

Upazila roundup

JHALOKATHI

Tk 55 lakh for construction of 13 pry schools

Feb 26: Facilities Department of the Ministry of Education is constructing 13 primary schools in four upazilas of the district involving an expenditure of Taka 55 lakh, reports UNB.

Officials sources said, 4 schools each are being constructed in Sadar and Rajapur upazilas, 3 in Nalchiti and 3 in Kathalia upazilas.

After completion, about 4000 children will get education facilities, it is learnt.

Another report adds: About 5 lakh acres of land will be brought under boro cultivation in 10 districts of Khulna Division during the current season.

It is expected that about 6.23 lakh metric tons of boro paddy will be produced in these districts after successful implementation of the scheme.

JAMALPUR

Sramik League annual confce

From Our Correspondent

Feb 26: The annual conference of Jatiya Sramik League, local unit was held here at the godown road recently.

Abul Hossain, Convenor, district unit presided over the function where Mohammad Nasim, Whip of Opposition in Parliament was the chief guest.

Amir Hossain Amu, Joint Secretary, Bangladesh Awami League inaugurated the conference as special guest. Motiur Rahman Talukder, President, District AL, Rezaul Karim, Secretary district unit of AL, Golam Azam MP, Professor Shahidullah, Advocate Bakibillah and others spoke on the occasion.

Nasim in his speech criticised the government policy for denationalising the nationalised industries and for non-fulfillment of the demands of the sramiks.

COMILLA

Father, son get life-term for murder

Feb 26: Father and son were sentenced to suffer life imprisonment in absentia on charges of murder, court sources said here on Sunday, reports UNB.

The court also fined them Taka 2,000 each, in default, to suffer rigorous imprisonment for six months more.

The prosecution story, in brief, is that accused Babul Mia son of Abdur Rashid of village Charkamia of Laksam upazila came to the house of Ayub Ali of village Bara Dharmapur in Sadar upazila on November 9, 1988 and informed that his father was waiting for him in a rickshaw on the nearby road. Ayub accompanied Babul with good faith. Later he was found dead at a spot in Nischintapur village of Laksam upazila on the following day.

A case was registered with the police by Rupjan Bibi, wife of the deceased and police charge-sheeted both the absconding accused.

The Additional Sessions Judge, Nurul Wadud after examining the records and witnesses awarded the judgement recently.

NETRAKONA

Bar assoc executives

Feb 26: Netrakona District Bar Association has elected Advocate Sadir Uddin Ahmed as its President and Advocate Monir Uddin Fakir as Vice President, reports UNB.

Advocate Khawja Moyzuddin was elected Secretary. The election held at the local bar last week also elected a nine-member executive body.

They are Advocate Rezaul Karim, Advocate Zafar Al Sadeq, Advocate Nazrul Islam, Advocate Abdul Hannan, Advocate Dewan Azharul Karim, Advocate Sitansu Bikash Acharya, Advocate Mafiz Uddin, Advocate Abdul Zabbar and Advocate Khaleq Newaz Khan Pathan.

PATUAKHALI

3-day science fair concludes

Feb 26: A three-day science fair was held at the Patuakhali Government University College premises recently to mark the Science and Technology Week '92, reports UNB.

Principal Moazzem Hossain Miah formally inaugurated the fair.

The students of the college particularly of chemistry, biology and soil science departments took part in the science fair.

The students of Government Jubilee High School and Government Girls' High School also took part.

Local people visited the fair in large numbers and showed great enthusiasm for the success of the science fair.

BARISAL

2.94 lakh sets of pry books distributed

Feb 26: A total of 2,94,300 sets of primary text books were distributed free of cost among the students of 952 government and 342 non-government primary schools in ten upazilas of Barisal district under Universal Primary Education Programme (UPEP) in January this year, reports BSS.

According to an official source, 45,086 sets of books were distributed among students of 133 government and 30 non-government primary schools in Barisal Sadar upazila. The upazila has been brought under UPEP this year.

Of the total, 40,400 sets of books were for class five, 49,600 sets for class four, 52,300 sets for class three, 56,200 sets for class two and 95,800 sets for class one.

FARIDPUR

Fire Service Week opens

Feb 26: Fire Service and Civil Defence Week '92 got underway in the district Saturday, reports UNB.

Md Abdur Rahim, Deputy Commissioner and Controller of Fire Service and Civil Defence inaugurated the week.

The inaugural function was addressed, among others, by SP Md Abdus Sattar, Civil Surgeon, Kazi Syed Ahmed, Assistant Director of Fire Service, Attar Rahman and President of Faridpur Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Alhaj Firozar Rahman.

It is learnt that property worth Taka 55.27 lakh was gutted by 102 fire incidents in the district last year.

During the period, fire personnel saved properties worth about Taka 4.64 crore from fire.

According to a report, of the total fire incidents, 44 originated from domestic ovens and 31 electric short circuit.

RANGPUR

2 killed in road mishaps

Feb 26: Two people were killed in two separate road accidents in the town, police said on Monday, reports UNB.

According to police, bicycle rider Abdus Salam (22), of Soneshpur of the town was knocked down by a speeding bus near central bus terminal Sunday. He died on the spot.

Another victim Akhtaruz-zaman (45), employee of BADC was killed Wednesday when his motor cycle collided head on with a minibus at Mahigonj.

SATKHIRA

Indian held with forged currency notes

From Our Correspondent

Feb 26: One Indian national was arrested by the police with forged Bangladeshi currency notes from Sreerampur Bazar under Sadar upazila recently.

It is reported that while one Gourapada Dey (35) of village Mollahkhali under Kusba police station in 24 Parganas of West Bengal, India moving suspiciously in the Bazar area, the police challenged him and caught red handed.

After searching his body, the police recovered the forged currency notes from his possession.

A case has been registered with the local police in this connection.



PABNA: Smuggled Indian cattle are available at the markets of the district —Star photo

Pest attack damages boro paddy on 8,000 acres

From Our Correspondent

SHERPUR, Feb 26: Standing boro paddy on about 8,000 acres of land have been damaged by pest attack and fresh areas are on way to be attacked by pest, in five upazilas of the district.

The pests locally known as 'Mazra' have been causing extensive damages to the crops in Changrakuna of Nakla, Charherpur, Charnucharya of Sadar upazila and belyata of Sreebardit upazila of the district.

According to farmers, after the attack, the paddy plants are turning into yellowish and gradually drying up.

Agricultural official sources said that adequate preventive measures could not be taken up due to acute scarcity of insecticides and spray machine.

The price hike of the insecticides and spray machine in the open market compounded the miseries of the growers.

Most of the spray machines are lying out of order for want of spare parts, AED officials informed.

The farmers informed that the agricultural officials depend on the block supervisors who submit report on imagination.

Children suffering from malnutrition

Over 25,000 children have been suffering from malnutrition in five upazilas of the district.

According to survey report, due to price hike of vegetables, fish, beef, mutton and other daily necessities the poverty-stricken people of the villages of the district can not afford to supply nutritious food to their children.

As a result, the children suffer from malnutrition. Moreover, lack of proper treatment facilities and requisite medicines in hospitals and health complexes leave the poor patients helpless.

Absence of knowledge about food value of different items is also one of the main reasons for malnutrition. The staff of the Health Department who are working in fields can help the villagers earn knowledge about the food value of items.

The authorities concerned have been urged to take immediate steps to motivate the villagers regarding the food value of different items and its use in practical life.

The people of the district have also urged the concerned authorities to supply requisite medicines to the hospitals and health complexes to meet the requirement of the people of the district.

Prospect for fish production bleak in Maulvibazar

MAULVIBAZAR, Feb 26: Prospect for fish production in the district is bleak due to indiscriminate catching of fry, reports UNB.

According to sources, a section of unscrupulous fishermen are catching fish fry like ruhi, katla, mirgal etc from ponds, canals, and beels with current nets ignoring government ban.

It may be mentioned that catching of fish fry under 9 inches is strictly prohibited.

Meanwhile, outbreak of the fish disease known as "ulcerative syndrome" made the consumers scared affecting the fishermen.

Part of highway needs completion

The Maulvibazar-Rajnagar-Fenchuganj Section of Nar-singdi-Sylhet Highway remains incomplete for a decade because the scheme has been dropped from the Annual Development Programme.

Construction of this portion of the highway was taken up in 1976-77 fiscal year and was scheduled to be completed in 1982-83 at an estimated cost of Taka 22 crore.

But during this period only earth work was done and 19 culverts had been constructed.

While talking to UNB, Executive Engineer of Roads and Highways, Maulvibazar, said Taka 10 crore would be required to complete the highway. The progress of construction work was delayed due to inadequate fund, he added.

The scheme has now been dropped from the Annual Development Programme, it is learnt.

Local people urged the authorities to take urgent steps for the completion of the highway.

Tk 1 cr for development of 6 edn institutions

Facilities Department, Sylhet Zone, has sanctioned about Taka one crore for the development of six educational institutions in the district during the current fiscal year.

The project included extension of classrooms and renovation of school and college buildings.

The institutions to be brought under the project are Maulvibazar Government College, Srimangal Government College, Maulvibazar Government High School, Srimangal Girls' High School, Maulvibazar Town Senior Madrasa and Maulvibazar Primary Teachers' Training Institute.

Tk 12 cr molasses produced annually Growers demand sugar mill in Chapainawabganj

From Our Correspondent

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Feb 26: The sugarcane growers who mainly produce molasses from sugarcane juice have not been getting fair prices of sugarcane for want of sugar mill in the district for a long.

The molasses they produce are not sold in the market at an expected price in comparison with the price of sugar.

According to Agricultural Extension Department, sugarcane is cultivated on 25,000 acres of land in the district where 4 lakh tons of sugarcane is produced. A total of 40,000 tons of molasses is produced from the sugarcane output of the district annually.

It can be mentioned here that out of the total, 80 per cent sugarcane are produced in Shibganj upazila alone.

Local farmers informed that one maund of molasses is produced from 10 maunds of sugarcane. The price of one maund of molasses is Taka 400. The farmers can sell 10 maunds of sugarcane at the same price. But the farmers are to expend Taka 100 for extracting juice and buying fuel to produce one maund of molasses.

As the price of sugar is higher than the price of the molasses, the farmers are to face losses. The farmers informed that the due to absence of any sugar mill, they are compelled to produce molasses.

Molasses is sold at least in 15 hats of the district on large-scale beginning from the Bengali month of poush and continues upto Jaisoa Kansat and Shibganj hats are main places where molasses is sold in large quantity.

Molasses is sold in these two markets twice in a week where at least 12,000 maunds are sold in each hat day. It means that 3 lakh maunds of molasses are sold in every six months. The price of the said molasses is over Taka 12 crore.

The molasses traders informed that more than half of the molasses are transported to other places.

The concerned authorities selected site to set up sugar mill in the district during the year 1989. But the establishment of a sugar mill is still uncertain for the reasons not known. It is learnt from the concerned department that a sugar mill can easily run by the sugarcane produced in Shibganj and other places of the district.

The sugarcane growers of the district have urged the government to set up a sugar mill in the district to redress the sufferings of the growers and also help increase sugar production of the country.

Use of cowdung as fertilizer can avoid chemical effect

MAGURA, Feb 26: Use of cowdung as traditional fertilizer has diminished sharply among farmers here resulting in the decline of land fertility, reports UNB.

Farmers said, application of the cowdung raises crop production without any adverse effect. It makes huge nitrogen in the soil and helps plants to grow nicely and rapidly.

Local people said, it is now being used as fuel to make for the shortage of firewood. Almost all the families in rural areas are making dried cakes of cowdung for using them as fuel.

Sources said, people are destroying an important natural manure for their soil due to sheer ignorance.

Kancha latrines cause problems

Kancha latrines have become a public nightmare posing a continuous threat to public health in the district headquarters.

Human excrements get scattered polluting the environment. Flies, mosquitoes and other insects carry germs spreading the diseases among the town-dwellers.

Many kancha latrines have been set up by the side of roads, rivers and canals much to the inconvenience of the local people.

When contacted, the local Public Health Engineering Department officials said they had adequate stock of rings and slabs for low-cost sanitary latrines, but the people were least interested to install them.

Local elite suggested demolition of all kancha latrines in the town areas and installation of low-cost sanitary latrines, with the joint initiative of police, health and municipal authorities.

Random slaughter of animals in hats and bazars in four upazilas has polluted the environment causing serious hazards for public health having no slaughter house here.

Diseased cattle and rickety goats are slaughtered without being medically checked up as provided under law.

According to a medical officer, various intestinal diseases, tuberculosis, tetanus etc are being transmitted into human body from the meat of diseased cows and goats.

These hats and bazars do not observe government announced meatless day. Even municipal markets are no exception.

Local people have urged the authorities to take steps to remedy the situation.

Notes from Sylhet

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Feb 26: The Deputy General Manager of Sylhet Textile Mills was gheraoed by the CBA leaders for more than eight hours in connection with on more than eight hours in untoward incident that took place in the mill recently.

It is learnt that when the DGM asked the CBA leaders to withdraw their stoppage of works, the CBA leaders became angry and gheraoed him in his office room for eight hours from 9 am to 5 pm on February 13.

The CBA leaders alleged that huge quantities of 60-count yarn were being produced in the mill and the same were being sold as of 40-count yarn.

After investigating this corruption, they stopped the work. But the DGM denied such malpractice.

The DGM was freed after eight hours following a negotiation between the CBA leaders and DGM of the mill.

Housewife drowned

A young housewife was drowned at village Kamusen of Baraikandi union of the district recently.

According to the report, the victim Mina Begum (25) was drowned while she was having her bath at the pond of their house. She was suffering from Epilepsy, her family sources said.

On getting information, police went to the village and recovered the body and sent it to the Sylhet MAG Osmany Medical College hospital for post-mortem.

A case of unnatural death had been lodged with the police.

296 tubewells to be installed

A total of 296 tubewells will be sunk in different areas of Sunamganj district during the current financial year.

The Department of Public Health Engineering (PHE) has started sinking of these with the assistance from UNICEF under the Rural Water Supply Programme.

According to an official source, of the total number of tubewells, 24 would be sunk in Chhatrak upazila, 28 in Diara-bazar, 36 in Jagannathpur, 12 in Biswambharpur, 28 in Tahripur, 36 in Deral, 16 in Shulla, 40 in Dharmapasha, 20 Jamalganj, and 56 would be sunk in Sunamganj Sadar upazila areas, the source informed.

Woman killed in road accident

A housewife was killed in a road accident on Sylhet-Jaikiganj highway recently.

According to the report, the victim Hava Begum (40) wife of one late Syed Ali while tried to cross the road at a place near Hetimganj, about six miles off Sylhet town was crushed under the wheels of a speeding microbus. She died on the spot.

The driver along with the vehicle managed to escape from the spot it is reported. Police sent the body to the Sylhet MAG Osmany Medical College Hospital for post-mortem.

A case in this connection had already been registered with the Golaganj police station.

200 posts of health assistants lying vacant

Two hundred posts of Family Welfare Assistant out of 502 posts of the Family Planning Department have been lying vacant in the Sylhet district for long.

It was stated in a meeting of district-level officials held at the Conference Room of Deputy Commissioner's office. The Divisional Commissioner of Chittagong presided over the meeting.

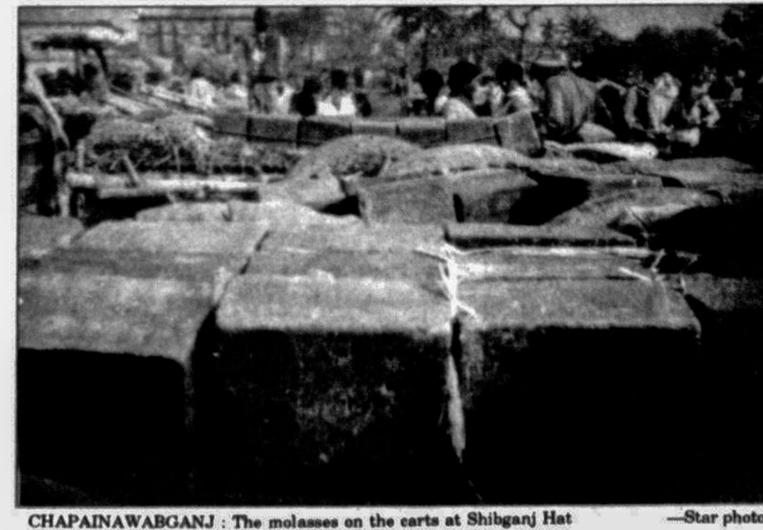
The canal Re-excavation Programme, Mass Literacy Programme, tree plantation, law and order situation, food for Work, Program Expanded Programme of immunisation (EPI), and other development programmes and projects of the district were discussed in the meeting.

The Divisional Commissioner in his speech stressed the role of the government officials in implementing these programmes.

One killed, two hurt in road mishap

UNB report adds: A man was killed and two others seriously wounded in a truck accident on Sylhet-Tamabil road near Noagaon recently.

According to witnesses and police, a Sylhet bound truck moving at a high speed ran over Bashiruddin (55), Olimiah (12), and Hasna (12). Bashiruddin died on the spot while the condition of two others were said to be critical at the Sylhet Medical College Hospital.



CHAPAINAWABGANJ: The molasses on the carts at Shibganj Hat —Star photo