

Jamuna erosion turns serious in Pabna

From Our Correspondent
PABNA, Nov 15: Erosion has been continuing in river Jamuna within an area covering at least five miles from Nakalia river port to Nagorbari ferry ghat in the district. In other areas, erosion has been grabbing arable land, hats and bazars situated on the river side.

According to an unofficial estimate, at least 2,000 houses have been eroded and over 3,000 areas of cultivable land have also been grabbed by the river.

No measure is still in sight for preventing erosion which has become a continuous affair. It has already rendered thousands of families shelterless and at the same time landless.

Government measures against erosion by river Jamuna is urgently needed for saving people living in river side.

Private SSC examinees protest board decision

KUSHTIA, Nov 15: Private SSC examinees who have been barred from the next examination brought out a procession in the town recently in protest against board decision, reports BSS.

They paraded the main roads of the town and raised various slogans against board decision. During the procession they damaged several rickshaws. At one stage the processionists became violent and brick-battled the police and damaged a microbus.

BKB lodges 1853 certificate cases against defaulters

From Our Correspondent

MOULVI BAZAR, Nov 15: Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) has lodged 1,853 certificate cases against defaulter loanees up to June '94 to realise Taka three crore 77 lakh 62 thousand as outstanding agri loans from eight thanas of Habiganj district.

According to the BKB officials in Habiganj, the total outstanding loan amounting to Taka 61 crore 5 lakh 54 thousand still remain unpaid with different branches of eight thanas of the district.

Thana wise breakup of certificate cases lodged to realise outstanding loans are: in Habiganj sadar thana 245 cases to realise Taka one crore four lakh 20 thousand, in Bahubal thana 168 cases to realise Taka 17 lakh 18 thousand, in Madhavpur thana 280 cases to realise Taka 42 lakh 68 thousand, in Barishchong thana 461 cases for Taka one crore one lakh 7 thousand, in Azmiriganj thana 304 cases for Taka 59 lakh 89 thousand, in Cunurighat thana 11 cases for Taka one lakh 67 thousand, in Lakshai thana 28 cases for Taka 4 lakh 34 thousand and in Nabiganj thana 356 cases lodged to realise Taka 46 lakh 59 thousand.

Padma Setu Bastabayan Committee meet held

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Nov 15: The Padma Setu Bastabayan Committee represented by the Pura Chairmen of 21 southern and northern districts held a meeting at the Circuit House here demanding immediate implementation of the proposed bridge over the river Padma.

The meeting attended by 35 Pura Chairmen of the 21 districts and the local deputy commissioner and the superintendent of police also formed a 24-member committee with Fazul Kabir Chand, Chairman of Faridpur Poursabha, as president and Anisur Rahman, Chairman of Jhenidah Poursabha, as general secretary.

Six dacoits held in Jhenidah

JHENIDAH, Nov 15: Police arrested six members of an organised gang of inter-district road pirates from different parts of Jhenidah and Jessore districts recently, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, police raided the Bejpara area in Jessore and nabbed Idris of Chuadanga and Dulal of Meherpur in the morning. While Rabiul, Azgar, Moslem and Abul Hossain were picked up from different parts of the Jhenidah district.

They confessed to the police that they had committed a number of road dacoities on different highways.

Several cases were filed in this connection.



The BDR men (top left) recently seized Indian smuggled goods from two areas of Brahmanbaria district. The value of the goods was estimated to cost over nine lakh taka. Police on receiving secret information raided a roadside shop in Chuadanga district town and recovered 200 bottles of phensidyl (bottom right) and arrested the shopkeeper. The BDR men seized (bottom left) smuggled Indian goods worth over 24 lakh taka from different border areas of Jessore district recently. Madaripur sadar thana police arrested (top right) Habu Howladar, a noted outlawed party gang leader from Chachra village along with a pipe gun, three rounds of ammunition and a military helmet. Howladar was also wanted for a number of cases.

Shortage of electricity hampers production

SHARIATPUR, Nov 15: Works in mills and factories and over all business activities are being hampered greatly due to want of electrification in about 80 per cent villages in six thanas of the district, says UNB.

Of the total 1,053 villages in sadar, Noria, Damudya, Vedergonj, Goshairhat and Jajia only 20 per cent villages have been electrified. Since the upgradation of the former sub-division into the district nine years back Palli Bidyut Board could not start its electrification work.

Local people alleged that frequent power failure and loadshedding have been hampering the uplift works including irrigation system.

Officials of the district electricity supply said, of the total 1,175 irrigation projects, only 100 projects were in operation in the last IRRI-boro season.

The sources said, at present, power is being supplied to about 5,000 consumers of the district from Madaripur district electricity supply system.

In Jessore, Brahmanbaria

Huge quantities of Indian smuggled goods seized

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Nov 15: BDR men of 22 Rifles, Jessore, seized contraband goods worth Taka 24 lakh 25 thousand and arrested 15 alleged smugglers from different parts of Jessore and Jhenidah districts under operation "treasure hunt" during October, said BDR sources.

According to the source, goods seized included Indian sarees, synthetic clothes, wrappers, three pieces, sugar, salt, imitations, garments, fruits, cattle, motorparts, bicycle, by-cycle-parts, blue-film cassettes, battery covers, crockeries, pressure cookers, crocodiles skins, shoes, hair-clip, bottles of phensidyl, cosmetics, bearing, tape-recorder, medicine, Bangladeshi coins and Indian coins. The seized goods were deposited with Customs godowns at Jessore and Benapole.

Seizure in this month so far was far less in volume than that of previous month following

stepping-up of security measures along border to check infiltration of people carrying plague, the source said. Number of cases registered with local police station rose to 156, it was learnt. The source also informed that a total of Tk 2,74,500 was earned as revenue from Navarun corridor by legalising Indian cattle during the month, while from the other corridor at Chhowgacha, no revenue was collected in the month as per the source.

Our Correspondent from Brahmanbaria adds: The BDR-Jawans of 23 battalion launching an anti-smuggling drive in the Upakul, an inter-city train at Brahmanbaria railway stations, seized smuggled goods worth Taka 8 lakh 23 thousand and 670 recently.

Acting on a tip, some BDR-Jawans headed by Md Abu Taher raided the Dhaka bound 'Upakul' train at Brahmanbaria railway station and seized

Indian motor spares worth Taka 8 lakh 23 thousand.

The BDR-Jawans of Alinagar launching anti-smuggling drives at Shingarbil and Kuttapara seized Indian smuggled goods worth Taka one lakh six thousand and 886 recently.

Another UNB report from Feni adds: Bangladesh Rifles, Police and Customs combined task force in a raid at a cloth shop in the town seized 670 pieces of Indian sarees worth about Tk 3.35 lakh.

Acting on secret information, the task force led by First Class Magistrate Habibul Karim Chowdhury raided the Priyanka Cloth Shop recently.

The contrabands were deposited with the local customs and a case was filed with the police.

Local people alleged that some businessmen are patronising the smugglers and selling Indian sarees, lungis and other clothes in the markets openly.

R&H develops link roads in Chandpur

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Nov 15: Government has taken a comprehensive plan to develop twelve roads connecting the thana headquarters with the district town during the current fiscal.

According to Chandpur Roads and Highways Department, Tk two crore forty lakh have been sanctioned for the construction and reconstruction of these roads so far. The roads are Chandpur Comilla road, Nandipur Haimchar road, Baburhat-Matlab road, Puranbazar-Charbhairali road, Chandpur-Raipur road, Mohamaya-Choto Sunder road, Meher-Duabhang road, Mudafiganj-Hasnabad road, Gouripur-Kachua road, Chatkhil-Chitashi road, Haziganj-Ramganj road.

The project has already been implemented. The work is expected to be completed by June '95. About twenty lakh people of the district will be benefitted often the completion of the project, it is expected.

In Rangpur Ten people killed in separate incidents

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Nov 15: At least 10 people met tragic deaths in separate incidents during the first week of this month in different areas in the district.

The deceased included one school boy and a school girl, Shabidul, 14, a student of class IX of Mirbag High School in Kaunja thana was crushed under the wheels of a truck while he was crossing RK road on way to school. The other victim, Rahena, 12, a student of class V also of Mirbag Primary School died, as she was run over by a train.

Amongst the rest, of the eight victims, Kaltut, 25, drowned in the Manosh river

in Kaunja. Javed Ali 35, a rickshaw puller was killed by some unknown miscreants at Kaunja bridge. Shafiqul Islam, 28, an employee of BRAC succumbed to injuries when he was severely injured as his motorcycle rammed into a wayside shop at Senpara. Montaz, 40 and Ayeazuddin 70, of Imadpur union committed suicide and Abdul Rahman 35 was killed in a road accident near Mithapukur bazar. Abdul Mia 40, of Betgari was killed by assailants and Moja Fakir, 45 of Pirgonj was killed in a clash with his rival party three others also were hospitalised with severe injuries in the same clash.

Let's welcome them

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Nov 15: With the advent of winter, migratory birds have started crowding the beels, canals and chars of nine thanas of the district.

Experts said, different types of birds locally known as dighari, kalighari, sarails, bathas, and pankuri are flying in flocks to escape the biting cold of Siberia in Russia.

Around 200 species of such winter birds, usually through different water bodies of Kurigram sadar, Chilmari, Rowmari, Rajibpur, Fulbari, Nageswari Bhurungamari, Rajarhat and Ulipur thanas of the district to live on fish.

Unfortunately, scarcity of fish already prevailing in the district, will eventually discourage the onrush of the migratory birds.

Besides, hunting of these birds by amateur hunters which is going on indiscriminately violating the government ban will worsen the situation.

Students protest news print price-hike in Patuakhali, Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent

PATUAKHALI, Nov 15: High school students damaged six buses here Tuesday during their demonstration demanding writing papers at fair prices and holding of the SSC examinations under the old system.

Some 750 boys and girls of different high schools brought out a procession in the morning. When the processionists reached the bus stand, they became violent and damaged six buses including a BRTC bus, according to witnesses.

Fourteen students were arrested during the incident.

UNB adds: Hundreds of school student demonstrated in Sirajganj town and at different thanas Tuesday to protest price-hike of newsprint paper.

Students of different schools, including Sirajganj Victoria High School and Ullapara Thana High School, brought out processions and held rallies on Tuesday.

Students also submitted a memorandum to Deputy

Commissioner of Sirajganj urging the concerned authorities to check the price of writing paper — newsprint and white print — to save students from the present crisis.

Also on Tuesday, students all over the country brought out processions, damaged vehicles and put barricades on several roads protesting the hike. Police also picked up some students during the demonstrations.

Ten shops gutted in Moulvibazar

MOULVIBAZAR, Nov 15: A devastating fire gutted ten shops destroying goods worth Tk several lakh in Gobindhar area of the town on Sunday night, reports UNB.

Police and witnesses said the fire originated in a store about 11:30 pm from a short-circuit.

Rural health complex, hospitals

Shortage of doctors, medicines, accommodation, patients suffer

KUSHTIA, Nov 15: The general hospital and health complexes of the district have been facing multiple problems, including shortage of physicians, staff and water supply, reports UNB.

The unhygienic atmosphere, absence of blood bank, shortage of medicines and apparatus have multiplied the miseries of the patients seeking for treatment. Every day a large number of patients are to go back without treatment due to absence of medicare facilities.

Most of the health complexes have no X-ray machines, blood banks, dental or ophthalmic and infectious disease treatment facilities.

Besides, shortage of physicians and their irregular services and indifference of other staff have aggravated the situation. Local leaders alleged that most of the doctors of these health complexes including general hospital are found busy with their private practice.

The patients alleged that some senior doctors were practising in private clinics and some technicians were doing the same job elsewhere. They compel the patients to go to the private clinics.

They also alleged that life saving and essential drugs supplied to the hospitals are sold in the markets by some dishonest staff. As a result, they are to buy the medicines from the market at high rates.

Many doctors working on deputation in various hospitals are found absent most of the time, it is learnt.

On the other hand, scarcity of drinking water, lack of

proper conservancy services, inadequate number of beds, supply of sub-standard food to the patients have multiplied the suffering of the indoor patients.

Another report from Patuakhali says: Medical treatment and surgical operations in the government hospitals have been suffering a set back due to apathy and negligence of some doctors.

Local people alleged that a group of doctors working in government hospitals and health complexes have jointly

opened a private clinic in the town.

Some patients alleged that the doctors of the clinic appointed some brokers on commission basis to bring the patients to the clinic instead.

They said, in the clinic, patients are surgically operated or treated on fixed contract payment basis adding, these doctors are giving most of their valuable time in a joint-venture clinic neglecting their duties in the hospitals.

As a result, a good number of patients at government hos-

pitals and health centres are passing days without essential care and treatment, they further added.

Local leaders have urged the government to probe into the matter and take necessary action to ensure better care of the patients at the government hospitals and health centres.

Another report from Bhola adds: People of Charfession thana are deprived of proper medical treatment as the thana health complex is beset with multifarious problems.

According to officials, the 31 bed health complex cannot cope with the onrush of patients. Charfession is the largest thana of the district with about one lakh coastal population.

Due to bad communication system it is difficult for the patients to get themselves admitted into the health complex. The present number of doctors is not sufficient for the people living here.

Local people said, at least 15 doctors including three specialists and pathologists are needed for smooth functioning of the health complex.

They said several posts of doctors remained vacant for a long time causing sufferings to the people who are mostly poor fishermen and farmers.

Patients of the complex alleged that they are to purchase medicines from outside due to shortage of medicines in the hospital. Want of sufficient life saving drugs, oxygen and anaesthesia equipment in emergency section have also been hindering the emergency treatment in the hospital greatly, they added.

Encouraging initiative

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Nov 15: President of the Bangladesh Journalists Association (BJA), Kurigram district unit, Habibulla, has taken up a unique, laudable and highly ambitious scheme of afforestation in his own village at Jotgobardhan under Kanthalbari union of Kurigram sadar thana with the help and cooperation from the Kurigram District Agriculture Extension Department.

Habibulla, has already planted over 400 saplings of different varieties of valuable wood trees like shishu, mehoguni, teak, neem, chandan, shal, and many more, covering an area of one bigha of land. He also planted saplings of various kinds of improved varieties of fruits.

This sort of afforestation scheme under private initiative is the first of its kind in Kurigram district.

In connection with the launching of the scheme, a sapling planting ceremony was formally organised and farmers' rally was also held at village Jotgobardhan recently.

Mohammad Tarique Hasan, Deputy Director, District Agriculture Extension Department, was present as the chief guest, while Kalidas Debnath, Subject Matter specialist (SMS-PP), Kurigram Agriculture Department was the special guest. Local farmer Saifur Rahman presided over the ceremony.

It was addressed, among others, by Taizul Islam, Block Supervisor of Kurigram Krishi Khamarbari, local sangbadik Yusuf Ali, Habibulla Khan, Rashedur Rahman, Rayhanul Islam, Kalidas Debnath, SMS-PP, and Mohammad Tarique Hassan, DD, Kurigram Agriculture Department.



Despite heavy losses in aman crop production due to drought, these traders, from a nearby market in Hatibandha, manage to buy few bags of rice from a farmer in Lalmonirhat district.

— Star photo