

District roundup

DINAJPUR
Mobile courts file 135 cases against shop-owners

Aug 15: Mobile courts lodged 135 cases against shop-owners in different areas of Dinajpur, Kurigram, Thakurgaon, Bogra, Naogaon and Chapainawabganj districts for not using metric system of weighing, reports BSS.

According to an official source, a large number of people were fined Taka 19,035 by the courts for the offence. 18 maunds and five seers of weighing stones were also seized by the mobile courts.

The drives were jointly conducted by district and thana administrations, police and Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institutions.

TANGAIL
Cotton farming plan taken up

Aug 15: Bangladesh Cotton Development Board has taken up a programme for the cultivation of cotton in 6,125 acres of land in Tangail-Mymensingh Zone in the current season, reports BSS.

The cultivation is being made mainly in the hilly areas under 15 units with a production target of 1,00 bales of cotton.

According to an official source, of the areas 500 acres are located in irrigation command and the rest will depend on rain water.

Farmers alleged that the deep tubewells which could have been used for irrigation purpose had gone out of order. These tubewells should be repaired for facilitating irrigation.

Meanwhile the board is managing water supply in 200 acres of cotton field through mobile water tank.

SATKHIRA
Contraband goods worth Tk 2 lakh seized

Aug 15: Bangladesh Rifles seized contraband goods worth about Taka two lakh from Sholpur border area of the district recently, reports UNB.

Acting on secret information, BDR ambushed the area and seized the contraband goods including Indian saree, sugar, salt and cosmetics. They also seized two boats which were engaged in smuggling. The smugglers, however managed to escape.

Later, the goods were handed over to local customs authorities.

Several cases were filed with the local police.

KURIGRAM
Dacoits kill one, decamp with booty

Aug 15: A daring dacoity was committed and the dacoits killed one son of the house owner at village Parkarhat under Rajarhat thana in Kurigram district recently.

It is gathered that the dacoits armed with deadly weapons entered the house at dead of night by breaking open the door, beat the inmates mercilessly and decamped with valuables and cash money. The booty was estimated at about Taka 70,000.

It is further learnt that, while the dacoits were in their operation in the house of Durga Das, the M Sc pass son of the house owner namely Bankim Bakshi aged about 27 prevented them but the dacoits chopped him to death.

A case was started in this connection with Rajarhat police and the dead body was sent to Kurigram morgue for post mortem.

None has so far been arrested in his connection.

RANGPUR
Distribution of khas land demanded

Aug 15: Hundreds of landless farmers of Satrai village of Dimla thana of Nilphamari district brought out a procession Thursday demanding proper distribution of khas land, reports UNB.

The processionists marched through the street near the thana headquarters with banners in support of their demands recently here. They later handed over a memorandum to the thana land officer.

NOAKHALI
3960 tons of wheat distributed among destitutes

Aug 15: A total of 3960 tons of wheat was distributed among the 10,561 destitute families in six thanas and three pourashavas of the district during the last financial year, reports UNB.

Official sources said, each family was given 30.25 kg of wheat per month.

Thana wise allocation of wheat was as follows: 1320 tons in Sadar for 3522 families, 400 tons for 1069 families in Begumganj, 139 tons for 371 families in Chatkhil, 137 tons for 366 families in Scnbag, 418 tons for 1115 families in Companyganj and 1443 tons for 3048 families in Haliya.

Noakhali, Chaumuhani and Bashinath pourashavas were given 30 tons of wheat each for 90 destitute families in each poura area.

COMILLA
One gets 14 yrs RI for keeping illegal arms

Aug 15: A man was awarded 14 years rigorous imprisonment for keeping illegal arms and carrying out atrocities in the locality, reports UNB.

The prosecution story, in brief, was that police acting on secret information raided the house of the accused Abdur Rahim of village Arang in Chandina of the district and recovered a pipe gun from his possession on July 16, 1991.

The Additional Sessions Judge Eshtiaq Ahmed after examining the witnesses and records delivered the judgement recently.

MAGURA
Dacoits loot 14 cows

Aug 15: Dacoits looted 14 cows from two houses of village Borochara in Sreepur thana of the district, reports UNB.

Police said a gang of armed dacoits stormed the house of Jalil Mridha and decamped with 11 cows worth about Taka 1.20 lakh from the house on July 30.

They also raided the house of Chananat Moila of the same village and looted 3 cows worth about Taka 30,000.

A case has been filed with the Sreepur police.

JHENIDAH
One killed in road mishap

Aug 15: A man was killed in a road accident near Sheikhpura in Shalakhupa thana on Jhenidah-Kushtia highway recently, reports UNB.

Police said, the unidentified victim aged about 40 was injured seriously when suddenly fell down from a Kushtia bound running bus. He died on way to hospital.

The body was sent to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

A cash has been filed with the local police.

AGRI-VARSITY
BAU teacher selected in Who's Who in the world

Aug 15: The biographical profile of Dr Lutfor Rahman Khan, Professor in the Department of Irrigation and Water Management under the Faculty of Agricultural Engineering and Technology of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) has been selected for inclusion in 11th Edition of Marquis Who's Who in the World as Engineering Educator, says a Press release.

This publication has long been recognised as the foremost biographical guide to outstanding figures having international influence and importance.

A reputed teacher in irrigation and water management, Dr Khan is a leading researcher in various dimensions of groundwater resource development and its utilization in agriculture of Bangladesh. He worked in close association with Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) for developing research and professional training on ground water.

It may be mentioned here that Dr Khan was awarded the 1990 Third World Academy of Science Gold Medal by the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences in recognition of his outstanding research works. He hails from village Dargerbond under Shilpur Thana of Narsingdi District.



GAZIPUR: The pitiable condition of Station Road, one of the main roads of the pourashava. Water remain stagnant after a slight rainfall.

85 pc children suffering from malnutrition

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Aug 15: About 85 per cent children of the district have been suffering from various diseases due to malnutrition.

According to a study conducted by a foreign team, child mortality rate is increasing day by day in the areas due to malnutrition and absence of proper treatment.

The diseases are gottre, skin disease, blind, fever, weakness, acidity, hernia, piles, dysentery, malaria, cough, leprosy, warm etc.

The report says that the economic condition of the people of the district has become very bad due to continuous flood, drought, excessive rain, cyclone and other natural calamities. The people especially the rural people find it difficult to arrange their daily

food. As a result, they are unable to feed their children necessary food for maintaining the requisite vitality.

The ignorance of the parent is also responsible for the large scale malnutrition in the different areas of the district.

The rural illiterate people are of the view that they have no money to buy costly food which is a must for keeping the children fit. They do not know that things easily available at cheaper price can also supply the requisite vitamin.

Some social workers told this correspondent that a massive drive to motivate the rural people about the use and vitality of locally available food is needed.

A foreign health organisation in collaboration with the local Health Department con-

ducted a survey in the last financial year in seven thanas of the district where a total of 18 lakh people has been covered.

The survey team suggested that steps are needed to help the people recover the vitamin deficiency which many of the rural people have been suffering from. The increase of the various diseases is alarming, the team informed.

The number of gottre, skin and cancer diseases is also greater in different areas of the district.

The organisation has submitted a report regarding the malnutrition of the people of the district to the World Health Organisation where it has recommended for measures to take steps immediately for the early remedy.

Manager faces misappropriation charge Bank branches stop transaction

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Aug 15: All the three branches of the Islamic Co-operative Bank in Sylhet district have stopped their functioning causing great inconveniences to the people in general.

The Manager of the Sylhet branch of the bank had been arrested following a report submitted by the District Co-operative Officer, Sylhet. The branch at Laldighirpur area of Sylhet town had also been sealed by the district administration.

According to the report, Mohammad Saad Uddin, Manager of the Sylhet branch through a letter informed the Deputy Commissioner that the Board of Directors of the bank was showing no interest in running the branches in Sylhet.

He also urged upon the Deputy Commissioner of take the banks property into the governments custody. Accordingly the Deputy Commissioner ordered a magistrate to seal the bank branch at Laldighirpur area in presence of Assistant Superintendent of Police. The property of the bank branch were also seized on the same day.

A cash amount of Taka 37,175.71 was found in the bank. The Deputy

Commissioner informed the Bangladesh Bank of the matter. The Bangladesh Bank then asked the district Co-operative Officer to submit a report.

The District Co-operative Officer in his report said, the Manager granted eighty per cent of the branch's deposit to some persons or firms as OD

without keeping any security. The Manager did not follow the minimum formalities of the banking rule in disbursing loans. The report also suggested for necessary action against the Manager for violating the banking regulations.

After submission of the report, a case was registered with the police. The Kotwall police later arrested the Manager from his residence at Hazrat Shahjalal Uposhahar area.

The two other branches of the bank at Biswanath thana headquarters and Charkhal Bazar under the Beanibazar thana had also been stopped their operations for the last few days.

Hundreds of depositors of these branches also have become worried over the situation. It is further informed that, the Manager of the Sylhet branch was acting as incharge of the branches at Biswanath and Charkhal. The Sylhet branch was also being used to keep the deposit of those branches.

It is further informed that, an amount of about Taka one crore had been misappropriated by the bank officials through the branches in Sylhet areas.



RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY: Dr Ghulam Murshed, a renowned writer and broadcaster of BBC has been accorded a reception recently by the reciters' forum 'Swanan'. Dilruba Afroz Shirin, Joint Convener of 'Swanan' presenting flower sticks to Murshed.

Notes from Barisal

BARISAL, Aug 15: Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKIB), Barisal Zone, has distributed Taka 45.41 crore as agriculture loan among the farmers of 65 thanas in 11 southern districts of the country in the last fiscal year, reports BSS.

The districts are: Barisal, Jhalakathi, Bhola, Pirojpur, Patuakhali, Barguna, Faridpur, Gopalganj, Madaripur, Shariatpur and Rajbari.

According to an official source, the loan was disbursed for the cultivation of aus, boro, aman, wheat, vegetables, mustard, purchase of oxen, pisciculture, small and cottage industry and purchase of agriculture equipments.

Government had sanctioned Taka 72.20 crore for disbursement among the farmers of the districts through 191 branches of the bank in the 1991-92 fiscal year, the source said.

6317 tubewells installed

Public Health Engineering Department (PHE) of Barisal circle has sunk 2,903 deep and 3,414 shallow tubewells at a cost of Taka 18,18,52,800/- in 65 thanas of eleven southern districts for the supply of pure drinking water in rural and urban areas during the last fiscal year.

The districts covered by this programme are: Barisal, Jhalakathi, Bhola, Pirojpur, Patuakhali, Barguna, Faridpur, Madaripur, Gopalganj, Rajbari and Shariatpur.

According to an official source, of the total, 1,821 deep and 962 shallow tubewells were sunk with the financial assistance of UNICEF while 1,082 deep and 2,452 shallow tubewells were installed with the financial assistance of the government of Saudi Arabia.

Each deep tubewell costs Taka 42,122 and shallow tubewell Taka 4,525. Of the total, 1,069 tubewells were sunk in Barisal district, 902 in Jhalakathi, 1,063 in Pirojpur, 563 in Bhola, 972 in Patuakhali, 696 in Barguna, 235 in Faridpur, 223 in Madaripur, 305 in Shariatpur, 273 in Gopalganj and 16 in Rajbari districts.

2508000 tons of foodgrain produced
About 25,08,000 metric tons of different varieties of foodgrains were produced in 65 thanas of 11 southern districts under Barisal agriculture zone in the last fiscal year.

The districts are: Barisal, Pirojpur, Jhalakathi, Bhola, Patuakhali, Barguna, Faridpur, Madaripur, Gopalganj, Rajbari and Shariatpur.

According to an official source, of the total 3,40,000 metric tons were produced in Barisal district, 1,91,000 metric tons in Pirojpur, 1,20,000 metric tons in Jhalakathi, 3,41,000 metric tons in Patuakhali, 2,18,000 metric tons in Barguna, 3,48,000 metric tons in Bhola, 2,58,000 metric tons in Faridpur, 1,76,000 metric tons in Madaripur, 2,00,000 metric tons in Gopalganj, 1,23,000 metric tons in Rajbari and 2,16,000 metric tons in Shariatpur districts.

Loot in launches, coaches rampant

UNB adds: Widespread looting of arms and ammunition has been reported from passenger launches and coaches on the river routes and surface roads in the southern districts.

According to a police report, 52 rifles, 1229 rounds of ammunition including 8 bayonets were looted from passenger coaches and launches by miscreants during last three years.

Sources said armed miscreants killed at least 10 Ansars and two passengers including a villager during the period.

Law enforcing agencies could not arrest any of the miscreants or could not recover any looted arms yet.

Shafiq all praise for new exam system

From Our Correspondent
RAJSHAHI, Aug 15: Shafiqul Islam, of Rajshahi Cadet College, who stood first in this year's Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations from the Rajshahi Board wants to be a Computer Engineer.

In an interview with The Daily Star, Shafiq said he had studied four hours a day while in college and six hours while staying in his residence.

He went to private tutors for one month to learn mathematics.

Shafiq was all praise for the new examination system.

ERRATA: The misplacement of captions of the pictures published on this page on 11.8.92 is regretted.

Diarrhoea death toll 22 in Chapainawabganj

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Aug 15: Diarrhoea that broke out in an epidemic form claimed seven lives in the district on Wednesday, reports UNB.

With this the death toll stood at 22 since the outbreak of the disease recently.

The victims were identified as Kutul (6), Nasrin (4), Mosur (2) of Sadar thana, Babu (8 months) of Shilganj thana and Abu Talha (7) of Gomostapur thana.

According to informed sources, about 3600 people most of them are women and children of five thanas have been attacked by the disease.

Consumption of adulterated food and taking of impure water were attributed to the outbreak of the disease.

Rampant slaughtering of sick animals in unhygienic conditions is going on in and around the district town polluting environment and posing a serious threat to the public health.

Sick, old and injured cows, buffaloes and goats are being indiscriminately slaughtered on the roads almost every day. Meat of these animals are sold in hats and bazars unchecked and at high prices, local people alleged.

Besides, food wastes, trashes, filth and garbages are dumped on the roads and left uncleared for many days, polluting environment, they added.

Local people urged the authorities to build a slaughter house in the town to stop unhygienic slaughtering of animals.

UPEP facing setback

MADARIPUR, Aug 15: The Universal Primary Education Programme UPEP has been facing setback due to manifold problems in the district, reports UNB.

Sources said, dilapidated condition of the primary school buildings, shortage of teachers and accommodation problems are hampering the implementation of the programme in four thanas and poura areas.

Moreover, educational expenses have gone beyond the capacity of the poor people of the area.

Local leaders urged the concerned authorities to remove these bottlenecks to successfully implement the programme.

The election of the district unit of Jatiya Sangbadik Sangstha was held recently at the office of the local weekly 'Bartaman Isham'.

Khaledur Rahman (Bangladesh Observer) and Maniruzzaman Mamun (Daily Rupali) were elected President

Secretary respectively. Other office bearers are: Gouri Shankar Mukharjee and Mohammad Ali Khan - Vice Presidents, Abul Hasan Sobel

Muttalib elected Vice-President of Satkhira DSA

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Aug 15: Abdul Muttalib has been elected Vice-President of Satkhira District Sports Association for four terms recently.

The other members are/as follows: AK Nizamuddin - Secretary, A Momin Khan Chowdhury and Ghulam Mortoza - Joint Secretaries, Syed Azizul Hoque - Treasurer and other ten members.

Muttalib is the President, Satkhira Press Club and Editor, the Daily Kelela.

He is also allied with the educational and socio-cultural organisations of the district.



Md Jamil Hossain of village Kashimpur under Joydevpur has secured second position in the combined merit list of the SSC examination from Comilla Board this year. He has secured 897 marks with distinction in Bengali, English and Mathematics. Jamil, who appeared from Comilla Cadet College is seen with his parents.

Space inadequate in hat

MADARIPUR, Aug 15: Utrael Hat in Sadar thana of the district, an important commercial centre is beset with manifold problems, reports UNB.

Inadequate space has been hampering the smooth trading. Silted drains and garbages dumped in the bazar areas are polluting the environment.

The bazar roads are too narrow and dilapidated. Cracks have developed on many points and playing of vehicles become risky and the roads become muddy and slippery after a slight rainfall.

Shops and sheds have been erected in unplanned manner causing inconvenience to buyers and sellers. Local leaders and businessmen have demanded of the concerned authority to develop and extend the bazar immediately.

The Lily production groves in Madaripur and Shariatpur districts are being destroyed due to lack of maintenance and plantation.

Intensive aman farming plan in Gaibandha

From Our Correspondent
GAIBANDHA, Aug 15: An intensive aman cultivation plan has been taken in the district during this current season.

Under this programme, about one lakh 20 thousand hectare of land will be cultivated aman crop. Out of that, HYV will be cultivated on 85 thousand hectare of land and local variety on 35 thousand hectare of land.

According to District Agriculture Extension Department, thana-wise break up of the cultivation is: Gaibandha sadar-18,000 hectare, Sadullapur-16,000 hectare, Palashbari-10,000 hectare, Gobindaganj-31,000 hectare, Sunderganj-24,000 hectare, Shaghata-14,000 hectare and Fulehbari-7,000 hectare. Meanwhile, adequate seed beds were prepared to meet the requirement of aman seedlings. Besides, government will provide all possible help including seedling, fertilizer, pesticide and loans to the farmers.

Dean election of JU Aug 18

SAVAR, Aug 15: Six candidates recently submitted their nomination papers for the election of Deans in three faculties of Jahangirnagar University scheduled for August 18, reports UNB.

The candidates split into the panels submitted their papers to returning officer Mohammad Ali, the registrar of the university.

Sixty six candidates of the two panels also submitted, their nomination papers for the election of 33 teacher representatives to the senate to be held on the same day.