

Upazila roundup

SATKHIRA

BTA confce held

From Our Correspondent

Oct 1: The triennial conference of Bangladesh Teachers' Association, Satkhira district unit was held at Shahid Abdur Razzak Park auditorium recently.

Shaikh Amanullah, President, BTA, Satkhira district unit presided over the function while Mr. Abdur Rashid, Vice President, BTA was the special guest. It was addressed, among others, by Abdul Mutalib, President, Satkhira Press Club, Shaikh Akbar Hossain, President, Satkhira district College Teachers Association, Golam Rahman, Ashraf Ali, Abdur Rauf, Abdus Samad, Nirmal Kumar, Abdul Jalil, President BTA, Khulna district unit and Anowarul Haq.

A 33-member executive committee of BTA Satkhira district unit was formed with Shaikh Amanullah as President and Anowarul Haq as General Secretary.

KURIGRAM

Nazrul Jayanty observed

From Our Correspondent

Oct 1: Nazrul Jayanty was observed at Kurigram under the aegis of Kurigram Shilpakala Academy recently.

In this connection a discussion meeting was held at Kurigram Town Hall with Advocate Amanullah in the chair. Mr. Shaiful Islam, Deputy Commissioner, Kurigram was present as chief guest. Among others, Prof. Sk. Abu Bakar Siddique, Prof. Tapan Kumar Rudra, Mr. Rafiqul Islam, Mr. Alok Karanjai Basu, and Samsun Nahar Sanu took part on the discussion.

It was rounded off with a musical soiree which was conducted by Mr. Badal Ahmed.

BCL conference

The conference of Bangladesh Chhatra League (N-S), Kurigram Zila unit, was held recently at the local Shaheed Minar campus with Towhidul Islam Baskshi in the chair.

It was addressed, among others, by Ruhul Quddus Babu, GS RUCSU, Emdad Ali, Motubur Rahman Shafi, Haasibur Rahman Hasib, Khondoker Shahidul, Munna, Samul Huda and Kartik Chandra.

MYMENSINGH

461 criminals arrested: huge arms recovered

From Our Correspondent

Oct 1: Mymensingh police under its Operation Doorbar have arrested 461 persons and recovered 42 firearms from different upazilas of the district during its three week-long operation, police said.

The arms included 33 pipe guns, one Chinese rifle, one cut gun, one revolver, one pistol, three country made pipe guns, 89 rounds of ammunition, 3 cocktail, 15 rambao, 21 daggers, 7 kirich, 14 katra, one Chinese axe, 19 ballam, and 11 knives.

The arrested persons included 195 absconding prisoners, 36 members of the Sarbojaya Party, 43 mastans and 28 kidnappers.

JHENIDAH

Young man drowned

Oct 1: A young man drowned in a boat capsized on Friday night at Binni haor in Hortinakunda upazila of the district, reports UNB.

The victim Ayub Ali drowned in the middle of the haor while he was returning home after showing 'Lathi Khela' across the haor.

The other people accompanied him, however, managed to save themselves. His body was recovered from the haor next morning.

GAIBANDHA

Boy crushed under train wheels

Oct 1: A boy was crushed under the wheels of a running train at the railway station in the town, police said here yesterday, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Sajul, the younger child of one Rezwana of the district.

According to witnesses, Sajul was walking along the side track of station yard. Meanwhile, Dinaipur bound 7-UP mail train entered the same track, knocked the boy down and crushed to death under its wheels recently.

A case has been filed in this connection.

GAIBANDHA

Rain damages Aman crops

From Our Correspondent

Oct 1: Standing Aman crops on vast tract of land in seven upazilas of the district went under water following incessant rain for the last few days and onrush of water from upper catchment of the rivers Ghagot, Teesta and Brahmaputra.

All the seven upazilas of Gaibandha district have been badly affected by rain water.

With the rise in water level in Brahmaputra basin erosion took an alarming turn at Kamrajani and Fulchari areas where meanwhile huge cultivable lands, buildings, institutes and market have been devoured by the river erosion.

CHUADANGA

Withdrawal of DC demanded

Oct 1: The district Teachers' Association in a press conference at Chuadanga Academy in the town Thursday demanded withdrawal of the Deputy Commissioner, reports UNB.

According to the sources, the members of the association after a meeting at Hasan Chatter area in the town Wednesday went to the DC to submit a memorandum to press home their demands. But the DC refused to receive the memorandum.

Later the teachers held a press conference on the following day in which the secretary of the association Khaled Masud declared that if the DC is not withdrawn from the district immediately they will be compelled to go on strike for an indefinite period.

The also urged the government to fulfil their various demands including timely disbursement of government grants, regularisation of services and ensure congenial atmosphere in the educational institutions.

BARGUNA

Posts of Asstt judges lying vacant

Oct 1: The posts of Assistant Judges have been lying vacant since last one year in Bamna, Betaghi Patherghata upazilas of the district, reports UNB.

According to informed sources, a huge number of cases have been lying pending in these upazilas causing untold suffering to the people.

A total of 2160 cases are awaiting disposal in the district due to absence of Assistant Judges for a long time. At least 168 cases remained pending in Patherghata upazila alone, the sources said.

Besides, 627 civil suits, 44 session cases and 267 others have been pending in the court of the district judge which were filed since last January, this year.

Further 332 cases are pending in Sub-judge court, while 439 and 42 cases are yet to be tried in the courts of the Sub-judge and Assistant Judge respectively.

Local elite have urged the authorities to fill up the vacancies to redress the sufferings of the people.

PIROJFUR

Kacha washes away vast tract of land

Oct 1: The mighty river 'Kacha' in the region washed away a vast tract of land and seriously affected a number of hats, bazars and ghats by the erosion during the last few days, reports UNB.

The affected areas are: Hularhat, Charkhali, Chahoria, Telikhali and Tushkhali.

According to informed sources, launch and steamer ghat of Hularhat Bandar was shifted several times and about a half kilometer away from the Bandar, at least 300 shops and houses were eroded by the river and the villages Deonakhali and Kumirmara also went into the river.

According to report, Charkhali, Chahoria and Telikhali under Bhandaria upazila are also on the verge of destruction and the rocket ghat of Charkhali is seriously threatened by the erosion of the river.

Local leaders informed that many shops, houses including the Tushkhali Girls School were washed away. They urged the authorities to take steps to check the erosion without further delay.



NAOGAON: With the onrush of flood waters a vast tract of land has been submerged in the district. Photo shows a villager going to his destination by a raft.

Fertilizer, insecticide prices high

Transplanted Aman, rabi crops farming may drop

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Oct 1: Transplanted Aman paddy (Ropa aman) and Rabi crops cultivation may drop in six upazilas of the district due to high price of inputs including fertilizer and pesticides.

According to the Agricultural Extension Department (AED) in Jhenidah Sadar, Shaikupa, Kaliganj, Kotchandpur, Moheshpur and Harinakunda upazilas the target of transplanted Aman paddy has been fixed at 161476 acres of which 155499 acres are high yielding variety including Pyjam and 5977 acres are local variety.

On a visit to some local markets this correspondent observed that the prices of different kinds of fertilizers and

pesticides have gone up adversely affecting the farmers incentives for Rupa Aman paddy and Rabi crops cultivation which need maximum fertilizers and pesticides.

Different kinds of fertilizers like Urea, Triple Super Phosphate (TSP) and Muriate of Potash (MP) are now selling at Taka 380.275 and 220 respectively per bag which were sold at Taka 245, 250 and 205 per bag a fortnight ago. The government rate of Urea is Taka 240, TSP Taka 240 and MP Taka 200. It may be mentioned that each bag contains 50 kg fertilizer.

Similarly prices of different kinds of pesticides have also gone up. Diagonon Marshall and

Dimecron which were sold at Taka 100, 40 and 75 respectively before the cultivation period are now setting at Taka 130, 55 and 95 respectively.

It is also observed that in utter helplessness the jute growers are selling their hard earned produce to the local 'farias' and middlemen at a very low price. No purchasing centres have yet been opened in the district either by the government or any other private agency threatening sharp decline in jute prices.

Tossa variety was sold at Taka 220 to 310 per a maund which is far below the production cost.

The poor farmers particularly the share-croppers and

marginal farmers were compelled to sell their jute at throw away prices as they have no other alternative. But they have to purchase fertilizers and pesticides and other inputs at exorbitant rate. The competent sources said that as the government has no control over the prices of fertilizers and pesticides, businessmen are making brisk business depriving the farmers of the actual price. On the other hand government has failed to fix up fair price of jute.

Farmers of the area have urged upon the government to take necessary steps for fixing the fair price of the jute and to provide fertilizers and pesticides at reasonable prices.

Foodgrains worth Tk 4 crore misappropriated

BOGRA, Oct 1: Four government employees of the Bogra Sadar Food Godown have been identified as responsible for misappropriation of a huge quantity of foodgrains including rice and paddy worth over Taka four crore, reports UNB.

A police case has been filed against the four employees after a three-member probe body headed by Assistant Controller of Food, Bogra detected the crime committed by forging allotment orders.

According to the case, the four accused employees in collaboration with some others misappropriated a total of 3926.559 metric tons of foodgrains including rice and paddy from the government godown through forged papers.

Further police investigation is continuing. No arrest has yet been made.

Jute growers at stake

The jute cultivators of six upazilas of Shariatpur district are facing difficulties in selling jute. Due to decline in price the brokers are taking full advantage of buying jute at a very low price for want of government buying centre at every upazila. The only buying centre of BOJASSWAR under Naria upazila is not buying in full swing for want of funds. The cultivators are bound to sell jute at Taka 200 per mound instead of government price of Taka 250. They are facing hardships to repay their loans.

65 criminals held

District police department has arrested 65 criminals from six thanas of Shariatpur district under Operation Durbar. The criminals included convicted and absconding persons, members of Sarbahara Party and suspected persons.

Another district police source says that Jajira thana police have recently recovered a country-made pipegun from a paddy field in BK Nagar village.

From Our Correspondent

Jute growers at stake

SHARIATPUR, Oct 1: The flood situation in Shariatpur district is improving following the recession of water level in the rivers of Padma and Kirtinasha. Numerous people of Kahilkata, Tarabonia, Char Attra and Noapara under Bherdaganj and Noral upazilas are living under open sky. Only a small quantity of relief goods of Red Crescent has reached here.

About 2000 people have taken shelter on the high banks of Sureshwar, Bangla Bazar and Noapara, while many of them are residing in Charatta Primary School and Azizia High School. Sureshwar Primary School, Noapara hat and Tarabonia station bazar have already been engulfed by the Padma.

Saplings distributed

District Agricultural Extension Department recently distributed 400 Kazi guava

Use of firewood in brickfields rampant

From Our Correspondent

NARAIL, Oct 1: Rampant use of firewood despite government ban in the brickfields of the district is going unabated hastening the process of deforestation.

Brickfield owners are allegedly using trees as fuels despite availability of coal in the depots. In all there are 11 brickfields in the district.

Besides, bamboo are also being used as fuel for burning bricks while age-old pine trees, date trees, mango trees, babla and other fruit bearing trees throughout the district are being felled down. Date trees on the other hand are being chopped down indiscriminately to feed brickfields affecting production of molasses.

Meanwhile, environmentalists have expressed concern over the matter which is affecting the ecological balance in the district. The government in July, 1989 imposed ban on using firewood in brickfields to curb deforestation all over the country.

Law, order reviewed

A meeting of the district committee was held to review the overall law and order situation in the district with Deputy Commissioner in the chair.

Chhatra League protests arrest of leaders

PABNA, Oct 1: The activists of the district unit of Chhatra League (S-A) brought out a procession in protest against the arrest of two student leaders on Sunday, reports UNB.

Diarrhoea epidemic in Jamalpur, Kishoreganj

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Oct 1: Diarrhoea and other water borne diseases have broken out in an epidemic form in most of

the flood affected areas of the district.

Unofficial sources said that 31 people including seven children died of diarrhoea and 10,000 others were attacked by the diarrhoea and other water borne diseases in the last fortnight in all seven upazilas of the district. The most affected upazilas are Jamalpur Sadar, Jhenaghathi, Sreedordi, Bakshiganj and Dewanganj. The medical teams are working round the clock to control the spread of the disease. Various medicines were being distributed among the affected people.

Acute shortage of medicines is hampering the treatment in the areas multiplying the sufferings of the victims. Civil Surgeon, Jamalpur on telephone said that Non-availability of pure drinking water and intake of adulterated foodstuffs were the cause behind the spread of these diseases. According to him, only nine persons died and 500 others have been affected by the diseases.

Upazila-wise death toll is 8 in Rangamati village of Malighananda union under Jhenaghathi upazila, three in Shaip Shailapur village of Gorgorita union under

mohrana of below Tk. 15,000 to encourage marriage registration.

Electric pole factory

Country's lone electric pole manufacturing factory at Panchagarh remains closed for long 13 months rendering about 500 employees and workers jobless.

The factory has been closed down when the PDB authorities abruptly stopped taking supply of electric poles in September, 1990.

It was established after an agreement with the PDB that it would buy poles on regular basis.

The factory produced 20,000 poles per year, but the PDB took supply of only 15,944 poles from the factory during the period December '86 to Sept-90.

PDB sources said that they failed to lift the entire production because of fund constraints.

The factory owners said they could resume production and keep the factory running if the PDB would take at least 13,000 poles every year.

Meanwhile, the jobless employees and workers of the factory are leading sub-human life amid acute financial hardship.

Meghna erosion renders 1600 families homeless

CHANDPUR, Oct 1: Over 1600 families of five villages under Sadar and Haimchar upazila have been rendered homeless by erosion of the mighty river Meghna, reports UNB.

The worst affected villages in the last three months are Sadulapur, Govindia, Bakhorpur and Akhonherat under Sadar and Gazipur under Haimchar upazila, official sources said.

Besides, Mirzapur and Haimchar villages have been totally devoured by the river.

Most of the homeless people are living under the open sky on the irrigation project embankment which is itself threatened by the massive erosion of the river.

Officials said four government primary schools and a senior madrasa have already been washed away and five villages are almost about to be devoured.

The villagers have been shifting their belongings including utensils and bullocks to safer places.

According to some experts, a ten-mile long char which emerged in the mid Meghna has been responsible for massive erosion of the banks.

Local Water Development Board officials said an alternative embankment from Raghunathpur to Haimchar was being planned if the existing embankment is washed away.

They apprehend that erosion would be more serious when the water would be receding during the dry season.

The Deputy Commissioner, Yakub Ali said 10 metric tons of rice, 5 metric tons of wheat and 200 sares and lungis have been allocated for distribution to erosion affected people.

Local leaders have urged the government and non-government organisations to take effective measures to combat erosion, protect the embankment and rehabilitate the erosion-affected people.

Farmers' rally held

MAGURA, Oct 1: A day-long farmers rally was held at Shaikhha Upazila Parishad auditorium here on Monday, reports UNB.

About 300 farmers from different areas of the upazila attended the rally.

The speakers discussed the importance of pest control management and modern methods of cultivation for increase of food production.

Presided over by the Shaikhha Upazila Chairman Sazzadur Rahman Tanadur, the rally was attended by Abul Hossain Mollah, Deputy Director, District Agriculture Extension Department as chief guest. Mr Mario, an expert of FAO was also present on the occasion.

105 tons sugar melting in godown

GAZIPUR, Oct 1: A total of 105 metric tons of sugar stockpiled in the district LSD godown worth about Tk 27 lakh are melting off due to high moisture in the air, reports UNB.

Deputy Commissioner Jasimuddin Chowdhury and Deputy Controller of Food Nasiruddin inspected the godown and saw the LSD staff collecting melted sugar in 10 drums.



SUNAMGANJ: This tiny boy has taken his father's profession as a little earning member of his family.

— Star photo by M. Iqbal Siddiqui