

Upazila roundup

GAIBANDBA

Four jailed for murder

From Our Correspondent
Sept 23 : Four persons including two brothers were sentenced to life-term and fined Tk. 5,000 each in default to suffer one month's rigorous imprisonment more for murder.

District and Sessions Judge Mr Abdul Hai declared the judgement recently. The convicted persons include Jasimuddin and Salmuddin, two brothers of village Chalkbala, Rahimuddin of Kashiabari village and Najmul Huq of village Shaguna under Palashbari upazila.

The prosecution case was that on the night of January 27, 1990 victim Younus Ali of village Kashiabari went out of his house for contacting some labourers. When he returned his home yard the said accused persons attacked him with deadly weapons and the victim was stabbed to death.

On trial the judge found the accused persons guilty of murder and awarded them the aforesaid sentence.

RANGAMATI

Shantibahini men kill 2 wood cutters

Sept 23 : Shantibahini gunmen shot dead two woodcutters recently at Hero Karbaripara in Longadu upazila of the hill district, police said, reports UNB.

The dead were named Ruhul Amin (45) and Samad Sharif (35). Their fellowmen, who escaped the shooting unhurt, said the tribal insurgents suddenly came up and fired on them when they went to cut wood in the Hero Karbaripara jungle this morning.

Nine people were also killed in the jungle in armed attacks by the outlaws on July 23, August 7 and 18.

PABNA

69 rescued from human traffickers

Sept 23 : Bangladesh Rifles of Dashurta checkpoint of Iwardi upazila rescued 69 people from traffickers last Friday, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, police raided a night coach (No Dhaka Metro CHA 8839) and recovered 15 boys, 11 girls, 18 women and 25 others. They were sent to Pabna jail hat.

The rescued people who hailed from Munshiganj, Comilla and Noakhali said that one Mostafa of Dhaka district assured them of jobs in Pakistan.

Mostafa was absconding and a case was filed with Iwardi police in this connection.

MAULVI BAZAR

Chadnight bridge yet to be repaired

Sept 23 : The Chadnight bridge on the river Mousa is yet to be repaired causing great inconvenience to the vehicular movement, reports UNB.

The Roads and Highways department somehow restored communication by installing a Bailey bridge on the damaged portion of the bridge some years back. A huge amount is being spent every year for repair and maintenance of the Bailey bridge.

The department submitted a scheme long before involving Taka four crore for reconstruction of the bridge. The Planning Commission has also reportedly approved the scheme but no fund has yet been placed.

The bridge connecting district headquarters with Barickha, Kulara, Rajnagar and Sadar upazila had been playing a vital part in communication sector.

COMILLA

Smuggled Indian sarees recovered

Sept 23 : The BDR patrol party recovered 486 Indian sarees worth about Tk 1.75 lakh in two separate raids at different points of Comilla by-pass road, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, on September 15 a BDR patrol party recovered 262 Indian sarees worth about Tk 52,000 from Padder Bazar point.

In another raid on September 17 the patrol party recovered 234 Indian sarees worth about Tk 1.23 lakh, from a baby-tax.

But no arrest could be made in these raids.

FARIDPUR

Ganja recovered, 6 arrested

Sept 23 : Narcotics Control Department arrested six people and recovered a good number of live ganja plants, processed ganja and ampules of pathedine from different areas of the district last month, report UNB.

Md Sadaque, Assistant Director of the Narcotics Control Department, in separate raids recovered 10 pathedine ampules from Bhanga and arrested Syed Zafrul, owner of a Drug House.

Later he recovered 10 ganja plants from the house of Rahman Sharif of village Khalya under Nagarkanda upazila of the district. Wife of Rahman Sharif was arrested.

Superintendent Nirmal Kumar Das recovered 20 ganja plants and 25 grams of processed ganja from two places in Madaripur district. Azahar Khan of Kalatala and Mahub Alam of Shiki Noahata were arrested in this connection.

Inspector S Teli recovered 20 ganja plants and arrested Mustafa Sheikh of village Binodpur under Rajbari Sadar upazila.

Another four ganja plants were recovered from village Char Gueada under Baliakandi upazila and one Rabi Sheikh was arrested in this connection.

RANGPUR

5 injured as students clash

Sept 23 : At least five people were injured, two seriously, following clashes between two rival groups of students here on Friday, reports UNB.

Of the two injured Babia, an activist of Chhatra League (A-A) and Osman, a supporter of Awami League were admitted to Sadar hospital. Their conditions were stated to be critical.

The clash ensued when the workers of Chhatra League (A-A) brought out a procession on Friday night in the town following the joining of a large number of students to Chhatra League from various organisations.

They came under attack of a rival student organisation when they were passing by the Atgorapir Mazar premises. Several crackers and bombs were blasted during the clash.

Chhatra League alleged that the workers of JCD were responsible for the attack.

Police could not confirm the incident as no case was filed in this connection with them till Saturday morning.

JHENIDAH

Chhatra Moitri activist assaulted

Sept 23 : An activist of Chhatra Moitri was assaulted and the house of an Awami Juba League leader was ransacked by a group of unruly youths here on Friday night, reports UNB.

The youths allegedly members of Jatayabadi Chhatra Dal ransacked the house and assaulted Moitri activist Tutul who took shelter there.

Tutul was rushed to Sadar hospital.

To protest the incident, Chhatra League workers brought out a procession in the town and held a rally.

Meanwhile, district administration held a meeting with the Deputy Commissioner in the chair in this connection with the politicians and student leaders to avert any further violence.

CHANDPUR

Two sisters gangraped

Sept 23 : Two sisters were gangraped in a charitable dispensary near Wireless Bazar of the town, police sources said here yesterday, reports UNB.

The sisters Saleha Akhter (16) and Sahida Akhter (13) of village Bakra in Matlab upazila were returning home from the town at around 10 p.m. on Wednesday with their cousin Saiful Islam.

Meanwhile, a gang of miscreants stopped them in front of the charitable home dispensary, abducted the sisters inside and violated them one after another.

Police on a secret information, arrested three accused Tausid (22), Ferdous Gazi (21) and Khorshed Dewan (23) in this connection on the following day.



CHAPAINAWABGANJ : Narayanpur Junior High School submerged by flood water

— Star Photo

Satkhira TB clinic needs treatment

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Sept 23 : The TB clinic in the district has long been plagued with manifold problems including scarcity of essential medicines.

The clinic built in early 60's is on the verge of collapse as the condition of its walls and roofs is very deplorable. Besides, patients suffer for irregular water supply and bad sanitation.

The only outdoor section of the clinic is accommodated in a narrow and congested building having no waiting rooms for the patients who are seen waiting hours together in the verandah.

The patients coming from the rural areas with the hope of getting free treatment facilities are given prescriptions and advised to buy the medicines from outside. Doctors are also helpless and compelled to prescribe because of non-availability of the

medicines. The annual requirement of the life-saving drugs in streptomycin injection 35000 ampules and 625000 tablets worth Taka four lakh but only 7000 Taka is sanctioned annually for buying various medicines.

There is an X-ray machine in the clinic which is lying inoperative since its installation in 1986 due to low voltage of electricity. Moreover there is no X-ray technician in the clinic. TB patients requiring chest examination are sent to other hospitals or private clinics to have X-ray done at their own cost. As a result, poor patients who cannot afford additional expenditure are virtually left untreated while patients requiring blood and cough examination have to pay extra charges to the technicians of the clinic, it is alleged.

On the other hand, the connecting road of the clinic

always remains filled with water and both patients and employees of the clinic have to undergo a lot of problems.

Meanwhile, TB has been spreading in the district alarmingly. According to the records supplied by the Satkhira TB clinic, there were 205 TB patients in 1984, while the number increased to 306 in 1985, 350 in 1986, 395 in 1987, 400 in 1988, 436 in 1989, 475 in 1990 and the number is further increasing.

One to die for murder

Another report says: Mr Amir Hussain, Additional District and Sessions Judge, Satkhira sentenced one Krishnapada Sarkar to death by hanging for murdering his brother.

The case in brief is that Krishnapada Sarkar of

Gayshpur under Sadar Upazila killed his brother Dharendra Nath Sarkar on November 7, 1989 with a sharp knife over a land dispute.

A case was lodged with the Satkhira police station and after investigation the police submitted chargesheet against him. The judge after examining the records and witnesses awarded the punishment on September 10.

Woes of farmers

Due to economic hardships the farmers of Satkhira district are being compelled to sell their crops in advance to the money lenders at nominal prices.

The farmers allege that they do not get fair price of their harvested crops owing to faulty marketing system.

Taking advantage of the situation, the local money lenders are doing brisk business

No Judge, Magistrate in Jibannagar UZ

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Sept 23 : In absence of both Assistant Judge and Upazila Magistrate in Jibannagar Upazila courts under the district many civil and criminal cases have been lying pending for a long time.

According to the reports, the former Assistant Judge of Jibannagar Upazila civil court Mr Lutfur Rahman was transferred in January last year and since then no Assistant Judge has been posted in his place.

In the mean time, the local district Judgeship has arranged a circuit system under which the Assistant Judge of Damurhuda is performing a circuit duty two days a week in addition to his normal duty at Damurhuda civil court, but this temporary arrangement is not sufficient to solve the problem.

On the other hand, the same problem is also prevailing in the Jibannagar Upazila criminal court. The former Upazila Magistrate Mr Prafullo Kumar Barman who left Jibannagar in October last year has not yet joined his duty and since then no Upazila Magistrate has been posted here. Mr Prafullo is enjoying unauthorised leave, it is learnt. Under these circumstances the

Upazila Magistrate of Damurhuda is working as an Upazila Magistrate of Jibannagar temporarily under government order in addition to his normal duties at Damurhuda.

Both the arrangements are purely temporary. As a result, a good number of cases have been lying pending in both the civil and criminal courts of Jibannagar Upazila of the district.

Immediate steps are needed for posting the regular Assistant Judge and Upazila Magistrate at these courts.

Notes from Maulvi Bazar

From Our Correspondent

MAULVI BAZAR, Sept 23 : Diarrhoea has broken out in different places of the district.

According to a reliable source, the disease claimed seven lives and attacked many others during the last two weeks in the Kurma Tea Garden under Kamalgonj Upazila. The deceased were identified as Moriom (45), Radhika (25), Joyanti (13), Ranjit (26), Shadhu (7) and Kalu (18).

A report from Kulara upazila says that diarrhoea claimed 15 lives and attacked scores of others during the last six weeks in the villages of Muktagirpur and Jibeda under Bhokshimul Union Parishad.

The affected people have called for urgent steps to increase the supply of oral and IV saline.

Publication ceremony

The publication ceremony of 'Ritu-Patra', a periodical edited by Mr Saifur Rahman Setu was held at Maulvi Bazar Public Library auditorium recently.

The publication ceremony was presided over by Advocate Kishoripada Deb. The function was addressed by Mr Akmal Hussain Nipu. Mr Abdul Hamid Mabbub, Miss Dipta Majumder, Miss Farhana Mahmud Tanni and Editor of Ritu-Patra Mr Saifur Rahman Setu.

The function was followed by a poetry recitation programme.

Housing problem

Acute housing problem is persisting in Kulara upazila of the district since long causing immense sufferings to the low-paid employees of government and non-government organisations, autonomous bodies and private establishments.

Fixed income groups are unable to live in upazila towns with their families due to increased rents. They live in messes or rented rooms. People are reluctant to construct houses due to huge financial involvement of construction materials and lands.

Local people suggested that construction of government estates would help solve the problems to some extent.

Fish supply inadequate

Supply of all varieties of fish is inadequate and prices of all kinds of vegetables including potato have abnormally shot up in the markets of the districts.

Fish has become a rare commodity. By chance if it is available in small quantities it sells at an exorbitant rate. Sighth, magur are being sold at Taka 60 to 80 per kilogram. Though it is the season of hilsa it is being sold at Taka 50 to 75 per piece. On the other hand, potol, though available in plenty, is now being sold at Taka 12 per kilogram. Potato, kakrol and karola are being sold at Taka 8, 10 and 12 respectively.

Installation ceremony

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Sept 23 : The installation ceremony of Chandpur Rotary Club was held recently at Rotary Bhaban with Mr Mujibur Rahman Sawpan, President of the club in the chair.

Prof Jalal Uddin Ahmed, District Governor, District 3280 RI attended the meeting as chief guest. The meeting was addressed, among others, by Md Abul Kashem DC Chandpur, Dr Noorur Rahman, Mr Quamruzzaman Chowdhury, Nurul Haque Bachu, The District Governor Prof Jalal Uddin Ahmed while addressing the meeting urged the rotarians to serve the suffering humanity.

The following office bearers were elected for the year 1991-92 :

President- Subhash Chandra Roy, Vice-President - Shah Md. Abdul Guddus, honorary Secretary- Zamil Haider Dabul.

Bamna UZ presents a dismal picture

BARGUNA, Sept 23 : With an area of about 39 square miles and a population of about 63,000, Bamna upazila of the district smarts under various problems, saline incursion being the worst affecting crop production, reports UNB.

About 18,619 acres of cultivable land in the upazila, crops on a vast area are being damaged every year by saline water intruding from the sea.

Local farmers said for the last few years crop production has been seriously hampered by saline incursion through the Bamna-Bharani Canal, which,

the local leaders said could be controlled by the construction of a barrage.

Erosion of the river Bishkhali has posed another problem devouring vast tracts of land during the last few years.

Local people demanded an embankment to be constructed from Kal-Patua to Bukabunia to save crops and land from erosion.

Bamna upazila has also been lagging behind in the communication sector. The upazila has a road network of about 215 miles of which 208 miles are kutcha. No road link could still be established with the district headquarters.

The kutcha roads also cannot provide uninterrupted communication as the 50 per cent of the bridges in the upazila have been damaged.

In the power sector, no significant extension work has been taken up for the last few years. Frequent power interruption in areas where electricity is available has been a regular phenomenon.

In the health sector, the only health complex of the upazila is running without the required number of doctors and other employees and without medicine or requisite medical equipment. The Family Planning Clinic is in a most disorganised state.

The condition of the upazila veterinary hospital is most deplorable with hardly any medicine necessary for various cattle diseases.

The upazila headquarters has no sewerage system nor the latrines are serviceable. The kutcha latrines which are largely in use are polluting the environment and creating health hazards.

Tragic

BOGRA, Sept 23 : A mother of three daughters, abandoned by her husband for being unable to bear a male child, attempted suicide by jumping into the river Karatoa, reports UNB.

Witnesses and police said the mother Jamila of Aria at Sadar upazila had been kept under severe strain by her husband, Nurul Islam, who desperately wanted a son.

She gave birth to three daughters one after another and earned torture and ridicule from her in-laws.

On Sept 15 Nurul stopped giving them food and out of rage pushed them out of his house.

Jamila took shelter in a neighbour's house, begged some food for the first day but failed to manage any food the next day. Ultimately she took the starving daughters along and dived into the river.

Jamila and the eldest daughter were rescued by the villagers while Baby (11) and Sofia (9) drowned.

The incident created a great sensation in the area.

5 including 3 women held for dacoity

NETRAKONA, Sept 23 : Five persons including three women were arrested on September 20 by Netrakona police in connection with a daring dacoity committed on September 15 at the house of a businessman Khalilur Rahman at village Pashkahnia, about two kms from here, reports BSS.

Police also recovered a huge quantity of looted goods including one wall clock, three table clocks, two gold bracelets and three wrist watches and lethal weapons including one bayonet from their possession.

Officer in-charge of Netrakona Kotwali police station Mr Alah Ali displayed the recovered goods and weapons to local newsmen at his office yesterday.

Over 3 lakh acres put under Aman farming in Khulna

KHULNA, Sept 23 : More than three lakh acres including 56,000 acres for high-yielding variety were brought under Aman cultivation in nine upazilas of Khulna district this year, reports BSS.

The Agriculture Extension Department has organised necessary training and demonstration programmes for making Aman cultivation programme a success. To ensure supplementary irrigation facility in case of unexpected drought sufficient rain water reservoirs were arranged in different upazilas, an official source said.

About 2.25 lakh metric tons of rice will be produced in the district this year if favourable condition prevails, the source said.

Corruption by railway station masters alleged

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Sept 23 : Corruption is rampant in Melandah, Islampur, Dewanaganj, and Jamalpur railway stations causing heavy loss to the government as well as the passengers.

Recently a big valuable tree worth taka 20,000 has been chopped down by the Melandah Station Master Mojibur Rahman for his personal use. All these station masters gain huge benefit by illegally transporting contraband goods. They send these goods through passenger trains without any booking with the help of associate guards incurring huge loss to the government.

Huge quantity of government wheat and rice sent from Dhaka and Chittagong to these stations is being pilfered by these station masters, it is alleged.

Local people have urged the higher authorities to check

and enquire into the matter.

Victims of acid throwing

Two daughters of Anisur Rahman of village Bagaduba in Melandah upazila received serious burn injuries when an unidentified youngman threw acid on them.

Taslima (14) and Shabina Yasmeen (11) both are students of Melandah Government Girls High School. A youngman from neighbourhood proposed love to Taslima and on refusal the youngman being furious threw acid on both the sisters while they were asleep. The youngman is now absconding. Both the sisters are under treatment in Melandah upazila hospital.

A case has been registered with Melandah upazila police in this connection. None has been arrested so far and the police is investigating into the case.



JAMALPUR : Victims of acid throwing— Shabina and Taslima

— Star photo

Hoarders create artificial crisis of essentials

From Our Correspondent

NARAIL, Sept 23 : Hoarding of essential commodities by a section of unscrupulous traders has created artificial crisis in the district.

Prices of essentials has gone up in almost all the markets. Kerosene, an essential item among the rural community is being sold at an exorbitant rate. Each pint of kerosene is being sold between Taka 22 and 25 against Taka 20 a few days back while price of soyabean oil has jumped by Taka 4 per kilo-

gram. Prices of mustard oil and other edible oils have also shot up. Mustard oil is now available at Taka 60 to 65 against Taka 56 two months ago. Prices of other essentials have also shown an upward trend. Price of rice has gone up to Taka 20 to 40 per maund while coarse variety like Irri and Boro is available at Taka 11 per kg instead of taka 9 previously and fine variety is being sold at Taka 13 against Taka 11 per kg a few days back.

According to the market sources, prices of powdered milk, onion, ginger and vegetables have shot up by five to six per cent over last one month. On the other hand, prices of construction materials have also gone up.

Hoarding by a section of unscrupulous traders is the main cause behind the price hike of the essentials.

Narail Press Club organised a discussion meeting at its

conference hall in observance of International Literacy Day recently.

Presided over by Advocate Sharif Abdul Hakim, President, Narail Press Club the meeting was addressed, among others, by the Bhakta Sarkar, Vice President, Sayed Naimur Rahman Firoz, Secretary, Mr Enamul Kabir Tuku, Joint Secretary, Narail Press Club, Advocate Sohrab Hossain Chairman, Narail Pourashava and Advocate Achine

Chakrobarty. The speakers opined that education is one of the fundamental human right for every one. Without ensuring education for all none can claim on self as civilized.

So education must be ensured by the government in power and responsible opposition political parties through their pragmatic activities. They added that socio-economic development programme is impossible without the participation of civilized citizen.