

## National

## Upazila roundup

## PATUAKHALI

## Power failure hits industries

Oct 5: Frequent power failure has been affecting life and living of the town-dwellers and hampering production in mills, factories, workshops and hospitals in the locality, reports UNB.

Residents complained that the town and its adjoining areas plunge into darkness paralysing normal life almost everyday giving rise to the anti-social activities.

Besides, students and hospital patients, rice mills, flour mills, small workshops, tailoring shops and cottage industries have been worst affected.

Mill owners said they are incurring huge loss as production falls in their industrial units for erratic power supply.

Moreover, voltage fluctuations have damaged valuable electric and electronic gadgets at the residences.

## MAULVI BAZAR

## Drinking water scarce

Oct 5: Scarcity of pure water has been persisting in the rural areas causing untold suffering to the people in the district, reports UNB.

A total of 822 tubewells, out of 12,243 have gone out of order of which 180 tubewells are in Rajnagar, 212 in Kulaura, 182 in Kamalganj, 60 in Srimangal, 79 in Baralekha and 109 in Sadar upazilas.

The villagers said that the existing tubewells were quite insufficient to meet the requirement of drinking water.

As a result, people of the rural areas are using water from the ponds, canals and rivers, which are not safe and have been spreading water-borne diseases.

At least 25 people have died so far and many others are suffering from various stomach diseases in the district.

Public Health Engineering Department installed a total of 547 tubewells of which 108 were in Sadar, 57 in Rajnagar, 112 in Kulaura, 81 in Kamalganj, 81 in Srimangal, and 108 in Baralekha upazilas of the district during 1990-91 financial year, it is learnt.

## BARISAL

## UP Chairman abducted

Oct 5: Some members of outlawed Sarbahara party abducted a Union Parishad Chairman while he was on his way home from Adina village in Gourandhi upazila Tuesday night, police said here Tuesday last, reports UNB.

Witnesses said, Sharikul Union Parishad Chairman Jaturul Haque Khokan (32) was kidnapped by some people, suspected to be members of the outlawed party, while he was returning home after completing his relief operation responsibilities in the village.

Police could not trace them till this evening.

## SYLHET

## Blood donation camp held

Oct 5: A blood donation camp has been arranged here jointly by Sylhet Lions Club, Suhma Lions Club and Leo Club of Sylhet Tuesday, reports UNB.

According to sources, about 20 people have donated their blood in the camp held in Red Crescent Maternity and Child Hospital at Zinda Bazaar of the district on the occasion of Lions Service Week '91.

The camp was conducted with the assistance of Sandhani of Sylhet M A G Osman Medical College branch.

A brief meeting was also organised on the occasion in which Col(Rtd) Runuon Islam Chowdhury, Director of Sylhet MAG Osman Medical College Hospital addressed as chief guest and former President of Sylhet Lions Club Dr Azizur Rahman coordinated the camp.

## FARIDPUR

## Minor boy killed in road mishap

From Our Correspondent

Oct 5: A minor boy was killed and 60 others were injured when a night coach fell into a roadside pond at West Khabashpur of Sadar Upazila on Thursday.

The driver of the Khulna-bound bus lost control following the bursting of a front tyre. Bankim (3) died on the spot. Witnesses said passengers were travelling on the roof and bumper of the bus. About 19 of the injured were admitted to the Sadar Hospital.

The driver of the bus is absconding.

## SIRAJGANJ

## Eye hospital beset with problems

From Our Correspondent

Oct 5: Sirajganj Eye Hospital of Bangladesh National Society for Blinds (BNSB) is facing various problems.

It is learnt that the eye hospital was established in Sirajganj town with the financial assistance of the foreign agencies to remove blindness. Every year thousands of eye patients are treated surgically and medically through temporary eye camps in different parts of North Bengal where the doctors of Sirajganj hospital take vital roles.

The eye camps are organised under the auspices of local administration, local elite and some welfare organisations including Rotary Club and Lions Club. Every day 150 to 200 eye patients attend the outdoor section. The hospital now faces acute crisis of medicine. New instruments are not supplied in place of damaged ones. The outdoor patients are being served prescriptions only. The poor patients are unable to purchase medicines from open market due to financial stringency.

When contacted, a source of Sirajganj BNSB said that the annual budget is not even marginal to meet the minimum requirements. Local people have called upon the government to take necessary steps so that this welfare institution can serve the eye patients properly.

## GAIBANDHA

## Husband kills wife for dowry

From Our Correspondent

Oct 5: An expectant mother of village Falia under Sadar Upazila was killed mercilessly by her husband having failed to realise dowry on September 23.

According to report, Anowara Begum was married to Abdul Mannan of the same village. But soon after the marriage the husband demanded dowry. The poor father of Anowara could not fulfil the demand of his son-in-law.

On the issue of dowry the couple locked into quarrel every now and then. In the meantime Anowara became pregnant. On September 15 at night a fresh quarrel took place between the couple on the same issue. At one stage the enraged husband kicked Anowara resulting in her severe injuries. On September 23 the victim succumbed to her injuries.

A case was filed with local thana in this connection.

## THAKURGAON

## Eid-e-Miladunnabi observed

From Our Correspondent

Oct 5: The holy Eid-e-Miladunnabi was celebrated in Thakurgaon with due religious fervour.

Different religious and socio-cultural organisations took up programmes to mark the occasion.

Milad Mahfil, Kerat competition, discussion on Prophet's life, offering of Fatcha and special prayers seeking divine blessing were held. National flags were hoisted atop the private and public buildings.

## HABIGANJ

## 8 dacoits arrested

From Our Correspondent

Oct 5: Habiganj police in a raid arrested eight dacoits from Madhabpur and Chunerughat areas recently.

Acting on a secret information a police party headed by Additional Police Super. Habiganj and ASP (South) conducted a successful raid in the above places and arrested the dacoits with arms.

The alleged dacoits were Zamir Ali, Abdul Mannan, Kabir, Shahid, Moti, Ranu, Nur Hussain and Buzur Rahman.

The police sources said, the arrested dacoits were the members of inter-district gang.

## MUNSHIGANJ

## Bicycle stolen

From Our Correspondent

Oct 5: A bicycle of Daily Star correspondent was stolen recently from his house at dead of night.

The cycle was kept locked but the thief had managed to unlock it and disappeared. A case was filed with the Munshiganj police in this connection.



Rash driving leads to frequent road accidents. Photo shows a bus skidded off the road into a roadside ditch while trying to overtake a baby-taxi on Fatullah-Muktarpur Road at Char Saidpur in Munshiganj on Thursday last.

—Star photo

## 20,000 unregistered marriages in 3 years : Tk 20 lakh revenue loss

From Our Correspondent

DINAJPUR, Oct 5: Over 2000 marriages have been terminated during the last three years in Dinajpur district for non-payment of dowry, it is learnt from a reliable source.

Unregistered marriages are largely prevalent in the district during the period. More than 20,000 marriages took place without registration in the district during the last three years. Subsequent marriages without getting the permission of first wives are also on the increase in the district.

The government has also been deprived of Taka 20,000,000 for non-registration of those marriages.

3 dacoits held

Three alleged dacoits were arrested and one two-barrel gun was recovered by the police.

and third wives.

Out of the 20,000 unregistered marriages, about 4,000 have been dissolved during the period of which 2,000 due to non-payment of dowry.

The brides could not appear before the court for establishing their rights upon their husbands for want of necessary documents, it is alleged by a number of divorced wives and their guardians.

The government has also been deprived of Taka 20,000,000 for non-registration of those marriages.

3 dacoits held

Three alleged dacoits were arrested and one two-barrel gun was recovered by the police.

lives of Birol police station a few days ago.

According to a report, a daring dacoit was committed in Janata Bank branch at Birol upazila sadar. One two-barrel gun and some money were looted by the dacoits. Another daring dacoit was committed in a branch of Bangladesh Krishibank at Baterhat where this two-barrel gun was used by the dacoits, it is alleged.

Acting on a secret information, Mr Nur Mohammad, SI of Birol raided a house in the village Kazipur and managed to recover the two-barrel gun which was looted from Birol branch of Janata Bank. Three alleged dacoits namely Udaru

(32), Dabu (35) and Nepal (42) were also arrested from the house.

Cases have been registered with Birol PS in this regard and further investigations were proceeding.

Farmer killed

A farmer was killed and two others were injured seriously by a gang of dacoits in the village Paree in No 1 Union Parishad under Balfadangi upazila in Thakurgaon district on Sunday last. Three persons were arrested in this regard.

According to the report, a gang of dacoits numbering about 18 to 20 armed with deadly weapons, entered into the house of one cultivator

Mohammad Manglu (60) by breaking open the doors and started looting valuables from the house.

Hearing hue and cry, the villagers rushed to the house and tried to resist the dacoits. In the clash Manglu was killed on the spot and two villagers namely Sultan (17) and Kusumuddin (22) were injured seriously. However, the dacoits managed to escape.

The injured persons were admitted to Thakurgaon Hospital in a critical condition.

The police arrested three persons, namely Maula Mohammad (45), Mohammad Abul (22) and Abul Hossain (35). A case has been registered with Balfadangi police station in this connection.

## Notes from Mymensingh

### From BAU Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, Oct 5: Haluaghata police recovered 100 grams of heroin worth Taka 50 lakh from a shop near Joyrumkura Hospital recently.

Acting on a secret information, the police arrested two persons Mansur Ahmed (26) and Nur Mohammed (28) of Gubrakura village under Haluaghata upazila in this connection.

### Aman farming plan

Agricultural Extension Department (AED) will bring 6,22,000 acres of land under Aman cultivation during the current season in 12 upazilas of Mymensingh district.

Mr Nasruddin Bhuiyan, Deputy Director of AED said that about 2,43,000 acres will be brought under high-yielding variety and 11,800 acres under Pyjam while the rest under local variety.

AED will provide agricultural inputs and disburse 1,44,630 kilogram of HYV seeds among the farmers, while Taka 40 lakh agricultural loan has been distributed in this period.

### Businessman kidnapped

A businessman Abul Kasem was kidnapped in broad daylight with a cash amount of Taka 31,000 from Purabari Bazar in Trisal upazila by some miscreants recently, according to the sources.

The sources added that the kidnappers also claimed Taka 50,000 more from the victim's family members for his release.

A case was registered with Trisal police in this connection, but he is yet to be rescued.

### 114 tons wheat allocated

A total of 114 metric tons of wheat have been allocated for 152 projects under Food for Works Programme in 12 unions under Nandail upazila in the Mymensingh district for repairing works of roads, playground and reexcavation of derelict ponds.

### BAU VC's call to eliminate campus terrorism

#### From Our Correspondent

AGRI-VARSITY (Mymensingh), Oct 5: Vice-Chancellor of the Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) Prof M Asadur Rahman said here on Wednesday last that frequent violence and atrocities on the country's educational campuses had caused a serious impediment on the way of the nation's transition to democracy.

The VC was addressing the BAU teachers at the Shilpacharya Jitnul Abedin auditorium to apprise them of the latest situation on the BAU campus. Rahman told the teachers that as conscious section of the society they must take the stock of the situation on the campus and urged them to play the pivotal role in resolving the crisis effectively.

The VC also called upon all concerned including the students and their guardians to sink their differences of opinion and help eliminate terrorism from the campus in the greater national interest. The VC also urged the government to arrest immediately the terrorists from the campus and take steps to restore a congenial academic atmosphere on the campus.

### Panchagarh hats, bazars in bad shape

PANCHAGARH, Oct 5: Hats and bazars in different upazilas of the district are beset with multifarious problems causing great inconveniences to consumers and businessmen, reports UNB.

Panchagarh Sadar, Boda, Saka, Debiganj, Atowari, Vojanpur, Laxmihat, Vagdai, Maidanbazar markets are now in pitiable and unhygienic conditions.

In most of the hats and bazars filth and garbage are dumped disorderly and there is hardly any arrangement for cleaning them. During the rainy season, the situation becomes worst.

Besides, the drains dumped by filth, dirt and household wastes also emit bad odour polluting the environment. There are no public toilets in the markets and arrangements for pure water are hardly found.

According to upazila administration, two people died and hundreds were attacked by diarrhoea during this fortnight.

The roads inside the hats and bazars of the district are also in pitiable conditions. Cracks and potholes have developed here and there causing much inconveniences to vehicular movement and pedestrians.

## Withdrawal of Upazila Magistrate demanded

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Oct 5: The local unit of BNP and All Party Students Action Committee demanded immediate withdrawal of Melandah Upazila Magistrate for his alleged corruption and misuse of power.

Local people and some railway employees of the area caught some thieves while pilfering the railway materials but due to flexibility of the railway authorities the pilferage is going on unabated.

Two persons were caught red-handed while they were taking away fish plates by bullock cart. Later the railway track was repaired which would have caused serious accident. The arrested persons were released on bail later. The ring leader of the thieves

### Killing of JSD worker protested

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAIKI, Oct 5