

Upazila roundup

PATUAKHALI

Power failure hits industries

Oct 5: Frequent power failure has been affecting life and living of the town-dwellers and hampering production in mills, factories, workshops and hospitals in the locality, reports UNB.

Residents complained that the town and its adjoining areas plunge into darkness paralysing normal life almost everyday giving rise to the anti-social activities.

Besides, students and hospital patients, rice mills, flour mills, small workshops, tailoring shops and cottage industries have been worst affected.

Mill owners said they are incurring huge loss as production falls in their industrial units for erratic power supply.

Moreover, voltage fluctuations have damaged valuable electric and electronic gadgets at the residences.

MAULVI BAZAR

Drinking water scarce

Oct 5: Scarcity of pure water has been persisting in the rural areas causing untold suffering to the people in the district, reports UNB.

A total of 822 tubewells, out of 12,243 have gone out of order of which 180 tubewells are in Rajnagar, 212 in Kulaura, 182 in Kamalganj, 60 in Srimangal, 79 in Barakha and 109 in Sadar upazilas.

The villagers said that the existing tubewells were quite insufficient to meet the requirement of drinking water.

As a result, people of the rural areas are using water from the ponds, canals and rivers, which are not safe and have been spreading water-borne diseases.

At least 25 people have died so far and many others are suffering from various stomach diseases in the district.

Public Health Engineering Department installed a total of 547 tubewells of which 108 were in Sadar, 57 in Rajnagar, 112 in Kulaura, 81 in Kamalganj, 81 in Srimangal, and 108 in Barakha upazilas of the district during 1990-91 financial year, it is learnt.

BARISAL

UP Chairman abducted

Oct 5: Some members of outlawed Sarbahara party abducted a Union Parishad Chairman while he was on his way home from Adna village in Gournadi upazila Tuesday night, police said here Tuesday last, reports UNB.

Witnesses said, Sharikal Union Parishad Chairman Jahurul Haque Khokon (32) was kidnapped by some people, suspected to be members of the outlawed party, while he was returning home after completing his relief operation responsibilities in the village.

Police could not trace them till this evening.

SYLHET

Blood donation camp held

Oct 5: A blood donation camp has been arranged here jointly by Sylhet Lions Club, Suhma Lions Club and Leo Club of Sylhet Tuesday, reports UNB.

According to sources, about 20 people have donated their blood in the camp held in Red Crescent Maternity and Child Hospital at Zinda Bazar of the district on the occasion of Lions Service Week-91.

The camp was conducted with the assistance of Sandhani of Sylhet M A C Osmani Medical College branch.

A brief meeting was also organised on the occasion in which Col(Rtd) Ramonul Islam Chowdhury, Director of Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital addressed as chief guest and former President of Sylhet Lions Club Dr Azizur Rahman coordinated the camp.

FARIDPUR

Minor boy killed in road mishap

Oct 5: A minor boy was killed and 60 others were injured when a night coach fell into a roadside pond at West Khabashpur of Sadar Upazila on Thursday.

The driver of the Khulna bound bus lost control following the bursting of a front tyre. Bankins (3) died on the spot. Witnesses said passengers were travelling on the roof and bumper of the bus. About 19 of the injured were admitted to the Sadar Hospital.

The driver of the bus is absconding.

SIRAJGANJ

Eye hospital beset with problems

From Our Correspondent

Oct 5: Sirajganj Eye Hospital of Bangladesh National Society for Blind (BNSB) is facing various problems.

It is learnt that the eye hospital was established in Sirajganj town with the financial assistance of the foreign agencies to remove blindness. Every year thousands of eye patients are treated surgically and medically through temporary eye camps in different parts of North Bengal where the doctors of Sirajganj hospital take vital roles.

The eye camps are organised under the auspices of local administration, local elite and some welfare organisation including Rotary Club and Lions Club. Every day 150 to 200 eye patients attend the outdoor section. The hospital now faces acute crisis of medicine. New instruments are not supplied in place of damaged ones. The outdoor patients are being served prescriptions only. The poor patients are unable to purchase medicines from open market due to financial stringency.

When contacted, a source of Sirajganj BNSB said that the annual budget is not even marginal to meet the minimum requirements. Local people have called upon the government to take necessary steps so that this welfare institution can serve the eye patients properly.

GAIBANDHA

Husband kills wife for dowry

From Our Correspondent

Oct 5: An expectant mother of village Falia under Sadar Upazila was killed mercilessly by her husband having failed to realise dowry on September 23.

According to report, Anowara Begum was married to Abdul Mannan of the same village. But soon after the marriage the husband demanded dowry. The poor father of Anowara could not fulfil the demand of his son-in-law. On the issue of dowry the couple locked into quarrel every now and then. In the meantime Anowara became pregnant. On September 15 at night a fresh quarrel took place between the couple on the same issue. At one stage the enraged husband kicked Anowara resulting in her severe injuries. On September 23 the victim succumbed to her injuries.

A case was filed with local thana in this connection.

THAKURGAON

Eid-e-Miladunnabi observed

From Our Correspondent

Oct 5: The holy Eid-e-Miladunnabi was celebrated in Thakurgaon with due religious fervour.

Different religious and socio-cultural organisations took up programmes to mark the occasion.

Milad Mahfil, Kerat competition, discussion on Prophet's life, offering of Fataha and special prayers seeking divine blessing were held. National flags were hoisted atop the private and public buildings.

HABIGANJ

8 dacoits arrested

From Our Correspondent

Oct 5: Habiganj police in a raid arrested eight dacoits from Madhabpur and Chunerghat areas recently.

Acting on a secret information a police party headed by Additional Police Super, Habiganj and ASP (South) conducted a successful raid in the above places and arrested the dacoits with arms.

The alleged dacoits were Zamir Ali, Abdul Mannan, Kabir, Shahid, Moti, Rana, Nur Hussain and Badar Rahman.

The police source said, the arrested dacoits were the members of inter-district gang.

MUNSHIGANJ

Bicycle stolen

From Our Correspondent

Oct 5: A bicycle of Daily Star correspondent was stolen recently from his house at dead of night.

The cycle was kept locked but the thief had managed to unlock it and disappeared. A case was filed with the Munshiganj police in this connection.



Rash driving leads to frequent road accidents. Photo shows a bus skidded off the road into a roadside ditch while trying to overtake a baby-taxi on Fatulla-Muktarpur Road at Char Saidpur in Munshiganj on Thursday last.

20,000 unregistered marriages in 3 years : Tk 20 lakh revenue loss

From Our Correspondent

DINAJPUR, Oct 5: Over 20,000 marriages have been terminated during the last three years in Dinajpur district for non-payment of dowry, it is learnt from a reliable source.

Unregistered marriages are largely prevalent in the district during the period. More than 20,000 marriages took place without registration in the district during the last three years. Subsequent marriages without getting the permission of first wives are also on the increase in the district.

It is learnt that about 4,000 marriages for second, third or fourth times were solemnised in the district during the period without getting any permission from the first, second and third wives.

Out of the 20,000 unregistered marriages, about 4,000 have been dissolved during the period of which 2,000 due to non-payment of dowry.

The brides could not appear before the court for establishing their rights upon their husbands for want of necessary documents, it is alleged by a number of divorced wives and their guardians.

The government has also been deprived of Taka 20,00,000 for non-registration of those marriages.

3 dacoits held

Three alleged dacoits were arrested and one two-barrel gun was recovered by the police of Birol police station a few days ago.

According to a report, a daring dacoity was committed in Janata Bank branch at Birol upazila sadar. One two-barrel gun and some money were looted by the dacoits. Another daring dacoity was committed in a branch of Bangladesh Krishi Bank at Batabhat where this two-barrel gun was used by the dacoits, it is alleged.

Acting on a secret information, Mr Nur Mohammad, SI of Birol raided a house in the village Kaziapur and managed to recover the two-barrel gun which was looted from Birol branch of Janata Bank. Three alleged dacoits namely Udaru

(32), Dabu (35) and Nepal (42) were also arrested from the house.

Cases have been registered with Birol PS in this regard and further investigations were proceeding.

Farmer killed

A farmer was killed and two others were injured seriously by a gang of dacoits in the village Parea in No 1 Union Parishad under Baidadangi upazila in Thakurgaon district on Sunday last. Three persons were arrested in this regard.

According to the report, a gang of dacoits numbering about 18 to 20 armed with deadly weapons, entered into the house of one cultivator Mohammad Manglu (60) by breaking open the doors and started looting valuables from the house. Hearing hue and cry, the villagers rushed to the house and tried to resist the dacoits. In the clash Manglu was killed on the spot and two villagers namely Sultan (17) and Kusumuddin (22) were injured seriously. However, the dacoits managed to escape. The injured persons were admitted to Thakurgaon Hospital in a critical condition.

The police arrested three persons, namely, Maula Mohammad (45), Mohammad Abul (22) and Abul Hossain (35). A case has been registered with Baidadangi police station in this connection.

Notes from Mymensingh

From BAU Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, Oct 5: Halaughat police recovered 100 grams of heroin worth Taka five lakh from a shop near Joyrunkura Hospital recently.

Acting on a secret information, the police arrested two persons Mansur Ahmed (26) and Nur Mohammed (28) of Gubrakura village under Halaughat upazila in this connection.

Aman farming plan

Agricultural Extension Department (AED) will bring 6,22,000 acres of land under Aman cultivation during the current season in 12 upazilas of Mymensingh district.

Mr Nasiruddin Bhuiyan, Deputy Director of AED said that about 2,43,000 acres will be brought under high-yielding variety and 11800 acres under Pjyam while the rest under local variety.

AED will provide agricultural inputs and disburse 1,44,630 kilogram of HYV seeds among the farmers, while Taka 40 lakh agricultural loan has been distributed in this period.

Businessman kidnapped

A businessman Abul Kasem was kidnapped in broad daylight with a cash amount of Taka 31,000 from Purabari Bazar in Trisal upazila by some miscreants recently, according to the sources.

The sources added that the kidnappers also claimed Taka 50,000 more from the victim's family members for his release.

A case was registered with Trisal police in this connection, but he is yet to be rescued.

114 tons wheat allocated

A total of 114 metric tons of wheat have been allocated for 152 projects under Food for Works Programme in 12 unions under Nandail upazila in the Mymensingh district for repairing works of roads, playground and reexcavation of derelict ponds.

BAU VC's call to eliminate campus terrorism

From Our Correspondent

ACRI-VARSITY (Mymensingh), Oct 5: Vice-Chancellor of the Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) Prof M Asadur Rahman said here on Wednesday last that frequent violence and atrocities on the country's educational campuses had caused a serious impediment on the way of the nation's transition to democracy.

The VC was addressing the BAU teachers at the Shilpacharya Jotun Abedin auditorium to apprise them of the latest situation on the BAU campus. Rahman told the teachers that as conscious section of the society they must take the stock of the situation on the campus and urged them to play the pivotal role in resolving the crisis efficiently.

The VC also called upon all concerned including the students and their guardians to sink their differences of opinion and help eliminate terrorism from the campus in the greater national interest. The VC also urged the government to arrest immediately the terrorists from the campus and take steps to restore a congenial academic atmosphere on the campus.

Panchagarh hats, bazars in bad shape

PANCHAGARH, Oct 5:

Hats and bazars in different upazilas of the district are beset with multifarious problems causing great inconveniences to consumers and businessmen, reports UNB.

Panchagarh Sadar, Boda, Sakoa, Debiganj, Atowari, Vojanpur, Laxmihati, Vagdal, Maidardighi markets are now in pitiable and unhygienic conditions.

In most of the hats and bazars filth and garbage are dumped disorderly and there is hardly any arrangement for cleaning them. During the rainy season, the situation becomes worst.

Besides, the drains dumped by filth, dirt and household wastes also emit bad odour polluting the environment. There are no public toilets in the markets and arrangements for pure water are hardly found. People and children are very often seen responding to the call of nature in drains and roadsides.

The roads inside the hats and bazars of the district are also in pitiable conditions. Cracks and potholes have developed here and there causing much inconveniences to vehicular movement and pedestrians.

Pilferage of railway accessories rampant

From Our Correspondent

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Oct 5: Pilferage of fish plates and sleepers in large number from railway tracks has been resulting in frequent rail accidents on Chapainawabganj-Rajshahi and Chapainawabganj-Rahanpur routes disrupting rail communication for days together. As a result, the passengers suffer much and the railway authorities incur a huge loss of revenue.

Local people and some railway employees of the area caught some thieves while pilfering the railway materials but due to flexibility of the railway authorities the pilferage is going on unabated.

Two persons were caught red-handed while they were taking away fish plates by bullock cart. Later the railway track was repaired which would have caused serious accident. The arrested persons were released on bail later. The ring leader of the thieves

also a notorious dacoit of this area began to threaten the railway employees and hijacked one Abu Bakkar while the latter was returning home with his Eid bonus amounting to Taka 1152.

The decision to set up a security camp at Kakanhat was also withdrawn and the theft incidents have increased.

Recently 12 sleepers were stolen from the mid point of the Silai and 24-Nagar stations. Two persons were caught by the G R P with some fish plates. Due to the large scale pilferage the railway tracks have become so weak that several compartments of the I R trains were derailed from Silai station. On the following day few bogies of the Rahanpur bound train were derailed at Golabari station. Meanwhile eight wagons of the goods train were derailed at Kakanhat. Due to these perpetual accidents the rail communication remained disrupted for three days.

Withdrawal of Upazila Magistrate demanded

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Oct 5: The local unit of BNP and All Party Students Action Committee demanded immediate withdrawal of Melandah Upazila Magistrate for his alleged corruption and misuse of power.

Several written complaints were submitted to the UNO of Melandah Deputy Commissioner, District Anti-Corruption Department, Police Super LGRD Ministry, Law Ministry, District and Sessions Judge and other high level officials against the Magistrate.

The said Magistrate granted bail to the convicted persons in exchange of Taka 12000, it is alleged.

The convicted persons had been absconding since 1988.

Fertilizers scarce

Acute scarcity of fertilizer has been prevailing in seven upazilas of the district hampering Aman cultivation during the current season.

According to the farmers, non-availability of fertilizer has partially damaged the standing

crops. Taking advantage of the demand in the markets unscrupulous fertilizer traders carried huge amount by selling the item at exorbitant rates threatening the Aman production.

Urea is also essential for Aman production. The item is now being sold at 80 more taka higher each bag than the actual price.

Short supply of fertilizer in the local markets has been attributed to the reason for the paucity.

The Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation has failed to supply sufficient quantities of fertilizers to the farmers. Earlier, fertilizer transactions used to be controlled by BADC. As such artificial scarcity could seldom happen, farmers said.

The farmers urged the government to reduce the prices of fertilizers and pesticides. Various types of pesticides have been selling in different local markets at an exorbitant rate.

Killing of JSD worker protested

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAH, Oct 5: Ganotantrik Chhatra Otkya, Rajshahi University unit brought out a procession and held a rally on the campus on Saturday last protesting the killing of JSD (Inu) backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (N-S) worker Habibuzzaman Habib in Rangpur Medical College on Sept 27. He was a first year student of Rangpur Medical College.

Presided over by Yub Ali, General Secretary of BCL (N-S) RU unit the rally was addressed, among others, by Babul Khan and Towhidur Rahman of Chhatra Motihur and Alamgir Hossain, AGS of RUCSU.

Speakers at the rally accused Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) workers of killing Habib. They also demanded punishment of the killers.

They expressed grave concern over the injury of the Anwar Hossain a student of RU in the incident.

A section of unscrupulous traders are making brisk business by publishing illegal note books in different parts of the district. It may be mentioned here that publication of note books up to Class Seven is banned by the government to remove dependency of the students on prepared notes.

The book traders compelled the students to purchase low quality note books with their text books. Many of them are involved in this illegal business, it is alleged.

Five mastans arrested in Tongibari

From Our Correspondent

TONGIBARI, Oct 5: Tongibari police arrested five mastans - Liton (25), Yead Ali (18), Rahman (22), Shanu Kazi (25) and Mustafa (28) recently under Operation Doorbar. The mastans established a reign of terror and were connected with many anti-social activities such as illegal toll collection, eve teasing, muscle flexing to the peace loving people of the locality. A case was registered and they were taken into custody and were put behind bars. But to the utter surprise they came out of the bars just after a few days.

Bridge turns into a death trap

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Oct 5: The century old iron bridge in the middle of Jhenidah town over the river Nabaganga has turned into a death trap. It is feared that the bridge will collapse at any moment.

The bridge 12 feet wide and more than 100 feet long was built 100 years ago. The iron pillars and railings of both sides of the bridge became rusty and damaged badly. Besides wingwails of the bridge have no existence. In the absence of proper maintenance and repair the condition of the iron bridge has become deplorable and it may collapse at any time.

Moreover it was declared unfit for use 15 years ago. Local pourashava authorities took a programme to repair it but to no effect. Hundreds of pedestrians and vehicles like rickshaws and babytaxis pass through the iron bridge everyday and accidents may occur at

any time taking a heavy toll of lives.

When contacted, Roads and Highways Department failed to give any clear information whether the bridge will be repaired or demolished. Local people urged the concerned authorities to take necessary measures to repair or demolish the bridge for the safety of the people.

Weavers' meeting

Bangladesh Weavers Sangram Parishad, Jhenidah district unit organised a meeting at Jhenidah City College campus last week.

Mr M A Razzak, Chairman of Bangladesh Weavers Sangram Parishad was the chief guest while Mr Islamuddin, Convenor of Jhenidah district unit was in the chair.

Mr Razzak in his speech said that to save the weaving industry, smuggling of Indian sarces should be stopped.

Diarrhoea claims 17 in hill districts

RANGAMATI, Oct 5:

Diarrhoea has claimed 17 lives and attacked 500 others in the hill districts during the last fortnight. Local Government sources said.

Of them, 10 died in Mohalchhari upazila of Khagrachhari hill district, five in Rangamati Sadar and Belachhari of Rangamati hill district and two in Lama upazila of Bandarban hill district.

Okuzai Marma (25), Shudha Aung Marma (29), Ripu Marma (8), Taingding Marma (28), Abatma Marma (41), Apaya Marma (35), wife of Aungu Marma (25), Kongaai Marma (40) and two unidentified persons died of diarrhoea at Sindukchhari union under Mohalchhari upazila of Khagrachhari hill district.

Shudha Marma and Aung Marma both UP members of Sindukchhari told UNB.

According to local people, Debalchhari, Banshpura, Bazarpura, Turangpara and Chakmabitha are the affected villages under Mohalchhari

upazila of Khagrachhari hill district.

Three people in Sadar and two in Belachhari upazila of Rangamati hill district died of diarrhoea during this fortnight. Moni Swopandewan, upazila chairman of Sadar upazila and Abdus Salam Fakir, Rabindra Lal Chakma of local government parishad told UNB.

They said, acute scarcity of food and drinking water in the area were responsible for the outbreak of the disease.

They also said that due to scarcity of food, people are taking non conventional grass which were unfit for human consumption.

According to upazila administration, two people died and hundreds were attacked by diarrhoea during this fortnight in Lama upazila of Bandarban hill district.

All three civil surgeons of hill districts said while being directed by the concerned local government parishad chairmen, medical teams have been sent to affected areas.