

**District roundup**

**NETRAKONA**

**Shops, offices gutted**

Aug 24: Five commercial establishments and 25 grocery shops were gutted in a devastating fire Friday night at Purbadhala Bazar, about 12 kms from here. The commercial establishments included three stationary shops and godowns, reports BSS.

On a telephonic information the Netrakona fire service rushed to the spot and extinguished it in four hours. It said the fire had originated from a kerosene godown and quickly engulfed the adjoining areas. The estimated loss is Taka 22 lakh, the sources said.

**JHENIDAH**

**Contraband goods worth Tk 8 lakh seized**

Aug 24: The law enforcing agency personnel seized contraband goods and cows worth about Taka eight lakh during their operation in Jhenidah town on August 19, reports BSS.

An official source said goods worth Taka 4.5 lakh were seized from at least 20 Dhaka bound night coaches near Al-Hera Islami Institute of Jhenidah town on Dhaka-Khulna highway.

The goods include saree, cloth piece, skin, cosmetics, motor parts and physcedil.

Sixteen cows worth Taka 3.5 lakh were seized from Shekhpura under Shalakupha thana.

No body was arrested in this connection.

**FARIDPUR**

**Janata Party blames govt for law, order situation**

Aug 24: Janata Party Chairman KM Obaidur Rahman has blamed the government for not taking any sincere efforts to curb violence across the country, reports UNB.

Speaking at a gathering of his party workers at Kabi Jasimuddin hall on Friday, he said the government itself was responsible for creating law and order situation over the Golum Azam issue.

Presided over by Abdur Razzaque, the meeting was addressed among others by the party's General Secretary Mirza Abdul Halim, Dr. Obaidul Islam, Sarwar Azam Khan and KM Mahbubuzzaman.

The meeting was followed by a procession.

**CHITTAGONG**

**Regularities in power distribution demanded**

Aug 24: Nazu Mia Hat Power Subscribers Association here recently demanded removal of irregularities in distributing power in Nuralibari area of Hathazari thana, reports BSS.

Addressing a press conference at the press club here, Mohammad Sirjudowla and Tareque Mohiuddin Khan (Mukul), Convenor and Joint Convenor respectively of the association, alleged that Power Development Board employees in the area had resorted to some irregularities like overbilling, illegal power connection, delay in establishing new connection, accumulation of monthly bill discrepancies in domestic and commercial power connections.

They also alleged that a section of the PDB employees was engaged in realizing excess amount from the consumers through different fraudulent means.

They demanded of the concerned authorities to immediately make an enquiry into the allegations and bring the offenders to book.

**SATKHIRA**

**6,611 tons of rice unsold**

Aug 24: About 6,611 tons of unsold rice are reported to be getting damaged due to lack of proper care in the godowns, reports UNB.

The foodgrains were stockpiled in the godowns following cancellation, of pelli rationing and remained unsold due to high price.

The stocked rice was priced at Taka 12 per kilo as against Taka 10 to 11 in the open market.

Of the total amount, about 1800 tons remained unsold in Satkhira godown, 1128 tons in Kalaroa, 302 tons in Parolitya and 353 tons in Basantapur, 424 tons in Naktipur, 211 tons in Harinagar, 492 tons in Asasuni, 113 tons in Bardal, 1588 tons in Patkelghata and 100 tons in Jhaudanga.

**TANGAIL**

**Transformer theft on increase**

Aug 24: Theft of transformer, electrical wires and other equipment has increased in Tangail district during the last three months, reports BSS.

When contacted Syed Nurul Islam, General Manager, Tangail Pali Biddut Samity (PBS) said that a total of 76 transformers of different size and capacity, and 14,000 feet of wires had been stolen from Mirzapur Deldouer, Bashail, Nagarpur and Tangail Sadar thanas during the last three months.

Cases have been lodged in this connection but none was arrested so far, and no recovery was made, he said.

He further said PBS had no fund to replace these transformers and wires.

The consumers apprehend that a vast tract of crop land might remain unirrigated during the next season due to absence of transformer and other equipment which would supply power to tubewells.

It may be mentioned that Tangail PBS is the largest irrigation based project of the Rural Electrification Board (REB). Different types of pumps covering an area of 53,000 acres under HYV IRRRI cultivation are in operation in the project.

**KISHOREGANJ**

**Misceants slaughter minor girl**

From Our Correspondent

Aug 24: A eight-year-old girl named Delwara was slaughtered by misceants in broad daylight at village Monoharpur in Kuliarchar, Sadar thana yesterday (Friday).

The victim took food with her father after Jummah prayer and then went out of the house for playing. Later her body with cut marks of throat was recovered from a jute field about two hundred yards away from their houses in the afternoon.

The cause behind the murder could not be ascertained immediately. A case was registered with Kishoreganj police station in this connection. The body was sent to the morgue for postmortem.

**PABNA**

**Nirmul body gheraos DC's office**

Aug 24: Activists of the district chapter of Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee gheraoed DC's office here yesterday as part of the organisation's countrywide programme to press for trial of the killers and collaborators of 1971, reports UNB.

Led by its Convenor Ilyas Iftekhar Rasul, the demonstrators laid a two-hour siege around the district administrator's office since 12 noon and submitted a memorandum to the DC.

Earlier, they staged a rally condemning the assassination attempt on Rashed Khan Menon, MP.

It was addressed, among others, by Advocate Shimul Biswas of Workers Party and Rezaur Rahim of Awami League.

**JHENIDAH**

**Mother, sucking baby die from poisoning**

Aug 24: A mother and her sucking baby died of poison which the mother took following a bitter feud in the family, reports UNB.

Police said, Sajeda Khatoun (22) wife of Shamsur Rahman exchanged hot words with her mother-in-law.

She then took the child to bed at night for giving the last feed. The child sucked the mother's milk which by then had been poisoned.

Both the mother and child were later found dead in the bed.

**KUSHTIA**

**2 killed in road mishap**

Aug 24: Two persons were killed in a road accident on Friday on Kushtia-Bheramara road, eight miles from here, reports BSS.

The victims are Morraj Begum (35) and Motnuddin (40) of the village Nawada Khadimpur. They were run over by a minibus. They died on the spot, the eye witnesses said.

None was arrested so far in this connection.



KHULNA: Principal Md. Mazharul Hannan, Honorary Secretary General, FPAB speaking as President at a debate competition of Govt. Women's College, Boyra recently. At the end of the function, he distributed prizes among the winners. The function was addressed among others by Prof. Aminuddin, Mrs. Ferdousi Ali and Tahajjat Hossain. — Star photo

**Dacoity in trawlers, boats rampant, fishermen in panic**

From A Correspondent

BARGUNA, Aug 24 : Dacoities in fishing trawlers and boats in the Bay of Bengal have become rampant.

Thousands of Panic-stricken fishermen coming back to the shore due to absence of security.

Seven dacoities were committed in the fishing trawlers in the Bay of Bengal recently.

Dacoities have also been committed in four fishing trawlers and two boats near Harinbaria during the last week of July. Daring dacoities have also been committed in six fishing trawlers and nine boats in Mondubi Mohepur and Gongamot's areas of Galachipa and Khepupara thanas during the same period.

A gang of armed dacoits numbering about 15 attacked the fishermen while they were returning after fishing.

The dacoits looted trawlers, machine, fishing nets worth

about Taka 15 lakh.

Over hundred fishermen were injured in other dacoities where the dacoits decamped with cash and goods worth about Taka 10 lakh at Katka, Kachikhali areas of the Sunderban on August 1.

It is reported that over 50 fishing trawlers and boats were attacked by M V Shaon — Shohag on way to Khurna. The dacoits also opened fire on the fishermen and about 100 people were injured following the incident.

The injured persons were admitted to Patharghata and Borguna hospitals.

A case has also been filed with the Patharghata Police Station in this connection.

In another incident, a fishing trawler and fishing nets were robbed by the dacoits. Dacoities were also committed in five fishing trawlers near Pastharghata on August 9.

About 30 fishermen were injured, 10 of them seriously by the attack of the dacoits.

The injured fishermen have been admitted to Barisal Medical College Hospital for treatment.

Due to absence of proper security, thousands of fishermen have returned to their houses who have been passing hard days losing their boats and nets.

The fishermen and conscious people have urged the government to post naval forces and set up riverine police station to save thousands of fishermen from the frequent piracy.

Meanwhile some naval force have been deployed to combat the situation, it is reported. It is widely felt that regular patrol by the navy could help stop robbery.

**5032 tons of wheat distributed among poor families**

BARISAL, Aug 24: A total of 5032.50 metric tons of wheat were distributed among the members of 13,820 poor families in ten thanas and Barisal Paurashava of the district under Vulnerable Group Development Programme (VGDP) in the 1991-92 fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the wheat was distributed at the rate of 31.25 kilograms per family per month through 61 distribution centres.

Of the total wheat, 146.26 metric tons were distributed among the members of 390 families of Barisal Sadar thana, 250.87 metric tons among the members of 669 families of Bakerganj, 974.63 metric tons among the members of 2,559 families of Wazirpur, 810.75 metric tons among the members of 2,162 families of Mehendiganj, 651 metric tons among the members of 1,960 families of Gouranadi, 465.75 metric tons among the members of 1,242 families of Muladi, 403.50 metric tons among the members of 1,076 families of Hizla, 386.25 metric tons among the members of 1,030 families of Babuganj, 96 metric tons among the members of 256 families of Banaripara and 112.50 metric tons among the members of 300 families of Barisal Paurashava areas.

A four-day training course on 'production, management and quality control of different products of small and cottage industries' was concluded here at the Aswini Kumar Town Hall premises recently.

Barisal unit of National

Small and Cottage Industries Samity of Bangladesh conducted the training course.

About 30 members from different industrial units took part in this training course.

Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB), Barisal Zone has recovered over standing loan of Taka 38.40 crore from the farmers of 65 thanas of 11 southern districts in 1991-92 fiscal year.

According to an official source, the bank had outstanding loan of Taka 65 crore in these districts under Barisal

Zone. The bank realised 59 per cent of the total loan during the period, the source said.

Of the total, Tk. 3.93 crore was realised from Barisal district, Taka 3.11 crore from Bhoila, Taka 3.86 crore from Pirojpur, Taka 1.50 crore from Jhalakathi, Taka 3.71 crore from Patuakhali, Taka 2.27 crore from Barguna, Taka 6.63 crore from Faridpur, Taka 4 crore from Gopalganj, Taka 3.62 crore from Madaripur, Taka 2.67 crore from Shariatpur and Taka 3.10 crore from Rajbari districts.

**500 held with arms, ammunition in B'baria**

BRAHMANBARIA, Aug 24 : Police in special drives arrested 500 people and recovered arms and ammunition from different parts of the district as part of their 'Operation August-92 programme, reports UNB.

The arms including three pipe guns and ammunition were recovered from villages in Nasirnagar, Akhaura and Nabnagar police stations.

Among the accused, 133 were arrested in connection with 54 criminal cases, 138 as per warrants issued against them on various charges and 91 hoodlums wanted by police.

Police arrested three brothers and recovered two pipe guns from their possession at Rajapur village in Sarail thana on Saturday.

Acting on secret information, Sarail thana police raided

a house and arrested three brothers Abdur Rahman, Entaj and Lutfar Rahman.

Police suspected that the arrested people might be involved in river piracy committed in the area recently in which valuables worth lakhs of Taka have been looted.

A case has been filed with the local police.

Another report from Pabna adds: Police arrested two notorious hijackers from Hemayetpur Mental Hospital area on Friday.

Acting on secret information, police raided the area and arrested Rana (25) son of Rawhan Ali of Gobinda area of the town Motpur Rahman son of Abdus Sukur of the same area and seized a motor bike.

A case has been filed in this connection.

**Notes from Chandpur**

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Aug 24: The guardians are worried over teasing the college and school going girl students in the town for a long time. Some young boys are roaming about on the roads on the way of girl students and they tease the students here and there. The local elite and guardians urged the authority concerned to take necessary steps but no effective measures were yet taken.

**Cement prices shot up**

Price hike and short supply of cement in Chandpur district are hampering the construction work of the area.

It is alleged that at present a bag of cement is sold between Taka 250 to 230. Sometimes required quantity of cement are not available. Due to malpractice of business men almost all bags contain less quantity of cement.

As a result, construction works in the Government, semi-Government offices remained almost stopped.

**Fish scarcity acute**

Acute scarcity of fish has been prevailing in the district for last one month.

It is alleged that pisciculture in the district has been badly affected due to massive siltation in the river Meghna and the Padma. Use of chemical fertilizer and insecticide in crop fields have also affected the growth of different kinds of fishes caused scarcity. On the other hand, fishermen in the district have been facing many problems including shortage of fund, high price of fishing nets and boats.

**Poultry, cattle diseases breakout**

Poultry and cattle diseases have broken out in an epidemic form in the different thanas of Chandpur.

It is alleged that about 20 thousand poultry have been attacked by various diseases. Over 5 thousand poultry died of the diseases. Besides about one thousand cattle were attacked by various diseases. The villagers complained that in spite of repeated appeals to the authority concerned no effective step have been taken.

**Power supply erratic**

Irregular power supply and voltage fluctuation in the town have been hampering production in mills and factories. Many mills, factories, shops, deep tubewells power pumps remain inoperative due to frequent power failure and load shedding.

As a result production has come down to an alarming position.

**Workers clash leaves 11 hurt**

PABNA, Aug 24: At least 11 people were injured, six seriously, in an armed clash between two rival groups of workers at Calico Cotton Mills here on Sunday, reports UNB.

Of the injured, five were admitted to Sadar Hospital and one was rushed to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital. Others took first aid.

Mill sources said the gunfight ensued when some suspended labourers with arms tried to force into the mill at noon and another group went in defence of the management.

The mill authorities said the attackers, numbering about 25, were suspended about two months back on charge of indulging in terrorism in the mill premises, while the labourers claimed themselves as victims of internal politics.

Witnesses said both the groups allegedly used firearms and police intervened and took the situation under control. A case was lodged in this connection.

**Officials suffering from accommodation problem**

BARGUNA, Aug 24 : Government and semi-government officials have been suffering badly from accommodation problem in the district headquarters for a long time, reports UNB.

Since the upgradation as a district from sub-division nine years ago no scheme has yet been taken to construct staff quarters for the officials. As a result, many officials have been facing much difficulties in maintaining their families.

Most of the officials living in the district town without their families in the absence of accommodation facilities are undergoing a lot of ordeals in meeting the cost of establishments in two places.

Some government officials

said they are desperately trying to go elsewhere as the existing staff quarters can accommodate only five per cent officials.

The number of child labourers has been increasing in the district despite the ban under International Labour Law.

Children of destitute families are found working as helping hands in motor, bi-cycle and rickshaw garages, welding shops and as waiters in hotels and restaurants.

Some children are seen working as hawkers while some others are pulling rickshaws.

It is alleged that these child labourers are made to work for more than 10 hours a day

**Police raid bazars, seize contraband goods**

COMILLA, Aug 24 : Police seized contraband items worth about Taka 75,000 in separate raids in the districts, reports UNB.

Acting on secret information, Kotwali thana police raided Ranir Bazar, Bidir Bazar and Chawk Bazar in the town on August 19 and seized the contraband goods.

The items seized by the police included 2,230 kg of Indian sugar, 116 kg of Masur-Dal (lentil) and two bicycles.

Another report adds: Chandina police acting on secret information seized 16 cartons of Benson cigarettes and 198 pieces of China-made drinking glasses from a passenger bus here.

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

A pedestrian was killed in a road mishap at Bakheranagar in Muradnagar thana on Comilla-Brahmanbaria highway Tuesday last.

The victim Shahid Miah (30) was killed when a passenger bus knocked him down from behind.

Police seized the bus. The driver, however, managed to escape.

A case has been filed with Muradnagar police in this connection.

**Robbery**

One rickshaw passenger was stabbed and seven others were robbed of Taka one lakh by miscreants here last week, according to a delayed reports.

The passengers mostly businessmen on four rickshaws were way laid on the Elliotganj-Muradnagar road about a mile north of Elliotganj by a gang of miscreants.

They forced the passengers to surrender all their belongings including cash money at

gun point. One of the passengers, Ali Ahsan Bepari was stabbed when he tried to resist.

They decamped with valuable worth about Taka one lakh.

Meanwhile, Kutwali police arrested a villager for growing ganja in the yard of his house at Tarappa of Chawara union.

About 200 ganja plants recovered from the premises have also been seized.

**Drought hampers aman farming**

BOORA, Aug 24: Aman cultivation is being hampered due to prevailing unprecedented drought in this rainy season throughout the northern districts, reports UNB.

According to Agriculture Extension Department (AED), a massive scheme has been taken up to bring 39 lakh acres of land under Aman farming in 16 districts of North Bengal. Cultivation started from mid June which will be continued upto this month.

The AED sources said due to insufficient rainfall 30 per cent of the targeted land could not be tilled.

Aman seed beds need proper irrigation which is quite inadequate in these districts. As a result, many seed beds have already been damaged, said an official.

Farmers are to mainly depend on rainwater in the absence of adequate irrigation facilities. They urged the authorities to take up schemes for extended irrigation network in these districts to achieve targeted production in future.

**Help turn educational institutions into centres of knowledge**

MAULVIBAZAR Aug 24 : Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman on Saturday said that universities and other educational institutions were to be turned into centres of excellence for imparting knowledge and moral values, reports BSS.

He said, the academic institutions must be capable of arresting value decadence and divert the students toward persuasion of knowledge and wisdom for turning them into worthy citizens capable of steering the nation as leaders and sustain development process ensuring peace and prosperity.

The Finance Minister was addressing as chief guest the installation ceremony of the newly elected office-bearers of Shahjalal Science and Technology University here.

Presided over by the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof Dr Sadruddin Ahmed Choudhury, the occasion was addressed by student leaders, President of the university students union and the Vice-Chancellor administered the oath of office to the office-bearers of the students union.

Local MP Kh. Abdul Malik and Special Assistant to BNP Chairperson Haris Choudhury, university teachers and other local elite were present.

Saifur Rahman said the present government had given top most priority to education, particularly to primary and women education to add impetus to women education, he said, special scholarship scheme would be introduced in 108 thanas of the country representing all districts. Human resources development is one of the priority agenda for alleviation of poverty, he emphatically added.

He called upon all teachers and students to help maintain conducive academic atmosphere and turn the new university an institution of exam-

ple so that students from all over the country could converge here for seeking education. He said government would give all support and co-operation for making the university complete with all requirements in phases.

**Poura inhabitants facing problems.**

PANCHAGARH, Aug 24: Inhabitants of Panchagarh Paurashava have been facing manifold problems due to lack of civic amenities, local leaders said, reports UNB.

Most of the 30 kilometres of roads in the paurashava are in very poor condition, having no street lamps and no foot-paths.

Markets are over-crowded and insanitary causing difficulties to both the buyers and sellers.

The town has no water supply system. Paurashava has sunk only 272 tubewells of which 136 are out of order.

Power supply given several years back had been disconnected for reasons not known to the town dwellers. The town plunges into darkness after sundown facilitating criminal activities.

**One falls from coconut tree, die in hospital**

HABIGONJ, Aug 24: A young man of 22 plucking green coconut met with the tragic end of his life when he fell from the coconut tree recently, reports UNB.

Nuruj Miah of village Sutang in Sadar thana was working as a tea boy in a restaurant.

He was rushed to Habiganj Sadar Hospital in a critical condition but he succumbed to his injuries.



GAZIPUR: A self-employment programme has been taken up at Kapasia of the district under goat farming project of the HOPE-87 Bangladesh, branch office, Dhaka recently. — Star photo