

Upazila roundup

RAJSHAHI

Saraswati Puja observed

Feb. 10 : Saraswati Puja, a religious festival of Hindu community was observed here as well as other parts of the district, reports UNB.

At least seven puja mandaps were set up on the campus while the main mandap was at RUCSU building premises.

A discussion meeting was also held at the university's central auditorium. Vice Chancellor, Amanullah Ahmed attended the discussion meeting.

Ganatantrik Chhatra Otkya will observe a day long hunger strike on Tuesday at Shaheb Bazar demanding immediate withdrawal of cases filed against their 60 student leaders.

The cases were filed by Islami Chhatra Shibir earlier.

KHULNA

2 AL activists hurt during violent rally

Feb. 10 : At least two people were injured on Sunday during a violent demonstration by Awami League activists in Phulbari Area, some 10 kilometers from the city, protesting the arrest of a party member, reports UNB.

Mirerdanga unit of Awami League brought out a procession in the evening protesting the arrest of Habib Sheikh on Sunday and demanding his unconditional release.

Witnesses said at one stage the processionists went violent and damage several shops and exploded crackers injuring two people.

They also put barricade on Mirerdanga-Phulbari Road. Police said Habib Sheikh is a notorious terrorist in the area facing various criminal charges, including robbery.

PABNA

17 hurt in clash over land dispute

Feb. 10 : Seventeen people including 2 women were injured, three seriously, in a clash over a land dispute between two rival groups at village Malanchi in sadar upazila, reports UNB.

According to police, the clash ensued when Akbar Ali on his way back home from Nearhat was attacked by an armed group allegedly led by union parishad member Jamiruddin Biswas on February 2.

Eight injured were admitted to Pabna General Hospital where condition of the three were stated to be critical. They are Shaheha Khatun (35), primary school teacher Shajada Khatun (40) and Akbar Ali (22).

JAMALPUR

College teachers not getting salary

Feb. 10 : The teachers and employees of Shahid Ziaur Rahman College of the district are not getting their salaries and other dues for a long time, reports UNB.

Over Taka three lakh are lying unpaid as arrears against their salaries, the sources added.

The college authority is unable to pay the arrears for financial constraint, it is learnt.

The teachers urged the authorities to clear off their long-standing dues along with payment of monthly salary regularly so that they could devote themselves to their profession.

NOAKHALI

Fire victims assured of help

Feb. 10 : State Minister for Relief, Lutful Rahman Khan visited the Chowmahani Market that was gutted by fire on Saturday night, reports UNB.

He went round the market and talked to the affected shop owners and local people.

Khan directed the local administration to find out the actual cause of the fire incident and take necessary measures for helping the victims.

He advised the people to use fire and combustible items carefully so that no similar accident occur in future.

Local MP Barkatullah and officials of the district administration were present during the visit.

Twenty five shops of the market have been totally destroyed in the fire.

JHENIDAH

Excavation of canal opens

Feb. 10 : Minister for Social Welfare and Women Affairs, Tariqul Islam inaugurated the excavation of Sirjokath Canal at the sadar upazila of Jhenidah district on Sunday, reports BSS.

Three thousands acres of land is expected to get irrigation facilities after excavation of 10 kilometres Sirjokath Canal in three unions of Jhenidah sadar upazila.

MALDEE COURT

Best sportsmen, organisers awarded prizes

Feb. 10 : The annual prize giving ceremony of the district Krira Lekhak Samity was held at the local Press Club recently, reports UNB.

President of the Samity, Mohiuddin Tokan presided over the function while Kamal Ahmed Mojumder, Editor of the weekly Dignita, was the chief guest.

Trophies were distributed to the best sports organisers and sportsmen for 1989. Late MA Rouf was adjudged the best organiser while Montu Ahmed honoured for volleyball, AKM Sahajan Wasim for football, Abu Taleb for Badminton and Omar, Faruguddin Shapan and Shapna Sharma for athletics.

Meanwhile, Badminton, Carrom and Chess competitions have started here recently. Deputy Commission of the district MA Kamal formally inaugurated the competition.

About 100 competitors are taking part in different events.

BRAHMANBARIA

Discussion on Monomohan Dutta

Feb. 10 : A two-day programme was held at 'Ananda-Asharam' at village Satmora under Nabinagar upazila recently to mark the 114th birth anniversary of the mystic poet Monomohan Dutta, reports BSS.

The life and works of Monomohan Dutta were discussed on the occasion. Presided over by Advocate Shyamal Chakravarty the function was addressed among others by Mr Shukumar Biswas, Prof. Shariat Rasul, Advocate Sanaullah Noman, Prof Nanigopal Sen and Mr Shudhir Datta, son of the late poet.

The speakers said that Monomohan was an outstanding mystic poet who believed in humanism.

SATKHIRA

2 commit suicide in incidents

Feb. 10 : Two persons committed suicide in two separate incidents in sadar upazila of the district recently.

It is reported that one Surendra Nath (56) of village Duttabag under sadar upazila committed suicide by hanging himself in a tree near his residence.

The another incident occurred at Shreerampur village of the same upazila where one Mamta Ali (25) committed suicide by taking poison.

NETRAKONA

Exhibition on handicrafts

Feb. 10 : An exhibition on handicrafts and cottage industries products began here under the auspices of Shabalomby Unnyan Samity, a district level non-government organisation (NGO) on Friday, reports BSS.

The exhibition aimed at popularising handicrafts and cottage industries products.

The Secretary of the Ministry of LGRD and Cooperative, Mr Musfiqur Rahman inaugurated the exhibition at a colourful function and it was attended by the Deputy Commissioner, Netrakona, Mr AHM Abul Kashem.

PATUAKHALI

60 tubewells to be installed

Feb. 10 : Sixty deep tubewells will be installed in two upazilas of the district during the current financial year, reports UNB.

Official sources said, Taka 30 lakh will be spent for installation of the tubewells, 24 of them in Dasmina and 36 in Mirzaganj upazilas of the district.

When completed about 20,000 people will get supply of pure water.



JAMALPUR: The distressed women of the district recently brought out a procession demanding work and food. — Star photo

Cyclones, floods damage 315 school houses

JAMALPUR, Feb. 10 : At least 315 educational institutions have been totally damaged by cyclones, and floods in seven upazilas of the district during the last five years.

The damaged institutions include high and primary schools, madrasahs and colleges.

When contacted, the District Education Officer told this correspondent that they had no fund to repair the institutions. He said that they were preparing a detailed report on the extent of damage and requirement of fund for the repair and reconstruction of the institutions.

The Education officer disclosed that they would send the report to the ministry seeking fund for repair and reconstruction of the damaged institutions. The completion of

From Our Correspondent

the work will depend on the availability of the fund, he informed.

The extent of damage to the institutions of the Sadar upazila is the highest. Sixtyone educational institutions including one college and 35 primary schools were damaged totally in the upazila.

This correspondent recently visited some villages of Dewanganj upazila and found that some schools were levelled to the ground while many tin roofs were blown away.

The institutions of Dewanganj and Madaganj upazilas were badly affected by cyclones, and floods and the damage to the dwelling houses were also heavy. Shamsul Haque College, Dikpath was damaged by the cyclone totally. Abul Kalam Azad MP from Jamalpur-1 constituency in-

formed this correspondent that he was very much anxious about the immediate reconstruction of the institutions. He informed that 50 per cent of the thatched houses and 80 per cent of the standing crops were totally or partially damaged by the cyclones and floods of the district.

The worst affected educational institutions are yet to be reconstructed for shortage of funds. The Facilities Department, Mymensingh have sanctioned only Taka 56 lakh for construction of 11 primary schools construction in the district during the current financial year.

Local people urged the present elected government to take immediate necessary steps for construction and reconstruction of the educational institutions.

Ginger research centre demanded

KURIGRAM, Feb. 10 : Establishment of an institute for research and development of ginger cultivation along with its processing arrangement in northern region of the country is necessary.

It can be mentioned here that the country can earn a substantial amount of foreign currency through export of processed ginger to a number of foreign countries.

Ginger is produced in plenty in Nilphamari, Rangpur, Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Dinajpur and Chittagong Hill Tracts. Of the places, Nilphamari is the most suitable place for ginger production. Seventyfive per cent of the ginger production is produced in Nilphamari.

There are centres for research and development of jute, paddy, tea, tobacco, wheat, cotton and forestry. But any such centre for development of ginger cultivation is yet to be established.

If improved methods are applied for ginger cultivation, its production will significantly increase. It is expected that if proper steps were taken, a considerable quantity of processed ginger might be exported after meeting the local

From Our Correspondent

demand every year. At present, there remains a huge excess stock of ginger after domestic consumption.

There are scopes for creating demand of Bangladeshi ginger abroad. During pre-liberation period, raw ginger was sent to the then West Pakistan where it was processed and then exported to different Arab Countries. At present, only a small quantity of ginger is being exported to foreign countries.

Establishment of an institute for research and development of ginger cultivation is essential to improve the quality of the produce as well as to minimise the cost of production in order to compete the

Electric wires worth Tk 60,000 stolen

NARAIL, Feb. 10 : Electric wires worth about Taka 60,000 were stolen from Rammajhi area in Terokhanda Upazila of the district during the last few days, reports UNB.

The 10,000 feet long wire covering the distance from Kalia to Khulna KV power line were stolen plunging the area into darkness.

international market.

The present method of drying up the ginger for commercial purposes is improper and defective for which it can not get better market.

A three-day long Red Crescent Camp was held at Kurigram Mohila College premises recently.

It was formally inaugurated by Khairul Anam, ADC, Kurigram. More than 200 members of Red Crescent from Kurigram district participated in it.

One Belal Hossain (28), son of Jaiuddin of village of Badarpur under Rajshpur upazila of the district was killed by wild elephant recently.

According to reports, two wild elephants came out from the bordering Tura Hills of India and destroyed a large number of houses, shops and trees at village Badarpur under Rajshpur upazila. At one stage, the elephants attacked Belal Hossain and killed him on the spot.

On receipt of the news, the police men of Rajshpur, Rowmari and Dhusmara police stations rushed to the spot and managed to kill the two wild elephants after fighting and firing for long eight hours.



TANGAIL: A discussion meeting on "Public health, child care and consumers' interest" was held at village Shuvilla under Mirzapur Upazila recently where Prof Dr Nurul Islam, M Mokammel Haq and Dr Md Idris Ali were present. — Star photo

EPI fails to achieve target in Khulna Div

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Feb. 10 : The Expanded Programme of Immunisation (EPI) has reportedly failed to achieve its target in 16 districts under Khulna Division during the last financial year.

The districts are Satkhira, Khulna, Bagerhat, Jessore, Narail, Magura, Jhenidah, Kushtia, Chuadanga, Meherpur, Barisal, Bhola Pirojpur, Jhalokathi, Borguna and Patuakhali.

Lakhs of children have been suffering from six diseases — polio, diphtheria, measles, whooping cough and tetanus in these districts, it is learnt.

According to an official source, the target was to immunise 58,256 children in Satkhira, 80,213 in Khulna, 52,391 in Bagerhat, 73,670 in Jessore, 25,118 in Narail, 26,340 in Magura, 48,043 in Jhenidah, 48,708 in Barisal, 40,857 in Pirojpur, 50,436 in Bhola, 25,555 in Jhalokathi, 48,490 in Patuakhali, 34,831 in Borguna, 52,749 in Kushtia, 28,892 in Chuadanga and 17,286 children in Meherpur.

According to a report submitted by World Health Organisation (WHO), only 66 per cent of the target have been achieved in these districts during the last financial year. The achievement of the Expanded Programme of Immunisation is far behind the target, it revealed.

The progress of the EPI during the current year is not also satisfactory. If effective

measures are not taken in this regard, the fate of EPI will be the same as last year. As a result, hundreds of children of these districts will meet the tragic end of their lives suffering from the six fatal diseases.

Hundreds of field workers including high officials of the department have been working in these districts for the implementation of the programme.

A high level team from Dhaka recently visited the districts under Khulna Division and expressed dissatisfaction over the failure of the programme. Non-payment of salary of the staff was stated to be the cause of being slowing the programme.

One Health Inspector informed that many of the field workers filled up the registers without going to the fields.

An inquiry report reveals that regularity in giving doses is hardly maintained. Field workers were not available in time to give the successive

doses. When contacted, one high official of the department admitted that there had been lapses in implementation of the EPI but he continued that many of the workers had not been paid salary for a long time. He further said that all-out efforts were being made to achieve the target this year.

Our correspondent from Bogra adds : The performance on EPI is stated to be satisfactory.

Out of the total target 74,582 were given BCG, DPT, polio and measles during the period from January to December last. The percentage of achievement was 86 per cent. Children of the target group were given BCG and percentage of achievement was 100 per cent. Measles was given to 73,413 children and the percentage was 84.7.

Tetanus Toxide (TT) was given to 51,699 women and the percentage against the target was 48.8.

Clash with police, 3 hurt

Transport workers snatch held pickets

KHULNA, Feb. 10 : Transport workers clashed with police and snatched nine people arrested for obstructing vehicular movement here on Sunday morning, reports UNB.

Police arrested the pickets for damaging a BRTC bus at Noogram. Afterwards, a group of unruly people gheraoed the police vehicle and snatched the arrested and arrested picket, witnesses said.

Earlier, at least three people, including a police officer, were injured in clash between the policemen and transport workers.

Police resorted to lathicharge on the striking transport workers who were allegedly exploding hand-bombs.

The striking workers also damaged four private cars in the city areas on the second

day of the countrywide indefinite strike.

No private buses and trucks plied on any route to and from the port city.

A report from Kishoreganj says : Transport strike is being observed here, as elsewhere, for an indefinite period at the call of Bangladesh Road Transport Association to press home their 19-point demands.

All vehicles — buses, minibuses, trucks and tankers were stopped plying on Kishoreganj-Dhaka, Kishoreganj-Shambhaganj, Kishoreganj-Ghamtaghat and Kishoreganj-Nikli routes.

Passengers to and from the district have been suffering badly and prices of essentials have gone up due to the strike.

It may be stated here that accidents take place in the area as there is no necessary speed braker.

Attack on gamblers, jatra pandel

KISHOREGANJ, Feb. 10 : A group of agitated youngmen with lethal weapons attacked a gambling den and a jatra pandel at Kalkurda village in Karimganj Upazila recently, reports UNB.

Witnesses said, they beat some gamblers, damaged jatra pandel and snatched away money from the cash box of the pandel. They were protesting against gambling and indecent activities in jatra party.

It is alleged that house, gambling and other anti-social activities have been going on with impunity here in the name of Ananda mela.

Several processions were brought out earlier protesting the obscene display in the mela. But local people alleged that no step has yet been taken by the administration in this regard.

82 projects implemented in CHT last yr

RANGAMATI, Feb. 10 : The Local Government Parishad of the hill district implemented eightytwo projects last year costing Taka 2,11,18, 705 to boost overall development of the region, reports UNB.

Gautam Dewan, Chairman of Parishad said, the projects included construction and repair of schools, embankments and Union Parishad buildings, renovation of science laboratories in secondary schools, development of markets and drainage system and digging of ponds and canals.

Discussion on public health, child care

A discussion meeting on 'public health, child care and consumers' interest' was held at village Shuvilla under Mirzapur Upazila, Tangail recently, says a press release.

The meeting jointly arranged by Bangladesh Association for Social Advancement (BASA) and Consumers' Association of Bangladesh (CAB) was presided over by Dr Md Idris Ali, Chairman BASA.

M Mokammel Haq, Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare was present on the occasion as chief guest. Md Shahidul Alam, DG, NGO Affairs Bureau, Khan Shahabuddin, DC, Tangail, A K M Strajul Islam of BASA, Sarwar Jahan of CAB were present as special guests.

Prof Dr Nurul Islam, President, National Pediatrics Association and head of Children Department, IPGMR also addressed the meeting as specialist on child health care. The chief and special guest thanked the organisers for arranging such meeting which would make the people aware of the vital issues. The speakers stressed the need for the activities of NGOs in the field of rural health, education and economic uplift besides government efforts.

Money lenders trap borrowers

MADARIPUR, Feb. 10 : Money lending business is making a havoc to the poverty stricken borrowers in all the 4 upazilas of the district, reports UNB.

Informed sources said, greedy lenders invest thousands of taka among the villagers at Taka 10 to 15 per cent interest per month taking advantage of their rampant poverty.

Poor farmers borrow money for cultivation or meeting emergency needs by mortgaging their land, property or crops in advance in the field.

Money lending business in the district has gone up due to recurrent crop failure due to natural calamities including drought and flood.

Local elite have urged the government to make neces-

sary laws providing for punitive action against the high handedness of the money lenders.

Milk production has gone down sharply due to acute shortage of milch cows in the district.

Local people and farmers complained that a huge number of cows were killed with the outbreak of 'khura' and other cattle diseases recently.

Besides, shortage of medicines has also been hampering the treatment of the cattle.

The affected farmers have urged the authorities to take necessary steps to combat the menace without further delay.

A five-day Abu Zafar Pausa Pradorshani was concluded here at the Townhall Maidan recently.

New UP chairmen of Feni dist

FENI, Feb. 10 : The unofficial results of 38 Union Parishad Chairmen elections out of 46 of the district have been announced, reports UNB.

According to Election Commission sources, Fazal Ahmed was elected Chairman of Chhaganaiya Union, Abdullah Al Mamun of Paharnagar Union, Nurun Nabi Chowdhury of Gopal Union, Jahurul Haque of Shubapur Union in Chhaganaiya.

Kamal Mazumder was elected Chairman of Porshuram Union, Haji Moksedur Rahman of Chitolia Union, Khairul Alam of Box Mahmud Union, AKM Mohiuddin of Fulgazi Union, Kazi Akramullah of Darbarpur Union, Aziz Ahmed Chowdhury of Anandapur Union, Master Abul Kasem of Amadha Union and Reazuddin Sardar (Uncontested) of Mirzanagar Union in Porshuram Upazila.

Haji Abdul Mannan was elected Chairman of Sonagazi Union, Rezaul Karim of Moiganj Union, Enamul Haque of Mongalkandi Union, Md Ilias of Majlishpur Union, Gasuddin of Char Chandia Union in Sonagazi Upazila.

Abdul Wadud was elected Chairman of Sirdurpur Union, Razaqul Haider of Rajapur Union, Taher Ahmed Miah of Parba Chandapur Union, Tajul

Islam of Yakubpur Union, Abu Sufian of Maubhuyan Union, AKM Abdul Haque of Jalaskar Union in Daganbhuyan Upazila.

Serajul Islam was elected Chairman of Kaldah Union, Sheikh Baherullah of Lamua Union, Abul Kashem of Farhadnagar Union, Master Mafzal Haque of Dolta Union, Taherul Islam of Motobe Union, Nurul Karim Bhutyan of Baligan Union, Shahabuddin Sikdar of Charshadi Union, Ahsan Ali of Pangachia Union, Abdul Khaleque of Dharmapur Union, Shamsul Haque Bhutyan of Kajtrbagh Union, Amin Hossain of Chamua Union in Sedar upazila.

Another report from Dinajpur says : Eleven persons were elected chairmen unofficially in Chirribandar upazila.

According to official sources, Mofizuddin was elected Chairman of Nasripur Union, Shah Mohammad Foyzar Hossain of Fotejganj Union, Tamjuddin of Tetulia Union, Atzail Hoque Shah of Shatnalar Union, Shah Mohsin Ali of Ishapur Union, Abul Hossain Chowdhury of Abdulpur Union, Nurul Islam of Shaitara Union, Aminur Rahman Sarkar of Amarpur Union, Anil Kumar Ray of Aulapukur Union, Shah Md Motiur Rahman of Virail Union, Atzail Hoque Mondol of Panti Union.