

One given 10 years' RI in Pabna

From Our Correspondent
PABNA, Sept 4: While delivering her judgement in connection with a case for illegal possession of unlicensed arms, Begum Laila Salma Banoo, Sub-judge and Assistant Session Judge, Second Court, Pabna, found one Sohrab Uddin Khan, son of Shamsur Ali Khan of village Kachipara of Pabna Sadar thana guilty under the Arms Act, convicted him and sentenced him to suffer rigorous imprisonment for a term of ten years and also to pay a fine of Tk 3,000, and, in default of payment of fine to suffer RI for a further term of three months.

On April 4, 1994, the accused Sohrab Khan, along with several others, entered the house of Ansar Sheikh of village Kolchari under Pabna Sadar thana. An inmate of the house, Jahid Hossain woke up, found the accused inside the house and raised an alarm. The accused opened fire while running away as Jahid threw stone at him causing injury.

The villagers, however, gathered and caught Sohrab along with a pipe-gun and two rounds of cartridges. But the others managed to escape.

A FIR was lodged by Ansar Sheikh and the accused was handed over to the police along with the arms.

C' Bazar poure commissioners threaten to quit

From Our Correspondent
COX'S BAZAR, Sept 4: All ward commissioners of the Cox's Bazar Poursava have threatened to resign en masse unless the suspension order against chairman Nurul Absar is withdrawn.

They also called a half-day hartal on September 6 in protest against the suspension of the Poursava chairman.

Protesting the order, about ten thousand people demonstrated in the town yesterday following a big gathering at the Public Hall maidan.

2 children drown in Gaibandha

From Our Correspondent
GAIBANDHA, Sept 4: Two children drowned at village Gajaria under Shaghata thana on August 20.

According to report one Helal, 5, son of Monarul of village Gajaria was found missing. Later the floating body of the victim was recovered from the nearby pond. On the same day another 3 years old daughter namely Khuku of Khoka Mia of same village was recovered dead from a pond adjacent to the dwelling house she was found missing.

Hashish recovered

From Our Correspondent
GAIBANDHA, Sept 4: Narcotic and Liquor department, Sadullapur in a drive recovered 27 hashish hemp from remote areas.

On August 22 a contingent together with some other officials launched a drive at village Daudpur under Sadullapur Thana and recovered 24 pieces of hashish humps from the house of one Sushil Chandra Mahanta and more 3 pieces of said plant from the homestead of another Satinath Chandra of village Khordarui. All the plants were seized by the authority but none was arrested during the drive.

Smuggled goods worth Tk 9.34 lakh seized

BRAHMANBARIA, Sept 4: Bangladesh Rifles seized smuggled goods worth about Tk 9.34 lakh in different raids in the district last week, reports UNB.

The goods included phenidyl, wine, ganja, sarees, salt, sugar, medicine, motor parts, spices and fish. During the raid two alleged smugglers were also nabbed and they were handed over to the police.

All the seized goods were deposited with narcotics and customs offices.

Teesta claims one life

From Our Correspondent
GAIBANDHA, Sept 4: Agar Ali, 19, of village Darierkura under Sunderganj thana, drowned into the river Teesta recently. The victim went to the river for fishing. Where he suddenly fell into deep water and was driven away by strong current and drowned.

Frequent loadshedding — a regular feature in Jhenidah Power Supply Div

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Sept 4: For want of sufficient power supply, man power and other problems consumers of power in five power supply stations under Jhenidah Electricity Supply Division (JESD) have been suffering badly for years together. It is learnt.

According to reports, about 28 mw of power is required for Jhenidah, Magura, Kaliganj, Kotchandpur and Saikupa electric supply stations daily. But now only 10 to 12 mw of power is being supplied for a total of 22,631 consumers. As a result frequent loadshedding for hours together has become a regular feature in Jhenidah Power Supply Division, it was learnt.

Further several lakhs of taka is lying pending with some government offices for years which has become the cause of headache both for government and for the Power Development Board (PDB) as these bills were not paid regularly.

In Jhenidah Power Supply Division, more than 5.87 crore units of power was consumed and more than 4.36 crore units were sold. Here the systems loss was 25.66 per cent during the fiscal year 1994-95. Bills for Taka 11,06,45,723 was prepared and taka 11,18,56,498 was collected against the bills. Taka 3,45,66,000 was lying as outstanding dues, sources said.

It was gathered that in Jhenidah electric supply station 2,30,01,887 units of power was imported and 1,60,37,297 units were sold for Taka 3,86,02,365 and taka 3,96,81,889 was collected from 7,750 consumers

of Jhenidah electric supply during last fiscal year. Taka 1,36,20,000 was pending with different departments. Taka 19,88,644 lying with Ministry of Home Affairs like police, ansar, fire and civil defence, taka 18,47,531 with Jhenidah pourasabha and taka 32,94,533 with Ministry of Education, it was learnt.

In Magura electric supply station 1,90,83,500 units of power was brought in and 1,49,31,143 units of power was sold to 6,987 consumers during the fiscal year. The systems loss was 21.75 per cent here. Taka 4,12,31,949 was collected against billing amount of taka 4,02,10,298 and the figure of outstanding dues lying for taka 1,07,75,000. In this station taka 57,364 was lying with Ministry of Education, taka 1,16,074 with Establishment Department, taka 70,302 with Health and Family Planning Department, taka 11,29,295 with Ministry of Home Affairs and taka 1,29,625 with Magura pourasabha, sources said.

Under Saikupa power supply station 44,00,600 units of power was imported and 31,57,325 units were sold to 1,830 consumers. Taka 80,31,505 was collected in one month against billing amount taka 80,72,345 and the figure of outstanding dues was taka 20,82,000, it was learnt. In this station taka 1,75,060 is lying with education departments, taka 1,33,225 with Health and Family Planning, taka 6,71,414 with Ministry of Home Affairs, and Taka 6,21,350 with Saikupa pourasabha, it was gathered.

In last fiscal year systems loss was 27.41 per cent.

Number of power subscribers was 3,058 in Kaliganj power supply station which imported 69,85,371 units of power and sold 52,31,970 units. Authorities submitted bills for taka 1,32,26,269 and collected Taka 1,27,49,247. Here taka 65,17,000 was pending. Taka 4,61,000 lying pending with Ministry of Home, taka 49,000 with Health and Family Planning and taka 88,000 with industries, it was informed.

Condition of Kotchandpur power supply station is not something different, it is learnt. Here 52,80,161 units of power was imported and 42,64,680 units were sold among 3,006 consumers. In this station systems loss was 18.66 per cent. Bills for taka 1,05,34,443 was submitted and taka 1,06,21,495 was collected. Taka 15,72,083 was pending in this station. Systems loss was 18.03 per cent here, it was informed.

In Kotchandpur power supply station taka 2,89,000 is pending with Ministry of Homes, taka 1,27,000 with Kotchandpur pourasabha, taka 1,81,000 with Fisheries Department and Taka 1,40,000 is lying with Health and Family Planning Department, sources said.

It was learnt from different corners that the entire division is running with one Executive Engineer (XEN), two Sub-Divisional Engineers (SDE), three Assistant Engineers (AE), seven Sub-Assistant Engineers (SAE) and 186 employees. But to run the division at least three

XENs, six SDEs, six AEs, seven SAEs and four hundred employees are required. With this limited and poor number of manpower Jhenidah power division is running very slow. It was further gathered that the manpower of this important department has not increased even in last 15 years. As a result the authorities are facing trouble. On the other hand, the power subscribers are also the worst sufferers.

There is no vehicles for the small electric supply stations, it was informed. As a result, they can not meet emergency needs when ever needed.

Due to power generation problems loadshedding is scheduled for 7 to 8 hours a day causing much inconvenience to subscriber. In protest of the irregular power supply agitated people attacked the offices of Resident Engineers (RE) at Kaliganj, Kotchandpur and some other areas recently. They demanded regular supply of power.

It was further told that the systems loss has mainly increased at least 10 per cent for Jhenidah power supply division due to Chuadanga and Meherpur districts as those two stations are fed by Jhenidah. Due to this Jhenidah has to give loss at least two lakh units of power every month.

Another source said that government has been taking action against some employees who failed to collect money lying outstanding. But almost all or at least 55 per cent of total outstanding dues lying pending with government offices.



ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY (Kushtia): President Abdur Rahman Biswas inaugurating Shahid Ziaur Rahman hall of Islamic University recently. Professor M Inamul Hoque, Vice chancellor is also seen. — Star photo

Three commit suicide in Satkhira

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Sept 4: Three persons including two housewives committed suicide by taking liquid pesticides on August 29.

It is reported that one housewife, Taslima Khatun, 20, wife of Rafiqul Islam of village Goadanga under Assasuni thana committed suicide by taking liquid pesticide on August 29. It is further reported that Rafiqul Islam married Taslima, daughter of Moksef Ali of village Chandpur under Sadar thana as his third wife a few months back.

Her husband tortured her mercilessly on the day of occurrence and she took poison. She died on the spot.

In another incident one Dipak Kumar, 19, son of Sudhanya Kumar of village Baliapur under the same thana committed suicide by taking liquid pesticide on the same day. The other incident occurred at village Noapara of the same thana where wife, 25, of Mahabubur Rahman committed suicide by taking pesticide on August 29. Family trouble is the cause of her suicide, it is learnt.

Police arrested two youths — Mithu and Alal for their alleged involvement in the incident and sent them to the court.

Tk 54,000 stolen from college office

MAGURA, Sept 4: Miscreants stole valuables worth Tk 54,000 breaking open the lock of the almirah of the Magura Government College last week, reports UNB.

Police sources said Mukhtadir Rahman, an employee of the college, kept Tk 22,000 cash in the almirah at his office room and went home after office hours on August 22.

Some unidentified miscreants broke open the almirah and took away valuables worth Tk 54,000 including the cash.

Police arrested two youths — Mithu and Alal for their alleged involvement in the incident and sent them to the court.



SYLHET: Divisional Commissioner Sylhet Md Habibur Rahman, speaking at the inaugural function of Haji Idris Ali Khan Free Friday Clinic at Khadimnagar of Sadar thana recently. — Star photo

Fishermen in Bay have virtually no security

From Aroop Talukdar

BARISAL, Sep 4: Thousands of fishermen of the vast southern areas of the country remain engaged in fishing with their fishing trawlers in the Bay of Bengal throughout the year.

But it was revealed that these fishermen have no security or any sort of facilities they need particularly during fishing season. They have to go to the Bay for fishing risking their lives.

When the sea becomes rough many fishermen drown. There are few records of drowning in the sea. Many trawlers sank in the sea but there were no reports on them.

"We do not have minimum security from any side," said Abdul Kader, a fisherman of Patharghata. "One of my brothers, Kashem, drowned when his trawler sank in the Bay amid rough weather last year." According to Abdul Kader, fishing is becoming very risky day by day as fishermen have become easy prey to pirates and in some

cases tidal surges. Last year about two hundred fishermen of Patharghata and Khepupara went on strike and did not go fishing in the Bay. "At that time piracy was so rampant that we were in constant fear of attack from pirates in the Bay. Later, when naval patrol ships drove some pirates out from some of the fishing areas in the Bay, we started fishing again," Abdul Kader added.

Tidal surge and sudden strong windy weather during this season are causing high risk for the lives of the fishermen. During recent bad weather and strong current, nearly two hundred fishermen died with their sunken trawlers numbering not less than thirty. It all happened in only three weeks. During this time about fifty fishing trawlers were reportedly attacked by armed pirates.

In the attacks at least two hundred fishermen were injured and property worth about twenty lakh taka was looted from the trawlers.

On the other hand, it was also revealed that most of the fishing trawlers have no necessary life saving equipment on board. Besides, due to faulty design and structure including old machiges, the trawlers sometimes cannot face the rough weather in the Bay.

It should be checked by the authority concerned, informed sources said.

From different concerned sources it is learnt that there are more than 15,000 trawlers of different sizes engaged in fishing in the Bay but Mercantile Marine Department has a record of only half that figure. In that case, many of the trawlers have remained unidentified by the authority concerned.

This department cannot identify when some fishing trawler sinks or in danger in bad weather as not all trawlers are known to the department concerned.

It is to be mentioned here that there is no branch office of this department in Biola,

Barisal or in Patuakhali where it should have for various reasons.

So far, it is learnt, this department only gives registration to marine vessels.

To control piracy, river police battalion was formed in 1976 and its headquarters was set up here at Barisal. But later, it is revealed that this department could help very little in controlling piracy in the Bay or in any remote riverine area.

In 1992 a decision was taken and passed in the parliament to form Coast Guards. Later, a proposal was sent to Finance Ministry to set up the headquarters and outposts for the coastal areas of Patharghata, Kuakata, Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Sundarban, Khulna, and Noakhali.

Besides, at present sometimes during the fishing season one or two navy ships are deployed along the coastal belt of Patharghata and Khepupara to check on the activities of pirates.

Woman commits suicide

3 arrested for smuggling

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Sept 4: A woman aged over 70 committed suicide at her village home in Barlekha thana on Tuesday. Police sent the body to the Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

According to family sources, Raibunnesa had been suffering from some chronic diseases.

3 arrested for smuggling

SATKHIRA, Sept 4: Bangladesh Rifles arrested three people from Bankal in sadar on Bhomara-Satkhira road recently for smuggling shrimp fry worth about Tk 9 lakh, reports UNB.

According to officials, the arrested people were identified as Islam Mollah, Selim and Delwar.

BDR jawans, acting on secret information, raided a pickup van on the point and recovered the fry from the car.

A case was registered with the police.

One injured while preparing bomb

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Sept 4: One person received injuries while preparing handbombs at village Laxmikole in sadar thana of the district on Saturday.

According to police sources, Noor Islam, 35, and three others were preparing handbombs at the village. Suddenly a bomb exploded with horrible sound and Noor Islam received serious injuries in his face. Just after the incident, all his three associates fled away. Police nabbed Noor Islam with bomb preparing materials, swords, ganja and other equipment from his possession, police sources said.

The arrested might be involved with theft, robbery, ganja selling and other anti-social activities.

Aman cultivation target may not be achieved

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Sept 4: Aman production target may not be achieved in Jhenidah district this season for want of sufficient rainfall, it is apprehended.

According to reports, district Agriculture, Extension Department has taken a plan to cultivate transplanted aman in 81,310 hectares of land in sadar, Kaliganj, Kotchandpur, Mohespur, Saikpur and Harinakundu thanas of the district. The target included local varieties of aman paddy in 3,300 hectares, it was learnt. But till August 20, transplanted aman and local varieties of paddy was cultivated in 72,700 and 2,590 hectares of land respectively.

According to sources, upto August 20, a total of 278 mm of rainfall was recorded in August this year. A total of 62 mm on August 4, 83 mm on August 12 and 58 mm rainfall on August 20 was recorded. But at least 350 mm of rainfall is required in the Bengali month Bhadra.

Deputy Director (DD) Agriculture Extension Department (AED), when contacted told that if more rainfall is available within 10 to 15 days the target will be achieved otherwise it might be hampered. The Deputy Director further told that he is expecting rainfall soon which might help the people to cultivate aman paddy in their lands this season.

It may be noted here that during last year aman paddy was cultivated in 84,000 hectares in Jhenidah district.

"Students are best wealth of nation"

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Sept 4: President Abdur Rahman Biswas urged the students to take challenge of the 21st century's science and technology on priority basis as they can show their best performances in today's world. The president called the students, as the best wealth of the country.

He was addressing the teachers, students and local elites at Islamic University auditorium while inaugurating a newly constructed Shahid Ziaur Rahman Hall on August 29. The President also urged the students to remove terrorism from the educational institutions for betterment of our future generation at no delay. President Abdur Rahman Biswas was also inaugurated Begum Khaleda Zia ladies hostel, University central library, University hospital, teachers club and a dormitory.

It was alleged that hundreds of students of different political parties showed agitation in front of the Islamic University gate. Further the authorities kept hundreds of students under lock and key in a hall during the visit of the President. The Vice-Chancellor boldly protested the issue and informed that no such incidents took place. But he admitted that on the previous day on August 28 morning a handbomb was blasted which created panic among the students. To avoid terrorism or clash the authorities requested the students to show their patience.

Protest against irregular power distribution

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Sept 4: The town dwellers and business community here have been protesting the mismanagement of power distribution by the local electricity supply officials.

Erratic power supply and voltage fluctuation have been creating difficulties and sufferings to both the domestic and commercial consumers. Power distribution is disrupted almost every day for over two to four hours in average, said some affected community members.

Trade owners of small business and industries, patients and students are incurring irreparable losses due to frequent power breakdown.

Obituary

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Sept 4: Mossamat Jebunnesa (100), mother of ex-minister AHM Qamaruzzaman and wife of ex MLA Abdul Hamid Mia died recently in her own residence.

Her namaj-e-janaza was held at Hazi Lal Mohammad Eidgah field Kadirganj in the city and later she was laid (Dafan) in their own family grave yard.

Jebunnesa had been suffering from old age for many days.

Meanwhile local leaders of the Awami League and its wing organisations in separate statements expressed deep condolence at the death of Jebunnesa and earnest sympathy to the family and offered magferat for her ruh.

Mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation Mijanur Rahman Minu also expressed deep grief at the death of Jebunnesa. The mayor prayed for her magferat and expressed deep sympathy.



BARISAL: Fishermen at the shore with their fishing trawlers. — Star photo