

District roundup

NETRAKONA
Housewife strangulated to death
 Oct 4: A housewife was strangulated to death allegedly by her husband for dowry in Kendua thana of the district last week, reports UNB.
 The victim Latifa Begum (20), wife of Zillu Mia of Laskarpur village in the thana, was seven months pregnant, according to family sources.
 Family sources added that Zillu Mia demanded a huge amount of money as dowry from her father and forced her by torture to bring the money.
 On the fateful day, when, Latifa refused, Zillu beat her mercilessly and at one stage he strangulated her to death.
 A case was registered with the local thana in this connection.

RANGPUR
One gets 14 years RI for possessing explosives
 Oct 4: One person was given 14 years of rigorous imprisonment in absentia for possessing powerful explosives here on September 27, court sources said, reports UNB.
 The accused Abdus Sattar was also fined Taka 10,000 and in default more 4 years RI.
 The verdict was delivered by the Additional District and Special Tribunal Judge Abdur Rahman after a long hearing on the case.
 According to the case, the convict was arrested by the Kotwali police in ambush from Jahaj area of the town along with powerful explosives on July 20 while he was riding a motorcycle.

CHANDPUR
Lawyers boycott court
 Oct 4: The lawyers of the District Bar Association have been boycotting the court of a senior assistant judge since September 9, accusing him of misdeemeanor, reports UNB.
 The Bar Association leaders at a meeting recently expressed their deep resentment at the insinuating behaviour of the judge shown to a member and demanded his transfer.
 At a press conference they also explained their reason for boycotting the court.

SIRAJGANJ
Punishment to killers of AL leaders demanded
 Oct 4: The district unit of Awami League Monday last demanded immediate arrest and punishment to the killers of the party leaders Ali Hossain and Chand Mia, reports UNB.
 In a joint statement, President Motahar Hossain Talukder and Secretary Abdul Latif Mirza of the unit condemned the killing and expressed grave concern over the deteriorating law and order situation.
 Tarash thana Awami League vice president Ali Hossain was killed by the miscreants on September 13 at Gultabazar and Sramik League leader Chand Mia was assassinated on September 26 on Bahirgola Road in the town.
 The outlawed Sarbahara Party, styled as Purbabanga Communist party, however, claimed the responsibilities of both the killings.
 Meanwhile, Sadar police arrested one local Jamaat-e-Islami Party worker in connection with the killing of Sramik League leader Chand Mia.

FENI
BDR arrest two persons with contraband goods
 Oct 4: Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) have seized contrabands worth about Taka 2.28 lakh and arrested two persons in this connection from seven night coaches on the Feni by-pass road, reports UNB.
 Official sources said BDR conducted the raid between Sept 22 and 24 at Mohipal bus stand and Mohammad Ali Bazar on the by-pass and recovered 13 Indian bicycles, 660 cigarette cartons, 200 pieces of saucers, 3557 packets of blade, toothpaste and 11 kgs of current net.
 The arrested were Abul Kalam of Sarkapur village in Comilla district and Jashmuddin of Khan Mohona village in Chittagong district.
 The seized goods were handed over to the local Customs office.

FARIDPUR
Cleanliness drive inaugurated
 Oct 4: A week-long country wide cleanliness drive was inaugurated here at the historic Ambika Maidan on October 1, reports UNB.
 The Deputy Commissioner M Shahjahan, Pourashava Commissioner Ahmedur Rahman, Sadar Thana Nirbahi Officer Sultanuddin Ahmed and Headmaster of Faridpur Zilla School Munshi Harun were, among others, who addressed a gathering on the occasion.
 They spoke of the necessity of cleanliness in individual, family and social life.
 The drive is being participated by members of BNNS rover and Boy scouts of different educational institutions of the district.
 About 200 Boy scouts took part in a cleaning operation at Jheeluly area on the first day of the drive.

JESSORE
Heroin worth about Tk 50 lakh seized, 6 held
 Oct 4: Department of Narcotics Control here on Friday recovered 500 grams of heroin worth about Taka 50 lakh from Mahakhal bazar in Nayapara and arrested six youngmen, including an Indian national, official sources said, reports UNB.
 The arrested included Harunur Rashid, his brother Iqbal Hossain and Liqat Hossain of Khulna and Shahidul Islam of Bagerhat, and Indian national Anisur Rahman.
 A squad of the department recovered the heroin packed in a leather bag from a microbus parked at Mahakhal Bazar and picked up the six people from the spot.

JAMALPUR
Tornado renders over 100 families homeless
 Oct 4: More than one hundred families were rendered homeless as a tornado swept over Tartapara in Baljuri union under Madarganj thana of the district on Sunday, reports BSS.
 According to report, from the thana Nirbahi Officer the tornado occurred during incessant rains and lasted only five minutes. Kutcha houses were blown away and standing crops were damaged in the affected village.
 Local Member of the Parliament Mirza Azam visited the area and urged the government to rush relief materials for the affected people.

AGRI-VARSITY
Planned farming needed to attain food autarky
 Oct 4: Planned cultivation of root crops, potatoes and vegetables is the prime need to attain self sufficiency in food, reports UNB.
 Director of Bangladesh Agricultural University Research System Prof Monwar Ahmed said this while addressing the closing session of the two-day training programme on Improvement of Indigenous Potato Varieties held at the Graduate Training Institute (GTI) on Monday, says a press release.
 Prof Monwar said that emphasis should be given on developing indigenous varieties of crops in future research activities in lieu of importing high yielding varieties.
 Presided over by the Director of GTI Prof Mohammad Mostafizur Rahman, the function was addressed by the course-leader Prof Mohammad Abdus Siddique, Project Coordinator of CDA/DEA Marius Pakkar, Course Coordinator Prof M Tajul Islam, Prof AFM Sharfuddin Azad and Kamrul Hasan Khan.
 Arranged under the auspices of the Dutch Executive Agency of Crop Diversification Programme, the training programme was participated by Thana Agricultural Officers and Subject Matter Specialists from 14 thanas as trainees.

MAJDEE COURT
Rickshaws create traffic jam
 Oct 4: Large number of rickshaws have been creating traffic jam and frequent accidents in the town, reports UNB.
 Out of a total of 5,000 rickshaws in the town, only 2,000 have got licences.
 Majority of about 7,000 pullers are in their teens and they are mostly responsible for violation of traffic rules and causing accidents.



COMILLA: Participants at the 11th annual conference on Comprehensive Village Development Programme which was held here at BARD recently. —Star photo

Pest attack alarming, aerial spraying demanded

From Our Correspondent
 farmers are unable to spray their fields to combat the pest attack. Meanwhile, adulterated insecticides have flooded the local markets.
 If positive steps are not taken immediately to curb the menace, the situation may go out of control within two or three weeks. The farmers demanded aerial spray throughout the thana.
 A UNB report from Lalmonirhat says: The rice and wheat production in the district recorded surplus by 30,651 tons during the 1991-92 fiscal, officials said.
 Production was 1,79,037 tons against the total requirement of 1,48,386 tons in the district.
 A surplus production of rice, amounting to 8,000 metric tons, is expected in the district during the current season.
 The transplanted aman had been cultivated on about 7,840 acres of additional land this season. As a result, the production target of about 1,48,000 metric tons is exceeded by 800 tons to 156,000 metric tons, they said.
 BSS from Faridpur adds: A one-day long training course on "seed technology" was held recently at the seed processing centre at Domrakandi in the suburb of the town.
 The training course jointly organised by Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) was participated by 25 private seedmen of this area.
 The trainees were imparted training on how to process and preserve seeds of agricultural products including paddy, wheat and vegetables.
 Md Shahidullah, Deputy Director (Seed marketing), Fazlur Rahman, Deputy Director (Contract growers) and Pijush Kanji Bank, Deputy Director (Potato) were the resource persons in the training course.
 Abul Hossain Mia, Joint Director of Seed Marketing of BADC distributed certificates among the participants. Police Super of Faridpur Md Hadisuddin, attended the certificate giving session as chief guest.



BOGRA: Sammitiya Sangskritik Jote of the district brought out a procession demanding the implementation of the proposed full-fledged TV station at Bogra recently. —Star photo

Eleven to suffer lifeterm for murder in dists

GAZIPUR, Oct 4: Eight persons were sentenced to life-term in a murder case, court sources said here on Saturday, reports UNB.
 The accused Shawkat Hossain, Mosharrif, Akram, Anzad, Mahbub, Salam, Aminul and Jamal have also been fined Taka 5,000 each, in default, to suffer two years rigorous imprisonment.
 According to prosecution, the accused were involved in the murder of Abdul Mazid (40) of Sarja Narayanpur village in Kapashia thana over possession of a pretty woman named as Morzina.
 The District and Sessions Judge Motiur Rahman after examining the witnesses and evidences delivered the judgement recently.
 Two persons have also been awarded life-term imprisonment in the judgement of sensational Mamta Begum murder case in the district.
 Convicted Abdus Sattar Beg and Abdul Beg of village Paramanandapur of Kotwali thana killed their cousin's wife Mamta on October 14, 1990.
 According to prosecution story, the two brothers had started to beat their cousin Mansur over land dispute. When Mamta came to save her husband, they started beating her killing her on the spot. They then put poison into her mouth to make it appear like a case of suicide.
 Kotwali police filed a case against the Beg brothers and submitted charge sheet against them.
 Additional District and Sessions Judge Md Abul Mansur, after examining reports and witnesses, gave the judgement on September 26.
 The court also issued an order to institute departmental case against former Civil Surgeon Dr MA Ghani and RMO Dr Nurul Islam for submitting forged autopsy report to save the killers.
 Their report said it was a suicide.
 Another report from Bramanbaria adds: A mother was given life-term imprisonment for killing her newly-born baby here on September 28, court sources said.
 Another accused Abdul Jalil was acquitted of the charges.
 The verdict was awarded by Additional District and Sessions Judge Khademul Islam MD Belal after examining the records and witnesses.



RANGPUR: The railline at Fulchari ghat in being repaired as it was damaged by a heavy shower recently. —Star photo

Notes from Magura

MAGURA, Oct 4: Eight staff quarters have been built in eight districts of Khulna Division for officers and employees of the telegraph and Telephone department, reports UNB.
 The construction work had been taken up under the annual development programme with a total cost of Taka 1,17,61,000 during the last fiscal year.
 The quarters had been built to meet the accommodation problem of the Telegraph and Telephone employees.
 Official sources said, the quarters were built at Magura, Narail, Jessore, Satkhira, Meherpur, Kushtia, Jhendidah and Chudanga.
Dacoity at Alokdia govt. godown
 A gang of dacoits broke open the Alokdia government godown and decamped with 60 bags of rice worth about Taka 60,000 recently.
 Witnesses said dacoits numbering about 15 came by a truck, tied up five people sleeping in a nearby passengers' shade and stormed into the godown at about 2 am.
 They said there was no guard at the godown during dacoity.
 Police sealed the godown.
Housewife commits suicide
 A housewife committed suicide by hanging herself in Sadar thana of the district recently.
 The victim was identified as Lipti Begum (20), wife of Idris Ali of Nishintapur village in Sadar thana.
 It is learnt that family troubles were the reason behind her suicide.
 The body was sent to Magura Hospital morgue for autopsy. A UD case was lodged with the local police in this connection.

WDB completes bridge construction
 Bangladesh Water Development Board has completed construction of four bridges in the district at a total cost of Taka 69.26 lakh.
 The work was taken up under annual development programme of last financial year to improve road communication in the rural areas.
 The bridges have been built over the Gobindapur khal, Alam khali khal, Narankhali khal and Haorkhali khal.
 With the completion of the project a long felt demand of the people has been fulfilled.
Scarcity of fish acute
 Acute scarcity of fish has been prevailing throughout the district for the last one month.
 According to official sources, pisciculture in four thanas of the district has been badly affected due to massive siltation in the rivers Madhumati, Gorai, Fakti, Nabaganga and other beels and canals.
 Unplanned use of chemical fertilizers and insecticides has also affected the fish production.
 Thousands of fishermen have been facing numerous problems including shortage of funds and price hike of fishing materials. Many of them have given up their profession and migrated to other places for employment.
 Fish was available in abundance in the district few months ago.
Diarrhoea kills 6 in B'baria
BRAMANBARIA, Oct 4: Diarrhoea claimed six lives including a child and over 188 people were admitted in the Sadar Hospital during the last one week, reports UNB.
 Attending doctors said that the disease has broken out in the district in an alarming form and people afflicted with diarrhoea from remote areas are coming everyday to the hospital for treatment.
 But they can not provide accommodation to the patients due to seat constraints at the hospital.
 Doctors attributed the causes of the outbreak of the disease to sudden hot-spell, intake of adulterated food stuffs and want of pure drinking water.
 Local people alleged that scarcity of saline water is acute in the district.

Housewife beaten to death in Rangpur
RANGPUR, Oct 4: A housewife was beaten to death allegedly by her husband for dowry at Magura village in Pirganj thana last week, reports UNB.
 Police sources said Dudu Mia, who was suffering from extreme poverty, used to torture his wife Sultanah Begum (22) to realise the promised dowry of Taka 2,000.
 On the fateful day, the husband mercilessly beat the victim with a lathi when she failed to bring the money from her father, causing her instant death.

Farmers demand cold storage facility

BAROUDA, Oct 4: Potato and onion farmers of the district have been facing difficulties due to lack of cold storage, reports UNB.
 Local growers said that a huge quantity of potato and onion are being produced in the district every year. This year's yield has exceeded the previous records but in the absence of cold storage they are not able to store them. This has led to a sharp decline in the price of the produce.
 They said adequate storage facilities would have improved the price situation in the local market.
 The farmers urged the authorities concerned to take steps for setting up a cold storage to help solve their problem without further delay.
 About 800 persons were sterilized in six thanas of the district during the last fiscal year, officials sources said on Saturday.
 During the same period 5000 Copper-T were set and about 30,555 women were given injections as a measure of temporary birth control.
 Besides the district Family Planning Department distributed 5,20,900 pieces of condoms and 5,90,212 oral pills among the fertile couples throughout the district.
 The district Family Planning Department underscored the need for proper motivational campaign to check the population boom.
1.72 lakh tons wheat distributed
 A total of 1,71,742 metric tons of wheat was distributed among the members of 4,651 poor families in six thanas under Vulnerable Group Development Programme during the current fiscal year.
 Official sources said the wheat was distributed at the rate of 31.25 kilogram per family per month through 50 distribution centres.
 About 145.25 metric tons were distributed among the members of 390 families of Amtal thana and about 11.5 metric tons among the members of 300 families of Sadar thana.
 In Patharghata thana 1,960 families got 810.75 metric tons, in Betagi thana 669 families got 250.87 metric tons and 256 families got 96 metric tons of wheat in the pourashava areas.

Street lights inadequate, residents suffer

SHERPUR, Oct 4: Inadequate number of street lights in poura areas has been causing great inconvenience to the town dwellers, reports UNB.
 Most of the light posts are with fuse or no bulbs. As a result easy movement of pedestrians and vehicles are being hampered greatly after sundown.
 Town dwellers informed that accidents are being occurred frequently after night-fall due to insufficient light. Moreover, power goes off frequently and town plunges into darkness for hours together after sundown giving rise of anti-social activities.
 Local leaders alleged that despite of repeated appeal to concerned authorities no step has yet been taken to solve the problem.
 District Family Planning unit has taken up a comprehensive programme to bring 86,831 people of five thanas of the district under its plan in the current fiscal year.
 According to official sources, the programme will be implemented in cooperation with the help of Sadar hospital, thana health complexes, union health centres, clinics and non-government organisations.
 Of them, 4,280 people will be brought under sterilisation, 4451 women under IUD and 17,341 under injections.
 Besides, oral pills will be supplied to 42,086 women and condoms to 18,084 men.
 A total of 69,364 doses of injections, 6,31,290 cycles of oral pills and 27,12,600 pieces of condoms will be distributed under the programme.

Rice sells at Tk 7 per kg in Lalmonirhat

LALMONIRHAT, Oct 4: Rice sells Taka 7 per kg, half the price prevailing in the corresponding period last year, in different markets of the district, reports UNB.
 Market sources said the price of rice was Taka 14 in local markets in the first week of October, last year but it had a slump this year.
 The situation in the district is a bit paradoxical. Even after the abnormal fall in the market price, low-paid labourers cannot afford to buy this quality of rice. They say they procure 'kawn', a low quality cereal, selling at Taka 3 per kg.
 Official sources said the district had a surplus output of 30,000 metric tons of rice in the last Boro season.
 Observers said the surplus production, employment crisis and stoppage of government procurement of rice had created the situation.
 Dealers of local markets—Biarirhat, Hajiganj, Mohishkocha and Chaparhat—are pressing small traders to buy rice at low rates, even on credit.
 They are rather interested in vacating their rice godowns to store new rice which will be available in the local markets with the next harvest beginning within a fortnight.
 The transportation of goods and passengers are being seriously hampered due to shortage of railway engine in Lalmonirhat Railway Section.
 Sources said 28 of the 61 engines remain out of order in the Lalmonirhat Railway Division.
 They said four engines out of 11 at Lalmonirhat shed, seven out of 13 at Bonarpur and 21 engines out of 37 at Parbotpur shed are now on the tracks.
 The engines could not be repaired due to non-availability of spare parts, shortage of fund and administrative bottlenecks.

Construction of four bridges complete

MAGURA, Oct 4: Bangladesh Water Development Board has completed construction of four bridges in the district at a total cost of Taka 69.26 lakh, reports UNB.
 The work was taken up under annual development programme of last financial year to improve road communication in the rural areas.
 The bridges have been built over the Gobindapur Khal, Alam Khali Khal, Narankhali Khal and Haorkhali Khal.
 With the completion of the project a long felt demand of the people has been fulfilled.
 A voluntary organisation CARE, has taken up a programme to construct 13 bridges and 20 culverts in four thanas of the district during the current fiscal year.
 According to sources, 5 bridges will be built in Sadar, 3 bridges in Mofhammadpur, 3 in Salikha and 2 bridges in Sareepur thanas of the district.
 Of the culverts, seven will be constructed in Sadar, 5 in Mohammadpur, 4 in Salikha and 4 in Sareepur thanas.
 The total expenditure involved is Tk 46.23 lakh. Construction work will start soon and would be completed by May next year.
 On completion, road communication, irrigation and sanitation facilities would considerably improve in the rural areas, CARE officials said.
 Eight staff quarters have been built in eight districts of Khulna division for officers and employees of the telegraph and telephone department.
 The construction work had been taken up under the Annual Development Programme with a total cost of Taka 1,17,61,000 during the last fiscal year.
 The quarters had been built to meet the accommodation problem of the telegraph and telephone employees.
 Official sources said, the quarters were built at Magura, Narail, Jessore Satkhira, Meherpur, Kushtia, Jhendidah and Chudanga.

Literary, cultural week held

BARISAL, Oct 4: The literary and cultural week of Government Brojomohun College was held here in the college auditorium recently, reports BSS.
 Professor Md Hanif, Principal of the college was in the chair on the concluding day function. Minister of State for Education Principal Md Yunus Khan was the chief guest on the occasion and gave away prizes among the winners in the competition.