

Upazila roundup

KUSHTIA

Eid-e-Miladunnabi observed

Sept 24: Eid-e-Miladunnabi (SM) was observed here in a befitting manner by religious and socio-cultural organisations through elaborate programmes, reports UNB.

The programmes included milad-mahfil, literary contest, seminars, symposium and discussion meetings on the life and teachings of the holy Prophet (SM) of Islam.

Bangladesh Islamic Foundation arranged a week-long programme to mark the occasion with due respect and religious fervour.

In the seminars and symposia organised by Islamic Foundation and Bangladesh Shishu Academy, life and teachings of the great Prophet (SM) were discussed in the context of present day world.

Speakers expressed the common view that the teachings of the Prophet (SM) can only bring about an exploitation-free society which Hazrat Muhammad (SM) had envisioned.

Islamic Foundation held a literary contest among the children on the occasion. Kusthia Courtpara Baro Sharif held a milad mahfil where a large number of people took part.

Deputy Commissioner of the district Syed Hafiz Ahmed attended a milad mahfil held at Kusthia Collectorate Conference Hall on the occasion.

They electric wire connecting a deep tubewell was lying on the field due to breaking of a bamboo pole.

The bodies were sent to morgue for post mortem. A case has been filed in this connection.

GAIBANDHA

Father, son electrocuted

Sept 24: Father and son of village Kismat Balua in Kholahati union of Sadar upazila met a tragic end while they were going for fishing in the river Ohagot, reports UNB.

According to police, Mahtuddin (60) along with his son Yasin Ali (28) while recently passing a field all on a sudden came in contact with a live electric wire which was lying there. They died instantaneously.

They electric wire connecting a deep tubewell was lying on the field due to breaking of a bamboo pole.

The bodies were sent to morgue for post mortem. A case has been filed in this connection.

BRAHMANBARIA

One killed in road mishap

Sept 24: A man was crushed to death and two others sustained injuries in a road mishap near Sulipur on Brahmanbaria-Sylhet highway Saturday, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, the incident took place when a Brahmanbaria bound coach (No-1951) rrammed into a rickshaw coming from opposite direction.

The deceased was identified as Noya Gazi (45). The postmortem was performed in the Sadar hospital.

A case was lodged in this connection.

MAGURA

Law, order situation improves

Sept 24: A meeting between police and local elite held here on law and order situation has expressed satisfaction at the improvement of the situation in four upazilas of the district as a result of 'Operation Doorbar', reports UNB.

The meeting was held recently at Sadar thana premises with Police Super Abdur Rahim in the chair. Advocate Asaduzzaman MP was the chief guest and journalists, businessmen, political leaders and local officials attended the meeting.

Addressing the meeting the Police Super called upon the people to cooperate with the police on curbing crime and smuggling.

He said 'Operation Doorbar' was carried out to bring about further improvement in the law and order situation.

He showed the participants the unauthorised arms and ammunition recovered from the upazilas during the operation.

Editor of weekly Magura Baria, Sharif Amirul Hassan Bulu, President of Magura Press Club, Depok Roy Chowdhury, President of Magura District Bar Association, Advocate Lutfar Rahman, President of BNP, Magura, Mahbulul Hoque also addressed the meeting.

MAULVI BAZAR

BUPSA executives

From Our Correspondent

Sept 24: The conference of the Maulvi Bazar district branch of Bangladesh Union Parishad Secretaries Association (BUPSA) was held the Maulvi Bazar Town Hall recently.

The conference was presided over by Mr. Abdul Mukit, Secretary of Kulara Union Parishad.

All the secretaries, 66 Union Parishads of Maulvi Bazar district took part in the conference.

A 21-member Executive Committee was also elected in the conference for the Maulvi Bazar district branch of BUPSA for the next year with Mr Promesh Chandra Deb as President and Mr Zahir Uddin Ahmed as Secretary.

BARISAL

Jute purchase yet to start

Sept 24: The only Jute Purchasing Centre at Shikarpur of the district is yet to start purchasing jute this season. Personnel at the centre said they were running short of fund, reports UNB.

Besides, the centre owes more than Tk 5 lakh to the local jute traders as outstanding payment for the last year.

Production of jute in the six southern districts of Barisal, Jhalakathi, Patuakhali, Bhola, Borguna and Pirojpur has been stated to be about one lakh maunds, which is less than expected.

Jute growers said they were losing interest in jute cultivation because prices went down below the production cost.

Upazila Chairman, Abdur Razzaque Talukder said thousands of jute growers will be in serious hardship if Shikarpur Purchasing Centre remain closed this season.

The only jute purchasing centre for six southern districts, had purchased about 20,000 maunds of jute during the last season at the rate of Tk 400 to 500 per maund.

MYMENSINGH

Seminar on Siratunnabi held

Sept 24: A seminar on Siratunnabi was held at the Shilpacharya Zamul Abedin auditorium of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) Sunday evening, reports UNB.

The seminar was preceded by a prize-giving ceremony where prizes among the winners of Naat-e-Rasul (SM) were distributed.

NARSINGDI

2 die after eating 'Potka' fish

Sept 24: Two persons died and four others were sick after eating Potka fish in the last 24 hours, reports UNB.

The dead were identified as Muktarunnessa (70) of Bagdigram and Sufia Begum (35) of Shalbandi on the outskirts of the town.

Muktarunnessa and four others of her family fell sick just after taking the fish at dinner Sunday night. They were rushed to the Sadar hospital where doctors declared her dead.

Condition of three was stated critical.

Sufia Begum died at the local hospital yesterday morning when she was rushed there after falling sick due to intake of the fish.

PABNA

Drugs worth Tk 2 lakh recovered

Sept 24: Police arrested two people and recovered drugs worth Tk 2 lakh from Chaik Gobindah area of the town Saturday, reports UNB.

On a tip, a contingent of law enforcing agency led by Saiful Islam, Deputy Director of Narcotics Control Department recovered the drugs. The drugs include 9 kilogram ganja, 250 grams charash and 200 grams vang.

The arrested Antaz Ali (31) and Nannu (32) were sent to jail hajat.

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

Meghna devouring Chandpur: SOS from residents



CHANDPUR: Havoc caused by the Meghna erosion. Photo shows two-storied girls high school building at Purn Bazar (top), Chandpur railway station at Natun Bazar (middle) and part of kutch bazar (bottom). —Star photo

CHANDPUR, Sept 24: The erosion of the river Meghna at Chandpur has taken an alarming turn again with fast recession of water from the flooded areas of the country threatening the very existence of the river-port. Town protection embankment breached at many points due to onrush of flood water during the last few days.

Chandpur launch, steamer ghats, railway station, railway colony are threatened by the erosion. Many cracks have developed at several points at protection embankment due to heavy pressure of water coming down from the upper regions.

The last April cyclone and tidal surge seriously damaged the protection embankment both at Natun Bazar and Purn Bazar areas. At present, Bangladesh Water Development Board has undertaken a scheme to repair the damaged portion of the embankment at a cost of Taka 1.20 crore. The current repair works are nothing but an eye wash, said an official. As a result, the present repair works will not be effective to check the erosion. A permanent town protection scheme is yet to be taken by the government. Meanwhile, Meghna study work is going on in the river side.

It may be mentioned here that Chandpur town protection work as initiated in 1974 when Chandpur town was threatened by the erosion. Accordingly a scheme was taken under the name of "Chandpur Town Protection Scheme" at a cost of Taka 80 crore.

According to the plan, an embankment from Chirarchar to Chandpur was proposed to be constructed and three "Groynes" were to be made. But only one "Groyne" was constructed and rest of the work could not be implemented due to shortage of funds. Another scheme was taken up by the previous government but due to fund constraints the scheme was postponed.

Chandpur Chamber of Commerce urged the government time and again to save Chandpur from the erosion on permanent basis. Meanwhile, Chandpur fish market, 20 business establishments, railway yard and mosques have already been at Natun Bazar. A big Hindu temple, one two-storied Girls High School, 30 business firms, 20 dwelling

houses and a large area were eroded at Purn Bazar causing a total loss of Tk 10 crore. Fearing heavy loss Jamuna Oil Depot, Chandpur Railway Station authority have already dismantled their premises. Many panicky businessmen are busy in dismantling their business establishments. The over all business transactions at Purn Bazar have come to a stand still.

It is feared that if the erosion of the river Meghna continues unabated at this present rate, the future of century old Chandpur Railway Station, launch and steamer ghats, railway police station, rest house, Railway High School, Chandpur Irrigation Project will be endangered within a few days. So the people of all walks of life appeal to the government to save Chandpur from erosion by taking a permanent protection scheme.

Chamber polls held

The election of Chandpur Chamber of Commerce and Industry was held at its office at Purnabazar recently.

Mr Jahangir Akhand Selim, Director, Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka was elected as Chairman for the year 1991-92.

Mr Jahangir attended Rotary International convention in America in 1988 and in Japan in 1978. Very recently he attended a trade promotion seminar at Finland. Besides, he visited France, UK and Far East Asian countries in connection with business. He is associated with many social, cultural and educational institutions. He is also member of Chandpur Press Club.

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Munshiganj

Our Munshiganj Correspondent adds: The devastating erosion by the Dhaleshwari and the Jubilee canal that flow through the town and virtually serve as a tributary of the Dhaleshwari has taken a serious turn in Munshiganj town. The plying of engine boats through this canal has aggravated the situation. As a result, a good portion of the municipal area has been engulfed so far.

The Munshiganj bus stand-Mukterpur ferryghat road and the Idgah-Katakhal road are the most seriously affected ones. The situation is so grave that if steps are not taken within a week the Idgah-

Katakhal road connecting the southern part of the district will be cut off completely.

The position of Mukterpur ferryghat-Munshiganj busstand road is also in a crucial state and it is feared to be eroded very soon. In that case, Munshiganj will be disconnected from Narayanganj and Dhaka.

Shariatpur

Our Shariatpur correspondent writes: Erosion had taken a serious turn in Shariatpur and the situation is becoming worse day by day. Many people are leading a miserable life owing to river erosion. Four villages of Kachikata union of Vedargonj upazila have already been threatened. Three villages of Nawapara union under Naria upazila have been swallowed by the Padma.

On the other hand, the historical Damudya Bandar is feared to be swallowed by the Meghna. The road running between Damudya Bazar and Damudya hospital has been badly affected. Bricks are falling into the adjacent river. If the road is not repaired immediately, Damudya Girls' High School, Dak Banglow and many mills and shops will lose their existence. Shariatpur district needs emergency protection from erosion.

Madaripur

Our Madaripur correspondent says: River erosion had become a serious problem in greater Faridpur district destroying dwellings and crop lands along the banks. Madaripur, Faridpur, Shariatpur, Rajbari and Gopalganj have been affected by the massive erosion.

According to reports marginal and small farmers have been affected seriously.

173 arrested under Operation Doorbar in Feni

FENI, Sept 24: A total of 173 people were arrested and a huge quantity of arms and ammunition were recovered from different parts of the district during the anti-criminal drive 'Operation Doorbar', reports UNB.

The recovered arms include 11 pipe guns, two revolvers, five rounds of rifle bullets and 16 rounds of other ammunition.

Flood situation improving

RAJSHAHI, Sept 24: Overall flood situation in Rajshahi district is improving fast with the recession of waters from all the affected areas.

Official sources told BSS that about one lakh eighty-eight thousand people in six upazilas and 24 wards of City Corporation were badly affected by flood.

Standing crops on 6423 acres were totally and 969 acres partially damaged in the district, the source said and added over three thousand dwelling houses were completely and over ten thousand one hundred sixty partially damaged.

The flood affected upazilas were Pabna, Godagari, Charghat, Tanore and Baghmara.

Five persons so far died in the flood in the district, officials said. Water-borne diseases were reported in Baghmara upazila where three persons died, the sources said.

Meanwhile, government has sanctioned Taka eight lakh seventy-five thousand, one hundred forty metric tons of wheat and five hundred and one metric tons of rice for the flood-hit people of the district.

Official sources said all possible measures have been taken by the administration to mitigate the suffering of the affected people.

UNB from Kushtia says: With the Ganges and the Gorai receding and the flood situa-

tion gradually improving, the district has been facing new problems.

The flood affected areas are now threatened with erosion and the people have been suffering for want of drinking water, sufficient foodgrains, fodder, adequate medicines for combatting water-borne diseases and scarcity of materials of construction of houses damaged by flood.

The relief materials and cash grant so far had been too inadequate to meet the needs of the people. Hundreds of cattleheads have died due to serious scarcity of fodder in the affected areas.

Cholera, diarrhoea and dysentery have broken out in the flood hit areas in an epidemic form. Scarcity of pure water has been stated to be the main reason for the outbreak of the diseases.

Officials said, medical teams were working in the flood hit areas to combat the spread of the diseases. But the impact of the preventive measures has not yet been noticeable.

Another report from Kushtia says, almost all the pucca roads including Kushtia-Khulna, Kushtia-Ishurdi and Kushtia-Mecherpur highways have been badly damaged due to recent heavy and continuous downpour.

These roads have developed pot-holes and cracks at several points rendering them

Diarrhoea claims 24 in Pabna

PABNA, Sept 24: Waterborne diseases like diarrhoea and dysentery claimed 54 more lives during the last four days, raising the death toll to 126 in the district, reports UNB.

According to unofficial sources, about 6,000 people have so far been attacked by the diseases.

Patients coming from both rural and urban areas go back disappointed due to shortage of beds in the hospital.

Strike by Rangpur pourea employees passes 31st day

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Sept 24: Strike by the pourashava employees continued for the 31st consecutive day today affecting badly the residents of Rangpur town.

Citizens are undergoing untold sufferings for want of water supply, street lights, non-cleaning of service latrines, drains, garbage and closure of educational institutions run by pourashava. The striking employees include officers, general staff, sanitary staff, teachers, peon, chowkidar and sweepers. They went on strike since August 24 demanding immediate payment of their eight months' arrear salaries.

All pourashava rooms including Chairman's chamber have been kept under lock and key by the striking employees. Chairman said that the pourashava fund is empty due to non-collection of taxes, rents and tolls.

But the employees alleged that the authority misused huge amount of fund.

Citizens demanded immediate intervention of the higher authorities to overcome present crisis of Rangpur Pourashava and to mitigate the sufferings of the towns people.

5 injured in Satkhira clash

SATKHIRA, Sept 24: Five people were injured in a clash between supporters of Satkhira unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Sundarban Circus Party in the town Sunday over distribution of subscription, reports UNB.

Police said the circus show was held at the town under the auspices of the Chhatra Dal.

Mushroom growth of stalls on roads impede traffic movement

KISHOREGANJ, Sept 24: The mushroom and unrestrained growth of stalls on the unspacious roads of the busy town has endangered the town life at Bhasrab Pourashava area.

Hundreds of stalls of various items including foodstuffs have gradually come into being on both the sides of the roads of the town leaving very narrow passage for the movement of the pedestrians and rickshaws. The roads and lanes in the commercial centre are not spacious for the movement of people coming from far-flung areas of the country. Apart from this rickshaws, push carts and rickshaw-vans are in constant movement from dawn to dusk despite the bad condi-

From Our Correspondent

tion of the roads. The traders occupy the roadsides with unnecessary materials and empty drums causing hindrance to the movement of pedestrians and rickshaws.

Sufferings of tenants

Acute shortage of accommodation and increased house rents have multiplied the problems of inhabitants of Gouripur.

The middle class people and small traders are the

Tk 1cr electric bill lying outstanding

SHERPUR, Sept 24: Electric bills amounting to Taka one crore has been lying outstanding with different government, semi-government and private organisations in the district.

According to the Power Development Board sources, the department wise breakup of the bill is — Sherpur Pourashava— Taka 13,29,000, Agricultural Department and Agricultural Institution— Taka 3,55,000, Religious Department— Taka 4,28,000, Telegraph and Telephone Department— Taka 77,000, District Administration— Taka 1,44,000, Police Department—

Machine Tools Factory limping

GAZIPUR, Sept 24: Bangladesh Machine Tools Factory (BMTF), one of the biggest public sector undertakings is now on the verge of closure due to huge recurring losses over the years. In the absence of work orders the factory remains almost idle. It has 1700 employees.

The BMTF produces a variety of hand and machine tools along with spares of lathe machines, power tillers, centrifugal pumps, Jute, textile and railway machinery.

The local industries, both in private and public sectors, mostly prefer to import their required machinery and spares even those are manufactured

27 temporary shelters for orphans being built

PATIYA, Sept 24: The orphanage authorities of four districts with joint collaboration are constructing 27 temporary shelters for the rehabilitation of 3998 cyclone battered orphans of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Noakhali and Lakshimpur districts.

According to the authoritative sources, Ministry of Social Welfare in co-operation with the district and upazila admin-

istration allocated a total of Taka 33,58,320 of which Taka 25,58,720 for foodstuffs and Taka 7,99,600 for other relevant expenditures.

Meanwhile 2085 bundles of CI sheets have been supplied to the orphanages.

The temporary shelters are being built with the collaboration of some selected orphanages of four districts.