

Upazila roundup

KURIGRAM

Students union polls after six years

From Our Correspondent

Feb 5: A five-member election commission of Kurigram Govt. College Students Union election was constituted recently in a joint meeting of teachers and students of the college with S K Abu Bakar Siddique, Principal-in-Charge of the college in the chair.

The commission comprises of the following persons — Prof Hares Haldar, Chief Election Commissioner, and members Prof Nigamuddin, Prof S M Nuran Nabi, Keramat Ali Bakshi and Abdur Rouf Basunia.

The election of the students union of Kurigram Govt. College will be held on March 1, 1992. It is announced.

It can be mentioned here that no election of the students union was held smoothly since 1974 in the college. The election of 1986 was postponed due to terrorism since then no election of students union of the college was held.

SYLHET

Businessman shot dead

From Our Correspondent

Feb 5: A young businessman Jagul Islam (28) was shot dead at his shop at Jindabazar, the busiest area of the town recently.

According to the police, at about 12 on the night of incident, the victim was shot dead at his confectionery shop. He was immediately taken to a private clinic and then to the Osmany Medical College Hospital where he was declared dead.

A case had already been lodged in this regard. Further investigations are going on.

Another report adds: The body of an unknown and newly born child was recovered from Gowaipara area of the town recently.

On getting information, a police team from Kotwali Police Station recovered the body and sent it to the Osmany Medical College Hospital for post-mortem.

CHAPAINAWABGANJ

Help mitigate patients sufferings

Feb 5: Health complex and health centres in Sadar, Shibganj, Bholahat, Gomostapur and Nachol upazilas continue to suffer shortage of doctors, medicine, medical attendants and surgical instruments, reports UNB.

The situation further worsened in the absence of blood bank and ambulance. Every day hundreds of patients come from far flung areas for treatment at these centres but go back disappointed for want of proper treatment.

Concerned authorities have been urged to take necessary steps to mitigate the sufferings of the local patients.

PATUAKHALI

3 development plans taken up

Feb 5: Education Ministry has taken up three development projects involving an amount of Taka 42.65 lakh in the district during this fiscal year, reports UNB.

Official sources said the projects are: Construction of residence for the Superintendent of PTI, a three-storied primary school building at Natun Bazar in the town and extension of Latif Municipal Saminary High School.

The work is progressing fast and expected to be completed soon.

FARIDPUR

Population, Family Welfare Day observed

Feb 5: National Population and Family Welfare Day was observed here on February 2 amid enthusiasms, reports BSS.

District Family Planning Department and Voluntary Family Welfare Association jointly organised an elaborated programme in observance of the day. A procession of family planning workers, local elite and government officers paraded the main thoroughfares of the town carrying banners and festoons.

A sports programme of mothers of two children was held at zila parishad maidan.

A discussion meeting was also held at local Kabi Jasimuddin Hall. The speakers underscored the need for family planning and creating awareness among the people. The discussion meeting was presided over by Md Abdur Rahim, Deputy Commissioner of Faridpur.

RAJSHAHI

Mushroom growth of hotels

From Our Correspondent

Feb 5: Mushroom growth of hotels and restaurants on roadsides in the city have been causing threat to public health.

It is learnt, most of them are dirty and unhygienic. Food supplied by these hotels is adulterated and stored in open condition.

Due to consumption of adulterated food-stuffs, various stomach ailments and skin diseases have broken out in the city.

These unplanned hotels are also causing problem in smooth movement of vehicles.

CHANDPUR

Child labourers on rise

From Our Correspondent

Feb 5: The number of child labourers is increasing gradually in the town with the influx of floating people from the rural areas.

It is gathered that minor boys and girls are being engaged in different activities. Children are compelled to take up different jobs to earn their livelihood.

Most of them are engaged in the work of helpers in construction works, restaurant, hotels, factories, motor garages, bicycle shops, welding shops.

Besides, many child labourers are working as domestic servants in different houses.

It is learnt that about fifteen thousand child labourers are working in this district to earn their livelihood.

Most of them have no shelter after their work. They spend their nights at railway stations, bus stands, steamer and launch terminals.

AGRI-VARSITY

Bar association executives

From Our Correspondent

Feb 5: The election of Myensingh District Bar Association was held at the bar conference room recently.

Advocate Md Zohirul Haq and Advocate Kabiruddin Bhuiyan were elected President and Secretary respectively.

Other office-bearers are: Vice-President — Md Nurul Islam and Md Shamsul Haq. Asst. Secretary — Shree Aumlesh Chandra Dey, Iqbal Ahmed Khan, Md Rezaul Karim Khan (Dulal), Auditor — Nurul Islam Tara.

Members are — Emdadul Haq Millat, Aushuk Kumar Ghosh, Nurul Islam Nuru, Monir Hossain Khan Azad, Md Abul Khasem, Md Solimullah (Saleem) and Mir Amran Ali Pappal.

SIRAJGANJ

2 dacoities, goods worth Tk 1,90,000 looted

From Our Correspondent

Feb 5: Two separate dacoities were committed in Belkuchi upazila of the district recently.

In the first incident, a group of miscreants with the help of a night guard entered into the house of Upendra Nath Das of village Rukundagati. They took away valuables worth about Taka one lakh.

At the same night another dacoity took place at the residence of one Jagannath Dutta of village Shelbarisha where the miscreants managed to escape with valuables worth about Taka 90,000.

Cases were lodged with Belkuchi police. None was arrested as yet.

JHENDDAH

One beaten to death

From Our Correspondent

Feb 5: One Santirama Baroi (65) of Kashinathpur under Shalakupura upazila was brutally killed by an armed group recently one day ahead of the UP polling schedule.

It is reported that the unidentified gunmen numbering about fifteen raided the house of the victim. They broke open the door and dragged out his son Swapan and started beating. At this stage when Santirama came forward to rescue Swapan the gunmen caught hold of the father and asked him to cast their votes for gunmen's candidate. As he refused, they beat him to death.

A case has been registered with Shalakupura thana. Deputy Commissioner and Additional Police Super of Jhenddah and the local MP visited the spot.



CHITTAGONG: Lion M A Malek, Editor, The Daily Azadi and Lion C M Koyes Sami, President, Greater Chittagong Lions Club inaugurating a flower exhibition and competition organised jointly by greater Chittagong Lions Club and The Daily Azadi at the gymnasium, Chittagong Stadium on January 31 last. Thirty competitors presented 300 pot plants at the show which was arranged here for the first time. — Star photo

One lakh children don't get primary education

From Our Correspondent

BOGRA, Feb 5: About one lakh children are deprived of primary education in the district.

The children do not take admission to the schools due to poverty and ignorance. Majority of them are from poor families and living in remote areas. Many of them are compelled to earn their livelihood from the early childhood.

A total of 2 lakh 46 thousand 9 hundred and 25 students attend the schools. Of the total primary schools in the district, 961 are government, 256 non-government and 45 unregistered.

A total of 3 thousand 9 hundred and 47 teachers is now

engaged in different primary schools in the district but the posts of 111 teachers are still lying vacant.

Most of the schools have no minimum amenities for the students. Besides, the shortage of teachers, sitting arrangement and accommodation, toilets and the scarcity of drinking water hamper the education in the majority of the schools. Moreover, many schools have no roofs.

It is alleged that the non-government school teachers are to serve almost voluntarily although the government sanctioned Taka 500 for four teachers in each school. But these schools have to depend

on the uncertain contribution of the local people.

The teachers in remote areas do not maintain regularity of attendance properly and as a result the education of the children is hampered.

A total of 2 lakh 43 thousand sets of primary text books have been distributed to the primary school students in the district, according to an official source.

It can be mentioned here that free books would not be supplied to the students of kindergarten schools this year and the institutions have been advised to purchase the text books from the Text Book Board.

Rohingyas adding burden on our economy

COXS BAZAR, Feb 5: Uprooted Rohingyas continue to pour into Bangladesh from across the Naf river demarcating the international boundary between Bangladesh and Myanmar, reports BSS.

Children, women, old folk and other Rohingyas are entering via Teknaf in Cox's Bazar district almost empty handed adding to the burden of densely populated Bangladesh. It was gathered that these fleeing people, who have been bonafide citizens of Arakan State of Myanmar for ages, were being compelled to surrender their last penny, the documents relating to statehood and other property to the members of the Lushin Border Security Force and the regular army of Myanmar.

On reaching Teknaf area the Rohingyas are rushing to Marichya Shelter Centre, about 30 miles north of Teknaf town. Several NGOs including Rohingya Relief Co-ordination Committee, Seba branch of Saver based Gono Shasthya Kendra, Muslim Welfare Association and Bangladesh Red Crescent Society have been rendering humanitarian services to the refugees at the centre.

Meanwhile, the local authorities have opened a registration centre for the ever swelling Rohingya refugees. An official in charge of the centre told BSS Special Correspondent Gias Kamal Chowdhury that so far they had registered 1391 Rohingya refugee families reaching here from

Myanmar through this centre.

UNICEF and Gono Shasthya Kendra have installed some tubewells and set up latrines to ensure the supply of pure drinking water and proper sanitation. Sheds for the womenfolk for bath and wash have also been erected.

Since some babies including the newly born ones have died of starvation, malnutrition and lack of lactation. Arrangements are underway to provide nutritious food packages for the surviving babies and children.

A doctor in charge of Gono Shasthya Kendra told this correspondent that a separate shelter, set up with a number of sheds at Dechua Palong Area, had been providing accommodation to 300 refugee families.

Fund crisis hits uplift plans

From A Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Feb 5: Rajshahi City Corporation has failed to implement 20 per cent of its targeted development programmes during the last five years due to non-availability of funds.

A corporation source said, more than 80 per cent of the committed funds were not given to the corporation by the government though the corporation prepared the budget for the last five years on the basis of the commitment.

Moreover, the failure of the corporation to realise 50 per cent of its taxes from its sources contributed much to

aggravate the fund crisis.

According to the source, the corporation had to amend its budget for the fiscal year, 1987-88. The amended amount stood at Taka four crore and five lakh whereas the original budget amount was Taka 17 crore and 18 lakh.

The corporation has, however, prepared a budget of Taka 65 crore 87 lakh and 84 thousand for the current fiscal year, which is under consideration.

Mijanur Rahman Minu, Mayor of the Rajshahi City Corporation while talking to

this correspondent said, not a single development scheme had been taken up in the current budget without feasibility study of the programmes. The Action Committee has already begun its activities to implement the programmes a success, the Mayor said.

The corporation has taken up 283 projects in the current budget which are due to be completed by June of this year. Works are going on to reconstruct eight graveyards under the Food for Work Programme.

The corporation received 900 metric tons of wheat for 385 projects.

Bees instead of explosives

FARIDPUR, Feb 5: A swarm of angry bees attacked voters at a polling centre in Madhukhal upazila on Tuesday disrupting voting for two and a half hours, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the bees, their hive on a nearby mango tree stoned by supporters of a candidate, stung voters standing in queue at Makrail Centre of Madhukhal Union and people of the locality.

The bee-bite left at least 250 people sick. They included seven children, 21 women, three ansars and two police constables.

Voting remained suspended from 10 am to 12.30 pm.

Of the sick, condition of Qayum Ali Mollah and the two policemen were stated to be serious.

Supporters of the present UP Chairman hurled stone at the beehive to prevent voters from voting fearing their candidate would bag less votes, it was alleged.

Notes from Barisal

BARISAL, Feb 5: A scheme has been undertaken to bring 31,300 hectares of land under mustard cultivation in 65 upazilas of 11 southern districts during the current rabi season, reports UNB.

According to Agriculture Extension Department, 16,900 hectares have been brought under High Yielding variety while the rest 14,350 hectares under local variety.

The districts are: Barisal, Patuakhali, Jhalakathi, Bhola, Pirojpur, Borgania, Faridpur, Madaripur, Shariatpur, Gopalganj and Rajbari. Production target has been fixed at 25,500 metric tons.

Meanwhile, necessary measures have been taken to supply farmers with high quality seeds and fertilizers for the successful implementation of the programme.

9th nuclear medicine centre

Country's 9th nuclear medicine centre will be constructed in Barisal to facilitate modern diagnosis of various complex diseases, official sources said.

The centre, to be built at a cost of Taka 1.25 crore, is expected to function from mid-1993.

State Minister for Education, Principal Yunus Khan was due to the foundation stone of the centre at Barisal Medical College and Hospital premises.

Science and Technology Division Secretary Heshamuddin and Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission Chairman Dr Mannan will attend the foundation laying ceremony.

Town power supply project

The implementation period of the '18 Town Power Distribution Project' has been extended by one year to June 1993 following reports of its slow progress.

A high-level meeting held recently also suggested mobilisation of additional fund through intersectoral adjustment as the implementation cost would be higher than the original estimate of Taka 350 crore.

The project taken up under the Third Five-year Plan involving a foreign exchange component of about Taka 198 crore, aimed at augmenting power distribution and reducing system loss in 18 towns of the southern region.

The towns covered by the project are: Barisal, Comilla, Pabna, Bogra, Mymensingh, Dinajpur, Sirajganj, Noakhali, Tangail, Kushtia, Faridpur, Rajbari, Syedpur, Maulvibazar, Rajpur, Jessore, Sylhet and Jamalpur.

Crops, vegetable seeds distributed

A voluntary organisation, CARE has distributed seeds of crops and vegetables among the distressed families in 14 upazilas in the southern region of the country after the April 29 devastating cyclone.

Cropseeds have been distributed to 15,000 distressed families and vegetable seeds to 77,000 families in the first phase.

In the second phase, the organisation distributed fishing nets to 22,800 fishermen, installed 100 tubewells, re-excavated 1502 ponds and arranged 42 medical teams for medicare.

Roads, drains to be reconstructed

The pourashava here will implement 32 development projects with an estimated cost of Taka 65 lakh during the current financial year.

These projects include construction and reconstruction of roads and drains. According to official sources, the work will be completed by June next.

North Bengal Paper mill incurs Tk 8 cr loss in one year

PABNA, Feb 5: North Bengal Paper Mill at Paksey is reported to be running at a huge loss mainly due to mismanagement, malpractice and corruption, reports UNB.

According to official sources, the mill incurred a loss of Taka 8 crore though it produced 12,000 metric tons of paper in 1990-91 fiscal year.

Everyday a big amount of money is required for purchasing furnace oil even though gas could be used as substitute to furnace oil thus saving Taka 4 lakh daily.

While talking to UNB, Mill sources said crores of Taka were being spent annually for the furnace oil which has great impact on the finishing work of the product. In the name of balancing modernising and rehabilitation Taka 28 crore has already been spent, it is learnt.

It is alleged that low quality Indian spare parts were used in the mills while the company supplying these parts claim exorbitant rates. Indian contractors and some dishonest officials allegedly misappropriated crores of taka in

the name of modernisation.

However, price hike of raw materials like furnace oil, alum, soda, salt, chlorine and spareparts bring the production cost to Taka 5,000 per metric ton. On the other hand, the produced paper is sold at government fixed rate which is much lower than the production cost.

Local people urged the government to conduct a thorough investigation and take immediate steps for saving the North Bengal Paper Mill.

The North Bengal Paper Mills, situated on the bank of the river Ganges needs surplus water for its production. But due to the decrease in the flow of water, production in the mill is threatened to a great extent, the sources added.

Meanwhile, the water level at Paksey Hardinge point is falling rapidly owing to intake of water of the Ganges through Farakka Barrage by India.

Problems make life miserable in UZ

BORGUNA, Feb 5: Amtali Upazila Headquarters of the district has been smarting under multiple problems causing immense suffering to the people for a long time, reports UNB.

Absence of good drainage system, deplorable condition of roads, paucity of drinking water, lack of recreational facilities, inadequate street lighting, shortage of accommodation were the main problems affecting the upazila people.

Upazila town has no drainage system at all. Most of the roads in the town are too narrow and unfit for the pedestrians as well as vehicular traffic.

The daily market has been in a bad shape for want of space and adequate number of sheds causing much inconveniences to the buyers and sellers.

Shortage of housing facilities also poses a great problem to the town dwellers. No new houses have been built in the upazila town area either on public or on private initiatives.

Frequent failure of electricity and fluctuation of voltage have become a regular phenomenon in the town. Frequently, the entire town including its busy shopping centres plunges into complete darkness owing to sudden breakdown to electric supply.

There is no park or open space where children can spend their leisure hours.

The life and living of the town dwellers have been be-

deviled due to mosquito menace and lack of adequate conservancy services. Open and silted drains, derelict ponds and garbage dumped on roadsides help bulk breeding of mosquitoes, the sources added.

Meanwhile, the educational institutions of the upazila town are beset with various problems. At present the upazila headquarters has two high schools, two primary schools, one college and one madrasah but most of them cannot run smoothly for shortage of staff, furniture and other inputs.

Growers deprived of fair jute price

Jute growers of the district are not getting fair prices and selling jute incurring heavy loss as the market price is much below the production cost.

Sources said different varieties of jute are selling at prices ranging between Taka 220 and Taka 250 per maund, against production cost of over Taka 350.

The growers are holding large quantities of jute in stock due to paucity of buyers at the local markets.

The government has neither fixed jute price nor opened any purchasing centre in the district, they alleged.

The growers have, however, urged the government to set up a jute purchasing centre in the district headquarters immediately to help ensure fair price for their produce.

Water level fall, siltation disrupt communication

MADARIPUR, Feb 5: water level of the Padma, the Kumar the Kirtinasa and the Aral Khan flowing through Madaripur and Shariatpur has fallen to knee deep bringing to a total standstill the river communication, reports UNB.

The vast river bed is now being used as crop land. Siltation in these rivers posed a serious threat to irrigation, pisciculture and navigation.

Emergence of a number of chargs in those rivers and abnormal fall of the water level in the winter season made the rivers commercially useless.

The traders who used to ferry their merchandise through these rivers are now compelled to carry their goods by road incurring huge transportation cost.

Meanwhile, people living alongside these rivers have been facing difficulties in irrigating their lands.

A vast tract of land alongside the waterways remains fallow every year for want of irrigation. A large number of fishermen also became unemployed due to siltation.

Knowledgeable circle feel that a comprehensive dredging plan should be taken up immediately for smooth navigation in the interest of trade and commerce.

Essential goods prices up

Prices of essential commodities registered a sharp rise in the district during the last few days.

All varieties of rice, lentil, Soybean oil powder, milk, flour, egg and some vegetables are selling dearer despite satisfac-

tory stock and supply. Fine rice is selling at Taka 14 per kg, coarse rice at Taka 10.50 to 11 per kg, lentil at Taka 33 and Soyabn oil at Taka 43 per kg, according to sources.

Different brands of milk powder are also selling at a higher price. A 5-pound Danon now sells at Taka 290 while another popular brand Red Cow at Taka 295. Those were selling at Taka 270 only in last week.

Price of Horlicks and other such malted food drinks have also increased by Taka 10 per bottle or Can.

Even eggs, now found in abundance are selling at higher price.

On the other hand, prices of some vegetables have slightly dropped with their supply going up during the winter season.

Food adulteration has become rampant in Rajoir, Kalkini, Shibchar and Sadar upazilas of the district.

Gastro-intestinal, skin and diarrhoeal diseases caused by consumption of adulterated food have become quite widespread.

Tara Bibi (45) was allegedly beaten to death on November 26 by her husband Abdur Matabber of village - Kalikapur under, Madaripur Sadar Upazila.



SYLHET: The winners of the Jewel Smriti Badminton Tournament receiving trophy. The tournament was organised by the local Agradoot Club here recently. — Star photo