

District roundup

COMILLA

Workshop on accountancy, management

Oct 31: A ten-day workshop on Management and Accountancy for the leaders of Women Cooperative Societies began on October 23 at the Bangladesh Rural Academy (BARA), says UNB.

Jointly organised by International Labour Organisation (ILO) and Women Affairs Directorate the workshop was inaugurated by the Director General of the Academy Salahuddin. The objective of the workshop is to make the grass root level leaders familiar with the modern techniques of Management and Accounting.

RAJBARI

Tk 16.83 cr disbursed as credit

Oct 31: A non governmental organisation, has disbursed Taka 16.83 crore as credit among the distressed and poor people in four thanas of the district during the last seven years, says UNB.

The credit was extended for cultivation of silk and fish, afforestation, rearing livestock and installation of tubewells in Goalanda, Pangsha, Baliakandi and sadar thanas of the district.

The organisation has also recovered outstanding dues of Taka 14.05 crore from its 17,600 loanees during the period. Under Illiteracy Eradication programme, the organisation has imparted education to 26,000 members and brought 1,500 families under family planning programme in the same period.

BARISAL

BADC to install huge number of tubewells

Oct 31: Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) has taken up a programme to install a large number of tubewells in 11 southern districts during the current season, reports UNB.

More than 11,500 shallow and 470 deep tubewells, 7000 power pumps and 1000 hand driven tubewells will be installed under Barisal Agriculture Zone, official sources said.

This programme has been taken up to boost the production of winter crops. The districts are Barisal, Patuakhali, Jhalakathi, Barguna, Pirojpur, Bhola, Faridpur, Madaripur, Rajbari, Gopalganj and Shariatpur.

With the implementation of the programme, irrigation facilities will be extended in these districts.

FENI

Food for education programme

Oct 31: Students of 6149 families in five unions of five thanas are getting the opportunity to take education under Food for Education Programme in the district, reports UNB.

Primary Education office sources said among the 15,469 students of government primary schools, 6149 are getting 15 kgs of wheat or rice every month. The union wise break up of the students are as follows: 903 students of six schools in Chanua union, 1675 students of 14 schools in Sindurpur union, 397 students of 10 schools of Mirjanagar union, 1134 students of 8 schools of Gopal union and 1540 students of 14 schools of Char Candia union.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia during her visit inaugurated the Food for Education Programme in Feni on August 18, this year.

LALMONIRHAT

39 people acquitted

Oct 31: A total of 39 people, accused of two cases under Anti Terrorism Act here were acquitted on the basis of police final report, says UNB.

Police sources said, so far only two cases were filed in the district with Patgram police. The first case was filed against 34 people by the secretary of the Inter District Bus-Truck Drivers Union of Patgram unit A Rashid on 22 September, 1992.

The accused were acquitted on 5 November, same year as per the final report of the police.

The 2nd case was filed by the Thana Engineer Osmari Gani under Anti Terrorism Act on 28 August, this year, against five people.

The accused were also acquitted on Oct 11 following the final report of the concerned police.

NATORE

Female, child labourers on rise

Oct 31: The number of child and female labourers has been increasing in the district due to poverty and splitting of families, reports UNB.

Hundreds of minor children, widows and unmarried women are found working in different places in the district.

A survey revealed that at least 20,000 children below 12-year age have been engaged in different odd jobs instead of going to schools.

Poverty-stricken farmers in the rural areas, instead of sending their wards to schools, prefer to engage them in some income-generating jobs like day labourers, cowboys, rickshaw-pullers, hawkers and construction workers.

Most of the farmers of the district cannot afford to bear the educational expenses of their children. As a result, the rate of school dropouts in the remote areas is quite high.

On the other hand, the number of female labourers are increasing due to the growing number of divorcees.

President of Natore Press Club Mahfuz Alam Moony and General Secretary Monzurul Hassan have condeled the death of eminent journalist S M Ali.

In a statement, they expressed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and sought blessings of the Almighty Allah for the departed soul.

RANGPUR

Sugarcane growers, mill workers gherao TNO office

Oct 31: About 4,000 people including sugarcane growers and employees of Shyampur Sugar Mills gheraoed the TNO of Badarganj on Thursday protesting the government's decision to sell out the mills in private sector, reports UNB.

The gherao programme continued for more than two hours and the agitated people submitted a memorandum to the TNO demanding the 'withdrawal' of the decision.

Later, a rally was held in front of the TNO office.

The speakers threatened to go for greater movement including strike, road barricade and the gherao of DC office if their demand is not fulfilled immediately.

They said, about 1,200 employees of the sugar mills will lose their jobs if the decision is implemented and called upon the government to withdraw its decision for the greater interest of the mills.

Earlier, the employees and farmers of the Shyampur Sugar Mills area brought out a procession parading the main thoroughfares of the town and chanted slogans in favour of their demand.

JHENDAH

One axed to death

Oct 31: A man was axed to death by rival group at Moheshgari village in Shalakupha thana on Thursday, police said, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, the victim Asaruddin (35), a farmer of the village while returning from a nearby hat after sundown was attacked by a rival group of 10-12 people. They beat him mercilessly and at one stage axed to death.

Police suspected that the dispute over the possession of land was the reason behind the gruesome murder.

A case was filed with the police.

MANIKGANJ

'Make edn programme a success'

Oct 31: Chief Whip Knodaker Delwar Hossain Saturday called upon the government officials to do everything possible toward making the Food for Education programme a success, says UNB.

He was speaking at separate meetings with the officers of the district and test relief programmes here Saturday, said an official handout.

The Chief Whip advised the officers of the local administration to be more active in proper implementation of relief and rehabilitation programmes of the government.

Evaluating the overall situation of the district administration in a meeting held at the Road and Highway's auditorium he said, corruption free administration was a pre-requisite to national advancement.



KENDUA (NETRAKONA): Bangladesh Krishak Federation and Bangladesh Kishani Shava jointly arranged a rally of the workers of the organisations here. They also brought out procession which paraded the main roads of the thana headquarters. — Star photo

Rainwater partially damages 50,000 deed records

NARAIL, Oct 31: More than 50,000 records contained in 500 registers have been partially damaged by the rainwater in the Lohagara Sub-Registry office, reports UNB.

According to official sources, cracks have developed in the roofs of the office building constructed during British period. The damage caused due to leakage of rainwater through the cracks.

It is apprehended that if proper measures are not taken to repair the building it might collapse at any time causing total destruction of valuable records.

The employees of the office are also working amid quite insecurity.

Local people have urged concerned authorities to take immediate step to shift the office and records elsewhere without further delay.

Another report says: A teen-aged girl received serious burn injuries when some miscreants threw acid on her body at Shimakhali village in Sadar thana last week.

The victim identified as Manira Khatun (16) daughter of Abul Hossain Mollah and a student of class nine was rushed to the Sadar hospital in a critical condition.

Mintu, son of Mujibur Rahman of the same village along with his two accomplices allegedly threw acid on Manira while she was sleeping at her room at night with her two sisters.

Manira's family sources said Mintu and his accomplices threw the acid through the window as a sequel to previous enmity.

A case has been filed with the police.

Another report adds: Dacoits looted valuables worth Taka 80,000 from the passengers of a Lohagara bound bus at Basu-pati bus stand in the district at night last week.

According to witnesses, a gang of armed miscreants numbering 10 stormed the bus coming from Khulna at 9 pm and took away the goods and cash money from the passengers at gun point.

But police following a tip-off, later arrested two people in this connection. Further investigation is on.

Mentionable that dacoity in this route is rampant jeopardising the safety and security of the travelling passengers.

They urged the concerned authority to arrange police patrolling at several points of the route to ensure their safe journey particularly at night.

15 policemen suspended

KHULNA, Oct 31: Authorities suspended 15 police personnel of Rupsha police station for various charges including negligence in their duties, reports UNB.

The acting commissioner of Khulna Metropolitan Police and DIG Ashraf Huda during a surprise visit to the police station on Thursday learnt that the personnel were engaged in extortion of toll, giving shelter to the mastans and harassing the innocent people.

The acting KMP commissioner found evidence of the charges and ordered immediate suspension of 2 Habildars and 13 constables of the station, police sources said.

Notes From Barisal

BARISAL, Oct 31: Villagers allegedly gouged out eyes of eight persons in three thanas of the district in the last six weeks, reports BSS.

Most of these persons are stated to be members of the outlawed Sharbahara Party.

Angry mobs allegedly gouged out the eyes of those people while they had tried to collect toll.

Arms, ammunition recovered

Hizla thana police has recovered one revolver, 341 rounds of ammunition, two hand grenades and some bombs from Lachukathi village under Hizla thana recently, police source said.

Two persons were arrested by police in this connection. Police filed cases against them.

White Cane Safety Day observed

'The White Cane Safety Day' was observed in this district on Friday as elsewhere in the country.

A procession of the disabled persons with white cane paraded the main thoroughfares of the town.

A discussion meeting was also held at the government blind school at Sagardi with A K M Shaiful Islam, president of the organisation, in the chair.

M A Rashid, Divisional Commissioner, Barisal, attended the function as chief guest. Dr Abdul Halim Khan, Head of the Department, Eye Department, Shere-e-Bangla Medical College, Barisal, was present as special guest.

The meeting was addressed among others by messrs: Fazlur Rahman, A Berek and Md Eunus Ali.

Vaccination Publicity week inaugurated

The National Vaccination Publicity Week '93 was inaugurated at the divisional level here Saturday.

M A Rashid, Divisional Commissioner, inaugurated the week in the police line maidan. Officials of different government organisations students of both government and non-government schools, children of government Shishu Sadan and the members of VDP and ansars were present on the occasion.

A colourful procession paraded the main thoroughfares of this town.

Science fair concludes

UNB adds: The district level National Science and Technology Fair '93, was concluded here at the Government Brojomohon University College here last week.

Divisional Commissioner Abdur Rashid inaugurated the three-day science fair participated by students of different school and colleges of the district.

A series of programmes were undertaken in the fair including science exhibition, debate, lectures and seminars.

Youth works in Bangladesh

From page 11 participated in Diploma courses organised by CYP. In the same way, about 130 number of participants from DYP Youth Organizations received training under Distance Training Course organised under the auspices of CYP.

FUTURE PROJECTS:

7. Population Control:

Population problem is considered to be the number one Problem in Bangladesh. A massive plan to involve the Youth in population control activities with a view to human development is under active consideration by our Government. The main aim of this plan is to create awareness among the young people about the adverse effects of over population in the development process of a country. To ensure sustainable development in Bangladesh population growth needs to be controlled within manageable limits in which youth organizations can play vital role. Implementation of this project will greatly help in curbing the population growth.

8. Environment Protection/Development:

As a follow-up of the Earth Summit held at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in last June, Government of Bangladesh has taken up a number of activities in this sector. A comprehensive environment plan has been outlined where enough opportunities have been kept for participation of youth organizations. A large amount of money has already been spent on tree plantation while several projects are being drawn up for more participation by the Government, Non-Government and Youth Organizations are being drawn up.

9. Training on Agricultural Practices:

In order to make agricultural practices sustainable and more popular among the youths, the present training facilities on fisheries, livestock and farming are being increased to a great extent. It is hoped that a large number of youths will be in a position to undergo training and set up self-employment projects which will help in eradication of poverty and contribute in overall growth of macro economic growth of the country.

LIMITATIONS OF YOUTH PROGRAMS:

10. Despite all the good intentions at all level to develop the youths and involve them in the development process of the country, we observed following limitations in implementing various youth programs:

- Inadequate resource allocation in the Social-sector by the central resource allocation agency i.e. the planning Commission.
- Activities in very limited fields mostly by the Department of Youth Development of the Government.
- Uncoordinated NGO activities in Youth affairs.
- Youths are yet to be involved in the decision making process of the national development programs.
- Tendency to make political use of the youth organizations thus pushing them into controversy. As a consequence, the organizations cannot take permanent institutional shape and fail to

contribute in sustainable development process of the country.

- Lack of awareness about responsibilities and social & political obligations towards the youth.
- Lack of interest of the donor agencies in developing this sector.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- On the basis of our observations and experience, we would like to make the recommendations as follows:
 - A system is to be adopted at national level by which Youths can be involved in the decision making process of the national development programs.
 - Just as participation of the youth is necessary for environment development, development of the youth is critical to environment development. This two-way link must be remembered by the enlightened policy makers both at national and international forums.
 - Adequate resource allocation in the national budget is a must for developing the youth for playing an effective role in national policies and programs promoting sustainable development.
 - Specific allocation in aid programs by the donors can offer a great potential in developing youth leadership for their effective role in the growth of macro economics of the country.
 - World bodies like United Nations can take initiative in generating awareness amongst the Heads of the States/Governments regarding involvement of youths in the decision making process of the national development programs. Restructuring of youth development is likely only with a workable political strategy and definite political commitment.
 - Activities of the Government agencies, NGOs and youth organizations working on the programs promoting sustainable development should be well-coordinated with a view to achieve the best at a minimum cost.
 - Tendency to utilize the youths and youth organizations for political purposes should be avoided by all.
 - Best way to achieve sustainable development is to promote equitable economic growth and more participatory development. For economic growth and participatory development involvement of youths force is a key factor for any developing country.

CONCLUSION:

12. Macro-economic condition of any country has a major impact on sustainable development. To achieve a reasonable growth in this, national strategies should be worked out to involve the youths in all related activities starting from policy making to implementation process. Government strategy may include community driven approach to sustainability by involving amongst others the youth Organizations in all development activities including generating employment by giving high priority to basic education and professional training to the youths and at the same time organize them for community and environment development. This way, the youth organizations will be in a position to play a vital role in national policies and programs promoting sustainable development.

Mother killed by her son

NARSHINGDI, Oct 31: A mother was allegedly killed by her son at Dairerpur village in Monohardi thana last week, says UNB.

Police said Firoza (50) died on the spot on Saturday when Mazharul Islam stabbed her with a knife as his wife com-

plained about her mother-in-law.

Earlier, Firoza picked up a quarrel with the daughter-in-law.

Later, Shawkar Ali, father of Mazharul, filed a case against his son with the local police in this connection.



CHUADANGA: This microbus of the local government girls' high school has been lying out of order for 21 years. The microbus was bought for carrying the school girls. — Star photo