

Upazila roundup

KISHOREGANJ

3 police constables suspended

From Our Correspondent
August 9: Three police constables of Bajitpur police camp have been put under suspension Monday on charges of extorting money from a villager, police sources here said.
Additional Superintendent of Police SM Golam Mostafa confirmed the news.
The suspended constables are: Abdul Mannan, Fazlu Mia and Lutfur Rahman.
According to police, the accused policemen while on duty at the cattle market on the eve of Eid-ul-Azha, threatened to arrest one Mizanur Rahman of Shahapur village of Bajitpur upazila on false charges. They, however, set him free after realising Tk 2000 as bribe.
Mizanur Rahman later submitted a written allegation to the Superintendent of Police seeking inquiry in to the matter. On inquiry the constables were found guilty.
Further investigation is also on against the accused.

SATKHIRA

Pistol cartridges recovered

August 9: Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) recovered five cartridges of pistol from a private car (Dhaka Metro V-02/0662) at Kalaroa here on Satkhira-Jessore road Tuesday evening and arrested four people, reports UNB.
Acting on a secret information, BDR challenged a private car (Dhaka Metro V-02/0662) and recovered the cartridges.
The arrested are: Golam Rasul of Boira in Debhata upazila, Jahurul Alam of Alamdanga upazila, Mohammed Hossain and Nurul Alam of Faridabad, Dhaka.
A case has been filed with local police.

PATUAKHALI

Tk 596.40 cr BKB credit plan

August 9: Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) has taken up a credit programme to disburse Tk 596.40 crore as agricultural loan in seven zones during the current financial year, official sources here said, reports UNB.
The zones are: Dhaka, Mymensingh, Comilla, Chittagong, Sylhet, Barisal and Khulna.
Of the total, Tk 129.80 crore will be distributed in Dhaka zone including the operational area under Local Principal Office of the Bank, Tk 43.09 crore in Mymensingh, Tk 66.82 crore in Comilla, Tk 135.75 crore in Chittagong, Tk 58.08 crore in Sylhet, Tk 60 crore in Barisal and Tk 102.87 crore in Khulna zone.
Bank management has already advised the branches to follow the lending programme and achieve their target to make the current year's lending programme a success.
It was learnt that the bank management had asked the zonal heads to reallocate the zonal target among the branches under its control for proper disbursement among the borrowers.

C' NAWABGANJ

Low paid employees suffer from housing problem

August 9: Low paid employees of government and non-government organisations, autonomous bodies and private establishments are suffering from housing problem in Shibganj upazila of district, reports UNB.
Tenants said the monthly house rent for a house now varied from Tk 800 to 2000, excluding electricity bill and water charge while the owners realise the rent in advance, creating pressure on them.
Owners said they had to increase the house rent due to abnormal rise in prices of construction materials.
Fixed income groups are unable to live in the upazila town with families. They live in messes or rented rooms.
People are reluctant to construct houses due to huge financial involvement for price hikes of construction materials and lands.
Local people suggested that construction of government estates would help solve the housing problem to some extent.

SIRAJGANJ

Lawyers boycott Belkuchi UZ Magistrate's court

From Our Correspondent
August 9: Belkuchi Upazila Ainjibi Samity boycotted the court of Upazila Magistrate for his alleged misbehaviour with

lawyers and his alleged corruption. The Ainjibi Samity in a press conference stated that Upazila Magistrate misbehaved with the lawyers inside the court.
The lawyers alleged that such misbehaviours of magistrates also aggravated them in the past. Decision to boycott the court for an indefinite period was taken in a meeting of Upazila Bar Association. The lawyers also demanded immediate withdrawal of Upazila Magistrate.
While contacted, the concerned magistrate told this correspondent that charges brought against him by the Upazila Ainjibi Samity are false and refuted all the allegations.

RANGPUR

Bank cashier gets life-term for embezzlement

From Our Correspondent
August 9: Wazed Ali, a cashier of National Bank, Rangpur was sentenced to life imprisonment and fined Taka 5000, in default to suffer six months more for embezzlement of bank money amounting to Taka 18.30 lakh.
Four other accused Keramat Ali, Assistant Vice-President, Matub Ali, Second Officer, Mansoor Uddin, Officer of the bank and Iftekhar Ahmed a businessman were acquitted of the charges.
Incident occurred in 1986 and Bureau of Anti-corruption held inquiry and chargesheeted the accused.
Advocate Golam Mowla conducted the prosecution case while the accused Wazed was defended by Moazzem Hossain, Taleb Ali, Matiar Rahman, Rezaul Haque Sarkar and Abu Ferdous appeared for other accused persons.

RAJSHAHI

Rly junction lacks facilities

From Our Correspondent
August 9: Passengers were facing manifold problems due to the absence of basic amenities at the Abdulpur Railway Junction.
The platform area of the station is not adequately covered with overhead sheds to protect the waiting passengers from the scorching heat of sun and rain. Besides, the only waiting room is quite unfit for use as it remains dirty. Poor accommodation arrangement for male and female passengers is another problem.
The urinals and toilets are not regularly cleaned and unhygienic condition of latrines pollutes the atmosphere of the station.
The rush of hawkers in the platform causes much annoyance to the passengers. It is hardly possible for the passengers to move easily in the platform especially when the trains arrive at the station.
Besides, the masts, smudges and gamblers freely use the platform on the very nose of the Railway Police it is alleged.

NANDAIL

Adulterated wheat supplied to dealers

From Our Correspondent
August 9: One hundred and ten metric tons of adulterated wheat were allegedly supplied by the district CSD godown authorities to the Nandail LSD godown for distribution to the consumers, the Upazila Parishad Chairman said here.
The commodity mixed with sands and pebbles was earlier detected in the Mymensingh CSD godown which was reported in the local dailies and weeklies: But no action was learnt to be taken against the malpractice.
In the meantime the CSD authorities have despatches the commodity shirk off to the UZ LSD godowns to the responsibility. But the mill authorities, GRD dealers and VGD card holders refused to take spurious wheat and they raised their objection to the UZ Chairman.
The UZ Chairman after examining the complaint advised the OC LSD not to distribute the item and he sought the help of the higher authorities in this regard.

MALJDEE COURT

Noakhali unit of Shilpakala Academy opens

August 9: The Noakhali unit of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy opened its new office and auditorium, reports UNB.
Deputy Commissioner M A Kamal inaugurated the office as chief guest recently. Police Super M A Hannan and Executive Engineer of PWD Abul Kashem Chowdhury attended the function as special guests.



Children enjoy bathing in rain water at a village in Narsingdi district. — Star photo

Anti-smuggling drive intensified

From Our Correspondent
CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Aug 9: The BDR and components of Task Force have stepped up their anti-smuggling operations in recent days.
Huge quantity of gold is being smuggled out to India through different border points of Chapainawabganj, it is learnt.
The BDR jawans of 31 Battalion seized three bars of gold weighing 30 tolas worth about Taka two lakh in front of the BDR camp on August 2. On interrogation the gold trafficker Aminul Islam of Nasirpur under Sadar upazila said that he brought the gold from Santi Jewellers at Tanti Bazar, Dhaka and reached Chapainawabganj by Uttara bus service. He added that it was his third trip of gold smuggling.
Chapainawabganj police seized 220 hundles of Indian cotton yarn worth about Taka 1,60,000 while being despatched through a lonely field near Gorakhsanathpur under Sadar upazila of the district recently.
Naosah and Majid belonging to Hasinagar and Chapaipals respectively were held along a bar of gold weighing 10 tolas was recovered by the local police from Barogharia under Sadar upazila recently. The police could not round up the gold trafficker.
Spices recovered
A squad of BDR personnel belonging to 31 Battalion accompanied by other components of the Task Force headed by Captain Md. Atul Hossain on a tip raided some shops of Chapainawabganj town and recovered a huge quantity of spices worth about Taka eight lakh last week, according to a BDR Press release.
The seizure list of the spices include clove 800 kg, cardamom 80 kg and cinnamon 2000 kg. The press release also added that the spices were kept there for smuggling out to India and none could be rounded up.
Erratic power supply
Frequent power failure and loadshedding have become a regular feature in the town and its adjoining areas causing untold sufferings to the dwellers and heavy loss to the business community.
According to the informed sources, electricity goes off very often just after sundown plunging the entire town into darkness and giving rise to anti-social activities.
Erratic power supply and frequent loadshedding have also been affecting production in the local mills, factories and workshops. The students are the worst sufferers.
Besides, fluctuations of voltage cause damage to electric goods of the dwellers. Inadequate street lights also cause sufferings to the town people.
Dwellers have urged the authorities concerned to take necessary measures to solve these problems without further delay.

Hectic election campaign in Rangpur College

RANGPUR, Aug 9: Hectic election campaign is going on in Rangpur College for the forthcoming student union election to be held on August 14, reports UNB.
Three panel of Jattiyatubadi Chhatra Dal, Chhatra League (N-S) and Oikya Jote including pro-Awami League Chhatra League, Jattiy Chhatra League, Chhatra Union and Chhatra Mottree submitted nomination papers recently.
Islami Chhatra Shibir could not submit its panel. The Judge Court here has served a three-day notice on the college authorities to show cause why August 14 election will not be declared illegal, on the basis of a case filed by the Islami Chhatra Shibir.
The Shibir appealed to the court to postpone the election as the students union elected in 1987 had not been installed in office. The Shibir had captured majority of the seats in the 1987 election.

Degree course demanded Melandah Govt College beset with problems

From Our Correspondent
JAMALPUR, Aug 9: Melandah Government College is plagued with innumerable problems which have affected academic atmosphere in the institution.
Established in 1972, the college was nationalised in 1987 at the directive of former President H M Ershad. Though taken over by the government the college was not provided with necessary amenities for imparting proper education.
The main problems the college has been facing since long include shortage of accommodation, absence of teachers, hostel and science apparatus.
Nazrul Islam, Secretary General of Melandah Government College Student's Union in a press conference held at the union office recently, informed the local students.
Besides, they have no quarters. They reside at distant places and as such face difficulties to attend the institution in time.
There is no hostel for the students. In the absence of a canteen in the campus, the students have to go outside for tiffin. Despite repeated appeals the college authority is yet to set up a canteen. There is no proper toilet facilities in the college premises so both the teachers and students have to suffer much.
The students demanded that if government announcement was not implemented at the earliest a greater movement would be launched. The student leaders demanded immediate opening of degree course in the college.
A total of 17 posts of Assistant Professors, Lecturers and Demonstrators have been lying vacant in the college since long. The old tin-shed section of the college is in a dilapidated state, and classrooms are too inadequate to accommodate 1000 students. A sizeable section of the students has no place to sit in the room.
The existing science laboratory is very small and it lacks required apparatus. Teachers have to take extra classes and can hardly do justice to the

Malaria claims eight lives in Netrakona

NETRAKONA, Aug 9: Malaria claimed eight lives and affected about 200 people in the Mukierpur village of Kalmakanda upazila last month, official sources said, reports UNB.
The victims are Reekha (14), Karim (29), Montu (30), Fulbanu (52), Miraj (4), Ambia (12), Ahmed (10), and Liton (10).
A medical centre has been opened in Mukierpur village to combat the disease.
About 150 malaria patients were treated in Kalmakanda Upazila Health Complex in the last one month, the sources added.
Influenza epidemic
Influenza has broken out in an epidemic form in Sadar, Atpara, Kendua, Madan, Barhatia, Purbadhaja and Mohanganj upazilas of the district in the last few days.
About 40 per cent people especially the children are affected by the cold virus.
Some typhoid cases have also been detected among the influenza patients.
Panic-stricken people have urged the authorities to take immediate steps to combat the spread of the disease.
At least 1000 tubewells in eight upazilas of the district have gone out of order causing acute scarcity of pure water in the rural areas.
The upazilas are Sadar, Atpara, Madan, Kendua, Mohanganj, Barhatia, Purbadhaja and Kalmakanda.
The Public Health Engineering Department could not complete sinking of the targeted number of tubewells last year, which further compounded the situation.
The paucity of drinking water forced the villagers to use water from the rivers, canals and ponds, exposing them to various water-borne diseases.

Flood damage in Sherpur estimated at Tk 11 crore

SHERPUR, Aug 9: Standing crops, dwelling houses and properties worth about Tk 11 crore were damaged during the recent flood in the district, reports UNB.
Standing crops on 6393 acres of land were completely and crops on 25,666 acres partially damaged by the flood.
About 1,40,245 people were affected and 740 houses were completely washed away and 3,897 houses partially damaged by the flood. Relief and Rehabilitation Officer stated here Wednesday.
According to the District Education Department, a total of 22 educational institutions were partially damaged during the period.
Moreover, communication system has been disrupted in four upazilas of the district as most of the roads were washed away by the flood.



CHAPAINAWABGANJ: Chapainawabganj-Shibganj road connecting Shibganj Upazila Health Complex has developed many cracks and holes causing immense sufferings to the travellers as well as the vehicular traffic. — Star photo

Jute sells below production cost

From Our Correspondent
CHANDPUR, Aug 9: Jute price in all the markets of the district has sharply fallen below the production cost. New jute has operated at the hats and bazars of the district since last month.
It is reported jute is now selling here at Taka 200 to Taka 225 per mound. So, the growers all over the district cannot sell their produce at fair price. B.J.C and B.J.M.C centres have not started purchasing jute. In motivated middle men have been taking advantage of the situation and depriving the jute growers of reasonable price. It is apprehended with the beginning of the full season, the price of jute will register a further fall.
It is feared that with the beginning of the full season, the price will register a further fall.
Worth mentioning here that an amount of Taka 50 lakh against jute sale to four B.J.C centres in Kurigram, Fulbari and Rajshahi upazilas has been long outstanding which has further intensified the miseries of the growers.
Press Club executives
A 13-member committee of Nageswari Press Club was formed recently in a meeting held with Mujibur Rahman in the chair.
Mr. Mujibur Rahman (Bangladesh) and Mr. Shafiq Alam (Dainik Desh) were elected president and secretary respectively of the committee.

Villagers gouge out eyes of miscreant

From Our Correspondent
JESSORE, Aug 9: Aggrieved villagers gouged out both eyes of a notorious miscreant Mongol (30) at village Shajtil under Sadar upazila last week.
It is reported that the ring leaders of 'Mongol Bahini' had created a reign of terror in the north-south corners of the upazila since last few years. Mongol last month forcibly abducted a vanpulers' wife, mother of three children and married her forcibly in front of her husband. The helpless villagers were waiting for an opportunity to bring the culprit to book. When the rogue Mongol along with his gang was raping one Rashida the villagers rushed to the spot in her rescue suddenly Mongol opened fire on the villagers. But they caught Mongol and his two accomplices and recovered a pipe gun, gun cartridge and five bombs from their possession. They gave heavy beating to his accomplices and gouged Mongol's two eyes.
The miscreants were handed over to Kotwali police. The miscreants are now under treatment in Jessore General Hospital.

Heroin worth Tk 10 lakh seized: 7 held

PABNA, Aug 9: Police arrested seven alleged heroin traders and recovered 100 grams of heroin worth about Tk 10 lakh from their possession at Bani cinema hall area of the town Wednesday, reports UNB.
Acting on a secret information, police raided the area and nabbed Mohammad Islam (30), Seraj (31), Azam (35), Habibur (29), Shushil (35), Motin (40), and Hamid (28).
The contraband was handed over to the local customs department. A case has been registered in this connection.

Branch managers conference

Branch managers conference-91 of Janata Bank Gaibandha region concluded here at regional office on August 2.
Nine branch managers of the district participated in the conference.
Abdul Mannan Razi, Rajshahi Divisional chief was present as chief guest and Sultan Nasrudin, Regional Area Chief was also present on the occasion. The programme was presided over by M. Zekker Rahman, AGM.
Crimes galore
Law and order situation in Gaibandha district has deteriorated alarmingly. Highway robbery, dacoity, murder other crimes have increased.
Mastans and musalmans are active in district and upazila headquarters. General people are threatened by them on different occasions.

75 rescued from human traffickers

BRAJMANBARIA, Aug 9: Bancharampur Police rescued 75 people including women and children while being smuggled out of the country through Doshduwa border village area here, reports UNB.
Acting on secret information, police raided the village on July 20 and rounded up 75 persons of different ages from an engine boat, which was about to cross the border. They reportedly belong to Bancharampur, Homna and Muradnagar upazilas and had been assured by fake manpower agents of employment abroad, police sources said.
Police also arrested four traffickers in this connection.

Relief for flood victims

East Londoners and the students of London Shapla Primary School have been collecting sarces and garments for the flood affected people of Bangladesh. The first consignment of 2000 kg have already been brought by the School teacher. Steven for distribution through various organisations while another consignment of 8000 kg is likely to reach next week. Mr.

Tiger creates panic

A tiger in the Korgaon of Gopalganj upazila has created panic among the villagers. Recently the tiger entered the Cow-shed of Abdur Sattar and attacked one of his cows when other cows took the ropes and ran helter-skelter raising mows. The owner woke up and found one of the Cows front part eaten up. He also discovered marks of paws and raised alarm. The other villagers rushed to the spot and searched vigorously but invain.