

## District roundup

### JHENIDAH

#### Groups clash leaves 1 dead, 25 injured

Oct 5: A cow trespassing a sugarcane field and eating the crops caused commotion between two groups of villagers in Salkupa thana which left one killed and at least 25 injured, reports UNB.

The victim, identified as Kamal Hossain (25) succumbed to injuries when he was hit by a dao, police said Saturday.

The quarrel between the groups in village Goyakhal started when a cow of one Berek Sardar ate some sugarcane from a field of Daud Hossain.

At one stage of the altercation the groups attacked each other with rods, dao, sticks and stones.

### GAZIPUR

#### Tributes paid to late poet Chandra Das

Oct 5: Speakers at a discussion meeting on Friday paid tributes to poet Gobinda Chandra Das for his invaluable contribution in modern Bengali literature, says BSS.

Held at the office of the monthly journal "Hawal" at Tongi, the discussion was organised by Hawal forum in observance of the 75th death anniversary of poet Gobinda Das.

Presided over by eminent journalist Mizanur Rahman, the discussion was participated by Prof. MA Ari, labour leader Kazi Mozammel Haq, journalist Ataur Rahman, Prof Z H Mola, Mahbubur Rahman and Mahfuzur Rahman.

In a resolution the meeting demanded that two roads under Gazipur and Tongi Pourashava be named after 'Suabhar Kabir' Gobinda Das as a mark of respect to the poet.

### KISHOREGANJ

#### Massive boro cultivation programme

Oct 5: A massive programme has been taken up to bring over 4.94 lakh hectares of land under boro cultivation in five districts of Mymensingh Agriculture Zone in the current season, reports UNB.

Of the total land, 4.26 lakh hectares will be brought under high yielding variety including Pajjam and the rest 68,200 hectares under local variety, Agriculture Extension Department sources said.

About 1,12,800 hectares have been brought under the cultivation in Mymensingh, 78,900 hectares in Jamalpur, 52,800 hectares in Sherpur, 109,700 hectares in Netrakona and 1,40,000 hectares in Kishoreganj districts, official sources added.

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) has taken up a programme to distribute seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and other necessary agri-inputs among the farmers at fair prices to make the programme a success.

It is expected that over 13.16 lakh metric tons of Boro paddy will be produced in the five districts in the current season.

### PATUAKHALI

#### Drive to kill rats

Oct 5: Rat killing drive began in the district from the last week of September under the auspices of the Patuakhali agriculture department, reports BSS.

A discussion meeting was held at the sadar thana auditorium, Mohammad Yahyah Molla, Deputy Commissioner of Patuakhali, attended the function as chief guest. Humayun Kabir, Sadar Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO) and Bahirial Dhar, specialist of the agriculture extension department were among those who took part in the discussion. Sadar thana agriculture officer, Didarul Islam, presided over the function.

Speakers emphasised on the elimination of rats which consumed a big share of agriculture produce.

### KUSHTIA

#### Meeting discusses Puja celebration

Oct 5: The Kushtia branch of the Bangladesh Puja Udayan Parishad held a meeting Friday at Gopinathpur Mandir and discussed matters relating to the celebration of the Puja, reports BSS.

The meeting was presided over by Bqat Babu Nanda Gopa Biswas, Convener of the committee.

### BARGUNA

#### Lack of facilities hampers education

Oct 5: Taltali High School in Sadar thana of the district has been facing manifold problems due to shortage of teachers, accommodation, furniture and inadequate science equipment, reports UNB.

Education of about 500 students of the school is being hampered due to shortage of teachers and inadequate number of books in the library. The science laboratory housed in a small room lacks modern equipment causing untold suffering to the students.

The students of the school are in need of sports appliances, not to speak of recreational facilities.

There are only 15 teaching staff including the Headmaster which is quite inadequate to run the school smoothly.

Despite its good academic atmosphere the school is unable to accommodate the increasing number of students.

### NARAIL

#### Frequent power failure disrupts production, cultivation

Oct 5: Frequent power failure and load shedding have become a common feature in the district headquarters and its adjoining areas causing immense suffering to the town dwellers for long, reports UNB.

Local people alleged that not a single day passes without power disruption and almost every night electricity goes off plunging the entire town into darkness giving rise to anti-social activities.

The production in local mills and factories and workshops has also been affected due to frequent power disruptions.

Besides, irri and aman crop fields are also affected due to frequent power failure. The farmers are unable to husk paddy for want of power as most of rice mills are run by electricity.

Fluctuations of voltage causes damage to household electronic gadgets. Most of the streets in the district town remain under darkness after sundown as most of the poles have no bulbs or with fuse bulbs.

### BARISAL

#### Loan for unemployed youths

Oct 5: Barisal district Yuba Unnayan Department disbursed a loan worth Taka 364,500 under self-employment programme for unemployed youths in the district against 23 projects till June 30 last, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the loan was disbursed through the Agrani Bank.

Meanwhile, the bank has recovered Taka 81,000 out of the matured loan of Taka 1,53,000, the source added.

### JESSORE

#### Sarbahara Party activist arrested, arms recovered

Oct 5: Kotwali police arrested one person alleged to have been a member of the Sarbahara Party from Arabpur near Jessore town on Wednesday, reports BSS.

Police also recovered some arms from his possession and some papers.

A case has been registered. Police also recovered one abandoned locally made pistol from Barandipara along the Dhaka road on Wednesday. None was arrested.

### NETRAKONA

#### Discussion meeting on post-flood relief plan

Oct 5: A meeting of the district development coordination committee was held at the conference room of the deputy commissioner recently, reports BSS.

The Deputy Commissioner Dewan Afsar Uddin presided over the meeting which discussed matters relating to the post flood relief and rehabilitation measures particularly in the agriculture sector.

District level officers including the district agriculture officer and relief officer attended the meeting.



JHENIDAH: The erosion of river Gorai has devoured major position of the village Barma in Salkupa thana of the district. The homeless people have taken shelter in a nearby primary school who need relief materials for their survival. — Star photo

## Bank dacoity on rise in absence of night guards with arms

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Oct 5: Armed dacoity, plunder and pilferage in banks of the greater Jessore region, have been a regular feature following the absence of night guards in recent times.

According to a source, no branch of any bank in the area, expect a selected few operating in district headquarters, has the arrangement for night guards.

The total number of branches is more than 200 including 78 of Sonali Bank, 55 of Krishi Bank, 48 of Janata Bank, 44 of Agrani Bank and 15 of Rupali Bank.

The information received here indicates that the Sonali Bank uses to keep the fire arms under lock and key after the banking hours. But in some branches of this bank night guards remain on duty despite introduction of this practice. The system was reverse earlier.

In Agrani Bank, the system is different and more surprising. It has no arrangement of night guards for any of its branches located out side district head-

quarters. It has special arrangement only for the branches in Jessore, Jhenidah, Magura and Narail.

The Janata bank has no provision for maintaining armed night guards for the bank. Armed guards by the bank are arranged for day time duty only.

The fire arms, used by armed guards at different branches of this bank in the region, have become quite unusable due to lack of proper upkeep and repair. The management is silent to replace them, it is reported.

A bank source told this correspondent that recently a decision has been taken at a meeting of the bank officers and police super to examine the physical condition of each guard by forming a medical board. The guards who would be found unfit for the post would be transferred to other sections and retired army personnel would be picked up by bank authority to fill up the vacancies thus caused.

In Rupali Bank and Krishi

Bank, the system for appointment of night guard is inappropriate.

It is reported that many of the branches in the region have already been looted by breaking open the vaults and lockers. The want of armed night guards in bank has led the situation.

Jessore Rail Bazar, Amtala, Gonganandapur, Hashimpur branches of Agrani Bank, Mohakal, Bashgram branches of Janata Bank, Kola Bazar, Harinakundu, Salna Chowgacha, Shaikpara and Nariklibaria branches of Sonali Bank have been ransacked by miscreants causing losses to the banks.

There is no denying the fact that most branches, set up in rural areas of this region, are hostage to outlawed party activists and situation is fast deteriorating creating law and order problem for loyal and law-abiding people.

Armed night guards for all the branches in the region deserve to be arranged on priority

## Diarrhoea kills five, attacks 800

SIRAJGANJ, Oct 5: Diarrhoea and blood dysentery claimed five lives and attacked 800 others in four thanas of the district during the last two days, says UNB.

Most of the death occurred in the villages severely affected by the erosion of the rivers — Jamuna and Ichhamati, local people said.

The victims were identified as Ramichha Bawa (60) of Kandinagar in Kazipur, Osmuddin (49) of Alamachhuka and Ganjer Ali (52) of Gurjia in Chowhali, Rahela Khatoon (41) of Chhuta Taryar and Abdul Momin (9) of Char Khijirpur in Sadar thana.

According to local doctors, consumption of adulterated food, lack of pure drinking water and acute poverty are the main reasons behind the outbreak of the diseases.

## Destitutes in towns for employment, food

NARAIL, Oct 5: Number of the landless and unemployed people have been increasing alarmingly in the district, reports UNB.

According to official sources, 60 per cent of the total population depends on agriculture, 10 per cent on different occupations and the rest 30 per cent are unemployed.

Of the farmers 60 per cent are landless, 30 per cent with a few acres of land and the rest 10 per cent are landless, said the source.

Due to recurrent floodings and other natural calamities every year a large number of people become destitute and move to the thana and district headquarters in search of food and job opportunities.

Many unemployed educated young people are seeking opportunities for self-employment under various income generating projects. But due to poverty

they cannot meet the requirements of such opportunities. Another report says: Bamboo production has decreased in the district due to indiscriminate use of its roots in brickfields. The district was famous for bamboo production a few years back and about 80 per cent rural people were dependent on it for erecting their thatched houses. But at present due to its scarcity they are facing serious problems.

There were thousands of bamboo clusters in the district but these are gradually being vanished due to large scale use in burning bricks. A medium size bamboo is being sold between Taka 70 and Taka 100 in the market.

Meanwhile, repair and construction of kutcha houses in the rural areas are being hampered badly for want of bamboo and the traditional cottage industries are facing extinction.

## Commendable health care service for children

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Oct 5: The second phase of the child health care project at Azizulla village under Tamphat union in Rangpur sadar thana was concluded on September 27.

A six-member team of Rovers from Australia, in collaboration with 52 Bangladeshi scouts and girl guides carried out the work on child health care in the village for two weeks.

The work included installation of 91 sanitary latrines, construction of 26 kutcha la-

M Aminul Islam, Divisional Commissioner, Rajshahi on September 13 with Afzal Hossain, Deputy Commissioner, Rangpur in the chair.

The concluding function, held on September 27 at a largely attended gathering at Ragu Primary School ground of Tamphat union, was presided over by Abdul Karim Sarker, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Rangpur while Professor Md Nurunabi, Deputy Director of the Health Department was



RANGPUR: The scouts and rovers of Bangladesh and Australia are showing the preparation of saline to a housewife at village Azizullah of the district during their two-week-long work on child health care project there recently. — Star photo

trines, fielding of seven shallow tubewells, pucca construction of 15 tubewells platforms and EPI activities in 373 houses and distribution of vitamin capsules, anti-ringworm doses, iodized salt, vegetable seeds, construction of dustbins, motivation for keeping the houses clean, practical knowledge of personal hygiene and general health care, family planning, dairy and poultry farming.

The team also helped planting two trees — one for timber and another fruit-bearing — each of in 736 house holds of the village.

The second phase work of the project was inaugurated by chief guest and Dr Mazharul Hannan, Civil Surgeon, Rangpur attended as a special guest.

A host of speaker including Miss Niclos, leader of the Australian Rovers team, Deputy National Scouts Commissioner Khondker Mahfuzul Haque, Project Secretary Kamrul Islam Selim, and District Scouts Commissioner Mir Anisul Haque spoke at the inaugural function.

The project was launched in 1991 at Azizullah village under joint initiatives of the Australia-Bangladesh scouts, Rovers, girl guides and Rangers.

## Evaluation of martyrs needed

NARAYANGANJ, Oct 5: Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia Saturday called for proper evaluation of the merit of letters who had contributed to the society by their wisdom, sacrifice and knowledge to make the independence of the country meaningful, reports BSS.

He was addressing as chief guest at a publication ceremony of a book entitled 'Shata bacher shata bektitya' organised by National Life Insurance Company at Ali Ahmed Chunka Municipal Library here.

The book was edited by Abul Hossain and Abdul Mannan, a rhyme composer.

Presided over by Principal Shamsul Huda, the function was also addressed, among others, by State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahanara Begum, members of parliament Khurshed Jahan Haq and Advocate Abul Kalam. Dr Shahida Rafiq, Professor of applied physics and electronics and Mostafa Sarwar, a centre Awami League leader.

Barrister Rafiq said, unless we recognise and show due respect to the supreme sacrifices of those sons of the soil who had shed their blood and embraced martyrdom for the independence of the country, we could not raise our heads in the comity of nations.

He said some political leaders were now trying to divide the nation with some non-issues after 22 years of independence.

He said, terrorism is eating

away the vitals of the society and we must all come forward to get rid of this crisis.

The minister observed the prime need of the hour was national consensus to forge unity among the people for all round development of the country. Prof. Jahanara Begum, in

her brief speech, expressed her thanks to the organisers of the book.

Khurshed Jahan Haq, in her speech, said 'we must preserve the history of the war of liberation and try to follow the ideals left by the martyrs to build a happy and prosperous Bangladesh'.

## Help overcome problems in textile sector

CHITTAGONG, Oct 5: State Minister for Textile Major (Retd) Abdul Mannan Saturday said the government had formulated a proposed 16-point programme to help implement the recommendations set forth for removing the existing problems in textile sector, reports BSS.

The state minister was speaking as chief guest at a seminar on 'the 16-point development programme' of the textile sector organised by Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industries (CCI) at the Chamber Bhaban here.

Presided over by CCCI President SM Abul Kalam the seminar was attended, among others, by members of parliamentary standing committee on Textile Ministry Abdur Rouf of Awami League, Shajahan Siraj of JSD (Shajahan) M Reasat Ali of Jamaat, and local BNP MP M Serajul Islam. Secretary, Ministry of Textile A H Mofazzal Karim was also present.

The standing committee member also briefed the chamber members on the proposed 16-

point programme. Mannan said, the past history of the textile sector has a rich tradition. This proposed programme is aimed at revitalizing the textile sector for restoring the lost glory of textile sector in the country.

The state minister called upon the private sector entrepreneurs to take initiatives so that they would supplement the government efforts.

Another report says: Detectives of the Chittagong metropolitan police recovered contraband cigarettes worth Taka twelve lakh from a number of places at Patenga under port police station here Saturday, police said.

Acting on secret information, police raided a house and found ten master carton cigarettes and arrested one Jahanara Begum in this connection. Sensing the police appearance some people kept their stocks of cigarettes in near by bushes.

Police searched the bushes and recovered 25 master cartons and 23 mini-cartons cigarettes from there.

## Family seeks protection

JHENIDAH, Oct 5: The family of engineer Mustafizur Rahman, a leader of Jhenidah district Jatiya Party living in Dhaka feels insecure as they are threatened by some quarters.

A group of miscreants kidnapped Mustafiz's four-year old girl while she was playing outside the house. She was freed after two days after payment of Taka two lakh ransom.

The wife of the leader has been receiving ghost calls threatening her with death unless she tells the whereabouts of her husband.

The miscreants also threatened that her entire family would be taken hostage if they seek protection from the police.

For fear of life, she has been leading a destitute life with her two children.

The members of Sarbahara Party are reportedly after Mustafiz since the killing of his brother Haroon in January last.

During the last six months, miscreants attacked Mustafiz's house twice.

Police was informed but that was of no result, the family members informed.

## Erosion threatens town areas

PATUAKHALI, Oct 5: Lohali river has continued its erosion along embankment number two by the Patuakhali town threatening a large number of houses, educational institutions, BADC complex and district council office building, reports BSS.

Four houses fell into the Lohalia and several others were close to the river on Wednesday.

## Traffic policeman killed

KHULNA, Oct 5: A traffic policeman was killed and three people were injured when a minibus tumbled into a roadside ditch after hitting a rickshaw near Noornagar in Sonadanga thana on Khulna-Jessore highway Tuesday, reports UNB.

Police said traffic police Rustam Ali, 35, who was riding on the rickshaw, died on the spot.

Seriously injured rickshaw-puller Abdur Razzak (42) and two bus passengers were rushed to the 250-bed hospital in the city.

Police seized the bus, but the driver managed to flee away.



SYLHET: Kotwali police on Thursday arrested four kidnapers after an exchange of fire for half an hour from Ambarhana area. The police also rescued four persons and recovered one 303 rifle and some ammunition from the kidnapers. — Star photo