

### District roundup

#### MYMENSINGH

### One to suffer lifeterm for killing woman

From Our Correspondent

Sept 2: Robiul Hossain, District Additional Sessions Judge sentenced one Anfar Ali of Daridri village under Isharganj thana for lifeterm imprisonment on charge of killing Aktara Khatun recently.

The prosecution story is that on January 21, 1984, the convicted person killed on e Aktara Khatun of village Daridri under Isharganj thana by sharp weapon over fishing disputes.

Later, a case was filed with the police.

The judge after examining the evidences sentenced him to lifeterm.

#### SATKHIRA

### Three wanted accused held

From Our Correspondent

Sept 2: Debhata thana police arrested three notorious criminals from Puspakati village under Debhata thana while they were making bombs at the house of Ejer Ali of the same village recently.

Acting on a secret information, a police team raided the aforesaid house and arrested three persons named Ejer Ali, Akbar Ali and Shahjahan Ali. Explosives were recovered from their possession. The arrested persons were wanted by police in connection with several cases. It is reported.

Another report adds: The members of Ansar and VDP under Satkhira pourashava nabbed one Abdul Majed with two stolen cycles from his possession from Bakal areas of the town recently.

#### CHUADANGA

### Imams training course on sanitation held

From Our Correspondent

Sept 2: A day long imams training course on sanitation was held at Alamdanga thana Public Health Engineering office premises recently.

The Alamdanga thana parishad and thana Public Health Engineering Department jointly in co-operation with the UNICEF arranged the training course.

Thirty imams from the different areas of Alamdanga thana took part in the training course.

The imams were imparted training on the use of pure water supply, cleanliness and use of sanitary latrines in the rural areas.

Nazul Islam, Alamdanga Thana Social Welfare Officer presided over the opening ceremony.

Among others who addressed the opening function were Suraj Alam Khan, Bijoy Kumar Das, Syed Ali Molla, Mohabbat Ali, Strajul Hoque, Robiul Hoque and Luthfor Rahman.

#### GAZIPUR

### Fodder Scarcity acute

Sept 2: Acute scarcity of fodder has been persisting in almost all thanas of the district over the last few months, reports UNB.

About 50 per cent crops and grass of the district were damaged by floods and drought in the recent past.

Moreover, prices of oilcake and rice bran used as cattle feed have gone beyond the purchasing capacity of farmers.

Due to shortage of fodder hundreds of cattlehead throughout the district have been reduced to skeleton and have fallen prey to various diseases.

Farmers urged the authorities to bring khas lands under grass cultivation in the district to save the cattle resources.

#### TANGAIL

### Relief Coordination Committee meet held

Sept 2: A meeting of district Relief Coordination Committee was held Sunday last at district conference room here with Luthfor Rahman Khan, State Minister for Relief in the chair, reports BSS.

The meeting was attended among others by members of Jattya Sangsad, district level officers and Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO).

A total of 907 metric tons of wheat has been allocated for the district under test relief.

The minister said that the projects under test relief should be made as per government rules.

#### JHENIDAH

### Two pipeguns recovered

From Our Correspondent

Sept 2: Kaliganj thana police recovered two pipeguns with eight round of bullets from the village Subarnashara under Kaliganj thana recently.

Acting on a tip, police raided the spot from all the directions where the dacoits were preparing to commit a dacoity. But sensing police arrival, the dacoits managed to flee from the scene leaving the arms.

Another report adds: Local shopkeepers and traders association observed two hours (10 am to 12 noon) hartal recently demanding immediate arrest of the terrorists and toll collectors.

All the shops and business centres including kutcha bazars were closed during hartal hour.

A protest meeting was held at local post office square. Saidur Rahman Montu presided over the meeting. It was addressed among others by Naimul Huda and Dilip Kumar.

#### BARISAL

### Tree plantation campaign on

Sept 2: Tree planting campaign in five southern districts is going on in full swing during the current season, reports UNB.

Government, non-government and socio-cultural organisations have chalked out elaborate programmes for the successful implementation of the drive.

The massive tree planting programme in Barisal, Peropur, Jalakhathi, Bagerhat and Khulna has been taken up as part of the country wide drive under taken by the government.

A total of 5,89,587 saplings of different varieties was sold among the interested people so far, official sources here said.

#### NETRAKONA

### Catching of fish fry unabated

Sept 2: Fish fry are being caught indiscriminately in the district since last few months, defying government ban, reports UNB.

Official sources said that the government banned catching of fish fry below nine inches all over the country in order to augment fish production.

According to witnesses, huge quantity of different types of fish fry including ruhi, katla, mrigel, magur and shing are being sold in different hats and bazars all over the district.

Law enforcing agencies have not taken action to stop this illegal business so far.

#### CHANDPUR

### Aman paddy under pest attack

From Our Correspondent

Sept 2: About 20 thousand acres of aman paddy have been attacked by pests in all seven thanas of the district.

The pests are locally called majra and pamri. Due to continuous drought, the cultivation of aman paddy have been delayed this year. At the growing stage pests have already attacked in a large area.

According to Agriculture department, about two lakh acres of land were brought under aman cultivation during the current season.

It is informed in many cases pesticides failed to control pests. The pesticides purchased from the local market more or less adulterated. Farmers urged the concerned authorities to take pests to control the situation.

#### HABIGANJ

### Rival groups clash leaves one dead

Sept 2: A man was killed and 10 others injured in a clash between two rival groups at Katgara village of Madharpur thana, reports UNB.

Witnesses said, a gang of armed miscreants attacked Rahis Ali on August 26 over a previous enmity. Rahis Ali's men resisted them and a clash ensued in which Mafiz Uddin (12) was killed on the spot. Ten others were also injured.

The body was sent to morgue for autopsy and a case has been registered with the Madharpur police.

Another report adds: The 46th Urs mubarak of Hazrat Sayed Goleim Mustafa Hosseini Chisti (R) was held at Darbar-e-Mustafa at Sultanshi of Sadar thana recently with due religious fervour.



SYLHET: The continued erosion of the river Surma hit Mollargaon village of the sadar thana. — Star photo

### 20,000 people of 7 thanas homeless in Pabna

## Erosion devours 11 offices, 5000 factories, 21 institutions

PABNA Sept 2: At least 20,000 people of seven thanas of greater Pabna district were rendered homeless due to erosion by the river Jamuna and Padma during last few months, reports UNB.

According to official sources, 12 villages of Bera thana, 4 villages of Sujanager, 2 villages of Shajadpur, 5 villages of Chowhali, 18 villages of Belkuchi, 4 villages of Sadar and 9 villages of Kazipur thanas have already devoured by the rivers.

Eleven government offices, 5000 handloom factories, 12 mosques, 5 primary schools, 1 college and 3 madrasahs were also devoured by the rivers, the sources added.

About 12,000 people took shelter on the flood control embankment. Government has sanctioned 3 tons of rice and Taka 50,000 for the affected people.

A report from Chapainawabganj says: About 2050 families were rendered homeless on account of erosion by the rivers Padma and Mohananda in four unions of three thanas in the district during last one month.

Affected areas are Narayanpur, Sarderpara, Surjuranayanpur, Marapara, Bagpara, Takpara, Panka, Jhainazar, and Bholahat thanas.

According to reports from Narayanpur and Panka unions of Sadar and Shibganj thanas, 2000 families were rendered homeless and about 5000 acres of agricultural land, one school, 11 mosques were affected.

Majority of the homeless families who took shelter on the flood control embankment have been passing hard days in absence of any relief materials.

Another 50 families in Bholahat thana were rendered homeless on account of erosion by the river Mohananda.

Absence of moisture in the soil is hampering the transplantation of Aman paddy in most of the thanas of the district.

According to sources, only 50 per cent of aman seedlings have been transplanted so far.

The concerned authorities have fixed the target of transplant aman cultivation on 1,24,785 acres of land this year.

Drought and inadequate rainfall are learnt to be the main reasons for drying up of the soil.

Most of the farmers in the district have to depend on rain for transplant aman farming which is the main crop of the district.

Officials say the target of aman production may not be achieved if the district did not have adequate rain in the next few days.

### Alimuzzaman Bridge opens

FARIDPUR, Sept 2: The old Alimuzzaman Bridge on the river Kumur passing through Faridpur town was opened to traffic recently, reports BSS.

The sixty-year-old bridge, 300 feet in length and 12 feet in breadth, was completely washed away during the flood of 1988 snapping the direct link between eastern and western parts of this district town.

According to an official source, the Roads and Highways Department took up a scheme for reconstruction of the old Alimuzzaman Bridge at an estimated cost of Taka 70 lakh.

Provisions have been made for using the bridge only for the pedestrians and light vehicles to avoid growing traffic jam on the narrow bridge.

## Law, order situation deteriorates

KUSHTIA, Sept 2: An all party meeting here has blamed the law enforcing agencies of inaction in curbing violence and terrorism in the district, reports UNB.

The DIG of Khulna Range Ashraf Huda presided over the meeting held at the Circuit House Thursday to discuss the law and order situation arising out of last week's gun battle. Hassanuzzaman Avik of Thanapara, a student, was killed in the exchange of fire on the Islamic University campus.

The DIG sought suggestions from the cross-section of people attending the meeting.

Speaking on the occasion, Advocate Md Abdul Wahed, President of district unit of Ganotriti Party blamed the police for miserably failing to curb terrorism in the town.

Advocate Shamsul Huda, President of Kushtia Unnayan Parishad, said that it was not difficult for police to identify and round up terrorists.

Former MP and Paura Chairman Md Badruddoza said that political leaders were nurturing terrorism for their political gains and called for impartial enforcement of law.

Sohrabuddin of BNP said that Avik would not have been killed if police took proper steps earlier.

Dr Anisur Rahman of Jamaat-e-Islami said that police should act strictly in accordance with the law without any fear or favour.

The DIG assured the meeting that all possible steps would be taken to curb terrorism and sought cooperation of all sections of the people in this respect.

Deputy Commissioner Syed Hafiz Ahmed, Police Super Md Anwar Hossain, Additional SP, A G Bassha and other police officials were present on the occasion.

The meeting was attended, among others, by former MP and Jamaat leader Abdul Wahed, BNP district unit secretary Advocate Azizur Rahman, President of city BNP Shamim Arzoo, Civil Surgeon in-charge Dr Moudud Hossain Alamgir and journalists.

Meantime, various organisations here brought out processions condemning the killing of Avik and demanded exemplary punishment to those responsible for the killing.

The miscreants had fled leaving the arms and ammunition there.

### Body of school girl recovered

PABNA, Sept 2: Police recovered a body of a school girl from a paddy field near Muhonganj village in Bera thana recently, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Mahfuza Khatun Alema (15), daughter of Mohammad Ali and a student of class seven of Bera Girls High School.

Police, however, suspected that she was killed after rape by the miscreants.

The body was sent to Sadar Hospital for autopsy and a case was filed with the police.



CHANDPUR: Yakub Ali, Deputy Commissioner of the district planting here a coconut sapling on tree plantation campaign organised by local Central Rotary Club recently. — Star photo

### RU Senate meet condoles death of prominent citizens

RAJSHAHI, Sept 2: The fourteenth Senate meeting of Rajshahi University Sunday adopted resolutions condoling the death of prominent citizens of the subcontinent, reports BSS.

Prof Anisur Rahman, Vice-Chancellor of the university presided over the meeting.

The meeting condemned the attack on the life of Workers' Party leader Rashed Khan Menon MP and condoled the death of Ratan Sen, a CPB leader. It also condoled the death of Oscar Prize winner and prominent cinema director Satyajit Ray, Rahman Khan, former chief justice of erstwhile East Pakistan Justice B A Siddiqi, founder chairman of The Bangladesh Observer Hamdul Haq Chowdhury, former secretary of Rajshahi Press Club Monzurul Haq and others.

The meeting also prayed for the salvation of the departed souls and expressed sympathy to the members of the bereaved families.

### 12 held with 73 Indian cows

SATKHIRA, Sept 2: Bangladesh Rifles arrested 12 alleged smugglers, seized 73 Indian cows and one engine boat worth over Taka 12 lakh from Barodol border area in Assansuni thana on Sunday, reports UNB.

Acting on secret information, BDR personnel led by Commanding Officer Lt Col Mozammel Haque rushed to the spot and seized the cows while being loaded on the boat.

The arrested smugglers were sent to jail hjat while the cows were handed over to the local customs authorities.

A case has been filed with the police.

### Terrorists hampering construction of road

SUNAMGANJ, Sept 2: Construction of Madanpur-Diari Road under the Roads and Highways Division has become almost impossible because of interference by "terrorists and extortionists", reports UNB.

Aggrieved local people said the "hoodlums" had created a reign of terror in the suburb of the town, impeding development work in the area, including the construction work on the road.

Construction of the road began recently, avoiding the extortionists who allegedly charged a fat amount of money from contractors.

The extortionists even allegedly threatened to kill one of the employees of the concerned construction firm after their bid to kidnap him had failed in the face of resistance by the local people.

The company has filed two cases with Sunamganj police in connection with these incidents, and police arrested six people. But sources claimed that the actual culprits are yet at large.

They alleged despite Operation August, a special police drive across the country, those people were still absconding. They are said to be backed by a former UP Chairman.

They urged the concerned authorities to take effective measures so that normal atmosphere prevails in the area.

### Across the Country

## The fruit that is at once a legend and a raging favourite

By Rajat Kanti Goswami

MAULVIBAZAR, Sept 2: For Sylhetis, the true-bred ones that is, 'hathkara' is at once a legend and a most-sought-after reality of the first order. This species of lemon is one of the essential items in the curry at every meal for epicure consumers of the Sylhet region.

Botanically, hathkara is a species of the 'Rutaceae' family. It looks green and round. In the locality it is known as a kind of lemon, only astronomically glorified though.

Hathkara tastes sour and sweet. It is delicious to the initiates — and happens with suchlike — has very little appeal to non-Sylhetis. One reason for that may be although it is available almost everywhere in the Sylhet region, it is not grown or eaten anywhere else in Bangladesh.

The Indian states of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Manipur are the producer of the best kinds of hathkara. Hilly areas of the Sylhet also produce hathkara in plenty.

Market demands of hathkara in the Sylhet region is so high that our nation's production cannot cope with that. Making best of this situation some enterprising businessmen get it from India through illegal ways.

However, if you are invited by any Sylhet family, they will unfailingly entertain you with hathkara mixed fish or meat curry along with other dishes.

Hathkara is used in the curry as one of the inputs that makes it tasty. When you try to prepare delicious curry, with the help of hathkara, you must be careful the quantity you put in. Excess of it would simply ruin the curry. So it is always essential that a touch of a 'fist hand' be there in the preparation of curry.

In the Sylhet region, there are so many stories on the hathkara. A non-Sylheti man was attracted by the fame of hathkara to buying a lot of it. To get the best out of the buy he advised his wife to put into the pot hathkara in a large quantity. His wife knew nothing about the fruit. So she prepared a fish curry mixing it with huge pieces of it. When the dish was served, both husband and wife could not take their meal for it was sour to the extreme. And they never again tried hathkara.

Mrs Hosnara Begum, a college lecturer hailing from Myrmensingh and now posted at Maulvibazar said she had heard about hathkara and was attracted. But when she took it, it tasted worth nothing its fame.

Thus the debate on the taste of hathkara goes on unabated while hathkara continues being used at times as bribe.

Hathkara is so much popular to the Sylhetis that they send hathkara abroad to their friends and relations who live in UK, USA, Canada and countries of Middle East. Hathkara was one of the favourite dishes of Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani.

Do you want to taste hathkara? Beware, the nearest thing it can be compared with is Dilli-ka-laddoo.

## Rival groups clash, 24 hurt in 2 dists

JHENIDAH, Sept 2: Twenty people including three women were injured, seven seriously, in a clash between the rival groups at Tetulbari village in sadar thana Tuesday, reports UNB.

Seriously injured Raheja Attur Rahman, Absar Mollah, Shahidul, Mokhlesure, Batul and Zainal were rushed to the Sadar Hospital.

Witnesses said the clash erupted when one owner of a cow started beating the cow of another villager on the plea that the latter's cow attacked his cow. Following this the two owners of the cows Attur Rahman and Shamsuddin later locked up in a quarrel.

The trouble immediately turned into a big clash between the supporters of the cow-owners that left 20 people injured.

Both the groups used deadly weapons during an hour long clash.

Four students belonging to rival students organisations of Faridpur Polytechnic Institute were injured, two of them seriously, in a clash that took place Monday at the institute premises at Baitulaman in the suburb of the town.

According to a general hospital source, of the injured three were admitted to the hospital and the other was released after first aid.

Police rushed to the spot to quell the clashes.

## Fish scarcity acute in dist

JHENIDAH, Sept 2: Acute scarcity of fish has been prevailing in the district in recent days, reports UNB.

Sources said pisciculture in the district has been adversely affected by massive siltation in the rivers, haors, beels and canals.

Unplanned use of chemical fertilizer and insecticide in cropfields has also contributed to the depletion of fish resources in the district.

Fishermen said many of them have given up fishing and took up other vocation for survival.

**Dacoity**

Dacoits stormed weekly hat at Halidihani Bazar in Sadar thana Friday evening and decamped with Taka 20,000 from different shops.

Witnesses said a gang of armed dacoits numbering about 25 wearing musks attacked the bazar, beat the shopkeepers and looted cash money.

**One slaughtered to death**

A man was slaughtered to death by some unknown assailants at Fatepur in Harinakunda thana on Thursday.

The victim identified as Abdar Ali (35), a farmer, was attacked by a gang of miscreants at dead of night while he was returning from his uncle's house of the same village.

Past enmity over a disputed land is learnt to be the main reason behind the gruesome murder.

The body was sent to morgue for autopsy and a case has been filed with the local police.

## 1043 youths get training on self-employment

BARISAL, Sept 2: Youth Development Department, Barisal district, provided training on self-employment activities to 460 youths from three southern districts of Barisal, Jhalakathi and Bhola during the last fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to an official source, 59 youths were provided training on poultry and livestock farming, 154 on pisciculture, 67 on dress making, 15 on block making, 15 on Batik printing and 150 on small trade.

The department also provided motivation training to 583 youths engaged in self-employed activities in different part of the districts. A total of 843 youths was provided training on self-employment activities during the year 1990-91, the source said.

The department has also undertaken tree plantation programme. Meanwhile, about one thousand saplings of different varieties were planted in different areas of the districts, the source added.

Elections of twenty union parishads under nine thanas of Barisal district will be held from October one to October Eight next.

According to election office sources, the elections of these union parishads were not held due to demarcation cases and other technical reasons. The elections of all other union parishads were held as per schedule from January 14, 1992, to February 6, 1992 last.

A total of 1,20,135 voters including women will exercise their voting right in these elections.