

## District roundup

### HABIGANJ

#### One awarded life-term for murder

Sept 8: A man was awarded life term rigorous imprisonment and fined Taka 2,000, in default, to suffer two years more for killing a boy, says UNB.

The prosecution story, in brief, was that on May 8, 1991 Abdus Shakur of villager Guraha in Chunarughat thana killed Abul Fazal, son of Ali Akbar of the same village while the victim was returning home after fishing in a nearby water bodies. The body was taken by the killer secretly. The murder was committed following a previous enmity with the victim's family.

Finding no trace of his son, Ali Akbar filed a case and police recovered the dead body from a bag from the house of the murderer Abdus Sakhur.

After investigation police submitted charge sheet against five people.

District and Sessions Judge Saleh Uddin after examining the witnesses and records found Abdus Shakur guilty and awarded the punishment on August 21 and acquitted four others.

### COMILLA

#### Annual prize giving ceremony

Sept 8: Annual prize giving ceremony of Tahera-Junab Ali Girls High School was held at the school premises in the town on Monday, says UNB.

Principal Abul Kalam Majumder and former MP attended the function as the chief guest with Headmaster of Nimshar High School Abul Ahad in the chair.

He urged the government as well as rich people to come forward to establish more and more educational institutions for girls throughout the country so that they can get proper education without spending much money.

He also advised the students to devote themselves to acquire knowledge and not to depend on note books available in the market only to pass the examinations.

### KHULNA

#### Annual prize giving ceremony of BIT students held

Sept 8: The annual prize distribution and installation ceremony of the student union of the Bangladesh Institute of Technology (BIT) was held recently, reports BSS.

Ashraf Hossain, Whip of the ruling party in the Jatiya Sangsad was present as chief guest while it was presided over by Dr Noswera Ali, departmental head of the mechanical engineering department. It was addressed among others by Prof M A Hannan, Director of the BIT Khulna and the student leaders. Ashraf Hossain called upon all to spread the light of education to all corners of the country and remove illiteracy from the society.

### SHERPUR

#### Adulterated foodstuffs sold

Sept 8: Adulterated foodstuffs are being sold with impunity in different markets of the district causing health hazards to the consumers, reports UNB.

The consumers alleged that adulterated oil, milk, flour, bread and biscuits are being sold in most shops and bazars. They also complained that rotten foods are being sold in the local hotels and restaurants.

It is reported that substandard and date expired medicines are also sold by some dishonest businessmen.

Local people demanded immediate action against the unscrupulous traders to stop selling of adulterated food items as well as substandard and date expired medicines to save the people from the threat of health hazard.

### RAJSHAHI

#### One killed, 3 others wounded

Sept 8: A girl was killed and three other people were wounded when a tree fell upon a mud-house during a heavy rain on Friday night, says UNB.

The deceased was identified as Shaheda (9). She died on the spot. Seriously wounded — Farida (8), Ajula (5) and Farhana (45) — were admitted to the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

### PATUAKHALI

#### Food for education programme inaugurated

Sept 8: Food for education programme of the district was inaugurated at Batolbunia Government Primary School under Madarabunia union in Patuakhali sadar thana recently, says BSS.

The Deputy Commissioner of the district Yaheya Mollah inaugurated the programme at a function attended by government officials and local elite.

The function was presided over by Humayun Kabir, Thana Nirbahi Officer, Patuakhali. It was addressed, among others, by Rustam Ali, Thana Education Officer and Md Matin Miah.

The deputy commissioner distributed fifteen kilograms of wheat each to fifteen students of Batolbunia Primary School.

### FARIDPUR

#### College cultural competition

Sept 8: A three-day literary and cultural competition of the Sarada Sundari Mahila College ended here recently, reports BSS.

About one hundred students of the college participated in twenty different items of competition, viz recitations from the holy Quran, Geeta, debate, patriotic songs, Rabindra sangeet, recitation of Bengali and English poems, extempore speech, folk song, Nazrul songs, playing of musical instruments, solo acting, modern songs and comics.

In the literary section Sabekunehar of twelve science class became champion while Farida Begum and Maksuda Haque jointly became runners-up. In cultural section Shaila Yasmeen Chowdhury became champion while Tamanna Chowdhury and Shilpi Saha jointly became runners-up.

### RAJBARI

#### Construction of library nearing completion

Sept 8: The construction work of Ahmed Ali Mridha Public Library building is going on the full swing, officials said, reports UNB.

The Ministry of Cultural Affairs sanctioned Taka 18 lakh for the construction.

About 40 per cent work of the project has already been completed and the rest is expected to be finished by December next, it is learnt.

### MADARIPUR

#### Sufferings from mosquito menace

Sept 8: Mosquito menace in the pourasava area has assumed an alarming proportion causing untold suffering to the town dwellers, reports UNB.

Stagnant water in the roadside ditches, derelict ponds and heaps of garbage beside the roads have become the ideal breeding centres of mosquito.

No effective measures to eradicate mosquito have yet been taken by the pourasava authorities.

Conventional methods of spraying insecticides have proved ineffective to control the mosquito menace. Consequently breeding of mosquitoes in the town is continuing unabated.

### BARISAL

#### PHED, UNICEF instal 1290 tubewells

Sept 8: The Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) in collaboration with UNICEF has installed three different types of tubewells in the coastal districts where ground water cannot be lifted by conventional tubewells, says BSS.

The new types are Shallow Shrouded Tubewells (SST), Very Shallow Shrouded Tubewells (VSSST) and Pond Sand Filter Tubewells (PSFT).

These tubewells are being used to supply pure drinking water.

A total of one thousand two hundred and nine tubewells of these types were installed in the districts of Jhalakati, Pirojpur and Barguna at a cost of Taka ninety seven lakh ninety six thousand and five hundred till June.

Of the total, eight hundred and sixty nine SST were installed in Jhalakati, Pirojpur and Barguna, one hundred VSSST in Pirojpur and Barguna and two hundred and forty PSFT in Jhalakati, Pirojpur and Barguna districts.



Prof RI Chowdhury, VC, Chittagong University watching the computer recently installed in the Department of Economics of the university under Rural Economics Programme of the department. — CU photo

### Fund crisis, mismanagement

## Paper mill faces closure

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Sept 8: The North Bengal Paper Mills has been facing closure due to fund crisis and mismanagement.

The paper mill incurred a loss of Taka 150 crore during the last 20 years, it is learnt.

A source of the mill informed this correspondent that the mill achieved production target during the previous years.

The mill was set up on 134 acres of land on the bank of the river Padma under Ishurdi in 1967.

It was established with the financial assistance from Germany, Italy and France.

The mill went on trial production in 1970 and it could not go into commercial production at scheduled time for liberation war.

During the trial production, the mill produced 2,657 metric tons of paper. The mill exceeded production target in 1980-81, it is informed.

At present, the mill has a capacity to produce 15,000 metric tons of paper annually.

According to mill sources, the mill incurred a loss of Taka 14.45 crore in 1992-93 financial

year while it faced Taka 17.25 crore loss in 1991-92. It also incurred Taka 10.70 crore loss in 1990-91 financial year.

The mill authority informed that higher prices of spare parts, furnace oil and alum soda forced the mill to incur the losses. Irregular power supply, water crisis, surplus staff and the administrative apathy of BCIC are also responsible for the losses.

The mill is to spend Taka five crore every year to procure furnace oil, an unavoidable raw material.

It is learnt that furnace oil is imported at Taka 3,500 per metric ton but the same is supplied to the mill at Taka 8,000 per metric ton.

About 1.10 metric ton of furnace oil is needed to produce one metric ton of paper, it is informed.

The mill requires 4.50 MW of electricity but the PDB supplies only 75 per cent of the total requirement.

The mill is to incur a loss of Taka 1.50 lakh every year due to irregularities in power supply.

The mill also incurs Taka 1.03 crore loss per year as soda ash is used instead of soda ash in the pulp production process.

The mill also face water crisis particularly during dry seasons as the river Padma become dry at that time. The mill is to spend Taka 35 to 40 lakh for dredging the river to continue water supply.

About 12,000 gallons of water is needed per hour for manufacturing paper, it is learnt.

The mill is to pay Taka 50 lakh for the excess staff.

The bagasse from different sugar mills was the main raw material. But no steps were taken to supply these. There are opportunities to use Sylhet pulp, jute-stalk, straw as raw materials.

If the mill is closed, the country will face heavy economic losses and over 10,000 staff of the mill will be unemployed, it is gathered.

The people demand that the government should take immediate appropriate steps so that the mill can run smoothly and profitably.

### Female workers on increase

MADARIPUR, Sept 8: The number of jobless female labourers in four thanas of the district is on rise due to growing economic stringency for quite a long time, reports UNB.

About 7,000 women labourers are used to earn their livelihood by husking paddy and working in brickfields and road development works under food for works programme in the district.

Most of them have become jobless due to completion of the projects and introduction of rice mills and are passing their days in great hardship, local people said.

The next schemes under the food for works have yet to be started in the district while opportunities in agricultural sector has also decreased to a great extent due to recurrent floodings and other natural calamities.

Finding no other alternative, a good number of young girls are pouring into the thana and district headquarters to earn their livelihood. Having failed to get any job many of them are resorting to immoral activities to eke out their living.

### Reception to brilliant students

COMILLA, Sept 8: Padua Jhalak Parishad, a socio-cultural organisation accorded a reception to the brilliant students who have secured positions in the merit list of the SSC examination this year, reports UNB.

Former MP and educationist Principal Abul Kalam Majumder attended the function as chief guest which was presided over by the organisation's president Jahangir Alam Majumder on August 26.

Congratulating the students for their outstanding results in the SSC examinations, the chief guest said without proper education no nation can achieve its desired goal in today's competitive world.

He called upon the students to equip themselves properly for the future leadership of our nation. He advised the students not to depend on private tuition which grows dependency on others.

He said patriotism and honesty are the basic criteria for developing leadership qualities in every society. The students should devote themselves to acquire these qualities throughout their educational career.

### Workshop for headmasters on scout movement

MYMENSINGH, Sept 8: A day-long workshop for headmasters of high schools and superintendents of madrasahs on scout movement was held at the local town hall recently, reports BSS.

About two hundred headmasters and superintendents of sadar, Trishal, Fulbaria and Muktagacha thanas attended the workshop.

Organised by the Mymensingh District Scouts Association, the workshop was attended by Z A Shamsul Haque, Jatiya Commissioner (Training) Bangladesh Scouts as chief guest. A F M Matlur Rahman Deputy Commissioner and president district scouts presided over the workshop.

Aminur Rahman Khan, Regional Field Commissioner, Bangladesh Scouts acted as resource person in the day long workshop.

### Bus journey hazardous, expensive

SHERPUR, Sept 8: Bus journey through different routes in the district has become hazardous, time consuming and expensive causing suffering to the passengers, reports UNB.

Most of the buses do not maintain any time schedule particularly on the main Sreebordi-Sherpur, Nalitabari-Sherpur and Jhenaidai-Sherpur roads.

It is alleged that the bus conductors often realise excess fare and misbehave with the passengers leading to altercations and clashes frequently.

### Indian sarees seized

JHENIDAI, Sept 8: The BDR have seized about 1,000 Indian sarees from a country boat coming from other side of the Ganges near Udaypur border in Daulatpur, reports UNB.

Officials said the border guards chased the boat when it was crossing the river on Sunday afternoon. Sensing the trouble the boatmen fled leaving behind the craft. The seized sarees were handed over to the Customs office.

### Flood situation in Pabna, Sirajganj improves

PABNA, Sept 8: Overall flood situation in the district improved during the last 24 hours ending 6 pm on Monday but the Jamuna was still flowing above its danger mark, reports UNB.

Water level of the river Jamuna dropped by 34 cm and was flowing 11 cm above the red mark at Nagarbari point while Padma at Harding Bridge receded significantly and was flowing 97 cm below the danger mark, official sources said.

Meanwhile, three people have died due to intestinal disease during the period due to paucity of pure drinking water in the areas affected by recent flood.

The dead were identified as Borhan (6), son of Abu Taher of Dhalarchar village in Bera thana, Mili (5) daughter of Montaj Sheikh of Rantinagar village in Sujannagar thana and Mafzuddin (45) of Kalyanpur in Shatta thana.

A report from Sirajganj says: Overall flood situation in the district improved with the recession of water level of the river Jamuna in last 24 hours.

Officials said the flood situation in Kazipur, Sadar, Belkuchi and Chowhali thanas improved significantly as the water level of the Jamuna dropped by 18 cm during the period. The river was now flowing 23 cm below the red mark.

With no change in the rivers Korotoa, Boral, Phulzhor, Gumani and Ichamati during the period, the flood situation in Raiganj, Tarash, Ullapara, Shahjadpur and Kamarkhand thanas remained static.

About 5,000 people were still marooned in Kazipur and another 5,000 in Chowhali, the officials said.

Meanwhile, diarrhoeal diseases claimed two lives in Chowhali thana in last 24 hours raising the toll to 5 in 48 hours. Three people had died in Belkuchi thana. Doctors said over 1,000 people were attacked by the waterborne diseases in those areas.

Ten schools, including Kazipur Government Girls' High School, were closed from Sunday due to the flood.

### Erosion leaves hundreds of people homeless

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Sept 8: The erosion of the river Kirtonkhola of Barisal is eroding crop lands, dwelling houses, hats and bazars, educational institutions rendering thousands of people homeless.

Erosion is going on very fast particularly in Charkana Union, opposite side of the Barisal town.

According to an UP member of the union, continuous erosion of the Kirtonkhola river meanwhile engulfed the Satani mouza totally while Naani and Charbadua mouza partially. The ferryghat and the hat areas are being threatened by the erosion.

The river bank of the town area is also eroding in some places including port area and the launch ghat.

The emerging charland should immediately be dredged-out to check continuous erosion of the river.

Erosion is also continuing in many places of Patuakhali district. The erosion of Tetulia, Andharmanik, Sreemanta, Lohadia and Patra rivers rendering hundreds of people homeless. They have also lost their huge

croplands, business establishments and educational institutions.

Meanwhile, hundreds acres of land of Lebukhali have already been eroded by the Patra river. Besides, the foodgodown, government offices and schools of Mirzaganj thana of the district are being threatened by the erosion of Patra and Sreemanta rivers.

Thousands of residents of Jainakathi Bandar area will have to face erosion of Lohalia river within a very short time.

Karkhana river of Baulal is also engulfing gradually the cropland, dwelling houses, business shops, hats and bazars of about ten thousands inhabitants of Sonakanda, Pangsaghat, Kabal and Kachipara areas. But no endeavour is being taken from the district administration, it is alleged by the local people.

Continuous erosion of vast Tetulia river is also threatening to the people of Bhulia, Nazirpur, Hazirhat and Baharchar. Thousands of people of these areas have already shifted their dwelling houses and business centres to some other places.



RANGPUR: Police arrested two criminals and recovered a stolen motorcycle from their possession recently. — Star photo

### Passengers suffer for want of pontoon

BARGUNA, Sept 8: The passengers have been suffering much for a long time for want of a pontoon or terminal at the Fuljhuri ghat, reports UNB.

Fuljhuri is a famous river port since the British period but no terminal or pontoon has yet been placed there.

More than 300 shops are there and the market is very much important as it is situated at a fair distance and in the mouth of Barma, Betagi and Barguna thanas.

About 15 to 16 launches touch daily at the launch ghat. As there is an alluvial char attached to the port, the launches touch about 2 kilometres of Fuljhuri bandar.

The passengers are to wait there under open sky in the scorching sun and during rainfall. There is no jetty or waiting room for the passengers.

Moreover, the passengers have to board and get down from the launch crossing knee-deep water and mud.

On the other hand, the passengers also suffer much as there is no terminal at Taltali launch ghat in Amtali thana.

Local leaders urged the concerned authorities to construct a terminal in the ghat without further delay.

1972 and inspite of good results it still awaits nationalisation by the government.

Degree classes in arts and commerce sections were introduced four years back but the education is being hampered due to shortage of adequate number of teachers. Besides, the college authority failed to introduce B Sc courses due to fund shortage.

The college has got a total of 500 students but there is no requisite number of classrooms to accommodate them and as a result the students have to use cyclone shelters situated in the campus as classrooms.

There is no common room for the male students. On the other hand, the only one hostel cannot accommodate the students. Besides, the old hostel building may collapse at any moment as the roof of the hostel building has developed cracks causing much suffering to the resident students in the rainy season.

Teachers too are having acute accommodation problem. They have to live in a deplorable tin-shed house.

There are a few collection of books in the library but for want of sitting arrangement the students are being deprived of the library facilities.

There is no modern instrument in the science laboratory. Besides the laboratory is not a pucca building.

Due to inadequate number of books and other teaching materials in the college, the students are suffering much to prosecute their studies.

### Implementation of CPEP on

BARISAL, Sept 8: A joint meeting of the implementation committees for Compulsory Primary Education Programme (CPEP) in Barisal division was held here at the Aswini Kumar Town Hall on Tuesday, reports BSS.

Presided over by Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmed, Secretary, Primary and Mass Education Department, the meeting was attended among others by Principal Md Eunus Khan, State Minister for Education, Mosarraf Hossain Shahjahan, State Minister for Flood Control and Water Resources, Majibur Rahman Sarwar MP, Mosarraf Hossain Monju MP, M A Rashid Divisional Commissioner, Barisal and Abdus Sobhan, Director General Primary Education Department.

The meeting discussed various problems related to the admission and attendance of children in various schools under Barisal division.

The education officers of the districts were stated to have said that 9,66,988 children in 6-11 year age group were admitted to schools of the division during the current year. The total number of children in six districts under the division is 11,94,467. A total of 2,27,479 children could not be brought under the scheme on account of various problems of the guardians including pecuniary condition, the sources said.

The children were enrolled in

3,309 government primary schools, 1,037 registered primary schools, 1,755 madrasahs, 31, KG. schools, 852 other primary schools, 80 government and 60 non-government mass education centres and 70 satellite schools of Barisal, Jhalakati, Pirojpur, Bhola, Patuakhali and Barguna districts.

The meeting was told that 3,309 primary school committees, 993 wards committees, 331 union committees, 39 pauras committees and 38 thana committees have been formed to implement the programme.

Another report says: The Food for Education Programme began in the district recently.

Mamta Uddin, Deputy Commissioner, Barisal, inaugurated

the programme at the Rajar Char Government Primary School under Barisal sadar thana on Sunday.

Mir Md Mujibur Rahman, TNO, Barisal sadar thana presided over the inaugural function. It was attended among others by Bimalendu Halder, and Md Eunus Ali Mian. The Deputy Commissioner said that the programme was introduced to ensure education for all by 2000.

Later, he distributed 15 kilograms of wheat each to Jahanara Sarif (7) a student of class-I and Parbanu (9) a student of class IV, of the school.

Charmanal union of Barisal sadar thana, Chandpasha union of Babugonj thana, Saffur union of Muladi thana, Barhi union of Gournadi thana, Alimabad union of Mehendigonj thana, Memania union of Hizla thana, Bisharkandi union of Banaripara thana, Durgapasha union of Bakergonj thana Jalla union of Wazirpur thana, and Rajihar union of Agailjhara thana have been brought under Food for Education Programme in the district in the first phase.

District education office source said that these union had been selected because of their low educational performances.

About 43,415 children of 6-11 year age group will be benefited under this programme, the source added.

### Tk 5 lakh goods looted

SIRAJGANJ, Sept 8: Some shops of Koyrabazar in Ullapara thana of the district were looted by a gang of robbers on Sunday night, reports UNB.

According to police a gang of robbers numbering 15 raided the shopping centre and decamped with valuables and cash worth about Taka 5 lakh.

One chowkidar named Totamia was arrested for his alleged involvement with the dacoity.

A case has been filed in this connection.



MYMENSINGH: Jeffrey Evans, Director, Ideas International distributing certificate to one of the participants of the 'handicrafts training course' conducted by the organisation here recently. — Star photo