

Private clinics involved in illegal abortions in Kushtia

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Nov 14: Private clinics are reportedly involved in illegal abortions in the name of Menstrual Regulation (MR) causing serious concern among the conscious people of the district.

About 500 women die from pregnancy and abortion complications and about 25,000 women suffer from female disease every year in the district. A survey report conducted by a Non-Government Organisation reveals that most of the abortions are performed by the untrained nurses who generally apply traditional methods.

Most of the private clinics of the district are involved in such illegal activities on payment. As a result, immoral activities among the dishonest people particularly, youths have increased abnormally.

Menstrual Regulation (MR) was introduced along with other temporary methods of birth control to check population boom. The MR was first practiced by the government registered NGO clinics aimed at helping the family planning methods in case of accidental or undesirable pregnancies.

New method of pisciculture introduced in Rangpur

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Nov 14: The Fisheries Department has introduced a new method in pisciculture to enhance the output of fish in a bid to meet its existing crisis in the district.

Under this new method, a considerable quantity of cowdung is to be sprayed in a pond or tank every early morning which would help in growth of the fish.

With this new method, at least 15 maunds to 30 maunds of fish can easily be produced per bigha of pond as against five to six maunds produced at present.

At the initial stage, four to five ponds have been taken under the programme, this year in each thana of the district with a view to popularise the method among the fish farmers and to acquaint them in it.

In phases, this new method of pisciculture will be expanded in other areas of the district.

At present three varieties of fish, Silver-cuf, Kerfu and Telapia are being cultivated under the new method and in future the other varieties of fishes would be brought in this method and for which experiments are to be carried-out, he added.

One killed in road accident

Moulvibazar, Nov 14:

One person was killed and four others were injured seriously when an autorickshaw collided with a truck on the Dhaka-Sylhet highway Saturday, reports UNB.

The dead, Ismail, 35, was a passenger of the three-wheeler Mishuk.

Among the injured, Sanjoy, 18, and Jitendra, 24, were admitted to the sadar hospital and another two unidentified people were rushed to Sylhet Medical College Hospital.

Police said, a Sylhet-bound goods-laden truck rammed a Mishuk coming from the opposite direction at Jugisar, half a mile from the town, killing Ismail on the spot and injuring four, including the driver of the mishuk at 9 am.

Pest attack in cotton fields in Rangpur

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Nov 14: Massive pest attacks in the cotton fields have been reported from different parts of the greater Rangpur zone.

An official of the Cotton Development Board said that due to unprecedented drought that persisting all over the zone for the past few months, pests attacks originated in the cotton fields in vast areas causing large-scale damages to the plants.

There are allegations that the insecticides now available in markets are mostly below standard and ineffective to control the pests devastations in the cotton fields.

In the current season, 2,430 hectares of land have been taken under cotton cultivation in the zone. About 24,380 maunds of seed-cotton were expected to be produced in these lands. But there is an apprehension that the target of the yield will fall short during this season following pest attacks in the cotton fields.



Some of the areas of northern districts were hard hit by drought, affecting crop production from the areas. The helpless farmers and their family members of Aditmari of Lalmonirhat district here are waiting for relief.

— Star photo by AKM Mohsin

Development work of 79 schools on in Moulvibazar

From Our Correspondent

MOULVIBAZAR, Nov 14: Fisheries Department of the Ministry of Education is implementing development scheme for the 79 educational institutions in the district with a total allocation of Tk six crore 70 lakh 88 thousand.

The schemes are being implemented in Moulvibazar Sadar, Rajnagar, Srimongal, Kamalganj, Kulaura and Baralekha thanas.

According to official source, the work of the scheme include construction of academic and administrative buildings and renovation and repair works of the old buildings.

Educational institutions under the scheme of the district included two government degree colleges, three non-government degree colleges, three government high schools, 31 non-government high schools, six madrasahs and 37 government primary schools.

The thana-wise breakup of the schemes are — one government degree college, two government high schools, five non-government high schools, one madrasah and 11 government primary schools taken up in Moulvibazar Sadar

thana with a total expenditure of Tk two crore 23 lakh 32 thousand. Of them, construction of one government college, two government high schools, one madrasah, two non-government high schools and five government primary schools have already been completed.

In Rajnagar thana, 18 institutions taken up under the development schemes. Six non-government high schools, one madrasah and 11 government primary schools are under the project with an estimated cost of Tk 75 lakh 8 thousand. Work of four non-government high schools, one madrasah and five government primary schools have already been completed.

A total of eight institutions including one government college, one government girls high school, five non-government high schools and one madrasah have taken up in Srimongal thana at an estimated cost of Tk one crore 4 lakh 80 thousand. Meanwhile, work of one government college, one government girls high school, 4 non-government high schools and one madrasah have already been

completed.

Construction work of 1 non-government college, four non-government high school and one madrasah is going on at an expenditure of Tk 58 lakh 61 thousand in Kulaura thana, while work of one college and one non-government high school have already been completed.

In Kamalganj thana, number of the institutions under the project are — one non-government college, six non-government high schools, one madrasah and six government primary schools. Total allocation for the project in this thana are Tk 97 lakh 54 thousand. Work of four high schools and one madrasah has been completed.

In Baralekha thana, construction work of two non-government high school buildings have already been completed out of one non-government college, five non-government high schools, one madrasah and nine government primary schools taken up under the development scheme at a cost of Tk 85 lakh 49 thousand.

The schemes are expected to be completed by June next

'Tele-communications system needs development'

CHITTAGONG, Nov 14:

Fisheries and Livestocks Minister Abdullah Al-Noman Tuesday emphasised the need for development of tele-communications system saying overall economic progress of the country was largely dependent on it, reports BSS.

An improved tele-communications system is indispensable for accelerating socio-economic development of the country, he added.

Speaking as chief guest at the installation ceremony of the office-bearers of Chittagong regional committee of Bangladesh Tele-Communications Sramik-Karmachari Union (BTCSKU) at Nandanakan here, the minister said that the government was developing tele-communications system in the country keeping in view its important role in over all progress of the country. He said, the workers, employees, officers, technicians and engineers of Telephone and Telegraph Department would have to put in their best efforts in implementing uplift projects of tele-communications. He said that a Tk 1200 crore tele-communications uplift projects had been under implementation in the country and

the successful completion of the project depended on the efficiency, honesty and devotion of all concerned.

The function presided over by Chittagong regional committee president Ashraf Ali Sikdar was also addressed by Barkat Ullah Bulu MP, Serajul Islam MP, president of central committee of BTCSKU Feros Meah, general secretary Kazi Kamaluddin, Chittagong divisional Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal leader A M Nazim Uddin and regional committee, BTCSKU general secretary Lokmal Hussain.

Abdullah Al-Noman said, a developed tele-communications system could also play important role in strengthening international relations and development of trade and business with foreign countries. We have to develop and procure latest technology for developing our tele-communications system, he further added.

Abdullah Al-Noman said that Bangladesh could earn foreign exchange by exporting tele-communications materials, but here too technicians and engineers of the T and T Department would have to put in their best efforts for manufacturing quality materials.

The minister said, the tele-communications sector had

vast economic potentialities in the country and every one concerned would have to realise that without latest technology the country could not advance.

The Fisheries and Livestocks Minister pointed out that only increase in salary of employees would not improve their lot, but there should be overall socio-economic development in the country to achieve the objective. General and technical education is needed for economic progress, he said.

Turning to prevailing political situation in the country Noman said, those who killed democracy in the past were again crying hoarse to undo the democratic process set in motion, he said, the people are intelligent enough to realise that the killers of democracy were out to capture power and nothing else.

He cautioned the people to remain alert against power seekers saying they are now united to unseat a democratic government.

He said, the BNP government under the able leadership of Begum Khaleda Zia would continue to champion the people's causes as it believes that people are the source of political power.

Diarrhoea breaks out in Jamalpur

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Nov 14: About 7000 people have been attacked with diarrhoea and other water borne diseases which spread in the drought hit areas of the district.

The worst affected thanas are Islampur, Dewanganj, Madarganj, Melandah, and Jamalpur sadar. Acute scarcity of pure drinking water and adulterated food are the main causes of the diseases, official sources said.

District Health Department confirmed that doctors were working round the clock to fight further spread of the diseases in the affected areas.

Diarrhoea claimed 9 lives in the district last fortnight, unofficial sources said. Official sources, however, confirmed only five deaths in the district during the period.

The Melandah thana health complex has already been jam-packed with diarrhoea affected patients. There is no more beds at the hospital to facilitate further admission.

Rahima Khandokar, MP, visited the diarrhoea affected areas in Islampur thana here recently. She observed that the situation was brought under control by the Health Department.

Fire destroys jute worth Tk 50 lakh

NARAYANGANJ, Nov 14:

A devastating fire that engulfed three jute godowns on the bank of Shitalakhyia river gutted raw jute worth lakhs of taka Sunday, reports UNB.

Fire brigade and police sources said that 30 maunds of jute burnt into ashes in godown Nos 14 and 15 of Popular Jute Exchange, a jute exporting firm in the port city.

Jute worth Tk 50 lakh also gutted at godown No 13 in the fire that originated from an electric short-circuit at godown No 15 at about 8:15 am.

Ten fire fighting units from Dhaka, Demra, Mondalpara, Hajiganj and Tanbazar rushed to the scene and brought the blaze under control.

River fire brigade and the company's own fire fighting units fought for nearly three hours to control the blaze, witnesses said.

When contacted, General Manager of Popular Jute Abdur Rashid claimed that they were assessing the damages.

Four get life imprisonment in Rangpur

RANGPUR, Nov 14:

Four people were awarded life term rigorous imprisonment for their involvement in two separate murder cases in the district, court sources said here on Tuesday, reports UNB.

In a verdict, the District and Sessions Judge Azizur Rahman, also fined them of Tk 5000 each and in default of payment, another six months rigorous imprisonment.

The convicted were identified as Akramul Huq, Abdul, Alamgir and Dulal.

Akramul was convicted of murdering his wife — Romena Khatun. Romena was strangled to death on June 16, 1992 at village Sellampur in Pirgachha.

In another case, Abdul, Alamgir and Dulal — were convicted of murdering one Jahangir August 11, 1993 at village Masudpur in Mithapukur thana.

Organised gangs committing crimes in villages in Jessore

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Nov 14: Mugging, killing, kidnapping, robbery, violence and extortion are on increase alarmingly in different parts of Keshabpur thana in the district following deterioration of law and order situation for quite sometime.

According to police station sources, during the period from May to September this year a total of 34 robberies, one murder, two kidnappings, several muggings, two cases of violence and extortion by organised groups of gangsters, were committed.

Reports also say that a number of armed robberies were committed at different points of Mulgram, Duttanagar, Srirampur, Sarafpur and Mirajapur.

On May 7 this year a violent clash between Chhatra Dal, a student organisation of BNP and Chhatra League, a student wing of AI, at Jhana Headquarter took place causing casualties to both sides.

A teacher of Valukghar Madrasa, Abdul Ghani, was kidnapped during class-hours from madrasa at gunpoint by a group of outlawed party activists on May 11. Later he was picked-up from nearby with injuries.

A group of armed robbers attacked three houses in Burioti and took away valuables including cash on May 15. On the same night a gang of miscreants forcibly entered into the house of Nital Pal of Gopalpur and violated his wife, Chapala Rani. Armed robbers also attacked the houses of Konak Pal, Sadhupal and Narayan Pal of Baushala and looted valuables on the same night.

Cattle lifters stolen away two bullocks from cowshed of

Tk two lakh looted, 10 people injured

SIRAJGANJ, Nov 14:

A gang of armed robbers swooped on a house, injured 10 of its inmates and looted valuables and goods of about Tk two lakh in village Brahmanbaria of Raiganj thana Wednesday midnight, reports UNB.

Police said the dacoit gang of 15 men raided the house of one Nurul Islam of the village and decamped with the goods.

They also beat the inmates including women when they resisted.

Abdul Aziz and Abdur Razzak of Mulgram on June 4 and another one from that of Kalu-sorder of Habashpole on June 14 this year.

Robbers raided a number of houses in Gourighana on June 14, in Majidpur on July 7, and took away belongings.

On the same night, a daring dacoity was committed at BRAC office in Keshabpur Bazar, hardly 200 yards from the police station. Gangsters attacked several houses in Suja Nagar on August 2, in Chaitabaria on Aug 9, in Shahapur, on September 30 and in Jhikra on Oct 1, and ransacked valuables.

Reports also say that outlawed party activists are openly moving in the area round the clock. They are collecting tolls from local people. Worried villagers are in fact, hostage to them and forced to meet their demands.

It is also learnt that government contractors are not spared to pay tolls to these outlawed party activists.

According to local people, miscreants prowl the area, they are presently dominating most villages of Biddanadakati, Sagdari, and Trimohini unions.

Child labourers on rise in northern dists

From Our Correspondent

DINAJPUR, Nov 14: The number of child labourers is increasing in different areas of 16 northern districts of the country. The districts are Chapainawabganj, Natore, Naogaon, Rajshahi, Pabna, Sirajganj, Joypurhat, Bogra, Gaibandha, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Rangpur, Nilphamari, Panchagarh, Thakurgaon and Dinajpur.

The poor children who are expected, in their teens, to school and in the playground have been compelled to engage themselves in different works for earning a livelihood.

The children, in the age group of 5 to 15 years, are mainly engaged in manual jobs on daily basis.

This class of children are found working as helping hands in motor, bicycle and rickshaw garages, welding shops and in hotels and restaurants. Some of the children work as hawkers. Many of them are rickshaw-pullers.

The child labourers get a nominal wage from their masters and there is no guarantee of their jobs. The children who are working as servants in the houses are often tortured by their employers, they said.

These child labourers work for more than 10 hours a day and earn between Taka 15 and

20 to support their families.

According to the International Labour Laws, the children below the age group of 15 are not allowed to take up hard work. The concerned authorities have been urged to take initiatives to rehabilitate the child labourers by opening institutions and thus help them enjoy the minimum rights.

Most of the children told this correspondent that none of them had any cultivable land.

NWD system

Nation Wide Dialling (NWD) system introduced by the Telephone Department has caused frustration among the subscribers of Dinajpur due to irregular service.

Most of the time the NWD channels remain out of order and offer busy tones much to the inconvenience of the subscribers. Only four channels have been put into operation from Dinajpur to all other places connected with NWD.

Out of the four channels, two are defective from the very beginning. The two channels now working are too inadequate to cope with the need of about two thousand subscribers of Dinajpur.

Huge quantities of ganja plants seized

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Nov 14: A huge number of ganja plants, estimated over four thousands, were detected at Rowmari by a team of anti-drug squad headed by Khushi Mohon Biswas, Deputy Director of Drug Control Department of Rangpur zone, recently.

According to the sources, it was the biggest recoveries of ganja plants in the zone since liberation. Seventy one cases have been filed in this connection.

Two die from snake bite in Rangpur

RANGPUR, Nov 14:

Two young men died from snake bite at a village in Pirgachha thana of the district on Sunday, villagers said, reports UNB.

The dead were identified as Kashem (30) and Karim (32). Both of them were snake charmer.

The snake charmers died instantly when some poisonous snakes bit them. They were trying to catch some of the snakes from a pit at a place in village Dharmadash.



CHANDPUR: The local Kochi-Kanchar Mela arranged a cultural show in honour of the visiting Norwegian children recently in the district.

Problem grips high schools in Jamalpur

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Nov 14: Almost all the high schools at Jamalpur district have been facing innumerable problems including shortage of furniture and accommodation, lack of adequate educational appliances as well as fund crisis.

There are 100 high schools in all seven thanas of the district. Of them, only five schools are run by the government.

Thana-wise break-up of non-government high schools are: Sadar thana-18, Melandah-14, Islampur-24, Sarishabari-17, Dewanganj-13, Bakshiganj-8 and Madarganj-14.

These non-government high schools have been grappling with multifarious problems for long.

Most of these schools established under local initiative

have not received government recognition despite having provisions of requisite facilities. The schools running without government financial help are facing closure, school sources said.

Many school buildings damaged earlier by tornado remain unrepaired due to fund crisis.

All the high schools excepting a few are facing acute fund crisis. The teachers are not paid regularly, some of them said.

Students have no access to pure drinking water as there are no tubewells in these schools.

Students as well as teachers urged the government to take measures for removing the problems to ensure better education in the district.

Body formed to probe Khulna City College incident

From Our Correspondent

KHULNA, Nov 14: The Police Commissioner Abdur Rahim Khan has formed a committee to probe the incidents in and around the City College campus in which two died and several were injured following a fierce gunbattle between the supporters of the Chhatra Shibir and JCD on August 23.

The two-member committee to be headed by the Deputy Commissioner (South) Nurul Alam Chowdhury has been asked to submit report by November 14.

On August 23, Abul Kashem Pathan, General Secretary of Daulatpur Govt BL College and a front ranking Shibir leader and Abu Sayeed Khan Tarun, a student of M M City College, Khulna, were killed in the fierce gunbattle.

Eight cases were, however, filed with the local Kotwali police station.



SYLHET A P M Kamal, Chairman of Sylhet Pourashava speaking at a discussion meeting on the need for spreading education on health to the slum dwellers held at Pourashava auditorium in observance of the sanitation week.

— Star photo