

SNAPS

BDR for AIDS prevention

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathkira

A three-day training programme for BDR members aiming at creating awareness among themselves for prevention of deadly HIV/AIDS and human trafficking concluded here on Thursday. Held at 12 Rifles Battalion Headquarters, the training was organised by CARE Bangladesh, an international development organisation. Lt Col Forhad, Commanding Officer of the battalion presided over the function while CARE-Bangladesh Programme Officer Shah Alam conducted the training sessions. Sathkira Deputy Commissioner Md Elias was chief guest. During his speech he said BDR jawans' involvement will be much helpful in combating HIV/AIDS. About 210 BDR jawans took part the training. Earlier, 360 jawans were brought at the training programme, according to Shah Alam of CARE-Bangladesh.

Five drug addicts arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

Brahmanbaria Thana police on Tuesday arrested five drug addicts and drug peddlers from Maddyapara and Phoolbaria in Brahmanbaria Poursabha. A team of police led by Officer-in-Charge (OC) Md Ismail raided the places and arrested them. The arrested persons are Md Hanif, Maneruzzaman, Abu shema, Shahjahan Mia and Samsuddin Khukan. They were sent to jail by the court.

Bid to lift motor cycles: Two beaten by mob

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Two miscreants were beaten by mob while trying to lift two motor cycles from Shantidham crossing under

Pneumonia claims two children in Syedpur UZ

Diarrhoea situation worsens again after a few days' pause in 22 villages in the upazila; over 1,000 people attacked anew

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Pneumonia has broken out alarmingly in Syedpur upazila (UZ). Children are the worst victims. The disease claimed two children in the last three days, it was learnt unofficially. They are Kuddus, son of Abdus Samad Kheru of Botlagari village and Sharif, son of Afluddin of Khata Modhupur Khalisha village.

Thirty pneumonia patients got admitted in Syedpur 50-bed Hospital in two days. Of them the condition of nine months old Torikul, five months old Maruf and 10 months old Biplob is critical.

However, the district health control room sources could not confirm the deaths. On contact, they told this correspondent they do not maintain any registrar of pneumonia patients.

Meanwhile, after a few days' pause the diarrhoea situation worsened again in 22 villages in Syedpur. More than 100 people including

children and women were admitted to Syedpur hospital in last two days. The disease attacked over 1,000 people anew.

District Health Control Room sources revealed that 226 diarrhoea patients were admitted in all the upazila health complexes including two 50-bed hospitals in Syedpur and Nilphamari in the last three days. Of them 83 diarrhoea patients were admitted in Syedpur hospital only.

Most of the patients belong to poor class families.

On average, three diarrhoea patients took admission in the hospitals each hour on Thursday and Friday. Eighteen diarrhoea patients were admitted from 8am to 2pm on Wednesday in presence of local newsmen. Of them condition of 16 patients were very critical. They were Fatema Begum, 45, of Munsi-para, Nargis, 6, of Subornokhali village, Siraj, 35, of Bansh Bari village, Rashed, 5, of Shaskandor village, Roksana, 7, of Shaskandor village, Aduri, 3, of Shaskandor village, Sabbir, 3, of Dolna village,

Anwari, 40, and Beauty of Kaya Golahat village, Saddam of Kaya Mistripara village, Rabeya of Botlagari village, Morjina, 18, of Shaskandor village, Joina Khatun, 58, of Kalachand village, Zahidul, 3, of Kahsiram Belpukur village and Rumi, 20, of Kundol village.

There is an acute accommodation problem in the hospital. Newsmen observed that many diarrhoea patients had been taking treatment on the floor.

The Resident Medical Officer (RMO) of Syedpur 50-bed Hospital, Shahidullah Azizi told newsmen that there is no scarcity of saline in his hospital. On contact, local physicians told journalists, consumption of inedible food by poor people during pre-harvest period of 'aman' paddy is the reason of outbreak of the disease in such an alarming form.

However, Dr Azizi termed the diarrhoea situation to be in their control.

Pest invades T-aman on several thousand hectares in 2 N dists

2nd blow on Kurigram cultivators after flood; DAE deploys block supervisors to help farmers combat majrapoka in a natural way

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Farmers have become frustrated due to massive pest attack on transplanted aman (T-aman) on several thousand hectares of land in greater Rangpur and Dinajpur districts.

Agriculturists have identified the pest as Stem borer (majrapoka) which damages paddy very fast.

On contact, the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), Rangpur, Aynul Hoque told this correspondent 'the situation is still in control.'

But farmers told this correspon-

dent the pests already created havoc in different areas. 'The pests are eating up paddy leaves which ultimately turn yellow before drying up', they added.

The pest attack is the second blow to the farmers in Ulipur, Phulbari and Nageswari upazilas in Kurigram within a few weeks after the devastating flood. The deluge damaged aman plants completely on about 35,000 hectares of land in the areas.

Agriculturists termed the reason as an aftermath of flood, but the DAE personnel differed with them.

Obaidur Rahman, a farmer in Moghobachha area in Kurigram

Sadar upazila disclosed that aman plants on about one acre of his land were damaged due to pest attack.

The Deputy Director (DD) of the DAE, Kurigram told The Daily Star that his department had deployed block supervisors to help farmers combat Stem borer in a natural way without using insecticides. They would suggest farmers to use pesticides in their lands if the procedure fails to combat pests, he added.

The attack is massive in the aforementioned three upazilas in Kurigram, according to sources in the DAE.

People being repressed by this govt: Ershad

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Jatiya Party Chairman and former President HM Ershad on Thursday said BNP and its allies do not believe in democracy although they speak for it, because they repress people for protesting their corruption.

He said this while addressing a party meeting at Mukterpara play ground here. The meeting was organised by district Jatiya Party for campaigning in favour of party candidate Fakir Ashraf, contesting in the Netrakona-2 by-election, scheduled to be held on October 9.

He reminded people that the leaders of ruling BNP and its alliance partners did not fulfill any of their polls pledges after coming to power.

Netrakona district Jatiya Party convenor advocate Liakot Ali presided over the meeting while it was addressed, among others, by Jatiya Party Vice-President Anisur Rahman, General Secretary Ruhul Amin Howladar, Presidium member M A Hannan, its former district General Secretary Mostafizur Rahman Rijvi besides party candidate Fakir Ashraf.

During his address Ershad mentioned that the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and World Bank (WB) lost confidence in the present administration.

'At present mass arrest is going on now all over the country,' he told the gathering adding 'The government has failed to ensure security of life and property while the development of the country has come to a halt'.

The ex-President called upon the people to rally round his party to ensure peace and development.

While calling people for casting vote for his party candidate Fakir Ashraf, he said Jatiya Party's politics is for people's welfare, not for power.

PIB workshop on gender issues concludes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

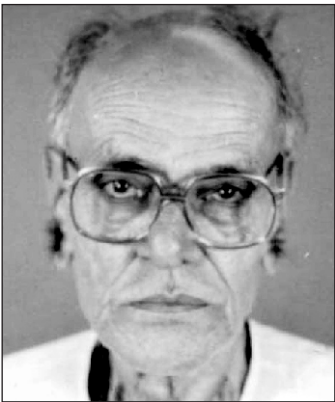
A five-day workshop on gender issues organised for local journalists by the Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) concluded here yesterday.

The chief of the media cell with the Home Ministry Abdur Rahman Khan presided over the concluding session. Rangpur Government College Principal Prof Z A Belal Hossen Sarker was present as the chief guest who distributed prizes among the participants on the concluding day.

PIB Director General Dr Rezwana Hossen Siddique chaired the opening session on September 27 while the institute's

Senior Instructor Shahana Huda Ranjona, ESDO Official Sharmina Sultana and advocate Monir Chowdhury addressed on gender issues.

Twenty local newsmen working with local and national dailies participated in the workshop.



Radhika Muhan Goswami

Elderly NAP leader dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Radhika Muhan Goswami, elderly National Awami Party (NAP) leader, liberation war organiser and a respected journalist, died at his Ruhini Bhaban residence here after prolonged old age ailments on Wednesday night.

He was 81.

He left behind three sons, a daughter and a good number of grand sons and grand daughters. He was the father of Moulvibazar Correspondent of The Daily Star and General Secretary of Moulvibazar Press Club, Rojot Kanti Goswami. He was cremated at the local crematory at midnight on the day.

Late Goswami was the senior most journalist in Sylhet division. He started journalism in the early 60s. Till death he was the NAP central committee member. He was working as the district correspondent of state-owned national news agency, BSS for a long time. To his credit, he was the President of Moulvibazar Press Club and district unit of Sangbadik Samity.

Among others, Moulvibazar Press Club President, Sangbadik Samity, Moulvibazar unit President, political leaders and socio-cultural personalities condoled the death and prayed for peace of the departed soul.



Wrath of nature

PHOTO: STAR

A large betel nut garden at Sreepur in Mehendiganj, Barisal faces the threat of extinction due to unabated erosion by the Kala Badar. River erosion is a perennial problem in this area.

Raids on criminals' hideouts Rab recovers huge quantity of arms from Ctg, Khulna

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) teams on Wednesday recovered huge quantity of arms from different areas in Chittagong and Khulna. They also found ammunition from the areas.

Our Chittagong Staff Correspondent reports: Rab in two separate drives recovered seven fire arms and huge quantity of ammunition from Boalkhali and Patiya upazilas in the district.

Two criminals were also arrested and fire arms manufacturing materials recovered from one of them.

Acting on a tip-off, a 15-member Rab team here raided the Dhalghat area in Karaldanga union under Boalkhali thana.

They arrested criminal named Sagor Chakraborty, 20, with a single-barrel (SBBL) gun, one LG and equipment including two powerful springs used in modern fire arms from his two-storied house.

The criminal was arrested while loading a gun to shoot at the Rab members.

Later, the Rab team recovered three fire arms, two LGs and one SBBL gun with seven cartridges from the criminal's cowshed.

Sagor, an accused in several criminal cases, claimed that the recovered five fire arms belonged to local Union Parishad (UP) chairman of Karaldanga, Bacha Mia. He confessed that he had been an active member of the local group of criminals allegedly controlled by chairman

Bacha Mia.

Sagor was handed over to Boalkhali Thana.

In another drive, another team of Rab here in a pre-dawn raid recovered two fire arms, one SBBL gun, one modern air-gun with three bullets and 147 air-gun bullets, from the house of a wanted criminal, Bimol Dey, 50, at Kelishahar in Patiya.

But Bimal managed to flee.

However, Rab nabbed another criminal, Bimol Sarder, 36.

He was charged with drug peddling and helping Bimol Dey in trading locally-manufactured guns.

The arrested person was handed over to Patiya police.

Our Khulna Staff Correspondent reports: Rab on the day recovered modern seven shooter short guns made in USA, a sub-machine carbine made in India and a magazine of sub-machine carbine (SMC) from a bush beside Road No 22 in Nirala residential area in Khulna Thana.

Getting prior information of operation a group of criminals managed to escape leaving the arms, according to a Rab press release.



PHOTO: STAR

A traffic jam on the Sylhet-Golapganj Road, created due to innumerable ditches and potholes on it. The important road which connects several upazilas in the district was badly damaged during the last flood. Will the Roads and Highways authorities repair the road on priority basis to mitigate sufferings of people?