

**District roundup**

**BRAHMANBARIA**

**Seminar held in observance of World Food Day**

**From Our Correspondent**  
Oct 27: A seminar was held here recently at Akhaura thana auditorium organised by Thana Agriculture Extension Department in observance of the World Food Day.

Akhaura thana Agriculture Extension Officer, Shahidullah presided over the seminar while Acting Thana Nirbahi Officer Md A Wadud attended the function as chief guest.

The function was addressed among others by Subject Matter Officer, Kabir Hussain, Project Implementation Officer, Altabor Hoque, Union Parishad Chairmen Akhaura North and South Shahidul Hoque and Anwar Ahmed respectively. Thana Education Officer Neelkanta Chakma, local journalist Yousuf Sarwar, block supervisors Mominul Hoque and Mursheed Miah. The function was conducted by Plant Production Inspector Abu Taher.

**SAIDPUR**

**Goods worth about Tk 35 lakh stolen**

**From A Correspondent**  
Oct 27: Materials worth about Taka 35 lakhs were stolen from Saidpur Bridge Workshop recently.

Nine security guards and 15 other employees were suspended in this connection. Another report says, stranded Pakistanis in a recently gathered were assured of repatriations within three years by their leaders including Nasim Khan, Maulana Mohammad, Reaz Akbar.

Another report adds: A pedestrian was crushed to death by a motor-cycle at Champatali on Saidpur-Dhaka Highway.

Meanwhile, the bike owner fled the spot and his motor cycle was brought to the PS.

**MYMENSINGH**

**Two dacoities committed**

**From Our Correspondent**  
Oct 27: Two dacoities were committed in Mymensingh town and Nandail thana of the district recently.

In the first incident, a group of miscreants with arms entered into the house of Matkur Rahman of village Madharinagar under Nandail thana. They took away valuables worth about Taka 50,000.

Another dacoity was committed at the residence of Prof Mamunur Rashid of Gohalkandi in Mymensingh town where the dacoits looted valuables worth about Taka one lakh at gun point. Later, local people rounded up one dacoity with goods.

Cases were lodged with Nandail and Kotwali police separately.

**KURIGRAM**

**Fire station needed**

**From Our Correspondent**  
Oct 27: A huge quantity of property is burnt to ashes every year in the absence of fire station in seven thanas of the district.

There are only two fire stations at Kurigram Sadar and Ulipur thana. There is no fire station at Dhurungamari, Rowmari, Chilmari, Nagewari, Rajarhat, Rajfipor and Fulbari thanas of the district.

Every year property worth lakhs of Taka including human lives are lost. On the other hand, due to long distance from Sadar and Ulipur thana to other thanas, the existing two fire stations cannot provide services in due time to other thanas.

More than 60 fire incidents took place in the district during the current year causing a loss of more than Taka one crore and three persons were roasted alive.

**RAJBARI**

**Ferry serial system hailed**

**From Our Correspondent**  
Oct 27: The introduction of new serial system at Daulatdia-Nagerbari and Aricha Ferry Terminals greatly eased transportation difficulties, operators and drivers told.

The drivers said, with the introduction of the new system they were not required to pay extra money for getting the serial.

Under the new system, the drivers have to collect card from the police box specifying position in the queue as before.

**BARGUNA**

**Pye-dog panic**

Oct 27: The number of pye-dogs has been increasing in the district since last few years causing concern to the town-dwellers, reports UNB.

The dogs have no masters and are always at large obstructing movement of pedestrians particularly the school-going children.

Buyers and sellers in the markets are disturbed and transaction hampered, some vendors and shop-owners alleged.

Local leaders have urged the pourashava authority to take steps to remove the menace.

**MADARIPUR**

**Cowdung use declining**

Oct 27: The use of cowdung as manure is declining in the district causing loss to the productivity of land, reports UNB.

Local people said that rampant use of chemical fertilizer has also affected the fertility of soil.

The affected thanas are Sadar, Kalkini, Rajoir and Shibchar. Agriculture Extension Department sources said that fertility of soil depends on its organic chemical and biological ingredients which are found in cow-dung.

They said that farmers were using cow-dung as fuel instead of using it as manure because of the scarcity and high price of fire-wood.

**COMILLA**

**One gets 10 yrs RI for keeping forged note**

Oct 27: A man has been awarded 10 years rigorous imprisonment on charges of possessing a forged note here by Special Tribunal Court, reports UNB.

The court also fined him Taka 5000 or in default to suffer imprisonment for three years more.

According to prosecution story, accused Shah Jalal son of Abid Mja of village Nabidabad in Devidwar thana while trying to encash a forged note of 500 taka denomination by buying biscuits from a bakery in Devidwar New Market was caught and handed over to police by the local people on August 3, 1991.

Police after investigation submitted a charge sheet against him and Judge Ali Mansur awarded the punishment on Wednesday last.

**CHITTAGONG**

**Marine science Assoc AGM held**

Oct 27: M Abdul Hakim and Sohail Kadert Shaikat were elected President and General Secretary respectively of Marine Science Association of Bangladesh at the association's Annual General Meeting held here Sunday, reports BSS.

**MANIKGANJ**

**2 killed, 35 hurt in road mishap on Dhaka-Aricha highway**

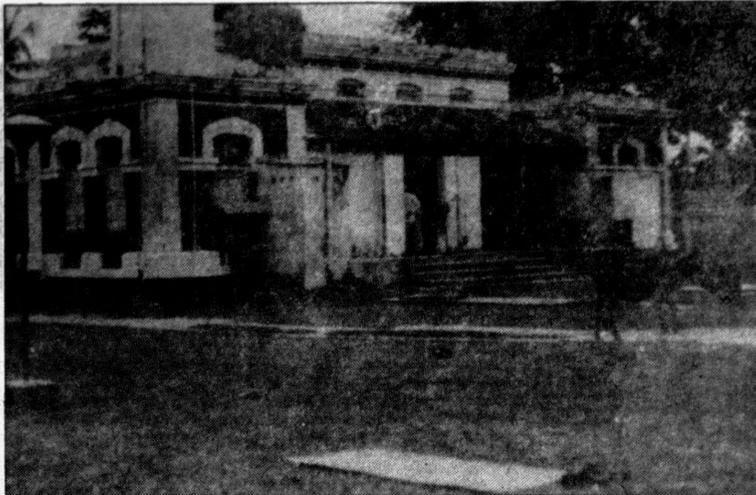
Oct 27: Two people were killed and 35 injured, six of them seriously, after a Kushtia-bound coach skidded on the Dhaka-Aricha highway and plunged into a wayside ditch Sunday, reports UNB.

Police said, the accident occurred when the driver of the bus (Pabna Ba-59) lost control while trying to overtake another local bus near Belishar in Dhamrai thana at about 8 am.

Balat Bepari (35) of Bathuli village in Dhamrai thana died on the spot while his brother-in-law Ali Hossain (15) succumbed to his injuries at the Manikganj Sadar Hospital.

Six critically injured people, including two women, were admitted to the Sadar Hospital. Others were released after first aid.

The bodies were sent to the Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.



NATORE: One hundred and fifty years old building of local sadar hospital where treatment facilities are inadequate. — Star Photo

**Diarrhoea kills 150 in three dists of greater Sylhet**

SYLHET, Oct 27: Diarrhoea has claimed at least 150 lives in three districts of greater Sylhet region during the last one and half months. The districts are: Sylhet, Sunamganj and Habiganj.

When contacted, an official source informed this correspondent that a number of medical teams had been sent to the affected areas to combat the diseases. But the situation is yet to be improved, it is informed.

According to the reports, the badly affected areas in Sunamganj district are: Chhatak, Tahirpur, Biswambarpur, Doarabazar, Sunamganj Sadar, Deral and Shulla thanas.

Nine persons in the house of one Anis Ullah at village Mohanpur of Sunamganj Sadar thana had died of the disease.

Shortage of doctors, beds and necessary medicines in the thana health complex and district Sadar hospital had been prevailing for a long.

Everyday, large number of patients coming to the Sunamganj Sadar Hospital but they are to return back being

disappointed due to the shortage of beds there.

The supply of saline and other necessary medicines in the hospital is also meagre to meet the increasing number of patients.

The number of Health Assistants is also scanty to meet the present demand.

**School teacher stabbed**

SATKHIRA, Oct 27: One school teacher was stabbed grievously by some unknown miscreants while saying his prayer in a puja mandir at Dhulihar in Sadar thana on Sunday night, reports UNB.

The victim Shamapada Basu, (42), teacher of Dhulihar High School was rushed to the Sadar hospital where his condition was stated to be critical.

Local people suspected that the incident might be the result of old enmity over the dispute on Mandir property.

District SP visited the spot and none was so far arrested in this connection.

Besides, the newly appointed Female Health Assistants can not reach the affected areas for their personal difficulties said an official.

However, as many as 130 medical teams have been formed in the Sunamganj district to combat the situation.

In Habiganj district, at least sixty persons died of the diseases. Nabiganj, Lakhat, Baniachang, Madhabpur, and Ajmiriganj thanas are the worst-hit areas, informed an official source.

The measures taken in the district are also stated to be quite scanty.

In Sylhet district, the diseases had been broken out in Gowainghat, Companyganj, Balaganj, Biswanath and Jaintapur thanas.

According to an official source, drinking of impure water was the main cause of the outbreak of the disease.

Immediate steps should be taken up including the sinking of new tubewells.

The situation is worse in the remote haor areas, a source informed.

**Sonali Bank officer absconding with Tk one crore cash**

RANGPUR, Oct 27: About taka one crore of the Principal Branch of the local Sonali Bank, have been misappropriated by the Principal Officer of the bank, SM Sakawat Hussain Mandol.

He is now absconding along with the family members, it is learnt.

The embezzlement was unearthed by a audit team during their normal audit work in the bank recently.

According to the informations, Sakawat Hussain Mandol has been working as the Principal Officer of the branch for the last seven years with the blessings of the higher officials of the bank. About three years back he was transferred to other branch, but after seven days he managed to cancel the transfer order and since then he continued the job undisturbed.

The audit team comprising of three members found that a number of forged savings accounts with huge false credits are in operation for a long time and all those accounts were operated by Sakawat Hussain Mandol.

The team on completion of audit of the current fiscal year had detected embezzlement of about taka one crore and they are continuing audit work of the previous years they apprehend that more irregularities might be come out.

There are allegations that Sakawat Hussain Mandol himself maintained all the cases of credit and debit ledgers of those forged savings accounts before the presence of the concerned officials of the bank.

In the previous years, audit teams held annual audit in the bank but all of them were managed by Mandol, it is apprehended.

A General Diary (GD) has been lodged with the Kotwali thana in this respect. But the main accused, Sakawat Hussain Mandol, Principal Officer of

the bank had already left for unknown destination along with the family members.

According to reliable source, many bank employees and officials will be held responsible in this sensational embezzlement for their favour in allowing him to do the misdeeds.

Four rifles snatched away from the possession of the BDR personnel by the pirates on October 6 from the river Dudkumar have not yet been recovered.

**Chemical fertilizers use decreasing farm output**

KURIGRAM, Oct 27: Use of chemical fertilizer gradually decreasing the productivity of agricultural land in Kurigram district.

It is learnt that chemical fertilizers are used regularly in the land to grow more crops. But due to lack of proportionate use of natural manure like cow-dung, the fertility of land is decreasing.

According to livestock department sources, cow-dung is rarely used in land these days following the degeneration of live stock population. Official statistics show that every year

on an average 20,000 cattle die due to various diseases and other calamities.

On the other hand, use of cow-dung as fuel has increased in the rural areas.

Increasing side effects due to rampant use of chemical fertilizer include less water-holding capacity of agricultural land, existence of increased sulphate and salinity posing threat to productivity of land.

The livestock and agricultural authorities have taken no measures to motivate the cultivators of using natural and green manures in land.



SYLHET: The age-old local office building of Customs and VAT Division. It needs immediate reconstruction for the safety and security of staff, official papers and equipment. — Star photo

**Notes from Maulvibazar**

**From Our Correspondent**  
MAULVI BAZAR, Oct 27: A day-long seminar on 'resistance of heart-disease and bad affect of smoking', organised by 'Rotary Club of Manu' — Maulvibazar was held at local pourashava auditorium recently.

Ebadur Rahman MP, the club President presided over the seminar while, Arif Ahmed, Deputy Commissioner and Dr Nurul Anwar, Civil-Surgeon of Maulvibazar attended as chief guest and special guest respectively.

Five doctors read out their papers on related subjects in the seminar. The doctors were Dr Gopesh Chandra Das, Dr Faysal Ahmed, Dr Abdullah Al-Mahmud, Dr A K Jillul Haque and Dr Abdul Haque.

**Biddut Sramik unit confce held**

The Biennial conference of Jattya Biddut Sramik Karmachari Union (JBSKU) Habiganj-Maulvibazar unit was held at Maulvibazar Power Development Board office premises with Samsul Alam in the chair.

Joint secretary of JBSKU central committee Abul Hasem and BNP district unit Secretary Advocate Abdul Khaliq attended the conference as chief and special guest respectively.

It was addressed among others by Muhammad Gazi Bhuiya, Golam Ahmed, Azizur Rahman and Azadur Rahman.

A 13-member executive committee was formed in the conference for its Habiganj-Maulvibazar unit with Ashraf Ali Chowdhury and Samsul Alam as president and secretary respectively.

**Workshop on iodised salt consumption ends**

A day-long workshop on 'Iodised salt consumption', jointly organised by Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) and UNICEF was held at Maulvibazar district council auditorium recently.

The workshop was presided over by Assistant Manager of BSCIC, Habiganj M A Quddus. Salt traders of Maulvibazar and Habiganj district participated in the workshop.

**Eleven hurt in JCD rival groups clash**

An armed clash between rival groups of the Jattiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) has left at least 5 students injured recently.

The clash occurred at Maulvibazar Government College and the college authority closed the college for three days. Police rushed to the spot and dispersed the activists.

All the injured persons were admitted to Sadar hospital. Of them, one injured student was shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Police have been deployed to avert fresh untoward incident at the college.

Sadiqur Rahman an activist of JCD filed a case with Mulvibazar Police Station against 5 activist who are also the supporter of JCD.

**Normal functioning of Register office hampered**

Normal functioning of the District Register Office, Maulvibazar greatly hampered due to lack of own building. Now the office is running in a small rented house.

On the other hand, Sub-Register office of Maulvibazar Sadar running in a dilapidated building at their own land. There was 1.87 decimal land under ownership of Sub-Register office. But 1.50 decimal of this land has been utilized by other government departments. So, only .37 decimal land now under possession of the Sub-Register office.

Official source of the Sub-Register office says, there are .90 decimal land adjacent with Sub-Register office at Maulvibazar which was under ownership of district Revenue office is now abandoned as this office already shifted at the newly constructed district collectorate building.

**Arrangement for TV station ends**

BARISAL, Oct 27: Arrangements have been completed for setting up a television relay station in Patuakhali, reports UNB.

Official sources said the station would be set up with the financial assistance from French government during 4th five-year plan.

**2000 tubewells lying out of order**

**From Our Correspondent**  
JESSORE, Oct 27: A total of two thousand tubewells in eight thanas of the district is now out of order for want of repair since long.

Various diseases including diarrhoea have broken out in an epidemic form due to scarcity of pure drinking water.

According to official record, seven hundred forty tubewells are lying inoperative but the actual number is more than double. The number of tubewells in the district is 42,726.

It is learnt that pilferage of parts including head and pump by organised thugs and bandits, and chock-up of filter following drastic fall in ground water level have created the situation more acute in rural areas.

It is informed that despite getting information, the staff of the Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) is not coming up for repairing the tubewells. The negative attitude of PHED staff is aggravating the total situation.

It is learnt that some tubewells of PHED sunk in Hakimpur Union of Chowgacha thana in the district with help of local union parishad, two years ago, have forcibly been lifted by village terrorist and installed them within their house.

When contacted, Executive Engineer, PHE Department, confirming the news told The Daily Star that department's job end with the sinking.

**BSF regrets attack, to hold inquiry**

NETRAKONA, Oct 27: A Battalion Commander level flag meeting between Indian Border Security Forces (BSF) and Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) was held on Sunday at bordering village Lakkhipur in Durgapur thana under Netrakona district, reports BSS.

Local officials said that the meeting lasted for four hours from ten am to two pm.

The meeting discussed matters relating to an unpleasant incident which had occurred on October 22 in which two Bangladeshi citizens had been critically injured as the BSF personnel had shot at them after illegally entering about 200 yards inside Bangladesh territory near village Lakkhipur.

As the villagers raised resistance the BSF men fled leaving behind one SMG and one SLR.

The Indian side expressed regret over the unpleasant incident and said that an inquiry was in process.

The Bangladesh side was led by Lt Col KBM Moinuddin, Commanding Officer of 34 Battalion of BDR while the Indian side was led by Sarwan,

Commanding Officer of 79th Battalion of BSF.

Earlier report says: Two Bangladeshi citizens were critically injured at Lakkhipur village under Durgapur thana as, Indian Border Security Force (BSF) shot at them after entering into Bangladesh territory, official sources said.

The injured persons were identified as Lord Bard Sangma and Abled Sangma. Both of them are tribals, and have been admitted to Durgapur Thana Health Complex.

The officials said, a group of BSF personnel illegally entered into about 200 yards inside Bangladesh territory near Lakkhipur village of Durgapur thana in the evening, as they started looting the villagers raised resistances against them.

At one stage, the officials said, the BSF personnel shot at the villagers and decamped the bordering village leaving one SLR and one SMG. The firearms were deposited with Baramari BDR Camp by the villagers.



CHANDPUR: Children are busy in painting at a competition organised by the local Central Rotary Club recently. — Star Photo

**Unauthorised power use rampant in Pabna**

PABNA, Oct 27: Unauthorised consumption of power without limit has become rampant throughout the district mounting system loss, some members of the local elite have informed, reports UNB.

Sources said, at least one thousand unauthorised electric lines could be detected in the town.

A section of PDB men are involved in under-hand deals with unscrupulous consumers for regular pay-offs, they said.

On the other hand, a good number of electricity consumers complained that they were not getting their electricity bills in time for payment without surcharge.

Local leaders urged the authorities to take action and stop this malpractice.

Work is yet to start on installation of 1000 telephone lines in Pabna Sadar thana. The project was actually scheduled to be completed by last June, according to official sources.

already been completed, they said.

Sale of adulterated goods continues unabated in the markets of nine thanas of the district, local leaders alleged.

Different items like oil, butter, ghee, milk, flour bread, biscuits and honey which are sold after adulteration in the local markets were being used extensively in hotels and restaurants, they said.

**5 get life-term for murder**  
MAGURA, Oct 27: Five persons were given life-term imprisonment in connection with a murder case here by the District and Sessions Judge, reports UNB.

The convicts are: Akbar Sardar, Pitkul, Zillur Rahman, Mona and Deanoor Ali of Joytara village of Sadar thana. The court also fined them Taka 5,000 each or in default to suffer one year RI more.

According to the prosecution story, all of those five convicts kidnapped and killed Seraj Shetkh (45) from Joytara village on August 31, 1989.