

Dateline Chittagong

JAMALPUR
Three held on charge of killing businessman

From Our Correspondent
Sept 23: Dewanganj police arrested three persons recently on charge of killing a businessman.
Wazed Ali (18), a businessman was allegedly killed by one of his lover's relatives of village Molanganj under Islam-pur thana, it is learnt.
Later, police recovered the beheaded body of the victim.
The arrested persons are: Anwar, Arif and Anwara Begum.
Another report adds: One Abdus Sattar, son of Mir Kashem of Battajur village under Bakshiganj thana committed suicide by hanging from a tree recently.
The cause of the suicide could not be ascertained immediately.

GAIBANDHA
UP Chairmen Samity unit meet ends

From Our Correspondent
Sept 23: Unit Meeting of the local Union Parishad Chairmen Samity was held here at local Public Library hall recently.
Nabijal Hoq Sarker, presided over the meeting.
In the meeting, chairmen of different unions expressed concern at the allotment of only 63 hand operated tubewells for supplying of pure drinking water in remote areas against 82 unions of the district which is quite inadequate to the requirement.
Moreover, they alleged that the authority this time fixed sinking cost at Taka 700 against the rate fixed earlier Taka 350 per tubewell. They demanded withdrawal of the enhanced rate of sinking.
The speakers further alleged that the chairmen and members have been getting a monthly remuneration of Taka 166.33 and Taka 100.00 respectively which they termed as inadequate.
The chairmen urged upon the government to look into the problems of union parishad and take step to mitigate the sufferings.

MUNSHIGANJ
Correspondents' forum formed

From Our Correspondent
Sept 23: A 12-member forum of the local correspondents of the district was formed here at Sangeet academy recently.
The members of the forum elected Goutam Bhanarjee (Correspondent, Banglar Bani) convenor Rashid Ahmad Mammun (The Daily Star) and KM Saifullah Bhuiyan (Dainik Patrika), Co-Convenors, Md Selim (Ajker Gagoz) Member Secretary, Pranab Shaha Apu (Bhorer Kagoz), Publicity Secretary, Atiqur Rahman Tipu (Dainik Songram) Treasurer.
The committee members are: Rafiq Chowdhury (Songbad), Monir Hossain Moni (Dainik Lal Sabuj), Shahin Md Amonullah (Dainik al-Amim) Ltiaz Talukder (Dainik Janata), Mostafizur Rahman (Dainik Banglabazar) and Azizul Islam.

NARSINGDI
Lightning kills one

From Our Correspondent
Sept 23: One Mohammad Ali (25) of Hodiama village under Sadar thana was killed by lightning while he was catching fish recently.
Another report adds: The body of an unknown woman was recovered from a paddy field near Balokandi Madrasa under Raipura thana recently.
The victim could not be identified immediately.

KURIGRAM
Exhaust fume causing health hazard

From Our Correspondent
Sept 23: A large number of vehicles emitting black smoke through the roads of Kurigram town causing a serious threat to the health of town dwellers.
Sudden and loud sound from hydraulic horns of those vehicles disturb government officials high school students and hospital patients. Thus causes blood pressure and heart beat of the people and does harm to children.
Besides, polluting air, the black smoke of defective vehicles which ply on the town roads contribute largely to several ailments such as headache, eye-irritation, throat-sore, and heart diseases, asthma and anaemia, the experts opined. The traffic department fails to control the movement of these defective vehicles.
The experienced people opined that police in collaboration with the Environment Pollution Control Department should detect the defective vehicles.

KISHOREGANJ
AL unit confce held

From Our Correspondent
Sept 23: The Biennial conference of Awami League Mitmain thana unit was held at local Tamija Khatun High School premises recently.
Raisuddin Ahmed, Vice-President Mitmain thana unit presided over the function while Advocate Abdul Hamid MP and President, Kishoreganj district Awami League was present as chief guest.
Among others Advocate Shahajahan, Advocate Zillur Rahman and Shahad Bhuiyan spoke on the occasion.
A 39-member executive committee headed by Raisuddin Bhuiyan as President and Advocate Shahad as General Secretary was also formed in the conference.

RAJSHAHI
BDR seize 173 Indian cattle

Sept 23: Bangladesh Rifle (BDR) recently seized 173 Indian cattle worth about Taka ten lakh from different bordering areas of the district, an official handout said, reports BSS.
Of the seized cattle, 55, were held from Alaiapur area by the BDR personnel under the leadership of Captain Habibur Rahman, 42 buffalos from Char Mazardia area and 76 cattle from Basantpur area.
The BDR personnel also seized smuggled goods worth about Taka 28 thousand here Sunday last.
The seized goods included sugar, salt, cow and saree. Two cases were lodged in this connection.

CHAPAINAWBANJ
Seminar on heart disease, treatment concludes

Sept 23: A two-day long seminar on heart disease and treatment, organised by the local unit of National Heart Foundation, concluded here recently, reports UNB.
Brig (Rtd) Abdul Malek and Ashraf Ali, Deputy Commissioner of Chapainawabganj were present on the occasion as chief and special guests.
Prof Sirajul Haque, prof Akhter Hossain, Dr A K M Rafiquddin, Dr Abdul Jalil and Dr Fakrul Islam acted as resource persons at the seminar.

HABIGANJ
Tree plantation programme organised

Sept 23: Habiganj Press Club, as part of national campaign, organised a tree planting programme on recently, reports UNB.
Deputy Commissioner of the district Shah Alam and Superintendent of Police Jamshed Uddin Bhuiyan were present on the occasion.
A total of 10 mehoganj trees were planted at the club premises.
Local journalists of different dailies and agencies were also present on the occasion.

BRAHMANBARIA
Autorickshaw Owners' Union office inaugurated

From Our Correspondent
Sept 23: State Minister for Shipping Advocate Harun-Ur-Rashid inaugurated the office of the district Jatiyatadabi Autorickshaw Labour and Owners Union recently.
A meeting was arranged at the district autorickshaw stand on this occasion. It was presided over by Asmat Ali, district Labour Union President.
State Minister was present in the function as chief guest while district BNP General Secretary Hamidul Hoque Tokku as special guest. Among others Zillur Rahman, Md Bahar Chowdhury, Kazi Rafiqul Islam and Md Heblul Bari.



PIROJPUR : A session of lathi khela (stick-fencing), a traditional self-defence martial art was held here in observance of the Bhadra Sankranti recently. Thousands of people enjoyed it. — Star photo

Food prices on increase, low income group hard-hit

PABNA, Sept. 23: Food prices have been increasing in the district despite open market operation by the government, reports UNB.
Sources said quantity of rice being distributed under OMS was too small to make any impact on the price level in the market.
Rice is being sold between Taka 15 and 17 per kilogram in the hats and bazars beyond the purchasing capacity of the low incomes group of people.
The rice-price has influenced the price of fertilizers as well. One bag of urea is being sold at Taka 340 as against Taka 270 and one bag TSP is being sold at Taka 395 as against Taka 300, marking an abnormal rise within a few days.
Local leaders alleged that some fertilizer dealers in collaboration with a section of dishonest officials were creating artificial crisis in the market.
Publish Health Engineering Department have sunk 1833 tara pumps, 489 shallow tubewells and 660 iron removing plants this year at a cost of Taka 2.39 crore in 18 thanas of Greater Pabna district.
According to an official source, 1111 tara pumps have been sunk in Pabna and 722 in Serajganj districts.
Of the shallow tubewells, 70 tubewells have been sunk in Pabna and 419 in Serajganj. The department also repaired 291 shallow tubewells in Pabna and Serajganj districts during the period.
It is reported that at least four lakh people of the greater Pabna district were now getting drinking water with the installation of these tubewells.
Demand for dowry increasing
Parents with marriageable daughters are worried about growing demands for dowry although an anti-dowry act is in force in the country, according to a random survey by the UNB correspondent here.
The anti-dowry act remains confined to law-books affecting all the nine thanas of Pabna. Mirza Shamsul Alam Molla of Kzirhat village, Bera thana, said.
Alam has three daughters to be given out.
According to a report, more than 85,000 marriageable girls, most of them belonging to farmer families, remain unmarried because of the excessive demand for dowry, which their parents cannot afford.
Marginal farmers have to choose between dowry for their daughter and chemical fertilizer or other agricultural inputs, prices of which have increased manifold.
There is a wide demand from the local people for stern measures and strict enforcement by the authorities of the anti-dowry act.

15 persons to suffer lifeterm for murder in Sylhet, Gazipur

From Our Correspondent
SYLHET Sept 23 : The Additional District and Sessions Judge, 3rd court, Sylhet Sunil Chandra Paul, and sentenced seven persons to suffer imprisonment for life and fined Taka five thousand each in default to imprisonment for three months more in a murder case of Kanaighat thana recently.
The prosecution case in brief is that, on March 14, 1990, one Badrul Hossain alias Bhutu of village Messa under Kanaighat thana was called out by some persons from his house and they killed him near his house. His body was then kept in a nearby jungle in a gunny bag.
The murder took place as a sequel to a previous enmity. The father of the victim Jalaluddin lodged an ejarah in this connection with the police station. The police recovered the body after six days of the incident. After investigation, the police submitted chargesheet against the eight accused persons.
The judge after examining the all records and witnesses, found the accused Nizam, Abdul Quddus, Abdus Sobhan, Abdul Jabbar, Kala Miah, Nurul Haque and Abu Bakar guilty and gave them the aforesaid judgement. The other accused Jalaluddin was however acquitted of the charge brought against him.
The prosecution case was conducted by APP A S M Abdul Mobin while the defence was pleaded by Advocate Jainal Abedin Chowdhury.
UNB from Gazipur adds: Eight people were sentenced to life imprisonment for killing a man, court sources said here on Tuesday.
The court also fined them Taka 5,000 each, or in default, to suffer another two years rigorous imprisonment.
The prosecution story in brief was that the convicted persons killed Abdul Mazid (40) of village Surja Narayanpur in Kapasia thana of the district over a trifling matter in August last year.
A case was lodged and police after investigation submitted chargesheet against the accused.
The Additional District and Sessions Judge Motiur Rahman after examining the records and witnesses delivered the judgement last week.
The convicted are Shawkat Hossain, Mostafa, Akram, Amzad, Mahbulul, Salam, Aminul and Jamal.

47,701 low-cost latrines distributed in dists

From Our Correspondent
BARISAL, Sept 23: Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) has sold 47,701 low-cost latrines at a cost of Taka 94,250 to the rural people of eleven southern districts under Barisal circle in 1991-92 fiscal year, reports BSS.
The districts covered by this programme are: Barisal, Jhalakati, Pirojpur, Bhoala, Patuakhali, Barguna, Faridpur, Rajbari, Madaripur, Shariatpur and Gopalganj.
According to an official source, the latrines were supplied to the rural people to help check water-borne diseases.
Of the total, 16,676 latrines were sold in three districts of Barisal Division, 6,501 latrines in two districts of Patuakhali Division and 24,523 latrines in five districts of Faridpur Division of the PHED.
State Minister for Education Principal Md Eunus Khan called upon the student to maintain academic atmosphere on the campus through resisting violence and anarchism.
He was addressing the installation ceremony of the students union of Abul Kalam College at Rakudia under Babuganj thana of the district.
The State Minister said, the BNP government was determined to restore academic atmosphere on the campus. He said, the creators of campus violence will be punished as per law.
A ten-day training course on credit union promotion began here on September 15 under the auspices of Barisal Development Society.
The main objectives of the training are to maintain the credit unions systematically, promote skills of credit union officials and develop efficiency to give more services to the clients.
One representative from each of the 25 credit unions are taking part in the course, said a press release.



JAMALPUR : Serajul Haq, State Minister for Health and Family Welfare distributing relief goods among the distressed here at pourashava area recently. — Star photo

Catching of undersized hilsha unabated

From Our Correspondent
MADARIPUR, Sept 23: The local fishermen have been catching the undersized hilsha fish locally known as 'Jatkas' indiscriminately despite government ban.
According to reliable sources, the fishermen catch the undersized hilsha fish worth crores of taka every year.
A Fishery Department source said, if Jatkas are not caught, tons of hilsha fish can be produced every year and it could minimise the crisis a lot. Catching and selling of fish below nine inches (23 centimetre) is for bidden, according to an act of 1950. But some unscrupulous fishermen are catching fish unabatedly.
It is learnt that a group of richmen instigate and finance the poor fishermen to catch Jatkas. In every year, between March and May, poor fishermen catch Jatkas in large quantity and sell those in different markets with the help of some influential businessmen.
The concerned authorities have been urged to take necessary measures in this regard.
The government and semi-government officials have been suffering badly from accommodation problem at the district headquarters for a long time.
Since the upgradation of the town as a district no scheme has yet been taken to contract quarters for the officials. As a result, many officials have been facing serious problem. Most of the officials living at the district town without their families in the absence of accommodation facilities.

Across the country

Old Birganj is now a non-town

By Najmun Nahar
nearly a decades time.
Frequent failure of electricity and fluctuation of voltage specially bedevils the market area. The entire town plunges into darkness for short and long spells every night. There is no street light in the town at all.
The life and living of the residents of the town areas have been plagued by the mosquito menace and lack of adequate conservancy services. Open and silted drains, derelict ponds and garbage dumps on roadsides boost the breeding of mosquitoes and help extend their reign over the town.
It is a town all right but with patches of stagnant water and dumps shown all around of fifth and garbage as constant features.
The daily market has been in a non-descript shape for long. There is no systematic arrangement of the shops in the market, the shopkeepers do not have necessary space for their shops and there are a few sheds to give the shops a cover.
Most of the roads in the town area are narrow and unfit for the use of pedestrians as well as vehicular traffic, these need to be metalled soon. For want of proper care and maintenance breaches have developed at different places of the roads.
For want of enough built up area, the dwellers have a very unhappy housing situation. No new houses have been built in the town area either on public or private initiatives during

Educational Problems

There are three high schools, one college, a madrasa, four primary schools here but most of these institutions do not run smoothly for shortage of teachers. There is a perennial shortage of school accessories too.
There is a 10-bed hospital in the thana-town. The condition of these few beds is far from satisfactory. The bed-covers are not fit for use. The hospital or health complex is running short of surgical appliances. Besides, irregular water supply has become a serious problem. This is a hospital distinguished by the absence of an ambulance as also an X-ray machine.
Birganj town has no water supply system for the urban people. The scarcity of pure drinking water is possibly the worst of all the problems the town dwellers suffer from forty

17 UP polls from Oct 1 in Sherpur

SHERPUR, Sept 23 : Election of 17 union parishads in three thanas of the district will be held from October 1 to 8, reports UNB.
According to official sources, the polls will be held in one union parishad in Nokla thana, 11 union parishads in Nalitbari thana and five union parishad in Jhenigati thana.
A total of 89 chairmen and 498 member candidates have submitted their nomination papers. All the nomination papers have been declared valid by the concerned officials.
Meanwhile, hectic campaign is going on in the respective union parishads. Colourful posters, festoons and placards are being displayed to draw the attention of the voters.
Hotels and restaurants are the centres of campaign during the hot days. Man to man campaign is going on for the prospective candidates.

60 pc barren lands in Satkhira under shrimp cultivation

From Our Correspondent
SATKHIRA, Sept. 23: About sixty per cent barren land of the district have been brought under shrimp cultivation.
It is reported that the country can earn crores of Taka foreign currency every year by proper breeding and export of shrimp.
About 47,000 acres of land in the district have already been brought under shrimp cultivation. At present, there are more than 225 projects in the district, it is learnt.
One acre of land produces about two maunds of shrimp. The shrimp usually Taka two to three months to attain their full-size.
It may be mentioned here that the cultivation of shrimp was first started in the area on experimental basis in 1976 by setting up only three projects at initial stage while the massive production from these projects attracted others to take this cultivation on large scale and about 60 per cent barren land have already been brought under shrimp cultivation.
According to Fisheries Department, the entire area of the district is most suitable for shrimp cultivation as the land absorbs saline water and turns it into an ideal ground for shrimp cultivation.
The shrimp are being cultivated in Shyamnagar, Assasuni, Kaliganj, Debhata, Tala and Satkhira Sadar thana. The country earned huge amount of foreign exchange by exporting shrimp last year and the maximum quantity of shrimp came from Satkhira exported to USA, Saudi Arabia, Italy, Germany, Thailand and the Netherlands.

Action against corruption demanded

NAOGAON, Sept 23: A meeting held here in protest against corruption in the local administration, has demanded steps by the government to streamline the district administration including the municipality, reports UNB.
Principal Mohammad Bazul Haque presided over the meeting held at the Naogaon maidan Sunday. Speakers urged the present democratic government to remove all sorts of irregularities and corruption in the local administrative bodies.
Ex-MP A K M Murshed, Advocate Mazharul Haque, Matnul Haque, Kazi Akteruzzaman, Abdul Aziz, Al-haj Idris Ali addressed the meeting.

Diarrhoea kills 14 in Brahmanbaria

BRAHMANBARIA, Sep 23: Diarrhoea claimed 14 lives and affected over 700 in seven thanas of the district during last seven days, reports UNB.
Civil Surgeon office confirming the death figure said the affected areas are Sarail, Nasirnagar, Nabnagar, Akhaure, Kasba and Bancharampur thanas.
Taking of impure water and consumption of adulterated food were attributed to the spread of the disease. Scarcity of drinking water has been prevailing in the district for a long time. As a result, people are compelled to take water from ponds and canals.
At least 128 medical teams have been working in the affected areas and the situation is under control, officials said.
A minor girl sustained acid burn injury at Mourail in the municipality area on Monday.
The victim identified as Rubi Begum (13) daughter of Arif Miah while sleeping at her bedroom some miscreants threw acid on her body, police sources said.
She was rushed to Sadar hospital in a critical condition. The reason behind the attack could not be known.
A case was filed with the local police and one person was arrested in this connection.