

Upazila roundup

GAIBANDHA
Rickshawpuller killed in road mishap

From Our Correspondent
Sept 14: One rickshawpuller was killed and another one received serious injuries when a speeding truck dashed two rickshaws at Dhanghara three kilometres off Gaibandha on Saturday last.
According to police two rickshaws were coming from side lane of Gaibandha-Palashbari highway. When the rickshaws took a turn towards high way a truck Dhaka Metro NA 6442 bound for Palashbari dashed both the rickshaws from behind. As a result one rickshaw was damaged on the spot killing its puller Jamruddin (30) of village Bhadrupur under Sadar Upazila and another rickshawpuller Sabur of the same village received severe injuries. Both the persons first were shifted to Gaibandha modernized hospital where Jamruddin succumbed to his injured and Sabur was removed to RMCH in a critical condition.
The driver of the truck, however managed to escape leaving the truck on the spot.

HABIGANJ
Rotary Club formed

From Our Correspondent
Sept 14: The Rotary Club Habiganj unit was formed in a meeting held at local pourashava office bhavan recently.
Mr Shahid Choudhury, Chairman Habiganj Pourashava presided over the meeting.
A 25-member committee was also formed with Mr Shahid Choudhury and Mr Thairlok Kanti Choudhury (BJ) as President and Secretary of the club respectively.

NANDAIL
Tree plantation programme

From Our Correspondent
Sept 14: Nandail Central Co-operative Society has taken up a tree plantation programme throughout the upazila and distributed saplings among the members for plantation.
A meeting under the auspices of the society which was presided over by Humayun Kabir, Chairman, BRDB and addressed, among others, by Mr Akbar Hussain, Mr Abdur Rahman and Abdus Salam Thakur, BRDB officer, Assistant BRDB officer and Director respectively.
About 1500 saplings were distributed among the members of the society after the meeting.
Meanwhile, Nandail High School has taken up a programme on tree plantation this year. Five hundred saplings have already been distributed among the students and the teachers for plantation, it is reported.

FARIDPUR
Dacoit succumbs to injuries

Sept 14: An activist of alleged inter district gang of dacoits succumbed to his injuries in district General Hospital Thursday, reports UNB.
The dacoit identified as Baharuddin, hailed from village Baghatia under Daulatpur upazila of Manikganj district, police sources added.
According to the sources, Baharuddin along with nine others of his gang were apprehended by the villagers while they tried to commit dacoity at village Salehpur under Charbhadrans upazila in the district on September 10.
Four villagers who received bullet injuries while chasing the dacoits were sent to district General Hospital. They are improving, hospital sources said.

KURIGRAM
Housewife commits suicide

Sept 14: A newly married young housewife allegedly committed suicide sleeping pills, police sources said here Thursday, reports UNB.
Family sources said, the victim Rebecka Begum (18), wife of Saifur Rahman of village Barabari in Sadar upazila of the district allegedly gave away her life recently following a family dispute.
It is learnt that Rebecka was married just two months ago. Her body was sent to Sadar Hospital for post mortem and a case has been registered in this connection.

JHENAIKHAH
Skeleton of man recovered

Sept 14: Police recovered a skeleton of a man from a sugarcane field at village Chakra under Kailganj upazila of the district Thursday, reports UNB.
It was sent to district morgue.

Local people suspected that the skeleton could be of some one murdered there earlier.

Procession
Activists of District Chhatra League (A-A) brought out a procession here Wednesday late evening protesting the recent incident of attack on Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina in Dhaka.
The activists took to the street immediately after hearing about the incident on BBC. They also held a meeting in the town and condemned the incident.

PANCHAGARH
Flood-hit people assured of help

Sept 14: Law and Justice Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz on Thursday called for greater unity and consensus of people to materialise the long-cherished aspiration for parliamentary democracy, reports BSS.
He was addressing a series of gathering while visiting different shelters for flood affected people of Panchagarh Pourashava and Tetulia.
The Law Minister said cash and material assistance would be given to families affected due to heavy downpour and flash flood. He said that flood protection embankments would be built where necessary and road links between Panchagarh and Bogra would be constructed in near future.
Water has stated receding from all five upazilas of Panchagarh district.

Turning to the 12th Constitutional Amendment Bill the Minister called upon the people to cast 'yes' vote for transition to parliamentary democracy.
He said people are the guiding force in running the democratic government. In this context he directed the BNP workers to inspire and motivate the people for massive turn-out in the coming referendum.
Mr N I Khan, Secretary of BNP Central Committee, accompanied the Minister to see the prevailing flood situation.

NARAIL
Bus journey hazardous

Sept 14: Excessive fare, deplorable condition of roads and violation of traffic rules have turned bus journey hazardous in different routes of the district.
According to passengers, clashes following altercations between passengers and conductors on bus fare much above the normal rate have become a regular feature.
Besides, most of the roads are in bad shape with holes and ditches at many places making them unfit for vehicular movement. The roads from Kalna to Jessore via Narail and Kalna to Narail are so narrow to allow a vehicle give side to another to pass.
Bus communication from the river Chitra to Lohagara is also hazardous due to inadequate ferry services. A ferry-boat plying there can not cope with the heavy pressure of traffic movement. Vehicles remain stranded for hours together on both sides of the river.
Local people have been demanding a bridge on the river since long to improve the communication system.

BRAHMANBARIA
One killed by miscreants

Sept 14: One Shoeb Miah (18) of Nurpur village under Nasir Nagar upazila of the district was allegedly killed by a gang of miscreants Wednesday night, reports UNB.
Police suspected the killing might be the result of previous enmity between two rival groups.
Post mortem of the deceased was performed in the Sadar Hospital Friday.
A case has been lodged with Nasir Nagar police station in this connection.

JAMALPUR
Four dacoits nabbed: looted goods recovered

Sept 14: Police arrested four dacoits and recovered some looted goods from their possessions at Islampur upazila recently, reports UNB.
According to police sources, a gang of dacoits are active in Islampur, Bakshiganj, Jhenagati, Sreebordi and Sadar upazila of Jamalpur and Sherpur district and are committing various types of crimes.
Meanwhile, a high level meeting of police personnel was held at the office of the Deputy Commissioner to review their drive to curb activities of the miscreants.

Eye diseases
Eye diseases have broken out in an alarming proportion in all the upazilas of the district.
Members of almost all families are affected by the diseases.
A large number of people with various kinds of eye diseases is pouring into the Sadar Hospital every day.
The diseases caused by 'Adeno Virus' are being cured within three to four days.



Women extracting jute from the rotten stalk at a village in Kishoreganj. —Star photo

620 families marooned in Narail
Flood situation deteriorates

NARAIL, Sept 14: At least 620 families of four villages of Shalagar union in Lohagara upazila of the district have become marooned due to incessant rainfall during the last two days, reports UNB.
The worst affected villages are Madral, Shibbar, Salnagar and Azimpur. These villages are also threatened by erosion of the river Madhumati.
At least 10 thatched and semi-pucca houses of Shibbar Bazar have been damaged by the erosion of the river.
Standing crops on 450 acres of land have been washed away by the flood water.
Local people have urged the authorities to take necessary steps to save the Shibbar Bazar and rehabilitate the flood affected people.
A message from Gaibandha adds: Flood situation in the district has further aggravated with the rise of water level in Brahmaputra, Teesta, Jamuna and Ghagot following heavy downpour and onrush of flood water from upper riparian.
Badly affected areas are Sadar, Fulchari, Sughata and Sundarganj upazilas including low-lying areas of 7 upazilas of the districts.
Local Fulchari upazila leaders claimed that public and private buildings and other properties worth about Tk 15 crore were devoured by Brahmaputra due to negligence of the authorities.

About 10,000 people have been rendered homeless and 15,000 people marooned by flood water and erosion of the river Brahmaputra and Jamuna. A part of flood control embankment at Kamarjani bandar of Sadar upazila have also been threatened by the flood water.
Standing crops on a vast tract of land have been damaged and different hats and bazars of low-lying areas were submerged.
Our Correspondent adds: Brahmaputra river erosion has suddenly taken a serious turn at Fulchari upazila. Continued erosion, meanwhile, devoured huge government and private properties. Surging water has eroded a mosque, a bank building and a portion of thana compound within last few days. Fulchari upazila Parishad building may be eroded at any moment.
Water Development Board this year did not take any initiative to halt the erosion as the precautionary measure taken earlier proved futile.
Out of seven unions of Fulchari upazila four have already been eroded. Facing wide ravage of erosion local people are shifting their dwellings to safer places while structures of government and other departmental offices are being sold in auction. But the bidders are less interested to procure the property.

Crimes galore in Jamalpur

From Our Correspondent
JAMALPUR, Sept 14: Despite rigorous efforts by law enforcing agency to contain crimes the overall law and order situation in the district has further deteriorated.
According to the local people, the crimes like theft, robbery, murder, rape, gambling, cow-lifting, illegal VCR shows, unabated menace of gay girls and illegal ganja plantation have increased surpassing all previous records.
At least 20 robberies and 30 thefts were committed in seven upazilas of the district during the last fortnight. Besides, pick-pocketing has also taken a serious turn. The rate of divorce and child marriage is increasing alarmingly in the district.
According to reliable sources, over 35 women were given divorce in seven upazilas during the last fortnight. Husbands abandoned their wives for not getting demanded dowry by putting slur on their character.
Besides, marriages of minor girls are being solemnised in seven upazilas despite government ban. Girls under 18 years are not eligible for marriage. Local elite have urged the authorities to enforce anti-dowry law strictly and impose restriction on divorce without any valid reason.
Ganja plantation in different char areas at Dewanganj and Sadar upazilas have increased alarmingly. Narcotics and Liquor Department recently seized several ganja plants from Dewanganj upazila. Local people alleged that some dishonest Narcotic and Liquor Department officers are bribing ganja cultivators to cultivate it on a large scale. Illegal sale of liquor in different areas of the district towns and other upazila towns are going on unabatedly. A large number of stationary and grocery shops are illegally selling liquor freely without any valid licence, it is alleged.
At night the youths are found waiting in queues to purchase liquor at exorbitant price.
Competent sources said that number of such unauthorised wine shops is increasing in the town areas giving rise to the anti-social activities.

Eye disease breaks out

From Our Correspondent
KISHOREGANJ, Sept 14: Eye disease has broken out in an alarming proportion in all the 13 upazilas of the district during the last 15 days. The HSC examinees and the school-going students of the district are the worst sufferers.
Everyday a large number of patients of all ages having various eye diseases is rushing to Kishoreganj Sadar Hospital and different health complexes of the district. Informed sources said that in Sadar, Bahrab and Bajitpur areas the disease has taken a serious turn and members of almost all the families have been attacked with the disease.
The eye specialist of Sadar Hospital and Civil Surgeon of Kishoreganj said that 40 per cent of the patients who come to the hospital everyday from town and rural areas are attacked by the virus. The cause of the widespread outbreak could not be ascertained. The disease known 'adeno virus' is being cured within four or five days, they said.

Jute growers face uncertain future

From Our Correspondent
SATKHIRA, Sept 14 Sharp fall in jute prices in all the hats and bazars of the district has thrown the local jute growers into an uncertain future.
No purchasing centre has yet been opened in the district either by the government or by any private agency threatening further decline in the prices. The 'dalals' (middlemen) taking advantage of the situation are depriving the jute growers of fair price.
In their utter helplessness the growers are selling their hard laboured produce to the local middlemen at throw away prices. Jute is being sold at Taka 190 and 215 per maund in Satkhira Sadar, Aliganj, Debhata, Assasuni, Syamnagar, Tala and Kalaroa upazilas while few days back it was sold at taka 250 to 275 per maund.
According to an official of Agricultural Extension Department of the district, the production cost of jute this year has stood at Taka 375 per maund including lease amount of the land, labour cost and costs of other inputs. Thus growers have sustained a loss of Taka 185 to 160 per maund, he added. Farmers alleged that middlemen and stockists taking advantage of the situation, depriving them of fair price due to lack of proper marketing system.
When contacted, local jute traders said that the prevailing jute market is the impact of reluctance of jute exporters, millers and different centres including Daulatpur of Khulna who have no bank loan this year to purchase jute.
In the absence of jute purchasing centres price of jute was falling abnormally and price hike of the essential commodities has aggravated the situation.
It may be mentioned here that jute is the only cash crop

in all seven upazilas of the district where 85 per cent jute growers purchase their daily requirements by selling jute. In this adverse situation jute is being smuggled to India. If such situation continues for further 20 days, entire local jute will be smuggled to India and West Bengal where it is being sold at high rates, it is learnt.
The authorities should come forward immediately to check jute smuggling to protect local produce for national interest.
Our Gaibandha correspondent adds: Jute cultivators of Gaibandha district are being deprived from fair price of their produce. At present, the selling price of jute in local markets is below the production cost.
But due to financial crisis farmers are compelled to sell their produce at nominal prices to the brokers or purchasing agencies.

Malaria claims 30 more in hill districts

RANGAMATI, Sept 14: Malaria has been spreading fast in the Hill districts claiming 30 more lives and affecting hundreds of others in the last one month, it was learnt from official sources, reports UNB.
The worst affected areas are: Matiranga, Panchari, Manikchari and Dighinala upazilas of Khagrachari Hill district and Krongchari upazila of Bandarban district.
Of them, 20 died in Puzsang, Longang, Ullachari, Zinnagar Madhyannagar in Panchari upazila.
Sakhina Begum (27) of Ullachari along with her husband Hashem and sons Abdul Khalque (12) and Malek (10) died on August 27, having only one member of the family alive.
A local UP member Hazzal Ali (30) has also been a casualty of malaria recently.
Sources said 600 families out of 1600 Taidong, Tabalchari and adjoining areas under Matiranga upazila of Khagrachari district have been affected by the disease.
Ten people died of malaria in a day at Raizang Karbarpara of Aiclong Mauza under Raungehari upazila of Bandarban district on August 7.
Malaria affected about 500 people in Raungehari Upazila Parishad sources said.
All the inhabitants of the village Raizang — nearly about 100 families — 50 per cent of whom have been affected, have abandoned their homes and migrated to areas, they consider to be safe from malaria.
The Civil Surgeon of Khagrachari district has visited the affected areas and said medical teams were being sent to the malaria hit areas.

Shelters in Sundarbans yet to be built

From Our Correspondent
SATKHIRA, Sept 14: Fishermen, woodcutters, honey and gopata collectors in the Sundarbans are leading miserable life since cyclone and tidal surge in April last.
About 1500 fishermen were reported to be either dead or missing in Satkhira, Khulna and Bagerhat districts in greater Khulna. The decision to build 12 shelters in Sundarbans was taken three years ago. But it is yet to be materialised. The inhabitants demand urgent attention to the authorities to implement the cyclone shelters construction project. They said that last year fishermen of the area paid Taka 20 lakh as sales tax.
Eye disease has broken out in an alarming proportion in all the seven upazilas of the district. The HSC examinees of the district are the worst sufferers. The disease has taken a serious turn and affecting almost all the members of every family.
Everyday a large number of affected people of all ages is pouring into Satkhira Sadar Hospital, upazila health complexes and private clinics. An eye specialist of Satkhira town told this correspondent that 40 per cent of the patients from town and rural areas coming to his clinic are attacked by this viral eye disease.
The cause of the widespread outbreak could not be ascertained. The effect of Adeno Virus eye disease lasts for seven days, he added. Meanwhile, taking advantage of the situation the local medicine traders have enhanced the prices of eye drops and ointments in the town and rural, it is alleged.
A meeting under the auspices of BNP Bhomra union unit was held at the local UP office recently.
Md Abdul Rashid presided over the meeting while it was addressed, among others, by Abdur Rahman, Belal Chowdhury, Yousuf Ali and Tauheedul Islam.
JP meeting
Another meeting under the auspices of Jatiya Party, Satkhira district unit was held at local Jatiya Party office recently.
The meeting was presided over by Sardar Abdul Jalil and addressed, among others, by Mr Habibur Rahman, ex-MP Shahidul Islam, Nurul Islam, Munshi Abdul Jalil, Bishwanath and Kazi Amjad Hussain. The speakers demanded unconditional release of former President and Jatiya Party Chairman IIM Ershad.

Students rally
A students rally under the auspices of BCL (S-A), Satkhira town unit was held at the local New Market premises recently.
Maroof Hossain Mithu presided over the function while it was addressed, among others, by Awami League leader Sheikh Abu Nazim Motna, Chhatra League leader Sheikh Sayeduddin, Mahmud Ali Suman, Syed Ziaur Rahman, Anit Kumar Mukherjee, Salmi Reza and Jahangir Kabir Palush.

Six children die of diarrhoea in Comilla

From Our Correspondent
COMILLA, Sept 14: Six children died of diarrhoea and 300 others have been attacked by the disease in three villages of Burichang upazila under Comilla district during the last 72 hours.
According to the non-government sources, the victims are Deauty (5), Rasheda (6), Shaiful Alam (4), two sisters Raina (8) and Minu (6) and Karim Hussain (3).
The medical facilities are inadequate in the district multiplying the sufferings of the patients further. Taking advantage of the situation the local medicine traders have enhanced the prices of oral saline and other necessary medicines, it is alleged.
HSC exam
The HSC examination of Comilla Board started on Thursday.
Due to cyclone and tidal surge in the district the date of HSC examination was shifted earlier.
A total of 67,577 examinees have been appearing in the examination. Of them 50,510 are male and 17,067 are female candidates. The examination is being held in 129 centres under the Comilla Board.
Meanwhile, due to heavy downpour and onrush of water from Tripura hills thousands of acres of land have gone under water.

Three trains withdrawn, passengers suffer

From Our Correspondent
NANDAIL, Sept 14: Nandail railway authority has withdrawn two down and one up trains from the Bhairab-Mymensingh route on a decision taken up by the authorities recently.
From the beginning the number of trains on this route was inadequate and with the withdrawal of these three trains the situation has worsened further. As a result, the passengers are compelled to avail remaining trains overcrowding all the compartments. Consequently most of the passengers particularly the female are seen helpless.
Moreover, passengers are bound to travel on roofs, engines and even on the joints of the bogies due to shortage of space inside the compartments.
The authorities have cancelled the trains paying no heed to the suffering of the passengers, it is alleged.
Resumption of withdrawn trains is most essential to reduce the untold sufferings of the passengers on this route, it is opined.
450 tribal refugees back home
RANGAMATI, Sept 14: At least 450 tribal refugees returned home from Tripura State of India last month, official sources said, reports UNB.
They returned from the camps at Karbuk, Shilachari, Lebachari and Thakumbari of the Tripura state.
The returnees have been provided with all possible relief and assistance by the district administration. Local government parishad have been working to rehabilitate them.
Local government parishad chairman of the Hill district Samiran Dewan said the tribal inhabitants of Panchari and Rangbari were forced to leave their home by the outlawed Shantibahini insurgents.



CHITTAGONG: Mr Reazuddin Ahmed, President, Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists, addressing a rally of the local journalists at the Press Club recently. —Star photo