

Husband throws acid on wife

MAIJDEE COURT (NOAKHALI), Oct 20: A school girl received serious burn injuries when her husband threw acid at her at Sonapur Zila Board Colony, police said recently, reports UNB.

Police said Abdur Rahim threw acid on the body of his wife Rokshana, 16, a student of class nine of Noakhali Government Girls' High School while she was preparing lessons at her room recently.

She was rushed to the Sadar Hospital in a critical condition. Family feud was said to be the reason behind attack.

It was known that Abdur Rahim forcibly married Rokshana a few years back. Later, she returned to her parents and refused to go back to her husband's house.

Falling to take back Rokshana, Rahim threw acid on her body, police said. A case was filed in this connection.

Diarrhoea claims 46 lives in Pirojpur

PIROJPUR, Oct 20: Diarrhoea claimed 46 lives and attacked more than 5,000 people in the district in the current summer season, official sources said, reports UNB.

According to the sources, 51 medical teams have been working in the affected areas to combat the water borne disease which takes an epidemic form almost every year in this area during the season.

Local people said, salinity in the river water and scarcity of drinking water aggravate the situation. The disease claimed 52 lives and attacked 2,187 people in 1987 while it claimed 42 lives and attacked 2949 people in 1988.

From 1990 to '95, some 371 people died of the disease and 21,013, people were attacked, official sources said.

Local people time and again demanded of the concerned authority to set up a research centre of ICDDR,B to find out the reason behind the frequent outbreak of the disease but nothing has yet been done in this regard.

3,827 tubewells out of order in 11 S' districts

BARISAL, Oct 20: Some 3,827 shallow and deep tubewells remained out of order in 11 southern districts of the region for a long time, reports UNB.

According to official sources, of the total, 590 tubewells went out of order in Barisal, 295 in Bhola, 340 in Jhalakati, 325 in Patuakhali, 230 in Barguna, 748 in Pirojpur, 118 in Faridpur, 210 in Madaripur, 201 in Shariatpur, 560 in Gopalganj and 210 in Rajshahi districts.

The sources said at present, 1.20 lakh tubewells are now in working condition in these districts.

Meanwhile, different intestinal diseases have broken out in these districts as people are using contaminated pond or river finding no other way out.

Local leaders have urged the government to take immediate steps to resink the disordered tubewells to ensure smooth supply of drinking water.

Erosion threatens huge areas in Chapainawabganj

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Oct 20: The erosion by the river Padma has taken serious turn in Shibganj and Sadar thanas of the district in the last few days, reports UNB.

Local people said nearly 1,200 homesteads, a high school and a vast tract of cropland have already been devoured rendering 2,000 people homeless.

The 47-year old Narayanpur Public High School was engulfed by the river. The worst affected areas are Dhoghthola, Masterpara, Jhakpara and Pankha.

People of the area said cracks have also developed on about 10 kilometres river banks on Padma.

The homeless people are passing their days in extreme hardship.

Local people said if the erosion continues at the pace six villages of Shibganj and Sadar thanas will be devoured soon.

The affected people urged the authorities to take arrangements for their early rehabilitation.



RAJSHAHI: Barrister M Aminul Haque, State Minister for Establishment, Dr M Anwarul Azim, Professor in Mechanical Engineering, BUET, Syed Hussain, President of IEB, Rajshahi and Shah Khaled Hasan Chowdhury, Honorary Secretary, IEB, Rajshahi addressed the closing ceremony of the three days' annual paper meet of Mechanical Engineering Division of Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) held recently at Rajshahi. The meet was participated by eminent mechanical engineers from home and abroad. — Star photo

Govt allocates Taka 25 crore for overall development of CHT

From AKM Zahoorul Huq

RANGAMATI, Oct 20: With a view to uplift the socio-economic condition of both tribal and non-tribal people of Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) region, the government has allocated an amount of Taka 25 crore in 1995-96.

The allocation made to the Special Affairs Division (SAD) of the Prime Minister's secretariat as coordinating agency was re-allocated to different agencies for implementation.

The re-allocation of the allocated amount was made in a meeting, chaired by the secretary of SAD, Dr. Fazlul Hasan Yousuf on September 7 last. The meeting also approved the plan of the projects submitted earlier, official from SAD said, adding that the highest project-wise re-allocation was made to Power Development Board to take as more area as possible in electricity supply network in CHT region.

Out of the total allocation of Taka 25 crore, the Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board (CHTDB) was re-allocated with the highest

amount of Taka 10.72 crore while the lowest amount of Taka 20 lakh was re-allocated to traditional agriculture sector, a source from SAD said.

While elaborating the programmes of the projects to be implemented by the different implementing agencies in 1995-96 under co-ordination of SAD, a well placed official told The Daily Star that the CHTDB will implement the on-going Upland Settlement Project at a cost of Taka 4.25 crore in the second phase, development of communication sector at a cost of Taka 1.50 crore, construction of Khagrachhari stadium at a cost of Taka 1.52 crore and construction of road from Taindong to Loggang at a cost of Taka 3.45 crore.

In addition to these, the CHTDB will also construct the physical super structure in the cluster hamlets to uplift the socio-economic condition of the inmates creating the income-generating provisions at a cost of Taka 3.63 crore, officials added.

The Sericulture Board will

carry out the extension sericulture in the three hill districts of Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban with an amount of Taka one crore as a special project co-ordinated by SAD.

The Integrated Development and Rehabilitation Project on Cotton Development in CHT during 1995-96 with an amount of Taka one crore, the sources said.

The Agriculture Extension Department will implement the CHT Integrated Development Rehabilitation Programme with an amount of Taka 50 lakh while the Forest Department will simultaneously implement the development works on rehabilitated *Jhumia* families programme by raising plantation besides the security camps with an amount of Taka 75 lakh.

The Directorate of Public Health Engineering will implement the project on supplying of drinking water to the inmates of the cluster hamlets and ensure their

sanitation with an amount of Taka 50 lakh. The development of pisciculture and its extensions will be carried out by the Fisheries Directorate with additional amount of Taka 50 lakh, the sources said.

An amount of Taka 20 lakh will be spent to introduce permanent method of agriculture by developing the management of integrated hilly farms in CHT. The Handloom Board will carry out the development of weavers with an amount of Taka 30 lakh.

The Cooperative Department with an amount of Taka 30 lakh will go on developing the socio-economic condition of the CHT people while the Directorate of Livestock will work for the development of livestock in the region. In the last fiscal the allocation was also with Taka 25 crore.

The allocation is made from ADP.

The project in CHT, on-going or undertaken will cost a total of Taka 170.45.82.000 which is being allocated in phases.

Tense situation prevailing in Khagrachhari district

From CHT Correspondent

KHAGRACHHARI, Oct 20: Though the Deputy Commissioner of Khagrachhari hill district has been continuing holding of a series of meetings with the leaders of different organizations and political parties to cool down the tense, mounted recently following a strife between two groups of students of Khagrachhari College, the situation is not yet normal.

A clash erupted between the activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Jatiyatadab Chhatra Dal (JCD) of Khagrachhari College last week which left 15 of both the parties injured.

The Khagrachhari police arrested three JCD activists with lethal weapons and seized a pick-up van from their procession, police sources said.

To avoid further clash and conflict, the authority declared the college closed sine die.

Following the strife in the college, the JCD activists let

loose a reign of terror in the town armed with lethal weapons and ransacked the district unit office of the Awami League.

The JCD activists during their operation stepped up their attacks on Khan Boarding, Tip Top Hotel, Monmoyuri store, Zia Food store in the town and grocery shops in College Road and Shuparibagan, the victims alleged. The JCD activists also looted the cash from their establishments during the attack, the victims added.

Reports received from the different sources say, the banner of BCL welcoming the new-comers which was hung on last Monday in the college was found missing. When the BCL activists was holding a protest meeting in the college corridor for the pillarage of the banner allegedly by the activists of JCD, the later, all of a sudden, attacked the meeting venue with lethal weapons. Both the group locked in a strife which left

seven injured including the activists of the attacking JCD.

Later, the activists of BNP who were assembled in the town hall in an extended party meeting reportedly came out in a pick-up with lethal weapons and stepped up attack in the college and ransacked a shop in the college gate, sources said.

Armed with 'ramdah', 'kirich', stick, kitchen-knife, and others and JCD activists went out to search for BCL activists in the bus stand. In the meantime, the JCD activists attacked Manir Hussain, Publicity Secretary of the district unit of Awami League and wounded him critically, while he was having tea in a road side tea-stall.

On the way to town from the bus stand, the JCD activists ransacked the district unit of Awami League office in the College Road creating a havoc there.

The JCD activists also attacked the president of the district unit of Awami League, Nurun Nabi Chowdhury, Rangarh UP Chairman Mazibur Rahman and Patchhori UP Chairman Sher Ali Bhuiyan, who received minor injuries.

The JCD activists also attacked and injured Bimal Kanti Chakma, who was coming to market.

Mahfaz Alam Sabuz, 22, Nazrul Islam, 23, and Abu Taher, 18, the JCD activists were sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital with grievous injuries while Habibur Rahman, 18, Shah Alam, Al Amin, Bimal Kanti Chakma, Kabir Ahmed and Manir Hussain were admitted to Khagrachhari sadar hospital.

The JCD activists Mahbubur Rahman, Sohail Rana and Shamsul Alam arrested.

Accusing each other, both the district units of BNP and Awami League held separate meeting recently.

People of Pabna demand reintroduction of BRTC bus services, railway link

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Oct 20: Due to the absence of railway and river links, the people of Pabna town have to depend solely on private bus services for their communication.

Thus the people of Pabna town become helpless captives in the hands of private transport owners and employees whenever they resort to strikes.

The people of Pabna, therefore, have long been demanding re-introduction of BRTC bus services.

The helpless people of Pabna have also been demanding linking of Pabna town with railway lines. But the demands were still unfulfilled despite assurances given by the authorities on innumerable occasions.

All the political parties including the ruling BNP, Awami League, Jatiya Party, Gano Forum, Jamaat-e-Islami left Democratic Front, have been demanding the above almost at all their meetings and conferences.

The late President Ziaur Rahman and former president Hussain Mohammad Ershad and the Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia also assured the people of Pabna for fulfilling the two demands - all of them agreeing that the demands were very much

justified.

Besides the political parties, professional bodies like the Pabna District Advocates Bar Association, Pabna Chambers of Commerce and Industries, Pabna District 'Byabosayee Oikya Parishad, Bangladesh Medical Association - Pabna District Branch, all the students' organisations have also been demanding the fulfilment of the above demands.

In practice, people of Pabna, during this lag end of the twentieth century, found themselves very often helpless captives in the hands of private transport men doing a monopoly business in this district, as very often, without giving any prior notice, they resort to strikes on all routes throwing the people into untold miseries.

Considering the above situation and in fulfilment of the long standing demands, the erstwhile East Pakistan Road Transport Corporation (EPRTC) introduced firstly Dhaka-Pabna coach services everyday and ultimately they opened a bus stand along with an workshop and allocated nearly 15 buses for running in various inter-district and local routes. These were found economically vi-

able too.

The Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) increased the number of buses to about 40 and introduced coach services, local services and mail services on various routes.

A well equipped workshop was contracted with a scheme to make the Pabna terminal as the main BRTC depot for North Bengal.

The BRTC bus services became so much popular that the business community of Pabna demanded, during the regime of the late president Ziaur Rahman, to introduce Truck Division too so as to get themselves rid of the private truck-owners who charged abnormally high rates on the one hand and whose services also cannot be regular due to frequent strikes etc.

Ultimately, a modern BRTC depot was constructed along with a modern workshop. During the inauguration ceremony, assurances were again given by the then state minister for communications that truck division would be introduced and the fleet of BRTC bus and coaches would also be raised from 40 to 60.

officials and employees from Pabna to Dhaka although, unlike many other depots, Pabna depot of the BRTC was making good profits.

Now the BRTC terminal is lying unused and has turned into jungle and safe shelter for all criminals.

It is, under the above circumstances, being demanded again that the BRTC depot of Pabna be reopened, at least 50 buses and coaches be sanctioned for the depot and their services be resumed.

With regard to the establishment of railway link also, a pathetic story lies untold. Since the British days and upto the fall of East Pakistan, the authorities always agreed to set up a railway line from Isurdi to Dhaka via Pabna, Nagarbari and Aricha ghats. Survey teams arrived, conducted their survey works and submitted favourable reports.

For years together, the office of the executive engineer for the project was kept running with no work and ultimately that was also withdrawn throwing the scheme permanently under cold storage and that too without giving any official announcement.

1,41,100 hectares of land brought under aman cultivation

MAIJDEE COURT (NOAKHALI), Oct 20: Some 1,41,100 hectares of land in six thanas of the district have been brought under aman cultivation in the current season, reports UNB.

According to Agriculture Extension Department, of the land, 55,000 hectares will be cultivated under high yielding variety while 86,000 hectares under local variety.

The target of production has been fixed at 2,66,750 metric tons, the sources added.

Meanwhile, 33,787 metric tons of fertilisers were distributed among cultivators in Hatiya, Companiganj and Sadar thanas free of cost.

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation distributed seeds, pesticides and other necessary inputs among the farmers at fair prices to make scheme a success.

Boat capsizes in Padma: 4 bodies recovered

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Oct 20: Four persons died while three others were remained untraced due to a boat-capsize in the night following Wednesday last in the river Padma near Paksey in Pabna district.

The engine boat, started towards Rajshahi district Wednesday night along with passengers but it faced a sudden storm in the mid-stream leading to its capsizing near Komarpur.

Four bodies were recovered Thursday morning while bodies of three others were still lying untraced.

The four bodies recovered already were identified as: Abed Ali Bepari (48), of Godarhat; Md. Rahim Uddin Mandal, 46, Godarhat; Md. Azahar Ali Promanik 34, of Shyampur and Md Gher Ali Mandal, 35, of village Amirakaj.

Bodies of three persons still lying untraced are reportedly of Mohammad Shahed Ali of village Godarhat and Goran Chandra of village Badai.

Fate of the boatmen is unknown and the total number of passengers it was carrying not yet ascertained.

Tk 30 cr plan to develop Barisal Pourashava

BARISAL, Oct 20: Barisal Pourashava has taken up a five-year programme at a cost of Tk 30 crore for overall development of the poura area, official sources said, reports UNB.

Asian Development Bank will provide financial assistance for the successful implementation of the development programme, the sources added.

The programme includes construction of bridges, culverts and modern multi-storied markets and renovation and development of roads, water supply and drainage system of the poura area.

The programme has been undertaken to improve the basic amenities of the poura people.

Two arrested with fire arms in Sathkira

SATKHIRA, Oct 20: Two people were arrested in Sadar town on Saturday last and fire arms were recovered from their possession, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, police arrested Ziarul Rahman of Alipur area and on the basis of his confessional statement nabbed Nur Islam with a pistol after raiding his house at Mohadpur area.

They were sent to the jail. A case has been filed with the police.

Domestic animals vaccinated in 16 N'districts

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Oct 20: The Livestock Department vaccinated 6,28,39,624 domestic animals in 16 northern districts of the country in the last fiscal year, reports UNB.

According to official sources, during the fiscal 1994-95, some 36,53,294 cattlehead and 5,91,86,330 ducks and hens were vaccinated in these districts.

The sources also said the department also treated 11,76,574 cattlehead and 31,67,659 ducks and hens during the same period.

The department has taken every measures to combat the outbreak of cattle diseases like Khura and Golafula which take a heavy toll every year.

Husband suffocates wife to death

From CHT Correspondent

BANDARBAN, Oct 20: A house-wife, mother of a sucking baby, was suffocated to death allegedly by her husband for inability to pay dowry here on Wednesday last, police sources said.

The Bandarban Kotwali police has recovered the body of Alam Taz, 20, wife of Muslim Fakir from their house at the slum near Misky Bridge in the town the next morning.

Police found the body hanging in the house while recovered.

Muslim Fakir, a rickshaw-puller was allegedly persecuting Alam Taz, both mentally and physically to bring dowry from her parent for the last two years.

Taz, a daughter, out of four of a erosion affected peasant of Patuakhali district, was not in a position to bring anything for her husband.

Taz was married to Muslim four years ago with a dowry of Taka five thousand in cash, police quoted the

neighbours as saying. Muslim reportedly killed Taz while exchanging hot words between themselves by smothering, the neighbours who heard them locked in quarrel, told the police.

Muslim hung the body of Taz to conceal the fact and left the house, leaving their daughter of one and a half year old besides the hanging body, police quoted the neighbours presuming.

Police sent the body to Bandarban sadar hospital for autopsy.

Both of them, the victim and her husband were from Patuakhali district.

A case was lodged with Bandarban Kotwali police.

Enhancement of bus fares protested

From CHT Correspondent

RANGAMATI, Oct 15: The people of all walks of life in Rangamati strongly protested for unjustified and unilateral enhancement of bus fares from Rangamati-Chittagong and vice-versa without any prior announcement.

The bus owners enhanced the fare with Taka five per ticket without any consultation with the appropriate authority or obtaining permission from them, local leaders alleged.

The bus fare from Rangamati-Chittagong was fixed at Taka 30 for a distance of about 70 kilometer which was refixed at Taka 35 with effect from October 10 last.

Termining the enhancement of fare as 'unfair', local leaders and people from all walks of life demanded its immediate vacation.

Leaders of the district unit of BNP and Passengers' Welfare Samity as well as the ex-EMP of Rangamati Sudipta Dewan in their separate statements demanded dropping of the unjustified enhanced bus fare.

But, on early morning while going to respond to the call of nature she was kidnapped by 10 to 12 miscreants, police added.

Later, Kohinur was recovered from a nearby field in an unconscious state and was rushed to a local clinic.

A case was registered with the police.

Dead body recovered

COMILLA, Oct 20: Police recovered the body of an unidentified man aged about 50 at Jamalnagar village of Bagmara union in Laksam thana recently, reports UNB.

Receiving information from an UP member police went to the village and found the body hanging from a tree near the Jamalnagar graveyard.

A case was filed with the police in this connection.

Meanwhile, Anwara Begum, 16, who passed SSC examination this year, was killed in a road accident near Nimsarbar on Dhaka-Chittagong highway recently.



GAIBANDHA: A function on the occasion of distribution of housebuilding materials under post flood rehabilitation programme arranged by Gano Unnayan Kendro, an NGO. The picture shows Shafer-raj Hassain, Deputy Commissioner, Gaibandha addressing.

Massive plan to repair ferries, ghats

BARGUNA, Oct 20: The Roads and Highways department has taken up a massive programme to repair and renovate different ferries and ferry ghats in the southern region of the country, reports UNB.

Officials here said, decks track ways, fender boxes, flaps, ramps and counter weights of different ferry ghats would be repaired under the programme.

The gangway of pontoon of Sathkira ferry ghat will be repaired at a cost of Tk 3,45,432 while Tk 1,10,460 has been allocated for overhauling of a DAF engine including the supply of materials.

A total of Tk 3,05,377 has been allocated for repairing works of the damaged portion of the fender, deck and side of Charkhali ferry ghat while the repair of ramp, flaps, fender box counter without winch machine of pontoon of Dowarika ferry ghat will be repaired at a cost of Tk 1,92,751.

Spare parts for the 150 kw main engine of different utility ferries will cost Tk 1,06,500, the sources added.

DAF engine of different utility ferries will be repaired at a cost of Tk 18,700 while Tk 3,81,380 has been allocated for supplying the spare parts for overhauling number

2 hydrometer engine and propelling unit of utility type-2 (IMP) ferry at Aricha ferry ghat.

Spare parts for the 110 HP DAF engine of Mollahat ferry ghat will cost Tk 4,85,400 while Tk 4,89,500 has been allocated for the supply of spares for the 110 DAF engine of the ghat.

A total of Tk 1,24,891 has been allocated for repairing of the counter weight ramp of pontoon at Mollahat. Besides, Tk 4,41,395 will be spent for repairing the engine and number 2 gear box of utility ferry at Kagirik ferry ghat.

The officials expected that the work on the project will be completed by the end of the current fiscal year.

127 bottles of Phensedyl seized in Barisal

BARISAL, Oct 20: Kotwali thana police seized 127 bottles of Phensedyl and arrested one persons from Barisal launch ghat in this connection on Saturday, police said, reports BSS.

Acting on a tip, police recovered the Phensedyl from two brief cases.