

District roundup

BARISAL
Drug addicts on increase

From Our Correspondent
Aug 19: The number of drug addicts has been increasing alarmingly in five southern districts of Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola, Barguna and Jhalakathi. Hundreds of young and middle aged people have been addicted to drugs like ganja, phenicidyl and others. It is learnt that most of the addicts belong to the age-group between 12 to 40 years and the majority of them are small shop-keepers, transport workers, businessmen, students and employees of different offices. Informed sources said, the unemployed youths, and some criminals out of frustration, get quickly addicted to different drugs or alcohol. Now, easily availability of drugs has aggravated the situation. These drugs are usually sold in different shops and areas including rural areas which is known to the buyers of these drugs.

RAJBARI
Attack on weekly 'Shhroat' editor's house condemned

From Our Correspondent
Aug 19: An emergency meeting of Bangladesh Sangbadik Samity local unit held here recently at the local Press Club condemning the attack on the house of the Editor of 'Weekly Shhroat' at Pachitkri village of Pangsha thana of the district. Md Shurrahul presided over the meeting. It was addressed by unit members also. Speakers slated the attack on the Editor's house. Later, the journalists brought out a procession and paraded the main thoroughfares of the town. They handed over a memorandum to the district administration demanding an enquiry and legal action against the culprits.

RAJSHAHI
Cattle-lifters active

From Our Correspondent
Aug 19: Cattle lifting by an organised gang has created panic among the poor farmers of the district. At least 1000 cattle were lifted from different parts of Durgapur, Tanore, Bagha, Godagari and Charghat thanas during last three months. The owners of cattleheads have been passing sleepless nights. They spend nights in the cowsheds to protect their cows. The farmers complained that in some cases, the cattle-lifters demand ransom from them. It is also alleged that the cattle-lifters in some places peel skins of the stolen cows. Local people have urged the law enforcing agencies to take necessary steps to check the menace immediately.

COMILLA
Foundation training course held

Aug 19: A two-month long special foundation training course for the LOEB Engineers held at the Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) on 16 August, says a press release. Twenty eight engineers are participating in the course. The course included three major subject areas — Bangladesh Studies, Public Administration and Development Economics. The course was formally inaugurated by Dr Kshanada Mohan Das, Director General, BARD while Ataulah Shuytan Superintendent Engineer, LOEB was present as special guest. Abdul Mannan Majumder, Director (Rural Society) and Abul Kalam Azad, Asstt. Director (Trg) of the Academy have been conducting the course.

SIRAJGANJ
Three killed in boat capsized

Aug 19: Three people, including a mother and her minor son, were killed in a boat capsized in the river Jamuna near village Kumirdaha in Kazipur thana on Monday, reports UNB. Villagers said Amena Begum (25), her son Ali Hossain and maid-servant Banesa Khatun drowned in the river as their dingy boat capsized due to strong current on their way to village Charginish.

MANIKGANJ
Newly formed Pak-Panjanat meet held

Aug 19: A general meeting of the newly-formed 'Pak-Panjanat Parishad' was held recently at Garpara Imambari Darbar Sharif premises, three kilometres from here, reports BSS. The meeting was presided over by Peer Shaheb of Imambari Shah Aminur Rahman, says a Press release. Eminent Ufema and Islamic scholars participated in the discussion at the meeting. A 39-member central committee of 'Pak-Panjanat Parishad' was formed.

NETRAKONA
Four cattle roasted alive

Aug 19: Four cattle were roasted alive and property worth about Taka 25,000 was burnt to ashes in a fire at a house of Nagua village in Kendua thana recently, reports UNB. The fire originated from the cow-shed of Moulana Ali Hossain, gutted two houses and soon engulfed the adjacent areas causing damage to the paddy, jute and other valuable, witnesses said. During the incident the Moulana was out of his house and attending Tablig Jamaat elsewhere. On hearing the incident he rushed to his house. The poor Moulana is now facing extreme difficulties for want of cattle. He was preparing to till his land for Aman cultivation with his cows but the fire turned him almost destitute.

KISHOREGANJ
Body of missing girl recovered

From Our Correspondent
Aug 19: Police recovered the body of Halima Begum (12), a school student of village Pachimpura in Kuliarchar thana after three days of her missing — recently. Halima Begum started for her maternal uncle's house in a nearby village on July 11 and since then she had been missing. Her body was found lying in a sugarcane field later. She is believed to have been raped before killing. A case was registered with Kuliarchar police station in this connection. The body was sent to the morgue of Kishoreganj Sadar hospital for postmortem.

RANGPUR
Housewife commits suicide

From Our Correspondent
Aug 19: A house-wife named Tupurani (20) of Jagjibon village under Pirgacha thana committed suicide by hanging recently. According to the information, due to quarrel with husband she went to her father's residences and committed suicide by hanging in a tree there. Another report adds: One Khatish Chandra (12) of Anantaram village under Pirgacha thana was allegedly killed by his close relative for grabbing 47 decimal of land owned by the deceased, recently. A case has been lodged with the police station in this regard, it is gathered.

SYLHET
JCD sweeps majority posts in SUCSU polls

From Our Correspondent
Aug 19: The election to the Central Students Union of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology was held here recently. The Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) nominated Harun-Nasir panel bagged seven seats including General Secretary and Assistant General Secretary posts out of ten. It may be stated here that there is no post of VP in the union. The newly elected office-bearers are: Harun Ur-Rashid—General Secretary, Mirza Nasir Uddin—Asstt. General Secretary, Nasrin Chowdhury—Girls Secretary, SMA Shahnewaj Fatmi—Drama Secretary, Abdul Mohaimen Ajman—Indoor Games Secretary, Saiful Islam Talukdar—Magazine Secretary and Shabbir Ahmed Chowdhury from Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, Aminul Islam Shamim—Sport Secretary and Abdul Aziz Shaju from Islami Chhatra Shibir and Devashah Dutta—Literary Secretary from Chhatra Ojka.



RAJBARI: Bosti has been developed along the local railway station which not only pollutes the environment but also endangers the plying of trains. — Star Photo

10,922 cases pending before courts in Barisal

From Our Correspondent
BARISAL, Aug 19: Ten thousand nine hundred and twenty two cases are now pending before different courts of Barisal of which 9,596 are civil and 1,326 are criminal cases. Of the total civil cases, 1,126 are pending before the court of District Judge, 340 cases are pending before the Additional and Session Judge, 125 cases are pending in the court of Second Additional District and Sessions Judge, 2012 cases in the court of First Sub-Judge, 684 cases in the Second Sub-Judge, 416 cases in the court of Commercial Sub-Judge, 1,680 cases in the court of Senior Assistant Judge, 598 cases in the court of First Additional Assistant Judge, 346 cases in the court of Second Additional Assistant Judge, 75 cases in the court of Assistant Judge of Uztipur, 140 cases in the court of Assistant Judge of Banaripara, 137 cases in the court of Assistant Judge of Agaljhara, 718 cases in the court of Assistant Judge of Bakerganj, 494 cases in the court of Assistant Judge of Mehendiganj, 178 cases in the court of Assistant Judge of Babuganj, 307 cases in the court of Assistant Judge of Gourmadi, 122 cases in the court of Assistant Judge of Hizla and 134 cases in the court of Assistant Judge of Muladi. Of the total criminal cases, 363 cases are pending before the court of Session and Senior Special Tribunal Judges, 558 cases are pending before the court of First Additional Sessions and Special Tribunal Judge, 325 cases before the court of Second Additional Session Judge, 29 cases before the court of Assistant Session and Special Tribunal Judge, 23 cases before the court of Second Assistant Session and Special Tribunal Judge and 28 cases before the court of Third Assistant Session and Special Tribunal Judge. According to concerned sources, trials are being delayed due to shortage of judges, absence or presence of witnesses, delay in submission of chargesheet and some unavoidable reasons. A BSS report adds: A total of 7,19,711 bales of jute is expected to be produced in six southern districts under Barisal Agriculture Zone in the current season. The districts are: Barisal, Rajbari, Faridpur, Gopalganj, Madaripur and Shariatpur. According to an official source, a total of 74,197 hectares has been brought under jute cultivation in these districts this year. Of the total, 66,269 hectares were brought under 'tosh' variety of jute cultivation and 7,928 hectares under 'local' variety. Agriculture Extension Department arranged 28 demonstration plots in these districts to teach the farmers modern method of jute cultivation. Besides, Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) distributed 77,550 kilograms of jute seeds of tosha and local varieties in these districts the source said. Of the total, 5,070 hectares have been cultivated in Barisal district, 12,640 hectares in Rajbari, 22,300 hectares in Faridpur, 9,300 hectares in Gopalganj, 16,214 hectares in Madaripur and 8,673 hectares in Shariatpur districts.

Attack on Menon strongly slated

NETRAKONA, Aug 19: The leaders of different political parties and professional organisations in separate statements yesterday strongly condemned the attack on Workers' Party leader, Rashed Khan Menon MP, reports BSS. Advocate Adul Quddus, General Secretary of BNP, Netrakona district unit in a statement condemned the attack. Netrakona District Awami League President Advocate Fazlur Rahman Khan in a statement expressed deep concern at the attempt on the life of Menon. Besides, the President of Greater Mymensingh Unit of School Teachers' Association Gazl Musharrif Hossain and Editor of weekly Netra Patrika Humayun Kabir Selim in a statement condemned the attack on Menon. A UNB reports says: Acute fish scarcity has been prevailing in the district particularly affecting the town dwellers. Fish production has been declining in the district since 1988 due to massive siltation in the rivers and canals, according to informed sources. Extensive use of chemical fertiliser and insecticides in the crop fields has been stated to be the main reason for depletion of fish in the beels and haors. Decline of fish production created unemployment among the fishermen. Transplant aman cultivation in all the ten thanas of the district is being seriously hampered for want to rain during the current season. According to farmers, aman plants need sufficient water in the field. Due to water crisis, 50 per cent land might remain uncultivated.

BCL wins in college union election

From Our Correspondent
FARIDPUR, Aug 19: Bangladesh Chhatra League (M-I) bagged all but one seats in Rajendra University College Students' Union election. The election was held peacefully on August 12, college sources said. Ziaul Hassan Mithu, Animesh Roy and Inamul Hassan Richard were elected Vice-President, General Secretary and Assistant General Secretary of the students' union respectively in the 21-seat election.

231 held with arms, ammunition

KUSHTIA, Aug 19: Police arrested 231 people and recovered huge quantity of arms and ammunition from the district during the last 16 days, reports UNB. According to police sources, all the arrested had been in the wanted list on different cases. The arms and ammunition included SLR, SMG, stengun, hand bombs, bayonets, Chinese axes, ramdao, sword and knife. Police officials in the district said they were determined to curb crime and violence in the district.



Prof M A Majid, Head of the Department of Surgery, Sir Salimullah Medical College and VP of Bangladesh Society for Conservation of Environment (BSCCE) addressing a seminar on "Tree Plantation and Environment in Bangladesh" at village Narandi of Narsingdi district recently.

Across the country

Nation's first baby-friendly hospital in Bogra

From Somudra Haque
BOGRA: Someone once quipped: A tin of powdered milk and a feeding bottle in the hand of a mother combine to make a lethal weapon. As anywhere else in Bangladesh this held true for Bogra too. But then some people started to act. The new-born ones must get their mother's milk — and live, they said and built the country's first baby-friendly hospital. Incidentally the starting quip above was by Dr Gulshan Ara, the central figure of the Bogra initiative. Razia Sultana did not give her new-born infant the milk from her breasts for first three days after delivery. As a result she became a breast abscess patient. She had them to spend thousands of Taka on the treatment of her own fully. Exactly the same happened in the case of Swapna Rani. Kamrunnahar, 21 till the day she became a mother, believed 'Shaal dudh' had evil properties as it was witch's milk. But today, with a broad smile she says, that was plain superstition. 'Shaal dudh' (the first yellowish milk that include colostrum which appears just after child birth in the mother's breast and is locally known as Shaal dudh) is necessary to protect infants against common infection, a wise Kamrunnahar said. Razia, Swapna, Kamrunnahar are all from the rural areas of Bogra district. Razia now says: "I wouldn't commit that mistake ever again". Every mother should start nursing permission from the hospital super and civil surgeon Dr SK Haider Ali to turn the hospital's gynae unit into a baby-friendly unit. With full cooperation of the hospital super this unit was declared as the baby-friendly unit. Dr Gulshan Ara is an eminent gynae consultant of Bogra Mohammad Ali hospital. Throughout the district, however, she is known as a breast-milk promotional activist. Clutching a clipboard and some booklets she winds her way through dirt tracks to make house to house visits every weekend. This has been going on for the past 3 years during which time she has covered almost all the areas of Bogra. She goes on asking the mothers if they were giving breast-milk to their newborn. She advises the pregnant ones they must start breastfeeding the new-born within half an hour of its birth. She tells them breast milk is more nutritious, more hygienic, cheaper and it immunizes the child against infection, and protects the mother against pregnancy and reduces the risk of breast and ovarian cancer and breast abscess. Dr Gulshan said the baby-friendly hospital, UNICEF and WHO (World Health Organisation) have together drawn up a code of practice for all maternity units. If a hospital is following the ten steps to successful breastfeeding, it will be designated as baby-friendly. Dr Gulshan said she was and near ones. We are promoting the introduction of semi-solid foods at 5-6 months with continued breastfeeding up to 2 years." Dr Gulshan said, "We are supplying attractive leaflets, charts and other information materials for the promotion of breastfeeding and these are being given free to mothers and health care staff. We are striking attractive posters on the walls of the baby-friendly unit. Gulshan said, "In rural areas colostrum is often discarded as there is a superstition that this is witch's milk. And breastfeeding begins on the 2nd or 3rd day after birth. In the meantime the baby receives only sweetened water and honey with the belief that the baby will be sweet and will always talk sweet. But this idea is wrong and must be discouraged. If the mothers are reluctant to breastfeed during the first 3 days, they become breast abscess patients." She said, "I found in urban areas young and new mothers, overly conscious of their figure, are reluctant to breastfeed their children. Sometime their husbands, are also keen on their wives keeping a comely bustline. But they are all totally mistaken. If mothers give breastfeed they are protected from serious diseases like breast cancer, breast abscess and in no way breastfeeding adversely affects the figure of the mother or the beauty of the breast."



BOGRA: Dr Gulshan Ara, the central figure in the Bogra initiative to develop a full fledged baby-friendly hospital. — Star Photo

her infant soon after its delivery, she feels. If all the mothers give their babies nothing but breast milk and not even water for the first half year of the new born's life, then all of them could be saved from diseases common among infants, she now knows. Like Kamrunnahar, Razia and Swapna thousands of young mothers and pregnant women of different areas of Bogra district have for some time been receiving the gospel of breastfeeding and most of them have breastfeeding their infants. From where they got the good message? Every one like Kamrunnahar, Swapna, Razia, gives the same answer: From 'Gulshan daktar' (Dr Gulshan Ara). The message was delivered from the country's first baby-friendly hospital or precisely the baby-friendly unit of the Bogra Mohammad Ali hospital. The baby-friendly unit is fully supervised by Dr Gulshan Ara. Dr Gulshan Ara recently said to Daily Star, "I sought scandalised to see that some maternity clinics discouraged breastfeeding and there billboards loudly declared that bottle feeding was the modern way of rearing a child. 'But I think a tin of powdered milk and a bottle in the hand of the rural and urban mother of the developing countries is a lethal weapon to kill their babies. Indeed it is a non-violent weapon that nevertheless kills — and kills for sure.' Dr Gulshan said, "My nursing staff got training from me. They are helping mothers to initiate breastfeeding immediately after birth. Mother and infant rooming is one and they are allowed to stay together 24 hours a day. Those who do enter maternity unit usually stay for one or two days in case of normal delivery cases. But we have taken a decision that for practising breastfeeding they will have to stay at least one week at the maternity." Dr Gulshan said, "We are giving a lot of information to the mothers so that they can also explain it to their relatives. She said that both rural and urban areas all classes of families buy baby food for status symbol. As a result bottle-fed babies in poor communities have been found to be approximately 15 times more likely to die from diarrhoeal diseases and 4 times more likely to die from pneumonia than babies who are exclusively breastfed. Dr Gulshan explained, "I found breastfeeding is still prevalent among the poorest of the poor. But they do it more because they cannot afford to buy babyfood. We must discourage them to buy babyfood and teach them to take pride in breastfeeding." Dr Gulshan was certain if we spent a part of the day for breastfeeding promotional work then possibly we could reduce substantially the appalling figure of a million children dying every year of diseases having their origin in feeding problem. We owe it to our posterity to do whatever is in our power to help the child live.

Lawyers boycott court demanding withdrawal of District Judge

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 19: Local Bar Association members have renewed their decision to continue court boycott till the withdrawal of the District and Sessions Judge of the district, reports UNB. The fresh decision was announced at a press conference on Tuesday. The association went on court boycott from July 23 demanding withdrawal of the Judge Abdul Jalil for his alleged corruption and misbehaviour with the lawyers. The association also refuted the allegation of division among the lawyers published in a section newspapers saying that the decision was unanimous.

Tk 4cr for uplift of road

Communications Minister Oli Ahmed has said that more than Taka four crore would be spent this year to develop the road links in the island district of Bhola, reports BSS. Bhola-Char Fashion Road, the major road of the district would be developed and rehabilitated at a cost of Taka one lakh 70 thousand while Taka 2 lakh 40 thousand would be spent for the development works of nine thana connecting roads. The Communications Minister was speaking at a civic reception accorded in his honour at Poet Mozammel Huq Town Hall. State Minister for Irrigation, Water Resources and Flood Control Mosharrif Hossain Shahjahan also addressed the meeting. Oli said, the people of the country is the source of strength of the politics of BNP. He said emphatically "We do politics for the people and will never be alienated from them". He said, BNP do not run after votes with false assurances to the electorates. "Ensuring the overall and equitable development of all parts of the country is the objective of our politics," he added. State Minister Mosharef Hossain Shahjahan said, the people of the country had started realising that they had done the right thing by giving their mandate in favour of BNP. Earlier, both the ministers addressed a number of meetings at Kunjer Hat, Udaypur, Borhanuddin College and Daulatkhana Thana Auditorium. He said the youth had to be organised in a proper manner to turn them into real work force being inspired with the sense of dedication and hard labour.