

District roundup

BHOLA

Womens' college inaugurated

Sept 29: One women college was inaugurated at the public library premises of Lalmothan thana of this district Wednesday, reports BSS.

Major (Retd) Hafiz Uddin MP inaugurated the college as chief guest and ABM Mohammad Ali, Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO) was present as special guest on this occasion.

The admission of students began on the day.

MADARIPUR

5.8 lakh bales of jute expected

Sept 29: About 5.80 lakh bales of jute will be produced in the 11 southern districts under Barisal Agriculture Extension Zone during current fiscal year, reports UNB.

Official sources said a total of 59,850 hectares of land was brought under jute cultivation programme in these districts.

A total of 74,994 kilograms of jute seeds were supplied to the farmers for successful implementation of the programme.

Of the total, 1.24 lakh bales in 12,800 hectares in Madaripur, 15,423 bales in 1,590 hectares in Barisal, 68,152 bales in 7,026 hectares in Saratpur, 1251 bales in 129 hectares in Pirojpur, 397 bales in 41 hectares in Jhalakati, 582 bales in 60 hectares in Patuakhali, 485 bales in 50 hectares in Barguna, 1940 bales in 200 hectares in Bhola, 2.03 lakh bales in 20,978 hectares in Faridpur, 63,661 bales in 6563 hectares in Copalganj and one lakh bales in 10,403 hectares in Rajbari, will be produced, the sources added.

M'BAZAR

Indiscriminate killing of frogs

Sept 29: Frogs, the natural predators, are being indiscriminately killed and sold in different parts of the district, reports UNB.

Government has imposed ban on catching and killing of frogs but a section of unscrupulous money-mongers without paying heed to it are carrying on the business before the nose of the law enforcing agency.

Environment experts said indiscriminate killing of the frogs causes imbalance in the nature.

PATUAKHALI

Two dacoities committed

Sept 29: Two separate dacoities were committed possibly by the same gang of ruffians at village Gouthamochi and Batakazal under Bauphal thana on Saturday, reports BSS.

The dacoits numbering fifteen to sixteen broke open the house of one Adamabagha at village Gouthamochi of Naomala union, bound inmates of the house hands and feet, and looted cash and valuables worth about Taka sixty thousand. The neighbours awakened by the alarms rushed to the spot, surrounded the house but could not catch the bandits. They opened fires in the air and escaped.

In half an hour time the possibly same gang of dacoits ran to the Batakazal village half a mile away and committed banditry in the house of one Pancham Ali Khan. They looted cash, gold ornaments and valuables worth about Taka fifty thousand.

5 PDB staff suspended for negligence of duty

CHANDPUR, Sept 29: Five employees of Chandpur Power Development Board have been put under suspension for their negligence in discharging duties, reports UNB.

Official sources said the suspension order was issued following the sudden visit by two members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Energy on August 6.

The action was taken by the committee consisting of Morzural Ahsan Munshi MP and Abdul Awal MP after inspecting the metre reading books, ledger books and talking to the power consumers.

The suspended employees are Abdus Sattar, Sub-Assistant Engineer, Hafiz Mia, Metre Inspector, Habibur Rahman and Ahmad Hossain, metre readers, Alauddin Miaz, helper. Meanwhile, the PDB has been disconnecting electric lines

SATKHIRA

One killed, two arrested

Sept 29: Police arrested two people for their alleged involvement in a dacoity case of Agrani Bank of Noornagar branch of Shyamnagar thana on Friday, reports UNB.

The accused were identified as Mostafa Kamal of Sankerpur village in Jessore and Moslem of Kaliganj thana in Satkhira district. They were sent to jail and further investigation is going on.

Another report adds that one woman was allegedly violated and killed at Balabed village of Asasahi thana in the district last week.

The dead, identified as Fazila Khatun (30), wife of Liakat Ali was almost insane. She went to a shrimp farm and begged some food on Sept 3. The workers of the farm gave some food to her and later they allegedly violated and killed her.

Two days later police recovered the body of Fazila from the shrimp gher area and sent to hospital morgue for autopsy.

A case has been filed with the local police.

BARISAL

Development possible thru improving lot of common man

Sept 29: State Minister for Education Principal Md Eunus Khan said Monday that the over all development of the country was possible only by improving lot of common man of the country, reports BSS.

He said, education is essential for the masses for increased production in fields and factories.

Eunus was addressing a rally at Adarsha Madhyamik Bidyalaya of Ratnapur union under Agailhara thana of Barisal district.

State Minister said, the present government has made primary education compulsory to ensure education for all by the year 2000. He said, 4032 schools will be nationalised in the country at a cost of Taka 487 crore.

Presided over by Md Matiur Rahman, the meeting was attended by senior officials.

Later, State Minister laid the foundation stone of the school and the college there.

COX'S BAZAR

Nepalese MPs visit Adinath Temple

Sept 29: The visiting 11-member Nepalese parliamentary delegation visited the Adinath temple here Monday, reports UNB.

The delegation, led by Speaker Damanath Dhungana, flew in here at about 2.30 pm and later ferried to the temple in Moheshkhali.

The delegation members also enjoyed a cultural function at the Shilpakala Academy organised on the occasion and expected to leave here at about 8 am tomorrow (Tuesday).

RAJSHAHI

Tree plantation

Sept 29: The district administration has so far planted forty two lakh various types of saplings in seventy one unions of the district during the countrywide tree plantation programme, reports BSS.

An official source Sunday said that about one crore saplings will be planted in the district under social tree plantation programme with a view to maintain ecological balance in the region.

of Chandpur Pourashava from Sept 14 for non-payment of outstanding electric bills amounting to about Taka 1.6 crore.

At present a total of Taka 4.5 crore remained outstanding with the consumers. Of the amount, a big chunk remained unrecognised from seven big consumers. It was learnt that the realisation rate from the general consumers is satisfactory.

PDB sources said there are only three metre readers in Chandpur, who could not cope with metre reading of about 10,000 consumers. This resulted delay in preparing the electric bills.

Consumers alleged that some metre readers appoint their personal workers to do the job which leads to further irregularities in billing system.

On the other hand power failure is a regular feature in the district causing immense suffering to the consumers.



MYMENSINGH: Jute Minister A S M Hannan Shah leading a procession which was arranged by the local administration on the occasion of International Literacy Day. — Star photo

50 pc deep tubewells lying out of order

Food deficit area needs irrigation facility

NATORE, Sept 29: The irrigation at Lalpur thana of the district, a less rainfall area of the country has been greatly hampered as 50 per cent of the deep tubewells are lying out of order.

It is reported that out of 61 deep tubewells at least 30 are now lying out of order.

There are about 40,000 acres of cultivable land in the thana. But only 4,000 acres of land have been brought under irrigation facilities.

Total population of this thana is two lakh 13 thousand. In comparison with other districts the cultivation and production of paddy and sugarcane are not adequate.

About 40,000 people of the thana have no land. The quantity of food deficit here is 10,111 metric ton.

North Bengal Sugar Mills is situated at Lalpur. This is why growers are more eager to cultivate sugar-cane than paddy. But due lack of proper care

From Our Correspondent

about 15 per cent cane are damaged. On the other hand, the production of cane remains 25 per cent less than the target every year for want of irrigating facilities, it is reported.

The farmers of the thana

Minister's surprise visit to silo

SIDHIRGONJ (Narayanganj): Sept 29: Food Minister Mir Shawkat Ali paid a surprise visit to country's second largest 50,000 tons storing capacity silo at Sidhirgonj Monday, reports BSS.

He expressed his satisfaction over the management of silo and instructed the authority to keep up-to-date information regarding food grains.

The Food Minister asked the officials of the silo for intensive plantation within the silo campus.

have urged the authorities concerned to give proper attention regarding the matter.

The concluding ceremony of a fortnight-long function in observance of the holy Sheerattunnabi was held at Natore Islamic Foundation auditorium with Dr Muhammad Shafiqullah, Chairman of Arabid and Islamic Studies Department of Rajshahi University in the chair.

Md Abu Bakar Shekall, MP attended the function as the chief guest.

Among others M Shahadat Hossain, District Information Officer, Md Hasibul Hassan, Senior Vice President, Tamuddin Majlish Natore, and Sultan Ahmed, Assistant Director of Islamic Foundation Natore addressed the function and took part in a discussion on Hazrat Mohammad (SM).

Local journalists of different dailies, and news medias were also present at the function.

Salt production below target

SATKHIRA, Sept 29: The salt production failed to achieve this year.

The Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation fixed a target of two crore maunds of salt this year. But only one crore and 75 lakh maunds were produced. Out of this quality refined salt was one crore and 42 lakh maunds.

Out of the total demand of two crore maunds, one crore maunds are utilised for household consumption and the remaining quantity is utilised in the industrial sector.

The quality of salt produced this year is not good and salt contains vapour and it disappears when salt drives. As a result, 10 per cent weight declines.

The BSCIC disbursed a sum of Taka 270 crore among the salt growers with a target of producing two crore maunds of salt. The loan was disbursed through BSCIC's recommendation letters. During 1984-85 10,888 recommendation letters were issued while 5984 letters were renewed by the BSCIC.

It may be mentioned here that 33,408 acres of land were brought under salt cultivation while number of growers was 32,240 this year.

Sub-standard cement on sale

The consumers are not getting quality cement due to sale of quantity by the cement dealers in seven thanas of Satkhira district.

Reliable sources said, a

From Our Correspondent

sample survey of cement bags collected from some cement traders of Satkhira sadar and Kaliganj thanas indicates that most of the cement bags contain on an average 48 kg instead of 50 kg per bag.

The cement traders informed that they have nothing to do with the malpractices done by the retailers.

The department concern have failed to stop such malpractices in view of practical difficulties involved in it, it is disclosed.

The consumers are unaware of the quality cement and buying the item from the open market. The sale of inferior quality cement is banned.

Importers bringing inferior quality

Sources alleged that a group of traders are importing inferior quality cement from India by trains and trucks in collaboration with corrupt customs personnel.

Four snatchers arrested

JAMALPUR, Sept 29: Police arrested four snatchers from Ghutail bazar in Islampur thana of the district on Friday night, reports UNB.

Police said the snatchers halted the motor bike of Bipul Lohani Khan, a local contractor and UP leader, while he was returning home from Dewanjan and robbed of his gold chain, wrist watch and cash money.

The unscrupulous traders are allegedly importing sub-standard cement showing fake declaration of weight and quality.

Sources said, the traders are importing low grade cement in the brand name of Eagle Star, 7-rings, Chinese Eagle, Blue Star and Chinese Tiger at a comparatively low price to get a ready made market. The difference between quality cement and sub-standard cement stands at an average Taka 30 per bag.

The price of quality cement is now Taka 200 per bag against Taka 176.

Sources said, a group of unscrupulous cement traders are repacking sub-standard cement in counterfeit bags in a clandestine manner.

Law enforcing agency inactive

The law enforcing agencies are unable to detect the malpractices instantly unless challenged by consumers in this regard.

Meanwhile, Trading Corporation of Bangladesh has stopped importing quality cement due to malpractices adopted by the private traders in selling sub-standard cement at lower prices using good brand names.

The pre-shipment inspection of imported cement is not out of question.

Experts suggest that the government should set up a committee to devise ways to identify sub-standard cement in the interest of the consumers.

Notes From Feni

FENI, Sept 29: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has granted Taka one lakh from her personal fund for development of three schools in Parshuram thana, reports UNB.

The schools are Bandua Daulatpur High School (Taka 50,000), Jagatpur High School (Taka 25,000) and Natun Muktirhat High School (Taka 25,000).

General Secretary of the district BNP Shahiduddin Ferdous, Vice President Abdullah Choudhury and district JCD President Mizanur Rahman handed over cheques for the money on behalf of the Prime Minister to the schools on September 20.

The Prime Minister assured the grants to the schools in her own constituency during her visit to the district on August 28.

Test relief programme

The government has granted 465 metric tons of wheat for five thanas and Feni Pourashava under the test relief programme during the current season.

Of the grants, 80 metric tons of wheat is for Sadar, 91 metric tons for Parshuram, 88 metric tons for Chhaganaha, 99 metric tons for Monagari, 82 metric tons for Daganbhuyan thanas and 15 metric tons for Feni Pourashava.

The food will be spent to construct religious and mass education institutions and roads.

The decision was taken at a meeting held in the Conference Room of the Deputy Commissioner on September 8 with Whip of Parliament Mahbubul Alam Tara in the chair.

Indian goods worth Tk 2.52 cr seized

Bangladesh Rifles seized Indian goods worth about Taka 2.52 crore and arrested 53 alleged smugglers from different places of the district during last nine months.

Following tip-offs BDR jawans raided different border areas and searched the buses on Feni bypass road and intercity trains and seized the contraband items.

The goods included phenyl, wine, sarees, sugar, blade, cigarette, DDT powder, trucks, motorcycle etc. The seized goods were handed over to local customs authorities and the arrested people were sent to jail.

LGED building to be constructed

The government has taken up a project to construct Local Government Engineering Department Bhaban in the town at a cost of Taka 35 lakh.

Official source said land had already been acquired in front of the Collectorate Building to construct the Bhaban.

Work is expected to begin by the end of the current year.

Nomination papers submitted

Seven nomination papers for the post of Chairman and 68 papers for the posts of Commissioners of Feni Pourashava Election were submitted on September 22.

Those who submitted the nomination papers for the post of chairman are: Kobbad Ahmed and Abdur Rahman (Awami League), Nurul Afsar (BNP), Jahangir Alam (JCD-Rab), Aminur Rahman (Jatiya Party), Golam Kibria Chowdhury and Golam Mostafa (Independent).

Sixty-eight Commissioner candidates are contesting for 18 seats.

The Pourashava election will be held on October 17. The Additional District Magistrate are appointed as returning officer.

Shortage of seedlings hampers aman cultivation

RANGPUR, Sept 29: Scarcity of seedlings may severely hamper the cultivation of aman crops during the current season in Rangpur region, reports UNB.

Farmers said recurrent floodings damaged most of the seed-beds raised for aman crop in Rangpur, Gaibandha, Kurigram and Lalmonirhat districts. A vast area of aman crops has also been damaged by the recent flash flood in these districts.

They said they could not transplant aman paddy due to scarcity of seedlings. The small quantity of seedlings available in the market are being sold at high prices.

Marginal farmers are the worst sufferers. On the other hand the season of transplanting aman is passing out rapidly causing concern among the farmers.

They urged the agri extension department to make emergency arrangements at their demonstration plots to grow seedlings to sell to the farmers at reasonable prices.

Son kills father, gets life imprisonment

From Our Correspondent

MAULVI BAZAR, Sept 29: Tazul Islam alias Tazul of village South Strajnagar under Sreemongal thana of the district has been sentenced to life imprisonment on charge of killing his father.

The judgement was delivered by the District and Sessions Judge of Moulvibazar, Mahmud Hasan Siddiquee. The accused to pay a fine Taka 5000, in default to suffer one year more of rigorous imprisonment.

The prosecution story in brief is that on January 28, 1993, accused Tazul Islam killed his father, Kader Miah at his residence over some family matters.

After the incident, Salma Begum mother of accused Tazul registered a murder case with Sreemongal thana police. Police after investigation submitted charge-sheet against Tazul. The

judge found the accused guilty and sentenced him to life imprisonment.

Public Prosecutor Abdul Khaliq appeared on behalf of the state while Advocate Abdul Mohaimin Chowdhury defended the accused.

Moulvibazar district unit of Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Chhakra Command was formed recently.

On this occasion, a meeting of different students organisations was held at Moulvibazar pourashava auditorium where student leader ASM Suhel, Central Convenor of Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Chhakra Command, Kamal Passa Chowdhury and Central Member-Secretary Aljal Husain were present.

The CPB leader Syed Abu Zafar Ahmed, M A Matin, Abdus Shahed spoke at the meeting.

Diarrhoea in erosion-hit area, 3 killed so far

SURAJGANJ, Sept 29: Diarrhoea has broken out in the river erosion-hit areas of the district, claiming three lives in Chowhali thana in last 24 hours, reports UNB.

Official sources said, nearly 700 people were attacked by the water-borne disease during the period.

The dead were identified as Sakman Ali (56) Monwara Khatun (36) and Amina (9) of Shakkal village.

Meanwhile, erosion by the Jamuna river rendered some 1,800 people homeless in Kazi-pur, Belkuchi, Chowhali, Shah-hadpur and sadar thana in 36 hours till 6 am on Tuesday.

Officials said, the river erosion in the district intensified following heavy downpour during the last few days.

BSS adds: Speakers at the orientation course held recently in Ramkrishnapur under Ullapra Police Station of this district strongly recommended that opinion leaders at grass-root level be mobilised to check explosive growth of population in the country.

The orientation course organised by the Family Planning

Association of Bangladesh (FPAB) for three days ending on Wednesday was designed to educate the opinion leaders about the beneficial effect of small family norms.

The Vice Chairman of the London-based International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) Kazi Anisur Rahman, inaugurated the course which was attended among others by primary teachers, imams of local mosques, members and chairman of the union and local youth members.

The Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO) Ullapra, office bearers of the FPAB branches from Surajganj, Pabna, Bogra, Deputy Directors of the Family Planning Department in the adjacent districts attend the course.

The venue of the course had been selected in view of the exigency created by some local conservative persons who had organised a boycott against some women because of their taking birth control devices to get Grameen Bank loans.

According to FPAB sources, the superstition of these persons were removed after their attending the course.



CHANDPUR: Minister of Fisheries and Livestock, Abdullah Al Noman distributing fish fry among the fishermen recently. — Star photo

Cattle disease breaks out in districts

SHERPUR, Sept 29: A large number of cattle have been attacked by various diseases in five thanas of the district.

According to unofficial sources, the diseases have killed 30 cattle and attacked 2500 so far.

The diseases are locally known as 'khura' and 'golashafa'. The affected cattle cannot walk and eat grasses due to infection in jaws and hooves.

Besides, haemorrhagic septicemia locally known as 'golafula', has broken out alarmingly. At present, about 600 cattle are suffering from the diseases in different flood-hit village in the district.

It is alleged that since the out-break of the diseases, no attempt for vaccination of the cattle and buffaloes were initiated by the Livestock Department.

When contracted some livestock officials informed that the out break of cattle diseases remained unabated as the villagers more or less were reluctant to vaccinate their cattle.

Our Satkhira correspondent adds: Cattle disease has broken out in the district.

Many cattle have been attacked by various diseases in seven thanas of the district. The badly affected thanas are: Asasahi, Kaliganj, Shyamnagar and Tala.

According to an official source, at least 275 cattle were killed by the diseases locally known as 'golafula' and 'khura' which broke out in an epidemic form. The diseases cripple the cattle due to infection in jaws and hooves.

At least 3000 cattle are suffering from these diseases in different villages of the district. Most of the cattle died due to wrong treatment by unqualified

doctors, compounders, quacks and assistants of the thana livestock hospital.

It is informed that since the out break of the diseases no attempt for vaccination of the cattle was initiated by the Livestock Department. The field staff said that the people refused to vaccinate their cattle and they did not take up the programme of vaccination.

Farmers alleged that field assistants were not inclined to vaccinate the cattle and poultry birds without payments.

10 journalists given bail

PABNA, Sept 29: Ten journalists were granted bail here today (Tuesday) in a defamation suit filed by the district correspondent of Bangladesh Television and Dainik Bangla, reports UNB.

Sadar thana magistrate Altamash Hossain granted the bail to the 10 journalists, but ordered five others to appear in the court within one month.

A report was published in the different dailies that Mirza Shamsul Islam misappropriated Taka 1.50 lakh donated by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia for Pabna Press Club by establishing another press club in the town.

Those who were granted bail are: Editor of the Dainik Koroto Mozammel Haq Lahu, Editor of BNA Nizamuddin Ahmed, UNB Pabna Correspondent A B M Fazlur Rahman, Inqilab Correspondent Murshad Subhani, Dainik Sangram Correspondent Abdul Majid Duda, Dainik Janata Correspondent Akhtaruz-zaman Akhtar, Dinkal Correspondent Alamgir Chowdhury Dulal, Meilat Correspondent Shahidul Hasan Aloke.



SYLHET: 'Amra Mohammedan', a local organisation of the fans of the club brought out a victory procession as it becomes champion in Premier Division Football league this year. — Star photo