

District roundup

GAIBANDHA

7 highway bandits arrested

Oct 26 : Gaibandha thana police arrested seven inter-district dacoits from Maltingar Channari ghat of Bogra town recently, says BSS.

According to official source, Bogra police provided cooperation in arresting the dacoits.

Police also recovered three radio cassettes, two wrist watches and some other valuable articles from their possession, the sources added.

JESSORE

71 bridges, culverts repaired

Oct 26 : Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) completed reconstruction of 71 bridges and culverts in the district during the last fiscal year at a cost of Taka 19 lakh, says BSS.

Eight bridges and culverts were reconstructed in Abhoynagar thana, 10 in Choughacha thana, 17 in Jhikargacha thana, 13 in Keshabpur thana, nine in Monirampur thana, 10 in Sarsa thana and three in sadar thana. These schemes fell under growth centre connecting road projects.

Besides, the department implemented a tree-plantation programme of different fruit bearing and timber trees, which were planted on both sides of Monirampur-Dhakuria road, Hatbatpur-Hashipur road and Choughacha-Narayanpur road. The saplings were of mehngani, shegun, sisha, mango, jackfruit, ipil-ipli, raintree, shil-korai and guava.

BARGUNA

Sharp fall in fruit bearing trees

Oct 26 : Fruit bearing trees in all five thanas of the district are on the verge of extinction due to their indiscriminate use as fuel, says UNB.

The poverty stricken people are compelled to sell their fruit-bearing trees to a section of traders for use as house building materials and in brickfields.

According to the local people, Sadar, Amtali, Bamna, Betagi and Patharghata thanas were famous for mango, jackfruit, black-berry, palm, guava, amliki, pineapple and other local varieties which are now rarely available.

People used to take huge fruits which was the main source of nutrition for health. But due to the indiscriminate felling of trees an acute crisis of fruits is prevailing in the district.

It is apprehended that if the present trend of tree felling continues, no fruit will be available in the district in the near future with the continuing growth of population.

PATUAKHALI

Tk 20.3 lakh agri-loan to be disbursed

Oct 26 : An amount of Taka 20.30 lakh loan will be disbursed among the farmers in the district for cultivation of rabi crops under Agriculture Rehabilitation Programme in the current fiscal year, says UNB.

The loan will be given for cultivation of boro wheat, potato, sugarcane and other rabi crops in the region. It will also help the farmers to procure seeds, plants, fertilizers and other essential agri-inputs, official sources said.

About 1,000 marginal farmers of the region will be benefited by the distribution of the loan, the sources added.

Meanwhile, Taka five lakh loan will be disbursed among the poor and distressed women of the district soon.

TANGAIL

Fertilizer to be given free of cost

Oct 26 : District agriculture rehabilitation and implementation committee has taken a decision to distribute free of cost some fertilizers among the farmers during the current rabi season, reports BSS.

According to official sources, forty six tons of urea, thirty tons of TSP, eighteen tons of MP, nine tons of zipsam and one ton of zinc chemical fertilizers would be distributed among the farmers of eleven thanas.

NATORE

Work on modern hospital progressing fast

Oct 26 : The construction work of 100-bed modern hospital at a cost of Taka 7.18 crore on an area of over six acres in the district headquarters is progressing fast, says UNB.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia laid the foundation stone of the hospital on November 16 in 1991.

Thousands of people of the district will get medicare facilities with the completion of the hospital, officials said.

It is learnt that the construction work will be completed by next year.

Local elite said the long cherished demand of the local people is going to be fulfilled with the implementation of the project.

BARISAL

14 electricity defaulters fined

Oct 26 : Mobile court recently fined Taka 23,500 against 14 illegal electricity connections in this district, a PDB source said, says BSS.

Meanwhile, Power Development Board (PDB) has realised Taka 2,56,79,000 against an outstanding amount of Taka 5,56,89,000 during three months till September 30 last.

The PDB disconnected 413 defaulters' lines, including domestic, small industries and commercial consumers, the source added.

JHENIDAH

UP chairman kidnapped

Oct 26: The Chairman of Doulatpur Union Parishad was kidnapped allegedly by the members of the outlawed Purba Banglar Com-munist Party on Sunday, reports UNB.

Police said, the miscreants gheroed the house of Siddiqur Rahman (38), at Sonatanpur village in Harinakunda thana at about 6:30 pm and forcibly took him away.

Police apprehended that the outlawed party members were apparently annoyed by the recent move of the chairman to mobilise the Village Defence Party members against them.

Meanwhile, police launched their hunt to rescue the abducted chairman.

RAJSHAHI

Sugarcane crushing begins

Oct 26: The seasonal sugarcane crushing of Rajshahi Sugar Mills began Saturday targeting to produce 18,424 metric tons of sugar in the current season, reports BSS.

State Minister for Land Md Kabir Hossain inaugurated the crushing programme at a simple ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion, the state minister said, the government was endeavouring to achieve self-sufficiency in sugar alongwith food autarky. He said, establishment of a new sugar mill was underway at Pabna.

Kabir called upon the officials and workers of the mills to discharge their duties with utmost sincerity to achieve the current season's target for greater national interest.

The mill authorities has fixed a target to crush 2,11,705 metric tons of sugarcane at the extraction rate of 8.70 per cent. About 23,500 acres of land have been brought under sugarcane cultivation this year in the mill zone area to achieve the target.

KHULNA

Fake medicine factory unearthed

Oct 26: The metropolitan police unearthed a fake medicine factory at east Baniakhamar area of the town on Saturday, reports UNB.

Police seized fake medicines and equipment worth about Taka 4 lakh and nabbed three people in this connection.

Following a tip-off, police raided the National Chemical and Pharmaceuticals at the area at 10 am and seized 23 different fake medicines, including paracetamol syrup, milk of magnesia, aloxy and zambeak.

The arrested were identified as manager of factory Kazi Kamaluddin and workers Afzar Ahmad and Aslam Ahmad.

A case has been filed and further investigation is on.



Gano Bikash Sangstha, a social organisation arranged a milad mahfil at Velanagar Adarsha Gram Community Centre in Narsingdi to pray for eternal peace of the departed soul of S M Ali, the founder Editor of the Daily Star on October 23.

Help people know about adverse effects of Farakka

RAJSHAHI, Oct 26: Speakers at a seminar on "Farakka barrage and its impact on Bangladesh" Saturday called for awakening the people about Farakka problem as it is the "life and death question" for the nation, reports BSS.

The seminar was organised by engineers' institution, Bangladesh at the auditorium of the local Engineers' Institution.

Professor Md Shahjahan, Vice Chancellor of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) resented the key note paper at the seminar while engineer Mozharul Islam presided.

State Minister for Land Md Kabir Hossain attended the function as chief guest while City Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu was the special guest.

Vice Chancellor of Rajshahi University Prof Anisur Rahman, Vice Chancellor of Islamic University Prof Abdul Hamid and a large number of city elite and high officials were present on the occasion.

Prof. Shahjahan said, due to the adverse affect of Farakka the country had so far incurred losses over Taka ten thousand crore. He said twentyone districts of north and south west of the country had been badly affected by unilateral withdrawal of Ganges water by India.

He said over forty million trees had already been destroyed due to Farakka impact in the Sundarban area and other trees would also be destroyed in phases.

The BUET Vice Chancellor suggested for construction of Ganges barrage and Brahmaputra barrage in the country for "our survival".

He said, "Farakka is not only creating environmental and ecological problems but also posing serious threat to our agriculture, industry, forestry, fisheries, livestock and navigation in the country. The national economy is badly affected due to Farakka, he added.

Kabir Hossain, in his speech, said political parties should be united on Farakka problem for greater national interest.

Paying tribute to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia for raising the Farakka problem at the United Nations the state minister said "Farakka is severe national problem and it must be solved through strengthening our national economy and using the modern method of technology. It is the time for all of us to awaken the people about the impact of Farakka problem so that it can be solved for greater national interest", he added.

Rajshahi Mayor Mizanur Rahman apprehended that water supply in the city would be affected during dry season due to fall of ground water level due to the impact of Farakka barrage.

Two bridges in poor condition

MAGURA, Oct 26: Two bridges on Magura-Jessore via Arpara road were badly damaged due to negligence of authorities for a long time, reports UNB.

Different transports are crossing the bridges every day with high risk. These bridges constructed on Jagla and Katakhal canals before liberation have lost their longevity and strength.

While contacted the Road Transport Authorities told UNB that they did not give any route permit to the vehicles for moving through the road but some heavy and light transports are moving regularly with their own risk.

Local people apprehended that any time major accidents might occur due to playing of heavy vehicles over the damaged bridges. They urged the concerned authorities to take necessary steps to reconstruct the bridges without further delay.

Meanwhile, fodder scarcity is acute in the district. Every year a large number of cattle die of different diseases caused by malnutrition. Moreover, a section of thieves are active who poison the cows to death to collect skins.

Most of the farmers are to pass their nights at cow-sheds to protect their cattle.

10 hurt in clash

Ten people, including an elderly mother and two of her sons, were seriously injured in a clash between two rival groups at Joynagar village in Sreepur thana last week.

Witnesses said the clash between the rival groups erupted following a quarrel over an old dispute. Both the groups used lethal weapons during the clash leaving 10 people injured.

Seriously injured Ajit Kumar Biswas (42), Bishanath Biswas (35) and their mother Renu Bala (65) were admitted to Magura Sadar Hospital.

A case was filed with Sreepur police in this connection.

Shortage of bullock

Acute shortage of bullock has been prevailing in four thanas of the district causing serious setback to the cultivation.

According to a statistics, about 50 per cent farmers have no bullock and most of them cultivate their land on share basis as they can not afford to buy the draft animals due to high prices. At present a pair of bullocks is being sold at Taka 10,000-12,000.

Many farmers use their milk cows to till the lands, resulting in gradual reduction in milk production.

Boy killed in road mishap

A boy was killed in a road accident on Magura-Kamarkhali Road near Kallnagar last week, police said here.

Ahad Ali (14), son of Saheb Ali of Kallnagar village in Sadar thana was knocked down by a truck while he was crossing the road and died on the spot, witnesses said.

Police seized the truck and arrested its driver.

The body was sent to Magura Sadar Hospital for autopsy and a case was registered.



SYLHET: Professor Dr Md Ismail, Dean, Faculty of Social Science, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology speaking at a seminar on 'role of tree in maintaining environment' organised here by the Central Cyclone group, a local welfare organisation recently. — Star photo

Reconstruction of Roosevelt Jetty to cost Tk 30cr

MONGLA Oct 26: Deputy Minister for Shipping ABM Zahidul Haque has said that complete feasibility study would be undertaken to turn Mongla Port into more profitable and modern through reconstruction of Roosevelt Jetty at Khalishpur, reports BSS.

The proposed reconstruction of Roosevelt Jetty would cost around Tk 30 crore.

The deputy minister who is also the convenor of sub-committee No. 5 of the Standing Committee on Ministry of Shipping yesterday paid a visit to the Roosevelt Jetty along with other members of the sub-committee. The sub-committee would submit a comprehensive report on how to make this port viable after physically enquiring into the problems of Mongla Port within the next two months.

Later, Zahidul Haque held two separate meetings with the high officials of Mongla Port and the CBA.

The meeting observed that the construction of Rupsha Bridge, construction of Dhaka-Maula road, railway linkage and airport were vital for bringing about a meaningful development and turning this port into one of the modern port in the world.

The deputy minister called for active cooperation from all corners in the implementation of various development projects already undertaken in the port.

Indian timber seized

COMILLA, Oct 26: Bangladesh Rifles seized about 500 cft of different Indian timber logs from Burichong bazar on Thursday, reports UNB.

However, nobody was arrested in this connection, the BDR sources said.

According to the sources, a patrol party from 29 Rifle Battalion, acting on a tip, seized the contraband goods worth about Tk 2.30 lakh and handed over those to the Forest Department.

Another report adds: Comilla unit of the Bangladesh Cancer Society was formed in a meeting of the local physicians and elite at the BMA office with Principal AW Meyah in the chair on Oct 19.

Two jailed for illegal possession of arms

BRAHMANBARIA, Oct 26: Two people were awarded 10 and seven years rigorous imprisonment respectively for possessing illegal arms and ammunition, court sources said here on Sunday, reports UNB.

The prosecution story, in brief, was that on September 26, 1992, police raided Salima Hotel at Ashuganj Ferry Ghat and arrested Mahmudul Hasan with a loaded pistol.

Police also arrested Ismail Khalil Ratan while he was preparing for committing night coach dacoity and recovered a dagger from his possession.

A case was filed and police submitted charge sheet against four accused.

Housewife hacked to death

COMILLA, Oct 26: A pregnant housewife was hacked to death by her husband at Chowddagram thana of the district, police said today, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Sonaiya (18), wife of Dulal Mia (25) of village Shalukia. Police recovered the body and sent it to hospital morgue for autopsy.

The killer husband reportedly fled away to India after the gruesome murder on the same day on Oct 19 to avoid arrest.

The reason behind the killing could not be known.

Food-for-edn programme starts

NAOGAON, Oct 26: Food for Education Programme has been started in the eight primary government and non-government schools of Kirtipur union in Sadar thana, reports UNB.

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 Proarsi Club won the championship trophy of Thana Football Final Tournament defeating Saboil Protogy Club by a solitary goal.

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

Twenty football teams took part in the tournament.

Tk 21 lakh sanctioned for post-flood plan

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Oct 26: An amount of Taka 21 lakh has been sanctioned by the government for house building grant for post flood rehabilitation programme in the district during the current season.

According to official source, the programme has been taken up to recover the huge losses caused by the severe flood in the district during this year.

The amount would be spent for purchasing house building materials and other inputs for the poor families.

The source further informed that the programme has already been started. The thana wise amount of the sanctioned money during the season is as follows: Dewanganj Taka 2.5 lakh, Bakshiganj Taka 1.5 lakh, Taka 2.5 lakh for Islampur, Taka 1.5 lakh for Melandah, Taka two lakh for Madarganj, three lakh for Sarishbari, Taka four lakh for Jamalpur paurashava.

Another report says: About one hundred cattlehead died and another 5000 were attacked by various diseases in all seven thanas of the district.

The diseases, locally known as goldfola, betofola, khura causes infection in jaws and hoes which crippled the animal.

Farmers complaint that many cattle had died due to wrong treatment by the village compounders in absence of veterinarian.

It is alleged that since the outbreak of the diseases, no such arrangement was made to vaccinate the animals by the livestock department.

When contacted, livestock department officials informed that outbreak of cattle diseases remained unabated as the villagers rely more on field assistants rather than taking their animals to concerned hospitals.

Doctor, medicine shortage in dist hospitals

NAOGAON, Oct 26: Medicare facilities in the different hospitals and health complexes of the district are being hampered due to shortage of doctors and medicines, reports UNB.

There are 140 posts of doctors for different hospitals, including Sadar modern hospital, 11 thana health complexes and 40 union health sub-centres in the district.

Of them, 40 posts of doctors are lying vacant for more than a year. Moreover, the posts of senior medicine consultant, child specialist and anaesthetic at district Sadar hospital have also been lying vacant for about two years, local people said.

The 50-bed district hospital can not accommodate the serious patients due to lack of bed and space. Patients coming from far flung areas often go back frustrated due to lack of treatment facilities.

Besides, shortage of essential and necessary medicines in all the hospitals and health complexes hampers proper treatment adversely.

The hospital patients with serious ailments are compelled to purchase the medicines at an exorbitant rate from outside.

The suffering of the poor patients knows no bound as they can not buy life saving drugs at high rate.

It may be mentioned that Health and Family Planning Minister Kamal Ibne Yusuf during his visit a year back assured to add more 100 beds in the hospital. But nothing tangible has yet been done in this regard.

Local leaders urged the concerned authorities to take necessary steps immediately to increase the beds and provide modern amenities for better services to different health complexes an centres on priority basis.

Tk 8.6 cr R&H project 20 highways developed

PATUAKHALI, Oct 26: Roads and Highway (R&H) Department spent about Taka 8.62 crore for development of 20 roads in Patuakhal Road Division in the last fiscal year, says UNB.

Informed sources said about Taka 22.24 lakh was returned to the concerned ministry by the Patuakhal R&H Department at the end of the last fiscal year due to non-utilisation of the same.

It is learnt that in the last fiscal year Taka 8.62 crore was allocated for road development under Patuakhal Road Division. During the period R&H Department was able to undertake repairing and construction of 20 roads in the division.

The roads are: Barisal-Barguna via Patuakhal road, Amtali road, Lebukhali-Dashmina via Bauphal road, Patharghata-Madbaria road, Bakerganj thana connecting road, Amtali-Kuakata via Kheparua road, Patuakhal-Betagi via Mirzaganj road, Amtali-Taltali road, Bakerhati-Nalchaiti road, Amragacia-Galachipa road, Barguna-Bamna via Kachhira road, Dinererpool-Nalua road, Dumki-Bakerganj road, Nalchiti-Dapdapia road, Kalaya-Patuakhal road, Nalchiti-Maheshpur road, Bakerganj-Barguna road, Chankhal-Bakerganj via Kathaltali road, Galachipa-Dashmina via Ulania road and Patuakhal-Barguna via Amtali road.

According to the report, Taka 8.39,76,000 was spent for construction of these roads and Taka 22.24 lakh was returned to the concerned ministry during the said year.

Another report says: A total of 368 deep tubewells will be installed in six thanas of the district in the current fiscal year.

According to official sources, Taka 1.50 crore will be utilised for installation of the tubewells.

Of the total, 75 tubewells will be installed in Sadar thana, 82 in Galachipa, 27 in Dasmina, 55 in Kalapara, 42 in Mirzaganj and 97 in Bauphal thanas.

Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) sources said that after the installation of the deep tubewells, about one lakh people of the six thanas will get supply of drinking water.

It is reported that Public Health Engineering Department and UNICEF will jointly arrange the installation of the tubewells by June next.

Another report adds: Udayan Club of Bauphal thana of the district has launched an adult education programme in the town.

Thana Nirbahi Officer of Bauphal SK Roy formally inaugurated the programme recently. The inaugural function was attended by Thana Family Planning Officer, Thana Project Implementation Officer and president of the club.

The working adults would be benefited by the initiative, organisers believe. Meanwhile, the club has sought cooperation from local elite and thana-level officers to implement the venture.

Production of molasses hampers sugar output

NATORE, Oct 26: Production of molasses by using electric crushers in Sugar Mills zone areas has been hampering sugar production, reports UNB.

Government banned production of molasses in mill areas but a section of people are producing it despite repeated warning by the concerned authorities.

The number of illegal crushers rose over 100 this year against only 55 last year.

Meanwhile, Natore Sugar Mills authorities has fixed the target to produce 18,700 metric tons of sugar by crushing 4,18,161 metric tons of sugarcane in the current season.

This year sugarcane production has recorded a fall due to scanty rainfall. Local people apprehended that it rampant smuggling of sugar from India was not stopped immediately the sugar mills would be crippled gradually.

Local leaders have urged the government to take drastic action against the smugglers to save the indigenous products to help boost national economy.

Another report adds: A young girl allegedly committed suicide and another young man was electrocuted in separate incidents, police said here on Sunday.

Madina Begum (20), daughter of Abdul Habib of Bojrapur village in Gaganipara thana allegedly committed suicide by taking poison on October 10, family sources said.

The reason behind the suicide could not be known immediately.

In another incident Abu Ali (18), a construction labourer, was electrocuted recently while he was working at the under construction 100-bed modern hospital in the town.

Abu Ali, son of Sukur Ali hailed from Ramendrapur village of Chapainawbaranj district.