

## Upazila roundup

## SYLHET

## NOC, air ticket missing from registered envelope

**From A Correspondent**  
Nov 17: An NOC, and an air ticket were found missing from a registered letter posted from Oman mysteriously. It was detected when the addressee of the letter opened it after receiving from the postman recently.

According to the reports, Mr Nazimuddin sent the said papers in a letter registered with A/D from Oman to his relative Shihabuddin. The letter was delivered to Mr Shihabuddin from Shahbajpur post office of Barlekha upazila. He found the ticket and the NOC missing from the envelope. The NOC was issued in the name of Mr Shihabuddin bearer of the passport No. 882294.

A case was registered with the Barlekha police in this connection.

## Housewife violated

A young housewife was violated by a gang of miscreants at village Kaliganj under Jakiganj upazila recently.

According to the reports, on the night of the incident a gang of miscreants entered into the house and beat the inmates. They tied up the houseowner and others, and kept them in a room. Then they took away at dagger point the second wife of the houseowner outside the house and violated her there.

A case in this connection had been started with the Jakiganj police. Medical test of the victim was performed in Sylhet M A G Osmany Medical College Hospital.

## COX'S BAZAR

## Fish price marks rise

## From Our Correspondent

Nov 17: Prices of fish in Cox's Bazar markets have registered a sharp rise. Fish price on an average has increased by Taka 10 per kilogram within a fortnight.

At present Hilsa is being sold at Taka 50 per kilogram, Ruih at Taka 100, Katla at Taka 70, Pomfret at Taka 60, Kot at Taka 120 and Chital at Taka 60. The price hike was attributed to short supply of different kinds of fish. It may be mentioned here that catching of sea fish decreased in the recent months. Sweet water fish is also available in Cox's Bazar markets.

The reckless fishing by Thai trawlers in the Bangladesh territorial water in the Bay of Bengal was attributed to fall in fish supply.

## MAULVI BAZAR

## Diarrhoea claims 64 lives

Nov 17: Diarrhoea claimed 64 lives and attacked 2,267 others in the six upazilas of the district during the last 21 days, reports UNB.

Unofficial sources, however, said the death toll rose to 100 and 5,000 others were attacked during the period.

Of the total deaths 5 died in Rajnagar, 24 in Kulaura, 22 in Barlekha, 8 in Kamalganj, 4 in Sree Mongol and one in Sadar upazila.

The worst affected upazilas are Kulaura, Barlekha and Kamalganj.

A number of medical teams have been working in the affected areas to combat the disease.

Scarcity of pure drinking water and intake of adulterated foodstuff were attributed as causes for the spread of the disease.

## JAMALPUR

## Govt wheat misappropriated

Nov 17: Government wheat worth about Tk two lakh was allegedly misappropriated by the project chairman of cluster village here, reports UNB.

A total of 881 maunds of wheat were allotted for the construction of a cluster village Pochabaha in Islampur upazila of the district.

The project chairman utilised 281 maunds of wheat and allegedly misappropriated the rest 600 maunds.

Written complaints were lodged in this connection to UNO, Upazila Chairman and the Deputy Commissioner.

Meanwhile, according to local people, 27 maunds of TR wheat was allegedly misappropriated by the Project Chairman of Golerchar union parishad in Islampur.

The wheat was allotted against the FWP project in 1990-1991 fiscal. The project chairman allegedly lifted the wheat against a project for the reconstruction of Kashmerchar-Bulakpara road.

## SHERPUR

## Poor farmers selling standing crops

**From Our Correspondent**  
SHERPUR, Nov 17: Due to economic hardships the farmers of the district are being compelled to sell their crops in advance to the money lenders at nominal prices.

The farmers alleged that they do not even get fair price of their harvested crops owing to faulty marketing system.

Taking advantage of the situation the money lenders are doing brisk business by granting loans at high interest against the security of standing crops.

Moreover, a large number of landless agricultural labourers have been passing their days in extreme hardships. They are compelled to sell their households and domestic animals to maintain their livelihood.

Prices of bullocks, goats etc have also recorded a sharp fall as a large number of farmers are forced to sell their draft animals due to acute shortage of fodder. Besides, the farmers who cultivated jute abundantly in the current season have been facing problems due to sharp fall in its price. It is mentionable that jute is the only cash crop of the district. It is being sold between Taka 180 and 230 per maund depending on its quality which is far below the production cost.

## RAJSHAHI

## Proposed transport strike postponed

Nov 17: Uttarbangla Sarak Paribahan Samity has decided to postpone their proposed 72-hour hartal for five days following a meeting with Rajshahi Divisional Commissioner and DIG of police, Rajshahi Range here yesterday, an official handout said yesterday, reports BSS.

However, they will go for the next programme if their five-point demands are not fulfilled within stipulated time, the handout said.

## SIRAJGANJ

## Housie continues defying govt ban

Nov 17: Despite government restriction housie is being played almost everyday at local stadium ground vitating the serene atmosphere of the locality, reports UNB.

The district authorities banned housie for more than two months in the district on request of local people. But the game once again is being played in different parts of the district including one at Shaheed Shamsuddin Stadium.

With the increase of housie, all sorts of crimes including hijacking, theft and smuggling have been increased alarmingly in the town and its adjoining areas.

At least 55 incidents of theft have been committed in the Sirajganj government staff quarters in the last two years, a district police official said.

## FENI

## 2 jailed for keeping arms illegally

Nov 17: The District Sub-Judge has awarded two persons 10 years' rigorous imprisonment for possession of unauthorised arms, reports UNB.

The court also fined them Tk 10 thousand each in default to suffer Rj for one year more.

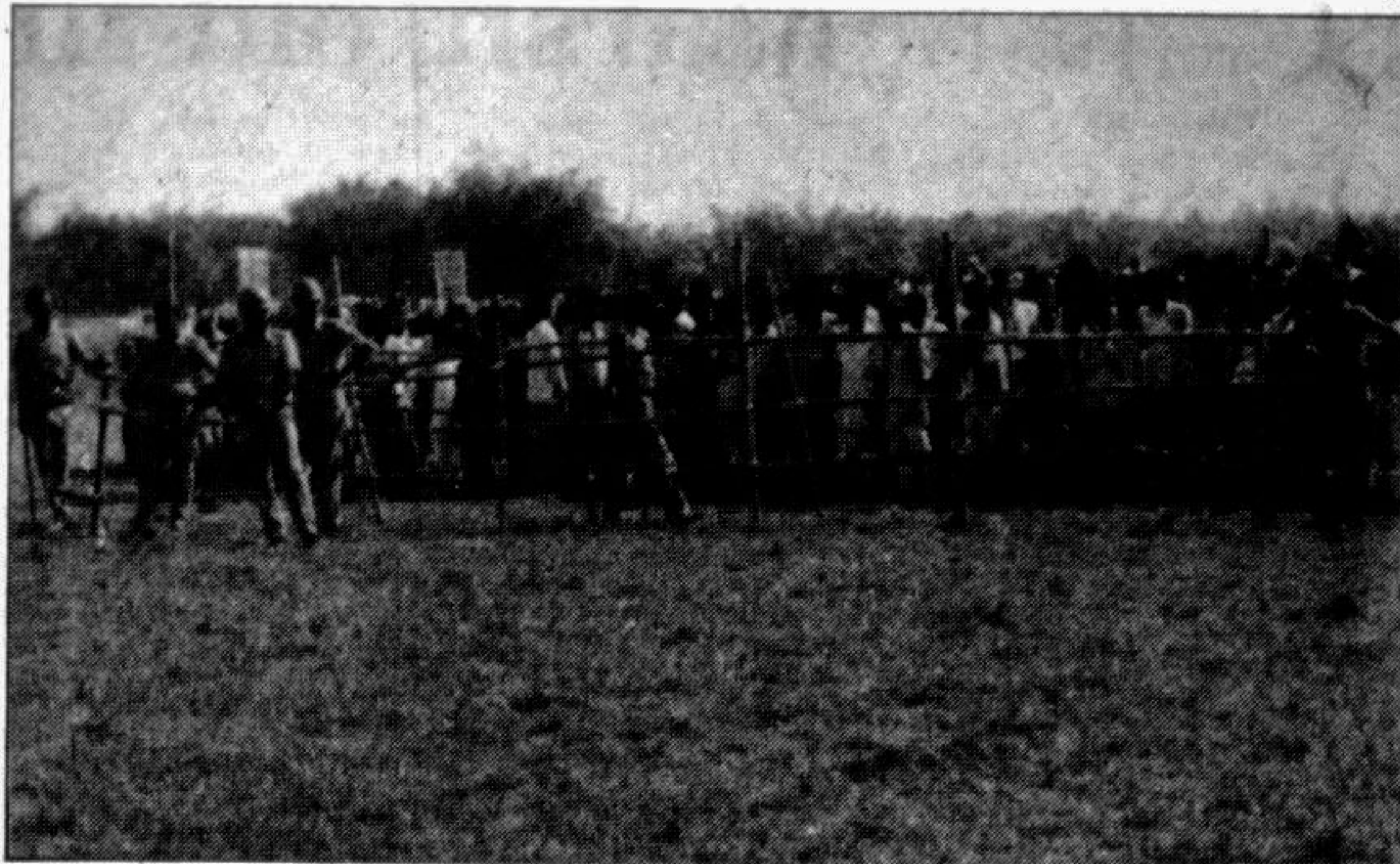
## KISHOREGANJ

## 3060 hectares to be put under potato farming

Nov 17: A scheme has been taken up to bring 3,060 hectares of land under sweet potato farming in 13 upazilas of the district during the current rabi season, reports UNB.

According to Agriculture Extension Department, of the total land, 60 hectares will be cultivated in Hossainpur, 70 hectares in Sadar, 165 hectares in Pakundia, 315 hectares in Katiadi, 140 hectares in Karimganj, 20 hectares in Tarafi, 320 hectares in Itna, 485 hectares in Mitamain, 480 hectares in Nikil, 320 hectares in Austagram, 200 hectares in Baitpur, 285 hectares in Kullarchar and 200 hectares in Bhatrab upazilas.

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) will distribute seeds, fertilizers, insecticides and other necessary inputs among the farmers for successful implementation of the scheme.



RANGPUR: Hundreds of anti-Tin Bigha activists carrying placards and banners demonstrating near Tin Bigha corridor on November 12 during the visit of West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu. The protesters mostly belong to Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Forward Block and Kamal Guha's extremist party. — Star photo

## Illegal occupants grab R&amp;H land in Satkhira

## From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Nov 17: Illegal occupation of vast areas of land under Roads and Highways department by a section of influential quarters in connivance with R&H officials throughout the district is causing immense sufferings to the public. It is reported that hundreds

of sheds, semi-pucca and pucca stalls have sprung up beside the roads and streets in the district during the last few years. A number of big buildings have also been erected in the district town and other places narrowing the roads. This further impedes the traffic movements. On the other hand, a major portion of roads at the heart of the town has been occupied by the trucks causing hindrance to the vehicular movements and also to the pedestrians. Some individuals have illegally managed to occupy a vast tract of R&H land for agriculture and pisciculture purposes. Some of the

occupants of the land informed that staff of R&H department realise money from them as yearly rent without giving any legal document.

When contacted, an officer of the department admitted the fact over telephone and told that they had submitted a list of unauthorised occupants to the district administration with the request to evict them. But the district administration is indifferent to this effect, it is further alleged.

A big python was caught by Advocate Iftekhar Ali, Secretary Red Crescent, Satkhira unit from Palashpole area of Satkhira town recently. It is reported that a python was lost from a snake charmer's case a few days back. Advocate Iftekhar who is also a leader of BNP saw the snake in a drain behind his house and caught it, which weighed about 25 kilograms.

Hundreds of people of Satkhira town and its adjoining areas are crowding the lawyer's house to have a glimpse of the Python.

## BCTA meeting held

A meeting of the Bangladesh College Teachers Association was held at Assassuni College premises recently with Principal Shaikh Akbar Hussain, President, Satkhira District College Teachers Association in the chair.

It was also addressed, among others, by President Ruhul Amin, Professor Abu Ahmed, Professor Tamizuddin, Professor Amal Kumar Raha, Professor Sunil Adhikari, Professor Pavitra Mohan Da, Professor Raisuddin, Professor Raizul Islam, Professor Gazi Azizur Rahman, Professor Abdul Kashem and Professor Abul Hussain.

## Unemployed youths get drug addicted in dist towns

## From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Nov 17: The number of drug addicts has been increasing alarmingly in the district.

It is reported that college students, rickshawpullers, transport workers, restaurants owners and even a section of teachers and government officials and employees have become addicted to drugs.

The unemployed youths out of frustration get quickly addicted, it is alleged. A renowned social worker of Faridpur alleged that the police personally know almost all the drug addicts, mastans, big and small liquor traders and smugglers but they hardly touch them. In Faridpur Sadar Upazila alone, there are 40 illegal liquor shops within the knowledge of police but no legal actions are taken against such illegal traders, it is further alleged.

According to a student he consumed drugs out of frustration.

He appeared in the honours examination in '90 but the result is yet to be out. Previously he addicts use to take drugs in secret places but now-a-days they consume it freely without any hindrance. They consume various types of drugs which are easily available at Khabuspur, Alipur Moor, New Market, and Station Road.

These youths in groups consume drugs at particular

places like RRI bus stand, Badarpur, Dhuldy gate, Jasmuddin Road, Jhiltali and Khabuspur, Kashipatti and Station Road of Lakhipur, Tapakhola Road, C&B Ghat and Baitul Aman in Faridpur Sadar upazila.

It is further alleged that inadequate measures taken by law enforcing agencies criminals connected with illegal drug trade, smuggling, theft and anti-social activities have aggravated the situation. It is also reported that local people are not getting co-operation from the law enforcing agencies to curb the menace.

The guardians alleged that some of their wards became drug addicts in the wake of unusual conditions of the locality.

## Heroin recovered

Narcotics Control Department arrested seven persons and recovered 500 kilograms of heroin worth Taka 50 lakh and a large number of ganja plants, processed ganja and ampules of pethidine from different areas of the district during the last two months.

Md. Sadeque, Assistant Director of the Narcotics Control Department, recovered 500 kilograms of heroin and arrested Md. Mojibur Rahman of village Dayarampur under Sadar upazila recently. Later he recovered 10

ganja plants from the house of Rahman Sharif of village Khalya under Nagarkanda upazila of the district. Wife of Rahman was also arrested. Four more ganja plants were recovered from village Chargueda under Ballakandi upazila and one Rabi Shaikh was arrested in this connection. In other separate raids he also recovered 10 pethidine ampules from Bhanga and arrested Syed Zaful, owner of a drug house.

## Jamalpur

UNB from Jamalpur adds: The number of drug addicts is on the rise in the district giving rise to anti-social activities in the district.

According to informed sources, more than 2,000 people of the district have fallen victim of the menace.

Most of the victims belong to age groups between 14 and 35 years. Family dispute, unemployment and unhappy conjugal life were said to be the main reasons behind the increasing drug addiction.

Besides, a large number of transport workers, small shopkeepers, businessmen, female students, government employees have become addicted to drugs.

Easy availability of drugs has aggravated the situation further. According to sources, drugs are available in most of the medicine shops within the municipal area.



MADARIPUR: A colourful rally organised in observance of 23rd founding anniversary of Udichi Shilpi Gosthi parading the town street recently. — Star photo

## Notes from Kishoreganj

## From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Nov 17: The conference of Bangladesh Chhatra League, Kishoreganj district committee was held at local Rongmahal Cinema Hall recently.

Unit President Mahmud Parvez presided over the conference while ex-president of BCL and journalist Obaidul Kader attended as chief guest. It was addressed among others, by Advocate Abdul Hamid MP, Mr Ashim Kumar Ukil, Ashrafal Islam, Tito, Mahbubul Haque Sakil, Amirul Islam Bakul, Ruhul Amin, Azad Miah, Shah Azizur Rahman Rumien, Ajoykar Khokan, Sharif Ahmed Sadi and Monirul Alam Swapan.

## Merchants assoc polls

The election of Kishoreganj Small Merchants Association was held recently. Mr Harunur-Rashid, Mr Abdul Basat Khan Bachchu and Mr Barajesh Chandra Bhattacharya were elected President, Secretary and Treasurer respectively. The other members are Ratan Sarkar, Bijoy Sarkar, Md Ershadullah and Amalendu Khan Napak.

## JCD conference held

The annual conference of Katiadi upazila unit of Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal was held recently. Major (Retd) Md Akhteruzzaman Ranjan MP and Md Habibur Rahman Dayal President, Katiadi Upazila BNP and Chairman Katiadi Upazila Parishad were present as chief guest and special guest respectively. In the conference a 31-member committee was formed with Shaifur Rahman Badal as President and Saidur Rahman Saidur as Secretary.

Nandail police nabbed two cattle-lifters Fazul Haq and Shaheed and recovered a cow from their possession in a raid at village Bahadurpur recently. A case was registered with Nandail police in this connection. Later they were sent to the upazila magistrate court.

## Body found

A body of an unidentified young man was recovered by Nandail police recently. It was found floating in a pond at village Mushuli. Police later sent the body to Kishoreganj Sadar Hospital for postmortem.

A case was filed with Nandail police station in this connection. Al Amin (2), son of Atash Ali drowned in a pond at village Charpara in Kishoreganj Sadar upazila recently. He went out of the house without the knowledge of his parents. Later his body was found floating in the pond near the house.

## 2 dacoits held

Hussainpur police arrested two notorious dacoits and recovered one pipe gun and one round of ammunition from their possession recently. Acting on a secret tip, a police team led by S I Milon Tofadar raided a sweet shop of Hussainpur bazar and arrested two dacoits Nazmul and Titu.

## Sherpur plagued with problems

SHERPUR, Nov 17: The district headquarters is beset with manifold problems without any civic amenities for a long time, reports UNB.

The elite of the town have accused the authorities of indifference to the development needs of the new district town.

The Pourashava was established in 1869 and at present it covers an area of 10 square miles, with a population of 70,000.

The condition of roads, drainage, light, medicare facilities are very precarious and causing great inconvenience to the people.

Only 37 kilometre out of 106 kilometre of roads are pucca while the rest are kutcha or semi-pucca. Most of the roads have become unworthy due to lack of proper repair and maintenance.

Out of 30 kilometre drains only five kilometre are pucca. Filthy water remains stagnant due to blockade of drains in most areas.

The town has a 50-bed hospital but the residents do not get adequate and proper treatment in the hospital, local people alleged.

## Tk 50 lakh WDB project to check river erosion

BHOLA, Nov 17: Water Development Board (WDB) has taken up a project to protect Bhola from the erosion of the river Meghna at a cost of Tk 50 lakh, reports BSS.

According to an official source, under the project an embankment will be constructed along the river Meghna.

The project is expected to be completed by December next, the source said.

## Four illegal toll collectors held

## From Our Correspondent

RAJBARI, Nov 17: Four miscreants were caught red-handed with a shutter gun and two rounds of ammunitions by the villagers at Harinbaria under Pangsa upazila while collecting illegal tolls from the villagers recently.

According to a report, when the miscreants went to the village in a body for collecting tolls the villagers resisted them and at one stage when the miscreants attempted to open fire on them they were caught red-handed. Due to severe beating by the villagers the miscreants lost their eyesight. They were admitted into Rajbari eye hospital under police custody. A case has been registered with the Pangsa police station in this connection. The arrested miscreants

are Abdul Aziz Shaikh (35), Abed Ali Sardar (26), Mohammed Alam (28) and Knaj Mondal(30).

## Rail line needs repair

The train communication between Rajbari and Bhatigpara is likely to be closed due to lack of necessary repair and maintenance work of the railway track. This oldest railway line is the important means of communication with the southern region.

Seventy per cent of the railway sleepers of this line have been damaged by recurrent floods. As a result, only one train runs on this route very irregularly and the train very often derails causing immense sufferings to the passengers.

## Unauthorised manpower business on rise

## From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Nov 17: Unauthorised manpower business is on the increase at different places of the district.

It is learnt that with gradual increase of unemployment in the district trend of going abroad is widely observed among the young generation. Taking this opportunity a group of organised people have started unauthorised manpower business.

It is gathered from some sources that such manpower agents are recruiting workers for garments factory in South Korea, coconut and palm oil factory in Malaysia and construction firms in Taiwan. The total charge for South Korea is Taka 1,30,000 and Taka 40,000 for Malaysia.

Appointment letters for jobs in garment factory in South Korea were also issued to the jobseekers. At least 80 people from Belkuchi upazila have left for South Korea in October last.

Due to recurrent floods and other reasons over all economic situation of Sirajganj district have deteriorated.

Majority of handloom oriented cottage industries have been closed down rendering lakhs of people unemployed. As a result, unemployed youths in large numbers are going abroad selling landed property, household materials including roof tins and even taking loan on higher rate of interest.

## Kidnapped youngman rescued

Kidnapped Abdur Razzak (25) of village Tamal in Belkuchi upazila was rescued from village Kaliakandapara on November after seven days of the incident.

Abdur Razzak was kidnapped at night from Tamal by 10 to 12 armed miscreants. Acting on a secret information Sirajganj police led by sub-inspector Delwar Hussain raided a house at village Kaliakandapara in Sirajganj sadar upazila and rescued the victim who was confined in a room.

## Chuadanga Hospital needs more care

## From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Nov 17: Chuadanga Sadar Hospital has beset with multiple problems including accommodation shortage and poor sanitation.

The hospital was established in 1971 with only 50 beds. The population of the district then was one eighth of the present size. Since then no additional beds were added according to the growing demand.

At present 130 to 150 patients are accommodated in the wards and verandah in a very unhygienic condition. The annual allocation of money for the hospital is inadequate. Moreover, for want of medicines the patients are compelled to purchase medicines from the market at exorbitant price. The condition of operation theatre is deplorable where dearth of instruments hampers the operations. The hospital wards are overcrowded always with patients. The conditions of beds are deplorable too, bedsheets, pillows, blankets and mattresses are not cleaned timely. The female ward is nothing but an apology for a hospital. The accommodation for female patients is very scanty. Many patients coming from far-flung areas are refused to be admitted for want of accommodation. The sanitary condition of the wards is very unhygienic. The tank is found overflowing with dirty emitting bad odour and thus polluting the atmosphere in the hospital area.

Diarrhoea and dysentery have broken out in an epidemic form in Chuadanga Sadar, Alamdanga, Damurhuda and Jibannagar upazilas of the district.

According to a health department source, the disease claimed 137 lives during the last seven months while 10,000 persons were attacked. Besides, 13 persons died of dysentery and another 2,577 persons were attacked by the disease during the period.

But an official source said that more than 20,000 people were attacked by diarrhoea and dysentery. The source further claimed that acute shortage of saline, tablets and capsules are prevailing throughout the district. When contacted, the Civil Surgeon of Chuadanga told this correspondent that due to fund shortage, supply of adequate anti-diarrhoea drugs was not possible in the affected areas.

## Certificate giving ceremony held

FARIDPUR, Nov. 17: Certificate awarding function among the participants of a fortnight long drama workshop jointly organised by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy and Faridpur district Shilpakala Academy was held recently at local Shilpakala Academy auditorium, reports BSS.

## Bamboo clusters on verge of extinction

## From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Nov 17: Bamboo clusters of Chuadanga district are on the brink of extinction due to indiscriminate cutting of bamboos. Thousands of bamboos are cut and sold every day from villages of five upazilas of the district to meet the daily requirement.

According to the reports, bamboos in abundance are brought to the towns to be sold at higher prices by some 'lartias'. Contractors and others purchase the same for building and repair of houses and for brick fields and other purposes. Only a small number of bamboos are used for domestic consumption.

According to a unofficial estimate, at present there are

more than 20,000 bamboo grooves in the district. But most of these grooves are in poor condition due to lack of proper nursing. Many of them have already been destroyed. The poverty stricken villagers not only sell their bamboos but also dig out the bamboo roots and sell them to the brick field owners or potters.

Besides, sometimes bamboo grooves are also destroyed to procure land for house building purposes.

The indiscriminate destruction of the bamboo grooves have rendered about 75 per cent bamboo artisans unemployed. Due to exorbitant price of bamboos they cannot earn profit from their products.