

District roundup

KHULNA
Ensure proper implementation of education programme

Oct 25: State Minister for Establishment Barrister Aminul Huq called for united efforts to ensure successful implementation of the education programme by creating social awareness, says BSS.

The state minister was addressing a seminar on "need of mass education for poverty alleviation" arranged on the occasion of the book fair being held at the local Saheed Haidis Park recently.

The book fair is being held under auspices of Bangladesh National Book Centre in cooperation with Khulna Regional Book Fair-1400 BS Celebration Committee.

Presided over by Deputy Commissioner Khulna Kazi Reazul Huq, the seminar was participated among others by Mayor of Khulna City Corporation, Shaikh Tayebur Rahman, eminent social worker M Nurul Islam, Principal Nazimuddin and Principal Mazharul Hannan.

The key note paper was presented by Prof Anwarul Kadir.

The speakers said that each and every member of the society has the right to education and the present democratic government has undertaken massive programme to remove illiteracy from the society.

TANGAIL
Help less fortunate in society

Oct 25: The State Minister for Industries Lutfur Rahman Khan called upon the well-to-do people to play a philanthropic and charitable role to solve the problems of the less fortunate in our society, reports BSS.

The state minister was laying the foundation stone of the blood donors' club in the sadar hospital premises recently.

"A little compassionate attention of people from the wealthy section may solve a very big problem of the society," Rahman said and added that the society is benefitted under such a attitude of the people.

M A Halim, President of the club urged all people to come forward and help the distressed people. He also urged the young people to donate blood which, he said, could save a life in distress.

B'BARIA
One gets 10 yrs RI for violating woman

Oct 25: A man was sentenced to 10 years rigorous imprisonment for violating a woman, court sources said here Sunday, reports UNB.

The court also fined the accused Taka 3000 or in default, to suffer one year imprisonment more.

The case, in brief, was that convicted Dhan Mia along with his accomplices abducted Mamtaj Begum (28) of village Kashabpur in sadar thana while she was going to her sister's house. They took Mamtaj to a nearby place and gang-raped her on May 27, 1990.

Dhan Mia wanted to marry divorcee Mamtaj. But her father did not agree with the proposal. At this he became furious and took revenge in a barbaric way.

After examining the witnesses and records the District and Sessions Judge delivered the judgement recently.

NATORE
207 families receive khas land

Oct 25: State Minister for Social Welfare Fazlur Rahman handed over deeds of khas land to 207 landless and distressed families of Lalpur thana on Sunday, says UNB.

The deeds covering 61.12 acres of land were formally transferred to landless people at a function.

Addressing the function as chief guest, the state minister said, despite limited resources the present government was endeavouring hard to rehabilitate the distressed people by providing all possible assistance.

He urged all to successfully implement the family planning, compulsory primary education and afforestation programmes to save the future generation from the curse of becoming landless.

The function was addressed, among others, by Chairman of Bilbaria Union Parishad Sajedur Rahman, Deputy Commissioner Aziruddin Ahmed, president of Lalpur thana BNP Hujiruddin.

CHITTAGONG
3 die falling from bus roof

Oct 25: Three persons including a school student were killed and another was seriously injured when they fell down from the roof of a Chittagong bound bus at Dalarmokh under Raojan thana recently, reports BSS.

According to Raojan police the fatal fall was caused by a dash against a mango tree.

One of them died on the spot, while two others died on way to hospital.

The seriously injured a tribal man, was admitted in Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

MANIKGANJ
35 injured in boat dacoity

Oct 25: Valuable worth about Taka one lakh were looted and 35 passengers sustained injuries, six seriously, in a boat dacoity in river Jamuna near Laxtara of Daulatpur thana on Monday, reports UNB.

According to the witnesses, a Joipur bound engine boat with 45 passengers while coming from Baghabari was attacked by the armed miscreants numbering 10 to 12. The hoodlums beat the passengers indiscriminately and decamped with the booty.

The seriously injured, identified as Nurul Islam (25) of Bagotia, Nuruddin (25) of Bachamara, Rekha (30) and her husband Akhter Siddique (42) of Aricha ghat of Shibhalaya thana, Rahmat (18) and his brother Mostaque Ali (10) of Baghabari ghat, were admitted to the local health complex.

A case has been filed with the local police.

JAMALPUR
Construction on 9 roads progressing fast

Oct 25: The construction work on nine roads in the district town has been progressing fast, says UNB.

Jamalpur Municipal Authority has sanctioned Taka 37 lakh for the construction of the roads from its development fund.

These are, Sardarpara road stretching from Shahid Harun Sarak to Shahid Salahuddin Sarak, PTI road, Sarkerpara road, AM College to Bakultala road, Chondra-Zamtoil road, Beltia police line road and Bashakpara road.

According to the project officials, the construction work is expected to be completed by January next year.

With the completion of the work, road communication in the areas will be improved to a great extent.

SATKHIRA
3 children rescued from hands of traffickers

Oct 25: Passengers rescued three children from the clutches of traffickers from a bus at Alopurand on Satkhira-Kaliganj road on Wednesday, reports UNB.

The children were identified as Hafiz (10), son of Jalal Mollah, Surat (11), son of Nurul Mir and Shahinor (10), son of Sadrul Mallick of Boronol police Kalia district.

The children were allegedly being taken to India assuring them jobs by some unidentified traffickers.

On suspicion the passengers enquired the children about their destination when the bus reached Alopurand and found out the foul play. Sensing the situation the traffickers slipped out the bus.

The children were later handed over to Kaliganj police. A case has been filed.

COMILLA
Indian goods worth Tk 20.4 lakh seized

Oct 25: Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) in two separate raids seized Indian goods worth about Taka 20.43 lakh and arrested a fugitive criminal last week, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, a patrol party of 29 Rifle Battalion challenged a micro bus at Subarnopur area in Sadar thana on October 11 and nabbed Motaieb Ali, a fugitive criminal, with the Indian sarees worth about Taka 1,12,600.

In another raid recently, BDR men intercepted a Chittagong-bound truck at Suaganj, nine miles south of the Comilla town, on Dhaka-Chittagong highway and recovered Indian smuggled goods valued at Taka 19,30,350.



CHANDPUR: A colourful procession was brought out here on the occasion of International Literacy Day. — Star photo

15,000 homeless by Jamuna erosion in 3 months

PABNA, Oct 25: Some 15,000 people were rendered homeless in the district on account of erosion by the river Jamuna during the last three months, official sources said here on Thursday, reports UNB.

They said, standing crops worth about Taka 50 crore on 35,000 acres of land were washed away during the period.

Besides, two high schools, five primary schools, two mosques and one madrasa and about 20,000 handloom factories in three thanas of the district were swallowed by the river.

Nearly 10,000 people have taken shelter on different flood control embankments of the district and are passing their days in sub-human condition, officials added.

Meanwhile, local administration distributed Taka five lakh and 200 metric tons of rice among the affected people.

Official sources said of the dead, seven are in Pabna, three in Natore and four in Naogaon.

Unofficial sources however, claimed about 60 people died and over 1000 others were attacked by the disease during the period.

Health Department officials said eight medical teams were working in Pabna, two in Natore and three in Naogaon to check spread of the disease.

Local people alleged that the curative drug — Siebatin, was not available in the markets and pharmacists were selling it at high prices.

Two businessmen were stabbed seriously allegedly by local mastans in two incidents in the town on Wednesday, police said.

A gang of local mastans numbering 10-12 took meals at the new bus terminal hotel of Abdul Matin (30) and while started leaving without paying the bills, the hotel owner demanded the money. At this they got furious and stabbed him seriously.

In another incident, Shahidul Islam, a shop owner, was stabbed at his abdomen by the local extortionists when he refused to pay them toll of Taka 500.

7.10 lakh hectares of land under aman cultivation

RAJSHAHI, Oct 25: More than 7.10 lakh hectares of land have been brought under aman cultivation this year in the Rajshahi division, reports UNB.

According to Agricultural Extension Department, of the total, 5.55 lakh hectares will be brought under high yielding variety and 2.55 lakh hectares under local variety.

About 28 lakh metric tons of paddy are expected to be produced in eight districts of the division during the current Aman season, official sources said.

The districts are: Rajshahi, Natore, Chapainawabganj, Naogaon, Pabna, Sirajganj, Bogra and Joypurhat.

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation supplied high quality seeds and fertilizers to the farmers while Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank disbursed loan to make the scheme a success.

Wheat, potato cultivation

About 11.16 lakh acres of land will be brought under wheat and potato cultivation programme during the coming rabi season in 16 districts of the division.

Official sources said, of the total, 8.90 lakh and 2.20 lakh acres will be brought under wheat and potato cultivation respectively.

It is estimated that 6.85 lakh metric tons of wheat and 10.06 lakh metric tons of potato will be produced in the seasons.

Ambulances handed over

BSS adds: State Minister for Establishment Barrister Aminul Haq formally handed over the keys of two new ambulances to the concerned authorities of Tanore and Godagary thana

health complexes of the district on Saturday.

Addressing two separate gatherings at Tanore and Godagary, the state minister said, the BNP government was determined to facilitate health services to mitigate the sufferings of the masses. He called upon the doctors to render services properly and ensure best utilisation of the facilities provided by the government.

Later, the state minister inaugurated newly constructed building of the girls high school at Tanore. The building was constructed at a cost of Taka Seven lakh.

Govt firm to ensure health services

State Minister for Land M Kabir Hossain said that the

Milkman beaten to death in Pabna

PABNA, Oct 25: A milkman was beaten to death allegedly by his client at a village in Sadar thana Saturday reports UNB.

Police said milkman Nazrul Islam, 15, was mercilessly beaten up by Abu Bakar who got furious as the former demanded Tk seven as the price of his milk at Mahendrapur village this morning.

Nazrul was admitted to Sadar Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries at noon.

Dewanganj College union dissolved

JAMALPUR, Oct 25: The Dewanganj College authorities Saturday dissolved the college students' union to avert clashes between rival factions of the Jatayatadhi Chhatra Dal on the campus, reports UNB.

Govt blamed for lack of law, order situation

MAGURA Oct 25: Speakers at the Sreepur thana Juba League annual conference here blamed the government for deteriorating law and order situation in the country, reports UNB.

They slated that BNP government for using the Anti-terrorism Act against the opposition parties and called upon all to resist the anti-democratic behaviour of the ruling party.

The conference was held recently, at the Thana Parisad Auditorium with the unit president Advocate Serajul Islam in the chair while Altaf Hossain, Secretary, District Awami League attended as chief guest.

The meeting demanded immediate repeal of the Indemnity Act to pave the way for the trial of the killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The conference was also addressed by Advocate Soful Islam Mohan, president, district unit Juba League, Mollah Naboi Ali, Akbar Hossain, Nurul Islam, Abdul Gafur, Mirul Islam, Jahangir Hossain and Bashir Hossain.

Drinking water scarcity in Khulna town

KHULNA, Oct 25: Acute scarcity of drinking water in the metropolitan city has been prevailing for long causing great sufferings to the residents, reports UNB.

About 14 lakh people of 31 wards in the city need every day about four crore gallons of water. But Khulna City Corporation (KCC) can supply only 70 lakh gallons which is 17 per cent of the total requirement, local people said.

The KDC officials informed that there are 35 hand driven tubewells, 1,700 shallow and 325 deep tubewells are in operation, to supply water to the city residents.

Due to fall in underground water level and low voltage of electricity many tubewells remain inoperative hampering the regular supply of drinking water, they added.

To meet the growing need of water, 100 shallow and 62 deep tubewells were installed in 1992-93 fiscal year and in the current fiscal year 20 hand driven tubewells, 10 deep and 200 shallow tubewells would be sun in the metropolis, the sources said.

Local people alleged that the work to sink new tubewells was not progressing satisfactorily due to the negligence, inefficiency of some high officials of the city corporation.

World Bank showed interest to give Taka 120 crore for the implementation of water supply project. But feasibility study of the project is yet to be completed, they added.

Bhabanganj College freshers reception held

RAJSHAHI, Oct 25: State Minister for Establishment Barrister Aminul Huq has called upon the students to come forward in nation-building activities being imbued with the ideals of Shaheed Zia, reports BSS.

Addressing the freshers reception of Bhabanganj Degree College of the district on Thursday the state minister said, the students had played pioneer role in ousting the autocracy.

The students have to play due role to resist the conspiracy being hatched against the present government, he added.

The state minister said, some vested quarters were trying to create confusion among the people on communalism. He called upon the people to be vigilant against the motive of the evil forces.

Azizur Rahman, MP, Alamgir Kabir, MP, Rajshahi BNP district president Abdul Hye, among others, spoke at the function.

Help implement uplift projects

HOMNA (Comilla), Oct 25 Environment and Forest Minister Akbar Hossain said the present government is determined to protect the sovereignty and independence of the country and ameliorate the socio-economic status of the people, reports UNB.

While addressing a public meeting as chief guest here Tuesday he also said all activities of the government are aiming to achieve the target.

Presided over by the Shipping Minister M K Anwar, the meeting was addressed, among others, by T&T Board Chairman Fazlur Rahman and the local leaders of BNP and its front organisations.

The Shipping Minister said the present government has given top priority on poverty alleviation from the country. He said, illiteracy is the root of poverty. So the government has given highest allocation in education sector in the national

budget of the current fiscal year.

The Environment Minister said Farakka Barrage on the Ganges is causing serious threat to our country in maintaining the ecological balance, says an official handout.

Students deny assaulting of college principal

SIRAJGANJ : Oct 25: Some student leaders of Sirajganj government college in a statement denied the allegation that the principal of the college was assaulted in an incident recently, reports UNB.

The principal of the college also denied that he had been "roughed up" by a group of unruly students, but said his room had been ransacked and furniture damaged.

Ferry ghat in Patuakhali under erosion threat

PATUAHALI, Oct 25: The existence of Lebukhali Ferry Ghat is threatened as the erosion of the river Lebukhali has taken a serious turn in the last few days, reports UNB.

The ghat, situated on Barisal-Patuakhali Road, is the second ferry ghat of the route.

Many shops, houses and crop lands were devoured by the river during last few years. The ferry ghat of the Roads and Highways Department was shifted several times due to the river erosion.

It is apprehended that if the erosion continues at the present rate the toll-shed of the area will soon be engulfed.

Local people urged the government to take immediate steps to protect the ghat.

Another report adds: Police arrested the wife of a dacoit from the jail gate of Barguna

district sadar while she was allegedly sending four rounds of cartridges to her gaoled husband and brother.

According to police, Nasima Begum's husband Hazra Ali and her brother Abdus Sobhan were arrested on charges of a dacoity and illegal possession of arms a few months back.

Police said, Nasima was caught red-handed on Oct 16 while she was allegedly sending cartridges in the polythene bag of fired rice (muri) to her husband and brother.

Further investigating is on.

BSS from Jamalpur adds: The rivers Jamuna and Brahmaputra have posed a threat to devour a large area under five unions of Sarishabari police station.

The unions are Chaper Kona, Kamrabad, Pugal Digha, Piena and Aona.

Diarrhoea claims 27 in one month

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Oct 25: At least 27 persons have died of diarrhoea and 5000 more have been attacked by the disease in the district during last one month.

The disease has broken out in an epidemic form in the all char areas of Jamalpur Sadar, Islampur, Dewanganj and Madarganj thanas.

The Civil Surgeon of Jamalpur, Md Askar Ali confirmed the death of 11 persons.

Local doctors say that the toll may rise rapidly as adequate measures have not been taken to ensure treatment and supply of pure drinking water.

The people of these affected areas informed that due to the negligence of the workers of Health Department the disease has been spreading fast. The medical teams are hardly found at the affected areas, they further informed.

A total 35 medical teams was working in the affected areas to combat the disease.

Everyday about 200 patients coming to the thana health complexes have been facing accommodation problems. Islampur thana health complexes sources informed that everyday 30 to 35 patients are coming to hospital.

Local peoples have urged the authorities concerned to supply drugs to save the suffering people and combat the disease immediately.

Another source said, BRAC, a non-government organisation has distributed saline among the poor patients in the rural areas.

Civil Surgeon of Jamalpur visited different affected areas at the district.

The project has already been completed.

Water Development Board will construct fiftyfour km-long embankment, fourtensy drainage regulators, eighty eight km long road for development, eighteen water control structures, forty three flushing sluice gates and excavation and reexcavation of two hundred thirtyfive km long canal. The work on the project is progressing fast.

When completed, forty eight thousand three hundred hectares in project area will be benefited from water logging and flood waters, the source added.

Another report adds: State Minister for Land, Kabir Hossain asked the concerned officials to implement the test relief projects undertaken in the district on schedule.

He also urged the officials to ensure hundred per cent utilisation of the development fund in their respective areas for the benefit of the people.

He made the call while presiding over Rajshahi district test relief coordination committee meeting held here at local circuit house.

The meeting approved 668 development projects with an allocation of 957 metric tons of wheat in nine thanas and city corporation areas of the district under test relief programme.

The minister warned that government will take stern action against those who will be fund engaged in any sort of corruption in the project work. He asked the thana and district level officials to supervise the projects so that it could be implemented smoothly.

Azizur Rahman, MP, Tajul Islam Farook, MP, and Lutfunnessa Hossain, MP, and concerned officials were present.



MYENSINGH: M A Halim, TNO, Haluaghat giving certificate to one of the participants of a training programme on 'social forestry' held here recently. — Star photo

Project lying incomplete for 15 years

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Oct 25: A project of Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) at Ullapara have been lying incomplete for about 15 years after an expenditure of Taka 47 crore. For its completion, the project has become a curse for 13 lakh people of seven thanas in greater Pabna district.

The BWDB took up the scheme in 1977-78, under Sirajganj Integrated Rural Development Programme (SIRD) with the financial assistance of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to save about two lakh acres of agricultural land from flood and water logging of

Tarash, Rajganj, Ollapara and Shazadpur thanas in Sirajganj and Bhongura, Faridpur and Chatmohor thanas in Pabna district.

A divisional office of BWDB was set up at Ullapara with necessary manpower to serve the purpose.

During last 15 years, 35-mile-long embankment from Baghabari to Tarash with four retired embankments, nine regulators, five flashing regulators, carpeting of Tarash-Nilmachara road and brick soling on the pavement of embankment in Chalanbeel area was completed at the cost of Taka 47 crore.

The total expenditure included Taka nine crore as establishment cost and Taka 38 crore for construction works. Due to unknown reason, the project was abandoned.

At present, crops of about 1.5 lakh acres of land are being damaged by flood water almost every year. Besides, water-logging prevails in the area fill the months of October and November.

After withdrawing the divisional office, WDB has set up an SDE office with 30 employees. The employees practically have no work to do but more than Taka one lakh is being spent as their salaries every month.