

National

News snaps

Touch-stone statue recovered

CHUADANGA, Oct 10: Police last week recovered a statue of touch-stone from Iswarpur border village under Damurhuda thana while it was being smuggled out of the country, reports BSS.

Acting on secret information Damurhuda police rushed to the spot and recovered the statue weighing 1.2 kilogrammes from the possession of a person who was trying to smuggle it out of Bangladesh. Three persons were arrested in this connection and cases were filed against them.

World Postal Day observed

RAJSHAHI, Oct 10: World Postal Day '97 was observed in a befitting manner here on Thursday, reports BSS.

A discussion was held in the postal academy complex auditorium with Ataur Rahman, Post Master General, northern circle in the chair in observance of the day. Vice-Chancellor of Rajshahi University Prof Abdul Khaleque attended the discussion as the chief guest. Dilip Kumar Dutta, Vice-Principal, Postal Academy, Jainul Abedin Mallik and Advocate Abdus Samad, government leader, among others, spoke on the occasion. It was informed at the discussion that there were nine thousand post offices in the country and of them seven thousand were in rural areas.

1,100 cft illegal timbers seized

RANGAMATI, Oct 10: Forests and law-enforcing authorities have recovered about 1,100 cubic feet (cft) costly timbers and 4,000 bamboos worth about Taka 11.5 lakh and seized three engine boats and three trucks from different places in the district in separate raids recently, reports BSS.

The timbers and bamboos were allegedly extracted from the government reserved forests and the seized boats and trucks were used in smuggling. Acting on a tip-off, a forest team led by Sheikh Redwan Ali, Station Office of Raingkhongmukhi Forest Check and Toll Station of South Forest Division (CHTSFD) in Chittagong Hill Tracts recovered about 500 cft of costly teak from the Karnaphuli lake in the early morning of Wednesday and seized two engine boats being used in smuggling of illegally extracted timbers.

BNP urged to solve problems in JS

KISHOREGANJ, Oct 10: Deputy Speaker Abul Hamid said the parliamentary form of government in Bangladesh is more effective than other countries of the world, reports BSS.

He was addressing a meeting on Tuesday at Karimganj organised by thana Awami League. Presided over by Karimganj thana Awami League president Abul Hashem Chowdhury the meeting was addressed, among others, by Azizul Haq, Muhammad Iqbal, Aqtar Ali, Dr Mizanul Haque, MP, was present as the chief guest. The deputy speaker said, no state of the world like the hartial and gherao called by BNP in Bangladesh.

Requesting the opposition party (BNP) to come to the Jatiya Sangsad (JS) the deputy speaker said, let us discuss all problems of the country in the parliament.

1 killed in Satkhira road accident

SATKHIRA, Oct 10: One person was killed and 15 others were injured, four of them seriously in a road accident near at Pushpabati brick field on Satkhira-Kaliganj road under Debhata thana of the district on Tuesday afternoon, reports BSS.

Police and hospital sources said, a Satkhira-bound passenger mini-bus from Kaliganj dashed with the back of a truck while it was trying to overtake the truck. Ruhul Qudus, 30, helper of the bus, died on the spot. Seriously injured Abdur Rashid, 45, Asraful Islam, 38, of village Gomotoli, Aklima Khatun, 26, and her three-year-old son Abu Taher of village Naikati under Shyamnagar thana were admitted into Satkhira Sadar Hospital. Other injured person received treatment at different clinics.

Call to repeal Vested Property Act

PIROJPUR, Oct 10: The district unit of Hindu-Buddhist-Christian Okiya Parishad on Thursday observed a day-long hunger strike in the town to realise its three-point demand, reports UNB.

Their demands included repealing of the Vested Property Act and formation of Hindu Foundation for the well-being of the community. The hunger strike, which began at Bishash Chittagong, in the town at 6 am and ended following a brief rally at 6 pm. The rally was addressed, among others, by Advocate Chandi Charan Pal, A K M Awal, Faisul Haque Bachchu and Kanika Mandal.

Rice distributed under VGD scheme

RANGPUR, Oct 10: A total of 409,830 kilograms of rice was distributed under the Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) programme in the months of August and September in Rangpur district, reports BSS.

According to the district relief office, the rice was distributed free of cost among 13,661 card-holders including women and children. Each card-holder received about 30 kgs of rice every month.

Fish trader stabbed to death

SIRAJGANJ, Oct 10: A fish trader was stabbed to death by unidentified assailants in the town on Thursday night, reports UNB.

Police said Rawshan Ali, 35, was stabbed by the miscreants at his Shahendagar residence at about 10.30 pm and rushed to Ibne Sina Clinic, where the attending doctors declared him dead. A case was filed.

3 Freedom Party leaders held

TANGAIL, Oct 10: Three local leaders of Freedom Party were arrested on Thursday from Birpursia village in sadar thana for their alleged link with the absconding killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, reports UNB.

The district magistrate court allowed the police to take the arrested — Golam Rahman, Abdul Bashed Bachchu and Habibur Rahman — on a three-day remand.

5 receive burn injuries in Manikganj

MANIKGANJ, Oct 10: Five people, including a woman, suffered burn injuries in a fire at a rural-slum in Singair thana on Tuesday, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, the fire originating from the oven of one Shahabuddin of village Jaigir gutted three tin-shed and two thatched houses. According to an estimate valuables worth about Tk 3 lakh were charred in the fire. Later, villagers brought the fire under control.

Chandpur Dist Council Actt held

CHANDPUR, Oct 10: The Accountant of local district council was arrested for alleged defalcation of Tk 25.27 lakh, police said, reports UNB.

Police nabbed Accountant Bazlur Rahman, 50, of South Naradha village in Daudkandi thana of Comilla district on September 30 on an allegation of forgery filed by district council secretary Nurul Huq Mia with the Sadar police. He allegedly embezzled the amount through cheque forgery during the last two years. A two-member audit team from Dhaka unearthed the financial irregularities of the council during their recent inspection.

Shop employee commits suicide

KHAGRAKHARI, Oct 10: An employee of a shop at Dighali thana allegedly committed suicide by taking poison following a quarrel with his employer on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Babul Barua, 25, son of Monorjon Barua of village Madhya Boalkhali in Dighinalia, took poison as his employer rebuked him over a petty matter. The body was sent to Sadar Hospital for autopsy. A case has been filed with the police.

Diarrhoea claims 21 in Bandarban

BANDARBAR, Oct 10: Diarrhoea has broken out in an epidemic form in Thanchi, Roma and Roongchari thanas of Bandarban district which already claims 21 lives during the last two months, reports BSS.

The health department sources said, more than 600 persons were attacked by diarrhoea and among them 21 persons died during the last two months. The district administration has sent medical teams to the affected areas to control the disease.

Training course on sugar development

ISHURDI, Oct 10: A week long training course on "sugar development and management" concluded here on September 28, reports BSS.

The training course was organised by Bangladesh Sugar Research Institute, Ishurdi. Shamsur Rahman Sharif Delu, MP inaugurated the training course as the chief guest. Director of Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation Dr M Shahjahan was the present in the inaugural function as special guest. A discussion meeting was held in this occasion. Arfan Ali Director, Sugar Research Institute presided over the meeting.



MOULVIBAZAR: A citizens' committee honoured distinguished persons of the district at a function held here recently.

— Star photo

Property worth Tk 6 lakh gutted at Gournadi

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Oct 10: At least 5 persons were injured and property worth Taka six lakh were gutted in a devastating fire at Ashukati bus stand bazar under Gournadi thana of Barisal district recently.

Witnesses said fire originated from electrical short-circuit from a shop. Within a short time fire engulfed at least 12 shops nearby.

Gournadi police reached the spot after an hour. They control fire with help from local people after 3 hours. Deputy Commissioner and Police Super visited the spot.

It is worth mentioning that there is no fire fighting unit at Gournadi thana headquarters.

Valuables worth Tk 15 lakh looted from 7 fishing trawlers

From A Correspondent

BARGUNA, Oct 10: Pirates threw four fishermen off-board and left 12 others injured when they looted seven fishing trawlers in the Bay of Bengal about 100 km from here during the past two days, according to reports reaching here on Wednesday.

Trawler operators and fishermen returning from the Bay told The Star that the pirates took away nets, fish, fuel and engines, valued Tk 15 lakh from the boats during their raids.

The pirates severely beat a dozen fishermen and threw four others on water. Their fate was not known immediately.

Mohammad Sarwar Mia, 27, Tuli Mia, 30, and Ruhul Amin, 26, were admitted to the Patharghat Thana Health Complex.

Call to set up cottage industries in beel areas of Shariatpur

MARDARIPUR, Oct 10: Most of seven lakh people in beel areas of Shariatpur district become jobless for five months from the Bengali month 'Ashar' every year due to water-logging, reports UNB.

The two-third areas covering the village of Vedarganj, Damudya, Naria, Zajira, Gairahat and Sadar thanas of the district go under water during the period.

About 90 per cent people of the areas earn their livelihood by working in the crop fields which remain inundated for five months. The vast area looks like a sea during the period.

The college having five thousand students was established in 1946. It was nationalised in 1960. Honours, preliminary and final year M A, MSS courses have been introduced in four subjects. The subjects are: Political Science, Economics, Accountancy and Bengali. The courses were introduced in 1994-95 session.

According to government rules, 12 teachers are required for each department. But at present there are only seven teachers in each department. So there is a shortage of 20 teachers in these four subjects. Students studies are hampered due to shortage of teachers.

These people get themselves employed only in the irri-boro fields during the dry season and go without work during the rainy season for lack of alternative job.

Local leaders have urged the authority concerned to take a massive drive for setting up various cottage industries to create employment opportunities in the area.

JCD-BCL clash in Sirajganj: 11 injured

SIRAJGANJ, Oct 10: A series of clashes between Chhatra League and Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal activists in Belkuchi thana today left 11 people injured, reports UNB.

Witnesses said five people were injured in a chase and counter-chase between the two rival student organisations at 2 pm that occurred as a sequel to Monday's trouble which also left six wounded.

Local BNP leader Abdur Razak, Jubo Dal leader Azam and JCD men Abu, Zafar and Hafizul were among those who received injuries in today's clash.

Besides, honours courses have also been introduced in another four subjects from the session 1996-97. Each department requires seven teachers. But there are only three to four teachers in each department.

The post of principal is lying vacant for about one year. The college authority wrote to the Ministry of Education many times to create posts in different honours and MA, MSS final year department. So far honours courses have been introduced in eight subjects and MA and MSS final year courses have been introduced in four subjects. But due to lack of ac-

Alleged corruption in NGO working for women

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Oct 10: Eighty officials and employees of Saptagram Nari Swanirvar Parishad a non-government organisation (NGO) resigned en masse in protest against alleged corruption and irregularities by some executives of the parishad.

But she admitted, 30 employees tendered their resignation, but their resignation were not accepted on ground of misappropriating money, she said. She also said that their resignation would be accepted as soon as they would refund the money they owed to the parishad.

In answer to a query as to why the employees so long loyal to the organisation have now turned rebel, Prof Kabeer said, a recent difference of opinion between the executives and the employees has caused this misunderstanding.

One hacked to death in Kushtia

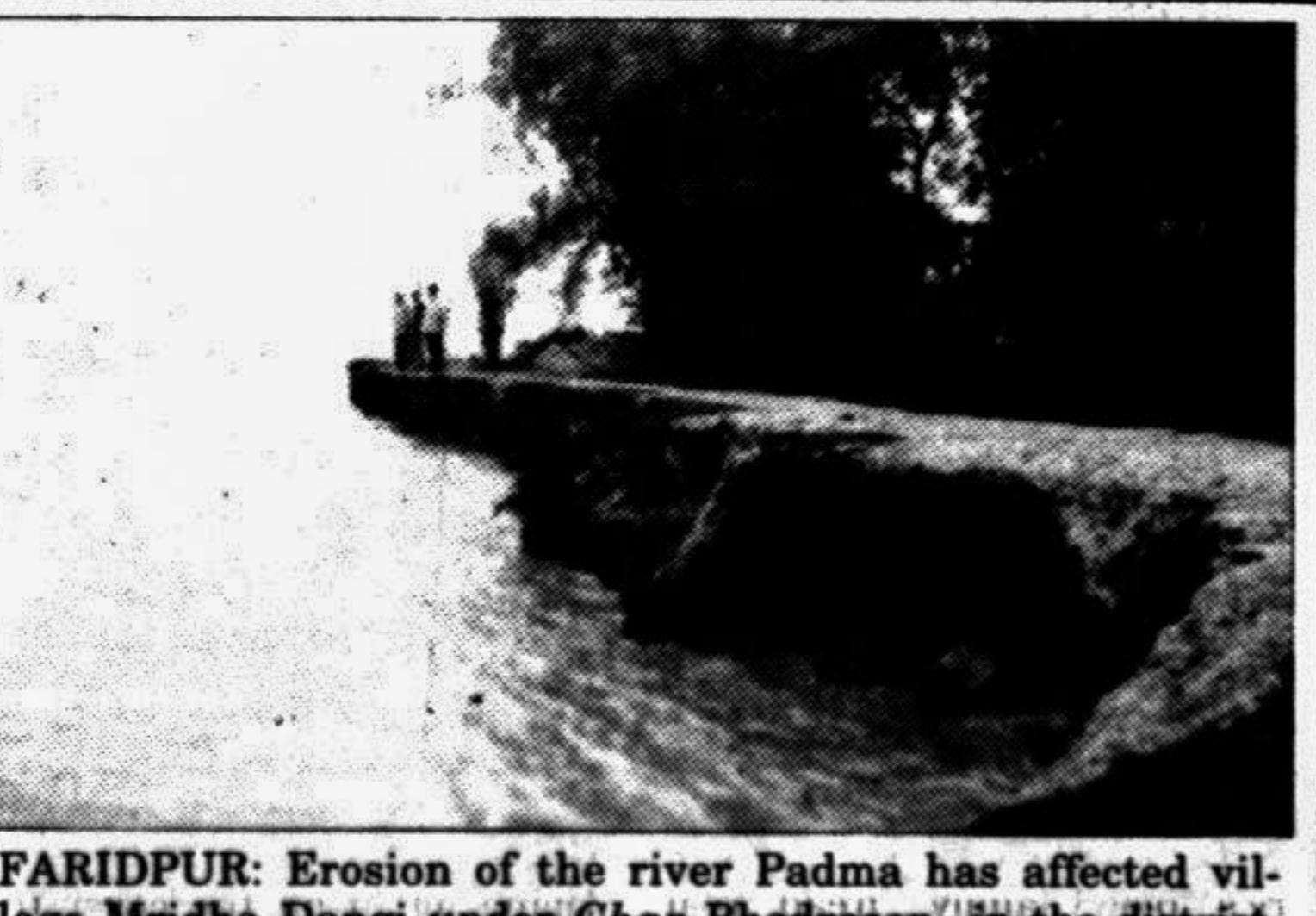
From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Oct 10: One person was hacked to death in village Alampur under Sadar thana on Monday night.

Family sources said, some terrorists called Abdur Rahman alias Montoo, 40, from his house at dead of night. The next day his dead body was found in a nearby canal. His body bore several marks of stab injury.

On receiving information police recovered body and sent to Kushtia General Hospital for autopsy. The cause of the murder could not be known. The victim is the son of late Izzat Ali Mondol of village Alampur.

When interviewed, Prof



FARIDPUR: Erosion of the river Padma has affected village Mridha Dangi under Char Bhadrak in the district.

— Star photo

Chandpur Govt College

Teacher shortage, accommodation problem hampering education

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Oct 10: The students of Chandpur Government College are being deprived of proper education due to shortage of teachers and accommodation problem.

The college having five thousand students was established in 1946. It was nationalised in 1960. Honours, preliminary and final year M A, MSS courses have been introduced in four subjects. The subjects are: Political Science, Economics, Accountancy and Bengali. The courses were introduced in 1994-95 session.

According to government rules, 12 teachers are required for each department. But at present there are only seven teachers in each department. So there is a shortage of 20 teachers in these four subjects. Students studies are hampered due to shortage of teachers.

The Headmaster, according to the family sources of the victim, Salma Khaton, 10, daughter of Abdur Rahaman of village Kutipara of Agharia thana in Pabna district, was isolated at about 9 pm on September 26 night while the girl was sleeping alone. Her parents were not present at home at that time.

The managing committee of the school took the above decision.

The Headmaster, according to the family sources of the victim, Salma Khaton, 10, daughter of Abdur Rahaman of village Kutipara of Agharia thana in Pabna district, was isolated at about 9 pm on September 26 night while the girl was sleeping alone. Her parents were not present at home at that time.

Local people have submitted memorandum to the Thana Nirbahi Office (TNO), Agharia, demanding his removal.

Father of the victim is allegedly being threatened not to file a case against the alleged rapist.

All of them met at an abandoned house at mid-night of last Wednesday. They drunk alcohol which was poisonous. After a while, they all lost consciousness. They were immediately shifted to local private clinic in critical condition. Soon after, they met their tragic end of life.

According to police, the victim identified as Shahidullah, 27, alias Shentu a ward member of 5 No Union Parishad, Anwar, 45, son of Rahim Bux, Abdur Jalil, 50, son of Sukur Ali and Bulbul Ahmed, 40, in Kazipur Puraton Kasba area.

All of them met at an abandoned house at mid-night of last Wednesday. They drunk alcohol which was poisonous. After a while, they all lost consciousness. They were immediately shifted to local private clinic in critical condition. Soon after, they met their tragic end of life.

Local people later informed Gosairhat thana of the matter.

Police exhumed both the bodies from the grave and their autopsies were conducted at Shariatpur General Hospital.

Police later lodged a case against the chairman of Kushtia Union Parishad, Shahid Parvez Abbas Molla, who was trying to file a case against them in this connection.

Police also seized some seals.

Chuadanga Newsletter

CHUADANGA, Oct 10: International Day for elderly was observed in Chuadanga on October 1.

In this connection the local district administration in cooperation with the local district social welfare department and district Prabin Hitoi Sangha chalked out a joint programme.

The day's programmes included a procession of the elderly people which began from the office premises of Chuadanga Deputy Commissioner (DC). The processionists paraded main streets of the town. A discussion meeting followed the procession at DC's conference room.

Nurul Islam Joarder, President, Chuadanga district branch of Bangladesh Prabin Hitoi Sangha presided over the discussion meeting. Former MP Dr. Ashab-ur-Haque was the chief guest in the discussion meeting. Among others Mokbulur