

District roundup

JESSORE

Reconstruction of roads completed

Nov 10: Local Government Engineering Department (LOED) has completed the reconstruction of 12 road projects in Jessore district under Food for Works Programme under 1992-93 fiscal year's allocation of 1272 metric tons of wheat, says BSS.

These projects were the reconstruction and maintenance of Joapara-Sundali road and Bhatpara-Amtoll road in Abhaynagar thana, Chougacha-Arpara road and Chougacha-Narayanpur in Chougacha thana, Bakra-Baganchra road and Bengda-Chougacha road in Thikargacha thana, Sarsa-Chougacha road in Sarsa thana, Charavita-Basundia road an Dhalgram Bazar to Jessore-Narail road crossing in Bagharpara thana, Monirampur-Dhakuria road in Monirampur thana and Haibatpur-Hasherpur road and Basundia Bazar-Alpha crossing road in sadar thana.

Besides, seven more road schemes were implemented by the department under food for works programme with the utilization of 857 ton of wheat worth about Taka five lacs for the development of kutchra roads in the rural areas.

RANGPUR

363 Uplift schemes under implementation

Nov 10: At least 363 uplift schemes are being executed in eight thanas and pourashava of the district during the current fiscal year under the Test Relief Programme, reports UNB.

Official sources said 7031 metric tons on wheat were sanctioned for implementing the projects.

Thana-wise break up of schemes is as follows, Sadar-63, Kaunia-35, Gangachara-35, Mithapukur-64, Taragan-33, Pirganj-53, Pirgachha-43, Badarganj-33 and Pourashava-6.

The projects included construction and reconstruction of roads, culverts, earth work etc. With the implementation of the schemes road communication from rural areas with the district headquarters will be improved to a great extent.

BRAHMANBARIA

11 gamblers arrested

Nov 10: Police arrested 11 people while they were gambling at Chandura Bazar of Sadar thana, reports UNB.

Acting on secret information police raided the bazar on October 31 and caught them red handed with the gambling instruments. A case has been filed in this connection.

Another man, identified as Salim was rounded up while mixing sands with the bags of chemical fertilizers.

Police said acting on a tip, they raided the Suman Traders of Jagat Bazar at the town last week and recovered 29 bags of sand mixed TSP chemical fertilizer from the shop.

A case has been filed with the local police.

Another report adds: Bangladesh Rifles seized smuggled goods worth about Taka 15.49 lakh during the month of October.

FARIDPUR

Demand for improving law, order situation

Nov 10: The leaders of Boalmari thana Awami League and Bangladesh Chhatra League Sunday at press conference called upon the authorities to take immediate steps to improve the deteriorating law and order situation in the thana, reports UNB.

They said, just after the election of the Students Union of Govt Boalmari College in which Chhatra League won a landslide victory the local mastans and terrorists of a student organization of a particular political party became active causing alarming deterioration of law and order situation in the area.

They alleged that the business community and the peace loving people became hostage of the terrorists.

MA Rouf MP, Sarwar Mridha and Mosharraf Hossain, President and General Secretary respectively of Boalmari thana AL, Faridul Islam Kamal and Siddique, V-P and G-S respectively of Boalmari College Students Union addressed the press conference.

The AL leader alleged that about 16 general diaries were lodged with the local police against the terrorists but no step has yet been taken in this regard.

MYMENSINGH

Three killed in road accident

Nov 10: Three persons were killed and several others injured, some of them seriously, when a passenger coaster skidded off the road and fell in a ditch at Char Hussainpur area on the Kishoreganj-Mymensingh road Sunday, reports BSS.

The site of the accident is under the Ishwarganj police station. Many of the injured persons were released after first aid while seven of them have been admitted to the Mymensingh medical college.

BARISAL

Tk six lakh fined for illegal electric connections

Nov 10: A mobile court led by Bholu Nath Dey, first class magistrate, Barisal, disposed of 970 cases and fined a sum of Taka six lakh for illegal electricity connections in Barisal district during the period from January to October 31, this year, reports BSS.

According to PDB office sources, a total of 743 cases were filed in the period in the district.

The court has been able to realise Taka 28,41,060 from among the defaulters of the electricity consumers, the source added. The court sent 13 illegal electricity consumers to jail for different charges, the source said.

KISHOREGANJ

Solidarity Day observed

Nov 10: Deputy Minister for Shipping ABM Zahidul Haq said, the historic 7th November of 1975 is a milestone in the history of Bangladesh, reports UNB.

He said on that day the patriotic members of the armed forces and the people stood unitedly to protect the sovereignty and independence of the country.

He was addressing three separate public meetings at Hossainpur, Pakundia and Kishoreganj Sadar on the occasion of the National Revolution and Solidarity Day as the chief guest on Sunday.

The Deputy Minister said after independence of Bangladesh the then ruling party snatched away democracy from the country for which the people fought against the Pakistan rulers.

After the historic change over on August 15, 1973 the country was passing through lawlessness and anarchy. Then the people and the patriotic armed forces revolted against the conspiracy hatched by a vested interest group.

The then army chief Ziaur Rahman took the leadership and saved the country from that conspiracy, he said.

ABM Zahidul Haque said, President Zia restored democracy in the country. But an autocratic ruler again snatched away the same and the people fought against that ruler and the leadership Begum Khaleda Zia, says an official handout.

KHULNA

Navy arrests 22 crew, seizes trawler

Nov 10: Bangladesh navy ship Shaheed Farid during its routine anti-smuggling, anti-piracy and fishery protection patrol impounded a foreign fishing trawler and arrested all its 22 crew members Sunday afternoon according to a ISPR press release, reports BSS.

The trawler was engaged in catching fish at about 15 miles south of the Fairway Buoy in the bay within Bangladesh territory.

The seized trawler was handed over to the customs authorities at Mongla while the crew members to the police.

CHANDPUR

Tk 1 cr valuables gutted

Nov 10: A devastating fire gutted 22 shops and valuables worth about Taka one crore were burnt to ashes at Faridganj Bazar 10 km from Chandpur town on Friday afternoon, reports UNB.

According to Fire Brigade sources, the fire originating from a shop following an electric short-circuit rapidly engulfed a large portion of the market. At least 20 people received burn injuries.

On receiving information, district Fire Brigade rushed to spot and brought fire under control after two hours of efforts.

It may be mentioned that there is no fire station in any thana headquarters.



Raymone Offenheiser, Representative of Ford Foundation in Bangladesh (second from left) is at a discussion with Prof R I Chowdhury, VC, Chittagong University (extreme left) during Raymone's recent visit of the university. — CU photo

Impact of Teesta-Mahananda dam in W Bengal

Irrigation, navigation in 8 N-dists threatened

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR Nov 10: The Teesta-Mahananda barrage constructed by India in West Bengal has caused a serious impact on different major rivers flowing through eight northern districts in greater Rangpur and Dinajpur.

According to the information received here, the Indian government has completed the construction of a mighty dam, Teesta-Mahananda barrage along the upper stream of the Teesta, Mahananda and Korotoa rivers close to the border of the Tetulia thana in Panchagarh district and started to divert water for flowing through the Indian Haldibari, Jalpaiguri and Bihar.

As a result of the withdrawal of the waters, all the major rivers in Bangladesh and their tributaries are now gradually being dried-up. There are thousand of shallow, low-lift and power pumps set-up along both sides of these rivers for irrigation purposes been lying idle for want of water.

The navigational in these rivers also facing a great disruption due to minimum required water level there.

According to agricultural experts irrigation facilities would

suffer more in the region which they say, has already been started.

It may be noted here that in the recent days the entire northern region has become self-sufficient in food production due to massive introduction of the cultivation of the High Yielding Varieties (HYV) of crops utilising large-scale irrigation facilities.

But the current cruel move taken by the Indians to withdraw the river waters will cause a serious impact in the region turning it into a desert.

Bumper aman yield expected

A bumper aman yield of 40 lakh metric tonnes, is expected this season in 16 northern districts under Rajshahi division following favourable weather and application of measured fertilizers by the farmers under the supervision of the field staffs of the Agriculture Extension Department.

The aman paddy cultivation target had exceeded by about one lakh hectares this year in the region which helped producing bumper yield, according to the sources.

There was a target to put sixteen lakh and seventeen thousands hectares of land under aman paddy cultivation in these 16 northern districts.

The harvesting of early-sown aman paddy, in the meantime, has been started almost in full swing all over the region and the new aman rice in small quantities found appearing in the markets selling at Taka 10 per kilogram and the traders believe that the aman rice price would fall further.

Construction of bridge demanded

A vital bridge at Shahebganj Ferry Ghat of Jamuneswari river in Badarganj thana is yet to be constructed. Thousands of people will suffer much for want of the bridge.

The local people informed that for one and half decade governments, past and present gave sincere commitments to construct a bridge at the Shahebganj ghat, but it is not yet been executed.

The people of the areas now strongly demanded for construction of the bridge there as per the commitments of the governments.

Civic amenities absent

NATORE Nov 10: Pourashava residents have been plagued with multifarious problems for a long time due to want of civil basic amenities, reports UNB.

Local people informed that most of the roads have developed cracks and potholes at several points causing untold suffering to both pedestrians and vehicular traffic. Several bridges and culverts are also in

deplorable condition. The Liakat Bridge has become unfit for use for a long time.

The existing drains in the town are in poor condition which remain filled up with garbage and get choked after a slight rainfall. Mentionable that the 1.7-kilometre long drain was constructed at a cost of Taka 11.86 lakh in the fiscal 1990-91. But due to want of

proper care and maintenance it has turned unfit for use.

Insufficient street light is also causing inconvenience to the residents in many areas of the town including Collectorate Building road and hampering the movement of vehicles after sundown.

Local people informed water supply is not sufficient to meet their demand.

Sylhet motel open for tourists

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Nov 10: The motel constructed by the Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (BPC) in Sylhet at last went into commercial operation from October 22.

Considering the importance of the different places of interest for the tourists, the government took up the project a decade ago. Accordingly, the then tourism minister laid the foundation stone of the motel on October 30, 1981. The construction work was going on. But, at the finishing stage, the work was stopped for reasons not known.

A few months back the government took up a decision to complete work on the project and to commission the same soon.

Accordingly, Taka one crore 90 lakh had been spent to complete the project.

An official source informed this correspondent that of the total amount, Taka 18 lakh had been spent for water supply, Taka six lakh 88 thousand for electricity, Taka 15 lakh for

furniture, Taka one crore 45 lakh for renovation of the motel building and construction of the approach road and the rest for other purposes like gas supply, telephone etc.

The motel consists of a lobby, a restaurant, a bar and 26 rooms including six air-conditioned.

Sylhet, the 'land of two leaves and a bud' has many things to attract the tourists from home and abroad. The Sylhet region is known for different attractions like the small hills of Jafflong, Tamabil, pineapple and orange gardens of Srimangal, Beanibazar, Barlekha, Golapganj, Jaintapur, Gowainghat, and Chhatak, ropeway of Bholaganj in Chhatak and other visible places of interest.

A number of people, irrespective of religious belief come to Sylhet town just to visit the holy shrine of great Hajrat Shahjalal (RA) from different parts of the country as well as from abroad everyday.

Before the conquest of the Muslims, Sylhet was ruled by

local chieftains. In 1303, the great saint Hajrat Shahjalal (RA) came to Sylhet from Delhi with a group of 360 disciples to preach Islam and defeated the then Raja Gour Govinda.

People also visit to the shrine of Hajrat Shahparan (RA), situated at about six miles off the Sylhet town.

A large number of Hindus also come from home and abroad to visit the temple at Dhakadakhin in Golapganj thana of Sylhet which is related to the memory of Sri Chaitanyadev, every year. They also visit the temple at Madhabkunda in Barlekha thana in Moulvibazar district every year.

The only natural falls at Jafflong in the country is also situated at a nearby place of the temple. Thousands of people visit it regularly. During the last few years, the area had become a picnic spot of the region.

Other places of interest include, the gas and oilfields at Kailashilla of Golapganj, Beanibazar and Haripur.



SYLHET. The newly-constructed motel of the Parjatan Corporation in the district has started commercial operations from October 22. — Star photo

Police prevent students' effort to hold protest rally

CHITTAGONG, Nov 10: A protest-rally of Chhatra League (M-II) could not be held due to the interference of police at Andarkilla here Saturday, says UNB.

The rally was organised by the city unit of the Chhatra League, to demand stoppage of harassment of their leaders, withdrawal of all "false" cases against its members, release of student leader Asif Kamal and withdrawal of expulsion order against the students' union leaders of Chittagong Medical College.

Police damaged the stage erected for the rally and snatched the loud speakers when the local unit of the chhatra-league was preparing to hold their scheduled rally.

Later, supporters of the students however, chanted slogans protesting the police action. The city unit leaders in a joint statement, blamed police for spoiling their "peaceful" rally.

On the other hand, Chittagong Metropolitan Police said the chhatra league arranged the rally without any permission from the concerned authority.

Notes From Comilla

From A Correspondent

NOV 10: The BDR in two separate raids on October 11 and 14 recovered Indian goods worth Taka 20,42,950 and arrested one fugitive criminal.

Acting on a tip, a BDR patrol party from 29 battalion headquarters ambushed near a bridge at Subarnapur during night hours and seized 350 pieces of Indian sarees from a Dhaka bound Passenger bus.

Acting on another tip, a BDR patrol party intercepted a truck at Suaganj, 12 miles south of Comilla on Dhaka-Chittagong Trunk Road at the night seized Indian goods worth Taka 19,30,350. The seized goods included 108 bags of chemical powder, 300 bottles of phenylidyl syrup, 2,638 pieces of Indian sarees and a truck.

Goods seized were deposited with the customs and the criminal was handed over to Kotwali police.

Course for journalists

A one day orientation course for journalists on EPI programme, sponsored by the UNICEF and organised by the Public Health Department was held at BARD auditorium here recently.

Forty six journalists from six districts namely, Comilla, Chandpur, B'Baria, Noakhali, Feni and Lakhipur and 14 other health workers participated.

Workshop

A two-day-long workshop on Comprehensive population and family planning in integrated rural development, sponsored by the BARD with the financial assistance of the CIRDAP concluded here recently.

Twelve participants from UNFPA, BRAC, BRDB, Swastirvor Bangladesh, Family Planning Department, Comilla and BARD participated in the workshop. The workshop was aimed at exchanging the experiences of the departments to enhance family planning activities.

The concluding session was presided over by Dr Salehuddin Ahmed, DG, BARD and was addressed among others by Rezaul Karim, Shamim Ara.

Fugitive nabbed

A fugitive criminal, Lutfur was arrested by a police party led by SI Atib Ali of Kotwali thana from Gangchar in Comilla town recently.

Lutfur was wanted in nine criminal cases in different thanas. He has been forwarded to the court.

4 smugglers arrested

Akhaura railway police acting on a tip recovered 20 maunds of Indian sugar and nabbed four persons in this connection from Noakhali bound "Shamata" train recently.

Those arrested persons were, Abdul Jalil, Jamal, Shafiq and Kashem who were forwarded to court. Twenty bags of sugar worth Taka 28 thousand have been deposited with Akhaura customs.

Police from Darkhar out post recovered Indian medicines worth Taka 12,500 from beneath the Ujanishar bridge recently.

Sterilisation camp

The IUD and Depo-Provera injection camp was organised here by the Sangraish branch of CAMS.

Thirteen women accepted IUD and 11 were registered as clients of Depo-Provera injection. Sixty mothers and children were given MCH service. The camp was formally inaugurated by Shamsi Jahan.

Diarrhoea death toll 137 in Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Nov 10: The death toll diarrhoea rises to 137 in Sirajganj district up to November 6 last.

Official sources have however confirmed 88 deaths. The worst affected thanas are Kazipur and Raiganj.

It is gathered that diarrhoea has claimed 137 lives in Raiganj, Ullapara, Kazipur, Shahzadpur, Belkuchi, Kamarkhanda, Chowhal and Sirajganj sadar thanas.

A source of Civil Surgeon office has confirmed 69 deaths in October and 19 more deaths up to November 6.

Everyday, diarrhoea patients numbering 120 to 150 are being admitted in the sadar and

thana hospitals. The children are the main victims of the disease.

While contacted, the C.S. office source told The Daily Star that 51 medical teams are working in the affected areas to cope with the situation. Public Health Engineering Department has also taken steps to ensure supply of pure drinking water in the affected areas.

Due to acute crisis of I.V. Saline, treatment of the disease has been hampered.

Following floods and continuous erosion of the Jamuna, large numbers of homeless people have taken shelter on both sides of the WDB embankment and they can not afford pure drinking water.

"Equip younger generation with power of knowledge"

KHULNA, Nov 10: Jatiyo Sangshad Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali said here Sunday that there is no alternative to wisdom and hard work for attaining prosperity, reports BSS.

Addressing the inaugural function of the first national debate competition-93 under auspices of Bangladesh debating society Khulna at the Zia hall the speaker observed that the younger generation could be well-equipped only through knowledge.

Presided over by Professor, Dr Golam Ali Fakir, Vice-Chancellor, Khulna University, the function was addressed among others by Mayor of Khulna City Corporation Tayebur Rahman, Khulna Divisional Commissioner Abdul Muktafir Choudhury, Deputy Commissioner Khulna Kazi Rezaul Haq and Principal Sundarban College Sahidul Islam.

Referring to the present development programme in education sector Shaikh Razzak Ali said that these education programmes had taken the shape of a social movement.

UNB adds: A mother and her minor daughter drowned when a passenger trawler capsized in Shibsha river at Dehlati in Pigeachha thana on Sunday. The victims were identified as Sufia (20) and two-and-half-year old Bilkis of Malot village.

Police said the Dehlati-bound trawler from Malot, carrying about 200 passengers, sank due to overloading.

Police recovered the bodies and salvaged the trawler Monday.

Another report adds: Police nabbed two people, accused of various crimes, from Khalishpur in the city Monday.

Police said Shah Alam (30) and Abul Kalam (28) were wanted in a number of cases pending in different thanas.

200 rickshaw pullers protest arrest of their fellow worker

LALMONIRHAT, Nov 10: Some 200 rickshaw pullers brought out a protest procession on Friday evening in the town demanding the release of their four men nabbed on charge of smuggling, reports UNB.

According to police, three people while smuggling 80 kg of Indian salt in four rickshaws were caught, redhanded at Mughalhat area in sadar thana on Thursday night, police also nabbed the four rickshaw pullers on charges of helping the smugglers.

The accused were produced before the court.



COMILLA: The small traders being driven out from the footpaths have taken shelter on the verandah of the court building. — Star photo

"BNP cutting throat of economy"

From Our Correspondent

KHULNA, Nov 10: Jamaat e-Islami Secretary General, Muttir Rahman Nizami recently said, anti Islamic force alleged us for terrorism, cutting tendon and throat using Islam, but the opposition political parties including BNP cutting tendon and throat of country's economy, social, education and above all, peace of the people using Islam at the time of elections.

Nizami reiterated his party's demand for care taker government in next parliamentary election and repeal of special powers act and terrorism ordinance.

Nizami observed that who wanted ban on religion based-politics infact wanted to ban Islam in Bangladesh. "Politics can not be isolated from Islam because it is complete code of life unlike Hinduism, Christianity and Buddhism, he said.

He demanded a judicial commission on killing of the three activist of Shibir on Sept 20 last in Khulna Bl. college.

international court for severe damaged caused by the Farakka Barrage ir-economic, agricultural and industrial sector of the country.

Nizami reiterated his party's demand for care taker government in next parliamentary election and repeal of special powers act and terrorism ordinance.

Nizami observed that who wanted ban on religion based-politics infact wanted to ban Islam in Bangladesh. "Politics can not be isolated from Islam because it is complete code of life unlike Hinduism, Christianity and Buddhism, he said.

He demanded a judicial commission on killing of the three activist of Shibir on Sept 20 last in Khulna Bl. college.