

## District roundup

### SYLHET

#### Four to suffer 7 yrs RI for boat robbery

From Our Correspondent  
Oct 25: The Assistant Sessions Judge of Sunamganj sentenced four persons to seven years rigorous imprisonment and also fined of Taka three thousand each in default of to suffer one year more in a robbery case in Jamalganj thana.

The prosecution case in brief is that, a gang of armed robbers attacked the boat of one Bimal Roy in the Halir haor of Jamalganj thana on October 7 of 1990. They took away valuables worth about Taka 55,725 from the boat. A case in this connection was registered with the police.

After investigations police submitted chargesheet against Shaiful Haque, Shukkur Ali, Abdus Sobhan and Alek Miah. The court examining all the records and witnesses found them guilty and passed aforesaid judgement.

### CHAPAINAWABGANJ

#### Viral hepatitis spreading alarmingly

Oct 25: Viral hepatitis has been spreading in northern districts causing concern to the health officials, reports UNB.

In the worst affected districts of C'nawabganj, Rajshahi, Naogaon, Pabna, Sirajganj, Bogra, Natore and Jajpurhat seven to eight patients are being admitted into the health complexes every day, according to the health officials here.

They said, the main cause of infection was edible oil which were contaminated.

Physicians said, no medicine is given for liver infection and the patients are advised absolute rest, soft food and plenty of liquid under allopathic system.

But many patients in the villages said herbal medicine and homeopathic treatment proved more effective for them.

### JHENIDAH

#### Highway blocked for 4 hours after accident

Oct 25: Vehicular traffic on the Dhaka-Khulna highway was blocked for four hours Thursday after the death of a person in an accident at Bishakhali bazar in Sadar thana, reports UNB.

Angry people barricaded the road demanding punishment of those responsible for the death of the man who could not be identified.

Witnesses said the victim, while getting down the Khulna-bound bus, fell under the wheels and was crushed.

The driver of the bus fled the scene along with his vehicle.

Hundreds of vehicles from both sides along with passengers got stranded since 11 am till 3 pm due to the blockade.

The road barricades were removed later after police reached the spot.

A case was lodged with Jhenidah police and the body sent to the morgue.

### MADARIPUR

#### Eye camp concludes

Oct 25: A three-day eye camp has concluded at the Ghotokhar High School premises under auspices of Bangladesh Dristhithin Foundation, reports UNB.

About 600 patients with eye complications were given treatment and free medicine at the eye camp.

A total of 28 cataract patients were operated upon and spectacles were distributed among them free of cost.

### DINAJPUR

#### Villagers recover woman's body

Oct 25: Villagers recovered the naked body of a woman from a brickfield near the Birganj-Gopalganj road on Tuesday, reports UNB.

The woman, about 22 years was apparently murdered after rape and thrown away, some of the villagers said.

No case has been registered with the local police in this connection, nor any body could identify the victim.

### JAMALPUR

#### JCD sweeps in college union polls

Oct 25: Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) bagged all but one seats in the student union election of Asheque Mahmud College held on Monday, reports UNB.

College sources said JCD bagged 16 seats out of 17 including the post of General Secretary.

Bangladesh Chhatra League (M-I) got only the post of Vice-President.

Lanju Ahmed and Runu were elected as VP and GS in the election held peacefully.

Gonatantrik Chhatra Oikya, Sangrami Chhatra Samaj and Islami Chhatra Shibir also took part in the election.

### MAULVIBAZAR

#### Hindu family embraces Islam

Oct 25: A Hindu family of Uttar Barya village in Bahubal thana has converted to Islam voluntarily on being impressed by the message in the Holy Quran, reports UNB.

Gupinath Banik (40), his wife Milanbala Banik (30) and their three offspring filed an affidavit at the Bahubal thana court and embraced the religion of Islam in the presence of the Magistrate.

### BRAHMANBARIA

#### Derailment disrupts train services for 9 hrs

Oct 25: Train services in Dhaka-Chittagong and Chittagong-Sylhet routes remained disrupted for about nine hours Thursday following derailment of a goods train between Lalmai and Mainamati railway stations.

Railway sources here said three bogies of the Chittagong bound goods train went off the track at about 5 am. The train communication was restored after a relief train from Akhaura rescued the derailed bogies at about 2 pm.

### SIRAJGANJ

#### Construction work of 17 pry schools completed

Oct 25: Construction work of 17 primary schools have been completed in eight thanas of the district and handed over to the authorities, official sources said, reports UNB.

Islamic Unnayan Bank is giving financial assistance in constructing 25 schools in the district. The construction work of remaining eight schools will be completed within this month.

Officials said Taka 11 lakh has been sanctioned for each school.

Out of 17 schools, two have been completed in each of Sadar, Kazipur and Shahajadpur and three completed in each of Tarash, Kamarkhand, Raiganj and Belkuchi thanas.

About 6,000 students will be accommodated in these schools which were yet lacking of teaching apparatus including furniture.

Official sources said furniture could not be supplied due to fund shortage.

### LAXMIPUR

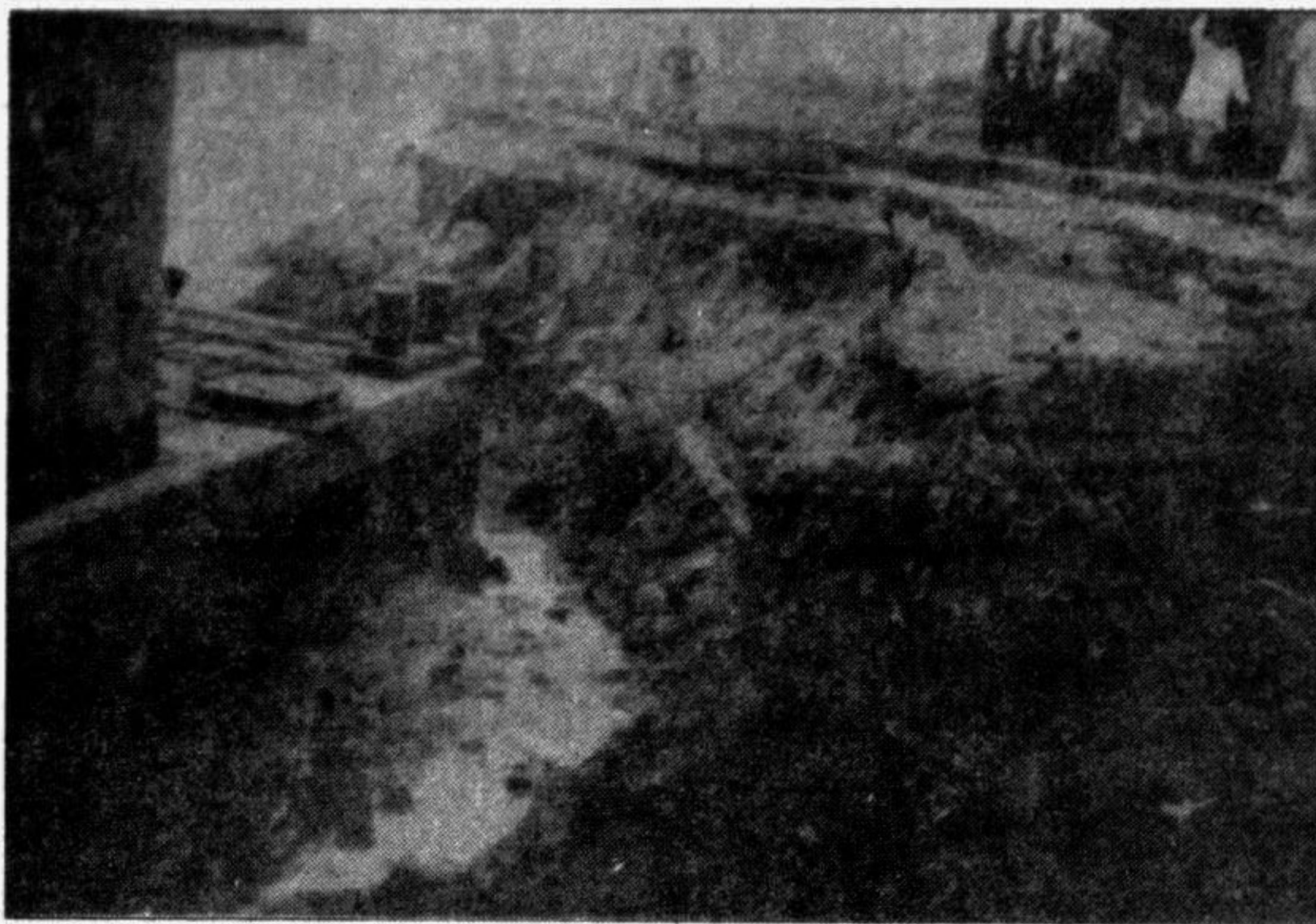
#### Urs-Mubarak

Oct 25: The Urs Mubarak of Hazrat Moulana, Shah-Sufi Hayat Qalander Mujaddid Jamam Saiful-Adab Doctor Alhaj Sayadat Ahmed will be held on December 27 at Holy Darbar Sharif at Bibirhat under Ramgati thana of Laxmipur district, says a press release.

The programme includes Khatme Quran, jikr-askher and doa at day and night on October 27 and will be followed by Akheri-Munajat and distribution of tobarok on October 28 after Fajr prayer.

A special Munajat will be offered seeking peace and prosperity of the country and especially for the welfare of Muslim Ummah.

All murids, ashkans, devotees and well-wishers have been requested to attend the Urs-mubarak.



MADARIPUR: The erosion hit Sannashirchar ferryghat in Shibchar thana of the district. — Star Photo

## 25,000 children suffering from malnutrition

From Our Correspondent

MANIKGANJ, Oct 25: About 25,000 children in seven thanas of the district have been suffering from malnutrition.

A large number of children had died of various diseases in these thanas during last few years.

A non-government survey conducted in these thanas reveals that the diseases include diarrhoea, dysentery, pneumonia, malaria, and hopping cough. The consecutive floods, erosion, drought and other natural calamities in most of the thanas of the district during the last few years are mainly responsible for malnutrition.

Acute scarcity of balanced diet is another cause that lead to the premature death of the poor children. A large number of children die every year of the above mentioned diseases. Those who survive have to lead

a miserable life during their lifetime.

The unfed or half-fed mothers find it difficult to allow breast feeding which is the only appropriate diet for the children of the have-nots.

The people especially the rural people of all seven thanas of the district live below the poverty line and find it difficult to arrange their daily food.

The ignorance of the parents is also greatly responsible for the malnutrition of the children.

They are not aware of the use of the locally available edible herbs and vegetables. The ignorance of the villagers is also responsible for the malnutrition of the children.

Another report adds: Manikganj Government Women's College has been facing acute accommodation problems hampering academic atmosphere to a great extent.

The college established in 1972, was nationalised in 1985 which has over 950 students. But the accommodation facility was not expanded up to the requirement. The main college building and two minor boarding houses can not accommodate the existing number of students properly. The hostel can not accommodate more than 75 students for which the students are to arrange accommodation elsewhere.

There is no separate building for science laboratory, library and office in the college. The college authority could not offer any common room for the students. There is also no play ground in the college.

It was expected that the concerned authority would take measures to provide with more accommodation facility for the students after the nationalisation. But nothing has so far been done in this regard.

## Smuggled goods available even in village markets

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Oct 25: Smuggled Indian goods have been flooding the markets in border areas of the district causing hindrance to the flourishing of local industries, reports UNB.

According to informed sources, smugglers are active in border areas and the contraband goods are also available abundantly in remote village markets. The smuggled goods including saree, lungi, spare parts of bicycle and shallow engines, razor blades, safety matches, sugar, salt, rice, paddy, flour, ata, wheat, eggs,

edible oil, cosmetics and cattle are being sold freely before the nose of the law enforcing agencies.

Local products remain unsold affecting adversely the industries due to easy availability of Indian goods.

It is gathered that cottage industries in Rajshahi incurring heavy losses as their products remain unsold as the prices of the Indian smuggled goods are cheaper.

Country-made products including spare parts of bicycles, shallow engines, razor blades and match boxes are loosing

market due to unabated influx of Indian goods.

Indian flour and ata are being sold in different hats and bazars of the bordering areas at comparatively lower prices threatening the existence of local mills.

The existing telephone exchange system is quite inadequate here to cope with the growing demand of the town dwellers.

The demand for new lines has been increasing with the upgradation of the subdivision to a district.

## Potters in Kurigram facing problems, need patronisation

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Oct 25: Potters of Kurigram have been facing multifarious problems.

The pottery industry of this locality is now on the verge of ruination due to lack of patronisation.

Having been unable to tackle the problems many potters of the district have already given up their profession while others are trying to find out other suitable professions.

There was a time when thousands of people of Kurigram, Nageswari, Chilmari, Rowmari, Rajarhat, Rajibpur, Ulipur, Bhurungamari and Fubarhat thanas of the district were engaged in this profession. They used to manufacture earthen jars, plates, toys, and various things and earned their livelihood by selling these articles. Their product had great demand.

About 10,000 families in different areas of the district were engaged in this vocation.

While talking to this correspondent, one Suresh Paul of Kurigram Kumarpura said that the prices of clay, dices, colours and other materials, necessary for the industry have now increased many times and the demand of their articles on the other hand is falling down gradually.

Transport is another problem. They carry their products on their shoulders for selling in the hats at a distance of 6 to 10 miles and from village to village.

While talking one Paresah Chandra Paul, of Chilmari Kumarpura said that as the demand of the products is static they cannot work at their fullest capacity with all their family members.

He also said that they have no capital for running their industry smoothly. They have to borrow money from the rich persons at high rate of interest while the Social Welfare Department, banks and thana parishads may help the potters in this respect by providing necessary loans at easy terms.

Training programme should be arranged for quality production, designing and preservation.

There are great prospect for handicrafts in Kurigram district.

It is learnt that people of the northern region, especially the women folk possess the skills of making different kinds of jute bags and textures locally called "chhikka" and hand bags which are attractive and liked by foreigners.

## Notes from Kishoreganj

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Oct 25: A daring theft was committed in the house of one Fayeuddin Ahmed at Charalokia in Kishoreganj town recently.

According to police, the thieves entered into the house by opening the door tactfully from outside and decamped with goods amounting to about taka 12,000. Local people caught one Nazrul and later handed over him to the police. He confessed his involvement in the theft to the police.

A case was registered with Kishoreganj police station in this connection U/S.457/380 BPC.

### Two minor boy drowned

Two minor boys drowned in a pond at village Taljanga in Tarail thana of the district recently.

In the afternoon on the day of incident, Sakir Hossain (6), son of Quddus Miah and Kamrul (2), son of Nurul Islam Miah came out of their houses to play beside the pond and suddenly both slipped into the water. The bodies were recovered later.

### Girl killed in road mishap

A six-year old girl named Hasna daughter of Md Torab Ali of village Charpolash in Pakundia thana was killed in a road accident recently.

Hasna was run over by a Dhaka bound passenger bus bearing No Chittagong Ja-2165 near Bishwa Road bridge in Kishoreganj thana on Kishoreganj-Bhairab road.

A case was registered with Kishoreganj sadar thana in this connection. Later, the body was sent to Kishoreganj Sadar Hospital for postmortem.

The driver fled away with the bus immediately after the incident.

### Winter vegetables scheme taken up

A scheme has been taken up to bring 3100 hectares of land under winter vegetables cultivation in 13 thanas of the district during the current season.

The officials of the Agriculture Extension Department have set up demonstration plots to acquaint the farmers with the modern methods of cultivation.

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) has already distributed high yielding variety seeds, fertilizers and other necessary inputs at fair prices among the growers for the successful implementation of the scheme. Field staff have already started their work in motivating the farmers in vegetable farming.

### Two commit suicide

Two persons committed suicide in Kishoreganj district.

One Arun Chandra Dutta (26) of village Bahadia in Pakundia thana of the district committed suicide by taking poison recently. He was immediately rushed to the Pakundia Hospital where the doctors declared him dead. The cause behind the suicide could not be ascertained.

A 35-year old man named Wahid Miah of village Marathali in Kullar Char thana committed suicide by hanging himself from a mango tree near of her house recently. The motive behind the suicide could not be ascertained immediately.

Police later recovered the bodies and sent to Kishoreganj Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Two separate UD cases were registered with the respective police station in this connection.

## Headmaster, two others in jail on charge of corruption

COMILLA, Oct 25: The Headmaster of Burichang Government High School and two others have been sent to jail hajat pending police investigation on charges of corruption and misuse of power, reports UNB.

Students, guardians and local leaders brought 13 specific charges and submitted a written complaint to the higher authorities against the headmaster.

On October 12, Deputy Director, Secondary and Higher Education, Chittagong Division held an on-the-spot inquiry and advised the headmaster to go on leave immediately.

But instead, the headmaster, with the help of an ex-student and an assistant teacher removed the documents, the cash book, registers and other papers and concealed those in a house.

Acting on a tip, OC of Burichang thana along with the TNO and Magistrate, Burichang thana raided the house, recovered the documents and records and arrested the headmaster and his two accomplices.

## Plan to make English compulsory subject

BOGRA, Oct 25: Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar has said the government is planning to introduce English language as compulsory from primary level to honours classes, reports UNB.

The Minister, who laid the foundation stone of a science building at Government Azizul Haque College here on Saturday, was addressing a function on the occasion.

He said masters degree courses in seven subjects will be introduced in the college very soon.

State Minister for Finance Mujibur Rahman, local MPs Helaluzzaman Talukdar, Azizul Haq and Golam Mohammad Siraj also spoke at the function presided over principal of the college Abdus Sattar.

All-Party Students Unity staged demonstration in front of the college during the foundation stone laying ceremony for the delay in introducing

the masters degree course. The Minister had committed to start the courses last year.

Several cocktails exploded near the site.

An earlier BSS report says: State Minister for Finance M Mujibur Rahman on Friday said the present government was firmly resolved to bring about qualitative change in life style of the people.

He said, massive and pragmatic programmes were being implemented to address to cardinal problems and homogeneously develop the nation by appropriate utilisation of man, land, water and other existing resources. Banks and financial institutions have vital role in materialising the objectives, he said.

The State Minister was addressing as chief guest the annual employees convention of Agrani Bank, Bogra unit at local zila parishad auditorium.

## Cowdung use as manure declining fast

KUSHITIA, Oct 25: The use of cow dung as manure is declining fast in the district despite productivity of land, already affected by improper and excessive use of chemical fertilizers, reports UNB.

The affected thanas are: Sadar, Bheramara, Mirpur, Daulatpur, Kumarkhali and Khoksa.

Agriculture Extension Department sources said fertility of soil depends on its organic chemical and biological ingredients which are found in the cow dung but destroyed by chemical fertilizers.

But owing to price hike and scarcity of firewood, farmers have been using cow dung as fuel instead of manure.

Another report says: Viral hepatitis has been spreading in all the six thanas of the district.

It is learnt that the disease commonly known as Jaundice has taken a serious turn in the district town and adjoining areas infecting at least one member of each family.

Patients are reporting in large number to the health complexes and doctor's chambers although there is no medicine for the disease and the only advice given to the patients is adequate rest and liquid food.

Rural people are using herbal medicine.

Another report adds: Screening of obscene films has been going on unabated in the town and the outlying areas causing concern among the guardians.

Young men, particularly students are said to be crowding the video shops set up commercially without permission at the hats and bazars in the district and thana headquarters, sources said.

Local leaders alleged that a section of youths sometimes go wild and resort to violent and anti-social activities.

Local authorities have been requested to take legal action against the owners of unauthorised video shops.

## Paddy on vast tract of land under pest attack

MAULVIBAZAR, Oct 25: Standing Aman paddy on a vast tract of land in the district have been attacked by pest destroying at least 10 per cent of the crop, reports UNB.

Farmers said there was acute scarcity of pesticides in the market and those were being sold at very high prices.

The local agriculture officials said pest control operation had been hampered by short stock of pesticides.

Farmers urged the concerned authority to start spraying immediately in the affected land to combat the menace.

Another report says:

Maulvibazar purashava has undertaken eight development projects at an estimated cost of Taka 23.92.

The schemes which include carpeting and repair of eight roads are to be executed within the current fiscal year.

With the successful implementation of the schemes, road communication within the purashava area would improve to a great extent, officials said.

Another report adds: Four notorious dacoits were arrested from Kachurichara tea garden of Sreemangal thana of the district, police said.

## Railway goods worth about Tk 20 lakh stolen

PABNA, Oct 25: Railway goods worth about Taka 20 lakh have been stolen from Ishurdi Junction during the last month, reports UNB.

Railway sources said the stolen goods include abandoned and used rail boggy connection spring, iron, electric and telephone wires, fan, wood slipper and fuel.

According to informed sources, a section of dishonest railway employees are involved in these heinous activities.

Police arrested 54 people including a railway employee and recovered goods worth about Taka one lakh during the period.

Local businessmen held a protest rally against terrorism and toll collectors at the Library Bazar premises in the town.

Organised by the business community of the town the rally was presided over by Abul Kashem. It was addressed among other by convenor of

district Businessmen Oikya Parishad Abdul Kafee and former poura chairman MA Muhiit.

The speakers alleged that the law enforcing agency do little to curb terrorist activities in the area rather some section of the police department are involved in collecting tolls from the businessmen.

About 2000 businessmen participated in the meeting.

The business community urged the authority to take stern action against the terrorists, toll collectors and corrupt policemen.

A two-day-long orientation course for journalists on Mother and Child Health Care concluded here on Monday.

Organised by Bangladesh Family Planning Department, a total of 40 journalists from Pabna, Natore and Sirajganj districts participated in the orientation course.

## Ganja cultivation rises alarmingly in Satkhira

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Oct 25: The cultivation of ganja in different areas of the district has been increasing alarmingly.

It is learnt that some dishonest persons have been earning a huge amount by cultivating ganja illegally in remote areas of Satkhira sadar, Tala, Kalaroa, Kaliganj and Debhata thanas of the district. The cultivation of ganja is going on abundantly in Sadar, Kalaroa thanas of the district.

One Matiur Rahman of Kushkhali under sadar thana was arrested by Narcotics and Liquor Department of Satkhira for cultivating ganja. They recovered 10 ganja plants. The

department also recovered 5 plants of ganja from Nebkhali village under sadar thana.

Shahjahan, Inspector, Narcotics and Liquor Department, Satkhira informed that the cultivation of ganja is going on in Sadar, Kalaroa and Tala thanas of the district.

He added that they are unable to carry out operation in the remote areas for want of transport and other facilities.

Another report adds: The executive committee of the district Income Tax and Lawyers Association was formed here at local bar association chamber with Advocate Samsul Haq in the chair.

GOPALGANJ: The Gopalganj-Tungipara canal is covered with water-hyacinth and it has become the mosquito breeding centre. — Star Photo