News snaps

Foodgrains allocated

RAJBARI, Sept 22: In an effort to assuage the sufferings of distressed people. Disaster Management and Relief Ministry under its VGF programme has allocated 657 mts of foodgrain

for the district, reports UNB. Officials said the grains would be distributed among 21,900 destitute families in Pourashava area, Sadar, Goalunda, Pangsha and Baliakandi thanas. Each family will get 10 kgs of rice every month under the programme for three months. The distribution began this month.

Boy killed in road mishap

SATKHIRA: Sept 22: A minor boy was killed in a road accident on Satkhira-Khulna road near the district headquarters on Saturday, reports BSS.

Police and eye witnesses said, the accident took place when the victim Arup, 10, son of Krishna Pada of village Kapshandha under Tala thana, was crossing the road. He was run over by a pick up van loaded with fish and he died on the spot.

Scouts' confce

SATKHIRA, Sept 22: The triennial conference of Bangladesh Scouts of Sadar thana unit was held on Saturday, reports BSS. Additional deputy commissioner (General) AB Mohammad Ali inaugurated the conference as the chief guest. Sadar Thana Nirbahi Officer Nemai Chand Biswas presided. The conference was addressed, among others, by District Scouts Commissioner Abdul Motaleb, District Education Officer Sariha Khan and District Primary Education Officer Khorshed Alam. Sharif Uddin Ahmed and Shafiq Islam were elected Commissioner and General Secretary respectively of the 41-member Thana Scouts Executive Committee.

Discussion on community police

SATKHIRA. Sept 22: A discussion on the role of community police organised by the Anti-terrorism Committee of Anulia union under Assasuni thana was held on Friday in Ekshora Primary School premises, reports BSS.

Presided over by Anulia Union Parishad chairman Nurul Alam, the meeting was participated by assistant Police Super Kaliganj Circle Azizur Rahman as the chief guest. The meeting was addressed, among others, by Officer-in -Charge of Assasuni Police Station Wahiduzaman Tushar, Sub-inspector Humayun Kabir, headmaster Motiur Rahman and former chairman of the Union Abdul Jabbar Gazi.

8 held on charge of gambling

NETRAKONA, Sept 22: Durgapur police arrested eight per-sons including a college teacher on charge of gambling from a house at Nazirpur road under Durgapur thana on September 15 night, reports BSS.

Police also recovered some gambling equipment from their possession, police said. The arrested persons are Abdul Halim, a teacher of Durgapur Degree College, Nazrul, Khaleq, Mazharul, Nazrul Islam, Abdul Jalil, Bachhu and Kajal.

Mosque-based libraries set up

NETRAKONA, Sept 22: Islamic Foundation of Netrakona district branch set up 15 mosque-based libraries and two book clubs in different mosques and madrasas in 10 thanas in the last fiscal year, reports BSS.

An official source said, the libraries were provided with 1.230 copies of Islamic books and the book clubs were supplied with 90 copies of the books published by the Islamic Foundation. The libraries and book clubs were set up with an objective to spread Islamic education among the people.



Nirnay gold medal awarding ceremony and a musical soiree have been arranged by the Nirnay group of industries recently at Kabi Jasimuddin hall in Faridpur. -Star photo

Course on tree plantation

NETRAKONA. Sept 22: A four-day training course on tree plantation and gardening for the farmers concluded at the training room of Netrakona Sadar Thana BRDB office on September 15, reports BSS.

A total of 240 farmers from different areas of the thana were imparted training by the horticulturists. The objective of the training course organised by the Agriculture Extension Department was to acquaint the farmers with modern method of plantation of saplings and gardening.

Bazaars in pitiable condition

KUSHTIA. Sept 22: Although hats and bazars are the source of substantial revenue for the local administration, they are in a pitiable condition in all the six thanas here causing serious inconvenience to the buyers and traders, reports UNB.

Shortage of space, lack of proper maintenance, filthy stag-nant waters, heaps of garbage emitting bad smell are common phenomenon in every hat and bazar. Sufferers complain absence of drainage facility in the market. As a result, the situation worsened in the rainy season with stagnation of water here and there in the market. Acute scarcity of drinking water is also prevailing in the markets. Absence of public toilets poses threat to the public health. Due to shortage of sheds in most of the hats, traders spread goods and commodities under the open

Discussion on Literacy Day

SATKHIRA, Sept 22: A discussion meeting on the occasion of the International Literacy Day was held in Satkhira Govern-

ment College auditorium recently, reports BSS. Deputy Commissioner of Satkhira Saiful Alam was present in the discussion as the chief guest. Presided over by Principal Khairul Islam, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) A B Mohammad Ali, District Information Officer Kawsar Ali Mollah, District Education Officer Begum Sariha Khatun and Principal Ashit Kumar Majumdar. A 'public education fair' was held on the occasion in Satkhira college premises.

176 schemes implemented

RANGPUR, Sept 22: A total of 176 development schemes un-der Food-for-Work Programme were implemented in seven

thanas during the fiscal 1998-99, reports UNB. Officials said some 1555 mts of wheat had been allocated for implementing the projects. The projects including construction and reconstruction of roads and earth filling works of various educational institutions.



Prof Muhammad Hussain, Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) speaking on September 18 as the chief guest at the inaugural function of a two-day annual workshop on "Bangladesh Agricultural University Research Progress" arranged by BAU Research System at Shilpacharya Joynal Abedin auditorium. - Star photo

Steps to protect Jhalakathi from erosion

Rain disrupts life in Rajshahi

RAJSHAHI, Sept 22: Freak downpour throughout the day on Tuesday swamped low-lying areas of the city and adjoining areas, heavily disrupting life. reports BSS.

The rain forced people to stay indoors. Students, service holders and commuters were the worst sufferers of the cloud-

The sky was overcast for the whole of the day and the sun was not visible for a moment. Met office recorded 73 mm rainfall in Rajshahi city over the last 24 hours ending

Tuesday evening. Meanwhile, acting president and senior presidium member of Bangladesh Awami League Amir Hossain Amu on Monday that the government of Prime Minister Sheikh

Hasina had taken speedy measures to protect Jhalakathi district town from the erosion of the River Sugandhya.

While visiting the erosion affected area Amu addressed a meeting of a cross section of people on the bank of the

Deputy Commissioner of Jhalakathi Bimal Komar Kundu, Police Super Md Moniruzzaman, Jhalakathi Poursabha chairman Belayet Hossain, local Awami League general secretary Advocate Fazlul Huq, local AL joint sec-retary Sardar Shamsul Huq Akkas, local AL organising sec-retary Khan Saifullah Panir and district Krishak League coordinator A Mannan Rasul among others, were present on the occasion.

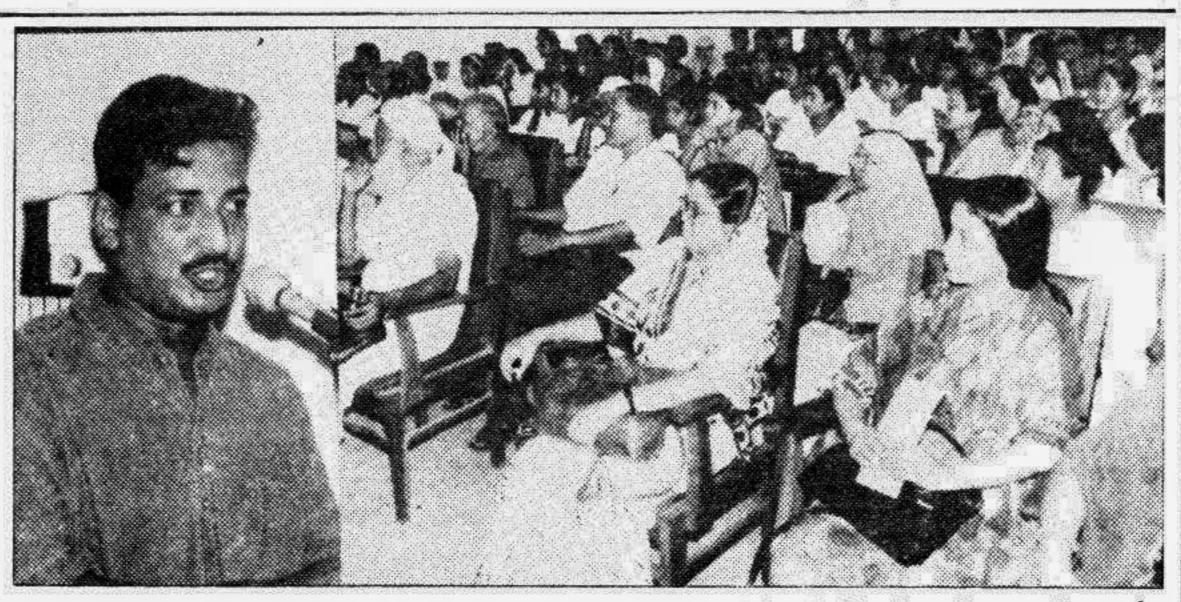
Meanwhile, the government sanctioned Taka 4.16 crore for the protection of Jhalakathi

town from the erosion. Amu called upon the leaders and workers of local Awami League, Jubo League, Sramik League and Chhatra League to work hard to strengthen the organisations for the welfare of the common masses.

The acting president of Awami League also visited some erosion affected areas of Nalchity thana.

Later on, he inaugurated a workshop for the youths in the auditorium of Nalchity Degree College.

Speaking on the occasion, Anu called upon the opposition parties to shun the path of anarchy and participate in the ensuing Upazila elections.



Healthy city plan : Mijanur Rahman Minu, Mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation addressing recently a motivational meeting of Rajshahi healthy city plan. — Star photo

Rampant cutting of hills raises great concern

per hour is enough to trigger

five people were buried alive at

Chiortali in Aziznagar in a

Gazalia road was constructed

cutting the foot of a hill in the

area, but no measure has yet

been taken to prevent any pos-

sible landslide from the hill,

Earlier in August this year.

Experts said Aziznagar-

landslide in the district.

massive mudslide.

BANDARBAN, Sept 22: When the government is sketching out a dream scenario for the country's hill districts, a section of people are rampantly cutting down hills prompting frequent landslides in the region, reports

These people, particularly Jhum cultivators, brick-field owners and farmers theolived in horticulture, are recurrently cutting hills despite strong concerns by environmentalists.

According to Soil Resources Department, rapid development of physical infrastructure and construction of roads and houses also bear the responsibility for frequent landslides.

Tank lorry strike

Meeting ends

without decision

From A Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Sept 22: Meet-ing between leaders of Tank

Lorry Workers' Union and

Tank Lorry Owners' Associa-

tion of the northern region

ended without any decision on

gra with SA Kadir, President of

North Bengal Tank Lorry Own-

strike on September 7 for indef-

inite period, demanding rein-

statement of jobs of some work-

The meeting was held in Bo-

Tank lorry workers went on

Workers union called off

strike on September 17 for

three days only. The final deci-

sion on the dispute was due on

Tk 81 lakh Rakhaine

Instt construction

project

government has taken up a

project for the construction of a

Rakhaine Institute at Cox's

Bazar to preserve and develop

the cultural heritage of the

Rakhaine Budhist community,

COX'S BAZAR, Sept 22: The

Monday.

Monday.

reports BSS.

ers' Association.

trees by woodcutters and Jhum cultivators from khas lands is also blamed for landslide. During the monsoon, rainwater rolls down from hills triggering landslide, experts said.

Recently, a 600-meter portion of Chimbuk-Ruma road Sources at the department slid into a deep ditch as the ausaid now only 4mm of rainfall thorities did not take any mea-

sure to protect the road after its construction.

Meanwhile, many rivers and water bodies have been silted up due to mudslide causing unwarranted floods in the district every year.

CHT Affairs Minister Kalpa Ranjan Chakma in a recent meeting at Aziznagar laid emphasis on proper watershed and hill management natural disas-Indiscriminate logging of ter has assumed an alarming turn here.

> According to the Soil Resource Department, the hill district is indeed vulnerable to natural disaster due to its geographical position. So, massive experiment is needed before going for gas or oil exploration

25 hurt in clash over highway robberies

BOGRA, Sept 22: Angered by four successive highway robberies on the Bogra-Natore highway despite police patrol on September 8. transport workers backed by locals clashed with policemen, leaving at least 25 injured, reports

Police fired tear-gas shells and charged baton to disperse the mob and free four of their colleagues whom the transport workers detained.

Traffic on the highway remained snapped for over eight hours as the angry protestors put barricades at about 3 am near Chandibat under Sadar thana.

Locals said the bandits looted three trucks while police looked on, beating drivers and helpers mercilessly just two and a half hours after another robbery on a Natore-bound night coach at Nandigram at

about 11 pm. Aziz, a coach passenger, truck drivers Pranab, Sultan and Mahbub, helper Jafar and fruit vendors Babu. Salam, Alauddin and Huda were injured in the gang attack. They looted valuable worth over Tk 1.5 lakh from the passengers of the night coach and the trucks.

Four police patrols in a van were just 200 feet off the spot where the trucks were being

Smelling rat the truck workers detained the policemen and tied them with the roadside

Jhenidah beggars' rally

From Our Correspondent JHENIDAH. Sept 22:A different type of rally was held at Bazargopalpur school ground in the sadar thana on Friday.

About 300 beggars from different places of the district gathered at the rally. The beggars' rally demanded donation not less than one taka. The rally was presided over by Quddus Ali. Speakers said that there had been platforms to press home the demands of various professionals and politicians while the beggers were ig-

5,437 to vie for 15 posts of pry teachers

Grim picture of employment crisis

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Sept 22: A total 5,437 candidates have applied for only 15 vaccant posts of assistant teachers in different government primary schools in six thanas here.

According to the district primary education office sources, about 71 per cent of the total candidates are females. There are 3.849 female candi-

The primary education office received the applications till August 12, the last date for submitting the applications.
A total of 1.429 intended

candidates including 998 women have applied for the va-cant posts in the Sadar thana, while 1,361 candidates including 982 women applied for the vacant posts in Shingra thana, 865 candidates including 634 females in Lalpur thana, 841 candidates including 582 femalesw in Boraigram thana, 591 candidates including 397 females in Gurudaspur thana and 350 candidates including 255 females applied for the vacant posts in Bagatipara thanas.

While talking to The Daily Star, Md Khorshed Alam Bhuiyan, the district primary education officer told that a number of Master degree holders or having the equivalent qulification, solicited for the

He also informed that they had advertised through newspapers that female candidates having minimum SSC level educational qualification and male candidates having HSC level qualification including PTI training or having graduation degree were entitled to vie

for the posts. According to official sources, the applications will be sent to Dhaka after thorough scurtiny. The examination for appointment of primary teachers is expected to be held in the next year. By this time, primary education office sources said. the vaccant posts are likely to be increased.

However, many candidates

have already started wooing the influencials, local political leaders and MPs. It is also alleged that a dis-

honest circle has already started taking bribes giving false assurances to the candidates. On the other hand, some publishing organisations, taking this opportunity, have published guide books. Most of

ber of errors and printing mistakes, are being sold largely at the local book stalls. While talking to The Daily Star regarding the guide books and bribery bids, some senior officials of the district administration, members of law enforcing agencies and lawyers said that this had been a com-

mon picture of the country's

employment arena. A senior lawyer, however, told that the existing laws did not go against such guide book publishers, while the flawed notebooks prepared for the junior classes are barred by the

Satkhira

School managing body poll

From Our Correspondent SATKHIRA; Sept 22: The election of guardians representatives to the managing committee of Assassuni High School was held peacefully recently.

Nine candidates contested the election for four posts. The candidates who were elected are: Abdur Rahim, S M Mujibar Rahman. Dipankar Mojumdar and A Gafoor.

Meanwhile, election of two teachers' representatives to the managing committee was also held at the school campus with Nilkanta Some in the chair. Mahtabuddin and Kalipada Roy were elected unopposed in the election.

Kidnapped man yet to be recovered Police could not able to res-

cue the kidnapped shrimp gher owner, Monoranjan Mondal, 45, who was kidnapped by a group of miscreants even after 18 days of the incident.

The kidnappers also demanded Taka one lakh as ransom. In a letter to the family members of Monoranjan, they threatened to kill him, if their demand was not fulfilled in due

Police sources said that Monoranjan Mondal of village Kalabari in Shyamnagar thana was kidnapped by a group of miscreants namely Nantu Haldar, Abdul Mazid, Maruf Hossain and Abul Kalam, all of the same village on August 27. Since then he has been remained untraced.

Curse of dowry

At least 50,000 girls eligible for marriage could not get married in seven thanas as their parents could not fulfil the dowry demand of the bride

Most unmarried girls belong to poor farmers families. The farmers are becoming poorer because of their failure in achieving the target of production due to increased prices of agricultural inputs and natural calamities. The poor farmers try very hard for their livelihood by mortgaging their land to the money lenders at a very high rate of interest. In the circumstances, if they decide to get their daughters married, they fail because of the bride grooms' unusual demand of dowry including cash, gold ornaments, motor cycle, bi-cycle, television sets, tape recorders and furniture etc. The items are beyond the capacity of poor guardians to manage.

Once married these girls are tortured by their husbands and in-laws for dowry. Even some husbands kill their wives. In most cases they divorce their

Unfit vehicles plying on roads

About 40 per cent vehicles here do not have any fitness certificates.

As a result, the government is losing a huge revenue income. On the other hand, road accidents are gradually increasing day by day.

When detected owners of the vehicles manage fitness certificates from Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) offering illegal gratification. The motor vehicle inspector is the proper authority in this matter.

At least 550 buses, trucks ply along 10 routes. Of these vehicles 220 do not have fitness certificates.

Housewife killed by husband

One newly-married housewife was strangulated to death by her husband here at village Middle Parulia in Debhata thana recently.

The victim was identified as Nilima Parvin, 20, wife of Monsur Ali of the aforesaid vil-

Police said that the killer husband, Monsur Ali married the victim, daughter of Abdus Sattar of South Parulia village seven months back. Since then, he tortured her off and on demanding dowry. On the day of occurrence, he tortured her mercilessly. At one stage he strangulated her to death.

Discussion on Literacy Day A discussion meeting in ob-

servance of International Literacy Day, under the auspices of Satkhira Government College, was held in the college auditorium with Principal Khairul Islam in the chair recently.

Saiful Alam.. Deputy Commissioner, Satkhira and A B Mohammad Ali, Additional Deputy Commissioner (Gen) were present as chief and special guests respectively.

Biennial confce of Kaliganj BNP

these guide books, with a num-The biennial conference of BNP Kaliganj thana unit was held at its office premises with Alhaj Wazed Ali Biswas in the chair recently. M Monsur Ali, convenor of

Satkhira district BNP was pre-

sent as the chief guest while M A Jalil, Advocate Syed Iftekhar Ali and Habibul Islam Habib were present as special guests. It was also addressed, among others, by Tabarak Hossain. Mahiuddin, Prof Abdul Khaleq, Prof Khoda Boks, Abdus Samad, Prof Modasserul Huq. Mostofa Mohammad Ali, Advocate Abdus Sattar, Lutfor Rahman, Abu Zahid and Sk Manirul Islam.

Girl abducted by Natore Poura chairman rescued

From Our Correspondent

girl was rescued after two hours of her abduction by acting

chairman of Natore municipal

Witnesses said a group of

miscreants numbering about 12

led by Arifur Rahman Masoom.

acting chairman of Natore

municipality and local Awami

League-backed Chhatra League

leader, abducted Ajanta, a sec-

ond year student of Rani Bha-

bani Women's College, at gun

point at about 12 noon from

Ajanta, daughter of Manjur

Alam, president of Natore

Minibus Owners' Association,

from Berabaria village under

Bagatipara thana at around 2

Rahman Masoom, commis-

sioner of ward number 6 of the

municipality, and recovered a

foreign-made revolver from his

Shfiur Rahman Mantu, was

were returning to home on a

rickshaw. When the rickshaw

reached near Mariam Mission-

ary School. Masoom and his

associates intercepted them and

forced the college girl into the

car. The miscreants also fired

lege girl admitted that she had

love affair with Masoom.

Police sources said the col-

Poppy Alam, mother of

Masoom, son of Advocate

Ajanta, 18, and her mother

private car.

sent to jail hajat.

one or two shots.

Police also arrested Arifur

Police, however, rescued

Dompara area in the town.

ity on Monday.

Ajanta, filed a case in this con-

Police said Masoom is accused of five criminal cases. The incident has created a sen-

Anti-mosquito pilot project in Bandarban

BANDARBAN, Sept 22: With malaria playing havoc in the country's hill districts, the government has launched an antimosquito pilot project to eradi-cate the small flying insect that spreads malaria, reports UNB. Under the project, Health Department would moisturise

the irritating insects at day.

Meanwhile, the department has moisturised 13,000 mosquito nets with the pesti-

mosquito nets of local residents

cides in the town. launch the drive in other seven thanas here after assessing the

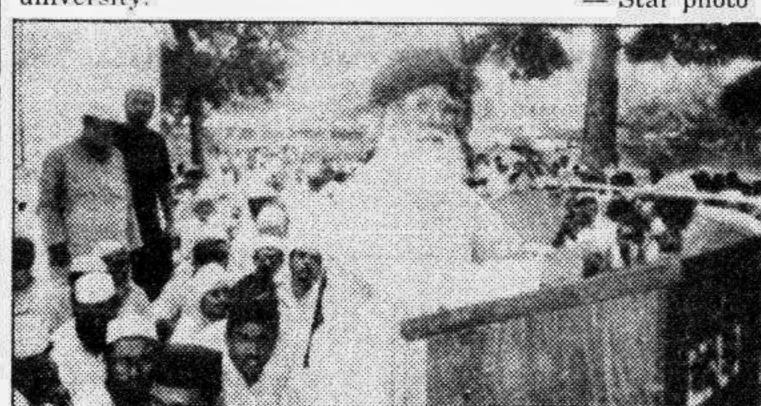
gramme. They said malaria claimed 46 lives and affected 19,240 people here in six months since January this year. Of the deaths, 27 were reported from

The Civil Surgeon here said a research centre would be set up here with financial assistance from World Bank to eradicate malaria.

Events of districts in picture







Moulana Mufti abdus Sattar, Vice-President of Bangladesh Jamiatul Mudarresin addressing a public meeting recently at Shaheed Abdur Razzak park in - Star photo Satkhira.



The block supervisor of Agriculture Extension Department (AED), Kaliganj thana in Jhenidah district receiving a crest from local MP Rehana Akter Hira as the best field worker. Abdur Razzaque Bhuiyan, Deputy Director of AED, Jhenidah is also seen. Star photo



Rajshahi University unit of Bangladesh Mohila Parisad launched a free treatment programme among the destitutes of the adjoining villages every Friday. - Star photo

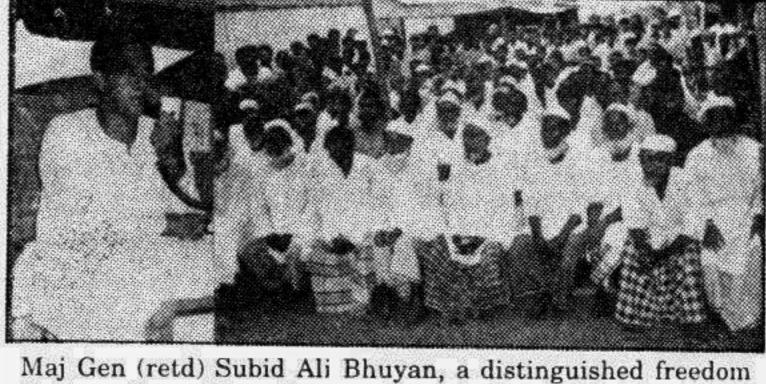
NATORE. Sept 22: A college

sation in the town.

with a sort of pesticide to keep

Officials said they would success of the ongoing pro-

the town alone.



fighter of our liberation war launched an eight-day meetthe-people tour from September 13 to 20 to the remote villages of the eastern and western unions of Muhammadpur-Panchgachhia, Maruka and Goalmari unions under Daudkandi thana in Comilla district. He addressed over 35 meetings in various places. People of all walks of life especially the elders expressed their spontaneous solidarity with their leader!



Prof Abdul Mannan, Vice-Chancellor of Chittagong University inaugurating a saw mill recenbtly at the Institute of Forestry and Environmental Science of the university. - Star photo