

News snaps

Death condoled

BHAIRAB, Oct 6: A meeting to condole the death of eminent educationist Muazzem Hussain will be held at the Bhairab Rajkhar premises at 3 pm on October 9, reports BSS.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman will attend the meeting. Muazzem Hussain, former Principal of Bhairab Haji Asmat College, died of heart attack on October 1 in Dhaka. The organising committee of the proposed condolence meeting has requested the students, relatives and well-wishers to attend the meeting.

Social worker dead

NETRAKONA, Oct 6: Kaiser Jahan Chowdhury, a prominent social worker of Netrakona died of lung cancer at his Muktarpara residence on September 30. He was 52, reports BSS.

Chowdhury was the third son of the noted litterateur Khaledad Chowdhury. He was associated with different socio-cultural organisations of the district. He is survived by his wife, one son and one daughter.

Workshop on jelly processing

BARISAL, Oct 6: A day-long workshop on 'processing and preparation of jelly from guava was held in the thana parishad conference room of Swarupkathi on Monday, reports BSS.

Jointly organised by ATDP, a local NGO and USAID, the workshop was participated by 30 guava growers, guava sellers and representatives of different NGOs. Guava is the largest horticultural produce in over 100 villages of the districts of Barisal, Jhalakati and Pirojpur districts.

Teen gang-raped

JESSORE, Oct 6: A teenage girl was gang-raped while returning home at Lebutola village of Kotwali thana here on Monday evening, reports UNB.

Local people and police sources said, the girl was kidnapped by a gang of youths numbering four while returning home after visiting her relatives at Habatpur village. They took her to a nearby bush and violated her one after another. Local people rescued the girl in a critical condition and rushed her to the General Hospital.

5 hurt in bomb attack

JESSORE, Oct 6: Five people were injured in indiscriminate firing and bomb attack by a group of miscreants at Tofar Noapara village near the town last week, reports UNB.

The injured, identified as Mohan Howlader, 22, Kishore Chandra, 15, Dinu, 24, Mohadev Sheel, 20, and Monir Dhar, 27, were admitted to the General Hospital. Police and witnesses said the miscreants numbering about 30 attacked a puja mandap in the area at night wearing masks on September 29. They held hostage two on-duty Ansars and one microphone operator and began looting. Hearing the hue and cry when local people rushed to the spot the miscreants fired several rounds of gun shots and exploded hand bombs leaving five people injured. Police recorded the theft case instead of robber, alleged the local people.

Training course for health officers

NETRAKONA, Oct 6: A three-day training course for health and family planning officers on water supply and sanitation concluded at Netrakona sadar thana health complex here on September 30, reports BSS.

Netrakona District Public Health Engineering Department and UNICEF jointly sponsored the training course. An official source said, 120 union and thana level employees of health and family planning department in Netrakona district participated in the training course. Civil Surgeon Netrakona Dr Motiur Rahman, Deputy Director of Family Planning Department Netrakona Abul Hashem and Executive Engineer of the Public Health Engineering Department Netrakona Mahbubul Alam conducted the training course.

Separate incidents claim 30 lives

FENI, Oct 6: Thirty people died in separate incidents in the district during the last two months, police said, reports UNB.

According to the police, of them, 15 died in August and the rest 15 in September. Among the victims, seven people were killed by the opponents, five allegedly committed suicide, eight died in road accidents, four were crushed under wheels of train and other six from snake bite, electrocution and drowning.

Rover scouts' initiatives praised

KISHOREGANJ, Oct 6: The Deputy Speaker of the Parliament Advocate Abdul Hamid said that the initiative taken by the Rover Scouts to prepare oral saline and distribute among the flood-affected people of the district is a praise-worthy task, reports BSS.

He was addressing as the chief guest in a saline preparation and distribution function organised by the district Rover Scouts at the local club recently. Every day 20 Rover and 10 Scouts prepare about 6,000 packets of saline by turn and distribute among the flood-affected people. The Deputy Speaker highly praised their initiative and activities.

Potato cultivation programme

MEHERPUR, Oct 6: A total of 8,500 hectares will be brought under potato cultivation in the two thanas of Meherpur district in the ensuing winter season, reports BSS.

According to the Agriculture Extension Department, potato will be cultivated on 400 hectares in Gangni thana and 450 hectares in Meherpur sadar. Six thousand hectares will be brought under High Yielding Varieties while 2,500 hectares under local variety. Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) will supply about 20 tonnes of potato seeds to the growers.

Tk 1.40cr uplift scheme undertaken

FENI, Oct 6: A total of Tk 1.40 crore has been allocated for implementation of seven uplift schemes in four thanas here during the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

The projects undertaken by the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), included development of four rural roads in Sadar, Sonagazi and Chihagolaiya thanas, construction of 42.05 metre long bridge on the river Chilonia of Parshuram thana and making of two groyens in Chihagolaiya thana. According to the official sources, the work on the schemes will start soon.

Valuables worth Tk 70,000 looted

GOPALGANJ, Oct 6: A dacoity was committed in a house at Kotpur village in Sadar thana here on Wednesday, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, a gang of robbers numbering 12 stormed the house of Bulu by brandishing arms and looted cash, gold ornaments and other valuables worth about Tk 70,000. The house owner was injured grievously when he tried to resist the dacoits. He was rushed to the Sadar Hospital in critical condition. Following the deterioration of his condition he was shifted to Dhaka, hospital sources said.

Lightning kills one

KUSHTIA, Oct 6: One person was killed by lightning in the river Padma in Bheramara thana on Saturday, reports BSS.

Eyewitnesses said the victim Mohan, 28, of village Satbaria in Bheramara thana was struck by thunderbolt when he was fishing Hilsa in the Padma. He died in his fishing boat instantaneously.

Training course concludes

MEHERPUR, Oct 6: A 10-day training course for the supervisors of non-formal adult education programme concluded last week in the Meherpur Sadar Thana Parishad auditorium, reports BSS.

The inaugural session of the training course was presided over by district co-ordinator of adult education programme Md Zaman. A total of 35 supervisors took part in the training course aiming at imparting training on non-formed adult education especially in the rural areas.



BRAHMANBARIA: The members of Nabinagar Titas Kachi Kacher Mela recently distributed relief goods among the flood affected people of Nabinagar thana. — Star photo



MAGURA: The recent deluge has left a trail of devastations in the rural areas. Following recession of flood waters the villages have been humming again with various activities. The farmers also have become active in farming works. In the photo Sripur farmers preparing lands and transplanting 'T-Aman' saplings with new hopes and aspirations. — Star photo by Monojit Kumar Das

Continuous erosion changing map of Bhola

From Aroop Talukdar

BARISAL, Oct 6: Continuous river erosion for a long time has been changing the map of the country's biggest delta district Bhola.

Different rivers along Bhola district, the Meghna, Tetulia, Ilisha, Kalabadar and Gaurabdi are eroding continuously over a decade last. Meghna Shahabazpur and Tetulia channel narrowing Bhola from two sides.

Two to three hundred metres of land of the district are being devoured into the river in every rainy season.

Now, about 36 unions out of 60 in the district this way or that way are being threatened by the river erosion. A total of 32 unions along different riversides are on the verge of abolition due to continuous erosion.

Ilisha, Kachia, Dhania, Bhelumia, Bheduria, Rajapur, Syedpur, Medua, Charpata, Malangehara, Hasaunagar, Harizpur, Syedpur, Nurabad, Kalmi, Chandpur, Sonapur, Nilkamal, Farashganj, Charlied, Badarpur Deul, Sachra, Gangapur, South Digholdi and some other unions are being threatened by continuous river erosion.

Manpura and Hazirhat unions of Manpura thana are on the verge of extinction. The Meghna and Tetulia rivers have already engulfed several hundred acres of cropland and dwelling houses of Dhaligour-nagar, Bhavanipur, Gangapur, Kachia, Dhania and Hasaunagar unions. Neamatpur union of Daulatkhana thana and Gazipur in the sadar thana have already been devoured into the riverbed due to non-stop river erosion.

Once parcopine system project was introduced to save Bhola from erosion by Water Development Board (WDB), but the project was later dropped and abandoned following misappropriation of funds, inefficiency and widespread corruption including nepotism of the concerned authorities.

Besides, the works of the Bhola Town protection Embankment has been stopped due to shortage of funds.

Meanwhile, a new 'pilot project' has been introduced to stop erosion and save Bhola with the financial and technical assistance of the Netherlands government at Ilisha-Kachia of Bhola recently.

The Meghna Study Committee (MSC) after conducting a survey reported that this 'pilot project' has been proved more or less effective at Kachia.

In that case, informed sources said, this 'pilot project' should be taken at every erosion prone areas in Bhola district to save Bhola as a whole from continuous river erosion.

UNB reports from Laxmipur: Continuous erosion of the river Meghna and worst-ever flood this year left most of the areas in three thanas of the district devastated.

Crops on 27,111 acres of land, 475 km roads, 78 km roadside embankment of the Roads and Highways Department, 77 km embankment and 38 culverts have been damaged by the calamity. According to a preliminary estimate, the loss of RHD was estimated at Tk 21.60 crore.

Communications across the district is being hampered seriously due to the damages of 15 main roads and 114 rural roads.

About 26,000 erosion affected people of 5,000 families of Ramgati thana have been passing their days in great hardship as they did not receive any relief materials so far.

Flood, tidal wave and erosion also caused damages to Aus paddy and transplanted Aman resulting in huge losses to the farmers.

A source in the district Fisheries office said over 32.98 lakh fries and shrimp of 21,734 ponds worth about Tk 19 crore have been washed away during the flood.

A total of 22 hatcheries were also affected by the flood waters in the district, the sources added.

Private poultry farms have also incurred heavy losses due to the natural calamity.

Diarrhoea has been spreading fast due to the scarcity of pure water. Various other diseases including cholera, skin diseases may break out in an epidemic form in the post-flood situation if necessary preventive measures are not taken immediately.

Laxmipur fishermen have become hostage in hands of money-lenders

LAXMIPUR, Oct 6: Fishermen of the district have become hostage in the hands of money-lenders and a section of terrorist group for long, reports UNB.

Almost all the fishermen, numbering about 30,000 in different thanas of the district, have to pay toll to various 'forces' at the ghats they used to unload their catches.

The poor fishermen take loan from the money-lenders in the rural areas at a high rate of interest.

The men who provide the money, known as 'mahajans', compel the fishermen to sell their catches to the ghats or places under their control and at a rate fixed by themselves.

They claim that they buy the catch at a rate 25 per cent below the existing market price. But the fishermen complained that the 'market price' is also fixed by the 'mahajans' at their will.

The fishermen also alleged that they cannot fish more than one time a day as they have to reach the fish to certain ghats chosen by the mahajans.

"It takes a long time to reach these ghats from the places we use to fish in the rivers," said one fisherman.

Besides, the fishermen complained, they have to pay various 'charges' demanded in the name of sales commission, for the police and the administration, terrorist groups, ghat tax and interest of the loan.

"We can only get 30 per cent of the price of our total fishing.

The rest is being grabbed by others," said an elderly fisherman.

Moreover, the poor fishermen have to bear the burden of loan taken from the money-lenders which make their life miserable.

They said they often fall prey to the terrorist groups fighting each other over establishing supremacy at different localities and ghats.

Rival groups extort money from the fishermen at the same time thus creating much trouble for the poor and helpless men.

They urged the local administration to take appropriate measures so that they can get rid of these terrorist groups and greedy money-lenders.

Qulkhwan
of Runner
Editor

From Our Correspondent
JESSORE, Oct 6: The qulkhwan of late RM Saiful Alam (Mukul), former Editor of Dainik Runner will be held on October 17 at Jessore Town Hall ground.

On the occasion a discussion meeting will be held at 11 in the morning. A *milad mahfil* will be held after Asr prayers on the day.

It is worth mentioning, late Mukul was killed by a bomb blast of unknown assailants on August 30.

also spent a considerable amount of money to save Kumarkhali town. The Goral river also eroded a portion of Jayanabad village of Kumarkhali thana where 260 families have become homeless.

The river Padma also eroded the bank near intake channel of G-K Project threatening the approach roads towards Bheramara Paksey ferry ghat compelling the Roads and Highways Department to construct alternate road to maintain uninterrupted communication from southern to northern part of the country.

The river Padma has devoured 30 villages in eight unions covering an area of 15,000 acres of land in Daulatpur thana where 12 miles long Raita Mohiskundi Flood Protection Embankment constructed in 1972 have been eroded.

The unions affected by erosion are Adabaria, Praipur, Boalia and Arna while the devoured unions are Philpurnagar, Rankrishnapur, Maricha and Chikhrisi.

The erosion has engulfed a large portion of Raita Mohiskundi Flood Protection Embankment apart from 30 primary schools, 10 madrasahs, 19 mosques, 16 high schools and 38 culverts which have already been washed away by the fury of erosion caused by direct effect of Farakka Barrage constructed by India.

The erosion-hit people informed that the main river Padma had been flowing eight miles away from the present course in 1972 and as a precautionary measure 12 miles long Raita Mohiskundi Flood Protection Embankment was constructed in 1972.

The demand for the earthen utensils had decreased to a great extent as the people are using plastic and aluminium ones increasingly.

The district was once famous of the pottery industry for its originality and variety in designs. But at present it lost its past glory as the potters almost stopped production due to various problems.

Besides, they cannot cover up their expenditure as transportation cost has shot up abnormally.

Transportation of earthen wares from the district to other parts of the country was once easy due to easy waterways. But now, it has become difficult as the river Kirtinasha lost its navigability.

Prices of pottery-making ingredients have also gone up abnormally forcing the artisans to give up their age-old occupation.

The potters alleged that they have been deprived of proper patronisation and fund to carry-on their profession.

An official of BSCIC said, "we will certainly come forward to help them if the potters want to help themselves."

Minor raped at Barguna

From Staff Correspondent
BARISAL, Oct 6: A minor girl was raped by a father of a daughter at Nali area in sadar thana of Barguna district on Friday.

Witnesses said, the 8-year old child was on way to her relative's house. When she stepped down at the Nali launch ghat then Zakir, son of Mir Abdur Rashid took her into a thatched house nearby and raped her forcibly.

Since then Zakir is absconding. The raped girl was later sent to her relative's house.

Government of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer, (RHD)
Road Division, Comilla
Notice Inviting Tender

1. Tender Notice No : 36/EE, RHD, Road Division, Comilla, during the year 1998-99.
2. Name of work : Schedule for repairing seal coat at diff KM of diff road in 9 (nine) groups, under Comilla Road Division, during the year 1998-99.
3. Estimated cost : As per group list.
4. Earnest money : As per group list in BD/Pay Order in favour of EE, RHD, Road Division, Comilla.
5. Name of offices where tender bids will be received : Addl Chief Engineer, RHD, Comilla Zone, Comilla/Superintending Engineer, RHD, Road Circle, Comilla/Monitoring and Evaluation Circle, Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka & office of the undersigned & Divisional Commissioner, Chittagong.
6. Name of offices of availability of tender bids : Office of the undersigned/EE RHD, Road Divn, B'baria/Chandpur/Planning and Design Divn, Comilla/Procurement (Civil) Divn, Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka & Divisional Commissioner, Chittagong & SDE's office under this Division.
7. Time allowed : As per group list.
8. Last date of selling of tender bids : 14-10-98 up to office hours.
9. Last date of dropping of tender bids : 15-10-98 up to 12-30 PM.
10. Date, place of opening of tender bids : 18-10-98 in the office of the EE RHD, Comilla.
11. Date of lottery : 19-10-98.
12. Eligibility of contractor : As per group list.

| Tender notice no | Group no | Description | Estimated cost Tk | Earnest money Tk | Time allowed | Ch to | Eligibility |
|---------------------|-----------|---|-------------------|------------------|--------------|---------|--|
| 36/EE, RHD, Comilla | 1 (one) | Repairing & seal coat at 21st (P), 22nd(P) KM of Lalmai-Laksham-Sonaimuri road, during 1998-99. | 6,84,170/- | 13,683/- | 30 days | 266-CA | "A" to "E" genl. cate. of RHD contractor |
| | 2 (two) | 23rd KM | -do- | 5,42,244/- | 10,945/- | 25 days | -do- |
| | 3 (three) | 1st KM | -do- | 6,07,103/- | 12,142/- | 30 days | -do- |
| | 4 (four) | 31st KM | -do- | 5,47,337/- | 10,947/- | 25 days | -do- |
| | 5 (five) | 27th KM | -do- | 5,47,337/- | 10,947/- | 25 days | -do- |
| | 6 (six) | 12th, 13th(P) | -do- | 7,09,278/- | 14,186/- | 30 days | -do- |
| | 7 (seven) | -do- at 4th, 5th KM of Middiayya-Dollai-Nowabpur road, during 1998-99. | -do- | 5,97,866/- | 11,957/- | 30 days | -do- |
| | 8 (eight) | -do- at 10th, 11th, 12th KM | -do- | 11,50,708/ | 23,014/- | 45 days | -do- |
| | 9 (nine) | -do- at 9th, 10th KM of Gouripur-Amirabad-Kachuiya road | -do- | 7,30,063/- | 14,601/- | 30 days | -do- |

DDP-20921-30/9
G-2225

Md Abul Quasem Bhuiyan
Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Divn, Comilla