

District roundup

TANGAIL

Ahmadia yatimkhana executives

Sept 21: The Annual General Meeting and election of Madhupur Jamea Islamia Syed Ahmadia Yatimkhana was held Friday at its office premises, reports BSS.

Professor Md Kamruzzaman presided over the meeting. Maolana Muhammad Abdus Salam Rajee, secretary of the organisation placed the annual report.

The meeting in a resolution lauded the contribution of State Minister Lutfar Rahman Khan towards the yatimkhana and also congratulated him on his appointment as state minister for industries.

The meeting also elected an executive body of fourteen members for a three year period headed by Moula Md Abdul Basit.

KHULNA

'Take more initiative to pry edn programme'

Sept 21: Jattio Sangsad Whip Ashraf Hossain called upon all to take more initiative for making the government's education-for-all programme a success, reports BSS.

He was inaugurating the food for education programme of Khulna district at Samantashena Government Primary School under Rupsha thana in Khulna district Sunday.

The function was addressed among others by Advocate AH Deldar Ahmed and Deputy Director of Primary Education Prof. Kabiruddin Ahmed.

Highlighting the positive benefit of education, Ashraf Hossain said that education was a must for ensuring individual and national progress. He said the present government had realised the problems of the poor who could not send their children to school due to poverty. It had thus taken up the epoch-making programme like food for education programme. Later he inaugurated the programme by distributing the wheat among the students under this programme.

RAJSHAHI

Training course for imams concludes

Sept 21: A 45-day-long training course for imams organised by Imam Training Academy ended here on Monday, reports BSS.

A total of 107 imams from seven districts of Rajshahi, Nawabganj, Natore, Naogaon, Bogra, Pabna and Sirajganj participated in the course.

The main objective of the training programme was to train the imams of Islamiat, mass-education, family welfare, agriculture, forestry, livestock and fisheries.

Divisional Commissioner of Rajshahi M Aminul Islam was present as the chief guest at the concluding session and distributed certificates and first aid bags among the trainees.

The function was presided over by Executive Director of Barind Multipurpose Development Authority M Asaduzzaman.

FARIDPUR

Int'l seminar on rural transport, development

Sept 21: A five-day long international seminar on rural transport and development jointly organised by Local Government Engineering Department and International Forum for Rural Transport and Development of the United Kingdom will begin here from September 26, reports BSS.

According to an official source the seminar entitled first Asian regional seminar on rural transport and development is designed to project matters related to rural transport, rural infrastructures and other related problems of Bangladesh. According to the source about fifty representatives from UK, Laos, the Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Nepal, India and Bangladesh would attend the seminar.

According to the source the seminar has been organised here with a view to acquainting the participants with the rural environmental problems related to transport and communication system of the country.

LORD and Co-operatives Minister Abdus Salam Tahader will inaugurate the seminar.

SIRAJGANJ

25 hurt as JCD, Shibir activists clash

Sept 21: Twenty-five students were injured, three seriously, in a clash between activists of JCD and Shibir in Belkuchi Government College here on Monday, police and witnesses said, reports UNB.

The seriously injured — Ariful Islam Sohel (22), OS of Belkuchi Thana Shibir, and Abdul Malek (19) and Sohel Aman (22), President and OS of the college unit of Shibir respectively — were admitted to Sirajganj General Hospital.

Shibir alleged that the JCD activists armed with iron rod, hockey stick and other lethal weapons attacked the three Shibirites in front of the college at noon.

Later, chase and counter-chase between the supporters of the two rival student groups continued for about an hour, leaving at least 22 students injured. They were given first aid.

The JCD blamed Shibir for spearheading the attack.

CHITTAGONG

Stress on industrialisation

Sept 21: US Ambassador in Bangladesh William B Milam Sunday said that Bangladesh would have to go for rapid industrialisation to meet its growing unemployment problem, reports BSS.

Speaking at a meeting of the members of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry at the chamber house here, Milam pointed out that Bangladesh population would be 220 million during the next 25 to 30 years. According to the World Bank, unemployment would be increasing at the rate of 30 per cent during the period, he added.

The ambassador said Bangladesh cannot depend on development of agriculture alone but it will have to expedite industrialisation to meet the challenging unemployment problem.

Earlier, welcoming Milam, Chamber President S M Abul Kalam called upon the US government to give special consideration to Bangladesh garments export to America.

NARAIL

Lack of civic amenities

Sept 21: Narail pourashava lacks civic amenities causing inconvenience to the town dwellers, reports UNB.

The dilapidated condition of the roads, lack of proper drainage system and shortage of water supply facilities have made the civic life miserable.

About three-fourth roads in the pourashava areas are kutchha and cracks and potholes have developed at many points due to lack of proper maintenance and repair works.

The dwellers said the situation turns worse in the rainy season. After a slight rainfall, the roads become muddy and slippery hampering the movement of pedestrians and vehicles. Moreover, all the kutchha drains are filled with garbage and stagnant water leading to the breeding of mosquito.

Local people urged the concerned authorities to take necessary measures to solve the problems of the pourashava immediately.

CHAPAINAWABGANJ

Football match ends in draw

Sept 21: Dhumketu Juba Kishore Sangatha and Alinagar KC ended their match 1-1 draw in the First Division Football League of Chapainawabganj on Monday, reports UNB.

Both the goals were scored in the first half of the match, played in the Chapainawabganj Stadium.

Alfaz of Dhumketu netted first at 12th minute of the first half while Kalam scored the equaliser for Alinagar, a few minutes after.

Another report from Faridpur says: Madhukhali union team became champion beating Kamarkhali union by a solitary goal in Primary and Mass Education Gold Cup Tournament in the district.

The final match was played at Madhukhali High School ground on Sunday. Arif of Madhukhali team netted the victorious goal in the first half.

Ali Akbar Chowdhury, ADC (General) attended the inter-union competition as chief guest and gave away trophies among the winners.

The Gold Cup Tournament was introduced this year to create awareness and interest about primary and mass education in the district.



SATKHIRA: Teachers of the non-government primary schools of the district brought out a procession in the town recently in support of their three-point demands. — Star photo

Woman smokers on rise

From Our Correspondent

MADARIPUR, Sept 21: The number of female smokers, an unusual phenomenon in our society is increasing day by day in the district.

The tendency of smoking among the old women has increased mainly in the areas of tobacco crushing mills and bidi factories throughout the district.

It is learnt that 15 out of 30 women in Laxmipur village of Kalkini thana are smokers.

The landless and the labour class of women are found more interested in smoking. Of them, 20 per cent are said to be minors. Eighty per cent of the smokers use tobacco dusts which are prepared with paper locally known as 'noshah'.

It is observed that the anti-smoking publicity is being carried out only in the urban areas but it is absent in the rural areas particularly in the remote ones.

Local people urged the anti-smoking organisations to be more active in the rural areas.

Soil fertility on decrease

Indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers and continued cultivation of same crop on same

plot of land are steadily destroying the fertility of soil in Kalkini, Rajoir, Shibchar and sadar thana of the district.

Cultivators having little knowledge about the soil components use chemical fertilizers indiscriminately to get maximum production and thus the production capability of the soil decreases.

The growers are also seen cultivating same crop on the same land without interval.

The farmers rarely use organic fertilizers including cowdung. The production capability of land thus rapidly declines.

Production capability of soil is also being destroyed by the maximum iron of underground water extracted by deep and shallow tubewells used for irrigation and siltation of sands on soil due to floods.

Child labourers on rise

Child labourers are on increase in the district day by day.

There are about 10,000 such labourers working in different vocations for maintaining their own as well as their family members.

According to informed sou-

rees, these children are engaged mostly in hotels, restaurants, motor garages, welding shops, tobacco factories and as house servants.

Ignorant and illiterate poverty stricken parents can not provide nutritious food to their kids while the children are deprived of balanced diet.

The hats and bazzars of the district are in bad shape causing untold suffering to both, the buyers and sellers.

The shops and sheds have sprung up haphazardly in many markets making the roads and lanes narrow. Most of the markets roads are kutchha and ditches and potholes have developed at many points.

The government earns huge revenue from these hats and bazzars every year but local people alleged no schemes have yet been taken to improve condition of these markets.

In the absence of proper drainage system water remain stagnant after a slight rainfall on roads causing problems to the movement of pedestrians and vehicles. Most of the drains are kutchha and remain filled with filth and garbage polluting the environment.

Bullock shortage affects farming

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Sept 21: Cultivation of lands in ten districts of Khulna division has been affected following scarcity of bullock in recent times, said a source.

It is learnt that poor farmers of Jessore, Jhenidah, Magura, Narail, Chuadanga, Kushtia, Meherpur, Khulna, Satkhira and Bagerhat districts are fac-

ing acute problems to plough lands for want of bullock.

According to informed source, at present there one two lakh pairs of bullock in the districts while the total requirement is five lakh pairs.

One lakh bullock die every year for lack of treatment and another ten to fifteen thousand pairs are slaughtered everyday

throughout the division. Indiscriminate slaughtering of calves and young cows is one of the reasons to deepen the bullock crisis, the source added.

Witnesses say, smuggling of Indian cattle through border areas of these districts is rampant for long. The rich agriculturists are buying 'power-tiller'.

Fish farming in northern Bangladesh

A momentum is building up in Bangladesh in favour of fish-farming. That enthusiasm derives from Government, NGOs and the rural poor themselves. This enthusiasm is fuelled by the huge potential fishfarming offers to a country where land struggles to support a large and growing population.

We are becoming increasingly aware of what benefits fish-farming offers. Research shows that fishfarming is ten times more profitable than any other item. With proper management, production

fishfarming. Probably the greatest single constraint is lack of awareness and motivation among farmers and pond-owners. A related problem is the lack of technical and pond management skills among those who could be involved.

Technical limitations create another obstacle which must be overcome. To begin with, many ponds have poor water-holding capacity. Over half dry up when underground water recedes during the dry season (December-May). As a result, important

sents the final major barrier. The high costs of pond excavation and re-excavation discourage necessary improvements. Interested users also find it difficult to obtain leases for unused water bodies in public ownership. The joint ownership of many fishponds can also create difficulties and undermine responsibility and motivation.

Yet despite these problems, prospects remain rosy and RDRS is actively tackling these constraints and showing promising results. In the area of awareness and

Notes From B'baria

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, Sept 21: A special squad of BDR 32 battalion acting on secret information recovered 20 bags of Indian motor vehicle spare parts from a boat in the river Titas of the district.

The seized goods worth about Taka seven lakh 20 thousand. The goods were deposited to Custom house. No one was arrested.

One commits suicide

Ratna Rani Dev (15) a student of village Chalipara of Gokarna union parishad under Nasirnagar thana of the district committed suicide by taking poison.

It is learnt that she appeared at the SSC examination from Nasirnagar centre but could not pass the examination.

Rehabilitation programme

The Agriculture Extension Department, B'baria has taken a post-flood rehabilitation programme costing Taka 12 lakh in all the seven thanas of the district.

The thanas include: sadar thana, Kasba, Akhaura, Sarail, Nabinagar, Nasirnagar and Bancharampur thana.

Meanwhile, seven thousand metric tons of seeds of rapa aman were distributed among the cultivators. Besides, 30 thousand kg of maskalai and seeds of winter vegetables worth about taka one lakh will be distributed among the cultivators.

Goods worth Tk 8 lakh gutted

UNB adds: Eight shops were gutted and goods worth Taka 8 lakh were damaged when a fire broke out at Chandina bazar of Sadar thana on Wednesday.

According to witnesses, the devastating fire originating from an electric short circuit engulfed the bazar area soon. Fire Service men rushed to the spot and brought the fire under control after two hours of frantic efforts. A case has been filed with the local police.

Workshop on Juba Red Crescent

A four-day-long workshop on 'Juba Red-Crescent' was concluded at the Nabinagar Pilot High School auditorium of the district recently.

On the concluding day, Additional Zila Magistrate Shah Alam was present as chief guest and Advisor Zila Red Crescent Dr Syed Sadul Huda Niaz and Headmaster Eschamaye Pilot Girls High School Abdul Kadir were present as special guests while Shahidul Haque, Headmaster of Nabinagar Pilot High School presided.

Hundreds of erosion-hit families passing hard days

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Sept 21: The erosion of the mighty rivers Brahmaputra, Dharla, Teesta, Ghagot and Jamuneshwar has rendered innumerable families homeless in greater Rangpur zone.

Most of these uprooted families have been residing at the temporary shelters and many of them have built houses on the embankments and vacant lands.

Due to financial crisis, many uprooted families could not shift to their own lands. Many of them have no lands.

The worst erosion-hit areas in the zone are: Nohali union in Gangachara thana, and parts of Patgram, Hatibandha, Fulsari, Shaghata, Kamarjani, Ulipur, Chilmari, Rajibpur and Pirgacha thanas.

According to the information received here, several thou-

sands of these uprooted families have been passing subhuman life for want of relief and medical aid.

As they have no sources of income, many victims have been passing days in semi-starvation condition.

There are reports of outbreak of various chronic diseases in the camps of the uprooted persons. The children and the females are worst hit of these diseases.

The medical facilities to these affected families are yet to be provided, it is informed.

The government is spending huge wheat and rice under test relief and Food for Work Programmes (FWP) in the zone this year. But a little attention has so far been drawn to mitigate sufferings of the affected families, it is learnt.

Scarcity of medicine in hospitals

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Sept 21: Scarcity of medicine in the hospitals, thana health complexes and union health centres of Satkhira district has created immense sufferings to the people of the district.

Local people informed that necessary and most common medicines are not available in the rural health centres.

The out door services of most hospitals have become almost paralysed due to non-availability of medicines. Most of the patients who come from surrounding areas are to go back disappointed without treatment. Besides, the admitted patients are to collect the life saving drugs from outside at high prices.

Official sources said, only Taka 2.5 lakh is sanctioned ev-

ery year for medicine, mattresses, bed sheets, pillow covers, mosquito nets and surgical instruments for each hospital and Taka 30,000 for every union health centre as against the requirement of Taka five lakh for each hospital and Taka one lakh for each union health centres.

It is informed that some dishonest officials of the hospitals and health centres are selling the medicines at the black market aggravating the sufferings of the poor patients.

Excessive fare is being realised by the bus owners of Satkhira district.

The fare list announced by the government is not hung in the buses and the bus drivers and conductors are violating the government rules.



RANGPUR: Kotwali police recently arrested one Kohinoor Begum of local Bahar Katchha area and recovered 3,31,000 pieces of forged banderol worth Taka 80,000 from her possession. — Star photo

Manyfold problems grip Phulbari town

From Our Correspondent

DINAJPUR, Sept 21: The inhabitants of Phulbari pourashava have been facing a host of problems which include deplorable condition of roads, inadequate street lights, absence of proper drainage system, shortage of accommodation, lack of proper sanitary arrangement, mosquito menace, erratic power supply and absence of recreational facilities.

The town is expanding accordingly with the increase of population but the pourashava authority fails to provide necessary civic amenities to the town residents.

Most of the roads in the pourashava area are narrow and uneven. Cracks and potholes have developed at many points of the roads. After a slight rainfall the roads become muddy and slippery. Rainwater remains stagnant causing difficulties to pedestrians and vehicular movement. Moreover, the roadside ditches filled with filth and garbage are not cleaned regularly which have gradually turned into mosquito breeding centres.

Open catching of fish fry: Production hampered

BARISAL, Sept 21: Catching of fish fry by the current nets is going on indiscriminately hampering fish output in Barisal division, reports UNB.

Fish production in the division has come to all time low. A section of fishermen violating the government restrictions are catching fry openly.

The fry are being sold in different markets before the nose of the law enforcing agencies. Local people alleged that they brought the matter to the administration several times seeking immediate intervention to catching and selling of fish fry but no action has yet been taken in this regard.

CSM's Bar Mill section reopens

CHITTAGONG, Sept 21: The 'bar mill small section' of the Chittagong Steel Mills Limited (CSM) was re-inaugurated here today by the Minister for Industries A M Zahiruddin Khan at a ceremony held at the mill premises, reports BSS.

Managing Director of the steel mills S M Hedayet Hossain and the S.M officials were present on the occasion.