

District roundup

BARISAL Diarrhoea breaks out in epidemic form

Oct 5: Diarrhoea has broken out in ten villages under Agailkhara thana of Barisal district in an epidemic form during last three weeks, report BSS. Two persons died and over 500 were attacked by diarrhoea in these villages during this period. The victims are: Bimala (30) and Hanifa Begum (25) of the village Kalupara. The worst affected villages are Rajapur, Ramstil, Kadambari, Kodaldhoo, Basail, Chingsuita, Bahadurpur, Bamandi, Paisarhat and Kalupara.

FARIDPUR Cultural contest concludes

Oct 5: The ten-day-long cultural programme and competition organised by Islamic Foundation, Faridpur branch in connection with the observance of holy Eid-e-Miladun-nabi concluded recently, reports BSS. The programme included discussions on the life and works of the great prophet, was mahfil, seminar, imam conference, competitions on kerat, azan, Islamic songs, extempore speech, poetry recitations and essay writing. A large number of students from different institutions participated in the competition. The programme was inaugurated by Additional District and Sessions Judge Abul Mansur while the prizes were distributed among the winners by KM Nurul Huda, Deputy Commissioner of Faridpur.

PATUAKHALI 432 tonnes wheat allocated under FW programme

Oct 5: Government allocated 432 metric tons of wheat under Food for Works Programme during rainy season in the district in the current fiscal year, reports UNB. Official sources said the allocated wheat had been distributed for creating temporary employment in the rural areas of six thanas. Landless and distressed people of the district were benefited with the distribution of wheat.

BARGUNA Destruction of trees unabated

Oct 5: Indiscriminate logging and destruction of trees for use at the brickfield have speeded up the process of deforestation in six thanas of the district, reports UNB. The thanas are Sadar, Amtali, Patharghata, Bamna, Betagi, where fruit-bearing trees abound. Mango, jackfruits, blackberry, palm, guava, amloki, pineapple and other varieties of fruits which used to be available plenty in the markets are now seen only occasionally. Local leaders said the fruit-bearing trees are being sold as firewood in the brick fields and house building materials by the poor villagers. This was the main reason behind the acute crisis of fruits in the district. Local leaders have urged the authorities to take action against the brickfield owners who use firewood in manufacturing bricks violating government ban.

CHITTAGONG Call to fulfil demands of polytechnic teachers

Oct 5: Leaders of Bangladesh College-University Teachers Association (BCUTA) called upon the concerned authority to fulfil the 10-point demand of the teachers of polytechnic institute immediately, reports BSS. In a statement here, BCUTA Central Committee General Secretary Prof Shafiqul Alam Chittagong unit president Dr Moutajuddin Patwary and Chittagong University branch General Secretary Prof Ranajit Kumar Dey said polytechnic institutes of the country had been facing many problems including strike by teachers for which studies were seriously hampered. The government should meet the demands of the polytechnic institute teachers to end the impasse, they added.

COMILA 31 smugglers held with contraband goods

Oct 5: Bangladesh Rifles have rounded up 31 alleged smugglers and seized a huge quantity of goods worth about Taka 1,04,71,240 from bordering areas of the district between January and August this year, reports UNB. A total of 891 cases were lodged with different thanas during the period. Members of 29 battalion of Bangladesh Rifles seized contrabands valued at about Taka 1,02,01,549 while being smuggled into the country. The contrabands included Indian sarees, garments, yarn, sugar, phanstyl syrup, cycle and rickshaw parts, onion, garlic, salt, safety matches, timber, fire-wood, bamboo, glass and garja. A huge number of goods worth about Taka 2,69,491 were also seized while being smuggled out of the country. These goods included copper and 'kasha' utensils, gold, old ornaments, polyester cloth, fish, dry fish and edible oil.

KHULNA Durga Puja begins

Oct 5: Durga Puja is being celebrated in the city in a befitting manner with large crowds of Hindus visiting different mandaps with a sense of security, reports UNB. Khulna Mahanagar Puja Committee has chalked out special programmes for celebrating the greatest festival of the Hindu community with due religious fervour. A spokesman for the puja committee told UNB that this year's puja (worship) would draw larger crowds because of democratic atmosphere in the country. Riot police have been deployed in all puja mandaps to check any untoward incident.

RAJSHAHI BSF kill two Bangladeshis, bodies recovered

Oct 5: Police Friday last recovered the bodies of two people who were reportedly killed by Indian Border Security Forces (BSF) at Godagari frontier near Nilmanchar of India on Tuesday, reports UNB. Three people — Makbul (20), Kailu Babu (18) and Wahab (22) of Bahuri village in Rajshahi — were killed by BSF men when they were fishing in the river Padma in Bangladesh territory on Tuesday, police said quoting eyewitnesses. They found the bodies of Makbul and Kailu floating in the river four miles west of Rajshahi thana. The bodies were sent to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital for autopsy. The body of Wahab could not be traced.

NETRAKONA People experience wide spread rainfall

Oct 5: Netrakona district town and its adjoining areas have been experiencing wide spread rainfall accompanied with gusty winds during the last two days, reports BSS. The torrential rains resulted in disruption of normal life in the areas as it forced the people to remain indoor. Both in the urban and rural areas have gone under rain water which remained stagnant for want of outlets. The inclement weather also created in job scarcity for the poor.

JHENIDAH Course on industrial entrepreneurs development ends

Oct 5: A two-day-long industrial entrepreneurs development training course was concluded here at Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation office premises Wednesday, reports UNB. Presided over by Jahan Ali, the training course was inaugurated by Shahiduzzaman MP. The main problems in running the small industries were highlighted and its solution including the availability of soft bank loans were discussed in the training course. About 40 participants including some officials of different banks took part in the course. District Masjid Parishad allegedly misappropriated about Taka one lakh, collected as registration fees from different masjids in six thanas, reports UNB. Local people alleged that officials of the Parishad left the place in the dark on Tuesday night along with the funds and belongings. The Parishad, a NGO was set up in the town seven months back. The officials collected the fund from imams for registration of their respective Masjids.



PIROJPUR: Thousands of people from Faridpur, Khulna and Barisal assembled here on the occasion of traditional mela which was organised by Matibanga College of the district recently. —Star Photo.

Tornado hits 8 villages, houses, standing crops damaged

SIRAJGANJ, Oct 5: A severe tornado that lashed three villages of Kamerkhand thana damaged kutcha dwellings and uprooted a large number of trees on Thursday, reports UNB. The affected villages are Kazipura, Bashbaria and Hyderpur. At least 70 families were rendered homeless in Kazipura village alone. Standing crops on vast acres of land were razed to the ground and the loss was estimated at Taka 10 lakh. Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO) visited the affected areas. The storm was accompanied with incessant rainfall. Villagers said most of the old kutcha houses were blown away by the storm while several others were badly damaged. They complained that no relief reached them till today. Local MP Mirza Azam urged the government to take up relief and rehabilitation measures immediately for the affected people. Heavy downpour causes flood in 7 unions BSS from Mymensingh adds: Heavy downpour and hilly water damaged two-kilometre long embankment on the river Netai causing flood in seven unions under Dhubaura thana of Mymensingh district. According to the district administration, 75 square kilometre areas with 94,664 people have been affected by this flood. Crops on 16,730 acres have been damaged totally. Besides, 500 houses have been damaged. Mohammad Musharraf Hossain MP along with District Controller of Food and District Relief and Rehabilitation Officer meanwhile visited the flood affected areas. District administration sanctioned five metric tons of wheat while Dhubaura thana parishad sanctioned Taka 5,000 for the affected people.

Local agri officials said crops on vast areas of land have been affected due to incessant rainfall in the district. Another reports from Jamalpur adds: More than 100 families were rendered homeless in a storm that lashed over Tartapara village in Madaragj thana of the district on September 27, official sources said. The storm was accompanied with incessant rainfall. Villagers said most of the old kutcha houses were blown away by the storm while several others were badly damaged. They complained that no relief reached them till today. Local MP Mirza Azam urged the government to take up relief and rehabilitation measures immediately for the affected people.

Tk 5 lakh property gutted

CHANDPUR, Oct 5: Property worth about Taka 5 lakh were gutted when a fire broke out at Duragadia Bazar of sadar thana, about six kilometres away from the town on Tuesday, reports UNB. Witnesses said the fire which broke out suddenly at midnight, engulfed the entire bazar. The shopkeepers sleeping inside, managed to come out of the burning shops and raised hue and cry.

River erosion, floods responsible One lakh people now landless

MADARIPUR, Oct 5: Unabated river erosion and floods have been mainly responsible for the rising number of landless families in the district, according to a recent survey, reports UNB. The survey conducted by an NGO, shows that about one lakh people are now landless in 10 thanas of the Madaripur and Shariatpur districts out of a total population of 20 lakh. The report says, about 85 per cent of the people are dependent on agriculture and 15 per cent landless and 40 per cent are marginal land holders. Hundreds of acres of land are being eroded by rivers Arialkha, Padma, Kumar and Kirtinasha every year, the survey said. Farmers with small holdings unable to afford agricultural inputs have to borrow money from the local money lenders at high interest rates which they cannot repay and thus forfeit their mortgaged land. Over 2000 acres of crop-lands have been devoured on account of erosion by the rivers Padma and Arialkha in the district. The worst affected area is Shishbar where hundreds of people, rendered homeless, by the Padma have now taken shelter in the government offices, schools and on the roads. The condition of the town protection embankment is at stake in Calta under Sadar thana. Local people said they alerted the Water Development Board but got a deaf ear. Some villages in Matborer Char, Bandorkhola and Khatalbari unions have been devoured by the Arialkha during last two or three weeks. About 50 villages have already gone under water, local sources said. Erosion has been intensifying every day posing a threat to the locality. Kalcipur, Jafarabad, Hilarbari and Shantinagar towns in Sadar thana, may be affected in a few days if no action is taken urgently, they said. One beaten to death One person has been beaten to death allegedly by his mother-in-law in Bajitpur village under Rajoir thana, police sources said. The victim was identified as Shamsul Haque (28). Sources said quarrel over possession of money had been going on between Sonavar Bibi, wife of Chandu Matbar and her son-in-law, Shamsul for long. On the fateful day, at one stage of the quarrel, Sonavar Bibi got furious and started hitting her son-in-law mercilessly on his head with a lethal weapon. He was rushed to Sadar hospital where he succumbed. Police arrested Sonavar Bibi. A case has been filed with the local police. Arms recovered Police have recovered one pistol, one pipegun and four rounds of bullets from Bajitpur union of Rajoir thana. Acting on a tip, police recovered these abandoned arms and ammunition from the bank of a pond in Kichmodi village Friday. A case has been filed with the local police station but, none was so far arrested in this connection.

Mobile book fair concludes at Rajbari

RAJBARI, Oct 5: A two-day mobile book fair under the auspices of Jatiya Grantha Kendra was concluded here Sunday, reports UNB. Additional Deputy Commissioner Shakhawat Hossain inaugurated the colourful book fair at the Paura auditorium. Kendra sources said local students spontaneously extended their cooperation and a large number of readers took part in the fair. Addressing the opening function Joint-Director of the Grantha Kendra Jafar Tahukder called upon the people to develop reading habit and present books on various ceremonial occasions to their near and dear ones. The function was also addressed by former Principal of Rajbari Government College Prof Mohammad Kashem Uddin and Principal of the College Prof M Islam Mia, Prof Fakir Abdur Rashid and Prof Abu Musa Biswas.

Notes from Chuadanga

From Our Correspondent CHUADANGA, Oct 5: International 'Probin' Day was observed here recently. In observance of the day, a nice programme was chalked out here. The programme included rally of the 'Probin' and a discussion meeting. The programme was chalked out under the joint auspices of the district administration and the district 'Probin' samity. The rally and the discussion meeting was held at local Ral-bazar area. Nurul Islam Joarder, Convenor of the district unit of 'Probin Samity' presided over the rally and discussion meeting while Tajul Islam, Deputy Commissioner of Chuadanga was present on the occasion as the chief guest. Among others the rally and discussion meeting were addressed by Golam Sarwar and Quamrul Arefin.

Law, order situation discussed

The law and order situation of Chuadanga district was discussed at a meeting of the district law and order committee which was held at the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner recently. Deputy Commissioner M Tajul Islam presided over the meeting. The members of the committee who were present in the meeting include Superintendent of Police, Chuadanga, the Principal of the local Mahila College, Civil Surgeon, Field Officer NSI, Additional District Magistrate and the Secretary of the Chuadanga district Chamber of Commerce and Industries. The meeting expressed concern over the law and order situation of the district and urged the concern authority to take proper step in this regard.

Shishu Adhikar Dibosh observed

'Shishu Adhikar Dibosh' is being observed here in a befitting manner recently. In observance of the day, a colourful programme was chalked out by different primary schools and shishu organisations of the district. A big rally of the children was held here at the premises of local Uhenuk Biddapit Primary School. The Deputy Commissioner of Chuadanga was present on the occasion as the chief guest.

UP polls held peacefully

The election of the Sankar Chandra Union Parishad under Chuadanga sadar thana was held peacefully recently. Jahangir Alam Biswas was elected chairman of the union parishad by defeating his nearest rival Azizur Rahman Biswas by a margin of 3,839 votes. It may be mentioned here that the election of the said union parishad was not held earlier as the period of the union was not over. It may further be mentioned that the said defeated candidate Azizur Rahman was in office of the chairman of Sankar Chandra union parishad for the last 15 years.

Lathikhela contest

A 'lathikhela' (stick-fighting) competition was held here at the local Adarsha Boys High School premises recently. Chuadanga district branch of 'Bangladesh Lathial Dal' organised the competition. Nine 'Lathial Dals' from the different areas of the district took part in this competition. The participating Lathial Dals are Sumurdia Ekota Club, Amia Sadarpur Lathial Dal, Joyrampur Lathial Dal, Hashada Fakirchand Lathial Dal, Ganjini Lathial Dal, Hatkaluganj Lathial Dal, Sumurdia Colony Lathial Dal and Kederganj Lathial Dal. Amia Sadarpur Lathial Dal won the championship while Sumurdia Colony Lathial Dal became runners up. Joyrampur Lathial Dal secured 3rd position. The Deputy Commissioner of Chuadanga M. Tajul Islam gave away the prizes to the best competitors.

Case filed under Anti-Terrorism Ordinance

BRAHMANBARIA, Oct 5: A case has been filed against a young man and his accomplices at the Sadar thana under Anti-Terrorism Ordinance, reports UNB. Police sources said cash of-ficer of a local Pubali Bank lodged the case, the first case in the district under the new law. The complainant alleged that the young man, identified as Milton of Kazipara area of the town, along with some accomplices tried to kidnap his daughter Nasima Akhter, a school student on September 22. They also threatened to throw acid on the girl after the kidnap did was foiled, the complainant said.

Police nab 783 criminals, recover 20 arms in Sylhet

SYLHET, Oct 5: Police arrested 783 criminals and recovered 20 fire arms and 122 rounds of bullets from 11 thanas of the district during the month-long August Operation, reports UNB. According to police sources, of the fire arms, 11 were pipe guns and nine revolvers. Police recovered 107 rounds of rifle and SLR bullets, 15 rounds of revolver bullets, 15 cocktails, two Chinese axes, three kirich, one ramdao, three knives and two iron rods during the drive. Police also arrested 33 criminals from Kotwali thana, 29 from Balagonj, 47 from Biswanath, 25 from Fenchuganj, 69 from Gopalganj, 49 from Bhanibazar, 54 from Gowaint, 50 from Jaintaput, 47 from Zakiganj 43 from Companiganj, and 37 from Guwanight during the same period. Our Correspondent adds: Heroin worth about Taka fifty lakh has been recovered from two persons in Rahimpur village near the border area under Zakiganj thana on Friday, midnight. A BDR source said that on getting informations a contingent of 36 battalion of BDR rushed to Rahimapur under Zakiganj thana. They also searched their body and recovered about one pound of heroin worth about Taka fifty lakh from their possession. The BDR men later, handed over them to the Zakiganj police and the heroin has been handed over to the Customs Department. A Narcotics Official identified the heroin in a preliminary test. The arrested persons are: Akaddias Ali of village Oechua and Abdul Mottin of village Shirajpara under Zakiganj thana.

Shows of obscene films rampant in Kishoreganj

From Our Correspondent KISHOREGANJ, Oct 5: Indian Hindi and foreign blue films are being exhibited openly here at many public places causing moral degradation of the young generation. The demand for the Indian Hindi films is on rise and both the Hindi and obscene films are also being shown in many village through VCPs, local people informed. The school and college going boys and girls often drop their classes to enjoy the films in a body, some guardians alleged. Taking advantage of law and order situation, some unscrupulous video shopowners in the town have turned their shops into mini-cinema halls, where obscene films are shown on commercial basis. Besides, the youths of the town and other places are addicted to spurious drugs and liquor at the influence of foreign video films who often resort to anti-social activities. Another report adds: Bangladesh Chhatra League (M-I) won the election of Hossainpur Degree College Students Union held here recently. BCL won all the 11 posts in the election. Zahurul Islam Manik was elected the Vice-President while Abdus Satter became the General Secretary and Shohel Rana Shohel as the Assistant General Secretary. BCL, Jaitiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), Sangrami Chhatra Samaj and Islami Chhatra Shibir took part in the election. Boy killed in house collapse SATKHIRA, Oct 5: A boy was killed and his mother and sister seriously injured in a house-collapse at Deya in Kaliganj thana recently, reports UNB. Witnesses said the mud wall of the house collapsed due to heavy downpour killing Khokon on the spot and injuring his mother and sister seriously. The injured were rushed to the Kaliganj Hospital where their condition was stated to be critical. Another report adds: Housewife Tanjila of Khalil Nagar was allegedly killed by her husband and kept her hung from the roof of his house as if she committed suicide.

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SATKHIRA: Two decorated elephants are in front of a colourful procession which was brought out here recently on the inaugural day of the EPI Week. —Star Photo.

Diarrhoea claims 8 lives, attacks 500 in Netrakona

From Our Correspondent NETRAKONA, Oct 5: Diarrhoea claimed 8 lives and attacked over five hundred others at Rongchhati union in Kalmakanda thana of the district during the last week. The victims were identified as Amena Khatun (50), Selina Khatun (14), Nirmol (60), Kalmuddin (20), Wazed (14), Abdul Hakim (19), Najmul Ah-san (65) and Mohammad Ali (55). Local doctors said, 'scarcity pure drinking water and intake of adulterated foodstuff were the main causes of the out break of this disease. Thana Health and Family Welfare Officer said, a medical team was sent to the affected area to combat the disease. Another report adds: A meeting of the District Development Coordination Committee was held here recently with the Deputy Commissioner Dewan Afzar Uddin, Netrakona in the chair. An official source said, the progress of various on-going development projects undertaken in education, agriculture, health and family planning, communications and other sectors was discussed in meeting. Law and order situation in the district was also reviewed in the meeting. All the district-level officers attended the meeting.

Ferryghat leaseholders harass passengers

SHRUPUR, Oct 5: Passengers and traders are being harassed and charged exorbitant rates by leaseholders of ferry ghats in the districts, it was informed by local leaders, reports UNB. They said the leaseholders had been demanding more than the rates fixed by the Roads and Highways department and Zila Parishad. On the other hand, the ferry ghats have been left without maintenance and have no facilities like waiting-shed and lights causing inconvenience to the passengers. Local leaders have demanded the authorities to take necessary steps to stop harassment, improve ferry services and compel the leaseholders to abide by the terms and conditions. Another report adds: Adulterated foodstuff are being sold unabatedly in different markets of the district causing health hazard of the people. Consumers alleged that oil, milk, flour, bread and biscuits are found adulterated in most shops and bazars. They alleged rotten food are being sold in hotels and restaurants also. It is reported that substandard and expired medicines are being sold by some dishonest businessmen. Local people demanded immediate action against the dishonest businessmen to stop the spreading threat to public health.



NATORE: Prof Dr. Umar Ali of RU addressing the concluding session of a 15-day-long programme held here at the local Islamic Foundation auditorium recently. —Star Photo.