

District roundup

MAGURA

Jail Killing Day observed

Nov 11: Jail Killing Day was observed here under the auspices of local unit of Bangladesh Awami League, reports UNB.

A milad mahfil and a discussion meeting were held at its office premises on November 3. Advocate Abul Khair presided over the meeting. Among others, Altaf Hossain, Rustam Ali, Baren Sikder, Shafiquzzaman spoke on the occasion.

The speakers called upon the party workers to work unitedly to force the government to scrap the terrorist law and the Indemnity Ordinance.

They also demanded trial of the killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and four national leaders who were killed in jail on November 3, 1975.

MAULVIBAZAR

Scarcity of anti-rabbit vaccine

Nov 11: Anti-Rabbit Vaccine, a life saving drug, is not available in the local medicine shops for quite a long time, reports UNB.

Maulvibazar and Sreemangal pourashava officials of the district alleged that despite repeated requisitions concerned authorities failed to supply the vaccine.

If any person is bitten by dog or cat immediate treatment can not be done for want of the drug, local doctors said.

People of the district have urged the authorities to supply the vaccine without further delay.

RANGAMATI

Eye camp concludes

Nov 11: A nine-day eye camp jointly organised by Bangladesh Jatiya Andha Kalyan Samity and the district administration was held at Rangamati Sadar Hospital recently, reports BSS.

The eye camp was inaugurated by Brig Ashan Nazmul Amin. The inaugural function was presided over by Deputy Commissioner, Rangamati, Mohammad Hasan. Former presidential advisor Subimal Dewan was present as special guest.

A large number of cataract patients were operated upon. They were given medicines and glasses free.

DINAJPUR

4 BCL activists hurt in bomb blast

Nov 11: At least four activists of Chhatra League (M-I) were seriously injured in a bomb blast at a meeting here on Monday, reports UNB.

The injured, Mintu (17), Haripada (19), Munna (30) and Mohammad Ali (20), were rushed to the General Hospital. The activists of Chhatra League were holding its ward council meeting at Chata-Gurgola in the town.

It was stated some miscreants, two of them identified as Jobayer and Zulfikar Hossain, hurled at least 15 crackers on the meeting and fired two rounds of blank shots at about 7:45 pm.

A meeting was held in the town to protest the attack. It was addressed by District Awami League President Rouf Chowdhury, President and Secretary of the district unit of Chhatra League Rafiqul Islam and Zahurul Alam Dulal respectively, President of Chhatra League of the district unit Aminul Haque Mintu and its Secretary Abdur Rashid.

The speakers at the meeting condemned the attack on the Chhatra League ward council meeting and demanded exemplary punishment to those responsible for the attack.

PABNA

Solidarity Day celebrated

Nov 11: National Revolution and Solidarity Day was observed here with pledges to consolidate independence and uphold the democratic process, reports UNB.

Local BNP had taken different programmes including milad mahfil, public meetings and cultural functions to observe the day.

A large public meeting was held at BNP office premises. Abdur Rauf, president of district BNP presided over the meeting. Advocate Shahjahan Ali, Atizur Rahman and Tuhin addressed the meeting.

PATUAKHALI

Tk 97.77 lakh sanctioned for health complex

Nov 11: Government sanctioned over Taka 97.77 lakh for construction of a health centre at Amtali thana in the district during the current financial year, reports UNB.

Official sources said the health centre will have 31 beds for treatment of indoor patients.

Public Works Department of Barguna will start the construction work soon. With the construction of the centre a long felt demand of the people will be fulfilled.

TANGAIL

Three killed, 4 hurt in road mishap

Nov 11: Three persons were killed and four others were injured in a road accident on Saturday at Dhalla under Mirzapur thana on Dhaka-Tangail Highway, reports BSS.

The injured persons were admitted to Kumudini Hospital. Those killed were on board the truck loaded with vegetables. They are: Innas Ali (20), Shamu Miah (30) and Akkel Ali (19).

The accident occurred when the truck bound for Dhaka from Ghatail careened off the road to ditch.

Another unidentified woman was killed on Tangail-Nagarpur road on Friday. The accident occurred when a baby-taxi hit the woman.

KUSHITIA

Half-day hartal observed

Nov 11: A half-day peaceful hartal was observed on Monday by the students of all educational institutions of the town as a mark of protest against the arrest of six students, reports BSS.

The arrest was made after a clash between two rival groups of students of Kushitia Government College recently.

The students brought out a procession demanding release of the students immediately.

JHENIDAH

Miscreants loot double barrel gun

Nov 11: Armed miscreants numbering 20 to 22 raided the house of one Wazed Ali of village Valki in Harinakundu thana recently and looted a double barrel gun, police said, reports BSS.

They also beat the members of his family.

The same group also looted another single barrel gun from the house of one Afsar Ali of adjacent village Pairadanga. Villagers said that 30 gun shots were heard during the raid.

Separate cases were lodged with Harinakundu police station.

AGRI-VARSITY

Teachers, students hold debate on terrorism

Nov 11: An attractive friendly debate between the teachers and students of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) was held at the Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin auditorium on Nov 5 under the auspices of BAU Central Students' Union (BAUCSU), says a press release.

"It is the teachers, and not the students, who can play the prime role in eradicating campus terrorism" was the subject of the debate.

The students spoke in favour of the subject and they included AM Khaled Bappi, Kashfia Ahmed Shilu, Shahadat Hossain Sohag and Rowankul Islam. Those who opposed the subject included Dr Manjurul Alam, Prof M A Sattar Mandal, Prof M Monsurul Amin and Dr. M A Rahman.

The function was presided over by the VP of BAUCSU Saidduzzaman Kamal and was attended by Prof. Z H Bhutyan as chief guest and M. Mahfuzur Rahman as special guest.

Others who spoke on the occasion included Zahangir Alam Khan, AOS of BAUCSU and Prof. M Ahmad, the chief of jury board.

Attended by a large number of audience, the function was presented by the literary secretary of BAUCSU A E M Quayyum Prodhan.

Diarrhoea claims 127 lives in Habiganj, Manikganj

From Our Correspondent

MAULVIBAZAR: Diarrhoea has claimed 76 lives in eight thanas of Habiganj district during last one and half months.

According to official source, about 2352 people have been attacked by diarrhoea in different areas of the district.

The source informed that a total of 85 medical teams has been working in the affected areas to combat the disease.

The disease has taken a serious turn due to want of pure drinking water. The situation in Habiganj Sadar, Lakhal, Nabiganj and Ajmeregongj thanas now is normal.

The scarcity of saline has prevailing in the affected areas. Dishonest traders have been charging abnormal prices of saline.

Another reports says: One Abdul Mannaf (50) of village Lamatami in Bahubal thana under Habiganj district was killed by assailants on October 30.

According to report, some miscreants attacked the victim

when he went to mosque for Fajr prayers. He was brutally killed on the way of the mosque. There had been dispute over property between the deceased and some of his villagers, it is learnt.

The body was later sent to the morgue of Habiganj Sadar Hospital for postmortem.

A case has been started with the Bahubal thana in this connection.

UNB adds: District postal service is not functioning properly as most of the post office buildings are in dilapidated condition for a long time causing suffering to the people.

There are about 74 post office branches in the district and most of them are accommodated in rented houses which are in dilapidated condition, sources said.

Rain water leaks through the roofs of many offices damaging valuable records and papers, the sources added.

Local people urged the concerned authorities to take necessary steps for repair and

renovate the post offices in the greater interest of the people.

UNB from Manikganj adds: Diarrhoea claimed 51 lives and attacked 2500 persons in 40 unions in seven thanas of the district during the last two weeks, according to unconfirmed sources.

Government sources put the death toll at 18 and 491 attacked by the deadly disease. Seventyone medical teams have been working in the affected areas, they said.

The thana and sadar hospitals have been over-filled by seriously affected patients. Scarcity of pure drinking water, compounded the situation.

Consumption of adulterated food and taking of impure water were attributed to the outbreak of the disease. New areas are being engulfed by the disease and situation has taken an alarming turn.

Local leaders have urged the authorities to send more medical teams with medicine and saline to control the disease.

Bumper aman output expected

From Our Correspondent

BOGRA, Nov 11: Bumper aman production is expected in the northern region of the country this year, official sources said here.

Prospect for aman crop in Bogra, Jaypurhat, Noagaon, Natore, Chapai Nawabganj, Rajshahi, Gaibandha, Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Rangpur, Dinajpur, Thakurgaon, Panchagarh, Pabna, and Sirajganj is bright this year compared to the previous year.

The cultivation target of aman paddy in the 16 northern districts during the current season was fixed at 39 lakh acre of land but only 32 lakh acres were brought under this cultivation.

Farmers said, though there was no sufficient rainfall in the region this year, the nature greatly favoured to get better harvest.

Agriculture Extension Department sources hope that heavy aman paddy is expected to be produced in the region.

In Bogra, 2,81,463 acres were brought under cultivation.

in Sirajganj 56,809 acres, in Rajshahi 15880 acres, in Kurigram 1,97,695 acres, in Noagaon 3,45,000 acres, in Lalmonirhat 1,56,660 acres, in Chapainawabganj 90,724 acres, in Panchagarh 16,375 acres, in Thakurgaon 1,87,000 acres, in Rangpur 3,31,060 acres, in Nilphamari 2,43,000 acres, in Dinajpur 4,66,830 acres, in Gaibandha 2,23,065 acres, in Jaypurhat 1,60,000 acres, in Pabna 61,750 acres, and in Natore 45,903 acres were brought under aman cultivation.

The BADC distributed seeds, fertilizers and necessary inputs among the farmers at fair prices to make the scheme a success, sources said.

According to an official estimate about 140 lakh metric ton of aman paddy are expected to be produced in the northern region this year.

Potato farming plan

A massive potato cultivation plan has been taken up in the northern region.

Potato cultivation is profitable as well as popular in the region especially in Bogra.

According to Agricultural Extension Department, cultivation target of potato in the 16 northern district during the current season has been fixed at 85 thousand 8 hundred and 35 hectares of land and production target has been fixed at 8 lakh 58 thousand 3 hundred 50 metric tons.

During the last year, cultivation and production target could not be achieved due to national calamities and shortage of inputs.

High Yielding Variety (Holland) and local variety seeds are being sold in the local market between Taka 330 and 340 per maund and Taka 300 and 310 per maund respectively.

Meanwhile another report said: A minor girl of west Tengi area in Iswardi thana of the district died in a bomb blast on Sunday.

Tk 67 lakh for construction of six pry schools

MAGURA, Nov 11: Facilities Department under the Ministry of Education sanctioned Taka 67.20 lakh for construction of six government primary school buildings in four thanas of the district, reports UNB.

Official sources said the project was taken with the financial assistance from the Islamic Development Bank. The construction work will be started soon and is expected to be completed by February '93.

After completion, educational facilities in Sadar, Sreepur, Salikha and Mohammadpur thanas would be extended considerably and about 5000 students will get modern educational facilities.

15 hurt in clash

At least 15 persons were injured, two of them seriously, in a clash between two rival groups at Chengardanga village in Sadar thana.

Witnesses said the clash ensued on November 3 over a trifling matter and at one stage it turned violent. Both the groups used lethal and sharp weapons including bamboo sticks, ram dao, kirich etc.

The seriously injured Subash Chandra Roy (36) and

Ketoki Rani Roy (17) were admitted to Sadar hospital. Their conditions were stated to be critical.

Cases have been filed with the local police.

Bus dacoity

Valuables worth about Taka one lakh were looted in a daring bus dacoity near Kala Laximpur on Magura-Jhenidah Road, police said today.

A gang of armed miscreants stopped the Dhaka bound night coach Friday at the point, beat the passengers indiscriminately and decamped with the valuables including cash and gold ornaments.

Another bus dacoity was committed in a Khulna bound bus (No. Jessore, Ba-02-0003) near Ramnagar on Magura-Kamarkhal Road on October 29.

Some armed dacoits stormed the bus on the middle of the road and looted the goods worth about Taka 50,000. They also stabbed 10 passengers including the driver.

Two separate cases were filed with the local police.

Admission of 4 students cancelled

JAMALPUR, Nov 11: The admission of four students of Government Ashiq Mahmud College have been cancelled as their marksheet and certificates were found fake, reports UNB.

College sources said Thursday that Siddiqur Rahman Siddique and three others got themselves admitted into the college in the first year class last year producing fake SSC marksheet and certificates.

Meanwhile, Siddique was elected as assistant social welfare secretary in the recently held students' union election from the panel of Jatiyatadabdi Chhatra Dal. The identity of the three others could not be gathered immediately.

According to college sources, after proper verification Dhaka Education Board authority found the four students, who are now students of class twelve, fake and did not pass the SSC examination at all.

Their admission was cancelled as per the direction of the board.

District Anti-corruption department is likely to start a case against the fake students.



SYLHET: State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism, M A Mannan recently inaugurated a high standard hotel here. Khondaker A Malik, MP, Sheikh Abdul Surat MD of the hotel are seen during the inaugural function.

Across the country



BARISAL: Barakotha Dargabari Sub-sector at Ujirpur of Barisal was set up in this primary school building on September 6, 1971.

A springboard of action against '71 killer hordes

by Aroop Talukdar

During the Liberation War, many sub-sectors were established in different places of the country under eleven sectors from where Freedom Fighters conducted guerilla operations on the Pak army units.

Barakotha Dargabari was one of such sub sector for guerilla operation under 9th sector headed by Sector Commanders Major MA Jaill (late), valiant and great Freedom Fighter of our country.

The Barakotha Dargabari Sub-sector was established in a primary school building under Ujirpur of Barisal district on September 6, 1971 including the then Bhola, Perajpur and Jhalakathi thana areas. Captain Sahajahan with the nickname 'Omar' took the charge of this sub-sector and deputed base commanders in each thana areas.

But after the independence people almost forgot the sacred place from where so many brave young people of these areas were trained and

continued guerilla operations. After long twenty years, some Freedom Fighters and close associates of Captain Sahajahan Omar Mahiuddin Manik Birprotik, Enayet Hossain Chowdhury, Sahidul Islam Fakir and Dr Abdul 'Hakim tried to uphold and glorious history of 'Barakotha Dargabari'.

On September 7, 1990, they laid foundation stone there to remember the brave Freedom Fighters and the burning days of the War of Independence of 1971.

They have set up a reunion centre for Freedom Fighters of these areas at Barakotha Dargabari where the Freedom Fighters can be reunited on different occasion.

The organisers of this centre awarded medals to the noted Freedom Fighters in observance of the day. Last year medals were awarded to (posthumous) MA Jaill Sahid Altafuddin Bir Bikram, Sahid Kazi Mattur Rahman Abdul Wahab Khan and Rafiqul Islam Jafar while other six medals to

Major Sahjahan Omar, Biruttam, Mahbuddin Ahmed Bir Bikram, Major Mehedi Ali Imam Bir Bikram, Mahfuz Alam Beg, Sree Debendra Nath Ghosh and Henayet Uddin Birbikram.

Recently, a 51-member committee has already been formed headed by Mahiuddin Manik Birprotik as Convenor and Sahidul Islam Fakir and Abdur Wahab Miah as joint convenor to make the forthcoming Barakotha Dargabari gathering to be held on November 27 a success.

The committee in the mean time declared the names of the Freedom Fighters who will be bestowed with medals, (Posthumously) are: Sahid Commander Moazzem Hossain, Sahid Altaf Mahamud, Nizamuddin Ahmed, Abdul Jabbar Master, Sahid Lt. Kamrul Hasan Selim and the others are: Captain (Retd) Nurul Huda Hiru, Major (Retd) Hafizuddin Bir Bikram, Major (Retd) Ziauddin, Flt Sergeant Fazul Hoq and Wadud Sardar.



BARISAL: The centre for Freedom Fighters at Barokotha Dargabari in Uzirpur of Barisal was inaugurated in 1991.

Border checkpoints are a purgatory

by Ashit Chowdhury

SIRAJGANJ, Nov 11: On October 30, I had an opportunity to visit Hill Immigration Checkpost in Hakimpur thana under Dinajpur district. I went there to see off some of my relatives on way to India with valid passports.

If took about one hour to reach the rail crossing bus stand from Ghoraghat on the Gobindaganj-Dinajpur Road. Later, a 15-minute journey by bus took me to the Hill Bus Stand, a few yards away from the checkpost at about 9 am. When I reached the checkpost point, about 20 passengers including women and children were waiting there for hours together. Some of them had come there by the night coaches but arrangements for their exit was not complete till then.

The Hill checkpost is situated exactly on the border line and is on the eastern side of the rail tracks. On the opposite western side, there was the Indian immigration checkpost.

However, at about 11 am immigration police of Hill started to issue passports submitted to them since possibly 7 am. After completion of police verification, the outgoing passengers started to rush to the customs shed. Police and customs offices are in two small (about 20X15) rooms.

Some passengers told me that police took Taka 50 to Taka 100 from each passport holder. During customs checking different amount of Taka were charged by the customs officials. Office of the Superintendent of Customs and Excise is on the opposite side of the customs checking room. The super was not available till 3

pm that day. Some said that he was not at station as it was a Friday. Even the travel taxes amounting to Taka 150 per passport were not received accompanied by another Taka 20 as gift possibly to police personnel.

Both incoming and outgoing passengers have to wait for hours and end under the open sky there being no waiting room at the checkpost. The only six by four room meant for

the ladies' was found under lock and key.

During my stay there, about 30 passengers crossed the border from Bangladesh and about 20 passengers came in from India.

Under an instruction of the Indian government, no visa is issued by the Indian High Commission for North Bengal without sponsorship certificates. Making a journey to India from North Bengal is done mainly through the borders at Hill and Mughalhat. It is alleged that most of the sponsorship certificates issued to the Bangladeshi nationals are fake and an organised group of visa-agents are engaged in this profession. The visas are issued on fake sponsorship certificates and police and customs officials of both the Bangladesh and the Indian checkposts demand money and the passengers also satisfy their demanded — all in the interest of smooth exit and entry at the checkpost.

Call to implement ideals of Ziaur Rahman

TANGAIL, Nov 11: The National Revolution and Solidarity Day was observed in the district in a befitting manner, reports BSS.

Programme of the day included hoisting of national flag, special prayers in mosques and other places of worship, sports and cultural functions.

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) brought out a procession led by Lutifur Rahman Khan, Minister of State for Relief. Party workers including women and children took part in the procession which paraded the main thoroughfare of the town.

Speaking on the occasion, the state minister emphasised on the great significance of the day. On that day, the soldiers and the masses played a glorious role to consolidate the national independence and sovereignty, he said.

He called upon the people to implement the ideals of Shaheed President Zia for socio-economic emancipation of the nation.

Neither India nor Bangladesh is either a paradise or an inferno. But these checkpoints one very much the picture of the purgatory. Proper arrangement of entry and exit, spacious sheds for police and customs checking, surprise visit by high officials, adequate waiting arrangements and round the clock banking facilities for depositing travel taxes are necessary to make the citizens feel that they have a government that cares. The massive use of fake sponsorship certificates needs to be stopped for the sake of freeing genuine passengers of the inconveniences of crowding.