

Upazila roundup

GAIBANDHA
One jailed for violating minor girl

From Our Correspondent
Nov 16: One person was sentenced to suffer ten years rigorous imprisonment on charge of violating a minor girl. Mr Abdul Hal, Judge of the Special Tribunal Court tried the accused in absentia. The prosecution case was that on November 25, 1989 accused Solaiman of village Madha Dhangaraha under Sadar Upazila kidnapped the victim Mahamuda Begum (14) of the same village and dragged her to nearby banana field where he violated her inhumanly. Since the incident the accused was absconding. After examining the evidences the judge found the accused guilty and delivered the aforesaid judgement in absentia. Public Prosecutor Mr Rahmatulla Azad conducted the prosecution case.

NETRAKONA
Drinking water scarce

From Our Correspondent
Nov 16: Many tubewells have either been rendered inoperative or choked up causing scarcity of drinking water in the district. According to the sources, most tubewells went out of order due to poor maintenance and shortage of spares. Villagers alleged that tubewells with plastic pipes often choked up within a short time of installation. The Public Health Engineering Department sank 1300 tubewells in different parts of the district last year but most of them remained ineffective as the authorities did not take any steps to repair them. As a result, wheat cultivation of current season may decline, farmers feared. Besides, the number of tubewells are inadequate to cope with the rising need. Meanwhile, gastro-intestinal diseases have broken out in many parts of the district due to paucity of pure water.

GHORASAL
20 die of diarrhoea

Nov 16: At least 20 people died of diarrhoea and 200 others were attacked by the disease in three unions of Palash and Narasingdi Sadar upazila during the last ten days, reports UNB. According to informed sources, of the total, five died in Ghorasal union, 7 in Amedia and 8 in Panchdona union. Local people complained that no effective measures have yet been taken to check the spread of the disease.

BHOLA
PHE to install 380 deep tubewells

Nov 16: The Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) with the help of UNICEF will install 380 deep tubewells in different upazilas of Bhola district for supplying of pure drinking water in rural areas at a cost of Tk.1,55,13,548, reports BSS. According to an official source, of the total tubewells, 72 will be installed in Bhola Sadar; 72 in Borhanuddin upazila, 25 in Tazmuddin, 24 in Daulatkhan, 73 in Lalmoan, 90 in Charfession and 24 in Manpara upazilas of the district. The installation work of the tubewells will be completed by the end of December next, the source said. When completed, over 1.50 lakh people of the district will get pure water.

FENI
4000 metric tons wheat to repair Muhuri embankment

Nov 16: About 4000 metric tons of wheat have been sanctioned for repairing the breaches of Muhuri embankment at Poursuram and Chhagalnaiya upazilas under food-for-work programme during the current financial year, reports UNB. According to Local Water Development Board, the breaches of Muhuri embankment at Ratanpur, Rampur, Durgapur under Poursuram upazila and Gandabpur, Gomia Sonapur under Chhagalnaiya upazila, will be repaired. On completion of the project, about 81,000 acres of crop land will be protected from flood inundation, official sources said.

MAULVI BAZAR
School girl kidnapped

Nov 16: A school girl of Hakaluki High School of Barlekha upazila of the district was kidnapped by some armed miscreants from her house, police said. Family sources said, kidnapers attacked the house of Idris Ali on Monday midnight and kidnaped his daughter Asia Khatun Shelly (14) after beating the inmates. A case has been filed with upazila police in this connection.

C'NAWABGANJ
Smuggled goods seized: 8 held

Nov 16: Bangladesh Rifles seized banned goods of Tk 62.86 lakh from the border areas last month and arrested eight people in this connection, reports UNB. BDR personnel seized contrabands worth over Tk 37.26 lakh from different border outposts while being smuggled into the country. In another raid the BDR personnel seized smuggled goods worth over Tk 25.60 lakh. The contraband goods included cattleheads, Indian sarees, sugar, salt, heroin and VCR-VCP parts.

SIRAJGANJ
UP member arrested for dacoity

Nov 16: A Union Parishad member of Daulatpur union of Belkuchi upazila was arrested on charge of dacoity Thursday from his residence, police said, reports UNB. A dacoity was committed in the house of Abu Sayed in Daulatpur village on November 11. The dacoits decamped with valuables worth about Tk 75,000. Abu Sayed filed a case against 13 people including the UP member, Mozammel Haq.

AGRI-VARSITY
Parasitology Society confce January 10

Nov 16: The Bangladesh Society for Parasitology (BSP) will hold its maiden conference at the auditorium of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) in Dhaka on January 10 next, according to press release. The conference will dwell on the impact of parasitic diseases on the socio-economic conditions of the people of Bangladesh as its main theme of discussion. The above programme was finalised in a meeting of the ad hoc executive council of BSP held here recently with Prof Hafizuddin Sheikh in the chair. It may be mentioned here that the Deputy Leader of Jatiya Sangsad and eminent physician Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury will attend the conference as the chief guest.

Scientists and researchers working in various fields of Animal and Human Parasitology have been requested to contact the Member-Secretary of the organising committee Dr Md Jahurul Karim of the Department of Parasitology, Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), Mymensingh, for registration and further information.

KISHOREGANJ
4000 hectares put under potato cultivation

Nov 16: About 4000 hectares of land have been brought under potato cultivation in 13 upazilas of the district during the current season, reports UNB. According to official sources, of the total land, 2,300 hectares have been brought under high yielding variety (HYV) and 1,700 hectares under local variety. Upazila-wise breakup is as follows: Hossainpur 215 hectares, Sadar 360, Pakundia 810, Katiadi 260, Karimganj 365, Tarail 215, Itna 120, Nikli 120, Austagram 170, Bajitpur 305, Kullarchar 330, Bhairab 605 and Mitamain upazila 120 hectares. The Agriculture Extension Department and Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADCO) supplied seeds, fertilizers, insecticides and other necessary inputs for successful implementation of the programme.



The number of victims of natural calamities like cyclone, river erosion, flood, tidal surge is increasing. The victims of nature's fury are crowding the urban areas for mere sustenance. Photo shows a woman, may be a flood victim, in deep sleep hugging one of the children while the others look on at Narayanganj railway station. —Star photo

Prices of essentials up
Profiteers trading on human miseries

From Our Correspondent
HABIGANJ, Nov 16: Food crisis has been gradually increasing throughout the district following the aftermath of the recent flood. The middle class and the fixed income groups are the worst sufferers. On the other hand, prices of essential commodities have recorded a sharp rise in the different markets for the last few weeks multiplying the sufferings of general consumers. In different markets rice is being sold at Taka 12 to 13 per kilo, atta at Taka 10 to 12 per kilo, red chilli at Taka 85 to 100 per kilo, onion at Taka 22 to 24, salt at Taka 7 to 8, soyabean at Taka 40 to 42 per litre, masur pulse at Taka 28 to 30, sugar at Taka 33 to 35, kerosine at Taka 16 to 18 per litre. The price of vegetables has risen 1.80 per cent on an average. The price of milk has also gone up by Taka 2 to 4 per seer. The prices of all varieties of powdered milk have registered an increase of 4.20 per cent. As the government has no control over the prices of essentials the traders are trading on human miseries by increasing prices. The unscrupulous businessmen always take advantage of natural calamities like torrential rains, droughts, floods. Demanding arrest of artificial prices hikes in different markets of Habiganj district the CAB suggested more control over the market through enforcement of effective measures by the governments. **Blind welfare assoc formed.** A blind welfare association was formed at Bantayachong under Habiganj district recently. A 15-member executive committee was elected with Mr Abdul Hannan and Md Sadekur Rahman Khan as President and General Secretary respectively. Besides, a five-member Advisory Parishad was also formed with Mr Azmal Hussain Khan, ex-UP Chairman as President.

65 projects to be implemented under Barisal edn zone

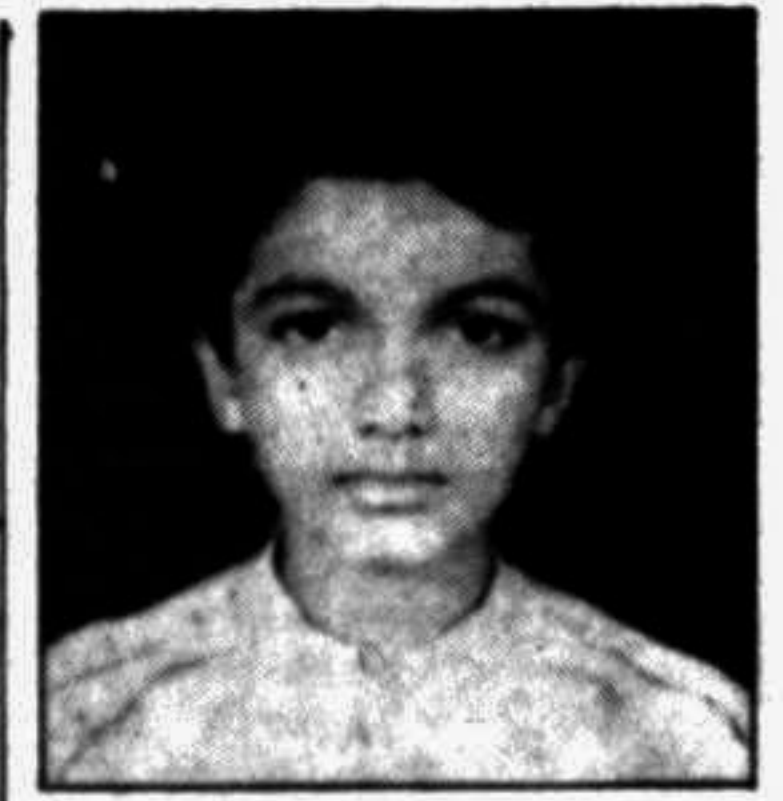
BARISAL, Nov 16: Education Ministry will implement 65 projects at a cost of Tk 7.83 crore in five southern districts under Barisal education zone during the current financial year, reports UNB. The districts are: Barisal, Jhalakathi, Bhola, Pirojpur and Patuakhali. According to an official source, 56 projects will be financed by the Islamic Development Bank (IDA) and the rest by the International Development Agency (IDA). The projects to be implemented include the construction of six two-storeyed primary schools in the town, 47 rural primary schools, nine senior madrasahs and three office buildings for the education directorate officers. Of the total, Tk 96.42 lakh will be spent for the construction of 6 town primary schools, Tk 5.15 crore for 47 rural primary schools, Tk 1.15 crore for nine senior madrasahs and Tk 55.28 lakh for three office buildings for the education officers. Police arrested 40 people on different charges from ten upazilas of the district during a special operations which begun ten days ago. The operation is at present continuing in Kalkini area of Madaripur to curb the activities of the outlawed Sarbahara Party. In similar operation in Pirojpur, police rounded up 23 people on different charges. Another 22 people were arrested from Jhalakathi district. Giving a total figure for the 13 southern districts, a police source said that during last ten days, more than 300 people were arrested on different charges. They included activists of the outlawed Sarbahara Party, he said. **Tk 2 cr sanctioned for Chandpur town protection scheme** CHANDPUR, Nov 16: The government has sanctioned about Taka two crores for the Chandpur town protection scheme in the current season, reports BSS. According to Chandpur Water Development Board of office, about 80 per cent repair works of the scheme has been completed. About 2.60 lakh cubic feet boulders were dumped along the bank of the river Meghna at Nutunbazar and Purnabazar areas. Protection work at BIWTA terminal side is also progressing rapidly. So far 7,000 cft boulders will be dumped in the terminal side. More 60,000 cft boulders will be dumped in the area. After dumping, entire embankment area will be protected by G.I. nets. The Meghna erosion study survey is yet to be completed. A comprehensive scheme should be prepared during the dry season to protect Chandpur town from the erosion of the river Meghna. **4 killed in separate incidents** BOGRA, Nov 16: Four people were killed and 10 others injured in three separate incidents in the district over the last two days, reports UNB. Yasin Ali Fakir (22), son of Sharafat Ali Fakir of Lalpara in Dupchancia upazilas was allegedly stabbed to death by his elder brother. He was killed when he protested his brother Saturday for heroin addiction. He was rushed to the upazila health complex where doctors declared him dead. The people were killed in a road mishap on Friday on Bogra-Nagarbari highway. One of the victims identified as Sabedin Nessa (65), was killed on the spot when a Dinajpur bound coach crushed him while the other victim Arshad succumbed later on. Police seized the coach but the driver managed to escape.

Shock, disappointment grip Dahagram, Angorpota
Indians adopt new tricks to exploit enclave people

From Our Correspondent
RANGPUR, Nov 16: Shock and disappointment have gripped the Dahagram and Angorpota enclave people since the visit of West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu at Tin Bigha Corridor on November 12 who ended his mass publicised corridor trip only in 15 minutes amid a strong security of 6,000 forces including CRPF, WBP, special BSF, police and mahila police without addressing the huge mob. The mob mostly included anti-Tin Bigha militants belonging to Forward Block, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Kamal Guhas Party and other extremist group. Shortly after the Tin Bigha Trip, Jyoti Basu in his public meeting at Mekliganj subdivisional headquarters, about 12 kilometres off the corridor did not give any clear opinion on peaceful transfer of corridor honouring the Indian Supreme Court verdict which abruptly doomed the hopes of enclave dwellers who have been passing sleepless nights in prolonged captivity cordoned by Indians aided by BSF. Mr. Shamsul Huda Porodhan, Chairman of Dahagram Union Parishad giving his reaction to Jyoti Basu's recent visit to Tin Bigha said at a public meeting at Mekliganj that it was most disappointing which shocked deeply the entire enclave dwellers who have been thrown into an uncertain future. According to the latest reports, from across the border, anti-Tin Bigha militants turned taking advantage of their sub-human state of living for months together and cordoning them at Tin Bigha and around enclaves by BSF. A large number of youths who fled the enclaves and took shelters at mainland alleged that enclave people who go into Indian territory in search of work and to sell and purchase goods are caught by Indians and are forced to work in houses, shops, lands as slaves without any payment and then they are allowed to purchase necessities and sell goods in Indian markets. As a result, many poverty stricken enclave people are subjected to slavery for procuring goods for livelihood. BSF few weeks back caught two enclave people at Tin Bigha while trying to come to mainland and forced them to clean a latrine of BSF camp and then set them free. Indian militants frequently enter enclaves to collect tolls for puja festivals and different clubs. BSF and Indians residing around Dahagram-Angorpota enclaves never purchase fuel for their domestic use because they freely procure it from the enclave people. It is learnt that bamboo grows abundantly in enclaves and it is much popular for its best quality to Indians who without seeking prior permission indiscriminately cut them from clusters in enclaves. Besides, dacoities, thefts, lootings, rapings, kidnappings are regular feature in enclaves.

Synthetic products threaten jute mills

SIRAJGANJ, Nov 16: Rappur Kasmi Jute Mills, the biggest mill of northern part of the country is on the verge of closure due to unabated use of synthetic products, reports UNB. According to official sources, about 5000 tons of jute products worth about Tk 1.25 crore remained unsold due to its low demand in the market. As a result, about 50 looms of the mills were closed down over the last three months throwing at least 5000 workers into uncertainty. Mill sources said Nepal, Pakistan, Thailand and China are products fine quality jute goods and are selling in international markets at competitive prices, but in Bangladesh the cost of production of fine quality jute goods is high. So the local products cannot compete in the international markets. Moreover, synthetic and polythene products with a low cost of production are increasingly being used in local and international markets. The mills authorities have urged the government to stop polythene products to save the local jute products and boost national economy without further delay. **2 bodies recovered** Police recovered two unidentified bodies from Sadar and Raiganj upazilas of the district on Tuesday. Railway police Wednesday night recovered an unidentified body (40) from the roof of a mail train at Sirajganj Bazar station. Police also recovered another body from a ditch near Nalka bridge on the Sirajganj-Bogra road. **Cattle disease** At least 25 cattlehead died of khura disease in 10 villages under Bahuli union of Sadar upazila here during the last three days. Upazila livestock office sources confirmed four deaths. Khura disease that broke out in an alarming proportion after the recent flood has been spreading in adjacent areas causing panic among the farmers. Scarcity of medicine has been prevailing in the affected areas. Farmers have urged the authorities to take necessary steps to combat the disease.



Stands fourth in Comilla Board SSC examination

By Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Nov 16: Speakers at a meeting of the leading citizens of Chittagong held on Tuesday stressed the need for launching vigorous movement to eradicate illiteracy from the society. Addressing the meeting at local PTI Institute, Professor Abul Kalam Azad, President of the Bangladesh Primary Teachers Association (BPTA) said that the cause of illiteracy was responsible for many social ills. Mass education is the only answer to this problem, he added. The main task of the primary teachers is to educate the people, the BPTA chief pointed out. Presided over by Mr. Sudhin Saha, acting Superintendent of the Institute was addressed by Mr. Deedarul Alam Chowdhury, President of Chittagong city unit of BPTA and Mr. Subal Acharya, General Secretary. **2 injured by wild boars in Khagrachari** KHAGRACHARI, Nov 16: Two tribals were seriously injured by a herd of wild boars in two separate incidents Wednesday in Shantipur and Latiban villages of Panchari upazila of the district, reports UNB. Md Enayet Karim of Comilla Cadet College has secured fourth in the Comilla Board SSC examination this year. Son of Belayet Hossain, senior principal officer cum manager Agrani Bank, Begumbazar branch and Mrs Farida Begum, senior teacher, Sher-e-Bangla Mahila Mahabiddalaya, Dhaka. Enayet got 826 marks with letters in General Math, General Science, Geography, Islamiat and Higher Math. **2 vehicles collide head on: one killed** From Our Correspondent CHUADANGA, Nov 16: One person was killed and two others were injured when a coaster and a pickup van collided head on at village Monoharpur on Chuadanga-Jibannagar bus route recently. It is learnt that the coaster bearing number Jessore-B1031 was coming to Chuadanga from Jibannagar and a pickup van of Bengal Biscuit Factory from the opposite direction collided near Monoharpur village near Chuadanga-Jibannagar bus stand. As a result, Abdur Rahman Hiru, a sales representative of Bengal Biscuit Factory, Jessore died on the spot and two other persons were seriously injured who were immediately rushed to the Jessore hospital. **Seminar on drinking water supply** A day-long seminar on pure water supply in the rural areas, sanitation and health protection was held at Alamdanga upazila PHE premises recently. The seminar was jointly organised by Alamdanga upazila Public Health Department and the UNICEF. Mr Badai Rashid, Chairman, Alamdanga upazila presided over the seminar.

Vigorous movement needed to eradicate illiteracy

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