have chopped off most of the trees on the embankment. As a result, the embankment is being devoured gradually by the adjacent river.

It is alleged that some vested quarters in collaboration with the concerned WDB authorities sold the possessions of the embankment.

One dies from snake bite

CHUADANGA, August 16: Shahnaj Parveen (13) daughter of Somruddin of village Khudiakhali under Alam-danga upazila of the district died from snake bite recently.

It is learnt that the victim was bitten by a snake when she was asleep at night in her residence.

She was a student of Kamalapur Government Primary School.

Cattle lifters active

Cattle lifters have become very active now a days along the border villages of Damurhuda upazila of Chuadanga district.

Cattle lifting has become rampant in the border villages of Damurhuda upazila. As a result the villagers are passing sleepless nights.

Recently a pair of bullocks of Sowdagor Mondol of village Sadabari under Damurhuda upazila of the district were stolen away by the miscreants. Besides, cattle thefts are committed every night along the border villages of Thakurgaon, Fulbari, Damurhuda, Kutubpur, Munshipur, Karpashdanga and Boldia upazilas.

It is alleged that though there is a large number of BDR camps in these border areas yet no help could be had from BDR personnel to apprehend the cattle lifters. The people of the area demanded immediately steps to check the crime.

Chhatra League (N-S) wins Rangpur College union polls

RANGPUR, Aug 16: Pro-JSD Chhatra League (N-S) bagged all 25 seats of Rangpur College Students Union election held Wednesday, reports UNB.

Abdun Noor Sarkar Dulal and Moklesur Rahman Toru were elected Vice President and General Secretary respectively.

The election was held peacefully.

3 girls drowned in Jamalpur

JAMALPUR, Aug 16: Three minor girls drowned in the river Jhatri and Brahmaputra Wednesday at Bokshiganj and Sadar upazilas, reports UNB.

Family sources said the victims Rupa (6), and Parul (5), daughters of Razzak of Bokshiganj and Omessa (4), of Sadar upazila suddenly slipped into the deep water while they were bathing. Local people recovered the bodies after frantic efforts.

Govt college lecturers' meet held in Tangail

TANGAIL, Aug 16: Lecturers including lady lecturers of four government colleges of Tangail held a meeting Tuesday at Sادات University Govt College, reports BSS.

The lecturers in a resolution extended their wholehearted support to the programme drawn up by Govt College Lecturer Samity. The meeting was presided over by Mr Abdul Majid, a senior lecturer. The meeting called upon all the members of the Samity to attend the Mahasammelan in Dhaka on August 18.

Bullock-driven oil mills on verge of extinction

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Aug 16: The age-old cottage industry of small oil mills in the district is now on the verge of extinction due to lack of protection.

The oil men locally called "Kalus" of the district are in great distress as the prices of all required items have increased. It is learnt that being unable to grapple with the problems many kalus of seven upazilas of the district have already given up their profession. About 10,000 families in different areas of these upazilas are engaged in this profession from generations together. Most of them earn their livelihood on oil from very childhood.

When contacted, some of them told that prices of oil seeds, bullocks and other inputs have increased. On the other hand prices of oil from bullock driven oil-mills do not commensurate with the production cost. The cumulative effects of all these, compelled

many village oil men to become day labourers. They urged upon authorities concerned to take immediate steps for improving living condition of these kalus and to save the age-old industry from ruin.

Acute shortage of bullocks has been prevailing through out the district for a long time posing threat to cultivation.

About 50 to 60 per cent families of the district have no bullocks to till their lands. Consequently about 45 per cent land are lying uncultivated. Most of the farmers carry out agricultural works on share basis as they cannot afford to buy the bullocks or cows due to their increased prices.

Sometimes farmers till their lands with spades and draw harrows themselves. Many of them use milk cows to cultivate their land resulting in gradual decline in milk production. A survey in this respect re-

veals that every year various diseases take heavy toll of cattleheads while some villagers allege that some cobblers are poisoning the cows and peel off their skins. Moreover, slaughtering of bullocks has increased to a great extent following scarcity of fish in the markets.

On the other hand no effective measures are being taken to combat the cattle borne diseases.

Meanwhile, the condition of veterinary hospitals is miserable and acute scarcity of medicines has aggravated the situation.

During the last devastating cyclone and tidal surge that lashed the district claimed a heavy toll of cows. Acute scarcity of fodder is also prevailing in the district which compelled the poor and middle class farmers to dispose of their cows and bullocks. Taking this advantage cow traders are purchasing cattleheads at very nominal prices.

35 uplift schemes undertaken in Gazipur

GAZIPUR, Aug 16: Gazipur Zila Parishad has taken up 35 schemes at a cost of Tk 2,35,32,331 in five upazilas of the district during the current fiscal year under post-flood rehabilitation programme, reports UNB.

Of them, 24 schemes have already been implemented costing about Tk 1.88 crore. The schemes include construction of 17.52 kms HBB road, carpeting of 5.8 kms and running metre R.C.C. of 14.14 kms. roads in Sadar, Kapasia and Kallakair upazila respectively including a box culvert in Kalligonj upazila.

Of the rest 11 schemes, the works on four are progressing fast. These are: 7.38 kms HBB and carpeting of 0.64 kms roads while the works of seven others have been suspended due to heavy downpour.

The suspended schemes include the construction of 1.82 running metres box culvert, 34.09 metres R.C.C. pile foundation and the construction of Shiladeha bridge linking Kallakair with Sreepur upazila.

After completion of the bridge, the distance between two upazilas of the district will be reduced to a great extent, it is learnt.

Drug addicts on rise in Dinajpur

From Our Correspondent

DINAJPUR, Aug 16: Drug addicts are on the rise in the district as drugs and narcotics are openly being sold in different upazilas of the district. These intoxicants are sold in Chawk Bazar, Nimitala, Bahadur Bazar, Pulhat, Suhari, Balubari and Kanchanghat in Dinajpur town and Parbatipur, Birol.

Another intoxicant known as 'Phensidyle syrup' which is smuggled into from India is also available in plenty.

In some shops of Bahadur Bazar and Chawk Bazar opium and hashish are sold almost openly. One cigarette containing hashish is sold at Taka ten while a cigarette containing 'charash' is sold at Taka five. The customers are mainly poor labours, rickshaw-pullers and some youths.

In some cigarette stalls near Station Road and NA market, hashish and charash are being sold. These intoxicants are usually filled in cigarette and are sold to known customers or their associates. Phensidyle syrup is sold in some grocery shops of Balubari. It may be mentioned here that in Bangladesh, production or marketing of Phensidyle is completely banned in Nimitala, Bahadur Bazar, Kanchanghat and Metharpatty rectified spirit and home made wine are sold openly at night.

The officials headed by Abu Hanif, officer of the Tinkunia beat under Rangamati jhoom control division caught them red handed during patrol duty.

They arrested Moniruddin (25), son of Faiz Ahmed and Razzak Miah (23) son of Abdul Gaffar who later were produced before the Kaptai upazila magistrate court.

We don't accept verdict against Ershad: Mizan

RANGPUR, Aug 16: 'We do not accept the verdict against Ershad... We're awaiting the Supreme Court judgement,' said former Prime Minister Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury at a workers' meeting here Wednesday, reports UNB.

Mizan Chowdhury, the Acting Chairman of the Jatiya Party of ousted President Ershad, said JP's movement was now aimed at getting the former President released, not

to pull down the present government from power.

District Jatiya Party and Ershad Mukti Parishad organised the workers' meeting at Shapia Square to accord reception to Mizan Chowdhury, recently released from jail. Presided over by Abdul Latif Khan, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Ismail Hossain Bengal, Prof Nurul Islam, Abdul Latif Munshi, Mofazzal Hossain, Golam Mostafa Batul, Harasuddin Sarkar.

JP sources said Chowdhury is likely to contest the September 11 by-election from one of the four constituencies here vacated by Ershad.

He stayed here for three days, visited the four constituencies and exchanged views with the workers on the election issue, the sources said.

Erosion takes serious turn in Manikganj

MANIKGANJ, Aug 16: Erosion of the river Jamuna and Padma has taken a serious turn affecting 8500 people in two upazilas of the district during last three days, reports UNB.

Besides, ferry and launch communication has been hampered in between Aricha-Daulatdia and Aricha-Nagarbari ghat due to strong current, BIWTC officials said. Daulatpur upazila administration sources said about 200 dwelling houses in Bachamara, Bagulia and Gionpur unions were washed away rendering at least 410 families shelterless.

Some 180 dwelling houses in Arimnagar, Boyra, Ramkrishnapur and Sutluri union of Harirampur upazila were devoured by the river Padma affecting 400 families, it is learnt.

Besides, standing crop on about 700 acres of land were damaged in Sadar upazila.

They expressed concern over the deteriorating law and order situation in the country. They urged the government to withdraw Value Added Tax system due to which prices of essentials have gone beyond the purchasing capacity of the common people.

Separate processions were also brought out in other six upazilas of the district demanding release of the former President Ershad, informed sources said.

5 VCRs seized, 2 arrested in Satkhira

SATKHIRA, Aug 16: BDR arrested two people and seized five VCRs worth about Taka one lakh from their possession from a private car on Satkhira-Khulna road at Kanchanpur here Wednesday, reports UNB.

Acting on a secret information, BDR searched the car (No Khulna Ka-249) and arrested Jahangir of Gopalganj and Jabber of Jhalakati districts.

The seized goods were later deposited with the local customs department.

A case was lodged with Dumuria police station in this connection. In another raid, BDR also seized 300 pieces of wrist watch from a motor cycle (No Dhaka Metro A-06/445) on Satkhira-Khulna road near the BDR camp. The motor cyclist fled away leaving his vehicle.

Student killed in Sylhet road accident

SYLHET, Aug 16: One student of Sylhet Government M C College died at M A G Osmani Medical College Hospital here today, police and hospital sources said. The victim Md Moudud, a BA 1st year student was injured on Tuesday last when he fell down from a passenger-bus. He was travelling towards his college, reports UNB.