

District roundup

NETRAKONA

Smuggled goods seized, three arrested

Sept 25: Anti-smuggling task force seized fifty-nine cattle and two trucks, and arrested three persons on charge of smuggling at Chailisa Nagar on Netrakona-Mymensingh highway a few miles from here recently, reports BSS.

The law enforcing agency personnel on patrol challenged the drivers of the trucks that were carrying the cows. Neither they nor the persons travelling with them could show any valid papers for the cows.

They seized the cows, the trucks and arrested three persons. The cows were handed over to the local customs office and the arrested persons to Netrakona police.

RAJSHAHI

RU graduate representatives polls today

Sept 25: Election to twenty-five registered graduate representatives to the Rajshahi University senate will be held on September 26 a press release of the university said, reports BSS.

One hundred and eighteen candidates have sought election to the posts. The total number of voters for the election is nineteen thousand seven hundred and fifty.

Polling will begin at nine am and continue till five pm without break.

PATUAKHALI

Pirates loot away valuables from trawler

Sept 25: Three fishermen were injured and valuables worth about Taka one lakh were looted by pirates from a fishing trawler in the Bay of Bengal near Sonarchar area recently, reports BSS.

According to fishermen, the pirates numbering ten to twelve attacked the fishing trawler F-B-Bhatnagar in the deep sea near Sonarchar area under Galachipa thana of this district at midnight and looted away fishing nets, fish, engine parts and other valuables worth about Taka one lakh. The pirates injured three of the fishermen.

The injured persons were admitted to the Galachipa hospital. They are Jalai Majhi (32), Babul (25) and Abul (24). A case has been registered with Galachipa police.

SIRAJGANJ

Passengers suffer for road blockade

Sept 25: Hundreds of bus passengers were stranded at Chandakona in Rayganj thana as the members of the Sirajganj Bus Owners' Association put blockade on Bogra-Nagrbari highway on Thursday, reports UNB.

Local people said the association blocked the road for collecting tolls from the Dhaka-bound buses coming from Bogra as the Bogra Bus Owners' Association failed to pay the tolls as per the demand.

About 1,500 buses with nearly 10,000 passengers stranded from both sides of the road from six am on Thursday.

Additional Police Superintendent Abdullah Azad rushed to the spot and urged the association to withdraw the blockade and he warned that if they failed to do so they would be used under the Terrorism Act.

MADARIPUR

Flood affects pond fisheries

Sept 25: Pond-fisheries in the district have been badly affected by the recent devastating flood, reports UNB.

According to a rough estimate the fish cultivators have suffered a loss of Taka 50 lakh due to overflowing of their ponds following heavy down-pour and flash flood.

Official sources said fish fry went out of the ponds in large scale when the low-lying areas in four thanas of the district had gone under 3-4 feet flood waters.

Many owners of the ponds who took bank loan for pisciculture are passing their days in great anxiety as they would not be able to repay loan on schedule.

They urged the authorities to waive the loan and sanction new loans to encourage them to start fish cultivation a new.

PABNA

One gets life-term for killing wife

Sept 25: A man was awarded life-term by the District and Sessions Judge here on Thursday for killing his wife for dowry, reports UNB.

According to the prosecution story, Mamta Begum (22) was beaten to death by her husband Abdul Mannan (28) of village Diklai in Santhia thana on June 1, 1991 after his in-laws failed to give him a bicycle as dowry. She died on way to the thana health complex.

Mamta's brother filed a case with Santhia thana in this connection. Police chargesheeted against Abdul Mannan, his parents, a brother and a sister.

The court today gave the verdict after hearing 17 witnesses.

COX'S BAZAR

Three fishermen feared drowned

Sept 25: At least three fishermen were feared drowned in a boat capsized in the Bay of Bengal near Sonadia island Wednesday night, reports UNB.

The fishing boat was learnt to have been overturned in the sea by surging waves while returning to Moheskhal island.

Nine of the 12 people on board to reach the shore with the help of other fishing boats.

The rescued fishermen said they found another capsized boat there but could not tell the fate of the passengers of the sunken boat.

FENI

7 nomination papers of poura polls found valid

Sept 25: Nomination papers of all the seven chairman candidates for the Feni pourasabha election scheduled for October 17, were found valid by the Election Commissioner, reports UNB.

Another 67 candidates out of 71, who submitted nomination for 18 posts for Commissioner in 6 wards, were also found bonafide.

The chairman candidates are: Nurul Absar (BNP), Alhaj Kabbad Ahmed and Abdul Raman (AL), Jahangir Alam (JSD-Rab) and Aminur Raman, Mohammad Mostafa and Golam Kibria Chowdhury (Independent).

The last date for submitting nomination was Wednesday and for withdrawal September 30.

CHITTAGONG

4 cops hurt in gunfight with dacoits

Sept 25: Four policemen were injured with bullet in a gunfight with dacoits after they raided a den of the gang at Kumira in Shitakunda thana Wednesday night, reports UNB.

Police caught two notorious dacoits, Babul and Nurul Huda, while others fled firing guns.

The SI Moinul Afsar (40) and his three constables — Salauddin (40), Priyalal Dey (40) and Kabir Ahmed (50) — were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital with serious bullet wounds.

A police squad led by Moinul Afsar made the drive to nab the main accused of Kumira UP Chairman Rahmatullah murder case and gheraoed Mohammad Ali's hideout when the dacoits opened fire.

A case was filed with Shitakunda police in this connection.

JAMALPUR

Sonali Bank disburses Tk 20 lakh as loan

Sept 25: Sonali Bank has disbursed Taka 20 lakh as loan among the farmers of Jamalpur and Sherpur districts to raise dairy farms in the last 6 months, reports UNB.

An official of the bank here said that two branches of the bank in Jamalpur and Sherpur distributed the loans. Loans are also being distributed for poultry and pisciculture on soft terms.

The officials said about Taka 10 crore has been sanctioned for the purpose. The amount will be disbursed phase by phase. Under the programme 75 farm owners submitted applications for loans.

The bank sources said the educated unemployed youths were also getting soft-term loans under the same programme.

Borders in Rajshahi now smugglers' paradise

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Sept 25: Smuggling is going on in huge quantity along the borders of the district.

It is reported that the smugglers are active even at day times.

Heroin, wine, clothes, cosmetics and cattle are smuggled into Bangladesh while gold, hides and skin are smuggled out of our territory regularly.

The 'safest' routes of smuggling are: Alalpur, Atarpur, Mirganj and Char Choumadia under Bagha police station, Premtali, Bidipur, Char Hanomantala Nagar and Char Asaridah under Godagari thana.

It is reported that at least 2,000 tolas of gold are smuggled out to India everyday through Char Asaridah, a remote village adjacent to Indian border.

It is learnt that rice, paddy and jute are also smuggled to India as the prices of the items are lower in Bangladesh.

A political leader of the border belt area said that such large-scale smuggling is possible only in cooperation with the law enforcing agencies.

Our Kishoreganj correspondent reports: The sale of contraband goods is on increase in Kishoreganj markets.

The contraband goods are: Indian sarees, spices, sugar, jira, pulse, cut-pieces, crackers, cosmetics and these goods are being sold in the market without any restriction. Indian sarees are entering the commercial centre from the bordering areas by an organised gang of smugglers.

Apart from this, a large

number of women of different areas engaged in flying business are collecting Indian sarees from the bordering areas of Brahmanbaria and Comilla districts for supplying them to different places including rural markets.

The women smugglers move from Kishoreganj to Bhairab, Brahmanbaria, Akhaura and Comilla by train for collecting Indian sarees and other items. Smuggling of Indian sarees and crackers has surpassed the previous records.

A section of smugglers backed by a powerful circle was involved in smuggling. A big margin of profit attracts them to smuggling.

On the other hand, contraband cigarettes like Benson, 555 etc are available at Kishoreganj market and these brands of cigarettes are coming here regularly from Chittagong. Besides, a section of smuggler was smuggling medicines from India, the production of which is banned in Bangladesh.

Leaders of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal

RU Registered Graduate polls

RAJSHAHI, Sept 25: Election of Registered Graduate representatives of the Rajshahi University Senate will be held on September 26. Voting will take place in 20 centres throughout the country from 9 am to 5 pm without any break on the day. Some 118 candidates will contest the election for 25 the seats to be elected by 19,750 voters, reports UNB.

(JCD) today demanded to ban the politics of Jamaat-Shibir in the country.

This demand was made at a rally organised by the Rajshahi city JCD at Shaheb Bazar square this afternoon.

Presided over by Shaheed Hasan Shaheed, president, Rajshahi City JCD, the rally was also addressed, among others, by Fazlul Huq Milan, president, JCD, Nazimuddin Alam, general secretary, JCD, Shahiduddin Chowdhury, joint secretary, JCD, and Haroonur Rashid, vice president, JCD.

The JCD leaders urged all to resist the activities of the Islami Chhatra Shibir politically.

The rally was organised to protest the killing of Zubair Chowdhury Rimu, a student of the Rajshahi University by the Shibir activists on the campus on September 19.

The speakers paid tributes to Rimu and demanded punishment to those who were responsible for his killing. The JCD leaders urged the police administration to arrest the killers of Rimu within 24 hours.

They also demanded of the authority to withdraw immediately the false cases against their 18 leaders and workers.

The JCD leaders said that the present government was working hard for the all round development of educational institutions in the country. They said that democracy was restored in the country after much sacrifice but certain quarters were hatching conspiracy to destroy it. The JCD leaders demanded for creating congenial academic atmosphere in the educational institutions.

Blacksmiths need patronisation

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Sept 25: Blacksmiths of Kishoreganj district have been facing multifarious bottlenecks and this age-old industry of the district is now on the verge of ruination due to lack of patronisation.

It is gathered that having been unable to cope with the problems, many blacksmiths of the district have already given up their profession while others are trying to find out other suitable professions.

About 4,000 families in different areas of the district have been engaged in this vocation for generations. Most of them are smiths by birth and hence do not require any other training to earn their livelihood.

These smiths reside in groups in different villages of Kishoreganj sadar, Hossainpur, Pakundia, Katiadi, Karimganj, Tarail, Bajitpur, Itna, Mitamain, Austagram, Nikli, Kuliarchar

and Bhairab thanas of the district.

While talking to this correspondent some of the smiths informed that the prices of rod, coal and other instrument have now increased many times and hence these have crossed the purchasing power limit of the smiths. "We lose our customers as there is an acute competition with machine, made tools," said Pranesh Das, a sixty five year-old smith of Kishoreganj.

The services of the blacksmiths are still widely demanded by the villagers for repairing the agricultural and household tools.

Another report says: Bamboo clusters in Kishoreganj district are on the brink of extinction due to indiscriminate cutting of bamboos. Thousands of bamboos are cut and sold everyday from villages of 13 thanas of the district to meet the daily requirement.

According to the reports, bamboos in abundance are brought to the towns to be sold at higher prices by some 'farias' or contractors and others purchase these bamboos for building and repair work of houses and for use in brick fields. Only a small number of bamboos are used for domestic consumption.

According to an unofficial estimate, at present there are more than 50,000 bamboo grooves in the district, but most of these grooves are in poor condition due to lack of proper nursing. Many of them have already been destroyed. The poverty stricken villagers not only sell their bamboos but also digout the bamboo roots and sell them to the brick field owners or potters.

The indiscriminate destruction of the bamboo grooves have rendered about 75 per cent bamboo artisans unemployed.



KHULNA: Principal Md Mazharul Hannan, General Secretary, Zila Shilpakala Academy speaking at a discussion meeting arranged on the occasion of Miladunnabi held at UCP Library auditorium.

25 pc jobless in 2 districts

From Our Correspondent

MADARIPUR, Sept 25: The number of landless and unemployed people is gradually increasing in all thanas of Madaripur and Shariatpur district.

Unemployment of the educated youth is creating social unrest, local leaders said.

Out of the total 16 lakh

people in the two districts, 65 per cent depend on agriculture, 10 per cent on other professions and the remaining 25 per cent are unemployed.

Of the agriculturists, 60 per cent are landless, 25 per cent are marginal farmers and only 15 per cent have lands of their own.

Regular floods, drought and other natural calamities damage crops every year.

Besides, cultivable lands are eroded by the river Padma, Arial Khan, Kirtinasa and the Kumar every year turning a good number of people landless.

Shortage of foodgrains is regular feature in the two districts. High prices of agricultural inputs are also partially responsible for forcing farmers landless as well as unemployed, some leaders said.

Another report says: Most of the launch ghats in Madaripur and Shariatpur districts have no terminal for which passengers suffer much.

The existing launch terminals are beset with various problems causing utter inconveniences to the travelling pas-

sengers. The tin-shed roofs of launch ghats which were built long ago have become unworthy of use.

Rain water pour into the shed causing immense suffering to the waiting passengers.

Passenger have to withstand for want of benches. There is no toilet at the ghats.

3 get life-term for murder

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Sept 25: A N M Bashir Ullah, Additional Sessions Judge, Satkhira sentenced Soumen, Biswajit and Binod of village Ghona under Kaliganj thana to life-term imprisonment and fined Taka 5,000 each in default to suffer one year more for murders recently.

The prosecution case in brief is that the said accused persons called one Arun Kumar of village Shona of the same thana out of his shot and took him to Hossain's Danga under Birgula Khal where they killed Arun mercilessly.



SYMBOL OF DAMAGES: Hundreds of bridges and culverts like this one were damaged by recent floods for which travellers have been suffering much. Early reconstruction of these bridges are needed.

Diarrhoea claims 5 in Brahmanbaria

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, Sept 25: Diarrhoea has broken out in different thanas of the district.

According to sources, the disease claimed at least 5 lives and over 100 male, female and children have been attacked by diarrhoea.

The victims, Rahela Begum (25) wife of Nurul Hoque under Sarail thana, Jasim Miah (4) son of Ahd Ali, Ziasim (10) daughter of Nasir Miah, Tahura Khatun (10) daughter of Darug Ali of Nasirnagar thana and a girl (7) of Akhaura thana.

Civil Surgeon office sources said that as preventive measure 135 medical teams have been formed and required medicines have also been supplied to the affected areas.

Miladunnabi observed

Shilpakala Academy, Khulna office arranged a day-long programme on the occasion of holy Eid-e-Miladunnabi, says a press release.

M Rafiqul Islam, Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Khulna inaugurated a competition programme for students at UCP auditorium at 9-30 am.

The contest programme includes kerat, hand, naat, essay and speech.

A discussion meeting, prize distribution ceremony and milad mahfil were held in the evening. It was presided over by Kazi Reazul Huq, DC, Khulna.

The Divisional Commissioner, Abdul Moushdir Chowdhury distributed prizes among the contestants.

The discussion meeting was participated by Principal Mazharul Hannan, Prof Aziz Hasan, Prof Anwarul Kadir and Prof Shafiqul Azam.

Influenza spreading fast

KISHOREGANJ, Sept 25: Influenza has been spreading all over the district affecting about 60 per cent people, health officials said, reports UNB.

The worst affected thanas are Itna, Karimganj, Mitamain, Hossainpur, Bhairab, Kuliarchar, Bajitpur, Nikli, Tarial and Sadar.

Almost every family in these thanas have one or more members attacked by the viral disease.

Doctors and health teams who visited the affected areas said bad sanitation during rainy season, change of weather and consumption of adulterated foodstuff could be the reasons for the spread of this viral disease.

Another report says: Notes books are being sold in almost all book stalls in the town despite government ban.

Government has banned note books upto class VIII to discourage dependence of the

students on prepared answers. But in absence of any measures by the district administration note books are being published and sold openly.

The guardians alleged that book traders are publishing substandard note books with fictitious names of authors and publishers which is full of errors and distortion of facts.

Injured Ctg BCL activist dies

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 25: The Chhatra League activist who was shot yesterday, succumbed to his bullet injuries this evening at the Chittagong Medical Hospital, doctors and police said.

Abul Khair, 25, was shot by a group of terrorists yesterday afternoon while he was going to the town by a microbus from Fatikchhari and admitted into the Chittagong Medical Hospital.

Substandard medicines flood markets

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Sept 25: Substandard medicines have flooded the markets of the district causing serious health hazard to the people, says UNB.

People complained that fungus are often found in many drug containers including saline bags. A section of physicians are patronising these substandard medicines.

Patients complained that the agents and medical representatives of pharmaceutical companies allure the physicians to prescribe their products in exchange of bribe. The poor patients are to use these medicines as per the prescription.

Many medicine shops in urban and rural areas have no drug licences and they are do-

ing brisk drug business for a long time.

Local leaders have urged the authorities to take stringent action against the persons responsible for manufacturing and selling substandard drugs.

Another report says: Bangabari football team and Diganta-Prasari eleven finished their match in 1-1 draw in the First Division Football League of Chapainawabganj Stadium Tuesday afternoon.

Both the goals were scored in the 2nd half of the day's only match, held at the Chapainawabganj Stadium Tuesday afternoon.

Kabirul of Bangabari and Faruk of Diganta scored for their teams.

Young drug addicts on increase

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Sept 25: The number of young drug addicts is increasing alarmingly causing grave concern among the guardians.

Most of boys and students are addicted to drugs, liquor, opium, mirtosanjibani sudha and alcohol.

The addicts visit the pharmacies just after sun set to procure the intoxicating items.

Some dishonest traders are said to be dealing with these drugs and alcohols.

The district town and its adjoining areas have turned into open market for the sale of alcohol and Indian smuggled goods. Organised gangs of miscreants including females are engaged in these works.

Anti-smoking movement has been launched in the district town and publicity is going on in this regard. But there is no drive in the rural areas to halt smoking.

Poura area in bad shape

From Our Correspondent

HABIGANJ, Sept 25: Habiganj pourashava is beset with manifold problems causing inconvenience to the town residents.

The dilapidated condition of roads, lack of proper drainage system, frequent power failure, insufficient street lights, inadequate water, gas supply and mosquito menace have made the civic life miserable.

Most of the roads in the pourashava areas are pitiable. 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 rainy season. After a slight rainfall the drains filled with garbage, overflow the roads causing inconvenience to the movement of pedestrians and the vehicular traffic.

Meanwhile, mosquito menace has assumed an alarming proportion which causing much sufferings to the town residents particularly to the students. Students cannot prepare their lessons due to serious mosquito bites. Mosquito bites even in the day time.

For want of dustbins in the