

Upazila roundup

**JHENIDAH**  
Indian sarees worth Tk 5.55 lakh recovered

From Our Correspondent  
Sept 6: Two thousand two hundred twenty pieces of Indian sarees worth Taka five lakh fifty-five thousand were recovered by B D R personnel of Jessore Battalion No 2 and customs Sunday night.  
According to B D R sources acting on a secret information B D R and customs raided the house of an alleged smuggler Rezaul of Basepara under Kaliganj upazila and recovered the Indian sarees. But the smugglers Rezaul and Osman managed to escape during the raid. It may be mentioned here that three months ago B D R personnel recovered Indian sarees worth Taka three lakhs fifty thousand from the house of Rezaul and Osman.

**MAULVIBAZAR**  
Tk 29.46 lakh sanctioned for road construction

Sept 6: Local pourashava has sanctioned Taka 29.46 lakh to implement six projects under flood rehabilitation programme, reports UNB.  
Official sources said, funded by Asian Development Bank (ADB), the projects include construction of roads and culverts. Work on the projects will start soon.  
On completion of the projects, about 50,000 people of pourashava will be benefited, the sources added.

**Fingerlings**  
The Fisheries Department of the district has decided to release about 50 lakh fingerlings in Hael Haor of the district in the current season.  
According to official sources, fingerlings of Ruih, Katla, Mrigal, Silver carp, Common carp and Grass carp, will be released.

**KURIGRAM**  
Property worth Tk 30,000 gutted

From Our Correspondent  
Sept 6: Properties valued at about Taka 30,000 were gutted completely following a devastating fire that broke out recently in the house of one Safaruddin at village Jhukia in Pathordubi union of Bhurungamari upazila of the district.  
It is gathered that the fire originated from a cow-shed at dead of night and soon spread to the surrounding houses while destroyed properties worth about Taka 30,000.  
Three cattleheads, four goats and poultry birds were also roasted alive in the fire.  
Mr Shamsul Haque Chowdhury, Bhurungamari Upazila Parishad Chairman visited the place of incident and distributed some relief materials to the fire victims, it is gathered.

**KUSHTIA**  
One killed in clash

Sept 6: One person was killed in a clash that ensued in an altercation over a goat poaching into the neighbours field for grazing, reports UNB.  
Villagers of Dharmadah, Daulatpur upazila said the victim, Ashraf, the owner of the goat was engaged in a hot exchange of words with his neighbour who were joined by some others.  
At one stage, the neighbour who owns the field and his men hit Ashraf with a sharp weapon.  
Critically injured Ashraf was rushed to Kushtia General Hospital where he died Sunday.  
His autopsy was later performed in the hospital.  
A case has been lodged with Daulatpur police station in this connection.

**BARISAL**  
438 polling centres will be set up

Sept 6: A total of 438 polling centres will be set up in ten upazilas of Barisal district for the referendum to be held on September 15, reports BSS.  
According to Barisal District Election Office sources, a total of 438 Presiding Officers, 2,506 Assistant Presiding Officers and 5,012 Polling Officers will be engaged in these polling centres which will have 2,506 polling booths.  
A total of 13,89,412 voters including 6,42,442 women will cast their votes in the referendum, the source said.

**MANIKGANJ**  
Dacoits loot Tk one lakh

From Our Correspondent  
Sept 6: A dacoity was committed at "Pragotihil Samaj Kallayan and Paribar Parikalpana Samity Office" at Kishura under Dhamrai upazila recently.  
A group of dacoits armed with native weapons raided the office and looted cash Taka one lakh. M A Latif, Secretary of the Samity was wounded by the dacoity. He was admitted to local health complex.  
Local MP Barrister Ziaur Rahman and upazila Chairman Tamjuddin visited the spot. A case was registered in this connection.

**KISHOREGANJ**  
Mosquito menace makes life miserable

Sept 6: Mosquito menace has assumed an alarming proportion causing utmost suffering to the town dwellers and exposing them to serious health hazards in the poura area of the district, reports UNB.  
According to informed sources, common anti-mosquito oil has proved ineffective and consequently breeding of mosquitoes in the town continues unabated.  
Silted drains and stagnant pools of water scattered all over the poura area are acting as breeding grounds, local leaders said.  
They called for adequate and effective measures to eradicate mosquitoes in the Kishoreganj pourashava.

**BOGRA**  
'Govt firm to implement commitments'

Sept 6: State Minister for Finance Mojibur Rahman on Wednesday said the BNP government was determined to implement its political commitment for the economic emancipation of the people, reports BSS.  
He said the aim of BNP government was welfare of the people.  
Addressing three separate public meetings at Gabtali Bazar, Syed Ahmed College ground and Sukunpur station here, the State Minister said the BNP government was not suffering from any indecisiveness in running the affairs of the country.  
Mr Mojibur Rahman said the present government under the uncompromising leadership of Begum Khaleda Zia had consolidated the parliamentary democracy and economic development of the country.

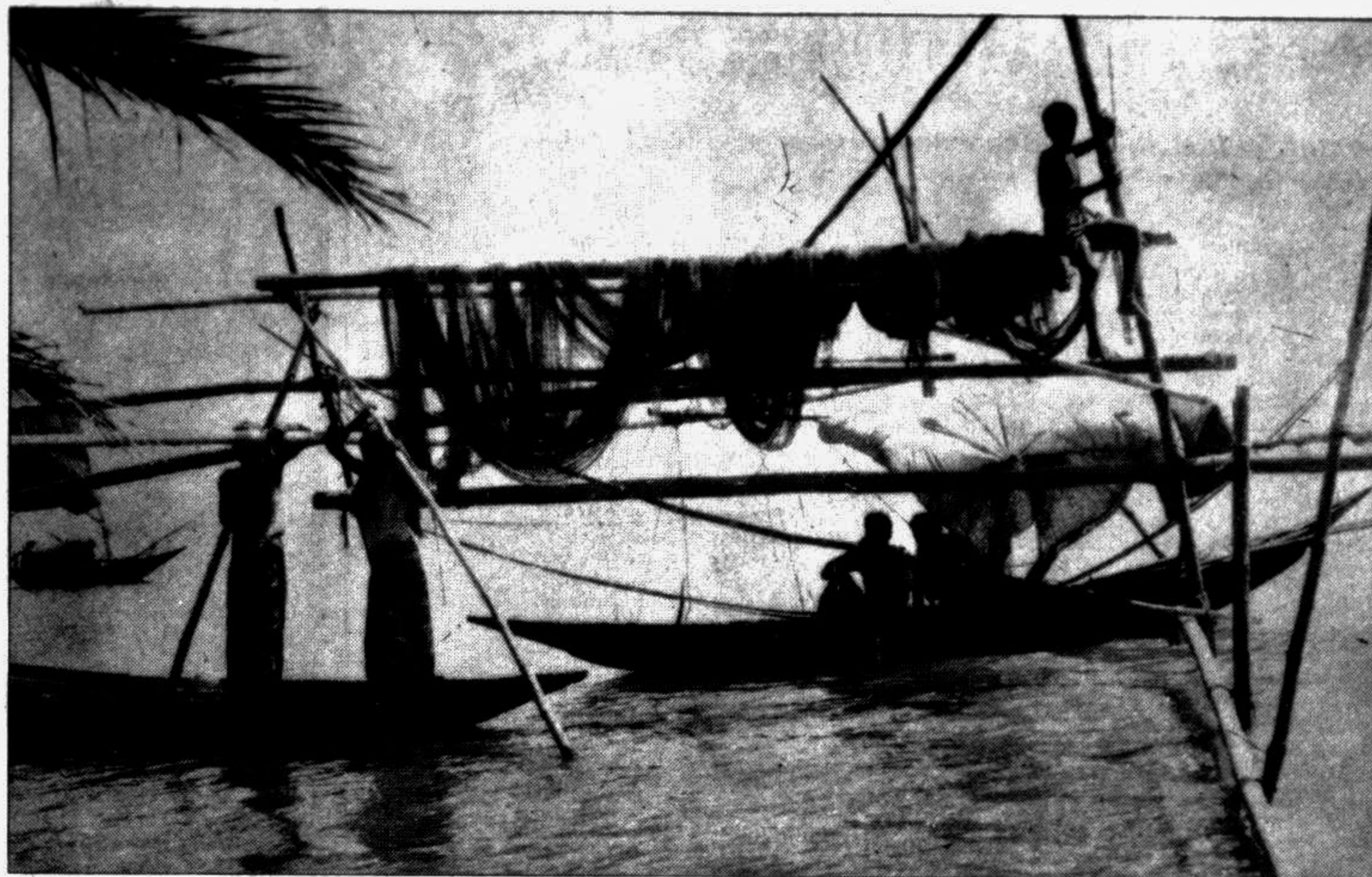
He called upon the people to cast 'yes' vote in the coming referendum on September 15 for establishing Parliamentary democracy in the country.  
Earlier, the State Minister visited local Arab Bangladesh Bank and Janata Bank.

**SUNAMGANJ**  
Diarrhoea claims 10 lives

Sept 6: Diarrhoea claimed ten lives including three children affected 50 others in the district during last week, reports UNB.  
The victims are Ajmahmud (45), Abdul Mannan (50), Asik Ali (40), Rajob (8), Ismail (12), Sufia (7) and Badal Das (27) of Tahripur upazila and Nibedan Das (20) Lalita Das (30) and Sundananda Biswas (32) of Biswamberpur upazila.  
Scarcity of drinking water is the main cause of the disease, it is learnt.  
The situation aggravated as there is no medical team to work in the affected areas, local people alleged.

**PABNA**  
Heroin worth Tk 80 lakh recovered

Sept 6: Bangladesh Rifles (BDR), Dasha, Ishurdi have recovered about 800 grams of heroin worth about Tk 80 lakh from a Pabna bound bus, reports UNB.  
One person named Abdus Settar was arrested in this connection last Thursday.  
BDR sources said, acting on a secret information, a contingent raided a bus (No Rajshahi BA 6194) and recovered the heroin, which was later handed over to the custom authorities.



Hilsha, the king of fishes is now abundantly caught in the Padma. Photo shows fishermen installing fishing appliances for a big catch near Aricha. — Star photo

Massive afforestation plan in Satkhira

From Our Correspondent  
SATKHIRA, Sept 6: A massive afforestation programme has been undertaken at Shyamagar upazila jointly by district and upazila Agricultural Extension Department and Forest Department.  
The programme was inaugurated by Mr. Katebur Rahman, Deputy Commissioner Satkhira, Upazila Chairman, Abdur Razzak, UNO and other upazila officers were also present on the occasion.  
Under this programme a total of 10,000 different kinds of saplings will be planted on both the sides along two kilometres of Nakipur-Banshipur road.  
Another afforestation programme was under taken at Tala upazila by Bazarbari Club, a social welfare organisation based at Keshra. Under the programme 1000 different kinds of saplings like Krishna Chura, Coconut, Mehgini, Babla, Shishu etc will be planted on both the sides of Shalikh-Kachari road and the KSD Girls High School premises.  
Prices of essentials up  
The general consumers and the low and fixed income groups are hit-hard due to sharp rise in prices of rice and other essential commodities in different markets of the district. The course variety rice now being sold at Taka 12 per kg, against Taka 10 earlier. Prices of other grades of rice have shot up by Taka two to three per kg.  
Rice traders when contacted, told that prices of rice would come down if open market operation is started by Food Department.  
Similarly prices of other commodities like edible oil, baby food, sugar, salt, pepper, pulse, onion, garlic, fish, poultry, mutton, beef, vegetables have recorded a further rise bringing misery to the people during the last few weeks.

Project for blind children faces setback

From Our Correspondent  
CHUADANGA, Sept 6: The integrated project for the education of blind children run by the Samaj Seba Department in Chuadanga needs expansion to cope with the growing need of the people.  
In absence of a plot of land of its own, modern teaching equipment and required number of teaching staff the project is facing a lot of problems.  
The project, though run by the government needs attention of both local interested persons and the foreign donors to expand and run the project. The project was started in 1983 and since then it was housed in a pucca room constructed in the compound of Chuadanga Adarsha Boys High School without having any separate identity of its own excepting a signboard displayed in front of the school.  
Even after eight years of its existence there are only eight children on the roll who are primarily taught through Braille system but the dearth of teaching staff and equipment is hampering the education of these children. After preliminary education they read in different classes along with the normal children. They hear the lectures and note it through Braille system that is perforating papers. They then learn it by touching fingers.  
There is only one teacher and an office peon in the project. This teacher performs all sorts of responsibilities including clerical jobs. There is no hostel facilities for senior girl students. As a result, the blind girl students are deprived of secondary education in this project. Immediate steps should be taken to solve all the problems, it is felt.

2 killed in separate incidents

From Our Correspondent  
BRAHMANBARIA, Sept 6: Two people were killed in two separate incidents in the district, police said today, reports UNB.  
An unidentified woman aged about 50 was run over by Akhaura bound Chandpur local train near Devagram village of Akhaura upazila Sunday.  
dressed, among others by Principal Kabiruddin Khan, Professor Md Shahjahan, Professor A B M Sattar and Mr Mazharul Islam.  
The discussion meeting was followed by a musical soiree.  
Another report adds: Faridpur police so far arrested 220 persons from different areas of the district during last fortnight for their alleged involvement in various crimes.  
According to a police source, the arrests were made under countrywide 'Operation Doorbar' which started on August 97.  
Mr Abdur Rahim, Deputy Commissioner, Faridpur and Mr Abdus Sattar, Police Super, Faridpur attended the meeting as chief guest and special guest. Presided over by Principal Apurba Krishna Ghose, the meeting was ad-

Death anniversary of Poet Nazrul observed

From Our Correspondent  
FARIDPUR, Sept 6: The 15th death anniversary of the National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam was observed here in a befitting manner, reports BSS.  
Faridpur District Shilpakala Academy Thursday arranged a discussion meeting on the life and works of Nazrul. Speakers at the discussion meeting, called upon all to materialise the dreams of rebel poet Nazrul through the establishment of a society free from exploitation, injustice and discrimination.  
Mr Abdur Rahim, Deputy Commissioner, Faridpur and Mr Abdus Sattar, Police Super, Faridpur attended the meeting as chief guest and special guest. Presided over by Principal Apurba Krishna Ghose, the meeting was ad-

Call to make referendum a success

From Our Correspondent  
SIRAJGANJ, Sept 6: State Minister for Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Mohammed Anwar Ali Siddiqui on Wednesday called upon the people to make the forthcoming referendum a success for consolidating democracy in the country, reports BSS.  
He was addressing a meeting of a cross-section of people, organised by district administration on referendum '91 at Bhasant auditorium here.

Resumption of classes in Islamic Varsity still uncertain

From Our Correspondent  
KUSHTIA, Sept 6: Resumption of classes of the Islamic University, rescheduled for September 7, still remained uncertain despite efforts by the district administration and the teachers of the university, reports UNB.  
The first year honours classes of the university could not begin September 2 as earlier scheduled because of recent clashes between the activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Islam Chhatra Shibir.  
The Deputy Commissioner of Kushtia met Tuesday with the students and the leaders of their parent organisations but failed to resolve the dispute.  
Teachers of the university also met with the students Monday night trying to bring about a settlement but again without any success.  
Earlier at a conference on Monday, the Islamic University unit of BCL demanded resignation of the Vice Chancellor, removal of all provosts and proctors and withdrawal of all cases against the BCL leaders.

4 get life-term in two murder cases

From Our Correspondent  
GAZIPUR, Sept 6: Mr. Md. Mattur Rahman, Additional District and Sessions Judge, Gazipur in a judgement delivered recently, awarded life term to three persons and fined Taka 20,000 each in default to suffer three years rigorous imprisonment for murdering a bank guard in the district.  
The convicted persons are Isamuddin, Habibur Rahman and Iman Alt while Md. Shahjahan was acquitted of the charge. They were awarded the aforesaid punishment under Section 302/34 BPC.  
Beside, they were also awarded 14 years RI more under Section 397, 394 BPC.  
According to the prosecution story, bank staff Khondokar Abdul Malek along with bank guard Bazul Haque of Agrani Bank, Nagori branch were returning from its Narsingdi branch with a cash of Taka 1,50,000 on February 25, 1986. When they reached Tumulia Bridge in Kaliganj upazila, the accused persons attacked them and snatched away the cash injuring both the guards severely. The bank guard succumbed to his in-

154 arrested

From Our Correspondent  
KULaura and Sreemangal railway police arrested a total of 154 people from Kulaura upazila and Sreemangal railway station of the district on various charges during the first week of 'operation doorbar'.  
According to sources, Kulaura police arrested 34 criminals from different parts of the upazila and Sreemangal railway police arrested 120 railway passengers for travelling without ticket from Sreemangal railway station.

SAARC forum of agricultural journalists formed

From Our Correspondent  
COMILLA, Sept 6: A new association named SAARC Agricultural and Environmental Journalists Forum of Bangladesh was formed in the district Friday, reports UNB.  
The forum formed under the auspices of Bangladesh Foundation of Human Rights called for participation of journalists in development programmes through their writings. It also stressed the need for rural and environmental development in the SAARC countries.  
The inaugural meeting was held with Principal Dilwar Jahid in the chair and addressed, among others, by the local journalists MG Mahfuz, Nazrul Islam Babul, Ali Akbar Masum, Khairul Hasan Manik, S M Shammil Ahsan and Sayed Nurur Rahman.  
An Executive Committee was formed for the 1991-92. Principal Dilwar Jahid, Katrul Hasan Manik and Ali Akbar Masum were elected as President, General Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

Show cause on OC of Shaikupa thana

From Our Correspondent  
JHENIDAH, Sept 6: A show cause notice was served on Mohsin Khan, Officer in-charge of the Shaikupa thana by the Police Super, Jhenidah for his negligence to duties.  
According to the reports, a gunfight took place at village Madanpur under Shaikupa upazila on August 24 night between two rival armed activities, Sharbahara Party and Biplobi Communist Party (Haq group) which continue for about two hours leaving two dead and some others injured.

House ransacked, set on fire in Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent  
SIRAJGANJ, Sept 6: A mob angered by the news of death of a student stormed a house, ransacked it and set it on fire at Malahapara in the town today, reports UNB.  
Property worth about Taka 50,000 was said to be gutted in the fire ignited by the marauders from neighbouring Mirpur, police and witnesses said.  
School student Obaidul (12) of Mirpur was hacked with a randao allegedly by his brother-in-law when he tried to quell a family dispute on August 31. He was shifted to Pongu Hospital in Dhaka in critical condition.

Money lenders exploit poor farmers

From Our Correspondent  
KISHOREGANJ, Sept 6: Most farmers of the district are being exploited by the money lenders. Due to economic hardship the farmers can hardly buy agricultural inputs for cultivation. As a result, they are compelled to sell off their crops to the money lenders in advance at a nominal price.  
Those who are capable to JCD conference held in Maulvi Bazar  
MAULVI BAZAR, Sept 6: The biennial conference of Jatityatabadi Chhatra Dal, Rajnagar upazila unit was held at the local auditorium recently, reports UNB.  
Presided over by Selim Ahmed, the conference was formally inaugurated by Golam Rabbani. Among others, it was addressed by Farid Uddin Ahmed, Advocate Mamunur Rashid Mamun, Abdul Wali Siddique and Mahmudur Rahman.  
The conference elected a committee of JCD with Selim Ahmed and Asrafuzzaman Khan as the President and the Secretary respectively.

Pests damage crops on 15000 acres

From Our Correspondent  
PATUAKHALI, Sept 6: At least 15,000 acres of land have been affected by pests in Bauphal, Dumki and Dasmina upazilas of the district, leading farmers said, reports UNB.  
They said mazra and pamri have been seen extensively in the Aus and Aman paddy fields in the area.  
Local Agricultural Department has been informed of the pest attack but no action has yet been taken, they alleged.  
District Agriculture officials said spray machines available with them were 'out of order'.  
Farmers, urged the concerned authorities to take action urgently so that crop production target in the area can be achieved.  
Another report from Kishoreganj adds: Smuggled Indian insecticides are causing adverse effects on crops and land all over Kishoreganj, Netrakona and Mymensingh districts, leading farmers and agriculture officials said.  
These smuggled insecticides are adequately available in the markets of border belts at cheap rates, they said.  
According to a report, one variety of these insecticides is so strong that it kills insects including those which are complementary to fertility.  
Agricultural experts said extensive use of Indian insecticides has been decreasing yield of paddy and destroying soil fertility.

wait for the harvesting of crops do not usually get fair price for their produce. Tackling full advantages of the prevailing situation, the local money lenders are doing brisk business by granting loans at high interest against the security of the crops in fields.  
A large number of landless people who do not find employment as agricultural labourers have been passing their days half fed and unfed. Often they sell their utensils and domestic animals.  
The price of bullocks has recorded a sharp fall and about half of the farmers in Kishoreganj have already sold their draft animals. The day labourers are virtually out of employment.  
A good number of farmers in the district are engaged in cultivation of sweet Potatoes in char areas. Poor production and lower price of the items have caused serious set-back to the growers of sweet potatoes.  
The item is now selling at Taka 180 to Taka 200 per maund depending on quality. The growers are forced to sell sweet potatoes much below the production cost in the absence of buyers.

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CHANDPUR: Erosion of the mighty Meghna has taken a serious turn at Hanar Char Union in Chandpur Sadar upazila. Panicky people dismantling their dwellings to settle in other places of the district. — Star photo