

District roundup

MADARIPUR

Three UP polls from Oct 3

From Our Correspondent
Sept 25: The election of the three union parishad of two thanas of the district will be held from October 3 to 7.
A total of 12 chairman and 69 member candidates have submitted their nomination papers.
The union parishads are Shibchar and Shikhar and Kazi Bakal, Shikhar and Kalkini thana.

BARISAL

Police nab 18 outsiders from polytechnic hostels

From Our Correspondent
Sept 25: Police raided three students hostels of Barisal Polytechnic Institute recently arrested 18 outsiders of which 17 were released. The police also recovered three pigeons, five handbombs, one gun cartridge, one Chinese axe and a bolt of pigeon. Besides, the police recovered a passport (No S 732988) of Krishna Chandra Pal of Nagarpara, Shariatpur.
This operation was conducted under the leadership of Additional Police Super Hemayet Uddin and senior Asstt. Police Super Nazimuddin with a contingent of about three hundred police.

BARHMANBARIA

Three held on various charges

From Our Correspondent
Sept 25: Police arrested three persons on various charges here recently.
According to a secret information, a police party led by Sub-Inspector Kutubur Rahman and Assistant Sub-Inspector Minhajuddin raided Dattora and Rajghar villages under Sadar thana and rounded them up.
The arrested persons are Hafiz Miah, Ratan and Farouque.
Another report says: Likat Ullah Chowdhury, Inspector of District Narcotics Control Department recovered 550 grams of hemp from North Moural and West Meddah under Sadar thana recently.
A case has been lodged against Md Akbar Hossain and Hashem Miah.

AGRI-VARSITY

Extension field-trip begins

Sept 25: A week-long Extension Field-trip under the auspices of the Department of Agricultural Extension Education of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) will begin on September 26, says a Press release.
It may be mentioned here that the programme has been designed as an integral part of curricular requirement for the final year BSc Ag (Hons) students of BAU.
A total of 242 students in 5 groups will take part in the programme and will have the opportunity to gain practical knowledge and experience on rural development and extension activities of 5 selected thanas, namely, Kaliakair, Gazipur Sadar, Bhaluka, Katiadi and Baritpur.

The participating student-groups are scheduled to return at BAU campus on October 1.

MEHERPUR

Two arrested with smuggled goods

Sept 25: Police and BDR have arrested two persons and recovered smuggled goods worth about Taka one lakh from different parts of the district, reports UNB.
Acting on secret information, a contingent of police challenged the smugglers at Harirampur border on Thursday and recovered spare parts of television and VCR. They also recovered out-going contraband goods worth about Taka 50,000.
In the other raid a BDR contingent of Mujibnagar border recovered four Indian buffaloes worth about Taka 40,000 on Sept 15. They also seized a few marble glasses and salt.
Jenarul (18) and Ansarul (16) were arrested from Purnatapur village while they were selling Indian salt.

SIRAJGANJ

JAGPA unit body formed

From Our Correspondent
Sept 25: A convening committee of Jatiya Ganatantrik Party was formed in Sirajganj with Mazhar Rahman Talukder in the chair.
Among others central leader Sarder Shahzahan called upon all to unite under the dynamic leadership of JAGPA leader Safiul Alam Prodhan. The meeting elected a 17-member committee with Rashidul Islam Mollah as Convener and Monowar Hossain, Ezabul Haq and Golam Mahboob as joint convenors.

COMILLA

One gets 14 yrs RI for keeping illegal arms

Sept 25: A man was given 14 years rigorous imprisonment in absentia for keeping illegal arms, court sources said here Tuesday, reports UNB.
The accused Abdus Salam son of Zahur Ali of village Chirkuta of Burichang thana of the district was found guilty under section 19 (A) of Special Powers' Act of 1974.
The case, in brief, was that acting on a tip, a police party from Burichang thana raided the house of Abdus Salam on July 17, 1991 and recovered one pipe gun with one round of ammunition. Abdus Salam managed to flee with the appearance of police.
After examining the records and witnesses, the Additional Sessions Judge delivered the judgement on Saturday.

SATKHIRA

One roasted alive

Sept 25: A child was roasted alive and another injured in fire that broke out at a house at Itagacha under the Satkhira pourashava Tuesday night, reports UNB.
Abdus Sobhan (3) and Sazu (4), two sons of Montu, were trapped at the house when it caught fire. Sobhan died on the spot and Sazu received serious burn injuries.
According to witnesses, the fire originated when Montu's daughter entered the room, with an open lamp which suddenly touched a cloth. The fire soon turned wild.
The neighbours managed to rescue Sazu. He was rushed to Sadar hospital where his condition was stated to be critical.

JHENIDAH

Sharbahara activists kidnap two persons

Sept 25: Two persons were allegedly kidnapped from Kashtoshagra village under Jhenidah Sadar by the so-called Sharbahara Party men on Tuesday, reports BSS.
The lifters are stated to have demanded two lakh taka as ransom. Villagers said that armed Sharbahara Party men raided the residence of Abul Shah (55) and kidnapped him. Hawa Bibi (35) wife of late Kalu who was living there was also picked up by these miscreants.
The Sharbahara men held out a threat to kill these persons if the ransom money is paid.

CHITTAGONG

PDB snaps 1950 lines

Sept 25: Power Development Board, Chittagong region has disconnected 1950 power lines for non-payment of Taka 2.24 lakh during the last financial year, reports BSS.

A PDB mobile court realised Taka one lakh twenty thousand from 46 defaulters during the last two months while 12 persons were sentenced to different jail terms.

Chief Engineer of PDB, Chittagong region apprised this to a two-member World Bank performance evaluation team while on a visit to Chittagong on Friday and Saturday.

The World Bank team members were also apprised that the system loss of PDB, Chittagong region had come down to 22.85 per cent in recent time.

The World Bank team members visited different PDB installations including commercial division. They enquired about the billing system, metre reading, bill register, ledger book, etc.



RANGPUR: A farmer of the district is drying up jute. Due to shortage of water, the growers are facing difficulties in rotting jute in the district. —Star photo

Aman paddy on 8000 acres under pest attack

MAJDEE COURT, Sept 25: Transplanted aman crops on 8,000 acres of land in Hjiatia thana of the district have been attacked by pests causing serious concern among the farmers, reports UNB.
The Agricultural Extension Department, however, confirmed pest invasion on 5,000 acres of land.
The farmers said most of the paddy fields have been attacked by pamri, stemborer and grass hopper pests. Poor farmers cannot afford to buy insecticides from the open market due to economic hardships.

They also complained that pure insecticides are hardly available in the market. They urged the authorities to arrange spraying of insecticides in the affected areas without further delay.

The agri officials, however, said they are trying hard to combat the menace.
Three people were killed and 10 others injured in two separate road accidents in the district last week.

According to police Yusuf

Mujumder (32) and Ali Ahmed were killed and 10 others injured when two loaded trucks collided on Feni by-pass road on September 20.

In another accident on September 22, a minor boy was run over by a speeding truck on the same road near Modhupur.

Police said Abdul Latif (10) died instantly when a truck knocked him while he was crossing the road riding a bicycle.

Another report says: A minor boy drowned in sadar thana of the district on September 22.

Rafat (22) fell into a pond while he was playing near it and died immediately.
Another report says: A minor girl was killed in a road accident at Karimpur on Chaudhahani-Feni road Tuesday.

The victim Parnia (8), a student of class two of Noakhali public school while crossing the road was hit by a speeding bus. Police seized the bus but the driver managed to escape.

A case has been filed with the police.

Two held with contraband goods

BDR men arrested two smugglers including one woman and seized contraband goods worth Taka 2.65 lakh from train and night coach in the district recently, BDR sources said.

BDR raided on Turna-Mecheta inter city train and recovered 496 pieces of Indian sarees and 200 packets of Indian cigarettes worth Taka 1.86 lakh.

They also raided the night coach at Mohammad Ali bazar in Feni by pass road and seized 200 pieces of Indian sarees, 188 bottles of phenicidyl and 225 kg sugar.

The arrested persons were Rabeya Khatun of Chitce village and Uttam Kumar Shaha of Ruti village under Brahmanbaria district.

The arrested persons were sent to local thana and the contraband goods were handed over to the Customs authorities.

Tk 2.60 cr electricity bills unpaid

From Our Correspondent

MAULVIBAZAR, Sept 25: Electricity bills amounting to Taka 2.60 crore have remained unpaid in Maulvibazar district, official source said.

Private and commercial consumers, government offices in the district have not paid bills for power consumption. These bills remained outstanding for a long time.

When the PDB authority declared the opportunity of late-free payment of the electricity bills to the consumers, Taka 1.40 crore were recovered from the defaulters since June 30, 1992.

In a recent drive, about 175 connections have been disconnected for non-payment of

electricity bills. Official sources said, there are 125 departmental cases at Comilla court of PDB against the illegal power consumers.

A source told that illegal use of electricity by some dishonest power consumers mainly suppressed as system loss.

The illegal use of power without metres and power hooks not only deprive the PDB of a huge revenue but also damage transformers, valuable electrical equipment and cause frequent load-shedding.

It is alleged that some dishonest employees like metre-readers, line-men and some officials of PDB get their monthly kickback from illegal power users to allow them carry on such anti-people acts. Some of the metre-readers have understanding with a class of dishonest power subscriber for minimum bill though these subscribers have power consumption metre. The metre-readers technically riverside back the wheel into the metre to reduce the unit consumption.

Regular recovery of power consumption charges may not be possible unless obligatory measures are taken. The concerned authorities have also been urged to take necessary action against these dishonest officials.

Agricultural loans lying outstanding with the Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) in the Maulvibazar district amounted to Taka 36.99 crore including

Taka 15 crore 82 lakh which was distributed to the Tea Industries of the district.

These loans were disbursed through 11 BKB branches from July 1, 1977 to June 30, 1992. Most of the defaulters suffered tremendous losses due to poor crop production for various reasons, the source said.

However, BKB has distributed more loans amounted to Taka 12.16 crore to the farmers during 1991-92 fiscal year, in which Taka 11.50 crore recovered. The bank has filed 101 certificate cases against the defaulting farmers of the district.

Works 138 FP centres nearing completion

BARISAL, Sept 25: Construction works of 138 union Family Welfare Centres at a cost of Taka 20.01 crore in 11 thanas of greater Barisal and Faridpur districts are nearing completion, reports UNB.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has been implementing these projects with the financial assistance of World Bank.

Of the total, 97 centres are being constructed in the districts of Barisal, Bhola, Jhalakathi, Pirojpur, Patuakhali and Barguna while 59 centres in Faridpur, Madaripur, Gopalganj, Rajbari and Shariatpur.



CHANDPUR: The wife of District Governor, Rotary District-3280 is planting a sapling on the occasion of tree plantation programme organised by the ladies of local Central Rotary Club recently. —Star photo

Notes from Kishoreganj

From Our Correspondent
KISHOREGANJ, Sept 25: One Moslehuddin (50), a farmer of village Purbachari-para in Katiadi thana was killed by lightning recently.
The farmer was struck by lightning while he was cultivating a piece of land.
He was immediately rushed to Katiadi thana health complex where the doctor declared him dead.

Rickshawpuller commits suicide

One Ratan (25), a rickshawpuller of village Chardewandi under Pakundia thana of the district committed suicide by taking poison recently.

The cause of the suicide was attributed to be family quarrel.
A UD case was registered with Pakundia police station in this connection. The body was sent to the morgue of Kishoreganj Sadar Hospital for post-mortem.

Bandhan's biennial meet held

The biennial general meeting of 'Bandhan' a socio-economic organisation was held at Kishoreganj Zila Sarani Girls' High School premises recently.

The meeting was presided over by Tajuddin Ahmed Bakul. The meeting was addressed, among others by Abul Kashem, Matir Rahman, Abdul Matin, Nayan Kumar Datta, Nirmal Chandra Saha, Mushtak Khan and others.

In the meeting, a seven-member executive committee has been formed with Tajuddin Ahmed Bakul and Mushtak Khan as president and general secretary respectively.

Snake bites one, dies

One Dulal Miah (30) of village Ulukhala under Karimganj thana of the district died from snake-bite recently.

It is learnt, on the day of incident Dulal Miah was working in the field when a poisonous snake appeared and bit him.

He died a few hours later.

Minor boy drowned

A six-year old boy named Alam drowned in a pond at village Kawna under Hossainpur thana of the district recently.

Alam was playing beside the bank of the pond and he suddenly slipped into the water. Later, his body was recovered.

Catching of frogs unabated

Frogs, the natural predators are being caught and sold indiscriminately in different parts of the district violating the government ban.

It alleged that a section of dishonest people are catching the insectivorous animal and selling them in the local markets before the nose of law-enforcing agencies.

A frog can eat two to three lakh noxious insects and pests in one season, experts said adding that their disappearance would affect the ecological balance.

Daring theft committed

A daring theft was committed in the record room of the Assistant Judge of Pakundia thana recently.

The thieves entered the room by breaking the lock of the door and decamped with two type-writers bearing No 36003 and 101619 respectively.

A case was registered with Pakundia police station in this connection.

Students observe strike in Jhenidah

JHENIDAH, Sept 25: Students observed strike in all educational institutions of the district today protesting the change in English syllabus of BA course of Rajshahi University, reports UNB.

The students of KC government college brought out a procession chanting slogans against the arbitrary decision of the university authorities.

The English syllabus of the degree course has been changed just before five months of the final examination.

Govt decision on engrs. staff college protested

MAGURA, Sept 25: A protest meeting was held by the district Diploma Engineers Association at the office of the association recently, reports UNB.

The meeting was presided over by Abdul Quddus Mollah, President of the association. Olas Uddin, Nirmul Kumar, Chitta Ranjan Kor and Ramesh Roy addressed the meeting.

Most fishermen facing fund crisis

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Sept 25: About thirty thousand fishermen in seven thanas of Chandpur district have become unemployed due to fund crisis, price hike of fishing appliances, decline in the fish production and leasing of water bodies to the fake fishermen.

It is informed that the fishermen have no capital to run their profession properly. They borrow money from local money lenders at an exorbitant rate of interest. Besides, absence of bank loans for the fishermen has aggravated the situation.

Moreover, pricehike of fishing nets and boats have seriously affected them. A big size fishing boat is now selling at Taka 40 to 50 thousand

which is beyond the purchasing capacity of the fishermen.

Some fake fishermen in co-operation with vested quarters are taking lease of water bodies in different thanas of the district.

As a result, a large number of genuine fishermen are being deprived of the facilities. Meanwhile, a large number of genuine fishermen have already left their ancestral profession and have taken up other jobs for their livelihood.

A large number of fishermen remained still unemployed for a long time. As a result, fish scarcity in different markets of the district are prevailing. By this time, the price of fishes have gone up beyond the purchasing capacity of the people.

Shortage of doctors, beds, medicines hampering treatment in hospital

PABNA, Sept 25: Shortage of doctors, medicines, beds and equipment have been hampering proper treatment of patients at the Pabna General Hospital for long, reports UNB.

The 100-bed hospital can not cope with the rising number of patients due to inadequate number of beds. The existing beds can meet only 25 per cent requirement of the patients seeking admission.

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

A large number of patients both male and female who come from remote areas of the district return without proper treatment for want of accommodation and medicines.

The only ambulance is hardly available. It is reported that most of the time the ambulance remain out of order. The serious patients cannot be shifted to Rajshahi of Dhaka due to shortage of ambulance. Sometimes in emergency cases the people can use the

ambulance of family planning department of the district on payment of Taka 2500 to Taka 3000, it is learnt.

The only X-ray machine in the hospital remains unused most of the time. Sometimes the machine is operated by an assistant in absence of radiologist.

Most of the latrines and urinals are hardly cleaned. There is no separate ward for patients suffering from infectious disease.

The government office timing is not maintained in the hospital and no doctors are allegedly available after 1.30 pm. There is no residential accommodation for the doctors, nurses and staff.

Scarcity of life saving drugs has posed a great problem for the patients. Poor patients are the worst sufferers as they are unable to buy the medicines at exorbitant prices from the open markets. The diet supplied to the patients is also said to be not up to the standard.



SATKHIRA: Merry (20), wife of one Sirajul Islam of Katia under the local poura area are fighting for life in hospital. Her husband threw acid on her. —Star photo

Help resist terrorism

BARISAL, Sept 25: Barisal Sangskritik Sangatha Samanaya Parishad (BSSSP) held a meeting recently at the Aswami Kumar Town Hall premises to voice protest against terrorism in the country, reports BSS.

A total of 23 units of the parishad took part in meeting. Speakers called upon the people to resist terrorism at all cost.

Manabendra Batabayal, President of BSSSP presided over the meeting.

A procession was brought out later which paraded the main thoroughfares of the town.

Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) has undertaken a comprehensive programme to instal 3,603 tubewells in eleven southern districts under Barisal circle at a cost of Taka 6,95,29,917/- during the current fiscal year.

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

According to an official source, the tubewells will be sunk with the aid of the UNICEF.

Of the total, 1,377 are deep and 2,226 shallow tubewells. Each deep tubewell will cost

Taka 42,122/- and each shallow tubewell Taka 4,525.573 deep and 135 shallow tubewells will be sunk in four districts of Barisal Division, 671 deep tubewells in two districts of Patuakhali division and 133 deep and 301 shallow tubewells in five districts of Faridpur division, the source said.

Besides, 1,790 shallow tubewells will also re-sink in Barisal and Faridpur divisions this year.

PHED has taken up another programme to instal 153 tara pumps in Rajbari district during this period, the source added.

Daily paper published at Barguna

BARGUNA, Sept 25: 'Asher Kontho', the first daily of the district, was published here Tuesday last, reports UNB.

Deputy Commissioner Syed Ahmed inaugurated the daily at the Public Library auditorium this evening.

The Editor of the daily Abdul Alim-Himu also introduced the first weekly of the district 'Barguna Kontho'. He is also the publisher of the daily.