

## Upazila roundup

### NETRAKONA BNP, Juba Dal offices ransacked

**From Our Correspondent**  
Nov. 20 : The offices of Netrakona BNP and Juba Dal were badly damaged here by a group of agitated youngmen on Monday noon.

The incident took place as a sequel to internal clique among the local Juba Dal workers over the leadership of the district.

Eye witnesses said, a group of agitate youngmen believed to be the members of Juba Dal, Netrakona attacked the local BNP and Juba Dal offices and damaged the signboards, furniture, electric fans and other office holds including the portraits of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.

A General Diary (GD) was recorded with the Netrakona police station in this connection.

Special police forces have been posted at some points of the town to maintain law and order situation, police sources said.

The Whip of the Treasury Bench of Jatiya Sangsad and President of Netrakona District Unit of BNP visited the damaged offices on Monday night. He talked to the party workers and leaders and described the incident as unexpected and unlawful. The Whip also expressed his deepest concern and sorrow over the incident.

### KURIGRAM Release of JP leaders demanded

**From Our Correspondent**  
Nov. 20 : A big procession was brought out by Jatiya Party and Juba Sanghati members of Kurigram jointly at Kurigram recently to press home their demand for release of H M Ershad, Moazzem Hossain and all other detained Jatiya Party leaders.

The processionists paraded the main streets of Kurigram town and chanted slogans in support of their demand.

A big rally was also held in this connection which was addressed, among others, by Mr. Rukunoddowa Mondol, Ex-Zila Parishad Chairman, Kurigram, Mr. Abdur Hossain, Mr. Mostafa Kamal, Mr. Doula Monju, Mr. Mahboob Hossain, Mr. Abu Bakar Siddique, Secretary, Jatiya Party Kurigram and local Juba Sanghati leader Mir Shaiful Islam Ruku.

### BARISAL PHE distributes 22,500 low-cost latrines

**From Our Correspondent**  
The Public Health and Engineering Department (PHE) distributed 22,500 sets of Low-Cost Latrines (LCL) among the people of six southern districts during the last financial year. The districts included Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola, Jhalakathi, Borguna and Pirojpur.

PHE has also a target to distribute more than 80,000 sets of low-cost latrines particularly for the people of 11 southern districts of Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola, Jhalakathi, Borguna, Pirojpur, Faridpur, Madaripur, Sariatpur, Gopalganj and Rajbari.

A total of 6015 sets were distributed in Barisal, 4,200 sets in Patuakhali, 1,750 sets in Jhalakathi, 3,850 sets in Bhola, 4,370 in Borguna and 2,325 sets in Pirojpur.

### JAMALPUR Training course on nutrition held

Nov. 20 : A six-day long training programme on nutrition was held at the Sadar Upazila Central Cooperative Society office recently, reports BSS.

Twenty five women participated in the training course. Certificates were distributed on the concluding day by Mr. Burhanuddin, Deputy Director, Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB). The function was presided over by Advocate A K Farhad.

### MANIKGANJ Padma, Jamuna record sharp fall

Nov. 20 : The Padma and the Jamuna recorded sharp fall in their water level with the onset of the dry season and diversion of flow upstream across the border, official sources said, reports UNB.

Innumerable shoals, about 200, according to a BIWTA source, have surfaced on the two mighty rivers threatening operation of ferry services at several points.

A Water Development Board source said, the Jamuna at

Aricha was flowing at 4.85 metres and the Padma at Daulatdia point at 3.86 metres on Sunday morning.

Official sources expressed the fear that ferry services between Sirajganj-Bahadurabad, Aricha-Daulatdia and Mawa-Char Janajat may be affected any day now.

Already ferries are operating through alternate routes at some points of the Jamuna, they said.

### SIRAJGANJ Future of cotton mill workers uncertain

Nov. 20 : The future of thousands of workers of Sirajganj Spinning and Cotton Mill has become uncertain while the owners latest attempt to sell out the mills ended in failure, reports UNB.

The attempt failed as the buyers set certain conditions including retrenchment of surplus workers and fresh appointment which the workers opposed.

The Mills had been laid off on November 17, last year without any prior notification on grounds of financial loss.

Earlier, the Mill authorities borrowed about Tk. 18 crore for balancing and modernisation but diverted the money to other projects, the mill workers alleged.

The authorities also have withdrawn Tk. 58 lakh from the provident fund account of the workers in collaboration with some of the union leaders, they further alleged.

The local unit of the Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad observed programmes including hartal to reopen the mill, but the mill still remains closed and the workers without job.

### NARAIL BDR personnel asked to work with devotion

Nov. 20 : The Deputy Director General of Bangladesh Rifles, Brigadier Abdullah-a-Hussain, on Monday called upon the BDR personnel to perform their duties with devotion upholding the spirit of sacrifices by the liberation war martyrs, reports BSS.

Brigadier Hussain was addressing the members of rifles marking the inauguration of a newly-constructed residence for Mrs. Fazlulunnissa, the second wife of Bir Shrestha Shaheed Lance Naik Nur Mohammad Sheikh, at Narail town.

BDR Commander of Khulna Sector Col. K. M. Anwar Hossain, Commander of Second Rifles Battalion, Lt. Col. Mohammad Mobarak Hossain were present on the occasion.

### RAJSHAHI Death condoled

**From Our Correspondent**  
Nov. 20 : Teachers of Rajshahi University expressed their heart felt condolence at the death of Ex-Chairman Dr. Abdul Hye of Philosophy department of Chittagong University.

In a condolence meeting organised by RU Philosophy department held at Shahidullah Arts Gallery on Wednesday last the speakers said the country had lost an eminent educationist and philosopher whose contribution would be remembered by all.

They expressed sympathy with the members of the bereaved family.

Presided over by Professor Mafizuddin Ahmed, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Dr. Ahad Ali Mondal, Hasan Azizul Haque and Mr Rashidul Alam.

### JHENIDAH 3-hour road blockade by JCD

Nov. 20 : About 200 activists of Jatiyatadabi Chhatra Dal district unit staged a demonstration in the town Monday demanding immediate arrests of the killers of their leader Mithu, reports UNB.

The demonstrators created a three-hour road blockade from 12 noon on Dhaka-Jhenidah road. As a result, hundreds of buses and trucks of different long routes remained stranded.

They also demanded withdrawal of the Officer in-charge of Jhenidah Sadar police station for his alleged inactivity to nab the killers of Mithu who was killed by a group of rival students recently.

The agitating Chhatra Dal workers, however, withdrew the blockade after assurance by the Deputy Commissioner and Acting Superintendent of Police.



Respite after a day's work on footpath braving the winter chill.

—Star photo

## ADB threatens to abandon Habiganj electricity project

From A Correspondent

SYLHET, Nov 20 : The Habiganj town electricity distribution project is now threatened with abandonment due to non-cooperation and obstacles created by the Habiganj Pourashava and Roads and Highways Department. The Asian Development Bank (ADB), sponsor of the project has warned that the project might be declared, abandoned if the scheduled works are not completed by this month (November), it is reported.

It may be mentioned here that, the 25 crore Taka project was started with the assistance from ADB under the "14 town Electricity Supply Project". Under the project, construction of a 33/11 KV sub-station has already been completed by a Chinese firm.

In the second phase, extension works of new distribution line from the sub-station through new poles have been going on. Old poles are now being replaced by the new ones. The pourashava and the

Roads and Highway Department authorities are demanding compensation for this.

Besides, some influential people are also obstructing the replacement of poles. Even in some areas, the works have been lying incomplete, it is alleged.

Due to all these problems, the extension works may not be completed by this month, it is apprehended. This unnecessary obstruction to the completion of the project works will ultimately hamper the smooth supply of electricity.

A PDB source informed this correspondent that there is no provision for compensation in implementing such projects aided by the international agencies. Neither the ADB nor the government gave money for the compensation, he said.

In Habiganj town, construction works on 11,000 volts and 440 volts line involving Taka 28 lakh and 12 lakh respectively are going on in fullswing.

The pourashava authority and Roads and Highways Department are obstructing construction of new lines through their roads.

Immediate steps should be taken in this regard, for smooth completion of the project, it is widely felt.

### Death condoled

To mourn the death of the valiant freedom fighter and sub-sector Commander of Balat, Major (Retd) M A A Muttalib, the Sylhet district unit of Bangladesh Mukti-joddha Sangsad arranged a condolence meeting at its office recently.

The meeting was held on the last day of three-day programme following the death of Major Muttalib. Mr Anwar Hossain, Commander of the district unit command of the Sangsad, presided over the condolence meeting while it was also addressed, among others, by Mr Md Ismail, Additional Deputy Com-

missioner (General), Sylhet, Mr. Jamal Pasha, Mr. Enam Ahmed Chowdhury, Mr Yamin Chowdhury, Mr. Abdul Ahad and Mr. Shamsuddoha.

The speakers dwell on the life and works of the late freedom fighter.

Late Major Muttalib was born in Netrakona in 1936. After graduating he joined the then Pakistan Army in 1954 and got commissioned in 1956. An accused of Agartala conspiracy case, Major Muttalib retired from the Army in 1968.

He organised the members of the then EPR in Sylhet in 1971 for Liberation War and made a strong resistance against the Pak Army here. He, later served as Commander of the Balat sub-sector. He died at M A G Osmany Medical College Hospital following a heart attack on October 19 last.

He left behind two sons, three daughters and a host of friends and relatives to mourn his death.

### 40 shops gutted at Chandpur Puran Bazar

CHANDPUR, Nov 20 : At least 10 people were injured and 40 wholesale shops at Puran Bazar in the town gutted in a devastating fire early Monday morning, reports UNB.

Fire Brigade sources said three policemen and three firemen were among those injured while fighting the blaze.

The injured people were given first aid at the Sadar Hospital, local officials said.

President of Chandpur Chamber of Commerce and Industry Jahangir Akand Saleem said the fire caused extensive damage to cash and kind amounting to several crore taka.

Fire Brigade sources said the loss of property alone could be about Tk 1.5 crore in the fire at the large wholesale market.

Police and fire service officials are conducting investigation to assess the exact loss.

The fire originated in a grocery from electric shortcircuit at about 4:45 am, Fire Brigade said.

It quickly engulfed adjacent shops, most of which were full of foodgrains, baby food, edible oil, sugar, spices and cosmetics.

Firefighters from nearby stations rushed to the scene but could do nothing as their machine went out of order.

Fire officials, however, said their operation was hampered due to narrow roads and passages in the congested shopping centre.

### Doctors demand withdrawal of deputation order

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Nov. 20 : Local doctors held a meeting here Sunday demanding withdrawal of deputation order of the physicians from the upazila parishad, reports UNB.

Held at the Civil Surgeon office, the meeting was presided over by Dr Mohammad Abdur Rauf. Among others, Dr Mohammad Fakrul Islam of Nawabganj Sadar addressed the meeting. They also discussed various problems and suggested measures to improve the working conditions.

The meeting also formed a 31-member district unit of Doctors Association of Bangladesh (DAB) with Dr Abdur Rauf, Dr A T M Mozammel Haq Bakul and Dr Mohammad Mofakharul Islam as its President, Secretary General and Treasurer respectively.

### Little progress in coastal afforestation

BARISAL, Nov 20 : The coastal afforestation programme has been making very little progress due to indifference of forest officials, erosion and activities of jodars, lathials and criminals, local leaders alleged, reports UNB.

According to figures available from the local forest and revenue offices, out of 60,000 acres of land afforested in Bhola, Patuakhali and Borguna since 1973, more than 6,000 acres have been washed away by river erosion in the last five years.

A large portion of afforested land has been illegally occupied by local jodars with the help of lathials and miscreants, revenue department sources said.

The Forest Department lodged 865 revenue complaints of which only 53 have so far been settled. A total of 173 of these cases were filed during the last financial year alone.

Criminals have taken over the vast char areas of Manpura, Charfession and Tajmuddin upazilas of Bhola

### Muktijoddha rally held at Maulvi Bazar

**From Our Correspondent**  
MAULVI BAZAR, Nov 20 : Muktijoddhas of the district extended their full support to Central Command Council of Bangladesh Mukti-joddha Sangsad (BMS) which is running under the leadership of Principal Abdul Ahad Chowdhury at a rally held here recently. They also condemned the activities of a certain quarter who wants to create confusion among Muktijoddhas in the country.

## Train journey hazardous on Parbatipur-Panchagarh route

From Our Correspondent

DINAJPUR, Nov 20 : Shortage of bogies, inadequate services, absence of basic amenities and improper maintenance make the journey on Parbatipur-Panchagarh rail route hazardous.

Only two up and down trains running on this route can hardly cope with the onrush of the thousands of passengers. At best three or four bogies are attached with engine which are much inadequate for the increasing number of passengers. It is alleged.

The passengers on the route travel on the footboards, engine room and even on the roof top of the train due to rush of passengers.

The train often runs without any second class compartment and as a result the upper

rooms is also quite inadequate. Illegal shows of video films are regular in Dinajpur town.

There are more than 100 video clubs in the town of which only 20 are licenced. The clubs without any licence and other requisite permission are arranging the film shows. Some people of this town also exhibit video films in some stalls, book shops, medicine shops, it is complained.

The owners of the authorised video clubs alleged that the Customs Department is solely responsible for the illegal shows. The role of police in this regard is also not clear.

Meanwhile, the local cinema hall owners have lodged several complaints against the illegal video film shows but got no response.



PABNA: A sequence from a dance-drama held on the occasion of the centenary celebration of Ananda-Govinda Public Library recently.

—Star photo

## Mismanagement in orphanage alleged

From Our Correspondent

MADARIPUR, Nov 20 : The inmates of Madaripur orphanage who are mostly school students have been deprived of the government facilities due to alleged corruption of the management.

The orphanage was shifted to Kulpaddi, adjacent to the town from Mohosherchar in June 1984 due to the erosion of the river Arial Khan. The existing dilapidated orphanage building is quite unhealthy, it is reported.

The inmates of the orphanage complained that they are not supplied with the normal food including the improved diet. The enlisted supplier in connivance with the management supply inadequate and sub-standard foodstuffs regularly, it is further alleged.

Besides, the only appointed cook is very irregular. As a result, the inmates have to prepare their foods by themselves. The orphans informed this correspondent that the Superintendent had been give a room by the supplier where rich quality foodstuffs are managed for him. The Superintendent has misappropriated Taka 1500 which was collected through selling of vegetables produced by the orphans, it was also alleged.

Reliable sources informed that during shifting, the Superintendent in collabora-

tion with others had sold several housing materials worth Taka 10,000.

The students of the orphanage complained that they are not given requisite paper, pen and books regularly for which they suffer much. Sometimes they have to buy the materials from outside at their own cost, they alleged.

In spite of repeated requests the students were not supplied sport articles.

A part-time Medical Officer visits the students irregularly. So they are to depend on a compounder who is also not regular. The medicines are not supplied from the orphanage and as a result the students have to buy those from outside at their own cost.

It is learnt that two bags of powdered milk which were supplied for free distribution among the students became unfit for consumption due to delay in distribution.

Most of the staff, particularly the Assistant Superintendent and a lady teacher of the primary section are irregular for which education of the inmates is hampered.

The local people demand immediate inquiry into the matter for smooth running of the orphanage for mitigating the sufferings of the orphans.

## Obscene film shows rampant in Satkhira

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Nov 20 : The exhibition of obscene VCR films has become rampant in different places of the district.

The obscene VCR films are usually exhibited in the mini-cinema halls which have been set up in Satkhira Sadar, Kaliganj, Tala, Kalaroa, Debhata, Assasuni and Shyamnagar upazilas of the district. The influential and organised quarters of the localities are reported to be involved in such illicit practice.

Sources inform that obscene films are being shown every night which demoralises the youths of the area. The organisers of these films even display obscene posters and leaflets to allure the audiences.

Some of the hair cutting saloons at Tala upazila and a godown at Patkelghata Bazar are used as halls for the purpose. In Kaliganj upazila, a hall room with the accommodation capacity of 500 people is used to serve the purpose.

These unauthorised and anti-social activities are going on unabated in Satkhira on the very nose of the law enforcing agencies, it is alleged.

Local people urge concerned authorities to take immediate steps against these immoral activities to prevent young generation from demoralising.

### Anti-smuggling drive

Anti-smuggling drive has geared up throughout the border areas of the district. Smuggled goods worth Taka five crore 32 lakh were seized by the BDR personnel during the period from January 91 to October 91 last.

A total of 2500 cases has been registered with the different police stations of the district and 622 smugglers

were caught redhanded.

According to the local BDR sources, the BDR personnels seized huge quantity of smuggled goods worth Taka three crore and 71 lakh while being smuggled into Bangladesh from India. Smuggled goods worth Taka one crore and 61 lakh were also seized while being smuggled out of Bangladesh to India.

The goods usually smuggled to Bangladesh from India include sarces, sugar, salt, lunges, popline cloth, spices, fruits, eggs, flowers, cows, cycle, cycle parts, machinery parts, medicines, yarn, cosmetics, toys, combs, pesticides, paddy, rice, match, bidi, bidleaf, zarda, utensils, glass, onion, garlic, dry chilli, zira, shallow machine, spectacles frames, ballpen while the goods smuggled and Bangladesh include polyester cloth, old cloths, tetracycline powder, gold, fish, VCP, VCR.

### AL unit confce

The biennial conference of Awami League, Tala thana unit of the district was held at Tala upazila auditorium recently.

Sheikh Rezaul Karim presided over the meeting while Mr. Salauddin Yusuf MP, President member of AL and MD. Nasim MP, Publicity Secretary of AL and chief Whip of the opposition in the parliament were present as chief and special guests respectively.

Syed Kamal Bakht, President, Satkhira District AL inaugurated the conference. Mr. Mansur Ahmed MP, AFM Entaj Ali, SM Alauddin and others spoke on the occasion.

A 39 member Executive Committee of AL, Tala thana unit with Mr SM Alauddin and Nurul Islam as President and General Secretary respectively was also formed.

## Smuggled goods worth Tk 19 cr seized; 709 held

RAJSHAHI, Nov 20 : Bangladesh Rifles arrested 709 people and seized smuggled goods worth about Tk 19 crore from the Rajshahi sector during the last 10 months of the current year, reports UNB.

A total of 709 people were arrested and 3,538 cases filed with the police during the period.

The largest quantity of smuggled goods worth about Tk 3.17 crore had been acted in the month of April.

The goods recovered while being smuggled from Bangladesh to India included gold, silver, copper, brass, white-brass, spare parts, edible oil and goods coming from India included sarces, cloths, salt, sugar, onion, cow, cosmetics, heroin, medicines, pesticides and electrical instruments.

It may be mentioned here that the BDR acted contraband of about Tk 19 crore last year from the same sector.

### Post-flood agri rehabilitation

Another reports adds: A total of 75,917 acres of land will be brought under post-flood agriculture rehabilitation programme in eight districts during the current rabi season, official sources said here today.

It is estimated that crops worth about Tk 82.50 crore will be produced under this programme at a cost of Tk

7.50 crore.

Boro paddy, wheat, mustard, maize and maskalai will be produced mainly in the areas.

Districtwise distribution of lands under this programme will be as follows: 3440 acres in Rajshahi, 9622 acres in Naogaon, 9000 acres in Natore, 12808 acres in Nawabganj, 10,000 acres in Bogra, 6500 acres in Joypurhat, 7753 Pabna and 20794 acres in Sirajganj.

The district and upazila officers of Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADCO) have already taken steps to distribute seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and other necessary inputs among the farmers to implement the programme.

### Customs officials urged to help check smuggling

BENAPOLE, Nov 20 : State Minister for Finance Majibur Rahman yesterday called upon the customs officials to gear up their activities to arrest present trend of smuggling in the border belts so as to save the country's economy from further ruination, reports BSS.

He was addressing the officials at Benapole land customs office. Customs Collector, Khulna, Mahbubur Rahman also spoke on the occasion.