

Upazila roundup

FENI

Tk 1.15 cr sanctioned for construction of 11 roads, bridges

Oct 29: A total sum of Tk 1.15 crore has been sanctioned for construction of 11 roads and bridges here under post flood and cyclone rehabilitation programme, reports UNB.

The Asian Development Bank is financing the project covering five upazilas of the district.

According to official sources, about Tk 14.38 lakh would be spent in Chhagalnitya upazila for repair and renovation of Captain Link road, Tk 2.69 lakh for reconstruction of Chonua DC road under Sadar upazila, Tk 5.93 lakh for repair of Charkhondaker road, Tk 3.11 lakh for Charchandia road and Tk 3.19 lakh for repair of Sonagazi road, Tk 16.35 lakh for reconstruction of Chatholla-Domikunda road under Porphuram upazila, Tk 19.81 lakh for reconstruction of Chowdhuryhat road, Tk 11.70 lakh for repair of Dagonbhuiyan-Boshurhat road and Tk 11.70 lakh for repair of Dagonbhuiyan Chowdhuryhat road under Dagonbhuiyan upazila.

The highest amount of Tk 25.21 lakh has been allocated for construction of Kuthir Hat bridge under Sonagazi upazila.

Work on the project will start soon and is expected to be completed by December 31, the sources said.

MAGURA

Workers firm to realise demands

Oct 29: A meeting of workers held at the Magura Textile Mills gate resolved to continue their movement for fulfillment of the 6-point demand of the SKOP federation, reports UNB.

The meeting organised by SKOP Magura unit was presided over by Faruqul Islam, President of CBA Magura unit. It was also addressed by central leader Bodrul Alam, CBA Secretary Magura unit Nasimul Islam, Taposh, Mostofa Golam Nabi, Abdul Mannan.

The meeting also called upon the authorities to take steps to eliminate corruption and malpractice in various mills of the area which were responsible for production loss.

BRAHMANBARIA

Massive tree plantation programme

Oct 29: A massive tree plantation programme is under implementation here by Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) through cooperative societies in the district, reports UNB.

According to sources, a total of 26,856 saplings will be distributed among the 4476 members of 131 societies. A total of 8000 saplings have already been distributed.

The plantation programme was inaugurated at the village Radhika by Sadar upazila chairman Borhanuddin Ahmed recently.

A discussion meeting was also held on the occasion in which local elite took part and emphasised the importance of tree plantation to project the environment.

PABNA

Old man crushed under wheels of truck

Oct 29: An old man was crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck at Pailanpur area of the town Friday, reports UNB.

Police said, the victim Md Nazuddin (62) while crossing the road the speedy truck (Dhaka Metro DA-360) hit him killing him on the spot.

Police seized the killer truck but the driver, however, managed to escape. A case has been filed in this connection.

In another incident, Md Akbar Ali (25), leader of local Islami Chhatra Shibir was stabbed by some unknown miscreants at Edward University College campus on Thursday.

The reason behind the incident could not be ascertained. A case has been filed in this connection.

KUSHLIA

Bheramara-Paksey ferry services resume operation

Oct 29: Bheramara-Paksey ferry services resumed its operation from Saturday after exploring a new ghat, five kilometres upstream of the Harding bridge, reports UNB.

The operation of ferry was suspended on October 17 due to emerging of shoals and rapid fall of water level and low flow of water from Farakka.

The new ghat has been explored after frantic efforts and the service will continue in this new route until dredging work is completed in the original ghat area.

Three hundred feet dredging work has so far been completed and rest seven hundred feet was expected to be completed within one week.

The ferry service at present takes time to cover the five kilometre extra route and four ferry boats are engaged for transportation of vehicles in this new route.

RAJBARI

JCD protests killings at DU

Oct 29: The district unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal yesterday afternoon held a rally protesting Sunday's killing at the Dhaka University, reports UNB.

Presided over by JCD district convenor Abdur Razzak, the speakers at the rally held at the rail station ground demanded punishment of those involved in the killing of two JCD activists.

Later, JCD brought out a procession which paraded the streets of the town.

At one stage, the unruly activists ransacked a medical store owned by the district Joint Secretary of Awami League Md. Sobhan Miah.

The JCD activists also pelted stones at the houses of the correspondents of Banglar Bani and Dainik Bangla, witnesses said.

Senior SP visited the houses of the reporters and police have been deployed in the town.

SIRAJGANJ

Akbar Ali Degree College closed sine die

Oct 29: Akbar Ali Degree College in Ullapara upazila was declared closed yesterday for an indefinite period following frequent clashes between two rival student groups in the college compound, reports UNB.

College sources said the authorities took the decision to avoid further untoward incidents in the college.

At least 15 students were injured in a series of clash in the college compound between Chhatra League (Rab) and Chhatra League (A-A) during the last three days.

Of the injured three were admitted to the Purnimagati Health Complex. Their condition was stated to be critical.

The trouble was a sequel to the past political conflict between the two student organisations, the sources said.

GAIBANDHA

Discussion on BBC Bengali service held

From Our Correspondent

Oct 29: A discussion meeting of BBC Bengali service was held at Gaibandha Mohila College auditorium recently in observance of 50 years of BBC Bengali service. On this occasion BBC representatives exchanged views with local journalists and elite of the town.

Mr Serajur Rahman, Deputy Head and Mr Dipanker Ghosh, Senior Producer of BBC Bengali service answered to the questions of audience on the issue of BBC service in the sub-continent.

The meeting was arranged by Bangladesh Sangbadik Samity, Gaibandha district unit.

MADARIPUR

Paribahan Sramik Union executives

Oct 29: A 14-member executive committee of the district Paribahan Sramik Union was elected here with Shahjahan Khan MP and Karim Hawlader as the president and Secretary respectively, reports UNB.

They have been elected for a two-year term in the election held recently.

A total of 337 registered members cast their votes in the election held peacefully.



Bangladesh is a riverine country. Thousands of launches and mechanised boats ply on the river routes carrying people and merchandise round the year. Photo shows a carpenter repairing a launch at Narayanonj launch terminal. — Star photo

Hartal observed for road development

SYLHET, Oct 29: A complete half-day hartal was observed at Biswanath upazila headquarters recently to press home the demand for immediate repair of Biswanath-Sylhet Road, which had been lying in a precarious condition for long. The hartal was called by the Biswanath Sangrami Chhatra Gana Parishad.

All types of vehicles were off the roads during hartal hours from 6 am to 12 am. Attendance in almost all the offices were thin. The educational institutions were also closed. A number of small processions were brought out at the upazila headquarters during the hartal hour. A meeting was also held after the hartal with Mr. Jamaluddin Jalal, Joint-Convenor of the organisation. A number of local leaders from different organisation spoke on it.

The meeting called upon the authorities concerned to meet the legitimate demands of the common people of the area. Otherwise, they would launch a three-day programme

from November 9 next the speakers declared. The programmes, include, blockade of Dhaka-Sylhet Highway at Rashidpur for 8 hours from 8 am on November 9, gherao of Deputy Commissioners office and Roads and Highways department office on November 10 and day-long hartal on November 11.

The speakers demanded immediate steps for improvement of different roads, all the primary and religious educational institutions of the upazila. They also demanded construction of a sluice gate at Chaudhanti haor and supply of gas to the different areas of the upazila.

Vaccination centre opens

An E.P.I. (Extended Programme on Immunization) vaccination centre was opened at Kewapara Samaj Kalyan Samity office recently.

Mr. A. F. M. Kamal, Chairman, Sylhet Pourashava formally inaugurated the centre in presence of a large gathering of local people. The function was also addressed, among others, by Mrs. Masuda Akhtar Chowdhury, Principal, Babycare Academy, Mr. Pradip Bhattacharya, Pura Commissioner, Mr. Abdul Mannan Rajan, Pura Commissioner, Syed Ahmed Hossain, Pura Commissioner, Dr. Sudhamay Majumder, and Mr. Raifiqul Islam Chowdhury, Secretary of the organisation.

It may be stated here that, a vigorous programme of immunisation of children to save them from six dangerous diseases has been taken up in Sylhet as elsewhere in the country with the assistance of UNICEF. The nationwide programme is being implemented through different social organisations and health department.

Football tourney

The Sunamganj district Inter-Upazila Football competition began at the Sunamganj stadium under the auspices of Sunamganj District Sports Association from October 24 last.

Mr. Mushtaq Uddin Ahmed, Deputy Commissioner and President of the Association inaugurated the competition. In the opening match, Sunamganj Sadar Upazila team defeated Chhatk Upazila team by 2-0 goals. Both the goals were scored in the second half by Diponkar and Ritom.

All the 10 upazila teams are participating in the competition.

One killed in road mishap

An 8-year-old boy was killed and 25 others were injured in a road accident on Thursday on Jakiganj-Sylhet Highway.

According to the report, the minibus on its way to Sylhet from Jakiganj while reached near Shahbag skidded off the road when the driver lost control over the vehicle. The 8-year-old boy Kamil Hossain Chowdhury along with

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his parents were admitted to the Sylhet M. A. G. Osmani Medical College Hospital where he died in the next morning. His parents, Kamul Hossain Chowdhury and Shahana Begum Chowdhury were in critical condition in the hospital, it is learnt.

Suicide
A 30-year-old youngman committed suicide by hanging himself from a mango tree at village Vitrikhel under Jaintepur upazila on October 23 last.

It is reported that, the deceased, Shaifur Rahman a mentally retired person left the house on October 23 without any notice. In the next morning his body was found hanging from a mango tree at a tila (hilly place) of an adjacent village. Police took the body and sent it to the Sylhet M. A. G. Osmani Medical College Hospital morgue for post-mortem.

An U. D. case had been started with the Jaintepur police station in this connection.

Khagrachhari Kalyan Parishad stipends

KHAGRACHHARI, Oct 29: Khagrachhari Zila Kalyan Parishad will award 100 stipends to secondary students and 43 stipends to higher secondary students in different upazilas of the hill district this year, reports BSS.

According to a press release, secondary students will get Taka 100 each while higher secondary students Taka 200 each.

5000 teenage workers at Satkhira town

SATKHIRA, Oct 29: The number of child hawkers and labourers are increasing in the district headquarters with the influx of the floating mass from rural areas.

According to the survey conducted by the local journalists, about 5000 children between the age group of five and 15 have been engaged in manual jobs for their livelihood. Of the total 2000 are hawkers or helpers of the masons. Many of them worn in hotels, restaurants, factories, motor garages, bicycle repairing shops, welding shops, brick fields etc. Many others also work as rickshaw pullers, cow-boys and domestic servants. Apart from this child hawkers are selling vegetable, fruits, dry fruits, household articles, cegaretes and betel leaves in different places of the town.

These children have trekked to the town areas along with their families who were rendered shelterless either by erosion of the rivers or other natural calamities and eventually were forced to abandon their respective village homes in quest of work for bare survival. These destitute families have taken shelter in the slum areas besides the roads and other abandoned place.

About 50 per cent of these people have got work and earning Taka 20 per day while the rest have taken to begging. It is gathered that these child hawkers and labourers work for more than 12 hours a day earning Taka 15 to 20 only to support their families. According to the International Labour law children below the age of 15 years are not allowed to take up hard work.

In our country this age limit is not being adhered to as most of the children engaged in odd jobs are under their teens.

Besides, most of them have no shelter or house as such after the days' work they pass the whole night at the bus terminals, in front of cinema halls and houses. During winter their condition becomes miserable as they cannot afford to buy warm apparels and other garments to cover their bodies.

Most of the child labourers deprived of proper diet and medicare have been suffering from various diseases.



SYLHET: Chairman of Sylhet Pourashava addressing the inaugural function of EPI vaccination centre at Kewapara Samajkalyan Samity office on Oct 23. — Star Photo

Demonstration for succour

RANGPUR, Oct 29: Over 500 distressed people demonstrated Saturday in front of the Mithapukur Upazila Parishad office demanding food and work, reports UNB.

The demonstrators also submitted a memorandum to the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) to press home their nine-point demand.

The demands include proper arrangement for food and work, preventive measures for diarrhoea and cholera, distribution of soft term agriculture loan and fixation of sugar cane price.

School in cow-shed

SATKHIRA, Oct 29: Students of Fakhrabad Primary School attend their class in a cow-shed vacated in the day when cows go for grazing in the field, reports UNB.

The smell of the dung does not matter because that is the only space available and protected from the sun and rain.

The government primary school at Fakhrabad village of Asasuni upazila of the district had been blown away by cyclone in 1988 and has not been reconstructed yet.

Local leaders said students of several other schools have been taking lessons sitting in the open or under the trees. They have accepted the situation having failed to draw attention of the authorities to dilapidated condition of old school buildings, they alleged.

The teachers have been taking classes although at least 56 of them in the upazila have not been getting their salary for the last five months.

4 teachers run a high school

RANGAMATI, Oct 29: An old educational institution of Langadu, the Langadu Government High School has been beset with problems hampering education of tribal as well as non-tribal students, reports UNB.

Local leader Abul Feroque Khan said, the school has only four teachers while at least 12 teachers were needed. It is running without a Headmaster for a couple of years. Accommodation is inadequate for about 400 students, enrolled in the school.

Besides, the school is a centre for SSC examination, where students from several other schools in the upazila gather for the examination every year but facilities are deplorably short to cope with the large number of SSC examinees.

The upazilas, populated by nearly 56 thousand people, has 39 government primary schools, 11 non-affiliated primary schools, and six private primary schools, where from hundreds of secondary education sectors come to Langadu Government High School for study.

Child health care project will be launched

RANGPUR, Oct 29: A child health care project will be launched at Azizullah village in Rangpur Sadar upazila under the joint collaboration of Bangladesh and Australia from December next, reports BSS.

A five-day long training camp of scouts, girls guide, rangers and rovers began Wednesday in this connection.

Mr. Fazlur Rahman, National Commissioner of Bangladesh Scouts and Joint Secretary of Commerce Ministry attended the function as chief guest and inaugurated the camp. Mr. Abdus Salek, Additional District Magistrate and Mr. Mahbubur Rahman Civil Surgeon, Rangpur were special guests. It was presided over by Mr. Mofazzal Hossain, Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Rangpur Sadar and addressed, among others, by Mr. Abdul Quddus Head Master Rangpur Zila School and Miss Shahana Begum, Head Mistress, Rangpur Govt Girls High School.

Tk 20.12 lakh uplift projects in Jamalpur

JAMALPUR, Oct 29: Jamalpur municipality has undertaken three development schemes at a cost of Taka 20,12,000 in the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

Official sources said the projects include development of slums at a cost of Taka 3,20,000, construction of Mritapur-Bharuakhali road at a cost of Taka 15,12,000 and Municipal gate at a cost of Taka 1,80,000.

Meanwhile construction of Municipal gate on Jamalpur-Madhupur road has been completed. Work on construction of road will be started soon.