

One killed by Sharbahara Party activists in Barisal

From Staff Correspondent
BARISAL, Oct 16: One Abdul Jabbar 45, was hacked to death by a gang of armed Sharbaharamen at Bahadurpur village under Muladi thana of the district recently.
According to eyewitnesses, some armed Sharbaharamen on gun point forcibly took away Abdul Jabbar. He was on way his home after the evening and was killed brutally.
A case has been lodged with the local thana. None is arrested yet.

Rupsha Ghat seized for 2 hrs

KHULNA, Oct 16: Communication in the southwestern districts were disrupted as about 2,000 activists of Greater Khulna Unnayan Sangram Parishad today seized the Rupsha ghat from 10 am to 12 noon demanding construction of Rupsha bridge, reports UNB.
Later, speakers at a rally presided over by Chairman of the Parishad Abu Md Ferdous said that the Rupsha bridge was not yet constructed though assurance was given by successive governments.
They warned that no revenue income will go to the government coffers if their demand is not met soon.
Members of all major political parties and the local people attended the meeting.

Minor girl raped, stabbed to death

PABNA, Oct 16: A minor girl was raped and stabbed to death by unknown miscreants in the town Wednesday, police said, reports UNB.
The miscreants left her body in front of sadar hospital before dawn. It was recovered early in the morning.
The body of the unidentified girl, with marks of stab injury on her chest, was taken to the hospital morgue for autopsy.
A case was filed with the local police in this connection.

Housewife killed for dowry

SIRAJGANJ, Oct 16: A man allegedly killed his wife for dowry in Ullapara thana of the district, police said Wednesday, reports UNB.
Nazma Begum, 20 was allegedly beaten to death by her husband Sujat Ali, 28 at their home in Balshbari village on Tuesday.
Her autopsy was done at Sirajganj General hospital and she was buried at the family graveyard.

Fire destroys 8 shops in Barisal

From Staff Correspondent
BARISAL, Oct 16: At least 8 shops were gutted and wealth worth Taka 6 lakh including one lakh taka cash were destroyed when a devastating fire engulfed a wide area of Agailjhara bazar last Wednesday evening.
Eye witnesses, fire service and local people sources say when the fire originated from a lit candle in an oil shop at the bazar the entire area was in darkness due to load-shedding. Suddenly the fire got in touch with a petrol drum, one stage burst out and the fire spread like wild fire. 8 shops 5 of them fully and 3 others were partially gutted by the blaze. Abdul Khaleque Molla owner of the oil shop was seriously injured, later he was hospitalised.
Fire brigades from Barisal and Madaripur went to the spot and after a two hour long endeavour the devastating fire was controlled.

Pirates loot rice worth Tk 4.35 lakh

SIRAJGANJ, Oct 16: Pirates swooped on two mechanised boats and looted rice worth about Tk 4.35 lakh in juring some 30 rice traders in the river Jamuna in Kazipur thana early Thursday, reports UNB.
Police said pirates in two groups numbering about 100 simultaneously attacked the rice-laden boats at Charkanta Nagar at 5 am and made their good escape with the booty.
Of the injured, four were rushed to Shuvogacha Health Complex and two were admitted to Kazipur Health Complex.
A case was filed with Kazipur thana.



CHUADANGA: Poor people standing in queue to buy rice and flour from a retail price shop which was recently introduced in the district. — Star photo

Allegations of Massive mismanagement at govt rice, wheat purchasing centres

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Oct 16: The price of rice is increasing throughout Chuadanga district, according to reports received from different areas of the district.
At present the lowest quality of rice is being sold between Taka 12.50 and 13.00 per kg. The fine quality of rice is being sold between Taka 14.00 and 14.50 per kg and at Taka 11.00 per kg.
To face the situation the food department has opened eight grain selling shops only in Chuadanga town through dealers and no such arrangements have been made in other parts of the district-like in the rural areas, it is alleged.
In these grain selling shops coarse rice is being sold at Taka 7.00 per kg and wheat at Taka 10.50 per kg. In every shop one metric ton of rice and one metric ton of wheat is being sold everyday which are allegedly not enough against the demand.
Everyday hundreds of men, women and children are seen standing in queue in front of the food department grain selling shops of the town since early morning to purchase rice and wheat. When this correspondent visited some of the food department grain selling shops in the town it was found that most of the shops were not maintaining timetable of opening and closing of the shops. The shop owners or the dealers are reportedly opening the shops when ever they wished. There seems to be no authority to look into the matter. No food department officer or employee was found in any of the shops. This correspondent found hundreds of people including men, women and children are standing in queue in front of the said grain selling shops at 6 am last Tuesday to buy rice and wheat.
A number of customers alleged that the dealers do not behave well with them and there are some hired *mastan* who sometimes abuse them when ever they form queue. As there is no arrangement for supplying rice and wheat in the rural areas at fair price by the government the poor villagers adjacent to Chuadanga town are reportedly coming to Chuadanga on foot just to buy rice and wheat at fair prices.
Sometimes it is alleged that the supply of rice and wheat in these shops are being stopped without any reason and as a result the customers are suffering much and leaving the shops with empty hands.
A number of children alleged that the dealer surprisingly closed down one of the shops without even completing selling the grains. They informed us nothing, they just

closed the shutters and walked away", alleged a hungry 12 year old boy.
Meanwhile there is no sign of reducing the price of rice and *ata* in Chuadanga.
In the rural areas of the district meanwhile crisis has badly affected thousands of people in absence of good aman output.
To face the situation at least 40 government managed food grain selling shops are needed to be established immediately in four thanas of the district, Chuadanga sadar, Alamdanga, Damurhuda and Jibannagar.
It is also alleged that a section of grain traders of Chuadanga are buying rice and wheat big in quantity and selling those in town areas at much higher prices.
Our correspondent from Gopalganj adds: The prices of grain and various other essentials have registered a sharp rise in the markets resulting in a decrease in purchasing power of consumers here.
In the markets, rice is now sold between Tk 12 and 16 per kg while flour sells between Tk 10 and 11 per kg.
According to the traders, the poor supply of rice in the markets is seriously hurting the general consumers who can not keep up with increasing trend of prices. The Food Department meanwhile, has

established four centers in Gopalganj town initially to sell one metric tons of rice and required quantities of wheat. The centres are selling rice at the subsidized price at Tk 10.50 per kg and wheat at Tk 7.00 per kg.
There are allegations that due to supply of low-quality rice to the centres, the consumers are showing less interest to buy the grains.
The prices of edible oil have shot up abnormally. At present Soyabean oil is selling at Tk 56.00 per kg. The fine quality of soyabean in plastic cans is sold at much higher rate between Tk 60 and 64 per kg in the rural markets. Adulterated edible oil are also being sold openly causing health hazards.
The prices of fish are also high in the markets and the supply is also low as per demand. Singi, magur, tetra and gochi are sold between Tk 100.00 and 140.00 per kg while bigger size fish such as hilsha, ruhi, katol, mregel etc are available at between Tk 70.00 and Tk 150 per kg.
Fish traders complained that due to drying up of the water bodies fish supply is scarce in the markets.
The price of onion has also show up. A kilogram of onion is selling at Tk 12.00. The prices of vegetables also showed high trend in the markets.

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'Black Water' claims 50 cattle in Bhola

BHOLA, Oct 16: The 'Black Water' disease has claimed 50 cattle heads in sadar thana of the district in two weeks ending October 7, official sources said, reports UNB.
The disease has broken out throughout the district, a livestock field worker said, adding that the fatal disease might spread in an epidemic form in absence of measures to check the menace.
Black Water is a disease, which decays muscular tissue of cattle and ultimately becomes the cause of the death of an affected animal.
However, official sources said that the treatment of the disease, now a days, has become expensive in the area due to high price of medicines.
Most of the cattle heads died without any treatment as the poor farmers could not afford medicine.

Diarrhoea claims 180, attacks 40,000 in Jessore, Gaibandha

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Oct 16: A total of 35 people died and 34,000 others were attacked with diarrhoea in eight thanas of the district during first nine months of current year, according to an unofficial source.
Reports say in sadar thana casualties from the disease were highest. It was 18 while 1374 were admitted to hospital out of 14,000 attacked.
In Jhinkergacha one person died, 179 patients were admitted to hospital out of 1800 attacked.
In Sharsa, the death figure was three while out of 1,900 attacked 186 were admitted to hospital.
In Bagherpara, two died from the disease 461 were admitted to hospital out of 4600 attacked.

In Monirampur 575 were hospitalised out of 5800 patients. There was no deaths in this thana.
In Keshabpur, number of deaths was two number of causes admitted to hospital were 444 while 4,500 were attacked.
In Obhainagar, death report was one only. Cases infected by the disease were 5,600 and admitted to hospital were 560.
In Chowgacha two died of the disease. 560 were hospitalised out of reported attack of 5,600.
According to another source, the situation of the disease prevailing in the district, was comparatively good in last that of September than that of August. During August, death report all over the dis-

trict were four while in September. There was no reports of death.
When contacted, the Jessore Civil Surgeon Dr Md Amjad Hossain in an interview with The Daily Star said that the District Health Department was very alert and was able to keep diarrhoea situation under complete control. A total of 103 medical teams were formed to combat the disease in the district.
Most of the medical teams were deployed in sadar to work round the clock in a bid to eradicate the disease, he said. Giving thana-wise figure of medical teams appointed, he said that in Sharsa 16, in Bagherpara 14, Obhainagar 13 in Keshabpur 14, Chowgacha 11, in Monirampur 7 and in Jhinkergacha 5 teams were posted to fight the disease.
Another UNB report from Gaibandha adds: Diarrhoea claimed at least 146 lives and attacked 8,000 people in seven thanas of the district during the last one and a half months.
The affected thanas are: Saghata, Gobindaganj, Palashbari, Sadullapur, Fulchhari, Sundarganj and Sadar. Of them Palashbari and Gobindaganj were worst affected.
District Civil Surgeon Office confirmed 69 deaths at different hospital and Health complexes and 4,335 people attacked by the water borne disease.
A total of 94 medical teams were working in different affected areas to combat disease, the source added.
Local people alleged that activities of the medical teams were not satisfactory. Scarcity of oral saline and other essential medicine were also prevailing in the affected thanas.
Contradicting the allegation, the district Civil Surgeon said medical teams were working properly and there were sufficient stock of oral saline.



NAKSINGDI: Shibpur Thana Nirbahi Officer, Md Shafiqul Islam speaking at the land title deeds distribution ceremony for the Brahmandi Adarsha Gram Landless Families, held at the Shibpur Thana Parishad auditorium recently

Tragic deaths!

FENI, Oct 16: Two members of a same family were crushed and two others seriously wounded under the wheels of a train at the Feni railway station Thursday, reports UNB.
Witnesses said, Zahera Khatun, 45 and her daughter Fatema, 10 were killed while husband, Safaruddin, 55 and son Rasel, 6 received serious injuries when an engine slammed the stationary bogies under which they were taking food.
Safaruddin, a day labourer had been living with his families in the station area for some time.
The injured were admitted to sadar hospital.

CPEP faces problems due to lack of teachers

MAIJDEE COURT, Oct 16: Compulsory Primary Education Programme is being hampered due to lack of teaching staff and other facilities in six thanas of Noakhali district, reports UNB.
There are at present 776 government and 256 non-government registered primary schools in the district. Some 28 posts of headmaster and 53 posts of assistant teacher have been lying vacant since long in these schools.
Officials sources said, two posts of Assistant Thana Education Officer, two posts of Thana Education Officer remained vacant in Chatkhill and Hatiya thanas for a long time.
Local people alleged that teachers were not attending their classes regularly in rural areas and the education officers were not supervising the activities of teachers.

One killed, 4 injured in road mishap

KHULNA, Oct 16: A young man was killed and four people were injured when a tempo collided with a bus at Chumkathi in sadar thana on Khulna-Mongla highway Thursday, reports UNB.
The injured were admitted to Rupsha and Fakirhat health complexes, police said.
The body was sent to sadar hospital for autopsy. But the victim could not be identified immediately.
Police seized the vehicles, the drivers however, fled the scene.

More students dropping out of schools in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, Oct 16: At least one lakh children have dropped out of their schools in nine thanas due to poverty, unofficial sources here said, reports UNB.
The number of school going children, now stands at three lakh 22 thousand and 932, although four lakh 22 thousand and 932 students are enlisted.
Poverty stricken guardians are basically interested to engage their children in money earning jobs instead of sending them to schools, local people said.

One seriously injured in fire incident

BARISAL, Oct 16: A man was seriously injured and property worth about Tk six lakh were gutted when a fire broke out at Agailjhara Bazar on Wednesday evening, reports UNB.
Fire Service sources said, the fire broke out when an ignited candle fell into a petrol drum of a fuel shop. The fire soon engulfed the surrounding eight shops at the bazar.
Owner of the fuel shop, Abdul Malek Molla, 40 received serious burn injuries. He was admitted to Agailjhara Health Complex.
Local people and fire brigades from Madaripur and Barisal brought the fire under control in an hour long struggle.

Kidnap attempt thwarted

JAMALPUR, Oct 16: Villagers thwarted an attempt of the miscreant to abduct a 16-year-old girl from her residence at Narikel village in sadar thana on Thursday, reports UNB.
They also nabbed 11 culprits along with lethal weapons and handed them over to police.
On hearing hue and cry, the villagers rushed to the house of Abdul Hamid and rescued his daughter, Parul from the clutches of the miscreants.
Police said, the kidnappers, age between 16 and 22, hailed from the neighbouring Bagarhata village.
A case was filed with the local police.

Jute cultivation declines in 10 south western dists

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Oct 16: Prospect of jute cultivation is bleak in 10 districts of south-western zone of the country following continued decline in achieving the target during the last 10 years, an unofficial source said.
Adverse condition of climate, mounting seed-crisis, problem in decompressing raw-jute due to scarcity of water, fall in market price, are causes that have discouraged the growers to give up the cultivation of jute it is learnt.
According to Agriculture Extension Department, target of jute cultivation in this zone were not achieved at all despite departmental initiative to encourage the growers, during the period from 1985 to '94.
A detailed information says in 1985, target for jute cultivation was 88,600 hectares. Infact, only 43,300 hectares were brought under cultivation.

In 1986, target was 90,100 hectares but 48,400 hectares of land were cultivated. In 1987, target was 90,246 hectares, but it was cultivated on 54,206 hectares. In 1988, target was 91,965 hectares while it was cultivated on 71,258 hectares. In 1989, target was 102050 hectares but only 58400 hectares were cultivated. In 1990, it was cultivated on 80,808 hectares out of 1,18,858 hectares. In 1991, 80,101 hectares were cultivated while the target was 1,16,600 hectares.
Similarly in '92, it was cultivated on 64211 hectares while the target was 1,14,565 hectares.
And in 1993, it was cultivated on 77458 hectares and the target was 1,12,796 hectares.
In current year, only 74 thousand hectares were brought under cultivation which was half of the target.
It appears that decline in the cultivation of jute throughout the zone, has begun with drastic fall in price market.
Recent visit to some neigh-

bouring bazar noted for jute-trade including Bagunchara, Navaran, Jhinkergacha Dhongacha, Kaliganj, Khalishpur and Kotchandpur, it was found that the market price was quite nominal, below Taka 220 per maund.
Again, these was no demand due to lack of buyers.
Mounting hatred was brewing among poor jute growers against jute cultivation with determination not to go any further for it.
Agriculture experts apprehended that the jute cultivation will further decline from next year at the backdrop of current situation.

Over 500 cattle die of diseases

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Oct 16: Over 500 cattlehead died and at least 5000 have been attacked with various cattle diseases which broke out in an epidemic form in the district during last few months.
The local Livestock Department meanwhile has not yet taken any preventive measures to control the disease on the plea that they do not possess sufficient vaccine necessary to combat the disease, it is alleged.
When contacted the District Livestock Officer confirmed the news and said that new virus have been taking lives of many cattlehead and no conventional medicine are working to prevent the disease.
The Indian cattlehead which are being smuggled into the country regularly are allegedly carrying the particular virus of cattle disease. District Livestock Officer said.
The owners of mini dairy farms in Kushtia town who are being supported by government patronisation are facing great difficulty treating their cattlehead.

Progress of different development projects in Netrakona reviewed

NETRAKONA, Oct 16: A meeting of the district development co-ordination committee was held at the conference room of district collectorate here recently, reports BSS.
The Deputy Commissioner Netrakona Dewan Afzaruddin presided over the meeting. It was attended by the district level officers and Thana Nirbahi Officers (TNO) from all the ten thanas of the district.
The meeting reviewed the progress of work of different on-going development projects taken in various sectors including communication, agriculture, health and education.

spread of plague in the district.
The meeting was further told that the personal hygiene cleanliness and watchful eyes against unusual death of rats were the precautionary measures for prevention of plague.

2 killed in Jhenidah

JHENIDAH, Oct 16: Shah Alam (35) of Shatharia village in Kaliganj thana succumbed to his injuries at Khulna hospital on October 9, four days after he was attacked to death by some miscreants, reports UNB.
Police said, a group of armed miscreants attacked Alam on October 5 at Bethuli bazar area in same thana and cut his right leg. Family sources said that previous enmity might be the reason behind the killing.
With the help of local people, he was rushed to Khulna hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.
A case was lodged with Kaliganj police.
In another incident an employee of Water Development Board of the district was killed and three others injured in a road accident at Chuadanga bus stand of the town on October 8.
Witnesses said, Shaheb Ali (50) of Pahartali village in Rajan thana of Chuadanga district was critically injured when a micro bus hit him as the vehicle lost control.
Later, Ali was admitted to Jhenidah Sadar hospital where he succumbed to his injuries on the following day.

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Not many familiar with iodised salt in Jessore

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Oct 16: Iodised salt is not a household name in the district. About 62 per cent of the total population are yet to know what it actually is, according to a survey report.
The study reports, 23,592 families or 38.66 pc out of 60,513 in eight thanas of the district are starting to use the salt.
The survey was conducted on a house-to-house basis by the District Health Department during the Mother and Children Health Fortnight observed in August/September.
According to a statistical report, received from local District Health office, Keshabpur thana tops the list in consuming iodised salt in the district while Chowgacha thana is lowest.

Government has decided earlier to make the salt available to every family of the country starting from the current year. Government policy to produce iodised salt in all factories to supply in the market from current year has not been implemented yet, it is alleged.
Iodised salt now sells in the market at the rate of Taka 10 per kg, while iodised free salt is selling between Taka six and seven per kg. The difference is too much.
It is learnt that the production cost of iodised salt is 10 paise more than the selling price in per kg. For this reason salt producers are showing more interest in producing iodised — free salt.