

District roundup

MAJDEE COURT

General Hospital faces manifold problems

July 9: The Noakhali General Hospital has long been smarting under multifarious problems, reports UNB. Local people alleged that the 150-bed hospital is now running with only 17 doctors while the pressure of serious patients is mounting. Many patients are seen lying on the floor in the absence of beds causing serious problems for their treatment. Shortage of medicine, lack of sanitation and other facilities have aggravated the situation. Besides, there is only one doctor in out-door where nearly 200 to 400 patients are pouring for treatment everyday. They recalled that the Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in her recent visit to the district had assured to upgrade the hospital to 250-bed but nothing has yet been done in this respect. Local leaders urged the concerned authorities to take immediate steps to upgrade the hospital for the interest of the people of the district.

MAULVIBAZAR

Sports facilities inadequate

July 9: Sports facilities in almost all the educational institutions and clubs throughout the district are quite inadequate, reports UNB. Local elite alleged that the District Sports Association failed to promote sport activities due to lack of initiative. They could not even provide required sports materials to the educational institutions and clubs. A few years back games and sports used to take place with much enthusiasm and the students were the main participants, sports lovers said. Local games like kabadi, swimming were very popular but now-a-days these games are rarely played due to lack of fund and initiative, they added. The students who were found busy with various games which helped them keep their body and mind sound for their studies now are seen busy with gossiping in the restaurants. Some of them are also found involved in anti-social activities. Local leaders have urged the concerned authorities to take immediate steps to increase sports facilities for the students and youths.

BARISAL

Distressed families get 3,592 tons of wheat

July 9: At total of 3,592 metric tons of wheat was distributed among the members of 9,579 distressed families in ten thanas including pourashava areas of Barisal district in the 1992-93 fiscal year under Vulnerable Group Development Programme (VGDP), reports BSS.

According to an official source, the District Relief and Rehabilitation Department distributed wheat at the rate of 31.25 kilograms per family per month through 86 centres of the district free of cost.

Of the total, 651 metric tons of wheat were distributed among the members of 1,736 distressed families of Agailjhara thana, 735 metric tons of wheat among 1,960 distressed families of Gournadi, 146.25 metric tons of wheat among 390 distressed families of Hizla, 293.25 metric tons of wheat among 782 distressed families of Mehendiganj, 163.12 metric tons of wheat among 435 distressed families of Muladi, 145.12 metric tons of wheat among 387 distressed families of Babuganj, 168.75 metric tons of wheat among 450 distressed families of Bakerganj, 112.50 metric tons of wheat among 300 distressed families of Barisal sadar, 974.62 metric tons of wheat among 2,599 distressed families of Wazirpur, 90 metric tons of wheat among 240 distressed families of Banaripara and 112.50 metric tons of wheat among the members of 300 distressed families of Barisal pourashava areas, the source added.

Over 47,895 members of these families received the wheat.

FENI

Tk 4.50cr Poura Budget approved

July 9: Feni Pourashava has approved a budget of Taka 4.50 crore for the fiscal 1993-94, official sources said, reports UNB.

Announcing the budget at Feni Pourashava auditorium ADC Babu Debasish said of the total amount Taka 47.80 lakh would come from government grant.

He said the rest of the budget would come from its own resources including Tk 2.30 crore from infrastructural development projects, 40.60 lakh from taxes, 28.50 lakh from different sectors, 22.45 lakh from rent collection and 15.05 lakh from customs duty.

He said the main heads of expenditure are Tk 2.30 crore for implementing town development projects, 6.50 lakh for water supply, 3 lakh for slum development, 20 lakh for roads and drain reconstruction, one lakh for construction and reconstruction of park, one lakh for construction and reconstruction of graveyard, 12 lakh for street light, 3.50 lakh for construction and repair of educational institutions.

Besides, Tk 10 lakh has been allocated for the construction of residential quarters of Pourashava employees, Tk 2 lakh for construction of terminal and Tk over 3 lakh for other purposes.

The poura administrator also urged the town dwellers to immediately repay their arrears tax of Tk 27 lakh to help meet the development expenditures.

MANIKGANJ

UP Chairman Samity formed

July 9: 'Manikganj Zila Union Parishad Chairman Samity' was formed at a meeting of the Union Parishad Chairmen of the district held at the Deputy Commissioner's conference room here recently, reports BSS.

Dewan Mazharul Haq, Chairman, Singair union parishad presided over the meeting. Jalaluddin Ahmed, Chairman, Krishnapur union, and Rafiqul Islam Mukul, Chairman, Gola union were elected unanimously president and general secretary respectively of the 21-member executive committee of the samity.

Other office-bearers are: Vice-presidents — Dewan Mazharul Haq, Chairman, Singair and M A Hali, Chairman, Teota Union, Treasurer — A B M Helaluddin, Chairman, Atigram Union, Assistant General Secretary — A Kuddus Khan Majlish and Organising Secretary — Abul Hashem Bhowas.

Number of floating people on increase in Chuadanga

From Our Correspondent

Chuadanga Pourashava area.

Hats, bazars in deplorable condition

Almost all the hats and bazars of Chuadanga district are in deplorable condition for a long time causing immense sufferings to the buyers and sellers.

The condition of Chuadanga bazar, Rail bazar, Kederaganj bazar, Nilmoniganj bazar, Alokdia bazar, Dingadah bazar, Sarajganj bazar, Dashmille bazar, Begumpur bazar, Titudah bazar, and bazar under Chuadanga thana, Alamdanga bazar, Munshiganj bazar, Hadi bazar, Janjami bazar, Bhangbaria bazar, Khaskharara bazar, Hat-boalia bazar under Alamdangh Thana, Darsana bazar, Damurhuda bazar, Dugdugi bazar, Karpashdanga bazar, Gokulkhali bazar, and Jagannath pur bazars, under Damurhuda thana and Jibannagar bazar, Hashadah bazar, Raipur bazar, Andul Baria bazar, Uthall bazar and Shialmari cattle market of Jibannagar thana are in most pitiable condition.

The male members are allegedly engaged in criminal activities like thefts, dacoity, pick-pocketing etc. Female members work as maid servants. Some of them are engaged in immoral activities, it is alleged.

Mosquito menace
The mosquito menace has assumed an alarming proportion in and around Chuadanga town making the life of the town dwellers miserable. The situation has taken a serious turn now. Mosquitoes in swarms buzz around and make it difficult for the students to prepare their lessons at night. Doctors, nurses, lawyers, teachers and shopkeepers who work at night are the worst sufferers.

Ditches filled with stagnant water and water hyacinths, silted up drains, derelict ponds, pucca and semi-pucca service latrine and garbages are the main breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

Heaps of garbages found on the roadside also contribute to the growth of mosquitoes. It may be mentioned here that during the last 25 years the local pourashava authority hasn't resorted to steps to eradicate mosquito in

Recreational facilities meagre
The recreational facilities are meagre and the members of the public, specially the youngsters have been facing manifold problems.

The absence of adequate civic amenities has turned life unbearable. Most parts of the urban area have turned into an abode of evil-doers and miscreants, it is observed. The youngsters spend time in enjoying films. They are also found loitering on the roads and lanes even on the morning ignoring their studies and domestic duties. The library facilities are also inadequate to cater to the existing needs.

There is no gymnasium in the district. There is no park

for children too.

74 schemes executed

During the last financial year 31 development projects were implemented in Chuadanga sadar, Alamdanga, Damurhuda and Jibannagar under Food for Work Programmes. A total of 1,667 metric tons of wheat was used for the purpose.

CARE implemented all the 31 development projects of which, 5 were implemented in Chuadanga sadar thana, 12 in Alamdanga thana, 10 in Damurhuda thana and 4 in Jibannagar thana.

The projects included construction and reconstruction of kutcha roads in the rural areas, excavation and re-excavation of ponds, canals and rivers.

The Water Development Board has also implemented 43 development projects at a cost of 1047 maunds of wheat under the Food for Works Programme during the last financial years.

Aus cultivation
During the current aus paddy cultivation season 30,195 hectares of land have been brought under aus cultivation in Chuadanga sadar, Alamdanga, Damurhuda and Jibannagar.

Of the total land, 1475 hectares have been brought under HYV and 28,720 hectares under local variety.

Of the total land, 6,745 hectares have been in Chuadanga sadar thana, 13,550 hectares in Alamdanga thana, 6180 hectares in Damurhuda thana and 3720 hectares in Jibannagar thana.

It is expected that about 12 lakh maunds of aus paddy will be produced in the district during the current season. The condition of aus paddy throughout the district is satisfactory, it is learnt.

BWDB completes 16 IDA projects in Bakerganj

BARISAL, July 9: Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) has completed 16 projects in Bakerganj thana under Barisal district at an allocation of Taka 3,28,42,000 in 1992-93 fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to an official source, International Development Association (IDA) has financed the projects. The works of the projects began in 1991-92 and were completed in June last.

The projects included construction of 18 kilometres of embankments, seven extraction sluices and eight flushing inlets.

Besides, 13 kilometres of canals will be re-excavated in the project area under Food for Work Programme (FWP) in 1993-94 fiscal year, the source said.

The projects will help provide irrigation facilities on 684 hectares and save 862 hectares from flood and salinity.

40,000 saplings to be planted in Madhabpur

MADHABPUR, July 9: Madhabpur thana forest department has taken up a programme to plant 40,000 saplings of different trees in the current tree plantation season, reports BSS.

According to Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO), Madhabpur, Madhabpur thana horticultural nursery has already produced 6,900 saplings for distribution among the members of the public.

It has raised coconut saplings 1,900, Shashu 2,100, Mehagany 2,000, Raintree 600 and Karai 300.

Other saplings will be procured from Habiganj district forest department nursery, he said.

Tk 6.78 cr Chowmuhani Poura Budget announced

MAJDEE COURT, July 9: Chowmuhani Pourashava has announced a budget of Taka 6,78,11,828 for the fiscal 1993-94, reports UNB.

Announcing the budget at a press conference ADC (General), A K M Mahbul Alam said the overall pourashava development was given the first priority in the new budget to ensure the civic amenities of the town dwellers.

He said of the total amount, Taka 7.15 lakh has been allocated for general establishment, Taka 78,000 for health services, Taka 7.50 lakh for water supply, Taka 65,000 for repair of drains, Taka 2.30 lakh for construction of slaughtering houses, Taka 3.50 lakh for construction and development of markets, Taka 75,000 for construction and repair of roads, Taka 1,56,6100 for street lights, Taka 1,44,20,000 for other development works and Taka 5.40 lakh for education and culture.

Another report says: Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Hossain said criminals, whoever they might be, would be seriously dealt with under the existing laws of the land.

The minister warned anti-social elements on Thursday while visiting houses looted

and ransacked by hoodlums at south Kamargram in Boalmari thana of Faridpur district.

Kamal expressed sympathy with the victims of cruel acts unleashed by miscreants and assured that the government would take all possible measures to ensure their safety and security.

In this connection, he reiterated the government's resolve to establish rule of law in the country.

The Health Minister directed the local administration to probe the incident and take proper action against those responsible to ensure justice to the victims.

Local MP Abdur Rouf Mian, Faridpur Municipality Chairman Fazlul Karim Chand and other local BNP leaders accompanied the minister.

Earlier, the Health Minister planted saplings at the local circuit house and Majluddin High School premises marking the countrywide tree plantation week.

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50-bed dist hospital beset with problems

SHERPUR, July 9: The 50-bed Sadar Hospital is beset with manifold problems causing immense suffering to the patients, reports UNB.

There are acute shortage of physicians, accommodation, medicines and lack of modern diagnosis, pathological facilities and blood bank in the hospital.

Besides, there is no enough security arrangement for the female nurses and the hospital lacks operation theatre.

Local people said the hospital has no separate ward for the bacterial and viral diseases and its only ambulance remained out of order for long.

The hospital can accommodate 60 per cent of the serious patients and the rest are to go back disappointed. Local elite said it needs immediate expansion to meet the growing

pressure of the patients. Patients are also seen lying on the floor. The diet supplied to the patients in the hospital is also reported to be substandard and the sanitary condition is not satisfactory.

Patients alleged that plaster, gauge-bandage, catguts and some other necessary materials are not available in the hospital.

The government office timing is not maintained in the hospital and some doctors were reported to be involved in private practice ignoring their hospital duties.

Water and electricity supply are also inadequate in the hospital, patients said.

Local leaders urged the concerned authorities to look into the matter and take immediate steps to mitigate sufferings of the patients.



MYMENSINGH: A F M Matiar Rahman, Deputy Commissioner of Mymensingh, planting a sapling in the court premises to mark the International Environment Day. — Star photo

Denationalisation of sugar mills protested in Faridpur

FARIDPUR, July 9: The workers, employees and farmers of Faridpur Sugar Mills Limited have been abstaining from work since June 23 in protest against the privatisation of the mills, reports UNB.

The government has taken the decision to sell out Faridpur Sugar Mills and Jhilmanga Sugar Mills in North Bengal in an ECNEC meeting last month, sources said.

Everyday the strikers have been bringing out processions and holding rallies to protest the government decision.

Faridpur Sugar Mills is situated at Madhukhali, 20 miles west of the district headquarters.

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Agri products selling below production cost in Jamalpur

From Our Correspondent

Prices of all kinds of industrial products have also shown gradual increase.

Although no fiscal measures have been proposed on consumer goods, a section of the unscrupulous traders on lame excuses increased the prices defying government's price regulation.

Items which recorded sharp rise in prices include clothes, cosmetics, medicine, child food, and salt.

Limited supply of fish pushed the price exorbitantly high in the local markets. People allege that there is abundant supply of hilsha fish in the market. Traders complain due to lack of sufficient number of refrigerators and

ice, they cannot supply hilsha fish to the rural markets properly.

At present a big hilsha weighing about five pounds is being sold at Tk 160 to 170. Supply of shrimps and other varieties of fish is also scarce causing price-hike very often.

Afforestation programme
Jamalpur Forest Department has taken up a programme to distribute 50,000 saplings of different varieties of trees among the members of public in the district.

According to an official source, the saplings are being sold to the people at nominal prices. The saplings include Mahaganj, Shishu, Arjun, Karai, Segona, and teak.

Works on 450 projects going on

BARISAL, July 9: A total of 450 projects is being executed in Barisal district under Test Relief Programme during the current rainy season, reports BSS.

According to an official source, government had sanctioned 850 metric tons of wheat for the implementation of these projects.

The projects include reconstruction of embankments, dams and roads, and re-excavation of canals and ponds tree plantations and clearing of water hyacinth.

Seventy-nine projects are being executed in Barisal Sadar, 41 in Wazirpur, 58 in Gournadi, 52 in Bakerganj, 36 in Muladi, 35 in Agailjhara, 45 in Mehendiganj, 32 in Banaripara and 37 in Hizla thana.

Agri uplift plans

Bangladesh Agriculture

Extension Department, Barisal region, has undertaken measures to implement various agricultural development programmes in seven southern districts for boosting production.

The districts are: Barisal, Jhalakati, Patuakhali, Barguna, Bhola, Pirojpur and Gopalganj.

According to an official source, he department has distributed 430 power pumps to the marginal and small farmers of these districts. A total of 1,000 power tillers and 22 tractors have been arranged to provide farmers with training on modern methods of cultivation. Six trawlers, 40 motor cycles, 575 bi-cycles, 4 pick-ups and one speedboat have been given to the field officers and ten deep set hand driving pumps have been installed in ten thana of Barguna and Patuakhali districts.

Besides, 1,806 hand

sprayers are being used to spray insecticides in the field the source said. 850 farmers were given training through 21 gatherings to implement the integrated plan against pest.

On the other hand, 1,000 farmers were also given training through 49 gatherings to increase productions of subordinate grains in the districts in this respects. 156 demonstration plots were arranged.

Besides, 1,164 block supervisors were given training to protect the fields from salinity, 2,150 women farmers were given training on vegetable production around the dwelling houses through 1,150 demonstration plots, the source said.

The department will distribute 9,650 coconut plants and 39,400 saplings of rain tree or mehagani trees to the farmers free of costs.



GAZIPUR: Pora Bari Sarbia Dakhil Madrasa completely damaged by nor wester recently. — Star photo