

News snaps

Shilpakala Academy poll

MANIKGANJ, Sept 6 : The biennial election of Manikganj Shilpakala Academy was held on August 28 at its premises here, reports BSS.

The 10 members who have been elected are Abul Hossain Sikdar, Shahsun Nahar, Khondkar Khalequzzaman, Tauhid Babu, Mostafizur Rahman Mamun, Abdul Awal Nur, Pradip Hore, Bimal Roy, Matin Biswas and Mizanur Rouf Khan Jasi. The Deputy Commissioner is the ex-officio president of the academy. The office-bearers will be elected from among the elected members.

Loan for unemployed youths

MANIKGANJ, Sept 6 : The Youth Development Directorate will disburse an amount of Taka 94.29 lakh among the trained unemployed youths, both male and female to create self-employment opportunities for them, reports BSS.

According to an official source, Taka 67.25 has already been disbursed among 411 youths in seven thanas. The loans are being given for fisheries, poultry and dairy farms, cottage industries and small business.

Four convicted for abduction

GAIBANDHA, Sept 6 : Four people were sentenced to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment (RI) by a tribunal here on Wednesday, reports UNB.

The convicts are : Harun, Mannan, Milan and Lokman of village Hatbamuni in Sadullapur thana. The case history in brief : the accused kidnapped Kamana Parveen Keya, daughter of Abdul Quddus of the village, on March 18, 1995 while she was playing with her fellow-villager Ainunnahar. Police rescued Keya and arrested Harun, Mannan, Milan, Lokman and Ainunnahar following filing of a case by Quddus against them. After a long hearing, the court found the four guilty of abduction, sentenced them to 10 years' RI under the women Repression Act and acquitted Ainunnahar.

Two dacoities within 2 days

GAIBANDHA, Sept 6 : Two dacoities were committed in Shahebganj sugarcane farm area in Gobindaganj thana on Dhaka-Dinajpur highway with a span of two days, reports UNB.

Witnesses said bandits waylaid some five passers-by and looted their cash, rickshaw-van and a by-cycle on Thursday. The dacoits also beat up the passers-by mercilessly. In another incident on August 31 at the same spot, dacoits beat up Narayan and Pachu of Shahebganj village and snatched away Tk 500 from them. The victims reached the spot when the dacoits were taking preparation to commit highway robbery.

Raped housewife commits suicide

BARUNA, Sept 6 : A young housewife committed suicide by taking poison at Angulakata village in Amtali thana on Thursday after she was allegedly raped by her father-in-law, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Nazma, 20, wife of Shahidul Islam. Police said Mofazzel Hossain, 50, raped his daughter-in-law, Nazma on Thursday morning when Shahidul went out to cultivate his land. Taking advantage of Shahidul's absence, his father raped Nazma. Hearing her cry for help, neighbours rushed to the spot.

Tk 10.86 cr agri-loan disbursed

CHHAGALNAYA, Sept 6 : Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB), Feni region disbursed a total of Taka 10.86 crore as agricultural loan among 9,700 farmers in Chhagalnaya and Parshuram thanas through its three branches, reports BSS.

The loan was given to provide assistance to the farmers under Post Flood Rehabilitation Programme during 1998-99 fiscal year. The bank also realised outstanding loans of Taka 8.34 crore from the borrowers during the period. The loan was used for cultivation of various crops, dairy, poultry farming, cattle fattening, pisciculture, buying of agricultural and irrigation instruments.



Everfresh memory Jahanara Abedin, widow of late Shilpakarya Joydul Abedin speaking at a discussion meeting arranged at Joydul Abedin Sangrahasala in Mymensingh on August 20. The speakers demanded naming an art college after the Shilpakarya. — Star photo

Discussion on Sree Krishna

PATUAKHALI, Sept 6 : State Minister for Textiles AKM Zahangir Hossain Friday said Bangladesh is a classic example of communal harmony and the present government is pledged-bound to maintain it, reports BSS.

"Communal harmony must be maintained for the sake of humanity, democracy and socio-economic development," he said while speaking at a religious discussion to mark the birth anniversary of Lord Sree Krishna at Kalibari temple of Gylachipa thana. Chaired by the President of Jannastami Celebration Committee, the function was also addressed, among others, by Ratneswar Chatterjee, Surnajan Saha and Binoy Kumar.

Massive afforestation programme

BARISAL, Sept 6 : A total of 1,12,410 saplings of different varieties of wood and fruit bearing trees will be planted in four thanas of Jhalakati district in this season, reports BSS.

According to an official source, of the total, 56,205 saplings are of fruit bearing and the rest are of wood. In each of the thanas 25,000 saplings will be planted under mass awareness programme.

Jannastami celebrated

KHULNA, Sept 6 : Jannastami, the birthday of Lord Sree Krishna, was celebrated here Thursday amidst religious fervour and gaiety, reports BSS.

Khulna District and City Puja Celebration Committee had earlier chalked out a four-day programme in celebration of Jannastami. A huge rally was brought out in the city from Dharmashra Mandir. The programmes also included candle lighting, 'Bhajan-Kirtan', 'Mangalik' ceremony, special prayer for continued peace and prosperity of the nation and recitation from the holy Geeta.

Discussion on Mourning Day

BHALUKA (Mymensingh), Sept 6 : Presidium member of Bangladesh Awami League Amir Hossain Amu on Wednesday said that the anti-liberation forces had killed Bangabandhu, reports BSS.

He said this while addressing as the chief guest at a discussion here. Bangladesh Krishak League organised the function to mark the 24th martyrdom anniversary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and National Mourning Day.

49,000 VGF cards to be distributed

BRAHMANBARIA, Sept 6 : The government will distribute 49,000 Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) cards among the poor people of seven thanas here for the next three months, reports BSS.

According to an official source, 13,500 VGF cards have been allocated for 27 unions of Brahmanbaria sadar thana, 5,000 cards for 10 unions of Sarail, 5,000 cards for 10 unions of Kashiha, 2,500 cards for five unions of Akhaura, 10,000 cards for 20 unions of Nabinagar and 6,500 cards for 13 unions of Bancharampur thana. Each card holders will get 10 kg of rice per month, the District Relief and Disaster Management Office sources said.

UP polls in nine unions of Mymensingh from today

From Aminul Islam

MYMENSINGH, Sept 6 : Union Parishad (UP) elections will be held in Char Nilakmiya and Dapunia unions of the Sadar thana today (September 7) and September 9, in Jashara union of Gafargaon thana on

September 13 and in Chhandhara and Dhakua unions of Phulpur thana on September 23 and 20, according to the district election office sources.

A total of 29 candidates are contesting for five posts of

chairman, 43 for 15 reserved seats for women and 172 candidates for 45 general member posts.

By-election in one ward of Char Sirta union of the Sadar thana will be held on Septem-

ber 7 for a member post. Four candidates are vying in the race. By-election in Fadhakanai union of Phulbaria thana will be held on September 16 for the post of chairman where seven candidates are contesting. By-election in Akua of the Sadar thana and in Ksimpur of Muktagacha thana will be held on September 9 and 16 respectively for the post of member. Four candidates are contesting here.

A female candidate for the reserved seat at Ward number 3 and another member candidate at ward number 6 in Jashara union of Gafargaon thana have been elected unopposed.

A total of 63 polling stations and 240 polling booths will be set up to conduct the voting process smoothly, the officials said.

A total of 1,00,019 voters, of whom 51,145 males and 48,874 females will exercise their franchise.

Meanwhile, all necessary measures have been taken to check electoral violence and for maintaining law and order during election period, said District Election Officer Md Barkat Ali.



Election campaign :Posters of contesting candidates have flooded the walls of Shambhuganj bazaar in Char Nilakmiya union of Mymensingh district. — Star photo

Five killed in separate incidents in four dists

Five people were killed in separate incidents in four districts recently, report agencies.

A youth was killed by assailants in broad daylight on Saturday at Angaria in Chapai Nawabganj Poursabha area following previous enmity.

Witnesses said a gang of about six terrorists hit Kabir, 21, with hammers and iron rods and left him in a critical condition. He died on way to hospital.

A government employee was killed in a road mishap at Fatik Kheyaghat area in Patuakhali town on August 30.

According to witnesses, the victim Jalal Sikdar, 45, an employee of Mirzanagar thana Livestock office, was run over by a new market-bound rice-laden truck. He died on the spot. Local people handed over the driver, Abdur Rashid, helper

Aziz and the killer truck to the police. The body was sent to morgue for postmortem.

Two persons were killed and 15 others injured seriously in a clash between two rival groups at Shirnagar under Daulatpur police station of Kushtia district on August 30.

The incident took place when one group opened fire on the other over a land dispute.

The victims were identified as Mintu, 32, and Wahab, 38. Bodies of the victims have been sent to Kushtia Sadar Hospital for autopsy. The injured persons have been admitted to Kushtia Sadar Hospital. The critically injured persons are Kalam, Mokter, Alim, Rafiqul, Motaleb and Jahir.

Police arrested six persons in this connection. The arrested persons are Nizam, Pintu, Shamsul, Soliman, Hamidul

and Shah Alam. They have been sent to Kushtia jail.

A man was killed and 19 people were injured in an attack by rival groups at village Ambari in Palashbari thana of Gaibandha district recently over previous conflicts between two groups.

The dead was identified as Hasan, 57, a day labourer.

In a sequel to group clashes, a 'terrorists' group led by Golam, lecturer of a college attacked the people of Ambari.

Some 20 villagers were injured, seven critically, in the attack. Of the injured Hasan, Nazir Hossain, Abu, Ramzan, Haidar, Kalam and Hafiz were admitted to local clinics and hospital.

Of them, Hasan was sent to Bogra Mohammad Ali Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

Show cause notice on 38 including Cox's Bazar DC

COX'S BAZAR, Sept 6 : A court here has served show cause notice upon 38 people, including the deputy commissioner, why the convening committee of Cox's Bazar District Awami League will not be declared cancelled, reports UNB.

The court asked for a reply to the show cause within September 30.

Senior assistant judge of Cox's Bazar Amjad Hossain served the show cause notice on Wednesday following a petition by a member of Ukha thana Awami League, Shahjahan Sikder.

Sikder in his petition said the 37-member district convening committee of Awami League was formed on November 26, 1996 with Moshtaque Ahmed Chowdhury as convener.

It has no longer any legal basis, the petitioner submitted, as according to the party constitution, the committee's term had expired on February 25, 1997.

He said the members in the name of the committee conducted various activities that were contrary to the party's constitution and interest.

100 hurt as villagers clash in Narsingdi

From A Correspondent

NARSINGDI, Sept 6 : At least 100 people were injured in a clash between two rival groups of Dulakand and Lakhsimpur villages in Belabo thana recently.

According to police and witnesses, about five hundred villagers locked in the clash. They used machetes, spears and other sharp weapons in the clash that lasted for an hour.

The clash ensued when a school building, built on a disputed land by Lakhsimpur villagers, was ransacked by Dulakandi villagers, witnesses said.

The injured were rushed to Raipura, Belabo and Bhairab hospitals.

Bomb attack on newspaper office condemned

KHULNA, Sept 6 : Leaders of Khulna Awami League and its front organisations and different other organisations and individuals on Monday condemned the bomb attack on the 'Dainik Rajpather Dabi' and demanded immediate arrest of the persons responsible for the attack, reports BSS.

President of Khulna City Awami League Advocate Monzurul Imam, district Awami League President and former whip of Jatiya Sangshad Sheikh Harunor Rashid, Secretary of Khulna City Awami League and state minister for relief and disaster management Talukder Abdul Khaleque and Awami League leaders, M A Rob in a joint statement condemned the attack on the newspaper and demanded arrest of the persons behind the attack.

42 arrested in three dists

A total of 42 people were arrested and a number of firearms recovered in Sathkira, Khulna and Naogaon districts recently, report agencies.

Sathkira police in a number of drives arrested 35 persons including five alleged terrorists from different areas and recovered some fire arms from their possession.

Police said the arrested were wanted by police on various charges.

Police recovered one foreign-made revolver, one country-made revolver, one pipe gun, one shutter-gun and two rounds of ammunition from them.

In an early morning raid, police unearthed an arms factory while making arms at Noudari village in Fultala thana under Khulna district on Wednesday.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided the village and nabbed Azizur Rahman Kalu, Billal Sheikh, Maruf Moholadar and his father Omar Ali Moholadar. They also recovered some

arms making equipment, one pipe gun, 10 shutter gun pipes and two rounds of bullet, one drilling machine and one dice from their possessions.

In Shapahar thana of Naogaon district police arrested three alleged dacoits including an Indian national from village Taitor of border union Shironti and recovered some arms and ammunition from them.

Police sources said a gang of five dacoits had been preparing to commit dacoity in a house of village Taitor. Hearing hue and cry of the inmates of the house the villagers surrounded the house and caught three dacoits. Two of them managed to flee. Later on the dacoits were handed over to police.

Four shutter guns and a cartridge were recovered.

The arrested persons are Alai Hossain and Abdul Hamid of village Chakpara in Shapahar thana and Lakhman alias Kandan of village Lashkarhati under Paschim Dinajpur of India.

3 lakh affected by Chandpur flood

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Sept 6 : About three lakh people and 20,000 acres of crop lands have been affected here by flood. But the flood situation has been improving slowly.

About 10,000 people have been marooned in different shoal areas of Sadar and Matlab thanas. Badly affected areas are Raj Rajeshwar, Char Bhirabi, Nil Kamal and Char Kashem.

About 80 per cent houses of shoal areas have been submerged. Flood waters have entered into 50 per cent houses of the town. All important roads have been inundated. The worst-hit areas in the town are Bishnudi, Bank Colony, Sher-e-Bangla Government College hostel, Zia Government College hostel, Taltala government staff quarter, Rahmatpur colony, Guakhula road Professor Para, Nazir Para, Madrasa road and Railway colony.

Moreover, Chandpur sadar, Haziganj, Shaharasti, Haimchar and Matlab thanas have been badly affected.

Meanwhile, the field workers of Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), Chandpur have been working round the clock to repair the cracked Taka 100-crore Matlab Meghna-Dhanagoda irrigation project. Chandpur town protection embankment has also been submerged partly.

The district administration distributed 18 tons of rice among the flood affected people. Red Crescent, Chandpur unit, distributed relief goods among the flood affected people of Chandpur Sadar and Himchar thanas. The people of Haziganj and Shaharasti complained that they did not get any relief goods. Moreover, the relief goods are too meagre for too many victims, it has been alleged.



Flood affected Bishnudi Government Primary School. — Stat photo



Rahmatpur colony of Chandpur town under knee deep water. — Star photo

Events of districts in picture



Hazard of labour :A woman labourer in Magura still breaking bricks despite sustenance of injury on her hand by a hammer while doing the job. —Star photo



A seminar on 'Disaster Management and Disabled People' was held recently at Aswini Kumar Town Hall in Barisal. —Star photo



A congregation of Rabidas community was held recently at Rabidas Palli in Lakkhiganj of Kishoreganj district.

29 killed in 10 S-W districts in July

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Sept 6 : At least 29 people were killed in 10 south-west districts in July.

According to police sources, six people were killed in Jessore, one in Narail, four in Jhenaidah, five in Khulna, two in Bagerhat, four in Sathkira, three in Kushtia, three in Chuadanga and one in Meherpur districts during this period.

In Jessore, Braja Mohan, 50, of Sajatpur under Monirampur thana; Rabial Islam, 30, of Baropota and Saira Khatun, 22, of Basatpur both under Sharsha thana; Firo, 32, of Noor Bag under Abhainagar thana; Azam Ali, 35, of Ram Chandra Pur under Keshabpur thana were murdered by terrorists in separate incidents. Besides, a body of a baby was recovered from under a bridge in Jessore town.

In Khulna, Abdul Matin, 30, of Senpara under Daulatpur; Sahhin, 25, of Basupara under Kotwali; an unidentified young in Batiaghata; another unidentified person from Kaira; and Anirul Bibi, 28, of Narayanpur under Daulatpur thana were killed in the month.

In the Bagerhat district, Sonia, 2, and Shahidul, 25, of Fakirhat were killed.

Hashem Ali, 40, of Alipur under Kotwali thana; Sohel, 3, of Kadbaria under Kalaroa, Komoruddin and Shahana Khatun, 18, of Tala thana in Sathkira district were murdered.

Shah Alam, 35, of Kalia in Narail; Puti Mondol, 48, and Lincoln, 26, under Kotwali and Abul Kashem, 5, of Sailakupa under Kaliganj thana in Jhenidah district were killed in the month.

Faruk, 28, of Hari Sankarpur; Salaududdin, 30, of Kumarkhali, Nahar Begum of Chetulia, under Mirpur thana in Kushtia district; Fakir Mohammad, 55, of Gangni in Meherpur district; Nazrul Islam, 25, of Hakpur and Rashida Khatun, 22, and Samedul, 32, of Jibonnagar thana in Chuadanga, district were killed.

Jute farming waning in Pabna

From Ranesh Maitra

PABNA, Sept 6 : Farmers in the district are losing interest in jute cultivation.

The farmers have attributed the declining trend in the farming to lack of marketing facilities and non-co-operation of the mills, which do not purchase the 'golden fibre' directly from the growers.

They also said non-availability of high quality seeds is hampering jute cultivation. A total of 10,695 hectares of land have been brought under jute cultivation this year in the district. In the last season 17,158 hectares of land were brought under the cultivation.

In Pabna Sadar thana 1,690 hectares; 703 hectares in Agartala thana; 395 hectares in Ishwardi thana; 2,796 hectares in Chatmohar thana; 400 hectares in Bhangoora thana; 454 hectares in Faridpur thana; 750 hectares in Bera thana; 1,467 in Santhia thana; and 1,111 hectares in Sujannagar thana have been brought under the farming this year, official sources said.