

Upazila roundup

JHENIDAH

Valuables worth Tk 30,000 looted

Nov 2 : Valuables worth about Tk 30,000 were looted in a minibus dacoity here Monday night on Kaliganj-Alamdanga highway, reports UNB.

Witnesses said, when the Kaliganj bound minibus (Dhaka CHA-3799) reached at Alagi in Kotchandpur upazila of the district the dacoits numbering about five stopped the bus at daggers' point, beat the inmates indiscriminately and decamped with the booties.

The driver of the bus and a police constable Nuruzzaman of Kaliganj thana who was travelling in the bus were injured in the incident.

A case has been filed with Kotchandpur police in this connection.

NETRAKONA

UPEP faces setback

Nov 2 : The Universal Primary Education Programme (UPEP) have been facing setback due to manifold problems in ten upazilas specially in pourashava areas of the district, reports UNB.

Local leaders said the dilapidated condition of the primary school buildings, shortage of teachers and accommodation are hampering the implementation of the programme.

Many schools have not been reconstructed after being damaged by flood and other natural calamities during the last few years. Students of these schools are attending their classes under the sky.

Besides, high prices of educational appliances like paper and books are beyond purchasing capacity of the poverty stricken people.

JAMALPUR

6 arrested for misappropriation of wheat

Nov 2 : Six persons including Project Chairman were allegedly arrested by police from Adarvita union under Mohanganj upazila on charge of misappropriation of wheat for the vulnerable group development project, reports BSS.

A Union Parishad member and Project Chairman of vulnerable group development centre and five others were involved in the misappropriation of the wheat. They were gheraoed by the local people. On receiving information Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Madanganj directed the police to arrest the culprits. They were however granted bails by the upazila magistrate.

KISHOREGANJ

Diarrhoea death toll rises to 265

Nov 2 : Diarrhoeal diseases which have spread in an epidemic form in 13 upazilas of the district claimed 10 more lives and attacked 1,000 others during the last three days, reports UNB.

Death toll rose to 265 and attacked 16,000 people so far, unofficial sources said.

Official sources, however, confirmed 129 deaths and 7,840 people were attacked by the disease during the period.

Among the deaths four people died in Pakundia, 2 each in Katiadi and Tarial and one each in Bajitpur and Hossainpur upazilas.

The situation aggravated during the period due to absence of adequate preventive measures and ineffective supply of curatives.

Moreover, the patients coming in large numbers were facing accommodation problem in the health complexes and sadar hospitals.

FARIDPUR

Call to fulfil Polytechnic Sikkhak Samity's demands

Nov 2 : Bangladesh Polytechnic Sikkhak Samity called for early fulfillment of their 10-point demand including payment of arrears over due for 18 months, reports UNB.

The other demands include implementation of BCS technical education-appointment rules, filling up the vacant posts, grant of higher grades of pay to senior teachers and accommodation facilities for teachers.

The samity leaders held a press conference on October 25 at the local club which was addressed by Paul Shyamal Halder, President of the local unit, A Majid Biswas, Vice President and Md Mofazzal Mridha, General Secretary.

RAJSHAHI

Construction work of Barendra Museum starts

Nov 2 : Work has begun on the construction of a building for the Barendra Research Museum at a cost of Tk 12 lakh, reports UNB.

The Rajshahi University has allotted funds for setting up two new galleries — one for Islamic heritage and the other for folk arts.

The museum previously spent 50,000 US dollars donated by Ford Foundation for electrification and installation of a modern display system.

It may be mentioned that the museum has 6,000 of rare and valuable archaeological specimens for display.

PABNA

Spurious drugs worth Tk 10 lakh recovered

Nov 2 : Narcotics and Liquor Department recovered a huge quantity of spurious drugs worth about Tk 10 lakh and arrested two people from Parkoladia village in Alghoria upazila of the district Wednesday, reports UNB.

Acting on a secret information, the officials raided a house of the village and recovered the drugs.

The drugs include 11 kilograms of Marijuana, 50 kilograms of ganja and 12 ganja plants.

The arrested were identified as Md Mokshed Ali Sardar (40), and Md Nuruzzaman (30), of Parkoladia village.

Two separate cases were filed in this connection.

SIRAJGONJ

One killed, 20 hurt in road accident

Nov 2 : One person was killed and 20 others injured when a bus lost control and met with a serious accident at Balshabari on Bogra-Nagarbari Highway Thursday night, reports UNB.

The victim Milon (20), helper of the bus, was killed on the spot when the bus fell into a roadside ditch.

Four of the injured persons were admitted into Purnimatag Health Complex at Ullapara with critical wounds.

A case has been filed with local police in this connection.

PANCHAGARH

Tetulia can be turned into a tourist spot

Nov 2 : Lack of proper accommodation and other facilities at Tetulia is depriving country's tourism network of a prospective centre, reports UNB.

Tetulia, situated at the northern tip of Bangladesh, may be turned into an attractive tourist centre for its enchanting beauty.

Besides, local people opined that the area is also dotted with innumerable ancient relics which are running into a state of decay and theft due to absence of proper care.

They believe these treasures could be better maintained if housed in a museum.

Local people further informed that people in hundreds, mostly young boys and girls, from all over the country visit the place every winter for picnic and particularly to have glimpse of the snow-capped peaks of the Himalayas and Kanchenjanga.

The high mountain peaks render a picturesque view which can be visible from Tetulia during sun rise and sun set.

However, lack of hotels, motels or any other kind of accommodation deter many enthusiastic people from visiting the spot, local people observed.

KUSHIA

Smuggled goods worth Tk 1.50 lakh seized

Nov 2 : Anti-Smuggling Zila Task Force seized goods worth about Tk 1.50 lakh and arrested two alleged smugglers from a train here Tuesday morning, reports UNB.

Task force sources said, the officials led by Additional Superintendent of Police Naba Bikram Kishore Tipura conducted a drive in Jamuna inter-city express train at Jagati railway station and seized the contraband goods.

The seized goods include 36,335 pieces of Indian Super Max shaving blade, 66 pieces of Indian saree, 413 kg of Indian cotton yarn and 130 box of Indian chewing tobacco.



Pest menace has caused havoc to standing crops in a vast tract of land in flood-affected Rangpur. Photo shows a farmer sprinkling powdered tobacco in the paddy field for want of pesticide to save the crop at a village in Gangachhara. — Star photo

Price spiral hits fixed income group

RAJBARI, Nov 2 : Prices of essential commodities have shot up alarmingly in Rajbari town and its adjoining areas causing much hardships to the consumers specially the fixed income groups.

Irregular and inadequate supply of essential commodities like rice, wheat, sugar and edible oil through statutory and modified rationing system has aggravated the situation. The price of rice has gone up by Taka 2.50 to Taka three per kilogram during the last week. The coarse variety rice is being sold at Taka 13 to 14 per kilo-gram which was sold at Taka 10 to 12 per kilogram a week ago.

Fine quality rice is being sold at Taka 14 to 15 per kilo-gram which was sold at Taka 12 to 13 seven days back. Ata is being sold at Taka 11 to 12 per kilo against Taka nine. Prices of different varieties of vegetable have registered an upward trend. Brinjal is available at Taka 10 per kilo against Taka five before. Potal at 20 per kilo against Taka 10, gourd at Taka 8 ladies finger at Taka 25, jhinga at Taka 15, potato at Taka 8 and papaya at Taka six. Besides, medium size red pumpkin sells at Taka 25 per kilo. Price hike of vegetables has begun attributed to incessant rainfall. Moreover, con-

From Our Correspondent

densed milk per small tin is being sold at Taka 75 to 80 and loose powder milk at Taka 150 per kilo, pure cow milk is rarely available in the market. It is now being sold at Taka 20 per litre soyabean sells at Taka 40 per kilo and mustard at 60 to 60 per kilogram.

286 criminals arrested

Rajbari police arrested 286 criminals and recovered 40 firearms and huge quantity of ammunition in a special drive under Operation Durbar from different places of the district recently.

The recovered arms include

guns, cut rifles pipeguns, chocolate bombs and bayonets.

Md. Ashraf Huda, DIG, Dhaka range appreciated the performance of the police force of the district at a rally held at the local police line recently. He called upon the law-enforcing agencies to earn confidence of the people by discharging their duties with sincerity and dedication. He directed the police personnel to intensify their drive against the criminals in order to ensure peace and security to the life and property of the people.

Mr. Tafazzul Hussain SP and Mr. Chandra Kumar Chakrta

ASP, Rajbari were also present on the occasion.

Agri-loan

The regional Krishi Bank Rajbari has taken up a programme to disburse Taka four crore seventy lakh among the farmers of the district under post-flood rehabilitation programme during the current financial year.

The loan will be distributed through the 14 branches of the regional bank. Of the total, Taka two crore and 11 lakh will be disbursed as crop loan, Taka one crore and twenty lakh for purchasing irrigation equipment and Taka 64 lakh for purchasing bullocks and Taka 75 lakh for other purposes.

Wild elephants rampage two villages

RANGAMATI, Nov 2 : Wild elephants from Khagrachari forest rampaged two villages of Fatikchhari upazila of Chittagong killing one more person and injuring 10 others on Thursday, reports UNB.

The herd of elephants also damaged 10 dwelling houses and uprooted hundreds of trees in the area, official sources said.

With this, the marauding wild elephants killed two people and twelve cattle injuring more than a dozen people and few cattlehead over the last two days.

The man killed on Thursday was identified as Ahmed Ali (40) of Pilkhana village in Fatikchhari upazila.

The villagers are reportedly fleeing for safer places.

Polythene bags threaten jute industry

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Nov 2 : Country's jute industry is on the verge of collapse due to large-scale production and use of polythene bags. Polythene bags are being used instead of jute bags for the last few years. Besides, manufacturing of polythene are decreasing the fertility of the land and polluting the environment.

This was observed by the different speakers at a discussion meeting organised by Chandpur District Jute Growers Association which was held recently at Chandpur Baburhat High School ground.

It was presided over by Md. Siddiqur Rahman, Head

From Our Correspondent

Master of Baburhat High School and addressed among others, by Abdul Bashir Talukdar, Deputy Director, Agriculture Extension Department and Aslam Alam, UNO, Faizullah, Abdur Razzak, Anwar Hussain and Shahidullah Master.

EPI week observed

The second National EPI week was observed at Chandpur through holding of discussion meetings, procession and prize distribution ceremony.

A discussion meeting was held at Chandpur Rotary Club which was presided over by Dr. Abdur Rashid, Civil Surgeon.

Chandpur and addressed among others, by Md Yakub Ali, Deputy Commissioner, Principal A W M Joaha Mia, and Dr M A Galur.

The speakers called upon the people to make the expanded programme of immunization (EPI) a success. They called for building a sound and healthy nation which is necessary to build up a prosperous country. In this connection a press briefing was also held at Chandpur Press Club. Dr. Md. Abdur Rashid, Civil Surgeon told that about fifty per cent work of the immunization in the district have been completed.

Mini oil mills on verge of extinction

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Nov 2 : Mini oil mills are on the verge of extinction for want of working capital, patronisation and non-availability of necessary inputs in the district rendering numerous families unemployed.

Being unable to cope with the problems many oilmen of all the seven upazilas of the district have already given up their age-old profession while others are roaming in search of other jobs.

It is gathered that oil production by drawing 'Ghanis' has been the main occupation of some 6000 families for years together. But now-a-days they are hardly able to carry on their profession due to scarcity of inputs as well as fund constraints.

When interviewed an old oilman Asharuddin of Bakshiganj upazila said that he

was thinking of giving up this age old profession because of poor return. Price hike of oil seeds, bullock and other materials for making 'Ghani' has aggravated the situation. As a result, production cost of edible oil by bullock driven ghanies do not commensurate with the market price of oil.

According to other oilman Motiur Rahman, he had been engaged in this profession from his boyhood since last 40 years. But being unable to earn bread for the five members of his family he has been compelled to give up the profession and presently he is buying edible oil other than Ghani from the groceries and selling it from door to door. Shahabuddin Miah, a middle-aged oilman gave up his profession and has become a rick-

shawpuller. Several hundreds oilman of the district have become either day labourers or rickshawpullers and van pullers. It deserves mention that bullock is essential for drawing Ghanis but most of the oilmen cannot afford to buy oxen.

Further the oilmen are handicapped because of fund constraints. Due to complicated procedure of bank loan disbursement the oilmen are left with no other alternative but to borrow money from money lenders or mahajans at a higher rate of interest. As much they attain little benefit from their products. It is widely felt that the authorities concerned should disburse loan among the oilmen of the district to save their hereditary profession from extinction.

Medical asstt training school closed

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Nov 2 : Faridpur Medical Assistants Training School has been closed earlier due to shortage of necessary fund and negligence of the concerned authority. It was opened with the financial assistance of the Netherlands government in 1980.

It is learnt that out of 18 schools in Bangladesh 10 were closed as the contract with the Netherlands government was neither extended nor renewed in 1985. It is learnt that from 1980 to 1985 more than 1000 students were trained as paramedics from this school. Later they were absorbed in rural health centres, different hospitals under the Health

Ministry and family welfare centres as medical assistants.

Installation ceremony
The installation ceremony of the Government Rajendra University College Students Union was held at the college field recently. It may be mentioned that out of 21 seats, Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) bagged 13 including the post of General Secretary while Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) captured eight posts including the post of Vice President.

Presided over by Principal Md Abdul Hai the ceremony was addressed by the Deputy Commissioner Mr A Rahim,

BNP mourning procession in Meherpur

MEHERPUR, Nov 2 : BNP backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) brought out a mourning procession in the town Tuesday over the Sunday's killings in the Dhaka University campus, reports UNB.

The JCD processionists paraded the main streets demanding exemplary punishment to those responsible for the gruesome murders. They also held Awami League backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) for the gunbattle in the Dhaka University campus.

BCL earlier brought out a procession Monday blaming JCD for the terrorism and gunbattle in the DU campus.

World Muslim conference in Chittagong in March likely

CHITTAGONG, Nov 2 : A World Muslim Conference is expected to be held in Chittagong in the first fortnight of March next year, reports UNB.

The Jalsa-e-Alam-e-Islami, Bangladesh took the decision to conference the conference at its meeting held at the City Corporation auditorium Saturday, reports UNB.

Presided over by City Corporation Mayor Md Nasiruddin, the meeting was attended by Prominent Islamic Scholars and Thinkers of the port city including Alhaj Bazul Sattar, Advocate Saifuddin Ahmed, Maulana Jalaluddin Al-Qadri, Alhaj Syed Ahmadul Haq.

A preparatory committee has been formed with Nasiruddin as Chairman and Alhaj Syed Ahmadul Haq as General Secretary.

The meeting decided to invite representatives from all the countries of the Islamic World at the grand conference to be held at the national Mosque of Jamiatul Fatah.

23 bags looted rice recovered in Pabna

PABNA, Nov 2 : Police recovered 23 looted bags of rice worth about Tk 20,000 from village Bangladesh under Varara union of Sadar upazila and arrested six people on Friday, reports UNB.

According to police, a gang of miscreants looted 45 bags of rice on October 15 in broad day light, allotted as relief for the flood affected people.

Acting on a secret information, police raided a house of the village and recovered the rice.

The arrested are: Abu Hanif (28), Hatem Khan (32), Jalal (25), Hamid Ali (28), Habibur Rahman (35) and Abdul Qudus (30).

A case has been filed in this connection.



Ehsanul Huq Oni (Roll Jhenidah Cadet-1) stood second in the combined merit list of the SSC examination held under Jessore Board this year. Oni is flanked by his proud parents Aminul Huq, Executive Engineer, Roads and Highways, Kushtia and Mrs Nargis Huq. — Star photo

Students demand arrest of Habib's killer

RANGPUR, Nov 2 : Activists of Chhatra League (N-S) halted traffic for two hours Thursday demanding arrest of the killer of Habibur Zamen Habib, reports UNB.

Habib, a first year honours student of Mathematics Department of Rangpur Carmichael College and an activist of Chhatra League, was killed in gunfire on September 25 allegedly by JCD activists. The incident occurred at Dr Pritu Hospital of Rangpur Medical College campus.

All kinds of vehicular traffic including buses and trucks remained off the road during the blockade that began at 12 noon.

The Chhatra League workers also held a rally at the medical college square during the period.

The speakers threatened that if the administration failed to arrest the killer of Habib by November 4 they will go for programmes to press home their demand.

Similar programmes were also held at Pirganj, Prigacha and Bodarganj upazilas of the district.

4 hurt in clash at Gaibandha

GAIBANDHA, Nov 2 : Four students of Palashbari Government College here were injured in a clash between the activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (A-A) (BCL) and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) in the college campus Tuesday. Witnesses said, the clash ensued following the killings of two students in the Dhaka University recently, reports UNB.



CHANDPUR : March past by orphans at Matiab-Farazikandi complex at the complex ground. — Star photo