

National

News snaps

Discussion on Bangabandhu

NAOGAON, Sept 10: A discussion on the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman organised by Dhamairhat thana Awami League was held recently at the party office at Dhamairhat, reports BSS.

Dhamairhat thana Awami League president Mokarram Hosain presided over the meeting. Local Awami League leaders Shahiduzzaman Sarkar Babu, A B M Obaidul Huq, Khelma Union Council chairman Deldar Hossain, Umar Union Council chairman Advocate Ayub Hossain and freedom fighter Abdur Rouf took part in the discussion.

National poet's death anniversary

KISHOREGANJ, Sept 10: The 23rd death anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam was observed in a befitting manner on August 27, reports BSS.

Various socio-cultural and political organisations arranged elaborate programmes to observe the day. The programmes included rally, placing wreath on poet's portrait, discussion on the life of the poet and recitation from the poet's poems. Awami League, BNP, Jatiya Party and their front organisations also held various programmes. A discussion meeting was held at the local Shilpakala Academy, presided over by the ADC. The meeting was addressed by Prof Ziauddin, Abu Khaled Khan Pathan, M A Latif and Mia Muhammad Ferdous.

Bridge on Mara Poshur

KHULNA, Sept 10: A bridge has been constructed on the river Mara Poshur at Gourammina-Vanderco road under Battalgata thana recently, official sources said, reports BSS.

Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) executed the project with an expenditure of Taka two crore twenty lakh. The bridge is expected to be opened for traffic soon.

Loan for distressed women

TANGAIL, Sept 10: Twenty-six distressed women have been given Taka 1,30,000 as loan from the Special Fund of the Prime Minister in the current fiscal year. The loan has been given to make them self-reliant, reports BSS.

Zohra Khatun, District Officer of Women Affairs Department said, a total of 277 women have, so far, been given loan from this special fund. Besides, under World Food Programme's Vulnerable Group Development nine organizations of the distressed women have been provided with one sewing machine each for their best performances in their self-reliant programmes. Women Affairs Department supervised the programmes.

Boys injured by bomb blast

BOGRA, Sept 10: Two boys were critically injured in a bomb explosion at Horbari in the town on Monday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the bomb went off when the boys - Bayejid and Miraj - picked it up unwittingly while playing nearby their house. Bayejid was admitted to Bogra Mohamad Ali Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

Son kills mother

MYMENSINGH, Sept 10: A mentally derailed son killed his mother while they were crossing the Brahmaputra river in a boat on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Police said, Alekjan, wife of Asir Ali of Ghodabopur village in Gouripur thana, was stabbed to death by her son Mohammad Ali. The poor mother was taking the ailing son to the town for treatment. Ali was taken to police custody.

Body recovered

SHERPUR, Sept 10: The body of a college student who had slipped into the Mungi river from a boat on Sunday was recovered from Jangaldee ghat in Sadar thana on September 7, reports UNB.

Shohag, a second year student of Sherpur Government College, fell into the river at Badarghat while returning home by the boat from the college.

Cash, valuables looted

SIRAJGANJ, Sept 10: A group of armed dacoits looted cash and valuables and injured five passengers and the driver of a Beluchi-bound bus near Bangabandhu Bridge early hours on September 7, reports UNB.

Passengers and police said the gangsters put up barricade on the way by trucks parked on the roadside at Punagati under Sadar thana and got into the bus at 4 am. The bus was carrying a number of traders who were going to the weekly market to buy cloth. Cash and other valuables of all the passengers were snatched away by the dacoits at gun-point. The driver and five passengers were injured while trying to resist the gangsters.

Rally of school teachers

MYMENSINGH, Sept 10: A rally of teachers of non-government secondary schools of Dhaka division was held under the banner of Bangladesh Teachers Association (BTA) at the Town Hall Shaheed Minar premises recently, reports BSS.

The rally was held to press home the association's 5-point demands. Chaired by the Coordinator of the rally Md Motazuddin, BTA president Principal M Quamruzzaman attended the rally as the chief guest. Among others, BTA vice-president Hena Das, general secretary Chowdhury Khurshid Alam, central leaders Abdul Halim, M A Awal Siddiqui, Alauddin Bhuiyan, Abdur Rahman, Abul Hasan and Billkis Zaman spoke on the occasion. Principal Quamruzzaman in his speech called upon the government to accept the non-government teachers 5-point demands including 100 per cent government contribution towards salary, house rent equivalent to government teachers and festival bonus, higher scale of headmasters and assistant headmasters, rescind the order of staffing pattern and introduction of teachers' welfare trust.

Massive plantation drive

RANGAMATI, Sept 10: In a bid to make the ongoing afforestation drive a success, six forest offices under Rangamati range have produced 11.75 lakh saplings, reports UNB.

The offices also have prepared 6,000 seedbeds to grow more saplings, officials said. They said Rangamati Forest Department (South) produced 4.55 lakh saplings and prepared 867 seedbeds while Kapta Pulpwood Department 3.47 lakh saplings and 3,600 seedbeds and Khagrachhari Forest Department 84,600 saplings and 430 seedbeds. The other forest departments, including Chittagong Hill Tracts Forest Department (North), also have produced huge saplings and prepared a good number of seedbeds. Meanwhile, some 11,000 hectares of land have been prepared for plantation.

Edn centres established

MAGURA, Sept 10: Islamic Foundation (IF) has set up 75 mosque-based mass education centres and six libraries for expansion of religious education, reports UNB.

Of the centres, 15 have been set up in Sadar, 30 each in Sripur and Muhammadrupur thanas while the libraries have been set up in Sripur and Muhammadrupur thanas. A total of 2,250 learners are taking lesson in Arabic, Bangla, Mathematics and English from the centres. The programme will continue till 2000, officials said. They said children of 5-11 age group and people above 45 years old are eligible to enrol in the education centres.

15 hurt in AL factional clashes

GAIBANDHA, Sept 10: At least 15 people, including a policeman, were injured on the second day of factional clashes between two groups of ruling Awami League in Bogindabandhu thana today (Monday), reports UNB.

Police said as a sequel to Sunday's incident, the supporters of thana unit president Tuzammel Hossain Pradhan and district unit member Abul Kalam Azad locked in the clashes. During the clash, rivals chased each other and exchanged gunshots injuring 15 people and disruption traffic on Dhaka-Rangpur highway for about 4 hours. Police fired a number of rubber bullets and lobbed tear gas shells to disperse the troublemakers. As panic gripped whole area, most of the shops and business establishments remained closed from the morning. Bullet-hit Nitya, Rafiqul and Enamul, supporters of Tuzammel, were admitted to Bogra Mohammad Ali Hospital. However, the identity of the policeman could not be known.

Janmostami celebrated

MADARIPUR, Sept 10: The Hindu community of the district celebrated the Janmostami, the birth day of Lord Sri Krishna amidst religious festivity on September 2, reports BSS.

An elaborate programme including procession, puja, geeta path, bhog, kirtan, arati and discussions at different places of the district was arranged on this occasion. A huge procession, organised by National Hindu Social and Cultural Association, paraded the main streets of the town. The Kali Bari Mandir organised a discussion with Babu Uddipon Sikder in the chair. The discussion was addressed, among others, by Babu Lal Konas Bonik, Kazol Krishna Dey, Radha Bollav Shaha, Haripada Shaha and Nitai Das.

Erosion turns serious in Gaibandha dist

From K M Rezaul Haque

GAIBANDHA, Sept 10: Nearly one hundred mouzas under Fulchhari and Shaghata thanas are about to disappear from the map of the district due to widespread erosion of the Rivers Brahmaputra and Ban-gali.

Fulchhari thana headquarters is threatened due to the Brahmaputra's erosion. The thana may go into the river at any time.

Fulchhari market has already been devoured by the river. The two-storyed building of Fulchhari Thana Parishad is being threatened seriously which is situated on the western bank of the river. It may wash away at any moment.

Water Development Board (WDB) is trying to halt the erosion by replacing concrete blocks. But the precautionary

measures are not enough to protect the headquarters from the onslaught of erosion.

Paras has gripped the people of Fulchhari thana. Many of them have already fled away for safer places and shifting their belongings hurriedly.

Sonaidanga embankment has already been washed away by the erosion a few days back. Now seepage and cracks have been developed along the 200-metre area of Nilkhuti embankment. If breaches are developed along the aforesaid embankment, Fulchhari thana headquarters will be detached from the main land. Ultimately it will be turned into an island.

Erosion has already affected the Fulchhari market and the river has devoured a large portion of the surrounding area.

WDB personnel, however,

are working round the clock to stop the erosion. They are piling bamboo and throwing of sand bags, though the attempt proved to be ineffective.

Nearly 75 mouzas under seven unions of Fulchhari thana are seriously affected by erosion. Half of the area has already been devoured by the surging water of the river. Dwelling houses of Erendabari union have already been washed away. Besides 13 mouzas of Kanchipara, Udakhal, Uriya unions are now under water and seven other unions have been partially affected by erosion.

The river has already devoured two kilometres of Gaibandha-Balshi road and the devastation is still on. A total of 35 mouzas under five unions of Shaghata thana

are on the verge of extinction by the erosion of the River Jamuna. The erosion has affected Kumarpura, Halda char, Bera, Patlibari, Wabari, Kamarpura, Garamara mouzas. Wabari Government Primary School has already been washed away by the erosion within a span of three days. Erosion has affected further Chithulia, Gobindi, Hashikandi, Bhagirachi mouzas.

Recently erosion by the River Bangali has taken a serious turn at Ramnagar, Guja, Chandaipat, Kachus, Satitolia, under Kachua union and Kingkorpur, Bat-tola, Bangabari, Jungala under Kamalpara union. Nearly 300 families of the affected areas have been rendered shelterless. They have already left for safer places.

Events of districts in picture



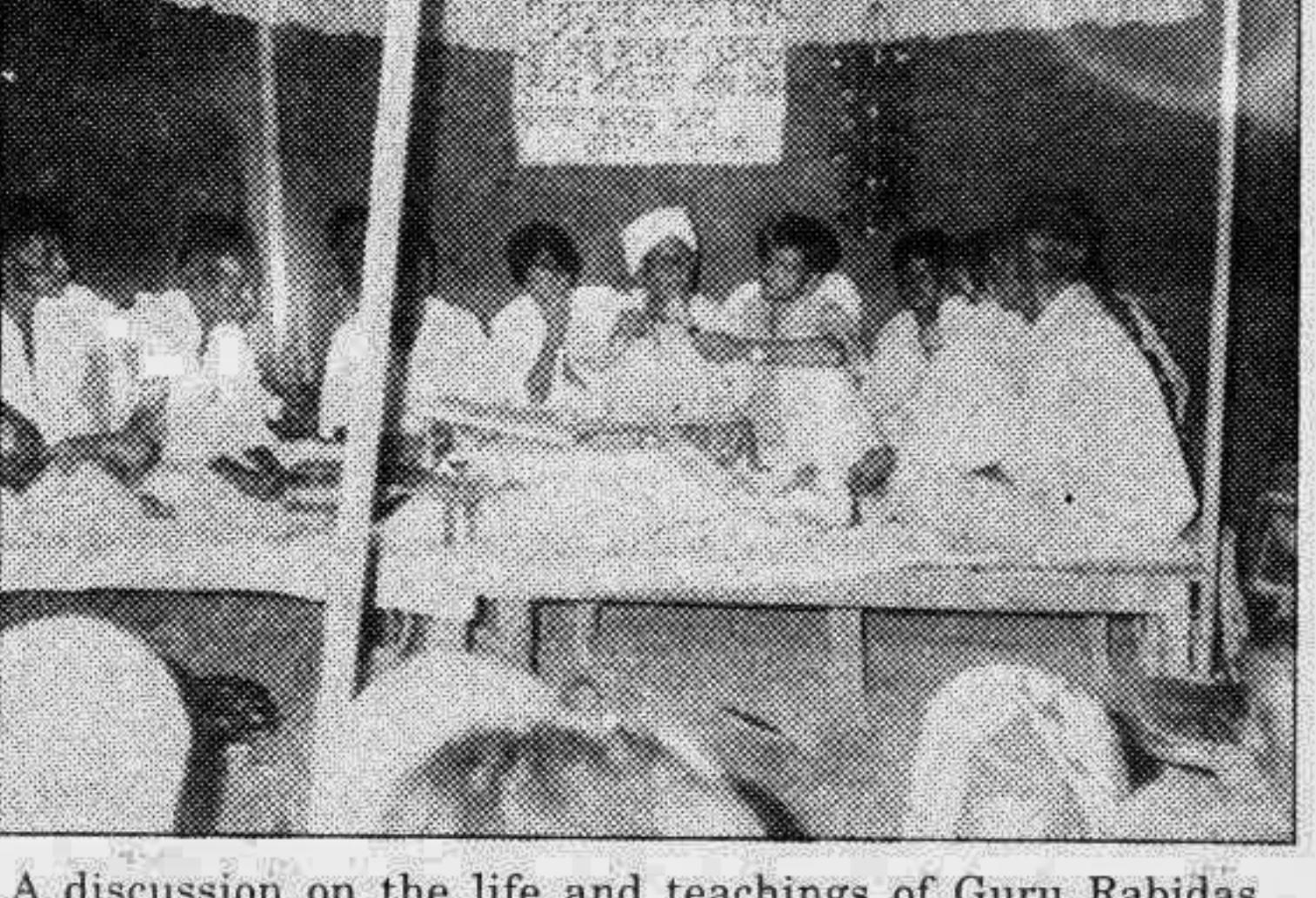
Mourning Day in brush and colour: Kamrun Nahar Khan, president of Rajshahi University Women's Club distributing prizes among the winners of an art competition arranged on the occasion of National Mourning Day.

Star photo



Former MP of Chandpur Md Shafiqullah distributing prizes among the winners of the essay competition arranged recently by Chandpur Mohila Sangstha on the occasion of National Mourning Day.

Star photo



A discussion on the life and teachings of Guru Rabidas was held on September 4 at Jorkaran Palli in Comilla district. It was presided over by Kalicharan Rabidas and attended, among others, by Master Kanailal Rabidas Mohanta, Director General of Bangladesh Guru Rabidas Mission as the chief guest.



A recent protest rally of the tribal students in Khagrachhari town.

Star photo

Faces of HSC talents

From Mozammel Haque

RANGPUR, Sept 10: **Jannatul Ferdous Mithi**, a student of Rangpur Cantonment Public School and College stood second in the Commerce group in the combined merit list of HSC examination this year held under Rajshahi Education Board. She wants to become an ad-



ministrator. She secured a total of 807 marks. Her father Advocate Shahar Anisuzzaman is an editor of a local daily Ranga Prokhat and general secretary of Human Rights Implementation Sangstha here.

Nazma Parvin Banu of Pirogoni Mohila Degree College

stood 12th in the combined merit list in the Humanities group among girls. She scored a total of 816 marks. She wants to be a college or university teacher in future. Her father Nazmul Hossain is a businessman of Pirgoni.

Sharmin Ferdousi of Rangpur Police Line School and College stood 15th in the commerce group.

She wants to study BBA. She secured a total of 767 marks.

Rifat-ur-Rahman Sakil of Rangpur Cantonment Public School and College stood 7th in the combined merit list of commerce group securing 782 marks.

He wants to be a Chartered Accountant. His father is an office assistant of Rangpur DC's office.

Atikul Islam Shaju of Saidpur Cantonment Public School and College stood 16th in the combined merit list of Commerce group. He wants to take higher education in BBA. He scored a total of 771 marks. His father is a retired Railway employee.

Md Idris Ali, a student of Rangpur Police Line School and College stood 17th in the Commerce group securing a total of 765 marks.

He wants to study MBA. His father Md Abdullah Pramanik is a farmer.

Outlaws regrouping in S-W region

From A Correspondent

MAGURA, Sept 10: Terrorists and members of outlawed parties in the southern-west region have started regrouping themselves.

Local people said at least 33 terrorists, including gang leader Anwar Hossain Debub who surrendered to police following amnesty declared by the government recently and were granted bail from courts, are now active again and trying to regroup themselves in frontier villages under Magura and Jhenaidah districts.

Local people also alleged that most of the terrorists were produced before courts under Section 54 without making any reference to their previous criminal records.

Iqbal Hossain Shaikat, principal accused of a case filed with Khanjahan Ali thana in connection with looting 10 firearms from Shirononi Cable Factory, was released on bail recently. Shaikat wanting to regroup themselves in frontier villages under Magura and Jhenaidah districts.

Local people also alleged that most of the terrorists were produced before courts under Section 54 without making any reference to their previous criminal records.

The road was damaged very badly during the last year's devastating floods. But the Roads and Highways Department did not take any initiative to repair it till filing of this report.

Maj Gen (retired) M S A Bhuiyan, a veteran freedom fighter of our Liberation War in a press statement on Wednesday demanded of the government to repair immediately the flood damaged one kilometre road from Daudkandi Press Club to Gouripur bazaar.

records". They are now regrouping themselves, he added.

When contacted Superintendent of Police, Magura M Akbar Ali denied the allegation and said the terrorists are not regrouping themselves at least in Magura district.

Besides, only two or three firearms out of 78 ones looted and stolen from Akij Jute Mill, Shirononi Cable Factory, Rupsha Fish Processing Plant, malikhana of Khulna Collectorate and other places during the last 10 years were found on lists of recovery, official sources said.

Moreover it is alleged that notorious terrorist Bidhan, the chief of 'Bidha Bahini' was 'compelled' to hand over his rusty weapons.

Before the amnesty, a total of 8,344 persons, including 366 listed terrorists, were arrested and 467 firearms recovered in anti-terrorists combing operation in the region, police sources said.

From June 7 to 30 this year, 2,159 outlaws and terrorists with 2,684 firearms surrendered to police under the amnesty, the sources added.



Water Development Board personnel frantically trying to repair Gopalganj-Takerhat road damaged by the erosion of the Modhumati river near Bherarhat in Gopalganj district.

Star photo

Separate incidents claim 40 lives

At least 40 unnatural deaths were reported in Naogaon, Meherpur, Chandpur and in Dhaka districts recently, report agencies.

Two persons were killed when a truck loaded with 50 passengers plunged into a roadside ditch near Savar Radio Colony, injuring all the passengers, when the driver lost control over the steering at about 4:30 am.

Twelve of the injured were admitted to Savar Rabeya Clinic.

In a second accident at Rajulbari motorcycle rider Swapan was killed when a bus coming from the opposite direction hit him.

In another accident at Asulia, a Savar-bound bus from Tongi into a roadside ditch while giving side to another bus at Bamundiy Bazar in Meherpur-Kushtia Road on August 31.

Police and witnesses said the victim, Rabia Khatun, 50, wife of Naimuddin Mondal of village Shallotaka under Gangi thana, was run over by a bus while she was crossing the road.

Flooding claimed 12 children who drowned or were washed away by the strong current in