

## NEWS SNAPS

## Waterborne diseases claim 20

UNB, Rangamati

An outbreak of waterborne diseases and malaria killed some 20 people in Langadu upazila of Rangamati in last two months.

Medical sources said over 1,000 people were affected with the diseases during the period. The worst affected areas are Kalapakuzza, Zaruibagan, Mahilla, Amtali and Khagrachhari.

Rangamati Sadar Hospital and the upazila health complex have been swamped with diarrhoeal patients.

## Trader succumbs to injuries in Bhola

UNB, Barisal

A trader critically injured in an attack by terrorists in Charfashion upazila of Bhola district succumbed at Charfashion Health Complex on Wednesday.

Police said the victim, Khudiram Roy, was seriously injured when miscreants attacked him on September 10 after he refused to pay toll. Local Awami League claimed Khudiram as its worker and blamed BNP for the killing. A case was filed.

## Dispute over fishing: Oldman killed

UNB, Comilla

An old man was beaten to death by his rivals following a dispute over fishing in a leased pond at Bataghahi village in Chandina upazila Tuesday.

Police said terrorists attacked Suruj Mia, 65, while he was fishing in the pond. Meanwhile, police arrested Dulal Mia in this connection.

## Thunderbolt kills three in Satkhira

UNB, Satkhira

Three people including two children were killed and three others injured by thunderbolts at village Dumuria in Shyamnagar upazila on Saturday.

Villagers said Amanullah, 21, son of Mohiuddin, Hira, 8, daughter of Abdul Hakim and Fatema, 7, daughter of Imam Ali, died as they were struck by several lightning during thundershowers. The injured Nurul Islam, 52, Khalilur Rahman, 47 and Sobed Ali, 48, were admitted to upazila health complex.

## Housewife strangled in Jessore

UNB, Jessore

A gang of miscreants raided the house of Abdul Mazed at village Gatipara in Sharasha upazila and strangled his wife on Friday night.

The victim was identified as Anjuara Begum, 28. Police said the assailants, after the murder, threw the body into a nearby pond and fled away. On information they recovered the body on Saturday afternoon. The reason behind the murder could not be known immediately. A case was filed.

## One beaten to death in Joypurhat

UNB, Joypurhat

A middle-aged man was beaten to death at village Ranishail in Panchbibi upazila Friday night.

The victim, Syed Ali, 51, was mercilessly beaten by some people following an altercation with them. Later, he succumbed to his injuries at his house. Police said Ali was beaten up as he went to realise Tk 4,000 as per arbitration over a women repression case. Another report says: Two children drowned in a pond at village Dhap-Kalai in Kalai upazila of Joypurhat on October 10. Khadija, 4, daughter of Khalil and Nurunnabi, 5, son of Jamal of the same family died while taking bath in a pond.

## Housewife commits suicide in Magura

UNB, Magura

Three people including a housewife committed suicide by taking poison in separate incidents in Sadar upazila in a week till October 12, police said.

Dipali Rani, 24, mother of two children, of village Ramnagar allegedly committed suicide for family feud on October 12, hospital sources said. Besides, Mohammad Ali Biswas, 35, of village Nischintapur killed himself by taking poison on October 10 while Shahidul Islam, 30, of village Barunatoil did the same on October 7. Separate UD cases were filed with the police.

## Two housewives killed by husbands

BSS, Satkhira

Shilpi and Mazeda Khatun were allegedly killed by their husbands in Shyamnagar and Assasuni Upazila of Satkhira recently.

Police sources said Shilpi, 18, wife of Rajbul Sardar of village Joynagar in Shymangar upazila was mercilessly beaten by her husband while she failed to bring dowry from her father's house. At one stage Rajbul strangled Shilpi. Shahajan Gazi, husband of Mazeda Khatun, 28, hit on her head with an iron rod following a family quarrel. She died on the spot. She was the mother of two children. Two separate cases were filed with Shyamnagar and Assasuni police Stations. Rajbul Sardar and Shahajan, however, managed to escape.

## Routine works at RU hampered

UNB, Rajshahi

Vice-chancellor of Rajshahi University Prof Sayeedur Rahman Khan on Thursday said the routine works of the university are being hampered seriously due to non-cooperation of Chhatra Dal, Chhatra Shibir and a section of teachers.

In a press conference at his official residence, the VC also said that a Syndicate meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, was postponed for the third time due to their non-cooperation. He sought cooperation from the new government as well as all others concerned for smooth running of the university. Pro-vice-chancellor Prof Wazed Ali, Registrar Abdus Salam and Prof Mukhlesur Rahman also addressed the press conference.

## Half day hartal observed in Pirojpur

UNB, Pirojpur

All shops of Parethat bazaar in Sadar upazila were closed for six hours on Wednesday as local businessmen called a half-day hartal protesting the attack on a wholesale rice shop.

They said pro-Awami League hoodlums ransacked the shop owned by Lablu Mollik, a BNP supporter, Tuesday night. Earlier, they manhandled four BNP-Jamaat leaders including Nasir Mollik, a relative of Lablu Mollik, in Muslimpara area. The other leaders are Shahidul Alam Niru, Tofazzal Hossain Farid and Shaiful Islam. Besides, the same miscreants ransacked the house of Sobhan Mollik, another relative of Lablu Mollik, at Shankarpasha village. When the villagers came to resist them, the attackers fled away firing several blank shots. Police arrested four people -- Firoj, Kabir, Pulak and Neyamat -- all Awami League supporters, in this connection.

## Two AL activists arrested in Tangail

UNB, Tangail

Two Awami League (AL) activists were arrested for damaging the idol of Goddess Durga at Kokdohra Bazaar in Kalihati upazila Tuesday night.

Quoting eyewitnesses police said a group of terrorists led by Kokdohra union parishad member Sukumar Banik broke heads of three idol of Goddess in the making at separate puja mandaps in the bazaar. Azhar Ali and Hamidur Rahman, two Awami League activists, were arrested for their alleged involvement in the damage of idols. Sukumar Banik remained fugitive. Residents said some shopkeepers saw the terrorist action by Awami Leaguers. "That is why there evoked no tension among the minority community here," said a shopkeeper in the bazaar. Senior police officials visited the spot and assured adequate security measures so that the Hindu community could celebrate the ensuing Durga Puja amid festivity.

## Puja to be celebrated as 'protest festival'

UNB, Chittagong

Hindu community will celebrate its biggest religious festival Durga Puja this year as "protest festival" for the alleged attacks on minority people.

Ghatpuja will be arranged at those places where minority families were attacked. Chittagong Central Puja Udiapan Parishad said this at a press conference at the local press club on Wednesday. President of the parishad Advocate Subhash Chandra Lala told newsmen that some 10,000 families of minority community were affected in terrorist attacks, looting and repression in 32 villages of nine upazilas since October 1.

## Rivals chop 2 JCD workers in Barisal

UNB, Barisal

Two JCD workers were seriously injured when rivals chopped them at Gorasthan area in the town on Wednesday.

The terrorists cut the tendon of a leg of Shohel Masud, 20, who was sent to Dhaka for treatment. Police said the attack was made in sequel to an internal feud of JCD over establishing supremacy, but JCD leaders blamed Chhatra League for the attack.

## Sub-standard food on sale in restaurants in 2 dists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sub-standard food items are being sold in restaurants of Satkhira and Cox's Bazar causing health hazard.

**Our correspondent from Satkhira reports:** Sub-standard food items are being sold at most of the restaurants in Satkhira town, exposing the consumers to serious health hazards.

It is gathered that the rules of general health and hygienic are not being maintained by the owners of the restaurants. As a result people are taking their meals at these restaurants. As a result they are suffering from various intestinal diseases. A large number of restaurants have sprung up in different parts of the town in recent times. But most of the restaurant's are being run without license.

Owners of these restaurants use low quality items for preparation of various foodstuff. They serve the same to the customers. According to sources, dishes and glasses of these restaurants are not cleaned properly. Most of these restaurants use dirty water which is full of germs of different water borne diseases.

It is alleged that food items are

displayed and prepared openly exposing these to dusts and flies.

Meats and rotten fishes are being cooked at these restaurants, said one customer who takes food at a local restaurant.

A general physician of Satkhira General Hospital told this correspondent recently that about 75 per cent of the people who take food from these restaurants are sufferings from various intestinal diseases. Recently some small restaurants have sprung up around the bus terminal and busy roadside areas where adulterated food items are being sold at random. Stringent measures should be taken immediately against the owners of such restaurants in the interest of public health, some local people opined.

**Our Cox's Bazar correspondent reports:** Most of the owners of restaurants in the Cox's Bazar town and upazila areas are engaged in selling unhygienic food stuffs causing health hazards.

Owners of restaurants do not follow the regulations and prepare food items in most unhygienic manner which caused outbreak of various stomach diseases among the customers, local physicians

said.

Restaurants at many places including tourist town Cox's Bazar, Ramu, Chokoria, Moheshkhal, Kutubdia, Ukhia and Teknaf upazila areas have been established in an unhealthy environment. At some places restaurants have been set up over drains with the bamboo materials.

Food items in these restaurants are kept open almost all the time and various insects and dust contaminate these extensively.

Moreover, the dishes are not washed properly by the workers.

People are being affected with many diseases by taking these unclean and stale foods. No proper action has yet been taken against the owners of these restaurants, though there are separate sections of municipality and Health Department to deal with the problems.

On the other hand, officials and employees of the department allegedly take bribe regularly from owners of these restaurants.

The town dwellers have urged the authority concerned to look into the matter and take necessary measures in this regard without further delay.

## Unabated erosion in greater Rangpur dist

BSS, Kurigram

At least 5,200 houses were eroded in five districts of greater Rangpur during the last one month rendering 19,700 people homeless due to severe erosion of the major rivers and their tributaries.

According to local people, some UP chairmen and Water Development Board (WDB) officials, at least 1,500 houses, 200 acres of arable lands, about one kilometer long flood control embankment at different points of Sadar, Fulbari, Nageswari, Bhurungamari, Rajarhat, Ulipur, Chilmar, Rowmari and Rajivpur upazilas in Kurigram have been eroded by the rivers

Dhaka, Teesta, Dudhkumar, Brahmaputra and other tributaries during the period. Other property, institutions, WDB structures have also damaged leaving a total of over 6,000 people homeless so far.

At the same time, at least 1,200 houses, 150 acres of land and other property have been eroded in Patgram, Hatibandha, Kaliganj and Aditmari upazilas of Lalmonirhat district by the mighty Teesta and its tributaries leaving at least 4,500 people homeless during the period.

On the other hand, the Teests has eroded more than 500 houses and 100 acres of land in Gangachara, Kawnia upazilas of Rangpur district during the same period leaving 1,700 people home-

less.

More than 500 houses and 100 acres of lands have been devoured by the Teesta in Dimlia and Jaldhaka upazilas of Nilphamari rendering 1,500 people homeless.

On the other hand, the Brahmaputra, the Jamuna, the Ghaghot and other rivers eroded at least 1,500 houses, 300 acres of land, property in Shaghata, Fulchari, Sundarganj and Sadar upazilas of Gaibandha during the same period. At least 6,000 people have become homeless.

Erosion is still continuing in these areas. BWDB officials are facing serious fund shortages to take initiative to resist river erosion on a sustainable aspect.

## Banned pesticides decreasing land fertility

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Unabated sale of banned pesticides in 10 upazilas of Netrakona has started taking its toll on land fertility.

A section of dishonest dealers, defying government ban, are selling low quality pesticides dealing a sever blow to the environment apart from affecting public health.

A Swedish research institution in its report cautioned about long term adverse effects of using such pesticides on croplands. It said although

European countries have stopped using such pesticides. They are sending those to the developing countries like Bangladesh.

Agriculture officials here said International Pesticide Action Network (PAN) banned a good number of brands of pesticide like Heptaclore, Dymucron, Nogos, DDT, Toxafen, Novacron, Chloroden, Pliarcron, Vitocron, Benicron, Monocat Fox, Monotaf and Ezodrin nearly a decade ago as these are harmful to environment.

But these times are available in Netrakona.

Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) issued a circular to the dealers and sellers of taking stern action for selling these banned items, but to no avail.

An area sales managers of a pesticide company, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the present stock of banned pesticide of a multinational company is unlikely to be finished before 2005.



(From left to right) Prof M Nurun Nabi, former Director General (Health) of the Government of Bangladesh, Iftekharul Islam, Director, Marketing and Sales of the company and Aminul Islam, Regional Sales Manager of the company speak on the occasion of the relaunching ceremony of the products of Hoechst Marion Roussel, a company of Aventis Pharma International Group at Chittagong Club in Chittagong on October 12.

## Reception

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

A series of receptions were accorded to State Minister for Power Iqbal Hasan Mahmood Tuku on Thursday and Friday at various places in Sirajganj by the people of all walks of life.

The first reception was accorded to him at the local Power Development Board (PDB) office premises which was presided over by Jagotbandhu Barua, superintending engineer of Pabna PDB. Among others, Humayun Islam Khan, BNP district unit joint convener, advocate Mokaddesh Ali, Mokbul Hossain Chowdhury, Azizur Rahman Dulal, Nurul Islam Nurul, JCD president Nazmul Hasan Rana spoke on the occasion.

On his arrival at Sirajganj from the capital city, he was warmly received by thousands of BNP workers at Syeedabad intersection.

He attended a reception meeting at the Collectorate building premises. The meeting was presided over by Bazul Haque Biswas, ADC (Revenue).

He also addressed a reception meeting which was presided over by Abul Hossain, ruling party MPTMA Mannan and MAkbar Ali.

Earlier, on arrival at Sirajganj, the State Minister visited the graves of his father and mother at Koyelganti and offered 'fateha'.

## Concern over non-induction of Oli in new cabinet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

One hundred ten lawyers of Chittagong Bar Council on Monday expressed their grave concern and dissatisfaction over not inducting Col (ret'd) Oli Ahmed in the cabinet in the newly formed government of BNP-led four-party alliance.

In the statement they congratulated the new Prime Minister and BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda for taking eight members of her new cabinet from greater Chittagong.

But they opined that a cabinet will be an incomplete one without a dedicate and proven political leader like Col Oli who is also a standing committee member of BNP.

They also termed the dropping of Oli Ahmed as 'an injustice' to him and said that the whole nation is looking for immediate remedy to this. The signatories include Md Nasir Uddin, AZM Moeaynul Haq Chowdhury, Abdus Satter, Sirajul Islam Chowdhury and Sukumar Roy.

## Bheramara farmers face certificate cases

A CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Authorities of different banks have filed certificate cases against the bank loan defaulting farmers at Bheramara upazila in Kushtia.

The bank authorities granted Tk 4 crore 56 lakh and 21 thousand among at least 3,000 farmers for the stipulated time. The bank authorities filed cases, when their time expired. The branch of Janata Bank of Bheramara upazila distributed 41 lakh 21 thousand taka among one hundred and 77 farmers,

Bangladesh Krishi Bank of Bheramara upazila branch distributed 3 crores 80 lakh taka among 2,720 and Agrani Bank of Bheramara upazila branch distributed 35 lakh taka among one hundred and twenty two farmers.

The defaulter farmers said that they were unable to produce enough food due to prolonged drought, heavy rainfall for the last few years and erosion of the mighty Padma river. In the meantime, many farmers have fled from their homes to avoid arrest.