District roundup

BARISAL

Course on social afforestation concludes

Aug 9: A week-long training course on social afforestation under the auspices of the Winrock International concluded at the Caritus office premises on Monday last, reports UNB.

The Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB), arranged the course. The concluding day function was presided over by Purundan Guda, Chairperson of Caritus.

A total of 26 persons from different non-government organisations took part in the course. The trainees were awarded certificates.

RANGPUR

Jute growers face problems

Aug 9: Jute growers were facing problems in separating fibre from jute due to scarcity of insufficient water in the ponds and beels, reports UNB.

The growers of the district complained that water has not been stored adequately in these natural water storages to meet the demand of the process to separate the fibre.

Local people said shortfall of rain during the beginning of the current rainy season was the cause of the crisis.

Jute, which needs to be put under water and later dried in sunshine, was cultivated in about 42,000 acres of land in the current season in the district.

LALMONIRHAT

Teesta, Dharla submerge houses, standing crops

Aug 9: About 5,000 houses and 10,000 acres of standing crop of the district were submerged following swelling of the rivers Teesta and Dharla, reports UNB.

The rivers swelled due to heavy downpour on Wednesday night and local Met office recorded 277 mm rainfall during the period.

The severely affected unions are Raipur, Kulaghat, Khunagach, Mohishkhacha, Kakina, Bhotmari, Dawabary, Parikapara, Shindurna and Goddimari.

Most of the roads of the town have gone under one or two feet water.

PABNA

Lightning kills three

Aug 9: Three people were killed and one baby seriously injured when a thunder bolt struck them at Dopadah village of Santhia thana on Tuesday last, reports UNB.

The victims were identified as Abdul Jalil, his wife Rehana Khatun and his brother-in-law Jamaluddin. His seriously injured six months old daughter Deputy was admitted to Santhia health complex.

JESSORE

Rival groups clash leaves one dead

Aug 9: A young man was killed and another injured seriously in a clash between two rival groups at Brakakuria in Chougacha thana Thursday last, reports UNB.

Abdul Latif (22) of the village was stabbed to death by his rival group by one Ibrahim at about 1 pm.

Local people said the clash erupted following a dispute over the ownership of a haor.

Mohammad Mizan (23) was admitted to Chougacha health complex with serious stab injuries.

The body of Latif has been taken to Sadar Hospital for autopsy and case was filed with the local police.

TANGAIL

BWDB to implement embankment scheme

Aug 8: Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) Tangail Division will implement a 40-kilometre long embankment scheme at a cost of Taka 28 crore under a special project.

The project will project Tangail town and about thirty five thousand acres of agriculture land from flood.

Official sources said that the embankment will check on rush of flood water from the Jamuna and the Dhaleswari rivers and pisciculture facilities in the closure areas. The Netherlands government will provide assistance for the project.

MANIKGANJ

Erosion forces 6500 homeless in 48 hours

Aug 9: Erosion of the rivers Jamuna and Padma has taken serious turn forcing 6,500 more people to become homeless during the last 48 hours ending Friday afternoon, reports UNB.

BIWTA sources said ferry and launch services between Aricha-Nagarbari and Aricha-Daulatdia have been hampered due to strong current in the rivers.

Officials of Daulatpur thana said about 250 dwelling houses in Bachamara Bagatia and Jianpur unions were washed away rendering at least 240 families homeless.

Water Development Board sources said 180 houses of Kumarkandi, Kadamtali and Niamatpur villages of Harirampur thana of the district were devoured by the river Padma affecting 4,000 families.

FARIDPUR

First yr MBBS classes from Aug 12

Aug 9: First year MBBS classes of 1991-92 session of Faridpur Medical College will begin on August 12, reports BSS.

The college authority has instructed all newly-admitted students to attend the introductory class at 10 on the opening day.

SIRAJGANJ

Bar assoc issues show cause notices on 8 members

Aug 9: District Bar Association issued show cause notices on its eight members who joined the court of District and Sessions Judge M A Jalil on Wednesday defying its decision, reports UNB.

The advocates of the district have been boycotting the district judge court since July 23 to press home their demand for withdrawal of the Judge for his alleged misbehaviour with the lawyers.

The advocates who were served with show cause notices are : Amanullah Mondal, Abdur Rashid Roakni, Raihan Ali, Public Prosecutor Rezaul Karim, Ismail Hossain, Mahbubul Alam Talukder, Shah Jalal Miah and Ayub Ali.

The decision to issue show cause notices was taken on Wednesday at the Bar Association meeting with its President Abu Bakar Siddiq in the chair.

SATKHIRA

Arms, ammunition recovered, 15 held

Aug 9: Police recovered arms and ammunition from different areas of the town and arrested 15 people on charges of their involvement Thursday, reports UNB.

The recovered arms include two pipe guns, one revolver with two live cartridges.

A special squad of police conducted the drive.

Two separate cases were filed with Sadar and Assasuni in this connection.

COMILLA

BDR arrest 5 smugglers with goods

Aug 9: Bangladesh Rifles arrested five smugglers and seized smuggled goods worth about Taka 10.86 lakh from different border areas of the district during the last month, reports UNB.

Of the total goods worth about Taka 10.83 lakh were seized while being smuggled into the country.

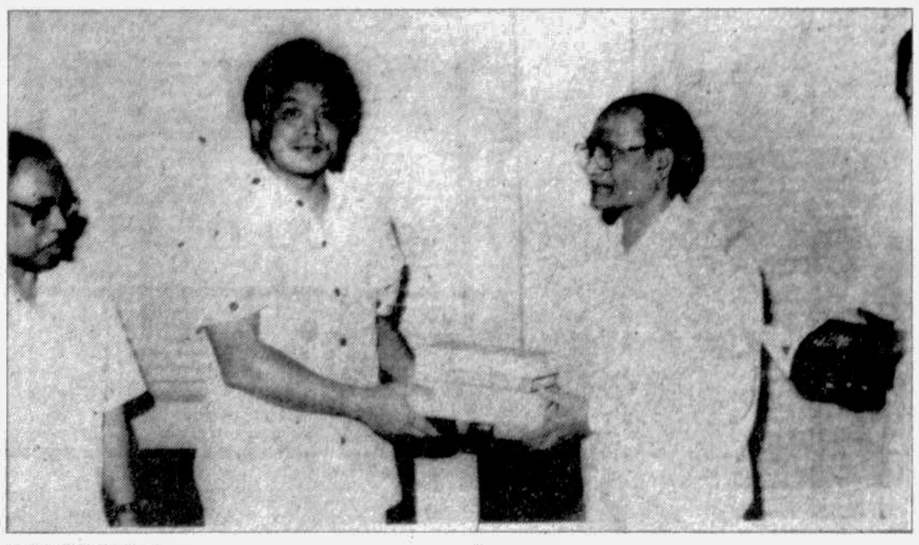
The goods included: saree, blouse piece, lungi, cotton yarn, medicine, spices, cycle and rickshaw spare parts, insecticides and fertilizers.

The goods seized while being smuggled out of the country worth about Taka 23.410 included electronic goods, old garments, hilsa fish and dry fish.

UNB report adds: A 21-member executive committee of the Students Union of local Teachers Training College was elected recently for the session 1992-93.

The election was held peacefully on August 4.

The elected members are: Nasim Miah -- General Secretary, Hasina Akhtar Chowdhury and Habibur Rahman -- AGS, Bidhan Bardhan -- Magazine Secretary, Feroz Ahmed -- Assistant Magazine Secretary and Abdur Rouf -- Literary and Cultural Secretary.



AGRI-VARSITY: Prof. M. Ashraf Ali Khan, VC, BAU receiving a set of books from the First Secretary of the Embassy of Japan in Bangladesh, Kaya Hiro Tajika as gift to the BAU library in a simple function held recently.

Jute output on decrease

Absence of rainfall, fair price discouraging growers

From Our Correspondent

RAJBARI, Aug 9 : The Jute cultivation in the district has failed to achieve its target this year due to non-availability of better seeds, lack of timely rainfall and shortage of fund.

A total of 16,222 acres of land was earmarked for jute cultivation in the district during the current season. But only 12,260 acres of land have been brought under the cultivation.

Many farmers could not prepare their lands for want of rain and bullock.

An official of the district Agriculture Extension Department said that farmers could not cultivate jute for want of irrigation and rainfall.

Another report says : A total of 88,227 acres of land has been brought under aus cultivation in four thanas of the district during the current season.

The thanas are : Sadar, Haliakandi, Gualundo and Pangsa.

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation has been supplying the fertilizers, pesticides and other inputs among the farmers to make the cultivation a success.

Our Correspondent from Manikganj says : Jute cultivation in the district has fallen short of target this year due to non-availability of seeds, want of rainfall and shortage of capital.

A total of 11,600 acres of land was brought under the jute cultivation in the district during the current. But the farmers could cultivate only 7,350 acres for unavourable situation.

A source of the District Agriculture Extension Department said that the growers could not cultivate requisite jute for want of timely rainfall.

Meanwhile, our correspondent from Chapainawabganj reports that the cultivation of jute in the district has been decreasing day by day.

During the last seven years, the production target of jute could not be achieved here though the district is one of the main jute producing areas of the country.

Every year, jute production is going down in the district in the absence of proper patronisation by the concerned authority. On the otherhand, the jute growers have not been getting fair price of their products for a log time.

The uncertainty of jute price has been discouraging the cultivators in cultivating jute and instead they are sowing paddy for better propect.

Besides, the government and non-government jute purchasing centers in the area have already been closed. As aresult, the jute production is decreasing in the district day by day.

It can be mentioned here that once jute was the main cash crop of our country and Bangladesh was the largest jute producing country in the world. But in the absence of proper patronisation both in the production and marketing, the highest foreign exchange earner, the golden fire of Bangladesh is decreasing day by day.

The concerned authorities have been urged to take necessary steps to help the normal cultivation of jute for the interest of the farmers as well as the greater interest of the country.

Continuous heavy rainfall, low lying areas under water

BARISAL, Aug 9: The low lying areas and char areas of Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola and Barguna districts have been submerged due to continuous heavy downpour causing immense suffering to thousands of people, reports UNB.

The rivers like Kirtonkhola, Meghna, Arialkhan, Paira, Kacha, Tetulia, Sugandha and Sandhya are being overflowed due to continuous rainfall causing flash flood in the low lying areas.

Aus and IRRI crops and seedbeds on vast areas of land have been inundated in these districts.

The Education Ministry has been implementing 65 projects in six children districts during the current financial year at a cost of over Taka 7.83 crore.

According to official sources, the projects include the construction of six two-storied buildings, 47 rural primary schools, three primary education offices and nine senior madrasas.

The districts are : Barisal, Jhalakathi, Bhola, Patuakhali, Pirojpur and Barguna under Barisal Education zone.

Six two-storied buildings and three education offices under the project are being constructed with the financial assistance of International Development Association (IDA) and 47 rural primary schools and nine madrasas with the financial assistance of Islamic Development Bank (IDB).

On completion, the educational development projects are expected to greatly improve the facilities for education considerably raising the literacy rate in the district.

Relief and Rehabilitation Department has completed 112 projects in 10 thanas of the district during the current fiscal year.

According to an official source, the projects included excavation and re-excavation of 28 canals, construction of 80 roads and levelling four playgrounds in three thanas of the district.

The projects have completed under Food for Works Programme.

Police have arrested five activists of the outlawed Sarbahara Party from different areas of Mehendiganj thana in the district.

The arrested are: Subhan Howlader, Bellal Howlader, Khalil Howlader, Moslem Khan and Nizamuddin Bepari.

They were wanted in connection with dacoities, hijacking, toll collection and other anti-social activities, police said.

BSS adds: The local administration distributed 1,600 pieces of sacrificial meat among people of ten thanas and Barisal Paurashava of the district recently.

According to an official source, the government of Saudi Arabia has donated the meet for distribution among the poor people.

Of the total, 150 pieces were distributed in Barisal Sadar thana, 200 pieces in Bakerganj, 180 pieces in Mehendigonj, 198 pieces in Wazirpur, 100 pieces in Banaripara, 110 pieces in Hizla, 100 pieces in Gournadi 110 pieces in Muladi, 100 pieces in Babugonj, 80 pieces in Agailhara and 272 pieces in paurashava areas.

Villagers round up Sarbahara Party leader

BARISAL, Aug 9: Mantu, a leader of outlawed Sarbahara Party has been rounded up by the villagers in Agurpur union following a clash between the two rival factions, reports UNB.

Sources said the two factions were engaged in an exchange of fire at Brahamandia village on Monday night. The villagers gathered after a while and caught Mantu with a pipe gun. They beat him before handing over to police

Police took Mantu to a local health complex.

Notes from Sylhet

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Aug 9: A youngman committed suicide at village Majergaon under Biswanath thana of Sylhet district recently.

According to the reports, the victim Faruque Ahmed (25), son of one Abdullah of the village committed suicide by hanging himself with the ceiling of their house. The cause of the incident could not be ascertained immediately.

A case of unnatural death had been registered with the Biswanath Police Station. Postmortem on the body was performed at the Sylhet MAG Osmany Medical College Hospital.

BDR-boatmen clash: 3 held

One BDR man was injured in an untoward incident between the boat labourers and the members of BDR near Kalasadak Border Outpost recently.

According to the reports, on the day of incident, the BDR personnel of the Sadakpur Outpost of Companyganj Thana under Sylhet district challenged a group of boat labourers while they were on their way towards the border area. There ensued an altercation of hot words. And at one stage, the boatmen started brickbating the BDR personnel. The BDR men then arrested three boatmen alongwith their boats from the area. A BDR man named Aminul Islam was injured in the incident.

A case in this connection had been registered with the police. The arrested persons had been handed over to the police station.

Unidentified woman body recovered

The body of an unidentified old woman was found at Sadipur area on Dhaka-Sylhet Highway recently.

According to the reports, the body of the unidentified old woman was found on the road. It is apprehended that, the victim was crushed under the wheels of some speeding vehicle at night.

A case of unnatural death had been registered with the police station in this connection.

Boy drowned

A young boy (15) was drowned when he was trying to learn how to swim at Mehndibagh, Sylhet town area recently.

According to the reports, the victim named Nahid Ahmed was trying to learn how to swim at narrow canal near his aunts house with the help of a tube. Suddenly the tube went out of control, causing his instantaneous death. He is the son of late Abdul Matin of Kazitola area of Sylhet town.

Thief beaten to death

A thief was beaten to death at village Jafrabad under Sylhet Sadar thana recently.

According to the reports, the thief was caught red-handed while he entered into the house of one Irshad Ali of the village. The villagers then gave him a good beating causing his instantaneous death.

On getting informations, a police party from the Sylhet Kotwali Police Station reached the spot and sent the body to the Sylhet MAG Osmany Medical College Hospital for postmortem.

A case in this connection had been lodged with the Kotwali police station.

Man's body recovered

The body of man was recovered from the Hakaluki haor of Beanibazar haor recently.

According to the reports, the victim Alhaj Abdur Rjaque of village Konagram under Beanibazar thana was missing from his house for a week. His body was found floating in the haor. The cause of the incident could not be ascertained immediately.

Diarrhoea claims six lives, attacks 100

BRAHMANBARIA, Aug 9 : Diarrhoea has claimed six lives and attacked over 100 others in Dariakandi of Bancharampur than of the district, reports UNB.

Six of the dead have been identified as Khaleda Begum (2), Jalal Mia (4), Hazera Begum (4), Rina (3), Momena (5) and Sanuara Begum (40).

Local people said the disease has broken out in an epidemic form in the area. Consumption of adulterated food and taking of impure water are said to be the main causes of the outbreak of the disease.

Another report says: Six people have been given life imprisonment for committing dacoity in the district.

The Assistant District and Sessions Judge also fined them Taka 2,000 each and in default, to suffer another three months rigorous imprisonment.

The convicts are : Selim, Miah, Md Sadeq Miah, Sanaullah, Kamal Miah, Shah Alam and Adul Awal.

According to the prosecution, a gang of dacoits in the guise of passengers boarded, the Sylhet bound Surma mail and looted belongings of the passengers on December 28, 1987.

They were later rounded up by police. The judgement was delivered on August 2.

Meanwhile, a discussion was held recently by Shahitya Academy, Brahmanbaria on the life and literary works of Khan Mohammad Farabi, a promising poet and writer who died at the age of 20.

The discussion was followed by a cultural function and musical soiree.

Father, son get life-term for killing rickshawpuller

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Aug 9: Father and son have been awarded life-term imprisonment for killing one person in Sylhet town, by M A Quddus, District and Sessions Judge Sylhet, recently.

The prosecution case in brief is that, on March 6 of 1991 at about 6-30 AM a rickshawpuller Rafique Miah of Raihossain Area of Sylhet town was killed in the hands of Ekram Hossain alias Kalamiah and his son Sherjuman over some trifling matter and previous enmity over some small transaction.

The victim's wife, Jarina used to sell fire wood. Rafique had some exchange of hot words with the killers over the transaction of the price of the firewood, on the day of incident. At one stage, the victim was hit with some sharp weapons causing his instantaneous death.

Just after the incident, a case in this connection was registered with the police station by Jarina Begum, wife of the victim.

The police after holding investigation submitted chargesheet against the accused persons Ekram Hossain and his son Sherjuman. As many as nine witnesses were produced before the court by the prosecution.

The court after examining all the records and witnesses found the accused persons guilty and passed aforesaid judgement.

The prosecution case was conducted by APP, AM Akhtaruzzaman while the defence was pleaded by Advocate Moulana Abdur Raqufb.

The District and Sessions Judge of Sunamganj while passing his judgement in a murder case of Derai Thana found one person guilty and sentenced him to suffer rigorous imprisonment for life on charge of killing his wife on July 25 last.

The prosecution case in brief is that, on March 3 of 1991, one Habibur Rahman of village Anwarpur under Derai thana under Sunamganj district killed his wife with a sharp weapon. A case in this connection was immediately registered with the Derai police station.

The prosecution case was conducted by the PP Advocate Manjur Humayun Chowdhury while the defence was pleaded by Advocate Bazlul Majid Khashru.

Farmers to get Tk 10.14 cr loan in southern dists

PATUAKHALI, Aug 9 : Sonali Bank has taken up a programme to disburse Taka 10.14 crore loan for cultivation of transplanted amon crop in 16 southern districts during the current financial year, reports UNB.

Official sources said of the total, Taka 71 lakh will be disbursed in Jhenaidah, Taka 89 lakh in Patuakhali, Taka 33 lakh in Barguna, Taka 43 lakh in Chuadanga, Taka 66 lakh in Pirojpur and Taka 41 lakh in Jhalakathi.

The bank will distribute Taka 1 crore in Barisal, Taka 1.02 crore in Jessore, Taka 94 lakh in Kushtia, Taka 54 lakh in Satkhira, Taka 53 lakh in Meherpur, Taka 67 lakh in Khulna, Taka 53 lakh in Bagherhat, Taka 36 lakh in Magura, Taka 56 lakh each in Bhola and Narail districts.

According to another report, Revenue Department has realised about Taka 4 crore as land development tax from Khulna district during the last financial year.

A report from Maijdee Court says : Bangladesh Krishi Bank disbursed Taka 4.46 crore loan among the farmers of six thanas of greater Noakahli district during the last financial year.

Of the total outstanding loan of Taka 33.85 crore the bank realised about Taka 4.76 crore during the same period, bank sources said.

The BKB has already distributed Taka 4.40 lakh to 94 farmers for transplanted amon cultivation. Taka 1.65 lakh to 16 farmers for cattle purchase and Taka 2.24 lakh to 17 farmers for other purposes through its 14 branches of six thanas during last one month.

Thana wise distribution of loans during the month of July is as follows : Taka 21,000 in Companigonj. Taka 2.12 lakh in Begumganj. Taka 2.52 lakh in Hatiya, Taka 1.32 lakh in Sadar, Taka 1.84 lakh in Senbag and Taka 26,000 in Chatkhil.

One admits being involved in Ratan killing Raten Sen

KHULNA, Aug 9: Three special squads headed by deputy commissioners of the Khulna Metropolitan Police were constituted today to track down the killers of Ratan Sen, reports UNB.

Officials said DCs Malik Khasru (Headquarters), Anisur Rahman (South Zone) and Shafiqul Islam of North Zone are leading the police teams.

Meanwhile, police have arrested five people in the last three days in a hunt for the assailants.

COX'S BAZAR: Amjad Hossain Sarkar, Divisional Forest Officer planting a sapling in front of local BSCIC office on the occasion of tree plantation programme held recently. — Star photo

Resign in honour of democracy, Moazzem tells govt

NARSHINGDI, Aug 9: Jatiya Party leader Shah Moazzem Hossain today decried the ruling party for, what he said, totally failing in maintaining law and order in the country, reports UNB.

Addressing a meeting at the local town hall he urged the government to resign in honour of democracy.

The meeting was presided by Abul Hayet Sarker, President of JP District unit.

The JP Secretary General in his speech referred to the 'no-confidence motions' to be moved by the opposition members in parliament against the present government and questioned the credibility of the government.

Newsmen observe token strike for realisation of demands

MYMENSINGH, Aug 9 : The members of the Dainik Jahan unit of Mymensingh Union of Journalists are observing a three-hour pendown from Wednesday to force the management to accept their 13-point demands including reinstatement of sacked journalist and employee, reports BSS.

The pendown will also continue.

Their demands include payment of arrear, salary and implementation of the wage board.

The journalists of the daily also submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner.

They also brought out procession which paraded the main streets of the town shouting slogans in favour of their demands.

Vice Chancellor of the Bangladesh Agricultural University Prof M Ashraf Ali inaugurated a fish fry release programme from the varsity fish farm recently.

The programme was formally opened by releasing 18,000 carp fry in the Isha Kha Hall Lake of the university on July 30.

Terming the fish as gold of the country, the VC, in his inaugural speech, urged fisheries scientists to take effective steps to boost fish production by popularising scientific fish culture.