

## Upazila roundup

### SATKHIRA

#### 34,800 acres khas land distributed

**From Our Correspondent**  
Oct 8: About 34,800 acres of khas land have been distributed among 44,231 landless families of the districts under Khulna division. According to the official sources, of the total, 7100 acres were distributed in Satkhira district, 1500 acres in Khulna, 1800 acres in Bagerhat, 3000 acres in Patuakhali, 12,200 acres in Bhola, 1200 acres in Jalakhati, 7500 acres in Barisal and 500 acres in Jessore district.

### UDs on rise

The number of unnatural deaths (UD) are on rise in two upazilas of Satkhira district for the last nine months. In all 90 persons met unnatural deaths in Satkhira Sadar and Assasuni upazilas of the district.

According to the official sources, of the total 136 persons committed suicide in Satkhira upazila and 54 persons in Assasuni upazila of the district.

Family troubles, failure in love, dowry, poverty etc are the main causes of the suicide, it is reported.

### RANGPUR

#### Jobless people converging on district HQ

Oct 8: A large number of people rendered destitute by the recent flood has been converging on the district headquarters in search of livelihood, reports UNB.

Acute food crisis and lack of job opportunities in the rural areas in the aftermath of the flood have forced them leave their homes and look for work in the urban areas, many of them said here.

About 7.50 lakh people have been rendered destitute in the flood that affected 58 unions of the district.

Standing crops on 80,000 acres of land were completely and on 68,000 acres partially damaged in the flood.

Most of the farmers in the worst affected areas of Gongachar upazila are passing their days in terrible hardship with their crops washed away and dwellings destroyed.

### FARIDPUR

#### Prize distributed

Oct 8: Prize distribution function of the ten-day long cultural competition of Islamic Foundation, Faridpur in connection with the observance of Eid-e-Miladunnabi was held recently at the Foundation auditorium, reports BSS.

The cultural competition included Kerat, Azan, Recitations, Islamic songs, extempore speeches and essay writings.

About 70 participants of schools and madrasahs took part in 14 subjects of competition.

Mr Md Abdur Rahim, Deputy Commissioner distributed prizes among the winners.

### MYMENSINGH

#### International Day for Old observed

Oct 8: The Probin Hitotshi Sangha, Mymensingh observed the International Day for Old in a befitting manner, reports BSS.

The programme of the day included walking, procession and seminar.

In this connection a seminar was organised by the 'Probin Hitotshi Sangha' at the Muslim Institute premises in the afternoon.

Presided over by Dr. A R Khan, President, 'Probin Hitotshi Sangha' Mymensingh the seminar was addressed by Mr Nabuddin Ahmed, Professor Muzaffar Hussain, Professor Mahmudul Hasan and Mr Pijush Kanti Ghose.

### MAULVI BAZAR

#### Eid-e-Miladunnabi observed

**From Our Correspondent**  
Oct 8: The holy Eid-e-Miladunnabi was observed throughout Maulvi Bazar district with due respect and religious fervour.

A day-long programme chalked out by different socio-cultural and religious organisations included Milad Mahfil, special prayer and discussion on the life, ideals and teachings of the holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SM).

Maulvi Bazar district branch of Islamic Foundation chalked out a discussion programme. Other organisations held similar programmes. National flag was hoisted atop all private and public buildings on the occasion of the holy Eid-e-Miladunnabi.

### PATUAKHALI

#### Work on 37 projects in progress

Oct 8: Work on 37 projects to protect four upazilas of the district from tidal surge and intrusion of saline water is progressing fast, reports UNB.

The projects financed by the International Development Agency (IDA) are being implemented by Water Development Board (WDB) at a cost of Tk 11 crore.

According to official sources, the work on the projects includes construction of closer dam, sluice gates and flushing sluice gates.

Of the total projects, four are being constructed in Sadar, 18 in Galachipia, seven in Kalapara and eight in Mirzaganj upazilas.

With the implementation of the projects, about 15,000 acres of agricultural land would be saved from tidal surge and salinity, the sources said.

### BARISAL

#### River erosion renders 6000 homeless

Oct 8: About 6000 people have been rendered homeless by the erosion of the six rivers in five upazilas of the district during the last few months, reports UNB.

The erosion of the rivers Kirtonkhola, Sanhya, Ilisha, Meghna, Naya Bhangulee and Tetulia has affected badly Sadar, Banaripara, Mehendiganj, Iliza and Muladi upazilas during the period.

About 50 families have been affected by the recent erosion of the river Sugandha along west Dapdapia belt.

Informed sources said, the ferryghat of Dapdapia between Barisal and Patuakhali route has been facing serious erosion threat.

About 1000 families of Baisari, Chakhar and Syedkhali villages in Banaripara upazila have been affected by the erosion of the river Sandhya.

At least 2000 families of Muladi and Iliza upazilas have been affected and 5000 acres of croplands were devoured by the river Ilisha.

About 2000 houses and 400 acres of land have gone into the rivers Meghna and Naya Bhangulee. The affected villages are: Harinathpur, Gualbari, Dhulkhali and Jangalia in Mehendiganj upazila.

### RANGAMATI

#### 8 horticulture nurseries being damaged

Oct 8: Eight horticulture nurseries raised with crores of Taka in the greater Chittagong Hill Tracts are being damaged for non-placement of fund, reports UNB.

Ten officers and 96 staffs of all the nurseries along with their dependents have been passing their days in sub-human condition due to non payment of their salaries for the last four months, informed sources said.

In the absence of proper maintenance due to constraint of fund, the very useful units for the development of horticulture sectors in the greater Chittagong Hill Tracts are being damaged day by day.

Due to non-renewal of the special Five Year Plan which has ended on July 30, '91 last, these projects are running without any fund causing irrecoverable damages to the nursery and untold sufferings to its staff.

### MAGURA

#### 30,000 acres brought under cotton farming

Oct 8: A total of 30,000 acres of land have been brought under cotton cultivation in four southern districts of Khulna division during the current season, official sources said, reports UNB.

Bangladesh Cotton Development Board has taken up this massive programme in Magura, Jheridah, Jessore and Narail districts. According to official sources, the production target has been fixed at 2.40 lakh maunds of cotton seeds worth about Tk 15 crore in the current season.

For the successful implementation of the programme, Cotton Development Board has distributed HYV seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and other agricultural inputs at fair prices among the cultivators.

Bangladesh Krishi Bank and other commercial banks also sanctioned soft term loans to boost cotton production.



With the rapid growth of population the number of floating people is on the rise. Photo shows this old lady who has no abode plucking 'Kalmi Shak' (a leafy vegetable) to live on, beside the rail track at Pagla in Narayanganj. — Star photo

# Baralekha UZ presents a grim picture

From Our Correspondent

MAULVI BAZAR, Oct 8: Baralekha, the most neglected upazila of the district is beset with manifold problems. Some of them are lack of educational facilities, bad communication system, scarcity of pure drinking water, lack of medicare, poor recreational facilities, lack of proper maintenance of hats and bazars.

Baralekha consisting 304 villages in 12 unions with a population of about 2,15,000 is famous for tea industries. There are 19 tea gardens in the upazila. It is also famous for betel leaf cultivation. Seven tribal punjce and hundreds of punjce members are engaged in betel leaf cultivation.

The educational sector is not at all taken into consideration for its development. Only one degree college, 13 high schools, 12 madrasahs including four senior madrasahs, 99 government primary schools are covering the education of the whole upazila.

The communication network of the upazila is the most neglected one. The condition of existing pucca and kutcha roads is very deplorable.

Numerous holes and cracks have developed at different points causing immense sufferings to the people.

The train services are most irregular causing great inconvenience to the passengers. Inadequate number of bogies and overloading has become a common feature in the trains.

The suffering people hope that the concerned authorities will construct new roads and repair existing roads and railway lines to improve the

communication system of the rural areas. Scarcity of drinking water is an added problem. About 35 per cent of the existing tubewells have been lying out of order for a long time. As a result, the people have been using contaminated water of canals, ponds and ditches. Mosquito menace on the other hand, makes the life miserable. Water hyacinth, stagnant water filled with garbage are the breeding centres of the mosquitoes.

The upazila health complex at Baralekha can hardly provide medicare to the people of the area. Acute shortage of medicines force thousands of people particularly the poor section to return disappointed without treatment.

Frequent power failure is a serious problem for the inhabitants of the upazila headquarters. Dwellers say that most of the upazila headquarter areas plunge into darkness very often just after sunset. Moreover, there are no bulbs on the light posts. Consequently anti-social activities have increased much.

There are no recreational facilities for the children or elderly people. There is no toilet or urinal in the upazila headquarters. People respond to the nature's call beside roads and office buildings polluting the environment.

At least 23 hats and bazars in 12 unions of Baralekha upazila are in bad condition due to lack of proper maintenance. Inadequate space, bad drainage system, paucity of pure drinking water, erection of unplanned sheds have im-

peded the normal functioning of the hats and bazars.

A number of unauthorised shop owners are grabbing the space creating inconveniences to both buyers and sellers.

Local people have urged the authorities concerned to take proper steps to mitigate their sufferings.

## Road link in Shariatpur needs improvement

From Our Correspondent

SHARIATPUR, Oct 8: The communication system of six upazilas of the district is deplorable. Due to lack of requisite number of bridges and culverts the communication has become more difficult. As a result, the sufferings of the people know no bounds.

The Damudya-Barakhal bridge is the only means of communication that connects Damudya with Vedarganj. But the bridge was destroyed in the flood of 1988. It has not yet been repaired.

In Vedarganj upazila, a wooden bridge across Dargah Bari Khal connecting Sadurhat with Kartikpur needs immediate repair. The construction of Paprali bridge on Vedarganj-Shariatpur road has not yet been completed even after two decades. As a result, thousands of people are experiencing a lot of troubles.

In Naria upazila a big wooden bridge connecting Surassur with Vedarganj is in a dilapidated condition. Another bridge adjacent to Vojesswar bazar needs early repair.

# Erosion grabs 20,000 dwellings in Gaibandha, Jamalpur

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Oct 8: About 10,000 inhabitants of four upazilas of the district have been rendered homeless due to severe erosion in the river Brahmaputra that continues unabated for over a month. The worst affected upazilas are Saghat, Fulchhari, Gaibandha Sadar and Sunderganj. Of these Fulchhari is the worst-hit upazila where the UZ headquarters is now on the verge of collapse.

Meanwhile, vast tracts of cultivable land, homesteads, religious and educational institutions, markets and office buildings have already been devoured by the surging water of the river Brahmaputra.

The erosion continues to cause devastation at Tarapur, Dehabandh, Belka, Kapasia, Chandpur, Haripur and Sreepur unions under Sunderganj upazila; Kaidasbari, Kamarjani and Rassolpur under Gaibandha Sadar upazila; Fulchhari, Gajaria and Katlamari under Fulchhari upazila; Munshirhat, Kachua and Gobindapur under Saghat upazila.

Sunderganj and Fulchhari upazila headquarters are being threatened by the erosion. Sunderganj Upazila Parishad

building is now only a few years away from erosion and Fulchhari Upazila Parishad complex is on the point of being devoured by the mighty river. Inhabitants of Fulchhari have been shifting their houses and business structures to safer places. Besides, structures of government and other departments are being sold on auction but the bidders are showing little interest on the matter as all the structures are now on the verge of extinction.

This year no precautionary measures were taken by the concerned authorities to contain the erosion of the river Brahmaputra.

Our Correspondent from Jamalpur writes: Erosion of the rivers Jamuna, Brahmaputra, Jeeringam and Ghena eroded about 10,000 homesteads rendering a large number of people homeless in seven upazilas of Jamalpur district recently.

The homeless people have taken shelter at Jamalpur, Dewanganj, Shariatshabari railway station, closed railway lines and flood control embankments. A total of 89 villages in Dewanganj, Islampur, Madarganj, Shariatshabari,

Bakshiganj and Melandah upazilas have been washed away either partially or totally.

The district administration has, however, undertaken measures to rehabilitate the homeless people.

Water Development Board (WDB) sources said that the erosion has also hit flood control embankment from Bahadurabad to Jagannathganj ghats. The erosion, if intensified further may also hit the embankment at Noapara, the source added.

The embankment is badly damaged at several points due to current year's flood and it was supposed to be repaired before monsoon. But due to fund constraints the repair work at the embankment could not be completed, it is learnt.

The erosion of these four rivers has been continuing unabated for the last 20 years. During the period about three hundred square miles in the affected areas were washed away and over two lakh people were rendered homeless. A competent source said that if the erosion continues at this pace Dewanganj upazila headquarters and Dewanganj Sugar Mills will be devoured shortly.

Meanwhile, a WDB source said that the Dewanganj upazila flood protection embankment which is being completed at a cost of Taka four crore five lakh has been threatened by the old Brahmaputra and Jeeringam erosion. With the rise in the water level of the river Jamuna, Madarganj Upazila Parishad building is now only 2500 feet away from the river. Fulzur Bazar and a large portion of the headquarters have so far been devoured by the river.

## 7 bank employees suspended for corruption

SIRAJGANJ, Oct 8: Seven employees of local Kalibari Agranj Bank branch here have been put under suspension for their alleged corruption and defalcation of huge amount of money, reports UNB.

According to bank sources, the defalcation was detected by an audit team when they found that innumerable cash drafts (CD) of approximately Tk 80 lakh were issued without cash deposit.

The employees are: Shahidur Rahman, Manager, Azizul Bari, 2nd officer Amir Hossain and staff member Ferdous, Mukul Bhaumik, Sukumar Chandra and Anjad Hossain.

## Diarrhoea epidemic in Magura

MAGURA, Oct 8: Diarrhoea and other intestinal diseases have broken out in an alarming proportion in Salikha and Sreepur upazilas of the district, reports UNB.

According to informed sources, over 300 people have been attacked by the diseases in the two upazilas during the last few days.

Chairman of Salikha upazila Sazzadur Rahman Taraddar informed that about 150 people were attacked in Talkhori

union of his upazila. The affected villages are: Chandra, Tiarpur, Chaitrabari, Naghosa and Saplat.

According to local health department, acute scarcity of pure water and taking of adulterated food were the main reasons behind the outbreak of the diseases.

A number of medical teams have been working in the affected areas to combat the diseases, official sources said.

## Publication ceremony

From Our Correspondent

NARAIL, Oct 8: The publication ceremony of the Pakhik Kiron published by Syed Naimur Rahman Firoz was held through a colourful function at Narail Press Club premises recently.

In this connection a discussion meeting was arranged which was chaired by Advocate Sarif Abdul Hakim, President, Narail Press Club.

Internationally famous artist S M Sultan attended as the chief guest and Mr Ali Hossain, Deputy Commissioner was present as the honourable guest while Mr Mozammel Hoque SP and Professor Dr Moklesur Rahman were present as the special guests respectively.

The chief guest said that without democracy the freedom of news paper cannot be ensured, without freedom of a newspaper democracy becomes meaningless.

## Netrakona Govt College plagued with problems

From Our Correspondent

NETRAKONA, Oct. 8: Netrakona Government College is facing manifold problems. The college is facing acute shortage of teachers in almost all departments causing serious inconveniences and sufferings to the students.

Since its nationalisation in 1980, 14 posts of Associate Professors have been created but these posts are yet to be filled up. Further the college got permission to open honours course in Bengali and Political Science but five years have already elapsed but still the course could not be started due to teacher shortage.

Six posts of Assistant Professors out of 10 lying vacant in the department of Philosophy, History, Islamic History, Chemistry, Bengali and Political Science. Eleven posts of lecturers out of 30 are also lying vacant in the departments of Bengali, Mathematics and Zoology. Only one Assistant Professor in each of the two departments is somehow managing the whole work load.

The inhabitants and elite of Netrakona urged the concerned authorities to start honours course and to fill up all the vacant posts.

## Indian sarees recovered

MAGURA, Oct 8: Police recovered Indian sarees worth about Tk 76,000 and arrested a man from Sreepur upazila of the district, reports UNB.

Acting on a secret information, police intercepted a micro bus (Dhaka-Cha-1278) at Majhat ghat on Magura-Kamarkhal road and recovered the sarees and arrested Mohammad Ali (32), driver of the vehicle.

A case has been registered with the Sreepur police and the arrested driver was forwarded to local court.

## 15,459 acres cropland go under water

From Our Correspondent

COMILLA, Oct 8: Following heavy rains during the last few days in nine upazilas about 15,459 acres of cropland have gone under water.

According to the district agricultural extension office sources, Paddy on 800 acres has been damaged at Nangalcoat, 2034 acres at Devidwar, 480 acres in Chandina, 7160 acres in Chouddagram, 500 acres in Laksham, 1480 acres in Muradnagar, 1000 acres in Burichang, 1225 acres in Brahmanpara, and 780 acres in Sadar upazila.

It is to be mentioned here that in Daudkandi, Humna and Barura upazilas transplanted Aman paddy were not cultivated.

Alhaj Nurul Islam (60) died on the spot when his son Mustafa Mia attacked him with a chair at Danura village under Belgur upazila under Laksham. It is alleged that the victim was buried without post mortem. Family quarrel was the cause of his death, it is learnt.

### BNSB programme

Bangladesh National Society for the Blind (BNSB) began a programme on eyesight test for the school children at Comilla. Faizunnisa Girls

School, BNSB will include 16 schools under this programme to provide treatment free of cost.

In its primary survey BNSB found that the eye problems are more among the school going children and youths.

Agni Jarer Pakhi a children and youth organisation extended its co-operation in this programme.

### Press Club executives

The election of Chouddagram Press Club was held at local VIP restaurant last week.

Professor Jamaluddin Ahmed was in the chair while President of Comilla Union of Journalists, Principal Delwar Jahid was the chief guest. It was addressed, among others, by M G Mahfuz (Daily Inquilab), Khairul Ahsan Manik (Ajker Kagaz), Md. Shahidullah (Banglar Bani), Md. Abdul Kasem (Khabar), Ali Akbar Masum (Janata), Professor Yasin Patwari (Dinkal).

The elected members of the executive body are: President — Motahar Hussain Jamal, Vice President — Professor Yasin Patwari, General Secretary — Yakub Patwari, Assistant General Secretary — A K Azad, Treasurer — Mahbulul Haque.

## 150 arrested in Munshiganj

From Our Correspondent

MUNSHIGANJ, Oct 8: One hundred fifty people were arrested and three handmade pipe guns and some lethal weapons were recovered from different parts of the district during Operation Doorbar. Of the total 28 are mastans, 63 are convicted and absconding miscreants and 59 are held under Section 54.

Total 403 criminal and 1103 civil cases including appeal cases are lying pending in the district courts.

According to the sources, 758 civil cases are lying pending in the district judge courts, sub-judge courts and senior assistant judge court in different upazilas of the district.

It is gathered that there are no assistant judges in four upazilas for a long time hampering smooth court functioning.

The existence of age-old Ramazan Baig number nine Primary School under Munshiganj Pourashava is now at stake. It is on the verge of collapse as the walls and roofs are in dilapidated condition. The classes of 500 students are being held under the open sky.

After establishment of the school building repair works were only done in 1965 and since then the school was not developed or renovated.

## 2 jailed for murder

From Our Correspondent

PATIYA, Oct 8: Mr Rafiqur Rahman Patwari, Additional District and Sessions Judge, Chittagong in a judgment delivered recently convicted Nur Muhammad and Darus Salam for murdering one Emdad Meah of Moneyabad under Satkania Upazila and sentenced them to life imprisonment.

The case in brief is that Emdad Meah, son of late Lal Meah of Moneyabad under Satkania Upazila, while returning home at night on 10-11-1986 from local cinema hall the accused Nur Muhammad and Darus Salam attacked him at Bazalia Boman Hat and inflicted injury on his chest by a sharp knife. Emdad Meah succumbed to his injuries on 11-11-1986 at Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Satkania police after investigation submitted charge sheet against the accused persons. The accused Darus Salam has, since then, been absconding.

The learned judge after examining evidences, of witnesses found them guilty of murder and awarded them life term.

Advocate Sheikh Alimullah Chowdhury APP appeared for the prosecution while

Advocate Alak Muthshuddy defended the accused.

### Faridpur

BSS from Faridpur says: Assistant Sessions Judge of Faridpur Mr A K Roy sentenced one Binode Molla alias Shahed Molla to suffer rigorous imprisonment for 14 years and a fine of Taka 10 thousand on charge of raping a minor girl.

In default to pay the fine the convict will suffer another one year, the judgment passed on last September 28 says.

According to the prosecution story the accused Binode Molla aged 50 years of village Laksmipur under Bhanga

upazila of this district raped one Zahida Khatun aged 8 while she was working in jute field in the month of July of 1990. As a result she received serious injury and had to be treated in hospital. The relatives of the victim filed a case with the police who submitted chargesheet against the accused after investigation.

Eight witnesses were examined by the court.

Assistant Public Prosecutor Ahmed Hossain Mia conducted the prosecution case while the accused was defended by advocate A Bari Molla.