

News snaps

PM's sanction for artist's treatment

KHULNA, Sept 20: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had sanctioned Taka one lakh for the treatment of noted artist Rashiduddin Talukder after hearing the news of illness of the artist, reports UNB.

The prime minister also arranged for the treatment of poor Firoza Begum who has been suffering from kidney problem for a long time. Firoza Begum, who lived in Dighulia thana under Khulna district, earlier sent a letter to the daily Ittefaq requesting the prime minister to help for her treatment. After the publication of her letter, prime minister herself arranged for the treatment of the applicant. Ailing Firoza has already been sent to Dhaka for better treatment.

Literacy Day observed at Ishurdi

ISHURDI, Sept 20: International Literacy Day was observed here on September 8 in a befitting manner, reports BSS.

Elaborate programmes including rallies, discussion meetings and colourful procession were arranged to mark the occasion. A discussion meeting was held here under the auspices of Ishurdi Thana Parishad. Thana Nirbahi Officer Bijon Kumar Baishya presided over the meeting. The meeting was addressed, by Assistant Commissioner (Land) Abul Kalam Azad and some local elite.

Rival groups clash leaves 22 hurt

SIRAJGANJ, Sept 20: Some 22 people were injured, seven seriously, in a clash between two rival groups of villagers over possession of land in sadar thana here on Sunday, reports UNB. Seriously injured seven — Chandulya, 50, Abdul Aziz, 40, Abdus Sattar, 30, Moheuddin, 28, Shahidul Islam, 32, Matur Rahman, 30, and Sakina Khatun, 45, were admitted to Sirajganj General Hospital. Police said the hour-long clash ensued between Ramjan Ali group and Mongia Mondal group over possession of a piece of land at Raghunathpur village in the thana at about 9 am.

Frequent power failure in Manikganj

MANIKGANJ, Sept 20: Frequent power failure has been causing much troubles to the domestic and industrial consumers in the district for the last few months, reports BSS.

Electricity supply in Manikganj town remains suspended for hours together almost everyday due to load-shedding. The load-shedding allegedly starts without giving any prior notice to the consumers. There is no time schedule of such power disruption. The production in the local mills and factories have been hampered and reduced to a great extent.

Tk 6 cr road construction project

BANDARBAN, Sept 20: The government has sanctioned Taka six crore for the reconstruction of roads damaged by recent floods in Bandarban Hill District, reports BSS.

According to an official source, under the project five roads will be reconstructed at a cost of Taka four crore while six flood affected roads will be repaired at an expenditure of Taka two crore.

Mass Education Fair in Sylhet

SYLHET, Sept 20: Speaker of the Jaitiya Sangsad Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury said here that no development could be achieved keeping the people in the darkness of illiteracy and ignorance, reports BSS.

The speaker was addressing as the chief guest the concluding ceremony of World Literacy Day and Mass Education Fair '97 here.

Flood Protection Project progressing

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Sept 20: The five-year 'Midtown Co-ordinated Flood Protection Project' undertaken in fiscal 1995-96 by the Rajshahi City Corporation is progressing fast, reports UNB.

The project works include construction of 86 km primary and tertiary drain, repairing of drainage system and construction of culverts, costing Tk 22 crore. According to official sources, works of about six km drain have already been completed and other six km primary drain are under construction. The project is expected to be completed by June, 2000.

Ceiling fan falls on students, 3 die

JAMALPUR, Sept 20: At least three students were seriously injured when a ceiling fan suddenly fell on them in the classroom of Jamalpur Zilla School on Saturday, reports UNB.

The injured were identified as Azharul Islam, Abdullah Al-Mamun and Nazmul Alam of class eight morning shift. They were rushed to the Sadar hospital. According to school sources, the 50 years old school building is in dilapidated condition and the ceiling fan connecting rods have become worn-out that caused the incident.

Contraband phensidyl seized

NETRAKONA, Sept 20: Netrakona Kotwali thana police seized 30 bottles of contraband Indian phensidyl syrup on September 10 from the possession of a rickshaw passenger, reports BSS.

Police arrested the rickshaw passenger who was identified as Shahin of Barabazar in Netrakona town. A case was filed in this connection.

Workshop on human rights

PATUAKHALI, Sept 20: A day long work-shop on "human rights and law education programme" organised by Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) was held last week in Kalikapur BRAC Office here, reports BSS.

Local newsmen, Muslim marriage registrars, union parishad chairmen and members, teachers, religious leaders and local elite attended the work-shop. Matters relating to child marriage, divorce, marriage registration and realisation of excess fees on account of marriage registration were discussed in the work-shop. BRAC officials from Barisal, Faridpur and Jhainadha districts were also present in the work-shop which stressed on the protection of rights of womenfolk in the society. Md Mohsin, Programme Organiser of the BRAC was the resource person in the work-shop.

Scarcity of Anti-Rabbies Vaccines

MADARIPUR, Sept 20: Pye dogs bit 10 persons in pourashava and its adjoining areas during the last three weeks, reports BSS.

Pay-dog bitten patients alleged about scarcity of Anti-Rabbies Vaccines (ARV) in the market, which is essential for their treatment. According to pourashava sources, supply of ARV from the Mohakhali Health Department is irregular. Besides, production of ARV in Dhaka also remains suspended, they said.

Road mishaps claim 2 lives

SHERPUR, Sept 20: Two girls were killed in separate road mishaps in the district, police said on Sunday, reports UNB.

A minor girl Anowara Begum, 3, daughter of Ameer Ali of Poragarh village in Sriabadi thana while crossing the Sriabadi-Bhayadanga road was run over by a Sherpur bound speeding bus on Friday. Police, however, seized the bus, but the driver managed to escape. Traffic movement on the road remained snapped for three hours following the accident. In another incident, another girl Tania, 7, of Gauripur was crushed under the wheels of a Sherpur bound speeding bus. Tania, a student of class two, met the tragic end while returning from the school.

College to be protected from river erosion

PATUAKHALI, Sept 20: The Water Development Board (WDB) has taken up a project to protect Sher-e-Bangla Degree College, Shekherpur Bandar and Ferryghat from the erosion of the river Sandhya in Wazirpur thana, reports UNB.

Meanwhile, the government has sanctioned Taka 22.74.539 for the project to be completed during the current fiscal year, official sources said. Roads and Highways Department has undertaken an earth filling scheme on different portions of Bolderpal-Kalihat road at a cost of Taka 29.66.200.



COMILLA: Prizes being distributed among successful trainees following completion of a sewing training course recently organised by Mother and Child Welfare Foundation here. — Star photo

Call to generate job opportunity in 'Chalan Beel' area

RAJSHAHI, Sept 20: Some 25 lakh people of marshy land of 'Chalan Beel' area become jobless for six months in a year as their cultivable lands go under water with the advent of monsoon, reports UNB.

Chalan Beel consisting 12 thanas of Sirajganj, Pabna, Natore and Bogra become suitable for crop cultivation in the summer season. But with the advent of the rainy season these arable lands are submerged.

The villages turn into mini islands causing suffering to the villagers. They cannot move anywhere without boat depriving the children of education.

The people have no option to take other jobs to maintain their livelihood as most of them are illiterate. During this period, many people are passing their days by fishing or rowing boat. But at present, scarcity of fish has been prevailing in the beel area.

Industries have not yet been built in the area since independence leaving a large number of people unemployed for the six months in a year.

Tree fair

KHULNA, Sept 20: State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Talukder stressed the need for planting more and more trees to ensure a pollution-free environment for the future generation, reports BSS.

Survey report of Nari Forum from Barisal

Repression on women rises alarmingly

From Aroop Talukdar

BARISAL, Sept 20: Rapists, woman and child repressionists should be awarded exemplary punishment and the law-enforcing agencies should be more careful and strict to nab these culprits, said leaders of a woman organisation 'Nari Forum' recently.

According to their reports, more than 100 incidents of child abuse, rape, women and child repression, acid throwing and killing after rape took place in the southern districts during the last six months.

Ratio of occurrence of such incidents is now much higher than last five years. These incidents have increased alarmingly. Girls would be house centred if such situation continues.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Paribesh Unnayan Parishad now conducting a survey over two thousand people, both in urban and rural areas in 60 districts also said, rape and killing after rape have increased in an alarming state.

Official sources claimed, incidents of rape have increased at least 40 per cent this year. A total of 500 cases were recorded with police throughout the country in last seven months while total figure was 679 in 1996, last year.

According to the survey re-

port, major portion of the respondents (96 per cent) suggested that the existing anti-dowry laws are inadequate. It should be amended and modified to cope with the present situation. Besides, law and its enforcement must be very strict against women traffickers. They force young girls to be engaged in prostitution.

School girl kidnapped

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Sept 20: A school girl of Chowgachha Shahadat Pilot High School in the district, was kidnapped recently by a group of youngsters while she was going to school in the morning on the day.

According to witnesses, when Russia Khatun, 13, along with her classmates were going to school on a van from her native village Goribpur under Chowgachha thana, she was stopped and dragged down by the youngsters. They were waiting near Nather khal on Chowgachha road with a microbus. They forcibly put her there and fled away.

Chowgachha police was telephoned but in vain. Police failed to rescue the victim and arrest the abductors.

Abducted person rescued in Kushtia

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Sept 20: One abducted person was rescued on Thursday by Mirpur police after nine days of his abduction.

Police source said, Rashedul, son of Abdul Ghani of Bathanpara of Gangni thana was abducted for ransom. He was rescued from Hadirampur of Mirpur thana. His legs, hands and eyes were tied when he was rescued. Police also arrested Ashmia alias Babu, son of late Idris Ali of village Zehala of Alamdanga thana in Chuadanga district. He was an

Minister visits river erosion affected area in Shariatpur

SHARIATPUR, Sept 20: Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzaq visited the Sureswar river erosion affected area here on Saturday and talked to the affected people, reports UNB.

The minister called upon the people to face the calamity with courage and patience, saying river erosion is a natural calamity.

He, however, asked the concerned department to take immediate steps to check the river erosion. The minister was accompanied by Shaukat Ali, MP, and local Awami League leader Mujibur Master.

College girl raped in Sherpur

From Our Correspondent

SHERPUR, Sept 20: A female college student of Sharishabari thana in Jamalpur district was allegedly violated by her rela-



Shantona

tive recently at Chawkbazar in Sherpur town.

On the day of the incidence, the victim, Shantona Karmokar, 19, unmarried daughter of Krishnapada

Karmokar was staying alone in her brother's house. Her brother and sister-in-law went to the Sadar hospital.

Devanand, a distant relative and neighbour of Shantona's brother, forced open the room of Shantona and violated her. After the incident, her elder brother came back home and learnt the matter. Afterwards he filed a case with the Sadar police.

When contacted with Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Sadar police station, Abul Khayer Mia, he admitted the incident and said investigation is going on. But none has been arrested till now, he informed. When contacted with Samsun Nahar Kamal president, Sherpur Zila Mahila Parishad she told The Daily Star, some local influential persons have been trying to conceal the matter and allegedly threatening the elder brother of the victim.

Local students and social workers brought out many processions, demonstrations, protest rallies demanding exemplary punishment to the violator including his other associates.

Habibur Rahman Fanu, member, executive committee of local Muktioddha Sangsad has threatened a dawn-to-dusk hartal if police and the district administration do not take measures to nab the culprits immediately.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROJECT BGD/97/001 - BUILDING CAPACITY FOR LOCAL GOVERNANCE

The National Institute of Local Government (NILG) of the Local Government Division, Ministry of LGRD&C of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, in conjunction with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bangladesh, seeks applications from Bangladesh nationals for the following positions:

A. NATIONAL CONSULTANTS

Position : Project Implementation Specialist (1)
Duration : 60 working months
Station : NILG, Dhaka

In close consultation with and under the general supervision of the National Project Director (NPD), the Project Implementation Specialist will:

- ensure that the project is established and implemented to strengthen training capacity for the training of elected representatives; with the NPD, the Project Implementation Specialist will liaise with key ministries, training institutes, NGOs and other relevant organisations to achieve this goal;
- prepare quarterly financial plans and workplans for the implementation of the project;
- prepare PPERs for the tri-partite review meetings. Additional PPERs may be requested, if necessary, during the project;
- ensure the smooth passage of the needs assessment phase of the project and implementation of the training programme;
- appraise the current system of training and identify needs, including software, hardware, and other support required by NILG for the project, submit recommendations to the NPD
- assist the NPD in co-ordination of meetings with representatives of the Local Government Division, MLGRD&C, NGOs and civil society groups, women's organisations and legal rights bodies;
- in conjunction with the NPD, prepare terms of reference for consultancy as and when required during the implementation phase of the project; and
- ensure the timely occurrence of participatory project evaluations (after the preparatory needs assessment phase as well as mid-term and ex-post)

Qualifications: The consultant will have a minimum post-graduate qualification and extensive work experience, preferably with a government agency. S/he is also expected to have an outstanding record in management and/or management consultancy. Preference will be given to candidates with experience of gender mainstreaming in programming.

Position : Sectoral Training Specialists in
a) Local Government Law & Judicial Process (1),
b) Development & Environment (1),
c) Gender (1),
d) Office management, finance/budgeting/accounts & credit (1), &
e) Workshop/training programme design & facilitation (2)

Duration : 60 working months each
Station : NILG, Dhaka

In close collaboration with the National Project Director, international consultant and staff of NILG, the national consultants will:

- Assist in preparation of the needs assessment study and report for nation-wide training of elected local officials at the union parishad ad pourashava level, ensuring that the design and content is country-specific and that operational and substantive contents reflect local needs;
- Conduct and facilitate six participatory consultations/workshops with women and men elected representatives and women and men constituents as an input to the needs assessment exercise;
- Contribute to the preparation of the user-friendly training manuals and render these manuals into Bangla for nation-wide distribution;
- Organise and conduct training of trainers upon completion of the needs assessment; training of trainers to be completed within the schedule of the preparatory phase, that is, in the first ten months of the project;
- Monitor the gender aspects of the training programme, both in terms of content and trainee response;
- Appraise, revise and augment content and design of training courses throughout the project lifetime to keep in tune with the changes underway for the restructuring of the local government system and to incorporate feedback from course participants, District Training Advisers and local constituents;

- Make necessary, periodic modifications to the training manuals to accommodate changes in laws, policies and priorities of the GoB; and
- Plan, schedule and impart refresher training courses for elected local representatives as and when the need arises.

Qualifications: Four of the incumbents will have a minimum post-graduate qualification in one of the respective fields required, i.e.: local government law & judicial process, development & environment, gender issues and office management, finance/budgeting/accounts & credit. The remaining two consultants will have advanced educational qualifications and/or extensive professional experience in workshop/training design and facilitation in Bangladesh. All successful candidates are expected to be sensitive to issues related to gender mainstreaming.

B. SUPPORT STAFF

Position : Secretaries (2)
Duration : 60 working months each
Station : NILG, Dhaka

Two secretaries will be stationed at NILG throughout the duration of the project to provide full-time support to the project staff. Her/his responsibilities will include:

- report and manual preparation;
- drafting, sending and filing correspondences for project staff, particularly the consultants; and
- any other relevant duties as decided by the NPD and project staff.

Qualifications: The incumbents will have a minimum honours degree with prior experience of word-processing and database software and strong working proficiency in written English, as well as excellent written and spoken Bangla. Secretaries will also possess proven learning skills and the ability to develop their own capacity in a short space of time; prior experience in computer-operating environment required.

Position : Administrative Assistant-cum-Accountant (1)
Duration : 60 working months
Station : NILG, Dhaka

One administrative officer with accounting skills will work under the direction of the National Project Director, s/he will:

- Offer secretarial support (typing, filing, corresponding, maintaining appointments) to the NPD and other project staff as required;
- Provide project accounting services to the NPD; and
- Any other relevant project-related duties as and when these arise.

Qualifications: The incumbent will have a minimum five years experience in administrative work as a personal assistant to private company director and/or government officer. The incumbent will have initiative and be able to deal with a large portfolio of tasks. Accounting skills are essential, as is working proficiency in English and familiarity with word-processing/database software.

Position : Drivers (4)
Duration : 60 months
Station : NILG, Dhaka

Four drivers will be recruited and assigned full-time to the project to drive project vehicles for project purposes both within Dhaka and throughout Bangladesh.

Qualifications: The successful candidates will have a minimum of five years experience driving for government department, NGO or private organisation. Only candidates with full references and recommendations will be considered for the positions.

Applications should be marked confidential and include a cover letter and two copies of the applicant's curriculum vitae. No copies of references, certificates or professional papers should be submitted at this time. Applications should be sent to the Manager, Human Resources, (ref: BGD/97/001 Building Capacity for Local Governance), United Nations Development Programme, House 60 Road 11A, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka 1205 no later than 6 October 1997. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

Note: Any attempt to influence the process of selection will result in the immediate termination of the candidate's application.

WOMEN ARE PARTICULARLY ENCOURAGED TO APPLY.