

News snaps

Law & order reviewed

COMILLA, Sept 14: A meeting of Charidina thana law and order committee was held in the thana parishad auditorium on September 10 to review the law and order situation and development activities of the thana, reports BSS.

Parliamentary Affairs Advisor to the Prime Minister Suranjit Sengupta MP was present in the meeting as the chief guest. Prof. Ali Ashraf MP was special guest. Thana Nirbahi Officer Manuuddin Ahmed presided over the meeting. Additional Deputy Commissioner (Education and Development) Comilla Md Yunusur Rahman and local union parishad chairman Abdur Rashid, among others, spoke on the occasion. Thana level officers and chairmen of all union parishads under Chandina thana were present in the meeting.

Body recovered

BARISAL, Sept 14: Police recovered the body of an unidentified old man from the river Kirtankhola on Saturday, reports UNB.

The body, bearing several cut marks, was found floating in Steamer Ghat area. It was sent to hospital morgue for autopsy.

Discussion on uplift programme

BANDARBAN, Sept 14: A discussion meeting on development programmes at union parishad level was held last week in the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner here, reports BSS.

Chairman of Bandarban Hill District Council Thowang Cha Prue Master presided over the discussion. Twenty union parishad chairmen, Bandarban pourashabha chairman, pourashabha commissioners, members of the union parishads including female members and four members of the district council participated.

Thief beaten to death

SHEJPUR, Sept 14: A notorious thief was beaten to death by an angry mob at Mobarakpur Kainapara in the town on Friday, reports UNB.

Police said local people caught red-handed Lebu Miah early in the morning while decamping with stolen goods from the house of Aftab and beat him up heartlessly, leaving him dead on the spot. On information, police recovered the body of Lebu, member of nefarious Moseka gang. He was also wanted in five other theft cases. Meanwhile, Lebu's wife filed a case against nine people, including Aftab, with sadar thana.

Kushtia bus terminal opens

KUSHTIA, Sept 14: Kushtia bus terminal built at a cost of Taka 3.81 crore by the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) was inaugurated at a function on September 11, reports BSS.

Qamrul Islam Siddique, chairman of the Power Development Board and former chief engineer of the LGED was present as the chief guest. The function was presided over by Kushtia Pourashabha chairman Ismail Hossain Apu. Deputy Commissioner Abdul Salam, Director of LGED Abdul Gafur, Kushtia Police Superintendant Hossain and Shahabuddin of the Bus Owners Association, among others, spoke on the occasion.

Uplift projects progressing

BHOLA, Sept 14: Twenty-two development projects have been taken up by Bhola Pourashabha at an allocation of Taka 20 lakh in the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

A pourashabha source said, the projects have been taken up under the middle town infrastructure development programme of the government. Besides, the government sanctioned Taka 56 lakh for construction of eight roads under the flood rehabilitation programme, here in the current fiscal. Work of the project is going on in full swing and will be completed by December.

Loan for poor

BHOLA, Sept 14: Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) will disburse Taka 40.4 crore as loan here in the current fiscal year under the poverty alleviation programme of the government, reports BSS.

A BRDB source said, the loan will be disbursed among 15,800 members of 625 landless cooperative societies. The loan will be used in cottage industry, poultry, dairy farm, fish culture, small business and other self-employment projects. Members of the cooperative societies will have to deposit Taka 42.13 lakh to the BRDB every week.

22,500 VGD cards distributed

FGNI, Sept 14: A total of 22,500 Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) cards have been distributed among the poor and distressed people here recently, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the Relief and Rehabilitation Department has distributed VGD cards among the poor people of 45 unions under five thanas. Each card holder will get 10 kgs of rice per month free of cost. The programme will continue for three months from the Bangla month of Bhadra to Kartik.

Doles for widows

KHAGRACHHARI, Sept 14: The Social Welfare Directorate distributed Taka 45,000 as doles among widows and divorcees in Khagrachhari sadar thana on September 9, reports BSS.

Thana Social Welfare Officer Alpina Chakma disbursed the cash doles sanctioned by the Prime Minister's Relief Fund for the distressed women at a function held in thana parishad auditorium here. Chairmen and members of five unions of sadar thana were present.

Contrabands seized

BRAHMANBARIA, Sept 14: The Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) seized smuggled goods worth Taka 1,23,72,911 from different border areas here during the last nine months, reports BSS.

A BDR source said, the contraband Indian goods included sugar, wine, sari, onion, medicine, milk powder, bidi, bicycle spare parts, cumin seed and cosmetics. Fifty-two persons were arrested for their alleged involvement in the smuggling. 4,396 cases were filed with different police stations.

Training for primary school teachers

FARIDPUR, Sept 14: A daylong training course for the primary school teachers on the education of mentally retarded children organised by the Society for the Welfare of Intellectually Disabled (SWID), Faridpur branch was held recently at its office here, reports BSS.

The course was inaugurated by Dr M Lutfor Rahman, president of the national committee of the SWID, Bangladesh. Presided over by Faridpur branch Vice-President SWID S M Nurunnabi, the inaugural function was addressed, among others, by SWID secretary general M A Baten, Faridpur branch secretary Prof. Md Shahjahan and Faridpur branch treasurer Prof. Md Shahjahan.

Sharmeen wants to study MBA

From A Correspondent

MAGURA, Sept 14: Kazi Sharmeen Rahman secured 12th place in the combined merit list of Commerce group in the HSC examination from Magura Government H S College under Jessore Education Board this year.

She obtained 778 marks with distinction in two subjects. She is the daughter of Kazi Mahbubur Rahman, lecturer of Magura Government College. She wants to study MBA.

Workshop on drug control

NAOGAON, Sept 14: A three-day workshop on drug control was held at the conference room of Caritas, a non-government organisation here recently, reports BSS.

The workshop was organised jointly by the United Nations and the Drugs and Narcotics Control Directorate of the government. Director, Narcotics Control Md Rashidul Hossain, UN Coordinator K A Hafiz and Chief Consultant Dr Shahjahan Tapan, among others, participated in the discussion. The participants stressed the need of mass awareness to check drug abuse.

273 schemes implemented

PIROJPUR, Sept 14: Relief and Rehabilitation Department under Rural Infrastructure Development programme implemented 273 schemes here in the fiscal 1998-99, report UNB.

Of the 273 schemes, 40 were implemented in Bandaria thana, 73 in Kaokhali, 36 in Mathbaria, 42 in Nazirpur, 55 in Nesarabad, 55 in Sadar and 12 in Pirojpur pourashabha. The projects were in cluded construction and reconstruction of roads and earth filling. The department spent 2,952 mts of wheat in implementing the schemes, officials said.

Safe transit points for smugglers

SYLHET, Sept 14: In north-eastern part of greater Sylhet, trucks, buses and river vessels perform more than just carrying passengers and goods. They also safely transport tons of Indian goods and drugs everyday, reports UNB.

Though there are a number of BDR check-posts, Jakiganj, Companyganj, Sunamganj, Tamabil and Moulvibazar Shamernagar have emerged as safe transit points for the smugglers.

According to sources, contraband like heroin, hemp, phensidyl, wine, coal, timbers, spare parts, pens, saree, lungi and fish are smuggled into the country everyday without resistance.

The goods smuggled through Companyganj point are sent to Daloirgaon and Gourinagar and

then to Manoshinagar in sadar thana. Then the goods are transported to Shibnagar, Gobindanagar and Krishnanagar of Chhatak through three routes and then to the entire country.

The smugglers bring into the country Indian coal and timbers through Sunamganj transit point. Some 20,000-30,000 tons of coal are smuggled every year. Kalgaon, Lalgol, Rangachhara, Bagli and Tekerghat are the points the bootleggers use as their safe zones.

They have also dug holes in various hills of the region to facilitate the smuggling of coal and timber.

Three points in Sonali Chela border area of Doarabazar thana and river Chela are allegedly leased out by a section

of border guards to the bootleggers. They (smugglers) have to pay the border guards a specific amount of money every week for using the points without resistance.

The main route for bootlegging is Jakiganj. There are also some sub-routes there. Those are Karimganj of India to Sylhet via Jakiganj and Karimganj of India to Jambadhar via Loharmal and Sonapur of Jakiganj. Slips given by the police and BDR are used in these routes.

The smugglers also use three river routes in the Surma and Kusiara. They use these routes particularly at night. The first route starts from Indian border to Golapganj via Gachbari, Rajaganj and Gadabazar, the second one from Barogang and Seola. The third route starts

from India border to Jafang via Setimganj bazar of Golapganj, Baghar Haor and Goainghat.

Manikpur, Shasyokuri, Haindraband, Loharmal and Bhuiyarmora are the main stoppages of the Jakiganj route.

In the eastern bordering area, Tamabil is another safe zone of the bootleggers. The roads, which went through Jafang, Radhanagar, Jaintapur and Baghsharak points, are used for smuggling through the Tamabil route.

The safer route to smuggle out goods from Bangladesh is Moulvibazar-Shamernagar.

Local people think dishonest border guards, rather than the hoodlums, are now the greatest threat to the economy and fending off them is the question of national interest.

New BCU RU unit committee

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, Sept 14: A new committee of Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU) of Rajshahi University unit was elected in the 21st council of the organisation recently.

The council elected 25-member new RU unit committee. Sumana Sarkar Jhumur and Nimai Bhattacharya Mithu were elected president as general secretary respectively.

Renowned labour leader Comrade Jasim Uddin Mondal inaugurated the council as the chief guest. Salim Reza Newton, Monzur-e-Khoda Tarik, Dulal Chowdhury were present as special guests.

A colourful procession was brought out on the campus on the occasion.

1 killed, 5 hurt on Sylhet-Zakiganj highway

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Sept 14: A school boy was killed and 5 others were injured in a road accident on Sylhet-Zakiganj highway this morning.

The incident took place at about 10:30 am as the helper of a minibus (Sylhet-Ba-6276) brought the vehicle on the road in the absence of the driver due to a halt. He started from Kali-ganj bazar on way to the Ichhamati High School with some school boys on board. But, within few minutes, he lost control over the bus and it overturned near Kalakuta village. Aslhaque Uddin, 12, died on the spot while 5 others sustained injuries and were admitted to the hospital.

A case has been filed in this regard.

Mohanganj clash JCD man shifted to Suhrawardy Hospital

From Our Correspondent

NETRAKONA, Sept 14: One of the three bullet injured JCD activists of Mohanganj thana was shifted to Suhrawardy Hospital in Dhaka from Mymensingh Medical College Hospital recently. Condition of the main opposition BNP-backed JCD activist, Doha, was stated to be critical.

The activists received bullet injuries in a clash with ruling Awami League-backed BCL men on September 5 in Mohanganj. At least 20 people were injured in the clash.

Meanwhile, BCL Netrakona unit staged demonstration in front of the office of Deputy Commissioner of Netrakona, demanding immediate release of BCL activists arrested following the clash.

Office returned

BARISAL, Sept 14: The office of Weekly Chirontan Bangla, which was occupied by Jubo Dal during BNP's rule, was handed over to the magazine authorities on Sunday following a court order, reports UNB.

Sources said the authorities of the periodical had filed a case with Assistant Judge's Court on July 29, 1995 after a group of Jubo Dal men occupied the office building on June 10, 1995. Since then it was used as Jubo Dal office.

Later on June 28 this year, the court asked the party to hand over the office to the magazine authorities and it was done on Sunday. Local newsmen were present on the occasion.

Woman succumbs to injuries

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Sept 14: One young woman who sustained serious stab injuries on August 29 by miscreants died on September 2 at Jhenidah hospital.

The dead was identified as China Khatun, 22, a resident of Raiganj in Shaikupa thana.

According to police, a group of miscreants attacked China and dragged her from her residence at about 7 pm on August 29. The gang also chopped her with a machete.

50,000 weavers pass hard days in Kushtia

KUSHTIA, Sept 14: The fate of about 50,000 weavers in the district has become uncertain due to scarcity and price-hike of raw materials, reports UNB.

A large number of handloom industrial units in the district have already been closed down, raising the number of jobless people.

Some owners told the news agency that they were forced to shut down their weaving factories as prices of yarn, dyes and chemicals, and others inputs marked abnormal rise.

Meanwhile, trading at Kumarkhali, a major marketing centre for handloom products, has been declining gradually as synthetic clothes are becoming increasingly acceptable to the common people due to cheap prices.

The weaving factory owners said the state-owned Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC) had raised the prices of various counts of cotton yarn. This resulted in uneven competition with cheaper synthetic clothes in the local markets.

Finding no other alternative,

the weavers are giving up their age-old profession and taking up other means of livelihood.

The local entrepreneurs urged the authorities to take immediate necessary steps to revive the handloom industry in the region.

3 criminals held in Ctg

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 14: Three notorious criminals were held and a firearm was recovered here in the city recently.

Pahartali thana police, acting on a tip-off, arrested an absconding terrorist accused in several cases from Akher Shah Colony under the thana on September 6.

The terrorist was identified as Md Arif alias Hatkatta Arif.

Kotwali thana police held two criminals with a revolver from Shah Amanat Market area on September 5. They were identified as Raju and Liton Biswas.

Events of districts in picture



A rally parading the streets of Magura which was brought out recently on the occasion of World Literacy Day. — Star photo



Green campus: Now an afforestation drive is on in Chittagong University, which was inaugurated recently by the vice-chancellor of the university. — Star photo



A dialogue meeting on Woman and Child Trafficking was arranged by Jessore Rights, a human rights organisation recently at 'Matsa Bhabhan' in Jessore. — Star photo



Grim picture of child labour: When boys and girls go to school, these unprivileged children of the same age group pick up waste papers to help parents earn their livelihood. This picture was taken recently from Magura town. — Star photo

Multifarious use of shallow machines: Locally made tri-wheelers run by shallow machines are very popular now in Kushtia district. Though those are being run without any valid documents, yet the vehicles have solved the chronic traffic problem of the area.

— Star photo

Number of drug addicts increasing in two dists

The number of drug addicts has been showing an alarming rise in urban and rural areas in Shariatpur and Kushtia districts, reports UNB.

In Shariatpur, the addicts use rectified spirit, phensidyl and homemade liquor.

Sources said contraband India-made phensidyl, rectified spirit, and homemade liquor are sold in various areas and rural hats and bazaars in a broad daylight.

It is alleged that such unlawful activities are done openly without any action by the law enforcing personnel.

There are over 100 homeopath shops where rectified spirit is sold to the addicts 24 hours-a-day.

A few days back, six people

in Naria thana died after taking rectified spirit.

Narcotics Control Department sources said there is only one authorised dealer of liquor in the town, but a large number of illegal sellers operate to cater to the huge clientele.

The addicted youths engage in various crimes like snatching, terrorism and extortion for money to buy liquor.

Recently, Palong thana police raided some unauthorised liquor shops and seized a substantial quantity of liquor.

In Kushtia, sharp rise in the number of drug addicts in urban and suburbs has caused a serious concern among the guardians.

According to an official survey, certain areas in the town

and its suburbs have open market of different drugs like opium, morphine, sedatives, phensidyl, cheap alcohol smuggled from India.

All types of drugs are available in pharmacies, groceries and such other shops. Cigarettes containing hemp are also available in certain places.

The survey revealed that well-organised gang has been smuggling these drug items from across the border.

The addicted youths are engaged in terrorism, collection of illegal tolls to buy the contrabands.

Some dishonest homeopath practitioners are also engaged in dealing with rectified spirit which are sold at high prices to the drug addicts.



Bangladeshi apple: Kazi variety of guava is becoming popular in Jhenidah district these days. Many amateur fruit gardeners here growing such variety in large scale and fetching good profit. Photo shows Prasanta Kumar Saha of village Kabirpur in Saikupa thana, whose hobby is gardening, taking care of his guava plant. Each guava produced from his plant weighs between 750 gram and 1,700 gram. —Star photo by Delwar Kabir

Pirates active in coastal areas of Noakhali

NOAKHALI, Sept 14: Pirates are active in coastal areas who robbed fishing trawlers and killed about 20 people during the last year, reports UNB.

Besides, some 130 people drowned in boat and trawler capsized during the period.

Sources in Poor Development Programme (PDP) and Thana Parishads said 'Azrail Bahini', an armed group of terrorists, was active in the area. They were frequently robbing fishing and passenger trawlers and boats in absence of regular patrol by police.

At least 29 people drowned in boat and trawler capsized in storms or in accidents on Noakhali-Hatiya river route, 23 near Char Kalam, 25 near Nizam Deep, 21 near Laksmipur and 16 near Char Kalkini and Char Jagabandhu in Ramgati thana.

Fishermen, ferryboat workers and traders of shoal areas transporting goods and passengers to and from the mainland move under constant fear of pi-

rates who have stronghold in Ramgati. In most cases police were reluctant to file complaints of dacoity.

The victims are also show-

Two robbers arrested

From A Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Sept 14: Two robbers were arrested and huge quantity of looted cloths recovered from Zinaigati village under Sadar thana on September 10.

The robbers were identified as Tariqul Islam and Farid Mia.

Acting on a tip-off, police arrested them and recovered cloths from their possession worth 8 thousand taka.

Police sources said a gang of about 35 committed robbery at night on September 6 in Bharmagacha Bazaar and looted cloths from four shops valued at about 5 lakh taka.

ing reluctance in reporting the incidents of dacoity due to alleged harassment by police.

Meanwhile, thieves broke into the nurse dormitory of Manikganj Government Hospital on Thursday night and stole valuables worth over Tk One lakh.

Police said the robbers entered into the room of nurse Rashida Yasmin on the second floor at night and decamped with the booty, including gold ornaments.

There was none in the room during the robbery.

Another report from Natore adds: Two electric transformers of Palli Bidyut Samity-2 worth about Tk 45,000 were stolen on August 14.

Samity sources said the transformers were set up at Queen village in Baraiganj thana for power supply to a giant Aman project for its irrigation.

A case was filed with Baraiganj thana.