District roundup

JESSORE

T-aman cultivation programme undertaken

Oct 10: About seven lakh hectares of land in 10 districts of Khulna division have been brought under Transplant aman cultivation during this season. These areas include 4.5 lakh hectares under High Yielding Varieties and the rest under local varieties, reports

The district wise areas are 1.17 lakh hectares in Jessore, 77,000 hectares in Jhenidah, 30,000 hectares in Magura, 11,600 hectares in Narail. 1,21,000 hectares in Khulna, 1,00,000 hectares in Bagerhat, 1,50,000 hectares in Satkhira, 45,000 hectares in Kushtia. 31,900 in Chuadanga and 14,000 hectares in Meherpur.

According to additional director of agriculture extension deptt. Jessore region 15,29,820 metric tons of T aman paddy is expected to be produced in these districts during the sea-

FENI

Diabetic association established

Oct 10 : Feni Diabetic Association, established in cooperation with the district administration went into operation here last week, reports UNB.

The Deputy Commissioner, Iftekhar Ahmed was present as chief guest at the inaugural ceremony held here on October 1 while Civil Surgeon Dr Md Shamsul Haq presided over the function.

The function was also addressed among others by General Secretary of the association Abdus Sattar and Additional District Magistrate Nurul Hag.

Some 50 patients have already been admitted in the association housed at Poura Office Building. It has so far received Taka two lakh and instruments worth Taka 81,700 as grants from private sources.

Rajshahi

Indian cows worth over Tk 20 lakh seized

Oct 10: A special squad of BDR seized 46 Indian cows worth Taka over 20 lakh from Binodpur area of the city Thursday, report UNB.

Acting on a secret information the BDR men led by commanding officer of 20 Rifle Battalion Major Md Nasimul Gani Chowdhury raided the area and seized the cows.

The cattle were later handed over to Rajshahi customs office, said a PID handout.

MALJDEE COURT

Successful implementation of projects

Oct 10 : Begumganj Thana Parishad implemented a number of development projects at a cost of over Taka 1.82 crore in the last fiscal year, reports

The projects include reconstruction of 25 registered primary schools at a cost of Taka 62/70 lakh and reconstruction of 23 government primary schools costing over Taka 35.07 lakh under post-flood and cyclone rehabilitation programme These schools were provided with furniture worth over Taka 20.44 lakh.

Six bridges and nine culverts were also constructed at a cost of Taka 27.88 lakh by a non-

government organisation. Some other development projects were completed under thana development programme

at a cost of Taka 16 lakh. Rural Works Programme has also repaired roads, culverts and bridges at a cost of Taka 97,600.

JAMALPUR

Two arrested for stealing medicines

Oct 10: Police arrested two people for their alleged involvement in a fire incident and stealing of medicines worth about Taka three lakh from a pharmacy of Abedan Chak area

in the town, reports UNB. The accused were identified as Rasul, Manager of hotel Diana Guest House and his son-in-law Hasan, the hotel boy. The hotel is situated at the

upstairs of the medicine shop. Police said the pharmacy was set on fire on the night of Sept 18 by some people after stealing the medicine by making hole at the roof of upstairs.

KHULNA

Meeting of book exhibition committee

Oct 10: A meeting of the Khulna regional book exhibition committee was held at the local Umesh Chandra Public Library hall on Wednesday, reports

The chairman of the committee, Kazi Reazul Huq, the Deputy Commissioner of Khulna, presided over the meeting. It was attended among others by Prof Azizul Hassan, Prof Anwarul Kadir, Advocate Firoz Ahmed.

The meeting decided to hold the book exhibition from October twenty-five. Literary and cultural competition will also be held during this time.

RAJBARI

Indefinite transport strike

Oct 10: An indefinite transport strike was enforced in the district by the transport workers union after an unruly mob damaged a truck following a accident in the town on Friday last, says UNB.

Union sources said the mob damaged the truck and beat up its driver and union leaders after another truck sped away hitting a rickshaw leaving its passenger injured.

The transport workers union stopped the plying of all buses and trucks from the district for an indefinite period demanding punishment of those responsible for the incident.

Two cases were filed with the

KISHOREGANJ

Floating people turning into 'beggars'

Oct10 The influx of beggars of the Bajitpur, Bhairab river port and the district town has long been creating hazards to the public life, says UNB.

Town-dwellers said the problem has been intensified as hundreds of floating people who were rendered homeless by recurrent floodings. Cyclones and river erosion in the last few years are pouring into the town and urban areas in search of food and shelter.

But in the absence of government rehabilitation plan and job opportunities most of them have turned into beggars to maintain their livelihood, they added.

The beggars are making slums in the roadside areas or on any highland polluting the environment. In some areas they are also engaged in antisocial activities causing concern among the local people.

GAZIPUR

Illegal wood trading

Oct 10 : Fulbaria, a commer cial centre in Kaliakotr police station has become a paradise of the inter-district wood stealing, says UNB.

Sources said that the illegal wood traders procure wood from 'Kalomagh' and 'Kachighata' of Shakhipur and Gazipur-Sreepur state owned forest range and carry them to Fulbaria by boats, bullock carts and sometimes by push carts at the nose of the forest employees and law enforcing agencies.

The traders admitted to UNB that they had to pay at different check-posts for their clearance and to ensure uninterrupted

transport of the merchandise. "We also pay the extortionists at different points of the route" a trader unwilling to dis-

close his name, said. Experts fear that if the process of wood stealing continued the state owned forest will turn barren leaving an adverse effect on the ecological balance of the

CHANDPUR

country.

Six injured in road accident from sugarcane farming.

Oct 10 Six people including a woman were injured, three seriously, in a road accident at the Railway Station in the town on Thursday, reports UNB.

President of the district Jubadal and correspondent of Daily Dinkal Monir Chowdhury (30), Panna Begum (30) and Aiamgir Miah (45) were admitted to Chandpur Sadar Hospital in critical condition, hospital

sources said. The rest injured were released after first aid, the sources added.



GAIBANDHA: This bridge adjacent to Bamandanga railway station is yet to be reconstructed - Star photo after the damage in 1986.

Money lenders take advantages of low prices of paddy

Farmers face economic hardship

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, Oct 10: The farmers of the district are being compelled to sell their crops in advance to the money lenders at a nominal price due spend such an amount have to their economic hardship.

The farmers alleged that they do not get fair prices of their harvested crops due to the low price of paddy in the markets. Some farmers informed that paddy is now selling between Taka 150 to 170 per mound Whereas the production cost per maund is about Taka 200.

Taking advantages of the situation the money lenders are doing brisk business by giving credit at high interest rates against security of standing crops. The farmers are becoming debt-ridden as they are unable to repay the loan after selling their products.

The absence of government purchasing centres to procure paddy has helped the fall in paddy prices too.

The production of IRRI-boro is increasing day by day with the increased price of agriculture inputs. According to sources the price of agriculture inputs have now gone beyond the purchasing capacity of peasants. Cultivation of IRRIboro is impossible without us-

MADARIPUR, Oct 10: The

number of poverty-stricken peo-

causing grave concern among

the conscious people, reports

children as well as women to

take odd jobs for their very exis-

tence. Most of the children of

poor parents are found to work

as hotel and shoe-polishing boys.

brick field labourers and ser-

vants at home to support their

Having failed to get any suit-

able job, most of the poor people

adopt begging as their means for

livelihood. Even some young

beggars mainly women take up

families.

Abject poverty compels many

ple is on rise in the district.

ing fertilizers and irrigation faof 18-kilometre long road and cilities, said one farmer. Production cost of IRRI-boro per acre is very high and many farmers of the district unable to embankment area and 28-kilo-

now run into debts. If this situation continues the farmers are likely to continue to give up farming, expressed one social worker who is working in the area.

Another INBreport adds : Police seized smuggled Indian spare motor parts worth about Taka 2.78 lakh from Kharera village in Kasba thana on Wednesday. Acting on a tip, Kasba police

raided the village and recovered the smuggled goods from different parts of the village.

A case was filed with the po-

Another report says : A massive tree planting programme has been taken up by the Greater Comilla district Forest Department during the current season.

About seven lakh saplings of different trees like mehagani, segun, shishu, jaipai and karmanga have already been sold out among the villagers of Brahmanbaria, Chandpur and Comilla districts, officials said.

The programmes includes planting of trees on both sides

Poverty-hit people on increase

flesh trade, giving rise to anti-

social activities, local people al-

assemble at bus stations and

cinema halls to allure people.

They pass night at bus stations,

verandas of schools and colleges

and corridors of government of-

ill-fated people who lead a sub-

human life are also spreading

Environmental

pollution

district has been causing serious

health hazards to the people.

Environment pollution in the

Indiscriminate dumping of ing in the district.

various infectious diseases.

Town dwellers alleged that the

After sunset, the young girls

highways, 12-kilometre long function. railway route, 16-kilometre Gumati Embankment, 20 hectares of Meghna-Donagoda

added. A total of 3,000 people will be trained to implement the programme. Of them, 650 people have already been trained

metre connecting roads, officials

Last year 1,500 people were given training and 36 lakh saplings of different trees were

produced in the three districts.

BSS adds: State Minister for Relief Harun-al Rashid underscored the need for women's participation at large scale in development activities to achieve cherished goal of national development.

He said, mass communication department has been playing a due role in motivating the people, specially women in family planing, healthcare, education and various other development programmes.

He was addressing as chief guest at a seminar on role of women in mass communication and a publication ceremony of Brahmanbaria Zila Parikrama held at the district council auditorium here Saturday, district

garbages, defecating in the open

bushes, stagnant water in

space, river banks, canals and

derelict ponds and ditches and

water hyacinths are main causes

of environmental pollution in the

district that causes outbreak of

Widespread use of kutcha la

trines in the town and rural ar-

eas has aggravated the situation

in the open and rotten their jute

Diseases like, diarrhoea

in the nearby water bodies pol-

dysentery, malaria and other

skin diseases are rapidly spread-

luting the surroundings.

various diseases.

information office organised the

Negligence

of Fisheries

Department

BARGUNA, Oct 10 : Cons-

truction work of the only

hatchery for producing fish fry

could not be completed since

long 10 years due to alleged ir-

regularities and negligence of

Fisheries Department, says UNB.

handed over to Grameen Bank.

But due to alleged non-coopera-

tion of the Fisheries Department

started with the financial assis-

tance from Asian Development

Bank (ADB). After repeated inti-

mations by the ADB authorities,

the department sent a truck-load

of construction materials in

April, 1990 from Dhaka to com-

plete the remaining works. But

the contractor refused to work

with the materials saying those

were unfit for use.

The construction work was

it could not start functioning.

In 1988, the project was

Presided over by Deputy Commissioner M A Matin, the function was addressed, among others, by Advocate Abdus Sattar, MP, Begum Ashia Rahman, MP and Director General of Mass Communication Department, Syed Suzaddin Ahmed.

Terming the publication of Brahmanbaria Parikrama, as a unique one the state minister said, it would help people know the past glorious history of Brahmanbaria. It also will help to take appropriate measures on various problems existing here, he added.

Documentation Officer of Mass Communication Department Aftabuzzaman read out the keynote paper.

Speakers in the function said, women now-a-days are no longer burden of society.

Earlier, the state minister attended the meetings of district test relief coordination committee and district health service development committee at local circuit house. Advocate Abdus Sattar, MP. Syed Morshed Kamal, MP and Begum Ashia Rahman, MP, were also present at the meetings.

Mysterious lamp bursts injure more

FARIDPUR, Oct10 : The mysterious kerosene explosions in the district that killed one and injured seven others in separate incidents in two thanas of Faridpur district during the last 10 days continued with more reports of injuries pouring in

In the latest information reaching here, Latifa (15), student of class VIII of Joynagar Girls' High School under Kashiyaganj thana in Gopalganj District received severe burn injuries in a lamp burst. She was admitted in Faridpur General Hospital Thursday where doctors stated her condi-

Meanwhile, Shahidur Rahman (8) of village Ejadurgapur under Faridpur sadar died at Faridpur General hospital on Wednesday raising the death toll in the mysterious incidents to two.

suddenly started on September 29 and has so far killed two and injured at least 20 in separate occurances in Faridpur, Rajbari and Gopalganj districts. Chairman of Faridpur Pou-

rashava Fazlul Karim Chand admitting reports of such incidents said it has created panic among the people and informed that he had ordered for wide publicity through loud speakers asking the people to use kerosene oil with care. The sudden explosions of the

Boyalmari thanas of Faridpur

tion to be critical.

Incidents of "kupi" bursting

lamps were mostly reported from Charbadrashan, sadar and

Thursday, reports UNB. Rural people store their cowdung

der open sky.

Birganj thana, five schools in Khansama thana and four schools in Ghoraghat thana

in these 87 primary schools.

have no house.

ture' like chair, bench, blackboard, almirah, table, in majority of these schools. There is no roof of the many of the 'kutcha' school houses.

primary schools and 198 private primary schools in the district. There are 21 government

Removal of OC demanded Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation will provide high yielding variety seeds, fertilisers, pesticides and other necessary inputs among the farmers at fair prices to

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Oct 10: Gomostapur thana unit of

the ruling BNP and its front or-

ganisations Jubo Dal and

Chhatra Dal held a rally in front

of the TNO office on Saturday.

demanding removal of the

Officer in-Charge of the police

due to his negligence of duty

and involvement in various

corruptions including taking of

bribe, the law and order situa-

tion in the thana deteriorated to

They said the activities of the

police official were tarnishing

the image of the government of

the Bangladesh Nationalist

memorandum to the Home

Minister through the Thana

Nirbahi Officer to press home

Another report says: A

scheme has been taken up to

bring over 8.90 lakh acres of

land under wheat cultivation in

Extension Department, the

districts are C'nawabgani, Ras-

hahi, Naogaon, Natore,

Sirajganj, Pabna, Joypurhat,

Bogra, Nilphamari, Lalmonir-

hat, Gaibandha, Rangpur,

Kurigram, Dinajpur, Thakurga-

According to Agricultural

16 northern districts.

on and Panchagarh.

Later, they submitted a

The speakers alleged that

station, reports UNB.

a great extent.

their demand.

Party.

make the programme a success. With the implementation of the scheme, it is expected that about 6.85 metric tons of wheat will be produced.

5 injured in clash

with dacoits

From Our Correspondent HABIGANJ, Oct 10 : Five persons were injured, two of them seriously following a clash between the dacoits and the villagers at Nowagaon village under Baniyachong police station of Habiganj district recently.

It is reported that on the day of occurrence at about 9 pm a group of armed alleged dacoits entered the village for committing dacoity. The villagers protested and chased the dacoits. At one stage clash ensued between the dacoits and the villagers under Chuktikhat bridge in Habiganj-Bauiyachong road, as a result five per sons were injured. Seriously injured Mohon Bashi Das (50) and Joy Bashi Das (45) were admitted to Habigani sadar hospital.



MYMENSINGH: Professor Dr Shah Md Farouk, VC, BAU leading a colourful rally arranged on the concluding day of the tree plantation programme annual to top Starphoto

Students of 87 schools attend classes under open sky

From Our Correspondent

DINAJPUR, Oct 10: The students of 87 government primary schools in 13 thanas of the district are attending classes un-

According to the district Education Office source, classes of four government primary schools in Sadar thana are going on under open sky. Twelve schools in Parbatipur thana, 100 schools in Chirirbandar thana, five schools in Nawabganj thana, four schools in Hakimpur thana, four schools in Birampur thana, seven schools in Birampur thana, seven schools in Phulbari thana, five schools in Birol thana, nine schools in Bochaganj thana, 10 schools in Kaharol thana, eight schools in

The teaching staff is also not sufficient in these schools. For the last eight years about 250 posts of teacher are lying vacant

There is no sufficient furni-There are 827 government

Acting on secret information, police raided the house of Badsha Miah at Narkeltala area of Patenga and recovered the contraband and arrested his wife. Badsha was absconding. Another report adds, Anwara

police recently arrested five

people on charges of manufac-

primary and three private pri-

mary schools in Dinajpur

pourashava area. There are

2,900 teachers in these schools.

girls between the age group of

one year and fourteen years.

More than 10,000 teachers and

250 primary schools are needed

for primary education in this

Cigarettes,

wine bottles

seized, six

arrested

CHITTAGONG, Oct 10

Police seized 58 cartons of

cigarettes worth about Taka 12

lakh from Patenga area on

Saturday, says UNB.

There are 8,16,000 boys and

turing and selling wine. Following tip-offs, police raided two places of the thana and nabbed them with a huge quantity of wine.

Two separate cases had been filed with the police.

punishment to novelist Tashlima Nasrin. Plenty of sugarcane but no sugarmill

Chunarughat — a remote area in Habigani district is well known for sugarcane farming providing employment to a large number of people of the area. About eighty per cent of the poor farmers support their families with income

It is learnt that, soil of the area as well as the climate is suit able for growth of sugarcane. There are more than 18 thousand acres of land under sug arcane cultivation in the area.

What is most surprising is, in-

spite of having such a vast resources of sugarcane farm land there seems to be no such interest from any individual or even from the government to set up a sugar mill for the greater interest of the local people.

area right after the liberation of the country but that dream never came true. Nevertheless, the local cultivators has been producing molasses (gur) from the juice of sugarcane at a large scale. According to an unofficial report, over ten thousand tons of molasses is being produced in the area which can meet the demands of local markets

The government had promised to

establish a sugar mill in the

SYLHET: The members of Sahaba Sainik Parishad brought out a procession here demanding

one source. Molasses is made in almost every house in the area, namely. Raghunandan, Satchhari Kalenga Rema and Shaltila.

Most of the product is made in a

'cottage-industry' fashion, al-

though, no such loans or any

in greater Sylhet region, said

other help is extended for the purpose. Almost every home of the villages turn as a mo lasses manufacturing unit. The poor peasants of these villages have been growing sug-

- Star photo

arcane since a long period. They say, earning from sugarcane is more profitable than any other crop in the area. They see molasses production in every winter season bringing in more money. However, to their misfortune a

sugar mill could give them even higher prices for the same output from their farm land. In fact, an unofficial survey shows a decline in sugarcane output in the area over the past few years. The main cause behind it is not really known but some say, may be it is because of supply

and demand problem which arises sometimes.

molasses trader explains "molasses production is not profitable now-a-days due to lack of proper marketing system as well as shortage of facilities". He went on saying. "cultivators of Chunarughat area are producing such product without any help of concerned authorities". The local farmers urged the concerned agricultural authorities a number of times for knowledge on better output of sugarcane but no such help has yet been extended.

Some people of the villages express that a sugar mill can solve few problems faced by. both, local traders and farmегв.

17 hurt in clashes town. Police were deployed in MYMENSINGH, Oct 10: Ac-

tivists of Awami League and Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal clashed at the local Station Road on Saturday leaving at least two people injured, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the clash en sued when a procession of district Awami League in support of Sunday's hartal came under attack near the Jubo Dal office at about 7 pm. Local AL leaders Nazimuddin and Shafiqui Islam Faruk were injured in the melee.

Awami League leaders claimed that activists of the ruling party's youth wing had attacked them with sticks and stones. Several cocktails were blasted and two shops ran-

sacked during the clash. Police resorted to lathicharge to disperse the clashing groups. Tension was prevailing in the different places to guard against further untoward incident. Awami League filed a case

with Kotwali police. None was arrested. At least 15 people were injured when a group of mastans attacked the Moushami Cinema

Hall in the town Saturday night.

Police arrested two trouble-

makers from the spot. Witnesses said a group of mastans numbering about 30 of Masimpur area of the town attacked the hall when they were barred by the cinema hall authorities from viewing a popular movie Moushami, without tick-

Of the injured, hall-keeper Amjad (45), Saiful (32) and Abdul Hye (30) were admitted to the Poly Clinic in the town.

A case was filed with the po-