

News snaps

Father allegedly killed by son

RAJBARI, Oct 27: A father was allegedly brutally killed by his son on Monday in Bilnayarbad village under sadar thana following a quarrel over sharing of land property, reports UNB. Family sources said Abdul Jalil, 65, allotted his lands among his seven sons recently. The quarrel ensued in the morning when his sixth son Babu Mollah, 24, asked the father to give his share by registering a deed. On refusal, Babu got furious and hacked his father to death. The body was brought to the hospital morgue for autopsy.

Efforts on to uproot terrorism

JOYPURHAT, Oct 27: Home, Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim on Monday said the government is firm to uproot terrorism from the country at any cost, reports BSS.

Addressing a big public meeting organised by the district Awami League here, the minister said the general people were held hostage by terrorists as General Ershad and Khaleda Zia harboured them for years to win elections. But the present government has taken effective steps including the combing operations to annihilate terrorists, he said. He urged the people to help the law enforcing agency personnel to curb terrorism. He assured the local people of setting up a 2,000-line digital telephone exchange in Joypurhat in the next financial year. Earlier, the minister addressed another public meeting at Mujibur Rahman College field in Akkelpur thana.

27 injured in Sirajganj clash

SIRAJGANJ, Oct 27: At least 27 people, including five women, were injured in clashes between two groups of people at Malkandi village in Balkuchi thana over a trifle matter on Sunday, reports UNB.

Of the injured, 15 were admitted to sadar hospital and other clinics. Of them conditions of 10 people, including three women, were stated to be critical. According to witnesses, the clash ensued as a sequel to a trifle incident of altercation among two local youths over ferrying at Malkandi ghat. Later, the matter took a serious turn when two groups — one led by Aziz Talukdar and another led by Asad Mirza of the village — attacked each other with lethal weapons, which left 10 people injured in the morning. On same night another 17 people were injured when the supporters of Asad Mirza attacked their opponents. They also damaged and looted five houses.

Minister opens Education Week

FARIDPUR, Oct 27: Environment and Forest Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury on Monday opened the "Education Week-2000" in the district town with a call to the students to equip themselves with the qualities to serve society and the mankind, reports BSS.

The main theme of this year's observance of the education week is "Education for Better Living." Holding of education rally, education fair, adjustment of best students through subject-wise competition, best educational institution and education conference are the highlights of the week long programme. Inaugurating the programme at a simple function, the minister said securing degree is not enough, rather welfare to the mankind should be the motto of education. She advised the students to read the lives of great men to imbibe themselves with their ideals of serving the people.

Gamblers arrested

NETRAKONA, Oct 27: Netrakona Police arrested a total of 13 gamblers from a gambling den at Mahi area here on October 21, reports BSS.

Police sources here said, acting on a tip-off, a police squad of Netrakona Kotwali Police Station cordoned a house at Mahi area and arrested the gamblers. Police also recovered gambling money amounting to taka 5047 and six sets of playing cards from their possession. The arrested gamblers were produced before Netrakona Sadar Magistrate Court on October 22. The magistrate rejected their bail petitions and sent them to jail custody, police sources added.

Food Day observed

KISHOREGANJ, Oct 27: World Food Day was observed in a befitting manner recently, reports BSS.

District food office arranged elaborate programmes to observe the day. The programmes included rally, seminar and discussion. A discussion on Food and Food Problem in the country was held in the Food Office. Presided over by the district Controller of Food, the meeting was attended by all thana food officers and inspectors, district level officials and elite. The speakers emphasised on increasing more production of food.

Journey by cycle

THAKURGAON, Oct 27: Three youths who began journey across the country by cycle from Dhaka on October 1 to create awareness among the people about Arsenic problem arrived here on October 26, reports BSS.

The cyclists are Kazi Annuul Haque Jewel, a B.Com student of Shahid Suhrawardy College, AZM Manzulul Haque Rubel, final year honours students of Jagannath University College and Kazi Zahurul Islam Roni, second year honours student of Jagannath University College. Meanwhile, they visited Tangail, Sirajganj, Bogra, Gaibandha, Kurigram, Nilphamari, Panchagarh, Tetulia and Banglabandha. Talking to newsmen at Thakurgaon Press Club they explained the purpose of their tour and said that their slogan is 'Drink Arsenic-free Water'. They said that the central committee of Bangladesh Manabdhikar Commission has organised the tour.

Khelaghor Asor biennial confce

RANGAMATI, Oct 27: Fourth biennial conference of Rangamati Spandan Khelaghor Asor was held on Monday at Bonorupa Forest Colony in the town, reports BSS.

Altai Hussain, Conservator of Forests, Rangamati circle was the chief guest. Divisional Forest Officer of Chittagong Hill Tracts, South Forest Division, Tapan Kumar Dey and Municipal Ward Commissioner Zebun Nesa Rahim were the special guests while Chairman of the Conference Preparatory Committee, Rafiqul Islam was in the chair. Addressing the conference, the chief guest hailed the unique role of Khelaghor Asor in inspiring the people to uphold the spirit of liberation war in the prevailing polluted social environment. President of Spandan, Rangamati unit of Khelaghor Asor, journalist Sunil Kanti Dey, in his speech, said that this organisation has been trying to guide the children and youths of the society to the right path of living.

Work progressing

BARISAL, Oct 27: Construction work of Dumki Agriculture College in sadar thana of Patuakhali district is expected to be completed soon, reports BSS.

On an average, 95 per cent work of this institution has already been completed till September, 1999. The project includes construction of students' hostels for males and females, quarters for teachers and officers, guest house, auditorium, gymnasium, library, academic building, mosque, medical centre, residence of the principal, farm building and purchasing of two buses for the students, two microbuses and a pick up. Besides, construction of a Shaheed Minar, boundary wall, earthwork, drainage system, roads, repairing of road and digging of pond is progressing fast now.

Agri-rehabilitation programme

SHERPUR, Oct 27: The government has taken up an agriculture rehabilitation programme in five northern districts to recoup the farm output losses caused by last year's flood, reports UNB.

Agriculture Extension Department (AED) will implement the programme with financial assistance from OISCA Bangladesh, a Japan-based donor organisation. Under the programme, some 4,140 poor and marginal farmers in 40 thanas of Sherpur, Rangpur, Kurigram, Gaibandha and Bogra districts will be provided with seeds of various winter crops. AED has already distributed seeds of radish, cabbage, sweet pumpkin, watermelon, lettuce and spinach among the growers of 1,130 villages in each of five thanas.

Uplift works progressing

PATUAKHALI, Oct 27: Works on 424 development projects under rural infrastructure maintenance programme began this week, reports UNB.

Officials said the authorities have sanctioned 603 mts of wheat for implementing the projects. The project works included reconstruction of rural roads, construction of bridges and renovation of educational institutions.

Two with firearms arrested

GAIBANDHA, Oct 27: Police in separate drives in Gobindaganj thana arrested two people along with firearms and ammunition of Sunday, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided the house of Abdus Sattar at village Chet' Sohagi and recovered two pistols, three bombs and three rounds of bullet. One person named Saiful was arrested in this connection. In another incident, police arrested another person named Moulal Islam from a house in Raghunathpur thana along with a pipe gun.



Water is life: An acute scarcity of water has been prevailing in Chittagong city now-a-days. As a result life of the city dwellers has become very miserable. This picture testifies the truth. Residents of Lalkhan Bazaar area waiting for water keeping their pitchers serially at 2 am.

Workshop on NEMAP-Ctg Hill Dists

Larma for people's participatory environmental action plan

RANGAMATI, Oct 27: Chairman of Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council (CHTRC) Jyotindra Bodhipriya Lama (Santu Larma) on Tuesday emphasised the need for formulation of a pragmatic environmental management action plan for maintaining ecological balance of the hilly region, reports BSS.

Santu Larma was in favour of a people's participatory environmental action plan for the improvement of fragile ecology of the hill districts and betterment of the livelihood of the people of the region.

He was addressing a workshop on "National Environment Management Action Plan (NEMAP) — Chittagong Hill Districts" at tribal cultural institute auditorium here.

Environment Secretary Syed Marghubur Murshed, UNDP Resident Representative Andre Klap, former Chairman of the

Defunct Rangamati Hill District Council Gautam Dewan, Semp Programme Coordinator Dr Mahfuzul Haq and Regional Council Member Rupayan Dewan spoke at the inaugural session.

Chairman of the Taskforce on Repatriated Tribals and Internal Refugees Rehabilitation Affairs Dipankar Talukdar MP, Raja Debashish Roy, UNDP Assistant Resident Representative Shireen Kamal Sayeed, CHT Affairs Ministry Secretary Shakwat Hossain, Vice Chairman of CHT Development Board Tara Charan Chakma, took part in the concluding session.

Andre Klap said unless all relevant people are involved in managing the natural resources in a responsive way, there is every possibility that the fragile eco-system may be taxed beyond repair and ultimately be lost.

Andre Klap said between 1990 and '95 when NEMPA was being formulated, the hill tracts region could not be covered, given the then prevailing situation.

He said the peace accord with respect to the region has given all of us the opportunity to work together in conducting what is known as the NEMAP exercise undertaken by the ministry of environment and forest and supported by UNDP.

Syed Murshed said environment ministry is determined to improve the environment of the CHT region and launching of this workshop is the beginning of the planning exercise.

Dipankar Talukdar, MP said after the peace accord a window of opportunities has opened up which should be explored by all development partners and agencies.

Shakwat Hossain underscored the need for sustainable development of the hilly districts.

Shireen Kamal said the CHT component of SEMP will enable for identification and prioritisation of actions needed for environment and natural resources management that are aimed at sustainable future development of this particular region.

FEJB Chairman Quamrul Islam Chowdhury said traditional knowledge of the people should be highlighted in the action plan.

Dr. Mahfuzul Haque said a total of 15 grassroots workshops will be organized in the region in next six months for eliciting people's opinion.

Over 150 participants divided into three groups prepared a workshop plan, which was approved at the concluding session.

Foodgrains for flood victims in N-region

From A Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Oct 27: One lakh and 70 thousand metric tons of foodgrains were allocated under Kabikha and Test Relief projects in the northern region to address food crisis following the recent floods which have affected crops on a vast tracts of land.

The government allocated 1 lakh 20 thousand metric tons food grains under Kabikha project and 50 thousand metric tons under TR project, official sources said.

Besides, 1.5 lakh more VGF (Vulnerable Group Feeding) cards were allocated, in addition to 3 lakh cards allocated earlier.

Deputy Commissioners have been asked to Kabikha project immediately following the recession of floodwaters, the Relief Ministry sources said.

Biennial confce of Chandpur BNP

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Oct 27: Biennial conference of Chandpur district unit of BNP was held on Friday.

The conference elected S A Sultan Titu and Alamgir Haider Khan MP President and General Secretary respectively of the district unit for the next two-year term.

Held at Chandpur Hasan Ali High School playground, the conference was attended by a large number of party delegates from seven thanas. Prof Abdul Mannan, Joint Secretary General of BNP, inaugurated the conference.

Among others, BNP leaders MK Anwar, Md Shahjahan MP, Major General (Rtd) Mahabubur Rahman, Major General (Rtd) Z A Khan, Advocate Majibur Rahman, Khandakar Abdus Salam were present on the occasion.

Wildlife in Cox's Bazar on verge of extinction

From Abdul Monayem Khan

COX'S BAZAR, Oct 27: Wildlife particularly mammals are gradually disappearing from Cox's Bazar forest region.

Rampant poaching and unabated deforestation, is threatening the existence of wild animals here and also causing imbalance in eco-system in Chittagong Hill Districts.

It is learnt that 21 species of wildlife have already disappeared and 42 other species are on the verge of extinction.

Experts said, poaching, expansion of human settlements, industrialisation and extension of arable lands are the reasons behind the natural degradation.

According to forest officials, 21 species of extinct animals include Nil Gai, wild buffalo, wild cow, big horned deer, wolf and three types of rhinoceros.

The species gradually disappeared mainly after the liberation of the country and had been totally wiped out in the last 12 years. Beside, the number of tigers, elephants, deer, monkeys, gharials and dolphins are also decreasing, they added.

The number of wild animals is decreasing every day in five out of seven thanas of Cox's Bazar district due to various reasons for quite a long time. Teknaf, Ukhia, Ramu, Chakoria and Cox's Bazar Sadar thanas of the district were once teeming with different types of wild animals, such as fox, jackal, wild cat and wolf.

But the animals are now found rarely. These animals mainly live on rats and harmful insects and thus saved the crops. But during the last three decades the number of wild animals have decreased at an alarming proportion.

The population of the district has been increasing at an

alarming rate. Every year new human settlements are established by clearing the jungles. Felling of trees for firewood have badly affected the habitat of wild animals.

According to experts, in Bangladesh there are 105 species of mammals, 567 species of birds, 129 species of reptiles and 14 types of amphibians which constitute a rich wild life resource.

Local people urged the concerned authorities to take

proper steps to save the wild animals from further extinction to maintain a healthy environment.

On the other hand, indiscriminate felling of fruit bearing trees caused a serious threat to ecology and fruit production of the Cox's Bazar district. Fruit bearing trees in all the seven thanas of the district are on the verge of extinction, due to large-scale felling.

According to sources, Cox's Bazar sadar, Ramu, Ukhia, Kutubdia, Mohekhali, Chakoria and Teknaf thanas of the district were once famous for abundant production of jackfruit, lechi, mango, plam, guava and pineapple. But now these trees are very few in number due to indiscriminate felling.

As the economic activities of the rural people here is rapidly decreasing, they are compelled to sell their fruit bearing trees to a section of traders.

Agricultural experts said, the district situated in a region where fruit bearing trees grow with minimum care and cost. Previously a huge quantity of surplus fruits had been marketed by the growers.

Some farmers said, they took loans from the money lenders by mortgaging their trees to meet their daily expenses. They failed to refund the loans and ultimately they lost their trees after a few years.

It may be mentioned that there are 50 brickfields and 60 saw-mills here.

Hundreds of wood-loaded trucks are seen on way to different areas of the country every day. On the other hand, planting of fruit bearing trees is rare, causing ecological imbalance which is changing the rainfall and weather pattern of the district.

Acute shortage of draft animals in Gopalganj

From Our Correspondent

GOPALGANJ, Oct 27: Farmers here have been facing acute shortage of draft animals, causing adverse impact on crop cultivation.

About 40 per cent cultivators here do not have bullocks for tilling farmlands. Poor farmers plough their lands borrowing bullocks from better off farmers.

In local markets, price of a pair of bullocks ranges between Tk 9,000 and Tk 14,500.

The crisis has been acute following last year's deluge, farmers said.

Farmers in remote areas said they do not have easy access to veterinary doctors and necessary medicines.

Almost every year cattle diseases break out in an epidemic form in different parts of the district, decreasing the number of draft animals.

Besides, indiscriminate slaughtering of cows and bullocks has been attributed to the scarcity of draft animals.

Rains affect T-Aman in Magura

From A Correspondent

MAGURA, Oct 27: Heavy rains have affected transplanted Aman crops on over two thousand hectares of land in four thanas.

Agriculture Extension Department (AED) sources said heavy rainfalls from October 17 to October 19 affected transplanted Aman paddy on 2,195 hectares of land, casting adverse impact on production target.

Thana-wise break-up of affected crop land is: 596 hectares of land in Sadar thana, 222 hectares in Sreepur, 1,117 hectares in Shalukha and 260 hectares in Mohammadpur thana.

21 kg tumour removed!

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Oct 27: A tumour weighing 21 kilograms was removed from the lower abdomen of a housewife here recently.

A team of physicians headed by Azizul Islam, head of Gynaecology Department of Rangpur Medical College Hospital succeeded in removing the tumour.

Housewife Azimun Khatoun, 32, of Uttar Patowa village under Gobindaganj thana, was suffering from pain in her lower abdomen for a long time.

Blood donation programme

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, Oct 27: A rally was brought out here which was organised by 'Rotary Club of Mymensingh' to observe its 'Year Launching Programme, 1999-2000' recently.

The colourful rally was started from the local Muslim Institute which terminated at Mymensingh Press Club after parading the main thoroughfares of the town.

The rally was participated, among others, by AHM Khalequzzaman and Saiful Islam Bhuiyan, President and General Secretary of the club respectively. Md Abdur Rahim, Abul Hasnat, Iqbal Amin, engineer Anwar Morshed and Sobudha Das. Some 54 Rotarians participated in the rally.

Earlier, a blood donation programme and tree plantation programme were also organised by the Rotary Club of Mymensingh.

The Rotarians planted 100 saplings of different species on the bank of a pond at Akua Madrasa Quarter of the town.

Chehlum



By Staff Correspondent

Ashrafunnesa Begum, the eldest daughter of late Aqa Md. Abdul Ghani, eminent social worker and educationist of Shariatpur and wife of late Habibur Rahman died of heart disease on September 21, 1999 at the Suhrawardy Hospital.

She left behind four sons, four daughters, grandchildren and many well-wishers and relatives.

A milad will be held on Friday at her village home Damudye Sikder Bari in Shariatpur district.

Discussion on Khaja Mainuddin Chisti held

By Staff Correspondent

A six-day programme, which included discussion, 'milad mahfil' and rendering kawaqli songs, on the occasion of Urs of Khaja Mainuddin Chisti concluded at Khaja Kutir in Bhatalia area in Sylhet town recently.

Sylhet Municipal Chairman Badar Uddin Ahmed Quamran, Mollargaon UP Chairman Md Maman Mian, Municipal Commissioner Md Maksud Bakht, Mohammad Ibrahim, Md Abdul Mannan, Anwar Hossain Anay, Shah Alam, Junaid Khan, Abdul Karim, Nunu Bax, Syed Emran, Babul Babu, Abu Shahed Chisti, Arman Ahmed Shiplu, Abdus Sattar, Saek Ahmed, and Tajuddin, among others, were present in the programme.

which began on October 11 in the house of Khaja Pir Jamir Uddin Chisti.

Artists Kawal Raushan Jalalabadi and Shaheen rendered kawaqli songs.

Truck labourer killed in accident

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Oct 27: A truck labourer was killed in an accident caused by a fork-lift inside Chittagong Port Jetty on Monday morning, port sources said.

The labourer was trapped to death when a bundle of steel coil fell on him from the fork lift, at 10 am on Monday inside the port.

The truck drivers in an immediate reaction, suspended carrying cargo from the port for about an hour.

Chandpur

Mass education programme

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Oct 27: Chandpur district administration has undertaken a pilot project to make the district illiterate free by 2000.

Accordingly 70 training centres have been opened in different thanas to impart education to the illiterate people. About 2 lakh 50 thousand illiterate people of seven thanas will be brought under the scheme.

Workshop

A day-long workshop was held at the local thana parishad auditorium recently by the Directorate of Social Welfare in cooperation with 'The Hunger Project' Dhaka.

The workshop was addressed by Badiul Alam Majumder, Country Director of the Hunger Project, Md Rafiqul Islam Sarker, News Editor of BTV Sayed Ahmed and Rezaul Karim of Social Welfare Department. About 200 members of different voluntary organisations of Social Welfare Department participated in the workshop.

Rat killing drive

Chandpur District Agriculture Extension Department has launched a month-long rat killing drive in all seven thanas.

The campaign was inaugurated by GC Halder, Deputy Director, Fisheries Institute. The campaign was addressed, among others, by Md Jahurul Islam, Deputy Director of Agriculture, Md Habibur Rahman Khan. A large number of farmers, Ansars, VDP, UP chairmen and members attended the launching ceremony.

Six-yr-old girl raped

A six-year-old daughter of a poor woman of Chandpur thana was raped recently by an aged person Jabbar Mal, 60.

According to Chandpur thana, police arrested Jabbar Mal on October 16 and two other persons. The incident occurred when the girl was playing in a field. The rapist allured her to his house and raped.

Cigarettes seized

Police seized 36 cartons of Gold Leaf cigarettes from Anjad Gazi and Abul Gazi of village Bagadi in Chandpur sadar thana.

According to Chandpur police, the alleged criminals had stolen the cigarettes from a shop at Keraniganj in Dhaka. Police arrested both the criminals and seized all the cigarettes worth about Tk 9 lakh.

Launch dacoity

A launch dacoity along Narayanganj-Matlab route was committed on board a passenger launch 'Nitu' recently.

The dacoits looted money, gold and other valuables worth about Tk 4 lakh from the passengers. According to Matlab police, the launch was coming from Narayanganj to Matlab with about 200 passengers. The dacoits were travelling in the launch in the guise of passengers. When the launch reached at Gajaria, the dacoits attacked the passengers with lethal weapons. After looting the valuables, the dacoits got down at Kishoreganj char near Munshiganj safely leaving the launch on the bank. They were 16 in number. There was no security guard in the launch.

Health Day observed

World Health Day was observed here in a befitting manner recently.

A meeting was held at Chandpur thana auditorium. Shikha Sarker, TNO, Chandpur Sadar, presided over the meeting. Md Razaul Karim, DC, Chandpur attended the meeting as the chief guest. The meeting was addressed, among others, by Jahurul Islam, Deputy Director, Agriculture Extension Department, Md Rafiqul Alam, District Food Controller, Md Abul Kalam, ADC, and Advocate Jahurul Islam.

Death condoled

A condolence meeting organised by Bangladesh Awami League, Chandpur district was held at Hasan Ali High School ground recently on the occasion of the sad demise of advocate Sirajul Islam who died on October 10.

Advocate Sirajul Islam was the district president of Chandpur Awami League. The condolence meeting was addressed, among others, by State Minister Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, Awami League Central Presidium Member Prof Fazul Haque, advocate Fazul Haque Sarker, ex-MP AB Siddique, Prof Mollah Riasatullah, advocate Abdul Momin Khan, Md Yusuf Gazi, Chairman, Chandpur pourashava, S A Sultan Titu, convener BNP, Chandpur district unit.

Phensidyl, hemp seized

The river police headed by Iftekar Hasan seized 220 bottles of phensidyl from the launch terminal.

Besides, police also seized huge quantities of hemp amounting to Tk 30,000 from the launch terminal. Police arrested Atiqul Islam, 18. He was on way to Barisal from Comilla.



Fulkuri Asor, a children's welfare association, arranged recently a get-together of children and guardians at Rajshahi Zilla Parishad auditorium. A K M Ajharul Islam, Professor of Physics Department and S M Habibur Rahman, Professor of Economics Department of Rajshahi University addressing on the occasion.

— Star photo