

District roundup

JAMALPUR

Pry teachers gherao DC's office

Sept 27: Non-government primary school teachers of the district gheraoed the office of the Deputy Commissioner on Thursday to press home their four-point demand, reports UNB.

They also submitted a memorandum to the DC for early fulfilment of their demands.

The demands include nationalisation of all non-government primary schools, sanction of grants before nationalisation as per the previous rules or fixing the basic salary at Taka 1500.

SREEMANGAL

Death condoled

Sept 27: A condolence meeting was held on September 22 at the auditorium of Sreemangal poushava to condole the death of Nikunjabhatri Goswami, a firebrand leader of the quit India movement and freedom fighter, who died in Sylhet recently, says BSS.

Presided over by Sreemangal Poushava Chairman Mohammad Mahsin Ahmed Madhu, the meeting was addressed by Surjya Mani Dev s the chief guest, Advocate Mujibur Rahman Mujib, Headmistress Jyotsna Goswami, Prof Syed Mujibur Rahman and S K Roy.

The meeting requested the chairman of Sreemangal poushava to name a road of the poushava after Nikunjabhatri Goswami.

MADARIPUR

Unregistered marriages on rise

Sept 27: Number of unregistered marriages is on rise in the rural areas of the district leading to oppression on poor women-folk, reports UNB.

High charges and official complexities force most of the poor people to avoid registration of their marriages. The tendency is found among the distressed people like marginal and landless farmers to a great extent.

Taking advantage of the situation, many dishonest bridegrooms are engaged in divorce and re-marry without any restriction. Daughters of poor people, whose marriages were not registered very often fall in troubles and are being tortured by their husbands and members of in-laws.

Most of these helpless people cannot seek legal supports against their husbands in the hours of need due to no registration of their marriages.

Meanwhile, local people complained that some dishonest marriage registrars are taking exorbitant fees without giving receipts.

SIRAJGANJ

Nirmul leader beaten

Sept 27: A local leader of Ghatak Dalai Nirmul Committee was beaten up by group of miscreants in Shahjapur thana Friday night, police said, reports UNB.

Convener of the thana Nirmul Committee Abdul Basar, who is also president of the thana Workers Party, was admitted to Shahjapur Health Complex with serious injuries.

Awami League President Motahar Hossain and General Secretary Abdul Latif Mirza, district Workers Party General Secretary Farhad Hossain and Joint Convener of district Nirmul Committee Advocate Abdur Rahman condemned the attack and demanded exemplary punishment to the culprits.

PABNA

Two killed in boat collision

Sept 27: Two cattle traders were killed and four others injured when two mechanised ferry boats collided and sank in the confluence of Gumati and Baral rivers in Bhangauna thana Saturday, reports UNB.

Police said, Chhaimuddin Mollah (55) drowned while Mofazzal Hossain (35) died on way to Bhangauna hospital.

The two boats — one moving from Austamoniha (Naogon) towards Bhangauna and the other from the opposite direction with cattle on board, collided head-on and capsized at 10 am.

At least 10 cattle were washed away by current. The injured were rushed to Bhangauna Health Complex and a case was filed.

LALMONIRHAT

Coach services disrupted

Sept 27: Night coach and "mail" bus services between the district and capital Dhaka came to a halt on Friday for an indefinite period as Bogra transport owners blocked way following a tussle over toll collection, reports UNB.

A new Lalmonirhat-Sirajganj bus route via Bogra was opened on September 13. Bogra Motor Owners Association allegedly demanded subscription for using the route, which the Lalmonirhat Motor Owners Association refused.

Lalmonirhat Motor Owners Association said six buses of Bogra owners ply via Lalmonirhat to Kurigram, they do not take any subscription. So, they termed Bogra Association's demand illogical.

On Thursday, Lalmonirhat Motor Owners Association stopped a bus from the Bogra-Kurigram route in a counter-move.

Later, Bogra Motor Owners Association stopped all the night coaches and direct buses on the Dhaka-Lalmonirhat route, causing serious inconveniences to commuters, specially the importers using the Burimari land port.

BARISAL

BSB to give Tk 84 lakh as industrial loan

Sept 27: Bangladesh Silpa Bank (BSB) will disburse Taka 84 lakh as industrial loan in six southern districts under Barisal division during the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to a bank source the amount may increase. The source said that the propensity of the people to establish industries units in these districts is not encouraging.

GAZIPUR

'Evolve modern technology to augment output of rice'

Sept 27: Agriculture and Irrigation Minister M Majid-ul Haq Saturday urged the agricultural scientists to evolve modern technology to augment the production of rice and to take immediate steps to popularise it among the farmers, says BSS.

He emphasised the need for expansion of functions of rice seed and genetic resources laboratory to cater to the growing needs while he was visiting Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) here.

Addressing the concerned high officials, the minister said the government was firmly determined to provide all basic needs of the common people.

He said government would extend all cooperation in appropriate technology research to sustain development process in agricultural sector.

Majid-ul Haq went round different rice research plots and laboratory, computer and agricultural equipment sections of the institute.

HABIGANJ

Reception

Sept 27: A reception organised by Habiganj Press Club in honour of National Press Club President Hassan Shahriar was held at local Circuit House auditorium on September 20, says UNB.

Presided over the Habiganj Press Club President Amir Hussain, the function was attended by Jaglal Chowdhury, Special Correspondent of BSS, Main Uddin Chowdhury, Editor weekly Chitkar and O M Gaus, Editor weekly Dhaka Mail as special guests.

It was also addressed, among others, by Martuja Miah, Principal local Brindaban College; Additional District Magistrate Suabur Rahman, President of the District Bar Association Syed Afroz Bakht, Shafiqur Rahman and Jahanara Afzar.

Later, a cultural function was held.

KUSHTIA

Arms recovered

Sept 27: Kushtia police recovered one pipe gun, four rifle cartridges, three gun cartridges, ten SMO cartridges, one sword, and one spear, from a graveyard recently, reports BSS.

In this connection police arrested eleven persons including the leader of the team. Police said several cases are lying pending against them. In another operation police recovered one pipe gun and two rounds of cartridges, one Chinese axe and one razorblade from a house near food office.



SYLHET: The Gopalganj thana police recently seized some current nets. These were later burnt in presence of local people. — Star photo

Shortage of doctor, fund, medicine in RMCH

RAJSHAHI, Sept 27: Rajshahi Medical College Hospital is handicapped with sheer inadequacy of logistic capabilities to provide necessary medicare to patients, reports UNB.

Poor budgetary allocation, insufficient number of doctors and technical staff as well as limited indoor and outdoor facilities were cited by the RMCH authorities as the main causes of the critical condition of the hospital.

Moreover, allegations are also there that malpractice and negligence of duties have contributed to the aggravation in the RMCH situation.

The present manpower is sufficient to maintain the 530-bed hospital, but the situation is going beyond control with redoubled pressure on the capacity as RMCH has to accommodate nearly 900 patients overcrowding wards and corridors. It also creates an unhygienic atmosphere.

The hospital authorities are now capable of deploying 121 physicians and another 137 intern doctors to cope with the large number of indoor patients.

Posts of Professor in Medicine, Surgery, Gynecology, Neurosurgery, Nephrology and Cardiology units remained vacant for a long time.

It is learnt that patients have to arrange medicines, bandage, gauge, saline and other necessary items. The RMCH authorities, however, said they had the capability to afford life-saving medicines.

Patients allege that nurses, technicians and lower class employees misbehave with them. Nurses even forget about maintaining temperature chart, giving the patients medicine and saline and conducting post-operative mouth wash.

The hospital complex remains dumped under garbage for days creating an unhygienic environment as the municipal vans do not remove these regularly. Cats, cockroaches and even dogs were residing permanently in the hospital, causing further deterioration in the environmental situation, a doctor alleged.

A few senior doctors practising outside the hospital and some technicians also working in private clinics have formed a vicious circle with the help of local mastans, owners of private clinics, pharmacies and rickshawpullers for corruption, pilferage and blackmailing the patients, sufferers alleged.

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Work on 41 projects begins

BARISAL, Sept 27: Public Works Department (PWD) has undertaken construction of 14 major projects in Barisal paurashava area at an allocation of Taka 15.56 crore during the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the projects being implemented include construction of buildings, roads, culverts, drain, sanitation, supermarket and bus terminal.

Work on these projects will be completed within this fiscal year, the source said.

Another report says: Facilities Department will implement 27 schemes at an estimated cost of Taka 2 crore 11 lakh 68 thousand in districts of Faridpur, Rajbari, Gopalganj, Madaripur and Shariatpur during current fiscal year.

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Aman paddy on one lakh acres under pest attack

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Sept 27: The standing aman paddy plants on about one lakh acres of land under pest attack in seven thanas of the district.

The pests are locally known as lada puka, pamri puka, lal puka which have attacked the Rupa-Aman paddy fields in various parts of the district.

According to unofficial source, out of the total areas, under pest attacked, 8840 acres of land in Melandah, 6120 acres of land in Madarganj, 9511 acres of land in Dewanganj, 7671 acres of land in Islampur, 9131 acres of land in Bakshiganj, 9123 acres of land in Sarishabari and 15840 acres of land in Jamalpur sady thana.

The district agriculture office however, confirmed that about 10,000 acres of land have been affected by pests in those thanas.

An affected farmer informed that the green paddy plants have turned yellowish. It is reported that staff of

the Agriculture Department prepared the report on the basis of the informations supplied by the block supervisors who did not inform the concerned officials about the attack on the new fields.

The farmers told this correspondent that the spray machines supplied by the Agriculture Extension Department have been lying inoperative for want of spare parts.

Experienced quarters expressed that if the government do not take any effective measures immediately the situation may go out of control.

The farmers of the affected areas cannot buy the required quantity of pesticides which are being sold in the local market at an exorbitant price.

Confirming the extensive pest attack in seven thanas of the district, the district Agriculture Officer informed this correspondent that the shortage of pesticides and spray machines, they are un-

able to stop the pest attack. The farmers of the district have urged the concerned authorities to take immediate measures to save the standing crops from pest attack.

The non-government Primary Teachers' Association submitted a memorandum to Jalal Ahmed, Deputy Commissioner of Jamalpur to press home their four points demand here on Sept 15.

Earlier, a meeting was held at local Singhanj High School ground with its district unit president, Abdus Sattar while it was addressed among other's by Ziaul Haque, Abdus Kuddus, Sharafat Ali Hawladar, Dedarul Alam and others.

Melandah thana police recovered about one mound of ganza tree from village Pathan Para in Melandah thana recently.

Acting a secret information, a police party led by SI Abdul Bari raided a house of the said village and recovered the ganza trees.

Indian cattle trafficking increases

MAGURA, Sept 27: Trafficking of cattlehead from India through different borders of the frontier districts has increased alarmingly by the organised gang, reports UNB.

Selling of these cattlehead is also going on in different hats and bazars openly and are being carried by trucks to the markets of Dhaka and Chittagong.

According to the local people, 10-20 trucks loaded with smuggled cattle are pouring into Magura daily from outside border areas.

A gang of musclemen with alleged collaboration of some dishonest officials are helping the smugglers in carrying out their business.

FP methods get recognition from imam, headmen

SIRAJGANJ, Sept 27: Thirty-five poor people, including 17 women, of Badekusha village in Ullapara thana, earlier ostracised for adopting family planning methods, have been rehabilitated in society after the imam and the village headmen apologised publicly, reports UNB.

The imam of Badekusha mosque, Mouli Abu Bakar, and two headmen — Shaban Ali and Mozammel Huq — apologised for their action of socially ostracising the distressed villagers who had adopted family planning methods.

The public apology came on September 19 at a family planning orientation course for imams and religious leaders held at Banani bazar in Ullapara thana.

The three-day course, participated by 30 trainees, was opened by Kazi Anisur Rahman, Secretary General of Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB) and Vice-Chairman of IPPF.

The function was attended, among others, by Ullapara Thana Nirbahi Officer Faisrudin Ahmed and FPAB leaders Rawshanuzzaman Mukul and KM Habibur Rahman.

The imam of Badekusha mosque and the village headmen on June 2, 1993, had declared outcast the 35 villagers, who adopted family planning methods and took loans from the Grameen Bank. The incident, first reported by UNB Sirajganj Correspondent

Akhteruzzaman Bablu, was published in the national dailies on July 11.

Mechanised boats make traditional boatmen unemployed

KISHORGANJ, Sept 27: Plying of mechanised boats in large numbers in different parts of the district have thrown hundreds of traditional boatmen out of profession, reports UNB.

The engine boats are ferrying passengers and cargo to Mitamain, Austagram, Nikli, Bhalrab, Itna, Karimganj, Katiadi, Bajitpur, Tarail, Kuliarchar and Hossainpur thanas.

As the engine driven boats have steadily been increased over the years thousands of traditional boatmen of these areas are passing hard days without having their daily earnings.

Journey by mechanised boats is often hazardous due to lack of system control. There is no device to control the speed of mechanised boats during the journey. A boat cannot be halted swiftly in case of

emergency.

In addition, the boats are driven only in forward gear and not backward. There is no gear box in it. Moreover, instead of search light, lantern is used in these boats at night resulting in serious accidents now and then. Black smoke emitted by these boats is also hazardous for public health.

Businessman robbed of Tk 48,000

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Sept 27: Narayan Chandra Saha, a businessman of Nilganj bazar under sadar thana was robbed of Taka 48,000 by miscreants at Mohinanda Uttarpara on Kishoreganj-Nilganj Road recently.

Help set up national heart foundations at district level

CHANDPUR, Sept 27: A two-day "Heart disease camp — 93" was held at the local Press Club auditorium, reports UNB.

The camp, first of its kind in the district, was organised by Chandpur Sputnik Science Club in collaboration with the local Press Club.

A medical team led by eminent heart specialist Brig (Rtd) Prof MA Malek rendered free treatment at the camp on Sept 2 and 3 to about 300 poor patients with heart complications.

A seminar on "Heart Disease and its Cure" was also held at the local Rotary Club Bhaban on September 2. Prof MA Malek was the main speaker and chief guest at the seminar.

Presided over by Dr Noorur Rahman, it was also addressed by Dr Abdullah Al-Shafi Majumder of DMCH, Dr MA Gafur, Dr M Rashid Ahmed, AWM Toaha Mia, Press Club President Quamruzzaman Choudhury and Secretary Md Hossain Khan, Sputnik President Moksedur Rahman Selim and Advocate Abul Fazal.

Prof Malek stressed the need for setting up of Heart Foundation in every district to ensure proper treatment of the poor patients.

He said high blood pressure and rheumatic fever are the main causes behind heart dis-

ease adding rheumatic fever damages valve of 5-15 years old children's hearts mostly.

He said with the help of the government arrangements for by-pass surgery are being made within two years at the National Heart Foundation in Dhaka adding Prime Minister Begum Zia is taking keen interest in this vital matter.

He also urged the present democratic government to help set up National Heart Foundation at all the districts of the country to the benefit of the common and poor people.

He called upon all to materialise the WHO slogan, "A sound heart is a sound body."

Two crushed to death

BHRAMANBARIA, Sept 27: Two young motorcycle riders were crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck near Paikpara in the town Friday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the Brahmanbaria-bound truck from Dhaka rammed a motorcycle killing Azad (24) of Kandipara and Gautam (22) of Paikpara on the spot.

The driver of the killer truck managed to flee the scene abandoning his vehicle.

A case has been filed with Sadar police.



A cadet of BNCC unit of CU donating blood at local medical college hospital. The BNCC and Sandhani arranged the camp where Prof RI Chowdhury, VC of CU was present. — CU photo