

Upazila roundup

**SHERPUR**  
**Relief work going on in full-swing**  
 Nov 10: Relief and rehabilitation work is in full swing in the flood affected areas of the district, reports UNB.  
 A total of 348 metric tons of rice, three metric tons of wheat and Tk 1,01,000 have been distributed among the flood affected people in the district as gratuitous relief till October 31.  
 Besides, 800 metric tons of wheat as test relief and 6,000 special VGD cards have been distributed among the affected people, officials sources said.

**MAGURA**  
**Dacoits loot valuables**  
 Nov 10: Two separate dacoities were committed at Magura town on Thursday, reports UNB.  
 According to police, a gang of armed dacoits numbering about 10/15 raided the residence of Abdur Rahim Zarder, Sub Inspector of Bureau of Anti-Corruption of the town and decamped with cash money, gold ornaments, clothes and other household articles worth about Tk 50,000.  
 In another dacoity a gang of dacoits stormed the residence of Advocate Mokaddesh Ali and looted valuables including cash money and gold ornaments from the house.  
 Two cases were registered with the local police in this connection.

**FARIDPUR**  
**Campus situation conspiracy of foreigners: Abbas**  
 Nov 10: Abbas Ali Khan, Acting Chief of Jamaat-e-Islam said that the present situation prevailing in the campuses is the result of conspiracy of some foreign countries, reports UNB.  
 He was speaking at the workers meeting of district Jamaat-e-Islam at Faridpur High School on Friday.  
 The meeting was chaired by Prof. Shahed Ali, Ameer of District Jamaat and addressed, among others, by central leaders of the party Ali Akbar Muhammad Mujahid, Abdul Quader Molla and Md Delwar Hossain.  
 Abbas Ali Khan said the present government has failed to bring any significant change in the country. With the installation of the new government after nine years of autocratic rule the people wanted a qualitative change where they would be able to lead a peaceful life. But the existing situation is contrary to their expectations, he said.

**SATKHIRA**  
**2 dacoits caught red handed**  
 Nov 10: Local people caught red handed two dacoits Friday while preparing to commit a dacoity at village Eksora in Assasuni upazila of the district, reports UNB.  
 One pipe gun, one rifle bullet were also recovered from their possession, police said.  
 Acting on a secret information, the villagers caught Afzar and Rafiqul of Chhorakati village of the same upazila red handed and recovered the arms.  
 The dacoits were later handed over to the police and a case has been filed in this connection.

**JHENIDAH**  
**Mass copying in banking diploma examination**  
 Nov 10: Four examinees were expelled on the first day of the Banking Diploma Examination which began at Jhenidah Wazir Ali High School on Friday, reports UNB.  
 Over 150 officials and employees of different Commercial Banks including Bangladesh Krishi Bank are participating in the examination.  
 The examination will continue till November 22.  
 When contacted, the Assistant General Manager of Sonali Bank who is also the Member-Secretary of the examination conducting committee confirmed the news.  
 It may be mentioned here that mass copying was reported from the examination centre. Many outsiders were reportedly seen in the centre to help the examinees by supplying copies in presence of the investigators.

**SYLHET**  
**Mysterious disease claims 14 lives**  
 Nov 10: A mysterious disease claimed seven more lives during the last few days at Katalbari in Companiganj upazila in the district, reports UNB.  
 Five of the victims were identified as Ambia Begum (12), Nilufar Begum (7), Helal (6), Shadona Begum (35) and Nurul Amin. Of them Helal, Shadona and Nurul Amin died in local hospital.  
 With this the total death toll by the disease rose to 14 since it broke out in the district.  
 The disease almost similar to malaria was also broke out in Dhalpara and Chandpur villages of the same upazila.

**RANGPUR**  
**Pests attack crops on 5000 acres**  
 Nov 10: Standing aman crops over 5000 acres of land in four upazilas of the district have been attacked by pest, reports UNB.  
 The affected upazilas are: Rangpur Sadar, Badarganj, Taraganj and Gangachhara.  
 The local Agriculture Extension Department confirmed the attack on 700 acres of land during the last few days by the pests.  
 Meanwhile, prices of insecticides have shot up in the markets which are beyond the purchasing capacity of the marginal farmers.  
 Officials sources, however, said adequate measures were taken to combat the menace.

**MADARIPUR**  
**Divorced women crowd town**  
 Nov 10: Abandoned and divorced women are increasingly pouring into the town adversely affecting socio-economic environment, reports UNB.  
 According to a private survey these women belonging to breadline families were either abandoned or divorced for dowry and non-fulfilment of other financial commitments by their parents.  
 The survey revealed that due to the rise in broken homes these women are compelled to take up jobs as day labourers and house maids for survival.  
 Beside, many girls of the poverty-stricken families have resorted to prostitution.

**CHITTAGONG**  
**Four silo officials suspended**  
 Nov 10: Four officials of Chittagong Silo, the second largest food godown of the country have been suspended on charges of fraud, reports UNB.  
 It was alleged that the officials had been involved in despatching wheat in excess of the load shown in the official record.  
 The excess quantity of wheat valued at Tk 1,30,000 was seized from the ship which was carrying the grains from Chittagong to Narayanganj.  
 Food department sources said these employees were suspected to be members of a well-organised gang involved in this malpractice for a long time.

**RAJSHAHI**  
**Minor girl crushed under wheels**  
 Nov 10: A minor girl of Baraikuri village in Mohanpur upazila of the district was crushed under the wheels of a running minibus on Rajshahi-Nogon road last week, reports UNB.  
 The victim was identified as Beauty (6), daughter of one Sirajuddin of Baraikuri village.  
 The speedy minibus (No-Jessore, B-747) was moving towards Rajshahi from Marida ghat.

**GAIBANDEHA**  
**Tk 79 lakh for post-flood agri-rehabilitation**  
 Nov 10: The government has sanctioned Taka 79 lakh under post flood agri-rehabilitation programme in 7 upazilas of the district, reports BSS.  
 According to an official source, the affected peasants would get boro seeds, what seeds and fertilizers under this programme.



Rescue workers pulling out a body from the ill-fated bus that plunged into the river Titas at Shahbajpur ferry ghat in Brahmanbaria on Friday. — Star photo

Bus journey hazardous on Satkhira routes

From Our Correspondent  
 SATKHIRA, Nov 10: Excessive fare, deplorable condition of roads and violation of traffic rules have made bus journey hazardous in different routes of the district.  
 According to the sources, clashes following altercations between passengers and the conductors over excessive fares have become a regular feature. Besides, most of the roads have developed holes and ditches at many places making them unfit for vehicular movement. The roads from Satkhira to Khulna via Chuknagar, Satkhira-Jessore via Navaran, Satkhira-Assasuni, Satkhira-Munishiganj and Satkhira-Bhomra are so narrow that hardly two vehicles can pass each other at a time.  
 But communication from Satkhira to Shyamnagar is also hazardous due to inadequate ferry services. The lone ferry boat at Kaliganj ferry ghat is unable to cope with the heavy pressure of traffic movement. Local people have been demanding a bridge on the river since long to improve the communication system.  
 Random violation of traffic rules in the town has been causing serious traffic jams and frequent accidents. Informed sources said that trucks, buses and rickshaws are parked on the middle of the main roads blocking the vehicular movement.  
 It is alleged that negligence to responsibility of traffic police often causes jam as they stop the buses and trucks in the middle of the roads to collect toll from the drivers. Moreover, drivers allow the passengers to travel on the roof and resort to rash driving ignoring the government restrictions. Goods are also carried on the roof of the buses.

Notes from Maulvi Bazar

MAULVI BAZAR, Nov 10: Sub-standard and spurious drugs and medicines manufactured by unauthorised pharmaceutical companies have flooded the markets here, reports UNB.  
 These drugs and medicines are produced in unhygienic situation, local leaders alleged saying worms, flies and fungus had been found in saline bags and injection ampuls.  
 A section of medical practitioners are patronising the sub-standard drugs, they said.  
 Many medicine shops have been opened in the remote areas without having valid drug licences.

**3 abducted**  
 A housewife and two young girls were abducted by miscreants in separate incidents during the last one month, police said here Sunday.

According to police, a 20-year-old housewife Shahana Begum, was forcibly taken away by the miscreants from her father's house at village Eta Shinkapan recently.  
 In another incident, Satan Rani Das (20), daughter of Ananda Das of village Baro Bakur under Nabiganj upazila was kidnapped by miscreants at gun point.  
 In yet another incident Minati Rani Dey (15), daughter of Amulish Chandra Dey of village Alsherkul under Sreemangal upazila was abducted by a gang of armed miscreants while she was on way home from Sreemangal town.  
 Separate cases were registered with different police stations in this connection.

**JCD rally**  
 The district unit of Jatyatabadi Chhatra Dal held a rally here protesting the recent killings of JCD activists at Dhaka University.

The rally held at the Chowmuhana point in the town recently was addressed, among others, by Faisal Ahmed, Asik Mularra, Abdun Noor, Abdul Mukit, Habibur Rahman Habib and Layek Ahmed.  
 Speakers at the rally demanded punishment to those responsible for the killings of JCD workers.

**Student commits suicide**  
 A madrasa student allegedly committed suicide by taking poison at Sonjor in Kularua upazila, police said here today.  
 The victim Yunus Ali (15), son of Anjab Ali allegedly killed himself recently by taking poison. He was a student of local Madnatul Ulum Madrasa.

Rail line over Jamuna bridge demanded

From Our Correspondent  
 JHENAIDAH, Nov 10: Leaders of the Rail Sramik Union protested the propaganda to withdraw the rail road between Jessore and Benapol and demanded introduction of rail line over Jamuna Bridge at the bi-annual conference of the Mubarakganj unit held at Mubarakganj rail station recently.  
 Presided over by Abu Sayed, President of the unit its was addressed, among others by Commissioner Jasmuddin, Assistant General Secretary and Rejaul Haq, member Central Committee of the Union. A procession was also brought out at Kaliganj upazila town demanding their 10-point demand.  
 About railway workers took part in the procession. A 31-member committee was formed in the conference with Abu Sayed and Wajuddin as President and Secretary respectively.  
**Smuggled goods seized**  
 Acting on a tip Bangladesh Rifles personnels, Jessore 2 seized Indian goods worth Taka two lakh from Dhaka bound Diganta Paribahan from Benapol at Loozal near Jessore town recently.  
 The incoming contraband goods include saree, ball pen, pencils, fabric, colour etc. A case was filed with Jessore Kotawali police in this connection and nobody was arrested.  
**Heavy rain damaged tobacco seedlings**  
 Incessant downpour has caused extensive damage to the tobacco seedlings in Jhenaidah, Magura and Chuadanga.  
 According to an official source, BTC, Jhenaidah region fixed up a target to cultivate tobacco on about 4000 acres of land. Seedbeds were prepared on 70 acres of land. Of them only one per cent has been covered with polythene paper while the rest remained open which were badly affected by heavy rains and about 50 per cent of seedbeds were damaged.  
 Seedbeds may be prepared again but the growers of the area are not willing to do so as late plantation do not yield optimum production. It may be mentioned that right time for tobacco plantation stands from first of October. One solvent grower Md. Shukurilal of village Paramandi in Kaliganj upazila wanted cultivate four acres of land under Virginia tobacco but he cut short the acreages as late cultivation do not yield better. The natural calamities like rains and hail-storm have made the growers disappointed.  
 When contacted Mr. Gasuddin Patwary, Manager, Jhenaidah Leaf Depot expressed his doubt on the successful tobacco farming in the area.

Cinema halls face closure at Dinajpur

From Our Correspondent  
 DINAJPUR, Nov 10: Cinema halls in the district town are facing closure. It is learnt that there are five cinema halls namely Lily Cinema, Bostan Cinema, Modern Talkies, Chaurangi Cinema and BDR auditorium. It is reported that of late the business of cinema at Dinajpur town has become dull. Fall in the number of cinegoers in comparison to previous years due to economic recession high price of essential commodities and some other factors were attributed to the dull business of cinema halls.  
 Besides, Indian Hindi television programmes from New Delhi and Bangla programmes from Calcutta television are clearly visible in Dinajpur which are being relayed from Curshiong, Haldibari, Kallaganj, Malda and Kutchbihar centres in India. Above all high rent of the picture and large scale VCR shows hit the cinema business.  
 There is no industry in Dinajpur. A small number of rickshawpullers and labourers of godowns, rice mills and bidi factories regularly enjoy cinema shows but due to recent natural calamities earning of these people has declined and they can hardly afford to enjoy a single show in a month. These cinema halls are dependent on cinegoers from adjacent villages where poverty and misery prevail round the year. The hall owners can hardly earn profit by showing one or two pictures. On the other hand a large amount of government revenue is lying unpaid since July, 1986 by most cinema halls of the district. Electric bills are also lying unpaid. Recently the power connections of one cinema hall was disconnected due to non-payment of the bills. Moreover cinema hall employees are not getting their monthly salary.

Number of unemployed on the rise

SHERPUR, Nov 10: The number of landless and unemployed people in almost all upazilas of the district are on the increase, reports UNB.  
 According to a survey conducted by local elite, about 15 per cent of the total population of 12 lakh are unemployed in the district.  
 The survey revealed that about 80 per cent people depend on agriculture and five per cent in different occupations.  
 Among the farmers, 50 per cent are landless, 25 per cent with a few acres of land and the rest 25 per cent are real land owners.  
 Many of the landless people earn their livelihood serving as day labourers, hawkers, shoeshiners, hotel boys and beggars.  
 The situation is aggravated further with erosion of the rivers Brahmanputra, Bogai and Kornajuna in which a large number of people have been rendered homeless.

Meagre medicare in health complexes

From Our Correspondent  
 HABIGANJ, Nov 10: Upazila Health Complexes in the district have been facing manifold problems for a long time.  
 According to reliable sources, paucity in drinking water, lack of proper drainage system absence of ambulance, blood banks, dental and ophthalmic instruments and lack of requisite number of beds have aggravated the situation particularly in the rural areas.  
 Besides, most of the health complexes do not have X-ray machines causing much inconveniences in diagnosis and treatment of diseases. Patients coming from remote areas are going back disappointed due to absence of proper treatment facilities.  
 Emergency patients cannot be shifted to the hospital in the district headquarters for lack of ambulances.  
 The authority concerned has been urged to look into the matter and take necessary steps remove the problems of rural upazila health complexes in the district.

Pests attack crops on 3967 acres Aman production faces setback

KISHOREGANJ, Nov 10: Aman production is likely to face a setback due to widespread pest attack in the district this season, farmers said, reports UNB.  
 According to farmers, crops on about 15,000 acres of land in 11 upazilas of the district have already been damaged by the pests locally known as "mazra", "Pamri" and "chunghir".  
 Official sources, however, confirmed that 3967 acres of land have been attacked by pests.  
 The worst affected upazilas are Pakundia, Karimganj, Sadar, Hossainpur, Katiadi, Tarail, Kulliarchar and Bajitpur.  
 Growers complained that the paddy plants grow yellowish and subsequently dry up after the attack. They alleged that insecticides in the local markets are of poor quality and proved to be ineffective.  
 Meanwhile, prices of insecticides have registered a sharp rise in the markets which are beyond the purchasing capacity of the marginal farmers.  
 Deputy Director of Agriculture Extension Department ASM Ruhul Amin told UNB that sets have already been taken to combat the menace and the situation is under control.  
**5010 acres to be put under mustard farming**  
 Over 5010 hectares of land will be brought under mustard cultivation in 13 upazilas of the district during the current season, official sources here said.  
 Of the total, 738 hectares of land will be brought under high yielding variety (HYV) while 4272 hectares under local variety.  
 The sources said 265 hectares of land will be brought under mustard farming in Bairab, 364 hectares in Kulliarchar, 625 hectares in Bajitpur, 100 hectares in Auzagram, 610 hectares in Itan, 610 hectares in Mitamoin, 632 hectares in Tarail, 650 hectares in Karimganj, 103 hectares in Katiadi, 165 hectares in Pakundia, 140 hectares in Sadar and 60 hectares in Hossainpur upazilas.  
 Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) will distribute seeds, fertilizers, insecticides and other necessary inputs among the farmers to implement the programme.  
 It is estimated that about 4476 metric tons of mustard seeds will be produced in the district, the sources added.



RAJSHAHI: Vice-Chancellor of the Rajshahi University giving away prizes on the concluding day of annual literary and cultural competition of Zoha Hall held recently at Kazi Nazrul Islam auditorium. — Star photo

RHD Notice Inviting Tender No. 22/SRD/1991-92

- Tender Notice No. : 22/SRD/1991-92.
- Name of work : Tender for supplying 1st class/PJ brickbats at different K.M. of Gobindaganj-Chat-tak-Doura-bazar Road under Road Division Sunamganj during 1991-92 (Ch. to Mtc.).
- Estimated cost : Tk. 3,12,000/=
- Earnest Money : Tk. 6240/= in favour of the undersigned in B.D/T.C./P.-S.P./5 years BOSP/B.S.P. from any schedule bank of Bangladesh.
- Time allowed : 10 (Ten) days.
- Eligibility of contractor : Enlisted "A" to "E" Class contractor of general category of RHD.
- Name of Offices of availability of tender : Office of the undersigned/ Executive Engineer (RHD) Sylhet/ M. Bazar/ Comilla.
- Name of Officers to receive tender : Office of the undersigned/ Superintendent Engineer (RHD) Sylhet Road Circle, Sylhet.
- Last date of selling tender : 5-00 P.M. of 16-11-91.
- Last date of receiving tender : Up to 12-30 P.M. of 17-11-91.
- Date and time of opening tender : At 12-45 P.M of 17-11-91.

Engr. Md. Adam Ali Gazi  
 Executive Engineer (RHD)  
 Sunamganj Road Division.  
 DFP(G)12940-6/11  
 G-859