

District roundup

C'NABGANJ

Ban on Jamaat, Shibir demanded

Sept 28: District Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal unit in a protest rally here Saturday demanded ban on the activities of Jamaat-Shibir in the country, reports UNB.

The speakers at the rally condemned the killing of Rimu, an activist of Chhatra Maitree on the Rajshahi University campus recently and demanded exemplary punishment to the killers.

They also demanded immediate reopening of Rajshahi University. Later, a procession was brought out in the town chanting various slogans in favour of their demand.

Awami League backed Chhatra League and Chhatra Maitree of the district also held similar protest rallies and brought out processions.

MAJDEE COURT

Teachers stage sit-in

Sept 28: Non-government primary school teachers of the district staged a sit-in in front of the Collector's office to press home their 4-point demand, reports UNB.

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

The demands include nationalisation of non-government primary schools and allocation of grants before nationalisation as per previous rules.

The teachers later went to the local press club and handed over the copy of the memorandum to the journalists.

Another report adds: The district Agriculture Extension Department has recently taken up a scheme to bring 1,41,000 hectares of land under high yielding variety aman cultivation.

The target of the production has been fixed at 2.60 lakh metric tons of rice.

Of the land, 89,000 hectares will be brought under the local variety while the rest 52,000 hectares under the upshi variety.

PATUAKHALI

PHED to instal 38 deep tubewells

Sept 28: Thirty-eight Deep Tube Wells (DTW) will be installed in slum areas of the town during the current fiscal year, official sources here said, says UNB.

The Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) will install the DTWs at a cost of Taka 15.20 lakh. The installation work will be completed by June next year.

According to the sources, installation of the DTWs would help improving the water supply system in the slum areas of the town.

SATKHIRA

3 commit suicide

Sept 28: Three persons hanging three different villages under Kaliganj police station allegedly committed suicide on Tuesday, reports BSS.

Incidentally all three of them were female and also incidentally all of them allegedly committed suicide by taking endrin, a highly toxic pesticide freely available at the farmers' level. The incidences, according to report occurred, within a time span of twenty four hours only.

One of them is Simarant (22) wife of Sudhir Krishna Adhikari of Krishna Nagar, the second is Pancharani (30) wife of Nirmal Chandra Paul of Mukunda Madhusudanpur and the third is Anwara (19) daughter of Manik of Pakral.

Causes of these incidences are still to be ascertained.

KUSHTIA

Urs Mubarak

Sept 28: The holy Urs Mubarak of Hazrat Baba Abdul Qader Zilani Kutub-e-Rabbani Mahbub-e-Sobhani al-Hossaini wal-Hussaini (RH) will be held at the Jamaat-e-Sunnati Pak Darbar Sharif in Bheramara, Kushtia, on September 28 Tuesday, says a BSS reports.

Peer Shahid of Hazrat number six of Adargah Sharif of Khawja Garib-e-Nawaz of Ajmer, Khawja Syed Fakhr Miyan Chishti Sabri, will lead the munaajat at the Urs Mubarak.

Peer Shahid Khawja Nazmul Huda of Jamaat-e-Sunnati Pak Darbar Sharif has requested all Muslims and ashkan to attend the Urs Mubarak.

MADARIPUR

2 awarded life-term for murder

Sept 28: Two people were sentenced to life-term and another two to different terms for killing a man, court sources said here Monday, reports UNB.

Majibur Rahman Sheikh and Kutu Mia Sheikh were awarded life-term and fined Taka 1,000 each or in default, to suffer another three months in jail.

Manu Sheikh was tried in absentia and sentenced to three years RI and fined Taka 500, or in default, to suffer another one month RI while Habib Sheikh was awarded six months RI and fined Taka 300, or in default, to suffer 15 days RI more.

According to the case, Aminul Islam Babul was hecked to death by the accused for stealing at Charchanda Majjuddin Hajirkandi village in Shibchar thana on March 16 last year.

A case was filed and Shibchar police submitted charge sheet against 19 people, two of them died, during investigation.

The District and Sessions Judge Rezwan Ali after examining the witnesses and records delivered the judgement recently acquitting 13 others.

BARISAL

Discussion meeting on AIDS

Sept 28: A discussion meeting was held at the auditorium of the Sher-e-Bangla Medical College on Thursday on the dreadful disease of AIDS, its causes, and prevention, reports BSS.

The meeting was addressed among others by Dr Md Kaiser Uddin, Deputy Director Malaria Eradication Programme, Dr Md Osman Ghani Chowdhury, Deputy Director Dr Md Sultan Uddin Ahmed, Vice Principal, Sher-e-Bangla Medical College, Dr S M Anisur Rahman, Deputy Director of Health, Barisal Division, Dr S M Anisur Rahman, Deputy Director, Sher-e-Bangla Medical College, and Dr Sheikh Hyder Ali, Civil Surgeon, Barisal.

The meeting was presided over by Dr Azhal Huq, Principal, Sher-e-Bangla Medical College, Barisal.

GAZIPUR

Student bodies for ban on ICS activities

From Our Correspondent

GAZIPUR, Sept 28: Different student organisations jointly announced their resolve to prevent all activities of the Islamic Chhatra Shibir (ICS) on the Tongi Government College campus Sunday morning. The joint student rally held at the college campus was presided over by the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), college unit president Muhammad Selim.

They also formed a six member convening committee in this regard. Earlier the students brought out a big procession to the college campus.

Another report says: One pedestrian, a Muhammad Alimuddin, 65, was killed when a Dhaka bound minibus ran over him near Gazipur on Dhaka Mymensingh highway at about 8 am Sunday.

The minibus however, managed to escape. A case has been filed with the Tongi police station.

NARAIL

Pollution of environment

Sept 28: About 20 husking mills located at the residential areas of Rugganj in Narail Pourashava are emitting black smoke, polluting the environment, reports UNB.

Bad smell coming out of the paddy-soaking water reservoirs is also harming the environment. Local people are the victims of the black smoke ejected by the mills and their bad smell.

It is learnt the mill owners did not construct their units as per specification of the industrial law.

To minimise the construction cost, they shortened the height of chimneys, responsible for ejecting black smoke.

Local leaders urged the concerned authorities to take immediate steps for evicting the mills from the residential areas.



LOUHAJANG: The helpless Jamila Khatun of village Voigao of the thana is crying before her maternal uncle after being shelterless by the erosion of the mighty river Padma.

Better rural transport system needed for uplift

FARIDPUR, Sept 28: Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukdar on Monday morning inaugurated here the four-day-long international seminar on rural transport and development, reports BSS.

The seminar has been jointly organised by the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), the UK based International Forum for Rural Transport and Development, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and International Labour Organisation (ILO).

The inaugural function was also addressed by the Minister for Health and Family Welfare Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, Kamrul Islam, Chief Engineer of the Local Government Engineering Department, Colin Relf, Representative of

International Forum for Rural Transport and Development (IFRTD) and Manwar Hossain Chowdhury, Additional chief Engineer of LGED. It was presided over by Musfiqu Rahman, Secretary Local Government Division.

About fifty representatives and experts in the field of rural transport from India, Nepal, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the host country Bangladesh are taking part in the seminar.

The seminar will discuss nature of problem of rural transport in the region. The role of the government, aid giving agencies and the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) identify them and suggest measures to solve the problems and constraints. The seminar will also adopt the guidelines for the future.

In his inaugural speech

Abdus Salam Talukdar said that the government of Begum Khaleda Zia was committed to ensure happiness and prosperity of the people through overall development based on the economic programme of the BNP.

He observed that lack of transport facilities particularly in the rural areas had been creating hindrances for economic development of the country, and added that the government had been implementing various programmes to improve the rural transport system.

Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf in his speech observed that better linkage between the urban and rural areas through better communications ensured better health delivery services for the people. He said that the government would do everything for the improvement of the present communication system.

Self-employment plan for women

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Sept 28: Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC), Gaibandha unit has taken up a programme for self-employment of rural destitute women introducing eggs hatching through paddy hatching system instead of usual process.

Meanwhile BRAC has extended loan facilities to the poor jobless women to help them bring solvency through hatching poultry eggs. The organisation has introduced training programme for the purpose. A total of 25,000 destitute women have got training so far.

An official of BRAC disclosed that one Amena Begum of village Dhanghara under sadar thana hatched about 1200 eggs within the last two months using paddy husk process. Under this process she could hatch 300 eggs of both, duck and hen in a month time. The hatchery owners sell their products to the poultry farms at a reasonable price.

The BRAC meanwhile set up about 200 poultry units in the

district in which two lakh poultry birds are being produced annually.

Seminar on dowry, women's rights

A seminar on dowry and the social rights of women was held at local Zila Parishad auditorium under the auspices of ladies of Rotary Club, Gaibandha recently.

The eminent social worker and ex-MP Dawlatunnessa was present as chief guest on the occasion while Jasmine Ali presided over the seminar. A paper on dowry and the social rights of women was read out by Nurunnaher Begum. Those who addressed on the occasion were Nargis Akhter Rita, K M Rezaul Hoque, Sekender Azam Anam, Sultanuddin Ahmed, Principal, Mofazzal Hossain and Rotary President Shahajada Anowerul Kabir.

The speakers emphasised on the development of motivational programme so that curse of dowry might wipe out from the social life.

About seven villages at Mohimaganj under Gobindaganj thana were being hard hit by the erosion of river Bangali.

About five thousand people were affected by the wide spread erosion since the beginning of this year. The affected villages are Bamon Hazra, Panthamari, Chakli, Bangabari, Salmara, Sathitola and Bahua. The erosion meanwhile, devoured one educational institute and five mosques at different locations.

Hashish seized

Narcotics and Liquor Department in a recent drive recovered hashish from Gobindaganj thana. On getting a secret information, a contingent of Narcotics Department in two separate drives recovered 50 grams of finished hashish and 15 large size of hashish humps from the homestead of one Sabuj Mandal of village Chandpur and Biren Biswas of village Araj Khalshi under Gobindaganj thana. Two cases were filed with thana.

Barisal zone may produce 5.8 lakh bales of jute

From Our Correspondent

MADARIPUR, Sept 28: About 5,80,500 bales of jute may be produced in eleven southern districts under Barisal Agriculture Extension Zone in the current season.

According to an official source, a total of 59,850 hectares of land was brought under jute cultivation in these districts this year.

A total of 74,994 kilograms of jute seeds was supplied to the farmers for successful implementation of the programme. Out of the total 1,24,160 bales on 12,800 hectares in Madaripur, 15,423 bales on 1,590 hectares in Barisal district, 68,152 bales on 7,026 hectares in Shariatpur, 1,251 bales in 129 hectares in Pirojpur, 397 bales on 41 hectares in Jhalakathi, 582 bales on 60 hectares in Patuakhali, 485 bales on 50 hectares in Barguna, 1,940 bales on 200 hectares in Bhola, 2,03,486 bales on 20,978 hectares in Faridpur, 63,661 bales on 6563 hectares in Gopalganj and 1,00,009 bales on 10,403 hectares in Rajbari

district, the sources said. Jute growers of the Madaripur district have been facing serious problems due to sudden fall in prices of raw jute in the local markets.

Taking advantage of the situation the middlemen are purchasing jute at prices far below the production cost. Jute is now selling between Taka 170 and 200 per mound according to quality in sadar, Rajbari, Kalkini and Shibchar thanas whereas the cost of production per mound is between Taka 250 and 280.

Jute growers repeatedly appealed to the authorities concerned to open purchasing centres to ensure fair prices of their product but no step has yet been taken in this regard.

When contacted, some jute traders said, they could not realise money of the jute sold to the different mills during the last two or three seasons. As a result, they cannot start buying jute in large scale.

Production of lily (shapla) has declined and its groves in the different parts of the coun-

try including Madaripur, Faridpur, Gopalganj, Rajbari, and Shariatpur district are being destroyed due to lack of proper orientation, maintenance and plantation, programme.

Each and every beel, haor, pond, tank and marshy land in greater Faridpur district was once rich in lily. But lily is now scanty in the area.

It may be mentioned here that lily creeper (shapla lata) is used as vegetables in the wake of vegetable crisis in the rainy season. Its food value is not in any way less than any other vegetables.

A discussion meeting on 'National poet Kazi Nazrul Islam' organised by Madaripur Sahitya Parishad was held at its premises recently to observe the 17th death anniversary of the poet.

Presided over by Convenor of parishad M Salim Farazi. The meeting was addressed among others by Forkan Ahmed, Belal Khan, Subal Biswas, Muzibur Martuza, Mizanur Rahman, Abul Hasanat and Ali Akbe Khoka.

Asheq Mahmud College in Jamalpur closed

JAMALPUR, Sept 28: Asheq Mahmud Government College in the town was closed since today following a clash between supporters of the Chhatra League (M-I) and the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) on the campus, reports UNB.

Campus sources said the authorities of the college at an emergency meeting at noon took the decision to avert further trouble.

Witnesses said at least five students were injured, including two activities of the Chhatra League (M-I), during the clash which began over admission of some unqualified students.

But the Chhatra League alleged that the trouble erupted when a group of the JCD activists stormed into the Principal's office where some 200-300 unqualified students were trying to get admission to the college.

Police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Later, in the afternoon, the JCD brought out a procession in the town to protest the incident.

Keel laid to buoy tender vessel

Sept 28: Chairman of BIWTA M G Kibria formally laid the keel of a buoy tender vessel at Khulna shipyard Monday, reports BSS.

The tender vessel is being built for BIWTA at a cost of Taka eleven crore nine lakh and will be completed by June 1994.

The keel laying function was attended, among others, by officials of BIWTA and BSEC. Khulna Shipyard Ltd is constructing the vessel. The work was awarded through an international tender competition.

Chittagong Port authority has two and Mongla Port authority has one such vessels for placing and replacing mooring and lighting buoy in the river and sea. One such vessel was built by Khulna Shipyard Ltd at a cost of Taka fourteen crore seventy four lakh earlier.

Dainik Bangla London edition soon

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Sept 28: The London edition of Dainik Bangla is going to be published from October 6. It was stated by the Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda while inaugurating a bureau office of the daily of Sylhet on Saturday.

The Minister said, a large number of Bangladesh people had been living abroad for long. They were being deprived of getting reports of development activities as well as the current affairs in Bangladesh. With a view to meeting their long-standing demand, Dainik Bangla had decided to launch its London edition, he added. As a large number of people from the districts of greater Sylhet region had been in different countries and considering the importance of Sylhet, the authority had chosen Sylhet for setting up its Bureau office here, he said.

The minister further said, the government did not believe in curbing the press freedom, as it was a must for strengthening the democratic values.

Lathi procession protests bail of Shibir leader

PABNA, Sept 28: Bangladesh Workers' Party and Chhatra Maitree jointly brought out a lathi procession in the town on Sunday to protest the bail of a Shibir leader, reports UNB.

Shibir leader Shariful Islam Sawpan, student of Pabna Edward College, was arrested with a pipe gun and a knife on Friday and was granted bail on Saturday by the sadar thana Magistrate court.

Tension was mounting in the town since the bail of Shibir leader Shariful.

Workers' Party and Chhatra League jointly brought out the procession demanding cancellation of the bail and rearrest of the Shibir leader.

Earlier report says: A Shibir activist arrested Friday with a pipegun and a knife during a clash with Chhatra Maitree supporters was enlarged on bail on Saturday.

The Shibir-Maitree clash at Shalgaria had left 10 students seriously injured — nine belonging to Chhatra Maitree and one to Shibir. They were hospitalised in critical condition.

One of the Maitree activists, Asadul Islam (28), was still unconscious in Rajshahi Medical

College Hospital, hospital sources said.

Shibir activist Shariful Islam was granted bail by sadar thana Magistrate Altamas Hossain on Sunday afternoon.

Chhatra Maitree held a rally and brought out a procession in the town demanding punishment of Shibir activists responsible for Friday's incident.

The rally held at the Hamid Sarak was addressed, among others, by local Workers' Party leaders Advocate Shimul Biswas, Advocate Ali Barez and VP of Shaheed Bulbul Government College Rezaul Islam.

District Jamaat Ameer Moulana Rahim and General Secretary Abu Taleb in a joint statement, however, protested the "false" press report that Shibir leader was arrested with arms.

Awami League's thana units at Sathia and Bera at a meeting at Natiya Bari in Bera "banned" the politics of Shibir in the area and called upon the people to banish the fundamentalists from the country's political arena.

Presided over by Advocate Shamsul Huq Tuku the meeting was addressed by district AL President Wazuddin Khan and GS Rezaul Rahim Lal.

Most launch ghats have no terminal

MADARIPUR, Sept 28: Most launch ghats in Madaripur and Shariatpur districts have no terminals, causing much inconvenience to passengers, reports UNB.

The existing launch terminals are also beset with various problems. Tinsed roofs and railings in the enclosure of launch ghats which were made long ago have become unworthy of use.

Rain water pours into the sheds causing suffering to the waiting passengers during rain and storm. Passengers have to stand for want of sitting arrangement. There is no toilet at the ghats.

The terminals damaged during the devastating cyclone in April 1991 have not yet been repaired.

Another report adds: About 35 villages of seven unions in sadar and Kalkini thanas still have no electricity which is essential for irrigation and industrialisation.

Cultivation of IRRI-Boro, the main crop of these thanas and other areas of the district, needs continuous irrigation.

Local people said due to absence of power supply they were to use costly fuel oil for running their shallow and deep tubewells.

The farmers informed that shortage of oil and its exorbitant price were also hampering irrigation.

Another report adds: Indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers and continued cultivation of same crops on same plots are steadily decreasing soil fertility in the district.

Tillers having little knowledge about soil components and use of chemical fertilizers indiscriminately use them to get maximum yield and thus erode the capability of soil.

They hardly use bio-fertilizers like cowdung and thus decline the production capacity of land.

Terms of trade incomplete Hilsa export target to India may fail

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Sept 28: Exporting of hilsa fish to India from Bangladesh through Benapole during current season has been facing unusual delay for non-clarification of some points by concerned ministries of both the countries. All other formalities have been completed much earlier.

According to informed sources, the trade pact still remains in paper due to lack of clear decision whether exporters will hand over the consignment in Calcutta or importers will receive it from Petrapole in West Bengal, opposite Benapole land port.

Absence of this clause in the contract, the importers to pressurize the exporters to hand over consignment in Calcutta while exporters are adamant not to go beyond Petrapole to reach it on any account.

It is learnt that the normal practice of such trade is to hand over the consignment to C & F agents of importers by E & F agents of exporters.

It may be noted here that hand-over of consignment in Calcutta other than Petrapole cost exporters additional expenses, and require more time.

It is reported that both exporters and importers are very eager to get clarification on this issue from their respective ministries.

Another source said that Indian government has appointed West Bengal State Fishermen Co-operative Federation (WBSFCF) in Calcutta to import five thousand tons hilsa fish from Bangladesh. Bangladesh government has appointed 47 agencies to run export of hilsa to India.

The WBSFCF has approved three agencies of Bangladesh to export one hundred twenty tons of hilsa. The trade pact is due to expire on October 31, this year.

Chances of exporting the rest of five thousand tons of fish. Within the deadline seem very slim.



AGRI-VARSITY: Prof Shah Mohammad Farouk, VC, BAU receiving books on veterinary from M N Haque, Manager Hoechst Bangladesh Ltd donated for the varsity library. — BAU photo

Dahagram-Angorpota enclave farmers to get loan

LALMONIRHAT, Sept 28: After a long 45 years, the farmers of Dahagram-Angorpota enclave are getting loan facilities, reports UNB.

Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank, Patgram branch for the first time has taken up a programme to disburse Taka 73,500 among the 15 farmers of the enclave.

The farmers of the enclave did not access to the loan facilities as they have no documents

of their lands. The government has recently ordered the banks to distribute loans among the farmers without documents.

A six-member committee has been formed with the Thana Nirbahi Officer of Patgram as President and Manager of Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank as Secretary.

A function was held at the Bangabari High School premises on September 13 on the occasion.