

## District roundup

## CHUADANGA

## Tk 21.17 lakh disbursed as agricultural loan

Oct 13: Bangladesh Krishi Bank has disbursed Taka 21.17 lakh as agricultural loan among the farmers of Chuadanga district in the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

A bank source said, Taka 5.74 lakh has been disbursed in Chuadanga Sadar thana, Taka 7.92 lakh in Alamdanga, Taka 6.83 lakh in Damurhuda and Taka 68,000 in Jibannagar thana.

The loan has been sanctioned for purchasing cattle, deep tubewells, and cultivation of aman and potato.

Taka 21 crore 76 lakh and 56 thousand is lying outstanding with the farmers in the district. Meanwhile, Taka 29.20 lakh has been recovered, the source said.

## SHERPUR

## Housewife commits suicide

Oct 13: A housewife allegedly committed suicide by taking poison in Nokla thana of the district, family sources said here Monday, reports UNB.

The victim Shahara Begum (20), wife of Rustam Ali of Kobutarmari village was leading an unhappy family life.

On the fateful night of Wednesday her husband picked up a quarrel with her and the family members rebuked her. At this, she became disappointed the killed herself by taking poison.

The body was sent to the Sherpur Hospital morgue for autopsy. A U/D case was lodged with the local police in this connection.

## PATUAKHALI

## Construction of 5 sluice gates in progress

Oct 13: Work is in progress on the construction of five sluice gates at a cost of Taka 81.30 lakh under Muradiala-Kalagasia project of Sadar thana, reports UNB.

Asian Development Bank and Water Development Board have been jointly financing the project.

Thirty per cent work of the project has been completed while the rest are expected to be completed by December next.

About 2000 hectares of land will come under irrigation facilities on completion of the projects.

## FENI

## Hijacked truck recovered

Oct 13: Police recovered the hijacked truck, loaded with 45-cartoon garment products, empty from Chittagong on Thursday, reports UNB.

The truck loaded with garment products worth about Taka 38 lakh was hijacked from Mohal on the Feni by-pass road on October 5. The truck was coming to Dhaka from Chittagong port.

Some miscreants, armed with lethal weapons, stopped the truck at midnight when it reached the point and forcibly drove away the vehicle after assaulting the driver and helper.

## PIROZPUR

## Demand for dowry keeps 3000 young girls unmarried

Oct 13: About 3000 young girls in 20 unions of Nesarabad thana in the district continued to live single as their parents are unable to meet the demands for dowry, social and family welfare activists said here, reports UNB.

According to these sources, about 5000 married girls in Nesarabad thana have been passing unhappy days in uncertainty as their guardians failed to meet the dowry demands.

Based on a survey in the district the social welfare workers said 1000 married girls have been threatened of divorce if the demands for goods and property were not met while about 2000 others were reported to be under oppression.

## BARISAL

## Centenary of Brojomohan College Oct 25

Oct 13: The centenary of the foundation of Brojomohan University College of Barisal will be observed on October 25 through various programmes, a press release of the college said, reports BSS.

The former students, teachers and employees of the college have been requested to register their names to the college authorities by October 15 next.

The college was established by the great philanthropist Aswini Kumar Datta in 1889 after the name of his father Brojomohan Datta.

## FARIDPUR

## World Lions Day observed

Oct 13: World Lions Day was observed on October 9 by Faridpur Lions Club, reports BSS.

Faridpur Lions Club distributed 300 packets of improved foodstuff among the patients of Faridpur General Hospital and TB Hospital.

Faridpur Lions Club President Ataur Rahman along with the club members and Dr Kazi Syed Ahmed, Civil Surgeon of Faridpur were present on the occasion.

## LALMONIRHAT

## 351 tons of wheat allocated for 178 projects

Oct 13: A total of 351 tons of wheat has been allocated for 178 projects under Food for Works Programme in five unions and one pourasava of the district, reports UNB.

District Project Implementation office sources said 70 tons of wheat has been allocated for 38 projects in Sadar thana, 16 tons for 10 projects in Lalmonirhat pourasava, 65 tons for 30 projects in Aditmari thana, 70 tons for 32 projects in Kaliganj thana, 67 tons for 34 projects in Hattbandha thana and 63 tons for 34 projects in Patgram thana.

The projects are expected to be completed soon.

## SIRAJGANJ

## Durga Puja celebrated

From Our Correspondent  
Oct 13: Durga Puja, the greatest festival of the Hindu community was observed in the district with great enthusiasm.

A total of 135 pandals was erected. Chala Adalat Para Puja venue in Belkuchi thana arranged that best performance with art and decoration. The puja venues were attended by thousands of devotees every day.

## LALMONIRHAT

## Minor boy succumbs to injuries

Oct 13: Prince (14), son of a police official of Aditmari thana succumbed to his injuries at PG hospital in Dhaka on Monday, reports UNB.

He was a student of class eight of Aditmari High School. A speeding truck hit the motor cycle in which Prince was travelling from Aditmari to Lalmonirhat on October 3 along with his uncle Azam. Azam was injured critically and rushed to Dhaka for operation and treatment.

A case has been filed with the local thana and police arrested the driver and the helper of the truck.

Police arrested one person from the town under the Special Powers Act on Thursday for suspected involvement with an international gang of smugglers.

The arrested person was identified as Ismail (40), reported to be notorious criminal in the locality, but had been living in India as a fugitive for long.

He has been sent to jail.

## BRAHMANBARIA

## Eminent Islamic thinker dead

Oct 13: Eminent Islamic thinker and Imam of Gocorna Nabab Bari Mosque Moulana Syed Fariduddin died of old age ailment on Friday. He was 110, reports UNB.

He left behind one son, three daughters and a host of relations and admirers to mourn his death.



CHANDPUR: People are busy in packing hilsa fishes for marketing. — Star photo

## Hilsa now dear for output fall, short supply

Shirin Akhter

CHANDPUR, Oct 13: Hilsa is known as the king of fishes of our country for its taste and flavour. But the production of hilsa is declining day by day. Now it has gone beyond the purchasing capacity of the common people due to high prices and short supply.

During the rainy season, markets are usually flooded with hilsa fishes. People could easily buy and consume the fish earlier at their contents.

The short supply of hilsa fish at different markets of the district has increased the prices of hilsa.

Due to high price, the consumption of hilsa has become luxurious.

According to Chandpur Fishery Institute, the prime period of breeding of hilsa are the months of August, September and October. The shoal of hilsa fish used to lay eggs at Sandip, Hatja, Manpara and other areas.

The hilsa fry are generally start growing up in the sweet water. At that time they enter into the sweet water for breeding purpose. The female hilsa grow faster than the male one. About 80 per cent of total

hilsa are found mainly in the Padma, the Meghna and the Jamuna rivers. The rest are found in the nearest tributaries.

The total hilsa production is about four lakh tons in a year. Hilsa meets about 40 per cent fish requirement of our country.

According to a survey report, about 50 thousand tons of hilsa fry (Jatka) are caught in different areas annually. As a result, hilsa fish production is decreasing. On the other hand, sharp fall in the water level in the major rivers like the Padma, the Meghna, and the Jamuna are also hampering the breeding of hilsa.

According to fishery institute, large-scale catching of fish fry with current nets, unplanned construction of dams, lack of excavation and re-excavation of rivers are the main reasons of declining hilsa fish output in our country.

It is reported that cross barracade by bamboos and nets are also hampering the hilsa fish production.

Maximum number of hilsa are found in Hiza, Muladi in Barisal district, Nilkamal, Haimchar, Mohanpur, Sathnal

at Chandpur district, Dauladia, Goalanda, Aricha in Faridpur district. Besides hilsa fish are also available in Khulna and Chittagong.

Fishery institute stated that the results of hilsa cultivation in hands in satisfactory. Hilsa is being cultured at the institute hands on experimental basis.

Artificial breeding of hilsa was done at Hatia and Sandip in 1991. A large nursery ground was identified in the coastal belt area covering from Kuakata (Patuakali), Dublarchar (Khulna).

The main problem of hilsa culture in hands is the collection of juvenile which is really hard task. So, it may not be possible to culture hilsa in hands commercially.

Due to lack of transport and communication every year a large quantity of hilsa are rotten. So more cold storages are required for storage facilities.

Hilsa had also great demand in foreign countries. So, hilsa can be exported to foreign countries in large-scale. Hilsa can also be preserved for months together mixing salt and soybean oil.

## Medicine scarcity in hospitals

GAZIPUR, Oct 13: Scarcity of medicines in hospitals, health centres and union health centres has posed serious problems to the patients of the district, reports UNB.

It is informed that most thana and union health complex medical officers are not attending the outdoor patients due to non-availability of medicines in the hospitals.

People from remote areas complained that even simple emergency medicine like Dettol or Savlon is not always available in the rural health centres.

The patients from far flung areas seeking admission to the hospitals are to go back disappointed in the absence of treatment facilities.

Moreover, the admitted patients have to collect

medicines from outside at high prices. Poor patients are the worst sufferers.

According to an official source, Taka 2.5 lakh is sanctioned every year for medicine, mattresses, bed-sheets, pillows, mosquito nets and surgical instruments for each hospital and Taka 30,000 for each union health centre.

It is informed that some dishonest officials are engaged in selling the medicines in the black market.

Local people have urged the government to ensure supply of medicines in thana health complexes and union health sub-centres on an urgent basis.

At least 1600 child labourers, below the age of 12, are engaged in different odd jobs in the district for earning their livelihood.

According to a survey conducted by some social welfare workers, the number of child labourers is increasing throughout the district day by day.

These poor children mostly work in hotels and restaurants, tea-stalls, motor garages and factories. They also work as domestic servants, rickshaw-pullers and hawkers. They have to work for more than 12 hours at very nominal wages.

After their hard work they have to sleep on footpaths, railway station, bus terminals and ghats mostly in empty stomach.

Recurrent natural calamities have turned the marginal farmers into landless destitutes who have been compelled to move to town areas in search of food and shelter.

## Patients deprived of medicare for want of facilities

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Oct 13: Due to shortage of medicines, physicians and lack of medical equipment and absence of ambulances, the normal functioning of the nine health complexes of the district is being hampered.

The patients coming from remote villages in the health complexes go back without treatment in absence of doctors.

About 500 to 900 patients come to the hospitals daily but 60 per cent of them return

without any treatment. Moreover, the doctors neglecting their duties remain busy with their private practice.

On the otherhand, many doctors of different thana health complexes and sub-centres are working on deputation in different health institutes of Kurigram town area.

The outdoor service in all health complexes is poor. Patients are supplied with common tablets though the

government supplies and huge quantity of medicines in these hospitals.

For the few months, saline and life saving drugs are not available in the hospitals. As a result, the patients especially the diarrhoea patients have to suffer much.

The medicines supplied to the hospitals are being sold in local pharmacies. The patients are compelled to buy the medicines from the outside at an exorbitant price.



JAMALPUR: The baily bridge on Jamalpur-Madarganj Road damaged during 1988 flood has not yet been repaired. — Star photo

## Notes from Moulvibazar

From Our Correspondent

MAULVIBAZAR, Oct 13: Local Rotary Club organised a day-long medical camp recently at local Kalenga primary school.

President of the club Ebadur Rahman Chowdhury, MP inaugurated the camp.

A meeting was also held in this connection with Ebadur Rahman Chowdhury, MP in the chair and it was addressed among others by Dr Shafique Uddin Ahmed, Dr Zillul Hoq, Dr Alok Das and secretary of the club Bakshi Iqbal Ahmed.

A medical board of 4 doctors attended treatment to 300 poor people and also distributed medicine worth Taka four thousand.

## One college girl given stipend

Maulvibazar Women's College authority has given staff council stipend to Sayeda Abida Begum, a 2nd year student of the college recently.

It may be mentioned here that teachers of the college donated money from their monthly salary for the fund of the stipend and they will be distribute the stipend every year to the poor students of college.

Abdul Khaliq, acting principal of the college handed over the stipend to Abida Begum at a simple ceremony recently.

## Talamiz-e-Islamia meet held

A meeting of Bangladesh Talamiz-e-Islamia, Kulaura thana unit was held at their party office recently.

Abdul Momin, President of the thana committee presided over the meeting and it was addressed among others by Adil Ahmed, Delwar Hussain and Tofael Ahmed.

After the meeting, a procession was brought out at different roads of the Kulaura thana headquarter.

## Baralekha thana Press Club executive

Annual election of Baralekha thana Press Club was held recently at Baralekha thana public library auditorium.

The election was conducted by Abdul Ahad. The committee of the Press Club was elected by the members of the club.

Elected office-bearers are President—Montazir Ali, Vice-President—Rajat Kanti Gupta, General Secretary—Gopal Datta, Assistant Secretary—Nurul Islam, Publicity Secretary—Mostafa Selim, members—Gonesh Kar and Abdul Hafiz.

## Freshers' reception held

A freshers' reception at Maulvibazar Vocational Training Institute (VTI) was held at the VTI auditorium recently with Vice-President of VTI Students Union Kabiruzzaman Chowdhury in the chair.

The function was addressed among others by Superintendent of the VTI Abdul Mannaf Bhuyan, Manmath Deb, Shamsuzzaman, Abdul Kadir and Shahidur Rahman. It was followed by a cultural function.

The International Day for Elderly was observed recently at Maulvibazar as elsewhere of the country in a befitting manner.

A meeting on the occasion of Elderly Day was held at Maulvibazar Town Club auditorium with Deputy Commissioner, Maulvibazar in the chair. The meeting was addressed by Fakaruddin Mahmud among others.

Speakers in the meeting demanded for social security to the old men in Bangladesh. They said, in the case of Maulvibazar, there are no facilities of recreation, medical and other to the elderly member of the society.

## BDR, Task Force seize contraband goods

KUSHITIA, Oct 13: The Bangladesh Rifles and the anti-smuggling task force have seized contraband goods worth about Taka 3,46,000 and arrested 14 smugglers in raids in the district, reports UNB.

The goods included stainless plate, glass, spare parts of bicycle, medicines salt and cows.

The BDR seized four Indian cows worth Taka 60,000, other goods worth Taka 7,000 and arrested two smugglers from Gangni thana area on October 3.

Anwar Hossain and Moniruddin were arrested with Indian salt worth Taka 7,840 from Mirpur area on October 5.

The same day, the joint team conducted a raid on the town and seized goods worth Taka 70,000. They also arrested 10 smugglers with Indian goods worth Taka 1.40 lakh from Bheramara, Alerdarga and Taragonia bazars.

The arrested persons were sent to local thana.

## Call to mobilise people against terrorism

CHITTAGONG, Oct 13: Minister for Forest, Fisheries, Livestock and Environment Abdullah-Al-Noman called for building up anti-terrorism groups in villages and mobilise people against anti-social activities so that people could live in peace and happiness, reports BSS.

People of all starts should extend their whole-hearted cooperation to government's move for curbing terrorism and stamping out corruptions to create a congenial atmosphere in the country, the minister said this in his brief address to the people who joined a big procession at Laldighi Maidan on Saturday afternoon.

The procession brought out by Chittagong City unit of BNP and its front organisations, as part of massive anti-terrorism drive. The procession was led by the minister along with City Mayor Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin, Serajul Islam Chowdhury and Amir Khasru

Mahmood Chowdhury, MP. Referring to the promulgation of the Anti-Terrorism Ordinance, the minister said it was done for curbing terrorism effectively and dealing with other anti-social activities with iron hand.

Noman who is also President of City BNP Unit said, the BNP government was pledge-bound to face challenges of political parties politically. That is why it was dealing with miscreants and terrorists without fear and favour.

The minister urged the people to strongly resist those who were out to undo democratic process by resorting terrorism saying that our prime objective was to give democracy an institutional shape and establish a corruption free society.

The anti-terrorism procession beginning from Laldighi Maidan paraded through important city thoroughfare and dispersed at Badamtali Agrabad.

## Tk 20 cr for Bhola town protection plan

From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, Oct 13: Government has sanctioned an allocation of 20 crore taka for the Bhola Town Protection Embankment Project.

The Water Development Board (EDB) will implement the project. Works on this project, it is learnt, will be started from the next dry season.

It may be mentioned here that this project is being implemented with the utmost endeavour of Mosaraf Hossain Sahjahan, State minister for Water Development, Irrigation and Flood Control. Works on the project is expected to be started by 92-93 financial year.

Meanwhile, a highpowered survey team headed by Engineer Syed Anwar Yusuf, Director General of River Research Institute visited Bhola for feasibility study of the project with Sadhan Chandra Das, Chief Engineer of the project and Principal Officer Nurul Islam. They visited river eroded areas of Bhola, Daulatkhan, Tajumuddin and Borhanuddin.

With the visiting team M Kayum Rizi, Superintendent Engineer WDB Bhola Circle, Ali Akbar Haider, Executive Engineer WDB, Bhola and Premchand Roy, Executive Engineer, WDB-II, Bhola were accompanied in different areas of Bhola.



RAJBARI: A local UP election candidate has displayed his symbol 'cock' during the on-going election. — Star photo

## Jaundice spreading fast

MADARIPUR, Oct 13: Jaundice has been spreading in 10 thanas of Madaripur and Shariatpur districts since last one month, reports UNB.

A large number of people were affected by the disease. They were going to the Kabiraj and quacks for herbal treatment as there was no allopathic medicine for hepatitis.

The rate of divorce in the district has abruptly shot up with 1200 cases reported in the last eight months, according to the District Registrar's office here.

Unofficial reports, however, put the number of divorces during the period at about 2,500. Reports reaching from outside the district headquarters said a huge number of women, many of them expected mothers, were seen thronging the thana courts in connection with divorce cases.

It is said that court verdict were often dishonoured by adamant husbands, most of them enraged for non-payment of dowry.

Improper use of pesticides has become a major threat to crops, agricultural experts said here.

They said crops have been damaged as the farmers were unaware of the harmful effects of the pesticides and applying these at random on crop fields.

Moreover, varieties of insects complementary to crop production have also been destroyed due to application of these insecticides, most of which are listed as banned items, they said.

Local leaders, urged the authorities to train the farmers so that they can apply pesticides properly and thereby help protect the crops and as well as the environment.

## Imposition of heavy power bill may hamper next Irri-boro farming

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Oct 13: The Irri-boro farming in six thanas of the district is likely to face serious setback in the coming season due to imposition of heavy electric charges on shallow and deep tubewell schemes.

It informed that the local PDB authority instead of depending on meter reading, will prepare imaginary power bills against electricity consumed by shallow and deep tubewells, this year.

According PDB provisions, every shallow tubewell scheme has to pay Taka 5,000 per season as power charge while

deep tubewell scheme has to pay Taka 12,000. But the local PDB authority realises Taka 14,500 and Taka 28,500 from shallow tubewell and deep tubewell schemes respectively.

It is further informed that the local PDB authority never cling to any system for preparing power bills. Recently, Taka 12,000 was realised as bill from a deep tubewell scheme while Taka 20,260 was realised from a shallow tubewell scheme in the district.

There are over two hundred deep and shallow tubewell schemes in the district and all are equally affected.