

National

District roundup

B'BARIA

One suspended for misconduct

Sept 18: One meter reader Shafiqur Rahman of the district electricity supply office has been put under suspension for negligence of duty and misconduct, official sources said Thursday, reports UNB.

Superintendent Engineer of Comilla Power Development Board said further investigation against the suspended employee is going on.

Another report adds that police seized a hilsha fish loaded truck from the Raisuddin market of Sadar thana on Sept 4.

Acting on a secret information, Kasba police raided the market area, seized the truck and recovered the fish worth about Tk 52,000. The driver of the bus was also arrested.

A case has been filed.

SIRAJGANJ

One strangled to death

Sept 18: A young man was allegedly strangled to death by his wife at his in-law's house at Shatkaira village in Kazipur thana on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Family sources said Shajeda Khatun (18) has been leading an unhappy life with her husband Shahidul Islam (22) since their marriage a few years back. Following a family feud she went to her parents' house a few days back.

Shahidul's family sources said on the fateful day Shajeda invited Shahidul to visit her parents' house and accordingly when he complied with the request Shajeda along with other inmates of the house attacked and strangled him to death.

They later buried Shahidul claiming it as a normal death, the sources added.

But Kazipur police ordered to exhume the body for autopsy following a complaint filed by the family of Shahidul that he was strangled to death.

MAULVIBAZAR

Dacoits loot Tk 5.80 lakh

Sept 18: Valueables worth about Tk 1.80 lakh were looted in a daring dacoity at Sarkar Bazar in Sadar thana of the district, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, a gang of armed dacoits numbering about 15 stormed the shop of one Shafiqul Islam at dead of night on August 27 and dacoited with the valuables.

The dacoits also raided another shop of one Arjeb Ali of the bazar and looted valueables worth about Tk one lakh.

Two cases were filed with the local police.

Another armed gang barricaded Moulvibazar-Kulaura road near Rajnagar tea garden gate on Monday and looted valueables from four vehicles, police said on Tuesday.

The bandits blocked the road with trees to stop the passing vehicles and robbed the passengers at gun-point. They decamped safely with the booty worth about Tk 4 lakh.

One bus, two loaded trucks and a private car coming from both the directions came under the holdup, police said.

Police reached the spot two hours after the dacoity.

A case was filed with Kulaura police in this connection.

MYMENSINGH

Model village extension programme inaugurated

Sept 18: A tree plantation and model village extension programme was inaugurated by the Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) Professor S M Farukh at the Char Nilakhy union under Mymensingh thana recently, says BSS.

Jointly organised by BAU Extension Centre and BAU Teachers Council, the function was held at Rajganj Bazar Government primary school and Letu Mandal High School.

The Vice-Chancellor emphasised the need for adopting modern method of cultivation to raise agricultural production in Bangladesh. He declared that the teachers and students of the university would impart updated agricultural knowledge to the villagers so that they could apply it in their respective fields.

Presided over by Md Mahbubur Rahman, Chairman, Char Nilakhy union, the function was addressed among others by Professor Abdul Halim, Professor Md Monsurul Amin, Dr Md Muddin, Professor Md Shahidul Islam, Professor Md Ziaul Karim, Oshuzzaman Akanda and Rezaul Karim.

NARAIL

Jute selling at Tk 170 per maund

Sept 18: Jute growers of the district have been facing hardships due to sudden fall in prices of jute in the local markets, reports UNB.

Jute is now selling between Taka 170 and Taka 220 per maund in different haats and bazaars of Sadar, Lohagara and Kalia which is much below the production cost.

Growers said the production cost of a maund of jute was about Taka 260 to Taka 300 per maund.

There is no jute purchasing centre in the district. Taking advantage of the situation, a section of middlemen are purchasing jute at throwaway prices.

Jute growers time and again appealed to the authorities to open purchase centre to ensure fair prices of their produce but no step has yet been taken in this regard.

On the other hand, the jute merchants said they could not realise the outstanding money of the jute sold to the different mills and companies in the last two to three seasons. As a result, they are not in a position to start buying jute in large scale.

JAMALPUR

Erosion leaves 5 thousand homeless

Sept 18: At least five thousand peasants have been rendered homeless in several villages under Bahadurabad thana due to erosion of the rivers Jamuna and old Brahmaputra, reports BSS.

The erosion of these two rivers, which made thousands of peasant families destitutes over the decades, has now affected the village Palla Kandi, three-fourths of which are already devoured by the rivers.

At least six thousand helpless peasants, who have already lost their houses and cultivable land, held demonstrations Thursday at the Dewangon thana headquarter, seeking immediate government help.

They said that no government relief had reached them so far as most of them were passing their days under the open sky.

BARISAL

Teachers training college to be set up

Sept 18: A teachers training college will be set up in Barisal during the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

An official source said that admission to the college will start from next July. Initially training course will be conducted in the Barisal Brojmonjan University College.

The site for the college has been selected in Bakerganj, about twenty kilometres from here. The side was selected by an expert committee.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide assistance for setting up the college.

PATUAKHALI

Workshop for youths

Sept 18: A day long workshop for youths was held by the family planning association of Bangladesh, Patuakhali branch here recently, reports BSS.

About seventy five youths engaged in different development activities in the district participated in the workshop.

Ali Ahsan, Deputy Director of Youth Development Department of Patuakhali attended the workshop as chief guest. Haji Kanchan Ali Miah, President of the district FPAB presided over the workshop.

FARIDPUR

New committee of Prokrichi formed

Sept 18: A new committee of Prokrichi (Prokraushali, Krishibid and Chittishal) coordination committee Faridpur branch was formed here recently, reports BSS.

Prof Mian Lutfar Rahman, Principal of Government Serada Suryadevi Mahila College, Krishibid Abdul Matin Talukdar, Deputy Director of Agriculture Extension Department and Engineer Shah Alam, Executive Engineer of PWD were elected as president, secretary and treasurer respectively of the committee. Other office bearers and executive committee members were also elected in the general meeting held in this connection.

District roundup



LOWHAJANG: The women and children of village Bhoigaon under the thana are looking in vain to identify their homestead which have been devoured by the mighty river Padma. Thousands of people have become homeless by the cruel erosion.

— Photo by AKM Mohsin

Smuggling, sale of Indian cycles open, rampant

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Sept 18: Smuggling of Indian cycles has been regular through south-western borders of the country in recent times.

According to information, varieties of cycles are available in the area. Of them, hero, avon, hercules, BSA, sen relley, racing and baby cycles are most common brands.

Colour, size and design of these brands are very attractive and have special demand. The sale of these cycles has become monopoly in the markets.

It has allured the smugglers to boost stock by carrying from across the border, said a source.

Over six hundred cycle shops have already been set up in the area including Moheshpur, Kotchandpur, Khali, Barobazar, Kali-ganj, Jhenaidah, Jibonnagar, Darasana, Damurhuda, Chua-

nion of cycle carrying.

Another source said that quite a good number of cycle painting shops have been set up in the area to change colour, design and marks of Indian cycles to resemble phoenix imported from China. It is learnt that this is done in only cooperation with the border security forces during checking.

A gang, engaged in cycle smuggling told this correspondent that south western border is a vantage route for this purpose. This part is connected with Indian border by surface route, besides Calcutta in West Bengal, very close in communication.

In reply to a question whether there is no risk in crossing the border with contraband items like cycle, some of the traffickers told that these are carried on in connivance with law enforcing agencies.

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Sept 18: About 7000 tubewells both shallow and deep were installed in eleven southern districts during last financial year with an expenditure of Tk 13,82,70,000 Taka.

The Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) in Barisal circle has also resunk about 1350 shallow tubewells during that time. Beside, 3,070 tubewells were installed with the financial assistance of UNICEF.

Besides, 142 demonstration plots have been set up in these districts, the sources said.

Of the total, 2,827 were deep and 4,130 shallow tubewells, the concerned official sources said.

According to official sources, Tk 11,90,00,000 Taka was spent for installation of deep tubewells while Tk 2,00,10,000 Taka for the shallow tubewells.

7000 deep, shallow tubewells installed last year

Most tubewells now out of order

From Our Correspondent

MOULVI BAZAR, Sept 18: Acute scarcity of drinking water has been prevailing in flood hit areas of the district causing great inconveniences to the people.

According to the informed source, most of the tubewells in different union parishes under six thanas of Moulvibazar district have gone out of order due to recent devastating floods.

A gang, engaged in cycle smuggling told this correspondent that south western border is a vantage route for this purpose. This part is connected with Indian border by surface route, besides Calcutta in West Bengal, very close in communication.

In reply to a question whether there is no risk in crossing the border with contraband items like cycle, some of the traffickers told that these are carried on in connivance with law enforcing agencies.

The PHE official said, they have taken a plan to repair and re-sink the damaged tubewells.

5 get life term for murder

HABIGANJ, Sept 18: Five people were awarded life term rigorous imprisonment and another was sentenced for three years for killing a VDP man, court sources said here Thursday, reports UNB.

The accused, Mohammad Belal, Abdour Rouf, Abdul Mannan, Hira Miah and Abdul Matin sentenced for life were each fined Tk 5,000 each, in default, to suffer one year. Another accused Abdul Wahab was fined Tk 1,000, in default, to suffer six months RI more.

According to prosecution story, the convicted people killed Abdur Rahman, a VDP man of Bara Awalia village in Bahubal thana when he tried to resist them from gambling on November 15, 1988.

The Additional District and Sessions Judge Abdul Mannan after examining the witnesses and records delivered the judgement on Sunday.

Plan to improve water supply

RAJSHAHI, Sept 18: Rajshahi City Corporation has undertaken a massive programme of Tk 200 million to facilitate supply of pure drinking water, reports BSS.

Under the programme, four pump houses, 250 semi-deep tubewells and 760 tara pumps will be installed and 15 kilometre water pipe line will be extended.

Besides, 120 shallow tubewells will be converted into semi-deep tubewells to easily lift water from the ground in the dry season. Some 100 tubewells are being resunk and 500 choked tubewells, 40 choked tara pumps are also being repaired under the programme. About 85 old water reservoirs installed in 1937, will also be repaired.

Ninety per cent of the schools do not have playgrounds. Besides, most institutions have no laboratory and urinal facilities except a few schools. Most of these institutions do not have sufficient accommodation.

After implementation of the programme the quantum of water supply in the city will be raised to one crore gallon from the present 68 lakh gallon daily. The corporation also submitted a master plan of water supply to the government.

No pontoon at most launch ghats : passengers suffer

From Our Correspondent

GOPALGANJ, Sept 18: Most of the launch ghats of the district have no terminal for which the passengers suffer much.

The existing launch terminals are beset with various problems causing inconveniences to the travelling passengers.

Rain water pour into the shed causing sufferings to the waiting passengers during the rainy seasons. Passengers are to stand on foot for want of bench. There are no toilets at the terminals for which women and children are to suffer much.

The Gopalganj police have seized four forged 500 taka notes and arrested one Shamim Mollah and another Kalu Mollah.

It is reported that the accused persons deposited the notes at the counter of KBK branch of Gopinathpur for change.

The cashier examined the

notes and found those false.

The bank authority caught Shamim and Kalu and handed them over to police.

A case has been registered with the Gopalganj police.

The fishermen in five thanas of the district are catching fish fry from different ponds and rivers of the district.

A section of fishermen are indiscriminately catching fish fry of ruhi, katla, mrigal, silvercup and other kinds.

Boat capsized

One body recovered

SIRAJGANJ, Sept 18: Local people recovered one body of the five missing people who were reported drowned after an engine boat capsized in the river Phulzor in Raiganj thana Tuesday night, reports UNB.

The cashier examined the

Civic amenities absent

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Sept 18: The inhabitants of sadar thana have been facing problems due to lack of basic civic amenities.

Cracks and potholes have developed at many points of the roads causing problems to the movement of pedestrians and vehicles.

After a slight rainfall, the roads become muddy. Most of the roads are narrow and unfit for plying vehicles. Roadside ditches are filled with garbages giving rise to mosquito menace.

Moreover, lack of proper drainage system, inadequate street lights, shortage of accommodation facilities and river erosion have made the life of 20,000 inhabitants miserable.

The problem of water logging in the thana has aggravated due to lack of sufficient water sewerage arrangement. Low lying areas in monsoon causing misery to the dwellers.

The literacy rate of the thana is only 20 per cent as the educational institutions are beset with manifold problems. Most of the institutions cannot run smoothly for shortage of fund, furniture, teachers and other necessary educational appliances.

The International Literacy Day was observed throughout the district as elsewhere in the country in a befitting manner.

Government banned staging of Jatra on February 8 of the current year. Since then, parishad sources said, about 17,000 artistes of 210 jatra groups have been passing their days in great hardship.

MANIKGANJ, Sept 18: Ban on staging of Jatra is likely to be lifted soon for the greater interest of country's Jatra artistes and development of folk culture, reports UNB.