

News snaps

Five of a family hurt in clash

GAZIPUR, Oct 30: Five members of a family were injured in a clash with their opponents at village Rajbari in Sadar thana on Thursday, reports UNB.

Two brothers drown

SHARIATPUR, Oct 30: Two brothers drowned in a pond in Zajira thana of the district on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Housewife raped

NOAKHALI, Oct 30: A young housewife was violated allegedly by her 55-year-old father-in-law at Gopalpur village in Sadar thana on Wednesday night, reports UNB.

Efforts on for welfare of poor

JOYPURHAT, Oct 30: State Minister for Information Prof. Abu Sayeed said here on Wednesday the present government of Sheikh Hasina is continuing its relentless efforts to bring smiles on the faces the country's downtrodden millions, reports BSS.

He said this while speaking at the coordinating meeting of the district disaster management and relief here as the chief guest. The state minister said the government had already allocated 406 metric tons of wheat under 320 projects for rural infrastructure development of the district side by side distributing agriseeds, fertilisers and agri-loans to the farmers.

Girl gangraped, killed

THAKURGAON, Oct 30: Girl was gangraped and killed recently at Ranisankal in Thakurgaon district, reports BSS.

Widow allowance distributed

NETRAKONA, Oct 30: Under the countrywide widow allowance distribution programme, Netrakona District Social Welfare Department has disbursed Taka 9,000 as widow allowance on Tuesday among 90 distressed widow women of nine wards in Rouha union of Netrakona sadar thana at a function held at Rouha Union Parishad office premises, reports BSS.

Central working committee member of Bangladesh Awami League Advocate Fazlur Rahman Khan MP, attended the function as chief guest and formally disbursed the allowance among them. Each of them received Taka 100 as widow allowance. The function was presided over by Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO) of Netrakona sadar SM Abdul Baten. It was addressed, among others, by Deputy Director of District Social Welfare Department Khairuddin Ahmed, chairman of Rouha Union Parishad Abdul Khaleque and Thana Social Welfare Officer of Netrakona sadar Shila Shahana.

Distribution of VGF cards demanded

RAJSHAHI, Oct 30: Senior vice-president of Rajshahi City Awami League Mohammad Masudul Huq Dulu on Thursday said the distribution of VGF cards among the distressed people of Rajshahi city areas has been stopped as per the directive of Rajshahi City Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu, reports BSS.

Addressing a press conference here, Dulu said, "as the city mayor is away from Rajshahi so the distribution of VGF cards has been stopped" and added that "the mayor will return here on November 2 for which the process of distribution remain stopped," he said. "It is a total violation of government decision to distribute the cards among the distressed people by the end of the current month." Dulu, who is also a member of VGF cards distribution committee, demanded immediate distribution of VGF cards to mitigate the sufferings of the distressed people.

Efforts on to rehabilitate flood victims

BOGRA, Oct 30: Minister of State for Information Prof. Abu Sayeed said here that the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was determined to rehabilitate the flood affected people, reports BSS.

Addressing two separate meetings of the district health and disaster management and relief coordination committees at the Circuit House, the state minister said that the government had successfully tackled the worst ever flood situation with all-out cooperation of the people.

Body recovered

FENI, Oct 30: Police on Wednesday recovered the body of a man who was allegedly beaten to death the previous night by the villagers of Charjykrishna in Sonagazi thana, reports APB.

According to police, Badsha, 50, was caught by the villagers and died in the mass beating after a hue and cry that robbers had attacked a house of one Farid of the village. His body was found in a paddy field. Badsha, son of Nurul Islam of the same village, was accused of four cases, including a murder case with Sonagazi thana, police said.

Husband gets life term for killing wife

JESSORE, Oct 30: A man was sentenced to life term imprisonment for killing his wife, court sources said here on Thursday, reports UNB.

The convict, Nuruzzaman Bablu of Kashimnagar village in Monirampur thana was also fined Tk 3,000, in default, to suffer six months more rigorous imprisonment. The prosecution, in brief, was that Bablu killed his wife Romisa for non-payment of dowry money on May 19, 1992. After examining the records and witnesses, Additional Sessions Judge Moniruddin Ahmed awarded the punishment last week.



GAIBANDHA: Fund shortage hampering the repair work of flood damaged Gaibandha-Sadullapur road. — Star photo

Acute scarcity of 'Rabi' crop-seeds in N-dists

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Oct 30: The recent floods have caused a severe damage to about 50,000 houses, 47 kilometre roads, 16 bridges and 22 kilometre roads, according to statistics of the department concerned.

At least three lakh people have been worst affected by the deluge. About eight lakh poor and day labourers have become jobless.

An agricultural sources said, about one lakh acres of standing crop field, vast tract of seed-beds and thousand acres of vegetable field have been totally damaged in eight thanas of the district.

Three thanas have been badly affected. These are Gan-gachhara, Kaunia and Pirgachha thanas.

Besides flood, devastating erosion of the rivers Teesta and Ghagot had left at least 2,000 families in great miseries in Pirgachha thana.

Acute scarcity of jobs has caused inhuman sufferings to the day labourers. Prices of daily necessities and other essential items have shot an upward trend. As a result poor people are suffering a lot. Rice is being sold at Taka 15 to Taka 19 per kilogram. The prices of flour, soybean oil, pulses, green chilly, onion and vegetables have recorded sharp rise beyond the purchasing capacity of the common consumers.

Diarrhoeal diseases have already broken out across the district. According to the Health Department sources, at least 22 persons lost their lives so far and several thousand others have been suffering from the diseases. Acute scarcity of oral saline and other necessary anti-diarrhoeal drugs have been persisting in the affected areas of the district.

The Agriculture Extension Department, with a view to recouping the crop loss have undertaken a massive 'Rabi' crop farming programme across 16 districts of the northern region.

Under the programme, at least 2 lakh and 50 thousand hectares of land are being cultivated. 'Rabi' crops like mustard, sweet potatoes, vegetable and other winter crops will be cultivated.

In Rangpur district 70 thousand hectares of land will be brought under 'Boro' cultivation and the production target has been fixed at one lakh and 74 thousand metric ton, much high than that of last year.



PABNA: Floods have damaged very badly Buddhaerhat Road of Bablatala situated under Pabna Pourashava. — Star photo

Diarrhoea breaks out alarmingly in dists

From Our Correspondent

NETRAKONA, Oct 30: Diarrhoea has claimed six lives and affected 2,331 people during the last few days.

The victims have been identified as Rafiqul, 5, of village Syedpur, Fatema Katoon, 23, of village Dakin Bisura and Mamon, 8, of village Borogara, all in Netrakona Sadar thana, Kokila Akter of village Maizhati and Poli, 7, of village Kawrat in Kendua thana and Ayat Bano, 30, of village Taragati in Durgapur thana.

Civil Surgeon, Netrakona, Dr Katuru Raham informed this correspondent, 31 people died of diarrhoea and 35,826 had been affected in 10 thanas of the district during last one month.

According to unofficial sources, 65 people died of diarrhoea during this period while about 70,000 people have been affected. Out of 65 victims, seven died in Netrakona sadar, six in Barhatta, six in Atpara, five in Durgapur, five in Mohargonj, four in Kalmakanda, six in Madan, 11 in Kendua, eight in Khalaijuri and seven in Purbadhala thana. Besides, the number of diarrhoea patients in 10 thanas of the district was about 50 thousand during the last one month.

About 150 patients, on average, are being attacked with diarrhoea.

The civil surgeon said that 98 medical teams with 48 doctors had been working round the clock in the affected areas to combat the diseases.

Tragic indeed!

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Oct 30: A housewife recently committed suicide after poisoning to death her eight-month-old daughter due to failure in meeting a demand for dowry of her husband.

Monira Begum, 23, daughter of day labourer Sultan Shakh of Diapara cluster village in Abhyonagar thana poisoned her baby-daughter Fatema to death and then she herself committed suicide taking the same poison. They were declared dead after being taken to Abhyonagar Thana Health Complex. Their autopsy was done in Jessore General Hospital.

The incident occurred on October 11 afternoon. Monira was married to Yusuf Molla, 35, of Vitaballa village in Bagharpara thana in April, 1997. Soon after marriage her husband allegedly continued to press for a bicycle and a wrist watch. At one stage she was mercilessly beaten and sent to her father's house for dowry.

Police of Abhyonagar thana said that her father had failed to meet his son-in-law's demand and gave a negative reply.

About 36 thousand and 400 hectares of land will be brought under wheat cultivation, 15 thousand hectares under potato cultivation and 14 thousand hectares will be brought under winter fruits and vegetables, pulses, ginger and onion cultivation.

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC), in the meantime, has geared up the distribution process of different 'Rabi' crop-seeds in the district as well as across the northern region. But there are informations of shortage of necessary 'Rabi' crop-seeds as the BADC officials have allegedly failed to meet the requirements of the farmers.

Meanwhile, below standard of Indian 'Rabi' crop-seeds are being smuggled into Bangladesh from the Indian territory. Farmers are procuring those throughout the districts in Rajshahi division. It is apprehended that due to use of low quality Indian seeds the production target of 'Rabi' crops in vast areas of the region will surely be hampered during the current season. This would adversely hit the government bid to recoup the loss of crops by the deluge.

Man's eyes gouged out by villagers

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Oct 30: Angry villagers gouged out both the eyes of the brother of an alleged dacoit at the Charkalekha village in Muladi thana on Wednesday evening.

Earlier, police arrested Kalam Khan, 40, an alleged dacoit. Later his brother, Aio Khan, 50, threatened the villagers to suffer the consequences of arresting his brother following their allegations.

At this the villagers became angry and caught Aio Khan, beat him mercilessly and at one stage gouged out both of his eyes. Later they handed him over to police.

Meanwhile, Aio Khan is being treated in hospital under police guard.

Girl students submit memo to Jhalakathi DC

JHALAKATHI, Oct 30: Several hundred girl students on Tuesday staged demonstration and submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner and Police Super here demanding the trial of gruesome killing of a female college student, reports UNB.

After parading the main thoroughfares of the town, the female students of schools, colleges and various voluntary organisations of Sadar thana led by the district Mohila Parishad, Superintendent of Police demanding exemplary punishment to the killers of Tapati Rani.

It may be mentioned here that, Tapati Rani Haldar, 20, a student of Jhalakathi Girls' College and daughter of a retired school teacher Amulla Kumar Haldar of Sato Dash Kathi village in Sadar thana, was missing since September 28 and later her decomposed body was recovered from a marshy land, one and a half km off her house on October 4.

The brother of the victim filed a murder case with police accusing 12 people. It was stated in the complaint that, the miscreants brutally killed her after rape.

Police arrested two people in this connection.

Misappropriation of wheat: Chairman sent to jail

NETRAKONA, Oct 30: A court here sent a chairman to jail after refusing bail prayer on charge of misappropriation of wheat of Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) scheme, reports UNB.

Police sources said, on Friday night they arrested Naranath Union Parishad Chairman Sadiul Islam Samad on connection with the VGF wheat misappropriation case and produced him before the court of first class Magistrate Abdul Kuddus Khan who sent him to the jail.

The arrested chairman has drawn 810 kgs of wheat and later illegally sold out the grain in the black market which was allocated under the VGF project for distribution among the catastrophe-hit people. He also allegedly misappropriated 5,140 kgs of rice after lifting it.

On receipt of the information, Deputy Commissioner Ali Akbar Hussain Akhand instructed the Thana Nirbahi Officer to file a case against the chairman after proper investigation.

Phensidyl recovered

From Our Correspondent

NETRAKONA, Oct 30: The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of Netrakona in a raid recently seized 29 bottles of phensidyl from village Medni in the sadar thana.

A team of CID police raided the houses of Pariskarer Ma, 30, recently and seized four bottles of phensidyl from underground. But the accused, Pariskarer Ma managed to escape from the presence of the CID team. None was arrested as yet. It is worth mentioning, Pariskarer Ma was arrested once for keeping phensidyl but she managed to get herself free from the case.

Besides, a team of Netrakona Detective Branch (DB) of police in another raid seized four bottles of phensidyl from Chotobazar area of the town recently. One person named Kartik was arrested in this connection. But, as per statement of Kartik, three main phensidyl traders are yet to be arrested by DB police.

Reunion

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, Oct 30: Bijoya Dashami reunion organised by Sripur Thana Puja Ujjapan committee was held in the premises of Sripur 'Kalimondir' on October 2. The reunion was inaugurated by Dr M S Akbar, MP, Magura, while Advocate Biren Sikdar another MP of Magura was the chief guest.

Among others Roy Ramesh chandra, Nandadala Bangshi, Santosh Kumar Dutta, Basu Deb Kundu and local leaders spoke on the occasion.

Bus dacoity in Bogra

BOGRA, Sept 30: Dacoits looted cash and valuables worth about Tk 50,000 from the passengers of a Dhaka-bound night coach early reports APB.

Witnesses said a gang of seven to eight dacoits got into the coach in guise of passengers at Rajshahi and swooped on the passengers as the bus was on its way to Natore.

They also stabbed three passengers. Of the injured Mohammad Borhan was admitted to local Mohammad Ali Hospital in a critical condition.

Avishek produced before court, sent to safe custody

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Oct 30: Avishek Biswas, now Sultan Mahmud, 16, has been produced before the court on Thursday, but no hearing took place. He was sent to safe custody.

Avishek said to the reporters of different national dailies at the court compound here that he himself embraced Islam voluntarily. He declined to return to his parents. He was interested in Islam from his boyhood when he was merely a school boy.

His parents tried in vain several times for his return, but he refused. According to his parents, Avishek was treated by psychiatrists in Dhaka and in India.

Avishek was missing since June 1, '98. He was the only son of Ranjit Kumar Biswas, Deputy Director, Ministry of Information. After his missing many news and views were published in different national dailies about his missing.

Meanwhile, Avishek's parents reached Barisal on Wednesday and left Barisal on the same day as they could not take him with them.

An earlier report says, Kotwali Police and DB police acting on a secret information, rescued Avishek from Kaunia madrasah in the town. The 16 year-old Avishek said to police that he had embraced Islam voluntarily. Now his name is Sultan Ahmed.

He does not want to go back to his parents any more. He got himself admitted into Kaunia Madrasah voluntarily. One Tuhin took him to Barisal from Dhaka four months ago. Avishek told this to police.

Relief drives in dists

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Oct 30: Square group of companies has been distributing relief materials among the flood victims for about a month.

The group conducted relief operations in all the flood-affected thanas and distributed foodgrains, other materials and medicines. They also treated many patients affected by various diseases.

Various other socio-cultural and other organisations like Pabna District Advocates Bar Association, Red Crescent Society, Pioneer Lions' club, Sammilito Sanskritik Jote, Gano Shilpi Sangstha, Shikha-Sangskritik Characha Kendra, Pabna District Mohila Parishad, Edward College Students' Union, Shaheed Bulbul College Students' Union, Government Mohila College Students' Union, students of zilla school, government girls high school, Pabna Chamber of Commerce and Industries and many other such organisations and many individuals also conducted relief work among the flood victims.

The district administration, thana administration and pourasavas also distributed relief goods among the flood affected people.

Political parties like Awami League, BNP, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami and Workers' Party also distributed relief materials among the flood-affected people in different thanas.

Gano Forum took up a different kind of relief operation. The party took up two projects, one for agricultural rehabilitation by distributing agricultural seeds and seedlings among the landless men and women. Secondly the party took up a health project under which they distributed medicines including oral saline, water purifying tablets. The project was formally inaugurated on October 16 from Ishardi thana.

Our Magura Correspondent adds: The local administration, different political parties, and non-governmental organisations, Puja Ujjapan Committee



BRAHMANBARIA: Islami Bank Foundation recently distributed relief materials among the flood stricken people of the district. — Star photo



PABNA: Pratyasha, a non-governmental organisation recently distributed relief goods among the flood victims of Pabna sadar thana. — Star photo



CHANDPUR: Members of Chittagong CDA Residential Welfare Association recently distributed relief goods among the flood-hit people of Baburhat. — Star photo

Advertisement for Rajshahi University. The text is in Bengali and mentions the foundation stone of the Teacher Student Centre (TSC) building on June 13, 1991. It also mentions the construction work remained shelved for a long time due to reasons unknown. The present Vice Chancellor Prof. Abdul Khaleque has taken initiatives to build the centre.

RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY: The then university administration laid the foundation stone of Teacher Student Centre (TSC) building on June 13, 1991. But the construction work remained shelved for a long time due to reasons unknown. Now the present Vice Chancellor Prof. Abdul Khaleque has taken initiatives to build the centre. — Star photo