

**District roundup**

**FARIDPUR**  
**'Uphold spirit of liberation'**  
Nov 2: Chairman of Muktiyoddha Sanghati Parishad Showkat Ali MP Sunday called for upholding the spirit of the liberation war of 1971, says UNB. He was speaking as chief guest at the conference of the district unit of the parishad held at the local Shipakala auditorium. Showkat Ali urged the authorities to stop repression of the freedom fighters and demanded release of Hemayet Uddin Auranga MP. There is no effort on part of the governments that came after the killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in upholding the spirit of the liberation war, he observed. Presided over by SM Solaiman, the meeting was also addressed among others by Alhaj Firozar Rahman, SM Nurunnabi, Bipul Ghosh, Hasibul Hasan Lablu and Shahrivar Rumi.

**TANGAIL**  
**Digital phones installed**  
Nov 2: Telecommunications department has recently installed digital telephone facilities in Tangail-Kagmari microwave station, reports BSS. The station was so long working under analogue system and the exchanges had 960 channels. With the introduction of modern technology the subscribers would get better services. The channels have also been increased to 1800.

**RAJBARI**  
**Training course on crop diversification concludes**  
Nov 2: A two-day training course for different bank officials was concluded on Oct 26 here at the thana parishad auditorium to make the 'Crop Diversification Programme' a success, reports UNB. The training course organised by the Agriculture Extension Department was participated by 25 officials from different banks including Bangladesh Krishi Bank. The main objective of the training was how to expedite credit facilities to the small and marginal farmers on easy terms in times of their need to increase the production of pulse, potato and others crop side by side with the traditional crops to gear up the agro-economy. Different commercial banks have sanctioned Tk 1.73 crore loan for the programme in the district in the current season. It may be mentioned that the government has undertaken the Crop Diversification Programme to meet the demand for the balanced diet with the financial assistance from Canada and the Netherlands.

**MBAZAR**  
**13 injured in JCD, JSD clash**  
Nov 2: At least 13 people were injured, two critically, in a clash between activists of Jatayatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and JSD (Inu) at Choumuna area in the town Sunday, reports UNB. Witnesses said the clash between the rival student organisations erupted when a procession of JCD was passing by the meeting of JSD held at about 6.30 pm in the area. Of the injured, Dtpak (18) of JCD and Uzzal (20) of JSD were rushed to Sadar Hospital. Later, JSD leader at a press conference blamed JCD activists for the clash. JCD also accused JSD for the incident.

**SIRAJGANJ**  
**Reckless bus driving on rise**  
Nov 2: Bus journey in the district has become hazardous due to reckless driving, overloading, exorbitant bus fare and deplorable condition of roads, says UNB. Passengers allege that most of the drivers are illiterate and have no knowledge on traffic rules. Frequent accidents on the highways are occurring due to their ignorance of traffic rules. Moreover, the roads have developed cracks and ditches at many points hindering the movement of vehicles and pedestrians.

**BARGUNA**  
**Bullock shortage hits cultivation**  
Nov 2: Cultivation in the district is being hampered greatly due to acute shortage of bullock, local farmers said, reports UNB. According to a statistics, 40 per cent farmers hire bullock for tilling their lands. For a single tilling they have to pay Taka 80 to 100 per bigha during the sowing season. On the other hand, only 20 per cent farmers have farming inputs. According to the farmers, indiscriminate slaughtering of bullocks, heavy toll of cattle-head due to malnutrition and various diseases are the main reasons behind this shortage. Scarcity of fish in the market accelerated the rampant slaughtering of the cattlehead and some greedy cobblers are also engaged in killing the cows by food poisoning to collect the skins, they added. Indiscriminate slaughtering of calves is another reason behind the bullock shortage. The cattlehead are being slaughtered every day in hats and bazars although there is a government ban to observe three days as meatless a week.

**SAVAR**  
**One arrested**  
Nov 2: Police arrested a woman from Courtpara area here Saturday after her father had alleged that she had been killed by neighbours, says UNB. She was identified as Parvin Bibi (22), daughter of Salam Mridha of South Deshpura in Dashmina thana of Patuakhali. Salam Mridha filed a case with Dashmina thana complaining that her daughter was killed by her neighbour Baalal Chandra Sheel and four others following previous enmity. Acting on a tip, police arrested Parvin who was living with her newly-married husband Md Hanif at Courtpara area. Salam had secretly arranged her marriage with Hanif.

**FENI**  
**Tk 25,000 for school uplift**  
Nov 2: Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia has granted Taka 25,000 from her own fund to Shaheed Major Salahuddin Momtaz (Bir Uttam) High School for its development activities, reports UNB. Whip of Parliament Mahbubul Alam Tara formally handed over the cheque to Chairman of the school managing committee Ruhul Amin at a function held at the school premises on October 15.



MYMENSINGH: Professor Dr. Shah Mohammad Farouk, VC, BAU speaking as chief guest at the inauguration of a three-day-long workshop on "BAU Research Progress 1992-93" held recently at the Shipacharya Zainul Abedin auditorium under the joint auspices of BAU Research System and Committee for Advanced Studies and Research. — Star photo

**Intensive research in agri-sector stressed**

**From Our Correspondent**  
MYMENSINGH, Nov 2: Professor Dr Shah Mohammad Farouk Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) stressed the need for conducting Multi-disciplinary Research Project in the agricultural field for the greater interest of the country. Professor Farouk was delivering his speech at the inauguration of a three-day workshop on "Bangladesh Agricultural University Research Progress 1992-93" jointly organised by BAU Research System (BAURES) and the Committee for Advanced Studies and Research (CASR) held at the Shipacharya Zainul Abedin Auditorium. Presided over by Professor Dr Monowar Ahmad, Director of BAURES, the session was attended by Dr MSU Chowdhury, Executive Vice-Chairman, BARC as the special guest. Professor Dr Mosharraf Hossain, Co-ordinator, CASR delivered address of welcome while Professor Dr Abdulla Al Mamun, Associate Director of BAURES offered vote of thanks in the session. Dr M S U Chowdhury said that the research work should be carried out under integrated system instead of isolated research. He also laid apical emphasis to start biotechnological research in Bangladesh.

**Diarrhoea kills 121, attacks 1921 more in one month**

MOULVIBAZAR, Nov 2: Diarrhoea claimed 50 lives and attacked more than 1000 people in two thanas of the district during last one month, reports UNB. According to unofficial sources, 39 people died in Sreemangal and 11 died in Kamalganj thanas during the period. Consumption of adulterated food and taking of impure water were said to be main reasons behind the outbreak of the disease. Local people alleged that shortage of emergency medicine and medical facilities in the hospitals and health complexes have aggravated the situation. They also alleged that field workers are seldom found in the affected areas. Another report adds: An old woman was crushed under the wheels of a speeding microbus near Motalabazar on Nabiganj-Sherpur road last week. The woman, identified as Amina Begum was knocked down by a Sherpur bound bus coming from Sylhet while she was crossing the road. She died on the spot. A case has been filed with the local police. The driver, however, managed to flee with the vehicle. **Food for edn programme starts**  
Food for Education Programme has been started in the 17 government primary schools of Pripimpasha union in Kulaura thana, official sources said. The Thana Nirbahi Officer inaugurated the programme recently amid a large gathering of the cross section of people. Wheat is being distributed among the families of the poor students to help prosecute their studies. Another report adds that Banglar Mukh, a socio-cultural organisation of Sadar thana won the championship trophy of Sreemangal Invitation Gold Cup Football final tournament recently by defeating Hobiganj Khalowar Kalyan Samity by a solitary goal. Azizur Rahman MP distributed prizes among the winners.

**Science exhibition concludes**  
A three-day long Science and Technology Exhibition was concluded here on Friday at the local college premises. Principal of the college Prof ANA Mahub Ahmed inaugurated the exhibition in presence of a large number of teachers, students and members of the science clubs. Science clubs of many schools and colleges took part in the exhibition on the concluding day. Prizes were distributed among the winners of the best stall, best scientific innovators and the winners of extempore speech competition. Another report adds: A new college has been set up in the town after the name of late saint Syed Shah Mustafa. **Gaibandha**  
Another report from Gaibandha says: Diarrhoea claimed 65 lives and attacked

**Jubo Dal workers shot at, stabbed**

NARAYANGANJ, Nov 2: Selim, a Jubo Dal worker, was shot at and his friend Aslam, another Jubo Dal worker received stab injuries when a rival group of persons attacked them at Chashara level crossing on Dhaka-Narayanganj road here Sunday afternoon, reports BSS. According to police sources, the two Jubo Dal workers came under attack while they were moving towards Dhaka along with two other persons in a car. A group of three persons equipped with arms intercepted the car by a hand signal at the level crossing. One of the persons fired a pipe gun shot at Selim, 25, a worker of Fatullah thana unit of Bangladesh Jatayatabadi Jubo Dal, from the window panes and stabbed Aslam, 24, inside the car, police said. The attackers immediately ran away through Dhaka-Narayanganj rail road and disappeared.

**Civic amenities at Narail absent**

NARAIL, Nov 2: People of the district town have been suffering a lot due to narrow roads, lack of rickshaw stands, good drainage system, insufficient street light and poor drinking water, reports UNB. At present over 70,000 people are residing in the pourashava area without these civic amenities. Narrow road cause traffic jam. Lack of rickshaw stands and insufficient street light are also causing inconvenience to the town dwellers and make normal traffic movement at night difficult. There is no proper drainage facility in the town. The existing drains at Ruggonj Bazar and its adjoining areas which remain filled up with garbage are in pitiable condition. Slight rainfall cause flood in the area. Poor drinking water is one of the burning problems of the town dwellers. Local people have been suffering from various intestinal diseases. The water supply is so inadequate that people have to dig holes at tap-points for getting water. Iron content in the water in this locality is quite high. It is alleged that night soils are not cleared even once a month which emits bad odours polluting the environment. Accommodation problem is also acute and market place is not sufficient to accommodate buyers and sellers. There is no park for the children and adults for recreation. People of the district demand early solution of the problems. Another report says: Despite repeated request to the Municipal authorities to remove the pye-dogs from the town, they are still loose in large numbers and has become a constant irritation for the town dwellers. Local people complained that the stray dogs with shabby skin are seen roaming here and there in the town creating inconveniences to the pedestrians. The number of pye-dogs rose in such an alarming state that one can hardly avoid their contact while walking on the streets, dwellers said. The school children are the worst sufferers as the dogs are always on their way to schools. Sometimes the dogs attempt to bite the children, they alleged. Being afraid of the dogs, the minor children do not want to attend schools, the guardians said. Besides, rush of the dogs at the meat, fish and molasses markets causes a lot of trouble to both the buyers and sellers. The meat shops are seen surrounded by these pye-dogs. The town dwellers urged the municipal authority to take immediate steps to remove these pye-dogs from the town for the greater interest of the town people. Exhibition of obscene films through VCR and VCP is going on for the last couple of months in the district causing moral degradation of the youths. Some elderly people alleged these films are being shown daily after sundown in some important areas of the town vitiating the atmosphere.

**35,000 children, female labourers in odd jobs to earn bread**

NATORE, Nov 2: The number of child and female labourers is on rise in different parts of the district due to abject poverty for quite a long time, reports UNB. At least 20,000 children under 12 years of age have been engaged in different odd jobs instead of going to school to earn their livelihood. Poverty stricken parents encourage their kids to work to help their respective families. The children used to work as cowboys, rickshaw-pullers, hawkers, day labourers, hotel boys and domestic servants causing sharp school dropout in the remote areas. Majority of the farmers in the district is landless and ignorant about the impact of education. Hence they dislike to impart education to their children which is a matter of money expenditure to them. During crop harvesting season a large number of farm labourers go to distant places along with their kids in search of work where they expect to get more wages. Besides, the number of female labourers is increasing rapidly due to rise in number of divorcees, widows and unmarried women in the rural and urban areas of the district. These female workers numbering 15,000 are used to engage in husking paddy, earth digging work, bidi binding, brick breaking to eke out their living. Having failed to manage any jobs in their locality, the unmarried girls, whose parents are unable to meet demand for dowry, are pouring in the district and thana headquarters to earn their livelihood. Finding no other alternative, many of them engaged in flesh trade giving rise to anti-social activities. After the sunset they gather in cinema hall premises and bus stands to allure the customers, local people alleged. They urged the concerned authority to look into the matter and take necessary steps for early rehabilitation of these girls. Another report says: A young girl allegedly committed suicide at Zanglee village in Sadar thana of the district by taking poison, police said on Monday. The victim Bulbuli Khatun (25), daughter of Sadar Uddin following a family feud took poison on October 19. She was rushed to the Sadar Hospital where she died on October 24. The body was sent to morgue for autopsy and a case was filed with the police. Another report adds: District Railway authorities collected Taka 80.88 lakh as revenue from different sources during 1992-93 fiscal year. Official sources said of the total amount, Taka 71.84 lakh was collected from tickets of the passengers, Taka 2.77 lakh from parcel booking, 4.92 lakh from goods transportation and the rest Taka 34.570 from other sources. Another report says that Women Handball League, organised by District Women Sports Association was held here recently. Four teams from Rani Bhabani Govt College, Natore Girls' High School, Nababidhan Girls' School and Banalata Girls' High School took part in the competition. Rani Bhabani College got the championship trophy while Nababidhan Girls School got the runners up trophy. Deputy Commissioner of the district distributed prizes among the winners as chief guest.

**Honour for poets**

**From Our Correspondent**  
CHUADANGA, Nov 2: Ten poets of Chuadanga were awarded medals by local Monorashi School at a function held here at the local Shahitto Parisad recently. The function was presided over by Poet Rezaul Hoque. **Abdul Hoque, Deputy Commissioner of Chuadanga** was present on the occasion as the chief guest. Among others who spoke on the occasion were Mokbulur Rahman, Eunus Ali, Advocate, Mrs Abdul Hoque and Sardar Ali Hossain. The recipients of medals were Poet Rezaul Hoque, Poet Banwari Lal Bangla, Poet Poreh Kanti Shah, Poet Kazi Ashfaq, Poet Iqbal Atahar Taj, Poet Golam Kabir Mukul, Poetess Maleka Hoque Makhon, Poet Abdul Mabud Malik, Poet Kazi Mahmud and Poet Zahidul Islam Zahid.

**One commits suicide**

SATKHIRA, Nov 2: A teenaged girl allegedly committed suicide by taking poison at Pathalghat village in Tala thana last week, says UNB. The girl was identified as Sabita Rani (19), daughter of Nripen Sarker of the village. Villagers said Sabita, who appeared in this year's SSC examination under Jessore Board, could not come out successful. She committed suicide as she could not tolerate pinching of her family members and relations, it was alleged.

**Ten dacoities in a single night**

**From Our Correspondent**  
MYMENSINGH, Nov 2: Ten dacoities were committed at Palashtali village of Bhaluka Thana in a single night recently. A gang of armed robbers stormed houses of 17 families and looted valuables worth about Taka three lakh including cash. According to local sources, a gang of armed robber numbering nearly 30 to 35 stormed Palash village and committed dacoities and also beat the owners of the houses. Dacoities were held in the houses of Mattiur Rahman, Majibur Rahman, Nurul Islam, Mizanur Rahman, Makbul Husain Mondol, Abdul Aziz, Mafizuddin Sarker, Shamsuddin and Hussain Ali. Having received the information Police Super AT Ahmedul Haque Chowdhury rushed to the spots and visited the houses where dacoities were committed. It may be mentioned here that two dacoities were also committed in the same village only a few days back. The local elites demanded exemplary punishment to the dacoits. A case has been registered in Bhaluka police station.

**Clash by groups leaves one hundred injured**

HABIGANJ, Nov 2: At least one hundred persons including women and children were wounded, ten of them seriously in a clash between Richi and Sultan Man-udpur villagers as a sequel to previous enmity here at local Brindaban Govt College. Habiganj premises recently. Police witnesses said. The seriously injured persons were admitted to Habiganj Sadar Hospital. Witnesses said, chase and counter-chase continued for about four hours in the area. Both the groups used dangerous weapons. Several rounds of shots were also fired, bombs and crackers also exploded during the clash. Police rushed to the spot and lobbed several rounds of teargas shells to control the situation. Two persons named, Shahid and Atikul were arrested on the spot. Another report says: Abdul Mannan, Additional District and Sessions Judge, Habiganj convicted a persons and sentenced him to suffer life term imprisonment also to pay a fine of Taka two thousand in default to suffer RI for another one year on Charge of murder, court sources said. The learned judge delivered the above verdict in SC No 67/93 under 302 BFC in the open court recently. The convicted person was Sitaram Chowhan of Gilani tea garden under Chunerughat thana. The prosecution case in brief was that, in March last year, hot words were exchanged between the accused Sitaram Chowhan and Ratha Sawthal inside the godown of Gilani tea garden over a petty matter. At once stage accused Sitaram Chowhan hit Ratha Sawthal. He was killed on the spot. In this connection — Fulendra Sawthal, brother of the deceased filed a case against accused Sitaram Chowhan and another Soba Chowhan with Chunerughat police station. The police after investigation submitted charge sheet against them. The learned judge after examining 14 witnesses evidences found accused Sitaram Chowhan guilty for murdering Ratha Sawthal and awarded him the aforesaid punishment. Soba Chowhan was found not guilty and was acquitted.

**Most hotels, restaurants prepare, sell unhygienic food items**

NATORE, Nov 2: Most of the hotels and restaurants in all the six thanas of the district have been preparing and selling adulterated and unhygienic food threatening the public health for quite a long time, reports UNB. Local people alleged that the hotels prepare and store food items in most unhygienic condition. The hotel owners do not use pure edible oil while preparing the food and are selling the stale food items for days together. Impure water from different waterbodies is being used in these hotels while preparing food. The utensils are not washed properly, they added. Most of the food items are being kept open in front of the restaurants to draw the attention of the customers. Besides, adulterated foods including sugar, ata and rice are used for preparing food in these hotels. After taking food in these hotels many people have been suffering from stomach ailments. The worst sufferers are the rural people who come to the district and thana headquarters for various purposes. The municipal authorities inspite of repeated appeal failed to take any action so far against the owners of these hotels and restaurants in its area. Some customers alleged the hotel owners are carrying out their illegal business with the cooperation of some dishonest officials of the municipality. Moreover, anti-social activities are also carried out in most of the residential hotels vitiating the atmosphere of the town, local people complained. Though there is a provision for punishment for violating health and sanitation rules nothing has yet been done to check the menace.



JHENIDAH: The butchers seen here slaughtering animals in an unhygienic condition in the absence of any slaughter house. — Star photo