



At long last: Good things come to those who wait. Advocate Anwarullah of Jamalpur town waited for 12 years looking after the Night Queen plant before its flowers bloomed on October 6, at 1 am. —Star photo

10 injured in 2 clashes
NATORE, Oct 25: At least 10 people were injured, one with bullet, in two clashes in the town on Saturday, reports UNB.
In the first incident, a group of youths clashed with the employees of a ticket counter at the district bus terminal leaving five people injured. BNP activist Abdul Latif was among the injured. He was admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH). Later, the unruly youths damaged a coach at madrasa crossing in retaliation. In another incident, five extortionists were injured in a clash between two rival groups at Chowkpir in the town over sharing of extracted money. Both the groups, reportedly backed by ruling party's student wing Chhatra League, traded gunshots during the fight. BCL activist Shah Alam, who sustained bullet wounds during the gunfight, was admitted to the RMCH.

BSCIC estate now at pastureland
SHARIATPUR, Oct 25: About 14-acres of land, acquired for setting up of an industrial park, in Sadar thana has turned into a pastureland, reports UNB.
Official said BSCIC acquired the land at Baghia, 2 km north off the district headquarters, in 1987 to establish an industrial estate. They said the first installment of the fund allocated for the project was spent in acquiring land, construction of administrative building and a pump house. But the project works have been abandoned all on a sudden after completion of earth filling works a few months back for reasons better known to the authorities. Still some officials and employees of the project are drawing salaries virtually doing no work. Experts said small and medium-scale agro-based industrial units could be set up here as raw materials like bamboo, canes, coconut, cotton, jute, wheat, pulse and potato are found here in plenty.

Workshop on child health care
CHANDPUR, Oct 25: A workshop on child and mother health care was held recently in the auditorium of Kachua Upazila Parishad, reports BSS.
The workshop was presided over by Selina Akhtar, District Information Officer, Upazila Nirbahi Officer Qamruzzaman Chowdhury, Dr Mohammad Anwarul Huq, Dr Bijoy Krishna Shah and Md Shaifuddin, among others, took part in the discussion. The workshop was participated by about 200 persons including teachers of different educational institutions and chairmen and members of union councils under Kachua Upazila.

Int'l trade fair in Ctg
CHITTAGONG, Oct 25: A 20-day international trade fair begins at the Railway Pologround here on October 28, reports BSS.
Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industries (CCCI) is arranging the fair. LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman is expected to inaugurate the fair, while Chittagong city mayor ABM Mahiuddin Chowdhury will be present as special guest on the occasion. CCCI sources said. Local and foreign companies will set up 365 stalls at the fair being held for the eighth consecutive year. China, India, Pakistan, Iran and Taiwan are the possible participants of the fair.

Acid thrown on school girl
JHENIDAH, Oct 25: A schoolgirl suffered serious burn injuries in an acid attack at village Baramanial in Sadar thana on Tuesday, reports UNB.
Hospital sources said, a group of youths hurled acid at Ratna Rani, 16, daughter of Narayan Chandra, as she refused their 10-cent proposal. She was admitted to Jhenidah Modern Hospital. A case was filed with the local police, but police could not arrest anyone in this connection.

So-called peer, follower held
FARIDPUR, Oct 25: A so-called peer and one of his followers have been arrested from a local hotel along with a bronze-made statue of Hindu Lord Krishna, reports UNB.
Acting on a tip-off, police raided the hotel and arrested Harun-ar-Rashid and his disciple Fazlur Rahman along the statue, an ivory box and one decorated wooden box. Police suspected that the self-proclaimed peer was engaged in smuggling antiques out of the country.

Separate incidents kill 5
SATHKIRA, Oct 25: Four housewives and a teenage girl allegedly committed suicide taking poison in Sadar thana within a span of five days in the month of October, reports UNB.
The deceased were identified as Jahanara, 22, wife of Ziaur, Moslem, 45, wife of Madar, Rashida, 25, wife of Madar, Rashida, 26, wife of Zulfikar and Razia, 12, daughter of Golam Rahman. Another young man, Monirul Islam, 30, of Bazarga village in Kaliganj thana was electrocuted on Monday when he went to visit a neighbouring house.

Work on super market progressing
JHENIDAH, Oct 25: Construction works of the district municipality super market, involving Tk 63 lakh, are progressing in full swing, reports UNB.
Seventy per cent works of the scheme have already been completed while the rest is likely to be finished by next month. Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) is implementing the project with financial assistance from Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Scouts leadership training ends
CHANDPUR, Oct 25: A weeklong scouts leadership training concluded recently at Chandpur Hasan Ali Government Primary School premises here, reports BSS.
Organised jointly by Bangladesh Scouts Association and Comilla Regional Scouts Association, the training was inaugurated by Md Reazuddin Sarkar, District Education Officer, Chandpur. The inaugural function was addressed, among others, by Principal Md Tariqullah, Kazi Shahjahan Ali, Deputy Commissioner of Comilla Scouts Association, Md Saifullah and Ajoy Kuma. Bhawmik of Chandpur Scouts Association. About 300 scouts leaders from seven upazilas participated in the training.

Man with forged notes arrested
SATHKIRA, Oct 25: Police arrested a man with forged one hundred taka notes from the town here recently, reports UNB.
Acting on a tip-off, police caught Shimul Mukherjee, son of Profulla Mukherjee of Bagerhat district, from a tea stall. They recovered 29 forged one hundred taka notes from his possession. He was sent to jail.

Chhatra League confce
MANIKGANJ, Oct 25: The conference of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), Ghior thana unit was held at the Ghior Public Library premises on October 9, reports BSS.
Colonel (Retd) M A Malek, member, advisory committee of Bangladesh Awami League, was present in the meeting as the chief guest. Siddique Roushan Khan, assistant office secretary of Awami League Central Committee, and Bahadur Bepari, president, Bangladesh Chhatra League, were special guests. The meeting was addressed, among others, by Masud Chowdhury and Anisur Rahman Anis, vice-president and joint secretary of BCL Central Committee respectively, Advocate Golam Mohiuddin, secretary, Manikganj district Awami League, Sultanul Azam Apel, secretary, Manikganj district Jubo League and Abu Bakr Siddique Tushar, secretary, BCL Manikganj district unit. The conference was presided over by Mashur Rahman Rashid, president, Ghior thana Chhatra League.

Mymensingh becomes a den of criminals

From Aminul Islam

MYMENSINGH, Oct 25: The number of crimes increased here alarmingly endangering the security of life and property of common people in recent days.

A dacoity was committed in a bus at Kanthali village in Bhaluka thana on Dhaka-Mymensingh Road at about 11pm on October 10.

A gang of armed miscreants boarded a Dhaka bound bus coming from Sherpur. When the bus reached at village Kanthali, the miscreants attacked the passengers and the driver. They overpowered the driver, took control of the steering wheel and looted away cash and goods worth about Tk one lakh from the passengers including ASP of Khatiajuri police circle in Netrakona and SI of Sherpur DB Police. The miscreants took away the wireless set and uniform of the ASP which was kept in a brief case.

The miscreants left the bus safely at Habirbari of the thana.

A case was lodged with Bhaluka thana in this regard.

Two dacoities were committed at village Baua in the same thana on October 12 night.

A gang of armed dacoits raided the house of Nabi Hossain and Abdul Baten of the village and looted away cash and goods worth about Tk 30 thousand.

Kotwali thana police recovered the body of Saifque, 10, son of Tofazzal Hossain of village Gopalnagar in the sadar thana from a paddy field of the village on October 9.

According to family and police sources Saifque was missing since the noon on October 8 and local people saw his body with several marks of injuries in the paddy field on the following day.

They informed it to the police who recovered the body and sent to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) morgue for autopsy.

A case was filed with Kotwali Police in this regard.

Mymensingh Railway Police recovered the body of an unidentified young man from the rooftop of Ekata Express, an inter-city train on October 9.

The body marks several injuries. Police recovered the body of a school boy from the River Brahmaputra near Shambhuganj bridge in the sadar thana on October 7.

Mizanur Rahman (Sunny), 14, son of Abdul Mannan of Shyamacharan Roy Road who was a student of Class eight of the zilla school was missing since the break of the morning shift class of the school on October 6.

Being informed by the local people police recovered the body from the above mentioned place on the following day.

Father of the victim filed a murder case against 12 classmates of Sunny with Kotwali police. Following the case police arrested one of the accuseds Banti. Others were absconding.

A housewife was axed to death by her husband's brother and village Banati in Nandail thana on October 11.

Police said a trouble originated between Ratan and his brother Manik's wife Sahera Khatun, 30, over family affairs. At one stage Ratan hit Sahera's head with an axe. Sahera was rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) where she succumbed to her injuries.

A gang of miscreants kidnapped a body from village Teligram and demanded Taka 3 lakh as ransom for release on October 8.

It is learnt that the miscreants were hiding outside the house of Sohrab Ali. When the rich houseowner came out of the house at the call of nature, the miscreants kidnapped the sleeping son of Azizul Hoque, 8, a student of Class three at dead of night. They demanded ransom amounting to Taka 3 lakh for his release and threatened to kill him in case of failure.

However, they were surrounded by the villagers at village Garbazail in Muktagachha thana. But the villagers were compelled to retreat in the face of gunfire shots from the kidnapers.

However, police recovered two abducted boys including Azizul from sadar and Muktagachha thana. Police also arrested seven persons with arms in this connection on October 16.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided the house of Muslemuddin at village Kazipara in sadar thana, rescued Azizul and another boy Fazlul Hoque, 7, of Ghatail thana in Tangail district.

Police arrested seven people identified as Salam, Kamrul, Sharif, Tofazzol, Selim, Muslemuddin and Sohrab. Police also seized three pipe guns from their possession.

Another seven-year-old school girl was abducted by some miscreants at village Beiltail in Nandail thana here recently. The girl was identified as Razia, daughter of Najar Ali. She was abducted on way to school, family sources said. But the victim is yet to be rescued.

A youngman identified as Ramjan Ali, 30, of village Zigachhiya in Dubaura thana was abducted on October 13.

A group of miscreants broke open the door of Rangan at dead of night when he was asleep. His wife was staying in his father-in-law's house during the incident.

The miscreants went away demanding Taka three lakh as ransom.

A youngman was beaten to death at village Savar Mantala in Nandail thana here recently. The victim was identified as Azizul Hoque, 30, son of Ashan Ali.

Police said, Azizul was severely beaten by Humayan, a guard of a fish farm on August 26. He was admitted to Nandail Health Complex. But due to lack of sufficient money for treatment, he was brought back home, where he died on September 12.



Beauty of Golden Bangladesh: The enchanting beauty of our beloved land can attract visitors from home and abroad during this ongoing Autumn season. This picture was taken from Ramnagar area in sadar thana of Magura district. —Star photo

Scarcity of seeds may hit Rabi farming

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Oct 25: Rabi crops cultivation in the district may face setback this season due to acute shortage of high yielding variety seeds and fertiliser, including TSP and SSP.

Besides, unusual rainfalls caused by depressions over the Bay in recent days are playing havoc with the cultivation, farmers said.

However, the Agriculture Extension Department has taken an ambitious programme to bring over 25 thousand hectares of land under Rabi farming. Farmers usually cultivate wheat, potato, onion and vegetables in Rabi season.

Unprecedented shortage of quality seeds has been prevailing in local markets, farmers said. Growers are mainly facing shortage of wheat seeds.

Dealers are selling seeds at higher prices, local farmers alleged. Seeds supplied by the BADC (Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation) are not sufficient, they observe.

Allegation has it that B. C. dealers are selling seeds in black markets.

On the other hand, scarcity of fertiliser has also been acute. According to knowledgeable sources, about 5,000 metric tons TSP and SSP are required during the current season for the Rabi cultivation.

A number of unscrupulous traders are selling inferior quality of Indian SSP in the name of imported TSP, local people alleged.

Local people have urged the authorities concerned to take immediate steps to ensure the smooth supply of quality seeds and fertilisers.

Kuakata — where sea offers spectacular sunrise and sunset

From Aroop Talukdar

BARISAL, Oct 25: Kuakata, with its 18 kilometres long and two kilometres wide sea beach is an important tourist resort in the country.

The vast Sundarbans near the Bay is another tourist spot. The Sundarbans rich with wild life resources is the largest mangrove forest in the world having unique natural beauty.

The government has taken up programmes to make Kuakata seashore as an attractive tourist spot, particularly for the foreign tourists.

Kuakata is situated at the lap of the Bay of Bengal with serene beauty of natural landscape. It is one of the rare sea beaches in the world from where scenes of both sunrise and sunset are visible.

There is another attraction for tourists here, they are 'Rakhain tribal people'. Their strange way of living and life style seem to be very interesting to modern people.

Kuakata seabeach is only 70 kilometres away from the Patuakhali district headquarters. To reach the beach area it needs nearly three hours by road. Sometimes it requires more time by riverine transports like launch or engine boats through zigzag river routes.

For the last few years, tourists from different places of our country as well as from foreign countries visit Kuakata with great enthusiasm, especially in the winter season and during the historical 'Rash' festival.

'Rash' is a religious festival for the Hindu community when several thousands of people come here to participate in the festival.

The long coconut gardens along the sandy sea beach has also created a very natural heavenly landscape.

The oldest 'Buddha Bihar' — Sreemangal Bihar in the southern parts of the country at Kuakata is another exciting feature here.

In moonlit nights the sound and glittering lights of the rolling waves in the sea seem to spark like diamonds. Such exciting scene makes the tourists spellbound.



Seeing is believing: Enchanting Kuakata sea beach attracts a large number of tourists from home and abroad every year. —Star photo



Not a Jainul's painting 1: This is not the famous painting of Jainul Abedin, but a typical scene of daily struggle of Jhenidah villagers. Rains have forced a villager to push his bullock cart loaded with jute sticks to make way through the muddy Saduhati-Saikkupa road while his son drives the cart. —Star photo by Delwar Kabir

Terrorists intimidating journalist

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Oct 25: A group of terrorists are intimidating a local journalist here.

K M Quamruzzaman Korban, Rajshahi University correspondent of vernacular daily the Inqilab, said terrorists have been threatening him since a news item regarding a flaw of the establishment department of the university was published in the paper on October 14.

Recently a group of unidentified young men raided my room in the university dormitory and threatened to sever my hands', the newsman said.

A general diary was lodged with Motihar thana in this connection.

Scholarship awarded to 3 students

FARIDPUR, Oct 25: Three meritorious students of the higher secondary classes at Sarada Sundary Mahila College were awarded with 'Md Azharuddin Al-Kadri Scholarship' in a function held on September 23 at the college premises, reports BSS.

The recipients are Nazma Afroz of XII Class Science, Busra Zaman of XII Class Humanities and Saleha Akhtar of XII Class Commerce. They secured top position in the first year final examinations.

The scholarship was introduced last year by the family members of late Md Azharuddin Al-Kadri who after retirement from Government service had served as teacher of English at this college in the late sixties. His family donated Taka one lakh to the college authorities to initiate the scholarship.

Prof Subhash Chandra Ghose, Principal of Rajendra College attended the function as the chief guest.

Rain damages Rabi crops

THAKURGAON, Oct 25: Heavy downpour accompanied by gusty wind on October 18 and 19 over Thakurgaon and Panchagarh districts caused damage to the Rabi crops and Aman paddy on a vast tract of land in the area, growers and agricultural department officers say, reports BSS.

Ripe and near-ripe paddy on several thousand hectares of land was either inundated or razed to the ground by rainwater and gusty wind.

Agriculture department sources said, about 40 per cent Rabi crops including cauliflower, cabbage, tomato, radish and other vegetables have been badly damaged.

Three murdered in Gopalganj

From Our Correspondent

GOPALGANJ, Oct 25: Three persons were murdered and 15 others injured here in separate incidents in the second week of this month.

A man was stabbed to death by miscreants at Kaghdaanga village under Kotailpara thana on October 12.

Family sources said Enamul Haque Sikder, 35, son of late Nooruddin Sikder, and his associates came under attack by a group of miscreants in the evening. Miscreants stabbed them indiscriminately, injuring five persons, besides Enamul. He died on the spot. The injured were admitted to Kotailpara thana Health complex in critical condition. A case was filed in this connection.

In another incident, a man was killed and 10 others were injured in a clash between two rival groups at Char Urhi village under Sadar thana on October 13. The dead was identified as Rafiq Gazi, 45, son of Makbul Gazi. The injured were admitted to hospital. A case was lodged.

In the third incident, an old man was killed by cousins at village Arua Kandi under Kasiani thana on October 15.

Family sources said Sirajul Haque Mollah, 60, son of late Fazlul Haque Mollah of village Arua Kandi under Kasiani thana, was stabbed to death allegedly by his cousins Hemayet Mollah and Mozaffar Mollah. The miscreants attacked him with sharp weapons. The old man died on the spot.

Local people have attributed the murder to land dispute. A case was lodged.

Body found from train compartment

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Oct 25: Body of an unidentified man was recovered from a compartment of a goods train at Rajshahi station on Thursday night.

Railway police suspected the man was strangled. The body was sent to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

The train reached here from Rahanpur station under Chapainawabganj district.

Faizunnesa's contributions recalled

COMILLA, Oct 25: Contribution of Nawab Faizunnesa Chowdhurani in the awakening of women and spread of education was recalled at a discussion held on Friday at Nawab Faizunnesa Girls' High School premises here, reports BSS.

Organised by Nari Dipita, a women rights organisation, the meeting was presided over by Dr Zobaida Hannan, president of Nari Dipita and Founder-president of the Comilla Diabetic Centre.

AHM Mohiuddin, a researcher, on the life of Faizunnesa and former Principal of BNFF Girls' College, Director of Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) Khairul Kabir, Director (Research) of BARD Nurunnahar Kabir, Headmistress of the school Setara Begum, Nasiruddin Mahmud of Bakrabad Gas Company, Ajmeri Begum, a local social worker, Editor of the oldest local weekly Adod Shamsunnahar Rabbi, Syed Mohammad Shahedul Huq, great grand son of the Nawab and Papri Mazumdar of Nari Dipita discussed various aspects of the life and works of Nawab Faizunnesa.

Works on 633 uplift projects progressing

JOYPURHAT, Oct 25: Works on 633 development projects undertaken in 1998-99 in five thanas are progressing fairly well under Food-for-World and Test Relief programmes, reports UNB.

Officials said works on 451 rural infrastructure maintenance and repair projects have already been completed.

They said 99 per cent works on 94 projects while 95 per cent on 77 others and 94 per cent works on 11 Ashrayan projects have been finished. The remaining works are likely to be completed by the current month.

Under the rural infrastructure maintenance programme, 320 projects have been implemented in Sadar, Panchibi, Akkelpur, Khetlal, Kalai, Joypurhat pourasava and Panchibi pourasaba using 406 metric tons of wheat.

Eighty-four other projects have been completed in Akkelpur, Khetlal, Kalai and Joypurhat pourasaba under the special rural infrastructure maintenance programme using 208 metric tons of wheat.

Under the rural infrastructure repair programme, 47 projects have been implemented in Sadar, Kalai, Akkelpur and Khetlal thanas spending 764 metric tons of wheat.

Four persons committed suicide by taking poison recently.

The victims were identified as Swapan, 25, son of Birendranath of Bhaithagan under Ishwarganj thana, Rabeya Khatun, 52, wife of Abdul Mazid in village Talanga under Nandail thana, Golam Mustama, 38, an operator of Shapia Cinema Hall in Bhaluka and Tahmina Khandaker, 25, daughter of advocate Shamsul Hoque of Nowmahal area in Mymensingh town. Tahmina Khandaker was a student of masters final year of Ananda Mohan Government College. All of them allegedly committed suicide due to family affairs. Three separate cases were filed with the concerned police stations in this regard.

Journalists' training course
A seven-day long training course for the local journalists organised by Press Institute of Bangladesh concluded at the local press club recently.

The training course was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Mymensingh Rafiqul Islam and was addressed, among others, by Ziauddin Ahmed, Mosharraf Hossain, Prof Shamsul Kadir, Aliur Rahman and Sudhansu Sekhar Roy. A total of 20 journalists from different national and regional dailies participated in the training course.