

District roundup

BARISAL

PHED sinks over 39000 tubewells

Nov 22: The Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) has completed the sinking of 22,100 shallow and 17,226 deep tubewells for supplying pure drinking water to rural areas in three PHED divisions under Barisal circle between the fiscal 1987-88 and 1992-93, reports BSS.

The area covers the districts of Barisal, Jhalakati, Pirojpur and Bhola under Barisal division, Patuakhali and Barguna under Patuakhali division and Faridpur, Rajbari, Gopalganj, Madaripur and Shariatpur under Faridpur division.

Besides, 1,451 Tara pumps were installed in Faridpur division, and 1,204 shallow shrouded (SS), very shallow shrouded (VS) and pond sand filter (PSF) tubewells were installed in Jhalakati, Pirojpur and Barguna districts during the period.

A total of Taka 104, 581,000 were spent for the implementation of these projects in the circle, and official source said.

MYMENSINGH

International Aboriginal yr inaugurated

Nov 22: A two-day function was inaugurated at the Women's Complex here Saturday to observe the international aboriginal year, reports UNB.

Organised by Tribal Welfare Association the inaugural function was attended by Barrister Mainul Hossain as chief guest. Promad Mankin, MP, presided over the function.

The speakers expressed their resentment over the government's view that "there was no need to officially observe the international aboriginal year as aboriginals in the country had no problems."

They demanded constitutional safeguard for protection of the cultural and ethnic traditions of the aboriginals.

A colourful rally was brought out in the town after the inaugural function.

The functions included holding of rally, seminar, exhibitions and cultural functions.

About 5,000 Garos, Hajongs, Kuchs, Balus, Hadis, Banais and Barmans participated in the function.

PATUAHALI

Private school starts functioning

Nov 22: A new educational institution, named Eakub Ali Sharif College, is going to start functioning at Boga Bandar at Bauphal thana in the district next January, says UNB.

According to report, Dr Eakub Ali, a pathologist of IPGMR who hails from the locality will bear the expenses of the establishment of the college.

Sources said the construction work of the college is going on in full swing and is expected to be completed by December next.

FARIDPUR

24 school buildings under construction

Nov 22: Construction works of a three-room academic building each in 24 non-government high schools in 24 thanas of greater Faridpur region have been started by the Facilities Department, says UNB.

Official source said government has sanctioned Taka 18.76 crore for the project which is scheduled to be completed within the current financial year.

The sources further said one non-government school from Goulunda, Maksudpur and Goshairhat thanas would be brought under the programme in near future.

Another report adds: A seminar on Health and Education for All was held at the DC's conference room recently.

DC of Faridpur, K M Nurul Huda attended the seminar as chief guest while Civil Surgeon of Faridpur Dr Kazi Syed Ahmed chaired.

Director of Publicity and Co-ordination Jahanara Hossain and Principal of Faridpur Law College also attended as special guests.

SAVAR

One killed, 4 injured in road mishap

Nov 22: A truck helper was killed and four others were injured, two of them seriously, when the truck fell into a roadside ditch on Nabinagar-Kaliko road early Saturday, says UNB.

Police and witnesses said that Abdul Jalil (35) died on the spot when the truck, carrying sand, fell into a roadside ditch and turned turtle after the driver lost control at Ganakbari at 5 am.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

The two seriously injured labourers were also admitted to the DMCH.

Police seized the truck but its driver fled away.

KUSHLIA

3 commit suicide

Nov 22: Three young women allegedly committed suicide in three separate incidents in sadar thana of the district on Sunday, reports UNB.

The victims were identified as Arzina (18), daughter of Mongol Mandol of village Nandia, Shyamoli (16), daughter of Yazuddin of village Kandarpada and Jahanara (28), wife of Uk-luiddin of village Ujgram.

The reasons behind the suicides could not be known immediately. Three cases were filed with sadar police.

Another report from Satkhira adds: Morzina (20), mother of a child was allegedly killed by her husband Khodabakhsh of Elachar village on Sunday.

According to family sources, Morzina was being tortured by her husband for the last few months for non-payment of dowry. On the fateful day when she refused to pay the dowry the cruel husband strangled her to death.

SIRAJGANJ

Indian sarees worth Tk 2.10 lakh seized

Nov 22: Police recovered 1,111 pieces of smuggled Indian sarees worth about Taka 2.10 lakh from Shimuldia and Kunkunia villages in Kazipur thana on Sunday night, says UNB.

Acting on a tip, police raided the house of Shahjahan and Salmuddin of village Shimuldia and recovered 79 pieces of Indian sarees. Later, they raided houses of Mokbul, Fazlur Rahman, German and Razzak of village Kunkunia and recovered 1032 pieces of sarees.

Police arrested German and Razzak from the spot.

Two separate cases were filed with the police.

FENI

CI sheets for cyclone victims

Nov 22: Distribution of 27,480 bundles of CI sheets among the cyclone affected people of the three districts of greater Noakhali has been started, reports UNB.

Official sources said 6,000 bundles were allocated for five thanas of Feni district, 17,480 bundles for Noakhali district and 4,000 bundles for Laxmipur district.

The CI sheets are being distributed across the country under the cyclone rehabilitation programme with Saudi help.

Distribution of 1702 bundles of CI sheets has been started in Sonagazi thana, 1430 bundles in Parshuram thana, 700 bundles in Chhagalnaiya, 774 bundles in Dagonbhuiyan and 312 bundles for Feni paurasawa.

In the meantime, distribution of CI sheet has already been started in Sonagazi and Parshuram thanas.

Government has also allocated another 1000 bundles of CI sheets for five thanas of Feni district under the flood rehabilitation programme. Work for listing the affected families has already been started.

COMILLA

2nd place in performing surgical contraception

Nov 22: The Comilla district in a country-wide intensive family planning drive secured the first place in Chittagong division and second in the country in performance of surgical contraception, reports UNB.

Inter-city express trains run as local trains

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Nov 22: The inter-city express trains running between Rangpur and Dhaka have now become local trains causing sufferings to thousands of passengers.

The trains carry passengers without tickets beyond the capacity, maintain no time-table and lack amenities.

The inter-city Teesta and Ekota express trains were introduced to ply between Dhaka and Rangpur-Dinajpur region a few years back with a commitment to carry the genuine passengers providing them required comforts and amenities during their journey on this long route.

It is surprising that in the recent days the inter-city mail trains have lost their characteristics.

* All the compartments are packed-up by passengers without tickets and goods. The toilets turn dirty spreading bad smell. The food available in the

trains and ferries are much costly and are of low standard. The attendants are not now found at their respective compartments to render services to the passengers, it is alleged.

The irregularities have been causing immense sufferings to the passengers travelling everyday on this long route procuring tickets of these inter-city trains to enjoy a comfortable journey.

The beggars and the vendors are aggravating the situation on this long route. The railway personnel on duty look at them without making any resistance.

The journey by long route coaches has been drawing large number of the people now-a-days following anomalies in the inter-city train services.

House wife commits suicide

SATKHIRA, Nov 21: A pregnant young housewife of Kaladurgapur in Kaliganj thana allegedly committed suicide by taking poison on Monday, reports UNB.

The victim, Puspa Rani (20) embraced Islam, took her name as Rokeya and got married with Jahidul Islam of the same village two years back.

Reconstruction of 260 primary schools going on

BARISAL, Nov 22: Local Government Engineering Department Barisal, has been implementing 383 projects in Barisal district at an allocation of Tk 12,59,45,000 during the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the projects included reconstruction of 117 registered non-government primary schools, 143 government primary schools, and repair of 123 government primary schools.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has been financing the projects, the source added.

Meanwhile, on an average 50 per cent work of these projects has been completed.

Another report says: A week-long eye camp concluded at the diabetic centre of Barisal under the joint auspices of Comilla Kalyan Samity and Lions Club of Barisal on Wednesday.

The camp was inaugurated by Professor Md Bakker Ali Mian. It was presided over by Prof Md Kudrat-e-Khoda.

A total of 34 cataract patients was operated upon and 800 patients were given treatment. Medicine and spectacles were supplied free of cost.

The concluding function was attended by A M Rashid, Divisional Commissioner and Mamtaz Uddin, Deputy Commissioner.

Meanwhile, State Minister for Education Principal M Eunus Khan said here that the development of the country was possible only through the development of the villages and ensuring the excellent livelihood of the toiling masses.

He said, the present government is firmly determined to fulfil the fundamental demands of the people irrespective of religion.

Eunus Khan said, the main object of the government was to increase food production and remove illiteracy from the country. So, the government has taken up different steps to increase food production and compulsory primary education for that purpose, he said.

He also urged the opposition political parties to play a constructive role to save the hard-earned democracy giving it a constitutional shape.

Eunus said, the Food-For-Education Programme for eradicating illiteracy from the country had made a tremendous response.

The meeting was addressed, among others, by Rustam Molla and Sikder Enayet Hossain, President and Secretary, BNP unit of Bakerganj thana, respectively.



NARAYANGANJ: A K M Rafiquzzaman, Director General of Family Planning Directorate inaugurating a special sterilisation camp held at Adamjee Jute Mills premises recently. It was jointly sponsored by Adamjee family panning MCH clinic and local sadar thana family planning department. — Star photo

BAU officers on six-day work abstention to realise demands

MYMENSINGH, Nov 22: Administrative activities of Bangladesh Agricultural University came to a halt Sunday due to work abstention by the officers of the University, reports BSS.

Bangladesh Agricultural University Officers' Association observed the work abstention at the call of Bangladesh Inter-University Officers' Federation to press for its two-point demand, said a press release.

A six-day work abstention programme by the officers of the country's seven universities began on Saturday.

The Federation demands modification of pay scales for university officers and their representation in different authoritative bodies, including senate and syndicate.

The BAU Officers' Association at a meeting Sunday with its president Alhaj Md Ziaul Islam in the chair demanded immediate implementation of the two-point demand. They also condoned the death of renowned educationist Prof Abdul Quddus, an ex-Dean of Animal Husbandry Faculty of BAU.

The Association expressed its deep sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for the departed soul.

A BSS report adds: A day long seminar on agriculture and society was held at the Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin auditorium of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) recently.

Organised by the Krishibid Institution of BAU branch, the seminar was attended by the Vice-Chancellor Dr Shah Md Farouk as chief guest while former BAU Vice-Chancellor Professor Mosehuddin Ahmed

Chowdhury was the special guest.

The seminar was presided over by Professor Dr Abdul Halim, president, Krishibid Institution of BAU branch. Professor Md Shamsul Haque, Professor Syed Shakhawat Hossain and Professor Dr Bahadur Mia took part in the discussion.

The key-note paper was presented by Professor M Abdul Haque, Professor Sheikh Jinnat

Blood, eye donation camp organised

COMILLA, Nov 22: A branch of Shandhani, a voluntary organisation for blood collection and eye donation was formed in Comilla Medical College at a simple function, reports UNB.

CMC Principal Habibur Rahman Ansari presided over the function held recently. It was also addressed by Begum Rabeya Chowdhury and Shamsul Haque.

A committee was formed with Mizanur Rahman as its convener and Abu Naser, Fazlul Wahab Chowdhury and Shakil Shaman as its joint convenors.

The speakers called upon the organisers to create mass awareness to donate blood and eyes voluntarily for the suffering humanity.

Another message adds: A patrol party of Bangladesh Rifles seized 508 bottles of phensidyl syrup worth about Taka 50,800 from Shah Daulatpur area of the Kotwali thana on November 17.

Workshop on recitation concludes

From A Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, Nov 22: A two-month long workshop on recitation and elocution concluded last week at the Shilpakala Academy.

Held under the auspices of the Brahmanbaria Sahitya Academy this was a most important cultural event here in years and was the first of its kind. Participated by students, teachers and cultural activists of the town as also from Ashuganj this is expected to have a sustained impact on the cultural life of Brahmanbaria.

Syed Hasan Imam was the chief at the inaugural of the workshop on September 9. Training was imparted to the participants by the senior members of Kanthashilon, Dhaka. Prof Naren Biswas, Mir Barkat Nasiruddin, Golam Sarwar and Enayet Kajor and Kathashilon Principal Wahidul Haque conducted the classes commencing from Dhaka.

At the concluding function presided over by Advocate Abu Taher, Principal Amanullah, Mir Barkat and Wahidul Haque spoke on the topic of 'the commitment of poetry'. The function was rounded off by a compose programme of recitation 'Jagotey Anando Jorney' directed by Nasiruddin.

Imam loses job for adopting FP methods

SIRAJGANJ, Nov 22: An Imam of Dorota Mosque of Dorota village in sadar thana has lost his job for allegedly adopting family planning methods, reports UNB.

The ill-fated Imam Moulana Romjan Ali (50) has been working for 18 years in Dorota Mosque.

The Imam in a written petition to the Deputy Director of Family Planning demanded immediate enquiry into the matter that led his termination for adopting family planning methods. He also demanded legal action against the Mosque Committee.

It is learnt that the village elders and the Masjid Committee could not accept the Imam's decision in favour of the family planning programme and a few days back they terminated him from the job.

Meanwhile, the local administration has asked the Thana Family Planning Officer to probe into the matter immediately.

The matter has created sensation in the area.

Bus dacoity, huge cash robbed

CHITTAGONG, Nov 21: Daring road dacoities were committed on the Arakan Sanak road of Chittagong-Cox's Bazar highway near Moulavir Dakan of Satkania thana on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Police said a group of armed dacoits numbering 20, committed dacoities in eight to nine buses and trucks by putting up barricade.

BNP leader's house attacked

PABNA, Nov 22: Rift in local BNP widened further when a rival group attacked the residence of district general secretary of the party Shahjahan Ali, Sunday, reports UNB.

Ali, who is a public prosecutor, said a group of people patronised by BNP vice-president Azizur Rahman and Sirajul Islam MP attacked his Shibpur residence in the town at 6-30 Sunday morning with fire arms.

Police confirmed the incident but did not arrest anyone till late in the evening.

Under the study tour programme, the students of B Sc (Ag) will visit the major agricultural research institutes and various government and non-government organisations, directly linked with agricultural development, at different thanas.

The tour aims at gaining practical knowledge and the programmes and activities of the organisations.

Meanwhile, a group of senior teachers including former Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Z H Bhuiyan, Prof Dr Monawar Ahmed, Prof Dr Md Yunus, Prof A A A Munshi, Prof Dr Md Idris, Prof Dr Md Azizul Haque, Prof Dr Md Mahbulul Karim and Prof Dr Md Bahadur Miah left the university campus to observe activities of the visiting students in five thanas of the greater Mymensingh district.



The tribal girls are seen dancing at Mymensingh town on the occasion of International Tribal Day. — Star photo

Bhashani fought for downtrodden

SYLHET, Nov 22: The 17th death anniversary of late Moulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani was observed in Sylhet with glowing tributes to the late leader of the oppressed. Different socio-political organisations arranged discussion meetings.

Greater Sylhet Ganadabi Parishad, a non-partisan organisation organised a discussion meeting at its office with Alhaj Mubaswir Ali in the chair. The meeting was addressed, among others, by Ashraf Ali, Haji Moulul Hossain, Saifur Rahman Khan, Advocate A K Fakhrul Hassan, Advocate Mohiuddin Ahmed and Mominuddin Mukit.

The speakers in their speeches said, the late Moulana had fought for the cause of the downtrodden till his death. The Sylhet unit of JSD also arranged a discussion meeting with A T M Abdul Mustakim in the chair while it was addressed, among others, by Professor Mohammed Shafique, M A Quaiyum Chowdhury, Khalibur Rahman Chashi, Rai Mohan Das, Md Ishaque and Selim Jahan Chowdhury.

The Sylhet unit of Jatiya Chhatra Dal, JAGPA, and Workers Party also arranged separate meetings.

A UNB report adds: The 17th death anniversary of Moulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani was observed here at Public Library auditorium under auspices of Bhashani Mrittu-barshiki Udjapan Committee.

Presided over by district convener Prof Mujibur Rahman, the function was addressed, among others, by Principal Sujat Ali Miah as chief guest and Advocate Syed Abdus Sobhan as special guest.

The speakers paying rich tribute to the great Moulana called upon all to follow his ideals to build the society free from all sorts of exploitation.

They said, Moulana throughout his entire life fought for the well-being of the common people adding that he was the pioneer of all movements.

Referring to the desertification of the northern part of the country due to unilateral withdrawal of waters at Farakka, they said the Moulana first raised objection against this heinous act and arranged Long March to draw the attraction of the world community.

Later they prayed for the salvation and eternal peace of the departed soul.

Road now open to traffic

TANGAIL, Nov 22: The 10-kilometer Bhatkura-Bashail Road in Tangail district is now open to traffic three months ahead of the scheduled time, reports UNB.

The road, a part of 285-km feeder road improvement project has been constructed in 33 months at a cost of Taka 12.45 crore.

The feeder road is nearing completion in the districts of greater Mymensingh involving a cost of Taka 362.88 crore.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) assisted project is being implemented under 12 contracts of which Bhatkura-Bashail Road is the first completed one, said a PID handout.

The road is linking Bashail — one of the remotest thanas of greater Mymensingh which was hitherto devoid of road link and disconnected from any regular route with Dhaka-Tangail Highway. It was constructed by a local construction firm using local ingredients and indigenous technology.

The road has a 600 feet permanent bridge over Northkhola river and eighteen box-culverts.



KHULNA: Dumuria thana police recently arrested the above five dacoits. These persons used to commit dacoities wearing black dresses and masks. They were also wanted by the police in connection with several criminal cases. — Star photo