

District roundup

KUSHIA

Death of Altaf Hossain condoled

Nov 17: A condolence meeting was held on the death of senior journalist and political leader Syed Altaf Hossain at Kushtia zila press club recently, reports BSS.

SM Kausar, president of the club presided over the meeting. Another condolence meeting was held at the new office of bureau chief Dainik Khabar.

Ganantree Party, Kushtia also organised a condolence meeting at their office on Friday.

Kushtia Bar Association organised a condolence meeting at Kushtia Bar Library. It was presided over by Advocate Nakibuddin president of Kushtia Bar Association.

TANGAIL

Discussion on Bhashani held

Nov 17: Speakers at a discussion on the Islami University as visualised by Maulana Bhashani said on Sunday at Santosh that the Maulana played a significant role for promotion of education in Bangladesh, reports BSS.

The discussion was held at Shah Enayetullah Hostel of Islamic University boys high school in observance of 16th death anniversary of the late lamented leader.

Ahmed Safa, Syed Abul Maksud, Dr Anis-Uz-Zaman, Principal Sekandar Hayat, Prof Abdul Momen, Khan Mohammad Khaled, Kamrul Hasan Chowdhury, Mohammad Hossain, Shahidur Rahman and Prof Mohammad Abdul Aziz, participated in the discussion. Syed Irfanul Bari conducted the seminar.

They said that Maulana Bhashani established a large number of educational institutions in different parts of the country.

They called upon all including educationists, social workers, intellectuals and well-to-do people to help materialise the dreams of the great leader in establishing the Islami University at Santosh.

NETRAKONA

Diarrhoea situation alarming

Nov 17: Diarrhoea situation was taken an alarming turn in all the ten thanas under Netrakona district, reports BSS.

Reports reaching here from different areas said diarrhoea has claimed over 50 lives and attacked about 3,000 persons during the last one month.

Netrakona civil surgeon office confirmed the death of 24 people including some children, 1044 persons were attacked by the diseases during the period, the sources said, adding that 45 medical teams with sufficient quantity of medicine were working round the clock in the diarrhoea affected areas.

FARIDPUR

Annual General meet held

Nov 17: The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Dr Zahed Child Hospital, Faridpur was held on Friday, at the hospital premises with Abul Basheer Mia, President of the hospital committee in the chair, reports BSS.

The meeting was told that since 1980 the Sunday clinic turned hospital treated 3,46,766 outdoor patients and 7590 indoor patients. Moreover, 203,415 patients of this district received free medicines and packet food through the mobile clinic of this hospital. The number of outdoor immunised children is 39,978 till date. About 24,853 packet of food for malnourished were distributed by the hospital. About 145299 patients were screened by the mobile team of the hospital while 128120 patients were dewormed in outdoor and indoor of the hospital.

The hospital was founded in 1980 at the initiatives of some local social-workers headed by late Dr Md Zahed, a philanthropist and a private medical practitioner.

The hospital has got both indoor and outdoor facilities, pathological and laboratory facilities, X-ray unit and a mobile medical unit. The hospital housed in a five-storied building is being managed by an elected committee.

NAOGAON

Teenagers getting addicted to drugs

From A Correspondent

Nov 17: Plenty supply of phensydil and other prohibited drugs have turned a lot of teenagers into drug addicts. Local physicians also confirm the gradual increase in the number of drug addicts. Very often they commit criminal acts.

Recently in one such incident on November 14, instant at about 9 pm one Mozammel Haque Khan, a Computer Engineer, son of Raisul Alam Khan also was at his father-in-law's house from Sweden on leave have become a victim.

Mozammel Haque Khan was suddenly attacked by two youngmen at Post-Office Para of Naogaon town and sustained injury with dagger in his left arm around his chest.

Khan filed on General Diary at the local Police Station about the incident. No one arrested in this connection.

PABNA

Copper wire worth Tk 10 lakh stolen

Nov 17: A total of 525 metre of copper wire worth about Taka 10 lakh was stolen from electricity cable godown in Ishurdi on November 7, reports UNB.

Police said a gang of miscreants in collaboration with some officials of Power Development Board of Ishurdi stole the wire.

Police so far arrested local PDB employees Nazrul Islam (28), Shohrab Hossain (35) and Rafiqul (25). But the stolen wire has not yet been recovered.

COMILLA

Housewife beaten to death for dowry

Nov 17: A housewife was allegedly beaten to death for dowry by her husband in Chaudagram thana, police said here Monday, reports UNB.

According to family sources, the victim Ayesha Khatoon (17), was married with Abdul Haq 16 months earlier. She was being tortured for dowry since her marriage.

Abdul Haq demanded Taka 50,000 from his father-in-law as dowry for going to Middle East. But he failed to meet the demand due to poverty.

On the fateful day of November 10 when Abdul Haq asked Ayesha to bring the money, she expressed her inability. At this Haq got furious and started beating her mercilessly. She died on the spot.

A case was filed with the local police in this connection.

BRAHMANBARIA

Shishu Kishore Islamic cultural contest ends

From Our Correspondent

Nov 17: Under the auspices of Islamic Foundation, district office a National Shishu Kishore Islamic cultural competition '92 held in the Bancharampur Degree College recently.

The competition includes Hamd Nath, Islamic song, Azan, qirat, present speech, recitation of poems and easy writing. About 300 students of higher secondary school and madrasa took part in the competition.

The function was presided over by Principal, Bancharampur Degree College Mohd A Gafur. Thana Nirbahi Officer Shadidur Rahman distributed prizes and certificates among the students.

CHAPAINAWABGANJ

40 teachers working under adult edn plan

Nov 17: At least 40 teachers working under adult education programme at Shibganj thana have complained of non-receipt of honorarium for the last three months, reports UNB.

The teachers used to get honorarium of Taka 400 per month each.

Local leaders said mass literacy programme would suffer a set-back if this situation continues.



POPPED RICE: A typical Bengali delicacy is being prepared by two women. — Star photo

Migratory birds on wane in Northern dists

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Nov 17: Winter birds are diminishing due chiefly to scarcity of fishes in the beels, haors and others marshy land in the northern region including Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Rangpur, Gaibandha and Nilphamari districts.

It deserves mention that only a few years ago, local and foreign migratory birds were available in plenty in the northern region of the country during the winter. The beels and haors were all chirping of various kinds of wild ducks like Kaldighari Sarails, Balihas, Pankauri, Buri, Storks, Herons, Dahuk etc. Fishes were the attractions of these birds.

But, now-a-days, five per cent birds are hardly found in those areas.

According to the zoologists, most of the winter birds come from Siberian region where severe cold prevails from November to February. Perhaps, these birds migrate their homeland to tropical countries like Bangladesh and with the advent of spring, they return to their permanent abodes.

According to the zoologists, as among as 580 species of birds are available in Bangladesh. More than 200 (particularly the winter birds) out of 580 are Siberian migratory birds.

The gradual decline of the local and migratory birds is at-

tributed to hunting of birds and scarcity of fishes in the beels and haors. The number of hunters have increased considerably since the emergence of Bangladesh.

It is generally felt that if the hunting of birds is made effective, the migratory winter birds will be again available here as of the past.

Some zoologists say that we should have to apply modern method like Russia, and other developed countries to breed more birds. It will not be out of place to mention that birds are being preserved in the beels and canals in the Russia in a planned way. Well informed circle opines that such steps can easily be taken in our country also. They said if birds are protected and reared, the burden of unemployment in the country could be lessened somewhat.

Another report says: Standing pepper (green-chilly) on a vast tract of land in Kurigram district have been attacked by pest destroying at least 25 per cent of the crop.

The worst affected areas are Kanthalbari, Borobari, Senal, Chowrahat, Ulipur, and Rajarhat.

Farmers said there was an acute scarcity of pesticides in the market and these were being sold at very high prices.

The local agriculture officials said pest control operations had been hampered by short stock of pesticides. Farmers urged the con-

cerned authority to start spraying immediately in the affected land to combat the menace.

Another report adds: A large number of workers and owners of different rice-mills in Kurigram district brought out a procession recently in protest against government's new system to purchase rice through public tender for the government food godowns. The processionists paraded the main roads of Kurigram town and chanted various slogans in support of this demand.

The processionists also held a meeting at the premises of Kurigram Chamber of Commerce. Presided over by Azizul Haque, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Abdul Aziz Mia, Abdus Saber, Kamrul Huda, Ramjan Ali Mondal, Abdul Haye Ronju, Abdul Majid and Shaidul Alam. Joint Secretary of North Bengal Rice Mill Womers' Association Kamrul Huda was present in the meeting as chief guest.

After the meeting, a 27-member committee of Rice Mill Womers' Association, Kurigram zila unit, was formed with Abdus Saber, Kamrul Huda and Sahjahan Ali Dulal as its president, secretary and publicity secretary respectively.

They also handed over memorandums to Deputy Commissioner, Kurigram, and DC Food, Kurigram separately.

Some quarters out to disrupt peace

NETRAKONA, Nov 17: Mirza Golam Hafiz, Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, said the present government was making every effort to establish rule of law in the country despite the fact that some vested quarters were hatching conspiracies to disrupt peace and discipline in the society, reports BSS.

He was function was also addressed among others by the Whip of Jatiya Sangsad Advocate MA Karim, Abu Abbas MP, Netrakona District Judge Abdur Razzak and Deputy, Commissioner of Netrakona Dewan Afzar Uddin.

Referring to Anti-Terrorism bill recently passed in Jatiya Sangsad, the minister said the

bill was designed to protect the life and property of the people.

"I do not understand why some quarters termed it as black law? Those who do not want to curb crime never want democracy", he said.

He stressed the need for united efforts of both of lawyers and judicial officials for achieving the objective.

Later the minister witnessed a culture show organised by Netrakona District Administration at Netrakona public hall.

Another report adds: A special cell has been set up at the Ministry of Law and Justice to gather and disseminate legal data regarding social norms and customs of the tribals.

This was disclosed by Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz at a Garo tribe representatives' rally held in the local pourasava auditorium on Wednesday.

He said the special cell was working at the law ministry to compile family laws and tradition for their flourishing.

The government is well aware of the socio-economic problems of the tribal people and they were enjoying all the facilities as citizens of the country, the minister said.

He said the people would be informed about the culture and lifestyle of the tribals, through necessary research and publicity, he added.



NATORE: Abdul Mannaf, President of district BNP addressing at a meeting in front of Natore press club in observance of National Revolution and Solidarity Day recently. — Star photo

Notes from Patuakhali

PATUAKHALI, Nov 17: An airstrip has been built in the district at a cost of Taka 2.75 crore, reports UNB.

The main runway is about 1820 feet long and 60 feet wide.

A taxi-way has also been constructed along the main runway, which is 60 feet in length and 25 feet wide.

According to informed sources, the runway is too short to be used for landing domestic passenger flights, but the Short Take Off and Landing Aircraft (STOL) can possibly land here.

The airstrip will now be used for operating small beaver aircraft to spray insecticides on the infested crop fields of the district and the adjoining areas, officials said.

Rules for college union polls formulated

The Subidkhalil Degree College of the district has formulated rules for holding election of the students union under a constitution which also defines powers and functions of the union executive.

President and General Secretary of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal Mirzaganj thana unit, Firoz Alam and Abdus Qudus Molla respectively congratulated the college authority for presenting a constitution for the first time.

The college election commission will soon announce the date of election of students' union as per the constitution adopted by the college, sources added.

Cropland, villages devoured

The river Payra has devoured four villages and a vast tract of cropland of Mirzaganj thana of the district in the last rainy season.

About 200 families of the village Bhikkakhalil, East-Kalikapur, Sundra and Piprakhalil were affected on account of erosion by the river during the period.

Besides, many dwelling houses, shops, educational institutions and a vast tract of arable land had been washed away.

Erosion of the banks of the Payra begun about ten years back and intensified in the last two years, villagers said.

One fourth of the Bhikkakhalil Bazar and Piprakhalil Bazar areas had been completely devoured by the river in the last two years.

LGEB takes plan to repair 6 pry schools

Local government and Engineering Bureau of Mirzaganj thana in the district has taken up a programme to repair six government primary schools during the current fiscal year.

Official sources said about Taka 8,17,416 will be spent for the repair work with financial assistance from the Asian Development Bank.

The schools which will be repaired are Bajita Dargabari government primary school, Subidkhalil government primary school, Deuli school, Rampur school and Bharrang government primary school.

These schools were damaged by the last Cyclonic storm.

According to another report, LGEB of Mirzaganj thana will also supply necessary furniture for the Amragasia government primary school with ADB assistance.

Supervising officers needed

Work is suffering in four offices of the Dashmina thana headquarters for lack of supervising officers.

It is reported that the Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO) of Dashmina has been holding the charge of the four offices at a time.

As a result, it is impossible for him to discharge the functions involving public affairs. The department are thana magistracy, settlement office, the accounts department besides administration which the TNO himself is looking after.

Local leaders have urged the concerned authorities to arrange posting of supervisory officers immediately for the sake of public service interest.

Vast track of lands taken under Boro farming

BARISAL, Nov 17: A total of 2,26,425 hectares have been brought under boro cultivation in 86 thanas of 11 southern districts under Barisal Agriculture Zone (BAZ) during the current dry season, reports BSS.

According to an official source, production target of Boro has been fixed at 8,26,476 metric tons of paddy this year in these districts.

Of the total, 1,88,700 hectares will be brought under Upshi variety of Boro while 37,725 hectares under local variety.

District-wise break-up is as follows: Barisal-37,200 hectares, Pirojpur-13,400 hectares, Jhalakati-6,225 hectares, Patuakhali-5,000 hectares, Barguna-400 hectares, Bhola-20,600 hectares, Gopalganj-40,400 hectares, Faridpur-31,400 hectares, Madaripur-29,900 hectares, Rajbari 20,600 hectares, and Shariatpur-21,300 hectares.

Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) sell seeds, fertilizers, insecticides and supply other necessary inputs to the farmers for achieving target.

Besides, Bangladesh Agriculture Extension Department (BAED) will install 8,578 power pumps and 529 deep and 12,914 shallow tubewells in these rpt these districts to make the boro cultivation a success.

Another report adds: Patuakhali Zila parishad has undertaken a programme to cultivate mulberry experimentally beside the road of the town and open filed in the district.

Meanwhile, two thousand mulberry plants were planted along the boundary wall of the Zila parishad, in front of the Dak-bungalow, and along the road Patuakhali Government College to Mahila college.

JCD, Chhatra Samaj clash: 20 hurt in Lalmonirhat

LALMONIRHAT, Nov 17: At least 20 students were injured in a clash between Jatiya Party-backed Sangrami Chhatra Samaj and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal in Hatbandha today, police said, reports UNB.

Of the injured, 4 were admitted to the local health complex. The others were released after first aid.

Witnesses said the clash ensued after a SCS procession allegedly chanted provocative slogans at Masterpara at about 11 am.

At one stage, the activists of SCS ransacked the newly inaugurated local BNP office and damaged its signboard and walls.

A police constable received injury while on duty to tackle the situation.

Arakanese Mogs enter Bandarban, kill one

BANDARBAN, Nov 17: Some Arakanese Mogs infiltrating into frontier villages of Naingkhongghari thana of the hill district carried out criminal activities like robbery and killing over the last few days, official source said, reports UNB.

At least five of the alleged trespassing bandits have been captured since November 12, one with a loaded carbine, the sources said.

On Friday (Nov 13), an old villager was killed by the marauders at village Bamhati. The dead was named Badruzzaman Mijai, 60.

They also ransacked his house, officials and local people said.

The tribals from the Burmese province of Arakan have reportedly committed

four dacoities in the area in the second week of this month, looting away valuables and cattle.

Naingkhongghari police nabbed one of them alongwith a carbine and 68 rounds of ammunition while they were allegedly committing robbery at a village. He gave his name as Magnoo.

Four more were arrested later by the police from different places.

According to their confessional statement, a section of Mogs are also opposed to repatriation of the Rohingya refugees sheltered in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar and Bandarban districts.

Wild elephants attacked a village at Langadu Friday killing a boy and injuring four others, police said.



JAMALPUR: Additional District Magistrate A K M Wahedul Islam speaking at a function in observance of World Frugality Day recently. — Star photo

Heroin worth Tk one cr recovered

CHITTAGONG, Nov 17: Members of the regional task force and BDR personnel recovered 1.30 kg of heroin worth over Taka one crore from Patengra area here Friday, reports BSS.

According to an official source, acting on secret information some members of regional task force and BDR personnel challenged three persons travelling in a baby taxi near gem plant at Patengra and their bodies were searched. But nothing was found. Later, another search was made in the baby taxi and a packet of heroin was found inside the seat of the baby taxi.

The sources said, a preliminary test by narcotics department confirmed that the

recovered material was heroin. The material has been sent for chemical test for final confirmation.

The arrested persons were identified as Mir Muzaffar, Dipok Chakroborty, Subrata Barua and baby taxi driver Mohammad Rafique alias Rana.

UNB report from Jessore adds: Bangladesh Rifles seized contrabands worth about Taka 12.50 crore and arrested 954 people in this connection from different frontier areas of the district in the last 10 months.

Officials said contrabands of about Taka 1.25 crore were seized when the items were being smuggled out of the country and goods worth Taka 11.25 crore found on way into the country from India.

Over 100 schools smart under problems

NAOGAON, Nov 17: More than one hundred high schools of the 11 thanas of the district have been beset with problems including shortage of furniture and accommodation, reports UNB.

Most of these schools had been established under local initiative and had not received government affiliation.

Accommodation problem is one of the most acute problems. The students are huddled in the congested rooms and many of them keep on standing during the class hours. Classes remain suspended in the rainy season in schools which have no roof.

These schools were damaged by natural calamities and no step has been taken to reconstruct them.

Local leaders and teachers have urged the government to extend financial help and ensure early rehabilitation of these schools.

Another reports adds: Only a bridge can relieve the people of the district headquarters from a long time suffering. But it is not being built by the concerned authorities in spite repeated appeals.

Both the students and the people in general have been suffering a lot for want of a bridge on the Chhoto Jamuna river near Naogaon Government College for quite a long time.