

News snaps

Installation

CHANDPUR, Oct 12: The 26th installation ceremony of Chandpur Rotary Club was held on Friday at Rotary Bhaban, reports BSS.

Eminent writer and journalist Syed Abdul Maksud attended the function as the chief guest while President of Rotary Club, Chandpur, Dr S M Shahidullah was in the chair. The function was addressed, among others, by Dr M A Gafur, Prof Md Jakir Hossain, Secretary Rotary Club, Rtn Tamal Kumar Ghosh, President, Chandpur Press Club Qamruzzaman Chowdhury and Rtn Abdul Ahad of Chittagong Rotary Club. Addressing the function Syed Abdul Maksud appreciated the humanitarian service rendered by Chandpur Rotary Club on various occasions. He urged the Rotarians to help the distressed in the rural areas.

31,000 arrested in 6 months

RAJSHAHI, Oct 12: Police arrested 31,000 people from different parts of Rajshahi division on various charges in last six months, reports UNB.

During the period, they also recovered 263 firearms, including revolvers, pipe-guns and rifles, and 210 rounds of bullet. Of the arrested, 19,300 people were wanted criminals while 177 held in arms cases, 36 caught on charge of terrorism and 11,494 in other cases. A total of 101 cases were filed with various thanas during the period.

Bus passenger stabbed, robbed

NARSINGDI, Oct 12: Armed dacoits stormed a Dhaka-bound bus coming from Habiganj, near Barisila in Raipura thana on Friday, reports BSS.

The dacoits stabbed four passengers and looted cash and valuables, worth about Taka five lakh. Police sources said, a group of dacoits, numbering about 10, boarded the bus in the guise of passengers from Bhalrab Bus Station. They attacked the passengers when the bus was crossing Barisila area, at about 9:30 pm. The dacoits robbed cash and valuables worth about Taka five lakh from the passengers. After committing dacoity the dacoits got down at Morjal in Raipura thana. Public caught two dacoits, Babul, 30, and Nayan, 25, and recovered Taka 9,845 from them. The dacoits were handed over to the police.

Teachers' Day observed

MADRIPUR, Oct 12: International Teachers Day was observed on October 5, reports BSS.

Madripur Teachers Association arranged various programmes to mark the day. A discussion was held at Alhaj Aminuddin High School premises. President of the Teachers Association Md Amzad Hossain was in the chair. Alhaj Mubarak Ali and Principal Mahtabuddin Ahmed attended the meeting as the chief guest and special guest respectively. Speakers at the meeting emphasised the need for proper social status and job security of the teachers' community. Later on District Teachers Association brought out a rally, led by Amzad Hossain, from the Alhaj Aminuddin High School premises which paraded the main roads of the town.

2700 VGF cards allotted

CHIUDANGA, Oct 12: The government has allotted a total of 2,700 VGF cards under special programme for distribution of 81 tonnes of foodgrains among the 2,700 destitute families of Alamdanga, Darsana and Jibannagar Pousarabas of the district, reports BSS.

The distribution programme, for three months, began from August 15. According to an official source, 900 cards have been allotted for each of the three Pousarabas. Each cardholder is getting 10 kgs of foodgrains every month. The programme will continue till November 14 '99.

Computer training course

MANIKGANJ, Oct 12: A four-month computer training course organised by the Youth Development Directorate for unemployed educated youths began at its office here last week, reports BSS.

A total of 24 youths both female and male from different parts of the district are being imparted training on computer technology. The trainees will be provided with loan by the directorate to invest in business. This is for the first time that educated youths are being imparted training on computer technology.



Abdul Hye Khan, Zonal manager of Faridpur Grameen Bank distributing Raju Bodha Award recently among the recipients for their good performance. — Star photo

Abducted truck driver freed

RANGAMATI, Oct 12: A truck driver who was abducted 18 days ago for ransom was released on Friday at Hathazari in Baghaichhari thana, police and local people said, reports BSS.

Driver Shah Alam was allegedly abducted by a gang of armed tribal terrorists from Baghaichhari in Baghaichhari upazila on September 19. They demanded Taka five lakh as ransom from the victim. Driver Alam was carrying timber belonging to Bangladesh Forest Development Corporation from Baghaichhari to Kaptai when he was kidnapped.

Smuggled goods seized

SATKHIRA, Oct 12: Bangladeshi Rifles (BDR) seized contraband smuggled goods worth about Taka two lakh from different border areas during the last one week, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the 9th battalion BDR raided several areas of Kaliganj upazila and seized contraband goods smuggled into Bangladesh from India. The goods included bidi, sugar, salt, onion, spare parts of bicycle and 55 bottles of phenyl syrup. The goods worth about Taka two lakh were deposited to the Customs authorities and phenyl syrup was handed over to the Narcotics Control Department. None was arrested in this connection.

Man killed in road accident

JHENNAIDAH, Oct 12: One middle-aged man was killed and five others were injured in a road accident on Jhenaidah-Khulna highway at Kaliganj upazila on Thursday, reports BSS.

Police and hospital sources said, a Khulna-bound truck fell into a road-side ditch near Raghunathpur under Kaliganj upazila. Ashraful Islam, 35, of Fultala in Khulna district died on the spot. The five injured were admitted to Jhenaidah Sadar Hospital.

Two electrocuted

JESSORE, Oct 12: Two people were electrocuted when they came in touch with a live wire at village Kanaidanga in Keshabpur thana on Sunday, reports UNB.

Police said Abdur Rashid, 25, son of Shahadat Gazi and Niser, 24, son of Jalal Gazi came in contact with the live wire when a green bamboo touched an electric transmission line. At that time they were cutting down. Being informed by the villagers, police recovered the bodies.

Loan disbursed

MAGURA, Oct 12: Bangladesh Rural Development Board has disbursed loan over Tk 3.41 crore among 3,559 villagers under a special rural project, reports UNB.

Officials said BRDB also recovered over Tk 2.83 crore from its cooperative members who utilised the money in small projects like cattle fattening, poultry farming, sewing and horticulture.

Crops on 22,000 acres damaged

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Oct 12: As the impaired portion of Telpara-Basudepur sluice gate remained unprepared, floodwaters damaged standing crops on about 22,000 acres of land under Charai-Somepur Flood Control and Water Extraction Sub-Project this year, reports UNB.

A large portion of the embankment was badly damaged during the last year's devastating flood and it could not yet be repaired due to lack of fund. The local farmers, who suffered the huge loss, urged the authorities concerned to immediately repair the embankment.

National

Growers selling jute below output cost

NATORE, Oct 12: Despite poor output this year, growers are being compelled to sell jute below their production cost in the country's northern region, including Natore, reports UNB.

Growers in various jute markets of the region are selling jute below the production cost in absence of competitive buyers," said an official.

He said 1,11,047 hectares of land were brought under cultivation of "Tosha" variety of jute and 70,821 hectares under local variety in 16 northern districts this year with an estimated production target of 1,10,470 bales and 6,61,097 bales respectively.

Some 8159 hectares of land were brought under cultivation in six thanas of Natore district against 20,300 hectares last year.

A visit by the journalists to different markets, including Bonpara, Nondigram, Dhanadaha, Sherpur, Baneshwar, Dashuria and Mulauli, showed that local variety of jute was selling at Tk 220-240 per maund while Tosha variety Tk 280-320.

Jute grower Hatem Mollah, who was waiting with 15 maunds of jute at Bonpara, said in Sadar thana, said this year they had to spend on an average Tk 360 for producing one

maund of Tosha variety while 270 for local variety.

"But we have to sell jute below production cost for lack of competitive buyers although the supply in the hat is relatively poor this year," he said.

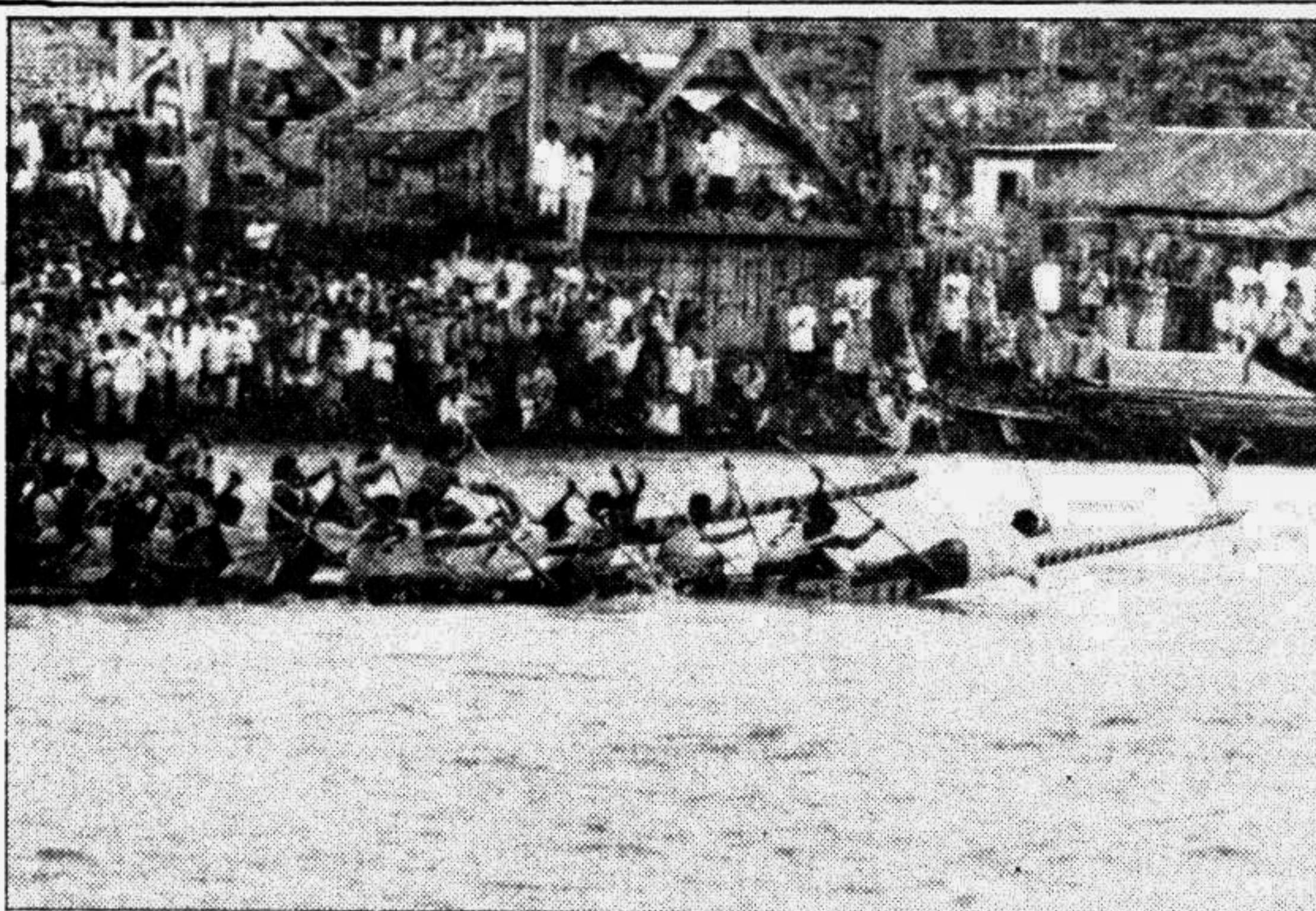
"Due to bitter experience of the previous years, I cultivated jute on five bighas of land this year only to meet my household requirements," said Ershad Ali Mondol of Rashidpur village in Gurudaspur thana.

Experts said that the farmers would stop production of jute in near future if the government fails to come up with remedial measures to salvage the sinking sector.



Begum Motia Chowdhury, Minister for Food and Agriculture inaugurating a three-day programme recently on "Annual Research Review Workshop" at BINA in Mymensingh.

— Star photo



Traditional boat race

Sylhet Municipality on Thursday afternoon arranged a colourful boat race in the River Surma.

— Star photo

Unnatural deaths rise in some dists

Five unnatural deaths have been reported recently in the districts of Magura, Thakurgaon and Naogaon, report agencies.

A total of 165 people allegedly committed suicide in four thanas of Magura district in the last eight months.

Of the deaths, 84 were reported from Sadar thana, 41 from Muhammadrupur, 25 from Sirpur and 15 from Shalikha thana.

Downy, abrupt ending of love affair, family feud, complex diseases and poverty were said to be the reasons behind the unnatural deaths.

Police said some 288 people committed suicide in Magura

district in 1998.

Three boys, two of them brothers, drowned in separate incidents in Ballakandi thana in Thakurgaon district on Friday.

The victims were identified as Ashamoni, Dulal and Abir.

Villagers said Ashamoni and Dulal went to nearby field with their mother and drowned in a ditch as their mother was busy in grazing cows. Abir drowned in a canal adjacent to their house.

Another report from Manikganj says: A worker of Monno Fabrics, Khokon, 25, was electrocuted in Ghorai thana as he came in contact with a live wire on Saturday. The

mishap was said to have occurred due to an electric short-circuit.

Two persons including a girl were killed and three others injured in two separate road accidents in Patnitola and Magadepur upazillas of Naogaon district last week.

Eye witnesses said, a young potalo trader Ariful died on the spot when a truck turned turtle on Dhamaihat road in Patnitola upazilla. Three persons were injured in the incident. They have been admitted to Patnitola Health Complex.

A seven-year-old girl Supriti was run over by a speeding bus near Magadepur bazaar bridge. She died on the spot.

Poll campaign gets momentum in Chakaria Pourasabha

CHITTAGONG, Oct 12: Election campaign has got momentum in Chakaria Pourasabha in Cox's Bazar district, reports BSS.

The election to Chakaria Pourasabha is scheduled to be held on October 24. This election could not be held earlier because of some legal complications, said local thana administration sources.

Four persons are on the race for one post of chairman while more than 50 are contesting for nine posts of ward commissioners.

Urs

By Staff Correspondent

The annual Urs of Garib-e-Newaz Razat Khaja Moinuddin Chisty Ajmeri will be held on Saturday (Razab 6, Hizri 1420) at Garpara Imam Bar Darbar Sharif in Manikganj district.

Elaborate programmes have been chalked out on the occasion. The programmes include Ziarat, Kawali, discussion on the life of Garib-e-Newaz, Akheri Munajat and distribution of sweets. The programmes will begin on Razab 1 and conclude on Razab 7.

Killer to die, 4 accomplices to suffer life term

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Oct 12: A court here last week condemned one person to death and four others to suffer life sentences for murder.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Jahangir Hossain pronounced the verdict in the rickshaw van puller Rajab Ali Pramanik murder case.

The death sentence was passed against Rafiqul Islam, son of Yusuf Ali Fakir. Four others—Ramzan Ali, Selim, Aziz and Liton, however, were acquitted.

According to prosecution story, on April 29, 1994, a gang of robbers attacked a rickshaw van in Santhia thana and during the attack the van puller was stabbed to death. The van puller died on the spot.

A case was lodged with Santhia police.

3 bodies recovered in Khulna

KHULNA, Sept 12: Police recovered three bodies, including a minor girl, from different parts of the district today, reports UNB.

One of the dead was identified as Abdul Halim a night guard of residence of a physician in the town.

The police said, a group of dacoits went to the residence of Dr ATN Monzer Kabir in Fulata area Sunday night and snatched Halim to death.

The dacoits then snatched away the key of the gate from him, entered the premises and lifted a motorcycle and a bicycle.

On information, police recovered the body of Halim from a dustbin near the house this morning.

The body of an unidentified young man, roped in the neck, was recovered from near the Roads and Highways Department office at Shiromoni in the town.

The body of a snake-bitten minor girl was recovered from the Bhairab river in Digholia thana.

Police said the body, floating in Shibbari Mondir in Kalia thana of Narail district, was

carrying a declaration of Tk one lakh cash award if anyone (jofha) can bring back her life.

Meanwhile, police recovered another decomposed body of a young man from Malabhangi in Battahata thana Sunday night.

Separate cases have been lodged with the police.

Erosion takes serious turn in Jamalpur

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Oct 12: Erosion by the River Old Brahmaputra has taken an alarming turn in recent days, threatening Brahmaputra flood protection embankment on the Jamalpur-Sherpur ferry ghat point.

An official of the Water Development Board said water level of the river fell sharply recently triggering erosion.

The Jamalpur-Sherpur ferry road has also been threatened. The Roads and Highways Department has taken steps to protect the road.

Blacksmiths pass hard days in Kishoreganj

KISHOREGANJ, Sept 12: The blacksmiths here are facing financial ruin for lack of patronisation and price hike of raw materials, reports UNB.

The blacksmith community urged the authorities to provide them with short-term loan and necessary patronage to help them carry on with their ancestral occupation.

The death sentence was passed against Rafiqul Islam, son of Yusuf Ali Fakir. Four others—Ramzan Ali, Selim, Aziz and Liton, however, were acquitted.

According to prosecution story, on April 29, 1994, a gang of robbers attacked a rickshaw van in Santhia thana and during the attack the van puller was stabbed to death. The van puller died on the spot.

Rapists left the place, leaving the woman, mother of three children, unconscious.

They make dao, boti, axe, knife, and other essential agricultural implements and sell in the local markets.

The blacksmiths, prices of their finished products went down in the past few years while raw materials have become dearer.

Blacksmiths are mostly concentrated in Katiadi, Hosainpur, Pakundia, Tarail, Itna, Nikli, Astagram, Mitamoin, Bajitpur, Sadar, Kullarchar, Bhairab and Karimganj.

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