

Upazila roundup

RANGAMATI

Malaria claims 40 lives

Aug 30: Malaria claimed about 40 lives and affected 600 others in Matrangap upazila in Khagrachhari Hill District during the last one month, Upazila Parishad sources said here today, reports UNB.

According to sources, the ailing patients are not getting proper treatment owing to shortage of physicians and non-availability of necessary life-saving medicines in the local hospitals.

Meanwhile, conjunctivitis, a disease of the eyes and viral fever have been spreading in the greater Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Dr. Nirmal Kanti Barua of Kapai Upazila Health Complex and Dr. Supriya, the Deputy Civil Surgeon of Rangamati Hill District told UNB that hundreds of indoor and outdoor patients are reporting for treatment daily.

BRAHMANBARIA

Shashanka Debnath murder case hearing begins

Aug 30: The hearing of Shashanka Debnath murder case known as Nidarabad murder case began in the Additional District and Sessions Judge Court Sunday, reports UNB.

Eleven witnesses namely Kanchan Sarkar, Hira Miah Chowdhury, Siddique Rahman Chowdhury, Chittaranjan Roy, Manohar Roy, Hari Mohan Chowdhury, Chandra Sarker, Lal Mohan Sarker, Jadu Mohan Sarker, Moheeb Ali and Hamidul Alam Chowdhury have been examined so far.

Shashanka Debnath was murdered on October 16, 1987 by Tajul Islam and along with five other accomplices to grab his property.

BOGRA

248 anti-socials arrested

Aug 30: Police arrested 248 alleged anti-social elements from different places of the district during the last nine days under Operation Doorbar, reports UNB.

Police nabbed them as per the list of anti-socials prepared earlier.

But local people alleged that names of many innocent persons have been included in the list and they are being harassed by the police.

They also alleged that such people are being released on realisation of bribe. They urged the authorities to stop this harassment immediately.

When contacted, Police Superintendent of the district denied the allegation.

CHITTAGONG

Photo show opens

Aug 30: A three-day photo-exhibition on the recent democratic movement and the devastating cyclone opened here on Wednesday, reports UNB.

The photo show of the photos of Pavel Rahman, a photo journalist of American news agency Associated Press (AP), has more than 200 pictures on display.

Titled "Gano Andolan 90 and Gurnihar 91" the exhibition was organised by Rotary Club of Islamabad, Chittagong.

Inaugurating the show at Alliance Francaise hall eminent artist Murtaza Beahar lauded Pavel's works saying, the photographer knows the art of keeping the historic moments alive.

President of the Rotary Club, Abul Hossain, local journalist Osman Gani Mansur and Pavel Rahman spoke at the function.

The show attracted a large number of visitors.

HABIGANJ

One killed in road mishap

Aug 30: One government official was killed and another injured seriously when a truck lost its control and hit them on the Sylhet-Dhaka highway near Ubahata village of Chunaraghat upazila here Tuesday.

According to police, Nurul Afzar (35), a Forest Officer of Putijuri succumbed on way to Sadar hospital and Jahurul Haque (48), Range Officer was admitted in a critical condition.

They were returning to their residences from Shachari Forest on a motor cycle and the truck hit them from opposite direction.

The driver fled with the vehicle. A case has been filed with the local police.

MADARIPUR

Health complexes need care

Aug 30: The Health Complexes in Madaripur and Shariatpur districts have been facing manifold problems for a long time, reports UNB.

According to informed sources, paucity of drinking water, lack of proper drainage system in the premises of hospitals, absence of ambulances, blood banks, dental and ophthalmic instruments have aggravated the situation.

Besides, most of the health complexes do not have X-ray machines causing much inconvenience in diagnosis and treatment of diseases.

Hundreds of patients who were coming from remote areas are going back disappointed due to absence of proper treatment facilities.

Emergency patients cannot be shifted to the hospitals in the district headquarters, for lack of ambulances.

JHENDAIH

Dacoit nabbed

Aug 30: Local people caught one dacoit red handed when a gang of robbers attacked them at Mahishakundu Battola near the town Wednesday night, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, a group of people numbering about eight to 10 while returning home after their days work a gang of dacoits numbering about 15 to 14 attacked them and tried to loot their belongings.

The people challenged the dacoits and caught one of them while others managed to escape. During the scuffle the dacoits stabbed Osman of Gilbaria village.

The dacoit identified as Hiron (33), of village Khajura near the town was handed over to the police.

Injured Osman was sent to Sadar hospital. A case has been filed in this connection.

BARISAL

T & T employee gunned down

Aug 30: Unknown miscreants gunned down a T & T employee at Bakshichar village in Babuganj upazila Wednesday night, reports UNB.

An armed gang at about 9 pm entered the house of Jinal Abedin (35) and called his son Jahangir, who was not in the house.

Jinal came out when the gunmen shot at him. He fell dead on the spot as bullet pierced his head.

The body was sent to the Barisal Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

A case has been filed in this connection.

C'NAWABGANJ

Quackery on rise

Aug 30: Quackery is on the rise in five upazilas of the district threatening the life of poor patients, reports UNB.

The upazila are Shibganj, Bholahat, Gomostapur, Nachol and Sadar.

According to sources, the quacks in these upazilas are carrying on their practices with impunity.

The quacks, having no licence, prescribe medicines without diagnosis endangering the lives of the patients, it is alleged.

About three hundred medicine shops, owned by these quacks, are thriving on the helplessness of the poor illiterate villagers.

Local leaders have demanded a thorough on the spot investigation by the health authorities.

FARIDPUR

Installation ceremony

Aug 30: The installation ceremony of the Government Char Bhadrashan College Students Union was held at the college auditorium on August 20, reports UNB.

It may be mentioned that out of 12 seats of the college students union polls, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) bagged eight including the post of General Secretary while Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) captured four including the post of Vice President.

Presided over by acting Principal Moshuddin Sarker, the ceremony was also addressed by Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) S. M. Shahjahan, UNO Abdul Maleque Bhuiyan, VP Md Mustafa Mustafiz and GS Ayubur Rahman of the college students union.

The ceremony was followed by a cultural function.



In absence of school building a teacher is taking class in the open air at a village in Gazipur district.

—Star photo

Primary education faces setback

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Aug 30: A large number of government and non-government primary schools in 13 upazilas of Kishoreganj district has been facing manifold problems including shortage of teachers and accommodation, lack of necessary appliances like black boards, chalk, dusters etc, paucity of pure drinking water, shortage of funds, furniture and irregular payment of salaries.

According to the district Primary Education Department, there are 807 government and 181 non-government primary schools in the district. The total number of students in the government schools is 2,35,557 while non-government schools have 28,288 students. Besides, 90 posts of primary school teachers have been lying vacant for a long time. Most of the non-government primary schools

established under local initiatives have not yet received government recognition although these institutions have a good number of students and other requisite facilities. Some of these schools were set up before the liberation war and have been running in deplorable condition. Due to fund constraints payments of the teachers remain irregular over the years. As a result, many teachers have already left their respective institutions in utter disappointment.

On the other hand, the government schools have also been plagued with innumerable problems hampering the very purpose of the universal primary education programme to a great extent.

Most of the schools have been lacking requisite number of benches due to which students are compelled to sit on

bricks or mats. In some schools there is no chair for the teachers, so they are forced to sit on benches. The supply of necessary appliances including blackboards, chalk, duster is too inadequate.

No playgrounds

Ninety per cent of the schools do not have playgrounds. Besides, most of the institutions have no lavatories and urinals. They also lack sufficient accommodation facilities. So classes are being held under the open sky but that too becomes impossible during the rainy season. Moreover, a large number of schools are running in dilapidated buildings which may collapse at any moment. The roofs of the schools buildings soak water even after a slight rainfall which forces the teacher to suspend classes frequently.

Due to shortage of funds the management are not in a position

to repair the schools. Shortage of teachers is hampering the proper education of the students. Besides, dearth of trained teachers has aggravated the situation. Some of the teachers clinging to their jobs complained that they were not receiving their salaries for months together.

If remedial measures are not taken immediately the existing schools will face closure shortly, the social leaders expressed.

Moreover, some of the primary schools which have been damaged by floods, storms, cyclones and other natural calamities during the last few years have not yet been repaired in rural areas.

The guardians have appealed to the authority concerned to take effective steps so that the long standing problems of the primary schools be redressed.

8 die of diarrhoea in Comilla

From Our Correspondent

COMILLA, Aug 30: Eight persons died and a large number has been attacked by diarrhoea in eight villages of Burchang upazila of the district.

The worst affected villages are Sadakpur, North Shampur, Jagatpur, Komalia, Rajapur, Baria, Nonpara and Arag Anandapur.

However, the flood situation in the area is now improving but scarcity of pure drinking water and consumption of adulterated flood stuffs were attributed to the outbreak of the disease. Two medical teams and health workers are working in every union of the upazila to combat the disease, official sources said.

Virus fever is spreading alarmingly in sadar upazila of the district adversely affecting the body resistance of the masses.

The symptoms of the virus attack lasts for seven to 15 days with high temperature.

34 Shantibahini men surrender

From Our Correspondent

RANGAMATI, Aug 30: Thirty-four activists of outlawed Shantibahini surrendered to the security forces at Marishya Zone here last week, reports UNB.

Officials said so long they had been members of the so-called Juba Sanghati and Gram Panchayat, a political and toll collection wing of the Parbatya Juba Sanghati Samity (PCJSS).

With this, a total of 294 armed activists of the Shantibahini have surrendered to the security forces here in the last two weeks.

After surrendering, they expressed their firm determination to work with the government and resist terrorism in the region.

Another report adds: Chairman of Rangamati Hill District Gautam Dewan urged the people of hill districts to build up social resistance against the outlawed

BJC owes jute growers Tk 50 lakh

KUSHTIA, Aug 30: District units of Bangladesh Jute Corporation (BJC) have not yet paid off last year's outstanding dues of jute growers and small traders amounting to Tk 50 lakh due to shortage of funds, official sources said, reports UNB.

BJC purchased jute from the growers and small traders last year on credit through its two offices, one at Paragpur and another at Bheramara.

Besides, small traders who supplied jute to the shippers at Khulna and Narayanganj on credit are yet to get the price of their produce amounting to Tk 20 lakh.

These two buying agencies are not in a position to purchase jute from the growers due to non-payment of the arrears. The poor producers are also regularly returning from village huts with their produce unsold.

Price of jute has come down to Tk 250 per maund against Tk 380 last year causing great hardship to the growers.

BJC is yet to place any fund for purchasing jute and the employees of its two offices here are not allegedly getting their salary for the last two months, it is learnt.

113 arrested in Tangail

TANGAIL, Aug 30: Tangail police arrested 113 persons from different areas of the district during the last few days for their alleged involvement in various crimes, reports BSS.

Police sources said one Fazlul Huq of Iluga union under Sadar upazila was arrested on Wednesday from Bashakhapur area and one SMG and 14 rounds of ammunition were recovered from his possession.

Notes from C'nawabganj

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Aug 30: More than 200 families of two villages in Sadar upazila have been rendered homeless by erosion of the mighty Padma river during the last two weeks, reports UNB.

In Rainagar and Chayrasa villages of the upazila, about 200 houses have been engulfed by the river. Alatoli union parishad building was also damaged.

Local people said navigation has also become difficult because of strong current in the river Padma in the affected area.

Hundreds of people in the area have been passing their days in deep anxiety as their fields with standing crops are also threatened with inundation through breaches of the embankment near the banks of the river Padma.

The affected people of the upazila urged the authorities to provide relief including food, clothing, medicine and shelter.

Delay in lifting raw jute by the purchasing centres has pushed down prices below production cost.

It is reported that over the last few weeks prices of different varieties of jute have dropped substantially with the arrival of a small quantity of new jute in the market. The price is now quoted as low as Tk 120 to 160 per maund.

It is apprehended that with the beginning of the full season, these prices may register further fall.

Jute growers and officials have expressed their concern that huge quantity of jute might be left unsold this year due to market manipulation by unscrupulous traders.

Observers believe, jute production will face a drastic setback and the growers will shift to other crop if urgent corrective measures are not taken.

A total of 2.04 saplings of different trees have been distributed among the farmers of four northern districts under afforestation programme during the current season.

The districts are Chapainawabganj, Natore, Rajshahi and Naogaon.

According to Forest Department sources, the saplings of mehagani, shishu, epl-epl, shegun, shikoro, papaya, coconut, jack-fruit and eucalyptus are being sold at nominal prices of 75 paise to Taka two each.

Meanwhile, 300 acres of land in Naogaon and Natore districts have been brought under the afforestation programme, the sources added.

A training session was also arranged for 31 agriculture officials and 25 plantation assistants by the forest department to gear up the programme.

A victim of sexual lust

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Aug 30: A minor girl became a victim of sexual lust and fighting death in the hospital bed.

Momtaz Begum (9), daughter of a rickshawpuller of village Munishipara under Ulipur upazila of Kurigram district was raped by one Amjad Hossain of the source area on the recently. It is learnt that the ill-fated girl was abducted from her house and taken to a nearby house and raped till she lost her sense.

Police recovered the girl and sent her to Kurigram hospital for treatment. A case was started in this connection with Ulipur police. Rapist Amjad Hossain has been absconding.

National Mourning Day was observed at Kurigram and its adjoining upazilas by Awami League on August 15.

A day-long programme was chalked out in this connection which included placing of wreaths at the portrait of Sh. Mujib, Milad Mahfil, mourning procession, donation of blood, kanglee, dhore and discussion meeting.

A discussion meeting was held on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the local Pourashava hall room with Sheikh Babul in the chair. Elderly Awami League leader Advocate Amanullah was present as chief guest while local CPIB leaders Jharun-or-Rashid Lal was the special guest.

HYV lentil developed

GAZIPUR, Aug 30: The scientists of Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute have developed a high yielding variety of lentil named 'utula', reports UNB.

The variety has been approved at a meeting of National Seed Board recently with secretary of the ministry of Agriculture K M Rabbani in the chair.

Official sources said the variety will yield 20 to 25 per cent more than the traditional one, if it is cultivated properly.

Pests damage sugarcane on 250 acres in Jessore

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Aug 30: Sugarcane on 250 acres of land around Churamonkati in Sadar upazila has been damaged by 'majra' pests.

It is reported that about 300 acres of land of Churamonkati were brought under sugarcane cultivation this year, and 400 families are dependent on the sugarcane farming. But an extensive attack of pests on the standing sugarcane of the area has already destroyed 250 acres of sugarcane this year. As a result

the production of sugarcane will fall.

According to a source of Mubarakganj Sugar Mills, this pest attack develops a disease called stem borer inside the sugarcane plant. No remedial medicine has been found out to prevent the disease. The only remedy is to cut out the affected part or to remove the worm by using an iron rod.

The farmers have urged upon the sugarcane mill authority to help cure the disease.

Meat of sick animals on sale

From Our Correspondent

MADARIPUR, Aug 30: Sick cattleheads are being slaughtered indiscriminately in the slaughter house of the municipality here, consumers alleged.

Witnesses said beef of sick animals is being sold in the local markets at comparatively lower prices causing serious health hazards.

It may be mentioned here that there is no arrangement in the municipality to examine the animals before slaughtering which is a prerequisite for the safety of the consumers.

Local people have urged the authorities concerned to take action against this malpractice and save the consumers from health hazards.

Election of office-bearers of the Madaripur district unit of Jatiya Sangbadik Sangstha was held with much enthusiasm

recently. Mr Salim Farazi (The Daily Star) and Md Khalilur Rahman Belal (Dainik Bangla) were elected President and Secretary respectively while Enayet Hossain (Islulungo) was elected treasurer.

Md Furkan Ahmed (Dinkal) conducted the polls.

The number of minor Rickshawpullers has been increasing day by day in the town posing a problem both to pedestrians and other vehicular activities. The minor boys of 10 to 12 years can hardly maintain the balance of the vehicle while carrying the passengers. They often meet accidents on the busy roads as they are physically unfit to drive it. Even they do not possess any driving licence.

Extreme poverty has forced these ill-fated boys to take up

jobs as rickshawpullers for supporting their families.

Teacher shortage

The non-government primary schools in the district are functioning without adequate number of teachers and educational facilities.

According to the informed sources, about 12,000 students in 62 institutions in four upazilas are being affected by the lack of benches, chairs, black boards and other necessary educational appliances. There are 19 schools in Sadar, 15 in Kalkini, seven in Shibchar and 21 in Rajpur upazila.

The guardians alleged that the standard of education has fallen in the last 12 years.

They suggested nationalisation of all primary schools in the district.



DINAJPUR: The outgoing President of Dinajpur Union of Journalists Qamrul Huda addressing the 5th biennial general meeting held recently.

—Star photo