

## Upazila roundup

## RANGAMATI

## Malaria claims 40 lives

Aug 30 : Malaria claimed about 40 lives and affected 600 others in Matriparna upazila in Khagrachari Hill District during the last one month. Upazila Parishad sources said here today, reports UNB.

According to sources, the ailing patients are not getting proper treatment owing to shortage of physicians and non-availability of necessary life-saving medicines in the local hospitals.

Meanwhile, conjunctivitis, a disease of the eyes and viral fever have been spreading in the greater Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Dr. Nirmal Kanti Barua of Kaptai Upazila Health Complex and Dr. Supriya, the Deputy Civil Surgeon of Rangamati Hill District told UNB that hundreds of indoor and outdoor patients are reporting for treatment daily.

## BRAHMANBARIA

## Shashanka Debnath murder case hearing begins

Aug 30 : The hearing of Shashanka Debnath murder case known as Nidarrab murder case began in the Additional District and Sessions Judge Court Sunday, reports UNB.

Eleven witnesses namely Kanchan Sarkar, Hiru Miah Chowdhury, Siddique Rahman Chowdhury, Chittaranjan Roy, Manohar Roy, Haru Mohan Chowdhury, Chandra Sarker, Lal Mohan Sarker, Jadu Mohan Sarker, Mohib Ali and Hamidul Alam Chowdhury have been examined so far.

Shashanka Debnath was murdered on October 16, 1987 by Tajul Islam and along with five other accomplices to grab his property.

## BOGRA

## 248 anti-socials arrested

Aug 30 : Police arrested 248 alleged anti-social elements from different places of the district during the last nine days under 'Operation Doorbar', reports UNB.

Police nabbed them as per the list of anti-socials prepared earlier.

But local people alleged that names of many innocent persons have been included in the list and they are being harassed by the police.

They also alleged that such people are being released on realisation of bribe. They urged the authorities to stop this harassment immediately.

When contacted, Police Superintendent of the district denied the allegation.

## CHITTAGONG

## Photo show opens

Aug 30 : A three-day photo-exhibition on the recent democratic movement and the devastating cyclone opened here on Wednesday, reports UNB.

The solo show of the photos of Pavel Rahman, a photo-journalist of American news agency Associated Press (AP), has more than 200 pictures on display.

Titled "Gano Andolan 80 and Ghurnijhar 91" the exhibition was organised by Rotary Club of Islamabad, Chittagong.

Inaugurating the show at Alliance Francaise hall eminent artist Murtaza Bashir lauded Pavel's works saying, the photographer knows the art of keeping the historic moments alive.

President of the Rotary Club Abul Hossain, local journalist Osman Gani Mansur and Pavel Rahman spoke at the function.

The show attracted a large number of visitors.

## HABIGANJ

## One killed in road mishap

Aug 30 : One government official was killed and another injured seriously when a truck lost its control and hit them on the Sylhet-Dhaka highway near Ubahata village of Chunarraghata upazila here Tuesday.

According to police, Nurul Afzal (35), a Forest Officer of Putturi succumbed on way to Sadar hospital and Jahurul Haque (46), Range Officer was admitted in a critical condition.

They were returning to their residences from Shatchari Forest on a motor cycle and the truck hit them from opposite direction.

The driver fled with the vehicle. A case has been filed with the local police.

## MADRIPUR

## Health complexes need care

Aug 30 : The Health Complexes in Madaripur and Sharidarpur districts have been facing manifold problems for a long time, reports UNB.

According to informed sources, paucity of drinking water, lack of proper drainage system in the premises of hospitals, absence of ambulances, blood banks, dental and ophthalmic instruments have aggravated the situation.

Besides, most of the health complexes do not have X-ray machines causing much inconvenience in diagnosis and treatment of diseases.

Hundreds of patients who were coming from remote areas are going back disappointed due to absence of proper treatment facilities.

Emergency patients cannot be shifted to the hospitals in the district headquarters, for lack of ambulances.

## JHENIDAH

## Dacoit nabbed

Aug 30 : Local people caught one dacoit red handed when a gang of robbers attacked them at Mahishakundu Battola near the town Wednesday night, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, a group of people numbering about eight to 10 while returning home after their days work a gang of dacoits numbering about 13 to 14 attacked them and tried to loot their belongings.

The people challenged the dacoits and caught one of them while others managed to escape. During the scuffle the dacoits stabbed Osman of Gilbaria village.

The dacoit identified as Hiron (38), of village Khajura near the town was handed over to the police.

Injured Osman was sent to Sadar hospital. A case has been filed in his connection.

## BARISAL

## T &amp; T employee gunned down

Aug 30 : Unknown miscreants gunned down a T & T employee at Bakshichar village in Babuganj upazila Wednesday night, reports UNB.

An armed gang at about 9 pm entered the house of Jaiyal Abedin (35) and called his son Jahangir, who was not in the house.

Jaijal came out when the gunmen shot at him. He fell dead on the spot as bullet pierced his head.

The body was sent to the Barisal Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

A case has been filed in this connection.

## C'NAWABGANJ

## Quackery on rise

Aug 30 : Quackery is on the rise in five upazilas of the district threatening the life of poor patients, reports UNB.

The upazila are Shibganj, Bhalhat, Gomostapur, Nachol and Sadar.

According to sources, the quacks in these upazilas are carrying on their practices with impunity.

The quacks, having no license, prescribe medicines without diagnosis endangering the lives of the patients, it is alleged.

About three hundred medicine shops, owned by these quacks, are thriving on the helplessness of the poor illiterate villagers.

Local leaders have demanded a thorough on the spot investigation by the health authorities.

## FARIDPUR

## Installation ceremony

Aug 30 : The installation ceremony of the Government Char Bhadrashan College Students Union was held at the college auditorium on August 20, reports UNB.

It may be mentioned that out of 12 seats of the college students' union polls, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) bagged eight including the post of General Secretary while Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) captured four including the post of Vice President.

Presided over by acting Principal Moslehdin Sarker, the ceremony was also addressed by Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) S. M. Shahjahan, UNO Abdul Maleque Bhuiyan, VP Md Mustafa Mustaque and GS Ayubur Rahman of the college students' union.

They were returning to their residences from Shatchari Forest on a motor cycle and the truck hit them from opposite direction.

The driver fled with the vehicle. A case has been filed with the local police.



In absence of school building a teacher is taking class in the open air at a village in Gazipur district.

— Star photo

## Primary education faces setback

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Aug 30 : A large number of government and non-government primary schools in 13 upazilas of Kishoreganj district has been facing manifold problems including shortage of teachers and accommodation, lack of necessary appliances like black boards, chalk, dusters etc., paucity of pure drinking water, shortage of funds, furniture and irregular payment of salaries.

According to the district Primary Education Department, there are 807 government and 181 non-government primary schools in the district. The total number of students in the government schools is 2,35,557 while non-government schools have 28,288 students. Besides, 90 posts of primary school teachers have been lying vacant for a long time. Most of the non-government primary schools

established under local initiatives have not yet received government recognition although these institutions have a good number of students and other requisite facilities. Some of these schools were set up before the liberation war and have been running in deplorable condition. Due to fund constraints payments of the teachers remain irregular over the years. As a result, many teachers have already left their respective institutions in utter disappointment.

On the other hand, the government schools have also been plagued with innumerable problems hampering the very purpose of the universal primary education programme to a great extent.

Most of the schools have been lacking requisite number of benches due to which students are compelled to sit on

bricks or mats. In some schools there is no chair for the teachers, so they are forced to sit on benches. The supply of necessary appliances including blackboards, chalk, duster is too inadequate.

## No playgrounds

Ninety per cent of the schools do not have playgrounds. Besides, most of the institutions have no lavatories and urinals. They also lack sufficient accommodation facilities.

So classes are being held under the open sky but that too becomes impossible during the rainy season. Moreover, a large number of schools are running in dilapidated buildings which may collapse at any moment. The roofs of the schools buildings soak water even after a slight rainfall which forces the teacher to suspend classes frequently.

Due to shortage of funds the management are not in a position to repair the schools.

Shortage of teachers is hampering the proper education of the students. Besides, dearth of trained teachers has aggravated the situation. Some of the teachers clinging to their jobs complained that they were not receiving their salaries for months together.

If remedial measures are not taken immediately the existing schools will face closure shortly, the social leaders expressed.

Moreover, some of the primary schools which have been damaged by floods, storms, cyclones and other natural calamities during the last few years have not yet been repaired in rural areas.

The guardians have appealed to the authority concerned to take effective steps so that the long standing problems of the primary schools be redressed.

## BJC owes jute growers Tk 50 lakh

KUSHTIA, Aug 30 : District units of Bangladesh Jute Corporation (BJC) have not yet paid off last year's outstanding dues of jute growers and small traders amounting to Tk 50 lakh due to shortage of funds, official sources said, reports UNB.

BJC purchased jute from the growers and small traders last year on credit through its two offices, one at Paragpur and another at Bheramara.

Local people said navigation has also become difficult because of strong current in the river Padma in the affected area.

Hundreds of people in the area have been passing their days in deep anxiety as their fields with standing crops are also threatened with inundation through breaches of the embankment near the banks of the river Padma.

The affected people of the upazila urged the authorities to provide relief including food, clothing, medicine and shelter.

Delay in lifting raw jute by the purchasing centres has pushed down prices below production cost.

It is reported that over the last few weeks prices of different varieties of jute have dropped substantially with the arrival of a small quantity of new jute in the market. The price is now quoted as low as Tk 120 to 160 per maund.

It is apprehended that with the beginning of the full season, these prices may register further fall.

Jute growers and officials have expressed their concern that huge quantity of jute might be left unsold this year due to market manipulation by unscrupulous traders.

Police sources said one Fazul Huq of Hugra union under Sadar upazila was arrested on Wednesday from Bashakhanpur area and one SMG and 14 rounds of ammunition were recovered from his possession.

Observers believe, jute production will face a drastic setback and the growers will shift to other crop if urgent corrective measures are not taken.

A total of 2,04 saplings of different trees have been distributed among the farmers of four northern districts under afforestation programme during the current season.

The districts are Chhainawabganj, Natore, Rajshahi and Naogaon.

According to Forest Department sources, the saplings of mehagani, shisham, epil-epil, shegum, shikoroi, papaya, coconut, jack-fruit and eucalyptus are being sold at nominal prices of 75 paisa to Taka two each.

Meanwhile, 360 acres of land in Naogaon and Natore districts have been brought under the afforestation programme, the sources added.

A training session was also arranged for 31 agriculture officials and 25 plantation assistants by the forest department to gear up the programme.

## A victim of sexual lust

From Our Correspondent

RURIGRAM, Aug 30 : Thirty-four activists of outlawed Shantibahini surrendered to the security forces at Marisha Zone here last week, in which one tribal girl was killed and seven others were injured.

Officials said so long they had been members of the so-called Juba Sanghati and Gram Panchayet, a political and toll collection wing of the Parbatya Juba Sanghati Samity (PJSS).

With this, a total of 294 armed activists of the Shantibahini have surrendered to the security forces here in the last two weeks.

After surrendering, they expressed their firm determination to work with the government and resist terrorism in the region.

Another report adds : Chairman of Rangamati Hill District Gautam Dewan urged the people of hill districts to build up social resistance against the outlawed

Rangamati.

Speaking in a protest rally here Gautam condemned the outlawed Shantibahini for the August 21 incident in which one tribal girl was killed and seven others were injured.

He also appealed to the conscious citizens of the country to be vocal against atrocities, torture and killings being perpetrated by the armed miscreants.

Upazila Chairman Luxmi Kumar Chakma presided over the rally held at Rupkari School field recently under Baghatehkhali upazila of the district.

Thousands of tribals and non-tribals from hill districts attended the rally.

## Kidnapped woman yet to be rescued

SATKHIRA, Aug 30 : Police could not rescue a kidnapped divorced woman after nine days of abduction from Tetulia village in Kaliganj upazila of the district, reports UNB.

Family sources said Noorjahan (28), having two kids, was kidnapped by one alleged co-villager Mobarak. All when she came out of her house at dead of night on August 19 to the call of nature.

A case was filed in this connection and police is trying hard to rescue the woman, police said.

National Mourning Day was observed at Kurigram and its adjoining upazilas by Awami League on August 15.

A day-long programme was chalked out in this connection which included placing of wreaths at the portrait of SK Mujib, Milad Mahfil, mourning procession, donation of blood, kanglei bhozo and discussion meeting.

A discussion meeting was held on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the local Pourashava hall room with Sheikh Babul in the chair.

Elderly Awami League leader Advocate Amanullah was present as chief guest while local CPB leaders Sharun-or-Rashid Lal was the special guest.

## Pests damage sugarcane on 250 acres in Jessor

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Aug 30 : Sugarcane on 250 acres of land around Churamkati in Sadar upazila has been damaged by 'majra' pests.

It is reported that about 300 acres of land of Chur