

Upazila roundup

MANIKGANJ
Housewife beaten to death

From Our Correspondent
Aug 26 : A young housewife was beaten to death by her husband at village Hemayatpur in Savar upazila for dowry Tuesday, police and family sources said.
The victim Angura Begum (20) was tortured by her husband to realise the promised dowry money.
On the fateful night her husband beat her mercilessly resulting in her death, the sources added.
Later, police recovered the body and sent it to hospital for autopsy.
A case has been filed with Savar police in this connection.

KISHOREGANJ
Mushroom growth of welding shops

From Our Correspondent
Aug 26 : Mushroom growth of welding shops beside the roads violating factory rules has been causing inconveniences to the residents of Kishoreganj town.
The welding factories have become a threat to public health, particularly to the pedestrians and residents of the surrounding areas. Numerous people of the town are suffering from ophthalmic and skin diseases due to bad effect of rays from the welding shops and factories.
The sparks often hurt seriously the eyesight of the children when they make curious look on it.
Town dwellers have urged the authorities concerned to take action against the illegal welding factory owners.

MUNSHIGANJ
103 posts of pry teachers lying vacant

From Our Correspondent
Aug 26 : A total of 103 posts of primary school teachers are lying vacant in Munshiganj district for a long time.
According to official sources, seven posts are lying vacant in Sadar Upazila, 11 in Gazaria, 16 in Tangbari, 11 in Lohojong, 28 in Srengnar and 30 in Sirajdikbar upazilas.
In absence of these teachers the primary education in the district is facing setback.

MYMENSINGH
Body recovered

From Our BAU Correspondent
Aug 26 : Kotwali police recovered the body of an unidentified woman from a paddy field at village Vatbarura under Sadar upazila recently.
Police said the death might have occurred 20 to 30 days ago. The body was sent to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital for autopsy and a case was filed with police in this connection.
Pipegun recovered
Meanwhile, CID police recovered a pipe gun with two rounds of bullets from a Union Parishad Nazem Uddin of village Rumpur under Muktagacha recently. A case was filed with police in this connection.

BARISAL
6,373 acres put under groundnut farming

From Our Correspondent
Aug 26 : About 6,373 acres of land have been brought under groundnut cultivation in five upazilas of Gopalganj district during the current season.
Of the total, 5,970 acres from Sadar Upazila, 50 acres from Moksodpur Upazila, 85 acres from Kashtani Upazila, 262 acres from Katolipara upazila and 6 acres of land have been included from Tungipara upazila in this programme.
Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) and Agriculture Extension Department (AED) have distributed necessary seeds, fertilizers including other agricultural inputs among the farmers to implement the programme. About two lakh maunds of nuts worth more 11 crore taka will be produced in the districts during this season, it is expected.

C'NAWABGANJ
Prices of baby food rise

From Our Correspondent
Aug 26 : Prices of all kinds of baby food and powdered milk have shot up abnormally in five upazilas of the district for the last few weeks adversely affecting the consumers, reports UNB.
According to market sources, two kg of 'Anchor' is being sold at Tk 270 as against Tk 220, 'Dano' at Tk 260 as against Tk 225, 'Nespray' between Tk. 260 and 270 instead of Tk 230, Red Cow at Tk 263 as against Tk 220 a few weeks back.
Besides, one pound Cerelac is being sold between Tk 110 and Tk 120 as against Tk 90. My Boy between Tk 105 and 115. Instead of Tk 90 Horlicks (big size) at Tk 90 as against Tk 70 previously.
The low income group of people have been hard hit due to sudden rise in the prices of milk powder and baby food.
Dishonest traders creating artificial scarcity in the market are engaged in profiteering at the cost of poor consumers, it is alleged.
Local people have urged the authorities to ensure smooth supply of the items and take stringent action against the unscrupulous traders.

JHENIDAH
Nawapara beat Magura in DC gold cup soccer

From Our Correspondent
Aug 26 : Nawapara Eleven beat Magura Eleven by 4-0 goals in the inaugural match of Deputy Commissioner Gold Cup Football Tournament on Friday last held at Jhenidah stadium.
Moshi of the winners team scored the first goal at 26th minutes of the first half while Jiban scored the 2nd goal at 8th minute of the second half. Zahid alone netted the 3rd and 4th goal at 20th and 28th minute of the 2nd half respectively.
In all 16 teams are participating in the tournament.
Organised by Jhenidah District Sports Association Mr. Moshur Rahman MP inaugurated the tournament.

RAJSHAHI
1164 HSC examinees expelled

From Our Correspondent
Aug 26 : A total of 1164 candidates were expelled from different centres under the Rajshahi Board on the second day of the HSC examination yesterday, reports UNB.
Meanwhile, sources at Jhenidah said, 15 HSC examinees were expelled yesterday from four centres of the district under Jessore Board.
Centre-wise breakup is as follows: Jhenidah KC College-6, Kaliganj Mahabubuddin College-4, Kotchandpur KMH College-4 and Harinakundu Lalon Shah College-1.
English was the day's subject of examination in both the boards.

PABNA
Woes of phone subscribers

From Our Correspondent
Aug 26 : The telephone subscribers of the district town have been facing inconvenience due to irregular operation of the exchange and inefficiency of the operators, reports UNB.
The nation-wide dialling link remains inoperative most of the time disrupting telex and teleprinter services.
The local people demanded a new telephone exchange with 500 lines to meet the minimum demand of the increasing number of subscribers. About one thousand applications for new connections remain pending with the local telephone authorities, it is learnt.

PATUAKHALI
Rural electrification programme progressing fast

From Our Correspondent
Aug 26 : Work electrification projects of Rural Electrification Board at a cost of Tk 41 crore in six upazilas of the greater Patuakhali district are progressing fast, reports UNB.
With the financial assistance of World Bank, 745 villages of 63 unions of the district have been brought under the programme.
According to official sources, new power transmission line with six sub-stations will also be set up in the first phase.
It is expected that the project will be completed by the end of this financial year.
After the completion of the project, at least 20,000 new power connections will be provided to the consumers.



Jute — the golden fibre of the country losing international market because of the massive use of synthetic fibre worldwide. Moreover, farmers are also losing incentives in cultivating the item for high production cost. Photo shows the just harvested fibre is being dried in the sun at a village in Narsingdi. — Star photo

Realisation of gas bills difficult

From Our Correspondent
NARAYANGANJ, Aug 26: Realisation of gas bills is not an easy task in Narayanganj district. When contacted an official of Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company informed that the arrear gas bills in Narayanganj district during 1990-91 (July-June) stood at about Taka 26,72,00,000. Out of the total amount of arrear about Taka 21 crore has so far been realised.
Percentage of arrears realised in different sectors is: industrial 78, commercial 93 and domestic 72.
The total arrear bills of the government, semi-government and autonomous bodies amounting to Taka 5,72,00,000 are lying unrealised in the last fiscal year.
It is further learnt that the arrear of over Taka 2,70,00,000 accumulated till 1989-90 has also been realised.
Besides a section of the consumers is treating the arrear gas bill rather lightly. The number of transports provided to Narayanganj Titas Gas Company is also quite inadequate. There is only one jeep which can hardly cope with the total number of consumers of about 26,668 in Narayanganj district.
Depression in the Jute business is an important cause for the non-payment of arrear bills in this sector.
A spokesman of the Titas Gas Company told this correspondent that despite repeated reminders a few commercial firms have come forward to clear up their dues. The authorities further informed that there are certain handicaps and problems which must be tackled immediately.
Narayanganj Titas Gas Company is taking all possible measures to streamline its work with a view to providing all possible services to people and redress their grievances.

Belkuchi flood control project shelved

From Our Correspondent
The Belkuchi Flood Control Project undertaken in 1967 to save the vast tract of croplands in greater Pabna district from recurring floods and facilitating irrigation have been lying abandoned since 1975 even after proper approval for implementation.
It is learnt that after a long-term study on feasibility of the project, Messrs Halfro and Partners Company of Great Britain designed the project and was reportedly approved by the concerned authority after completing survey works.
The project included construction of 35 mile long embankment from Nalk to Hurasagar, installation of three water pumping plants to supply 2666 cu.sq. metres of water for irrigation and digging of 110 miles canal. The cost of the project was then estimated at Taka 13.50 crores including foreign currency of Taka one crore. Some primary works of the project were done during 1973-75 fiscal year but due to unknown reasons the project was abandoned after 1975. If implemented the project would extend irrigation facilities to about 10 lakh acres of land in greater Pabna district and help produce additional crops.
He announced Taka 18 lakh and 700 bundles of CI sheet for relief operation from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund for Sirajganj.
Later, the State Minister distributed relief goods, sarcel, lungi, milk and cash money among the distressed people.
Mr Shahidullah Khan MP accompanied the State Minister during the visit.

People urged to unite to uphold democracy

From Our Correspondent
DINAJPUR, Aug 26: Law and Justice Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz called for greater unity of people of all strata to carry forward the democratic process initiated in the country, reports UNB.
He was addressing a cross section of people while visiting the Daily Janamat office here yesterday.
The Minister said that all our efforts for national development would be jeopardised in case of any failure in building up a society free from terrorism and anarchy.
Newspapers could play a vital role in moulding public opinion against terrorism in the society, particularly in educational institutions, he observed.
Mirza Golam Hafiz urged journalists to unveil the truth and throw light on the problems of peasants and underprivileged people to help the government take appropriate measures to resolve those with the limited resources available.

People won't accept polls rigging: Hasina

From Our Correspondent
MADARIPUR, Aug 26: Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the democratic process which was achieved through blood would not be allowed to be shattered by any conspiracy, reports BSS.
Addressing a public meeting here at Dattapara in front of the residence of late Awami League leader Ilias Ahmed Chowdhury, MP, Sheikh Hasina said the people of this country would not allow anyone to jeopardise the struggle for democracy.
The Awami League chief called upon the people to vote for the party nominees in the September 11 by-elections to carry forward the ongoing struggle for restoration of people's right. The Madaripur-one constituency was vacant following death of AL MP Ilias Ahmed Chowdhury on May 19.
Recalling the contribution of Mr Chowdhury, Sheikh Hasina said he was not only a valiant freedom fighter, but also a great philanthropist who founded many schools, colleges and madrasahs in his locality.
The Leader of the Opposition said the people of the country would not accept any malpractice in the by-elections and urged them to rally round the Awami League for restoration of the spirit of the war of liberation and materialise the dreams of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.
She said following assassination of the Bangabandhu the country has been witnessing the politics of killings, coup and conspiracy. She said her party was struggling for the last 15 years for implementing the dreams of Bangabandhu.
The meeting was addressed, among others, by the party candidate in the Madaripur-one constituency Mr Liton Ahmed Chowdhury.

Govt employees hold rally

From Our Correspondent
JHENIDAH, Aug 26 : The third and the fourth class government employees of the district organised a rally on Friday at local Wazir Ali High School maidan demanding implementation of the Pay Commission Report and the change of office timings, reports UNB.
The rally was organised by the Pay Commission Report Bastabayan and Office Somy Paribaratan Sangram Parishad of Jhenidah Union.
About one thousand employees from different upazilas of the district took part in the rally.
The rally was addressed by Abul Kalam Azad, Abdul Gani Khan and Akram Hossain with Mofizur Rahman, unit president in the chair.

Notes from C'nawabganj

From Our Correspondent
CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Aug 26 : The District and Sessions Judge Mr Azizur Rahman sentenced one Nurul Islam to life term and fined Taka 5000 in default to suffer another six months imprisonment on charge of killing his wife recently.
It is learnt that Md Nurul Islam of Kamalakanthapur in the district married Fatima in 1987 and continued to torture her for dowry. He killed her on July 15, 1988 with a sharp weapon. The Judge after examining the chargesheet awarded the said punishment.
School girl raped
Ferdousi Begum Mili, a student of Class Nine of Ramkrishnapur in Chapainawabganj district was raped by Kahirul Anam of the same area recently.
The All Party Students, Action Committee of the district brought out a procession in protest against the incident and demanded exemplary punishment to the persons responsible.
They also arranged a press conference and said that some elements of Islamic Chhatra Shibir and Jamaat are engaged in anti-Islamic activities throughout the country.
After the day's programme they handed over a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner in this connection.
Suicide
A heroin addict committed suicide by hanging himself from a mango tree, recently.
It is learnt that Khanna (35) of village Tiktipara under Nawabganj Pourashava committed suicide out of frustration. With this the death toll of heroin addicts rose to 24 in last two years.
5400 acres put under jute farming in Barisal
BARISAL, Aug 26 : More than 5,400 acres of land have been brought under jute cultivation in the district during the current season, reports UNB.
According to Agriculture Extension Department (AED), of the total, over 3,800 acres of land have been brought under 'Tosha' variety and 1,600 acres under local variety.
For the successful implementation of the programme, Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) has distributed seeds, fertilizers, insecticides and other necessary inputs to the jute growers at fair prices.
Besides, five demonstration plots have already been set up in the district to acquaint the farmers with the scientific methods of cultivation.
It is expected that about 45,000 maunds of jute will be produced in the district during this season.
Aus
A scheme has been undertaken to bring 1.26 lakh acres of land under aus cultivation in the district during the current season.
According to Agriculture Extension Department, 22,000 acres of land have been brought under high yielding variety (HYV) and the rest 1.04 lakh acres under local variety.
Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) has distributed seeds, fertilizers and other agricultural inputs to the farmers at fair prices.
Besides, eight demonstration plots have also been set up in the district to acquaint the farmers with the modern methods of cultivation.

Rivers mark rise, croplands in S. districts submerged

From Our Correspondent
BARISAL: A vast tract of land and crops on several hundreds acres in southern districts have been submerged following rise in waterlevel of the Meghna, Arialkhan, Sandhya, Sugandhya, Maskata, Kalabadar, Kritonkhola, Kacha, Dhansiri and Patira.
On rush of flood water has already submerged the vast char areas in some southern districts.
Lowlying areas and croplands of Barisal, Patuakhali, Jhalakathi, Bhola, Borguna, Pirojpur and Madaripur have already been submerged. In some places huge crop lands are under knee deep water thus hampering the cultivation of Irri and other crops.
According to the informed sources, absence of necessary dredging work maximum river beds have been silted up. Immediate dredging is necessary for smooth flow of water and plying of huge riverine transportation in southern districts of the country.
Vast areas along the Meghna and Tetulia have already been eroded rendering thousands of inhabitants shelterless in the district.
Meanwhile, these distress people have taken shelter on and around the flood control embankments in these areas. They are leading miserable lives in an inhuman condition, it is learnt.
Huge damage of crops has been assessed in Harinathpur, Memania, Sonabaria, Dhukhali, Brajulia, and some other places due to continuous erosion of the Meghna and Nayabangarin rivers.
The situation is taking a serious turn as Mauladi Bazar area of Mauladi upazila also been threatened to be eroded.
On the other hand erosion engulfed Chamahima, Rahimkharat, Kazirchar

Conspirators active to destabilise govt: Salam

From Our Correspondent
JAMALPUR, Aug 26: LGRD Minister Abdus Salam Talukder has urged the people to give their verdict in favour of parliamentary democracy in the forthcoming referendum, reports UNB.
He was addressing a meeting with the Upazila Chairmen, Municipal Chairman and Ward Commissioners Saturday at Jamalpur Collectorate Conference Room.
Secretary General of BNP and LGRD Minister said democratic system has been established in the country after a long struggle against autocracy.
The BNP government was working hard with a firm determination to realise the hopes and aspirations of the people, he said.
Local MP Strajul Haq and the Deputy Commissioner of the district, among others, spoke on the occasion.
Abdus Salam Talukder said the anti-democratic forces were conspiring to destabilise the democratic government. The BNP government along with the people will resist such conspiracies, he asserted.
Stressing the need for balanced development in the country, the LGRD Minister said necessary steps will be taken for overall development of the district.
The Minister urged all to extend their whole hearted cooperation and support to the present government for implementing the development oriented programmes.

Call to resist trouble-makers

From Our Correspondent
CHOUAGACHA (Jessore), Aug 26 : State Minister for Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Tariqul Islam Saturday said that the democracy-loving people would resist the persons conspiring against country's political and social stability, reports BSS.
He was addressing a public meeting at Chougacha High School premises here Saturday.
The State Minister said that conspirators were involved in mischievous activities to create chaos in the normal functioning of industrial enterprises and educational institutions as well as government offices one by one.
He urged all democratic quarters to save the country and people from heinous activities of conspirators against hard-earned democracy.
The meeting was addressed by local BNP leaders.
Earlier Mr Islam, held a meeting with the officials of Chougacha upazila. He asked them to prepare a black list of local smugglers and take necessary legal actions against them.



BARISAL : Alleged activists of the Sarbahara Party arrested by Kotwali police from Charbaria area of Sadar upazila recently. —Star photo