

District roundup

B'BARIA

Two receive acid burn injuries

Sept 3: A mother and her son received acid burn injuries at Austragram village of Sadar thana in the district, reports UNB.

The victims, identified as Khodja Begum wife of Abdul Hamid Miah and her son Bappi were thrown acid on the night of August 22 by a gang of miscreants while they were sleeping in their house.

They were rushed to Sadar hospital in a critical condition.

Family sources said previous enmity was the reason behind the attack. A case has been filed with the local police. But police failed to arrest any of the miscreants yet.

SIRAJGANJ

3 children arrested with smuggled goods

Sept 3: Police on Friday arrested three children in the town on charge of smuggling and seized huge quantity of electronic goods and spares worth about Taka one lakh, says UNB.

Shahidul, Saiful and Faizul all aged 12 were arrested while they were going to Shashanghat by rickshaws with the goods.

Police also recovered a 100 cc Honda and a TV from Masimpur and Bazar Station area following their confessional statement.

According to police, the children had links with a group of unscrupulous trader who use them for bringing in the smuggled goods.

Three cases were filed with local police in this connection.

GAZIPUR

Attack on journalists condemned

Sept 3: Journalists, serving national dailies and news media, at a meeting here condemned the bomb attacks on various newspaper offices and the houses of journalists at Dhaka by some miscreants, reports UNB.

Presided over by BSS correspondent Mizanpur Rahman, the meeting held on August 23 expressed its grave concern over the attacks on the offices of Ittefaq and Banglar Baani and the residence of Anwar Hossain Manju, Publisher, Daily Ittefaq.

The meeting urged the government to take stern measures against any threat on newspapers and newsmen and demanded immediate arrest of the persons responsible for the attacks.

SATKHIRA

One awarded life-term for murder

From Our Correspondent

Sept 3: Tapan Kumar Rudra, Additional Sessions Judge, Satkhira convicted one Mosharrat Hossain of village Hajipur under Sadar police station on charge of killing his wife and sentenced him to suffer life-term imprisonment and a fine of Taka 10,000 in default to suffer one year RI recently.

The prosecution story in brief is that the accused Mosharrat beat his wife Zayed Khatun (17) mercilessly and she died on the spot on May 31, 1987 last.

A case was lodged with Satkhira PS and after investigation police submitted chargesheet against him. The learned judge tried the case and following examination found the accused guilty and awarded the said punishment.

CHUADANGA

3 arrested with ammunition, target list

Sept 3: Chuadanga thana police arrested three activists of an outlawed party and recovered from them one country made pistol, four rounds of SLR ammunition, posters and a list of target persons from village of Kirangachi under Chuadanga Sadar thana recently, reports BSS.

Acting on secret information a contingent of police led by SI Shamsul Hogue raided a house at Kirangachi and arrested Sahidul Islam (24), Lahu (30) and Asadul (30), while they were holding a meeting.

A case has been filed with Chuadanga police station.

BARGUNA

Farmers demand introduction of crop insurance

Sept 3: Farmers of the six southern districts have demanded introduction of crop insurance in the agriculture sector, says UNB.

Some leaders of the farmers of Barguna, Patuakhali, Bhola, Projpur, Jhalakathi and Barisal in a joint statement here on Thursday said natural disasters like drought, cyclone, flood, nor'wester damaged standing crops worth about crores of Taka causing set back in agri-output every year.

The farmer's said if crop insurance system is introduced, the poor farmers can compensate their losses. They also alleged that due to various complexities and long term process to get loans from Krishi and others commercial banks most of them cannot avail the opportunity of bank loans.

According to agri experts 35 per cent crops are being damaged annually by natural calamities in these districts. If the crop insurance system is introduced the farmers would be relieved of their frustrations.

They said the system has proved effective in many developed countries of the world.

PABNA

Two JCD activists hospitalised

Sept 3: Two activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) were hospitalised after they had been beaten up here Friday allegedly by supporters of a rival faction of Juba Dal, party sources said, reports UNB.

District JCD vice president Saiful Islam and worker Zulfiqar Haider were attacked by miscreants near the Kotwali thana while they were returning from the local BNP office in the evening. They were admitted to Sadar hospital.

JCD held a rally and brought out a procession in the town protesting the attack. They rally was addressed, among others, by JCD district president Mosabbir Hossain Shanju and organising secretary Abdul Latif Biswas.

They blamed Juba Dal supporters for the attack and demanded punishment of the culprits.

LALMONIRHAT

Relief for erosion victims

Sept 3: Relief materials were distributed among the erosion hit people of the district by a non-government organisation under its three-day distribution programme, reports UNB.

The relief materials including saree, lungi, dry food and oral saline packets collected by the workers of the Apan Gram Pragati were distributed among the Teesta erosion affected people of Dauabari, Sindurna and Patikapara unions of Hatibandha thana on August 11 and Dhuniagach and Barabari unions of Sadar thana on August 12.

Deputy Commissioner Kazi Farid Ahmed, district BNP president Asadul Habbib Dulu and the organisation president Upendranath Roy were present on the occasion.

SHERPUR

Construction work of college building

Sept 3: The construction work of the four storied science building of Sherpur Government Girls' College at a cost of Taka 52 lakh is progressing fast, reports UNB.

Facilities Department under Ministry of Education has taken up the project, which is expected to be completed by December next, official sources said.

College authorities said after completion of the work the students will be benefited and their long felt demand will be fulfilled.

Meanwhile, Facilities Department has taken up a scheme to construct a two-storey hostel building of the Sherpur Government Girls' College at a cost of Taka 52 lakh.

The work is expected to be completed by June, next year.



BARISAL: This dilapidated pontoon was placed at Mirerhat launch ghat under Ujirpur thana of the district one year back replacing a big better one for unknown reason. Thirtytwo vessels of Dhaka-Hularhat and Ujirpur-Banoripara routes touch this station daily. Thousands of passengers are to wait under open sky to avail launches.

—Star Photo

Chalan Beel Project

Incomplete work likely to be started next year

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Sept 3: The work on incomplete 'Chalan Beel Project' is likely to be started next year.

The work on the Taka 44 crore project was started in 1976 and it was stopped in 1984 for financial crisis.

Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) started the work to extend flood control and water extraction arrangements in Chalan Beel area of Natore, Pabna, Sirajganj and Bogra districts with the financial assistance of World Food Programme (WFP) and International Development Fund (IDF).

The project included construction of 125-mile-long flood control embankment, digging 187-mile-long water extraction canal, building of 24 regulators, 250 flashing gates, 55 bridges and culverts.

One hundred twentythree miles of flood control embankment, 65 miles of canal, 12 regulators, 93 flashing gates, three bridges were built till 1984, a

BWDB source informed.

The work on the project was stopped as a result of constructing a regulator at the mouth of the river Baral near Charghat of Rajshahi, the board claimed.

Fifty per cent works under the project was cut.

The farmers of the beel area

under the scheme have been suffering much for keeping the project incomplete.

After the completion of the project an additional amount of crops worth about Taka nine crore could be produced 2,13,350 acres of land under the project area.

Later, World Bank in a scrutiny report suggested rehabilitation of the project with the financial assistance of certain donor agency.

The implementation of the rehabilitation programme needs about Taka 10 crore but no donor agency has yet agreed to assist the project.

The BWDB has taken up a decision to start the rehabilitation work with surplus fund of project in FCD.

The rehabilitation work includes construction of 426-kilometre of embankment, digging of 356-km canal, construction of 16 regulators, 57 flashing gates, 171-km road, four bridges, and 47 culverts, it is learnt.

From Our Correspondent

follows. Sylhet Sadar - Taka one lakh 17 thousand, Gowainghat - Taka 96 thousand, Balaganj - Taka one lakh 78 thousand, Companyganj - Taka 64 thousand, Biswanath - Taka 64 thousand, Fenchuganj - Taka 64 thousand, Golapganj - Taka one lakh 60 thousand, Jaintapur - Taka 64 thousand, Kanaighat - Taka one lakh 27 thousand, Jaktiganj - Taka one lakh 27 thousand and Beanbazar - Taka one lakh 40 thousand.

Under the programme, the small and marginal farmers are being given Taka 639 per acre of land. It includes, Taka 240 for seeds and Taka 399 for fertilizers.

However the allocation is too small to meet the requirement of the affected farmers in different thanas of the district, it is felt.

67 uplift plans taken up

Sylhet pourashava has taken up 67 development plans for implementation during the current financial year (1993-94) under the Secondary Town Development Plan.

Taka 5 crore 13 lakh has been fixed for the expenditure of

the schemes. The assistance will be given by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), informed an official source.

The plans include, Construction and Reconstruction of roads, cross drains, drains, bridges, culverts, extension of water supply system, sanitation, construction of 150 sanitary latrines 50 dustbins and tree plantation on different roads in the town.

The plans had already been sent to Dhaka for approval, the official source added.

Girl commits suicide
A 13-year-old girl committed suicide by hanging herself after being violated by a neighbour at village Kakura under Beanbazar thana of Sylhet district recently.

According to the reports, Hawa Begum, daughter of one Ayub Ali was forcibly taken away from her house while she was alone. One a nearby paddy field Nurul Islam of the same village raped her.

A case in this connection had already been registered with the Beanbazar thana. The body was sent to the Sylhet MAG Osmany Medical College Hospital for post-mortem

Communication disrupted for dilapidated road condition

SATKHIRA, Sept 3: Communication between Kaliganj-Satkhirra road remained disrupted for the last 11 days causing sufferings to the people and deadlock in the transport of exportable shrimps, reports UNB.

Transport owners association sources said, they were forced to close the service due to dilapidated condition of the 22-mile road. The service will not be resumed until the road is repaired they added.

An estimated 1.5 lakh people used to travel daily on this road and shrimps meant for export are transported from Kaliganj to Khulna via Satkhira.

Another report says: Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) has seized 400 maunds of salt smuggled in from India and arrested four people at Banshtala.

Officials said the salt carried in a country boat was seized on Tuesday and handed over to the Customs.

The arrested persons have been identified as Mokshed, Shamsuddin, Abu Musa and Siddique are from Paikgachha.

Flood situation in Ctg improves

CHITTAGONG, Sept 3: The overall flood situation in Chittagong and Cox's Bazar districts further improved Tuesday following cessation of rains and recession of river water, reports BSS.

According to the flood control room here, water levels of all rivers in the districts particularly Shangu, Matamuhuri, Haida and Bakkhali were flowing below the normal point.

The flood situation, however, in Hathazari, Banskhali, Fatickhar, Anwara, Kutubdia, and Moheshkhali remained unchanged.

Road communication between Chittagong and Cox's Bazar which remained snapped since Friday last has been restored, district official sources said.

The source further said the repairing of culverts on the roads damaged in the recent floods had also been taken up on emergency basis.

Thirteen medical team had been posted in different flood affected areas of the Cox's Bazar district, the source said.

Seminar held on early marriage, pregnancy

BARISAL, Sept 3: A one-day seminar on 'the bad effect of early marriage and pregnancy' was held at Madhabpasha High School premises under the auspices of Barisal unit of Bangladesh Family Planning Association recently, reports BSS.

Presided over by Delwara Islam, Vice-President of the samity, the function was attended among others by Mamtaz Uddin, Deputy Commissioner, Barisal.

A total of 50 newly wed couples of Madhabpasha union under Babuganj thana of the district attended the seminar. It was addressed among others by Md Imdadur Rahman, Sheikh Fariduddin, Syed Golam Mahbub, Maulana Md, Abbasuddin, Abu Md Jakaria, Md Abdul Aziz and Md Sultan Ahmed Khan.

Jamuna erosion leaves 1.25 lakh homeless in four months

SIRAJGANJ, Sept 3: Unabated Jamuna erosion rendered at least 1.25 lakh people homeless in five thanas of the district during the last four months, reports UNB.

About 100 villages in Kazipur, Belkuchi, Chowhali, Sahzadpur and Sadar thana were affected on account of erosion, official sources and local people said.

The river left 40,000 people homeless in Kazipur, 30,000 in Chowhali, 20,000 each in Sahzadpur and Belkuchi and 15,000 in Sadar thana during the period.

About 10,000 acres of cultivable land, 40 primary schools and government and non-government organisations and 20 mosques were eroded by the mighty river.

Meanwhile, 50 primary schools, 20 government and non-government organisations, and 20 mosques were shifted from river sides. The erosion took a serious turn in recent days.

Prisoners of Sirajganj jail were shifted to Sadar thana

hajat and elsewhere as the turbulent Jamuna eroded the nearby embankment two weeks ago and threatened the prison house.

Most of the victims took shelter on flood embankments and passing their days in great distress.

Meanwhile, the government sanctioned Taka 2.50 lakh, 100 metric tons of rice, 544 pieces of sarees, 544 pieces of lungies and 397 tins of biscuits for the affected people.

The affected people complained that the relief goods are being misappropriated in large scale and called upon the government to probe in the matter.

Another report says: Two people died of food poisoning and two others fell sick at Rahimpur in Sadar thana of the district Friday.

Majeda Khatun (30) and her son Farooq (12) died and her husband Sunaulah (50) and elder son Gafur (16) fell sick and were admitted to Sadar hospital after they had food with jackfruits and milk Thursday night.

670 marginal farmers get interest-free loan

PAKUNDIA (Kishoreganj), Sept 3: An amount of Taka 6,70,000 has been given as interest-free loan to 670 marginal farmers of Pakundia thana of the district under the Expanded Rural Social Service Programme of the Social Welfare Department, PID handout said on Saturday, reports BSS.

Deputy Minister for Shipping A B M Zahidul Hoque handed over the cheques for Taka 100 each to the farmers, at function arranged at the thana parishad hall on Friday.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Minister said the present government emphasised poverty alleviation through generating self-employment.

He said, the loan recipients can promote their economic condition through best utilisation of the money in establishing poultry and fish farms, handicrafts and other small business.

Referring to the people-oriented programmes taken up by the government, the Deputy Minister said everybody should actively participate in those programmes in order to achieve rapid economic progress.

Another report adds: State Minister for Relief, Lutfur

Rahman Khan visited flood affected villages under Itna, Mithaman and Karimganj thana of the district on Friday and distributed relief goods including rich, cash and CI sheets among the flood-hit people there.

Addressing a series of meetings the State Minister said, the present government had engaged, all available resources to mitigate the sufferings of the people affected by natural calamities. He said, the government has been working tirelessly under the dynamic leadership of Begum Khaleida Zia for the welfare of the people as it is a pro-people government. He assured that the government would take necessary steps to rehabilitate the flood victims.

Local MP Advocate Abdul Hamid, president of district BNP Prof Habibur Rahman Bhuiyan, general secretary of district BNP Masud Helal and Deputy Commissioner of Kishoreganj accompanied the State Minister.

Some 2556 square kilometre areas of 106 unions under Kishoreganj district have been badly affected by the recent flood causing untold sufferings to 16 lakh 50 thousand people.

Continuous extraction of hard rock destroying forest hills

From Our Correspondent

SHERPUR, Sept 3: Continuous extraction of hard rock resources through blasting, drilling and unscientific methods has been destroying the forest hills in the district of the country threatening the ecological balance, local political leaders and social workers informed.

Considerable quantities of rock, locally known as 'Boulder' are required for river bank protection as well as for concrete and pavement works for construction of bridges and their approaches. Besides, rocks are also required in clinker factories for making cement.

Jhenagathi and Nalitabari, two of the regions of the district are wellknown for sandstone which attract the unscrupulous traders as revealed from a recent survey.

All the rocks in those areas are weathered to a great extent. The weathering is most pronounced on the surface of the rocks and reduces significantly inwards. Therefore, without drilling or blasting the base rock beneath the weathered surface can not be removed,

which force the technicians to chose drilling and blasting methods, said an expert.

The boulders are obtainable from Jhenagathi and Nalitabari areas and are economically attractive. The illegal traders have been extracting about 100 quarries from this belt said a forest official adding that six tons of boulders on an average from each quarry have already been collected through blasting with the advent of winter. Winter season is suitable for collecting boulders.

The boulders are mainly supplied to district town and elsewhere of the country for construction works at the rate of about 4000 to 4500 tons per annum.

Collection of rocks through blasting is strictly prohibited in the hilly areas for maintaining the ecological balance and preventing insurgency.

The violators are not only destroying forest hills and ecology but also depriving the government from a huge amount of the wealth.

Saifur asks BSB to back new enterprises

KONABARI (Gazipur), Sept 3: Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman asked the Bangladesh Shilpa Bank executives to provide all sorts of supports and cooperation to the new enterprises so that these units could flourish, reports BSS.

Rahman was visiting the Taka 132 crore Kader Synthetic Fibres Limited, a joint venture project here at the BSCIC Industrial Estate 40 kilometre off the capital city.

Dhaka Asian Development Bank (ADB), Asian Finance and Investment Corporation (AFIC), Netherlands Development Finance Company (FMO) Saudi-Bangladesh Industrial and Agricultural Investment Company Limited (SABINCO) and Bangladesh Shilpa Bank (BSB) are the cofinanciers.

The Finance Minister hoped that young and bright en-

trepreneurs would come forward to set up new industries for booming export, creating new employment opportunities and industrialising Bangladesh for a better future of the countrymen and assured them all possible support and assistance.

The Kader Synthetic Fibres Limited is now on trial operation and the process technology and technical know-how for operation and maintenance of the project is being supplied by Toray, Japan.

Shahabuddin Ahmed, Managing Director of KSFL said at present Toray was considered one of the leading manufacturers of polyester filament yarn in terms of quality and quantity in the world market and KSFL was now also producing 10 tons of filament yarn per day upto the standard of Toray.



RAJSHAHI: Abdur Rahim Khan, Field commissioner, Bangladesh Scouts giving away certificates among the participants of Boys Scout unit leader course held here recently.

—Star photo