

Upazila roundup

RAJSHAHI

Mosquito menace

From Our Correspondent
Oct 9: Mosquito menace has made life miserable in the town.
Silted drains and derelict ponds dumped with filth and garbage all over the city area are acting as ideal breeding centres for mosquitoes. Water logging caused by slight rainfall also help increase mosquito breeding.
The situation becomes worse after sunset when residents are forced to take shelter under mosquito net. Even babies are to sleep under mosquito net during day time.
Local people urged the City Corporation authorities to take effective measures for eradicating mosquito in the city area.

PABNA

BNP leader released from jail

Oct 9: Md Mokhelesur Rahman, a leader of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) of Iwardi upazila was released from the jail hazat after 30 months Tuesday, reports UNB.
Police arrested him in November, 1988 in connection with two separate murder cases.
He was accorded a grand reception by local BNP members at the jail gate.
Kazi Mahbubul Alam, former president of the district Chhatra Motre was also released the same day.
Alam was arrested in connection with the murder of Ahmed Karim, president of JSD (Rab) was stabbed to death by some miscreants on October 30, 1990.

THAKURGAON

Jute growers deprived of fair price

From Our Correspondent
Oct 9: Jute growers of Panchagarh and Thakurgaon districts are not getting fair price of their produce.
Three jute purchasing centres have been opened in Thakurgaon at Shibganj, Rubca and Thakurgaon road in Thakurgaon district. But they have not started purchasing yet. Only BJMC at Shibganj purchased 80 maunds of jute a few weeks back at Taka 106 per maund on the opening day but at present they are not purchasing it. As such jute growers are facing difficulties.
The farmers are compelled to sell their produce to the farias and brokers at Taka 120 to 140 per maund. It is mentioned that a total of 33,000 acres were brought under jute cultivation in Panchagarh and Thakurgaon districts.

MAULVI BAZAR

Teachers yet to get govt grants

Oct 9: The government grants for the six non-government primary schools in the Sadar upazila of the district have remained undistributed because of bureaucratic negligence, local leaders alleged, reports UNB.
An amount of Tk 72,000 under the compulsory primary education scheme had been sanctioned for six months from January to June this year.
The money was to be disbursed to 29 teachers belonging to Abdulpur Primary School, Bhramim Primary School, Nabinagar Primary School, Koromullapur Primary School, Nimaral Primary School and Pashim Sadhuhat Primary School.
It has been alleged that the Sadar Upazila Education Officer took no initiative to disburse the amount and the sanction allowed to lapse with the closing of 1990-1991 fiscal year.

SATKHIRA

One killed in road mishap

Oct 9: A middle-aged man succumbed to his injuries at the general hospital in a road mishap near the town on Tuesday, reports UNB.
Witnesses said the victim identified as Asgar Ali (30) was travelling on the roof of a Sathkhiria bound overloaded minibus coming from Jessore. While the speedy minibus was trying to overtake a rickshaw at Brazabaksha on Sathkhiria-Jessore road Asgar suddenly fell down from the roof of the bus.
He was rushed to the hospital in a critical condition, where he died on the same day.
The driver fled with the vehicle. A case has been filed with the police.

JHENIDAH

Smuggled goods recovered: 3 arrested

Oct 9: Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) seized goods worth about Tk 29.61 lakh and arrested three alleged smugglers from different parts of the district during the last week, reports UNB.
The seized contraband goods include Indian saree, sugar, cattlehead, cosmetics, VCP, VCR, polyester cloths and Hishha fish.
The arrested Toyeb Ali, Sherin Ali and Ranjit Kumar Shaha were sent to police custody.
Several cases were filed with different police stations in this connection.

KISHOREGANJ

Minister accorded reception

Oct 9: District unit of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) accorded a reception to Deputy Minister and local MP A.B.M. Zahidul Haque at the local Shilpakala Academy Friday, reports UNB.
The Minister in his address called upon the people to extend their cooperation to the present democratic government to implement its uplift programmes.
He assured the local people of his full cooperation to solve their problems saying that the present Government would bring prosperity in the country through implementing the 19-point programmes of late president Ziaur Rahman.
Chaired by convener of the local unit Prof Habibur Rahman Bhuiyan, the meeting was also addressed by Moulana Md Ataur Rahman Khan MP, Masud Helali, Mazharul Islam, Shariful Islam Sharif, Khaled Shaifullah Shohel and Asaduzzaman Ripon.

KHAGRACHARI

One killed during crossfire with Shanti Bahini

Oct 9: A man was shot dead at Natyapara under Matrangap upazila of the district Monday during a cross fire between law enforcing agency and tribal insurgents, reports UNB.
Official sources said, the victim Ram Krishna Chakma (40), was killed in the cross fire which continued almost half an hour.
The shoot out ensued when the tribal insurgents opened fire on the members of law enforcing agency who were patrolling the area.

GAIBANDHA

Diarrhoea death toll rises to 110

Oct 9: Diarrhoea claimed four more lives and attacked several others during the last two days raising the death toll 110, Civil Surgeon office sources said here today, reports UNB.
Official sources said, 15 people died in Sadar upazila, 20 in Palashbari, 24 in Gobindganj, 20 in Sadullapur, 4 in Fulchari, 4 in Shaghata and 23 in Sundarganj upazilas during the last five weeks.
A total of 6,748 people in seven upazilas of the district were attacked by the disease during the period while about 500 affected people have so far been admitted to Gaibandha Modern Hospital and upazila health complexes.
Ninety-five medical teams have been working in the affected areas to combat the disease, the sources added.
Scarcity of pure water and taking of adulterated food said to be the main reasons behind the outbreak of the disease.

C'NAWABGANJ

Rickshaws go off road

Oct 9: A six-hour rickshaw strike was observed here Tuesday in protest against manhandling and torturing of pullers of the town by the local police, reports UNB.
The rickshawpuller family of the town in a rally condemned the police atrocities and demanded immediate release of their arrested members. The rally was presided over by Asmat Ali.
Later, they submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner of the district.

A peep into Narayanganj hospital

Patients return without treatment

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Oct. 9: The 200-bed Narayanganj hospital functioning for the last five years provides limited treatment facilities to a large number of attending patients. Though the hospital has a huge stock of modern medical equipment the number of technicians are too few to operate them.
The hospital was set up at a cost of Taka 33.53 crore under the assistance from government of Japan. The vast hospital complex was formally opened on October 22, 1986 on the turn key basis.

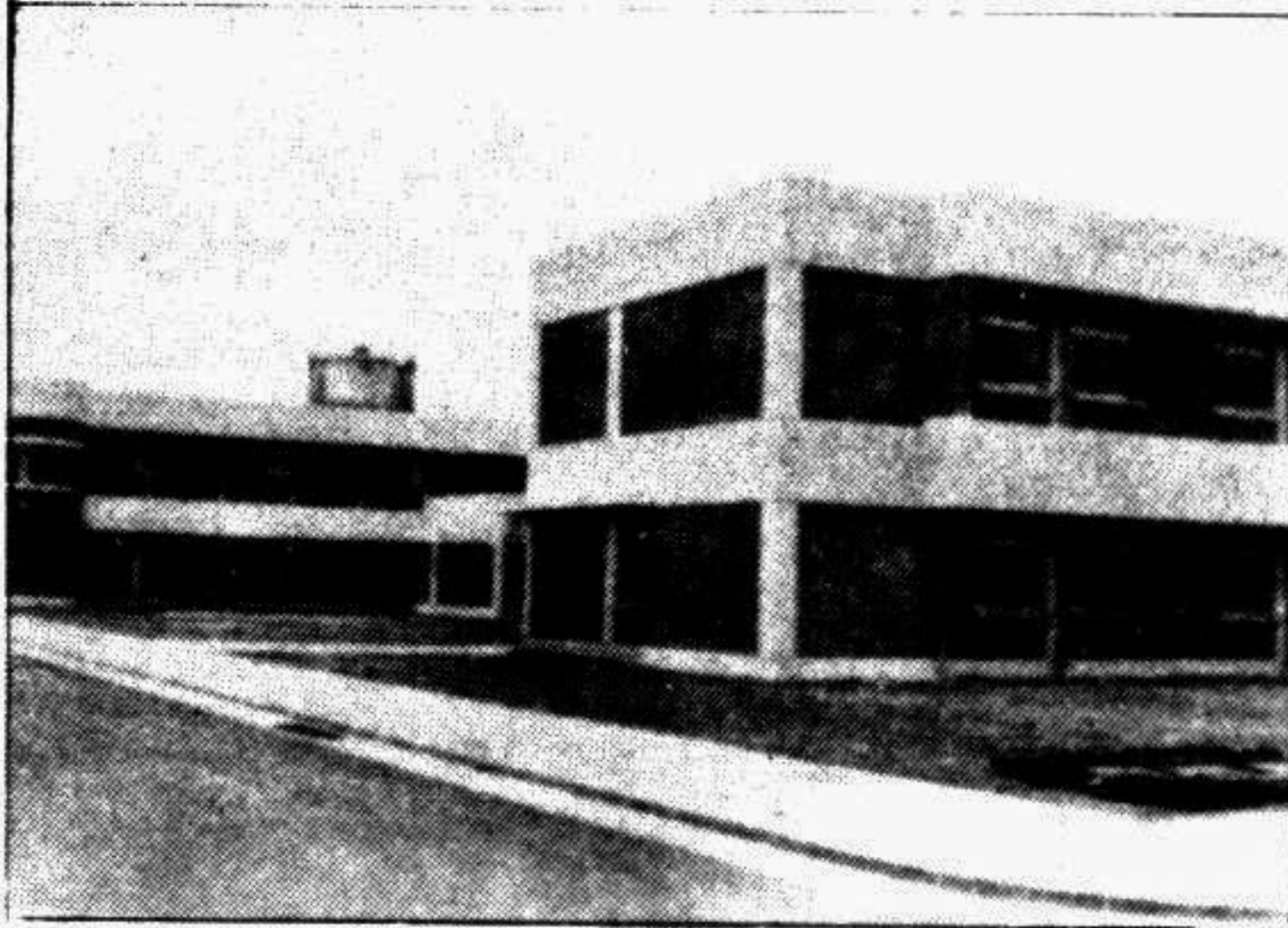
About 1.5 million people of Narayanganj district heaved a sigh of relief on its opening hoping that they would get specialized treatment. But their hopes have been shattered as a good number of highly sophisticated equipment could not be operated due to the absence of technicians.

On the other hand patients suffer badly due to shortage of medicines and alleged obstinate attitude of some physicians and absence of other medicare.

The hospital has eight departments which include medical, surgical, gynecology, paediatrics, ophthalmology, skin and venereal diseases, dentistry and psychiatry.
Besides, it has ten cabins, internal medicare unit, physiotherapy, ECG department, centrally controlled X-Ray, pathology, operation theatre and centrally arranged oxygen distribution system. The intensive cardiac unit is yet to be opened.
There are about 304 staff in

the hospital. Among 50 doctors there are 18 consultant physicians. It has a sanctioned posts of 62 nurses including a matron and a junior matron. The posts of two doctors including one junior consultant and three nurses are lying vacant.
The gynaecology ward is now facing acute shortage of medicines like gentacin, laxi, sedative and injection seduxen.
The anaesthesia, radiography and pathology wards are

parts to give pathological reports. Some of these firms are reportedly owned by laboratory technicians of the hospital.
The condition of the blood bank is more deplorable. Despite government rate of a bag of blood at Taka 100 this is sold at much higher price. The patients infected with tetanus, viral jaundice etc are not getting proper treatment as the infectious diseases ward has been turned into cabins recently.



Narayanganj modernised hospital. —Star photo

running without adequate number of doctors. Some doctors engaged in pathological testing laboratories force patients to get their pathological tests in particular firms in spite of its own pathological department which is rich in modern equipment. Another surprising fact relates to the behaviour of a section of the doctors. They use private firm

The doctors and other staff are facing acute housing problem as there are 60 dormitories for the nurses while there are only 12 for the doctors, two are occupied by the superintendent and some are occupied by doctors whose services are not considered to be emergency. Lack of cots in the nurses' dormitory force them to stay on floor. There is also

allegation that the patients are not provided with proper attention by the doctors. It is reported that some doctors remain absent from their duties regularly while others advise the patients to consult them in their private chamber. As a result, patients who are unable to consult in their chambers move from hospital to hospital seeking treatment.
There is also allegation of corruption and mismanagement, nepotism in matters of admission into the hospital and treatment. The food supplied to the patients is also of poor quality. But it was not possible to supply improved quality food with only Taka 18 per patient per day.

The psychiatric department and centrally controlled X-Ray system are yet to be introduced. It is learnt that the hospital spends a considerable amount of money for laundry despite having three automatic washing machines. Transport are inadequate. One ambulance and one old car can hardly meet the requirement.
Stealing of medicines from the hospital stores is a regular phenomenon. Some local youths are also creating chaotic situation in and around the hospital.
The post of sterilizer-cum mechanic and chief technician could not be filled yet.

A knowledgeable source stated that some new posts of doctors should be created for the smooth running of this specialised hospital.
It may be recalled here that within a span of five years six superintendents were posted which caused administrative problems.

Tk 3.30cr for upgrading five colleges

BARISAL, Oct 9: Government has sanctioned Taka 3.30 crore for upgrading some colleges into degree awarding institutions during the current fiscal year, reports BSS.
The colleges are: Government Brojomohun College, Barisal, Government Eden's Girls' College, Dhaka, Carmichael College, Rangpur, A.M. College, Mymensingh and Victoria College, Comilla.
According to an official source, the money will be spent on construction of administrative buildings, controller offices and a library building.
Of the total, Tk 60 lakh each had been sanctioned for Brojomohun College, Eden's Girls' College, Carmichael College and A.M. College while

Tk 90 lakh were sanctioned for Comilla Victoria College.
Besides, government has sanctioned Tk 34 lakh for each of these colleges for purchasing books, scientific equipment, furniture and other necessary articles, the source said.
These colleges will be upgraded into the degree awarding colleges within next five years, the source added.
4800 tubewells to be sunk
Another report adds: Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) will install 4,800 tubewells in 11 southern districts of the country under 'pure water supply programme in rural areas' of Barisal circle during the current fiscal year.

According to an official source, 3,125 tubewells will be installed with the financial assistance of Saudi Government while 1,673 tubewells will be sunk with the financial assistance of the UNICEF.
The districts to be covered by this programme are: Barisal, Jhalakathi, Bhola, Pirojpur, Patuakhali, Barguna, Faridpur, Rajbari, Gopalganj, Madaripur, and Shariatpur.
Of the total, 1,648 are deep tubewells and the rest 3,152 are shallow tubewells.
Besides, 458 Tara-pumps will be installed in Faridpur and Rajbari districts of Faridpur Division of Barisal circle in the period.
A total of 13,99,680 people will get pure drinking water in the rural areas.

Fertilizer, pesticides prices up

JAMALPUR, Oct 9: Prices of fertilizers and pesticides have registered a sharp rise in the district adversely affecting the farmers, reports UNB.
Almost all fertilizers - Urea, TSP, Muriate of Potash (MP), Gypsum and Zinc Sulphate are being sold at exorbitant prices in different markets of the district.
Market sources said, a bag of Urea, TSP, MP, Gypsum, Zinc Sulphate now sells at Tk 275, 270, 220, 65 and 730 respectively as against Tk 245, 247, 205, 55 and 690 last week.
The prices of pesticides have also gone up. Marshall and Dimecron, mainly used for transplanted Aman paddy, are being sold at Tk 50 and 95 respectively as against Tk 42 and 75 just before the sowing of Aman seeds.

16 lakh acres to be put under Aman farming

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Oct 9: The Agricultural Extension Department has taken up a comprehensive programme to bring over 16 lakh acres of land under transplanted Aman cultivation in 10 districts under Khulna Division during the current season.
Of the total land, 334,500 acres will be brought under Aman cultivation in Satkhira district, 273,700 acres in Khulna, 218,000 acres in Bagerhat, 269,400 acres in Jessore, 164,400 in Jhenidah, 70,200 acres in Magura, 31,200 acres in Narail, 109,700 acres in Kushtia, 68,400 acres in Chuadanga and 3,200 acres in Meherpur districts.
According to the reports, over 12,50,000 tons of Aman paddy are expected to be produced under the programme in these districts. The Agricultural Extension Department has taken up necessary measures to supply HYV seeds, fertilizers and irrigation equipment for implementation of the programme. The Bangladesh Krishi Bank will also distribute adequate loan among the farmers of the district for the purpose.

Agri-loan
The Bangladesh Krishi Bank has taken up a programme to distribute Taka 9 crore 11 lakh as agricultural loan among the farmers of 10 districts under Khulna Division during the current financial year.
According to the official sources, the loan will be distributed among the farmers of 10 districts under Khulna Division through 41 BKB branches. The distribution of loan has already been started and is expected to be completed during the next June '92.
Of the total, Taka 1,57,00,000 will be disbursed among the farmers of Satkhira district, Taka 1,35,00,000 in Khulna, Taka 1,26,00,000 in Jessore, Taka 94,00,000 in Bagerhat, Taka 75,00,000 in Magura, Taka 43,00,000 in Narail, Taka 137,00,000 in Kushtia, Taka 305,00,000 in Chuadanga and Taka 10,00,000 in Meherpur district.
The loan will be sanctioned to the farmers of these districts for buying the bullocks, it is learnt.

Essential prices up, consumers suffer

From Our Correspondent

NANDAIL, Oct 9: The people of fixed and low income groups have been facing serious inconveniences due to the sharp rise in prices of essential commodities in different markets of Nandail and its adjacent upazilas. Prices of rice, pulses, edible oil, eggs, chilli and vegetables have registered a sharp rise over the last few weeks.
The prices of different varieties of rice have shot up by Taka 65 to 75 per maund.
Mustard oil is being sold at Taka 60 per kilo while masur pulse at Taka 25, soyabean oil at Taka 42. Prices of onion and garlic have also shot up abnormally.
Steps are essential to bring the prices under control, it is felt.

food, milk powder, molasses and sugar are being sold at much high rates causing misery to the consumers. During the last few days per kilogram molasses was being sold at Taka 22 instead of Taka 18 per kilogram.
Short supply of salt in the market has pushed up the price by Taka 2 to 3 per kilogram. The salt is being sold at Taka 8 to 9 against Taka 6 to 7 a few days ago.
On the other hand baby

Passenger kicked down from running train

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Oct 9: One Saheba Khatoon (32) was kicked down from a running train by Pradip Kumar Paul, a railway security guard, recently. She is fighting with death at Chuadanga Sadar Hospital.
According to a delayed message, Saheba Khatoon was travelling in a compartment of Khulna-bound Mahananda mail train. The railway security guard Pradip Kumar Paul on duty suspected Saheba to be a smuggler and abused her. At one stage Saheba protested Pradip's behaviour. Being enraged the security guard kicked her down from the running train. The other passengers of the compartment being angry attacked the security guard. In the meantime the train reached the Darsana railway station and Pradip tried to escape but immediately the passengers chased the guard and he took shelter at railway station police camp.
On the other hand victim Saheba was taken to Carw's

Mills hospital where she was given first aid and later she was transferred to Chuadanga Sadar Hospital. She is now in a critical condition.
On the same day Pradip Kumar Paul was handed over to Poradah railway police for necessary action.
Peace Day observed
International Peace Day was observed on September 17 last and a discussion meeting was held at the office of the local daily Mathabanga. The theme of the day was "Peace, not War."
Mr Saiful Islam Pinu, Chairman, Chuadanga Sadar Upazila Parishad and Editor of the daily presided over discussion meeting.
Among others, it was addressed by Sadar Al-Amin, Elias Hossain, Ahmed Sharif and Shah Alam Sany.
The speakers in the discussion meeting urged the people to resist war at any cost and work with a missionary zeal to establish peace in the world.



Members of the Chander Hat brought out a procession in observance of the International Children's Day in Narayanganj recently. —Star photo

Meagre medicare in health complex

KISHOREGANJ, Oct 9: The rural health complex at Hossainpur upazila of Kishoreganj district fails to provide proper medicare to the patients.
The health complex is faced with scarcity of medicines, shortage of accommodation, absence of ambulance, poor diet and lack of water supply.
Everyday a large number of patients both males and females coming from far-flung areas of the upazila for treatment go back home without medicines.
There is no ambulance in the health complex. Patients who are advised to be removed to Kishoreganj or Mymensingh or Dhaka hospitals could not be sent.
Dearth of bed sheets, pillows, blankets and mattresses are the main problems. The female ward is nothing but an apology of a health complex.
At a time 30 to 50 patients are found in the small wards. Many patients coming from

different corners of the upazila are refused admission for want of accommodation. Sometimes the patients requiring operation have to go either to Mymensingh or Dhaka as there is no proper arrangement for surgical operation of the patients in the health complex. The critical patients die without surgical treatment in the health complex.
It lacks in blood bank and X-ray arrangement. The health complex has no segregation ward. As a result, the patients with infectious diseases are accommodated in general ward.
Many emergency patients are kept on the floor and even they have to wait for hours together to get medicare due to shortage of adequate number of doctors, the sources added.
The water supply in the health complex remains disrupted.
The diet supplied to the patients is not up to the stan-

dard, it is alleged. The premises of the health complex is covered by bushes and weeds and remains always dirty.
Important office bldg yet to be completed
The construction work of Kishoreganj police line and SP's office, Collectorate Bhaban and Judge Court buildings initiated during the fiscal 1986-87 by the Public Works Department are yet to be completed. As a result, over all works of concerned departments are being seriously hampered, official sources said.
The offices of the Deputy Commissioner and the District Judge were managed at the premises of the former SDO and Munstiff's buildings respectively after upgradation of Kishoreganj sub-division into a district in the year 1984. But

the problem of accommodation of the Police Superintendent and his reserve forces has become acute due to non-completion of the construction work of the SP's office and police line buildings.
The office of the SP was accommodated in a finished of the former ward committee office in the town.
Md Lutfur Rahman, Superintendent of Police, Kishoreganj told this correspondent that about 400 members of reserve police force have been facing acute accommodation problems here for a long time. A suitable parade ground is yet to be made available to the reserve police force for their daily exercise.
The completion of the construction work of Kishoreganj Collectorate Bhaban, Judge Court and Police Office building brooks no delay for redressing acute accommodation crisis of these establishments.

Prices of essentials mark rise

JHENIDAH, Oct 9: Prices of different essential commodities have recorded a sharp rise in the local markets adversely affecting the consumers over last the fortnight, reports UNB.
According to informed sources, medium and low varieties of rice are being sold at Tk 14 and Tk 12.50 per kg respectively in the markets as against Tk 12 and Tk 10 earlier. Atta is selling at Tk 10.50 per kg as against Tk 8 a few days back.

Maid servant electrocuted

From Our Correspondent
GAIBANDHA, Oct 9: One Kulsam (14), a maid servant was electrocuted at Bonarpara while she came in contact with an electric heater.
She was working as maid servant at the house of one Bazir Rahman, an employee of PDB residing at Bonarpara under Sadagata upazila. In the morning of September 20 while she was cooking on the electric heater suddenly she came in contact with the naked wire and received high voltage electric shock. The victim succumbed to her injuries after four hours.

BKB to disburse Tk 6.99 crore agri-loan

JHENIDAH, Oct 9: Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) will disburse Tk 6.99 crore as loan among the farmers in six upazilas of the district during the current financial year, reports UNB.
The upazilas are: Sadar, Shailakupa, Harinakunda, Kaliganj, Kotchandpur and Moheahpur.
According to a BKB source, of the total, Tk 1.88 lakh is for crops Tk 1.08 lakh for short term and Tk 4.03 crore for medium and long term loans. Disbursement is being made through its 14 branches. About 20 per cent of the loan has already been disbursed in the district.
Tk 50 crore of previous loans remains outstanding, the source added.

Dacoits loot property worth Tk. 60,000

From Our Correspondent
SIARIATPUR, Oct 9: A dacoity was committed in Omar Shikdar's house recently at Shibchar village of Nagarpura union under Goshairhat upazila. It is learnt that the dacoits came by boat at 11 pm and looted the owner of the house.