

## District roundup

### RANGPUR

#### Call to ensure fair prices of agri inputs

Oct 24: Farmers of Rajshahi Division called upon the government to ensure fair prices of agricultural products immediately to save the community, says UNB.

The call came at a massive rally arranged by the Rajshahi Division Chashi Samity on Wednesday at Mithapukur College ground with Rangpur District Awami League President Anisul Haque in the chair.

Speakers at the rally demanded to fix jute price at Taka 500 per maund and to raise the price of sugarcanes from the existing rate. They also called for lowering prices of agri-inputs.

It was also addressed by Awami League leaders Abdur Razzak, Matia Chowdhury, Abdul Mannan and Rashid Mosharrif and leaders of Sramik League.

### KHULNA

#### PM lauded for her UNGA speech

Oct 24: A discussion meeting congratulating Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia for her historic address at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) was held recently at the local Zia hall auditorium, reports BSS.

Organised by the Khulna City Corporation (KCC) the meeting was addressed among others by octogenarian politician Advocate A H Deldar Ahmed and Vice-Chancellor of Khulna University Prof G A Fakir. It was presided over by the Mayor of Khulna City Corporation Shaikh Tayebur Rahman.

The speakers highly lauded Begum Zia for her speech at the general assembly which they said had heightened the image of the country.

### M'BAZAR

#### Embankment, drainage scheme still incomplete

Oct 24: The Hamhamichara flood control and drainage scheme in sadar thana of the district could not be completed even in 10 years, says UNB.

According to the officials, the scheme was taken up by the Water Development Board during the fiscal 1982-83 at an estimated cost of Taka one crore but delayed due to fund shortages.

At least 5,000 acres of land could be brought under irrigation facilities and 7,000 acres saved from flooding if the scheme could be completed by this time.

The scheme included construction of embankments along the banks of the rivers Dholai and Monu and sluice gates at the out fall of Hamhamichara.

It may be mentioned that the Monu and the Dholai inundate a large areas of adjacent Bashkola, Shamarkuna and Matakapon villages during the monsoon.

### COX'S BAZAR

#### Govt to extend more help to develop C'bazar as tourist town

Oct 24: Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Mirza Abbas MP said here Friday that the present government of Begum Khaleda Zia would extend all possible help for development of Cox's Bazar as a tourist town, reports BSS.

Speaking at a function arranged on the occasion of re-establishment of sodium lights in Cox's Bazar municipality at public library hall here the mayor said "Bangladesh Nationalist Party did not believe in politics of lip services rather it believed in the politics of production and development".

Chittagong City Mayor Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin, Chairman of Cox's Bazar were among others who spoke on the occasion.

Sodium lights in Cox's Bazar were badly damaged during the devastating cyclone and tidal surge of April 1991 and reconstructed at a cost of Taka 85 lakh.

### JESSORE

#### BRDB gives agri loan worth Tk 11cr

Oct 24: Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) has so far distributed loan worth Taka 11 crore in 11 thanas of Jessore and Narail districts for procurement of irrigation equipment, reports BSS.

The amount so far distributed are Tk 2,06,12,000 in Sarsa thana, Tk 1,94,83,000 in Jhikargacha, Tk 1,61,93,000 in Monirampur, Tk 1,12,40,000 in Keshabpur, Tk 99,40,000 in Jessore sadar, Tk 90,41,000 in Chougacha, Tk 76,34,000 in Bagherpara, Tk 26,30,000 in Abhoynagar, Tk 50,05,000 in Narail sadar, Tk 36,88,000 in Lohagara and Tk 33,58,000 in Kalia thana.

According to a board source these amounts were distributed among the members of respective thana central co-operative societies.

So far 270 deep tubewells were installed in these thanas and about 95,000 acres of land have been brought under irrigation network with these equipment.

The board has also realised an amount of Tk three crore from the loanees.

### JAMALPUR

#### Town remains without power for 14-hour

Oct 24: Two district towns and 11 thanas of the greater Jamalpur district passed off 14 hours without power till Wednesday noon halting business and industrial activities, reports UNB.

Power supply suddenly went off at 9.55 pm on Tuesday with off prior notice and restored in some areas later on Wednesday at about 12.30, town dwellers alleged.

Local Power Development Board officials could not make the reason clear for the power disruption.

### CHANDPUR

#### Six injured in road accident

Oct 24: Six persons were injured, two seriously when a baby taxi and a motor cycle met an accident at Stadium Road on Thursday, says BSS.

All the injured persons were admitted at Chandpur hospital. Monir Chowdhury, President, Juba Dal and correspondent of Dainik Dinkal who was riding the motorcycle was seriously injured.

### NATORE

#### Ambulances given for hospitals

Oct 24: State Minister for Social Welfare Fazlur Rahman handed over three new ambulances to the concerned health authorities for Natore district on Thursday, reports BSS.

The ambulances will be used by thana health complexes of Singra, Paraigram and Gurdaspur thanas of the district for carrying patients.

Addressing a function on the occasion at local circuit house, the state minister said, "construction of a new hospital was underway at Natore district sadar as a part of election pledges of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia".

The present government was trying hard to facilitate maximum health facilities to the people and added providence on the new ambulances was the reflection of government's determination towards ensuring health for all by the year 2000.

The function was addressed, among others, by Abu Bakar Siddique MP, Md Jobair Hossain, Chairman, Natore Pourashava, Aziruddin Ahmed, Deputy Commissioner, Dr Mizanur Rahman, Civil Surgeon and Sirajul Islam, District BNP President.

Earlier the state minister presided over a meeting of district relief programme coordination committee. The meeting approved 25 projects for execution of development work.

### FARIDPUR

#### Sugar mill goes into operation

Oct 24: The Faridpur Sugar Mills went into production Friday, reports UNB.

The General Manager of the Mills inaugurated the crushing of sugarcane following a milad mahfil at the Mills premises.

Production target of sugar has been fixed at 14,330 metric tons for the current session by crushing 1.70 lakh metric tons of sugarcane. Last year, the Mills produced 13,866 metric tons of sugar.

Mills sources said the recovery target was fixed at 8.04 per cent.



SYLHET: Chief Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed speaking as chief guest at a reception arranged in his honour by the local bar association recently. — Star photo

## Erosion-hit people seek food, work, shelter

SIRAJGANJ, Oct 24: About ten thousand erosion-hit people of the district on Wednesday brought out a procession at the town demanding food, work and shelter, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the people who lost their homesteads on account of erosion by the river Jamuna during the current year also submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner to press home their demands.

The processionists, mainly from Kalliharipur and Saydabad in Sadar thana, said they are living in sub-human conditions due to lack of adequate relief materials and rehabilitation scheme of the government.

These shelterless people are living on embankments and other places facing serious economic hardships in the absence of job opportunities. Many of them have been attacked by various diseases due to malnutrition and unhygienic living conditions.

The district administration, however, assured the processionists of possible government help.

#### Diarrhoea claims 19 lives

Another report says: Diarrhoea claimed 19 lives and attacked over 1500 in Raiganj, Ullapara and Kazipur thanas of the district during the past four days ending Wednesday, unofficial sources said.

Of them, 10 died in Ullapara, 6 in Raiganj and 33 in Kazipur. However, officials have put the figure at eight.

Consumption of adulterated food and taking of impure water were attributed to the outbreak of the disease. Shortage of emergency medicine has aggravated the situation.

Civil Surgeon Office said 127 medical teams are working in the affected areas to combat the spread of the disease.

Local people complained that field workers of the health department are seldom found in the diarrhoea hit remote areas.

People deprived of medicare facilities

People of the district have been deprived of their health care facilities due to lack of accommodation in the hospitals, inefficient management and doctors' reluctance to their duties.

The hospital doctors were reported to be more interested in private practice than that of their hospital duties, local people alleged.

A recent study, conducted by social welfare workers, revealed that patients seeking treatment to general hospitals and health complexes of the district had to pay off the middlemen for admission.

Patients alleged the doctors after primary investigation in

the hospitals advised them to take further treatment from their private clinics.

Besides, the doctors and the staff of were suffering from insecurity due to harassment by the local mastans. The situation deteriorated as the hospital has no boundary.

Law enforcing agencies have also alleged that staff of the Sirajganj General Hospital demand bribes for autopsy in case of unnatural death.

The sufferers urged the concerned authorities to look into the matter and take immediate measures to solve the problem.

One killed, 15 hurt in road mishap

A passenger was killed and 15 others were injured when a bus fell into a roadside ditch at Barakandi village in Sadar thana Thursday night.

Police said Abdus Sattar (50) of Barakandi village and rickshaw-puller Buddho (35) were rushed to Sirajganj General Hospital in critical condition. But Sattar died on Friday morning on way to Dhaka.

Police said the Sirajganj-bound passenger bus from Belkuchi tumbled into the roadside ditch after crushing a rickshaw as its driver lost control.

Police seized the bus and arrested its driver from the spot. A case was filed with the Sadar thana in this connection.

#### 52 die of diarrhoea

NARSINGDI, Oct 24: Diarrhoea claimed 50 lives including five children and attacked 2000 others in the district over the last five weeks, reports UNB.

The worst affected thanas are Sadar, Polish, Raipura, Monohardi, Belabo and Shibpur. The death figure could not be confirmed officially.

Civil Surgeon Dr Rashiduzzaman said 70 unions of the six thanas were affected. Paucity of drinking water and consumption of adulterated foodstuffs have been attributed to the outbreak of the diseases.

Of the deceased, according to local people, 12 died in Belabo, 10 in Polish, 8 in Monohardi, 10 in Raipura and 10 in Sadar thanas.

According to, the Civil Surgeon, 51 medical teams have been working round the clock in the affected areas to combat the menace.

A report from Moulvibazar adds: Diarrhoea has claimed two lives and attacked one hundred others in village Yusufnagar in Kulaura thana during the last week.

The victims Pariskar Bibi (30), wife of Rashid Ali and her son Tara Miah (11) died of the disease which broke out in an epidemic form in the area.

Local doctors attributed outbreak of the disease to consumption of adulterated food and lack of pure drinking water.

#### Food for edn programme on

CHANDPUR, Oct 24: Food for Education Programme in seven thanas of the district has begun recently with enthusiasm, official sources said, reports UNB.

They said seven unions of the seven thanas have initially been selected for the programme.

The unions are Bishapur union in Sadar thana, Farazkandi in Matlab thana, Hatla in Hajiganj thana, Suchipara in Shaharshati thana, Kochua (north) in Kochua thana, Balithua in Faridganj thana and Aigi Durgapur union in Haimchar thana.

Meanwhile, a total of 55 metric tons of wheat and other necessary cards for each union have been provided, officials said.

A report from Naogaon says: Food for Education Programme has been started in the eight primary government and non-government schools of Kirtipur union in Sadar thana.

Thana Nirbahi Officer Pranab Chakrabarti inaugurated the programme recently. Wheat was distributed among the students of the schools to help prosecute their studies.

Another report adds that Niamatpur Proslari Club won the championship trophy of thana football final tournament defeating Saboli Progoty Club by a solitary goal.

Azizur Rahman, MP, inaugurated the tournament and later distributed prizes among the winners.

#### Notes From Naogaon

NAOGAON, Oct 24: A week-long sapling exhibition in a bid to make the people familiar with different types of saplings has begun here at Naogaon Eidgah Maidan, reports UNB.

Deputy Commissioner of the district, Mahmood Hossain Alamgir, inaugurated the exhibition on Tuesday.

Different kinds of saplings have been put in the display for sale, official sources said on Friday.

The Deputy Commissioner urged all to plant trees in a large number to make the government's on going plantation programme a success.

#### School building completed

The construction work of Kochagari Government Primary School at Kirtipur union in Sadar thana completed at a cost of Taka 4.25,000.

Local Government Engineering Department (LEGD) has provided the money for construction of the school, official sources said on Friday.

The key of the school was handed over to Chairman of its governing body Ram Gopal at a function held here recently.

Thana education officer, members of the governing body and guardians were present on the occasion.

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) personnel in two separate raids seized 39 Indian cattle and a huge quantity of sugar and salt from Notial village in Mohadepur thana recently.

Following a tip-off, BDR men challenged a mechanised boat in Atrai river in the thana and seized the sugar and salt from it.

The cattleheads were recovered while they were being smuggled into the country through the border area of the thana.

Total value of the seized cows and goods will be more than Taka two lakh, officials said on Friday. — Star photo

## Use of cowdung as fertilizer declines

KISHOREGANJ, Oct 24: Use of cowdung as traditional fertilizer has diminished sharply among the farmers here resulting in the decline of land fertility, reports UNB.

According to farmers, application of the cowdung raises crop production without any adverse effect. It makes huge nitrogen in the soil and help plants grow smoothly and rapidly.

Local people said, the cowdung is being used as fuel due to shortage of firewood. Almost all the families in rural areas are making dried cakes of cowdung for use as fuel.

Fertiliser experts said the people are destroying an important natural manure due to sheer ignorance. They stressed the need for mass awareness about the useful natural ma-

nure — cowdung — to boost agri output without any cost.

They also said rampant use of chemical fertilisers has been decreasing soil fertility in the country for a long time. Only the safe use of natural manures can regain the soil fertility which also can help restore ecological balance, they added.

#### Fodder crisis

Acute shortage of fodder has been prevailing in different areas of the district as the drought and flood damaged grass and other kinds of fodder like straw last year.

Informed sources said that farmers have been facing difficulties for feeding their cows, goats and buffaloes. At least 350 cattlehead have already died in all the 13 thanas of the district during the last six months due to malnutrition.

## Khulna expected to top EPI success list this yr

KHULNA, Oct 24: Expanded Programme on Immunization achieved a great success in Khulna division and it is expected that the division will top the success list, reports UNB.

Health officials sources said, about 54 per cent children of the division have been given BCG vaccine, 54 per cent DPT-1, 53 per cent DPT-3, 45 per cent measles and 46 per cent TT-2 during the first 8 months of the year.

They said some 4.37 lakh children have been targeted to be brought under EPI and already 2.5 lakh children given the vaccine.

Deputy Director of the Health Department said the last three months of the year is the ideal period of EPI and it was expected that the target will be exceeded during the period.

Of the 10 district of the division Kushtia, Chuadanga and Satkhira districts achieved much success in the programme and Khulna district is lagging behind.

Khulna division earned the national award last year by securing first position among the three divisions in implementing the programme.

A report from Habiganj says: A day-long orientation course on Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) for media personnel was held at a hotel in Sylhet.

Organised by the UNICEF and Health Department on Oct

12, it was attended by 48 journalists of greater Sylhet district — Sylhet, Habiganj, Moulvibazar and Sunamganj — working in national dailies, weeklies and news agencies, Radio and TV.

The course concluded in two sessions — inaugural and technical. The technical session covered goal of EPI programme this year and role of mass media to achieve the goal. Representative from NGOs and Health Department also took part in the discussion.

The DG Health and Family Planning, Joint Secretary of Health Department, Editor of Aker Sylhet and President of Habiganj Press club addressed the inaugural session.

Another report from Matjdee Court says: The National Immunization Week began here Sunday with elaborate programmes including rally, art and sports competition and workshop.

The day began with a grand rally at the town in the morning, organised by health and family planning workers of various NGOs working here.

Deputy Commissioner and Civil Surgeon of Noakhali, MPs, and different professionals including journalists took part in the colourful rally and the march.

A discussion meeting was also held at the municipal hall with Civil Surgeon Dr Mohammad Ali in the chair.

## Primary edn suffers setback

BARGUNA, Oct 24: Primary education in the district has been facing setback due to manifold problems including shortage of teachers, furniture and necessary appliances, reports UNB.

According to official sources, of the total 188 government schools, 30 are run by only one teachers each. There are also 75 non-government primary schools in the district. At least 150 posts of teachers including 25 posts of headmasters are lying vacant in the district since 1990.

Five government primary schools in Sadar thana, two in Bumna, 10 in Patharghata, six in Betagi and seven in Amtali thana each are being run by a lone teacher, the sources said.

Three government primary schools remained closed for more than a year due to lack of teachers.

At present about 20,000 children are prosecuting their studies in 215 primary schools in the district, while last year 10,200 children were enrolled in these schools.

Appointment of primary teachers remained suspended in the district since 1989 immediately when the Primary Education Directorate had been placed under the disposal of the Local Government Council of the district.

Another report says: Most of

the hats and bazars of Barguna and Patuakhali districts are in pitiable condition due to lack of proper maintenance and care.

According to a statistics, there are at present 300 hats and bazars in 11 thanas of the two districts. They are maintained by the respective pourashava and thana parishads.

Waters remain stagnant in and around these hats and bazars during the rainy season due to inadequate and unplanned drainage system causing untold sufferings to the customers and sellers.

Most of these markets established many years ago have been facing shortage of space in the absence of development schemes. The internal passages are too narrow. It is hard for the customers to move freely due to unplanned and haphazard construction of shops and sheds.

Most of the markets are not connected with the nearest roads causing problems to load and unload the commodities. A good number of important markets are yet to be electrified.

In the absence of urinals and latrines, people are forced to defecate in nearby open spaces of the markets causing health hazards. There are few tubewells in the markets but these always remain out of order due to proper care and maintenance.

## Anti-social activities on rise

MAGURA, Oct 24: Anti-social activities are on rise in different parts of the district causing concern among the peace-loving people, reports UNB.

According to local people, bus stands, cinema hall and various business centres of the town have become the dens of gamblers, gay girls and drug addicts. They alleged that different spurious drugs and narcotics are being sold openly in market places.

The mastans and hoodlums are engaged in various crimes including hijacking, eve-teasing and toll collection. It has become difficult for women to go out for necessary works after sundown.

The guardians have urged the concerned authorities to take measures to curb the selling of spurious drugs and narcotics and proper steps

against the persons responsible for anti-social activities.

Another report says: In the absence of slaughtering houses in most of the hats and bazars of the district, cows and goats are being slaughtered in open spaces creating environmental pollution.

According to local people, the bloods and other wastes of the slaughtering animals emit bad odour causing health hazards in and around the market places.

Defying government rule sick and old animals are being slaughtered every day in the absence of proper checking by the livestock officials.

Doctors said people are being attacked by diseases including tuberculosis, tetanus, dysentery and diarrhoea due to intake of the meat of these animals.