

Upazila roundup

BHOLA

Second phase work of BIP starts soon

Sept 18: The second phase work of the Bhola Irrigation Project (BIP) will be started soon in the upazilas of Charfession, Daulatkhan and Tazumuddin under the Bhola district irrigation project at a cost of Tk. 175.83 crore including foreign exchange component of Tk. 30.24 crore, reports BSS.

According to an official source, Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB), Bangladesh Agriculture Extension Department (BAED), Bangladesh Roads and Highways Department (BRHD) and Local Government Engineering Bureau (LGEBS) will jointly implement the project.

The work of the project includes the excavation of canals and construction of roads in these upazilas of Bhola district.

Besides, 21 kilometres of concrete road will be constructed and old canals will be re-excavated under the project.

When completed, a total of 42,600 hectares of land will get irrigation facilities, the source said.

PATUAKHALI
40 deep tubewells sunk

Sept 18: Forty deep tubewells (DTWs) were sunk in Bauphal upazila of the district involving an amount of Tk 20 lakh during the last fiscal year, reports UNB.

According to official sources, the DTWs were jointly sunk by the Public Health Engineering Department and UNICEF.

With the installation of the tubewells pure water supply system has been improved to a great extent in the upazila.

Another report adds: Forest Department has taken up a programme to distribute 10 lakh saplings of various trees in five districts during the current fiscal year.

Official sources said the saplings will be distributed in Khatina, Bagerhat, Pirojpur, Jhalakathi and Barisal districts.

JESSORE
306 arrested under Operation Doorbar

Sept 18: The Jessore district police recovered a sizable quantity of arms, ammunition and lethal weapons and rounded up 306 persons under "Operation Doorbar" in the district, reports BSS.

According to Superintendent of Police, Jessore, the Operation Doorbar was carried out in the district from August 17 to September 7 and during the period police seized eight pipe guns, one pistol, nine daggers, one knife, one gulf, three ram daos, one hand bomb, 53 rounds of air, one round of rifle and nine shot gun ammunition.

The arrested persons include, among others, eight convicted absconders, 106 under trial absconding accused and 53 accused of regular cases.

BARISAL
Tk 11.75 lakh for Brojomohon College

Sept 18: The government has sanctioned Tk. 11,75,522 for the development of Government Brojomohon University College of Barisal in the current year, reports BSS.

According to an official source, of the total, Tk. 4,41,666 will be spent for the construction of incomplete main building, Tk. 6,23,323 for vertical extension and Tk. 1,10,533 for repair and renovation of the auditorium.

The Facilities Department of the Ministry of Education has been implementing the projects, the source said.

MAGURA
Release of Ershad demanded

Sept 18: Leaders of Jatiya Party district unit in a meeting here Monday demanded immediate release of their leaders including the former president Ershad, reports UNB.

The meeting was arranged on the occasion of victory of Jatiya Party in September 11 by-elections in Rangpur.

Presided over by JP district unit President Khan Ziaul Haque, the meeting was also

addressed by Jahangir Alam Zahid, Tariqul Islam Shipu, Abu Naser Moznu and Tauhidul Islam Lavlu.

The speakers thanked the people of Rangpur for casting their votes in favour of the Jatiya Party in the by-elections.

The meeting also demanded the release of Advocate Hasan Siraj Suja and Abu Bakar Siddique, Secretary and Vice President of Magura district unit of Jatiya Party and Mustafizur Rahman Swapon, a local leader. They were arrested recently.

A milad mahfil was also held at the district JP office on the occasion.

GAZIPUR
Influenza spreading fast

Sept 18: Influenza has been spreading in all the upazilas of the district affecting 75 to 80 per cent of the people so far, district health officials said, reports UNB.

The affected upazilas are: Sreepur, Kallikair, Kapashia, Kalganj, Sadar and Tonglithana.

Almost every family in these upazila have at least one or more influenza patients. The disease has created panic among the villagers.

Doctors said, change of weather, consumption of adulterated food and bad sanitation were the main reasons behind the outbreak of the disease.

JHENIDAH
7 injured in clash

Sept 18: At least seven people were injured, two seriously, in a clash between two rival groups at village Dairapur in Harinakundu upazila here Friday morning, reports UNB.

Police and villagers said the clash ensued over the possession of a plot of land of only 12 decimal.

The seriously injured Fazlur Rahman (28) who lost two fingers of his hand and his father Mokshed Ali Malita (65), have been admitted to local health complex.

Two cases have been filed with the local police in this connection.

GAIBANDHA
Body recovered

Sept 18: Police recovered a body of an unidentified man (35) from a polling centre of Kuptala union under Sadar upazila of the district Sunday, reports UNB.

According to official sources, when the centre authorities entered the room to start polling for referendum at 8 am they found the body lying on the floor. His throat was cut and bleeding profusely.

It created panic among the voters. Later, police sent the body to morgue for post-mortem.

A case has been filed in this connection and police investigation is going on.

However, the voting took place in a disciplined and peaceful manner in the centre. But heavy downpour marred the voting in the district to some extent in the afternoon. The voters turn out improved to a great extent in the afternoon.

MANIKGANJ
Arms recovered

Sept 18: Ghior police recovered a sizable quantity of arms and ammunition from a gang of miscreants at village Kamarjani on Friday, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, local police raided the hideouts of the village and recovered a pipe gun, a revolver, eight cocktails and 20 rounds of ammunition.

None was, however, arrested in this connection.

SYLHET
Removal of UZ chairman criticised

Sept 18: The Convenor of Jatiya Party and former MP Ashraf Ali in a statement Tuesday said that the removal of Sadar upazila chairman by an administrative order is undemocratic and unconstitutional, reports UNB.

He said that the chairman of Sylhet Sadar upazila Soffur Rahman was elected by the people of the upazila.

Ashraf said the chairman may be removed by the court after he was convicted on a specific case. But no such allegations have been brought against him in the court.

He demanded the government to withdraw the removal order and show respect to democracy.



MYMENSINGH: The school building of Khariapara Government Primary School which was damaged by storm last year is yet to be reconstructed. In absence of any shed students take lesson under a tree.

Primary edn faces setback

MYMENSINGH, Sept 18: The Universal Primary Education Programme (UPEP) is facing serious crisis in 12 upazilas of the district.

It is gathered that dilapidated condition of most of the primary schools, shortage of furniture and teachers are attributed to the main cause to deteriorating situation.

Besides, abnormal price hike of papers and other educational appliances, financial crisis and poverty are also hampering the education. The primary schools which had been damaged by floods, storms and other natural calamities during the last few years have not yet been repaired or reconstructed in rural areas. In some schools students take their lessons sitting on the floor due to shortage of benches and for want of accommodation.

Moreover, as the roofs of many buildings have been severely damaged, classes are being held under the open sky. Most of these schools have no tubewells for providing pure drinking water. Students are compelled to drink contaminated water from ponds and lakes.

According to the informed sources, the quota of teachers in the government primary schools are not maintained properly. Some schools with excess students have been facing shortage of teachers while many schools having requisite number of students have excess teachers.

It may be mentioned here that there are 1247 government and 503 non-government primary schools in 12 upazilas of the district. According to the Primary Education Department sources, number of students in 12 upazila schools are 6,50,252. Of them 4,55,176 enjoy meagre facilities. About 1247 primary schools are deprived of minimum facilities. Besides, more than 178 posts of primary school teachers have been lying vacant including 118 posts of head masters for a long time.

Upazila-wise vacant posts are: eight in Haluaghat upazila, four in Sadar, three in Dhobaura, 35 in Goffargaon, 10 in Ishwarganj, 19 in Nandail, nine in Muktagacha, 11 in Fulbaria, 22 in Bhaluka, 30 in Fulpur, seven in Gouripur and 20 in Trishal upazila.

From BAU Correspondent

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Tk 57 lakh misappropriated, 10 chargesheeted

BARISAL, Sept 18: Ten persons have been chargesheeted for misappropriation of Tk 57,029,81 from Barisal Textile Mills Ltd. recently. The accused are: Ruhul Amin Howladar, ex-minister for Textiles, Nurul Alam Chowdhury, ex-General Manager, Barisal Textile Mills, Abdul Haq Mridha, Labour Officer, Barisal Textile Mills, Abdul Mannan Molla, Administrative Officer, Shaikh Wajid Rahman, Security Officer, Yakub Ali, Office Assistant (Labour), A.K Mansur Ahmed, Commercial Officer, BTMC, SM Faruk, Manager, Abdul Hussein, Deputy General Manager and QM Lutful Haq, General Manager.

Barisal district Anti-Corruption Officer Mr. N. Patil filed a case on January 1 last against them in this connection.

Another order has also been issued by the President's Secretariat to take departmental action against eleven persons including Abdus Sattar, ex-Secretary, BTMC.

Mr Mohammad Younus Khan, State Minister for Education in a meeting held recently said that the objectives of BNP government was to increase production in industrial sector including agri-

From Our Correspondent

culture to build up a self-reliant Bangladesh.

The Minister was addressing public meetings at Bakerganj and Kalashkhata in the district.

He said that Government was determined to ensure law and order situation by curbing criminal activities in the country. He stressed that every criminal must be brought to book.

Among others the meeting was addressed by Professor Abdur Rashid K Khan, Advocate Moazzem Hussain Alal, Abdul Kader Sikder, Asaduzzaman Khusrul and Ali Azgar Fakir.

Doctor shortage hampers health services

KHAIROGHATA, Sept 18: Health services of the hill district have been facing serious setback as hundreds of posts of doctors and other employees remain vacant and supply of medicine and medical accessories have been inadequate since long, official sources said, reports UNB.

Patients are coming from far-flung areas but going back without medical attention, medicine or admission in the government hospital.

About 200 of the 791 sanctioned posts lying vacant in eight upazila health complexes, according to an official source.

Thirty-eight posts of medical officers, two posts of upazila health and family planning officers, 8 posts of staff nurses, 14 posts of pharmacists, 8 posts of radiographers,

8 posts of dental technicians and many other posts of third and fourth class employees are lying vacant for years together.

A doctor of the Sadar hospital told UNB that work of the hospital was hampered in absence of a gynaecologist and a medical consultant.

No blood bank has yet been established in any hospital in the greater Chittagong Hill Tracts and provision of oxygen in all the health complexes are also insufficient.

Permanent upazila health complexes are yet to be constructed at Panchari, Luxmichari and Matiranga. The construction work of a 31-bed hospital at Rangbari has been abandoned and the one at Dighinala, has not received financial approval as yet, sources said.

Acute accommodation problem for hospital staff and scarcity of drinking water in the district town have compounded the situation.

Another report says: With all the modern technology, the container telephone exchange installed at a cost of Tk 90 lakh two years back here still remains inoperative depriving the subscribers of telecommunication services.

Sources said hasty and faulty construction without proper planning made it difficult for the telecommunication authorities to commission the exchange.

Nothing tangible is being done to relieve the suffering of the subscribers and provide them with satisfactory telecommunication service, the sources alleged.



SYLHET: Students of Honours final year rendering songs at the 'Rag Day' function at M C College, recently.

Notes from Maulvibazar

MAULVIBAZAR, Sept 18: Bangladesh Chhatra League (N-S) demanded stringent measures by the authorities to identify the terrorists in the educational institutions, reports UNB.

At a rally held Sunday in the Chowmohona area in the town, the BCL leaders said armed terrorists patronised by different political parties have been violating the campus atmosphere.

With president of the local unit of the student organisation Nazimuddin Nazrul in the chair, the rally was addressed, among others, by the VP of the BCL central committee Dewan Minhaj Gazi, Anwar Akhtar Chowdhury, Saleh Mousuf and A. S. M. Saleh Suhel.

Earlier, the activities and supporters of BCL brought out a procession in the town demanding immediate reopening of all the closed educational institutions.

The processionists paraded different roads of the town chanting various slogans, in favour of their demands.

Irregular train service

Train services on Kulara-Shabajpur line have deteriorated causing great inconvenience to the passengers.

According to informed sources, over-loading has become a common feature in this route. Due to inadequate number of compartments, passengers have to travel on the roof and engines risking their life and 30 per cent of them allegedly travel without ticket.

The trains do not maintain any time table. Modern amenities including lighting, proper sitting arrangements, fans and water supply are lacking.

Local leaders have urged the railway authorities to take steps to improve railway services in this section.

5 jailed for murder

The Additional District and Sessions Judge convicted five people of Sreemongal upazila and sentenced them to life term for murdering Ahajid Miah of Valubari area of the same upazila.

The convicted are Arjad, Tuta, Kala, Liyakat and Joymat.

According to the prosecution story, Ahajid Miah was beaten to death by the convicted people on March 17, 1988.

A case was registered with Sreemongal police station and police after investigation issued charge-sheet against them.

The learned judge after examining the evidences and records found the accused guilty and sentenced them to suffer life imprisonment.

2 commit suicide

From Our Correspondent FARIDPUR, Sept 18: Md Moksed Ali (22) of Saidpur village under Faridpur Sadar upazila committed suicide by consuming insecticides recently.

He was rushed to Faridpur Sadar Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

Shahida Khatoun (13) a maid servant of village Gopalpur under Sadar upazila committed suicide by consuming poison at Dr Baduzzaman's house recently.

BWDB projects reviewed

A coordination meeting was held by MP's, Chairman and engineers of BWDB of greater Faridpur district recently.

The meeting reviewed the progress of the project of BWDB under Food for Works Programme. Chief Engineer Mr Amir Ali, South Western zone BWDB presided over the meeting.

In the meeting it was disclosed that 3914 metric tons of wheat were utilized against 5252 metric tons sanctioned for 14 schemes during 90-91 in the zone.

The meeting expressed dissatisfaction over the performance of the Rajbari O and M Division which utilized only 20 per cent sanctioned wheat.

It was further disclosed that proposals have been sent to the concerned authorities to sanction 48,666 metric tons of wheat for 26 schemes in 1991-92 financial year, 51,272 metric tons of wheat for 21 projects in 1992-93 and 32,607 metric tons for 20 schemes in 1993-94 financial year in the zone.

The meeting was addressed, among others, by Col (Retd) Showkat Ali, MP, Abdur Razzakh, MP, Advocate Musharraf Hussain, MP, Advocate Abdur Rashid, MP, Advocate Kazi Abu Yousuf, Md Abdur Rauf Mia, MP, Chairman Mahmudun Nabi, Madhukhali upazila, Md. Haronur Rashid, Chairman, Rajoir upazila, Imdadul Haq Biswas, Chairman Rajbari upazila and Sarwar Azam Khan, Chairman Churubhadrasan upazila.

Regulator on Kumar being built

MAGURA, Sept 18: The construction work of an additional regulator on the river Kumar at a cost of Tk 6.5 crore is going on in full swing, reports UNB.

Sixty per cent work has already been completed and remaining work is expected to be completed by December next.

The Water Development Board (WDB), which has been executing the project, aims at bringing 7,500 acres of land under irrigation. A substantial quantity of foodgrains will be produced in the area, on completion of the project, WDB sources said.

The WDB has also completed the construction of two bridges over the river Nabaganga in Jhenidah Sadar upazila at Bakri and Katlamari at a total cost of Tk 1.20 lakh.

Three more bridges on the same river had been constructed at a total cost of Tk one crore in the Jhenidah Sadar upazila during the last financial year. These bridges located at Modhupur, Bashudevpur and Durgapur, were financed by the government.

The five bridges over the Mahananda have greatly boosted economic and commercial activities in the Jhenidah district and extended road communication, the sources said.

Hats, bazars in bad shape

At least 200 rural hats and bazars in four upazilas are facing manifold problems for lack of proper maintenance causing utter inconvenience to both the sellers and buyers.

Shopkeepers and traders said they have been paying enhanced taxes and tolls to the authorities and local 'ejamardars', but there has been no extension or development since long.

With the increase in population and business activities, the hats and bazars which had been set up on local initiative fail to meet the minimum needs of traders.

Lack of space for shops and vendors, sanitation, drainage, water supply and sewerage are stated to be problems common to all the hats and bazars.

Absence of sanitary latrines and urinals compel the people to defecate in the open space polluting the environment.

Representatives of traders and vendors as well as the local leaders have urged the authorities to take suitable plans for extension and development of these hats and bazars.

River erosion affects southern districts

PATUAKHALI, Sept 18: River erosion has become a serious problem in the southern districts destroying homes and croplands along the banks, reports UNB.

Hatiya, Sandwip, Bhola, Barisal, Madaripur, Shariatpur, Gopalganj, Rajbari, Faridpur, Narail, Satkhira, Pirojpur, Barguna, Jhalakathi and Patuakhali are largely affected by the massive erosion.

According to reports, marginal and small land holders and farmers have been affected more seriously than others.

Local leaders said, river-bank erosion played a major role in increasing poverty and landlessness of the people in this part during the past years.

Erosion has now affected about 150 upazilas in 50 districts of which condition of 35 upazilas are reported to be grave, sources said.

About 10 lakh people have been affected by erosion so far and many of them turned destitute. They are forced to leave for cities and townships in search of food and shelter, the sources added.

Welding workshops on the roadside of the district town have been causing problems to the town dwellers.

Mechanical and engineering workshops encroach the roads to do the welding work without any protective shield for either the pedestrians or the mechanics themselves.

The spark affects the eyes and splinters may injure the passers by, some leading citizens alleged.

School children are the worst affected, they said.

They urged the authorities to remove the welding workshops from the roadside areas and take necessary action against the unauthorised shop owners.

Bheramara

BSS report from Bheramara says: Severe erosion by the Padma has rendered thousands of people homeless in Bheramara and Daulatpur upazilas during the last few weeks.

The worst affected areas are Mokalimpur, Bhadrupur, Bahirchar and Junaidah unions under Bheramara, and Moricha, Chilmari and Philipnagar under Daulatpur upazila. A vast tract of land has been devoured by the Padma.

The intake canals of main pump house under G. K. project at Bheramara have been seriously threatened by the erosion of the Padma. About 30 per cent areas around the intake canals have been washed away. The river is now about four hundred yards from G. K. main pump station.

Rly plans to restore snapped communication

Bangladesh Railway has undertaken a crash programme to restore snapped railway communication in four sections of the north-western region, says a press release.

It may be mentioned that railway lines at different places were washed away by the strong current and a number of rail-bridges was badly damaged on this sections. In some places ditches 250 feet wide and 25 feet deep have developed by the flood.

Under this crash programme the snapped sections are expected to be restored as per following date: Dinajpur-Panchagarh and Kalkhali-Bhatiapara section on September 25, Dinajpur-Parbatpur section on September 27 and Teesta Kurigram section on September 30.

Many buildings washed away by Meghna erosion

CHANDPUR, Sept 18: Unabated erosion by the river Meghna has washed away a good number of buildings and land at the Hatmechar upazila headquarters, reports UNB.

The UZ Parishad Bhavan, UZ food godown, police station Bhavan, UZ staff quarters, Government Boys' High School and Government Girls' High School Bhavan, along with other government residential quarters have either been damaged or threatened with destruction, district administration sources said.

Upazila chairman said a temporary tinshed was built at a cost of Tk 6 lakh at Paschim Char Krishnapur village of Aigi South Union to accommodate only six offices of UZ Parishad including those of UNO and UZ Chairman.

Other important offices like UZ kishi office, UZ court (civil and criminal), UZ health complex, police station have been kept scattered.

The police station, government charitable dispensary and UZ court (civil and criminal) had been shifted temporarily to the adjacent residential buildings of the non-gazetted UZ staff.

About 1.01 lakh people of Hatmechar have been facing serious problems as the upazila administration cannot function properly.

Local leaders have urged the government to select a permanent site for the upazila headquarters and mitigate the sufferings of the people.

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