

District roundup

SATKHIRA
12 hurt as rival groups clash

Nov 23 : At least 12 people including one woman were injured in a clash between two rival groups over possession of a land in Kaliganj thana of the district Wednesday, reports UNB.

Of the injured, Sarat, Ashutosh and Nirmal were admitted to local Health complex in a critical condition.

A shop and paddy worth about Taka one lakh was looted during the clash.

Police said supporters of Sarat and Nizam clashed as they were involved in a bitter dispute for long over the land at Chandulia village in the thana.

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

GAIBANDHA
2 killed in road mishap

Nov 23 : Two persons were killed and 33 others injured in a road accident Friday on Dhaka-Rangpur Highway at Taltala under Gobindaganj thana of the district, reports ISS.

The accident occurred when a Bogra bound minibus collided with sugarcane loaded trolley, and Naogaon bound microbus ran over them.

A person named Mofazzal Hossain (55) died on the spot and another died at Gaibandha Modernised Hospital. The injured persons were admitted to Gobindaganj, Gaibandha and Rangpur Hospitals, condition of 15 of them is reported to be critical.

MYMENSINGH
Quick, fair dispensation of cases stressed

Nov 23 : The second judicial conference of Mymensingh judgeship was held at the office of the District and Sessions Judge Mymensingh on Friday, reports BSS.

Mohammad Abdus Salam, District and Sessions Judge Mymensingh presided over the conference. It was attended by Muhammad Abdur Razzak, District and Sessions Judge, Netrakona, Mohammad Mansurul Haq, District and Sessions Judge, Tangail, Muhammad Anwarul Haq, District and Sessions Judge, Kishoreganj, Mohammad Ali Khan, Special Judge, Dhaka Division, AFM Muttur Rahman, Deputy Commissioner, Mymensingh, AJ Ahmedul Haq Chowdhury, Superintendent of Police, District Bar and Advocate Shamsuddin Ahmed, Public Prosecutor, Mymensingh.

The conference emphasised the close cooperation between the court and the bar for quick and fair dispensation of justice.

FENI
Tributes to Bhasani

Nov 23 : The 16th death anniversary of the great leader Moulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani was observed here with due respect and solemnity, reports UNB.

A discussion meeting was held at the Shahid Minar premises under the auspices of local unit of National Democratic Front.

Abdul Hai, Convener of the party presided over the meeting. The speakers said Bhasani was not only a politician, he was the real friend of the peasants and labourers.

They urged the present day leaders to follow the ideals of the late leader and forge greater unity of the common people to establish a society free from exploitation and chaos.

Kazi Mesbahuddin, Mir Hossain, Harikrishna Das also addressed the meeting.

KISHOREGANJ
Six held for involvement in murder case

Nov 23 : Nandail police arrested six persons for their alleged involvement in the killing of Abul Kashem murder case.

The arrested persons are Hakim of village Mercenga, Rustam and Wahed of village Majhatt, Hadis of village Nayapan and Mazid and Kadir of village Kawarghatti. Abul Kashem Bhuiyan (34), ex-chairman of Muzahid union and a BNP leader was slaughtered by miscreants at Mercenga Natan Bazar (Rafique market) on October 27 night.

SHERPUR
Viral hepatitis causing concern

Nov 23 : Viral hepatitis is spreading in the five thanas of the district causing concern among the rural people, reports UNB.

At least one member of every family of the district town and its adjoining areas has been attacked by the disease.

Local physicians said there was no allopathic medicine for jaundice which could be cured by adequate fluid intake and bed rest.

Affected patients, however, were turning to rural kabiraj for treatment, which, they claimed, was very effective.

JHENIDAH
Teachers shortage hampers edn

Nov 23 : Speakers at a seminar here said Compulsory primary education was being hampered by shortage of teachers and inadequacy of educational appliances in the schools of the rural areas, reports UNB.

The seminar on 'Social awareness for compulsory primary education programme' was held at Narkelbaria government primary school auditorium on November 15.

Principal Aminur Rahman of Narkelbaria college was present as chief guest.

Abdul 500 guardians, teachers and local leaders attended and many of them spoke at the seminar.

SIRAJGANJ
Food poisoning leaves 2 members of a family dead

Nov 23 : Two members of a family died and eight fell sick, five seriously, from food poisoning in the Sadar thana Thursday, reports UNB.

The dead, Halima, (5) and her brother Nabi (3), died after taking 'Khichuri' along with the other family members at village Khokshabari at 9 tonight.

The five seriously affected people were admitted into the General Hospital where condition of the victims' mother Jobeda Khatun (28), grandfather Yunus (45) and grandmother Champa (50) was stated critical.

MADARIPUR
Family feud compels one to suicide

Nov 23 : A young man allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself at Hoglarmat village in Sibchar thana Monday, reports UNB.

The victim Mesbahuddin Ahmed (26) allegedly committed suicide following a family feud. A case has been filed with the police.

In another incident a man was allegedly killed by a boat man following a quarrel over boat fare on Monday.

According to witnesses Shohorab Hossain (40) of Tatikhanda village in Rajoir thana was hit by an iron rod when he challenged the exorbitant boat fare.

The victim was sent to hospital in a critical condition where he succumbed to his injuries.

A total of 34 Assistant Health Inspectors participated in the course.

RANGAMATI
Traders confine magistrate while conducting mobile court

Nov 23 : A magistrate was kept confined for an hour Tuesday by traders for conducting a mobile court in Langadu thana, reports UNB.

Officials said Thana Magistrate Aminul Islam was detained by traders of Langadu Bazar in a room while he was shopping in the market at 10:30 am.

The traders also staged a rally in the market and changed slogans against the magistrate for conducting mobile court against them.

Magistrate Aminul Islam fined some unscrupulous traders in the market for using old weights and measures instead of the new metric system on Saturday.

Acting on information, security forces of Langadu zone rushed to the spot and rescued the magistrate from the shopping centre.

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



SYLHET: The Sylhet Division Implementation and Greater Sylhet Development Council brought out a procession at the town to press home the demand for formation of Sylhet Division comprising the districts of Sylhet, Maulvibazar, Sunamganj and Habiganj on November 19.

Widespread pest attack on transplanted aman paddy

NETRAKONA, Nov 23: Widespread pest attack has been reported from a large area of district, on planted, transplanted aman, reports UNB.

Affected farmers told UNB that the pests locally known as majra, pamri and bicha attacked green aman plants.

The badly affected thanas are Sadar, Atpara, Kendua, Madan, Kalmakanda, Mohangonj Barhatta and Purbadhalla.

According to the district Agriculture Extension Department, a total of 97,000 acres of land had been brought under transplanted aman cultivation in the 10 thanas of the district during the current season.

Of the total land, 60,000 acres were brought under high yielding variety while the rest 37,000 acres under local variety.

Insecticides are being sold at a very high price which is beyond the purchasing capacity of the poor farmers.

Confirming large scale pest attack in the district, an official of the Agriculture Extension Department informed that the department had already taken steps to spray insecticides and control

the menace.

The farmers, however, demanded aerial spray over the affected paddy fields as early as possible.

Construction work in the district is being hampered by exorbitant prices of cement and other building materials.

According to contractors, one bag of cement is being sold at Taka 275 against Taka 210 earlier.

Cement dealers told UNB

that cement supply from Dhaka was irregular because of transport problem and bad communication causing a crisis in the market.

Some unscrupulous dealers take advantage of the short supply to raise prices.

Meanwhile, construction activities remain almost at a standstill on the government, semi-government and private sectors.

BSS adds: The Whip of Treasury Bench in Jatiya Sangsad Advocate M A Karim asked the students and youths to unite for implementing the development programmes initiated by the government.

He was presiding over a meeting of workers and leaders of Netrakona district units of Jatiyatadabi Jubo Dal and Jatiyatadabi Chhatra Dal on Monday. The meeting was addressed among others by Advocate Siddiqur Rahman, Vice-President of BNP Netrakona district unit and Advocate Abdul Quddus.

Describing the students and youth force as the conscience keeper of our society Karim underlined the need for using the potentials of the students and youths for eradication of poverty and illiteracy from the country.

9.44 lakh hectares of land under paddy cultivation

BARISAL, Nov 23: 2.30 lakh hectares of land have been brought under boro cultivation in 66 thanas of 11 southern districts during the current season, reports UNB.

The districts are Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola, Borguna, Jhalakathi, Peropur, Faridpur, Madaripur, Gopalganj, Rajbari and Sheriatpur under the Barisal Agricultural Zone.

According to the Agriculture Extension Department, out of the total land, 1.90 lakh hectares will be brought under high yielding variety while the rest 0.40 hectares under local.

BADC will supply seeds, fertilizers, insecticides and other necessary inputs to the farmers at fair prices for the successful implementation of the scheme.

Another report says: About 7,14,330 hectares of land have been brought under transplanted aman cultivation in eleven southern districts during the current season.

Of the total, 1,13,071 hectares have been brought under aman cultivation in Barisal while 1,98,400 hectares in Patuakhali, 1,51,366

hectares in Bhola, 10,1,151 hectares in Borguna, 45,635 hectares in Jhalakathi, 69,694 hectares in Peropur, 6,922 hectares in Faridpur, 2,600 hectares in Madaripur, 1,471 hectares in Gopalganj, 18,094 hectares in Rajbari and 5,925 hectares in Sheriatpur district.

Another report adds: A one-day workshop on 'woman education, health and environment' was held recently at the Barisal Development Society (BDS) auditorium here.

Jointly sponsored by the Voluntary Health Services Society (VHSS) and Barisal Development Society (BDS), the workshop was attended by Dr Sheikh Hyder Ali, Civil Surgeon of Barisal, as chief guest. Linus Adhir Das, Executive Director, BDS, presided over the function.

A total of 100 reporters, officers, employees and social workers of different non-government, government and voluntary organisations participated in the workshop.

The farmers are compelled to sell their products at throw away prices due to poverty and meanwhile, a large number of growers have already decided not to cultivate jute in the coming season.

Development Corporation will provide necessary seeds and other inputs to the farmers to implement the programme and to achieve the target of production, set at 1,28,300 tons.

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Notes from Manikganj

From Our Correspondent
MANIKGANJ, Nov 23 : The influx of beggars in the district town, Aricha ghat and suburbs has been creating inconveniences to the public greatly.

According to reports, thousands of people who were rendered destitute by recurrent floods, cyclone and river erosion so long had been trying to earn their livelihood in the remote villages through manual labour.

But due to repeated natural calamities, the livelihood of the distressed people became at a stake and they are compelled to rush to the town areas in search of food and shelter. Finding no job opportunities, they resort to begging.

Moreover, suffering people informed that development work under Food for Works Programme and of other agencies is on decrease in the remote areas of the district.

The town dwellers complained that the homeless people have been erecting shacks on the roadsides and highland area polluting the environment. They also said that many destitute people were engaged in various anti-social activities.

Local elite urged the authorities to take schemes to rehabilitate these beggars on the outskirts of the town.

Cooperative Week observed

A meeting on the occasion of national Co-operative Week was held at the district co-operative office ground recently.

The meeting was presided over by Hassan Imam Azam, President of district Co-operative Union and it addressed among others by district Co-operative Officer Golam Mostafa, Mojib Rahman, Tara Mia, Md Nazimuddin and Mohammed Ali.

Migratory birds start arriving

Migratory birds have started flocking to different new chars of the river Jamuna and the Padma in Manikganj districts during the last few days.

Siberian ducks, sandi ducks, pankauri, pintal ducks, knight herons and others gathered at the Padma and Jamuna river.

Arrivals were thin in the last few years because of the scarcity of food and of hunters raids.

Housewife commits suicide

A housewife allegedly committed suicide by taking poison in Horgas under Satoria thana of the district recently.

The victim, Momota Khatun (28), wife of Zahiruddin of Horgas village in Satoria thana. Family sources said, long-time family quarrel was the reason behind the suicide.

An UD case was registered with the Satoria thana in this connection.

Jatiya Party meet held

A meeting organised by district Jatiya Party was held at local Sabis auditorium recently.

The meeting was presided over by former State Minister, Golam Soroer Milon and addressed among others by Rejaur Rahman Khan Janu, Girja Ranjan Shaha, Nurul Amin Khan, Md Ramzan Ali, Afzal Hossain and Saiful Islam Badol.

JSD unit meet ends

A meeting organised by JSD Satoria thana unit was held at Satoria High School ground, recently.

The meeting was presided over by Ahmed Ali and addressed among others by district JSD Leader Iqbal Hossain Khan, Iqbal Khan, Khorshid Alam and Joyel.

Diarrhoea claims 11 lives in Feni

FENI, Nov 23 : Diarrhoea that broke out in an alarming form in the district four months ago took a serious turn in the last week, reports UNB.

Unofficial sources said diarrhoea claimed at least 11 lives and attacked 75 others at four villages in the district on November 16 and 17.

The victims were identified as Mondira Das (60), Narayan Das (26), Samona Khatun (40), Shahana Aktar (4) from Monghat Kandi village in Sonagazi thana, Jomila Khatun, from Nagar Khandi village, Shamsun Nahar (5) from Phanghachia village and Dilafroj Begum (4), Haji Bhdsha Mia (40) and Rahima Khatun (12) of Masimpur village in Sadar thana.

Two of the dead could not be identified.

At least 111 people died and 2000 were attacked by diarrhoea since August 1 in the district, unofficial sources said.

Purchase of rice thru tenders protested

PANCHAGARH, Nov 23: Some 10,000 people staged sit-in simultaneously in front of different administrative offices of the district demanding withdrawal of government decision to purchase rice through tender, reports UNB.

Rice mill owners, workers and growers staged the three-hour demonstration from 10 am in front of the DC office, Agricultural Extension office and DC (Food) office.

After the sit-in programme, the demonstrators brought out a procession which ended in a rally.

Addressing the rally, they alleged that the rice mill owners, workers and cultivators were being affected by the new policy and demanded of the government to withdraw it immediately.

Meanwhile, none submitted

tender on the last day of submission of tender in the district.

A report from Sherpur says: District branch Telephone and Telecommunication Board Employees Association organised a demonstration and held a protest meeting against the reported privatisation move of the T&T Board.

The speakers said they will foil unitedly and government attempt to denationalize the organisations.

The meeting held recently at the local T&T office premises was presided over by Akter Hossain Tarafdar.

The speakers called upon the workers to be vigilant against any move to privatise the organisation adding that they would be forced to launch greater if the reported decision is not withdrawn immediately.

Construction of cyclone shelters in progress

FENI, Nov 23: The construction work is nearing completion on nine cyclone shelters in the coastal areas of the district, reports UNB.

Official sources said, about 50 per cent work has completed and rest will be over by June next year.

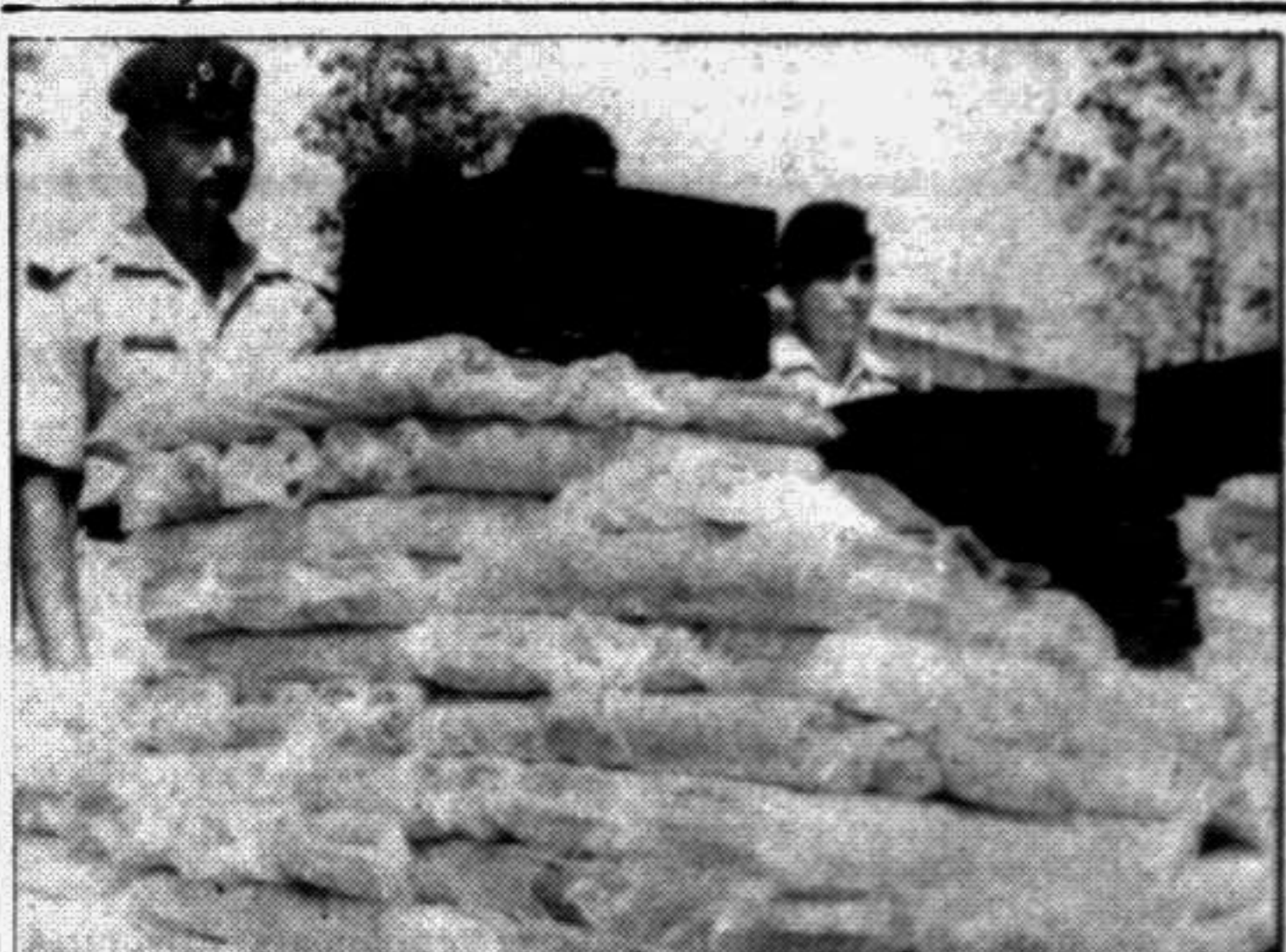
On completion, about 27,000 people will be able to take shelter in time of natural calamities. The project is funded by Saudi Government.

Meanwhile, repair work of Feni Majdee and Feni-Belonia

roads have been almost complete. A total of Taka 2 crore had been sanctioned for the works expected to be completed next month.

District Anti-corruption Department has submitted charge sheets against 11 persons for misappropriation of government money amounting to Taka 90,000.

Official sources said five impersonating as school teachers had allegedly drawn Taka 60,000 from government grant.



RAJBARI: Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) seized a large number of VCPs and Indian sarrees from a boat near the Padma river recently.

Drinking water scarcity acute in Sherpur

SHERPUR, Nov 23: Acute scarcity of drinking water has been reported from five thanas of the district causing immense suffering to the people, reports UNB.

The thanas are: Nalitabari, Nokla, Sreebordi, Jhenaihati and Sadar.

The number of tubewells maintained by the Public Health Engineering Department is said to be inadequate to meet the needs of the locality, local leaders said.

About 9,962 tubewells were sunk for more than 11 lakh people of the district during the last 20 years.

But as many as 500 tubewells have gone out of order since long. About 50 tubewells are out of order in the Sherpur pourashava alone.

Besides, 300 tubewells have been rendered inoperative with their hand-sets stolen.

Local leaders alleged that neither the PHE nor the concerned pourashavas and union parishads took any action despite repeated appeals.

As a result, the people have to use water from ponds, rivers, canals and even pools, which cause spread of water-borne diseases like diarrhoea, dysentery and typhoid to spread.

Rampant cattle lifting has been causing concern among the poor farmers of five thanas of the district.

The farmers alleged that the cattle lifters slaughtered the animals and flayed their skins to sell in the market.

According to sources, 123 cows were stolen and skins of 10 others were flayed during the last two weeks in Sadar, Jhenaihati, Nalitabari, Nokla and Sreebordi thanas of the district.

Panic stricken farmers have been passing their sleepless nights in the cowsheds to guard their animals.

Farmers said an organised gang, backed by some influential quarters has been carrying on this heinous activities.

Migratory birds start arriving

SHERPUR, Nov 23 : Migratory birds from the Siberian region have been arriving in the district but in smaller flocks than the previous years, reports UNB.

Birds like duck, herons and pankauri are seen in the beels, haors and marshlands of Jhenaihati, Sreebordi, Nokla, Nalitabari and Sadar thanas of the district.

Pourashava fails to extend civic amenities

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Nov 23: The local pourashava authority has failed to provide civic amenities to the tax payers at the town.

Deplorable conditions of roads, filthy drains, accumulated garbage scattered here and there all over the town, lack of proper street-lights, paucity of drinking water and non-clearance of nightsoils from the latrines have made the civic life miserable.

Most of the pucca roads at the town area have developed innumerable cracks, potholes, at different points have made the roads virtually unfit both for the pedestrians and vehicular traffic.

All the pucca and kutcha drains at the town remain full of filthy and dirty waters emitting bad smell creating annoyance to the residents and pedestrians as well.

There are about 200 street lights in pourashava area of which more than 60 per cent have no bulb and keep vast area of the town into darkness.

There are 300 tubewells for more than 60 thousand people at the town and at least 100 more tubewells are needed to cover the area of the pourashava.

Kurigram Pourashava has no night-soil carrier for a long time to clear the night-soils from more than 2,000 service latrines at the town. As a result, night-soils in all these latrines emitting bad smell and causing health hazards.

A spokesman of Kurigram Pourashava disclosed that due to gross administrative irregularities no step was taken for running the pourashava effectively.



CHANDPUR: Nurul Huda, State Minister for Establishment, inaugurated Chandpur district boundary at Khajuria under Kachua thana organised by zila parishad recently.