

Upazila roundup

PABNA

55 fall ill after eating relief 'khichuri'

Oct 14: At least 55 flood victims including 16 women and 10 babies fell ill recently when they ate relief 'khichuri' at a gruel kitchen at village Hashupur in Chatmohar upazila. The incident took place on October 6, reports UNB.

Md Ataur Rahman Rana, a local political leader of the upazila alleged that the district administration distributed polluted relief khichuri among the flood victims. He demanded enquiry into the matter.

Hospital sources said, food poisoning was the reason for falling ill of the victims adding that conditions of seven were serious. They are: Habiba Bibi (55), Jamshed Ali (50), Habibur Shaikh (32), Rahim Uddin (58), Mazirun Bewa (60), Habib and Abdul Quddus (40).

When contacted, the district authorities denied the distribution of polluted khichuri among the flood victims adding that they are feeding a large number of people for the last few days but they did not receive such complaints from other areas.

The authorities also said they have distributed Tk 1.5 lakh in cash and 64 metric tons of rice, 5 metric tons of wheat and other relief goods among flood victims.

GAIBANDHA

Minor girl burnt to death

Oct 14: A minor girl was roasted alive, another one injured and properties worth about Tk three lakh were gutted in a devastating fire at Purbakumarni Purbapara in Sadar upazila Thursday, reports UNB.

The fire that broke out at the house of local Awami League leader Mohammad Khaled soon engulfed the adjacent areas.

The body of the girl was sent to morgue for autopsy and injured Shuk Miah admitted to the hospital. He received burn injuries when he tried to rescue the girl.

Fire servicemen were reportedly manhandled by the angry mob for their late arrival.

JHENIDAH

Downpour paralyzes public life

Oct 14: The heavy downpour during the last 24 hours has paralyzed public life with unusual rise of the prices of essential commodities, reports UNB.

The incessant rainfall throughout the day caused much sufferings to the people specially the working class.

Most of the day the dwellers were forced to confine in their houses and the poorer section of the people were hard hit.

Meanwhile, the low-lying areas have gone under water and thousands of people have become marooned. Many kutcha dwelling houses were also damaged.

Standing crops on a vast tract of land have been threatened by the incessant rainfall creating panic among the poor farmers.

Taking advantage of continuous rainfall, a section of businessmen have increased the prices of rice, flour and other essential commodities causing great hardships to the low income groups of people, it is learnt.

MAULVI BAZAR

DAB executives

From Our Correspondent

Oct. 14: A meeting of physicians was held at Maulvi Bazar Sadar upazila health complex recently.

The meeting was presided over by Dr Shah Nurul Islam while leaders of central committee and Sylhet district committee of Doctor's Association of Bangladesh (DAB) attended as guests.

The physicians discussed their professional matters and problems in the meeting. Private and government physicians of the district also took part in the meeting.

A nine-member Executive Committee was also formed in the meeting for the Maulvi Bazar district branch of Doctor's Association of Bangladesh (DAB) with Dr M A Matin as Convener, Dr Serajul Islam as Member Secretary and Dr Shah Newaz Choudhury as Asst. Member.

RAJSHAHI

Marathon race held

From Our Correspondent

Oct 14: Under the joint auspices of Rajshahi Lions and Rajshahi University Leo Club a mini-marathon race was held recently with great enthusiasm in observance of Lions International October Service Week.

The marathon race began from Jiban Bima Bhavan and ended at Bangladesh Institute of Technology (BIT), Rajshahi.

Md Anisur Rahman, a student of class seven of Rajshahi College Gate School won first position while Kamaruzzamann of Shalbagan became second and Abdus Salam of Habibur Rahman Hall secured third place.

About one hundred students took part in the marathon competition.

NARAIL

Trader stabbed to death

Oct 14: An oil trader of Rugganj bazar here was killed early yesterday by unknown assailants, police said, reports UNB.

Family sources said a band of eight to 10 miscreants with lethal weapons stormed the residences of Abdul Maul (35) at Kurigram in the town at around 2:30 am and stabbed him indiscriminately. He succumbed to injuries on way to hospital.

Family members said the assailants demanded money from the victim, but Maul could not meet the demand.

A case was filed in this connection.

COMILLA

One jailed for smuggling

Oct 14: A smuggler has been awarded two years rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Tk 500 in default another 15 days in jail, reports UNB.

Mohd Emdadul Haque, Additional Sessions Judge found the accused guilty U/S 250 of Special Powers Act of 1974, and sentenced him recently.

The accused Abdul Khair along with some others were caught while carrying Indian sugar, turmeric, jira and two bicycles loaded on 7 rickshaws on March 19 last year.

A BDR patrol party challenged them near Monipur village and Abdul Khair was caught with the smuggled goods when the others escaped.

He was handed over to Kotwali police.

C'NAWABGANJ

Fish, vegetable prices up

Oct 14: Fish and vegetable supplies have gone down in the local markets here pushing up prices beyond reach of the common men, reports UNB.

This was an unusual phenomenon particularly on the advent of winter when supply of both the commodities should be increasing, knowledgeable sources said.

According to sources, fish like ruhi, katla, singh, magur are being sold between Tk 60 and 100 per kilogram. Though it is the season of hilsa, the fishes being sold between Tk 45 and 50 per kg.

Among kitchen vegetables, potato is being sold at Tk 12 per kg, karola at Tk 12, brinjal at Tk 14, lady's finger at Tk 18, 'lalshak' at Tk 12 per kg. Potato is being sold between Tk 12 and 13 per kg.

SATKHIRA

One electrocuted

Oct 14: Abu Bakar (26) of village Marka in Kaligonj upazila of the district was electrocuted Wednesday, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, the incident took place when the victim fell down from a tree and suddenly came in contact with a live electric wire. He died on the spot.

His body was sent to hospital for autopsy. A case has been filed with the Kaligonj police.

FARIDPUR

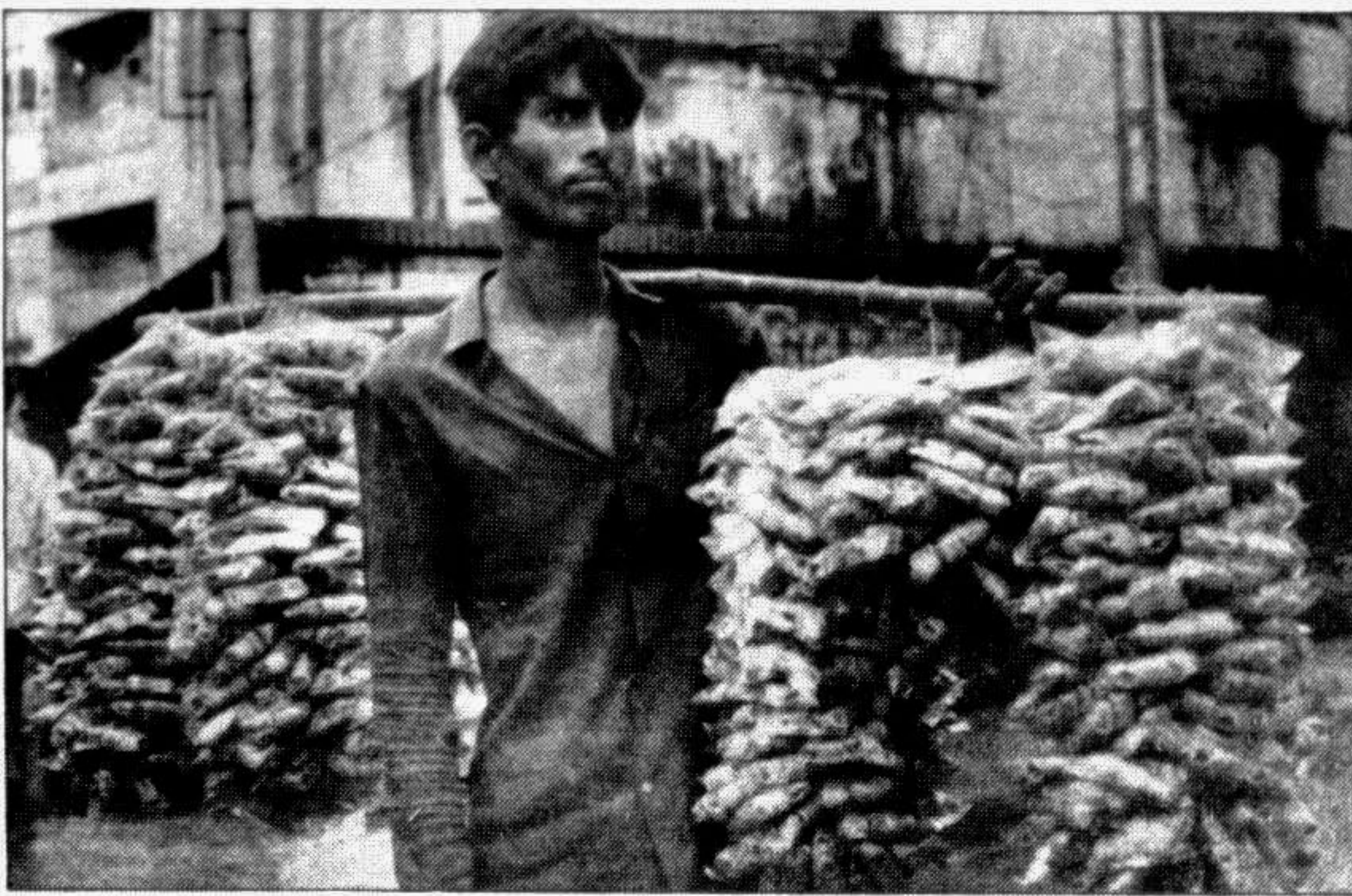
Body of minor boy found

Oct 14: A body of a minor boy was found yesterday (Thursday) near Golchamat area after being missing for a day, police said, reports UNB.

Family sources said, Subrana Sarkar (10), student of Golchamat Primary School did not return from the school on Wednesday.

Later on Thursday, a passerby found his body lying besides a knee-deep marshy land with his boots.

Subrana's family has failed to ascertain the cause of such dastardly killing as he was a new comer in the area. A case has been filed.



STRUGGLE FOR LIVELIHOOD: Ring chips, a fancy food is in great demand in the metropolis as well as in district towns. Photo shows this young man ferrying the item carrying on his shoulder at an upazila town in Noakhali.

Govt loses Tk 20cr for banning wood auction

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Oct 14: The government has incurred a loss of Taka 20 crore during the last financial year due to prohibition of auction of woods in the Sundarbans.

According to the official sources, the government prohibited cutting of woods from the Sundarbans in order to protect the environment and to boost the growth of the forest resources which were damaged during the last devastating cyclone that lashed the Sundarbans on November 29, 1988. The auction of woods from the Sundarbans was prohibited in the year 1989-90. Due to stoppage of auction over five lakh people of Satkhira, Khulna and Bagerhat districts have been thrown out of employment and the government incurred a loss of Taka 20 crores.

It is further learnt that during the year 88-89 the forest department earned Taka 32 crores from damaged trees of devastating cyclone.

Hospital in bad shape

Another message says: The 50-bed Satkhira district modernised hospital has been facing multifarious problems which include acute accommodation problem, absence of blood bank, sufficient number of beds, irregular water supply, absence of a children ward, gas supply and scarcity of essential medicines.

Every day many patients are refused admission into the hospital for want of accommodation while serious patients are accommodated on the floor. The existing water supply system in the hospital went out of order for long. Unplanned drainage system in the hospital areas created an unhealthy environment in the hospital.

The hospital buildings par-

ticularly the adjacent staff quarters are in a dilapidated condition. Many cracks have developed on the roofs and walls of the building. During rainy season water enters through the cracks and leakages.

The hospital building were constructed in the early '80s at an estimated cost of Taka over two crore and no proper steps have been taken for maintenance of the building.

The unplanned sanitary system and damage of the sanitary pipeline created an unhealthy environment. Filth coming out through the damaged pipeline pollute the atmosphere of the hospital.

Drains and toilets of the hospital are not cleaned regularly causing sufferings to the inmates of the hospital. The number of wardboys and sweepers is inadequate. The wards of the hospital are not cleaned regularly.

The authorities concerned have been urged to look into the matters.

Eight lakh suffer from goitre in northern region

From Our Correspondent

PANCHAGARH, Oct 14: About eight lakh people have been suffering from goitre in eight districts of northern region.

A survey conducted jointly by the Nutrition Institute of Dhaka University and World Food Organisation found eight lakh people in Thakurgaon, Panchagarh, Dinajpur, Rangpur, Nilphamari, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat and Gaibandha have been attacked by goitre.

Experts say that scarcity of iodine in the body is cause of this disease.

Due to iodine deficiency pregnant mothers give birth to a disabled child. Out of eight lakh patients about two lakh are children and the rest are between age group of 21 and 45.

Jute price

Inordinate delay in jute purchasing by BJC and BJMC centres in Panchagarh district has hit hard the jute growers here.

18 family welfare centres will be constructed

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Oct 14: Construction work of 18 family welfare centres in 11 northern districts at a cost of Taka 28,26,000 will be started soon.

It is learnt that the Ministry of Health and Family Planning has taken up the scheme to extend family welfare facilities to the rural people. The centres are being constructed with 90 per cent financial assistance of the World Bank and 10 per cent assistance of the Government of Bangladesh.

Sites of the family welfare centres were selected at Jamtoli in Sirajganj, Vangura and Falachar in Pabna, Islampur in Chapainawabganj, Tilua and Shahgola in Naogaon, Nodabas, Goral and Jagatbari in Lalmonirhat, Hariakati in Rangpur, Banglabanda in Panchagarh, Tepharibari, Khansama, and Kamarbari in Dinajpur, Gadori in Thakurgaon and one in Gaibandha districts.

Economic hardship

The overall economic condition of the people in Sirajganj district has deteriorated following continuous flood and erosion of the rivers Jamuna, Fulzori and Karotoa and fall in demands of handloom products.

Shaheed Sufi Club lift DC gold cup

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Oct 14: Faridpur Shaheed Sufi Club became champion in the DC Gold Cup Football Tournament-91 defeating host Jhenidah Eleven by 2-0 goals held at Jhenidah Stadium recently.

Manik of Brothers Union who played in favour of Sufi Club team scored two goals and was adjudged the best player of the match. Mr Shahidul Islam MP, gave away the trophy among the winners. A total of 16 teams participated in the tournament.

The activists of the JCD student wing of the ruling party ransacked the residence of Mahmudul Islam Putan, convener of Jhenidah district Awami Juba League recently.

Eyewitnesses said that the activists ransacked the residence when one Motiry activist Tutul entered the residence of Putan.

Assault on newsman condemned

From Our Correspondent

MOULVI BAZAR, Oct 14: Journalists and leaders of different political and student organisations of Kamalgonj upazila at a rally condemned the attack on Mr Ishaque Kaja, a journalist of Danik Sylhet Kantha.

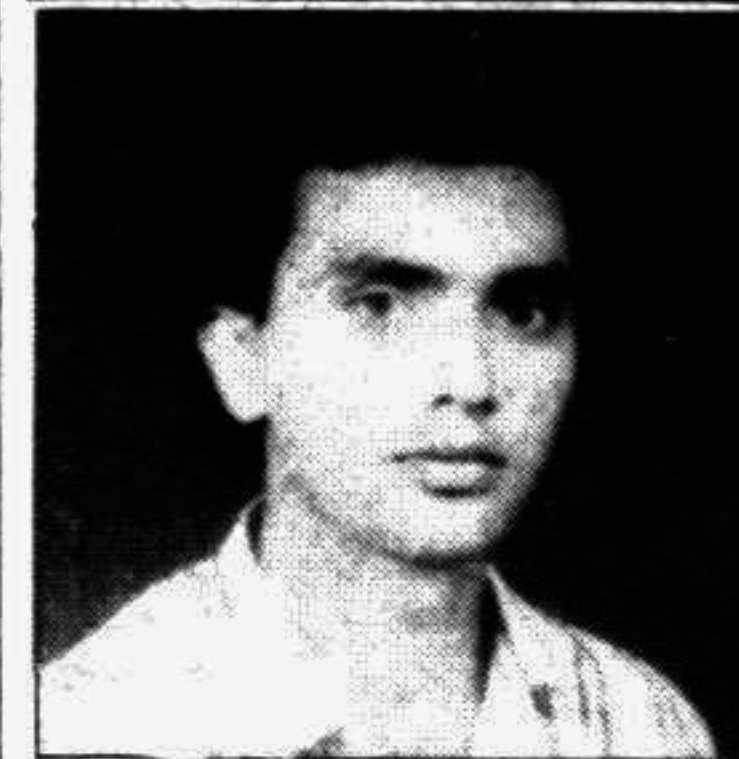
The rally was organised by Bangladesh Sangbadik Samity (BSS) Kamalgonj unit at Samshernagar Chowmuhani point recently with BSS local unit President Mr Meer Liakat Ali in the chair while BSS Maulvi Bazar district unit President Mr Radhika Mohan Goswami and Sub-Editor of Danik Sylhet Kantha Mr Ahmed Nur attended the rally as chief guest and special guest respectively.

The rally was addressed, among others, by Mr Abdul Hannan Chinu (journalist), Mr Sayitapada Deb Roy (journalist), Mr Mafiz Ali (JP leader), Mr Belayet Ali (AL leader), Mr Habibur Rahman (CPB leader), Mr Samsuddin Khan (UP chairman and BNP leader) and Mr Helal Uddin (student leader).

Speakers at the rally condemned the attack on Kaja and demanded exemplary punishment to the culprits.

It may be mentioned here that Mr Ishaque Kaja was assaulted by a gang of miscreants at Samshernagar recently.

The attack was against the report despatched by Mr Kaja on the issue of a land dispute, which was published in the Danik Sylhet Kantha, a daily published from Sylhet.



Stands First Class First

AGRI-VARSITY (Mymensingh), Oct 14: M Tofazzal Islam Shaheen stood First in First Class in the B Sc Ag (Hons) Final Examination of Bangladesh Agricultural University for the year 1988, says a press release.

It may be mentioned here that the above examination was held in the month of March, 1991.

All through a brilliant student, Tofazzal Islam had passed SSC examination in 1982 and HSC examination in 1984 from the Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board of Comilla securing first division in both the examinations.

Tofazzal Islam is the son of Mr Bazlur Rahman and Mrs Khaleida Khanam of the Village Shashat in Brahmanbaria district.

Woes of betel leaf growers

JHENIDAH, Oct 14: The betel leaf growers have been facing difficulties due to price hike of inputs and abnormally low prices of their product in the district, reports UNB.

Most of the villages of Harinakundu, Shaikupa, Kaliganj and Sadar upazilas have a number of families engaged in betel leaf cultivation. The production cost is high due to price hike of inputs including bamboo, jute stick, rope, straw and oilcakes, farmers said.

Some of them in the local weekly market told UNB that a bundle of 80 leaves (one pound) is selling less than Tk 2, which was not enough to pay the toll of the market.

The betel leaf growers were frustrated and thinking of changing their vocation, they said.

5-party alliance for alternative platform

Central leaders of the 5-party alliance have stressed on floating an 'alternative platform' comprising democratic and progressive forces to institutionalise democracy in the country, reports UNB.

Both Awami League and Jatiya Party failed to uphold democracy during their regimes, they told a public meeting at Agran Square here on Saturday.

They bitterly criticised the ruling BNP for its failure to combat terrorism and violence across the country as well as price-hike of essential commodities and agricultural inputs.

The meeting was addressed, among others, by Bimal Biswas of United Communist League, Nirmal Sen of Samik Krishak Samajbadi Dal, Nurul Sharif Ambia of JSD (Inu), Mahubul Huq of JSD, Abdullah Sarkar of BSD and Abdul Haque of Workers Party. Local JSD leader Monwar Hossain presided.

Smuggled sugar, salt seized in Chuadanga

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Oct 14: Smuggled goods worth Taka two lakh were seized from a mail train at Chuadanga railway station recently. The smuggled goods included Indian sugar and salt.

It is learnt that acting on a secret information, the BDR personnel stationed at Chuadanga BDR camp raided the Goalando bound Khulna mail train and seized huge quantity of sugar and salt from a compartment of the train. Nobody claimed the seized goods. Even after a vigorous hunt the BDR personnel could not trace not the actual owners of the seized goods, it is learnt.

A criminal case has been filed against Konika Rani Sarkar, a senior staff nurse of Damurhuda Upazila health complex by one Alam Mondol on charge of killing a new born child.

It is learnt that Alam Mondol of village Dhanghora admitted her pregnant wife Azma Khatoon for delivery at Damurhuda upazila health complex. When Azma Khatoon got labour pains, the staff nurse on duty was asleep and when Azma's mother awakened her up from sleep, the nurse came to the pregnant woman and assaulted her severely as a result the pregnant lady fell critically ill and in the morning the injured lady gave birth to a female child who died after 20 minutes.

It is alleged in the complaint that due to severe injury the new born died. The case record has been sent to Damurhuda thana police by the Magistrate to treat it as an FIR and a start a case under the relevant provision of law against Konika Rani Sarkar, it is learnt.

2 killed in Kushtia road accident

KUSHTIA, Oct 14: Two persons including a school headmaster were killed and 28 others injured when a minibus fell into a roadside ditch after knocking down a bicycle on the Kushtia-Iswardi road Saturday, reports UNB.

Sheikh Mehdi Reza (55), headmaster of Talharia High School died on the spot as he was hit while riding a bicycle to his school about 5 miles off Kushtia town.

According to witnesses and police, 22 of the injured were admitted to Kushtia General Hospital and other seven were released after first aid.

Ayesha Khatun (18), died in the hospital about 4 hours later and condition of another six were stated to be critical.

The critically injured are: Tariqul Islam (20), Abul Kashem (50), Riaz Hasan (28), Fazlu (28), Shanti Kumar (30), Abdul-Al-Mamun (20).

The students demanded burial of their headmaster without going for autopsy ad the administration granted it.

A case has been registered with the Mirpur police station in this connection.

Eye disease, diarrhoea break out in N'ganj

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Oct 14: Eye diseases have broken out in an alarming form in almost all upazilas of Narayanganj district. Everyday a large number of people with various eye ailments are pouring into upazila health complexes, Narayanganj hospital and private clinics.

Hospital sources said that about 35 per cent of the patients who come to the hospital are affected by eye diseases. The cause of the outbreak of the diseases could not be ascertained. Taking the advantage of the situation a section of medicine traders has raised the prices of almost all kinds of eye-drops and ointments.

Diarrhoea claimed eight more lives in Kashipur and Pagla unions under Narayanganj Sadar upazila during the last few days.

About 400 others have been attacked by the disease. The diarrhoea affected areas are Gongnagar, Baktabeli, and Muktarandi villages. The cause of the outbreak was due to paucity of pure drinking water and consumption of adulterated foodstuffs.

One killed in road mishap

One person was killed and three others were injured on Narayanganj-Munshiganj highway recently.

According to the police, when a bus bound for Munshiganj hit two baby-taxies one after another near the Bata Company under Narayanganj Sadar upazila, the victim Badal (30) a tempo passenger died on the spot while one of the drivers Mizan (26) was brought to Narayanganj General Hospital in a critical condition. Other injured persons were released after first aid.

The body was sent to Narayanganj morgue for autopsy. A case has been filed in this connection with the local police.

Sirajganj pry schools beset with problems

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Oct 14: Primary Education in the district is facing setback due to various problems including shortage of teachers, furniture, accommodation etc.

It is learnt that there are 1091 primary schools in the district including 879 government and 212 private primary schools. Out of them, 191 private schools are registered by the government and four teachers of each registered non-government primary school are paid Taka 500 each per month as honorarium.

According to the district Primary Education Officer, it is gathered that 3,79,559 students are studying in the government and 20913 students

are studying in non-government primary schools respectively, while 30,000 children of the district are still deprived of education.

Condition of the primary schools are not suitable for education.

A good number of government primary schools do not have buildings and furniture including chair, benches and blackboards etc. In remote villages the teachers do not attend the school regularly but draw salaries under special arrangement with local education authority. On the visit to some charlands local people alleged that classes are conducted once or twice a week.



NARAIL: Mr Ali Hossain, DC, Narail releasing fish fries in the Chitra river recently.

— Star photo