

District roundup

MAGURA JP criticises anti-democratic attitude of BNP

Oct 16: A public meeting organised by the district unit of Jatiya Party was held at Gangalia High School premises on Saturday, reports UNB.

The meeting discussed the present political situation of the country and criticised the ruling party BNP for its anti-democratic attitude towards the opposition parties.

They blasted the government for imposing section 144 to thwart the public meeting and gatherings of the Jatiya Party. The meeting also criticised the repressive measures of the government by various means.

They demanded immediate unconditional release of their party chairman HM Ershad, mid term election and re-introduction of Upazila system.

Ashish Kumar Bhoomik presided over the meeting which was also addressed by Hasan Siraj, Syed Rezaul Kabir, Fateh Ali Tipoo, Omar Faruk, Zahangir Hossain and Zahidul Islam.

BARGUNA Public library lacks proper facilities

Oct 16: The public library of the district is beset with manifold problems much to the inconvenience of its readers, reports UNB.

Sources said a good number of books are found missing but no attempts are being made to recover the books. A section of readers take away valuable books due to the carelessness of the library staff.

No qualified librarian has yet been appointed in the library, it is alleged.

Moreover, important national dailies are not supplied in the library for the benefit of the readers.

Television and radio sets are left unrepaired for the last one year. Local leaders demanded immediate steps to equip the library with modern amenities.

KHAGRACHHARI Cluster village projects uncertain

Oct 16: The Cluster Village Project in Chittagong Hill Tracts region have become uncertain due to dilly-dallying in land acquisition, delay in construction of training centres and complicity in appointing the trainers and other employees, reports UNB.

The projects were taken up in 1992 at a cost of Taka 5.7 crore to improve the socio-economic condition of the cluster village inmates, officials said.

The projects, including weaving, carpentry, sewing, bee and honey raising, planting of bamboo roots, were taken up for expansion and development of the existing small and cottage industries to make the poor people self-reliant.

With the completion of the project by 1995 about 4,000 unemployed youths are expected to get job opportunities, the sources said.

Both the tribal and non-tribal inmates of the cluster villages urged the authorities for early implementation of the projects for the improvement of their pecuniary condition.

MEHERPUR VDP rounds up one dacoit, bomb recovered

Oct 16: Village Defence Party personnel rounded up an alleged dacoit and recovered a hand bomb from his possession at Vabanandapur village in Sadar thana on Thursday, reports UNB.

Police said the VDP men captured the dacoit in cooperation with the villagers while a gang of dacoits tried to storm a camp at mid-night, firing gun shots and blasting bombs.

The other dacoits could manage to flee away.

A case was filed with the local police.

COMILLA Three hurt in night coach dacoity

Oct 16: Three passengers were injured seriously and valuables worth about Taka 50,000 looted in a night coach dacoity at Comilla by-pass on Dhaka-Chittagong trunk road Wednesday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said a gang of five armed dacoits stopped the Chaumuhani-bound night coach at the point and took control of the vehicle. They stabbed the passengers and decamped with the valuables and cash when the coach reached at Naibugh area.

The injured, identified as Abul Bashar, Subal Shaha and Abu Taher, were admitted to Chaddagram Health Complex.

A case has been filed with the police.

RANGPUR Three-day erosion leaves 50 families homeless

Oct 16: At least 50 families were rendered homeless in Gongachhara thana in the last three days on account of erosion of the river Teesta with the recession of flood waters, reports UNB.

With this, the number of erosion victims now stood at about 542 families this year at Bagdoga village of the thana, local leaders said.

The river also devoured hundreds of acres of cultivable land during the period.

The UP Chairman Abdul Qader of Nohali union said the local Bagdoga Flood Control Embankment was threatened by the erosion.

The embankment might be washed away at any moment if proper steps were not taken to check the erosion in time, apprehended the UP Chairman.

NARAIL Mosquito menace

Oct 16: Mosquito menace in the pourashava area has assumed an alarming proportion causing untold suffering to the town dwellers, says UNB.

Stagnant water in the road side ditches, derelict pond and heaps of garbage beside the roads have become the ideal breeding centres of mosquitoes.

Effective measures to eradicate mosquitoes have not been taken by the Municipal authorities in spite of repeated appeals by the local people.

The pourashava lacks proper drainage and sewerage system which caused water logging on the roads and in the ditches. As a result, drains are filled with filth and garbage threatening public health.

Local leaders have urged the authorities to launch mosquito eradication drive without further delay.

JESSORE Three die in lamp explosion

Oct 16: With the death of Masura Khatun (28) Sunday death toll in kerosin explosion, rises to three at Jessore general hospital during the last one week ending Sunday. Other two victims are Jahanara (27) and Kohnour (28) who succumbed to burn injuries on fifth and ninth of this month respectively.



RAJSHAHI: Hasan Azizul Haq, a noted writer speaking at a meeting on RU campus. The meeting arranged by the Muktiyoddah Charcha Kendra of the varsity demanded ban on politics based on religion. Jahanara Imam, Convenor, Ghatak Nirmul Committee is seen on the right.

6000 ponds, tanks lying unutilised

MAULVIBAZAR, Oct 16: Fish production in the district is decreasing day by day due to lack of motivation and patronisation.

Pond and tank based pisciculture in the district has a bright prospect. About 6,000 ponds and tanks have been lying uncultivated in the district.

Local cultivators say that huge quantity of fish can be produced every year if the ponds and tanks are properly used.

It is informed that, the local fisheries department has not yet taken adequate initiative to raise fish production. During the national Fisheries Fortnight the department only did the ceremonial works, it is alleged.

A non-government survey shows that there are 16,123 ponds and tanks in the district covering an area of 5,708 acres.

Out of the total, only 10,000 ponds and tanks are under fish cultivation.

A source disclosed that there are 1,000 ponds and tanks under the local government bodies here, including 92 belonging to local zila parishad.

Most of these ponds and tanks were not leased out for alleged negligence of the local bodies management, it informed.

Maximum of zila parishad, ponds and tanks are under illegal occupation. A zila parishad source said that they saw no

positive response from the private fish cultivation. Interested fish cultivators say that they do not have enough money to continue pisciculture. They informed that they are always deprived of loan and other facilities from the authorities concerned.

The Fisheries Department has not yet taken up motivation, programme to help increase fish production.

Due to complicated procedures, the genuine cultivators find it difficult to get loan from the financial institutions.

Only 15 to 20 per cent cultivator have their own ponds and tanks while the rest are taken as lease.

The fish projects in the district are badly affected by the floods causing huge financial losses to the cultivator.

Recent floods in the months of June and July inundated 4228 ponds and tanks under sadar, Rajnagar, Kamolganj and Kulaura thanas of the district.

Due to floods, 213.50 metric tons of fish and fish fry went out of the ponds and tanks.

The government has taken up post-flood rehabilitation programmes but the fishery projects have been excluded from the scheme. Hence, the fish cultivators have been passing time under uncertainty.

Mill worker found dead at Tongi

From Our Correspondent GAZIPUR, Oct. 16: A worker of the Ashraf Textile Mills Limited was found dead in the mills compound at Tongi early today.

Tongi police suspected it as a murder and arrested the two workers who brought the body to the Tongi Hospital.

The suspects, according to police, saw Abdul Wahab, 40, lying in the mills premises around 1 am and carried him to the Tongi Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

Police said that there were bruises all over the body and they arrested Ramzan Ali Sikder, 35, and Nayan Mia, 28, for interrogation.

Abdul Wahab was also an elected member of the CBA of the mills, and stayed at a workers' quarters inside the mills area.

Police are yet to find the motive behind the murder.

A top official of the mills and the general secretary of the CBA of the mills declined to comment on the incident.

Standing crops under pest attack

From Our Correspondent SATHKHIRA, Oct. 16: Standing crops on 3500 acres of land in seven thanas of the district have been affected by pest attack.

The pest locally known as 'pamri' and 'mazra' damaged the crops in Kalaroa, Tala, sadar, Debhata, Assassuni, Kali-ganj and Shyamnagar thanas, farmers said.

The pests attack could not be controlled by insecticides due to heavy rainfall which washed away the chemicals, they added.

Farmers urged the authorities concerned to take necessary steps immediately to check the pest attack as they can not afford to buy the pesticides which are being sold at an exorbitant rate in the local markets.

One official of Agriculture Extension Department told that steps are being taken to check the pest attack but shortage of pesticides and spray machines

are the main problems on the way.

Our Sherpur correspondent reports: Widespread rat and pest attack has damaged standing aman crops on vast areas of Jhenajati, Nalitabari, Sreebordi, Nakla and sadar thanas of the district.

Official sources, however, confirmed the pest attack but failed to mention the extent of damage.

Local people informed that authorities depend only on the reports of block supervisors who submit imaginary reports without visiting.

The pest attacked paddy plants turn yellowish and later dry up.

The sources said, adequate preventive measures could not be taken due to acute scarcity of insecticides and spray machines.

Farmers informed that insecticides available in the local markets are mostly adulterated.

Hundreds suffering from virus fever

JAMALPUR, Oct 16: Hundreds of people of Sherpur and Jamalpur districts have been suffering from high fever and headache as virus fever broke out in an epidemic form, reports UNB.

According to physicians, the fever may continue for 7 to 10 days making the patients weak and pale.

Women and children are the worst victims of the disease. The worst affected thanas are Bokshiganj, Jhinaigati, Sreebordi, Islampur and Madarganj.

Patients are coming to the health complexes for treatment from distant places. Medical sources said there is no curative medicine for the virus fever.

Another report says: Four people, including three children, lost their lives on Thursday and Friday in Sirajganj district.

All the three children drowned on Friday while bathing in rivers close to their houses, according to family sources.

The children were identified as Bidu (7) of village Guchuria and Anil (9) of Jeleypara in Chowhali thana, and Amina (8) of Charbalia village in Kazipur thana.

Idris Ali (60) of Char Makra in Shahajadpur thana died of snake bite on Thursday night. He was bitten in the dark while he went out of his room.

Meanwhile, some 240 families of 12 villages in five thanas of the district were rendered homeless in last 24 hours due to erosion of the Jamuna.

HYV of Eucalyptus developed

RANGAMATI, Oct. 16: A Botany teacher of Rajshahi University has developed a high yielding variety test-tube plant of Eucalyptus, reports UNB.

Director of Forestry Development and Training Centre (FDTC) Dr Shamsur Rahman said, 'the timber of the new variety will be four-fold than the ordinary one'.

Prof OI Joarder of Botany developed the elite genotype in a test tube at Rajshahi University. He sent a few samples to FDTC.

The Eucalyptus clone, first of its kind in the country, has been planted at the training centre premises at Kaptai for demonstration and further study.

The new variety is disease-resistant, less water-absorbing, and its timber value is equivalent to teak, the Director of FDTC added.

It usually grows in forest and on plains as well. The plant becomes mature within 8 years while teak takes 60 years to attain maturity. It is also less costly.

However, large scale distribution of the high yielding variety of the Eucalyptus could not be possible yet due to shortage of fund, it is learnt.

Five killed in road accidents

From Our Correspondent At least five people including a minor girl were killed and 45 others were injured in road accidents at Gopalganj and Cox's Bazar on Sunday.

Three persons were killed and 45 others injured in a bus accident at village Sonakor under the sadar thana of Gopalganj Sunday morning.

Sources said, a wheel of a Dhaka bound passenger bus of the Parjatok Paribahan (Dhaka-4347) from Bagerhat gave way and the bus fell into a ditch.

The victims were identified as Zinnah, 40, Khan, 30, and Kamal, 22.

Among the injured 21 persons were admitted to the Gopalganj sadar hospital. Seven of them were stated to be critical.

Distressed women in search of job, food, relief goods

S. BARI, Oct. 16: A large number of distressed women are pouring in the thana and district headquarters and its surroundings in search of job, food and relief materials.

The mishap occurred when a truck (Dhaka-Ta-1482) loaded with stones entering the town collided with a motor cycle coming from opposite direction. Both the persons on the motor cycle died at the spot.

Police Super Habibur Rahman visited the spot. The driver of the truck managed to fly away. Police, however, seized the truck and a case was filed.

Besides, smuggled goods include sarees, phensiyi bi-cycle, mahashala worth about Taka 4 lakh 16 thousand.

A mobile court, headed by sadar thana Magistrate Md Anwarul Islam in a raid at the Titas river and different beel of the district seized 85 current nets and realised fines totalling Taka two thousand six hundred from 10 persons.

Sadar thana Magistrate accompanied by Magistrate Maniruzzaman, Thana Fisheries Officer Shawat Ali and ASI Tofazzal Hussain.

Smuggled goods recovered Sadar thana police in different raids recovered smuggled goods worth about Taka four lakh and arrested 62 persons in different cases from the district during last month.

Condition of roads deplorable

GAIBNDHA, Oct 16: The Gaibandha-Shaghata and Gaibandha-Sunderganj roads are in bad shape.

The roads are vital for the people of Sunderganj and Shaghata thanas.

Gaibandha-Shaghata road starts from Jumberbari, the last union of thana and passes through Fulkhari thana headquarters via Shaghata bazar, Bharatkhal, Badiakhali and Trimohoni. The 30 km Gaibandha-Sunderganj Road has not yet brought under smooth vehicular traffic as the maximum portion of road is made of earth.

Trade and commerce of the area is hampered as the roads are in deplorable condition.

There are important markets on both sides of these roads. Agriculture products, cattle and other goods are transported to and from different markets through these roads.

The roads have become so bad at present due to the lack of proper maintenance and repair. Moreover, flood waters affect the roads every year.

Numerous potholes, wide breaches have developed at many points water logging have made these roads unworthy of use for the pedestrians, rickshaw and carts.

In the rainy season, the condition of the roads worsens and the communication of said areas becomes disrupted.

Primary education in the district has been facing problems due to shortage of teacher. As a result students are deprived from proper education.

The shortage of teachers is acute in those schools situated in remote areas. In many schools only two to three teachers are engaged for all the students. Compulsory Primary Education Programme in remote areas is facing difficulties for want of adequate teachers.

It is informed that teachers are interested to stay in pourashava and thana areas and they manage it. Teachers show less interest to go remote village schools due to lack of communication.



KHULNA: Ln Principal Md Masharuf Hannan speaking at the inaugural function of week-long programme on 'World Lion' Services Day. It was organised by City Lions Club of Khulna.

4 engrs misappropriate Tk 75 lakh, cases filed

KHAGRACHHARI, Oct 16: Local Bureau of Anti-corruption filed two cases against four engineers of Maini Valley Road Development Project for their alleged misappropriation of Taka 75 lakh, police said on Tuesday, reports UNB.

The sources said, cases were filed on September 30 against them for unnecessary supplying of bitumen and irregularities in pavement construction.

The accused are: Additional Chief Engineer Mahtabuddin, Engineer Shamsuzzaman of Maini Valley Road Development Project, Project Director Engineer A B Siddique and Engineer Abdus Sattar.

The Additional Chief Engineer Mahtabuddin and Engineer Shamsuzzaman arranged to procure bitumen emulsion worth Taka 20 lakh through M/s Zakir Industries Ltd in the month of January and February, 1985. The materials, not at all necessary, were bought on emergency basis, the case record says.

In another case, more than Taka 56 lakh was allegedly misappropriated showing the construction of pavement works on Khagrachhari-Panchhari Road by the Project Director Engineer A B Siddique and Engineer Abdus Sattar in the year 1985-86.

The amount was shown paid in the name of S Ahmed and Company, M/s Nagorik Associate and Titas Construction though there was no work carried out as per records, the case record says.

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The projects were taken up in 1992 at a cost of Taka 5.7 crore to improve the socio-economic condition of the cluster village inmates, officials said.

The projects, including weaving, carpentry, sewing, bee and honey raising, planting of bamboo roots, were taken up for expansion and development of the existing small and cottage industries to make the poor people self-reliant.

With the completion of the projects by 1995 about 4,000 unemployed youths are expected to get job opportunities, the sources said.

BDR seizes Indian sugar

From Our Correspondent MAULVIBAZAR, Oct. 16: Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) seized Indian sugar worth about Taka 50 thousand from a village home at border area recently.

It is learnt, during the visit of BDR battalion commander to the Sharifpur border the BDR personnels raided a house at Kulara thana and seized 26 bags of sugar.

Two persons of the house named Ahad and Asad were arrested and a case has been filed with Kulara police station.