

Upazila roundup

KISHOREGANJ

390 held under Operation Doorbar

From Our Correspondent

Sept 11: Police arrested 390 anti-social elements including absconders and criminals and recovered illegal arms and ammunition from 13 upazilas of the district during the last 21 days under Operation Doorbar.

The recovered arms included nine pipe guns, 32 rounds of ammunitions, eight cocktails, 12 long knives, an axe and one ramdao.

The sources added that the arrest was made as per the list of criminals made by the district administration to improve the law and order situation in the district. But local people alleged that names of many innocent people 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 these harassments immediately. When contacted, officers in charge of the different police stations of the district denied the allegation.

PABNA

Student killed in road mishap

From Our Correspondent

Sept 11: One Zonaid Ahmed, a student of Kamil of pourashava Alia Madrasa died in a road mishap at Pushpara, 10 kilometres from the town on Sunday last.

When the victim was crossing the Pabna-Nagarbari highway suddenly Nagarbari bound truck knocked him down injuring him seriously. He was rushed to Pabna General Hospital where the doctors declared him dead. The body was sent to Pabna morgue and a case has been filed with Pabna thana in this connection.

Businessman robbed

In another incident one Abul Hussain, a businessman received bullet injury when a gang of robbers opened fire on him recently. The robbers looted Taka 40,000 in cash from injured Abul Hussain. The victim was transferred to Dhaka Suhrawardy Hospital from Pabna General Hospital.

A case has been filed with Pabna thana.

MYMENSINGH

BAUEA executives

From Our Correspondent

Sept 11: A 15-member executive committee of the Bangladesh Agricultural University Employees Association (BAUEA) for the year 1991 has been formed with Md Idris Ali and Md Luyakat Ali as its President and General Secretary respectively.

Other office-bearers of the executive body of BAUEA include Dharendra Chandra Ghose—vice-President, Md Abdul Halim—Assistant General Secretary, Md Zainul Abedin—Treasurer, Md Jalaluddin—Social Welfare Secretary, Md—Mazul Islam—Cultural Secretary, and Md Jamaluddin, Md Hashimuddin, Md Abdul Khatique, Md Ousuddin, Md Strajuddin, Md Haseen Ali and Shahid Humayun as members.

GHORASHAL

Minor girl drowns

Sept 11: One minor girl was drowned when a boat capsized at Hazipur on Meghna river yesterday noon, police said, reports UNB.

Sufia Khatun (12) of Shipur in Narshingdi district died when the boat capsized after being caught in rough weather.

The boat was carrying about 50 other passengers who managed to swim ashore. Body of the victim was sent to the Sadar hospital for autopsy.

NETRAKONA

Flash flood inundates low-lying areas

Sept 11: Flash flood inundated most of the low lying areas in four upazilas under Netrakona district.

A vast tract of agricultural land was submerged in the area during last 24 hours. The flood-hit four upazilas are Durgapur, Kaimakanda, Purbadhala and Netrakona Sadar.

Talking to BSS correspondent, Netrakona district Water Development Board officers Monday said that widespread rainfall for consecutive five days and onrush of water from the Indian Goro hilly region, about 35 kms from here, had contributed to the flash flood

situation in the district.

All the rivers of the district registered sharp rise in different points during the last 24 hours, they said.

Among the rivers, the Sumeswari at Durgapur point, the Kongsoo at Jaria point near Purbadhala and the Mogra at Netrakona Sadar were flowing a few inches below the danger levels during the period. The rivers are likely to cross their respective danger levels if the rainfall continues during the next 24 hours, they said.

JAMALPUR

Arrangement for referendum complete

Sept 11: All necessary arrangements for holding free and fair referendum on September 15 have been completed, District Election Office source said yesterday, reports UNB.

Casting of 'yes' or 'no' vote in the referendum will take place at 1740 polling booths of 372 polling centres in seven upazilas of the district.

A total of 372 Presiding Officers, 1740 Assistant Presiding Officers and 3480 polling officers have been appointed to smoothly conduct the polls.

Hats, bazars in bad shape

At least 150 hats and bazars in 12 upazilas of greater Jamalpur district are in bad condition due to the lack of proper maintenance.

Inadequate space, bad drainage system, paucity of pure drinking water, erection of unplanned sheds have impeded the normal functioning of the hats and bazars.

Most hats and bazars go under knee-deep water due to absence of proper drainage system.

A number of unauthorised shopowners is grabbing space of the bazars creating inconveniences to both buyers and sellers.

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

JHENIDAH

5 businessmen arrested

Sept 11: Five businessmen of Salkupa upazila were arrested Saturday on charge of producing adulterated edible oil, district Civil Surgeon office sources said, reports UNB.

They arrested Arun Kumar Shaha, Shantu Shaha, Sunil Kumar Shaha, Sharabindu and Sarajit Kumar Shaha who were making adulterated edible oil for a long time, the sources said.

Their bail petitions were rejected.

Upazila Health Department filed five cases against them in this connection.

FARIDPUR

Accident causes 8 km long traffic jam

Sept 11: The road communication between the capital and 17 south and south western districts came to a halt Sunday following an accident at Dhuldi rail gate, 10 kilometres from here, reports UNB.

Police said, the accident occurred when a loaded truck stuck on the Dhaka-Faridpur highway halting traffic for about 9 hours causing an 8 km long traffic jam on both sides.

Eye-witnesses said, hundreds of passengers, including women and children of night coaches plying on the highway had to stay on the road for almost the whole night.

The truck was removed with local effort.

FENI

Four sentenced to life term

Sept 11: Four people were awarded life-term and two others acquitted in connection with an attempt to murder case in Feni, reports UNB.

The District Sub-Judge Abdul Rashid Miah announced the judgement recently.

The court also fined Taka 9,000 each, in default they will have to suffer two years three months additional rigorous imprisonment.

According to the prosecution, the accused Jamiruddin, Shahjahan, Saiful Islam and Habibullah of village Rampur under Sadar upazila attacked the house of Golam Farooq Loton and Abdul Karim of the same village with explosives on June 27, 1988.

Police after investigation charge-sheeted against the accused persons.

Police arrested a man and recovered 20 bottles of country made wine from a shop in the Sunday night, reports UNB.



Continuous downpour has submerged low-lying areas in many district towns. Photo shows a rickshaw carrying passengers on an inundated road in Kushtia while others passing through knee-deep water.

Problems grip Sharishabari UZ town

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Sept 11: Sharishabari upazila town under the district is engulfed with numerous problems like scarcity of drinking water, lack of education, health, drainage system, good communication and recreational facilities.

Inhabitants of the town is deprived of all civic amenities. There is no proper drainage system in the town. The drains remain dumped with filth and garbage. As a result, water remains stagnant in many areas emitting bad odour while low-lying areas of bazar go under water after a slight rainfall.

The market of the upazila is in a very bad shape. The shops

and sheds are not installed in a systematic way. The existing shops and sheds are inadequate. The shopkeepers are facing many problems for want of space and adequate number of sheds. They carry on their business on approaching roads to the market causing much difficulties to both consumers and sellers. There is not a single shed in kutchha bazar. So the sellers are compelled to sit under the open sky.

On the other hand roads in the town are narrow and unfit for movement of both vehicles and pedestrians. Due to lack of proper care and maintenance, numerous breaches and pot-

holes have developed on many places. Even after a slight rainfall, these roads become muddy and slippery. Besides, roadside ditches are filled with filth and garbage and dirty water which become ideal centres for mosquito breeding.

There are two high schools, two colleges, five primary schools in the district but most of the institutions do not have adequate number of chairs, benches, tables, laboratory equipment, sports appliances and teachers. The Boys Pilot High School is so dilapidated that it may collapse at any time. The high school established

in 1958 has also earned a great reputation in the area but it is yet to be nationalised.

Frequent power failure and voltage fluctuations have become a regular menace in the market area. Very often entire town along with the busy shopping centre plunges into darkness due to sudden power shut down.

Shortage of houses poses a serious problem to the people. Construction work has been stopped long ago both in public and private sectors.

Absence of recreational facilities make children frustrated as they are unable to

spend leisure time.

According to the sources, open and silted drains, derelict ponds and garbage dumped on roadsides help in breeding of mosquitoes.

The only hospital in Sharishabari upazila is also beset with a host of problems depriving people from medical care.

Beds of the hospital remain dirty and are not changed regularly. There is no X-Ray machine and ambulance in the hospital and even surgical appliances are not adequate. Irregular water supply multiplies the sufferings of the patients and staff of the hospital.

Students urged to make campuses violence-free

BANCHARAMPUR (Brahmanbaria), Sept 11: Education and Cultural Affairs Minister Prof. A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday said the government was determined to improve the law and order situation in the country and establish a happy and prosperous society, reports BSS.

But, he said a vested quarter was trying to create indiscipline in the name of politics. He said one student organisation was destroying government properties by holding meeting and processions in support of the killers of Dr Milon under cover of this politics.

Prof Chowdhury was addressing a public meeting at

Civic amenities absent in Patuakhali

PATUAKHALI, Sept 11: Deplorable condition of roads, absence of proper drainage system, lack of sanitation, poor arrangements of recreational facilities and mosquito menace have made the civic life here miserable, reports UNB.

According to sources, most of the roads within the municipal area are narrow and uneven. Cracks and potholes have developed at many points of the roads causing problems to pedestrians as well as vehicular movement.

The roadside ditches are filled with filth and garbage causing bulk breeding of mosquitoes. Even after a slight rainfall, rainwater remains stagnant on many roads for days together due to absence of sufficient drainage system.

Street lights are inadequate and a large area of the town plunges into darkness after sun set giving rise to anti-social activities.

Housing problem has also become acute with the rise of population in the township. Rented house is also not available with the increasing need of the people.

In the absence of recreational facilities in the town youths have been facing problems to enjoy their pastime. There is a children park in the town but due to lack of maintenance and proper care it has become unfit for use.

the premises of Bancharampur Degree College here. The meeting was also addressed by State Minister for Labour and Manpower Rafiqul Islam Mia and A T M Wali Ashraf MP.

Citing examples of different ideal educational institutions, Prof Chowdhury said better atmosphere in the educational institutions was possible if teachers and guardians take initiative. He said nationalisation was not the only way to improve the quality of education, rather the students, teachers and the guardians including the managing committee had to take responsibility in this regard.

Terming the students as the future leaders and torch-bearers of the society, Prof Chowdhury said the society was bound to be loser if they (students) engaged themselves in terrorism and indiscipline. He called upon the students to devote themselves to studies for building them as ideal citizens of the country.

Mr Rafiqul Islam said the BNP government was determined to establish an exploitation and corruption free society on the basis of social justice. He called upon the people to participate in the coming referendum.

Earlier, the Education Minister inaugurated rural tuberculosis and leprosy control programme with a call to raise mass awareness against tuberculosis.

Drinking water scarce in Patuakhali

PATUAKHALI, Sept 11: Charga and Charhalim upazilas of the district have been going without adequate drinking water, as all the water sources have been affected by salinity, reports UNB.

The two upazilas, having 100 miles of densely populated area, need immediate installation of a sufficient number of tubewells to ensure sufficient and pure water supply, local leaders said.

Local people have urged their representatives to raise the demand and arrange to mitigate the suffering of the people.

Posts of 100 pry teachers lying vacant

KISHOREGONJ, Sept 11: A total of 100 posts of primary school teachers have been lying vacant for years in 13 upazilas of the district, reports UNB.

According to the District Primary Education Office, out of vacant posts, 72 are that of Headmasters and the rest 28 of assistant teachers.

Of the vacancies, 16 are in Auzagram, 15 in Itna, 10 each in Kurigram and Pakundia, 8 each in Sadar, Bajitpur and Kuliarchar, 6 in Katiadi, 5 in Tarail, 4 each in Mitamin and Bhairab and 3 each in Nikli and Hossainpur upazilas.

From Our Correspondent

Soil fertility is also essential for soil fertility, he added. Local people alleged that the Agricultural extension officials hardly maintain contact with rural people engaged in cultivation of various crops.

Fire stations demanded

Property worth crores of take is being damaged in absence of fire-stations in 11 upazilas of the district every year.

According to the reports, every year fire accidents cause heavy damage to life and prop-

IGP seeks people's help to curb crime

JESSORE, Sept 10: The Inspector General of Police, Mr Tayebuddin Ahmed, Saturday urged upon the people to help and cooperate with police in curbing crime and smuggling.

He was addressing a meeting of cross section of people at Jessore police line conference room.

The meeting held to exchange views on law and order situation was attended by local members of parliament, elite and journalists.

He said Operation Doorbar being carried out countrywide had produced satisfactory result in improving law and order situation and apprehending large number of offenders and miscreants and recovering huge illegal arms.

Members of Parliament and other participants placed their view points and suggestions in the meeting.

The IGP said with existing limitations in manpower and facilities, police will do its best to maintain law and order and quell crime and smuggling. Later large number of unauthorised arms, ammunition and lethal weapons recovered by police in greater Jessore were shown to the participants.

Earlier on his arrival here the IGP addressed the officers in charge of all police stations of greater Jessore and other

senior officers of police department at Jessore police line.

He asked them to discharge their duties with dedication and sincerity. Sounding a note of caution he said anyone found in fault would be severely dealt with. The meeting was also attended, among others, by DIG of Khulna and Superintendents of Police of Jessore, Narail, Jhenidah and Magura.

Two jailed for smuggling

COMILLA, Sept 11: Two people have been sentenced to one year rigorous imprisonment each on charge of smuggling Indian sarces, reports UNB.

Court sources said, the convicts were also fined Tk 500 each and in default to suffer another seven days RI.

Additional Sessions Judge Emdadul Haque delivered the judgement recently.

According to prosecution story, Ruhul Amin and Shah Alam were crossing Bangladesh border with 19 pieces of Indian sarces. BDR police arrested one of them near Munshirbazar under Sadar upazila of the district while the other managed to escape.

Shah Alam has been tried in absentia.

Smuggled goods seized

Another report adds: Bangladesh Rifles seized smuggled goods worth about Tk 21.72 lakh and arrested seven alleged smugglers from the border outposts during the last month.

The contraband items include Indian sarces, lungi, medicine, sugar, turmeric, onion, spices, pulses, cycle and rickshaw parts and timber worth about Tk 21.59 lakh while being smuggled into the country.

BDR also seized fish, dry fish, powdered milk, electronic goods, old garments worth Tk 13,000 while being smuggled out of the country.

The goods were later handed over to the local customs and several cases were lodged in this connection.

Notes from Magura

MAGURA, Sept 11: Most of the government and non-government primary schools in four upazilas of the district have been facing manifold problems for a long time, reports UNB.

At present, there are 262 government and 92 registered non-government primary schools in Sadar, Sreepur, Salikha and Mohammadpur upazilas of the district.

But in most of the schools, students have to attend their classes amid great difficulties due to shortage of accommodation and furniture, inadequate water supply and absence of toilet system.

Besides, the situation is aggravating with the increase in the number of admission seeking students and shortage of teachers, local leaders and guardians complained.

They also alleged that a good number of teachers always remain absent and some attend the school at the time of their own choice after completing other duties.

Suicide

A youth of Parla village under Sadar upazila allegedly committed suicide by taking poison, police and family sources said.

The victim Abdus Salam (20) gave away his life following a family feud recently.

The body was sent to Magura morgue for autopsy. A case has been registered with the Magura police station in this connection.

3 Sarbahara party activists held

Police arrested three leaders of so-called Sarbahara Party from Dighalgramme village under Salikha upazila of the district.

Acting on a secret information, a police force led by Delwar Hossain ASP, raided the hideouts of the village and arrested Salim, Nazrul and Chitya. A cut-rifle was also recovered from their possession.

The arrested three were sent to jail hayat.

A case has been registered with the Salikha police station in this connection.

148 arrested

Magura police arrested a total of 148 alleged criminals from four upazilas of the district under Operation Doorbar during the last 15 days ending Saturday.

Police also recovered arms and ammunition including five pipeguns, one SMG, one cut-rifle, 50 rounds of ammunition and other locally made weapons from their possession.

ASP Delwar Hossain said of the total arrested people, 68 were nabbed from Sadar, 30 from Salikha, 30 from Sreepur and the rest from Mohammadpur upazilas.

Most of them were wanted for various criminals cases and several cases were filed against them.

Housing problem acute in Chandpur

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, September 11: Shortage of accommodation has become acute in Chandpur district over the last few years.

It is learnt that the population of the town has increased considerably after its upgradation into district headquarters. But the construction of new houses and residential quarters has not been increased due to high prices of land and building materials.

As a result government officials, teachers and businessmen have been suffering much. Corporations, banks and NGOs have opened their offices but none has any quarters for staff members. Many private houses are being used as offices and residential quarters.

On the other hand, the house owners are charging exorbitant rents. Absence of House Building Finance Corporation Office at Chandpur has aggravated the situation.

Naogaon poura employees go on pen down strike

NAOGAON, Sept 11: Employees of the district pourashava are observing pen down strike for indefinite period demanding outstanding payments of 11 months' salary, reports UNB.

The employees facing hardship because of the non-payment of salaries months together began the pen down strike on September 7.

Earlier, they observed 48-hour pen down strike beginning September 3 and brought out a procession in the town in support of their demands which also include five years' provident fund deductions.

Local people have extended support to the employees' demands and urged the government to take initiative in solving the problems of the municipality employees at the earliest.