

District roundup

HABIGANJ

Bail petition of 4 JCD, Jubo Dal leaders rejected

Oct 3: The Sessions Judge of Special Tribunal Number One Wednesday rejected the bail petition of four Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Jubo Dal leaders who were arrested on charges of demanding tolls, reports UNB.

The accused Kamal Uddin former GS of Brindaban College unit, Enamul Haque Selim, Secretary, Sadar thana unit, Shamim Siddiq, President of Sadar thana and Alauddin, sports secretary of Jubo Dal were sent to the jail house.

They were arrested while demanding tolls from Subud Bank, a jewellery shopowner of the town on July 5.

Meanwhile, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal brought out a procession in the town demanding immediate release of their leaders.

MAGURA

Teen-age girl commits suicide

Oct 3: A teen-age girl of village Nijmandul of Sadar thana allegedly committed suicide by taking poison Saturday, reports UNB.

Police and family sources said, Kulsum Begum (18), daughter of Syed Ali Fakir took her life out of frustration in the family.

The postmortem of the body was performed at Sadar hospital morgue.

A UD case was lodged with the local police in this connection.

KUSHIA

Three hurt in road mishap

Oct 3: Three persons received injuries in a road accident on Wednesday in front of Kushtia Circuit House. The accident occurred in a collision between a truck and a motor cycle Thursday last, reports BSS.

Two of the injured persons were admitted to Kushtia General Hospital in a critical condition. One of them was later sent to Dhaka for better treatment. One person was given first aid.

Police seized the truck, the driver is absconding.

FENI

Freshers' reception

Oct 3: A freshers' reception of Feni Government College was held on September 28 at Feni Railway Station platform here, reports BSS.

Principal of the college Prof. M Nurul Anwar presided over the function. Director of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission Dr Wazed Miah was present at the function as chief guest.

The reception was followed by a discussion and a musical soiree.

SIRAJGANJ

Sadar thana hqs turns into pourashava

Oct 3: Ullapara Sadar thana headquarters has been turned into a pourashava, reports UNB.

LORD Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder announced the formation of the pourashava while inaugurating a training course on Ullapara Thana Development on September 18.

With this, three out of nine thanas of the district have been made pourashavas, sources said.

The other pourashavas are: Sirajganj Sadar and Shajadpur.

RANGPUR

One stabbed to death

Oct 3: A man was stabbed to death at Tepara Modhupur village in Kaunia thana of the district, police said Thursday, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, Abed Ali picked up a quarrel with the covillager Abdul Aziz (25) over catching of fish on September 25. During the altercation Abed Ali got furious and stabbed Aziz to death.

The body was sent to morgue for autopsy and a case has been filed with the police.

Another report adds: Police recovered a body of an unidentified man from Nagirdaha Char village in Kaunia thana Monday.

The body was sent to morgue for autopsy and a case was filed with the local thana.

RAJSHAHI

Pro-JSD Chhatra League unit committee formed

Oct 3: A 33-member committee of pro-JSD (Inu) Chhatra League of Rajshahi University unit was formed at its council meeting held here recently, reports UNB.

Campus sources said Karim Shikder, Ahmedul Kabir and MA Ganf were elected as president, general secretary and organising secretary respectively.

The committee was constituted in a separate meeting which was attended by Hasanul Haque Inu, General Secretary of JSD and Ruhul Kuddus Babu, Chhatra League president.

NATORE

Four held on charge of dacoity

From Our Correspondent

Oct 3: Police arrested four persons from Chakbawddanath area under Sadar thana on charge of dacoity recently.

The arrested persons are: Masud Ali, Arzu, Masud and Sahjan.

A case was registered with the Sadar thana in this regard.

Another report adds: A dacoity was committed at Makrampur village under Sadar thana recently.

A group of armed dacoits entered into the house of one Kalipado Pramanik and decamped with the valuables worth about Taka 1.50 lakh.

A case has been filed with Sadar thana in this regard.

BRAHMANBARIA

One gets one year RI for keeping illegal hemp

From Our Correspondent

Oct 3: Sadar thana Magistrate Golam Rabbani sentenced one person to suffer one year imprisonment for keeping illegal hemp recently.

The prosecution case in brief is that on October 20, 1991 district Narcotics Control inspector Liaqutullah raided the house of one Nurmia of village Kalishma under Sadar thana and arrested him with 1.20 kg hemp. Later a case was filed against the accused.

Another report adds: One Dipak Chandra Paul (12), son of Sukumar Chandra Paul of village Singerbil under Sadar thana of the district committed suicide by taking poison over family feud recently.

MANIKGANJ

Catching of fish fry unabated

From Our Correspondent

Oct 3: Defying the government order, the fish fry are being caught indiscriminately in different parts of the district.

It is reported that a section of fishermen in the districts are catching fish fry of ruhi, katla and mrigel from river, canals and haors.

Everyday a huge quantity of different varieties of fish fry are being sold in different markets and bazars of the district.

It is learnt that some of the fishermen are using current nets for catching these fish fry.

The government has banned the catching of fish fry below nine inches to implement its open water fish production programme.

KISHOREGANJ

AL unit confce held

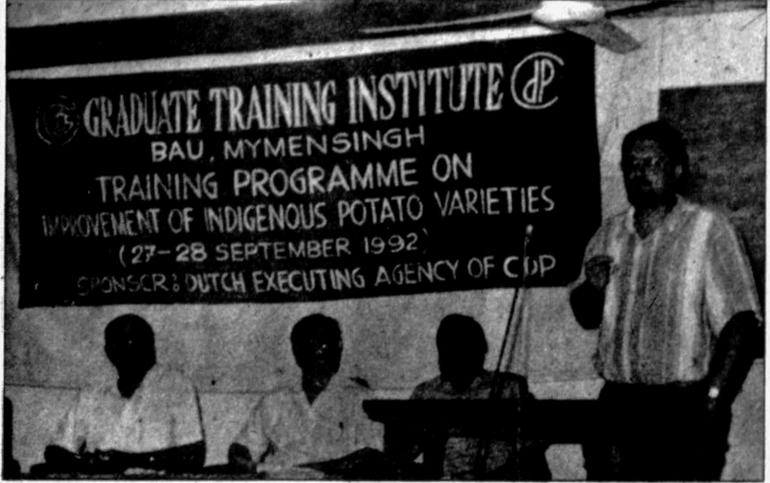
From Our Correspondent

Oct 3: The biennial conference of Bangladesh Awami League of Katiadi union unit was held at thana, unit premises recently.

The conference was presided over by Abdul Awal, Advocate Abdul Hamid MP and Convener of district Awami League and Central Leader of Awami League M A Afzal and Habibur Rahman Habib attended the conference as chief and special guests respectively.

The conference was addressed, among others by Advocate Zillur Rahman, Sahadat Hossain, Anwar Kamal, Abdur Rahman, Shamsul Alam, Btraj Kumar Saha and Advocate Miah Mohammad Ferdous.

Later a 39-member executive committee was elected with Alauddin Alal and Mujibur Rahman Hamid, president and general secretary respectively.



AGRI-VARSITY: The Project Coordinator, Dutch Executing Agency of Crop Diversification Programme, Marins Pakkar speaking at the closing session of a training programme on 'improvement of indigenous potato varieties' held at the GTI of BAU on September 28. — Star photo

Malaria claims 196 in three hill dists during 2 months

From Our Correspondent

RANGAMATI, Oct 3: Malaria has so far claimed 196 lives in three hill districts during the last two months, union parishad and thana sources informed.

About 20,000 people have been suffering from the killer disease in different areas of the districts.

Rupamoy Tauchanga Babul of Belkuchi thana, a councillor of the local government council of Rangamati hill district said that in every family you will find one of two persons who have been suffering from malaria. He also informed that the disease is spreading fast and it has taken an alarming form.

The death figure received from different sources includes 54 in Banderban, 67 in Khagrachhari, and 65 in Rangamati. Ten members of the security forces have also died from the disease.

The worst affected thanas of the region are: Roangchhari, and Lama of Banderban, Langudu, Baghachari and Rajshahi of Rangamati and Matiranga, Panchhari and Dighinola of Khagrachhari hill district.

Non-spray of DDT in the region for the last two years to help maintain ecological balance, absence of malaria drugs and medicare facilities in the thana health complex and medicare centres, poverty of the patients are the main problems for which the disease is spreading.

Thousands of patients come to Khagrachhari, Banderban, Rangamati and Kaptai hospitals for treatment but most of the patients return back without treatment. The patients who have got ability go to the private clinics and arrange treatment.

Dr Babul Chandra Dey who treats patients in Khagrachhari Bazar and Dr Nirmal Kanti Barua in Kaptai told this correspondent that 80 per cent patients come with falciform parasite and the rest with vivax. Falciform is the worst type of malaria parasite which can kill a patient within 36 hours if not treated timely and properly, the doctors said.

Taking the advantage of shortage of doctors and medicine, some dishonest quacks are taking higher charges from the poor patients of the area.

The people of the area have urged the authorities concerned to take immediate steps to combat disease and save hundreds of inhabitants of the area from sufferings.

Poor distribution of agri-loan

A UNB report says: Only 11 per cent of the total sanctioned loan of different banks have been disbursed due to the alleged negligence of the officials severely affecting the farmers.

Bank sources said an amount of Taka 1.75 crore had been sanctioned for farmers in the district during the year 1991-92.

They said, in seven thanas of the district Sonali Bank disbursed Taka 5.32 lakh as against the total sanctioned amount of Taka 32.00 lakh. Agrani Bank Taka 65,000 against its sanctioned amount of Taka 5 lakh. Janata Bank only Taka 10,000 against Taka 3.75 lakh and Bangladesh Krishi Bank Taka 7.44 against Taka 93.44 lakh.

Rupali Bank has not yet disbursed any loan out of its sanctioned amount of Taka 0.65 lakh.

The loan was sanctioned for boro and aus cultivation programme but the majority of the farmers of the district mainly engaged in jhoom cultivation were allegedly excluded from the disbursement schedule.

The rate of disbursement of agri-loan in two other hill district, Rangamati and Khagrachhari, is even lower than that of this district.

Gur Pukur Mela, an unique fair

FARIDPUR, Oct 3: 'Gur Pukur Mela,' perhaps the only plants fair in the country, is held every year for seven days from 31st Bhadra in Satkhira district town, reports UNB.

No one knows for sure since when the fair started. People believe it is being held for about 200 years.

Gur Pukur is situated at Polashpole area, just north to Polashpole Ideal High School in the Satkhira district town. It is generally said that one Kajal Khan Chowdhury, a zamindar of the time, started it. Others say, one Gur Bibi, a philanthropist, initiated it.

People from all parts of the country come to the mela to purchase plants, seeds and furniture. About 400 to 500 plant traders and owners of private nurseries open their shops at the mela.

While visiting the mela some of them told this correspondent that they sell a few lakhs of plants of thousands varieties of flower, fruit and timber during the week long fair. Seeds and wooden furniture of special quality have a great demand, they added.

These plants, small and big, are then transported to the various parts of the country by boats, trucks and buses.

Ibrahim Dewani of Shayampur Sugar Mills, Rangpur, told this correspondent at the mela that he has been coming to the fair for last 11 years to purchase plants. "These are cheap here and traders are honest and sincere", he said.

Abdul Hossain Mollah of village Belnagar in Magura district was also of the same view. "I have been purchasing quality mango plants from the mela for the last 20 years. But none of the plant traders cheated me in the quality," he said with a big smile.

Following a directive from the Chief Engineer, all the Executive Engineers and concerned senior officials of Local Government Engineering Department, visited Gur Pukur Mela this year to purchase plants and acquire practical knowledge to grow private nurseries.

The Engineers also visited some private nurseries including the ones run by LGED employees welfare association, Satkhira.

A source close to LGED told this correspondent at the mela that the department has taken up a comprehensive country-wide planting programme.

Under this programme, planting along rural and feeder roads have been completed.



Notes from Maulvibazar

From Our Correspondent

MAULVIBAZAR, Oct 3: A meeting of brick manufacturers was held at Maulvibazar recently.

The meeting was presided over by Al-Haj Abdul Khalique Mobarak.

The meeting protested the government decision to impose VAT on brick-manufacturing industry. They also demanded easy supply of gas and coal in the brick-fields to protect fire-woods.

A 30-member committee for Maulvibazar district Brick Manufacturers' Association was also formed in the meeting with Al-Haj Abdul Khalique Mobarak as president and Mirza Farid Ahmed Beg as secretary.

Diploma engs submit memorandum to DC

Diploma engineers of the district have submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner to press home their professional demand recently.

A delegation of the Institute of Diploma Engineers Bangladesh (IDEB), Maulvibazar district branch met the Deputy Commissioner and requested him to sent memorandum to the Prime Minister.

After submission of the memorandum, the IDEB held a meeting at local Public Library auditorium with Shahidul Islam Khan in the chair and it was addressed among others by Jalal Ahmed, Golam Kibria Chowdhury and Mafzulah.

National Immunization Week inaugurated

The first National Immunization Week (NIW), 1992, was inaugurated here with the stress on increased motivational drive for reaching the message of EPI programme to the poor and illiterate people.

The inaugural function which was jointly organised by district Civil-Surgeon office and Maulvibazar pourashava, was held at pourashava auditorium recently. Nurul Anwar, Civil-Surgeon of Maulvibazar presided over the function and it was addressed among others by Abdul Kadir Mahmud, S Aminur Rasul-ADC (General), Azizul Haque, Deputy Director of Family Planning and Syed Mohsin Ali ex-Chairman of Maulvibazar pourashava.

Aparadh Protirodh meet held

A meeting of newly floated Dhaka-based organisation Aparadh Protirodh-Kalayan Parishad (Crime Resistance and Welfare Association) was held at local Jahangir Community centre recently with Dr SA Haque in the chair.

The meeting was addressed among others by Major (Rtd) Khaledur Rahman, Col (Rtd) MA Matin and central president of the organisation Moinuddin Ahmed.

Speakers of the meeting expressed their anxiety over recent political situation in Maulvibazar. They condemned the terrorist activities and call the people to resist terrorists unitedly.

After the discussion, a 43-member committee of the organisation for Maulvibazar district unit was formed with Dr SA Haque as convener and Major (Rtd) Khaledur Rahman as joint convener.

Educationist dead

Abani Kanta Chowdhury, a noted educationist and former headmaster of Sylhet aided High School died recently. He was 75.

Chowdhury, suffering from disease, died at his Shahjalal Uposahar residence in Sylhet. He left behind his wife, two sons and two daughters.

Travel agents meet concludes

A meeting of Travel Agents in Maulvibazar was held recently at local Bazit Travels with Miliabur Rahman in the chair.

The meeting discussed the various problems in their business in Maulvibazar. They took some professional decision.

A nine-member executive committee was formed in the meeting for 'Association of Travel Agents in Maulvibazar' with Miladur Rahman and Abdul Basit Tarapder as president and secretary respectively.

Hemp worth about Tk 50,000 recovered

SHERPUR, Oct 3: The Narcotics Control Department has recovered ganja (hemp) worth about Taka 50,000 from a village under Sreebardi thana recently, reports BSS.

Official sources said that acting on secret information the Narcotics Control Department personnel raided the house of one Yousof Ali Khalifa of village Kharia and recovered a huge quantity of ganja.

A case was registered in this connection, the source said.

Paddy on 25000 acres under pest attack

From Our Correspondent

MADARIPUR, Oct 3: Aman paddy on 25000 acres of land have been attacked by pests in four thanas of the district.

The pests are locally known as 'majra' and 'pamri' poka. The cultivation of aman paddy has been delayed this year due to unprecedented drought.

According to Agricultural Department, 11,467 acres of land have been taken under aman cultivation during the current season.

It is informed that in many cases, pesticides are ineffective. The pesticides purchased from local markets are adulterated, it is reported.

Another report says: About 2000 ponds in different parts of the district have been lying derelict due to lack of proper maintenance and renovation.

Most of the ponds are silted and dried up. Some ponds are covered with water-hyacinth. So, pisciculture is being hampered greatly.

Another report adds: Selling of phenistyle, a contraband drug is going on unabated in the district.

Indian phenistyle syrup is being sold in different grocery shops of the town.

The workers and employees of A R Hawlader Jute Mills will observe a token hunger strike on October 11 and a hunger strike till death on October 30 in front of the Dhaka National Press Club to realise their 3-point demand.

The demands include reopening of the mills, payment of dues for the past 27 months and stopping police harassment of workers.

Pry text books available in open market

GAZIPUR, Oct 3: Text books supplied for the primary schools are found in the open markets of the district instead of the students, local sources alleged, reports UNB.

The Bangladesh School Text Book Board supplied text books for free distribution among the students of both government and non-government primary schools.

The bookshop owners are selling books of class one and class two at the rate of Tk 10 per copy. It is alleged that the books supplied free of cost find ways to the market from the thana education office or from the school office rooms.

Many of the non-government primary schools collect a huge quantity of books submitting inflated list of enrollments, sources said.

Despite of the government ban, booksellers have also been selling notes on primary text books, they said.

The guardians urged the authorities to stop this sort of malpractice by taking punitive action against the offenders.

Assailants kill one in Kushtia

KUSHTIA, Oct 3: Abdur Rashid (30) of village Alampur of Sadar thana was killed by unknown assailants on Monday, reports UNB.

Police said a notorious dacoit was arrested a few days ago following the theft of a gun belonging to the father of the victim.

Local people feel that Abdur Rashid was killed as a retaliatory measure. A case has been registered with the police.

The body was sent to Kushtia general hospital for autopsy.

Treatment at early stage can prevent, cure cancer

RAJSHAHI, Oct 3: About 30 per cent of the cancer disease can be prevented and about 50 per cent of the patients cured with proper treatment at a very early stage, experts said, reports UNB.

They were speaking at a seminar on 'cancer problem in Bangladesh', organised by Rajshahi Cancer Shelter (RCS), held at the Zilla Parishad Auditorium Friday with the RCS President Prof Jubaida Khatoon in the chair.

Cancer patients in Bangladesh, they said, come to the doctors at the terminal stage when very little can be done, the experts said.

They also stressed the need for creating awareness among the public about cancer providing information and education on prevention, early detection and treatment of cancer.

Five papers on different aspects of cancer were presented in the seminar. A keynote paper 'Cancer problem in Bangladesh' was presented by President of Bangladesh Cancer Society, Prof Sayed Fazul Haq.

Besides, Director of CI&RH, Dhaka, Prof Md Abdul Hal, spoke on 'Prevention of cancer'. Dr Akhtaruzzaman presented a paper on 'surgical



NARSINGDI: The Rotary Club of Dhaka Down town recently arranged a free medical treatment camp at a high school in Monohardi thana where over 350 patients get treatment. Dr M Muinul Hafiz and others attended the camp. — Star photo

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