

## District roundup

### KISHOREGANJ

#### Posts of 258 pry school teacher remain vacant

Sept 13: Some 258 posts of primary school teachers have been lying vacant for long hampering education in 13 thanas of the district, reports UNB.

According to District Primary Education office sources, 12 posts have been lying vacant in sadar, 24 in Karimganj, 28 in Pakundia, 8 in Hossainpur, 20 in Katiadi, 44 in Bajitpur, 11 in Kuliar Char, 15 in Bhairab, 29 in Austagram, 9 in Nikli, 14 in Mitamain, 31 in Itna and 13 in Tarail thanas.

Besides, posts of two Thana Education Officers, ten Assistant Thana Education Officers, one District Primary Education Officer, one Primary Education Officer, two Clerks-Typists and one MLSS have also been lying vacant hampering official work seriously.

The District Primary Education office housed in a dilapidated building is in bad shape. Valuable records and documents cannot be maintained properly due to lack of accommodation and many of them have been damaged by insects.

### SATKHIRA

#### Four people stabbed

Sept 13: A gang of mastans stabbed and beat up four people including a father who opposed teasing of his daughter on Sunday, says UNB.

They were admitted to Kaliganj Hospital.

Police said a gang of musclemen teased Jahanara Khatun, a student of class ten of Dhulapur High School while she was going to school.

Jahanara's father Ansar Ali Master along with his three other companions rebuked the mastans who became furious and attacked them with knives and rods. Ansar Master received serious stab injuries while his companions Mustafizur, Noor Islam and Sabu were severely beaten up.

### COX'S BAZAR

#### 3 killed in lightning

Sept 13: Three people were killed and another was seriously injured in two separate incidents of lightning in the district on Saturday night, reports UNB.

Witnesses said, Mohammad Kalu (25) and Mohammad Hossain (27) were struck by thunderbolt while they were fishing in a canal at Nazirhat in sadar thana at about 7 pm.

Bashir Ahmed (30) died on the spot and Abul Kashem was seriously injured as they were struck by lightning while they were working in a shrimp project at Moghna in Chokoria thana at about 9 pm on the day.

Abul Kashem was admitted to sadar hospital.

### SIRAJGANJ

#### Ferry services disrupted

Sept 13: Ferry service between Sirajganj and Bhupur was closed down Saturday following emergence of shoals near the ghats, BWTC sources said, reports UNB.

Nearly 75 trucks were delayed for at least two hours at two ghats and were later directed to take the alternative route.

The trucks from northern districts took the Sirajganj-Nagarbari route while the trucks from Dhaka utilised the Aricha-Nagarbari service, the sources said.

### MYMENSINGH

#### Seratunnabi function concludes

Sept 13: The week-long Seratunnabi function concluded at the town hall premises recently, says BSS.

Jointly organised by the district administration and the Islamic Foundation, Mymensingh branch, the concluding function was attended by A K M Fazlul Haque, MP and Alhaj Maulana Faizur Rahman Imam Baro Masjid. It was presided over by A F M Matru Rahman, Deputy Commissioner and chairman of the celebration committee.

Alhaj Amanullah Choudhury MP, Anwarul Hussain Khan Choudhury MP, R K M Nazimuddin, Deputy Director, Islamic Foundation, Mymensingh, spoke on the occasion.

### MTBAZAR

#### Increase in unregistered marriages

Sept 13: The number of marriages without registration has increased in the rural areas of the district, reports UNB.

There is tendency among the bridegrooms to avoid registration of their marriages. This phenomenon is normally seen among the distressed people and marginal farmers.

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

The poor people, who live on hand to mouth avoid marriage registration due to excessive registration fees. Local people alleged that some unscrupulous marriage registrars of the district are taking fees without giving receipt.

The people of the rural areas urged the concerned authorities to make the marriage registration compulsory and easy.

### NOAKHALI

#### Mosquito menace on rise

Sept 13: Mosquito menace in the town has increased in an alarming proportion during the last one month causing untold suffering to local people, reports UNB.

Stagnant water in roadside ditches, derelict ponds and heaps of garbage have become the ideal breeding places for the mosquitoes.

Moreover, water-hyacinths all over the residential areas have become a serious threat to public health. Faulty drainage system has aggravated the situation further.

Garbage dumped in roadsides are not cleaned and situation of drains is causing water stagnation polluting the environment. As a result mosquito menace is on rise.

### CHANDPUR

#### Int'l Literacy Day observed

Sept 13: International Literacy Day was observed in Chandpur district under the auspices of the district administration and various socio-cultural organisations in a befitting manner, reports BSS.

The programme of the day including discussion meetings, seminars, and rallies.

In the morning a colourful procession was brought out from the Chandpur Press Club premises which paraded through different streets of the town. Rabeya Chowdhury, MP led the procession, which was joined by thousands of school and college students, teachers and local people.

A seminar on the significance of the day was held at the Chandpur Press Club. Md Golam Kibria, Deputy Commissioner Chandpur presided over the seminar. Rabeya Chowdhury, Principal Kazi Amin Ahmed, Principal Matru Rahman, Dr Abdur Rashid, and Md Abul Kashem Ferdous were among those who took part in the discussion in the seminar.

### JAMALPUR

#### Shortage of seeds hampers agricultural programme

Sept 13: Post flood agricultural rehabilitation programme in the district is being hampered greatly due to lack of seeds and seedlings, reports UNB.

According to farmers, if seeds and seedlings are not supplied immediately, cultivation of the transplanted aman paddy on 27,000 acres of land will be affected.

Devastating floods, which hit the district thrice over the last two months, damaged standing crops including seed beds on 65 thousand acres of land.

About five lakh people of seven thanas were affected by the floods, official sources said. A large number of people rendered homeless on account of erosion of the river Jamuna and old Brahmaputra. But no steps have yet been taken to rehabilitate the homeless people.

The worst affected thanas are Dewanganj, Bakshiganj, Melandah, Islampur, Madarganj and Sharishabari where seed-beds were completely damaged.

After the first flash flood, farmers took all preparations for seed-beds, but these were either damaged or washed away by the second flash flood. As a result, most of the farmers in the district are now suffering from shortage of seeds and seedlings.



MYMENSINGH: Prof S M Farouk, VC of BAU and president of the varsity club speaking at the installation ceremony of the newly elected office-bearers of the club. — Star photo

## Farmers selling crops in advance for crisis

KISHOREGANJ, Sept 13: The farmers of the district are being compelled to sell their crops in advance to the money lenders at a nominal price due to their economic hardship, says UNB.

The farmers alleged that they do not even get fair prices of their harvested crops due to faulty marketing and loan systems. Taking advantage of the situation, the money lenders are doing brisk business by giving credit at a high interest rate against security of standing crops.

Moreover, a large number of landless agri-labourers have been passing their days in extreme hardship due to absence of work and are compelled to sell their household articles and domestic animals to maintain their livelihood.

Prices of bullocks, goats have also recorded a sharp fall as a large number of farmers are forced to sell their draft

animals due to acute shortage of fodder.

Besides, the peasants who cultivated jute on a vast acres of land in the current season have been facing problem due to sharp fall in its price.

Jute, the only cash crop of the district, is being sold between Taka 160 and 210 per maund depending on its quality which is far below the production cost.

Another report says: About 104 non-government primary schools of the district have been facing manifold problems causing serious setback to basic education.

According to the District Primary Education office, 16 schools in sadar, 10 in Karimganj, 17 in Pakundia, 10 in Hossainpur, two in Katiadi, 10 in Bajitpur, six in Kuliar Char, four in Bhairab, seven in Austagram, 16 in Nikli, two in Itna and four in Tarail thanas are in bad shape.

Guardians complained that after long 12 years of normal functioning these schools are yet to get government recognition.

About 22,000 students have been studying in these schools. The teachers of these schools are not getting their salary regularly due to which many of them are planning to quitte, informed sources said.

Students in these institutions are also facing problems due to shortage of furniture including chairs, benches, blackboards and other necessary educational appliances.

Local leaders said if the government fails to accord recognition and necessary financial assistance immediately many such schools will die.

They called upon the government to look into the matter and help achieve the goal of universal primary education in the district.

### Imam, UP chairman arrested

SATKHIRA, Sept 13: An Imam of a mosque and a UP chairman were arrested from a village in Kaliganj thana on Friday in connection with the suicide case of a poor teenaged girl, says UNB.

Feroza Begum, 16, of Kalikapur village in Krishnanagar union committed suicide on Sept 2 after the village headmen punished her with 101 lashes with broom. She was found guilty in an arbitration of seducing boys and involving in immoral activities.

Villagers said Feroza, daughter of a carpenter Md Khaleque, killed herself by taking insecticide to protest the 'injustice' meted out to her.

The arrested — Maulana Abdur Rahim and Chairman of Krishnanagar union Moslemuddin — had conducted the arbitration.

Police said there were allegations that the villagers forcibly took away 10 katha of land from Md. Khaleque a few days before the 'trial' of her daughter.

### Irregularities detected at PDB offices

CHITTAGONG, Sept 13: The members of the parliamentary standing committee on Energy and Mineral Resources who visited greater Sylhet district on Thursday and Friday last detected a number of irregularities in metre-reading, billing system, supervision and harassment to customers by concerned employees of Power Development Board (PDB), according to official sources here, reports BSS.

The members of the committee engineer Manzurul Ahsan Munshi, MP Abdul Awal Meah MP, Imran Ahmed, MP and A Mukith Khan, MP visited Sylhet electric supply. Fenchugonj electric supply, Moulvibazar electric supply and Chhatak electric supply. During their visits they examined metre reading books, ledger, billing system and met with a number of consumers in different areas. They found some under-reading, in electric metres, preparation of bills without metre-reading, ampering of metre and lack of supervision in electric supply.

The committee members will submit a joint report of their finding during their visit to different areas to the committee chairman. They will also recommend actions against PDB employees involved in irregularities.

### Arms factory unearthed

PABNA, Sept 13: Police have unearthed a mini arms factory in Library Bazar area in the town this evening, reports UNB. Huge tools for making pipe-guns, four half-made pipe-guns, one country-made revolver and a revolver butt were recovered from a welding shop.

Two youngmen — Moktar Hossain, 22, of Dipchar and Shamim, 24, of Krishnapur in Sadar thana — were arrested.

Acting on a tip-off, a police squad led by ASP Aktar Ali made the swoop.

The arrested people confessed to police that they had been supplying arms to 'armed cadres' of different political parties.

### Absconding convict arrested

From Our Correspondent  
NARAYANGANJ, Sept 13: Police nabbed an absconding convict from Imanerkandi village of Bandar thana on Saturday night.

Abul Kashem, 35, had been absconding since a Special Tribunal sentenced him to seven years' rigorous imprisonment for possessing illegal arms in 1984. The arms case was filed in 1976.

Kashem used to meet his family members at his Imanerkandi village house. — Star photo

## Stress on interest-free Islamic economic system

CHITTAGONG, Sept 13: Speakers at a seminar on 'Islamic system: Islamic versus conventional' on Sunday stressed the need for spreading the knowledge about interest free Islamic economic system, particularly Islamic banking practice to enable the people to know about the subject, reports BSS.

The pointed out that Islamic banking system experimented in Bangladesh and other countries have proved to be successful and thus there is wide scope for its application in modern economic system.

The seminar held under the joint auspices of department of financial CU and the Islamic Economic Research Bureau of Dhaka at the medical complex

of the university was inaugurated by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof R Chowdhury as the chief guest.

Prof Zahurul Haq, Chairman of the Finance Department of Chittagong University, presided over the seminar, while Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Badrul Alam, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Islamic Bank-Bangladesh Commodore (Rtd) Ataur Rahman, Prof AJM Nuruddin Chowdhury, Dean of the Faculty of Commerce, Chittagong University, Prof Kazi Ahmad Nabi of the university and Azizul Haq, Executive Vice President of Islamic Bank, participated in the seminar.

They said, the zakat based interest free Islamic economic system could bring great relief

## Civic life miserable at Pourasabha area

NARAIL, Sept 13: Narail Pourasabha is beset with manifold problems causing inconvenience to the town-dwellers, reports UNB.

The dilapidated condition of the roads, lack of proper drainage system and inadequate water supply made the civic life miserable.

Most of the roads of the pourasabha are kutchas. Cracks and potholes have developed at many points of the roads due to lack of proper maintenance and repair work.

The situation turns worse in the rainy season. After a slight rain all the kutchas drains filled with garbage overflow the roads causing inconvenience to the movement of pedestrians.

Meanwhile, mosquito menace has assumed an alarming proportion as garbage are dumped in roadsides and no arrangement has yet been taken to remove the stagnant water.

Lack of dustbins in the poura areas compels the town dwellers to dump garbage in the drains blocking the water outlet.

Street lights are insufficient and many roads have no light at all. Besides irregular water supply has been causing suffering to the poura inhabitants.

Another report adds: Adulterated edible oil is being sold in the town and village markets openly causing serious health hazards to the people.

Local people alleged that some dishonest businessmen are engaged in selling adulterated edible oil to the people causing health hazards.

They also complained that various diseases like dysentery, diarrhoea, jaundice and other intestinal diseases have broken out in the district due to consumption of adulterated edible oil.

## Diarrhoea claims 3, attacks 300 more

SIRAJGANJ, Sept 13: Diarrhoea claimed the life of three people and attacked some 300 others in five thanas of Sirajganj district in 24 hours till Friday afternoon, says UNB.

With this, the unofficial death figure rose to 17 since the disease broke out in the district six days ago.

The victims were identified as Amir Hossain (6) of Betgar in Kaziur, Jaded Ali (56) of Armasbaki in Chowhali and Pari Khaton (32) of Hijalia in Shahzadpur thana.

Diarrhoea, dysentery, influenza and other water borne diseases have attacked about 3,000 people in the flood affected areas of the district during the last one week, according to unofficial sources.

Scarcity of pure drinking water, consumption of adulterated and unwholesome food, and acute poverty were learnt to be the main causes behind the

outbreak of the diseases. District officials said about 127 medical teams are working in the affected areas.

Two killed in

separate incidents: A minor boy and a housewife were killed and another villager was injured seriously in two incidents in Roynanj thana Saturday night.

The dead were identified as Rajkumar (3), son of Jiban Krishna of Rampur village, and Monwara Khatun (25), wife of Siddique Ali of Charnomampur village.

Rajkumar was chopped to death with a dao allegedly by his teenage uncle, Pabitra Kumar, while he was asleep in their house with his father. Jiban Krishna was also injured as he tried to save his son.

Rajkumar was killed as a sequel to a quarrel over family property, police said.

## UP chairman, 10 others get life-term for killing tailor

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Sept 13: The District and Sessions Judge, Jamalpur, sentenced eleven persons including a union parishad chairman to life term imprisonment for murder and fined Taka 5,000 each in default to suffer five years more.

The convicted persons are: Union parishad chairman Saiful Islam Tuta, Abdul Karim, Nurul Islam, Abdul Khaleque, Montaj Ali, Mukshed, Anser Ali, Ayeb Ali, Ata, Sarafat, Nowab Ali, Asraf Ali and Dulal.

The prosecution story of the case in brief that the convicted persons killed an Abdul Karim Bucha (38), a tailor at Khalifa bazar in Goalini union under Islampur thana of the district on May 23, 1991.

The convicted persons on the day attacked Karim with deadly weapons and killed him on the spot.

The next day, Islampur thana police recovered the body from the bazar and sent it to Jamalpur general hospital for post-mortem.

After investigation, the police filed chargesheet against the accused persons.

The court after examining the records and witnesses found 13 persons guilty and sentenced them to suffer life-term imprisonment and fined Taka 5000 each in default to suffer imprisonment for five years more.

One Abul Kashem of village Mustimabad in Madarganj thana was arrested by police on the charge of two murders here recently.

Police source said that Abul Kashem killed his first wife,

Maleka Begum and son Ershad in a broad day light by deadly weapon. The reason of murder remain unknown.

The SP, Md Hannan Khan visited the spot.

A case has been registered with the Madarganj thana. Shaheed Nurul Mallick road in the pourasabha area of the town was formally opened by his wife Rowshanara Begum.

Nurul Mallick was killed by the razakars in the liberation war, 1971.

In this connection, a public gathering was held at the opening session.

## Mongla Port earns Taka 19.49 crore

KHULNA, Sept 13: Mongla Port authorities earned a net profit of Taka 19.49 crore during the last fiscal year which was less than Taka 3.50 crore of the previous year, reports UNB.

According to official sources, the port authorities earned Taka 53.54 crore from various sources during the period while its expenditure was Taka 34.05 crore.

About 23.79 lakh metric tons of goods were exported and imported through the port during the last fiscal year. About 376 ships anchored and unloaded their goods at the port during the period.

In 1991-92, about 26.50 lakh metric tons of goods were exported and imported through the port and 436 ships conducted their business through the port.

## Massive afforestation plan under execution

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Sept 13: The district administration has been executing a massive afforestation programme in the eight thanas of the district during the current season in a bid to help establish intensive green forestry in the region.

Under the programme, about 75 lakh of different kinds of fruit bearing and wooden tree plants are being sown all over the district. The vacant spaces on either sides of the embankments, railway lines, highways and feeder roads and in the available spaces of the grounds of different institutions both educational and religious and the open spaces of the government and non-government offices, clubs, industries and the

outer yards of the houses have been targeted in the programme.

With a view to motivating and to have a practical knowledge on afforestation, a three-day long tree fair was held at Mithapukur at the initiative of the district administration recently. The fair was attractive with a number of stalls on pisciculture, agriculture, family planning livestock, compulsory primary education, health and handicrafts.

According to a spokesman of the district administration, during the last two months since July 1, over thirty lakh tree plants have already been planted all over the district.

Meanwhile, different gov-

ernment and semi-government organisations, educational institutions and clubs have drew up programmes on afforestations in the district.

The Forest Department has produced around five lakh tree plants while the thana nurseries and the private organisations have raised bulk quantity of tree plants and being sold to the public.

A 3-day long workshop on 'sanitation' was held at Rangpur B Ed College promises recently under the joint initiative of Bangladesh Scout of Rangpur and Rajshahi Zones, UNICEF and Public Health Engineering Department (PHED).



CHANDPUR: Dr Thomas P Thomson, Consultant, International Fertilizer Development Corporation speaking at the fertilizer dealers' training programme held here recently. — Star photo