

## District roundup

### C'NAWABGANJ

#### Tk 2.61 crore training institute under construction

Oct 4: The construction work of the primary training institute in the district is going on in full swing at a cost of Taka 2.61 crore, reports UNB.

According to an official source, about Taka 67 lakh is being spent for the construction of the administrative building, Taka 70.5 lakh for gents' hostel, about Taka 59 lakh for women's hostel, about Taka 11 lakh for superintendent's quarters and Taka 53 lakh for the compensation of acquired land.

Financed by the Facilities Department under the Ministry of Education, 95 per cent of the work has already been done and the rest will be completed soon.

This will be the second institute in the district.

### MAGURA

#### Housewife beaten to death

Oct 4: A young housewife was allegedly beaten to death by her husband at Nowapara village in sadar thana on Monday, reports UNB.

Family sources said Akbar Ali killed his wife Sundari Khatun (25) for dowry money after she failed to bring more dowry money from her father, Goni Mandal.

Akbar Ali later hanged the body of Sundari from the roof of his residence to hush up the murder.

On information, police rushed to the spot and sent the body to sadar hospital for autopsy.

Akbar Ali went into hiding soon after the incident.

### RAJSHAHI

#### Enquiry commission on RU incident

Oct 4: Persons, directly or indirectly aware of Rajshahi University incident of September 19, are requested to submit their written statements from October 1 to 7 from 10 am to 5 pm at the office of the secretary of the enquiry commission in the interest of proper enquiry into the incident, says a BSS report.

GKM Nurul Amin, Secretary of the Commission of Rajshahi University incident and Additional District Magistrate of Rajshahi in a mass notice issued Thursday requested the persons, interested to give evidence of the incident, to enlist their name and addresses during the time at his office.

Earlier, the government has formed a one member enquiry commission with Justice (rtd) Abdul Wadud Chowdhury to probe into Rajshahi University incident.

### PATUAKHALI

#### 22,000 hectares of land under potato cultivation

Oct 4: A total of 22,000 hectares of land will be brought under sweet potato cultivation in 11 southern districts under Barisal Agriculture Zone (BAZ) in the current season, reports UNB.

The districts are Barisal, Pirojpur, Jhalakati, Bhola, Patuakhali, Barguna, Rajbari, Faridpur, Gopalganj, Madaripur and Shariatpur.

The potato production target has been fixed at 3.30 lakh metric tons during the season, Agriculture Extension Department sources said.

A total of 2500 hectares will be cultivated in Barisal district, 1000 in Pirojpur, 400 in Jhalakati, 5000 in Bhola, 5000 in Patuakhali, 4000 in Barguna, 600 in Rajbari, 500 hectares each in Faridpur, Gopalganj and Madaripur and 2000 hectares in Shariatpur districts.

### SIRAJGANJ

#### One arrested on forgery charge

Oct 4: Police on Thursday arrested a man-power businessman from Hossainpur village in sadar thana for his alleged forgery, reports UNB.

Police said Abdus Samad Babu (26) on April 22 took Taka 51,000 from a school teacher, Abdur Rashid, assuring that he would send his nephew Al-Amin to Malaysia.

Abdus Samad later went into hiding with the money without making any arrangement to send Al-Amin.

### NARAIL

#### Violation of fishing law

Oct 4: Catching of fish fry by current nets in the district is going on indiscriminately despite government ban, reports UNB.

Fish production in the district has come to all time low following indiscriminate catching of fry, local sources said.

They alleged that a section of fishermen violating the government restrictions were catching fry openly in the rivers, canals and "ghers" (fishing enclosure) selling them in different local markets before the very nose of the law enforcing agencies.

Local people urged the concerned authorities to take effective measures against the alleged fishermen.

### BARGUNA

#### Erosion, natural calamities making more people landless, jobless

Oct 4: Numbers of landless and jobless people are increasing day by day in the district following large scale river erosion and other natural calamities, reports UNB.

The erosion of the rivers Paira and Bishkhali has taken a serious turn affecting Amtali, Betagi, Bamna, Patharghata and sadar thana badly.

A large number of families have been rendered homeless on account of erosion. Many of them have been living in sub-human condition. A large number of destitute people have turned into beggars for maintaining their livelihood.

These shelterless people are pouring into the town in search of food, shelter and job opportunities.

Barguna, a food deficit area where per head cultivable land is so meagre which cannot serve the purpose to eke out their living. Besides consecutive floods, drought and high prices of agricultural inputs decreased crop output to a great extent.

Low prices of jute and paddy have also affected the farmers. They are compelled to sell their crops at throw away prices to repay bank loans and meet daily expenses.

### NETRAKONA

#### Son kills mother, gets life-term imprisonment

Oct 4: Additional District and Sessions Judge Netrakona Abdur Razzak in a judgement here sentenced one Jalaluddin to suffer life imprisonment and pay a fine of Taka five thousand in default to suffer more five months of rigorous imprisonment for killing his mother, reports BSS.

The prosecution story is in brief that, Jalaluddin, the son of Mir Mahmud Ali of village Laukhal in Purbadhala thana under Netrakona district had a quarrel with his mother namely Panditha Ma (50) over the issue of selling a bed cot in August, 1990. At one stage he struck her with a sharp weapon indiscriminately and fled the scene. Immediately after the incident she was rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital in a critical condition but she succumbed to her injuries.

A case was filed with Purbadhala police station. Police submitted chargesheet against Jalaluddin. The court examined thirteen witnesses and found Jalaluddin guilty and convicted him.

Nurul Islam, public prosecutor of Netrakona appeared on behalf of the government. Advocate Arifa Jesmin represented the accused.

### KUSHLIA

#### Smuggled goods seized

KUSHLIA, Oct 4: On secret information members of the law enforcing agency, Mirpur, Kushlia recovered six thousand nine hundred and forty-seven kgs of Indian salt, one hundred and one plastic bags and one engine boat from Raittaghat in the Padma under Bheramara police station recently, reports BSS.

The goods were handed over to the customs godown at Bheramara.

One Niamat (40), a rickshaw van puller was allegedly run over and killed at Mazampur in front of the petrol pump in the town recently, reports BSS.

The poor Niamat was returning home after his days outing with his van. Police seized the bus, the driver is absconding.

The rickshaw pullers of the town observed a day long strike the following day in protest against the killing and demanding punishment for the driver.



SYLHET: Acting President of Jatiya Party Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury addressing a public meeting at local Registry Maidan held here recently. — Star photo

## Aman paddy under massive pest attack

### From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Oct 4: Standing aman crops on about 7500 hectares of land have been seriously damaged and fresh areas are being attacked by pests in 12 thanas of the district creating panic among the farmers.

Official sources, however, confirmed the pest attack on 2412 hectares of land upto September, 15 last.

The pests locally known as 'Mazra' and 'Pamri' have been causing extensive damage to crops in Hossainpur, Pakundia, Kishoreganj Sadar, Tarail, Karimganj, Itna, Nikli, Bajitpur, Kataldi, Bhairab, Austagram and Kulliarchar thanas.

The worst affected thanas are: Karimganj, Bajitpur, Pakundia, Kulliarchar, Hossainpur, Katiadi and Tarail.

According to farmers, after the attack, paddy plants turn yellowish and gradually dry up.

Agriculture Extension Department (ARD) sources said adequate preventive measures could not be taken due to acute scarcity of insecticides and spray machines. Farmers said, prices of insecticides 'have shot up in the local markets which are beyond the purchasing capacity.'

They informed that insecticides available in the local markets are mostly adulterated.

### Winter vegetables cultivation

A massive scheme has been undertaken to bring over 16,200 hectares of land under winter vegetables cultivation in five districts of Mymensingh Agriculture Zone during the current rabi seasons, official sources here said.

According to Agriculture Extension Department, of the total land, 4,700 hectares have been brought under winter vegetables farming in Mymensingh, 2700 hectares in Jamalpur, 3200 hectares in Sherpur, 2500 hectares in Netrakona and 3100 hectares in Kishoreganj districts.

About 3,07,800 metric tons of winter-vegetable will be produced during the season in these districts, it is expected.

For the success of the programme, Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation will supply high yielding variety seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and other necessary inputs, to the growers of these districts, the source said.

### Sweet potato farming

About 12,000 hectares of land have been brought under sweet potato cultivation in five districts of Mymensingh Agriculture Zone (MAZ) during the current rabi season.

According to Agriculture Extension Department, of the total land, 1600 hectares have been brought under sweet potato farming in Mymensingh, 4000 hectares in Jamalpur, 2600 hectares in Sherpur, 900 hectares in Netrakona and 2900 hectares in Kishoreganj districts.

Deputy Director of Agriculture Extension Department, Kishoreganj, Md Rafiqul Islam Molla said, the production target has been fixed at 1.80 lakh metric tons during the season.

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) will supply seeds, fertilizers, insecticides and other necessary inputs to the growers to make the scheme a success.

## One killed in road accident

COMILLA, Oct 4: A man was run over by a Sylhet bound speeding bus at Kanganagar of Devidwar thana on Comilla-Sylhet road, police said Saturday, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, Golam Murshed died on the spot while he was crossing the road on Sept 25. The driver managed to flee leaving the vehicle on the road which created traffic jam for a few hours. Police seized the bus.

Another report adds: A protest rally was organised by Comilla Nagarik Adhikar Committee (NAC) held at the Town Hall premises Sept 22 demanding curtail of trade licence fees.

The meeting was presided by AKM Bahauddin, Convenor, NAC and addressed by Principal Abdur Rauf, Syed Ahmed, Jasim Uddin Ahmed, Zahurul Haque and a number of representatives from different political and social organisations.

They also submitted a memorandum to the concerned authorities.

## Three get life-term for murder

NAOGAON, Oct 4: Three people were awarded life term and fined Taka 500 each, in default, one year more imprisonment for killing a villager, court sources said here Saturday, reports UNB.

According to the prosecution story, the victim Afsar Ali of Baharampur village in Mohadevpur thana was killed on the spot when the accused attacked him while he was trying to negotiate disputes between two belligerent groups on October 20, 1991.

Mohadevpur police filed a murder case and submitted charge sheets against the accused.

The District Additional and Sessions Judge Akhtaruzzaman Bhuiyan delivered the judgement recently after examining the witnesses and records.

The accused were identified as Sattar Ali, Hossain Ali and Fazar Ali.

## 12 policemen pulled up

CHITTAGONG, Oct 4: District police has closed 12 members of its staff including one sub-inspector from Patya Thana for committing excesses centering round the incident on Sept 28, reports UNB.

At least 25 people including two constables were hurt when a clash took place between local people and the police.

A number of local leaders of BNP, Awami League and JCD were injured when police resorted to lathi charge on them.

Local people staged demonstrations, held rallies and meetings and put barricades on Chittagong-Cox's Bazar highway protecting the police excesses and demanding their punishment.

The district police administration took the decision in view of the public agitation and also apologised for the incident. They also assured proper action against the cops for excesses.

able to build a society free from all injustices through their dedication and proper education.

Presided over by Principal Khagendra Nath Sarkar, the function was also addressed by Prof AKM Siddique Mowla and the newly elected VP and GS of the students union.

**Seminar on environment ends**

Meanwhile, a 15-day seminar on Environment Protection and Security Management was concluded here on Wednesday.

The seminar, aimed at developing mass awareness about the environmental hazards, was attended by 24 representatives from various government, international and non-government organisations.

Chairman, Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation Fazul Haq inaugurated the seminar as the chief guest and distributed certificates among the trainees.

The seminar divided into 16 sessions including courses on environment protection activities and its extent of requirements and importance, chemical/agro-chemical pollution, petro-chemical industrial/water pollution, urbanisation, forestry, pressure on population growth and also occurrence of accidents at mills and factories, fire control and resistance arrangements, explosion and compensation law.

Experts and specialists from Environment Directorate, Chittagong University, WASA, CDA and Petrobangla conducted the course.

Industries Minister AM Zahuruddin Khan on Friday said, the younger people could help attain economic prosperity in national life utilising the experience of the elders, reports BSS.

The minister was speaking as the chief guest at a discussion meeting on the occasion of International Elders Day organised by Bangladesh Probin Hitoshi Sangha at the premises of A K Khan UCEP School at Mohra.

Khan said, today's young is the elders of tomorrow. The nation which does not honour their elders, can never make any progress. The elders have enough experience so the young should show due respect and honour to them. He said, the principle and ideal of the elders will have to be followed for the development of social systems. The elders can solve all problems by extending cooperation to the young. Present democratic government has come to power through the public vote so it believes in the socio-economic and development of the masses, he added.

Presided over by Vice President of Bangladesh Probin Hitoshi Sangha, Chittagong M Saleh Zahur, the function was addressed, among others, by local MP Sirajul Islam and eminent journalist M Obaidul Hoq as special guest and S M Fazul Karim.

## Notes From Magura

MAGURA, Oct 4: A gang of dacoits halted a night coach near Belnagar on Magura-Kamarkhali Highway and robbed valuable worth about Taka one lakh from the passengers last week, reports UNB.

Police said, the gang of looters forced to stop a Satkhira bound bus at gun point and asked the passengers to deposit all of their belongings and de-camped with the goods.

A case has been filed with the local police in this connection.

**Girl kidnapped**

A young girl was kidnapped by a gang of unknown miscreants from her house at Kalagachi village in Moha-nmadpur thana on Sunday.

Police said the miscreants equipped with arms stormed into the house of one Krishnapada Adhikari and kidnapped his daughter Rani Adhikari (15) while she was preparing studies in her room at night.

A case was filed with the local police in this connection.

**Husband kills wife for dowry**

A young housewife was beaten to death by her husband at Nowapara village in Sadar thana on Monday.

Family sources said, Akbar Ali killed his wife Sundari Khatun (25) for dowry money after she failed to bring more dowry money from her father, Goni Mandal.

Akbar Ali later hanged the body of Sundari from the roof of his residence to hush up the murder.

On information, police rushed to Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

Akbar Ali went into hiding soon after the incident.

## About 13 lakh saplings planted in one month

BARISAL, Oct 4: A total of 12,93,316 plants of different varieties was planted in Barisal Division in July, the first month of the three-month-long programme, reports BSS.

According to official source, 3,17,97 plants are of fruit bearing trees, 6,35,133 are of the timber and the rest are other varieties.

The plants belong to mehongi, karail, raintree, mango, amra, kadbel, euklipous varieties. A total of 2,358 was planted in Barisal district, 77,230 in Patuakhali, 2,45,716 in Bhola, 2,46,229 in Pirojpur, 2,52,255 in Barguna and 2,04,528 in Jhalakati district, the source added.

The plants were supplied from 39 government and 98 non-government nurseries of the districts.

A meeting of the district law and order committee was held at the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner on Sunday.

Presided over by Mamta Uddin, Deputy Commissioner, Barisal, the meeting was attended among others by the district level officials, Thana Nirbahi officers, magistrates, and educationists.

The meeting expressed satisfaction over the present law and order situation of the district.

Besides, the meeting discussed development activities of the district.

A general meeting of the institute of Diploma Engineers, Barisal unit, was held at the Barisal Development Society office Saturday.

## Mysterious lamp blasts

FARIDPUR, Oct 4: A minor girl was killed and seven people, including four children, received severe burn injuries in several incidents of lamp blasts in two thanas of Faridpur district on Thursday, reports UNB.

Moimena (8), daughter of Sheikh Yunus of village North Tek in Char Bhadrashan thana, met the tragic end of her life when a hurricane lamp beside her bed exploded Thursday night, family sources said.

The seven people were injured in similar explosions of 'kupi' (lamp) on the same night. They were admitted to Faridpur General Hospital, medical sources said.

They are: Rokya Begum (45) and son Saidur Rahman (8) of village Ishan Gopalpur, Shahnaz Begum (27) and daughter Jharna (8) of village Sadipur, and Laxmi (10) of village Raghunathpur in Kotwali thana, and Ratan Bepari (25) and son Abdul Kader (5) of village North Tek in Char Bhadrashan thana.

Condition of all the injured were said to be critical.

Mother of Abdul Kader and husband Ratan Bepari received burn injuries when the 'kupi' (lamp) at their bed side exploded all of a sudden with a big sound.

She said there must be something wrong with the kerosene oil that was used in the lamp. Similar suspicions were expressed by the people in the area.

A sense of panic was prevailing in the town and adjoining areas following such sudden explosion of lamps.

When contacted, Deputy Commissioner of Faridpur K M Nurul Huda said steps have been taken to find out the causes of "this type of mysterious lamp blast accidents".

Fazlul Karim Chand, Chairman of Faridpur Pourashava, told UNB that the incidents created grave concern among the people. He said he had already given orders for wide publicity through loud-speaker asking the people to use kerosene oil with care.

Meanwhile, measures have been taken to guard kerosene distribution depots and shops to avoid any untoward incident by the panic stricken people.

**Conference of UP chairmen**

BARISAL Oct 4: The quarterly conference of the union parishad chairmen of Barisal district was held at the conference room of the deputy commissioner of Barisal Wednesday, says BSS.

Presided over by Mamta Uddin, Deputy Commissioner, Barisal, the conference was addressed, among others, by Imalendu Haider, District Primary Education Officer, Fazlul Huq Talukder, Deputy Director of Family Planning, and Ali Azam, District Fisheries Officer.



Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury releasing fish fry in a newly dug lake inside the Ansar and VDP Headquarters at Shafipur recently. — Star photo

## Smuggled goods flood markets

SIRAJGANJ, Oct 4: Smuggled Indian goods have flooded the markets in Sirajganj district.

It is learnt that smuggled Indian goods including printed shari, cotton yarn, dyes, chemicals, razor blades, toothpaste, pulses, onion, zira and salt have flooded the markets in Sirajganj district.

All sorts of Indian goods are now available even in the markets of the remote villages in Sirajganj district. Somewhere, Indian salt is sold in the packets of iodized salt.

The smuggled goods available here are mainly carried by trains and trucks. Jamtoli Railway Station in Kamarbandha thana is the main unloading centre from the trains. The Dhaka-bound mail train from Chapainawabganj and intercity Padma Express from Rajshahi have turned the safe carriages of smuggled goods.

A section of women are found to carry shari, blouse pieces and sugar bag in both the trains. The goods are also kept in the toilets and water tanks of the trains.

When the trains reaches near the unloading centres, the carriers throw the packets of goods from the trains which are collected by their selected people. The women carriers even cross the Jamuna by Railway ferry and supply the goods to the agents at Jagannathganj Ghat.

The smuggled goods, specially cosmetics, toothpaste and blades are sold openly in the markets. While contacted, some shopkeepers told this correspondent that Colgate toothpaste and Super Max razor

blades are imported. The smuggled items of same brand are exhibited with the imported items in the showcases.

However, import of Super Max blades has been banned recently by the government on prayer of a local manufacturer.

Due to rampant availability of smuggled cotton yarn and shari, local cotton mills and handloom factories face setback causing adverse affect on home economy.

Smuggling by railway takes place on broad daylight in presence of the law enforcing agencies. The illegal practice needs to be resisted immediately to boost up the economy of the country.

**Milad mahfil**

The annual milad mahfil of Belkuchi College in Sirajganj was held at the college auditorium on September 27 with Principal Alauddin Mia in the chair.

Maulana Ahmed Ali and Maulana Abdul Mannaf spoke on the occasion.

**One killed by thunderbolt**

MYMENSINGH, Oct 4: Renowned sports organiser Mokhlesur Rahman Mukul was killed by lightning here Friday morning, reports UNB.

Witnesses said Rahman, 40, was struck by the thunderbolt when he was fishing in a pond near the Eidgah Maidan.

Rahman was the General Secretary of Mymensingh Referee Association, a member of National Referee Association and former President of Apex International.



RANGPUR: The local staff of Bangladesh Tobacco Company (BTC) distributing saplings of different types among the poor families of the district. — Star photo