

District roundup

JAMALPUR

Young girl commits suicide

From Our Correspondent
Nov 8: A young girl, Laily Begum, daughter of Abdul Khaleque of village Chaitrbanipakuria under Melandah thana committed suicide by taking poison recently.
She was sent to the general hospital where the doctors declared her dead.
An UD case was lodged with the police in this regard.
Another report adds: One Morsheda Begum (25), a daughter of Sardar Ali of village Nolsiya under Melandah thana allegedly committed suicide by taking poison recently.

MUNSHIGANJ

New college opens

From A Correspondent
Nov 8: A new college has been opened at Malkhanghar under Sirajdikhan thana of the district on Thursday last.
Local Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO), Ismail Hossain, formally inaugurated the college section of Malkhanghar High School in a simple ceremony with M A Sayeem, Chairman of the Managing Committee of the school and college in the chair.
The function was attended by local union parishad chairman, former teachers and students of the school instituted in 1889.

MANIKGANJ

Six pickpockets nabbed

From Our Correspondent
Nov 8: Shibalaya thana police raided Aricha ferry Ghat and arrested six pickpockets recently.
The arrested persons are: Hasnat Fakir (25), Rafique (15), Mafiz (20), Hatem Ali (25), Hanif (20) and Arun Kumar Shaha.

Another report adds: A youngman committed suicide by taking poison in Satoria thana of the district recently.
The victim was identified as Nazim Uddin (25), son of Falu Miah of Kulsur village in Satoria thana.
Family sources said, he was suffering from family trouble.
A UD case was registered with the Satoria police station in this connection.

RANGAMATI

Merchants' assoc committee formed

From Our Correspondent
Nov 8: A 13-member executive committee of the Karnafuli Merchants' Association (Kaptali) was elected recently with Golam Nabi and Mohammad Shahjahan as chairman and the general secretary respectively.
The other members of the 2-year tenure committee of the merchants' association of Kaptali New Market were: Pushpal Kanti Chowdhury—treasurer, Mohammad Ali—vice chairman, Mohd Hanif—assistant general secretary, Nepal Chandon Ghose—organising secretary, Morshed Alam—social welfare secretary and Shaheb Miah, Sona Miah, Siddique, Ahsanullah-I, Sultan Miah and Ahsanullah-II as members.

CHITTAGONG

Ahmed Sharif's remark on Islam condemned

Nov 8: Sixtyfour eminent citizens including educationists, layers, journalists and physicians condemned the remark made by Dr Ahmed Sharif about Islam and Muslims, reports BSS.
In a joint statement, here they said Dr. Sharif not only defamed the Islam, but also hurt the religious sentiment of the people by his recent remark.
They called upon him to refrain from making such remarks which hurt the root of all religious faith.
The signatories to the statements, included Dr Mohammad Mahfujullah, Prof Abdur Noor, Advocate Shamsuddin Ahmed Mirza, journalist Nazir Ahmed and Sayed Murtaza Ali.

SYLHET

JCD members gerao DC's office

From Our Correspondent
Nov 8: The Jattiyotabadi Chhatra Dal activists on Thursday geraoed the office of Deputy Commissioner to press for the release of the district JCD leader Ali Ahmed and others and for withdrawal of false cases against other JCD leaders.
They also held a two-hour 'sit-in' in the premises of the Deputy Commissioner's office.
A protest meeting was held there in which they demanded for neutral role of the administration and called for immediate release of the JCD leaders.

PANCHAGARI

Youngman gets 5 yrs RI for violating girl

Nov 8: A youngman was awarded five years rigorous imprisonment on charge of violating a minor girl, court sources said here Thursday, reports UNB.
According to the prosecution, ten year old Chandra Banu Momena of Agantala in Boda thana of the district was taken to a village mela at Boalmari Baranai by the accused Yusuf Ali of the same village and raped her on way back in March, 1991.
The mela authorities hearing the cry of the girl, rescued her and arranged treatment at Boda hospital.
Later a case was filed and police after investigation submitted charge sheet against the accused.
The district Sub-judge and Assistant Sessions Judge after examining the witnesses and records delivered the judgement recently.

BARISAL

Drama '1971' staged

From Our Correspondent
Nov 8: The 43rd drama of 'Kheali Group Theatre' of Barisal was staged recently here at Aswini Kumar Town hall.
The drama '1971' written by Humayun Ahmed was directed by Minto Bose.
Participants of the drama were: Aziz Master—Pijush Kanti Debnath, Mala—Jesmin Munna, Jainal—Amittabh Banik, Kuddus—Jaktir Hossain, Iraj Ali—Serjum Munir Titu, Imam—Basudeb Ghose, Rafiq—Rasheduzzaman Khan Rakib, Namasudra—Nazmus Sams Sazal, Major—Sukriti Mukherjee David, Mir—K M Abdullah Sahid, Anula—Mostari Begum Mita, Badiuzzaman—Asiful Haq Dani, announcer—Minto Bose, and in other roles—Maniruzzaman, Momen Chowdhury, Mehedi Hasan, Lutfar Rahman and Mujibur Rahman.
Overall supervision was conducted by Professor Firoja Begum.

FARIDPUR

One crushed to death

Nov 8: A minor girl was crushed under the wheels of a speeding bus at Dhuldi Railway Gate, 10-millimeter off the town Thursday, reports UNB.
Police said Krishna (10), daughter of Ajit Kumar Shaha of village Machehar in sadar thana of the district was hit by the speeding bus on Faridpur-Dauladia road while returning from Dhuldi Bazar at about 5 pm. She died instantaneously.
The driver of the bus managed to flee immediately after the accident.

PABNA

Minor girl violated

Nov 8: A minor girl was violated in Atgharia thana on Wednesday, reports UNB.
The victim was identified as Khodeza Khatun (7), daughter of Moselemuddin Khan of village Garuni in the thana.
Police sources said Khodeza was violated by Alhaj Ali (15), son of Elahi Box of the same village, in a nearby paddy field. Villagers found her in unconscious state and sent her to Pabna General Hospital.
A case has been filed with the local police in this connection. Accused Alhaj Ali was absconding.



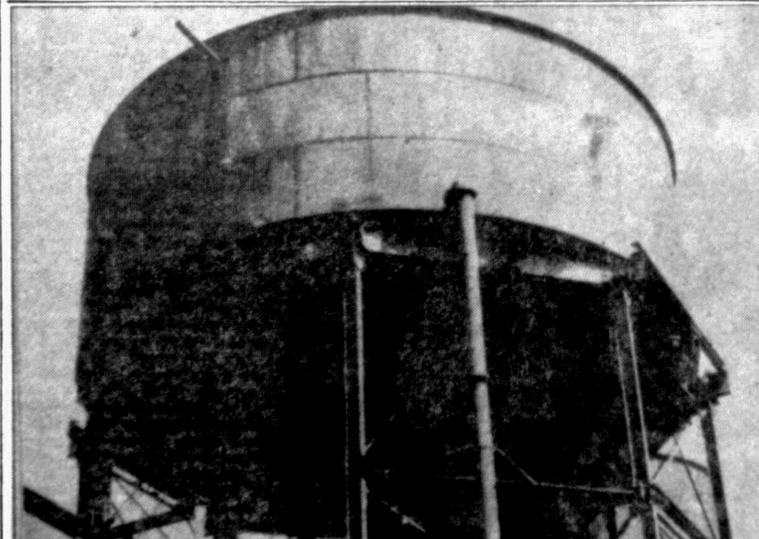
CHANDPUR: Md Matiur Rahman, Principal, Chandpur Government College addressing as chief guest at the second installation ceremony of the local Central Rotaract Club recently. — Star photo

Literacy rate rise can help proper use of resources

MATLAB, Nov 8: State Minister for Establishment, Md Nurul Huda on Saturday said raising of literacy rate is imperative for proper utilisation of the country's limited resources for national development, reports BSS.
He was addressing a cross section of people on the occasion of foundation laying of Fatepur Abdul Hossain High School here.
Huda said, government alone cannot able to build new educational institutions at all places, although the one-sixth of the national budget is allocated for the education sector. He said, historically the educational institutions were established by the zamindars and philanthropists. He called upon the rich people of the society to maintain the history in this field.
State Minister for Education, Principal Md Yunus Khan said, the on-going development programmes should be implemented smoothly by generating efficient and trained manpower which can only be realised by relieving the country from the course of illiteracy.
Listing out the programmes taken up by the present democratic government in raising the literacy rate, Khan said, the non-formal education programme is being started to educate the working class and general people. He said, Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman had initiated the mass literacy programme in 1980 as the part of the non-formal education.
He called upon the teacher's local elite, elected representatives and political leaders to do their best in implementing the literacy rate raising programmes. The social unrest would be reduced, he hoped.
Presided over by AB Mainuddin, the meeting was also addressed, among others, by Mrs Bani Ashraf MP.
Earlier, the two state ministers laid the foundation of the high school building.
From the next calendar year this school will be a high school from junior school.
UNB from Sirajganj says: The number of school going children now outside the schools has been increasing causing concern to the guardians and educationists here.
A social welfare survey conducted recently revealed that about 3,12,408 children enrolled their names in the government and non-government schools. But about 4,41,000 children of school-age have remained outside which means majority of school-aged children are not receiving education.
The survey depicts a dismal condition of the schools where academic atmosphere is almost totally absent.
A total of 1179 primary schools in the district have about 5,533 teachers. The survey said most of the teachers are irregular in their attendance in the schools.
Recurrent floods and other natural calamities have damaged most of the schools but due to erosion by the rivers Jamuna and Karotoa washed away a large number of schools. The damaged institutions have not yet been repaired.
The survey says, about 40 per cent schools have no benches for students and chair for the teachers while other equipment for teaching are lacking.

Misuse of irrigation facilities decreases farm production

NETROKONA, Nov 8: Agricultural production in the district has dropped sharply due to misuse of irrigation facilities, reports UNB.
Local people informed that about 50 per cent shallow tubewell engines were being used in country-made boat hampering irrigation in the district.
Official sources said the trend of using the engines for non-irrigation purposes has increased recently adversely affecting agricultural production in the area.
Besides in country-made boats, the engines were being used for rice husking and power generation.
The BADC sources said the engines were originally sanctioned for agricultural purposes. But they have become handy due to easy acquisition method following relaxation of procedural formalities by authorities and its abundant supply in the open market.
The supply of engines have reached to 70,000 as against 35,000 in the local markets.
In view of the situation authorities have approved the sale of engines to non-irrigational purposes. It was learnt.
Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Krishi Bank has begun to prosecute some shallow tubewells engine owners for non-payment of loans extended against their irrigation appliances.
A reports from Chapainawabganj says: Huge foreign exchange could be earned by proper utilisation of indigenous cockle found in the beels and ponds of the northern districts, according to experts here.
The villagers collect the cockle for fodder or for other domestic use. But the experts say, pearls formed inside cockle as well as the shell could earn huge foreign exchange if properly cultivated and produced.
Pearls take three to four months to form but the cockles are collected and used too early due to ignorance, they said.
A huge quantity of cockle is carried down stream from the Himalayan range and the climate and the environment of the northern districts of the country are quite favourable for pearl culture, the experts noted.
Quality and colour of the pearls available here can be compared to those of Basra in Iraq, they added.
They suggested government patronisation, preservation, training and research to develop cockle cultivation and pearl culture in the northern region.



SYLHET: The 75,000-gallon capacity water-tank of Sylhet pourashava has been lying out of order for the last seven years causing much inconveniences to the town residents. — Star photo

Notes from Comilla

COMILLA, Nov 8: A debate competition on "Family life education is the precondition of planned family" was held at Ajit Guha College on October 30, reports UNB.
Organised by the local unit of Family Planning Association, the debate competition was presided over by Abdur Rauf, Principal of the college.
Syed Abu Baker, Vice-Principal of the college and M A Shaif of FPAB also spoke on the inaugural session.
A total of 12 students participated in the debate. Rabiya Siddique, Monowara Begum and Nurul Islam were placed first, second and third respectively in the competition.

Fugitive criminal held with revolver

A fugitive criminal was nabbed with a revolver in Honma thana of the district last week.
Acting on a tip off, police nabbed Jaj Mia from a boat and recovered a revolver with four round of bullets in his possession. The boatman was also arrested.
Police said Jaj Mia was wanted for a long time in connection with various charges including murder and dacoity. The arrested were sent to jail hayat.

School boy gets 7 yrs RI

A school boy was awarded seven years rigorous imprisonment for attempting to violate a minor girl in a judgement delivered here on October 27.
According to the prosecution, Anwar Hossain, a student of class ten of Mainamati High School forcibly took away Hazera Khatun (10), a student of class three, in the school premises and attempted to violate her on September 17, 1991.
The neighbouring people rescued her after hearing her hue and cry.
The district Assistant Sessions Judge found the accused guilty after examining the records and witnesses and gave the verdict.
Five other accused were acquitted of the charge.

Six arrested with smuggled goods

The BDR personnel seized smuggled goods worth about Taka 27 lakh and arrested six people in this connection during the last one month.
The contrabands worth about Taka 26,02,456 were seized while being smuggled into the country and goods valued Taka 96,564 while being smuggled across the country.
The BDR personnel of 29 Battalion conducted the operation and filed 165 cases with different thanas of the district during the period.

Tk 25 lakh heroin recovered

JHENIDAH, Nov 8: A joint task force of BDR and district administration recovered 250 grams heroin worth about Taka 25 lakh from a private car at Bishoikhali Bazar on Jhenaidah-Jessore highway, seven kilometres off the town on Saturday, reports UNB.
Acting on a tip, the task force led by Chuadanga BDR Commanding Officer, Major Mahbul Alam stopped a Dhaka bound private car (No: Chattagram-Gha: 3331), arrested three alleged smugglers and recovered the heroin from their possession.
The arrested were identified as Md Selim Reza of Jessore, Md Soleman Biswas of Jhenidah and Md Nazimuddin, driver of the vehicle.
Meanwhile, in another drive BDR jawans arrested four smugglers and seized 12 Indian cows worth about Taka 2.10 lakh from their possession at Sutiya village in Jibonagar thana of Chuadanga district on the same day.
BDR also recovered 236 pieces of Indian sarces worth about Taka 3.5 lakh at Boubazar area of Chuadanga district town and Arpara area in Kaliganj thana of Jhenidah district in two separate drives on Friday.

Social worker dead

CHITTAGONG, Nov 8: Eminent social worker and proprietor of Mozaher Pharmaceutical Company Alhaj S M Mozaherul Haq Mia died of heart failure at a city clinic here on Friday night, family sources said, reports BSS.
He was about 65.
An industrialist, Mozaher, has left behind six sons, seven daughters and a large number of relatives and well wishers to mourn his death.
The first namaj-e-janaza of Mozaherul Haq was held at Kadam Mobarak Masjid and he will be buried at his native village at Khadurkhal under Raajan thana.

Clash over violation of girl leaves one dead

SIRAJGANJ, Nov 8: An old man was killed and at least 20 others were injured, two of them seriously, in a clash between the inhabitants of two villages in Sadar thana on Wednesday, reports UNB.
Police sources said, the clash ensued over alleged violation of a girl.
Fuara Khatun (14), daughter of Foroz Ali of Alampur village, was allegedly kidnapped and violated by Mosharrar Hossain along with his accomplices of Islampur village at gun-point on October 5.
Police recovered the victim from Raiganj thana area on October 10.
As a sequel to the incident, villagers of Alampur attacked the people of Islampur on Wednesday night resulting in death of one person and injury to 20 others.
Seriously injured Hazrat Ali (70), Monsher Ali (37) and Abul Ali (40) were rushed to the General Hospital in critical condition. Hazrat Ali succumbed to his injury at the hospital on the following day.
Another report adds: Nine people have been awarded different terms of rigorous imprisonment for kidnapping a teen-aged girl.
In a judgement delivered last week, Assistant District and Sessions Judge sentenced Abul Karim (25) to 10 years imprisonment, and his father Ashraf Ali (50) and seven others to seven years in jail each.
They were also fined Taka 5,000 each in default to suffer

six months more imprisonment.
The other accused are Rafique (26), Reza (27), Raisuddin (28), Abul Kashem (28) and Rahim (26) of Dhoptetulia village and Nazrul (27) and Akbar (28) of Sanduria village.
According to the prosecution, Sheuli Parvin (14), daughter of Amjad Hossain of Sanduria village in Tarash thana, was kidnapped by a gang of miscreants led by Abdul Karim at gun-point from her house on September 1, 1990.
The kidnapers took her in a house in Chalmahar thana, where she was tortured by them for refusing to marry Abdul Karim.
A case was filed with local police accusing 9 persons.
Police recovered the girl from the house and arrested Ashraf Ali and his son Abdul Karim.

Reception

CHITTAGONG, Nov 8: Air India's Manager for Bangladesh G S Chhugani and Chittagong district Sales Manager P K Guha held a reception at a local hotel in celebration of the diamond jubilee of their airline, reports BSS.
Eminent citizens, business magnates and high officials attended the reception.
Air India, India's national airline, launched in 1932 has completed its sixty years.



NATORE: Sailendra Kumar Adhikari, Deputy Commissioner of the district addressing as chief guest at the inaugural function of the World Frugality Day held here at local auditorium recently. — Star photo

Fake manpower traders increasing in Satkhira

SATKHIRA, Nov 8: The number of fake manpower traders is increasing throughout the district, it is informed.
These fake manpower traders are cheating the unemployed youths on the plea that they would be provided with jobs abroad.
Hundreds of people are going abroad selling their property in the hope of good job there. Some of them are living miserable life after coming back from abroad.
It is noteworthy, the manpower traders are high at the outskirts of thanas like Shyamnagar, Kalaroa, Tala, Debhata, Assasuni and Shyamnagar of Satkhira district.
They push the unemployed youths in many countries tempting them with several kinds of lucrative jobs abroad. Many unemployed youths sell their last means to manage money with a view to going abroad.
It is learnt that these manpower trades have no licences issued by the manpower authority.
Recently, these manpower traders are collecting Taka 60,000 to Taka 70,000 from each unemployed youth for sending them to Malaysia with one month tourist visa. They are managing service for one or two weeks under any company there. Some of them coming back home after losing their means. The others getting no other service have been passing miserable life in Malaysia. A good member of youths are jail because of doing illegal job.
A reliable source says, the persons carried by the manpower traders are not allowed to join in jobs at all. These persons are carried via Bangkok by road or train.
Recently, 9 persons of Kalaroa, Tala and Satkhira Sadar thanas of the district have come back home after being cheated by this type of fake traders.

Tk 1.50 cr for expansion of phone exchange

FENI, Nov 8: The government sanctioned nearly Taka 1.50 crore for expansion of telephone lines in the district under the telephone expansion project, reports UNB.
Government sources said 500 lines will be installed in the district and work is to start soon to complete by next month.
Another report adds: A total of 1070 telephone lines are at present being operated under Feni Exchange.
On completion of the installation programme, a long felt demand of the local people will be fulfilled.
Five people were killed and 20 others injured, seven seriously, in a bus accident at Lalpur, 4 km off the town on Feni bypass on Friday last.
Witnesses said the accident occurred at about 1 a.m. when the Dhaka bound night coach from Chittagong rammed into a roadside mosque after hitting two trucks parked beside the road, one rickshaw and a tea stall.
Four unidentified bus passengers, including a woman (30), died on the spot while another, Muntruzzaman (40) of Bandarban thana, succumbed to injury on way to the hospital.
The bodies were sent to Feni Sadar Hospital for autopsy.
Of the injured, 12 passengers were rushed to Feni Sadar Hospital. Seven of them were later shifted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) in critical condition. Rest of the injured were given first aid at different clinics.
Driver of the bus managed to flee the scene immediately after the accident. Police seized the bus and the two trucks.