Meagre relief goods

for erosion victims

Upazila roundup

JHENIDAH

Dacoity bid foiled: one killed

From Our Correspondent

Sept 15: A dacoit was shot dead and two others were injured by two guards while a gang of dacoits were trying to break open the gate of Joradah branch of Janata Bank in Harinakundu upazila Thursday.

Police said at about 2 am a gang of dacoits numbering about 15 to 20 raided the bank attempting to break open the gate. The night guards then opened fire at the dacoits. At this one unidentified dacoit aged about 25 was killed on the spot. The dacoits then returned the fire and tried to decamp with the body but failed following a hue and cry by the local people. But they managed to decamp with two other fellow injured leaving some tools they brought for breaking the volts and locks.

Additional Police Super and Senior Principal Officer of Janata Bank of Jhenidah regional branch visited the spot. Mention may be made here that the Shaikhpara branch of Sonali Bank in Shailakupa upazila was looted on September 6 from where the dacoits took away about Tk 70,000 and a DBBL gun. The same gang was active in looting the banks, police suspected.

SIRAJGANJ

Hartal observed From Our Correspondent

Sept 15: Half-day hartal was observed all over the district yesterday in response to a hartal call by Awami League in protest against an attempt on Sheikh Ilasina's life on September 11.

During hartal hours a motor eyele No Dhaka Metro 03-9427 was damaged at Belkuchi Upazila Sadar. All business establishments were closed up to 12 noon. No other untoward incident was reported.

Loan exemption

UNB says : Exemption of agricultural credit began in the district yesterday with Sonali Bank writing off a total of Taka 5,58,000.

On the first day, 70 borrowers were exempted from loans up to Tk 5,000 along with interests in fulfillment of the ruling party's election pledge, officials said.

MAGURA

2 women drown

Sept 15 : Two women were drowned and five others missing after a ferry boat capsized yesterday in river Chitra in Shalikha upazila of the district, reports UNB.

Overloaded with cargo and passengers, the boat sank in the river near village Harishpur yesterday morning. police and survivors said.

Other passengers swam ashore after the machanised boat with 30 people on board had gone down the river on its way to Shalikha from Arpara in the upazila.

Identity of the two women, aged between 40 and 50, could not be known immediately.

The bodies were sent to a local hospital for postmortem and a case was filed with Shalikha police.

PIROJPUR

One killed by dacoits

Sept 15 : One youth was killed and a teenage boy received injury during a series of dacoity at village Koibarta Khalee in Sadar upazila here Friday night, police and witnesses said, reports UNB.

Villager said Dulal Gazt (20) died on the spot and Bashir (18) received serious stab injury when they challenged the dacoits. Both of them were the inhabitants of the same village.

A gang of dacoits numbering 12 to 15 armed with deadly weapons committed dacoities in five houses of the village and decamped with eash money, gold ornaments and other

Bashir was admitted to the Sadar hospital where his condition was stated to be critical. A case has been filed in this connection.

KHULNA

Jeep burnt on hartal day

Sept 15 : A dawn-to-noon hartal called by Awami League was observed peacefully here Saturday despite some stray incidents, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, a jeep of Assistant Engineer of Roads and High Ways Division was burnt by picketers in front of Shaheed Hadis Park at 10

Attendance in government

offices, banks, jute mills, news print mills and hard board mills was almost normal.

Most of the shops and business establishments were closed while some rickshaws were seen plying on the streets. Cargo handling of Mongla Port was disrupted as officials and workers could not reach the port.

Hartal supporters including Bangladesh Chhatra League (A-A) brought out some small processions in the town and chanted various anti-government slogans. They also demanded punishment to the persons responsible for the attack on the life of Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina.

Meanwhile, activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal brought out separate processions against the hartal call in the town.

C'NAWABGANJ Flood situation unchanged

Sept 15 : The river Mahananda passing through the district is still flowing 115 em above the danger mark keeping the flood situation unchanged, reports UNB. Road communication be-

tween the district and other parts of the country are yet to About 361 sq kilometres

area of the district have been inundated and standing crops on 70,000 acres of land were damaged by the flash flood.

The flood that damaged about 30,000 homesteads in the district has so far claimed about seven lives.

Meanwhile, diarrhoea and other gastro-intestinal diseases have broken out in an epidemic form in most of the affeeted areas. Scarcity of drinking water and shortage of medicines have aggravated the situation.

No relief materials have so far reached the affected areas, local people complained.

GAIBANDHA

Four commit suicide

Sept 15 : Four people including two housewives allegedly committed suicide in Sadar upazila, police said here today, reports UNB.

Kamrul Mia (18), of Jugaipara village in Sadar upazila killed himself by taking poison recently. The reason behind the incident could not be ascertained.

Asful Begum (26), wife of Montaj Ali of Saterjan village in Sudarganj upazila and Sarbhan Begum (30), wife of Jahir Uddin Taluk of village Sarbanada in the same upazila took their own lives on the same day following family foud, villagers said.

Besides, one middle-aged man Azimuddin (40), of Mirganj village of the same upazila allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself from the tree, near his house.

The reason behind the incident could not be known. Separate cases have been filed with police.

SATKHIRA

One killed in clash over land dispute

Sept 15: A man was killed and two others were injured following a clash between two rival groups of farmers at village Murgacha in Kaliganj upazila Friday, reports UNB.

The clash ensued over the possession of a disputed land. The injured Wazed Ali, Ayesha Khatun and Ashraf Ali were rushed to the local upazila health complex where

uries. A case has been filed with local police in this connection.

Wazed Ali succumbed to his in-

KURIGRAM

27 die of diarrhoea

Sept 15 : Twenty-seven people died of diarrhoea and 500 others were attacked by the disease in four unions of Nageswari upazila during the last 10 days, reports UNB.

According to informed sources, of the total, nine died in Kadar union, two in Ballaverkhash union, 10 in Berubari union and six in Kachakata union.

Local people complained that no effective measures have yet been taken to check the spread of the disease.

On the other hand, health workers complained that they could not take necessary steps due to shortage of preventive medicines.

Another message from .Jamalpur says that diarrhoea claimed four lives and attacked about 1500 others in five upazilas of the district during the last three days.



A flood-hit area in Rajshahi. (Star photo by Mostafa Kamal Majumder)

Transplanted aman production falls

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Sept 15 Production of transplanted aman in all the seven upazilas of the district has registered a sharp fall mainly due to short supply and price hike of fertil-Official sources said that the

rate of fall in production of transplanted aman in the district was about 40 per cent this year. Prices of fertilizers have recorded a rise by Taka 200 per bag on an average. The government price for each bag of fertilizer is Taka 201.25. The total requirement of

Urea fertilizer for the district was estimated at about 2.50 tons this year. The Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) is yet to supply fertilizers to the growcrs. The stock of fertilizers at BADC godowns is almost nil. About 40 per cent of the total cultivable land in the district

CHANDPUR, Sept 15: Civic

amenities in Chandpur

Pourashava are absent for a

long time. The residents have

not yet been provided with

essential urban facilities de-

spite upgradation of the subdi

causing serious difficulties for

both pedestrians and vehicular

movement. Numerous wide

and deep potholes have devel-

oped on different places

Besides, these roads become

muddy and slippery after a

slight rainfall. Roadside

ditches are always filled with

garbages which have turned

into ideal mosquito breeding

are also very deplorable. Shops

have been built in a haphazard

way and lack of adequate num-

ber of sheds in the market

compelled the traders to carry

on their business on footpaths.

Frequent power failure and

voltage fluctuations have be-

come almost a regular feature.

Lack of adequate number of

street lights cause much trou

bles to the town dwellers. In

absence of bulbs on the light

posts, some areas plunge into

darkness just after sunset,

while the inhabitants of the

Taltola and Nasirpara are suf-

fering much due to water log-

ging for long time. The entire

area goes under water even

completely absent in the town.

There is no park and a play-

Recreational facilities is

Absence of public totlets

force people to respond to the

nature's call on the roadsides

and beside walls of buildings.

There is no auditorium to con-

Police deny

gun battle

in Pabna

police official Tuesday denied

that Awami League and BNP

workers fought a gun battle in

the town Sunday night, reports

Mustafizur Rahman said a few

explosives were burst at

Kalachanpara in the town on

UNB reported on September 8

that supporters of the two po-

litical parties exchanged about

50 gun shots causing injuries

to unspectfied number of peo-

ple, and that the fighting was

confirmed by police without

giving details.

that night but none was hurt.

Superintendent of Police

Local correspondent of

PABNA, Sept 15 : A senior

after a slight rainfall.

ground in the area.

The condition of markets

Narrow roads and lanes are

vision into a district.

remain fallow. The target of transplanted Aman cultivation was fixed at 5.5 lakh acres of land. It is learnt that fertilizer supply from Ashugani and Ghorashal was not satisfactory.

The farmers of the districts have urged the concerned authorities to supply fertilizers immediately.

Erratic power supply

Frequent power disruption has crippled industrial sector in Jamalpur and Sharishabari town further intensifying unemployment crisis. Erratic power supply has been a long standing problem for the town dwellers. Local domestic and commercial consumers apprised the Power Development Board (PDB) authorities of the intensity of the problem but the authority always expressed

Chandpur lacks civic amenities

From Our Correspondent

duct cultural activities in the

and lanes are not cleaned

regularly and absence of

dustbins has aggravated the

situation owing to which roads

of the river Meghna took away

between different upazila

headquarters of Chandpur dis-

trict has become hazardous

5 miscreants

arrested in

Jhenidah

arrested five alleged miscre-

ants and recovered smuggled

clothes from their possession

from different areas o

Kotchandpur Upaztla of the

Acting on a secret informa

tion, police raided the house of

a UP member at Manikdi vil-

lage and arrested Montu and

Mannan Mondal on Thursday

They were wanted in connec-

tion with murder and arms

statement another member of

their gang Modhu was arrested

on Wednesday by Jibannagar

people and recovered smug

gled clothes worth about Tk

2000 from Kotchandpur bus

On the basis of confessional

Police also arrested two

district, reports UNB.

JHENIDAH, Sept 15: Police

large area of municipality.

On the other hand erosion

The road communication

always remain dirty.

since long.

It is reported that the roads

its inability. Some corrupt PDB officials are giving illegal connections in exchange of illegal gratifica-

tion, it is learnt. The sheer malpractice has become a vital cause for frequent power shut Almost every night the upazila and the district towns

plunge into darkness for hours together. The people of Jamalpur town are deprived of electric supply for more than seven hours a day, an estimate

The situation turns worse as all mills, factories, godowns, cinema halls, educational institutions, markets, offices and commercial centres are located at the old town. Besides, corrupt businessmen in connivance with PDB technicians take illegal and meterless connections forcing the power

As a result, bus journey

from the district headquarters

to most of the upazilas has be

come troublesome. Chandpur-

Matlab and Chandpur-Cochua

upazila roads have become un-

fit for vehicular movement

Numerous potholes and big

breaches have developed on

the roads connecting the dis-

trict headquarters with

Faridganj and Haimchar upazi-

las. If the roads are not re-

paired immediately road

communication will be dis-

Transplanted Aman

on 25000 acres

submerged

Transplanted Aman paddy on

about 25,000 acres have been

submerged in "Chandpur irri-

gation project" area due to

heavy rainfall during the last

northern part of Faridganj

upazila and some area of

Haimchar and Chandpur

upazila. The water level at the

embankment had crossed the

flood level. The PUMP house at

Charbagadi could not operate

According to Chandpur

Water Development Board

source, about 75,000 acres

were brought under trans-

planted Aman Cultivation in

the project area this year

More PUMP, houses are being

installed in the project area to

cope with the situation, the

as it was out of order.

source added.

The badly affected areas are

two weeks, reports BSS.

CHANDPUR, Sept 15:

rupted.

house to resort to stop supply. As the illegal connection holders use heavy voltage heaters and machines, the transformers often go out of order or burnt due to overloading. Heavy fluctuations of voltage

is creating panic among the consumers as their valuation electronic gadgets are being damaged. In the wake of loadshed dings the mills and factories of

Jamalpur and Sharishabari have stopped functioning resulting in price hike of rice, atta and flour. Moreover, if the power grid

fails once it generally takes 5-6 hours to resume. It is further alleged that the Sub-Assistant Engineer on duty at the supply station at Karnafully in collusion with the Jamalpur power supply authorities takes illegal gratification in setting things

law and order situation of Bandarban hill district was discussed in the monthly meeting of Law and Order Committee held recently at the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner recently.

der, DC, Bandarban presided over the meeting overall situation of the district was discussed in the meeting. The committee expressed its satisfaction over the improvement of law and order situa-

The meeting stressed the nced for more strict vigilance against the anti-social elements and close co-operation between the people and law enforcing agencies to curb the crimes and decided to take appropriate measures to maintain the law and order in he district.

Among others, the meeting was attended by SP, journalists and Upazila Parishad chair-

Bus journey hazardous

Bus journey in Bandarban district has become hazardous. Thousands of passengers travelling every day on various roads have been suffering much due to absence of proper amenities. Overloading, late running, and violation of speed limit have become a regular feature.

The Bus Owners Association has very little control over the buses. Nobody cares to look into the matter.

Law, order in Bandarban reviewed From Our Correspondent

BANDARBAN, Sept 15: The

Mr Ataur Rahman Majum



MUNSHIGANJ: The century-old Digirpar Jame Mosque is threatened by erosion of the Padma.

From Our Correspondent JAMALPUR, Sept 15: Relief per cent people of five unions goods sanctioned for about 2.5 have been rendered homeless lakh erosion victims of differduring the last years crosion. ent char area of Jamaipur Flood waters still remain Sadar, Islampur, Sharishabari, stagnant in these villages Melandah, Madarganj,

begging.

bringing crop farming to a Dewanganj and Bakshiganj standstill upazilas are not satisfactory to Forty per cent people of cope with the prevailing situa-Dewanganj upazila who were agricultural labourers are unemployed. Many youths have The flood ravaged homeless people took shelter on flood become day labourers while control embankments, railway the old ones have taken to

> A reliable source said that these distressed people were facing starvation. Meanwhile, about 38 vil-

lages in Islampur upazila were eroded by Jamuna and Brahmaputra rivers during the last year rendering about 30,000 people homeless. These erosion hit victims have taken shelter on the Jamuna and Brahmaputra flood control embankments. Thousands have erected dwellings on either side of the embankments posing hindrance to repair and maintenance work of the embankment. The affected people rials among 5000 families urged the present government to rehabilitate them immedi-

Bad road link hampers trade and commerce

From Our Correspondent

HABICANJ, Sept 15: The trade and commerce of four upazilas of Habiganj district have been threatened due to bad communication with the district headquarters.

stations and unserviceable

raflway lines for survival. It is

alleged that most of these

homeless people did not get

any government rehabilitation

grant. A few of them have

erected slums and the rest are

virtually living under the open

least 3058 kutcha houses were

totally damaged during the re-

cent floods in different char

areas of the district. The most

Dewanganj and Madarganj.

affected upazilas are

organisations (NGO's) dis-

tributed house building mate-

leaving remaining 25000 help-

less. In Madarganj upazila 30

Different non-government

Official sources said that at

It may be stated here that the distance between labiganj-Baniayaøchong-Ajmiriganj is 22 miles,

Habiganj-Lakhai 16 miles and Habiganj-Nabiganj 17 miles. Though some light vehicles can ply on the roads in the dry season, boats are the only means of communication in the rainy season. No effective steps have yet

been taken to repair the roads for the last 30 years.

Due to lack of suitable communication with the district headquarters the people of Ajmiriganj and Lakhai have to come to Habiganj via Bhairab Bazar crossing about 100

Similarly people Nabiganj have to come to Ilabiganj via Sherpur and Sreemongol travelling a distance of more than 50 miles. Other roads of the district Shaistaganj-Jagadishpur road, Chanarghat-Bellel road Paikapara-Nasaratpur road Dulaikhal-Mirpur road Teliapara-Dharmagar road Nabiganj-Sherpur road, Mirpur-Putizuri-Sherpur road Kalimnagar-Shaistaganj-Puranbazar road and Habigan Pourasava road need immedi-

ate repair and reconstruction. It is to be mentioned here that if the road between Mirpur-Putizury, Sherpur,

Habiganj-Nabiganj, Sherpur, Shaistagnaj-Jagadishpur road are reconstructed the distance between Habiganj and Sylhet-Habigani- Madabpur will be reduced to 18.28 and 10 miles respectively.

Use of firewood rampant in brickfields

From Our Correspondent

Rampant use of firewood despite government ban in the brickfields of the district is going on unabatedly hastening the process of deforestation.

Brick-field owners are allegedly using trees as fuels despite availability of coal in the depots. In all there are 75 brickfields in the district. Besides, bamboo roots are

also being used as fuel for burning bricks, while age-old Shal, Shegun, Mehogini, Garjan, Babla and other fruit bearing trees on both sides of

Road link disrupted in Jhenidah

JHENIDAH, Sept 15: Road communication between the town and Chouadanga remained suspended since Wednesday following a dispute between two rival groups of bus owners, reports UNB.

The dispute arose when cach group tried to enforce its dominance on the route.

Members from both groups belonging to Jhenidah Bus Owners Association and Jessore Bus Owners Association erected barricades with their vehicles on the

Hundreds of passengers were seen stranded at different bus stands due to absence of buses.

Terrorism decried

The Progatishil Chhatra Oykkya decried terrorism the educational institutions and demanded arrest of illegal arms carriers.

At a meeting here Thursday they also urged immediate opening of all closed educational institutions in the coun-

The meeting presided over by Convenor of Chhatra League (N-S) district unit Monirul Islam was addressed among others, by Zahid Hossain Biplob, Assistant General Secretary, Abdul Malek, President of Jatiya Chhatra Dal district unit and Shaheen, convenor of Chhatra Union district unit.

The speakers in the meeting condemned the recent clashes between the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Chhatra Mottri and urged the local administration to form a 3-member inquiry committee to arrest and puntah the persons involved.

DINAJPUR, Sept 15: Dinajpur-Shetabganj, Dinajpur-Phulbari, Dinajpur-Thakurgaon and Dinajpur-Kanpur highways are being felled down. Date trees on the other hand are being chopped down indiscriminately to feed brickfields affecting

production of mollasses.

According to the Forest Department, Garjan trees which grow abundantly and is widely used as herbal medicine for heart ailment showed a remarkable decline. According to another report, poverty has forced many villagers to sell their fruit bearing trees to brickfield owners

Meanwhile, environmentalists have expressed concern over the matter which is affeeting the ecological balance in the district. The government in July, 1989 imposed ban on using firewood in brickfields to curb deforestation all over the country.

Woes of Dinappur town dwellers have multiplied as the pourashava authorities have been quite indifferent to provide minimum civic amenities despite increased taxes imposed on the people repeatedly during the last 12 years. The local civic bodies and political leaders in power made no sincere efforts to improve the condition of the town life.

Most of the roads in the town are narrow and uneven. The authorities concerned hardly take effective measures for timely repairs and renovation of the roads. As a result road communication in the town always remain hazardous.

Absence of public totlets poses another problem to thousands of people of different professional groups who have to work from dawn to dusk in the main commercial centres of the town. The people coming from outside are the worst sufferers. Due to absence of public

totlets people often respond to the nature's call on roadsides and drains polluting the atmosphere further. Mosquito menace has made

the life of the people miserable. The public in general and the students in particular are the worst sufferers. After sundown it becomes impossible to sit without mosquito nets. The situation has further worsened as the drains, stagnant water, roadside ditches and dereliet ponds are not cleaned regu-