

## Upazila roundup

### JAMALPUR

#### 83 Indian cows seized

From Our Correspondent  
Sept 5: Jamalpur thana police recovered 83 Indian cows from Nandia Ferryghat of the district recently.  
According to police, a police party led by Sub-Inspector Khalilur Rahman raided four boats near Nandiana Ferryghat and seized 83 Indian cows. Police arrested 14 persons on the spot.  
The arrested persons are Miraj Ali, Tara Miah, Sukur Mahmud, Hekim, Quddus, Shah Alam, Hazrat Ali, Latif, Rashid, Jatin, Chan Miah, Rafiq, Alas and Tara Miah (2).  
A case has been filed with the Jamalpur Sadar thana in this connection.

### FARIDPUR

#### BNP's founding anniversary observed

Sept 5: The 14th founding anniversary of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) was observed here on Tuesday, reports UNB.  
A public meeting was held at Chawkbazar Jame Masjid Square in the evening with a call to establish democratic norms and practices in the society.  
Advocate Sarwarjan Mia, President of district BNP presided over the largely attended meeting. It was also addressed by Mudarres Ali, Secretary district NP, Advocate Nazrul Islam, President, district Juba Dal, Akand Rezaul Karim, Afzal Hossain and Hamidul Huque.

### SIRAJGANJ

#### Minor Girl violated: one held

From Our Correspondent  
Sept 5: One Ananda Kumar Sarker (20), son of Rabindra Nath Sarker, of village Thakurpara in Raiganj thana was arrested recently for violating one Pali (6), daughter of Gouranga Dal of same village.  
The accused while violating Pali at his bedroom was recovered by local people.  
Even after lodging case, Raiganj police took no action. On August 23 when the Health Minister Chowdhury Kamal-Ibn-Yusuf was visiting Raiganj Thana Health Complex, father of the victim drew his attention.  
The Minister visited Pali and instructed police to take steps. Following the incident, accused Ananda was arrested and sent to jail hazat.

### KISHOREGANJ

#### Pyedog menace alarming

From Our Correspondent  
Sept 5: Pye-dog menace has become alarming over the last two month in different areas of Kishoreganj district.  
According to reports, the pye-dogs with the advent of rainy season have taken shelter in different localities and in hats and bazars of the district posing a great problem to the people. These pye-dogs now confined in the high land and mainly in the hats and bazars frequently bite the people especially the children, it is learnt.  
The victims to encounter the dreadful consequence of dog biting reportedly moves here and there including the district headquarters to procure ARV but in vain.  
In view of the circumstances, the killing of pye-dogs now gathered in hats and bazars in all the 13 thanas of the district and ensuring stock of ARV have become a warranted affair to protect the people from pye-dog menace, it is stated.

### BARGUNA

#### Sale of notebooks unabated

Sept 5: Despite the government ban, note books are being sold in most of the book shops in the town and other markets in the district, reports UNB.  
Earlier, government had imposed a ban on publishing and selling note books upto class eight to discourage the dependence of the students on prepared answers.  
Some dishonest traders are publishing lower standard note books with false names and addressed. These note books are full of errors and distortion of facts. The prices of these note books are also high.  
Some guardians alleged that most of the owners of the book stalls are not selling the text books without note books.  
Local guardians and students have urged the concerned authorities to take action against these illegal sellers.

### CHUADANGA

#### Killing attempt on Menon condemned

From Our Correspondent  
Sept 5: In protest against the killing attempt on Rashed Khan Menon, MP and General Secretary of the Workers' Party, a big public meeting was held here at the local Barabazar Square recently.  
Comrade Ramjan Ali, Secretary of the Chuadanga district unit of Bangladesh Worker's Party presided over the meeting.  
Shah Alam, Member of the central committee of the Workers' Party was present in the public meeting as the chief guest.  
The other speakers in the meeting were Samal Kumar Sharma, Abu Taher Joarder, Alauddin Omar, Nazmul Hoque Sapan, Nasruddin, Abdur Rahim and Suvendo Kumar. The speakers including the chief guest in the meeting demanded immediately to find out the culprits who are involved in the attempt of Menon killing and their exemplary punishment.



KHULNA: Principal Md Mazharul Hannan, Honorary Assistant General Secretary of FPAB speaking at a debate competition held here at local public college auditorium recently. It was addressed among others by Dr Shafiqur Rahman, Prof Narul Islam, Molin Kumar Bosu and others.

## 90pc farmers, weavers of Kishoreganj debt-ridden

From Our Correspondent  
KISHOREGANJ, Sept 5: The number of debt-ridden persons are increasing day by day in the Kishoreganj district.  
In all the 13 thanas of the district, there are nearly 12,00,000 debt-ridden persons and the number is still increasing.  
About 90 per cent of the indebted persons are farmers and the rest 10 per cent are weavers and small traders. All of them are now struggling for survival.  
Indebtedness took a serious turn in 1984 due to natural calamities especially the devastating floods which hit year after year during the last few years.  
The farmers have become indebted due to the sky high prices of agricultural inputs,

other daily essentials, natural calamities and dowry system in the rural villages.  
The farmers have mortgaged their agricultural land to local wealthy persons and the agricultural bank to receive loans to meet their various expenses including daughters' marriage purposes.  
Many of them have sold their cultivable land and dwelling houses to repay the loan. A large number of cultivators have become destitute after repaying their loan. Some indebted farmers received loan from local money lenders, finding no other alternatives.  
In many cases, needy cultivators produce fake documents to take loan. Because they

know that they would not be able to repay the loan as their economic condition is going on downwards.  
The weavers borrowed money from mahajans (money lenders) to purchase looms and raw materials. They are now unable to repay loan because of the recession in their business.  
Those who received loan from the banks are now under pressure to repay the loan.  
To avoid certificate cases, they sold cultivable lands at low prices to repay bank loan.  
Besides, those who take money from village money lenders are now under pressure to repay loan. Finding no other alternative cultivator give their cultivable land in lieu of debt.

## Notes from Mymensingh

From Our Correspondent

**MYMENSINGH, Sept 5:** A young housewife of Gouripur under Mymensingh district committed suicide by taking poison over family feud recently.  
It is gathered that the victim Nazma Begum (20) was being tortured by her husband since their love marriage a few months back. She was the second year student of Mymensingh A M College.  
Kotwali police recovered unidentified body of young girl from a pond near Auzanga Cinema Hall in Mymensingh town recently.  
The body was sent to the Mymensingh Medical College Hospital for autopsy. A case has been filed in this connection.

### Young housewife kidnapped

Some miscreants kidnapped one Kulsum Begum (20), wife of Lalima of village Barupara under Nandail thana of the district recently.  
A case has been registered with Nandail thana in this regard. The police could not rescind the victim yet.

### Housewife beaten to death

A housewife was allegedly beaten to death by her husband in village Dhala under Trishal thana of the district recently.  
According to family sources, one Abdul Matin proposed her wife to perform second marriage. But she refused to agree with her husband. Then he became furious and started beating her and died on the spot.  
Police recovered her body and was sent it to the morgue for autopsy.  
A case has been lodged with police in this connection.

### Kidnapped boy rescued

Kotwali police rescued one kidnapped boy and arrested four kidnappers including a former UP Chairman recently.  
The victim Julhas, a school boy of village Ghagra under Kotwali thana was rescued after three days of kidnaping.  
The activists of the district Chhatk Dal Nirmul Committee gheraoed DC's office here recently as part of the organisation's country wide programme to press for trial of the killers and collaborators of 1971.  
They staged a rally condemning the assassination attempt on Rashed Khan Menon, MP. It was addressed among others by Amir Ahmed Chowdhury and M Shamsul Haq, MP of Awami League.  
Later, they submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner.

### 5 more medical colleges to be set up

BOGRA, Sept 5: The project for setting up five new medical colleges in the country has got underway and is expected to be completed by 1997, reports UNB.  
This was disclosed by State Minister for Finance Mojibur Rahman at a gathering of teachers and students of newly built Bogra Medical College here.  
The government had taken up the project for setting up the medical colleges in Comilla, Khulna, Faridpur, Bogra and Dinajpur in 1991 at an estimated cost of Taka 187 crore.  
A total of Taka 10 crore has been allocated under the current Annual Development Programme (ADP) for implementation of the project.  
Bogra Medical College, one of the five medical colleges, started functioning on August 10 last with 11 teachers and 50 students in the former Medical Assistant Training Centre.  
While visiting the new medical college, the minister was apprised of its problems and he assured the teachers and students of solving those in phases on priority basis.  
Later, he visited Mohammad Ali Hospital, said an official handout.

## Betel leaf farming needs patronisation

From Our Correspondent  
SIRAJGANJ, Sept 5: Betel leaf cultivation in some districts of the northern part of the country has been decreasing at an alarming rate due to manifold problems including price-hike of raw materials and absence of proper marketing system.  
It is gathered from a source of the Agricultural Extension Department that about 55,000 cultivators of Rajshahi, Natore, Naogaon, Dinajpur, Thakurgaon, Panchagarh Rangpur, Gaibandha, Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari, Joypurhat, Bogra, Pabna and Sirajganj districts grow betel leaf on 48,000 acres of land every year.  
A recent unofficial survey

shows that during last few years, a considerable number of betel leaf fields diminished in the northern districts following abnormal price hike of raw materials.  
At present prices of bamboo, jutesticks, oil cakes, rope etc, necessary inputs for betel leaf production have gone beyond the reach of the poor growers.  
It can be mentioned here that about Taka 5000 is necessary to cultivate betel leaf on one bigha of land. Besides, additional costs are required to protect the fields from diseases and pest attack.  
Moreover communication of

remote villages (betel leaf growing zone) also hampers prompt and proper marketing.  
Meanwhile, fall of demand of betel leaf in domestic markets and unavailability of direct export facilities, betel leaf growers feel frustrated and in the meantime a large number of cultivators have given up the age-old profession.  
It is apprehended that if the bottlenecks in betel leaf production are not removed and necessary assistance is not extended to the growers, the betel leaf cultivator in the northern districts would fall considerably which would hit hard earning of huge foreign currency.

## Drinking water scarcity acute

From Our Correspondent  
BOGRA, Sept 5: Acute scarcity of drinking water has been prevailing in the northern region of the country due to continuous drought and want of working tubewells.  
According to informed sources, out of 154005 tubewells in the 16 northern districts about 12 thousand have

been lying out of order for a couple of months.  
Public Health Engineering (PH) Department has taken up a massive programme to instal 25 thousand Tara pump in this region but work on 80 per cent of the total tubewells are yet to be installed.  
The PHED has its two circles Rajshahi and Rangpur, which cover six and 10 districts respectively. According to sources, number of arca-wise running and inoperative tubewells are as follows: In Rangpur number of running tubewells — 12780, inoperative — 472, in Chapalnabaganj running — 8973, inoperative — 491, in Sirajganj number of running tubewells — 15792 and inoperative 786, in Natore running — 9873, inoperative — 400, in Pabna running — 13268, inoperative — 606, in Naogaon running — 15400, inoperative — 1090, in Bogra number of running tubewells — 15628 and inoperative — 412, in Rangpur running — 12330, inoperative — 928, in Joypurhat running — 6326, inoperative — 372, in Gaibandha running — 7895, inoperative — 652, in Kurigram running — 6422, inoperative — 490, in Nilphamari running — 8022,

inoperative — 622, in Thakurgaon running — 5228, inoperative — 302, in Dinajpur running — 15622, inoperative — 828, in Lalmonirhat running — 7312, inoperative — 527 and in Panchagarh running — 5297, inoperative — 832.  
The local people are compelled to drink polluted ponds water.

## Meritorious students accorded reception

KHULNA, Sept 5: The meritorious students who came out successful from different schools of the city occupying outstanding places in the merit list at the last SSC examinations under Jessore Secondary and Higher Secondary Board were, accorded reception by Khulna City Corporation authorities at the corporation conference room on Monday, reports BSS.  
Mayor of the City Corporation, Sheikh Tayebur Rahman, was the chief guest and distributed medals among the meritorious students, according to an official handout.

## Misappropriation of govt money alleged

PABNA, Sept 5: The construction of Ichhamati cluster village at Madpur village under sadar thana of the district is being hampered due to alleged corruption by the concerned officials, reports UNB.  
The UP Chairman of Dapurja Abdul Mannan Manu at a Press conference at local Press Club Thursday told the newsmen that the government has sanctioned Taka 6.25 lakh for making 50 houses in the cluster village.  
He informed that only Taka 4,000 was spent per house instead of Taka 12,500, sanctioned by the government.



SYLHET: Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman inaugurating the Second Division Football Super League at local stadium recently.

## Tk 10cr timber lying abandoned in forest

RANGAMATI, Sept 5: Fund constraint, dilly daily attitude of the authorities and the red tapism have left huge quantity of costly timbers unextracted in the district, reports UNB.  
According to official sources, about two lakh cubic feet (cft) of timbers worth about Taka 10 crore are lying abandoned and getting damaged in Kaptai reserved forest.  
About 2.34 lakh cft timbers of very costly species mainly teak were uprooted by the April '91 cyclone in the reserved forests of Karnafuly and Kaptai range in Chittagong Hill Tracts.  
During the last one and a

half year, about 34,000 cft were collected and the rest two lakh cft are still abandoned in reserved forests.  
The costly timbers are not only getting damaged but might also be pilfered if no measures are taken to collect at the same, official sources said.  
The Conservator of Forest, Rangamati Circle and the Divisional Forest Office of Chittagong Hill Tracts, South Division, who have been maintaining constant vigilance over the felled timbers stressed the need for immediate collection of the timbers.

## Erosion of Padma, Jamuna 500 families homeless in last three days

PABNA, Sept 5: At least 500 families of Bera and Sujanagar thanas were rendered homeless on account of erosion by the rivers Jamuna and Padma in the last three days, Water Development Board sources said, reports UNB.  
The erosion of the mighty rivers has taken a serious turn during the last week. About 1,500 acres of standing crops have already been devoured by the rivers during the same period.  
The worst affected villages are Nakalia, Sarshia, Ganapodia, Khanpura, Madhupur, Narayanpur, Nagarbati, Raghunathpur, Kazirhat, Bijoyganj, Nazirganj, Nabibpur and Pechakola.  
Nagarbati Ferryghat, Kawtola Pump Station were also threatened by the rivers.  
A pregnant housewife of

Hature Nakalia village in Bera thana allegedly committed suicide by taking insecticide on Tuesday.  
Police said, Mariam Begum (23), wife of Abdul Khaleque of the same village met the tragic end of her life following a family feud.  
**House rent up in town**  
MADARIPUR, Sept 5: House rent in the Rajor town has increased rapidly causing inconvenience to the middle class, reports UNB.  
Local people said, a single unit of residential quarters is being let out at a monthly rent of Taka 1500 and in many cases the house owners demand advance rent.

## Second 'century flower' plant discovered

CHANDPUR, Sept 4: A very rare species of a flower plant named 'Century flower plant' has been discovered here drawing large crowd of on-lookers, reports UNB.  
This is probably the second plant of its kind in Bangladesh, the first one being in the Belda Garden, Dhaka.  
Flowers have blossomed recently on the plant located in the bankyard of an old dilapidated building on the bank of the Dakatia river. The head of the Department of Botany of Chandpur Government College, Tajul Islam along with Mafizuddin Ahmed, Assistant Professor of Botany examined the plant and suggested that

the plant was 70 years old.  
They told UNB that the botanical name of the plant was 'Agave centul' which blossoms once in 70 years. The flowers look white and yellowish and have slight small like that of katha champa.  
Experts and watchers said the plant produced a long peduncle (about 30/35 feet from the bottom) a few months ago.  
Talking to UNB, Nurul Huq Bachchu (55), a permanent resident and ex-chairman of Chandpur Pourashava who lives near this 'century plant' said that he has seen this flower plant since his boyhood and this was the first time the plant produced flowers.

## 2500 women divorced in last eight months

SIRAJGANJ, Sept 5: The rate of divorce in the district has increased alarmingly. According to an unofficial source, about 25,00 women were divorced by their husbands in last eight months, reports UNB.  
District registrar office sources confirmed that 1300 women were divorced during the period.  
The thana courts witnessed increasing rate of divorce cases. The presence of young women and expectant mothers at the court premises have become regular scene. In many cases the court verdict are not properly carried out.  
Some divorced women said they had been deprived of their claims after divorce. Most of the parents can not provide food and clothes to them.  
As a result, many of them chose the path of immoral activities including smuggling and prostitution.  
The screening of obscene films have been going on unabated in the town and other places of the district causing degradation of moral values of the youths.  
A section of dishonest video shop owners are showing the

vulgar films with the help of dishonest officials and law enforcing agencies.  
Another report says: Selling of phensedyl syrup, a contra-band drug, is going on unabated in the district.  
Indian phensedyl syrup is being sold in different medical stores of the town and other parts of the district.  
College and school students and unemployed youths are increasingly addicted to the drug causing concern among the guardians.  
Police seized 15 bottles of the syrup from Ullapara Station area and Bazar Wednesday.  
The guardians alleged that one can buy the drug from any medicine store without any prescription.  
They urged the concerned authority to take measures to stop such illegal activities without any delay.

## Dacoits loot goods worth Tk 4 lakh

Armed dacoits looted valuables and cash worth about Taka four lakhs from Raiganj and Tharsh thana of the district Thursday night.

## 'Stability can only ensure national progress'

DAUDKANDI (Comilla), Sept 5: Commerce Minister M R Anwar on Tuesday said national progress can be achieved only by ensuring stability and a healthy atmosphere in the country, reports UNB.  
He cautioned the people against 'conspiracy' hatched by a vested quarter to foil the hard-earned democracy and called for unity of patriotic and democratic forces to uphold the rights of the people and ensure peace in the country.  
The Minister was addressing a public meeting at Looter Char Mafzul Islam High School premises. The meeting was organised by Looter Char Union Parishad.  
He said, the government

has given priority to build up a structure for rural development for socio-economic development.  
The Minister said that the government was implementing different development programmes, in phases, to ensure wellbeing of the people, particularly in the rural areas.  
These programmes, he said, included construction of schools, roads, culverts and bridges as well as electrification and supply of agricultural inputs.  
Earlier, in the day, the Minister also addressed two public meetings at Shekherganj Government Primary School and Mohammadpur Bazar.