

Bangla-Myanmar border trade begins in October

CHITTAGONG, Sept 10: The Myanmar Ambassador in Bangladesh La Mynt U, said here on Thursday that the two countries would be able to start border trade in October next, reports BSS.

The Myanmar ambassador said this while talking to the Chittagong Chamber President S M Abul Kalam at the chamber house.

He said that Bangladesh and his country were now finalising banking formalities, which would be completed soon.

The envoy expressed the hope that border trade between Bangladesh and Myanmar would be fruitful in the light of experiences gained from Thai-Myanmar border trade as well as the long trade and cultural relations between Chittagong and Yangon.

La Mynt U said that visa formalities between his country and Bangladesh had also been based to enable the businessmen to visit each other's country.

The Myanmar envoy called upon Bangladeshi industrialists and businessmen to participate in international trade fair to be held in Yangon in

January. Earlier, welcoming the envoy the chamber president explained the investment facilities in Bangladesh under which he said Bangladesh and Myanmar could establish cement factory based on limestone available in Myanmar.

He called upon the Myanmar ambassador to take necessary steps to increase import from Bangladesh to achieve balance of trade between the two countries.

Police rescue kidnapped school girl

TANGAIL, Sept 10: Tangail police rescued Tahmina and arrested one Haroon recently in connection with a kidnapping case, reports BSS.

Tahmina, a student of class seven of Kadamali Hasan Public High School, was kidnapped about a month back on her way to school.

The guardians of Tahmina filed a case in Ghatail thana.

Police said Tahmina was rescued from the house on one Fazlul Haque Khan of Thanapara under Tangail thana.



KUSHTIA: Erosion of river Gorai has devoured large portion of Kumarkhali MN High School. It has also engulfed Kumarkhali Degree College and parts of Kumarkhali town recently. The photo shows the condition of MN High School. — Star photo

Tk 11cr road dev work starts in Jamalpur

JAMALPUR, Sept 10: The construction work of 11 roads at a cost of Tk 11 crore in two districts of greater Jamalpur has started.

Executive engineer of Jamalpur Road Division Mohammad Bayezid told UNB on Monday that the project will be completed during the current fiscal with a view to developing the rural communication network.

He informed that two roads — nine kilometers of Dhanua Kamalpur-Raumari Road and five kilometers of Sreebardi-Bakshiganj Road and five bridges are being constructed at a cost of Tk 3.30 crore under Annual Development Programme.

The executive engineer also informed that the metalling of nine kilometres Tarakandi-Bhuapur Road at a cost of Tk five crore is progressing fast.

He said construction work of 8 more roads at a cost of about Tk 3 crore under NICAR will start soon.

Another message adds: A day-long poster exhibition and seminar were held on Monday at Hazrabari High School ground in Melandha thana on the occasion of the observance of Mother and Child Health Fortnight '94.

Organised by local voluntary organisation 'BK Hospital', it was attended by Dhaka Divisional Health Director Dr Shamsul Haq and Civil Surgeon of Jamalpur Dr Askar Ali as chief and special guests. Founder of the Hospital Mohammad Haroon presided.

The speakers urged the educated section of the society to create awareness among the mothers about necessity of family planning.

Nation cannot attain dev without edn: Salam

TANGAIL, Sept 10: Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister, Abdus Salam Talukder has said that no nation can attain the desired development without proper education, reports BSS.

The present government had earmarked highest allocation for the education sector and attached top most priority for expansion of education, Talukder said, while addressing a public meeting organised in connection with the opening of Lion Nazrul Islam High School at Bhatia-Choto Basalia recently.

The minister said, establishing of schools and colleges for imparting education to the countrymen under individual initiative is a praiseworthy effort. In this connection, he urged the well-to-do section of the society to come forward for setting up more educational institutions side by side with the government efforts.

Turning to the steps taken by the government for spread of education, Talukder mentioned the introduction of compulsory primary education, free education for girl students up to class ten in the rural areas and allocation of funds for scholarships and purchase of books for them and introduction of food for educational programmes.

He said, womenfolk constituted the half of the total population and the overall development of the nation can not be achieved without imparting education to them.

He said the BNP government had taken radical steps for education of women. The

minister hoped that with the successful implementation of all these programmes the rate of literacy would rise to 65 per cent by 2000.

The public meeting was addressed, among others, by Abdus Salam, MP, Dr Ashraf Siddiqui and Nazrul Islam, the founder of the school.

Earlier, Talukder addressed the students and teachers of Shaheed Abdul Aziz Girls High School at Dubail under Delduar police station.

Tk 11.28 cr power bills outstanding in Sherpur, Jamalpur

JAMALPUR, Sept 10: An amount of Tk 11.28 crore electricity bills has been lying outstanding to the 16,500 subscribers in Sherpur and Jamalpur districts during last one year.

Assistant Commercial Director of Power Development Board (PDB), Jamalpur Division, told UNB that PDB realised Tk 1.44 crore during the same period.

He said the target of the realisation of outstanding bills is being hampered as most of the bills are of government offices. He informed that PDB workers were beaten up on August 27 when they went to disconnect a residential line of a defaulter subscriber at College Road area of the town.

He said a line helper Mobarak Ali was admitted to Sadar Hospital with serious wounds. A case was lodged with the police.

255 govt pry schools reconstructed in Bhola

BHOLA, Sept 10: Local Government and Engineering Department (LGED) completed the construction and renovation works of 609 government primary schools in seven thanas of the district in the last fiscal, reports UNB.

Of the total, 255 schools were reconstructed, 182 renovated and necessary furniture were supplied to 172 schools with the financial assistance from IDA and ADB, officials said.

Meanwhile, LGED also completed reconstruction of 179 registered non-government primary schools in the same period.

With the implementation of the programmes, education facilities for primary students have already increased to a great extent.

Another message adds: Police nabbed a notorious dacoit along with his some accomplices from Dhalchar launchghat and recovered a revolver and some ammunitions from their possession last week.

Acting on a tip, a contingent of police drawn from Charefession and Lalmonak police stations rushed to the spot and arrested Dulal, 23, and his accomplices while they were taking preparation for a launch dacoity.

Dulal was wanted in connection with several criminal cases for a long time, police said. The identities of his arrested accomplices could not be known immediately.

A case was filed with Charfession police.

Saifur tells rally at Sunamganj Oppositions trying to grab power thru' autocratic processes

SUNAMGANJ, Sept 10: Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman said all previous polls held under the BNP government are the examples of free and fair elections and there is not a single instance of the oppositions raising any allegation of rigging and unfair means in those elections, reports UNB.

Referring to the so-called Dhaka siege programme of Sept 10 by the oppositions, Saifur Rahman said failing to win elections through democratic means, the power-hungry opposition parties particularly Awami League is trying to grab power through undemocratic and autocratic processes.

Such practices, he said, is only fruitful against an autocratic regime and bound to backfire if adopted against

democratically elected popular government. The finance minister was addressing as chief guest at a big public rally here Wednesday. Presided over by convenor of the Sunamganj district BNP Fazlul Haq Asfia, it was also addressed by Nazir Hossain, MP, and BNP central leader Abul Haris Chowdhury.

Citing the examples of presidential polls held during 1978 and 1981 and the parliament election in 1979 under BNP governments of late President Ziaur Rahman and President Sattar, the minister said neither late MAG Osmani nor Dr Kamal Hossain who contested the two presidential polls as the candidates of the combined opposition parties alleged any rigging.

Saifur said Awami League

which contested parliament election in 1979 also did not alleged any unfairness in the polls. He said had there been any rigging in the municipal elections of Dhaka and Chittagong held under the present government could not have won the elections.

The finance minister said the elections held under the BNP governments were widely acclaimed by the foreign press particularly by the US press and the government. On the other hand he said Awami League adopted a large rigging in the 1972 election and all election held under the nine years autocratic rule of General Ershad had no acceptance world over because of widespread rigging and boycott by the major opposition parties.

Earlier, the minister distributed cheques among the 500 boatmen of the district under a self-employment credit programme launched by the Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation. The boatmen were given a credit of Tk 6000 each to buy 'Banki Boats' for use as a means of earning.

He also laid the foundation stone of the Sunamganj Zila Ainjibi Samity Bhavan and sluice gate of the proposed embankment on the river Surma. He also released fish fry at the Surma river. The minister also planted a sapling at the local girls college premises.

Later, in the evening he addressed a gathering of 82 chairmen of various union parishads of the district.

Int'l Literacy Day observed in dists

The International Literacy Day was observed in the country as elsewhere in the world on Thursday, report agencies. To mark the day elaborate programmes were taken in different districts including the capital Dhaka with the objective of "education for all by 2000".

Rangpur

Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar said here Thursday that the government is implementing a gigantic programme to free the country from the curse of illiteracy by the year 2000.

The food for education programme is an epoch-making programme designed to spread education among the people, he said.

The minister was speaking as the chief guest at a discussion meeting in observance of International Literacy Day at town hall here.

Presided over by Deputy Commissioner Afzal Hossain, the meeting was addressed by local MP Shaheda Sarker, BNP leader Nurul Huda Sultan, Rahimuddin Bharasha and Shah Mohammad Salek.

The minister said since the spread of education depends on spread and development of female education, the government has attached top priority to female education. He observed that the overall development of the education system would be possible through introduction of stipend programme for the girls of class

six to ten. Barrister Sircar said literacy is a social movement and people must put in possible efforts to eradicate illiteracy. He called upon the people of all walks of life to make the mass literacy programme of the government a success.

Mymensingh

Jute Minister ASM Hannan Shah has said literate manpower is an important wealth of the nation.

He was addressing a discussion meeting on "Role of Education in National Economy" at the Town Hall auditorium on Thursday.

Presided over by Deputy Commissioner of the district the function was addressed, among others, by Prof Shorufuddin Ahmed of Annada Mohan College and Headmistress Nargis Akhter of Biddamoyee Government Girls' High School.

The Minister said the BNP government constructed new buildings for 100 primary schools and 80 high schools in the district during the current fiscal year.

Hannan Shah said educated people could play a vital role in implementing "Education for All Programme" undertaken by the government. He also emphasised technical education for our country to help build a self-reliant economy.

Earlier, the minister led a Literacy Day rally in the town.

Sirajganj

State Minister for Esia-

ment Aminul Haque called upon the people to give some fixed time for education with a view to increasing the country's literacy rate.

He was speaking at a discussion meeting held at the Bhasani auditorium in Sirajganj Thursday on the occasion of the World Literacy Day.

The state minister said education has been given the top priority in every religion including Islam. "It is the religious and moral duty of the educated people of the society to do our best for increasing the literacy rate."

There is no alternative to education and it has been proved that an educated nation means a developed nation, he added.

He said the present government has given highest allocation for the sector in the current budget and construction of buildings in almost all government and non-government primary and high schools is being completed. Besides, the state minister said teachers, students and guardians are receiving benefits in terms of bonus, stipend and free schooling and food for education.

Earlier, a student rally was also brought out in the town to mark the day.

The students carried colourful playcards, festoons and banners and marched through the streets of the town in festivity of the occasion. Md Aminul Haque led the rally.

Comilla

International Literacy Day was observed here with due solemnity and fanfare.

To mark the Day a colourful rally was brought out in the town Thursday led by Housing and Public Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia.

A discussion meeting on the occasion was also arranged at the local town hall.

Addressing the meeting the minister urged the people from all walks of life to take a fresh vow to remove illiteracy from the country.

Kushitia

The International Literacy Day was observed here as elsewhere in the country.

The day's programmes included a colourful rally from Kushitia Collectorate Building which paraded the main city streets.

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan led the rally. Students, teachers and people from all walks of life participated in it.

Later, the state minister attended a discussion meeting on "the role of literacy in national development", held in the Zilla Parishad Hall. Presided over by Deputy Commissioner of Kushitia. The discussion meeting was also addressed by Principal, Kushitia Government College and local BNP leaders.

Narayanganj

Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury said here Thursday that the present government had given top most priority to the education sector with the objective of eradicating illiteracy from the country by the year 2000.

Socio-economic development of the country is impossible keeping the majority of population illiterate, he observed.

He was speaking as chief guest at a meeting organised by the district administration to observe the International Literacy Day. Ataur Rahman Khan MP and Prof. Rezaul Karim MP also spoke in the meeting.

Lalmonirhat

International Literacy Day was observed here Thursday through a day-long programme.

A rally was organised on the occasion. It was participated by several thousand students, teachers, political persons, government and non-government officials and employees.

Drought destroys crops worth Tk 12 cr in Sherpur

From Our Correspondent

SHERPUR, Sept 10: Crops worth Taka 10 to twelve crore have been damaged by the continued drought prevailing in the district for quite a long time, according to different sources.

It is reported that people in the remote areas have been passing hard days without any food or drinking water for quite sometime. Shortage of food and drinking water have seriously affected hundreds of people who have been reportedly attacked by a number of diseases, especially diarrhoea.

It is reported that the drought affected people have been leading miserable life in absence of any relief materials. Many of the affected people have complained that they urgently required food to survive. It was also alleged that no relief goods were sanctioned for the victims by the district administration so far.

The seriously affected areas are: Sherpur sadar and Sreebordi thanas where hundreds of farmers lost their crops. These farmers had invested crore of taka taking loans from the local commercial banks, hoping for good production. However, drought destroyed their hopes.

Rainfall this season in the areas was too inadequate to meet the demands of the crops. Irrigation, on the other hand, could not be arranged as power supply in the areas re-

mained too little along with frequent load sheddings.

In the meantime, more and more poor farmers are heading towards the sadar thana seeking employment. Most of these farmers want to make up for the money they have lost in the drought, it was learnt.

Meanwhile, many of the affected people have urged to the district administration to arrange for rehabilitation.

Power consumers gherao Sylhet DC office

From Staff Correspondent
SYLHET, Sept 10: About five hundred people gheraoed the office of Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet Tuesday to press their demand for immediate resumption of power supply in the Jalalpur Bazar of Sylhet sadar thana. They also handed over a memorandum to the ADC (General).

The protestors alleged that, Jalalpur Bazar and its adjoining areas were not supplied with electricity for the last ten days as the transformer went out of order. The officials of PDB gave no response to solve the problem, they alleged. They would gherao the PDB office if power supply is not resumed within 24 hours in the area, they stated said in the memorandum.

District roundup

CHITTAGONG

JCD calls strike in CMC

Sept 10: Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) on Tuesday called an indefinite strike in Chittagong Medical College demanding release of its five activists arrested during a police raid in the halls, reports UNB.

College sources said, police recovered a huge quantity of arms and ammunition during the five-hour raid from 5 pm. The police raid followed ransacking of the Principal's office and residence by some unruly students demanding immediate college union election.

The sources said, activists of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal were demanding the election while most of the student organisations opposing it.

The students went on berserk after the Staff Council of the college at a meeting decided to settle the issue by referendum within two weeks.

Several home-made bombs were blasted during the attack at the residence of CMC Principal Prof Nurjahan Bhuiyan. The principal said, power supply at her residence was disrupted following the bomb attack.

The arms recovered during the raid include a cut rifle, one shot gun, a pistol, two LGs and ammunition.

RAJSHAHI

Contraband worth Tk 13 lakh seized

Sept 10: BDR personnel of 20 rifle battalions seized Indian contraband worth Tk over 13 lakh by conducting anti-smuggling drive at different places of the district Monday, reports BSS.

The seized articles included current net, saree, blouse piece, blade, clothes, milk powder, tyre-tube of bicycles, salt, steel item etc.

Later, the seized contraband were deposited with the Rajshahi Customs office, BDR sources said.

BARISAL

DCs '94 confce opens

Sept 10: A two-day Deputy Commissioners-94 conference, first of its kind since the establishment of Barisal Division in 1991, began here Tuesday in the conference room of the commissioner with M A Rashid, Divisional Commissioner, in the chair, reports BSS.

Criminal cases, law and order situation, police and magistrate relations, among other things, were discussed on Tuesday's sessions. Mamtaz Uddin, DC, Barisal, Yahia Molla, DC, Patuakhali, Secondar Ali Mondal, DC, Bhola, Mamtaz Uddin Ahmed, DC, Pirojpur, Md Tofazzal Hossain, DC, Barguna and Mir Md Abdul Wahed, DC, Jhalakati participated in the discussion.

In his inaugural speech, M A Rashid, said that excellent administrations express the sentiments of the government in the country. "If good administration prevails in the country the people can live in peace".

CHANDPUR

Boat capsizes, passengers survive

Sept 10: A mechanised boat with six passengers on board sank near the confluence of the Meghna-Dakatia Tuesday afternoon but all the people on board survived, official sources said here, reports UNB.

A mechanised boat loaded with chunks of ice and six passengers on board, sank near the confluence suddenly. However, the passengers of the boat, all of them fish traders, were rescued by river police.

Earlier, another mechanised boat sank near the confluence on September 2 in which five passengers were missing and a passenger launch with about 300 passengers sank near the same spot on August 20 — the sunken launch is yet to be located.

SIRAJGANJ

Bus passengers robbed

Sept 10: Some 20 passengers of a bus were injured, two of them seriously, when they were robbed of cash and goods worth Tk one lakh on the Serajganj-New Bogra highway early Tuesday, reports UNB.

Police said that a gang of 15-20 armed men stopped a Serajganj-bound bus from Dhaka at Shimultala on the road, just one kilometre from a police camp and took away goods including wrist watch, ornaments and cash money at gun point at around 2:30 am.

The seriously injured were admitted to the Serajganj Health Complex.

A case was filed with Kamarkhand police station.

SYLHET

Young woman crushed under wheels

Sept 10: A young woman was crushed under the wheels of a running truck in sadar thana on Sylhet-Sunamganj road on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said, Ayesha Banu, 32 was run over while she was crossing the road near Taker Bazar about 6:30 pm.

The body was sent to MAG Osmany Hospital for autopsy. The driver fled the scene with his truck.

KHAGRACHHARI

Housewife electrocuted

Sept 10: A housewife was electrocuted at battalion area Tuesday immediately after a transformer burst 50 yards away, reports UNB.

Justina Begum, 30, mother of 4 children, was rushed to nearby army medical centre where she was declared dead.

Her husband, police Habildar Abdul Jalil, filed a case against four senior officials of local power office accusing them of transmission of high voltage that caused the accident.

Police said, they were investigating into the case, but none was arrested till Tuesday evening.



The Noakhali Unnayan Bastobayan Parishad (NUBP) held a rally at Majidee Court to press their 10-point demands recently. NUBP convenor advocate Abul Kalam Chowdhury is seen addressing the rally.