

## Gaibandha DIARY

### Two killed in road accident

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Oct 8: Two persons including one woman were killed and 20 others sustained injuries when a speeding night coach turned turtle and fell down into a road side ditch on Bogra-Rangpur highway recently.

According to police, a Kurigram bound night coach was proceeding through Kalitola under Gobindganj upazila. Eye witnesses said when the coach was taking side to avoid clash with a speeding truck at a turning point, the coach suddenly skidded off the road and fell down into the road side ditch.

Rup Kumar, 26, and an unidentified woman aged 50 died on the spot and 20 others received injuries. All of them were treated at Gobindganj Health Complex.

A case was filed with Gobindganj police station.

### Husband sells wife!

A husband allegedly sold out his wife to another person at a cost of Taka 10,000 due to abject poverty at village Dulal under Sunderganj upazila.

Bulu Mia got married to Fatema Begum of village Dulal under Sunderganj upazila in 1992. Since then the couple was living with acute poverty. Being fed up Bulu Mia sold his wife to Haider Ali of the same village in exchange of Tk 10,000. Since then Haider was developed illicit relationship with her.

Very recently a quarrel developed between a vendor and Haider. As such the matter of illicit relationship was exposed locally.

With a view to resolving the problem a village arbitration was set up at the homestead of Dr Moslem Ali on September 25. There it was decided to pay the husband a fine amounting to Taka 20,000 and Haider Ali an amount of Taka 15,000 respectively.

### Innocent people fall victims

Filing of false cases under Woman and Child Repression Act has been increasing in the northern districts.

Innocent people are falling victims of such acts.

According to the court informations, 90 per cent of such cases are found false during trial. Such cases are allegedly being filed just to harass the opponents. This has become a common weapon of village touts, musclemen, toll collectors and influential persons.

# Digital telephone system in Natore

## PM's promise yet to be fulfilled

From Anwar Ali

NATORE, Oct 8: Telephone subscribers in Natore, suffering from various shortcomings of the outdated analogue system, are eagerly looking forward to the installation of a modern digital system as promised by the prime minister.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had assured the people during her visit to Natore in 1996 that a digital telephone system would be introduced soon. The Minister for Telecommunications Mohammad Nasim had also promised to set up a digital telephone exchange in Natore.

According to their commitment the telephone system here should be modernised within the year 2000. But, local officials say the work may start in January, 2001, though the infrastructural development has already been completed. A Chinese company is likely to provide the technical support.

Meanwhile, telephone users have been suffering due to technical faults like a sudden loss of function, loss of dial tone, cross-connections and failure to get the right number inspite of correct dialling.

When the users complain to the authorities concerned, they are told that the analogue system is old and unreliable, and that the only way to improve the situation is

introduction of the modern digital system.

Moreover, overbilling and mismanagement are plaguing local telephone exchanges. There is no billing office here. The bills are processed from Rajshahi office. So, subscribers have to go to Rajshahi with complaints.

Wrong connections and noisy sounds are regular phenomenon now which cause immense sufferings to the subscribers.

Local businessmen say their trade and commerce with the capital and other commercial places have become hazardous due to lack of smooth telelink facility.

Besides, local journalists are facing problems as they often fail to reach their news items to their concerned offices through telephone and fax lines.

People of Natore urge the authorities concerned to introduce digital telephone system in the district as early as possible. They also hope that government will soon take steps in this regard.

Meanwhile, most of the card phone booths here have been buying out of order from months together due to lack of proper maintenance.

At least 10 cardphone booths were installed by the

Telephone Shilpa Sangstha (TSS) in the town and other five upazila headquarters to provide better telephone service.

Local users say, the cardphone service has now deteriorated in recent time due to negligence of the TSS and T and T men in maintaining the lines and machines, though it was satisfactory in the beginning.

The users complained that the technicians, responsible for maintenance of the cardphone booths are not always available here even after repeated reminders by the officials.

Some of the sets have turned into 'unit eating machines', they said adding that these are now eating up more units than usual when they made calls.

Even valid cards are being rejected by some machines as those are out of order.

Cardphone users have urged the authorities concerned to take measures to correct the sets.

In Natore town now, out of five booths, only two are serving people while out of five booths in five upazilas, only three are working.

## Chuadanga flood victims need food, water

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Oct 8: Severe flood crisis has been prevailing in three flood affected upazilas and two municipalities of Chuadanga district.

Besides, severe drinking water crisis has also been prevailing in all the flood shelters. Even there is no latrine and urinal system in these camps.

The flood victims who have taken shelter in the camps are responding to the call of nature in the nearby open places and bushes near the camps.

When this correspondent visited over 50 flood shelters of the two most flood affected

upazilas and municipalities Damurhuda and Jibannagar and two most affected municipalities like Darsana and Jibannagar found the flood victims' misery. They are now in severe crisis of food, and water and lack of health and sanitation facilities.

There are also reports of looting relief materials by an organised gang in some relief camps.

In most of the flood victims are living under the open sky.

There is also allegedly massive irregularities and mismanagement in distribution of government relief materials.



Flood victims throng for relief at Jibonnagar College flood shelter in Chuadanga district. ---Star photo

## An ambitious target

PIROJPUR, Oct 8: An ambitious target has been set to free the district from illiteracy by mid-2001 under the government-sponsored TLM programme, reports UNB.

Meanwhile, Primary and Mass Education Department have given some 23,000 illiterate people of Sadar upazila the knowledge of letters under a pilot project.

Inspired with the success, the department has taken up another project. Shikha diptaya Projapur, under the Total Literacy Movement (TLM) programme for the remaining five upazilas of the district.

Under the programme, a total of 2,29,495 illiterate people, including 1,02,500 women of 11-45 age group, will be acquainted with letters this fiscal.

To make the programme a success, a massive campaign has been launched in the district in addition to forming executive committees comprising of the Deputy Commissioner, politicians, professionals, public representatives and people from all walks of life.

Official sources said it will take Tk 7.18 crore to implement the

programme.

They said the illiterate people would be taught in two shifts: women in the afternoon and men at night. Some 7,660 centres, including 3,760 for women, have been set up in five upazilas and two municipalities.

A total of 7,660 teachers and 515 supervisors have already been appointed to conduct the mass literacy programme.

A monitoring cell with computer and other modern facilities has also been opened in the office of the Deputy Commissioner, the officials said.

### Relief operation

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Oct 8: British American Tobacco, Bangladesh (BATB) has been distributing relief materials among the flood victims of greater Kushtia and Jhenidah districts.

The tobacco company, which started its relief operation on September 29, is distributing dry food and medicine among the affected people of Jibannagar, Kusumpur, Mohepur, Telupli and other remote areas of the districts.

## 4 outlaws held in Rajshahi village

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Oct 8: Local people on Wednesday night caught four activists of outlawed Sarbahara Party with arms and ammunition in a remote shoal area in Bagha upazila and handed them over to police.

Police said locals led by Gargari UP chairman Azizul Azam caught the four Sarbahara men from house of Lalul of Char Kalidashali village and handed them over to police on Thursday.

The outlaws—identified as Belal and Milan alias Asad of Bheramara upazila of Kushtia, Nurul Islam of Daulatpur upazila of Kushtia district and Rupchan of Kalidashali in Bagha upazila—had taken shelter in the village following raid in the southern region. They used to visit Lalul.

The arms and ammunition recovered from them include two revolvers, two shutter guns and 15 rounds of bullets. Police rushed to the spot and arrested them. A case was filed in this connection.

## A city of garbage

SYLHET, Oct 8: The district town has turned into a 'city of garbage' due to piling up of huge garbage on the road, reports UNB.

According to the municipality officials, 150 tons of garbage is deposited here every day, of which only 30 to 40 tons are removed.

It said population of the municipality area increased largely since its inception in 1878, but conservancy service is not improved proportionately. At present, six lakh people are living in 13 wards of municipality area.

The municipality area lacks necessary dustbins, forcing the dwellers to dump their wastage haphazardly on the roads.

Municipality authority warned the dwellers on several occasions to dump their wastage into the dustbins but they hardly pay heed in this regard.

Besides, the municipality lacks a disposing place of garbage. Shortage of manpower and vehicles is making it impossible to clean the town.

Officials said the municipality is working with five trucks in removing the garbage instead of its requirement of 45 trucks.

Garbage are dumped in the municipality's own disposing place at Lalmatia but the area is shrinking due to rapid urbanisation.

Farmers here alleged that cultivation on 3,000 to 4,000 acres of arable land is being hampered due to dumping of some solid things, such as polythene, iron, tin and glass.

Local people demanded to stop dumping garbage on Lalmatia haor to save it and save the people from pollution, but the authorities are yet to consider the matter.

A source of the municipality said that a special project proposal on infrastructure development and conservancy system was sent to the higher authority to clean the town.

## Depositors lay siege to Faridpur ITCL office

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Oct 8: Hundreds of money depositors laid siege to the local branch office of Islamic Trade and Commerce Limited (ITCL) located in Goalchamot area of the town recently demanding withdrawal of money they had deposited with ITCL being allured of higher rate of interest.

In view of reports published in a section of national dailies to the fact that ITCL is going to be wound up for deceiving its customers, the depositors who have become scared of losing their deposits with the institution thronged at the office premises to get back their deposited money.

However, the officials of ITCL assured them that they would get all the money if they sincerely want to withdraw the same. However, police have been employed there to avert any untoward incident.

It is reported that some hoodlums of the area taking advantage of this situation are trying to fish in the troubled water.

Our Gaibandha Correspondent reports: The employees of Northern Agro-Marketing Company (NAMCO), an allied organisation of ITCL situated in different places under Gaibandha district fled away together with their belonging in fear of public attack.

The employees of NAMCO in the Bridge Road area fled away at night recently. While fleeing one

person was caught by the people at the bus terminal. Later on the victim was handed over to police.

The agitated depositors attacked ITCL godown at Pahashbari and assaulted its manager Md Ali Hossain. The people demanded immediate return of their deposit. The manager, however, tactfully managed the situation.

Meanwhile he sought help of the upazila administration and later on police sealed up the godown. The manager, however, fled away to avert the situation.

On the other hand the branch manager of NAMCO, Bonarpura branch under Shaghata upazila fled away. People broke the signboard of the office.



Horse driven carriage 'Tumtum' was once the only mode of transport in rural Bangladesh. People from far flung areas of the country used to travel from various places through this carriage. Even the ancient *zamindars* also travelled through 'Tumtum' which was once a luxury carriage. At the advent of modern age buses, auto-rickshaws, tempos and other vehicles have captured the place of the 'luxury transport'. Ultimately 'Tumtums' have disappeared from everywhere. People who earned their living by driving 'Tumtums' have shifted to other professions. Even many turned destitutes. But Shahar Ali of Dostpara Monakhazli village under Tarash upazila in Chalan Beel area of Sirajganj district is an exception. He could not desert his paternal profession. 'Tumtum' is his only source of income. Each passenger travelling from Nimgachhi to Gulta pays Taka 10. He informed this correspondent that he maintains a family of nine children earning Taka 300 every day. Photo shows Shahar Ali carrying passengers through his carriage.

---Star photo by Akhteruzzaman Bablu

## News snaps

### Durga Puja in Moulvibazar

From Our Correspondent

MOULVIBAZAR, Oct 8: Durga Puja, the greatest religious festival of the Hindus of the country, is being celebrated here like other places with religious fervour and gaiety.

Sunday was last day of the five-day long festival. Many idols were erected in different parts of the district where a large number of devotees were visiting every day. 300-year-old Panchgaon Puja Mandap at Rajnagar upazila is famous in the area. Many devotees from different parts of Sylhet division and neighbouring India were visiting the mandap. During a visit to Panchgaon on Friday this correspondent found about one and half kilometre long queue of people on road leading to mandap.

### Traders stage demonstration

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Oct 8: Shop owners and traders in Kumarkhali in the district brought out a procession recently protesting what they said the negligence of police in preventing robbery in Nurjahan Supermarket and Ajmeri Market on September 27 night.

During the robbery a man was killed. Traders and shop owners said police have failed to maintain law and order in the area, much to the chagrin of local people. However, Kushtia Police Super following agitation has closed SI Mofiz.

### Two killed in Feni road accident

From Our Correspondent

FENI, Oct 8: At least two people were killed and 10 others injured in road accident at Mohipal, two kilometres from the town.

The dead were identified as Abul Basher, 50, of village Matheara, and Pradip Kumar Debnath, 30, of village Kajirbag under Sadar upazila. According to police, the accident occurred when a Feni-bound passenger bus hit a cycle and motorcycle on the road after driver of the bus lost control over the steering. The cyclist and motorcycle died on the spot. The bus was seized. The driver managed to escape. A case was lodged in this connection.

### Valuables looted

MUNSHIGANJ, Oct 8: Terrorists looted valuables and cash worth about Tk 20,000 from a grocery shop of Machhua Bazaar in Sadar upazila on Friday, reports UNB.

Police said an organised gang of armed terrorists stormed the Machhua Bazaar and looted cash and valuables from the grocery shop of Shahabuddin at gunpoint. They also ransacked two other shops, fired one round of bullet and ran away by a microbus. Local Bazaar committee urged the authorities concerned to take legal action against the terrorists. A case was filed.

### Loan disbursed

PATUAKHALI, Oct 8: Bangladesh Krishi Bank disbursed Tk 20 lakh loan among 250 small traders and farmers at a function at old town hall here on Thursday, reports UNB.

General Manager of Barisal zone of the Bank M Nurul Huda Chowdhury disbursed the loan as a chief guest while Patuakhali regional Manager M Saiful Islam presided. AKM Siddiqueur Rahman, DGM of the division, local bank officials and employees and over 300 small traders and farmers were present on the occasion.



The newly constructed offices of the Divisional Commissioner and the DIG of Police, Sylhet have started functioning from October 1 without any formal opening ceremony. ---Star photo

### New handloom training centre

PATUAKHALI, Oct 8: Country's third handloom training centre is going to be built in Galachipa upazila to impart training to the weavers, reports UNB.

State Minister for Textiles AKM Jahangir Hossain disclosed this in a certificate distribution ceremony at Chikonkandi Bazaar in the upazila on Friday. The minister also said that the training on dye and design would start soon. Presided over by Handloom Board chairman Moqbul Hossain, the function was also addressed, among others, by Handloom Board Secretary Farooque Hossain. Principal of the handloom training centre M Asaduzzaman and Upazila Nirbahi Officer SM Sultan Mahmud.

### Body recovered

BAGERHAT, Oct 8: Police recovered the body of a man from the verandah of his house at village Sreerampur in Kachua upazila on Saturday, reports UNB.

On information, police rushed to the spot at 10 am and found the body of Goura Mukherjee lying on his verandah. The body bore injury marks. Police sent the body to hospital morgue for autopsy.

### Workshop

JHALAKATI, Oct 8: A two-day workshop on 'in-depth reporting on various issues and orientation' concluded at Krira Bhaban auditorium here on Saturday, reports UNB.

Ten district correspondents of different national dailies and news agencies were imparted training in the workshop, organised by Mass-line Media Centre (MMC), an NGO that works in the country's coastal areas.

### Man killed in road mishap

MANIKGANJ, Oct 8: A motor cyclist was killed and two others were injured in a road accident at Banijuri on Dhaka-Aricha Highway on Saturday, reports UNB.

The mishap took place as a coach while overtaking a bus knocked down a motor cycle killing its rider Biplob, 20, at about 9:45pm. Biplob hailed from Dasra village in Sadar upazila. Two other motor cycle riders were critically injured and rushed to Sadar Hospital in critical condition. A case was filed with police.

### Meeting on TLM

BANDARBAN, Oct 8: A meeting was held here at the Deputy Commissioner's conference room on October 3 for eradication of illiteracy, reports BSS.

Official sources said, programmes were chalked out to eradicate illiteracy. It was decided to take a total of 50,000 illiterate people in the programme of Total Literacy Movement (TLM), within next six months. Deputy Commissioner Mohsin Ali Sardar, Btr Protik, was in the chair, Bandarban Bomang Circle Raja, Aug Swe Prue Chowdhury was present in the meeting as the chief guest. Several committees were formed with upazila officials, UP chairmen, journalists and political leaders headed by the Deputy Commissioner of Bandarban.

### Wheat for Test Relief work


MADARIPUR, Oct 8: The government has allocated 378 tonnes of wheat to implement various projects under Test Relief Programme, during the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

Under this programme, the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief allocated 115 tonnes of wheat for Sadar Upazila, 92 tonnes for Shilbar Upazila, 78 tonnes for Rajoir Upazila, 82 tonnes of Kalkini Upazila and 11 tonnes for Madaripur Municipality. The projects include rural infrastructure maintenance, construction of kutchra roads and embankments, earth filling at various school and colleges, tree plantation and clearing of drains and jungles. The work of the projects is expected to be completed by November, this year.

### Rain paralyses life

KHAGRACHHARI, Oct 8: Normal life came to a total standstill due to incessant rainfall during the last few days, reports UNB.

Many low-lying areas were inundated and the situation may turn worse if the heavy downpour continues further, said official sources. Changi River was in full spate following the torrential rain, to which started from 8 am Sunday. The rainfall has contributed to 20 decreasing the temperature sharply. The minimum temperature against the 32 degree Celsius was recorded Tuesday against the 32 degree Celsius. Some 296-mm rainfall recorded from 8 am Sunday to 1 pm Tuesday left the local inhabitants of low-lying areas stranded.



**সিলেট গ্যাস ফিল্ডস লিমিটেড**  
(পেট্রোবাংলা একটি কোম্পানী)  
**Sylhet Gas Fields Limited**  
(A Company of Petrobangla)

ICB Re-tender No. SGFL/RFP/01/18 Date: 05-10-2000

## International Re-Tender Notice

গাছ লাগান, গাছের পরিচর্যা করান এবং পরিবেশ বাঁচান

“বিনা প্রয়োজনে গ্যাসের চুলা জ্বালিয়ে রাখা অপচয়, অপচয়কারী শয়তানের ভাই”

**APPOINTMENT OF A CONSULTANT FOR DESIGN, IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING & CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISION OF A CONDENSATE FRACTIONATION PLANT AT RASHIDUR GAS FIELD.**

- Sylhet Gas Fields Limited (SGFL) intends to appoint a consultant (Chemical/Process/Instrumentation Engineer) from an internationally reputed consulting firm having requisite experience in design, implementation & supervision of gas Condensate Fractionation Plant with proven credibility & reliability in the Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) installation activities.
- Principal assignment to be performed by the consultant are provided in the tender document.
- The foreign currency cost (including local VAT/duties/taxes) for the consultancy services will be met out by SGFL through cash purchase of foreign exchange from SGFL's own resources.
  - The local currency cost will be financed from SGFL's own resources.
- Bio-data/CV of individual consultant having adequate qualification and experience in similar fields of works are invited from eligible consulting firms for providing consultancy services on individual basis.
- The tender document will be sold from 11-10-2000 to 13-11-2000 between 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs (BST) on all working days on payment of Bangladeshi Tk 1000.00 (non-refundable) at the following addresses:
 

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sylhet Gas Fields Limited Dhaka Liaison Office House No. 85, Road No. 11A Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1209 Bangladesh. Phone: 880-2-915075/9128694 Fax: 880-2-8110973</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Petrobangla Accounts Division Petrocentre 3, Kawan Bazar C/A Dhaka-1215 Bangladesh.</li> </ol>
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- No tender documents will be sold on the opening day.
- Interested consulting firms shall have to submit their bids containing separate Technical & Financial proposals in separate sealed envelopes (single stage two envelopes system) and will be received at the Liaison Office of Sylhet Gas Fields Limited (SGFL) at House No. 85, Dhanmondi R/A, Road No. 11A, Dhaka-1209 up to 1100 hrs (BST) on 14-11-2000 and only the technical proposals will be opened on the same day at 1130 hrs in presence of the bidders or their representatives, if any. The Financial proposals for the technically responsive bidders will be opened at a later date for which the bidders will be notified in due course.
- In case of any unavoidable circumstances such as strike, civil commotion, government declared holidays etc. Bids will be opened on the following working day at the same time & same venue.
- Sylhet Gas Fields Limited (SGFL) reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Project Manager

GD-938