

News snaps

Touchstone statue recovered

CHUADANGA, Oct 10: Police last week recovered a statue of touchstone 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 kilograms 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 Mallick 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 Officer of Raingkhongmukh 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 Hashime Chowdhury the meeting was addressed, among others, by Azzul Haq, Muhammad Iqbal, Aqar Ali, Dr Mizanul Haque, MP, was present as the chief guest. The deputy speaker said, no state of the world like the hartal 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 Pushpakati brick field on Satkhira-Kaliganj road under Debbhata 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 Quddus, 30, helper of the bus, died on the spot. Seriously injured Abdur Rashid, 45, Asraful Islam, 38, of village Gomoutoli, 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

PIROJIPUR, Oct 10: The district unit of Hindu-Buddhist-Christian Oikya 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 6 a.m. in the town, ended following a brief rally at 6 p.m. The rally was addressed, among others, by Advocate Chand 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 Shahednagar 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 Birpashia 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 Based 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 originated 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 Bazir Rahman, 50, of South Nardadia village in Dauidkandi thana of Comilla district on September 30 on an allegation of forgery filed by district council secretary Nurul Haq 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

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

Babul Barua, 25, son of Monoraj Barua of village Madhya Boalkhali in Dighinala, 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

BANDARBAN, Oct 10: Diarrhoea has broken out in an epidemic form in Thanchi, Roma and Roangchari 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, Tulu Mia, 30, and Ruhul Amin, 26, were admitted to the Patharghata Thana Health Complex.

Call to set up cottage industries in beel areas of Shariatpur

MARKANDIRPUR, 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, Zaila, Gosairhat 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.

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 Jatiyatabadi 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.

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.

This was alleged by a large number of women employees at a press conference held recently at Faridpur Press Club. They also revealed, resignation of only a few persons was accepted by the authority. But they are yet to get their arrears monthly pay, provident fund money and gratuity money. They also alleged that they were threatened by local hoodlums to leave their work place and the mess they live in. They also said that their security was at stake.

When asked by the newsmen they emphatically said that they would not work under such corrupt official. They are allegedly misappropriating money depriving poor people for whom the money was sanctioned by donor countries.

When interviewed, Prof

Rokeya Rahman Kabeer, Executive Director of Saptagram Nari Swanirvar Parishad flatly denied all the allegations brought against her and the parishad.

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.



FARIDPUR: Erosion of the river Padma has affected village Miridha Dangi under Char Bhadranganj 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 University 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 1980. 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 being hampered due to shortage of teachers.

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-

commodation in both honours and MA final year classes are being hampered. There is no room for seminars in these subjects.

There are only three hostels

Girl student raped Headmaster of Chandra pry school suspended

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Oct 10: Mohammad Mazibur Rahman, Headmaster, Chandra Primary School, has been suspended temporarily for allegedly violating a student of class III of his school.

The managing committee of the school took the above decision.

The Headmaster, according to the family sources of the victim, Salma Khatun, 10, daughter of Abdur Rahman of village Kutipara of Atharia 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), Atharia, demanding his removal.

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

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.

Clash over fishing in pond: 50 hurt

From Our Correspondent

TUNGIPARA (Gopalganj), Oct 10: At least 50 people were injured in an armed clash at Purni village here today over fishing in a pond.

According to witnesses, the clash started at about 10 am when Nounun Master and his followers obstructed a group of villagers from fishing in the pond. Nounun was the lessee of the pond but his leasing period is now over, said the villagers who tried to fish in the pond.

During the three-hour clash, both sides used firearms and lethal weapons.

Police fired blank shots to disperse the feuding groups. None was arrested till filing of this report at 8 pm.

Among the injured, Maruf Sheikh, 25, Samad, 30, Amir Hossain, 55, Nasu Sheikh, 20, Ebadud Sheikh, 40, Nowsher, 32, Abu Biswas, 30, and Rafiq Sheikh were admitted to the Gopalganj Sadar Hospital while Hafez Gazi, 35, and Siraj Gazi, 25 to the Tungipara Hospital.

Two separate cases were filed by the conflicting groups.

Chuadanga Newsletter

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

In this connection the local district administration in co-operation with the local district social welfare department and district Probin Hitoishi 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 Probin Hitoishi Sangha presided over the discussion meeting. Former MP Dr. Ashab-ul-Haque was the chief guest in the discussion meeting. Among others Mokkur Rahman, Omar Farook, Badaruddin, Fate Ali Mia, Abdu Zabbar, Mehbub Ahamed, Moinamul Hussain Joarder and Golam Nabi spoke on the occasion.

Child Rights Week observed

Child Rights Week was observed here in a befitting manner. The week started from September 29.

The district administration in cooperation with local Shishu Academy chalked out an elaborate programme. The programmes included children's rally procession, documentary film show, discussion, essay and painting competition, child labourer survey, cultural function and prize distribution.

The local district information department also observed the week by arranging a press conference, advocacy meeting and workshop.

2 impostors arrested

Two impostors were caught red handed by the people of Kurulgachi bazar under Damurhuda thana of the district on September 25.

The impostors introduced themselves as CID inspectors. Their identities is Mir Shahar Ali, 46, of Bamanagar and Monayem Hossain, 47, of village Chaksham Nagar both under Meherpur district. They were demanding money from Kalim Uddin of Kurulgachi Bazar for setting an unnatural death case.

The local people on suspicion caught them and handed over to Damurhuda police. Police also seized some seals.

and fake documents of some high officials of the police department from their possession.

Statue recovered

A touchstone statue weighing 1.02 kg was recovered by Darsana outpost camp police under Damurhuda thana of Chuadanga district recently.

The value of the statue is Taka five lakhs. Acting on a secret information, police headed by SI Zakir Hossain raided the house of Tahazzel of village Ishwardhara Pur under Darsana thana and recovered the touchstone statue.

Police also arrested three persons from the spot. They are: Lalchand, Shariful Islam and Mahub. Three others absconded from there.

Massive cotton farming scheme

A total of 6,902 hectares of land have been brought under cotton cultivation in Chuadanga zone under Bangladesh Cotton Development Board during the current season.

The Chuadanga zone consists of four thanas of Chuadanga district like Chuadanga sadar, Alamdanga, Damurhuda, Jibannagar and Meherpur sadar thana of Meherpur district. The zone has 18 units which are Daulatganj, Jibannagar, Andulbaria, Karpashdanga, Damurhuda, Chuadanga, Dingedha, Sarjanj, Munshiganj, Alamdanga, Aokdia, Asmankhali, Baradi, Meherpur, Kederganj, Mahajanpur and Zagannathpur.

Workshop on baor management

A day-long workshop on "Recommendation for Baor Management Problem of Chuadanga district" was held here at the local Zila Parishad auditorium on September 30.

The workshop was held under the joint auspices of Chuadanga District Fisheries Department, IFAD and DANIDA. Over 60 fishermen, District Fisheries Department employees, officials and local journalists took part in the workshop.

The workshop was presided over by Abdus Satter, Project Director, baor and Fisheries Development and Management Project, Jessore. Chuadanga DC Saiful Alam, was present as the chief guest.

Double murder

Police yet to nab alleged culprits

SHARIATPUR, Oct 10: Police are yet to arrest any person for involvement in the murder of Kamrunnesa and her new born child at Daimi Kodapal village under Gosairhat thana in the district even after one month of the killing, reports BSS.

Police, however, say they are seriously trying to arrest the persons responsible for the double murder. But all the persons allegedly involved in the case including the chairman of Kodapal Union Parishad, Shahed Parvez Abbas Mollah went into hiding just after filing of a case against them with Gosairhat thana in this connection.

Local people alleged that Kamrunnesa, 18, an unmarried daughter of Mohammad Siraj Sardar and her new born son were killed by some goons in the morning of August 27.

Gosairhat police alleged that Shahed Parvez Abbas Mollah had an extra-marital affair with Kamrunnesa as a result of which she became pregnant nearly eight months ago. Shahed Parvez pressurised Kamrunnesa for abortion, but she did not comply with.

On August 27, the UP chairman hired some goons and coerced her into abortion inside a house of the village. After abortion, the gang killed Kamrunnesa and buried the bodies of the mother and the son at the village.

Local people later, informed Gosairhat thana of the matter.

SC judge exchanges views with Lalmonirhat lawyers

From A Correspondent

LALMONIRHAT, Oct 10: Mostafa Kamal, judge of appellate division of supreme court visited Lalmonirhat recently. He was on his way of northern district. He exchanged views with judges and lawyers of Lalmonirhat Bar Association at the local circuit house.

Bid to abduct housewife in Sylhet: 3 held

SYLHET, Oct 10: Police arrested three youths from Kuarpur area in the town on Wednesday while they were trying to abduct a young woman, reports UNB.

Police said local people caught Abdur Rahman, Kaysar and Khalilur Rahman while they were trying to abduct Asma Begum, 25, wife of a rickshaw-puller.

Arms case, abduction

5 get various jail terms

KUSHTIA, Oct 10: Five people were convicted and sentenced to different terms in two separate cases, court sources here said, reports UNB.

In one case, a man was awarded 14 years rigorous imprisonment (RI) with a fine of Tk 2,000, in default to suffer, another three years RI, in an arms case.

According to the prosecution story, Alamgir Hossain alias Arab Ali was arrested along with a country made gun and two bullets from the house of one Sarwar Hossain at Harishankarpur in Sadar thana on September 5, 1995.

A case was filed and police after investigation submitted charge-sheet against him.

After examining the records and witnesses Additional District and Sessions Judge M Abul Hossain Bepari delivered the

judgement last week.

In another case, four people were awarded seven years RI each on charges of abducting a minor girl eight months back.

The court also fined convicts Fazlur Rahman, Hamidul, Alim and Rezaul Tk 1000 each, in default, to suffer another one month more.

The case, in brief, was that the accused abducted Fahima Khatun, daughter of Sirajul Islam of Alamgir Union in Sadar thana on January 4, this year, while she was returning home from her school.

Police later submitted chargesheet against seven people on the basis of complaints, filed by Fahima's brother.

District and Sessions Judge Saiful Alam after examining the witnesses and records sentenced them recently acquitting three others.



SYLHET: A rally was brought out in the town on October 1 in observance of International Day for the Elderly. — Star photo