

## District roundup

### FARIDPUR

#### Probe body on lamp blasts formed

Oct 8: The district administration Saturday constituted a one-man enquiry committee with Magistrate Subir Kumar Chowdhury to investigate the incidents of lamp blast in two thanas, reports UNB.

A minor girl was killed and 7 others were wounded in the lamp (kupi) blasts in Char Bhadrans and sadar thanas Thursday night.

The committee has been asked to report within three days.

Meanwhile, the Police Super and the Civil Surgeon of the district also directed their officials to collect the fuel of the lamps from the houses as well from the concerned shops for ascertaining the cause of the explosions.

### JESSORE

#### 'Materialise dreams of Shaheed Zia'

Oct 8: Post and Telecommunications Minister Tariqul Islam called for united efforts for materialising the dreams of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman through implementing his nineteen point programme, reports BSS.

The minister was addressing the annual conference of Jessore branch of Zia Parishad at the Jessore D. Hall Sunday.

Presided over by the President of Zia Parishad, Jessore branch Mizanur Rahman Khan the conference was addressed among others by the President of Jessore district BNP, Ali Reza Raju and Secretary Advocate Nazrul Islam and Chief Advisor of Zia Parishad, Jessore district Nargis Begum and Khulna Divisional Organising Secretary Aminul Islam Shaheen.

Referring to various uplift programmes undertaken by the present government the minister said that effective measures were being taken for removing poverty.

### MYMENSINGH

#### 732 absconders arrested on various charges

Oct 8: Police arrested 732 absconders allegedly connected with various crimes in the district during the fortnight long drive ending September 15, reports BSS.

In addition, 511 persons surrendered before the court during the period to avoid arrest, police sources said.

The sources said, that these persons were involved in various murder, dacoity, kidnapping and burglary cases.

The source said that the Inspector General of police had directed the district police administration to conduct a drive to improve the law and order situation.

### BARISAL

#### Vitamin "A" capsules distributed to fight blindness

Oct 8: Barisal Health Services Department distributed over four lakh vitamin 'A' capsules among children as a measure against blindness last year, reports BSS.

Official sources said that these capsules were distributed through field workers, health complexes and union level health centres all over the district.

The sources said that a large number of children and grown up persons suffered from night blindness in the district due to vitamin 'A' deficiency.

### COX'S BAZAR

#### 695 Rohingya refugees go back home

Oct 8: Six hundred ninety five Rohingya refugees of 151 families voluntarily went back to their homes in Myanmar through three transit camps at Teknaf here Saturday.

Official sources told BSS here that local UNHCR along with Bangladesh officials saw the refugees at the time of their repatriation at Jomkhalai, Noypara-2 and Jumnapara transit camps.

With this, 88th batch of repatriation, the total number of repatriated persons now stood at 35,181, the sources said.

At present 21,221 refugees are staying in 20 camps of Bandarban and Cox's Bazar districts, the sources added.

### RAJSHAHI

#### Vocational training for students underscored

Oct 8: Rajshahi City Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu Monday underscored the need for providing vocational training among the students to build them up as self-reliant citizens, reports BSS.

Addressing a function of students at Technical Training Centre (TTC) here, the mayor said the present government had attached priority on technical training to help eradicate poverty from the country, a PID handout said.

The mayor called upon the students to put in their united efforts in maintaining congenial academic atmosphere in educational institutions.

The TTC, established in 1969 has been providing two-year long vocational training course on ten trades to about 500 students in each session.

### JHENIDAH

#### Two Purba Bangla activists arrested

Oct 8: Police rounded up two alleged activists of the outlawed Purba Bangla Communist Party in Harinakunda thana on Friday, reports UNB.

The arrested are Ansar Ali and Ayub Hossain.

Police, following a tip-off, raided the Rishkhal village in the thana and nabbed the activists.

In another raid, police recovered two pipe-guns at Hazratula in sadar thana on the same day. Sensing police arrival some armed miscreants managed to flee leaving behind the arms.

Another message from Khulna adds: Police in a raid on Wednesday night nabbed an alleged criminal Kamrul from New Colony of Khalishpur Housing in the city.

Police also recovered one revolver and two rounds of ammunition from his possession.

### CHUADANGA

#### Two killed in road accident

Oct 8: Two people were killed and five others injured in a road accident at Bhemrula in sadar thana on Chudanga-Kaliganj road Saturday, says UNB.

The dead were identified as Hafiqul Islam (22) of Shaikalganj and Daud Ali (23) of Howli in Damurhuda thana of the district.

Police said the accident occurred when a Jibannagar-bound mini bus hit a bicycle killing the rider Shaqif on the spot.

Another pedestrian Daud was run over when the driver of the bus tried to escape with the vehicle. Five passengers of the bus were also injured.

Local agitated people put barricade on the road for five hours protesting the incident. A case was filed with the police.

### NAOGAON

#### Tk 3 crore for new road links

Oct 8: Five pucca roads will be constructed in the district at a cost of Taka three crore in the current financial year, reports UNB.

Local Roads and Highways Department will construct the Manda-Niamatpur, Dharmohat-Jaipurhat, Atrai-Naogaon, Gomastapur-Sapahar and Dalgachi-Akkelpur.

With the completion of the project road communication in the district will be improved to a great extent.

Another report adds: Bangladesh Rifles raided two buses near Patnola custom check post on Dharmohat-Naogaon road and seized contrabands worth about Taka one lakh last week.

### FENI

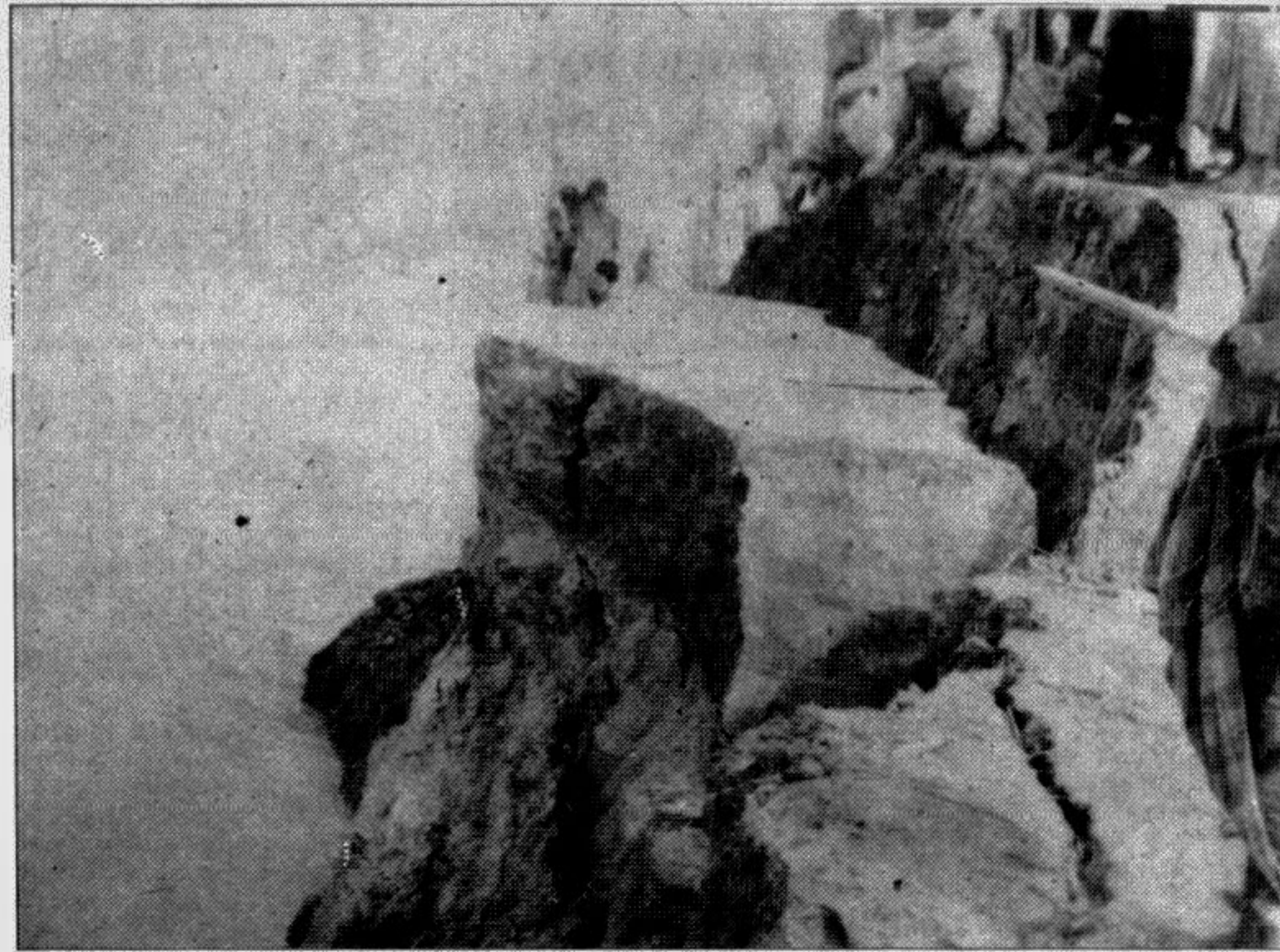
#### Private degree college to be set up

Oct 8: A new private degree college will be set up in the district which will start functioning from the current academic session, reports UNB.

The decision was taken at a meeting held at the auditorium of Zilla Parishad on September 25 with Deputy Commissioner Iftekhar Ahmed in the chair.

Additional District Magistrate Nurul Haq, Additional Deputy Commissioner Debashish Nag and Kamal Hasan Choudhury, among others, attended it.

An ad-hoc committee of the new college named Feni Public College was also constituted with the Deputy Commissioner and ADC (General) as president and general secretary respectively.



GAIBANDHA: A large portion of embankment of Rasoolpur is being eroded away by the river Brahmaputra. — Start photo

## Another 25,000 attacked Diarrhoea claims 310 lives

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Oct 8: Diarrhoea has so far claimed 310 lives and attacked 25,000 people in the district during the last ten weeks, according to an unofficial source.

Of the dead, 29 died in Kishoreganj, 28 in Hossainpur, 33 in Karimganj, 32 in Pakundia, 13 in Katiadi, 38 in Nikli, 9 in Tarail, 21 in Bajitpur, 12 in Kuliarchar, 7 in Bhairab, 14 in Austagram, 52 in Mitamain and 22 in Itna thanas.

But the Civil Surgeon office confirmed the death of 130 only and said that 11,000 people have been attacked by the disease during the period.

The villagers of the affected areas informed that due to the negligence of the workers of Health Department, the disease has been spreading fast. The medical teams are hardly found in the affected areas, they further informed.

Civil Surgeon office sources said 70 medical teams were working in different thanas to combat the disease.

The situation aggravated during the period due to absence of adequate preventive measures and inadequate supply of medicines.

The patients coming in large numbers were facing accommodation problem in the health complexes and sadar hospital. They have not arranged extra beds to tackle the situation, patients complained.

Acute scarcity of pure drinking water and deficiency of balanced diet have been attributed to the outbreak of the diseases, the doctors said.

Local MPs, political leaders and union parishad chairmen have urged the authorities concerned to supply life saving drugs and send more medical teams to save the suffering people and combat the disease immediately.

**Note book sale unabated**  
The sale of note books is

#### Sylhet doctors call off strike

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Oct 8: The physicians in Sylhet district have called off their strike which began Tuesday protesting the attack on Dr. Reza Chowdhury, Professor of Surgery, Sylhet M A G Omany Medical College.

The BMA local unit took this decision at a meeting today with Dr. M A Rakib in the chair, following an assurance of necessary legal measures from the Deputy Commissioner and the Superintendent of Police.

going unabated in all the 13 thanas of the district, informed sources said.

Note books are being sold at the most of bookshops at the district-town and thana markets despite government ban on it.

It may be mentioned here that the government has imposed ban on publishing and selling note books upto class eight. But some unscrupulous traders are publishing standard note books with fake name and addresses. These note books are full of errors and distortion of facts and it misguide the students.

Some guardians complained that these note books are being sold at an exorbitant price in different markets of the district. It is reported that the owners of bookstalls do not sell text books without notes.

The students and guardians have urged the concerned authorities to take necessary steps regarding the matter.

#### Catching of fish fry indiscriminate

Defying the government order, the fish fry are being caught indiscriminately in different parts of the district.

It is reported that, a section of fishermen in sadar, Tarail, Karimganj, Bajitpur, Itna, Mitamain, Austagram, Bhairab, Hossainpur, Pakundia, Katiadi, Nikli and Kuliarchar thanas of the district are catching fish fry of ruhi, katla, magur, mrigal, puti, singhi, boal, kalibaus, shaol etc from rivers and canals. Everyday a huge quantity of different varieties of fish fry are being sold in different markets, hats and bazars of the district.

It is learnt that some of the fishermen are catching these fish fry. The government has banned the catching of fish fry below nine inches to implement its open water fish production programme.

It is alleged that law enforcing agencies are often play a silent role to take any action

Deaths from heart disease cases and heart attack are abnormally increasing in the district.

The treatment facilities for the heart disease patients in the district are very poor. There is only one hospital and twelve health complexes in 13 thanas of the district.

It is learnt that for want of better treatment facilities hundreds of heart disease patients are either to go to Mymensingh and Dhaka or to Calcutta for treatment.

\*Mental unrest, smoking, high blood pressure, abnormal eating of rich food and a high level of cholesterol in the blood are among the main causes of heart attack, it is informed.

MYMENSINGH: A delegation headed by Ayatollah Shah Rukhi Khurumbadi, a renowned religious leader of Iran, called on Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr Shah M Farook during his recent visit at the Bangladesh Agricultural University. — Star photo

will be produced on 12,800 hectares in Satkhira, 15,423 bales on 1590 hectares in Khulna, 1215 bales on 129 hectares in Bagerhat, 397 bales on 41 hectares in Jessore, 582 bales on 60 hectares in Narail, 458 bales on 90 hectares in Magura, 1949 bales on 200 hectares in Jhenidah, 20,348 bales on 20978 hectares in Kushtia, 63661 bales on 6563 hectares in Meherpur and 100909 bales on 10403 hectares in Chudangra district, the sources said.

In the meantime jute growers of Satkhira district have been facing serious problems due to sudden fall in price of raw jute in the local markets.

Taking advantage of the situation some middlemen are purchasing jute at a lower price for below the production cost. Jute is now selling between Taka 170 and Taka 200 per mound according to quality.

Jute growers appealed to the concerned authorities to open purchasing centres to ensure

fair price of their product but not step has been taken in this regard yet.

Local UP Chairman Nityanandu Mukharjee said that the termination letter was given only for personal enmity.

Local elite urged the concerned authorities to settle the matter for the interest of the students.

Over 5 lakh bales of jute expected

About 580500 bales of jute may be produced in 10 southern districts under Khulna division during the current season.

The districts are, Satkhira, Khulna, Bagerhat, Jessore, Narail, Magura, Jhenidah, Kushtia, Meherpur and Chudangra.

According to an official source, about 59850 hectares of land were brought under jute cultivation in these districts this year.

A total of 74994 kilograms of jute seeds were supplied to the farmers for successful implementation of the programme.

About 1,24,16 bales of jute

## Notes From Comilla

From A Correspondent

COMILLA, Oct 8: A two-day long workshop on 'Comprehensive Population and Family Planning in Integrated Rural Development', sponsored by the BARD with the financial assistance of the CIRDAP concluded here recently.

Twelve participants from UNFPA, BRAC, BRDB, Swainirvor Bangladesh, Family Planning Department, Comilla and BARD participated in the workshop. The workshop aimed at exchanging the experiences of the departments to enhance family planning activities.

The concluding session was presided over by Dr Salehuddin Ahmed, DG BARD and it was addressed among others by Rezaul Karim and Shamim Ara.

**Fugitive nabbed**  
A fugitive criminal, Lutfar was arrested by a police party led by SI Atif Ali of Kotwali thana from Gangchar at Comilla town recently.

Lutfar was wanted for nine criminal cases in different thanas. He has been forwarded to court.

#### Four smugglers nabbed

Akhaura Railway Police acting on a tip recovered 20 maunds of Indian sugar and nabbed four persons in this connection from Noakhali bound 'Shamata' train recently.

These arrested were identified as Abdul Jalil, Jamal, Shaqif and Kashem who were forwarded to court.

Twenty bags of sugar worth Taka 28 thousand had been deposited with the Akhaura customs.

Police from Darkhar out post recovered Indian medicines worth Taka 12,500 from beneath the Ujanishar bridge recently.

**Sterilization camp**  
An IUD and depo-provera injection camp organised by the Manager, Sangraish branch of CAMS Shamim Ara was held here recently.

Thirteen women were implanted with IUD and 11 were registered as clients of depo-provera injection. About 60 mothers and children were given MCH service. The camp was formally inaugurated by Shamsi Jahany.

**Property worth Tk 2 lakh gutted**  
Five houses belonging to two families of village Joykante in Barura thana were gutted rendering 15 inmates of the houses.

The loss of property was estimated to be about Taka two lakh.

**Training course on adult education**  
A ten-day long training workshop for adult education sponsored by the BRAC at Laksam in BRAC's office was formally inaugurated by Abdul Jalil, Editor, Laksam Barta and president, Laksam press club in a brief function held recently.

Four hundred fifty teachers from selected 16 adult schools from ward No. 1 of Laksam paurashava participated in the training workshop.

**One killed in road mishap**  
One Golam Morshed (8) was crushed under the wheels of a speeding passenger bus (Dhaka Cha-136) heading towards Sylhet at Kanganagar on Comilla-Sylhet highway recently.

The driver of the killer vehicle fled away leaving it on the road creating traffic jam. Dewidar police brought the situation under control and seized the vehicle involved.

**Ligation camp**  
Nineteen tubectomy operations were performed at a ligation camp held at Badurta, Comilla jointly organised by FPAB, Comilla and Comilla ATMA Nivedita Mahila Sangstha (CAMS) recently.

**Two die in train accidents**  
Two unidentified youngmen were crushed under the wheels of running trains in two separate incidents during last week in the district, police sources said.

In one incident a man was run over by Padma Express train near Ullapara. He met the tragic end while crossing the Gatina bridge.

Another person died on the spot when a Chapainawabganj bound train coming from Sirajganj hit him while he was walking through the railway track.

The bodies were buried by the Anjumane Mohful Islam. Two separate cases were filed with the police.

**Land sold at throw away prices**  
Believe it or not, per decimal land is being sold at Taka 10 to 12 only in Chowhall thana headquarters of the district.

Sub-Registry office sources said the thana headquarters is situated in a charland surrounded by the river Jamuna. The erosion of the river has threatened its very existence. So nobody is interested to purchase the land in the area.

The Sub Registry office said a farmer sold his land in the area last month at Taka 12 per decimal.

Another report says: Railway police in special raids last week arrested at least 50 people on charges of travelling on rooftops and engines of the trains.

Police said all of the accused were produced before the Sadar Thana Court.

The court fined them Tk 10 to 20 each for unauthorised travelling in trains.

## Withdrawal of income tax demanded

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Oct 8: The small jute traders have demanded the withdrawal of income tax imposed on them recently.

This was expressed at a press conference arranged by the Small Jute Traders Association at the local press club.

The traders informed that they used to supply jute to the mills at a nominal profit. The mill authorities however delayed the payment for a considerable period of time, they pointed out.

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) imposed in March '93 2.50 per cent income tax in March '93 on the small jute traders which will be realised from June of the same year.

But the NBR did not impose any tax on the agents or big suppliers, the traders disclosed.

The traders claim that the imposition of tax on them is unethical and unreasonable as their income is small.

Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) requested

Caption: The NBR to withdraw the decision of imposing tax on small jute traders.

The NBR took a decision in 1988-89 to impose tax on them but later gave up the idea considering their low income.

The supply of raw jute to the mills has decreased considerably following the decision of income tax, mill sources informed.

The mills are at present purchasing raw jute from the agents at a higher rate causing losses to the mills, sources informed.

If this situation continues, the mills are to bear heavy losses, mills authorities disclosed.

It is interesting to note that the NBR did not impose such taxes in Dhaka and Chittagong zones.

The small traders have urged the authorities concerned to withdraw the tax for normalising the situation in jute sector.

## Rural transport system fails to respond to needs of local people

FARIDPUR, Oct 8: The Asian regional meeting on rural transport and development on Thursday unanimously agreed that the prevailing rural transport system in the region had failed to respond to the needs and economic opportunities of rural people, reports BSS.

The inadequacy in local level planning regarding rural transport system was also underlined as one of the major problems in the meeting.

The four-day meeting, first of its kind, was jointly organised by Local Government Engineering Department, UK-based International Forum for Rural Transport and Development (IFRTD), UNDP and ILO.

The meeting was attended by about 50 delegates from ten Asian countries and by Bangladesh resource personnel. They identified 119 major problems

during their discussion on the natural and magnitude of the rural transport problem.

The delegates recommended that sufficient information, understanding and skills were required for better and more responsible local level plans to improve rural transport system.

The meeting observed that the countries represented here covered a very wide range of characteristics in terms of their topography, population, density and stage of economic development. Approach to redress the problems of rural should be varied, the meeting noted.

Representatives from Malaysia, Thailand, Laos, India, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, The Philippines, Nepal and Sri Lanka attended the meeting.

Similar regional meeting of Africa will be held in Malawi in November this year, the organisers said.

## Pest attack damages huge amount of crops

SIRAJGANJ, Oct 8: Standing crops on 65,000 acres of land in six thanas of the district were badly affected by pests attack in the current season, reports UNB.

The pest locally known as "Mazra" and "Parol" damaged the crops in Shahjadpur, Ullapara, Raiganj, Tarash, Kazipur and Kamarkhan thanas, farmers said.

The pests could not be killed by insecticides due to heavy rainfall which washed away the chemicals, they added.

Moreover, the farmers cannot afford to buy the pesticides which are being sold at an exorbitant rate in the local markets.

Farmers urged the concerned authorities, to take necessary steps immediately to check the pests attack.

While talking to UNB, the Deputy Director of Agriculture Extension Department, told that steps are being taken to check the pest attack but shortage of pesticides and spray machines are the main problems on the way.

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The court fined them Tk 10 to 20 each for unauthorised travelling in trains.

## Politics, conflicts vitiating academic atmosphere

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Oct 8: The smooth academic atmosphere in Kumira High School under Tala thana is being hampered due to prevailing internal conflicts between a section of managing committee and teachers of the school.

It is learnt that an uneasy situation between some members including chairman of the managing committee and the headmaster of the school has been persisting for a long time with local politics.

In the meantime, without any agenda and notice Abdul Wadud, the headmaster of the school was suspended temporarily and later in the same way the committee terminated the headmaster of the school. Later the headmaster of the school filed a case against the order of the managing committee in the Judge's Court and also sought injunction.

Consequently after hearing the arguments the learned court granted injunction in favour of the headmaster.

Local UP Chairman Nityanandu Mukharjee said that the termination letter was given only for personal enmity