

Upazila roundup

BOGRA

Chhatra Union members observe hunger strike

Aug 25: The members of district Chhatra Union unit observed eight hours hunger strike here Saturday as part of central programme in support of their demand to re-open all closed educational institutions, reports UNB.

After the strike a rally was held in which student leaders alleged that the armed terrorists under the patronage of political parties have been vitiating the academic atmosphere for a long time leading to closure of many educational institutions including Dhaka and Rajshahi Universities.

Extending their support Advocate Mir Iqbal Hossain, Chairman district unit of Udichi, Central Vice-Chairman of Chhatra League Jahangir Alam and others spoke on the occasion. They demanded immediate reopening of the closed institutions and restore normalcy in the campuses.

KISHOREGANJ

Accommodation shortage in jail

From Our Correspondent

Aug 25: Acute shortage of accommodation and paucity of drinking water have been prevailing in the district jail here for a long time causing great inconveniences to the prisoners.

According to the jail authorities, at present there are 878 prisoners in the jail though it has the capacity to accommodate only 201 prisoners. Of them 700 are under trial prisoners.

The prisoners have demanded of the authorities to take necessary steps to solve the accommodation and drinking water problems without further delay.

KHAGRACHHARI

227 tribal refugees back home

Aug 25: More than 227 tribal refugees returned home from Tripura state of India between August 1 and 15, official sources said here today, reports UNB.

According to the chairman of Khagrachhari Hill District Local Government Council Samiran Dewan, the tribals were forced to leave the country by the outlawed Shantibahini insurgents and took shelter in the camps at Karbuk, Shilachari, Thakumbari and Lebachari of Tripura state.

The returnees are the inhabitants of Panchari, Ramgarh and Matiranga upazilas of the district.

Starvation death and attack by various diseases like diarrhoea, dysentery, malaria and tuberculosis are the common features in India camps, Samiran told quoting the returnees.

Thousands of tribal refugees have been passing their days in extreme hardships for want of minimum basic amenities of life in the Indian camps, he added.

RANGAMATI

Shantibahini frees 2 abducted villagers

Aug 25: The tribal insurgents released two out of seven abducted people, officials sources said here today, reports UNB.

According to sources, Yasin Ali, Abdur Rahman, Faruq, Prafulla Chakma and Luxmi Kumar Chakma of Kcrangatali village in Baghatari upazila were kidnapped while going to Marishya bazar by boat on August 16. The miscreants opened blank fire during the incident to create panic among the on lookers.

Later in the evening of the same day they released Prafulla and Luxmi Kumar but the fate of remaining three non-tribals are still uncertain, the sources said.

In another incident on August 17 the tribal insurgents kidnapped one Naton Chakma with another tribal member from Jiptali in Sadar upazila of the district for refusing to pay tolls to them.

Collection of tolls from the poverty stricken people of the Greater Chittagong Hill Tracts by the outlawed Shantibahini men has been going on alarmingly, the sources added.

BRAHMANBARIA

Boy crushed under wheels

Aug 25: A boy was run over and another old man sustained serious injuries in two separate road mishaps Thursday, police here said, reports UNB.

The boy identified as Akhtar Hossain (10), of Gopinathpur village in Kasba upazila was crushed to death by a speeding truck (No Noakhali Tas-1439) while crossing the road near Ujanishar bridge on Comilla-Sylhet highway.

In another incident, the old man named Sudhansu Chakraborty (60), was knocked down by a bus (No Comilla Baa-5378) while he was crossing the road near Bhudhanti on Brahmandria-Comilla highway. Later he was rushed to Sadar Hospital.

Two separate cases were lodged with Brahmanbaria police in this connection.

KISHOREGANJ

208 nabbed during Operation Durbur

From Our Correspondent

Aug 25: A total of 208 persons were nabbed by the police on various charges from different parts of the district during the first week of the anti-criminal drive styled as Operation Durbur. Police also recovered eight pipe-guns, 18 rounds of ammunition, comma nine kirsh one dagger and one Chinese axe during the period.

JAMALPUR

330 held during operation Durbur

Aug 24: The rail police arrested 300 criminals and recovered a huge quantity of stolen goods during special drive of Operation Durbur across the district in the last six days, reports UNB.

The crackdown started on August 18 in a bid to ensure peace and security of the railway passengers, the sources said.

The stolen goods were recovered from Tarakandi near Jamuna Fertilizer Factory. The arrested include fugitives, mastans, drug addicts, pickpockets, hijackers and passengers without ticket.

BRAHMANBARIA

Kidnapped girl rescued

Aug 25: Police rescued a teenage girl Thursday after 48 hours of kidnaping and arrested two people in this connection from Mirpur village of Bahubal upazila of the district, reports UNB.

Jasmin Ambia, student of class seven of Model Government Girls High School, was kidnapped while returning home from her private tutor's house on August 20.

The arrested Saimul Islam and Rashed driver were sent to jail today.

A case was lodged with the police.

SIRAJDIKHAN

Dacoity bid foiled

From Our Correspondent

Aug 25: A dacoity bid in the village Baropara under Strajdikhon upazila was foiled by the Police recently.

Acting on a secret information the Police rushed to the spot and caught five dacoits red-handed while they were being reeded to commit a dacoity. Police recovered one Cut-Rifle, one Chinese Axe, two Ram daos, two Knives and three handbombs from the dacoits.

The arrested dacoits are I. Aziz (25), Manik (27), Awlad (30), Muhammad Hossain Sheik (32) and Abdus Salam (35).

Two separate cases have been filed against them with the Strajdikhon P.S.

PABNA

'Kalajar' claims seven lives

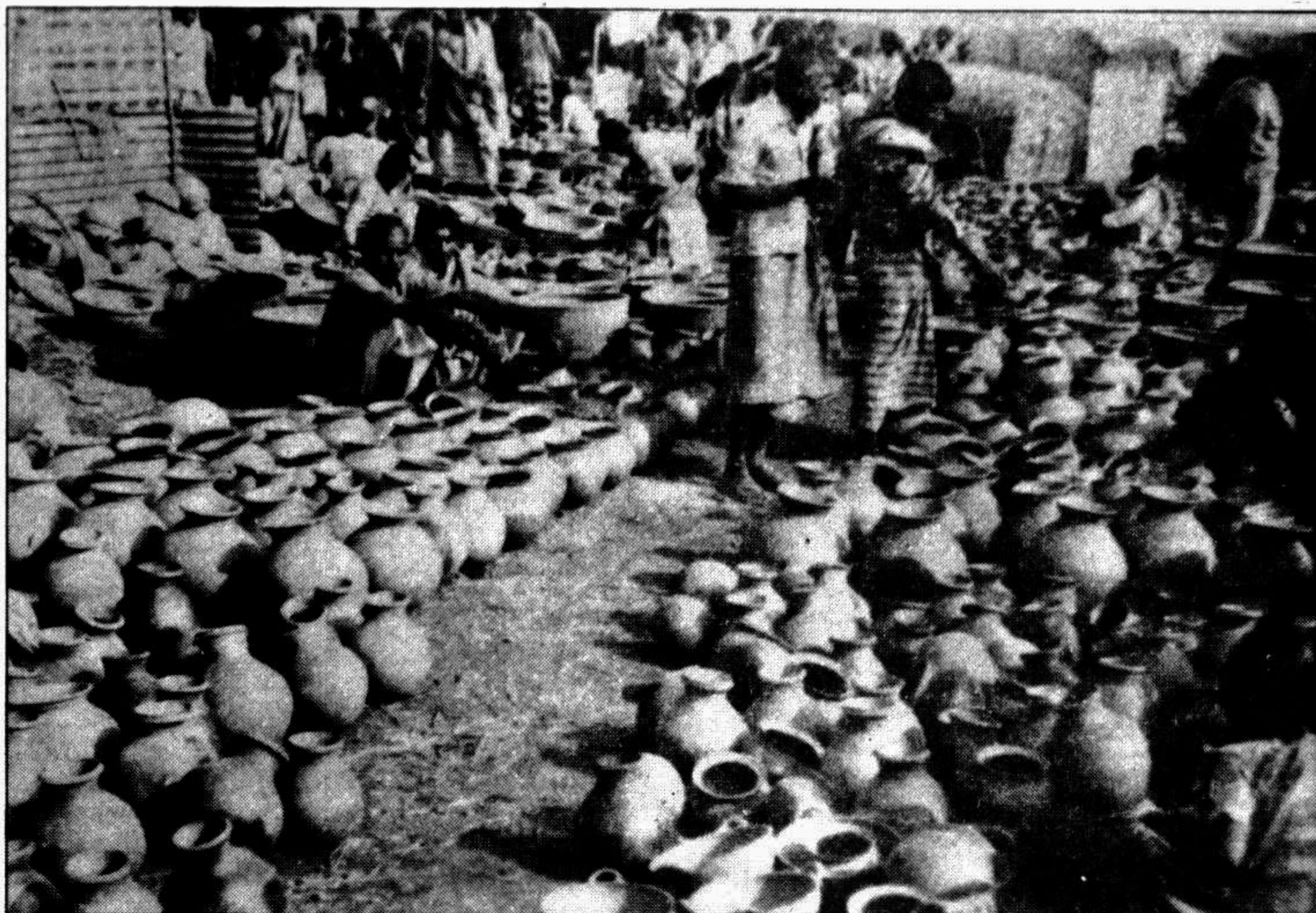
Aug 25: Kalajar, a deadly disease has claimed seven lives and attacked over 100 others in three villages of Faridpur upazila during the last week, unofficial sources said, reports UNB.

Official sources, however, confirmed five deaths and 25 others were attacked by the disease in the area. The affected villages are Shonahara, Kalia and Banwarinagar.

The victims were identified as Abdul Ohab (26), Tarek (5), of Shonahara village; Ali Ashraf (35), Zahar Kha (60), Aloke (5), and Sayemuddin (38), of Kalia village and Dulal of Banwarinagar.

Acute scarcity of Kalajar vaccine 'Stebatin' has been prevailing in the upazila, official sources said.

The panic stricken people of the upazila have urged the authorities to take immediate steps to combat the disease.



RANGPUR: With the advancement of science utensils, made of different metals have been developed. As these items are durable, demand for earthenwares has fallen considerably and the age-old pottery facing extinction. Photo shows potters with their produce waiting for customers at local Lalbagh Hat. — Star photo

Smugglers active along border areas

From Our Correspondent

CHITAINAWABGANJ, Aug 25: Smuggling has been continuing unabated along the border areas of the district.

The contraband items including sugar, salt, sarees, lungies, cosmetics, blades, safety matches, bicycle, imitation ornaments etc which are smuggled into our country have paralysed the local small industries and factories.

On the other hand the contraband spices — cloves, cinnamon, polyester cloth and yarn, VCR, VCR, brass, copper, electronic goods, gold, palm oil, soybean oil which are imported through foreign currency are smuggled out of our

country. A group of organised and influential smugglers with the co-operation of law enforcing agencies has been carrying out the heinous business and a large number of people including females and children is working over day and night as their agents.

The women are engaged in ferrying the contraband goods from door to door. Local elite opined that if the smuggling continues unabated the country's economy will be shattered in near future.

Bangladesh Rifles of 31 Battalion seized smuggled goods worth Taka 4.50 crore

in last seven months through different points of border areas.

It may be mentioned that anti-smuggling committee is trying to check the smuggling but lack of co-ordination with their component parties is hindering the process.

The BDR personnel of 31 Battalion and the patrol party of Task Force arrested eight persons and seized a huge quantity of contraband goods worth Taka 31,98,616 in July this year from different places of the district.

The contraband included cattle, buffaloes, sugar, salt, long cloth, yarn, blade, cattle-

head, polyester cloth, bicycle spare parts, cosmetics, cloves, cinnamon, bhargri, postodana etc.

Rajshahi

Bangladesh Rifles personnel seized smuggled goods worth over Taka 92 crore from Rajshahi sector areas during the last six years, Col M M Jahangir, Sector Commander, Rajshahi, told BSS Saturday.

Smuggled goods worth over Taka 40.60 crore were seized during the last three years and 9,982 cases were filed with police.

2,260 alleged smugglers were arrested during the period. The smuggled goods in-

cluded gold, heroin, VCR, VCR, sugar, cattle, cloth and electronic items. The seized items were deposited with concerned authority.

Besides, concerned authorities held motivational meetings in border areas to help check smuggling for greater national interest.

BDR personnel Saturday rescued 62 persons including 15 women and 30 children while they were led to border areas by traffickers to smuggle them out to India.

They seized 151 cattle and 80 pieces of Indian sarces on the day. None was, however, arrested in this connection.

'Vested quarters trying to destroy Govt-Opposition understanding'

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 25: Opposition Chief Whip Mohammad Nasim yesterday urged people to give verdict in September 15 referendum for parliamentary system as well as raise their voice for repealing the Indemnity Ordinance to ensure democracy and rule of law, reports UNB.

He was speaking as chief guest at the installation ceremony of the students union of Kazipur Mansur Ali government college.

Nasim, also Publicity Secretary of Awami League, appealed to all parties, including the BNP, to support the Indemnity Ordinance (Repeal) Bill in parliament to end politics of killing and coup once for all.

He said an atmosphere of understanding and cooperation between the government and the opposition has been created through the passage of the 12th Constitution Amendment Bill.

Vested quarters are conspiring to destroy the understanding for fostering establishment of democracy and rule of law, the Awami League leader said.

"All of us must remain alert against the evil design," he said and warned that any rift in the understanding will spell disaster for the ruling party.

Nasim who visited some flood affected areas in Kazipur upazila demanded of the government to immediately repair the embankments in Kazipur and Sirajganj Sadar upazilas to protect life and property from erosion of the river Jamuna.

Presided over by Acting Principal of the College Shamsul Haq, the function was addressed, among others, by Awami League leaders Motahar Hossain Talukder, Haasan Ali, Mustafizur Rahman.

Onion farming faces setback in Rajshahi zone

CHITAINAWABGANJ, Aug 25: The onion cultivation in four districts of Rajshahi zone is facing a setback due to shortage of necessary inputs, reports UNB.

According to informed sources, growers in Natore, Naogaon, Rajshahi and Chapainawabganj are facing acute problems due to shortage of seeds, high prices of fertilizers and pesticides and lack of irrigational facilities.

According to growers, onion seed production involves a difficult process and it can be damaged even in inclement weather. As such onion seeds are damaged almost every year due to drought and hailstorm.

The quality onion is produced twice a year, the irrigated variety in the summer and Laila variety in the winter. The summer onion is produced from original seed while the small onion is used as seed and reproduced as Laila variety in the winter season.

A kilogram of original seed

sells between Tk 1,500 and 1,600 per maund while the Laila seed is now being sold between Tk 800 and 900 per maund in different markets of these districts. Now-a-days onion seeds also come from India. Smuggled Indian seeds produce low quality onion, it is learnt from the farmers.

Due to widespread damage to onion seeds in the last season, the farmers of these districts feared about a potential scarcity of seeds in the coming season.

The farmers hit by recurring crop failure, cannot afford to buy required fertilizers, pesticides and pumps to irrigate their fields.

On the other hand, due to lack of marketing mechanism and preservation facilities the onion growers are deprived of fair prices of their produce.

The onion growers have urged the authorities to look into their problems and take immediate steps in this respect on priority basis.



BRAHMANBARIA: A procession parading the town streets in observance of World Population Day recently. — Star photo

Civic amenities absent at Sirajganj town

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 25: Sirajganj town dwellers have been facing a lot of problems due to lack of civic amenities.

In absence of proper drainage system rain water remains stagnant on the roads and people walk through knee-deep water. The condition of Borogola-Collectorate road is very deplorable.

The ghat railway station is shifted very often due to devastating erosion of Jamuna. The Bazar railway station is full of floating people and gay girls.

On the other hand, intruders have occupied vast area of the Bazar railway station resulting in traffic jams

regularly. Trucks, rickshaws and merchandise good including barrels of diesel are kept under open space in front of the station office.

The only Shidhu Park of the town fails to entertain the children due to environmental causes. Welding shops beside roads pose threat to the town dwellers.

Even after upgrading to A class municipality the town lacks in various amenities which cause untold sufferings to the people.

Met offices need modern equipment Six offices of the Met-

eological Department in the northern part of the country are facing shortage of improved technological instruments. It is learnt that six offices of Meteorological Department have been set up one each at Rajshahi, Bogra, Ishwardi, Rangpur, Saidpur and Dinajpur. The teleprinters, radio sets and wireless sets used in these offices are outdated and fail to meet the needs of time. Besides, every office faces acute shortage of staff. About 25 to 20 posts of officers and employees are lying vacant for a long time. The authorities concerned have been urged to provide these

offices with modern equipment and fill up the vacant posts immediately.

Electrification scheme

Construction works under 18 town electrification scheme have been suspended after completion of 25 per cent of the work.

It is learnt that Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) took up a scheme in 1983 to extend power supply network and it was supposed to be completed within three years. The project included installation of 1400 transform-

31 grams ganja recovered: 3 arrested

From Our Correspondent, FARIDPUR, Aug 25: The Narcotics Department recovered 31 grams of ganja and arrested three persons in three separate raids recently in Faridpur sub-division.

According to official sources, the ganja was recovered from the shops of Kumar Goswami of Golchamat under Faridpur Sadar upazila, Abdul Gazi Howladar of village Kosha under Bhangra upazila and Dharendra Nath of Boalmari Bazar under Boalmari upazila.

Three separate cases were instituted with the respective police stations.

The 16th death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was observed in a befitting manner in the district.

Construction of Biman's Khulna office in progress

KHULNA, Aug 25: Work is in full swing on the construction of the regional office building of the national airline, the Bangladesh Biman, reports UNB.

The construction work taken up at a cost of Taka 2 crore 57 lakh and 69 thousand is expected to be completed soon. Eighty-five per cent of the work has been completed and the building located in front of the new market is likely to be inaugurated next January, a Biman source said here.

Local leaders and elite have welcomed the construction of the office building but they expressed strong resentment at the indifference of the authorities to the demand for an airport in Khulna.

ers, 6000 poles, and 6,000 metres. The department supplied wire, poles and transformers. During a period of two years only 800 poles were supplied and 25 per cent of wiring work were completed. The contractors stopped work due to non-supply of materials by PDB.

Meanwhile, the poles and aluminium wires of the completed part of the scheme are being damaged and stolen by the miscreants. When contacted, the local office of the BPDB told this correspondent that work will be resumed on availability of materials from the authorities concerned.

Notes from Nandail

From Our Correspondent

NANDAIL, Aug 25: Some influential circles are allegedly misappropriating the properties of a mosque at Nandail.

The sources said Shihbnagar Jame Mosque under Shingrial union of the upazila was established in the British period.

It is learnt that land adjacent to the mosque was the property of the mosque and crops produced in this land was said to be handed over to the Masjid Committee.

But recently one Abdur Rahman raised his claim of ownership of the land and chopped down valuable trees from the plots of the mosque. Later he sent to the court. The court after examining the evidences passed the order in favour of the mosque. Yet the influential person is allegedly cutting the remaining trees forcibly depriving the mosque of its valid right.

Jute sells below production cost

Jute growers of Nandail, Kendua, Ishwarganj, Gouripur and Tarail upazilas are facing serious problems because of sharp fall in jute price which is below the production cost.

It is reported that in various markets of the upazilas jute is selling between Taka 185 and 225 a maund. A group of motivated middle-men is allegedly learnt to be active in depriving the growers of fair price as the role of BJC and BJMC is not reasonable in the aforesaid areas.

3 dacoits held

Three absconding dacoits were arrested at Nandail recently. Shahabuddin Bhutyan, Chairman of Chondi Pasha Union under Nandail upazila blocked the dacoits at Bashati Bazar with the co-operation of the adjacent villagers. Nandail police arrested Shamsul Haq, Shunu, Taheruddin, who had been absconding for a long time from the spot.

Barisal Hospital beset with problems

BARISAL, Aug 25: The 100-bed Barisal General Hospital is beset with manifold problems, patients and hospital sources said, reports UNB.

Only four medical officers, one resident medical officer and three consultants on medicine, surgery, and E & T are at present working in the hospital.

The condition of the old hospital buildings is not at all favourable for normal functioning of the medical institution.

The building in which the outdoor patients department is located is in a dilapidated condition. Its roof leaks in after repair work done three months back at a cost of Tk 3 lakh.

It was also alleged that outdated X-ray films are used in the hospital making it difficult for proper diagnosis of the disease.

Meanwhile, work is yet to start on the construction of a 20-bed diarrhoea ward in the hospital. A hospital source said additional fund for the project has not yet been approved by the health directorate.

Call to make referendum a success

BAGERIAT, Aug 25: Foreign Minister ASM Mustafizur Rahman on Thursday called upon all concerned to make the coming referendum a success with a view to sustaining parliamentary system of government replacing residential one, reports BSS.