

**Phensidyl syrup floods market of Comilla**

COMILLA, Sept 21: Phensidyl syrup, a banned item, has flooded the markets of the district raising the number of addicts, reports UNB.

Local people alleged that smuggling of Indian phensidyl has increased alarmingly by a section of organised gangs.

About 40,000 bottles of phensidyl syrup have been seized from the border areas of the district by the task force and law enforcing agency from the month of January to August this year.

Youths and teenagers, who can not afford costly drugs, are addicted to Phensidyl. A bottle of syrup cost Tk 40 in the town and Tk 50 in the villages.

The contraband is being smuggled from India through different routes of the border in and around Comilla in the code name of "Dail", local people complained.

A section of dishonest drug traders in the town are involved in the smuggling of Phensidyl which is sent to the remote areas through their agents, they alleged.

Besides drug stores, the syrup is available in stationary shops. Some people are engaged in supplying the drug to the door steps of the addicts to earn additional profit.

Local people urged the authorities to take necessary steps to check the smuggling and selling of Phensidyl syrup.



MUNSHIGANJ: The mighty Padma river devoured the main buildings of the century old Banari High School in Tongbari thana of the district recently. The science building of the school still survives only a few yards from the bank of the river. Last year the bank of the river was about 1.6 kilometre away from the site of the school. Threat of erosion continues in the area. Hundreds of acres of land were already devoured by the river.

**District roundup**

**FARIDPUR**

**BRDB worker killed**

Sept 21: A BRDB employee was killed in a road accident in the town Saturday reports UNB.

Police said Mohammad Selim, 25, a peon of the local BRDB office, died on the spot when a speeding truck hit him in Habibi Gopalpur area in the morning.

The truck sped away after the accident. A case has been filed.

**BRAHMANBARIA**

**One held with smuggled Indian clothes**

Sept 21: Bangladesh Rifles seized Indian smuggled clothes worth about Tk 50,000 from a smuggler at Akhaura rail station, reports UNB.

Following a tip BDR jawans rushed to the spot, nabbed Zakir Hossain of Radhanagar village in Akhaura thana and recovered the goods from his possession.

The seized goods include, 57 pieces of sarees, 80 pieces of blouse.

A case was filed with the Akhaura police.

Local people alleged that smugglers are active in the area of a long time and every day smuggled goods are being brought into the country through the border areas.

They also said, some influential people are patronising the smugglers for their personal benefit.

**FENI**

**Smuggled goods worth Tk 3.06 cr seized**

Sept 21: Different anti-smuggling organisations under Chittagong Division Regional Task Force conducted 824 raids in 15 districts and seized contrabands worth about 3.06 crore in the last month, reports UNB.

This was disclosed at a meeting of anti-smuggling regional task force held at the conference room of Feni Deputy Commissioner's office with Chittagong Divisional Commissioner Saiful Islam in the chair on Saturday.

DIG Chittagong Range, Chittagong Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Customs Collector, BDR Sector Commander, Director of Excise Detective Branch, Additional Director of Narcotics Control of Chittagong and Deputy Commissioner and Police Super of Feni district and divisional officials were also present in the meeting.

The meeting discussed in details about the success of anti-smuggling drive and chalked out future programmes for curbing smuggling.

The seized goods, included drugs, cosmetics, sarees and cigarettes.

**SAVAR**

**Child labourers increasing**

Sept 21: The number of child labourers is increasing day by day in Savar and Dhamrai, reports UNB.

The child labourers who belong to the age group from 9 to 15 years, are compelled to take odd jobs for their survival due to abject poverty.

The parents encourage their kids to take up the jobs to earn their livelihood. These children are found working in restaurants, small mills and factories, motor workshops, welding shops.

They are also seen working as rickshawpullers, brickfields and in construction sites against meagre wages.

Due to recurrent floodings and other natural calamities the parents of these children have become destitute and no step has yet been taken to rehabilitate them.

Local elite have urged to the government to set up homes to rehabilitate the destitute children.

**SATKHIRA**

**One awarded 7 years' RI**

Sept 21: A man was awarded seven years imprisonment with a fine of Taka 5,000, in default, to suffer one month more on Saturday for committing dacoity, reports UNB.

According to prosecution story, Abdul Ali of Magura Ghona in Dumuria thana of Khulna district committed dacoity in a house of Abdus Sattar of Pankhali village in Shyamnagar thana of the district on August 28, 1990.

A case was filed and police after investigation submitted charge sheet against him.

Accused Abdul Ali confessed his guilt.

After examining the witnesses and records, Additional Sessions Judge Sudhendu Kumar Biswas awarded the punishment.

**RAJSHAHI**

**RU authorities withdraw ban on cultural activities**

Sept 21: Rajshahi University authorities Monday withdrew ban on cultural activities on the campus, says UNB.

A notice signed by Registrar of the university Omar Faruque said, all cultural activities are henceforth allowed to hold on the campus between 4.00 pm to 8.00 pm.

But the organisers of cultural activities must take permission from the Proctor, Student Adviser or Director of TSC prior to the programmes, the notice added.

The varsity authorities banned the cultural activities on the campus in October last year.

**SIRAJGANJ**

**Three killed in 2 separate road accidents**

Sept 21: Three people were killed and three others injured in two accidents on the Bogra-Nagarbari highway Monday, reports UNB.

Habibur Rahman 30 died on the spot when a Sirajganj-bound truck from Ullapara plunged into a roadside ditch at Brahmapalapa in Ullapara thana at 3 pm. Critically injured Rafiqul 29 died at Sirajganj General Hospital.

Two other injured — Sohrab Ali and Santosh Ali were sent to hospitals in Dhaka. Shahidul Islam was admitted to Sirajganj General Hospital. The dead and injured persons were day-labourers.

Police seized the truck. The driver and the helper of the truck fled. A case was lodged with Ullapara police.

Akhas Ali 53 died instantly when a truck ran him over at Sahebganj on the same road at 1 pm. A case was filed with Raiganj police.

**NETRAKONA**

**One killed, 30 injured in road mishap**

Sept 21: One passenger dead on the spot and 30 others were injured, nine of them critically, when a Netrakona bound bus from Takurakona dashed with a road side tree at Razurbazar Monday morning, reports BSS.

Police said, the accident occurred as the driver lost control over the vehicle. Police and fire service personnel rushed to the spot to rescue the injured passengers from the ill-fated bus.

Nine of the critically injured passengers were sent to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital. The driver and the helper of the vehicle, however, managed to escape.

Deputy Commissioners of Netrakona visited the spot. A case has been lodged with Kotwali thana.

**Forest resources worth Tk 2.5 crore lost every month in Cox's Bazar**

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, Sept 21: The country is losing forest resources worth Taka 2.50 crore every month for keeping Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar and Bandarban regions, official sources said on Wednesday.

The refugees living in 18 camps are using local plantations as fuel for cooking purposes and have already destroyed forest trees on about 4,000 acres of land, the forest department sources said. The refugees need roughly 16,000 cubic feet (cft) of fuel wood a day.

Officials said that the local forest department has approached to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the government seeking Taka 35 crore as compensation for the losses since arrival of the refugees in Bangladesh in March 91.

According to relief officials, provision of fuel wood for the Rohingya refugees has become

a major problem. The authorities in the meantime, have taken up a plan to supply the refugees with compressed rice stick sticks in addition to kerosene for cooking. The UNHCR has agreed to finance the procurement of rice stick sticks and kerosene. Besides, the authorities are supplying coal, especially for use in the relief camps.

The UNHCR, an official source said, has kept Tk 24 lakh ready as compensations for building separate camps for the refugees.

Meanwhile, law and order in the Cox's Bazar-Bandarban region has deteriorated because of the refugees in makeshift camps made of mud-and straw huts and canvas tents.

Besides, only 68,000 Rohingya refugees out of 2,65,000 refugees have been repatriated to Myanmar recently. At present nearly two lakh Rohingyas are staying in 18 large camps.

**Agriculture loan worth Tk 15.68 cr unrealised**

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Sept 21: Agriculture loan worth Taka 15 crore 68 lakh 58 thousand is lying unrealised in five districts of greater Faridpur. The bankers having failed in their attempts to realise the money through official procedures, filed four thousand five hundred and 98 certificate cases against the loanees.

Of the total certificate cases, 915 have been instituted in Faridpur district to realise outstanding loan worth Taka 4.3 crore. 883 cases were filed in Gopalganj district to realise Taka 3 crore 31 lakh 74 thousand. 1225 cases were filed in Madaripur district to realise Taka 4 crore 11 lakh 66 thousand. 864 cases were filed in Shariatpur district to realise almost Taka two crore. 711 cases were filed in Rajbari district to realise Taka 2.26 crore.

Some of the peasants when contacted said, in spite of their honest intention to return the loans they could not repay owing to disappointing output caused by natural calamities and unexpected low prices of their produce.

The poor farmers who can not repay the loans owing to acute financial hardship are now in great trouble facing the cases.

**40 per cent people suffer from various diseases in Jamalpur**

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Sept 21: About 40 per cent people are suffering from various diseases in seven thanas of the district according to official sources.

Different sorts of diseases like goitre, diarrhoea, chicken pox, polio, tetanus, Dysentery, Malaria, Pneumonia, hooping cough, blindness, skin diseases, grave, liver cancer, and others affect hundreds of people, specially poor, every year.

Due to shortage of iodine in salt and water most of the women in Jamalpur district have developed goitre, a disease which can not be cured but can only be prevented through regular intake of iodized salt with food. Leprosy, another deadly disease attacked about five per cent people of the district, according to health officials.

Malnutrition, a common disease has attacked a large number of people of the district. Due to malnutrition, children die mostly due to lack of proper treatment. When contacted, a source of the district Health Department informed this correspondent that families who live below poverty line can not afford minimum balanced diet.

An unofficial survey reveals that the attack of the diseases

mostly follows natural calamities like drought, and flood.

In addition to the diseases, the ill-health of mothers and unhealthy atmosphere are equally responsible for the sufferings of the children of the poor parents. A large number of children die every year attacked by the diseases. Those who survive have to lead a miserable life. The half-fed mothers also find it difficult to provide sufficient breast milk for their infants which is the only available balanced diet.

Extension of Extended Programme of Immunisation (EPI) to the remote villages proper treatment facilities and supply of nutritious food to the poverty-stricken people through government organisations can alleviate the problems. It was suggested by a number of doctors.

Eye diseases have, in the meantime, attacked hundreds of people throughout the district. Hundred of people have been attacked with the disease. Everyday a large number of patients come to the hospitals for treatment, a hospital source said. Most of the patients are reportedly returning disappointed for want of medicines. In a recent survey in different parts of the dis-

trict it was observed that a large number of people were suffering from eye ailments. The disease is spreading fast specially in rural areas. It was informed that no effective medicine is available to combat the disease. The doctor said they can not cope with the situation. "Its alarming, we receive patients everyday and the number seems to be increasing".

AK Khan, a well known eye specialist of Jamalpur informed The Daily Star that the cause of the disease could not be ascertained while it is being cured.

Diarrhoea, a water borne disease is very common in the district, particularly in rural areas where ponds and rivers are plenty.

In the wake of persistent hot weather such diseases are common and can not be avoided.

The government and NGOs should now use their manpower in the rural areas to make the people aware of the dangers of these diseases and also teach them what steps should be taken in case of an emergency. The family planning visitors and health visitors can also contribute a lot.

**3000 fire incidents Property worth Tk 8 cr gutted in Kushtia**

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Sept 21: Over three thousand fire incidents took place in Kushtia district during last 15 years causing losses over Taka eight crore. Out of six thanas in the district five thanas have no fire stations. Fire incidents taking place in those thanas can not be controlled immediately. Fire Brigade teams can reach those places from Kushtia town but at much slower pace due to bad communication system. The thanas which have no fire Brigade services are Daulatpur, Bheramara, Mirpur, Kumarkhali and Khoksa. The fire Brigade services of Kushtia sadar are pretty old and not equipped properly to cope with any mammoth fire incidents. With inadequate man power and other logistics the fire Brigade of Kushtia can do little when messages come from Daulatpur or Khoksa which are situated about 30 miles and 15 miles from Kushtia town.

The fire Brigade source here confirmed 1348 fire incidents causing losses of properties worth Taka one crore 16 lakh 25 thousand while the workers of fire Brigade services claimed to have saved

properties from fire worth over Taka two crore 40 lakh 20 thousand.

However, according to unofficial reports, number of fire incidents taking place in the district during last 15 years were over three thousand and losses of properties were estimated to be about Taka eight crore.

Kushtia Fire Brigade Source said, due to bad communication they can not reach remote areas of the district. A source from Kumarkhali said that all formalities for setting up of a Fire Brigade at Kumarkhali was completed in 1980 but till now the proposed fire brigade station could not be established. A source from Bheramara said that Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia assured of setting up of a fire Brigade station some where between Bheramara and Daulatpur thanas while addressing a public gathering at Bheramara College ground about a year back but nothing has been done yet. People of these areas have demanded immediate setting up of fire service stations in order to save life and properties.

**19,773 certificate cases pending in Chuadanga**

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Sept 21: A total of 19,773 certificate cases are now pending for disposal in four thanas of Chuadanga district for realising outstanding land development revenue totalling Taka 23,58,500.

Of the total certificate cases, 3,473 cases are pending in Chuadanga sadar thana for realising Taka 16,60,706. 9790 cases in Alamdanga thana for realising Tk 2,27,647. 5,257 cases in Damurhuda thana for realising Tk 3,23,250 and 1,253 cases are pending in Jibannagar thana for realising Tk 1,46,897.

**Sharp rise in price of fertilizer**

SUNAMGANJ, Sept 21: Price of urea fertilizer in the district has shot up abnormally owing to artificial crisis in the market causing untold sufferings particularly to the marginal farmers, says UNB.

Urea is now being sold at Tk 235 per bag instead of government price of Tk 176.25.

Dealers said, a section of dishonest fertilizer traders have created the artificial scarcity to earn extra profit. They alleged that four cargo ships loaded with fertilizer bound for Sylhet was sent to Bogra. As a result of this severe crisis of fertilizer is prevailing in greater Sylhet.

A source said six fertilizer factories of BCIC set a record by producing 22 lakh metric tons of fertilizers, 90 per cent of which is urea. These factories produce 6,000 metric tons of fertilizer every day on an average.

**Wheat misappropriated 10 people face corruption charges in Kishoreganj**

From Our Correspondent

Dilalpur to Chardewkandi ferry-ghat.

The project chairman in collaboration with Altabuddin, a union parishad member and Feroj Hossain misappropriated 4.83 metric tons of wheat. The price of the misappropriated wheat was Taka 35,452.

Mohammad Ali, Inspector of District Anti-Corruption Bureau enquired into the allegations and registered a case against them with Pukandia police station recently.

Another report says: The district Anti-Corruption Bureau submitted charge-sheet against four persons including a former member of union parishad for defalcation of wheat meant for project under the food for works programme.

KISHOREGANJ, Sept 21: The district Anti-Corruption Bureau filed a case against six persons including the union parishad chairman of Pakundia thana on charge of defalcation of wheat allotted for a project under the food for works programme.

According to the Bureau of office sources, during the year 1990-91, about 69,660 metric tons of wheat were sanctioned for reconstruction of the roads running from Anwarkhali to Shalanka. A seven member Project Committee was formed with ABM Ashraf Ali, Chairman of Narandi Union as its chairman to supervise the works.

The project chairman allegedly lifted 68,151 metric tons of wheat in five installments and misappropriated 5.09 metric tons in collaboration with Rukanuddin, Project Secretary, Habibur Rahman, Harisuddin, project members and Md Shamsul Huda, Draftsman of Pakundia thana engineering office by submitting false master-rolls. The price of the misappropriated wheat was Taka 37,270.

On complaint, ATM Aminul Islam, District Anti-Corruption officer enquired in to the matter and filed a case against all of the accused.

The same bureau office also filed another case against three persons including the chairman of Eagarasindhur union under Pakundia thana for defalcation of wheat during the year 1992-93 and Matur Rahman Sarker, chairman of Eagarasindhur union who was also the project chairman who reportedly lifted 51,280 metric tons of wheat allotted for the reconstruction work of the road running from Luxmia-

**New law enacted to stop sale of low quality drugs**

CHITTAGONG, Sept 21: Director of Bangladesh Drug Administration Directorate, Dr Chowdhury Hasan Mahmud said her Monday that new laws were enacted to prevent sale of adulterated and low quality medicines in the country, says BSS.

Speaking as the chief guest at a drug licence distribution function at Muslim Institute Hall here, he called upon the medicine dealers to cooperate with the drug administration directorate to bring all medicine shops under the discipline of the directorate to ensure supply of pure medicines for ailing people. The function held under the auspices of Chittagong chapter of Bangladesh Chemists and Druggists Association was

presided over by chapter president Samir Kanti Sikdar. It was also addressed by Central President M Sadequar Rahman and Chittagong chapter General Secretary Omar Ibrine Ali.

Dr Chowdhury said that medicine dealers should be honest and sincere as they were engaged in supplying medicines for ailing people.

Adulterated and low quality medicines would endanger lives of people and hence your responsibility for supplying pure medicines is very great, he added. He also called upon the medicine dealers to ensure reasonable prices of medicines.

He assured the medicine licence holders of prompt action in granting licences and their renewal.



KUSHTIA: The Project Director of GK Project, Shafiqul Islam is releasing fish fry in the GK Project colony pond recently.