

News snaps

Law and order worsens

BARISAL, Oct 9: The law and order situation in the divisional town deteriorated in recent time, reports UNB.

Six people were critically injured in a fierce clash at Jhaouta and three members of a family were kidnapped from Amanatganj area on Saturday. A young man was arrested on the same day along with a pibeegan and four rounds of bullet while he was chasing his opponents at C&B Road in the town. Police said six people were injured in a clash between two rival groups of youths in Jhaouta area. A good number of shops were ransacked during the clash which took place over establishing supremacy in the area. They said shrimp trader Pannu Hawlader, 34, his wife Parveen, 25, and their daughter Khadiza, 3, were kidnapped from Palashpur in Amanatganj area early Saturday. The kidnapers picked up them from their house, dragged them into a boat and disappeared from the area. Police could not yet rescue them.

Wildlife under threat

SHARIATPUR, Oct 9: Unplanned use of pesticides, massive logging of trees and illegal hunting of birds have brought the wildlife of greater Faridpur district close to extinction, reports UNB.

Experts said wildlife like weasel, porcupine, lizard, fox, monkey, frog, baghdaha and different species of birds are gradually being disappeared from Shariatpur, Madaripur, Gopalganj, Rajbari and Faridpur districts. There have been allegations that a section of smugglers are rampantly hunting lizards in the region and smuggling out their hides. The experts urged the authorities concerned to take necessary measures for conservation of wildlife and thus save the bio-diversity of the region.

Two with counterfeit notes held

NATORE, Oct 9: Two people were arrested along with 34 counterfeit notes of Tk 100 denomination from Jamnagar bazaar in Bagatipara thana on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Police said Tahir Uddin, 34, and Rezaul Karim, 35, were arrested as they tried to purchase cigarettes from a shop in the bazaar with a counterfeit note of Tk 100. Later on, 33 more forged notes were also recovered from their possession. They were handed over to police.

Memo submitted to Rangamati DC

RANGAMATI, Oct 9: All Party Students' Unity of Rangamati Government University College on Thursday laid siege to the Deputy Commissioner's (DC) office and submitted memorandum to the concerned authorities demanding immediate introduction of full-fledged honours course in the college, reports BSS.

They also staged a rally where they announced a package of programmes beginning from October 23 to press home their demand. About 2,000 persons from local elite, social organisations and political parties signed the memorandum supporting the students' demand. The memorandum was submitted addressing to Prime Minister, Education Minister, Minister for Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs and local member of parliament through the DC.

Agri-loan disbursed

KISHOREGANJ, Oct 9: Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Kishoreganj regional office disbursed Taka 5.29,00,000 as agriculture loan among the farmers of 13 thanas through its 20 branches till September 30 this year, reports BSS.

The loan was disbursed under the bank's loan disbursement programme of 1999-2000 fiscal year. According to official sources, the loan was given for cultivation of transplanted Aman paddy and winter vegetables, pisciculture, cattle fattening, dairy and poultry farming, production of 'Ausa', 'Aman' and 'Boro' paddy, wheat, ground nut, mustard, potato and other vegetables, buying of power-tillers, tractor and for investment in agro-based small business. The bank also recovered outstanding land of Taka 6,58,00,000 in the district during the period. The percentage of disbursement is 14 and recovery is 29.

Chairmen of 9 projects penalised

RAJBARI, Oct 9: The district coordination committee has penalised chairmen of nine projects for non-implementation of rural infrastructure, renovation and maintenance programme during the last financial year, reports UNB.

It is found that the project chairmen had drawn 11 metric tons of wheat against the projects but those were not implemented. The committee has directed the defaulting chairmen to pay Tk 80,000 for misappropriation of the wheat. The projects included earth filling, development of 'haats' and bazaars, roads and madrasa in Mizanpur, Bagmara, Shaikhati, Ramkantapur, Baghia and Alipur unions.

AED workshop ends

MADARIPUR, Oct 9: Agriculture Extension Department (AED), Madaripur organised a three-day workshop on 'Protecting Soil Fertility and Chemical Fertilisers Applying' at its auditorium on October 2, reports BSS.

Additional Director of AED inaugurated the workshop. A total of 24 field workers of AED, Madaripur were imparted training in two groups. On the concluding day, Deputy Director M Sayed Ali distributed certificates among the successful participants.

Cooperation of newsmen sought

TANGAIL, Oct 9: Mollah Wahiduzzaman, Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Tangail, held a meeting with the correspondents of the different media and dailies at district collector's conference room recently, reports BSS.

During his discussion with the journalists he said, the by-election in the Tangail-8 seat in Shakhipur-Basail will be held in free and fair atmosphere. Necessary steps will be taken to hold the election properly as per directions of the Election Commission. He also said the criminals will be caught and punished as per law and there will be no scope of negligence. The DC urged the journalists to extend necessary cooperation in administration's development programmes.

Puja committee formed

MANIKGANJ, Oct 9: A 41-member Manikganj District Puja Celebration Committee was formed with Dolon Goswami and Rajat Shubhra Ghosh as president and secretary of the committee respectively, reports BSS.

The committee was formed in a meeting held at local Kalbari Mandir on October 1. Sada puja celebration committee was also formed in the meeting with Taposh Karmaker and Monoranjan Banik as the president and secretary respectively.

Girl raped

FENI, Oct 9: A girl was raped allegedly by a tailor in Parshuram thana on Sunday, reports UNB.

Police said tailor Keshab Chandra picked up the nine-year-old girl of Barikuma village, into his shop and raped her there. Local people caught the rapist and handed him over to police. The girl was admitted to a private clinic.

Boy run over by bus

BHERAMARA, Sept 8: A boy was run over by a speeding bus at Hawkhali on Pragpur-Kushtia road near here recently, reports BSS.

Police and witnesses said the victim, Liton, 9, son of Abul Hossain of village Uttar Bhabanipur in Bheramara thana, was run over by a bus while he was crossing the road. The bus was seized by police. None was arrested.

Valuables looted

KHAGRACHHARI, Oct 9: An armed robber stormed into the residence of Thana Mirbahi Officer (TNO) of Laxmichhari and took away some cash and valuables on Monday, reports UNB.

Construction of hostel

CHUADANGA, Oct 9: The construction of the three-story 50-bed hostel for the students of Chuadanga Government Girls' College is nearing completion, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the hostel is being constructed at a total cost of Taka 66 lakh 50 thousand by the Facilities Department of the Ministry of Education. So far, about 90 per cent of the total work had been completed and the rest work is expected to be completed by December next.

Discussion

NETRAKONA, Oct 9: A discussion meeting on development of human resources and education was held here recently on the occasion of International Literacy Day, reports BSS.

District Administration (Revenue) Ahmedullah presided over the meeting. Among others, NDC Belayet Hussain Talukder, magistrate Anisuzzaman and co-ordinator of the Directorate of Non-Formal Education Rasheda Yasmin addressed the meeting.

19 vessels sank in Ctg Port channel in 15 yrs

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Oct 9: With the latest incident, the number of vessels that sank in the Chittagong Port channel and its adjoining outer anchorage areas rose to at least 19 in the last 15 years, port sources said.

In the latest incident, a barge loaded with 280 tons of cement clinker sank in the River Karnaphuli near the main channel on Tuesday morning.

The barge sank while unloading imported cement clinker for a private cement company brought by a ship at the outer anchorage. However, ship movement was not hampered after the incident.

Four of the vessels sank in the outer anchorage while the rest in the River Karnaphuli near the port channel.

The ill-fated vessels, except the latest one, are MV Sagar (1984); MV Sea Horse, MV Star Altair, Amgati, a tug boat, MV Mahtab Jabbed (1986); MV Royal Bird (1990); MV Sea Master (1991); MV Cristal (1992); Argonut (1993); NB Ali, BD Arm barge-11, SM Kawnia (1993); Momin, DB Ruki, MV Monalisa (1996); and MV Atlanta and Bondhuira (1997). Of the sunken ships, MV Sea Master and barge Bondhuira were salvaged.

Mercantile Marine Department has now been entrusted with the salvage work of the wreckage.

Besides, eight ships have remained abandoned for a long time in the outer anchorage area, posing threat to smooth and safe movement of ships.

Of these eight ships, 'Karia Sentosa' got stranded and later caught fire in the sea near Anwara coastal area a few days back.

Following the latest incident of sinking, the port authorities urged Mercantile Marine Department to take immediate measures to salvage sunken ships from the Karnaphuli.

Bumper output of Aman in six districts

Bumper production of Aman crop has been achieved in Patuakhali and five districts of greater Faridpur in the current season, report agencies.

Hopes have emerged for the belligerent farmers as Aman output in Patuakhali district seems to surpass the target by 83,000 metric tons.

When the farmers embarked on Aman cultivation, some 3.09 lakh mts of paddy were expected to be produced from 2.12 lakh hectares of land this season.

But ultimately Aman was cultivated on over 2.21 hectares of land, which is likely to push

up the paddy output to 3.92 lakh mts.

According to local agriculture office, of the land, local variety was cultivated on 1.61 lakh hectares while the high yielding variety on 60,000 hectares.

Officials said although pests attacked many croplands at the onset of the season, but it was tackled successfully by spraying pesticides and applying the integrated pest management method.

"Now we can expect a good harvest if everything goes well," remarked an official.

Bumper production of T-

Aman crop has been achieved in five districts under greater Faridpur in the current season.

According to Agriculture Extension Department sources, about 37,195 hectares were brought under T-Aman cultivation in the districts in this season.

Of the total, 1,695 hectares were brought under T-Aman cultivation in Madaripur district, 3,667 hectares in Shariatpur district, 2,060 hectares in Gopalganj district, 7,653 hectares in Faridpur district and 22,120 hectares in Rajbari district.



A large procession was brought out in Chandpur town recently on the occasion of the birth centenary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam. — Star photo

Tk 43cr allocated for uplift projects in 3 hill dists

BANDARBAN, Oct 9: The government has allocated Tk 43 crore to implement various development projects in three hill districts in current fiscal year, reports UNB.

Official sources said Tk 25 crore will be spent for development of communications system in rural areas.

The remaining amount will be spent in the sectors of education, agriculture, power, public health, small and cottage industries, games and sports, jhoomia rehabilitation, fisheries development and construction of community centre.

Sources said some Tk 3 crore was allocated for electrification in rural areas, Tk 40 lakh for integrated development and rehabilitation of cotton cultivators, Tk 66 lakh for supplying safe water supply and Tk 1.20 crore for pisciculture and construction of water reservoirs.

Meanwhile, a good number of projects, involving Tk 2,000 crore, have been taken up for the infrastructure development of Sylhet district.

The projects include rehabilitation of Dhaka-Sylhet highway with an estimated cost of Tk 780 crore, development of Sylhet-Tamabil-Jaflong road

costing Tk 180 crore, reconstruction of the Bhairab bridge at a cost of Tk 450 crore.

Construction and renovation of Sylhet Railway Station and the bypass of Osman Aliport, Shahjhal bridge-2 and 3 and some other bridges and roads are also among the projects.

Officials said development of Sylhet-Tamabil-Jaflong road began in August with fi-

Young man stabbed to death in Ctg

From Our Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Oct 9: A young man was stabbed to death in Rangunia in the district here on September 8.

One Enam stabbed the young man, Hasan, to death at Mirkhal, 8 km south-west off Rangunia thana headquarters. The reason behind the attack could not be known.

Following the incident, local people detained Enam. At that time, the terrorist, however, injured one Mominul Haq critically with sharp weapon.

Erosion takes serious turn in Madaripur, Mymensingh

Erosion by the Padma and the Ariakhan and by the Brahmaputra has taken a serious turn in Madaripur and Mymensingh districts, reports UNB.

A total of 465 families became homeless in nine unions of Shibchar thana in Madaripur district.

Locals said some educational institutions along the two rivers at Bandarhola union have also been threatened by

river erosion.

About 54 shops of Shikderhat in Bandarhola union have gone into the gorge of the mighty River Padma.

Of the total, 320 families rendered homeless in Bandarhola and Kathalbari unions while 40 families in Sarayashchar, 16 families in Matbarerchar, 20 families in Dattapara, four families in Baharatala and 30 families in Kutubpur unions became

homeless.

Besides, five unions in Kalkini thana and four unions in Rajoir thana have also been facing threat by erosion of the rivers Kumar, Palraidi and Ariakhan.

Nearly 100 families rendered homeless in Laxmipur, Banshgari, Enayetpur, Alinaga and Shikaromgol unions in Kalkini thana and Kabirajpur, Khalia, Ishibpur and Hosainpur unions in Rajoir thana.

Erosion by the River Brahmaputra has rendered 1,200 people homeless in four unions of two thanas of Mymensingh district.

The unions are Borerchar, Kushtia, Ashtadhar of Sadar thana and Uchakhila of Ishwarganj thana. Of them, Borerchar and Uchakhila unions were the worst affected areas.

District Relief and Rehabilitation office sources said a total of 520 families rendered homeless in Borerchar union, 215 families in Uchakhila and 185 families in Kushtia and Ashtadhar unions.

Some 13,360 kgs of rice and 100 tons of biscuits were distributed among erosion-hit 835 families.

At least 200 acres of croplands along with the homesteads were devoured by the river in the erosion-hit areas.

Appeal for help



Tajera Begum

By Staff Correspondent
A 13-year-old girl named Tajera Begum who was a student of Melandah Girls' School in Jamalpur district has been suffering from fatal Mitral Valvular disease for the last three years.

The damaged valve needs to be replaced immediately, otherwise the other valve will also be affected. The surgery involves a good amount of money.

Father of Tajera Begum, Tara Miah who is a rickshaw puller of village Adipur in Melandah has appealed to the affluent persons of society to donate generously for his daughter's treatment.

He urged the interested persons to donate through Account Number 7010, Sonali Bank, Melandah branch, Jamalpur.

New NGO forum in CHT

RANGAMATI, Oct 9: Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) working in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, have formed a forum for coordinating their activities and mutual cooperation, reports BSS.

The decision to form the forum, styled as 'Hill Tracts NGO Forum', was taken at a meeting held at a local hotel on Sunday.

Chairperson of Taungya, a local NGO and Chief of Chakma Circle, Barrister Raja Debashish Roy presided over the meeting.

Twenty-three NGO's working in the three hill districts of Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban participated in the meeting.

The meeting unanimously formed a 10-member ad-hoc committee of the forum with Raja Debashish Roy as the convener.

Because of snapped electric wire

From Our Correspondent MYMENSINGH, Oct 9: The supply of electricity was disrupted for nearly 12 hours on Wednesday in greater Mymensingh region due to snapping of an electric wire.

According to official sources, electricity went out at about 8.30 pm on Wednesday night which continued till 8.15 am on Thursday keeping five districts in darkness. The districts are Mymensingh, Netrakona, Kishoreganj, Jamalpur and Sherpur.

Executive Engineer of Electricity Distribution Division-1 Palim Chandra Saha said after a long drive they found a snapped wire at a remote village in Kishoreganj district. The wire was snapped from 1,32,000 KV supply line.

For want of electricity no local dailies were published in Mymensingh. Production in mills and factories was also seriously affected due to electricity crisis.

Skin diseases break out in Kushtia

From Our Correspondent KUSHTIA, Oct 9: Skin diseases and stomach ailments have broken out in the district in an alarming proportion.

Consumption of adulterated oil, ghee, butter oil, mustard oil and milk has been attributed to the outbreak of the diseases.

Doctors said patients with intestinal disorder and itching complaints are visiting them in large numbers.

Local people said adulterated items are being freely sold in markets. Bread and biscuit mostly of inferior quality are also found in bakery shops, spreading intestinal diseases.

They said authorities concerned should take immediate steps to stop the selling of adulterated food items.

New ferry ghat at Daulatdia

MANIKGANJ, Oct 9: Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) has completed the construction work of a new ferry ghat at Daulatdia last month on priority basis for easy movement of ferries in between Aricha and Daulatdia, reports BSS.

The construction cost Taka five lakh.

BIWTC sources said, the dredging work in the Padma near Daulatdia ghat is going on satisfactorily to keep the channel normal for smooth navigation.

Movement of ferries in all the four ghats will begin soon after the completion of the dredging.

Mina Day observed in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Oct 9: The World Children's and Mina Day was observed in the city and elsewhere in the district on Monday in a befitting manner, reports BSS.

Smugglers making train journey hazardous

NATORE, Oct 9: The trains that run on six routes of Bangladesh Railway's Western Zone perform more than just carrying passengers. They carry huge quantity of smuggled goods, inflicting sufferings on the passengers, reports UNB.

The routes are Rajshahi-Fulchhari ghat, Rajshahi-Ishwardi, Ishwardi-Shantahar, Ishwardi-Sirajganj, Ishwardi-Khulina and Ishwardi-Chatmohor.

Sources said smugglers in connivance with a section of dishonest railway officials load contraband in compartments of the inter-city trains, especially Padma Express and Jamuna Express.

They said train drivers make unscheduled halt at various points of the routes at the directive of the corrupt officials, enabling the bootleggers to unload their goods. "It causes unwanted delay in reaching our destinations," said a passenger.

Besides, passengers have to face trouble in moving from one compartment to another for occupation of open spaces with smuggled goods.

Moreover, the shuttle trains, having only 5-6 bogies, are always found overcrowded with small traders and ticketless passengers who carry goods causing sufferings to the general passengers.

Special irrigation project to face drought in Rajshahi

NATORE, Oct 9: The Agriculture Extension Department (AED) launched a three-year Special Irrigation Project to face every year's risky drought situation during October-December period in greater Rajshahi district, reports UNB.

The implementation work of the project involving Tk 113.04 crore was started from August last.

Official sources said due to lack of proper irrigation facilities about 40 to 45 per cent grain of the targeted production of transplanted Aman paddy and other crops dried up in the region during the last 10 years.

Considering the adverse effect of the situation, the Ministry of Agriculture has undertaken the project to help farmers.

Under the project, irrigation facilities will be provided among the farmers free of cost by BADC (Irrigation) authority through renting deep tubewells.

The project authority will meet the spent operation and connection cost while AED the cost of electricity, diesel and ribbon pipes.

A total of 39,000 hectares of land have been brought under the project, in which 4,649 irrigation machines will be used. About one lakh poor farmers will be benefited from the project producing 62,000 mts of additional rice.

A senior official of the project said the project is a precautionary measure for the danger period.

Events of districts in picture



Rajshahi University Vice-Chancellor Prof Sayeedur Rahman Khan (L) who was a brilliant student of Sher-e-Bangla Hall receiving a crest from the hall provost Prof Shamsul Alam Sarder for his academic excellence. — Star photo



Sylhet Shishu Academy arranged a three-day children's photo exhibition. Photo shows Prof Shafiuddin Ahmed of the Department of Bangla of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology speaking at the concluding function of the exhibition on Wednesday. — Star photo



Satkhira district unit of Red Crescent Society organised recently a three-day long workshop on "First-aid" in Satkhira. Saiful Alam, Deputy Commissioner of Satkhira distributing certificates to the participants following conclusion of the training course. — Star photo



Members of Khagrachhari unit of Kachi Kancher Mela recently celebrated the 14th founding anniversary of the mela. On the occasion a colourful programme was arranged at Khagrachhari municipal auditorium. — Star photo