

## District roundup

### FARIDPUR

#### Orientation course for imams

Aug 22: A five-day long orientation course for the imams-cum-teachers under mosque-based mass education programme organised by Islamic Foundation concluded recently at local Shilpakala Academy auditorium, reports BSS.

Forty-eight imams who are engaged in mass education programme in different mosques of Faridpur, Rajbari, Gopalganj and Madaripur districts took part in the orientation course.

The participants were imparted training on different aspects of mass education programme.

Addressing the concluding function K M Nurul Huda, Deputy Commissioner of Faridpur, urged the imams to work in the mass education programme with dedication. Illiteracy is a curse and all should work hard to remove it, he said.

The function was presided over by Principal Mian Lutfar Rahman, Abdullah Khan Alam, Deputy Director of Islamic Foundation, Faridpur, also spoke on the occasion.

### GAIBANDHA

#### Erosion devours 100 houses

Aug 22: About 100 houses of Dattipara (fishermen's village) of Kanchipara union under Fulchari thana in Gaibandha district have been eroded by the Brahmaputra river in the last few days, says BSS.

The homeless families have taken shelter on high land at Baguria and been passing their days under open sky in untold sufferings. Besides, the Brahmaputra erosion along Gidari, Kamarjani and Molarchar of Gaibandha thana, the Teesta devoured large areas in Sundarganj thana.

Over and above the lowlying areas of the district and the pourashava have gone under flood water.

### NAOGAON

#### Tree plantation programme

Aug 22: Raniganj thana parishad has taken up a programme to plant about four lakh saplings of different varieties in the thana, says UNB.

Meanwhile, under the programme 28,600 saplings have already been planted, official sources said.

It may be mentioned that the nationwide tree plantation programme inaugurated by the Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in last month is being implemented with much enthusiasm.

Another report adds: Jagadipur union in Badalgachhi thana of the district has been renamed as Paharpur union after the name of the ancient remains of Buddhist culture unearthed in the area.

According to a government notification of July 29, the new name of Paharpur union will come into force with immediate effect.

It may be mentioned here that the world famous remains of Buddhist civilisation have been discovered in Paharpur area of the district long before.

### PATUAKHALI

#### Credit for banana farming

Aug 22: Credit programme for banana farming has been renewed by the Rural Credit Project Department (RCPD) of Bangladesh Bank for the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

Official sources said, for the first year, Taka 27,600 may be disbursed as loan for per acre of banana cultivation by Bangladesh Krishi Bank, NCBs and Bangladesh Cooperative banks.

For the second year, Taka 17,100 may be disbursed for per acre of land under banana cultivation programme.

Interested farmers and parties have been asked to contact the concerned financial institutions to take the facilities of the renewed programme.

### PATUAKHALI

#### Farmers' rally held

Aug 22: A farmers' rally was held at Amkhola government primary school premises under Galachipa thana recently, reports BSS.

Over two thousand landless farmers from various parts of the thana took part in the rally which was organised by the Mouchak Maslik Chahida Karmasuchi programme for basic need. Thana level officers, and members and chairmen parishads of the thana also attended the rally.

### B'BARIA

#### Bfd to violate girls: 2 caught red handed

Aug 22: Two miscreants were caught by the people while they were attempting to violate two girls near Kasba railway station, police said recently, reports UNB.

According to local people, the two young girls Shahana (20) and Aleya Begum (16) while crossing the railway line on their way home on August 6 were attacked by the miscreants and the hoodlums tried to violate their chastity.

When the girls raised hue and cry, local people rushed to the spot and caught, Roka-nuddin and Samad Mia red handed. They were later handed over to the police. A case has been filed with the police.

Another report adds: A man was killed and two others were injured in a violent clash between two rival groups at Bhaturia village in Nabnagar thana on August 10.

The clash ensued over the possession of a disputed land. Both the groups used lethal weapons during the clash. The seriously injured Abu Taleb succumbed at the Nabnagar Health Complex.

Two other injured Abdul Khaleque and Abdur Razzak were admitted to the health complex. Two separate cases have been filed with the police.

### KHULNA

#### 3 killed in two separate incidents

Aug 22: A young man was killed when he was hit by a baby-taxi at Etigumbak area in Bagerhat district on Friday, police sources here said, reports UNB.

The victim, identified as Pushpa Ranjan Bala (25), met the accident while he was crossing the road. He was rushed to the Bagerhat Sadar Hospital where he succumbed.

The driver managed to flee with the vehicle and a case has been filed with the local police.

Another report adds: A father and his son were electrocuted at Dewara village of Dighra thana in the district on Saturday morning.

The dead were identified as Nuruddin Talukder (50) and his son Maniruzzaman (22).

According to villagers, Nuruddin while going out of his house, early in the morning suddenly stepped on the live electric wire lying on a field and died instantly. Manir finding his father lying on the field tried to help and met the same fate.

A case has been filed with local police.

### MALDEE COURT

#### College setup for higher education

Aug 22: A new educational institution named Saikat College has been established at Char Bata in the district to facilitate higher education for students, reports UNB.

According to college sources, a 41-member convening committee has been formed with the Chairman of 17 Char Bata union Khairul Anam Selim as convenor.

Prof Ashrafur Karim was appointed as the Principal of the newly established college, the sources added.

It has been decided to enroll students in intermediate first year classes of science, arts, and commerce groups from the current session.

With the establishment of the college a long felt demand of the local people has been fulfilled.

### TANGAIL

#### BDRCS starts medical aid programme

Aug 22: Four medical teams of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) started medical aid programme in the flood affected areas of the district on Wednesday, reports BSS.

Each of the teams consisted of one registered physician, one paramedic, two BDRCS youth members and one volunteer. The teams would, according to the local BDRCS sources, conduct medical aid programme in cooperation with the local Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO) and district unit of the society.

The two-month long programme covers health services in preventive curative and health education sectors in the flood affected areas of the district.

The team leaders are Dr Benazir Ahmed, Dr Pijush Kanti Maitra, Dr Mukhlesur Rahman and Dr Saiful Islam.



Prof R. Chowdhury, VC of Chittagong University distributing prize to one of the winners of annual literary and cultural competition which was held on the campus recently. — CU photo

## Farmers at money lenders mercy for complex bank credit procedures

MAULVIBAZAR, Aug 22: Money lending business is on increase in the district in recent days at a high rate of interest, reports UNB.

The complex procedures of bank credit prevent the poor farmers of getting bank credits. As a result, many of them depend on money lenders for the credit, local people said.

The greedy money lenders charge about 20 to 30 per cent interest per month. Sometimes they claim one maund of paddy against Taka 100.

The money lenders collect the interest on weekly basis, in some cases gold ornaments and bullocks are kept as security. Many of them was musclemen to realise the interest and principal amount, it is alleged.

Farmers urged the government to arrange loan for them on easy terms to save them from the cruelty of money lenders and help boost production.

Meanwhile, another minor girl of Barobari village in Sadar thana of the district met the watery grave on Wednesday.

Family sources said Rabi-bani (5), daughter of Namukujan, slipped into a pond in the vicinity of their house while she was playing on its bank and drowned there.

Later, the villagers recovered the dead body. A case was filed with Sadar thana in this connection.

Unregistered marriages on increase

The number of unregistered marriages is increasing fast in rural areas leading to oppression on women folk.

High charges and official complexities force most of the people to avoid the registration of marriages, local people said. Many dishonest husbands, taking the advantage, are marrying and divorcing the women as per their whims for pecuniary and other benefits. The attitude in high among the landless and marginal farmers.

Daughters of poor people, whose marriages are not registered, very often, are subjected to inhuman tortures for dowry money.

Most of them cannot seek legal supports against their husbands due to lack of marriage deeds.

15 hurt as buses collide in Joydevpur

From Our Correspondent, GAZIPUR, Aug 22: At least 15 persons were injured when two buses collided at Joydevpur yesterday.

The accident occurred when a Dhaka-bound minibus collided head-on with another bus coming from the opposite direction on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway near Bogra at 10 am.

Of the injured, two persons were admitted to the Orthopaedic Hospital in critical condition while others were admitted to the Tangi Sadar Hospital.

Police seized both the vehicles but the drivers, managed to flee.

The victims are: Rehana, 26, Rajib, 12, Shandha, 30, Sanwar, 30, Dr PK Das, 45, Marfan, 12, Shukkur Ali, 12, Ataur Rahman, Mirza Aminul Haq and others.

Lawyers continue boycott of courts

MAJDEE COURT (Noakhali), Aug 22: Members of Noakhali Bar Association continued to boycott the courts of four judicial officials and two thana magistrates of the district on Friday, demanding their immediate withdrawals, reports UNB.

The advocates of the association who began the boycott on August 7 brought bribery and corruption charges against them.

The judges includes, Anwarul Haq, Giasuddin Ahmed, Hossain Helal and Depen Dewan and the magistrates are Harishprashed Paul of Companyganj thana and Ruddha Chakma of Chaitkhal thana.

The association announced the boycott programme recently till withdrawals of the judges and magistrates.

Boy killed in road mishap

A boy was crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck at Lamua in Srimangal thana of the district on Saturday.

Police said, Saifque Miah (12), met the accident while he was crossing the road. Later, he died on his way to hospital.

Both the driver and helper of the truck managed to escape.

Water-borne diseases alarming in S-districts

BARISAL, Aug 22: Water-borne diseases have broken out in Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola, Jhalakathi and Barguna districts in an alarming proportion causing panic among the people, reports UNB.

Local people informed that diseases took an alarming form due to the indifference and negligence of the Health Department and the Department of Public Health and Engineering.

The Environment Directorate, earlier, after examining water samples from different districts of Barisal division reported that unusual Coliform bacteria is prevailing in the supply of water of these districts that may be the vital cause of the outbreak of diarrhoea, dysentery, cholera and other water-borne diseases.

High ratio of Coliform was found in the supply water of different hotels, restaurants, some hospitals of these districts causing outbreak of the diseases, they said.

Local people urged the authorities concerned to take necessary steps to check the spread of the diseases by ensuring the supply of water of pure water without further delay.

About 3,600 metric tons of wheat were distributed among the members of 9,600 distressed families in 10 thanas including poura areas of the district in the last fiscal year.

Uplift schemes nearing completion

The construction work on five uplift projects in four southern districts of Barisal, Magaripur, Faridpur and Gopalganj under Public Works Department is nearing completion.

The projects include, construction of a modern hospital, establishment of full-fledged coronary care units and construction of a girls' hostel at Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College, officials said.

All the projects are being implemented at an estimated cost of about Taka 10 crore, the officials added.

BKB realises loan worth Tk 58 cr

Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) realised about Taka 58 crore outstanding loans from 11

Cattle diseases that broke out in an epidemic form have so far killed 300 cattle in several unions of Sreemongal thana in the last few weeks.

The most affected unions are Ashdirun, Sindurkhan, Kalapur, Mirzapur, Satgoan and Raighat.

The disease locally known as "Khura" causes infection in jaws and hooves. Another disease known as "galafala" which cripples the animal has also attacked a good number of cattle, local people said.

About 100 cattlehead were attacked by the diseases in different villages during the last few weeks.

Farmers complained that many cattle had died due to wrong treatment by the village quacks, compounders and field assistants of health department.

They alleged that local livestock department did not take any measures to inoculate cattle since the outbreak of the diseases.

The field staff of local livestock department, however, said that the farmers were unwilling to vaccinate their cattle.

An eleven-member executive committee for Federation of Bangladesh Dairy and Poultry Farms was formed in the meeting.

Unhygienic food served at restaurants, hotels

BARONA, Aug 22: Mushroom growth of hotels and restaurants in different roads, lanes and by lanes in the district town has been causing health hazards to the dwellers for quite a long time, says UNB.

With the increase of population and expansion of the town numerous hotels and restaurants have sprung up haphazardly.

Local people alleged that most of the hotels prepare and store food in the most unhygienic way.

They also alleged that some dishonest officials of health department take bribe from the hotel owners and other shopkeepers on monthly basis to let them carry on their business on their own way.

They urged the concerned authority to take necessary steps.

Large number of cases remain pending for want of judge

KUSHITIA, Aug 22: A large number of case remained pending in the district in the absence of District and Sessions Judge for a long time, reports UNB.

Former District and Sessions Judge Azrul Haque who joined on March 6, this year left Kushitia on August 5 on transfer. During his period he performed his court duty for one month only as he spent rest of the four months on leave.

As a result, a large number of people are waiting for decision and disposal of their cases since long. Additional District and Sessions Judge is now performing the duties of District Sessions Judge and for want of sufficient time he is not in a positions to give decisions on a

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