

District roundup

JHENIDAH

One axed to death by miscreants

From Our Correspondent
Nov 9: Miscreants killed Golap Ali (40) at village Udaypur in Jhenidah pourashava last Friday night.

Family sources said, at night 10 miscreants attacked and axed to death Golap while he was sleeping at the veranda of bedroom and fled away. Golap was a rajmistri and reportedly a supporter of Awami League. Long standing village enmity between the two rival groups were the reason behind the killing, villagers said.

A case was lodged with Jhenidah police station.

Another report adds: Task force comprising BDR 13 battalion of Chuadanga and Jhenidah district administration seized 250 gram heroin worth Taka 25 lakh and arrested three persons Saturday last.

BDR sources said, having information, task force raided the Bishoykhali Bazar in Jhenidah Sadar thana at 11 am and recovered the heroin searching a Dhaka bound private car Chattragram Gha-3331. The heroin was folded in a muffler. The arrested persons are: Md Selim Reja of Jessore, Md Solesman Biswas of Jhenidah and driver of the car Md Nazimuddin. Besides, Chuadanga BDR seized 12 Indian cow worth Taka 2.10 lakh on the day and 2360 pieces of Indian share worth Taka 3.5 lakh and arrested 4 others.

MAULVIBAZAR

Monipuri Community submits memo to DC

From Our Correspondent
Nov 9: The Monipuri Community of Kamalgonj thana under the district brought out a procession here to press home their demands recently.

Under the banner of "Monipuri Sangskritik Parishad" the processionists paraded the main streets of the town and chanted various slogans in favour of their demand.

Later, the leaders of the Monipuri community submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner of Maulvibazar.

They urged upon the government to recognise their language in the media and not to treat them a tribal as they are always Bangladeshis.

KISHOREGANJ

Station masters, workers' unit confce held

From Our Correspondent
Nov 9: The conference of Kishoreganj regional unit of Station Masters and Workers' union was held recently at the Kishoreganj Railway Station premises with Md Abdul Malek in the chair.

A 19-member committee has been formed with Nur Mohammad and Abdul Ali as president and general secretary of the organisation respectively.

JESSORE

Weekly Sonali Din inaugurated

Nov 9: Social Welfare and Women Affairs Minister Tariqul Islam called upon the journalists to contribute their mite in building a democratic society free from exploitation, reports UNB.

He said this while inaugurating the weekly Sonali Din as chief guest here Friday. He said free press can only flourish in a democratic society.

The minister also called upon them to ventilate the grievances of the people objectively. An atmosphere has been created for the journalists to express their constructive opinion in the reconstruction of the society he said adding journalists should work honestly and freely to ameliorate the lot of common people.

Tariqul said the present government is working hard to give democracy an institutional shape adding that peace and discipline are the important pre-requisites for a democratic order.

The editor of the weekly Borhanuddin also spoke on the occasion. A large number of people including elite of the town attended the ceremony. Sonali Din will be published regularly from Tuesday.

Police arrested a smuggler in connection with international gold smuggling from here on Thursday.

Shamoi Chowdhury, owner of a jewellery at Nilganj area of the town, has long been involved in smuggling gold to India, police alleged.

MADARIPUR

Death of newsman condoled

From Our Correspondent
Nov 9: Jattiya Sangbadik Sangstha of the district condoled the tragic death of Photo-Journalist Khairul Alam Khair and demanded judicial inquiry into the incident recently.

Forkan Ahmed presided over the meeting. It was addressed among others by Moniruzzaman Mamun, Salim Farazi, Golam Azam Irad and Abul Hasnat Sohel.

MUNSHIGANJ

Four held with pipegun

From Our Correspondent
Nov 9: Gazaria police arrested four persons with a country-made pipegun from Baushia Ferry Ghat recently.

The arrested persons were Md Ali, Ruhul Amin, Saidul Islam and Md Kabir.

A case has been registered with Gazaria police.

JAMALPUR

JCD sweeps in college union poll

From Our Correspondent
Nov 9: Bangladesh Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) swept absolute majority in the student union election of Jamalpur Government Asek Mahmud College recently.

It is gathered that Chhatra Dal won 16 seats out of 17 while Chhatra League (M-I) bags the post of Vice-President.

Rafiqul Islam Janzu and Nur-e-Alam Talukder were elected Vice-President and General Secretary respectively.

JCD, Chhatra League (M-I), Chhatra Shibir, Gonotantrik Chhatra Oykka and Jattiya Chhatra Samaj took part in the election.

SYLHET

Woman crushed under wheels of microbus in Chhatak

From Our Correspondent

Nov 9: Vehicular traffic in Sylhet-Sunamganj Highway was suspended for three hours following the death of a woman in a road accident yesterday.

The victim Mariam, 30, wife of Abdul Motaleb, a day labourer of village Hatbolani of south Khurma Union of Chhatak thana met the accident at a place near Chowka when she was crushed under the wheels of a speeding microbus. She was on her way to Gramen Bank and died on the spot.

The highway was immediately blocked by the infuriated villagers. The blockade was, however, lifted after three hours.

A case was lodged with the Chhatak thana.

NATORE

World Frugality Day observed

From Our Correspondent
Nov 9: Local National Savings Bureau office arranged a function at district auditorium recently in observance of the World Frugality Day.

Saliendra Kumar Adhikari, Deputy Commissioner of the district inaugurated the function while Md Nazrul Islam, ADC presided over it. The function was addressed among others by Aatur Rahman, Assistant Director, district savings bureau office, Sultan Ahmed Assistant Director of district Islamic Foundation, Oaesuddin Ahmed, AGM, Agrani bank, Moaguddin Ahmed and Asraf Ali Khan.

MANIKGANJ

Pye-dog panic

From Our Correspondent
Nov 9: Pye-dog menace has become alarming over the last one month in different areas of the district.

According to reports, the pye-dogs with the advent of autumn season have taken shelter in different localities and in hats and bazars of the district posing a great problem to the people.

This pye-dog frequently bite the people especially the children, it is learnt.

The victims are to move here and there including the district headquarters to procure ARV, but in vain.

In view of the circumstances, the killing of pye-dogs has become essential now gathered in hats and bazars in all seven thanas of the district.



SYLHET: W A Kutub, Principal Community Development Officer, Birmingham, UK is speaking at the reception accorded to him by the Samaj Unnayan Prokopa, a local welfare organisation held here recently. The function was addressed among others by AFM Kamal, Chairman, Sylhet Pourashava, Advocate Azizul Malik Chowdhury, Jahangir Hossain Chowdhury, Assistant Director, LGRD, Sylhet. — Star photo

Landless, unemployed people on gradual increase

From Our Correspondent

DINAJPUR, Nov 9: The number of landless and unemployed people is on gradual rise in all the 13 thanas of the district.

Of total population of over 20 lakh, fifty per cent depend on agriculture, ten per cent on different occupations and the rest forty per cent are totally unemployed. But 60 per cent farmers have a few acres of land and the rest 30 per cent can be classified as land owners.

Shortfall in output of food-grains has become a regular feature. Besides, hundreds of acres of cultivable land are eroded by the rivers Punarbhaba, Kanchan, Atrai and Mahananda every year. As a result, the number of landless people are increasing alarmingly.

The farmers having a few acres of land cannot cope with the prices of agricultural inputs. They cannot buy fertilizers, seeds, pesticides and even bullock for cultivation owing to poverty.

They are deprived of irrigation facilities. Above all, they cannot get even fair price for their produce. Consequently, they have to sell their land for subsistence.

The educated unemployed persons are also on the increase. As there is no mills and factories in the district, unemployment is the increasing problem of the district.

The poor farmers are facing financial crisis due to increase

in price of all chemical fertilizers throughout the district. It is learnt that per bag of Urea is being sold at Taka 360 as against Taka 240 a few weeks back. A bag of TSP is sold at Taka 400 against Taka 270.

The farmers informed that fertilizer dealers are not giving receipt. Unscrupulous dealers of fertilizer in connivance with a section of dishonest officials are engaged in creating artificial scarcity in the market to earn maximum profit, it is gathered.

The Universal Primary Education Programme in greater Dinajpur district facing setback due to shortage of teachers, furniture and accommodation.

High price of paper and other educational materials and financial crisis of the schools are among other factors directly discouraging children from going to schools.

Most of the primary schools damaged by floods, storms, cyclones and other natural calamities during the last few years have not been yet repaired. Many of the schools are holding classes under the open sky and have no arrangement for drinking water and toilet for the children. There are 1,555 government and 255 non-government primary schools in the district.

According to primary education department, the total number of children of primary schools in 23 thanas of the district is 10,97,064. Of them, only 2,97,903 are getting facilities of studying in 1,555 primary schools.

The shortage of teaching staff has aggravated the situation further. A total of 164 posts of primary school teachers has been lying vacant for a long time in the district, it is learnt.



BOGRA: The Malatinagar unit of 'Ashshah', a Mahila Unnayan Sangstha of the district launched a new programme for the distressed women recently. The programme includes providing training on environment, cleanliness, family planning and mass education. — Star photo

Unregistered marriages on rise

PATUAKHALI, Nov 9: The trend of marriage without registration has increased alarmingly in the rural areas of the district, reports UNB.

Local people said the bridegroom parties in the rural areas have developed a tendency to avoid marriage registration. This phenomenon is normally seen among the distressed, poor and marginal farmers.

Informed sources said marriage without registration helps the bridegroom to divorce and re-marry without any restriction.

Many people in the rural areas, particularly the poorer class, marry for the purpose of dowry. Once the dowry is received they are found to divorce one and marry another, and in the absence of marriage registration the victims cannot take any shelter of law.

The sources said the poorer class avoid marriage registration for fear of fees. Many marriage registrars of the district are allegedly taking abnormal fees from the party without giving any receipt.

Local people said the mar-

riage registration should be made compulsory and, to make it successful, the fees for registration should be nominal so that even a day labourer can afford it.

At the same time, they suggested that the malpractice resorted to by the marriage registrars should also be stopped to encourage registration.

Another report from

Dacoits loot cash, goods from bus passengers

MYMENSINGH, Nov 9: Dacoits looted cash and goods in a sloop on the passengers of a bus on the Dhaka-Mymensingh Highway recently, reports UNB.

Witnesses said, two people were injured, one seriously, in the gang attack only one-and-half-kilometre away from the Salna Police Checkpost at around 7:30 pm.

Notes from Netrakona

From Our Correspondent

NETRAKONA, Nov 9: The number of roaming gay-girls increasing rapidly in and around the town, local people informed.

According to report, railway station slums near the rail line public hall and cinema hall of the town have virtually turned into dens of gay-girls.

Since the elimination of the brothel in the town, the prostitutes have scattered in different areas in the absence of their proper rehabilitation by the administration.

Girls from poor family and divorced women are mostly engaged in the immoral activities to maintain their livelihood.

Local people urged the authorities to take immediate steps to rehabilitate the gay-girls to enable them to lead a decent life.

Bamboo groves on verge of extinction

Bamboo groves in Netrakona are facing extinction. The people of Atpara, Mohanganj, Purbadhala upazilas earn their livelihood by making various bamboo products.

Due to increase in the prices of the component materials the people who are associated with the cottage industry for many years are now facing financial crises.

Due to indiscriminate felling of bamboos, the supply has decreased to a great extent which has also caused price hike of the items.

On the other hand, the users of bamboo-made products are now buying plastic-tin, and wooden materials instead of bamboo-made ones. To save the industry the government should come forward with financial help for the families associated with bamboo products, it is felt greatly.

AL unit confce held

The annual workers conference of the local unit of Awami League was held here at the Shaheed Minar Road recently. The conference was addressed by Nurul Haq, Ali Osman Talukder, Abdul Momen, Fazlur Rahman presided over the meeting.

Three arrested on charge of theft

BSS report from Netrakona adds: Netrakona Kotwali police arrested three persons on Wednesday on charge of theft in the printing house of the Daily Banglar Darpan.

Police also recovered some stolen goods from the possession of one of the arrested persons. On his confessional statement, police arrested two of his accomplices.

Hartal protesting killing of Chhatra League leader observed

MEHERPUR, Nov 9: A half-day hartal was observed here Sunday protesting the killing of a local Chhatra League leader. No untoward incident was reported during the hartal hours, reports UNB.

It is reported that Chhatra League leader Rezaul Haque wounded in mid August by Shibir activists succumbed to his injuries at Dhaka Medical College Hospital on Saturday last.

After hearing the death news Chhatra League and Chhatra Motri called for half day hartal in the town and brought out processions demanding exemplary punishment to the killers.

People urged to be united against anarchy

TANGAIL, Nov 9: State Minister for Relief Lutfur Rahman Khan on Saturday urged the people to be united under the leadership of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to consolidate the independence and sovereignty of the country being inspired with the spirit of National Solidarity Day, reports BSS.

He was speaking as chief guest at a discussion meeting held at Bhasant Hall marking the National Solidarity Day here.

Abdus Salam Pintu MP, Anwara Habib MP and Acting President of District BNP Mohammad Ali also spoke the meeting.

Khan said, on this day in 1975, the people and the soldiers unitedly foiled a conspiracy against the country's independence and sovereignty.

He said, conspiracy against the country did not stop yet. He further said some opportunist groups were creating indiscipline and anarchy in the society to make the country unrest and dependent on other.

People urged to foil conspiracy against democracy

NARAYANGANJ, Nov 9: A discussion meeting in observance of the National Revolution and Solidarity Day was held at the local Ali Ahmed auditorium on Saturday, reports UNB.

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain was the chief guest at State Minister for Finance Mojibur Rahman and Deputy Minister for LGRD Abdul Hai were present as special guests.

The discussion meeting was organised by the Narayanganj district Jatiyabadi Samajik Sangskritik Sangstha (JASAS).

In his speech the Energy Minister said those who killed democracy during their regime through pushing one-party rule, are now hatching conspiracies against the present development and democratic process with the collab-

oration of autocratic forces. He said Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman had introduced multi-party system in the country through abolishing one-party rule and Begum Khaleda Zia had established the parliamentary democracy through ousting autocracy.

Mosharraf called upon the people to thwart conspiracy against the hard-earned democracy imbued with the ideals and spirit of Solidarity Day and help government give democracy an institutional shape.

Among others, the meeting was addressed by Zahid Hossain Chhunu, Joint Convener of Central JASAS, Roka-nuddin Mollah, President of district BNP, Haris Choudhury, Special Assistant to BNP Chairperson, Abul Kalam MP, Sirajul Islam MP and Rezaul Karim MP.

EPI performances far from satisfactory

From Our Correspondent

BOGRA, Nov 9: Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) fails to achieve target in the district.

Out of total target of 87,395 children below one year, 50,123 were given BCG, DPT and measles during the period from January to September last.

Tetanus Toxide (TT) was given to 38,927 women against the total target of one lakh 7 thousand 8 hundred and 95.

The worst performance was found in Dhunot, Sonatola, Gabtali, Dupchachia and Sherpur thanas.

The EPI Week was observed in the last week of September but no elaborate programmes were chalked out by the district health authority.

It is learnt that 70 per cent vaccination points in the rural areas of the district have been withdrawn from September last.

Though each thana health complex should have porters (to carry vaccines), there is no porter in 8 thanas, and one each in Shariakandi, Nandi-gram and Dupchachia thanas.

Sterilising system has been fully stopped in all the thana health complexes for months together. Besides, as per health office rule, a thana health officer has to visit vaccine points 18 times a month but in Bogra, thana health officers do not visit vaccine points in rural areas for a couple of months.



GOPALGANJ: Syed Nurul Islam, Additional Deputy Magistrate of the district addressing a discussion meeting on the occasion of the National Youth Day organised by local Juba Shikha Sangha held here recently. — Star photo

Help motivate people to make FP programme a success

NABINAGAR, (Brahmanbaria), Nov 9: State Minister for Shipping Harun-al-Rashid called upon the educated section of the society to help create massive awareness through motivating people on family planning programme to make it a success, reports BSS.

He said, as opinion leaders of the society they could play a vital role in this context.

He was addressing as chief guest the inaugural function of newly constructed Bitghar Family Welfare Centre, at the centre premises on Saturday.

The centre was constructed at a cost of Taka 16 lakh in order to render health care services to mothers and children.

Presided over by Bitghar Union Parishad Chairman Abdul Quayum the function was

addressed among others, by Deputy Commissioner, Superintendent of Police of Brahmanbaria and Secretary of Brahmanbaria district BNP Hamidul Hoque Tukku.

The State Minister said, existence of peace and congenial atmosphere in society is a must to improve common people's lot through implementing uplift projects taken up by the present government.

He said, present government passed the anti-terrorism law to establish peace and congenial atmosphere so that development works could run smoothly.

Harun-al-Rashid hoped that mothers and children of the union would be benefitted by taking facilities available here.

Agri loan distribution target fails

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Nov 9: The distribution target of agricultural loans under the Special Agricultural Credit Programme (SACP) has failed during the current season in the Sylhet district.

Only 27.83 per cent of the sanctioned amount have been disbursed among the farmers by different commercial banks including the Bangladesh Krishi Bank.

According to an official source, during the current season, an amount of Taka 1.80 crore was targeted for disbursement among the farmers for cultivating the transplanted Aman paddy.

Of the total, only Taka 50 lakh 26 thousand were disbursed. Of this, Sonali Bank disbursed only Taka 4 lakh 40,000 against its target of Taka 40 lakh 10,000, Janata Bank disbursed Taka 5 lakh 32,000 against its target of

Taka 25 lakh 50,000, Rupali Bank disbursed Taka one lakh 23,000 against the target of 12 lakh while Agrani Bank disbursed Taka 15 lakh 51,000 against their target of Taka 69 lakh and the Krishi Bank gave Taka 23 lakh 80,000 against its target of Taka thirty lakh.

It is observed that most of the poor and marginal farmers had been deprived of the loans even after submitting the necessary papers.

The officials and employees working in the bank branches in the remote areas do not give proper attention in sanctioning the small loans to the marginal and poor farmers.

It is learnt that the sanctioned loans can not be disbursed by the banks as the farmers in general were losing their interest in obtaining the same from the banks as the procedure is long.