

**District roundup**

**NATORE**

**Tk 50,000 fishing nets seized**

Nov 21: An Ansar and VDP team seized illegal cotton fishing nets worth about Taka 50,000 from different places in Singra thana last week, says UNB.

Acting on tip, the seven-member team raided the areas of Hizligur and Baliabari and seized the net.

None was, however, arrested. The seized nets were deposited with the local Fishing Department.

**COX'S BAZAR**

**BNP gradually reducing dependency**

Nov 21: State Minister for Women's Affairs Sarwari Rahman said the government has been implementing country-wide education programme along with poverty alleviation to build a self-reliant nation by gradually reducing dependency, says UNB.

She was speaking to the local leaders and a group of women at Cox's Bazar Circuit House Thursday.

The state minister said, "we have to transform our under-utilised vast manpower into an educated human resources and skilled workforce to reduce dependency."

To achieve this objective, she said, the present government, after coming to power has been implementing mass-oriented programmes.

Sarwari, however, regretted that a few political parties have been creating indiscipline in the country's political arena in spite of giving the hard earned democracy a permanent shape and exercising its norms in every sphere of our life.

The State Minister called upon all irrespective of party affiliations to make the government's development programmes in every sectors a success and maintain peace and normalcy in the political arena.

**MUNSHIGANJ**

**Properly, timely implementation of schemes must be ensured**

Nov 21: Commerce Minister M Shamsul Islam Thursday stressed the need for formulating and implementing maximum welfare oriented project for the betterment of the people, reports UNB.

The Minister was addressing a meeting of Thana Development and Coordination Committee at the conference room of the sadar thana in the district.

Deputy Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Md Abdul Hye also addressed the meeting. Referring to the country-wide on going projects on poverty alleviation and other socio-economic development, the Commerce Minister said properly and timely implementation of different projects must be ensured.

He urged the people's representatives and officials to overcome the bottlenecks in project implementation if any, through mutual discussion and cooperation.

The meeting observed that a total of 43 projects were being implemented under food for work programme in six thanas of the district.

The projects include reconstruction of roads and different rehabilitation programmes.

Later the Commerce Minister distributed prizes to the champion and runner-up teams of Sanary Kishore Football tournament held at Tongibari thana today, said a PID handout.

**BAGERHAT**

**Do not use religion as political weapon**

Nov 21: Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman deprecated the mischievous move of certain interested quarters to use religion as a political weapon and said that Bangladesh is a country where people from all religions are living in peace and harmony and enjoying equal rights, says BSS.

"No one would gain anything by mixing religion with politics, the foreign minister told a series of public meetings at Rakhai, Padokhali and Ranabi Joypur in Bagerhat Wednesday.

Among others Whip of Jatiya Sangsad Ashraf Hossain, Mayor of Khulina City Corporation Shaikh Tayebur Rahman and Syeda Nargis Ali, MP, spoke in these meetings.

The foreign minister said that certain interested quarters were disappointed when they failed to obstruct the holding of Durga Puja. He further said that despite the instigation by certain interested persons, stability of the country could not be hampered. "People are now politically conscious," he said.

**BOGRA**

**Oli visits Tk 527 crore road work project**

Nov 21: Communications Minister Oli Ahmed Thursday visited the Taka-527-crore road communication development project at northern region, reports BSS.

During the visit, the communications minister directed the concerned engineers to ensure quality work by stopping wastage of time and money.

The roads and projects, which were visited by the communication minister, were 33 kilometre-long Pirganj-Rangpur road, 23 kilometre-long Syedpur-Beldanga road, seven kilometre-long Rangpur-by-pass road, 44 kilometre-long Rangpur-Kurigram road and the 22 kilometre-long Palashbari-Gaubandha road and reviewed the progress achieved so far.

The Taka-527-crore road network development project at the northern region is being executed in two phases in collaboration with the World Bank.

Under the first phase, work on 137 kilometre-long roads had already been completed at the cost of Taka 202 crore.

Under the second phase, work on 149 kilometre-long roads are being progressing fast.

**RAJSHAHI**

**Self-employment plan for rural women, youths**

Nov 21: The Land Ministry has taken a massive self-employment programme for rural women and unemployed youths in view of the Prime Minister's commitment towards poverty alleviation and human resources development, reports BSS.

The launching of the programme was announced by the State Minister for Land, Kabir Hossain at a public meeting at Duckbangal field here in presence of the Prime Minister.

Under the programme, each woman or youth would be provided the highest amount of Taka, 30,000 for starting any self employment generating projects.

**KUSHLIA**

**Massive uplift plan for food sufficiency**

Nov 21: State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan said here Thursday that the present government had undertaken massive development programme in agriculture sector for attaining self-sufficiency in foodgrains production, reports BSS.

The state minister was speaking at two separate meetings at the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner of Kushlia on food for works and canal digging programmes.

A total of 80 projects have been taken up under food for works programmes in six thanas of the district during the current financial year. 1160 metric tons wheat have been allotted for implementing the projects.

He said, the BNP government has been putting in its best efforts to bring about welfare of the rural people.

Under canal digging programme, 475 metric tons of wheat have been allotted for eight projects of the district.

Mannan urged the officials and concerned authorities to perform their duties with honesty and sincerity.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia offering feteha after opening the Chatkhill Thana Health Complex in Noakhali district on Saturday. Deputy Minister for Health and Family Welfare Sirajul Hoque is seen on the left of the Prime Minister. — PID

**Potato farming target may not be achieved for want of seeds**

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Nov 21: The target of potato cultivation in 16 south-western districts of the country may not be achieved during the current season for want of seeds in the BADC godowns.

According to informed sources, limited quantity of seeds were preserved by the BADC in its godowns for supply to growers in these districts for cultivation during this season. It is quite inadequate to meet the total demands in view of the target of its cultivation which is 18,000 hectares of land, only 2,000 hectares more than that of last year.

The districts are: Jessore, Jhenidah, Narail, Magura, Khulina, Satkhira, Bagerhat, Kusthia, Chuadanga, Meherpur, Barisal, Patuakhali, Barguna, Pirojpur, Jhalakathi and Bhola.

The change in distribution system of seeds by the BADC this year, has deepened the supply crisis.

It is learnt that seeds are being sold to approve dealers at wholesale rates by the BADC from the godowns. The dealers are selling it to growers at higher rates, it is reported.

It is alleged that genuine growers one not getting the seeds from the BADC godowns. The BADC is the only department in the country to preserve seeds and supplying it to growers across the country every year.

A source close to BADC told that a total of 8,000 metric tons of potato seeds were preserved in the godowns for the farmers to grow it this season. The total number of godowns of BADC for preservation of seeds is ten of

which containing capacity of five is 1,000 metric tons each and the other five is 500 M tons each.

The first five are situated at Jessore, Jamalpur, Kishoreganj, Thakurgaon and Faridpur and the second five are at Dhaka, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Chandpur and Bogra.

**Newsprint prices high**

Prices of newsprint in local market have marked a sharp rise recently following scarcity in supply.

According to a source, newsprint (23x33), now sells at Taka 330 per rim, while it was available at Taka 265 a week before.

It is reported that newsprint (20x30) is out of market. None

can say when the supply will be available. Another source said that, all printing and publication works are hit, more particularly the dailies that come out from here at the backdrop of current wave of newsprint crisis at local town.

Some newsprint dealers of the towns told that failure to get supply from the mill, has created the situation. They alleged that they were not given the supply as schedule despite deposit of money in advance. They also forecast that all printing presses including publication local of dailies and periodicals will come to a halt for want of newsprint.

Another source said that supply position was not bad. It is steady and normal. The crisis was quite artificial.

**Tk 149cr for poverty alleviation through cooperative system**

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Nov 21: Government has launched a five-year-long Rural Poor Cooperative Project in four northern districts of the country at the cost of Taka 149 crore, reports UNB.

The districts are: Greater Rajshahi, Pabna, Kusthia and Jessore. Asian Development Bank (ADB) provided the amount.

The main objective of the project is to alleviate poverty and achieve self reliance for the rural poor by organising co-operative societies.

Official sources said, under this project 82 cooperative societies will be formed in 82 thanas of these four districts.

Landless and marginal farmers, poor women living permanently in their respective villages will be the member of the society which will provide them training in different trades and vocations.

**Indian pesticides flood markets**

Another report says: Despite government ban, Indian pesticides are abundantly available in different markets of the district.

The farmers are using these sub-standard and spurious pesticides in their lands causing adverse effect on standing

crops.

The farmers are using Indian smuggled pesticides such as thiodin, thiol, DDT and Exen-50 Hilbish due to its low price in the markets. They are reportedly not interested to buy the indigenous pesticides at a comparatively high price.

According to the agri-scientists, extensive use of spurious smuggled pesticides decreases

**Truck with goods sinks in river**

KHULNA Nov 21: A truck loaded with bricks sank into the river Bhairab when it was about to board the ferry at the Rupsa ferrygang on Thursday, reports UNB.

However, no casualties were reported.

The five passengers — the driver and helper of the truck and three labourers survived, truck owner sources said.

The accident occurred when the Bagherhat bound loaded truck coming from Jessore missed to board the ferry which has already started to leave the ghat.

Meanwhile, efforts were being carried on to salvage the truck

production capacity of the land adding that it seriously affects the soil fertility.

These sub-standard pesticides are also causing health hazards and various kinds of ailments, they said.

Local pesticides producers urged the authorities to take action against those who are responsible for marketing Indian pesticides.

Meanwhile, the Forest Department has taken up a massive afforestation programme on 1260 hectares of land in the northern region of the country during current fiscal year.

Official sources said 200 hectares of land in Dinajpur, 30 hectares in Rangpur and 40 hectares in Rajshahi have been brought under agricultural afforestation programme.

Moreover, 385 hectares in Natore, 150 hectares in Dinajpur and 125 hectares in Rajshahi have been brought under firewood plantation programme.

The roadside afforestation includes 300 hectares of land in Rajshahi and 100 hectares in Bogra district.

Besides, 1718-kilometres of highway in Rajshahi, Pabna, Bogra, Rangpur and Dinajpur districts will be brought under highway afforestation scheme.

**Another 515 Rohingyas go back home**

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, Nov 21: Five hundred and fifteen Rohingyas belonging to 115 families have been repatriated from Naya-para, Jhummapara and Rangikhal camp Wednesday.

The refugees crossed Naf river and were received at Kaniingchong reception camp by the Myanmar authorities and returned to their homes.

With Wednesday's return, a total of 48,090 Rohingyas has been repatriated to Myanmar.

**One meets tragic end**

BRAHMANBARIA, Nov 21: The driver of a power tiller died on the spot when the vehicle turned turtle and plunged into a ditch near Kutapara village of Sarail thana, police said Saturday, reports UNB.

According to eyewitnesses, the driver Kamaluddin (20) lost control of the Kalkatcha bazar bound power tiller coming from Kutapara and met the tragic end of his life on November 12.

The body was sent to hospital morgue for autopsy and a case has been filed with the local police.

Another report adds: At least 38 people were injured, 13 of them seriously, in a clash between two rival groups at Syedulla village of Sarail thana. Two groups of fishermen armed with lethal weapons attacked each other at ghat area, as a sequel to dispute over catching fish from the khas land.

The seriously injured were sent to the thana health complex.

On information police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control. A case has been filed.

**7 die of diarrhoea in Sirajganj**

SIRAJGANJ, Nov 21: Seven persons including three minor children died of diarrhoea in four thanas of the district and 378 were attacked in the last 24 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

According to official sources, 43 persons died of the water-borne disease and another 7,224 were attacked in four thanas — Raiganj, Tarash, Belkuchi and Ullapara during the last 19 days.

Unofficial sources however said that 84 persons died and 9,778 attacked by diarrhoea during the same period in those four thanas.

**Set up of TV relay centre uncertain**

BRAHMANBARIA, Nov 21: The establishment of television relay centre in the district has become uncertain due to objections raised by the owners of the selected land, reports UNB.

According to a report, the proposal to set up a television relay centre in the district town was passed in 1990 under the fourth five-year plan. A site was selected and the plan was also sent to the project director in 1992. It was estimated that about Taka 1.96 crore would be needed for the relay centre.

Official sources said a proposal was given for acquisition of 1.65 acres of land at Datara in the town to establish the much needed relay centre.

By this time, the Deputy Commissioner of the district received the land purchasing money of Taka 39 lakh. But the owners objected to part with their land.

Local people alleged that due to lack of decision of concerned authorities the establishment of the centre has become uncertain.

They urged the authorities to take immediate steps to set up the proposed centre for the interest of the district's television viewers.

District Canal Digging Committee approved seven canals for reexcavation during the current financial year (1993-94).

The canals are Gaidarbil canal in sadar thana, Suman canal in Kosba, Khyol-Daoria canal in Sarail, Solola canal in

Ahakupra, Hossenpur canal on Banchhampur, Rajgopat canal in Nasirnagar and Radhanagar canal in Nabinagar thana.

Fifty per cent of the reexcavation work will be completed by voluntary participation of local people and different organisations and others with about 1.92 metric tons of wheat, said a PID handout Saturday.

The committee approved the canals in a meeting held Friday at local circuit house with State Minister for Relief, Harun-Al-Rashid in the chair.

The state minister urged all concerned to make all-out efforts to implementing the projects in time.

Advocate Abdus Sattar MP, district officials and Thana Nirbahi officers attended the meeting.

Later, the state minister addressed two separate public meetings at Paikpara and Sapoir senior Madrasa here as chief guest.

Referring to development process initiated by the present government, the state minister said, some vested quarters do not want progress and prosperity of the nation. They are always trying to hinder the development programmes.

He called upon all to resist those evil elements who unjustifiedly call hartals.

General secretary of district BNP Hamidul Haque Tuku, leaders of BNP, Jatlyatabadi Jubadal and Chhatradal spoke in the meeting.

**Orphans in Dinajpur need more houses, facilities**

From Our Correspondent

DINAJPUR, Nov 21: The orphans of Dinajpur have at least a home, a sweet home to take refuge. It is the Lions Children's Home in Dinajpur.

The home was set up in 1979 on a plot of 35 decimal of land near the Phulbari bus stand at the town. At the initial stage the home had only 30 girl child inmates. From then on, only the girl children are eligible in the home for refuge.

The executive body of the Shishu Niketan selects the children between the age of six and seven years. The Shishu Niketan supplies them with food and clothes, provides them with educational facilities and at the same time train them up in different technical trades.

With the touch of love from the Shishu Niketan officials, the children soon find a new meaning to their uncertain life. A new self-respect grows within them. They are trained for self-reliance at present, the number of children in the Shishu Niketan is 50.

The Shishu Niketan has also helped the grown-ups to select their life partners. It has arranged the marriage of 18 inmates so far and few more are on the line. On their weddings the home presented them things like with sewing machine, embroidery machine and rickshaws.

With the donations from the members of Lions Club-313, a

tin-shed for lodging of the children was constructed at a cost of Taka 4.5 lakh. A Canadian organisation is donating money for the care of six children. In the past, the organisation used to donate money for 30 children.

In Dinajpur, there are some other similar orphan homes. Dinajpur Social Welfare Department runs a home for the male children in Rajbati, two kilometres south from Dinajpur town. But there is only one home for the girl children at Thakurgaon district town in the greater Dinajpur region. The number of destitute female children have gradually increasing. This has put tremendous pressure on the Lions Children Home at Phulbari Bus Stand.

Recently, steps have been taken to build third floor of the Shishu Niketan. A child health centre will also be set up there. Blue prints have been preferred to build two dormitories in place of the old dilapidated building. The whole project will need about Taka 24.5 lakh. The medicare centre will need another Taka 1.3 lakh.

Lions Club, Dinajpur branch in its cabinet meeting has decided that it would seek financial help from Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF) of USA for better and wider services.



SYLHET: Test boring of a deep tubewells began at Tetli village of Sylhet sadar thana under the national small irrigation project recently. The picture shows installation of the deep tubewell. — Star photo

**14 pry schools built at a cost of Tk 1.5 cr**

JESSORE, Nov 21: The facilities department of the ministry of education has completed the construction of 14 primary school buildings in eight thanas of Jessore district during the last fiscal year at a total cost of Tk 1.50 crore under the financial assistance of Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and World Bank, reports BSS.

These school buildings were Barapipara-Mollahpara Primary School and Rail Station Primary School.

Five madrasa buildings were also constructed by the department at a cost of Taka 75 lakh under Islamic Development Bank financial assistance.

These were Khajura Sr Madrasa and Bhadranga Balika Sr Madrasa in Baghanpara thana, Jhikargacha Darul-Ulm Sr Madrasa in Jhikargacha thana, Monirampur Balika Sr Madrasa in Monirampur thana and Aminia Alia Madrasa in Jessore town.



GAZIPUR: A local college girl is giving blood at a blood donation camp organised by Leo Club of Dhaka Turag and Lions Club of Dhaka Metropolitan here recently. — Star photo