

NEWS SNAPS

Three killed in separate incidents

**UNB, Barisal**  
Three people were killed in separate incidents in Barisal, Bhola and Patuakhali districts Monday.  
Police said an electric worker, Mustafa, 50, was critically injured as he fell down while working on a high power line at Passport lane in Barisal town. He died from injuries when he was taken to hospital. In Patuakhali, a construction worker, Azizul Haq, 27, was crushed under the wheels of a roller on Kalishuri-Goalia road in Baufal area.  
Besides, a youth, Shahin, 15, was killed in lightning at Borhanuddin in Bhola while he was catching fish.

One dies in Jhenidah road accident

**BSS, Jhenidah**  
One person died and four others were seriously injured in a road accident near Vato Bazaar on Jhenidah-Kushlia highway in Jhenidah Sadar upazila on Thursday.  
Police said, the accident occurred when a truck collided head-on with a Garaganj bound tempo from Jhenidah town near Vato Bazaar. One Ashrafui, 32, died on the spot. Another four passengers of the tempo received serious injuries. Injured persons were admitted to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital. A case was registered with the police in this connection.

BNP workers harassing AL leaders

**UNB, Kushtia**  
BNP workers were allegedly harassing Awami League (AL) leaders and workers in Mirpur and Bheramara upazilas in Kushtia since the Oct 1 polls.  
Awami League leader Mahbub-ul-Alam Hanif, who contested the election from the Mirpur-Bheramara constituency, raised the allegation at a press conference here Tuesday. Hanif, also joint secretary of the district AL, alleged that BNP workers demolished the house of an AL worker and then set up a club there. Hanif showed the journalists a list of 30 AL leaders and workers of Bahadurpur union who fell victims to wrath of BNP workers.

10 injured in post-poll clash

**UNB, Rajshahi**  
At least 10 people were injured, two seriously, in a post-poll clash between Awami League and BNP workers at Nandanpur Bazaar in Puthiyon upazila Monday.  
Police said the trouble erupted at night following an altercation over the Oct 1 general election. During the 30-minute chase and counter-chase, both the groups used lethal weapons. On information, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control by charging baton. They also picked up 10 people from the scene.

Clash over supremacy: 10 injured

**UNB, Magura**  
A clash between two groups of people at village Danbila in Sripur upazila left 10 people injured on Tuesday.  
Witnesses said the clash between the two groups -- one led by Golam Moula and another by Nozir Master -- took place as a sequel to a previous conflict over establishing supremacy in the neighbourhood. During the fight, both the groups used spears, shields, sticks and brickbats, ransacked the houses of Aiyub Hossain, Nazir Master, Golam Mostafa and Golam Moula. On information, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control. One of the injured, Rony, was admitted to the Sadar Hospital in a critical condition.

Armed robbery at Patuakhali LGED office

**UNB, Patuakhali**  
Armed bandits broke open the local LGED and Public Health Engineering offices and looted cash damaging important documents early Tuesday.  
Police said a group of 15-20 robbers entered into the LGED office climbing the boundary wall and confined its night guard in a room after snatching the key of its gate. They broke open nine rooms, including that of the executive Engineer, damaged almirah and valuable papers and decamped with the cash.

BNP MP for communal harmony

**UNB, Rajshahi**  
Ruling party MP Advocate Kabir Hossain has said he would quit parliament if he fails to maintain communal harmony in his constituency comprising Charghat and Bagha upazilas of the district.  
Addressing separate meetings of officials and employees of the two upazilas Tuesday, the BNP lawmaker urged the minority community to observe Durga Puja with festivity and enthusiasm. He asked the officials to curb violence with a strong hand and help arrest those involved in anti-social activities. Local minority leaders also addressed the meetings.

Three-day Baul Fair begins

**UNB, Kushtia**  
A three-day Baul Mela (fair) marking the 111th death anniversary of mystic singer Fakir Lalon Shah began at Lalon Akhira in Cheuria here Tuesday.  
Deputy Commissioner of Kushtia Fakhrul Islam inaugurated the fair. Meanwhile, the Lalon Akhira wore a festive look with the participation of a large number of Lalon followers in the fair. Lalon Academy has also taken up an elaborate programme, including discussion meeting and cultural function, on the occasion.

Aricha Ghat TS suspended

**UNB, Manikganj**  
Terminal Superintendent (TS) of BIWTC at Aricha Ghat has been suspended on charge of his involvement in corruption.  
BIWTC sources said artificial traffic was created at the Aricha Ghat as a section of officers and employees took bribe and gave bookings to vehicles breaking serial to get in ferries running on Aricha-Daulatdia and Aricha-Natakholia river route. Authorities suspended Tofazzal Hossain following press reports about the severe traffic jam at the Ghat a few days back.

Power line disconnection drive

**UNB, Joypurhat**  
Local Palli Bidyut Samity (PBS) has launched a power line disconnection drive in a bid to realise its outstanding bills amounting to over Tk 2.39 crore.  
Of the bills, Tk 79.49 lakh remained unpaid by consumers in residential sector while Tk 45.21 lakh in irrigation, Tk 68.49 lakh in industrial and Tk 23.71 lakh in business sectors. According to officials local municipality owes Tk 1.53 lakh to PBS for streetlights while charity organisations Tk 21.26 lakh.

Meeting to ensure peace during puja

**UNB, Magura**  
Local administration held a meeting in Magura Tuesday to ensure peace during the coming Durga Puja of the Hindu community.  
Chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner (Gen) CM Yusuf, the meeting was attended by local MP Kazi Salimul Huq Kamal, district level government official, SP, UNOs, AL leader M Altaf Hossain, BNP leaders Adv Ahmad Hossain and Nazimuddin, lawyers, journalists and the Hindu community leaders. The meeting took stock of the overall law and order situation and decided to ensure strict security in all 'mandaps' during Puja. BNP MP Kazi Salimul asked the party leaders and workers to extend cooperation to the minority community in observing their festival with enthusiasm. He assured the meeting that BNP would not give shelter to any terrorists.

Buffalo smugglers clash with police

**UNB, Panchagarh**  
Buffalo smugglers clashed with police and border guards when they seized six trucks carrying buffaloes worth Tk 6 lakh in a joint drive in Panchagarh-Thakurgaon border areas Thursday.  
However, the smugglers fled the scene leaving behind the trucks when police called in reinforcements. Police said an organised gang of smugglers is bringing huge Indian buffaloes into the country evading taxes through Ruhia border point in Thakurgaon and Atowari point in Panchagarh. Meanwhile, river police arrested Rocky Ahmad, 25, from Daulatdia launch ghat with a loaded Japanese revolver on Monday. A case was filed.

Flash flood causes colossal damage to crops in 3 dists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Flash flood causes colossal damage to crops in Thakurgaon, Dinajpur and Gaibandha districts.

**BSS reports from Thakurgaon:** Flash flood inundated 7,000 hectares of standing T-aman paddy, 800 hectares of vegetables and hundreds of hectares of sugarcane and other crops in the low lying areas of Thakurgaon causing heavy damage to the crops.

Many earthen houses in different villages were collapsed and many houses have gone under knee deep water in the low-lying areas. Heavy incessant rainfall in the northern part of the country brought the flash flood in the area.

According to Directorate of Agriculture Extension (DAE) office sources, low lying 'beef' areas of Ranisankail, Pirgaonj, Hariapur, Baliadangi and Thakurgaon Sadar upazilas have been inundated by flood water.

The government food godown and stadium situated near old bus stand and the low-lying areas of Goalpara, Sarkerpara, Hajipara, Shantinagar and Collegepara of Thakurgaon town have gone under

knee deep water.

The river Nagar crossed the danger mark. Houses, roads, crop fields and other installations on both sides of the river have been inundated. Other rivers of the district Tangon, Senua, Shuk, Kulik, and Timoi are also flowing near danger mark.

An earlier report of UNB says: A large portion of the Haora river embankment in Akhaura upazila of Brahmanbari was damaged due to recent onrush of water from across the boarder washing away standing crops on a vast tract of land.

Officials said the floodwaters damaged Aman crops on 2,000 acres of land in nine villages of Moniandha and Mogra unions and kept the residents of Sholo Lohogar marooned.

**UNB from Dinajpur reports:** Incessant late monsoon rain since Oct 2 has flooded low-lying areas of Dinajpur causing huge loss in crop damage.

A large number of thatched houses were also damaged in the flashflood.

Many farmers of the district could not brought their farmlands under Aman cultivation due to the late

monsoon showers, which also damaged vegetables on vast stretches of land.

**Our Gaibandha Correspondent reports:** Flash flood has seriously affected Gobindaganj upazila in Gaibandha district. Seven out of a 17 unions have been badly affected by flood water. Standing crops on vast tract of areas went under flood water. The affected unions are Shapara, Darbastha, Gobindaganj, Talukkanpur, Shibpur, Nakai, Harirampur, Mohimaganj, Kochasher, Shalmar and another union.

The 200 feet Dinajpur-Gobinadaganj highway has been overflooded at Taraf Kanupur after breaching Karotoa flood control embankment. Besides, road communication between Shaghata and Gobindaganj upazila snapped as portion of the newly constructed Dowantola bridge collapsed due to onrush of water. Flood water, meanwhile, entered into the upazila health complex.



A craftsman makes straw hats at Ram Raban village in Manikganj. He sells each hat for Tk 10 to 15. Straw hats are in a great demand among farmers which they use in sun and shower.

Weaving factories face closure in southwestern region

UNB, Narail

Weaving factories in southwestern region of the country have been facing closure due to sky-high prices of its raw materials and massive smuggling of Indian clothes into the country.

Meanwhile, a competent source said 90 per cent weaving factories in the districts of Narail, Magura, Kushtia, Jhenidah, Khulna, Jessore, Satkhira, Chuadanga, Meherpur, Barisal and Bagerhat have already been closed and remaining ones are on verge of

closure.

At present the price of 40-count yarn has increased by Tk 300 per bundle in these districts. The sales tax of imported chemicals has also increased by 30 per cent.

Meanwhile, the Indian smuggled sarees have captured the markets of these districts driving the indigenous waving products out of the market. The door to door sale of Indian sarees by a section of women has been going on unabated. The price of Indian sarees is comparatively less than

the indigenous products.

Moreover, the weavers are not getting yarn at the price fixed by the government. The dealers appointed by the BTMC said they have to buy the yarns in the black market at high prices from Pabna, Narsingdi and Narayanganj due to its short supply and cumbersome process of drawing the quota.

The weavers urged the authorities concerned to look into the matter and take necessary steps so that they can continue their age-old occupation to maintain their livelihood.

70pc people do not use sanitary latrines in Netrakona

UNB, Netrokona

Over 70 per cent people of the district do not use sanitary latrines, said a survey by a local NGO.

It attributed the cause to ignorance about healthcare, poverty and lack of knowledge about sanitation.

The survey also revealed 20 per cent people of rural areas, 60 per cent people of municipality area use sanitary latrines.

But children below five years are not used to using such latrines, the survey said.

It said though rural people respond to the call of nature in open spaces, many town people, however, use the uncovered drain for the purpose.

BSS from Narsingdi says: More than 45 per cent people of the district are now using sanitary latrines, official sources said.

According to a recent survey by District Public Health Engineering Department, only 27 per cent people of the district used sanitary latrines before five years. Now 25 per cent people of rural areas and 65 per cent of municipal areas are

using sanitary latrines.

Health awareness among the people of the district is increasing day by day, sources said.

The Public Health Engineering Department distributed a total of 10,000 sanitary latrines among the people of the district at a minimum cost during the last five years.

Female smugglers on rise in 10 S-W dists

UNB, Jhenidah

Down by poverty, a larger number of women in 10 southwestern districts of the country got involved in smuggling and other illegal activities to earn their living.

According to an unofficial estimate, smugglers engaged 2.5 lakh women in Jhenidah, Magura, Jessore, Narail, Kushtia, Chuadanga, Meherpur, Khulna, Bagerhat and Satkhira district in smuggling as they found them reliable in carrying out their illegal business.

These women, mostly abandoned by their husbands, carry

smuggled goods like sarees, clothes, glasses, steel plates, salt, sugar from one place to another in border areas.

Although they are engaged in menial and risky jobs, these women are poorly paid by their godfathers. They get Tk 150-200 per head every day.

These women have a strong network across the border and they use various modes of transport including buses, trucks, tempos, vans and trains to reach their destinations.

Border guards give them a blind eye as they share profits with the smugglers.

Adulterated edible oil on sale in Narail markets

UNB, Narail

Skin disease and stomach ailments have broken out in an alarming proportion in Narail town due to intake of adulterated food.

Doctors said the patients with intestinal disorder and itching are coming to their chambers in large numbers. They said adulterated edible oil such as ghee, butter oil, mustard oil and milk are being sold in the local markets with impunity.

Besides, sales of unwholesome eatables at restaurants have worsened the situation. They alleged that the unscrupulous traders indulge in this practice before the nose of the authorities concerned.

Another report says that about 40

per cent children between the age of five and eight years are living under breadline in the district. A recent survey conducted by a non-government organisation revealed that at least 60,000 children are suffering from malnutrition.

They are leading a distressed life due to extreme poverty while some one lakh are attending the primary schools. The poverty stricken children are forced to take up odd jobs as restaurants boys, porters, rickshaw-pullers, cobblers, shoe polishers and domestic help to support their families.

Besides a large number of children are working in different industrial concerns despite prohibition of child labour by ILO.