

## District roundup

## MYMENSINGH

## People urged to help implement 'Education for All' programme

Sep 17: Jute Minister A S M Hannan Shah called upon the people of all walks of life to come forward and help remove illiteracy from the society, reports BSS.

He was speaking at a discussion organised by the district administration on the occasion of the International Literacy Day at the local town hall recently.

Presided over by Professor Salahuddin, Principal T T College, Mymensingh the discussion was addressed among others by Anwar Hussain Khan Choudhury MP, A F M Matur Rahman, Deputy Commissioner Mymensingh, Professor Lutfar Rahman Khan, Alhaj Iman Ali, DPEO.

The Jute Minister also said that the teachers can play a very important role to help make 'Education for All' programme a success.

The discussion was followed by a cultural function which was attended by Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder, Minister in Charge of Local Government and Rural Development.

Earlier, a colourful procession of officers, teachers and students led by Jute Minister was brought out. The processions paraded the main streets of the town. A K M Fazlul Haque MP, Anwar Hussain Khan Chowdhury MP, Nurjahan Yesmine MP and Deputy Commissioner participated in the procession.

## FARIDPUR

## 25,413 patients get free treatment

Sep 17: The annual general meeting of Dr Zahed Memorial Shishu Hospital was held recently at the hospital premises, reports BSS.

In the annual report submitted by the secretary of the hospital committee Shahjahan Molla informed the meeting that 1814 patients received in-door treatment from July 1992 to June 1993. During the same period 15052 patients received outdoor services, 2739 children and mothers were given immunisation vaccines. Besides, the mobile unit of the hospital treated 5808 children and mothers in the remote areas on this district.

The meeting also approved the budget of Taka 35,80,618 for the year 1993-94. The meeting was presided over by Abul Bashir Mia, president of the hospital committee.

## PATUAKHALI

## 1.50 lakh children get admission to pry schools

Sep 17: More than one lakh fifty thousand children have been admitted to the primary schools all over the district during the session, reports BSS.

The total number of children in the school going age group in the district is about one lakh ninety-five thousand, district education officer sources said.

The sources said that about thirty seven thousand children have been admitted to schools in Patuakhali sadar thana, thirty thousand in Bauphal thana, thirty-two thousand in Golachipa thana, twenty-two thousand in Kolapara thana, thirteen thousand in Mirzaganj thana and eleven thousand in Dashedina thana.

## BRAHMANBARIA

## Housewife killed in train mishap

Sep 17: A housewife was killed and her minor son was seriously injured when they were run over by a speeding train at Sadar railway station on Sunday morning, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Mursida Begum (35), wife of Amir Hussain of Methikanda.

Witnesses said Mursida Begum and her three-year old son slipped from the Bhairab-bound running train when she tried to board it with the child in her lap. They were rushed to Sadar hospital where Mursida Begum succumbed. The condition of her child was stated to be critical.

A case has been filed with the local thana.

Another report from Moulvibazar adds: A boy was crushed under the wheels of a speeding coaster at Mukambazar in Sadar thana on Dhaka-Sylhet highway on Wednesday.

The dead was identified as Jamshed (14) of Ramchandrapur village of Sadar thana.

The coaster hit the little boy while he was crossing the road. Jamshed died on the spot.

## KUSHTIA

## Islamic varsity reopens on Sept 19

Sep 17: Islamic University will reopen on September 19, says a Press release of the university, reports BSS.

The decision for the reopening of the university was taken by the Syndicate at a meeting held on Tuesday. Students' access to the hostels will, however, be allowed from Sept 18, after police checking.

All sorts of political activities on the campus will remain suspended for one month. A large contingent of police will remain posted on the campus to maintain law and order.

## HABIGANJ

## 500 current nets seized, 50 cases filed

Sep 17: About 500 current nets were seized from different parts of the district and over 50 cases were filed with different thanas in this connection in the last month, reports UNB.

According to official sources, 30 current nets were seized from Sadar, 70 in Madhabpur, 25 in Bahubal, 51 in Ajmiriganj, 25 in Baniachong, 125 in Nabiganj and 175 in Lakhal thanas.

Meanwhile, 23 cases were filed in Sadar, 9 in Ajmiriganj, 14 in Baniachong, 4 in Nabiganj, 6 in Lakhal and Tk 2500 was realised as fine from Ajmiriganj, Tk 2100 from Baniachong and Tk 2800 from Sadar thanas during the month.

District fishery official launched an operation against catching of fish fry by 'current' nets in the district.

Another report says: Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda donated Taka 5,000 for development of Habiganj Press Club on September 7.

The minister announced the donation from his personal fund at a meeting with the local journalists and leaders of the Human Rights Implementation Committee at the local Circuit House.

Chowdhury Abdul Hye, ex-MP and president of Human Rights Committee of the district unit presided over the meeting.

## RANGPUR

## Housewife stabbed to death

Sep 17: A young housewife was stabbed to death allegedly by her husband at Kamalatchna village in Kotwali thana on Friday, reports UNB.

Police said Abdul of the same village killed his second wife Shapna (25) following a family feud.

Abdul, the alleged murderer, went into hiding soon after the killing, family sources said.

The body of Shapna was sent to Sadar Hospital for autopsy and a case was filed with the police.

Another message adds: A gang of dacoits stormed three houses and looted cash and valuables leaving two inmates injured by bullet at Joyramanga in Gongachara thana on Monday night.

Police said the gang of bandits attacked the houses of Abdul Jabbar, Mostafiz and Asir Uddin on the same night and looted cash and cows.

The looters also fired several rounds of gun shots when they were resisted by the house owners leaving two of them injured. The injured Asir Uddin (30) and Abdul Mostafiz were rushed to Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

They, however, made their good escape but left behind some of the looted cows.

A case was filed with the local police in this connection.

## KHULNA

## Anti-crime confce held

Sep 17: An anti-crime conference was held at the office of the Khulna Metropolitan Police Commissioner's office recently, reports BSS.

Rafiqul Islam Khan Metropolitan Police Commissioner presided over the conference. It was attended by police officials of Khulna metropolitan areas.

The meeting discussed the law and order situation within the metropolitan area.

The Police Commissioner in his speech asked the officials of his area to complete investigation of all pending cases within fifteen days. The meeting directed the concerned officials to be more vigilant to curb crimes and criminal activities. The KMP Commissioner asked the police officials to seek cooperation of the members of the public to curb criminal activities within the KMP areas.



Prof Abdul Karim, former VC of Chittagong University, speaking at 'Samapani Utshab-93' held at the varsity recently. — CU photo

## Jute growers deprived of fair price

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Sep 17: The local jute growers have been facing losses as the product is being sold at a nominal price at different markets of the district.

No purchasing centre has yet been opened in the district either by the government or by any private agency threatening further decline in the prices. The middlemen taking advantage of the situation are depriving the jute growers of fair price.

In their utter helplessness, the growers are selling their produce to the local middlemen at lower prices.

Jute is being sold at Taka 140 to Taka 180 per mound in Kendua, Nandina, Islampur, Dewanganj, Bakshiganj, Melandah, Baltijuri, Sarishabari, Mahmudpur bazars while few days back it was sold at Tk 210 to Tk 240 per mound.

According to an official of Agricultural Extension Department at the district, the production cost of jute this year has stood at Taka 280 to Taka 320 per mound including lease amount of the land, labour cost and costs of other inputs. Thus growers have sustained a loss of Taka 120 to Taka 140 per mound, he added.

Farmers alleged that middlemen and stockists taking advantage of the situation are depriving them of fair price due to lack of proper marketing system. When contacted, local jute traders said that the prevailing jute market is the impact of reluctance of jute exporters, millers and different centres including Sarishabari of Jamalpur who have no bank loan this year to purchase jute.

In the absence of jute purchasing centres, price of jute has been falling abnormally and price hike of the essential commodities has aggravated the situation.

It may be mentioned here that jute is the only cash crop in all seven thanas of the district where 85 per cent jute growers purchase their daily requirements by selling jute. In this adverse situation jute is being smuggled to India. If such situation continues for further 20 days, entire local jute will be smuggled to India where its being sold at higher rates, it is learnt.

The authorities should come forward immediately to check jute smuggling to protect national interest.

Woman killed in rival groups clash

One woman was killed and two other persons were seriously injured when two rival groups clashed over a plot of land at village Campapur in Jamalpur sadar thana recently.

The victim Kamla Khatun (35) was seriously injured in the clash and rushed to the general hospital where the doctor declared her death.

Other injured persons are: Hateem Ali and Fatema Begum. Police arrested three persons in this connection. The arrested persons are: Mozaffar Hossain, Pakku Shah Ali and Halima Begum.

A case has been registered with Jamalpur sadar thana in this connection.

Husband kills wife

One Samiran Begum 3rd wife of Al-haj Dancz Ali of village Surjanagar in Bakshiganj thana was allegedly killed by her husband here recently.

A case has been registered with Bakshiganj thana in this connection. Al-haj Dancz Ali was arrested by police for the murder.

Diarrhoea in char areas

District Red-Crescent Society at Jamalpur recently formed four medical boards for control of diarrhoeal diseases in the flood affected areas of the district. Diarrhoeal diseases have broken out in different char areas after receding of flood waters.



SYLHET: The winners of the quiz contest arranged by 'Amra Mohammedan', an organisation, are seen with Prof Md Abdul Aziz, Registrar, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, who was present as chief guest at the prize giving ceremony. — Star photo

## Sarbaharamen kill one in Jhenidah

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Sep 17: A group of five to six miscreants in broad day light murdered Alamgir Hossain, 22, — a former member of the Sarbahara Party — today in Gopalpara Bazar, only 8 km from Jhenidah town.

Police said, the miscreants came to the bazar around noon and dragged Alamgir out of a hair dresser's saloon and shot and chopped him to death in front of the frightened public.

## Hartal to protest arrest of BCL leader observed

SIRAJGANJ, Sep 17: A half-day hartal was observed in Kaziupur thana on Tuesday at the call of Chhatra League (M-I) backed by Awami League, reports UNB.

Political sources said Chhatra League called the hartal to protest the arrest of its leader Shahidul Islam Lal. He was arrested on Monday on charges of terrorist acts, police said.

Educational institutions and shops were closed and all sorts of vehicle went off the road during the hartal hours. There was no untoward incident, police said.

Earlier report says: Police arrested a district Chhatra League (M-I) leader in connection with two cases, on Monday.

Shahidul Islam Lal, General Secretary of the Kaziupur thana unit and Assistant Secretary of BCL district committee, was picked up from his home at Megai in Sadar thana.

## 50,000 addicts in one dist!

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Sep 17: About 50,000 persons including 15,000 youths of Kishoreganj town and its surrounding areas have become addicted to liquor, ganja, heroin, rectified spirit, and phenadyl.

The rickshawpullers, bus, truck and minibus drivers, conductors and helpers, school and college going boys and even girls and unemployed persons are found to be addicted to drugs. Informal sources said rectified spirit and locally made liquor are used by the youths.

A section of government employees and teachers have joined the drug-addicted people. The problem has become so much acute that over 70 per cent of the families are directly or indirectly affected.

Residents complained that addicted young people buy the

spirit from homeopaths and take it as alcohol by mixing water. It is informed that some dishonest homeopaths having no licences to practise and manufacture are selling the spirit to the addicts at exorbitant prices.

As per government rule, licences for rectified spirit are only issued to the bonafide homeopath practitioners and homeo-medicine manufacturers but it is openly sold in the town.

The measures taken by the law enforcing agencies are so meagre that the addicted persons and others who are connected with illegal trading, smuggling or storing of those items were continuing their business openly.

With the alarming increase in the addiction, crimes like theft, looting, dacoity and robbery have become rampant in every locality of the town. In many cases the crimes are not reported to the police for different reasons.

The criminals are hardly arrested and proper investigation is rare. Culprits handed over to the police are in many cases, released from the thana without even forwarding to the court it is learnt. A section of influential and interested persons are found very active in such heinous games.

The helpless guardians of the drug addicted youths complained that some of their wards have become addicted due to prevailing situation in the society. They compel their guardians to regularly pay Taka 25 to Taka 50 for meeting their needs.

## 675 unnatural deaths in 8 months

DINAJPUR, Sep 17: Some 675 people met unnatural deaths in 13 thanas of the district during the last 8 months, reports UNB.

According to informed sources, the causes behind the deaths were suicide, killing, road accident and electrocution.

Of them the highest number of 68 deaths was recorded in Sadar thana and among them 43 died by taking poison, 11 in road accidents, two in fire incidents, one was electrocuted and 9 others in other incidents.

Another report adds: One unidentified Muslim young man was shot dead by Indian BSF near the Birol thana border outpost on Friday night.

According to witnesses, the man was shot dead in no-man's-land of Ramchandrapur border outpost at Bhandara.

## Work on power plant in progress

The construction of Taka 404 crore Sylhet 90 mw combined cycle power plant is in rapid progress, a Power Development Board (PDB) Press release said here, reports BSS.

The foreign exchange component of Taka 290 crore has been provided by Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF), Japan.

The site development work on the plant is being carried out by the Dredger Directorate of Water Development Board (WDB).

The plant to be completed on turn-key basis is being set up over 25 acres at Fenchuganj, 22 km off from Sylhet town.

In the 90 mw plant, there will be three generating units with the capacity of 30 mw each. Two of them will be gas-turbine while the rest will be steam turbine. Natural gas will be used as fuel in the plant.

The PDB Chairman Kazi Golam Rahman and other high officials of the organisation recently visited the plant site to supervise the progress of the construction work. During the visit they were informed that the first consignment of civil works materials has arrived from abroad and test piling work at the site has started, the Press release added.

An additional 50 mw power will be transmitted to the national grid line when the project will be completed by October 1995.

## 'Goal of market economy is to increase productivity'

RAJENDRAPUR (Gazipur), Sep 17: Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman today said the goal of the open market economy is to increase productivity in the economic sector through the promotion of efficiency, reports BSS.

Addressing a three-day symposium on 'Poverty Eradication in South Asia', he said to eradicate poverty from the society, there is no alternative to increase production which would generate more employment opportunity and ensure more economic growth.

He said the government is aware of the limitations of the open market economy. We are determined so that the benefits of the free economy might not be enjoyed by the rich section alone creating imbalance in the society, he said adding that social justice and harmony of development are the prime objectives of the government.

Rahman said the objective of the government is not to give up the responsibilities to the private sector. The state would formulate the economic policies and monitor private sector activities to maintain the social balance and uplift the economic conditions of the poor section.

## Tk 1.4cr for post-flood agri rehabilitation

From Our Correspondent

MOULVIBAZAR, Sep 17: The government has allocated Taka 1 crore 3 lakh 98 thousand for post-flood agricultural rehabilitation scheme in Moulvibazar district.

According to district Agricultural Extension Department (AED) source under this scheme, seeds, saplings and fertilizers worth Taka 4 lakh 66 thousand has already been distributed among the flood affected farmers free of cost for aman cultivation.

The AED source said that they had also taken up a massive rabi crop cultivation programme under the same scheme. Seeds, saplings and fertilizers worth Taka 99 lakh 32 thousand will be distributed, free of cost among the flood af-

ected farmers for boro, wheat, maize, mustard and vegetable cultivation.

It may be mentioned here that devastating floods in the months of June and July last has damaged crops on 24 thousand 167 hectares of land in the district.

Roads and Highways Department has sanctioned Taka 11.90 crore for the development of different portion of roads and highways in Moulvibazar district.

According to R&H sources, a total of 26 culverts and 6 bridges will be constructed and 30 kilometres of different roads and highways will be reconstructed under this programme. Of this, 20 culverts and 4 bridges will be built.

## Work on Tk 1.40 cr bus terminal in progress

RAJBARI, Sep 17: The construction work on Rajbari central bus terminal is nearing completion and is expected to be opened at the end of this year, reports UNB.

The bus terminal is one of the biggest terminals of the country that has been constructed at a cost of Taka 1.40 crore.

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahanara Begum visited the under-construction bus terminal on Wednesday, said a PID handout.

The terminal will have a capacity for movement and parking of 250 buses at a time, the State Minister was informed. It will also extend facilities of banking, restaurants, toilets, supply of pure drinking water, waiting rooms and other necessary arrangement for the passengers.

Jahanara Begum expressed her hope that after opening the terminal a new era would be added to road communication between Rajbari and other parts of the country.

BSS adds: State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahanara Begum said that the government has plan to set up a private college at Rajbari.

She said that on the basis of application, the government will actively consider to introduce honours course in the Rajbari Government College.

The State Minister said this

while addressing a students rally at the Rajbari Government College premises on Wednesday. Organised by the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, the rally was addressed among others by senior vice president of central committee of JCD Muniruzzaman Murir and former student leader Zahuruddin Swapan.

Referring to the laudable role of Chhatra Dal workers during the anti-autocratic movement Prof Jahanara Begum said at the time they had to face many oppression, but never came back from the desired goal. She said, some opposition political parties took part in the pre-arranged general election held under the autocratic rule.

She said BNP never does politics of hollow slogans but politics of development. The State Minister gave assurance for solving the existing problems of the college.

## ICTVTR diploma awarding ceremony Sept 21

The Islamic Centre for Technical and Vocational Training and Research (ICTVTR) will hold the seventh congregation ceremony for awarding diplomas to the ICTVTR graduate at 10:30 am on September 21 at the centre at Board Bazar Gazipur.

## Diarrhoea kills four, attacks 400 in thana under Barisal dist

BARISAL, Sep 17: Diarrhoea has claimed four lives and attacked 400 people in Gournadi thana under Barisal district during the last few days, reports BSS.

Almost all the villages of seven unions of the thana have been attacked with the disease. Reports of diarrhoea cases are numerous from Barhi and Thandapur union. Khodeja (75), Manoara (2), Aklima (10), Khodeja (3) of Baghamara village under Barhi union died of the disease. The disease is spreading in new areas of the thana.

Another reports says: Shishu Maushumi competition of Barisal district was held at the public library premises Friday.

Mahbubul Alam presided over the function held in this connection organised by the Shishu Academy. The function was attended by Mamtaz Uddin, Deputy Commissioner, Barisal, as chief guest.

A total of 108 children from ten thanas of the district participated in this competition this year.

The items of competition were patriotic songs, jary song, extempore speech and quiz contests.

The chief guest gave away the prizes among the best participants.

A two-day-long cultural competition for girls from all walks of life concluded in the Government Women's College premises Saturday.

Organised by Islamic Library, Barisal, the function was presided over by Alhaj Shamsuddin Khan, Principal of the college.

Principal (Retd) Md Moslem Mian and Ms Mohashina Chowdhury were present as chief guest and special guest respectively.

The function was addressed among others by Syed Golam Mahbub, Secretary, Islamic Library, Prof Abdur Rab, Prof Firoja Begum and Shahida Yasmin.

Kerat, naat-e-rasul and azan were included in the list of events of the cultural meet.

## CU Botany Deptt tree plantation programme

CHITTAGONG, Sep 17: Vice-Chancellor of the Chittagong University Prof Rafiqul Islam Chowdhury today inaugurated a tree plantation programme of the Botany Department at a simple ceremony held at botanical garden of the university, reports BSS.



NATORE: An executive of local Islamic Foundation speaking at a seminar for the imams arranged on the occasion of Seeratunnabi. — Star photo