6000 ponds, tanks lying unutilised

From Our Correspondent

District roundup

MAGURA

JP criticises anti-democratic attitude of BNP

Oct 16: A public meeting organised by the district unit of Jatiya Party was held at Gangnalia High School premises on Saturday, reports

The meeting discussed the present political situation of the country and criticised the ruling party BNP for its anti-democratic attitude towards the opposition parties. The speakers alleged that murder, toll collection, dacoity, political killing and other social crimes have increased throughout the coun-

They blasted the government for imposing section 144 to thwart the public meeting and gatherings of the Jatiya Party. The meeting also criticised the repressive measures of the government by various means. They said Anti Terrorism Act is being used to silence the opponents.

They demanded immediate unconditional release of their party chairman HM Ershad, - mid them election and re-introduction of Upazila system.

Ashish Kumar Bhoumik presided over the meeting which was also addressed by Hasan Siraj, Syed Reajul Kabir, Fateh Ali Tipoo, Omar Faruk, Zahangir Hossain and Zahidul Islam.

BARGUNA

Public library lacks proper facilities

Oct/ 16: The public library of the district is beset with manifold problems much to the inconvenience of its readers, reports UNB.

Sources said a good number of books are found missing but no attempts are being made to recover the books. A section of readers take away valuable books due to the carelessness of the library staff.

No qualified librarian has yet been appointed in the library, it is alleged.

Moreover, important national dailies are not supplied in the library for the benefit of the readers.

Television and radio sets are left unrepaired for the last one year. Local leaders demanded immediate steps to equip the library with modern amenities.

KHAGRACHHARI

Cluster village projects uncertain

Oct 16: The Cluster Villager Project in Chittagong Hill Tracts region have become uncertain due to dilly-dallying inland acquisition, delay in construction of training centres and complicacy in appointing the trainers and other employees, reports

The projects were taken up in 1992 at a cost of Taka 5. crore to improve the socio-economic condition of the cluster village inmates, officials said.

The projects, including weaving, carpentary, sewing, bee and honey raising, planting of bamboo roots, were taken up for expansion and development of the existing small and cottage industries to make the poor people self-reliant.

With the completion of the project by 1995 about 4,000 unemployed youths are expected to get job opportunities. the sources said.

Both the tribal and nontribal inmates of the cluster villages urged the authorities for early implementation of the projects for the improvement of their pecuniary condition.

PIROJPUR

Extend services at cheaper cost

Oct 16: Deputy Minister for Shipping ABM Zahirul Haque said that the government had extended the service-facility of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) and Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) for carrying the passengers and goods at cheaper cost, reports

He was addressing a public meeting at Bara Machhua in Mathbaria thana under Pirojpur district as the chief guest here

The deputy minister inaugurated a newly built terminal ghat of BIWTA at Bara Machhua at the bank of the Kacha river. All passenger vessels, launches and rocket steamers of BIWTC will carry passengers and goods from that

The inaugural function was also addressed by Selima Rahman MP, senior officials of BIWTC and BIWTA and the elites of the locality.

MEHERPUR

VDP rounds up one dacoit, bomb recovered

Oct 16: Village Defence Party personnel rounded up an alleged dacoit and recovered a hand bomb from his possession at Vabanandapur village in Sadar thana on Thursday, reports UNB.

Police sad the VDP men captured the dacoit in cooperation with the villagers while a gang of dacoits tried to storm a house at mid-night, firing gun shots and blasting bombs.

The other dacoits could manage to flee away. A case was filed with the local police.

COMILLA

Three hurt in night coach dacoity

Oct 16: Three passengers were injured seriously and valuables worth about Taka 50,000 looted in a nigh coach dacoity at Comilla by-pass on Dhaka-Chittagong trunk road Wednesday, reports UNB

Witnesses said a gang of five armed dacoits stopped the Chaumuhani-bound night coach at the point and took control of the vehicle. They stabbed the passengers and decamped with the valuables and cash when the coach reached at Nalbugh area.

The injured, identified as Abul Bashar, Subal Shaha and Abu Taher, were admitted to Chaddagram Health Complex. A case has been filed with

the police. RANGPUR

Three-day erosion leaves 50 families homeless

Oct 16: At least 50 families were rendered homeless in Gongachhara thana in the last three days on account of erosion of the river Teesta with the recession of flood waters, reports UNB.

With this, the number of erosion victims now stood at about 542 families this year at Bagdogra village of the thana, local leaders said.

The river also devoured hundreds of acres of cultivable land during the period. The UP Chairman Abdul

Qader of Nohali union said the local Bagdogra Flood Control eEmbankment was threatened by the erosion.

The embankment might be washed away at any moment if proper step was not taken to check the erosion in time, apprehended the UP Chairman.

NARAII

Mosquito menace

Oct 16: Mosquito menace in the pourashava area has assumed an alarming proportion causing untold suffering to the town dwellers, says UNB Stagnant water in the road

side ditches, derelict pond and heaps of garbages beside the roads have become the ideal breeding centres of mosquitoes.

· Effective measures to eradicate mosquitoes have not been taken by the Municipal authorities inspite of repeated appeals by the local people.

The pourashava lacks proper drainage and sewerage system which caused water logging on the roads and in the ditches. As a result, drains are filled with filths and garbages threatening public health.

Local leaders have urged the authorities to launch mosquito eradication drive without further delay

JESSORE

Three die in lamp explosion From Our Correspondent

Oct 16: With the death of Masura Khatun (28) Sunday death toll in kerosin explosion, rises to three at Jessore general hospital during the last one week ending Sunday. Other two victims are Jahanara (27) and Kohinuor (28) who succumbed to burn injuries on fifth and ninth or this month respectively.

According to hospital source. Masur was brought to the hospital from Buruj Bugam Health Complex of Sarsha thana in the district when she was burnt

early this month. Another seven, including Hajera (25), Rabeya (24) Atorjana (30), Sundari (29), Norjahan 26). Jesmin (24) and Saiful (3) were admitted to the hospital and their condition was stated to be critical, according to the source.

A young child named Moniruzzam is learnt to have been shifted to Dhaka for treatment.



RAJSHAHI: Hasan Azizul Haq, a noted writer speaking at a meeting on RU campus. The meeting arranged by the Muktijoddah Charcha Kendra of the varsity demanded ban on politics based on religion. Jahanara Imam, Convenor, Ghatak Nirmul Committee is seen on the - Star photo

A non-government survey

shows that there are 16,123

ponds and tanks in the district

ponds and tanks are under fish

are 1,000 ponds and tanks un-

der the local government bodies

here, including 92 belonging to

tanks were not leased out for

alleged negligence of the local

bodies management, it in-

ponds and tanks are under ille-

gal occupation. A zila parishad

source said that they saw no

Maximum of zila parishad.

Most of these ponds and

Out of the total, only 10,000

A source disclosed that there

covering an area of 5,708 acres.

alleged.

cultivation.

formed.

local zila parishad.

Mill worker found dead at Tongi

From Our Correspondent GAZIPUR, Oct. 16: A worker of the Ashraf Textile Mills Limited was found dead in the mills compound at Tongi early today.

Tongi police suspected it as a murder and arrested the two workers who brought the body to the Tongi Hospital. The suspects, according to

police, saw Abdul Wahab, 40. lving in the mills premises around 1 am and carried him to the Tongi Hospital where doctors declared him dead. Police said that there were

bruises all over the body and they arrested Ramzan Ali Sikder, 35, and Nayan Mia, 28, for interrogation. Abdul Wahab was also an

elected member of the CBA of the mills, and stayed at a workers quarters inside the mills

Police are yet to find the motive behind the murder. A top official of the mills and

the general secretary of the CBA of the mills declined to comment on the incident.

trict are badly affected by the

floods causing huge financial

of June and July inundated

4228 ponds and tanks under

sadar, Rajnagar, Kamolganj and

Kulaura thanas of the district.

Due to floods, 213.50 metric

tons of fish and fish fry went

up post-flood rehabilitation

programmes but the fishery

projects have been excluded

from the scheme. Hence, the

fish cultivators have been pass

Fish cultivators of the dis-

trict have urged the government

to extend facilities to raise fish

ing time under uncertainty.

production

The government has taken

out of the ponds and tanks.

Recent floods in the months

losses to the cultivator.

Standing crops under pest attack

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Oct 16: Standing crops on 3500 acres of land in seven thanas of the district have been affected by pest attack.

The pest locally known as pamri' and 'mazra' damaged the crops in Kalaroa, Tala, sadar, Debhata, Assassuni, Kaligonj and Shyamnagar thanas. farmers said.

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

Farmers urged the authorities concerned to take necessary steps immediately to check the pest attack as they can not afford to buy the pesticides which are being sold at an exorbitant rate in the local mar-

One official 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

Our Sherpur correspondent reports: Widespread rat and pest attack has damaged standing aman crops on over vast areas of Jhenaigati. Nalitabari. Sreebordi, Nakla and sadar thanas of the district.

Official sources, however, confirmed the pest attack but failed to mention the extent of damage. Local people informed that

authorities depend only on the reports of block supervisors who submit imaginary reports without visiting.

The pest attacked paddy plants turn yellowish and later

The sources said, adequate preventive measures could not be taken due to acute scarcity of insecticides and spray ma-

Farmers informed that insecticides available in the local markets are mostly adulterated.

Hundreds suffering from virus fever

Six commit suicide

in two districts

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Oct Hundreds of people of Sherpur and Jamalpur districts have been suffering from high fever and headache as virus fever broke out in an epidemic form, reports UNB.

According to physicians, the fever may continue for 7 to 10 days making the patients weak and pale. Women and children are the

worst victims of the disease. The worst affected thanas are Bokshiganj, Jhinaigati, Sreebordi, Islampur and Madargani.

Patients are coming to the health complexes for treatment from distant places. Medical sources said there is no curative medicine for the virus fever Another report says: Four

SHERPUR, Oct 16: Three

Dulal Mia (35) of village

Sonkandha, Shana Mia (30) of

persons committed suicide in

the district last week.

people, including three children lost their lives on Thursday and Friday in Sirajganj district

All the three children drowned on Friday while bating in rivers close to their houses. according to family sources. The children were identified

as Bidu (7) of village Guchuria and Anil (9) of Jeleypara in Chowhali thana, and Amina (8) of Charbalia village in Kazipur

Idris Ali (60) of Char Makra in Shahajadpur thana died of snake bite on Thursday night. He was bitten in the dark while he went out of his room.

Meanwhile, some 240 families of 12 villages in five thanas of the district were rendered homeless in last 24 hours due to erosion of the Jamuna.

investigation going on.

Milon died on the spot.

family sources said.

of Ullapara.

One construction labour Mi

lon (21) was electrocuted while

he was working at Nalitabari

College compound and four

others were injured. The victim

Three housewives committed

suicide at different villages in

two thanas of the district early

today (Monday), police and

Sharifa Khatun, 17 of sadar

thana and Rahima Khatun, 35

Ali, took her life by hanging

herself from a tree near her

residence in village Rajapur at

about 5 am. Family sources

They are: Bani Bibi, 62 and

Bani Bibi, wife of one Sabed

UNB from Sirajganj adds:

Distressed women in search of job, food, relief goods

From Our Correspondent

B BARIA Oct 16 A Jargo number of distress women are pouring in the thana and district headquarters and its surroundings in search of job, food and relief materials

MAULVIBAZAR, Oct 16:

Pond and tank based pisci-

culture in the district has a

bright prospect. About 6,000

ponds and tanks have been ly-

ing uncultivated in the district.

Local cultivators say that

huge quantity of fish can be

produced every year if the

ponds and tanks are properly

fisheries department has not yet

taken adequate initiative to

raise fish production. During

the national Fisheries Fort-

night the department only did

the ceremonial works, it is

It is informed that, the local

Fish production in the district

is decreasing day by day due to

lack of motivation and patroni-

sation.

Due to lack of employment most of them are passing their days in great hardships while some have turned into smugglers. These floating people mostly pass their right at the platform of railway stations. The number of women beg-

gars is also rising causing inconveniences to the dwellers. These floating people affected by natural calamities has assumed an alarming proportion. it is informed that many of '

them have restored to immoral activities for their survival giving rise to anti-social activities in the area.

3 killed in

GAIBNDHA, Oct 16: The

Gaibandha-Shaghata and

Gaibandha-Sundergani roads

people of Sunderganj and

starts from Jumerbari, the last

union of thana and passes

through Fulchhari thana head-

quarters via Shaghata bazar

Bharatkhali, Badiakhali and

Trimohoni. The 30 km

Gaibandha-Sundergani Road

has not yet brought under

smooth vehicular traffic as the

Trade and commerce of the

area is hampered as the roads

are in deplorable condition.

maximum portion of road is

The roads are vital for the

Gaibandha-Shaghata road

are in bad shape.

Shaghata thanas

made of earth.

road mishaps

Two persons were killed in a road accident in the town at Palkpara under sadar thana of the district recently.

The victims are Gowtam (22). son of Shudangsu Chndra Pal of Paikpara and Azad (23) son of Nurul Hoque of Kandirpara of

The mishap occurred when a truck (Dhaka-Ta-1482) loaded with stones entering the town collided with a motor cycle coming from opposite direction. Both the persons on the motor cycle died at the spot. Police Super Habibur

Rahman visited the spot. The driver of the truck managed to flu away. Police, however, seized the truck and a case was filed.

Besides, in another road accident a person named Shamsul Hoque died at Shahabazpur under Sarail thana of the dis-

Smuggled goods

recovered Sadar thana police in different raids recovered smuggled

goods worth about Taka four

lakh and arrested 62 persons in

different cases from the district

Condition of roads deplorable

From Our Correspondent

There are important markets on

both sides of these roads.

Agriculture products, cattle and

other goods are transported to

and from different markets

bad at present due to the lack

of proper maintenance and re-

pair. Moreover, flood waters af-

fect the roads every year

Numerous potholes, wide

breaches have developed at

many points water logging have

made these roads unworthy of

use for the pedestrians, rick

condition of the roads worsens

and the communication of said

areas becomes disrupted.

In the rainy season, the

Primary education in the dis-

The roads have become so

through these roads.

shaw and carts.

during last month.

Ratan, Malai Miah, Harun Miah, Abdul Hussain, Abdul Hakim, Shafiqul Islam Phagla, Md Hanif and Shamim in dacoity cases and recovered plunder goods worth about Taka 50 thousand and lethal weapons like kiris and doo from them.

ASI Abdul Mannan in a raid

arrested accused Khalil Miah.

positive response from the pri-

say that they do not have

enough money to continue pis-

ciculture. They informed that

they are always deprived of loan

and other facilities from the au-

has not yet taken up motiva-

tion, programme to help in-

Due to complicated proce-

Only 15 to 20 per cent culti-

dures, the genuine cultivators

find it difficult to get loan from

vator have their own ponds and

tanks while the rest are taken

The fish projects in the dis-

The Fisheries Department

Interested fish cultivators

vate fish cultivation.

thorities concerned.

crease fish production.

the financial institutions.

as lease.

Besides, smuggled goods in clude sarees, phensidyl bi-cycle, mashalla worth about Taka 4 lakh 16 thousand.

Current nets

seized A mobile court, headed by

sadar thana Magistrate Md Anwarul Islam in a raid at the Titas river and different beel of the district seized 85 current nets and realised fines totalling Taka two thousand six hundred from 10 persons.

Sadar thana Magistrate accompanied by Magistrate Maniruzzaman, Thana Fisheries Officer Shawat Ali and ASI Tofazzal Hussain.

trict has been facing problems

due to shortage of teacher. As a

result students are deprived

The shortage of teachers is

acute in those schools situated

in remote areas. In many

schools only two to three teach-

ers are engaged for all the stu-

dents. Compulsory Primary

Education Programme in re-

mote areas is facing difficulties

it is informed that teachers

for want of adequate teachers.

are interested to stay in

pourashava and thana areas

and they manage it. Teachers

show less interest to go remote

village schools due to lack of

communication.

from proper education.

Eucalyptus developed

RANGAMATI, Oct. 16: A Botany teacher of Raishahi Uni versity has developed a high yielding variety test-tube plant of Eucalyptus, reports UNB.

Director of Forestry Development and Training Centre (FDTC) Dr Shamsur Rahman said. "the timber of the new ordinary one

developed the elite genotype in a test tube at Rajshahi University. He sent a few samples to FDTC. The Eucalyptus clone, first of

its kind in the country, has been planted at the training centre premises at Kaptai for demonstration and further

However, large scale distribution of the high vielding variety of the Eucalyptus could not be possible yet due to shortage

tain maturity. It is also less

Three persons were killed and 45 others injured in a bus accident at village Sonakoir under the sadar thana of

Sources said, a wheel of a Dhaka bound passenger bus of the Pariatok Paribahan (Dhaka-4347) from Bagerhat gave way and the bus fell into a ditch.

The victims were identified as Zinnah, 40, Khan, 30, and Kamal, 22

Among the injured 21 per-

sons were admitted to the

Gopalgani sadar hospital. Seven of them were stated to be criti-Cox's Basar says : A grandfa ther and his granddaughter

rammed an auto-rickshaw at Napitkhali on the Cox's Bazar Chittagong road Sunday. Siddig Ahmed 60, and

Bazar sadar hospital The victims were going from Dulahagri of Chokoria to the andar thana when the truck hit it 40 km off from here. The driver of the truck is abscond-

village Laykhan Hatibandha under sadar thana killed themself by taking poison. The cause behind their suicide could not be known.

Helaluddin (19) son of Barek Mia of village Shatanipara under sadar thana give away his life by hanging.

Three separate UD cases were lodged in this connection. One Sarimon Nessa (75) mother of a union parishad member under Nalitabari thana drowned in a "khal" adjacent to

her house. It is learnt that she went to the khal for taking bath but unfortunately drowned. Later, her relatives recovered

he body from the khal. Bakshigony thana police recovered a body from Zalorchar village. But the identity of the victims could not be known.

The body was sent to the

hospital for autopsy. However,

said. Bant had a quarrel with her husband earlier. In another incident Rahima wife of the Abdul Barek of Salonga village, also committed suicide by hanging herself from the ceiling of her residence at

about 10 am. The cause behind

her death could not be known.

4 engrs misappropriate Tk 75 lakh, cases filed

KHAGRACHHARI. Oct 16: Local Bureau of Anti-corruption filed two cases against four engineers of Maini Valley Road Development Project for their alleged misappropriation of Taka 75 lakh, police said on Tuesday. reports UNB.

The sources said, cases were filed on September 30 against them for unnecessary supplying of bitumen and irregularities in

pavement construction. The accused are: Additional Chief Engineer Mahtabuddin. Engineer Shamsuzzaman of Maini Valley Road Development Project. Broject Director Engineer A B Siddique and Engineer Abdus Sattar

gineer Mahtabuddin and Engineer Shamsuzzaman arranged to procure bitumen emulsion worth Taka 20 lakh Ltd in the month of January and February, 1985. The matebought on emergency basis, the case record says.

in another case, more than Taka 56 lakh was allegedly mis appropriated showing the construction of pavement works on Khagrachhari-Panchhari Road by the Project Director Engineer A B Siddique and Engineer Abdus Sattar in the year 1985-

The amount was shown paid in the name of S Ahmed and Associate and Titas Construction though there was no work carried out as per records. the case record says

Company. M/s Nagorik Another report says: The Cluster Village Projects in Chittagong Hill Tracts region have become uncertain due to dilly-dallying in land acquisition, delay in construction of training centres and complicacy in appointing the trainers and other employees.

The projects were taken up in 1992 at a cost of Taka 5.7 crore to improve the socio-economic condition of the cluster village inmates, officials said.

The projects, including weaving, carpentary, sewing, bee and honey raising, planting of bamboo roots, were taken up for expansion and development of the existing small and cottage industries to make the poor

With the completion of the projects by 1995 about 4,000 unemployed youths are expected to get job opportunities. the sources said.

BDR seizes

From Our Correspondent MAULVIBAZAR, Oct : 160 Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) seized Indian sugar worth about Taka 50 thousand from a village home at border area recently.

It is learnt, during the visit of BDR battalion commander to the Sharifpur border the BDR personnels raided a house at Shartfpur village under Kulaura thana and seized 26 bags

Two persons of the house named Ahad and Azad were ar-

KHULNA: Ln Principal Md Mazharul Hannan speaking at the inaugural function of week-long programme on 'World Lion' Services Day. It was organised by City Lions Club of - Star photo Khulna.

HYV of

variety will be four-fold than the

Prof Ol Joarder of Botany

The new variety is disease resistant, less water-absorbing.

and its timber value is equivalent to teak, the Director of FDTC added It usually grows in forest and on plains as well. The plant becomes mature within 8 years while teak takes 60 years to at-

of fund, it is learnt.

Five killed in road accidents

From Our Correspondent At least five people including a minor girl were killed and 45 others were injured in road accidents at Gopalgani and Cox's Bazar on Sunday

Gopalgani Sunday morning.

Our correspondent from were killed and four others were

injured seriously when a truck

Kohinur Akhtar. 3. died on the spot. The four injured, including the auto rickshaw driver. were admitted to the Cox's

The Additional Chief Enthrough M/s Zakir Industries rials, not at all necessary, were

people self-reliant.

Indian sugar

of sugar.

rested and a case has been filed with Kulaura police station.