

District roundup

MADARIPUR

Kutchra latrines posing serious threat to health

From Our Correspondent
Nov 3: Kutchra latrines are posing a great threat to public health in Kalkini thana of the district.

Almost all the inhabitants of this thana use kutchra latrines out of their ignorance. Even at the thana town, people show an apathy towards using sanitary or sealed latrines.

Thousands of kutchra latrines have been set up on the side of the rivers, canals and even ponds in rural areas which helps outbreak of diarrheal disease.

The thana Public Health Engineering Department sources said, they had adequate stock of rings and slabs for sanitary latrines but people were least interested in taking supply of them.

It is alleged that the Health Department did not initiate any motivation programme to create public awareness about the hazards of kutchra latrines.

JAMALPUR

One stabbed to death

From Our Correspondent
Nov 3: One Anwar Hossain Sonar (28), son of Ahsanullah Mandal of village Vabli under Melandah thana was stabbed to death by some of his neighbours recently.

According to police, some of his neighbours called the victim out of his house and stabbed him mercilessly. As a result, he died on the spot.

A case was registered with Melandah thana in this regard. Later, the body was sent to the Jamalpur General Hospital for post-mortem.

BSS report adds: Sadar thana police recovered 80 smuggled cows and arrested 14 persons from Nandina Ferry Ghat recently, reports BSS.

Acting on a secret information, a contingent of police raided the area, recovered the Indian cows and arrested the alleged smugglers.

A case has been lodged in this connection.

NARAYANGANJ

Stoppage of holding tax assessment demanded

Nov 3: The town residents brought out a procession demanding the stoppage of municipal holding tax assessment, reports BSS.

Organised by Narayanganj Shahar Unnayan Sangram Parishad, the processionists carrying banners and festoons also shouted slogans for the election of Narayanganj Paurashaha.

The Narayanganj Paurashaha elected body was dissolved in 1988.

The leaders of the sangram parishad gave a memorandum to the administrator of the paurashaha for redress of their grievances.

The administrator assured them of his best help in this connection.

PATUAKHALI

Rat menace alarming

Nov 3: Rat menace has alarmingly increased in the croplands mainly in char areas of Dashmina thana of the district, reports UNB.

Farmers said aman production is being hampered due to the attack of the rats in Charhad, Char Sahajal, Char Borhan villages and its adjoining paddy fields.

The rats are damaging the paddy plants even where the water exists.

The farmers alleged that in spite of repeated appeal the local agriculture department failed to take any measure to combat the growing menace.

JHENIDAH

Dacoit beaten to death

From Our Correspondent
Nov 3: One Muktar Hossain, a dacoit was beaten to death and other three Sohrab, Younus and Gofur were injured at Dautia in Shailakupa thana on Saturday night.

It is reported that the dacoits were in a bid to committing dacoity. At that time, an underground political group appeared who apprehended them. They started beating the dacoits who sustained serious injuries. Muktar rushed to Magura hospital where he died on Sunday. Other three were sent to Kushtia and Dhaka for treatment. A case was recorded with Shailakupa thana.

BRAHMANBARIA

Pass of anti-terrorism bill resented

From Our Correspondent
Nov 3: A meeting of Zilla Awami League held in the district bar hall protesting the pass of anti-terrorism bill recently.

The meeting was presided over by Zila Awami League Vice-President Advocate Sirajul Islam while Central Leader Monam Sarker and Abdul Awal Awami League Presidium Member Dr Salim was present in the meeting as chief guest.

It was addressed among others by Kamruzzaman Ansari, Latiful Hai Sacchu, Emdadul Bari, Tafsilul Islam, Amanul Haque Sento, Al-Mamun Sarker, Rais Ahmed, Ful Miah, Dilara Harun, Nirod Baran, Mujibur Rahman, Mohiuddin Tapas, Emdadul Hoque Chowdhury, Shah Alam, Aminur Rahman Bhuiya Amin.

SATKHIRA

Rickshaws causing traffic obstruction

Nov 3: Innumerable rickshaws have been creating traffic obstruction in and around the town for long, reports UNB.

Most of the rickshaws plying on the roads do not use lamps at night and many of them even have no licence.

Local leaders alleged that the rickshaws parked in front of schools, bus stands, cinema halls and market places, cause congestion and obstruct movement of pedestrians and vehicles.

Town dwellers have urged the authority to stop violation of traffic rules by the rickshaws.

CHITTAGONG

Punishment to killers of Hawker Zahir demanded

Nov 3: Chattagram Zila Sangbadpatro Hawkers Union submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner demanding judicial enquiry into the killing of Hawker Zahir, Ahmed and punishment to the miscreants responsible for the murder, reports BSS.

Hawker Zahir died on October 14 while he was allegedly beaten mercilessly by some unknown persons at Ghatforhadbag here.

The union has been demanding identification and arrest of the alleged killer of Zahir through various programme including protest meetings and processions.

The union will also stage a dawn to dusk hunger strike in front of Chittagong press club on November 2, as part of their movement.

NARAIL

Child labourers on rise

Nov 3: The number of child labourers is increasing in the district due mainly to poverty, reports UNB.

Recurrent flood, drought, cyclone and other natural calamities have rendered most of the marginal farmers destitute and landless farmers beggars in the district.

Child labourers of these families have been working in different factories, hotels and restaurants in the district to assist their moribund parents financially.

Many children are also seen working as rickshawpullers while others as agriculture day labourers.

The children work hard but do not get due wages. Excessive labour is decreasing the health of the child labourers.

FARIDPUR

Installation ceremony

Nov 3: The 7th installation ceremony of Rotary Club of Faridpur was held on Saturday at local Kabi Jasimuddin Hall, reports BSS.

Deputy Commissioner, Faridpur K M Nurul Huda and Police Super Md Hadisuddin attended the function as chief guest and special guest respectively.

The function was addressed among others by the past District Governor of Rotary Club of Bangladesh Iftekarul Alam.

The speakers lauded the role of Rotarians of Faridpur for their various humanitarian activities and social services they have been rendering since its inception from 1985 at Faridpur.

Ganesh Prasad Dhanuka and Md Shahidul Islam took the oath of office as President and Secretary respectively for the year 1992-93.



BOGRA: A child of a uprooted family is sleeping carelessly under open sky in unhygienic condition beside Bogra Railway Station. — Star photo

Pilferage of railway goods rampant in Western Zone

From Our Correspondent
DINAJPUR, Nov 3: Theft of railway spare parts, slipper and blast from different railway stations in Western Zone is rampant.

According to informations, organised gangs of miscreants are engaged in the pilferage of spares of the engines, compartments and railway bridges and these are sent in trucks to destinations without any resistance from the authorities concerned or law-enforcing agencies.

Damaged railway wagons, railway lines, slippers, wheels and other valuable spare parts worth crores of Taka kept in different railway yards of the Western Zone during the last twenty years are being stolen regularly.

The miscreant are stealing the spares parts of wheels, slippers from railway bogies and bridges kept in different places in this zone.

The railway security personnel were found involved in pilferage but ultimately the miscreants go unpunished it is learnt.

Acute shortage of engines and coaches, absence of basic amenities, irregular movement of trains and illegal carrying of goods in passenger compartments have been creating sufferings to the passengers travelling in Western Zone.

Most of the engines in trains are old, deplorable and defective and frequently go out of order on the way disrupting train services.

Due to non-availability of spare parts, these deplorable engines can not be repaired and over-hauled in due course. As a result, all the trains carried by these engines except Inter-City Express trains in this zone run at a slow speed.

On the other hand, the railway routes in this zone are also in deplorable condition. The slippers are very old and most of them are damaged and ballasting stones on this zones are also insufficient.

Due to shortage of coaches, a large number of passengers are found travelling on roofs and joints of coaches, engines, luggage vans and guard brakes taking risk of their lives every day.

Acute scarcity of spare parts has been hampering the repair of railway compartments in Western Railway Zone for the past few years causing a great sufferings to the travelling passengers on different routes of this zone. According to an official source, there are 138 trains running every day of different routes in Western Zone.

The trains need about 1,200 compartments to cope with the rush of the passengers. But at present there are only 340 compartments of which 242 running in Paksey Railway Broad-Gauge Section and the rest 98 in Lalmonirhat Railway Division Metre-Gauge Section. In Western Railway Zone, there are servicing facilities at Rajbari, Khulna, Rupsha, Ishurdi, Parbatpur, Santahar, Bonarpura and Amanura railway junctions. The trains when reach these junction stations are traditionally

examined and given fitness certificates after their servicing by the railway staff. But, in recent times, it is not properly done, according to an allegation.

As a result, most of the compartments have become unfit for service but these are still running.

There is no lighting arrangement in the compartments which causes untold sufferings to passengers.

There is no water supply, proper security arrangement, adequate fans and other important basic amenities in them.

Cracks have developed on roofs and holes in these compartment due to lack of proper maintenance and servicing.

About 170 compartments which went out of order have been lying at Saidpur Railway Workshop for repair. But due to want of spare parts shortage of technical staff, repair could not be done, it is informed.

Due to absence of repair of these unfit compartments, thousands of passengers travelling on both Broad-gauge and Metre-gauge railway line under Western Zone have been experiencing immense sufferings everyday. Moreover, travelling without ticket is creating another problem.

About 80 per cent of the passengers travel without tickets, it is learnt.

The people of these areas have urged the authorities concerned to do the need-full without delay for the greater interest the railway passengers of this zone.

Notes from Manikganj

From Our Correspondent
MANIKGANJ, Nov 3: A farmers' meeting was held at Manikganj court ground Wednesday last. It organised by Bangladesh Krishok Somity.

The meeting was presided over by CPB leader Azaharul Islam Arzu and it was addressed among others by Abdul Hoque Khan, Promoth Nath Sarker, Kismot Ali Strazul Hoque, Abul Bashar and Abdus Sattar.

Prizegiving ceremony

Prize distribution ceremony in connection with indoor games competition sponsored by District Lawyer Association was held at local bar auditorium recently.

The function was presided over by Advocate Rahmat Ali while Law and Justice Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz and Chief Whip Khondoker Delower Hossain attended it as chief and special guests. The chief guest gave away the prizes among the winners.

One to die for murder

The District and Sessions Judge, Md Abul Rashid sentenced one Abul Kalam Azad to death penalty for killing his father-in-law recently.

The prosecution story, in brief is that the accused Abul Kalam Azad of Nababganj thana under district killed his father-in-law Taffazzal Hossain (50) of village Ramganj, Shibalaya thana with knife on December 5, 1989.

A case was filed with Shibalaya thana accusing Kalam for the murder and police submitted charge-sheet against him.

The District and Sessions Judge after examining the records and witnesses awarded him the aforesaid punishment.

Death of newsmen condoned

A condolence meeting was held here at local Press Club Wednesday in memory of photo journalist Khairul Alam Khair.

The meeting was presided over by Nurtaj Alam Bahar, President of Manikganj Press Club and addressed among others by Kalyan Shaha, Selim Khan, Golam Sorwer Sano and Shahin Chowdhury.

Local newsmen of the press club expressed their sorrow and sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for the salvation of his departed soul.

Law, order situation reviewed

A meeting on law and order situation was held at the conference hall of the Deputy Commissioner on Thursday last.

The meeting was presided over by Martuja Hossain Munshi, Deputy Commissioner of Manikganj. It was attended by the Superintendent of Police, Additional Police Super, President of Press Club and others.

Dacoits loot valuables

UNB report adds: Valuables worth about Taka 50,000 were looted by dacoits from a house in Singair thana of the district on Friday.

Witnesses said a gang of armed dacoits raided the house of Nurul Islam at Sanail village at dead of night and looted valuables including gold ornaments.

The miscreants also beat four inmates of the house including the housewife when they tried to raise alarm.

A case was registered with the local police.

Seminar on fish resources

BRAHMANBARIA, Nov 3: A seminar on 'Fish resources: present and future in Bangladesh' was held at the Nabinagar Government College auditorium Saturday, reports UNB.

Chairman of Zoology department of the University of Dhaka Dr Shahadat Ali, who is also the Chairman of Zoological Science Association of Bangladesh (ZSAB), presented a paper at the seminar.

Jointly organised by ZSAB and Nabinagar Government College, the seminar was attended, among others, by Thana Nirbahi Officer of Nabinagar Muhiuddin Ahmad and Italian visitor Paulu.

Political party activist held with revolver

JESSORE, Nov 3: Police arrested a young man with a revolver and four rounds of cartridges on Sunday from Ghope area in the town, reports UNB.

Acting on secret information police raided the area and arrested Daud Ali Mithu, an activist of a political party. His accomplice a young contractor managed to flee.

A case has been filed with the local police.

Facilities inadequate in trains, waiting rooms on Teesta-Kurigram route

From Our Correspondent
KURIGRAM, Nov 3: The train passengers who travel through Teesta-Kurigram line have been facing difficulties for want of requisite facilities.

Thousands of passengers travel through Teesta-Kurigram railway line every day but the sufferings of passengers reached to the climax for want of facilities at waiting rooms and trains.

The number of compartments is inadequate to cope with the rush of passengers. The compartments are not cleaned regularly. The toilets having no light arrangements cannot be used at night.

The doors of most of the latrines are broken.

All the third class compartments have been made second class but the amenities have not been provided.

Beggars, hawkers, women carrying food grains, vegetables and smuggled goods aggravate the situation.

Illegal gratifications are collected from smugglers instead of handing over them to police stations, it is informed.

Each train has special van for mail service but it is used for carrying passengers, particularly the smugglers, it is learnt.

Shortage of railway slippers and ballasts, partly-damaged bridges and culverts, single railway line, with minimum stones and nut-bolts and old rail tracks are some of the causes for delay of passengers train in this line.

31 die of diarrhoea in Jamalpur dist

From Our Correspondent
JAMALPUR, Nov 3: At least 31 persons die of diarrhoea in all the seven thanas after the district during the last one month.

The worst hit thanas, according to officials, are: Melandah, Jamalpur Sadar, Islampur, Madarganj and Dewanganj.

Unofficial sources however, claimed the death toll to be higher than the figure released by the authority.

An official source said that 981 people were attacked by the disease during the last one week.

The disease had spread in an epidemic form over the last one month.

Doctors at the Jamalpur General Hospital said, 20-25 diarrhoea patients were being treated daily. Thirtynone medical teams have been working in the affected areas to combat the diseases. But the medical facilities are meagre, it is informed.

When contacted, Jamalpur Civil Surgeon informed that, the main causes of the outbreak have been identified a scarcity of pure drinking water and intake at adulterated food. It is informed that at least seven patients have died without treatment in the district.

Of the dead, six cases were reported from Melandah, seven from Madarganj, five from Islampur, eight from Sadar and five from Dewanganj thanas.

Nine hurt in transport workers clash

LALMONIRHAT, Nov 3: At least nine persons have been injured seriously, in a clash between workers of rival transport unions, at Sadar thana here, reports UNB.

Of the seriously injured, Shamsher Ali (25), Nazrul Islam (22), Abdus Salam (27) and Nazrul Islam Mia (25) were admitted in the Sadar thana health complex. Hospital sources said the condition of Shamsher Ali was critical.

Witnesses said the workers of Motor Sramik Union and Inter-district Truck Drivers Union clashed on October 25 in a bid to establish control over the Shimultala bus stand area.

The two groups filed separate cases with the local police in this connection.

The prices of paddy and rice have been falling with the arrival of new varieties in the local market of the district.

According to a report, the lowest price of rice, Taka six per kg, was recorded at the markets of Burimari in Patgram thana. Paddy was being sold at TK 3.25 per kg.

At the markets of other thanas rice was being sold between Taka 6.50 and Taka 7.50 per kg last week and one Taka higher in the district headquarters.

Market monitors said price of rice might drop further to Taka 5 per kg by the end of this month.

A total of 8 ceiling fans were stolen from the classrooms of Lalmonirhat government model high school on Friday.

According to informed sources, some miscreants are active in the area for a long time. On October 24 one ceiling fan and some important files were stolen from the Sadar thana family planning office.

Cases have been filed with the local police.

Tk 1.10 cr for development of ten roads

FENI, Nov 3: A total of Taka 1.10 crore has been sanctioned for reconstruction of 10 roads and bridges in greater Noakhali district during current fiscal year, reports UNB.

94 fire incidents leave six dead

From Our Correspondent
Taka 5 lakh 31 thousand. In the month of May, property worth about Taka 2,900 were burnt to ashes in five fire incidents. Fire-fighter rescued property of Taka 4,600.

Six fire incidents took place in the month of June where property worth about Taka 51,800 were damaged.

Seven fire incidents in the month of July and August gutted property worth about Taka 9,250 and local people rescued property of Taka 31,750. In September, property worth about Taka 49,960 were gutted.

On October, 18 devastating fire broke out at village Digirpar under Sunderganj Thana where three tin-shed dwelling houses, one hundred maunds of paddy and 60 maunds of raw jute were burnt to ashes. The loss was estimated at taka about one lakh.

All the fire incidents took place due to carelessness and originated mainly from cowshed, burning oven, electric short circuit, burning candle.

The damaged property were mainly paddy, rice, jute, dwelling houses and household articles.

Diarrhoea and dysentery has broken out in Usulpara, Dayapara, Amjuany, Hengudoba, Dangabari and Khatapara villages of the thana.

District Health Department has already taken all possible steps to check the spread of the diseases.



MADARIPUR: No, this is neither a canal nor a pond. This is the present condition of the Gupatti Road of the old town of the district headquarters. — Star photo