

**District roundup**

**MADARIPUR**

**242 posts of pry teachers lying vacant**

From Our Correspondent  
Oct 14: Two hundred and forty two posts of primary teachers have been lying vacant in Madaripur and Shariatpur districts for a long time.  
According to official sources, 16 posts in Sadar, 11 posts in Kalkini, 31 posts in Shibchar and 11 posts in Rajshahi thanas under Madaripur district have been lying vacant.  
Besides, 7 posts in Sadar, 31 posts in Zanzira, 29 posts in Gosairhat, 55 posts in Bhedarganj and 51 in Naria thanas under Shariatpur district have been lying vacant.

**GAIBANDHA**

**Demand for protection of town**

Oct 14: Dwellers of the town brought out a procession Sunday and gheraoed local Water Development Board office demanding immediate measures to protect the Bridge Road area from the erosion by river Ghagot, reports UNB.

The officials said they are yet to receive the fund for implementing the scheme to protect the area from erosion. Meanwhile, five dwelling houses completely and five houses partially were drenched by the surging river. Local Parliament Member and the Deputy Commissioner visited the affected area.

**SATKHIRA**

**Reception accorded to players of Ma-o-Moni tourney**

From Our Correspondent  
Oct 14: A grand reception was accorded to the participating players of Ma-o-Moni Gold Cup Tournament for their outstanding performances arranged by Satkhira Press Club recently.

Abdul Mutalib presided over the function. Abdul Rab Mia, District and Sessions Judge attended the function as chief guest. While Lt Col Mozammel Hoque, Commanding Officer, 35 Battalion of BDR, Satkhira and Hasan Farid Ahmed, Superintendent of Police as special guests. Prof. Abu Ahmed and Anisur Rahim also spoke on the occasion.

Later, the chief guest distributed prizes among the participating players of the Ma-o-Moni Gold Cup Tournament.

**MANIKGANJ**

**Nirmul body unit meet held**

From Our Correspondent  
Oct 14: A meeting of Gatak Dalal Nirmul Committee organised by Shibbalaya thana was held at thana premises recently.

Md Khadem Ali presided over the meeting. It was addressed among others by Advocate Amjad Hossain, Md Shamsul Haque, Mazharul Islam Badsha, Sankar Prasad Voumik.

The speakers urged the government to implement the judgement pronounced by the 'Gono Adalat' against Golam Azam immediately.

**BRAHMANBARIA**

**Jatiyatobadi Labour Union committee formed**

From Our Correspondent  
Oct 14: The biennial conference of Jatiyatobadi Labour Union of the district was held here at town club recently.

State Minister for Shipping Al-Haj Harun-ur-Rashid was present in the conference as chief guest. It was addressed among others by Central Labour Union General Secretary Nazrul Islam Khan, Organising Secretary Mujibur Rahman, Abdus Sattar MP, Begum Asis Rahman MP, Hamidul Hoque Tukku - General Secretary district BNP, Abdullah-al-Baki, Advocate Abdur Npor, Hafizur Rahman Mollah, Zahurul Hoque Khokon and Jastimuddin Ripon.

Later, a 51-member committee was formed with Habibur Bari and Bahar Chowdhury as President and General Secretary respectively.

**MAULVIBAZAR**

**Durga Puja celebrated**

From Our Correspondent  
Oct 14: Durga Puja, the biggest festival of the Hindu community was celebrated here with great enthusiasm and religious fervour throughout the district recently.  
Hundreds of puja pandels were set up in the district. In Maulvibazar town, ten puja pandels were established. Thousands of devotees gathered in the puja pandels and offered prayer to Goddess Durga and seeking divine blessing for peace, progress and solidarity.  
Different Durga Puja celebration committee organised elaborate programmes like Maha-Proshad distribution, cultural function and cessation competition. They also staged drama.

The Hindus, especially the young boys and girls found very cheerful who were in new dress exchanged puja greeting with their relatives and other local known people. Home made sweets were prepared and served to the visiting guests.

On the day of Vijaya Dashamee all the puja pandels of the town unitedly brought out a Vijaya Dashamee procession with Statue of Goddess Durga on the truck.

**GOPALGANJ**

**Miscreants kill housewife over land dispute**

From Our Correspondent  
Oct 14: One Lalmoni Roy (50), wife of Hira Lal Roy of village Noyada under Kotlilpara thana of the district was killed by some unidentified miscreants recently.

It is learnt that miscreants stabbed the victim at midnight while she was sleeping at varendah of her house. She died on the spot.

Miscreants killed her over land dispute, it is reported. A case has been lodged with Katalilpara police station in this connection.

**JESSORE**

**Dacoity in bus, Tk 1.50 lakh looted**

Oct 14: Dacoits looted two rifles and Taka 1,50,000 from the passengers of a Khulna-bound night coach coming from Barisal last night, reports UNB.

Police said a group of dacoits stopped the coach when it reached near the Picnic corner at the outskirts of the town by hurling bombs.

They snatched away two rifles from the Ansars who were on duty on the coach.

Witnesses said the miscreants hurled about 25 bombs at the bus injuring about 25 passengers. Four of the injured were admitted to Sadar hospital.

No body was arrested so far in this connection.

**SHERPUR**

**Nine to suffer 7 yrs RI on charge of kidnapping minor boy**

From Our Correspondent  
Oct 14: Assistant Session Judge Md Nazrul Islam recently sentenced nine people to seven years rigorous imprisonment on charge of kidnapping a minor boy and fined Taka 5,000 each, in default to suffer two months more.

According to the prosecution story, a group of miscreants kidnapped one Ituliah (12) son of Mohammad Ali of Kusna Badhagor village under Noakia thana on 13.7.88 while the victim was sleeping. They demanded Taka 2 lakh as ransom. Later, Kotwali police rescued him.

The convicts are Nurul Amin, Syed Ali, Haqueke, Barque, Uwaz Ali, Beial, Suruz, Newaz and Abu.

**SIRAJGANJ**

**Statue of Krishna worth Tk 5 lakh recovered**

From Our Correspondent  
Oct 14: Sirajganj police recovered a statue of Krishna worth about Taka five lakh from a gunny bag at village Shahidganj under the municipal area recently.

Acting on secret information, police rushed to the spot and recovered the statue weighing about 130 kilograms. The statue is 40 inches length and 26 inches in breadth.

Police sources said that a group of persons were attempting to take the statue abroad.



COMILLA: People from all walks of life, joined in a procession protesting the killing of Taib, recently. — Star photo.

**Sharp water level fall in Padma, Jamuna**

MANIKGANJ, Oct 14: The Padma and Jamuna recorded sharp fall in their water levels with the onset of the dry season, reports UNB.

The BIWTC sources said as many as 400 shoals have been surfaced on the two mighty rivers threatening the operation of ferry services and other water transports.

The sources said the Padma and Jamuna which was 7.14 metre at Aricha point in October last year has dropped to 5.90 metre this year while the Padma at Daulatdia which was 7.10 metre dropped to 6.00 metre.

They expressed the fear that the ferry services between Sirajganj and Jagannathganj and Bhupur and Aricha-Nagarbari and Daulatdia may be closed any time due to want of navigability.

Already the ferries were playing through the alternate

routes of the river taking more time to reach the destination.

Jute growers in the district have been facing serious problems as they are compelled to sell their products below the production cost in the local markets, reports UNB.

According to the report, jute is being sold between Taka 155 and Taka 200 per maund, which is much below the production cost.

Taking the advantage of the situation the middlemen are exploiting the helpless growers in the absence of government purchasing centres.

Many jute growers meanwhile abandoning jute cultivation in the district switched over to aman and aus paddy cultivation.

Jute growers have urged the authority to look into the matter and take necessary

steps for ensuring fair prices of their products without further delay.

Another report adds: A young housewife of Shibbalaya village in Shibbalaya thana of the district was beaten to death by her husband for dowry on Thursday.

According to the family sources, Kamala Khatun (30), wife of Abdul Berek was being tortured by her in-laws for realisation of Taka 10,000 as dowry since their marriage.

On the fateful day, when Berek asked her to bring the dowry money from her poor father she expressed her inability to do so. At this, Berek became furious and started beating Kamala mercilessly causing her instant death.

Later, the body was sent to morgue for autopsy.

A case was registered with the local police.

**Diarrhoea kills 37 in 20 days**

PABNA, Oct 14: Diarrhoea claimed at least 37 lives including 12 children and attacked 1194 others in nine thanas of the district during the last 20 days, officials sources said, reports UNB.

However, the unofficial sources claimed at least 80 people died and over 2,000 people have been attacked by the disease during the period.

Officials said of the worst hit area is Mulgram union of Chatmohar thana where 21 people died. But the death toll according to unofficial sources in the union is 35.

Of the rest two died at Faridpur thana, four at Sathia, one each at Bera, Bhangura and Ishurdi, three each at Athgoria and Pabna sadar thana.

According to official

sources, 84 medical teams have been working in the affected areas. But the local people complained that a few of them are seen in the area.

Some people of Mulgram said only one team is working in the worst hit union with insufficient medicines.

The district Civil Surgeon said scarcity of medicine and health workers hampered the normal functioning of the department. He said 326 posts of field health workers were lying vacant for long time.

He also said scarcity of pure water and consumption of adulterated food staff were the main reasons behind the outbreak of disease.

Local people said oral and

dextrose saline were not available in the market of the affected areas.

About 1000 tons of rice have been damaged in five LSD godowns of the district, according to District Controller of Food Tabul Huda. He told UNB these were old rice stored several months ago.

Unofficial sources, however, said at least 15,000 metric tons of rice had been destroyed in the five godowns due to negligence of local food officials.

Low quality rice was being supplied in collaboration with some dishonest food officials to the food-godowns of Sujanager, Iswardi, Muladuli, Sadar and Athgoria, the sources said.

**Betal leaf cultivation decreasing**

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, Oct 14: Betel leaf cultivation in Cox's Bazar district has been decreasing at an alarming rate due to manifold problems including price-hike of raw materials and absence of proper marketing system.

It is gathered from a source of the Agriculture Extension Department that about 40,000 cultivators of Mohekal, Cox's Bazar Sadar, Ramu, Ukhiya, Chakarar and Teknaf thanas grow betel leaf on 42,000 acres of land every year.

A recent unofficial survey shows that during last few years, a considerable number of betel leaf fields diminished

in the district following abnormal price-hike of raw materials.

At present, prices of bamboo, jutesticks, oil cakes, rope etc, necessary inputs for betel leaf production have gone beyond the reach of the poor growers.

It can be mentioned here that about Taka 6,000 is necessary to cultivate betel leaf on one bigha of land. Besides, additional costs are required to protect the fields from diseases and pest attack.

Moreover communication of remote villages (betel leaf growing zone) also hampers

prompt and proper marketing. Meanwhile, less demand of betel leaf in domestic markets and unavailability of direct export facilities, betel leaf growers feel frustrated and in the meantime a large number of cultivators have given up the age-old profession.

It is apprehended that if the bottlenecks in betel leaf production are not removed and necessary assistance is not extended to the growers, the betel leaf cultivator in the

Cox's Bazar district would fall considerably which would hit hard earning of huge foreign currency.



RANGPUR: S M Saifuddin (5th from right), Executive Director of Mass Literacy Programme and Mahub Uddin Chowdhury (4th from right), Secy. Gen. of UNESCO Club are at local Tajhat Adarsha Para Mass Literacy Centre during their visit there. — Star photo.

**Across the country**

**A way to do good, agriculturally**

by Mohammad Amjad Hossain

I was on a short visit to Narsingdi, a district town, 57 kilometres from Dhaka, on a rainy day and I enjoyed the one and a half hour train journey from Dhaka.

Narsingdi was a sub-divisional headquarters of Dhaka district till the 80's. It now comprises seven thanas with a population of 17 lakh. Roads leading to the town from the railway station are narrow and they are not eminently congenial to use by motor vehicles.

From the town travelled to Shibpur and Monohordi thanas. It was a pleasant surprise for me to witness the entire area, about 34 kilometres from the headquarters, draped with the enchanting greenery of undulating paddy, jute and sugarcane fields throbbing with the luxuriant growth of all kinds of green life. I saw huge quantities of vegetable of different varieties piled up on waysides, due no doubt, to a transport strike we were passing through then. No inter-district transport were evidently coming to lift them and I am afraid all of such wonderful produce,

would only rot. What a wastage! What a pity!

Although the district is about 141 square kilometres in size, it is perhaps one of the richest districts in terms of agricultural production. Every house in Narsingdi is self-sufficient because members of the family take pains to grow vegetables in every nook and corner of the house.

Some more surprise was in store for me. On way to Monohordi Thana, 20 kilometres from Shibpur, I came across a big bazar loaded with huge quantities of bananas, pineapples and jackfruits. I could not believe my eyes as to what I was seeing. The road was blocked by rickshaw vans, carts and rickshaws for picking up fruits for transportation to nearby districts. It was incredible to believe such huge quantities of fruits are sold in auction in the bazar almost everyday. The scene remind me of some lines from John Keats' 'To Autumn'.

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,

Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;

Conspiring with him how to load and bless

With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run; ...

Apart from producing the usual two crops, some areas in Narsingdi produce three crops a year. Some people argue that Narsingdi is progressing well in the agricultural sector because the soil here is fertile and the land high. Therefore, beyond the reach of monsoon flooding.

Side by side Narsingdi is well developed in the industrial sector. Large and medium-scale textile and jute mills and two big fertilizer factories are in operation in Narsingdi.

What struck me most is that no efforts were spared by the people of the locality for improvement of agriculture despite the fact that a large number of them have been provided with job in industrial units.

Narsingdi is an example of economic development. If people of other districts follow the Narsingdi model, Bangladesh would certainly be self-sufficient in foodgrains.

**Three persons to suffer life-term for killing tea garden peon**

From Our Correspondent

MAULVI BAZAR, Oct 14: Mahmud Hasan Siddique, District and Session Judge Maulvi Bazar awarded three persons to life imprisonment on charge of a murder case recently.

The accused persons are Siraj Miah, Radhasyam and Kona Miah of Kulara thana.

The case in brief is that Biswanath Parshi, a peon of the manager of Luhaiuni Tea Garden under Kulara thana was murdered during duty at the Manager's bungalow on February 16, 1990. A case was

registered with Kulara thana in this connection.

After the investigation police submitted charge sheet against seven persons and the learned judge after examining the evidences and records awarded them life imprisonment. The learned judge acquitted four other persons.

Our Mymensingh Correspondent adds: Nurul Alam, Second Additional Session Judge, Mymensingh, in a judgement sentenced one housewife Rahatana, of village Tejpatuli under Fulbaria thana

to life-term and fined Taka 5,000 in default to suffer RI for two years more for killing maidservant recently.

According to the prosecution story, in the afternoon of December 9, 1989, the convicted Rahatana killed one maidservant Yunus by knife over land dispute.

A case way filed with police. After investigations police chargesheeted 7 persons. The judge after examining the evidences and witnesses sentenced her to life-term.



COX'S BAZAR: Abdul Monaem Khan, Correspondent, The Daily Star receiving certificate from Rafiqul Islam Chowdhury, VC, Chittagong University after completion of a 17-day-long training course for the newsmen of the region. The training course was organised by PIB in cooperation with Asian Foundation. — Star photo.

**52,942 children don't get edn for poverty in Satkhira**

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Oct 14: Poverty does not permit 52,942 children of the district to have primary education.

There are 2,41,533 children between the age of six to ten in seven thanas of the district, according to a survey on primary education.

Of the total, 1,88,591 children attend school and the rest 52,942 children are deprived of the education facilities. Most of these children are engaged in works to support their families in earning bread.

There are 796 primary schools including 174 non-government primary schools for 1,88,591 students. The

requirement of teachers will be 3,772, it all the students attend classes.

According to informed source, the teachers are not willing to stay in villages. Immediately after the appointment, they make efforts to be transferred to urban areas. As a result most of the primary schools in rural areas face shortage of teachers.

According to information, 7,396 children out of 57,748 children of the Sadar thana do not attend any school.

It may be mentioned here that Sadar thana is under CPE Programme.

In the other thanas of the district, 11,846 children out of 36,904 children in Shyamnagar, 9,952 children out of 33,454 in Kaligonj, 8,898 children out of 33,998 in Tala, 7,687 children out of 33,141 in Kalaroa, 2,414 children out of 15,002 in Debhata and 8,350 children out of 31,286 in Assasuni thana do not attend any school.

Teachers specified that poverty is the main hindrance to primary education. Apart from that there are reasons like ignorance of the guardians, want of motivation step, shortage of teachers, accommodation and educational appliances. There are 2,488 sanctioned posts of teachers in 622 government primary schools in the district of which 113 posts have been lying vacant for a long time.

The schools have always been facing shortage of teachers for a considerable period of time. Most of the primary schools have been facing accommodation problem and

at least 13.6 schools need more two to three rooms for their students.

Cyclone and flood affected schools are yet to be repaired and 80 per cent of the schools have no tubewells and latrines.

A young housewife was allegedly beaten to death by her husband following a quarrel Monday.

According to the police, Khalilur Rahman husband of the victim Rizia Khatun (22) of village Ardhara in Tala thana took second wife without the permission of Rizia recently.

Rizia protested the matter and was being tortured since then.

**Housewife commits suicide**

SHERPUR, Oct 12: A housewife allegedly committed suicide by taking poison in Nokla thana of the district, family sources said here today, 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 and killed herself by taking poison.