

District roundup

CHITTAGONG

Stolen goods worth Tk 3.40 lakh seized

Sept 20: Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) in two separate raids recovered huge quantities of stolen goods worth about Taka 3.40 lakh from different areas of the city during the past two days, a CMP press release said here tonight, reports BSS.

Four persons were arrested in this connection.

Port police recovered stolen pipes of different sizes from a house in Steel Mill area worth Taka three lakh which were earlier imported by a private company.

The owner of the house, however, escaped. In the second raid stolen electronic goods worth about Taka 40 thousand were recovered from a colony near the cantonment area by Panchalaish police. The recovered goods included colour TV, VCP and a tablefan, the release added.

SATKHIRA

Police arrest 2 persons with illegal arms

Sept 20: Police arrested two people in connection of possession of illegal arms in Tala thana Wednesday, reports UNB.

The arrested are Mukim Ali, a member of Magura Union Parishad and Ziad Ali from village Mirjapur in Tala thana.

Acting on a tip police raided the house of Mukim and seized one pistol. They later arrested Ziad Ali in this connection.

FARIDPUR

Scouts unit committee meet concludes

Sept 20: A meeting of the district scouts committee to review the activities and progress of the scout movement in the district was held recently at the local scout bhaban, reports BSS.

Badir Rahman, Commissioner of Dhaka Division and National Commissioner of Bangladesh Scouts attended the meeting as chief guest.

Police Super Md. Hadisuddin, ex-Officio Vice-President of the district committee, Additional Deputy Commissioner and District Commissioner of Scout SM Shahjahan and District Committee Member Prof Md Shahjahan also spoke on the occasion. The meeting was presided over by District Scout Committee President and Deputy Commissioner of Faridpur KM Nurul Huda.

MYMENSINGH

Siratunnabi observed

Sept 20: A 5-day-long programme on Siratunnabi (SM) was observed in the district jointly organised by Islamic Foundation and district administration, reports UNB.

Vice-Chancellor of the Agricultural University Prof Ashraf Ali Khan inaugurated the programme on September 10 at the local town hall.

In his speech Prof Khan said that complete emancipation of mankind in this world and the world hereafter could only be attained through following the teachings and ideals of Prophet Mohammad (SM).

He said Islam is a complete code of life that ensures equality and brotherhood among the mankind.

Chaired by Deputy Commissioner Matir Rahman, the inaugural function was also attended by Prof MA Jalil, Principal of Mymensingh Medical College and Prof M N Alam, Director of National Academy for Primary Education, as the special guests.

Others who spoke on the occasion included Moulana M Ashraf Ali, Moulana M N Islam and S K Mozahar Uddin, ADC (Rev).

PIROJPUR

Tk 72.36 lakh loan disbursed

Sept 20: Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) disbursed Taka 72.36 lakh in the district as loan during the last fiscal year, reports UNB.

Of the total loan Taka 6.28 lakh was distributed in Sadar, Taka 12.00 lakh in Nazirpur, Taka 11.52 in Swarupkhali, Taka 2.74 lakh in Bhandaria, Taka 10.87 in Kaukhali, Taka 14.50 lakh in Indurkhani thanas.

Sources said Taka 40.40 lakh was recovered by BRDB from the loanes of the district during the same period.

TANGAIL

Beheaded body recovered

Sept 20: Delduar thana police recovered a beheaded body of a young man from Pathrail-Atia road side on Friday. The body bore several injury marks, reports BSS.

Police said that the identity of the victim could not be available and none was arrested in this connection.

CHANDPUR

Aman paddy under pest attack

Sept 20: Aman paddy in about 20,000 acres have been attacked by pest in seven thanas of Chandpur district, reports BSS.

According to Agriculture Extension Department source, about three lakh acres of land have been brought under aman cultivation in Chandpur district this year.

Cultivation of aman crop was delayed this year due to drought. At the growing time Pamri and Mazra insects attacked the paddy fields, farmers said.

The farmers alleged that in many cases pesticides failed to control the pests. Items purchased from the open market are more or less adulterated, they said.

JAMALPUR

Seminar on Compulsory Primary Education held

Sept 20: A seminar on compulsory primary education was held at Ghuradhap Union Parishad premises under sadar thana recently, reports BSS.

The seminar was addressed among others by Hasikur Rahman Khan, Thana Nirbahi Officer as chief guest. M Abdus Satter, Education Officer and Muklesur Rahman, Senior Vice-President, Central Committee of Bangladesh Government Primary Teachers' Association as special guests.

A total of 1,600 boys and girls of five to seven years age were admitted to eleven primary schools of the union.

A large number of guardians, teachers, students attended the function.

RAJSHAHI

Swanan 2-day festival from Sept 22

Sept 20: Swanan, an organisation of reciters, will hold a two-day festival at the Rajshahi University campus from September 22 to mark its stepping into the twelfth year, reports BSS.

According to a Swanan press release, reciters from Rangpur, Bogra, Thakurgaon, Pabna and Mymensingh and eminent poets and reciters from Dhaka are expected to participate in the function.

The slogan of the festival is "man is for man".

SIRAJGONJ

Miscreants attack on UP members, hurt

Sept 20: Nine members of Tarash thana of the district were injured when a group of people attacked them, reports UNB.

It was known that the members of the union were at a meeting to bring a no confidence motion against the chairman Akbar Ali. At that time Selim son of Akbar Ali along with some miscreants attacked them. Seriously injured Akbar and Raghunath were admitted to the health complex.

A case has been filed with the police.

NAOGAON

Govt firm to ensure separation of judiciary

Sept 20: The government determined to ensure separation of judiciary from the executive and necessary measures are being taken towards that end, reports UNB.

This way stated by Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mirza Golam Haiz at the inaugural function of the judge court and session judge court building here Wednesday.

He said illiteracy, poverty and anarchy are hindering national development. Corruption-free judgement at all levels may solve the problems to a great extent, he added.



EROSION HAVOC: The continuous and devastating erosion of the rivers of the country leaving hundreds of people landless and homeless who usually take shelter on embankments where they pass inhuman life for want of work and food. — Star photo

Erosion of the river Jamuna

75,000 people landless, homeless in five thanas of Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Sept 20: The continuous and devastating erosion of the river Jamuna has rendered thousands of people in the river belt, thanas of the district landless and homeless.

The affected thanas are: Kaziapur, Sirajganj, Sadar, Belkuchi, Chowdhali and Shahzadpur.

About 75,000 landless and homeless people have so far taken shelter on the Brahmaputra Flood Embankment and have been passing inhuman life there.

During the current season, 18 villages of five riverine thanas have been washed away by the Jamuna. About 30,000 people of the villagers including the children and women have taken shelter on different high lands like the flood control embankment popularly known as Kapda Bandh.

Other than the houses and crop lands, about 200 handloom factories of Belkuchi, Chowdhali and Shahzadpur have also been eroded rendering about 50,000 handloom workers jobless.

Most of the erosion affected helpless people have been passing their days under the open sky. No relief materials has been distributed among the victim and there is no official arrangement for shelter or rehabilitation for them.

The people who have taken

shelter on bandh have been suffering from various intestinal diseases including dysentery and diarrhoea for want of pure drinking water. Besides, jaundice has been broken out in the areas. Most of the people are to pass their days in half-fed condition as there is work and other sources of income.

No step has yet been taken to arrest the erosion in the affected areas. A source of the Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) informs this correspondent that for want of requisite fund, steps to arrest erosion could not be taken.

It can be mentioned here that the then Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) constructed a 135-mile long embankment in the middle of sixties from Doikhawa (Kurigram) to Bherakhola (Pabna).

At least 70 points of the embankment have been damaged by the erosion. After erosion every year, the damaged embankment are constructed spending lakhs of taka but the situation remain unchanged.

At present, the embankment has turned into a clumsy area as thousands of eroded people have taken shelter on it. A large number of shops have also been constructed on it.

Following the situation,

maintenance work of the embankment including the afforestation programme is being hampered much. Both sides of the embankment have become partly damaged at many places buses and trucks have been plying on inter-thana routes.

The embankment at Sariakandi (Bogra), Kaziapur, Sirajganj Sadar, Belkuchi, Chowdhali and Bera is threatened and severe damages are causing by heavy rush of houses, shops and vehicular traffic.

No measures have yet been taken to protect the Brahmaputra Flood Control Embankment from such continuous damage.

Meanwhile, about 300 families of Panchthakuri and Bhatpary villages of sadar thana were rendered homeless by the erosion of the river Jamuna during the 24 hours of September 18.

A WDB source said that water level in the river Jamuna registered rise of 40 centimetre at Sirajganj point during the same period.

It is apprehended that standing crops on vast tract of land, many dwelling houses, schools and madrasahs of Panchthakuri and Bhatpary villages will be devoured within next two days if the erosion continues at the present rate.

Earlier, parts of Matiarpur

and Charsimla villages of sadar thana were also devoured rendering 600 families homeless.

Faridpur

Our Correspondent from Faridpur reports: About 10,000 people of two thanas of the district have been rendered homeless by the erosion of the river Padma during last few days.

According to official sources, Charshilpur, Dheukhali, Narkelbaria and Akoterehar unions under Charbhadrans thana, four villages of Sadarpur thana have already been devoured by the Padma during the last few days.

Md. Nurul Huda, Deputy Commissioner, Faridpur informed this correspondent that one high school, one community centre, one UP office and one welfare centre at Charnasirpur union have been eroded by the Padma. He also said that Panjkhal Bazar under Charnasirpur has also been washed away in the meantime.

Majority of the homeless people have taken shelter on the flood embankment and they have been passing hard days in the absence of any kind relief, it is informed.

The authorities concerned have been urged to take immediate steps to mitigate the sufferings of hundreds of the erosion affected people of different areas of the district.

Notes from Jhenidah

From Our Correspondent JHENIDAH, Sept 20: Over 300 primary teachers of non-government schools brought out a procession at Jhenidah town recently demanding the implementation of their 5-point demands including nationalisation of the institutions.

They paraded the main thoroughfares of the town chanting various slogans in favour of their demands. The processions gave a memorandum to Deputy Commissioner and district Primary Education Officer, Jhenidah.

They also held a rally after the procession at District Government Primary Teachers' Association Office in which Abdul Wahab was in the chair and Rahaj Ali, Wazed Ali and others spoke.

Girl raped, killed

Tofa Khatun (18), a young girl was killed after rape on Friday night by a group of unknown persons.

Local people suspected that she was dragged out of the house in the field and raped her one after another. On suspicion of disclosing the fact, the miscreants killed her by hanging.

Police recovered the body of Tofa, daughter of poor Sadaruddin of village Shadukhali in Shollakupa Thana from the field on the following day. She was tied up by her modesty scarf with a tree.

A case was filed with Shollakupa police station. The body was post-mortemmed at Jhenidah morgue. The post-mortem report is not available yet.

UP chairmen body formed

A 23-member committee of the district Union Parishad Chairmen Samity was formed with Advocate Enamul Haq Nilu and Md Moshur Rahman as President and Secretary respectively.

The samity was formed in a meeting held at Jhenidah Sadar thana parishad auditorium recently in which Alauddin was in the chair.

Directive to complete uplift works on schedule

BARISAL, Sept 20: State Minister for Education, Principal Mohammad Yunus Khan on Saturday directed the concerned officials to implement on schedule the work of various uplift projects undertaken in different thanas of the district under Test Relief Programme, reports BSS.

He was presiding over the district Test Relief Coordination Committee meeting here at local Circuit House on Saturday.

State Minister said that the present government was putting in all-out efforts to improve the lot of the common people through initiating different socio-economic development measures with limited resources.

He called for united efforts of all concerned to help attain this end. He also called upon the concerned officials to ensure best utilisation of available

resources in successfully executing these welfare-oriented programmes. Among others, Mosharraf Hossain, MP also spoke on the occasion.

Another report says: The Agriculture Extension Department has fielded 8,578 power pumps and 12,914 tubewells in eleven southern districts under Barisal Agriculture Zone for aman cultivation.

The districts covered by this programme are: Barisal, Jhalakati, Pirojpur, Bhola, Patuakhali, Barguna, Faridpur, Rajbari, Gopalganj, Madaripur and Saratpur.

According to an official source, a total of 16,78,859 acres of land have been brought under aman cultivation in these districts this year.

Production target has been fixed at 12,50,798 metric tons of aman rice, the source added.

50-bed Kishoreganj sadar hospital beset with problems

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ Sept 20: The 50-bed Kishoreganj Sadar Hospital has been beset with manifold problems.

The hospital is unable to meet the minimum requirements of the patients who come to the hospital everyday for treatment.

The problems include shortage of physicians, accommodation, medicines, lack of modern investigation facilities, blood bank, security arrangements specially for the female nurses and modern operation theatre, absence of ambulance service and isolation ward for the infectious diseases.

The hospital established during the Pakistan time with only 50 beds has not yet been expanded. With the heavy rush, the patients are often found lying on the floor of the hospital. Many patients seeking admission go back for want of beds everyday.

Most of the cots and bed-sheets have become worn out and these are rarely replaced by new ones, it is alleged.

The ambulance of the hospital went out of order. The patients can not be sent to the Mymensingh Medical College Hospital and Dhaka. Sometime, the people can manage the ambulance of the Rotary Club for their use through payment.

The sanitary service in the hospital is pitiable. Most of the latrines and urinals are quite unusable. These are not cleaned regularly. The floors of the hospital also are not cleaned regularly. Due to bad

smell coming from the bathrooms, it is difficult for the patients to stay inside the hospital.

There is no waiting room for the outdoor patients although about 400 people come for treatment everyday. The hospital has no separate ward for the patients having infectious diseases like typhus and diarrhoea.

The facilities for doctors, nurses and other staff of the hospital is quite insufficient. There are no consultants for medicines and gynecology and doctor for ENT in the hospital. The female patients are suffering much for want of gynecology consultant.

Installation of new phone lines uncertain

HABIGANJ, Sept 20: Installation works of new telephone lines in the town have not yet been taken up despite orders from the concerned authorities, reports UNB.

Official sources said a project was taken to install 400 new telephone lines in Habiganj Sadar by June 1992.

Authorities issued the work order long ago to Tangi Shilpa Sagatha, but the primary work has not started.

On the other hand, new telephone lines in Maulvibazar and Brahmanbaria have already been installed, which were ordered at the same time.

Ferryghat lease holders harass passengers

BARGUNA, Sept 20: The people travelling through different ferryghats of the district are being harassed by the ferryghat lease holders (Ejaradars) for a long time, reports UNB.

Mostly owned by the Roads and Highways Department and Zila Board, these ferryghats are leased out annually under specific terms and conditions including fixation of ferry charges.

But the ejaradars hardly comply with these terms and conditions. On the contrary, they realise high ferry charge defying the fixed rates, people alleged.

Moreover, the ferryghats are in deplorable conditions having neither waiting shed, nor any lighting arrangements. As a result, the travellers have to undergo a lot of inconveniences in passing through these ferryghats.

Moreover, the boats being used in the ferryghats are too small and worn-out which may cause accident any moment. Sinking of ferry boats in this season is a common feature.

Local leaders urged the authorities to take necessary steps to stop harassment of the travellers and demanded early measures to improve ferry services.

Another report adds: A vast area of land belonging to the

Roads and Highways Department has illegally been occupied by a section of businessmen depriving the government of huge amount of revenue every year.

A large number of sheds, semi-pucca and pucca shops have been built on the land beside the roads and highways office in the district during the last few years.

Inadequate rain, dry spell hamper aman cultivation

CHAPAINABAGANJ, Sept 20: The cultivation of trans-plantation of aman crops has been hampered due to inadequate rain and dry spell in five thanas of the district, reports UNB.

Farmers apprehended that food production would fall far short of the target in the coming winter season.

Transplanted aman seedlings in many parts of the district have already dried up due to persisting drought.

Cultivation of jute has been also hampered for the same reason. The farmers believe timely irrigation could still save the situation.

Contraband goods worth Tk 4.50 cr seized

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Sept 20: The BDR men seized contraband goods worth Taka 4.50 crore from different borders of the district and arrested 199 persons during the period from June to September 15 last.

It is learnt that goods worth Taka 3.2 crore were seized while smuggled into Bangladesh.

Goods worth Taka 1.50 crore were seized while smuggled out of the country.

Incoming goods included cattle, cycle, motorparts, heroin, drugs, phenistyle, snake, sari, salt, sugar, matches and fruits while out-

going goods included VCP, hilsha fish etc. It is gathered. Besides, a total of 610 persons including male, female and children was caught by the BDR men while crossing the border without passport.

A total of 981 cases was lodged with local thanas during the period.

UNB report adds: A gang of armed dacoits made off with cash and goods worth about Taka five lakh from a Dhaka-bound bus on the Jessore-Jhenidah highway midnight last night.



JHENIDAH: The non-government primary teachers of the district brought out a procession recently demanding the implementation of their demands. — Star photo