District roundup

BAGERHAT

Tk 15 crore uplift plan

Nov 20 : Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman said here Thursday the government has taken up Taka 15 crore programme for the all-round development of Bagerhat town, reports BSS.

He was speaking at several public meetings while visiting the Bagerhat-Chitalmari road under construction.

The foreign minister said development of the districts was hampered in the past due to political reasons. But the present government has adopted programmes for the balanced development of different regions of the country.

He said food production has now increased at the rate beyond expectation and the country was not in the process of exporting foodgrains.

NATORE

Books worth Tk 95,225 given to mosques, institutions

Nov 20: Natore Islamic Foundation distributed books worth Taka 95,225 among 27 libraries of different mosques, clubs and educational institutions last week, reports UNB.

The books were handed over at a function held at the auditorium of the foundation.

Assistant Director of the foundation Sultan Ahmed was present as chief guest while Mawlana Muhammad Yaqub Ali presided.

Twelve mosques received books worth Tk 50,280, 10 clubs got books worth Tk 15,390 and five educational institutions the rest books worth Tk 29,555.

TANGAIL

College gets financial aid

Nov 20: Government has sanctioned Taka fifty lakh for the development of Kumudini Government College this financial year, says BSS.

Official sources said that the reconstruction of second floor of the existing college hostel building will be done by Taka forty lakh and the rest will be used to erect the boundary wall.

Work on one hundred bed hostel building and construction of first floor of an academic building are progressing fast with another Taka eightyseven lakh grant.

With the construction and reconstruction of hostels and academic building the long felt accommodation facilities will be solved.

CHITTAGONG

Two officers get prizes for performance

Nov 20: Two officers of Chittagong city corporation have been awarded prizes in recognition of their commendable services to the corporation, reports BSS.

Held at the corporation auditorium, the function was attended by Mayor of Chittagong City Mir Mohammad Nasruddin, while Chief Executive Officer of the corporation Mohammad Abu Hafiz presided over it.

Speaking on the occasion, city mayor said the award had been introduced to encourage the officers and employees of the corporation for better works and honesty.

The two officers who have been awarded prizes are Anil Bashak and engineer Rezaul Bari.

NOAKHALI

Move to improve law, order situation

Nov 20: Steps are underway to improve the deteriorating law and order situation in the district, reports UNB.

At a law and order sub-committee meeting it was noted with concern that crimes have increased considerably in the last two months.

The meeting was held at the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner recently. Presided over by DC Mashiur Rahman, it reviewed the overall law and order situation in the district.

A total of 96 crimes, including two murder cases took place during the month of September. The meeting also expressed concern over the traffic jam at Chowmuhani commercial centre and over loading of buses and trucks in various routes casing frequent accidents and road blockade.

The meeting also decided to set up mobile courts in all the *thanas* to prevent use of current nets, sale of adulterated foods, killing of fish fry and check the fitness of the vehicles.

JAMALPUR

Erosion hit victims get Tk 15 lakh, CI sheets

Nov 20: Government sanctioned Taka 15 lakh and 405 bundles of CI sheet for rehabilitation of the erosion affected victims of the rivers Jamuna and Brahmaputra in the district during the last rainy season, reports UNB.

Of the amount Taka 2.15 lakh has been sanctioned for sadar thana, Taka 1.90 lakh for Sharishabari, Melandah, Madarganj, Dewanganj and Bakhshiganj thana each, Taka 1.95 lakh for Islampur, Taka 60,000 for Sharishabari *pourashava* and Taka 80,000 for Jamalpur *pourashava*.

Government also sanctioned 1,083 metric tons of wheat for the unemployed villagers under Food for Works Programme.

Under the programme construction of rural roads, reconstruction of mosques and temples, repairing of drains, canal digging and tree planting were done during the rainy season.

The Deputy Commissioner told UNB that Food for Works programme for the winter season has already been started in the current month. About 2,086 metric tons of wheat have been sanctioned for the purpose.

KHULNA

BIT starts M Sc course on 3 subjects

Nov 20: Bangladesh Institute of Technology (BIT) in Khulna will introduce M Sc course on three subjects from the current 1992-93 calender, officials said, says UNB.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is expected to inaugurate the new course on December 29.

The departments are Civil, Mechanical and Electric and Electronics.

Register of the institute Abu Naser told UNB that a total of nine students, three each from the departments, will be enrolled in the current session.

Apart from the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), masters courses are also offered at the Bangladesh Institute of Technology (BIT) in Rajshahi.

COMILLA

Huge area under rabi crop cultivation

Nov 20: About 1,76 lakh hectares of land in the district have been brought under intensive *rabi* crop cultivation plan during this season, says UNB.

Agriculture Extension Department sources said production target has been fixed at 7.32 lakh metric tons and all necessary measures have been taken to achieve the target.

According to the programme, 1.05 lakh hectares would be brought under Boro paddy cultivation, 20,000 hectares under wheat, 15,380 hectares under potato, 5,000 hectares under sweet potato, 7,100 hectares under different winter vegetables, 13,125 hectares under mustard seeds, 4000 under ground nut, 6,550 under pulses.

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) supplied High Yielding Variety (HYV) seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and other necessary inputs among the farmers at fair prices to make the scheme a success.

At least 2,789 demonstration plots have been set up to acquaint the farmers with the modern methods of cultivation.

NARAIL

Lily output declines

Nov 20: Production of lily has declined in Narail, Jessore and Khulna districts due to lack of proper orientation, maintenance and plantation, says UNB.

According to reports, bills, haors, ponds, tanks and marshy lands once rich in lily production are now wearing a deserted look.

Lily creeper, usually is used as vegetable in urban and rural areas. This was abundantly available in the rainy season. Moreover, in time of food crisis, it helped poors to save life as an alternative food item.

Above all, the food value of the plant is not less than any other common vegetables of the country, experts said. Proper care and planned production can raise the output.

The farmers have urged the authorities to take necessary steps for planned plantation of the lily in these districts.

SYLHET : Kazi Anisur Rahman, Vice-Chairman, International Planned Parenthood Federation, a non-government family planning body, speaking on the inaugural session of 2-day-long workshop for the youth organisers from Rajshahi, Khulna and Barisal divisions held here recently. — Star photo

Hill cutting continues, nature at stake

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Nov 20 : Despite ban imposed by the authorities concerned, the cutting of hills here is going on unabatedly posing threat to the natural beauty and ecological balance of the Chittagong Port city, the gate-way of Bangladesh and Queen of the East.

According to sources of Chittagong Development Authority (CDA), during the past ten years the scourge caused the demolition of 190 acres of hilly lands. Experts say, with the demolition and razing of most of the hills Chittagong has been exposed to ecological and natural imbalance which could lead the city to disastrous eventuality in the coming years.

The first ban on indiscriminate hill-cutting was imposed in 1983. But as the demolition of hills continued in defiance of the ban, the authorities were forced to amend the Building Construction Act, 1990 empowering the police for taking action against it taking the offence as cognisable and non-bailable.

But the police action in this regard was hardly found effective to check the menace of the hill-cutting.

Considering the housing problem of the people, CDA relaxed the restriction imposing five conditions to seek permission for hill cutting.

Because of such flexibility in respect of hill cutting, a section of people, particularly mud and sand dealers and brokers took advantage of it in collusion with some top brass of administration and continued destroying the natural barriers, sources said.

Consequently, hundreds of hills were levelled during the past years due to loopholes in administrative measures taken earlier to check the scourge, sources added.

Owing to indiscriminate hill-cutting, Chittagong Port city also faces a chronic water-logging in most of its parts as drains are silted by the sands and mud flowing from the hills.

Meanwhile, the government constituted a 10-member committee recently to review the case of permission for hill cutting on special grounds.

The committee headed by the Chairman of Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) included local 'MPs, other CDA board members and administrative personnel.

As a result, the permission for hill cutting will now be issued and approved by the Works Ministry subject to the recommendations of the committee.

The CDA sources said, in a bid to check the indiscriminate and illegal hill cutting, measures were also underway to frame some fresh rules and regulations.

No diarrhoea ward in Barisal divisional hospital yet

BARISAL, Nov 20: Sadar Hospital of Barisal is beset with manifold problems due to shortage of doctors, ambulance, technicians for pathology and necessary medicines, reports UNB.

Patients said, X-Ray machine of the hospital remain inoperative for days together due to shortage of films hampering treatment and the only microscope is lying unrepaid. Besides, ECG machine of the hospital remained out of order for a long time.

It is learnt that there are 14 posts for doctors of which three posts are still lying vacant. Seven posts of other staff members of the hospital have also fallen vacant.

The 100-bed hospital has some cabins which are now being used as dormitories for the hospital employees, it is alleged. The 20-bed diarrhoea ward of the hospital is yet to be set up. There is also no paying bed in the hospital.

Hospital sources said, annual allocation of about Taka 15 lakh is not sufficient to increase the facilities of the hospital.

About 200 patients are coming for treatment every day but they could not be provided with necessary medicines, it is learnt.

Water supply which is very much necessary for the hospital is quite irregular causing untold suffering to the patients.

Local people urged concerned authorities to take immediate steps to provide necessary medicare facilities to the patients.

BSS reports say: The Barisal *Sangskritic sangathan samanaya Parishad* has taken up a programme to observe the *'Barisal mukti dibas'* on December 8.

The programme of the day includes a colourful rally, discussion meeting in the *Aswini Kumar Town* Hall and cultural function.

Besides, the parishad will observe the national Victory Day from December 13 to December in the *central shaheed minar* premises.

A two-day workshop on "Social awareness" about compulsory primary education concluded at the primary training institute here recently.

Patuakhali Port will be modernised soon

PATUAKHALI, Nov 20 : Shipping Minister M K Anwar said the government has taken necessary steps to develop Patuakhali Port into a modern river port, says BSS.

He was addressing the official workers, launch owners and a cross section of people at Patuakhali BIWTA terminal here Friday.

Shipping Secretary Waliul Islam, Chairman BIWTA, M G Kibria and senior officials of BIWTA were present on the occasion.

At present Patuakhali river port contains two pontoons, one a hundred feet long and the other, sixty feet long. The minister said that another hundred-foot long pontoon will be established at Patuakhali Port soon to increase the passengers' facilities.

He advised the officials of BIWTA to take necessary steps for developing the river channel of Dhaka-Patuakhali route in Lohalia and other rivers.

Everyday about 60 launches are plying to and from Patuakhali Port ferrying thousands of passengers.

The minister was informed that Patuakhali river port earned about Taka 42 lakh as berthing charge, conservancy charge and terminal ticket charge during the last financial year. He was also told that total cost of the port in the same financial year was only Taka two lakh.

The Shipping Minister expressed satisfaction at the overall performance of the port.

M K Anwar latter attended the meeting of the district level officials of Patuakhali at the local circuit house. He also addressed a workers' meeting of BNP and front organisations in Patuakhali.

A UNB report adds : An eleven-member executive committee of the Dashmina Government Primary Teachers Association was elected last week.

Md Sohrab Hossain, Headmaster of the Dashmina Government Primary School, and Md Moslem Uddin, Assistant Teacher of Bara Gopaldi Government Primary School, were elected president and general secretary of the association respectively.

The election was held at the annual general meeting of the association in Dashmina.

FARIDPUR: A large number of people of Diara Narikelfori under Sadarpur joined BNP led by AL leader A Huq Sarker at a meeting on Friday.

Diarrhoea claims 6 in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, Nov 20: Diarrhoea claimed six lives, including three children, and affected 423 people in three thanas of the district during the last 24 hour, reports UNB.

The dead were identified as Kutub Pramanik, 70 of Jagannathpur, Rubel, 5 of Alokdia in Royganj, Aklia, 55 of Gopinathpur, Hazrat Ali, 3 of Kokhsabari in Shahjadpur, Abdul Bari, 6, and Raushan Ara, 18 of Gandhail in Kazipur thana.

Officials said outbreak of the disease killed 35 people, and affected 5,351 during the last two weeks.

Unofficial figures are 47 dead and 6,666 attacked during the period.

School secures 1st position in essay competition

COMILLA, Nov 20: Comilla *Zilla* School has secured the first and second prizes in an essay competition organised by Bangladesh Postal Department on the occasion of World Postal Day, says UNB.

Mohammad Ashraful Alam Rashid and Amirul Islam of Comilla Zilla School were the recipients of the district-wise essay competition.

Post and Telecommunication Minister Tariqul Islam distributed prizes among the winners at a simple function at the auditorium of GPO, Dhaka recently.

Seeks justice, cooperation

JAMALPUR, Nov 20: Shahed Ali, an old man, thought with a sense of indignation if the administration can ensure safety of life and property of the commonman, if it can, why he has lost all his belongings to local *mastans*?, writes UNB.

Shahed Ali — a father of eight and a poor farmer of the Muslimabad village in Sadar thana now passing his days either half-fed in his 95 decimal arable land in Sherpur district worth about Taka 10 lakh which has been occupied by the village *mastans*.

The 45-year old illfated man is now moving from door-to-door in quest of justice. He still thinks that *mastans* can not overpower the administration.

"I bought the land in Charpakhimari union near the town some 20 years ago. But some people of the union led by Manju Mia, Nur Mohammad and Amir Ali occupied the land in 1976 when he was sick", the old man told the local newsmen.

A number of sittings at the directive of UP chairman was held to settle the problem during the last 17 years. But land could not be recovered from the possession of *mastans*.

"I am a poor man, I can not afford the expenses required for the law suit. I seek justice. I need cooperation of local people to recover my land," Shahed Ali said in support of his contention.

5 killed in road mishaps

SHERPUR, Nov 20: Five people were killed and one other injured in three separate road accidents in the district in last 48 hours.

Khuda Mahmud 30, fell down from the bus bound for Nalitabari and one old man Shamsuddin, 70, crushed under the wheels of a speeding motor cycle on Jamalpur to Sherpur road. Both the victims were taken to sadar hospital where doctor declared them dead.

Another incident on Friday, two labours were crushed under the wheels of a truck loaded with construction materials at Bajitkhila, three miles of the Sherpur town.

The ill-fated labour Musharraf, 25 and Abdul Matin 30 were warned at that time. Both victims were killed on the spot.

Workers of different political parties join BNP

SADARPUR (Faridpur), Nov 20: A large number of workers and leaders of different political parties including Awami League (AL) joined Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) at a public rally at Kachikata school premises, Diara Narikelbaria here on Friday, says BSS.

Prominent among those who joined BNP include, among others, former UP chairman Hamid Hawlader, Abdul Huq Sarker, Moslem Sarker, Kuddus Dewan, Rahim Gazi, Azid Mollah, Dudu Mollah and Zahir Uddin Khan.

Presided over by former UP chairman and local Awami League leader Khaleque Sarker, the rally was addressed by BNP leader Chowdhury Akmal Ibne Yusuf, Faridpur *Pourashava* Chairman Fazlul Kabir Chand, JCD leader Rezaul Kabir Raza.

Judges asked to ensure steady disposal of cases

PANCHAGARH, Nov 20: Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz has called upon the judges and the lawyers to uphold the traditional sanctity and image of the judiciary by ensuring steady disposal of cases, reports UNB.

Close cooperation, coordination between the Bar and Bench is a pre-condition to achieve this objective, said the Minister while inaugurating the newly built Panchagarh District and Sessions Judge Court building on Wednesday.

Presided over by Panchagarh District and Sessions Judge Mosharraf Hossain, the inaugural function was addressed, among others, by local MP Mazhar Hossain, District Bar Association President Kamizuddin Pradhan.

Local PWD authority has completed the construction work of the three storied judge court building at a cost of Taka 67 lakh in one year time, said a PID handout.

Mirza Hafiz said that there was complete rule of law and freedom of judiciary at present in the country.

Twenty-five new district judge court buildings have so far been constructed, new bar association buildings and libraries have also been built and the libraries equipped with adequate number of law books.

Bar Association have been instructed to set up legal aid societies with government assistance to conduct the cases of the poor litigants free of costs.

Referring to corruptions in the judiciary, the Minister said that any judge found guilty of corruption and of any gross irregularity would be severely dealt with. He cited examples of disciplinary actions taken against some judges recently.

Earlier, the Law Minister formally unveiled the plaque of the newly built judge court building and later planted saplings at the court premises.

He also handed over books donated by Bangladesh Islamic Foundation to several local organisations at the Panchagarh Circuit House.

Disorganised Freedom Fighters to be united

SHERPUR, Nov 20 : LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder Friday said the present government is determined to uphold the spirit of Liberation War by uniting the disorganised freedom fighters, reports UNB.

He was inaugurating the first conference of Sherpur district *Jatiyatabadi Muktijoddha Dal*.

The function was addressed, among others, by Deputy Minister for Health and Family Welfare Sirajul Huq, Whip Abdul Karim, and local leaders Advocate Habibur Rahman and Nazrul Islam.

Barrister Talukder, also the BNP Secretary General, alleged that after the independence, the Awami League government had misguided the freedom fighters and also resorted to repression on them. "Their misrule resulted in dividing the valiant freedom fighters into various groups."

He urged the freedom fighters to beware of "evil designs of the conspirators out to jeopardise democracy in the country."

In this context, Barrister Talukder criticised the role of Nirmul Committee, specially its convenor Begum Jahanara Imam.

"This lady remained silent during the past regime but she started voicing her concern for the spirit of Liberation War soon after the BNP government was formed following free and fair elections," he said. "This is a clear conspiracy against the BNP government."

The LGRD Minister said the BNP workers, if needed, will take the street again for the sake of democracy.

Later, a 31-member committee of Sherpur district *Jatiyatabadi Muktijoddha Dal* was formed with Khalilur Rahman as president and Habibur Rahman the secretary.

BSS adds : Diarrhoea claimed eight lives and affected hundred others in Sherpur Sadar thana during the last one week.

Ilius Ali, Chairman of Char Pakhimari union parishad said diarrhoea claimed six lives and attacked many people in his union. Abdul Jubbar (50), Abul Miah (45), Rafaz (42), Hanif (35) and two children died. Two children of Pakuria union under Sadar thana also died.

Sherpur Sadar thana health and family planning officer said fourteen medical teams were working in the affected area. He, however, confirmed death of two persons.

Another BSS report says : District law and order committee meeting was held at the Sherpur Deputy Commissioner's conference room recently.

Ataur Rahman, Deputy Commissioner, Sherpur, presided over the meeting. The meeting was attended among others by M A Wadud, Police Super, Mahiuddin Siddiky ADM, Advocate Abdus Samad, President, Sherpur District Bar, Advocate Habibur Rahman, Abu Bakar, Commander *Muktijoddha Sangsad* and Abu Bakar, Editor, weekly *Daskahania*.

MYMENSINGH : Prof Dr Shah Mohammad Farouk, VC, BAU handing over a photo album, portrait and condolence book to wife of late VC, Dr Mohammad Ashraf Ali Khan in presence of Dean of Faculties, senior professors and high officials of the university here recently. — Star photo

Tk 3.20 lakh smuggled goods seized

MAGURA, Nov 20 : Bangladesh Rifles recovered smuggled goods worth over Taka 3.20 lakh from different transport in the district during last three months, says UNB.

BDR sources said of the total amount, goods worth about Taka 1.48 lakh were recovered in the month of October.

Contrabands worth over Taka 92,000 were recovered in September and goods worth Taka 79,000 were seized in the month of August.

The goods include bicycle, phensidyl syrup, cloths, sarees, wood pencils, shoes, ball pens, steel glasses, plates, blades, toothpaste, sugar, onion etc.

The goods were deposited with the local customs godown and several cases were registered with the police.

Valuables worth Tk 1.16 lakh looted

A gang of dacoits swooped on a house at Narshinghati village in Sadar thana and looted cash and valuables worth about Taka 1.16 lakh last week.

Police said here Thursday the plunderers numbering about 15, stormed into the house of Alauddin and robbed cash Tk 10,000, 15 tolas of gold ornaments, one VCP set, one two-in-one and other valuables on November 8.

Meanwhile, police arrested one Akamal Ali (24) of the village for his alleged involvement in the dacoity.

A case was filed in this connection.

3 killed in road mishap

Three people were killed and eight others injured in two road accidents in Magura, police said yesterday.

According to witnesses, Ajgar Ali, 40, was killed and five others were were injured on November 13 when a loaded truck collided with a trolly near Kamarkhali Goral bridge on Magura-Faridpur road. The injured were sent to Sadar hospital.

In another incident, Siddique (25) and Rakhoo Mondal (22) were killed and other three people injured on November 11 when a sand loaded truck suddenly plunged into a roadside ditch near Rautira on Magura-Jhenidah road.

Separate cases were lodged with the police.

Another report adds: *Jatiya Sramik Party* district unit was formed Saturday in a meeting held at the office of Jatiya Party.