

News snaps

Traffickers kill boy

NAOGAON, Sept 11: An organised gang of traffickers has killed an 8-year-old girl and removed her two eyes and both kidneys at a village in Ramnagar thana, reports UNB. Police recovered the decomposed body of victim Setu, daughter of Saur Rahman of Dawoodpur village, from a jungle of Purnabanubhara Bishnupur in Sadar thana on Monday. They sent the body to Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy. Family sources said the girl was missing from their house since August 29. Police suspected Hamdul, 30, a member of an organised gang of kidney and eye traffickers of the area, to be involved in the killing of the girl as he behaved suspiciously after she was missing. Hamdul went into hiding after the girl's body was recovered.

Rivals' clash leaves 25 injured

SUNAMGANJ, Sept 11: At least 25 people, including two physicians of thana health complex, were injured in a clash between two rival groups of people in Jamalgonj thana on Tuesday, reports UNB. The police and witnesses said the clash ensued when rival groups of people quarrelled over a trifle matter of taking bath in a pond at the health complex. Three of the injured are Dr Gurupada Roy, Dr Abul Kashem and Rabbani, a student of Jamalgonj College. Seven persons were arrested and some lethal weapons seized from the spot during the clash.

Fund shortage in blind schools

BANDARBAN, Sept 11: 'Education for the Blind', a noble venture of the government will suffer a setback in absence of budgetary provision for the blind schools, reports UNB. Officials said the government had set up 17 schools for blind in 17 districts, including one in Bandarban, at a cost of Tk 4 crore to provide necessary education to blind students. Admission to the schools remained suspended and academic activities came to a halt as the teachers and staff of the schools did not receive salary for the last three months. According to the district Social Welfare office, the government has set up one such school at Suakhak at a cost of Tk 22 lakh. The expenditure was made under the Annual Development Programme. No budgetary allocation was made for running the schools during the current fiscal year, officials said. Abdur Rahman, a resource teacher of the local Integrated Blind Education Project, told that some 68 teachers and staff of 17 schools of the country are passing through a miserable life without the salary and allowances for the last three months.

Smuggled goods seized

COMILLA, Sept 11: Members of Bangladesh Rifles of Kotabari have seized smuggled goods worth about Tk 7.51 crore from border areas in first eight months of the current year, reports UNB. BDR sources said they arrested 63 people on charges of smuggling during the period. Of the consignments seized by BDR from the border while being smuggled, Indian goods were worth Tk 7.42 crore and Bangladeshi goods worth Tk 8.60 lakh.

Phensidyl recovered: Man held

MADARIPUR, Sept 11: Madaripur police arrested one person for possessing phensidyl syrup from New town area of Madaripur Poursabha on September 4, reports BSS. The arrested person is identified as Rasel Munshi, 27, son of Mintu Munshi of village Panichattrra under Madaripur Poursabha area.

RAKUB allocates agri-loan

LALMONIRHAT, Sept 11: Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank (RAKUB) has allocated Taka 18 crore 20 lakh of agriculture loan for the district in the year 1999-2000, reports BSS. According to RAKUB, Lalmonirhat Regional Office sources, loan of the Taka 11 crore 20 lakh will be given for cultivation of crops, Taka 1 crore 15 lakh for cattle purchase, Taka 16 lakh for buying agricultural instruments, Taka 31 lakh for dairy, Taka 15 lakh for fisheries, Taka 18 lakh for farm instruments, Taka 10 lakh for small and cottage industries and Taka 85 lakh for self-reliant programmes. Loans will also be given for agri-based industries and other miscellaneous purposes.

Law & order reviewed

KISHOREGANJ, Sept 11: The monthly review meeting of the district administration for the month of August was held at the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner on August 23, reports BSS. The meeting was presided over by Deputy Commissioner, AMM Farhad. Matters relating to law and order were discussed in the meeting.

BKB loan for farmers

BANDARBAN, Sept 11: In an attempt to change the lot of the toiling masses, particularly the farmers, Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) has earmarked Tk 1400 crore for farm loan for the fiscal 1999-2000, reports UNB. Of the amount, Tk 381 crore will be disbursed in Chittagong region, including Tk 7.41 crore for Bandarban. BKB General (Planning) Abdul Matin made the disclosure while addressing a conference of its branch managers and field workers here on Monday. Terming Bandarban as a better place of investment, he asked the local officials to allot more loans for cultivation of fruits, vegetables, jhum, silk, tobacco and cotton, and setting up of sapling nurseries.

LGED allocation

MAGURA, Sept 11: Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) under the rural development scheme has allocated over Tk 1.78 crore for implementation of three projects during the current fiscal, reports UNB. Of the amount, a total of Tk 54 lakh has been earmarked for construction of Majhpara-Bunagati road, Tk 24.35 lakh for Gangarampur UP complex and Tk one crore for Rajapur-Kullia road, officials said. Meanwhile, works on the scheme have started and are expected to be completed by the yearend.

10-yr RI for acid thrower

BARISAL, Sept 11: A man was sentenced to 10 years' in jail by a tribunal here on Thursday for throwing acid on a school-girl, reports UNB. The court also fined the convict, Alamgir of Uzirpur thana, 22, Tk 10,000, in default, to suffer two years more RI. According to prosecution, Alamgir threw acid at Murni, 16, while she was sleeping in their Sakral village home on March 22, 1998. Her face was seriously burnt in the acid attack. After examining records and witnesses, the Judge pronounced the judgement.

Woman killed in road mishap

JAMALPUR, Sept 11: A tempo turned turtle at Binanderpar in Sadar thana on Jamalpur-Tangail highway on September 9 killing a woman and injuring nine passengers, reports UNB. Police said Ajufa, 35, of Bhela Pingalhat village in Sadar thana died on the spot when the tempo hit her while overtaking another tempo at noon. Of the injured, tempo driver Shuharab was admitted to Jamalpur General hospital in critical condition. The remaining were released after giving first aid.

Uplift works progressing

CHUADANGA, Sept 11: Implementation of eight schemes by the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) under its road rehabilitation programme has been progressing in Alamdanga, Jibannagar and Damurhuda thanas, reports BSS. According to an official source, the government sanctioned Taka 86,23,480 for the execution of the schemes in the current fiscal year. Six schemes are being implemented in Alamdanga, one scheme in Damurhuda and one scheme in Jibannagar. The work of on-going schemes includes development of five roads by seal-coat, reconstruction of two roads and construction of one road by HBB. The work of the schemes will be completed by December.

Loan for Khagrachhari farmers

KHAGRACHHARI, Sept 11: Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) disbursed Taka 1,75,12,000 as agriculture loan among the farmers of Dighinala thana in the 1998-1999 fiscal year, reports BSS. A BKB source said here, the target of distribution of agriculture loan was Taka 1.15 crore in the last fiscal. Additional Taka 60.12 lakh was disbursed under the flood rehabilitation programme. In the last fiscal year BKB realized Taka 91.62 lakh as outstanding loan from the borrowers. The target of realisation of outstanding loan was Taka 46.62 lakh. The Manager of Dighinala branch of BKB said, at present Taka 2.29 crore is lying outstanding with 700 borrowers in Dighinala thana and certificate cases were filed against 87 borrowers.

Diarrhoea follows flood in Kurigram

KURIGRAM, Sept 11: With the recession of floodwaters, diarrhoea has broken out in an epidemic form in the flood-affected areas of the district affecting thousands of people, reports UNB.

The shoal areas were said to be the most affected, where the waterborne disease claimed at least one life and affected over 5,000 people in last one week.

Hospital sources said some 1,000 people at Shaheber Alga union in Ulipur thanas were affected by diarrhoea during the period.

Even though the diarrhoeal situation has assumed an alarming situation in the tiny island, encircled by the River Brahmaputra. No government health centre has been set up there to combat the disease.

The three health workers, who have recently been posted there, are not performing their duties properly, local people alleged.

Meanwhile, Ulipur thana Nirbahi Officer visited the union and urged thana health officer to take necessary steps for the isolated union.

When health officials claimed that only 79 people were affected by diarrhoea at 24 unions of the district in last 24 hours, unofficial sources put the figure at 1,000.

A reports from Shairatpur says: Amid hectic government campaign on "Health for all by the year 2000", some one lakh children in six thanas of Shariatpur district are suffering from malnutrition. Disclosing the figure, a re-

cent survey by a non-governmental organisation said that the number of malnourished children is increasing alarmingly due to poverty, illiteracy, lack of health knowledge and shortage of doctors and medicine.

Most of these malnourished children, between one to five years, fell victims of dysentery, diarrhoea, skin diseases and other ailments, the survey noted.

Illiteracy and superstition are mostly responsible for the plight of the children in absence of growing resistance as many mothers did not give the first milk of breast to the newborn baby.

Growing up in dirty places also caused the diseases.



Flood damaged Bochadhaha embankment at Mohimaganj in Gobindaganj thana of Gaibandha district. — Star photo

Flood damaged dam in Rangpur repaired

RANGPUR, Sept 11: The work of protecting the Fota-mari embankment in Nohali union of Gangachhara thana, which was badly damaged by erosion of the river Teesta, has been completed at a cost of Tk 7 crore in last fiscal year (1998-99), reports UNB.

The work included construction of a groyne, spark and 100-metre bank protection, manufacturing, pitching and dumping of CC blocks.

A source at the Water Development Board (WDB) said erosion by the River Teesta badly damaged some 1,000 ft of the embankment last year.

On completion of the protec-

tion work, it is expected that erosion or flood water would not be able to affect the embankment in future, the source added.

Another report says: Some 149 Food for Work Projects (FWP) under the Rural Infrastructure Renovation Programme were completed in eight thanas of Rangpur district.

Officials said, about 1,789 metric tons of wheat was allotted for implementation of the projects that included repair of roads and embankments damaged by the flood last year.

Under the programme, 16 projects were implemented in

Sadar, 40 in Mithapukur, 28 in Pirganj, 15 in Pirgachha, 9 in Kaunia, 19 in Gangchara, 35 in Badarganj and 17 in Taraganj thana.

Some 718 special test relief projects under the Rural Infrastructure Development Programme were also completed in those thanas. The projects cost 1,081 metric tons of wheat.

The projects under the scheme included construction and reconstruction of roads and earth filling in educational institutions in rural areas.

The projects had provided opportunity to the poorer section of the people living in vulnerable areas to earn their bread.



Hope of a good harvest: Agriculture Extension Department has taken up a programme to cultivate transplanted Aman on 40,700 hectares of land in Magura district with a production target of 1,29,510 metric tons. Photo shows the farmers transplanting Aman seedlings in Parnanduali village in full swing. — Star photo

Sweeter side of Magura

From A Correspondent

MAGURA, Sept 11: Social functions like birthday and wedding ceremony will be incomplete in this district without serving the delicious 'rasamalai', sweetmeat made of milk and sugar.

The sweetmeat is a common

dessert item. Gourmets not only in the district but also in the region appreciate it.

Rasamalai has been popular for the last 40 years. Tarapada Ghosh of Nakol village under Sreepur thana in the district is the pioneer.

Ghosh started preparing

rasamalai, which has already become a part of tradition in the area, about 40 years ago at Nakol. The product hit the market instantly.

He expanded his business within short time. A showroom was soon inaugurated in Magura town. And the goodwill and reputation of the sweetmeat soon spread.

Connoisseurs of Tarapada Ghosh's rasamalai include not only common folk but also kings and queens. Late president Ziaur Rahman once came to Magura to inaugurate Muchkhali canal digging programme. At that time he was entertained with this sweet. The president appreciated it highly.

When Queen Elizabeth II of Britain visited Bangladesh, the rasamalai was also included in the monarch's menu.

However, visitors from different districts purchase this dainty sweetmeat before leaving for their respective destinations.

Tarapada Ghosh told this correspondent he sells about 40 kg of the sweet a day. One kg rasamalai sells at taka 100 in the local markets.



Brisk business of Rasamalai in Magura town. — Star photo

Satkhira DIARY

Two children drown

From Our Correspondent SATKHIRA, Sept 11: Two children drowned here at village Baluigachha in Sadar thana on September 1.

The victims were identified as Mithun, 3, son of Nitaichandra Pal and Mita Rani Pal, 3, daughter of Shibupada Pal, both of village Baluigachha in Sadar thana. Police said, the victims were playing by the side of a pond near their house when all of a sudden they slipped into the pond and drowned. The villages, later on, recovered the bodies from the pond.

3 housewives commit suicide

Three housewives committed suicide by taking poison in Tala thana recently.

According to police and family sources, Hasina Khatun, 19, wife of Sk Jabbar Ali of village Kashipur in Tala thana committed suicide by taking poison following a quarrel with her mother-in-law on August 29. In another incident, Halima Begum, 25, wife of Ajhar Sardar of village Ganeshpur in Tala thana committed suicide by taking poison following an altercation with her husband on August 30.

Paghi Rani, 45, wife of Kartik Sarkar of village Krishna Nagar in Tala thana also committed suicide by taking poison following a quarrel with her husband.

Runner Editor's death anniversary

The first death anniversary of R M Saiful Alam Mukul, Editor of the Daily Runner, a local vernacular daily published from Jessore, was observed here befittingly.

To mark the occasion Satkhira Press Club arranged a discussion meeting, held at the press club premises with Subhas Chowdhury President, Satkhira Press Club in the chair on August 30.

It was also addressed, among others, by Prof Abu Ahmed, Manirul Islam Mini, Abdul Wazed Kachi, Abdul Bari, Mizanur Rahman, Ibrahim Hossain Tahin and Sakhatullah. The speakers paid glowing tributes to Mukul and demanded immediate arrest and punishment to his killers.

Landless assoc meeting

A meeting of Satkhira district landless association was held at its office premises with Abdur Razzak in the chair on September 2.

Prof Abu Ahmed was present as the chief guest, while Saifulah Laskar, Kawsar Ali and Saiful Islam were present as special guests.

It was also addressed, among others, by Abdul Hannan, Hafizur Rahman, Alim Uddin, Jahirunnessa, Abdus Sattar and Entaj Ali. Speakers urged the government to distribute khas land among the landless.

Loan for poor women

Jatiya Mahila Sangstha Satkhira district unit under its self-employment generation project distributed taka 1,90,000 as interest-free loan among the 95 poor women on September 1.

Rifat Amin president, Satkhira district unit of Jatiya Mahila Sangstha distributed loan among the poor women of Katla, Sarkarpara and Sultanpur areas in Satkhira Poursabha.

Attack on Janakantha condemned

Satkhira press club has condemned the attack on The Daily Janakantha office in Dhaka on August 30.

In an emergency meeting of the executive committee of Satkhira press club, the speakers, expressed their resentment over the attack on the office of the vernacular daily at the fag end of a mass procession organised by the opposition alliance. They termed the incident as a naked attack on democracy and freedom of expression. They also demanded exemplary punishment to those who are involved in the incident.

Janmastomi celebrated

Janmastami, the birthday of lord Sree Krishna, one of the greatest religious festivals of the Hindu community was celebrated throughout the district as else where in the country on September 2.

RU Finance Deptt classes suspended for a week

From Our Correspondent RAJSHAHI, Sept 11: Classes in the Department of Finance and Banking of Rajshahi University were suspended for a week from September 8.

The classrooms were badly damaged during the clash between the students of the Department of Management and the Department of Finance and Banking on September 6. The clash left more than 50 students injured.

The decision was taken to repair damaged furniture of the classrooms, university official sources said.

Events of districts in picture



A rally of Barisal divisional non-government primary school teachers was brought out recently in the divisional town. — Star photo



Non-government school teachers brought out a protest rally in Mymensingh town recently following Dhaka divisional school teachers' meeting at the local town hall. — Star photo



Prof Muhammad Hussain, Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University awarding certificates among the trainees who took part in a training recently on "Scientific Report Writing" on Bangladesh Agricultural University campus. — Star photo



A Janmastomi procession in Pabna town. — Star photo



Some women of village Parbotipur in Saikupa thana of Jhenidah district separating jute fibres from sticks. — Star photo



The Director General of Social Service Mir Shabauddin speaking following distribution of interest-free loan among 44 persons recently at Saikupa TTDC in Jhenidah district. — Star photo



Awami League and its front organisations brought out a mourning procession in Rajshahi city on the occasion of National Mourning Day. — Star photo