

### District roundup

#### MAULVIBAZAR

##### Death of Altaf Hossain condoled

From Our Correspondent  
 Nov 21: A meeting to condole the death of Syed Altaf Hossain, a renowned political leader and Founder President of Gonotontri Party, organised by Maulvibazar district Gonotontri Party was held at the district office recently.

The condolence meeting was presided over by district Gonotontri Party convenor Dr Gopesh Chandra Das and it was addressed among others by central leader of the party Sirajuddin Badshah, Editor of the Daily Maulvibazar Barta Bakshi Iqbal Ahmed and district leader Shekhar Datta.

The speakers of the meeting recalled the contribution of the late leader to the democratic and progressive movement of the country. They said, the nation would remember the contribution of late Syed Altaf to the country's Liberation War in 1971.

#### KURIGRAM

##### Jatiya Samabay Dibash observed

From Our Correspondent  
 Nov 21: Jatiya Samabay Dibash '92 was observed at Kurigram recently.

In the connection, a discussion meeting was arranged at the local Samabaya Bank premises which was chaired by Abdus Salam, Chairman of Kurigram Samabaya Bank.

Among others, Nurul Islam, Abul Hossain, Khaibar Ali, Abdul Malek, Osman Ali, Mohammad Ali and Abdus Salam participated in the discussion.

Another report adds: A rumour that the heads of the children are being chopped by the so called child lifters has caused a panic among the guardians and particularly the mothers. This rumour had been fomented here for the last few days.

A boy of eight years old told this correspondent that he had heard from his school mates that heads of children are being chopped off.

The rumour - mongers have even claimed of having seen a chopped head. Owing to this motivated rumour, many guardians are spending their time in agony till the return of their children from schools.

#### MADARIPUR

##### Eye camp concludes

From Our Correspondent  
 Nov 21: A three-day eye camp concluded at the Ghotok-Char High School premises under the auspices of Bangladesh Dristhith Foundation recently.

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

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

Another report adds: Employees and workers of district branch of T&T Board staged a demonstration and held a protest meeting against government's move to privatise the T&T Board.

#### SIRAJGANJ

##### 42 barrels of stolen diesel recovered

From Our Correspondent  
 Nov 21: Sirajganj Sadar police recovered 42 barrels of stolen diesel from a field of village Kadot under the municipal area recently.

Acting on secret information, police recovered the barrels. No body claimed the ownership of the goods.

Police sources said that the barrels of diesel were probably stolen earlier and were kept for shifting somewhere else.

A case has been lodged with Sadar police in this connection.

#### SATKHIRA

##### Two held with forged currency notes

From Our Correspondent  
 Nov 21: Two persons were arrested by police with two forged currency notes of 100 taka denomination recently.

It is reported that one Ismail Mistry of Nangla village and Rashidul Islam of Parulia both under Debhatia thana while encasing two forged currency notes of 100 taka denomination in a bakery at Eidgah bazar of Debhatia thana were caught red handed by the local police and handed over to Debhatia thana police.

A case was lodged with Debhatia police station.

#### BRAHMANBARIA

##### Meet held on National Co-op Day

From Our Correspondent  
 Nov 21: On the occasion of the 21st National Co-operative Day, a meeting was held here organized by the Sadar thana co-operative society at local auditorium.

The meeting was presided over by the Sadar thana Central Co-operative Society's President Chowdhury Mohammad Afzal Hussain Nisar.

Deputy Commissioner Khairuddin Ahmed was present as chief guest while Deputy Director, Rural Development Board M A Monsur Fakir, Sadar thana Nirbahi Officer Enamul Haque, district Livestock Office M A Rahim attended as special guests.

It was addressed among others by district Co-operative Officer Iqbal Hussain, Japant Specialist Miss Yumi Takama, Zaheruddin, Shibli Begum, and Tofail Ahmed Mullah.

#### MANIKGANJ

##### Obscene film shows regular

From Our Correspondent  
 Nov 21: Indian Hindi and foreign blue films are being exhibited openly here at many public places causing moral degradation of the young generation.

The demand for the Indian Hindi films is on rise and both the Hindi and obscene films are also being shown in many village through VCPs, local people informed.

The school going boys and girls often drop their classes to enjoy the films in a body some guardians informed.

Taking the advantage of law and order situation, some unscrupulous video showponers at the Aricha Ghat, Saturia Bazar and Daulatpur have arranged mini-cinema halls, where obscene films are shown on commercial basis.

Besides, the youths of the seven thana headquarters are addicted to spurious drugs and liquor by the influence of foreign video films who often resort to anti-social activities.

#### GAIBANDHA

##### BCL sweeps in college union poll

From Our Correspondent  
 Nov 21: Sadullapur Degree College students sangsad election concluded here peacefully on November 12.

BCL (M-I) bagged ten seats including G S and A G S while JCD got two seats including VP.

A S M Sajjat Hossain Paltan was elected VP and Abdus Salam Sarker General Secretary.

Another report adds: Johora Khatun Popy (13) a student of class nine yet to be rescued after 20 days of kidnapping by some miscreants.

According to reports, missing Popy, daughter of one Idris Ali of village Purba Kamarnai under Gaibandha Sadar thana was kidnapped by some miscreants on way to her school on October 25.

Father of Popy however lodged a case with local thana but police failed to rescue the girl.

#### BARISAL

##### Freedom Fighters plan to observe reunion Nov 27

Nov 21: Freedom Fighters of the southern region have drawn up programmes to observe the third re-union day on November 27, reports UNB.

It may be recalled that 'Barakotha Dargabari', a sub-sector from where Freedom Fighters of the then greater Barisal district launched guerrilla operation on Pakistan army units during the war of independence in 1971.

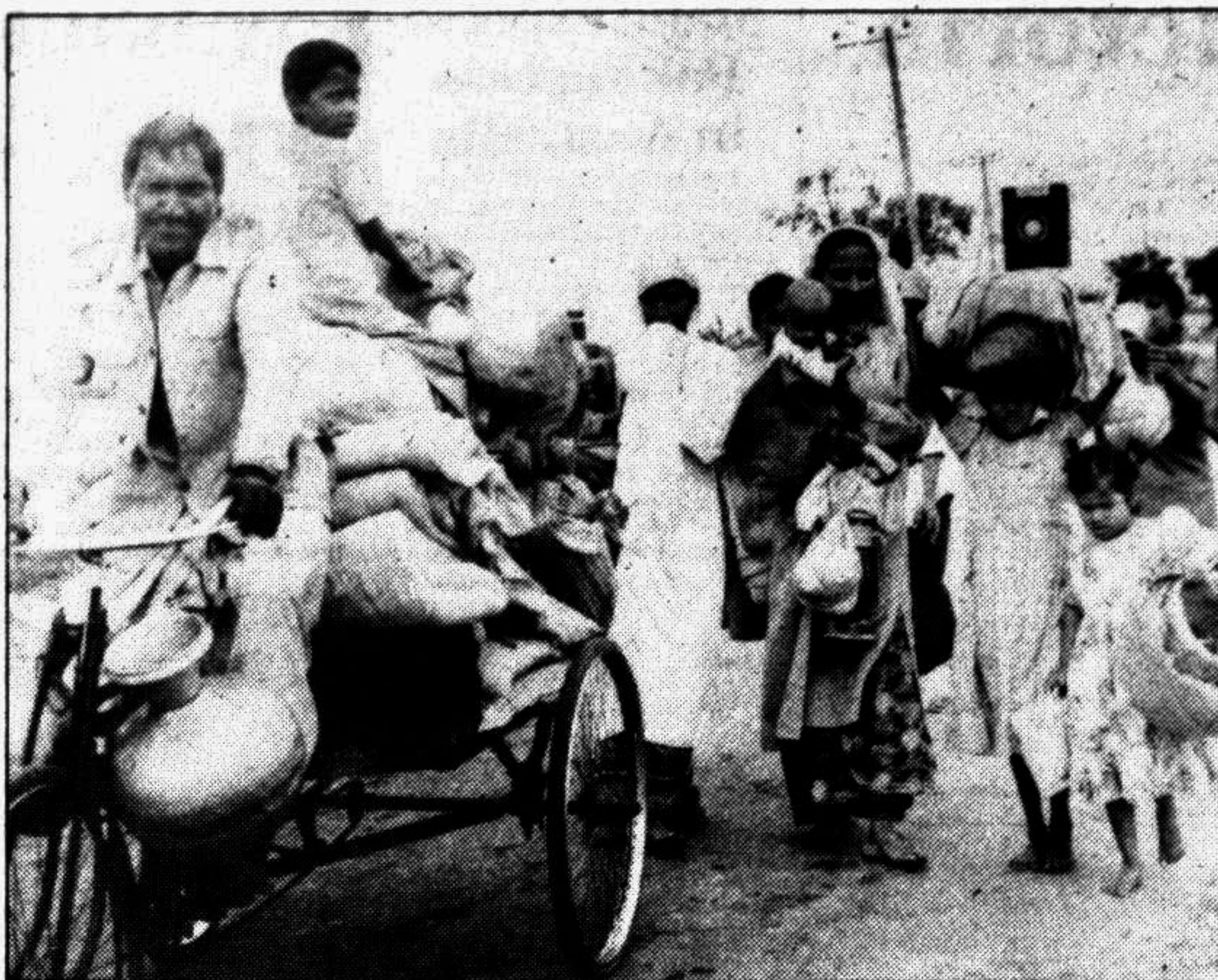
Close associates of Capt (Retd) Sahjahan Omar, Biruttam, Mahiuddin Manik, Biruttam, Enayet Hossain Chowdhury, Sahidul Islam Fakir and Dr Abdul Hakim held a reunion function in September 1990.

They put up a monument at the Barakotha Dargabari in memory of the Shahid freedom fighters.

This year they decided to observe the day with a more elaborate programme.

A 51-member committee has been formed headed by Mahiuddin Manik as convenor and Sahidul Islam Fakir and Abdul Wahab Mia as joint convenors to make the gathering of freedom fighters a success.

The committee decided to award gold medals to ten freedom fighters at the reunion day celebration on the day.



PATENGA: People returning home from a cyclone shelter yesterday as the cyclonic storm weakened and crossed the Teknaf coast. —Star photo by Mohsin

## Deforestation threatens wild animals existence

RAMGAMATI, NOV 21: Massive deforestation and some other factors have threatened the existence of wild animals in Chittagong hill districts, reports UNB.

It is learnt that 18 species have in the meantime vanished and 50 others are on the verge of extinction.

The deforestation has also created adverse affect on the environment.

Experts said, illegal hunting, cruelty, rapid increase in human settlements, industrialisation, extension of arable lands were the reasons besides deforestation.

A forest official said, the 18 species which are lost include Nilgai, wild buffalo, wild cows, Bora Shinga Harin, Nekre and three types of Gandar of mammals group.

The species started disappearing mainly after liberation of the country and went totally out of sight in the last eight years, he said.

Number of tigers, elephants, deer, monkey, gharial and dolphin are decreasing, he added.

According to experts Bangladesh has 105 species of mammals, 567 of birds, 129 of reptiles and 14 types of amphibians which constitute rich wild-life resource of the country.

Experts suggested establishment of wild-life sanctuaries in the region.

**Three cutting indiscriminate**

Our Satkhira Correspondent says: The number of fruit-bearing trees is gradually decreasing in the district due to indiscriminate felling of trees.

Poor people both urban and rural areas of the district are felling trees like mango, jackfruit, black berry, wood apple, lichi, and palm.

The poverty stricken rural people sell the fruit - bearing trees to a section of unscrupulous wood traders when they find no other alternative for their livelihood.

The town people can not

plant fruit bearing trees as much as of the rural people due to small size of their homesteads. In spite of the space problem, they can plant fruit-bearing trees like mango, jackfruit, black berry, lichi, wood apple, guava, palm, coconut, banana, rose apple, tamarine for want of requisite plants.

The trees like banyan, acacia, chatka, shikoroil and cotton trees are also on the wane. These trees are being cut down every day in large number in an immature state.

The brickfield owners, biscuit factories, sawmill owners, furniture factories and fuel wood traders of the district have been purchasing wood every day to meet up their requirement. Timber merchants of the district send hundreds of trucks loaded with wood to other districts every day for their business purposes.

This region now under threat of deforestation owing to large scale destruction of all kinds of trees.

## Medicare facilities inadequate

From Our Correspondent  
 MAULVIBAZAR, Nov 21: Due to shortage of medicines, physicians and lack of medical equipment and absence of ambulances, the normal functioning of the hospitals in Maulvibazar is being hampered.

According to sources, Taka 28 lakh as annual allocation for medicare is quite inadequate to meet the requirement of about 14 lakh population of the district. The average medicare allocation for the people of the district is only Taka two per head. One doctor is appointed for every seven thousand people of the district.

The source mentioned that a total of six to seven hundred indoor patients and about 50 thousand outdoor patients is treated in all the hospitals, clinics and rural health complexes of the district every month.

The 50-bed Maulvibazar Modern Sadar Hospital is unable to extend the minimum services of the patients who come to the hospital. There is no doctor for emergency in the hospital. Emergency patients, suffer much for this. No renovation or repair work has been done of the hospital building, though it is essential.

For want of space, a germ killing machine remained unutilized. Gas supply to the hospital is yet to be extended. It is strange enough that

there is no ambulance for the hospital. The sanitary service in the hospital is pitiable. Most of the latrines and urinals are quite unfit for use. These are not cleaned regularly.

The diet supplied to the patients is also not up to the standard. Many patients coming from far-flung areas everyday with the hope of proper treatment go back disappointed for want of accommodation.

Posts of Sanitary Inspector, EPI Supervisor and statistician have been lying vacant for long time.

Buildings of thana health complexes in the district are in dilapidated condition. No initiative for renovation of the buildings has been taken by the authority concerned. Treatment facilities in the thana health complexes are quite unsatisfactory.

The indoor patients are being treated in all the thana health complexes in an unhygienic condition. Number of beds in each thana health complexes are only 31 and Maulvibazar Sadar thana health complexes have no indoor facility.

In Sreemongal thana, there are another 50-bed labour hospital. But, there is no water supply facilities. Want of water, normal functioning in this

hospital greatly hampered. Both the patients and doctors could not reside in the hospital due to acute scarcity of water.

Maulvibazar Sadar health complex have no outdoor or indoor service with exception of EPI vaccination programme, though a thana health complex is entitled for indoor and outdoor treatment.

Maulvibazar district have 20 health sub-centres at union level under Civil Surgeon. Scarcity of medicine in those sub-centres has posed a great problem. As a result, poor patients have been suffering a lot. They are unable to purchase medicine at an exorbitant prices from the open market.

There is a TB clinic at Maulvibazar Sadar. But patients are given only prescription.

The ambulance of Kulaura thana health complex went out of order for a long time. There is no X-ray machine in Rajnagar health complex.

The existing bed of the Sadar modern hospital can meet 50 per cent requirement of the patients seeking admission.

People of the district demanded to increase bed-facility in modern hospital and to open indoor and outdoor treatment facilities at Sadar thana health complex.



SYLHET: Ruth MacIod, Director, Homeless International visited the slum areas of the pousa area recently. W A Kutub, former Principal, Community Development Officer of Birmingham City Council, A F M Kamal, Chairman, Sylhet Pourashava, Azizul Malick Chowdhury, Vice-Chairman, District Red Crescent Society and Abdul Malik Chowdhury, Bureau Chief of Itfaq also see in the picture. —Star photo

## Notes from Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent  
 SIRAJGANJ, Nov 21: The 20th founding anniversary of Jatiya Samajtrantik Dal (JSD) was observed in Sirajganj recently.

On the occasion, a public meeting was held with Dr Zahurul Haque Raza in the chair. It was addressed by Advocate Sukumar Das, Halimul Haq Miru, Munir Hossain and Bakul Raihan. The speakers demanded trial of was criminal, Golam Azam and urged upon the government to impose ban on politics of Jamaat-Shibir-Freedom Party and Jubo Command.

Other programmes included placing of floral wreaths at Shaheed, Minar and workers rally.

**Dairy firm inaugurated**

The only dairy firm in Sirajganj was formally inaugurated by Abdullah-al-Nomman, Minister for Livestock, Forestry and Environment on November 14 last.

Among others Mirza Mura-duzzaman, MP, Humayan Islam Khan, Mokaddes Ali and Proprietor of the firm Syed Abdur Rouf Siraji (Mukta) spoke on the occasion.

**Barua Memorial body formed**

Poet Ashutosh Barua Memorial Committee was formed in Sirajganj to uphold the ideals of the take poet.

A 21-member committee was formed with Zainal Abedin was President and Soumendra Nath Barua as General Secretary. Cultural and educational intelligentsia were present at the meeting.

**Founding day observed**

The 6th founding anniversary of the weekly 'Samaj' was observed at its office recently.

The weekly started publishing on November 12, 1986, with Sunil Kumar Ghosh as Editor.

Among others, journalists Rafiqul Alam Khan, Abdul Qudus, Ashit Chowdhury, Nurul Islam Babu, Advocate Hedayetul Islam and Advocate Rafiqul Aziz spoke on the occasion.

**Freshers' reception**

The newly admitted students of Belkhet College were awarded reception by senior students on November 15.

The programme included discussion meeting with Principal Alauddin Mia in the chair, drama and musical soiree.

Speakers at the discussion meeting called upon all to establish a terrorism-free campus for smooth cognegial atmosphere.

**Advocate's membership cancelled**

Sirajganj district Bar Association has suspended the membership of Advocate Shah Jalal for his involvement in anti-organisational activities.

The action has been taken for six months with effect from November 1, 1992.

**Local products use stressed**

Sirajganj district unit of Bangladesh Panno Babohar Andolon in a public meeting on November 13 at local Bazar station premises with district convenor Professor Jamal Abedin in the chair stressed upon mass consciousness for using country-made products.

Among others convenor of central committee Md Shahzahan Ali Sheikh, Joint Convenor Mustafizur Rahman Labu, local leaders Advocate Nurul Amin, Mrs Hasna Hena and Abdur Rouf Khan spoke on the occasion.

**Release of Golam Azam demanded**

Sirajganj district unit of Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh has demanded immediate release of central Ameer Golam Azam.

In a public meeting at local Darga road held here recently with Moulana Abdul Aziz Azad with the chair.

Among others district Ameer Moulana Abdus Salam, Advocate Abu Bakker Siddique and Advocate Abdul Latif spoke on the occasion.

**Cattle lifting rampant**

Cattle lifting have been rampant in Belkuchi, Tarash and Chowhal thanas. During last one week seven cattle from Shahzadpur, five from Belkuchi and eight cattle from chaslund oriented Chowhal thanas have been lifted by miscreants. Besides, hide theft of cattlehead also reported from Sirajganj Sadar thana area. The cultivators in charlands are spending sleepless nights due to such cattle lifting and hide theft.

Shakil Ahmed Shaki (19), an activist of the district unit of pro-BNP Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, and Sadrul Hasan (30) were arrested on November 12 in connection with the killing of Abul Kashem.

With this, 27 accused of the case have been granted bail. Among others chargesheeted

## 47 die of diarrhoea in one union of B'baria

BRAHMANBARIA, Nov 21: Diarrhoea has so far claimed 47 lives and attacked over 1000 others in Natoli (north) Union in Sadar thana, according to the Union Parishad Chairman Momin Khan, reports UNB.

The village wise break up is: 17 in Rajghar village, 24 in Khudru Brahmanbaria, two in Thaliara village, three in Bhatpara and one in Natoli village.

Momin Khan said, adequate medicare facilities could not be arranged in the union.

Local people have urged the concerned authorities to send medical teams to the affected areas to help check the spread of the diseases without further delay.

A minor boy was shot at and another seriously injured by lethal weapons during a clash here between two rival groups of Madhypara and Moulivpara on November 15.

Suman (14) and Kabiruddin Ripon (22) were rushed to

Sadar Hospital and later shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for emergency operation.

Several crackers were burst during the clash.

Police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control. Police patrol in the area has been strengthened and one person has been taken into custody.

Two cases were lodged with the local police station in this connection.

UNB adds: Cattlelifting in Kattala union under Nabnagar thana of the district has caused panic among the poor farmers here.

Local people said that three cattle were lifted in the last two days.

A group of unscrupulous traders encourage cattlelifting so they can profit at low prices and make good buy by selling beef and skins.

Police rounded up two cattlelifters in a recent raid.

## 19 Sarbahara Party men surrender in Kalkini

MADARIPUR, Nov 21: A total of 19 activists of the outlawed Sarbahara Party, have surrendered to the law enforcing agencies at Korkira union in Kalkini thana, reports UNB.

Of them, 10 belonged to Kamrul Group and nine to Zia Group.

Advocate Abdul Matin Mollah, former President district BNP presided over the anti-terrorism meeting where they declared their dissociation from the party. The Police Superintendent of the district was also present.

Police have recovered five fire arms, four hand bombs and three rounds of bullets from areas of Sadar and Kalkini thanas between October 1 and 15.

Acting on secret information, Sadar thana police arrested Siraj Mridha from Hillarchar village with three rounds of rifle bullets. One country-made pipe gun was also recovered from the same village.

Kalkini police found three country made pipe guns and a modern pistol abandoned in a village.

An old man was killed allegedly by some unknown assailants in sadar thana recently.

Family sources said the victim, Jaynal Khan (65) of Barakandi village, was called out of his residence on October 17 at night by a group of people numbering 6.

Later, his body was recovered from a nearby field by his relatives.

However, local people said he committed suicide due to family dispute.

**Two children drowned**

DINAJPUR, Nov 21: Two children drowned in a pond at Mistripara in the town on Wednesday, reports UNB.

The victims were identified as Anwarul Islam (10) son of Azizul Islam and Saiful Islam (7) son of Basiruddin. Both of them were relatives.

On the fateful day the two little boys went to the nearby pond for taking bath and at one stage they slipped into pond and drowned.



AGRI-VARSITY: The Students Affairs Advisor of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) Prof M Rafiqul Haque Bhuiyan speaking as chief guest in an International Evening participated by the foreign students held here recently at the gallery of Agri. Econo. Faculty under the auspices of BAU Rotaract Club. —Star photo

## Ban on Jamaat-Shibir, Freedom Party politics demanded

SATKHIRA, Nov 21: Ghatak Dalal Nirml Committee leader Jahanaara Imam warned they would go for greater movement if the government did not execute the 'people's court' verdict against Golam Azam by December 16, reports UNB.

Addressing a rally at the Shaheed Abdur Razzaq Park here on Friday afternoon, she called for listing out and ostracising 'rajakers and the Jamaat-Shibir'.

Organised by district unit of the committee, the rally was also addressed by Abdur Razaq, MP, Hasan Imam, Kazi Aref Ahmed and Prof Abdul Ahad Chowdhury, ASM Emtaz Ali presided over the meeting.

Criticising the role of government in what she said nurturing fundamentalist politics rendering violence across the country, Jahanaara Imam demanded ban of Jamaat-Shibir-Freedom Party politics.

A report from Sirajganj says: Two more leaders of the district unit of Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal Nirml Committee, arrested in a Jamaat leader murder case, were released on bail on Thursday.

Mosharaf Hussain, Sarail thana magistrate also fined them Taka 1000 each or in default to suffer another two months RI.

The bus plunged into the river Titas from the ferry on Sylhet-Dhaka highway near Shahbazpur on November 8 last year killing 29 passengers.

A case was lodged by Abdul Kashem of Pattanpara under Sarail Police Station whose six family members were killed on the fateful day.

Later, police submitted a charge sheet. The magistrate after examining evidences and records announced his judgement on November 14.

**Driver, helper jailed for ferry mishap**

BRAHMANBARIA, Nov 21: The driver and a helper of the bus involved in the Shahbazpur ferry mishap last year have been sentenced to two years rigorous imprisonment each, reports UNB.