

Upazila roundup

KURIGRAM

Sukanto's birth anniversary observed

From Our Correspondent

Sept 4: The birth anniversary of poet Sukanto was observed at Kurigram under the aegis of Kurigram zila unit of 'Jatiya Kabita Parishad' recently.

In this connection an elaborate programme was chalked out which included recitation, musical soiree and discussion on the life and activities of the poet Sukanto.

A discussion meeting was arranged at the local Shilpakala Academy campus which was chaired by Mr. Sahabuddin, Executive Editor of the 'weekly Gonokatha'.

Among others, Prof. Tapan Rudra, Mrs. Samsun Nahar Sanu, Zoti Ahmed, Bulbul Bakshi, Monwar Hossain and Modubur Rahman Shafi participated in the discussion.

The whole function was conducted by Mr. Khondoker Mizan, Convener of Kurigram zila Jatiya Kabita Parishad.

MANIKGANJ

Hats, bazars in bad shape

Sept 4: The hats and bazars in seven upazilas of the district are in a pitiable condition causing immense suffering to both customers and sellers, local people said, reports UNB.

They said lack of proper maintenance by the authorities is the main reason behind gradual deterioration of the condition of the hats and bazars.

The situation worsens during the rainy season when most of the hats and bazars go under knee-deep water due to the absence of drainage system.

Lack of adequate space for retailers of fish, vegetables and other commodities and extortion of tolls by jharadars have multiplied the difficulties of buyers and sellers.

Absence of pure drinking water and public toilets have added to the problem. Filth and garbage are scattered polluting the environment.

SIRAJGANJ

3 rifles recovered

Sept 4: Police recovered three rifles from a road side ditch at Hatikumul union of Raiganj upazila yesterday, reports UNB.

The rifles were snatched on Monday during a clash between police and mob in which two people including one minor girl were killed in police firing.

A policeman Habibur Abdul Hajid, accused of being involved in Monday's incident, was suspended temporarily. Departmental action against Sergeant Muzanur Rahman for the same incident was also under active consideration, it is learnt.

Meanwhile, speakers at a protest rally at Golakpur madrasa premises demanded exemplary punishment to the culprits involved in Monday's incident.

Another meeting held at Mazar station in Sadar upazila also called for divisional inquiry and demanded compensation for the victims and the injured.

About 75 villagers, mostly male, in the union have deserted their homes fearing police atrocities following the incident.

SHARIATPUR

BJA executives

Sept 4: The election of the district unit of Bangladesh Journalists Association (BJA) was held here Tuesday, reports UNB.

Ali Hossain of Dainik Samachar and Mobarakuddin Ahmed of Dainik Azad were elected President and General Secretary respectively.

Other elected members are: Shahiduzzaman Bandal (Ajker Kagaj), Mahabubur Rahman (Dainik Probashi) and Kazi Tajul Islam (Daily Star).

57 held

Police arrested 57 persons from different area of the district during the last few days. Those arrested include absconders, activists of Sarbahara Party and suspected criminals.

Most of them were arrested under specific charges, alleged involvement in various crimes. Earlier, cases were filed against some of the arrested persons.

Police also recovered one pipe gun from Barokalinagar village under Zinjira upazila of the district.

BANDARBAN

Seeds distributed among farmers

Sept 4: The Agriculture Extension Department has taken up various measures under post-cyclone agriculture rehabilitation programme of the government to help the farmers of Bandarban hill district, reports BSS.

According to an official source, 2,960 kgs of Aman, 2,100 kgs of Aus and 1039 kgs of vegetable seeds have already been distributed among the growers of different upazilas of the district.

The Forest Department has distributed saplings of various trees to the people during the current tree plantation season.

Bandarban hill district was badly affected by the devastating cyclone of April 29.

MAULVI BAZAR

Son kills mother

Sept 4: A son has killed his own mother at Kanaidani village under Kamalganj upazila of the district, reports UNB.

The victim identified as Chaya Begum (40) was stabbed to death by her son Islam following a family dispute Saturday, police said.

The body was sent to Sadar hospital for autopsy.

A case was filed with the local police in this connection.

RANGAMATI

Indian poachers killing deer inside Bangladesh

Sept 4: The Indian poachers have smuggled hundreds of deer and boar (indics) from inside the Bangladesh territory last month, reports UNB.

Intruding two kilometres inside Bangladesh territory, the Indians killed wild-life indiscriminately using fire arms, at Taidang, Tabalchhari, Boranal and Belchhari unions of Matiranga upazila, informed sources told UNB.

Local leaders have urged the authorities to reinforce vigilance along the borders and restore sanctuaries of the forest department for protection and preservation of wild-life in the dense hill forests.

RANGPUR

2 housewives commit suicide

Sept 4: Two young housewives and a man committed suicide in Shoendragonj upazila of the district recently, police and family sources said, reports UNB.

Suravan Begum (30), wife of Zahir Uddin of Sarbanasa village committed suicide Friday by hanging herself from branch of a tree due to family feud.

Asful Begum (25) of Shoterjan village also hanged herself following family disputes Saturday.

Azimuddin (40), son of Omar Ali of Mirganj village, committed suicide by hanging Sunday. The reason could not be known immediately.

Separate cases were filed with respective police stations in this connection.

JALALPUR

Dacoits loot Tk 1,50,000

Sept 4: A dacoity was committed at Benuarchar Bazar under Islampur upazila recently, reports BSS.

A group of dacoits armed with native weapons raided the shop of one Akhat Hossain of the bazar and decamped with cash Taka 1,50,000. One Shahu of the shop was wounded by the dacoits. He was admitted to local health complex.

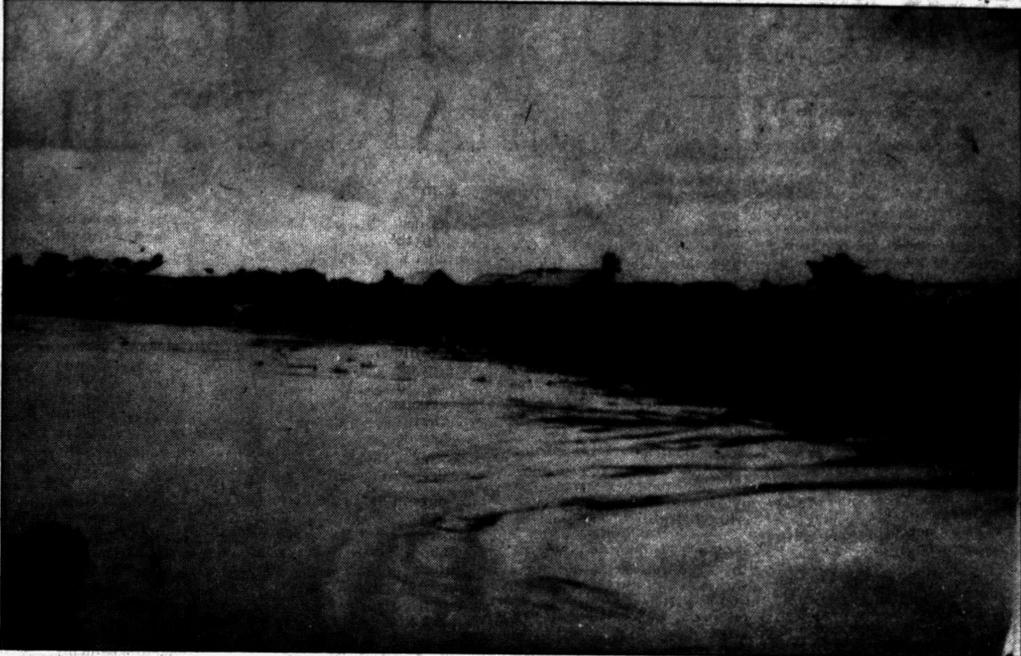
Superintendent of Police, Islampur visited the spot. A case was registered in this connection.

Two rifles recovered

RANGPUR, Sept 4: Police recovered two abandoned rifles from a pond at Anantoram village under Pirgacha upazila of the district, reports UNB.

Acting on a secret tip, a joint team of the district and upazila police led by ASP Abdul Halim raided a pond of one Valasa Mahmud on Friday and recovered two rifles from there.

None was arrested in this connection so far.



SIRAJGANJ: A flood affected village in Kazipur upazila of the district.

— Star photo

Four nuclear medical treatment centres will be set up

From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, Sept 4: Four Nuclear medical treatment centres will be set up in three medical college hospitals and a modernised hospital, in the country within the next three financial years.

Of the four centres, three centres will be set up one each in Barisal, Mymensingh and Rangpur Medical College Hospitals and the other one will be set up in Khulna modernised hospital. Taka 20 crore will be spent to implement these projects.

The implementation work of the projects has already been started with the necessary help and assistance of the medical colleges and the modern hospital, with an estimated cost of Taka 4.88 crore allocated for this financial year. Nuclear medical treatment is

now continuing in these hospitals temporarily with Ultrasonar medicines and Gamma Camera.

It is to be mentioned here that for these projects about two crore Taka was allocated in last year but out of the total allocation 20 lakh Taka remained unutilised for different reasons.

**Theft of woods**  
Another message adds: Forest Department has failed to check theft of woods by miscreants due to lack speedy riverine transports, manpower and necessary endeavour of the departmental authorities.

On the other hand many water outlets, canals and riverways have been silted due to absence of dredging in the vast Sunderbans.

According to the informed sources, about 4000 costly trees have already been stolen away by the miscreants during the last five years. Further more thousands of thefts have been committed which were noticed by forest authority.

It is learnt that many organised gangs of miscreants are still engaged in stealing costly trees, honey, deer, monkeys and Golpata from Sunderbans area. It is alleged that the miscreants smuggle costly skins of tigers and deer, honey, monkeys etc out of our country in exchange of huge foreign currency.

It is gathered that 1157 cases of theft of costly woods in 1987-88 financial year, 1667 cases in 1988-89, 507 cases in 1989-90 and 390 cases in 1990-91 have been

lodged by the authority.

Of the total cases lodged, 1124 cases have been sent to the courts and the rest were settled or negotiated by the departmental authorities. It is assessed that due to theft Forest Department has lost crores of Taka from the Sunderbans during the last five years.

Forest Department has put forth the causes of their inability to control the miscreants and thefts as they lack necessary manpower and speedy riverine transports. They have only two big launches and six small launches out of twelve. Besides they have 12 trawlers, 21 big boats out of 37, 14 small boats out of 22, one speed boat out of three and nine dings out of 69.

Plea to cast 'Yes' vote in referendum

Minister for Education and Cultural Affairs Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury called upon the people of all walks of life to cast 'Yes' vote in the coming referendum, reports BSS.

The Minister was addressing a public meeting at Medini Mondal under Munshiganj district Tuesday. Presided over by BNP leader Showkat Hossain Bepari the meeting was addressed by State Minister for Post and Telecommunication Shamsul Islam, State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism M A Mannan, State Minister for Food and Agriculture Nazmul Huda, Abdul Hye, MP, Wing Commander (Retd) Hamidullah Khan, MP, Mrs Shamsun Nahar Ahsanullah, MP, Advocate Abdus Salam Azad and BNP leader Gazi Shahidul Haque.

The Education Minister said, BNP believed that people were the source of all power and their verdict would be final on question of the form of the government. He added that BNP government wanted to solve the problems of the country with the participation of the common people.

State Minister for Food Nazmul Huda said, the government had already started fulfilling its commitments by phases to translate the hopes and aspirations of the people into reality.

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism M A Mannan said BNP was aiming at the introduction of people-oriented politics in place of politics of violence and anarchy. He also called upon the people to extend support to the government for implementing development programmes.

State Minister for Posts and Telecommunication Shamsul Islam said government had already taken a number of steps for improving the socio-economic condition of the people.

Law, order situation improves

MAULVI BAZAR, Sept 4: A review meeting on the law and order situation in the district expressed satisfaction at its gradual improvement, reports UNB.

The meeting held Saturday with the Deputy Commissioner in the chair discussed the overall law and order situation and stressed the need for vigilance against the anti-social elements.

It also called for close co-operation between the people and the law enforcing agencies to curb crime in the district.

Among others, Azizur Rahman MP, Khaleda Rabbani MP, Abdus Shaheed MP and Advocate Eabudur Rahman Chowdhury MP took part in the discussion.

**Repair work**  
Another message adds: Work is in progress on the repair of embankment to check erosion of the river Monu at Islampur in Chandrighat union under Sadar upazila.

The project taken up by the Water Development Board is estimated to cost Tk 22 lakh. Meanwhile, work has been completed on the repair work of breaches occurred on the Monu river embankment at Kadamhata and Asrakapon under Rajnagar upazila.

It may be mentioned that 234 breaches occurred on the embankment of the rivers Monu, Dholi, Juri and Fani during the last flood.

4 commit suicide in Pabna

PABNA, Sept 4: Four people, including two women, allegedly committed suicide in the district during the last week, police said, reports UNB.

Family sources said Intaz Ali of Jalalpur village under Sadar upazila allegedly committed suicide by taking poison on August 26.

Shaheed Sheikh (19), son of Samad Sheikh of Dakkhin Ramchandrapur village under the same upazila, allegedly hanged himself on August 28.

The cause of the two suicides could not be known immediately.

Khodeza Khatun (45) of Ambaban quarter under Ishurdi upazila committed suicide by hanging following family feud on August 28.

Beluna Khatun (12) of Baghail village under Ishurdi upazila committed suicide by taking insecticides to get rid of starvation.

Four separate cases were filed with Pabna and Ishurdi police in this connection.

Farmers demand loan exemption

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Sept 4: About 660 farmers of Shaduhati and Shaganna union parishes under Jhenidah Sadar upazila have demanded exemption of their agricultural loans in a press conference held at local Press Club recently. The amount of their loan was Taka 21.30 lakh. This was disbursed by Agrani Bank, Dagbango branch at the rate of Taka 5000 each during 1979-80. This has now increased to Taka 96 lakhs with interest. Of them 532 farmers took project loans, 32 normal loan and 96 IFAD loan.

The farmers said that they are not in a position to repay the loans as most of them are marginal farmers and sharecroppers. Being unable to repay the loans many of them have already left their homesteads.

**Plea to reopen closed institutions**  
About 150 university students brought out a procession last week at Jhenidah town demanding opening of all closed educational institutions including Dhaka and Rajshahi University and an end to terrorism on the campus. The processionists also submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner, Jhenidah.

Organised by the University Student Parishad, Jhenidah district branch the processionists paraded main streets of the town followed by a meeting local Agrani Bank Chattar which was presided over by Assaduzzaman Asad, President.

The speakers in the meeting demanded immediate withdrawal of false cases against sixty university students. They urged the concerned authorities to implement their 10-point demand and to establish peace and harmony on the campus.

Hoarders trading on human miseries

From Our Correspondent

DINAJPUR, Sept 4: Hoarding of essential commodities by a section of unscrupulous traders has created artificial crisis in the district.

Prices of essential commodities have shot up in almost all markets. Kerosene, an essential item for rural people is being sold at an exorbitant price. Each pint of kerosene is being sold between Taka 22 and Taka 26 as against Taka 20 a few days back.

Prices of soyabean oil has shot up by Taka four per kilogram. It is now being sold at Taka 40 as against Taka 36 in June, 1991.

Prices of mustard and other edible oil have also gone up. At present, each kg of mustard oil is being sold between Taka 60 and Taka 65 as against Taka 56 two months ago.

Prices of other essentials have also shown an upward trend. The price of rice has gone up by Taka 20 to 40 per maund.

Coarse variety of rice like IIRI and Boro are being sold at Taka 11 as against Taka 10. Fine variety of rice is being sold at Taka 13 as against Taka 11.50 two months back.

In Parbatipur, Phulbari, Haktampur and Nawabganj upazilas of the district, prices of essentials have marked a sharp rise in the retail markets.

According to market sources, prices of powdered milk, soyabean oil, onion, ginger and vegetables have shot up by about 5 to 8 per cent over the last two months.

Hoarding edibles by a section of unscrupulous traders was largely responsible for price hikes, consumers alleged.

Meanwhile, prices of cement, rod and bricks have also registered an increase affecting construction works here.

Buyers said a bag of cement is now being sold between Taka 260 and Taka 280 in the rural areas of the district. Per ton rod also marked a rise by Taka 1,200.

Shop keeper stabbed to death in Sylhet

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Sept 4: A young shop owner of Sylhet town was stabbed to death last week by a gang of miscreants.

According to witnesses, Afsaruddin (19) was watching TV programme along with his friends at his video shop in Fazlichat at 9-45 pm. Some men entered the shop and started stabbing Afsaruddin at random and fled away in their motorcycles. Afsaruddin was immediately removed to the Sylhet Medical College Hospital where doctors pronounced him dead. The victim was father of one child.

None has yet been arrested in this connection.

**Off-loadings of passengers**  
Md Sarafuddin, Deputy Secretary of Civil Aviation Ministry held enquiries into alleged off-loadings of 20 London bound passengers at ZIA, Dhaka recently, who were later sent back to Sylhet by road. He examined 13 such passengers with travel documents. He also received written statements of the passengers and written documents of three more passengers. He

also called upon the tea board to take up the matter with Hope Ministry immediately to curb the activities that threatens tea plantation.

**Miscreants active**  
A gang of miscreants have been cutting away illegally tea garden shade trees, scaling tea leaves, cattle heads and timber. Even weekly payments are looted away from the garden staff, a meeting of tea garden managers held recently at Chandbagh the estate alleged. Eight tea gardens under Rajnagar and Kuloara police stations in Maulvi Bazar are under constant threat of miscreants. The estate managers were humiliated and received warning letters not to protest the illegal acts of the miscreants.

**Shantibahini activist surrenders**  
RANGAMATI, Sept 4: A Shanti Bahini activist Boren Tripura surrendered arms and ammunition at Baghatar upazila zone under Dighinala upazila of Khagrachari district on Sunday, reports UNB.

The arms and ammunition include one 9 mm SMO, 7.62 mm rifle, 33 rounds of ammunition and one pair of uniform.

Informed sources said Boren surrendered the arms due to financial hardship, quarrel over leadership and a bleak future of Shanti Bahini activists.

Boren expressed his firm determination to work for ameliorating the socio-economic condition of his fellow tribesmen and the nation.

heads the one-member committee appointed by the government to enquire into the allegations of off-loading bonafide passengers at ZIA.

Meanwhile, a delegation of local travel agencies and members of Sylhet Gonodabi Parishad called on Mr Sarafuddin at local Circuit House and apprised him of the problems and harassment meted out to passengers by some Bangladesh Biran staff. The Deputy Secretary assured them that the present government is eager to remove all illegal activities from the society and administration and would look into the complaints.

It also called upon the tea board to take up the matter with Hope Ministry immediately to curb the activities that threatens tea plantation.

**Body recovered**  
Fulpur police recovered and decomposed body in a gunny bag of an unidentified young girl from a pond of Dhalia Bazar near Fulpur police station recently.

The body was sent to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital for autopsy and a case was filed with police. Police arrested one Momena Khatoun in this connection.

**252 held**  
Mymensingh police under its operation Doorbar have arrested 252 persons and recovered three firearms from different upazilas of the district during its week-long operation police said. The arms included three pipe guns, six rounds of ammunition, two ramdao and one knife.

The arrested persons included 73 absconding prisoners, 24 members of the Sarbahara Party, 34 miscreants, 10 kidnapers and 20 mastans.

**MMC reopens Sept 7**  
Classes of Mymensingh Medical College (MMC) will resume on September 7 after over 20 days' unscheduled closure. The decision was taken on August 27 at an Academic Council meeting of the college with the Principal Professor Dr. A I M Mufakarul Islam in the chair.

The college was closed following a clash between Chhatra League (A-A) and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists after college students union election.

**3 tigers killed in Rangamati**  
RANGAMATI, Sept 4: The inhabitants of the remote and inaccessible villages under Matiranga upazila of Khagrachari hill district have killed three tigers last month, villagers and eye-witnesses said, reports UNB.

The tigers had been preying on domestic cattle and were endangering human life, they said.

The villagers of Tabalchart, Bernal and Taidang under Matiranga upazila kept dead-goat duly injected with strong poison, which the tigers took and died.

The villagers said they are trying to find a way to keep off wild elephants which have been destroying crops and killing domestic cattle.

Meanwhile, forest officials have recovered two rare species of wild-animals from illegal possession of a person at Gilchhari of Rajshahi upazila here.



AGRI-VARSITY: A silent procession brought out by the teachers, officers, students and employees of BAU under the leadership of Vice-Chancellor Prof M Asadur Rahman, parading the streets of BAU campus recently in protest against terrorism on the campus.

— Star photo