

District roundup

COMILLA
Politics on college campus banned
 Nov 3: A meeting of Teacher's Council of Comilla Victoria College decided on Saturday to ban student politics in the college for next two months, says UNB.
 The decision was taken as a sequel to an untoward clash between Chhatra League (M-I) and Chhatra Dal on September 8, which closed the college since.
 Meetings, rallies and receptions organised by the student organisations were banned in the campus.
 The classes of the college were resumed recently but the hostels are still closed.

PABNA
3 JCD activists sent to jail
 Nov 3: Three local activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal were arrested Sunday night and sent to jail Sunday on charge of their involvement in extortion and violence, says UNB.
 Police said Nabin, Jashim Uddin and Mukta, wanted in several cases for a long time, were arrested from their houses.
 They were produced before the court today and later sent to jail custody.

JHENIDAI
One succumbs to injuries
 Nov 3: A middle aged man who was attacked by a gang of angry people on Sunday succumbed to his injuries at Sadar Hospital Monday, reports UNB.
 Police said Nurul Islam Joarder (45) of Magarkhali village in Sadar thana received head injuries when he was trying to settle a dispute over land demarcation between two farmers of Magarkhali village on Sunday.
 Islam was rushed to Sadar Hospital in critical condition and died at about 12 noon.
 Police suspected that past enmity was the cause of the attack on Islam. The body was sent to morgue for autopsy.
 A case was filed with Sadar thana.

KHULNA
Youth Day observed
 Nov 3: National Youth Day was observed here Sunday in a befitting manner, says BSS.
 Youth rally, processions, seminar, EPI programme, tree plantation and cleanliness drive were held on the occasion. The programme of the day was formally inaugurated by Mayor of Khulna City Corporation, Shaikh Tayebur Rahman at a youth rally held at Khulna Circuit House premises from where a colourful procession was brought out. The processionists paraded the main thoroughfares of the city.
 A seminar on "youth community" was held at the local officers club auditorium.
 Divisional Commissioner, Abdul Muktedir Choudhury was the chief guest at the seminar.
 Speakers called for streamlining the activities of the youths for involving them in the nation-building tasks. They further said, that the youth community should be organised to take up self-employment activities for eradicating poverty from the society.

CHITTAGONG
324 arrested on various charges
 Nov 3: Police arrested 324 people on various charges from different parts of the port city during the last week, says UNB.
 A CMP press release Monday said police during their drives also recovered a huge quantity of fire arms, including three local made guns and one pistols.
 CMP Commissioner Osman Ali Khan in a review meeting directed the police officials to continue their drives until the trouble mongers were arrested.

JAMALPUR
Various diseases claim 12
 Nov 3: Diarrhoea, jaundice and kala-azar claimed 12 lives and attacked more than 200 other people during the last 20 days at Charsakuna village of Melandah thana, says UNB.
 Local BNP leader Nazrul Islam disclosed this to the local journalists at the district headquarters on Oct 30 alleging that so far no steps have been taken by the concerned authorities to send medical teams to the village to check the spread of the diseases.
 Of the deceased, Ansan Begum (28), Bilkis (25), Abdus Sobhan (55), Khan Mahmud (60) and Mariam (4) died of diarrhoea. Another four children — Rahim (3) and Rahima (5) son-daughter of Abu Baker Siddique, Kazi (3) daughter of Dulaluddin and Malek (9) son of a Wadud — died of jaundice.
 Khoka Akand (45) and another two unidentified men died of kala-azar.
 Local people urged the authorities to send medical teams to combat the diseases.

BARISAL
Sher-e-Bangla's birth anniversary observed
 Nov 3: The 120th birth anniversary of Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Huq was observed here with due respect on Tuesday last, reports BSS.
 Jointly organized by Sher-e-Bangla Smriti Sangad and Barisal Natya Niketan, the function was presided over by S Ali Mohammad.
 A discussion meeting on life and works of the late leader was held in the Aswini Kumar town hall.
 Sheikh Abdul Malek, Md Akkas Hossain, Nurul Islam Alam, Habibul Huq Pannu and Santu Prasad Barman took part in the discussion.
 Besides, Quran khawani and milad mahfil were also arranged on the day.
 Three persons including one woman were killed and three others were injured in two separate lightning incidents at Swarupkathi thana of Pirojpur district recently.
 The victims are: Sanaul (15), Sohel (18) and Rokeya (27). The injured are: Saikat (14), Zahidul Huq (14) and Asma (10). The injured persons were admitted to thana health complexes.

MAIDARIPUR
Erosion threatens rice market area
 Nov 3: Continuous erosion of the river Kumar threatened the very existence of the Takerhat Bandar of the district, reports UNB.
 At least 50 shops of the wholesale rice markets on the southern side of the bandar have already been devoured. Besides, a sizeable number of dwelling houses, a hotel and a mosque were engulfed by the river. The extent of damage was estimated at Taka one crore.
 The local people apprehend that if the erosion is continued at the present proportion the local godown in the bandar area will go into the river within the next fortnight.
 The erosion affected people are passing their days in great distress. They urged the government to take immediate steps for their early rehabilitation.

RAJBARI
Sharp fall in Padma water level, navigation threatened
 Nov 3: With the sharp fall in water level in the river Padma in Aricha-Daulatdia and Aricha-Nagarbari routes, innumerable chara and shoals are emerging threatening the smooth running of the ferries and other water transports, reports UNB.
 Padma experiences unusual fall in water level in the dry season due to the adverse effect of Farakka barrage resulting in the emergence of a large number of chara and shoals, BIWTA sources said.
 The officials said the depth of water at Daulatdia was 8.12 metre on October 5 which has come down to 6.79 metre on October 25.
 For keeping the water channel navigable the authority dredged 30.54 lakh cubic metres of silt from the channel during the last 5 years period at a cost of Taka 10 crore.
 With the advent of current dry season the authority dredged 25.31 lakh cubic metre silt from the channel on the Aricha-Daulatdia route.
 The officials said initially the route was made out of danger.

TANGAIL
BRCS gives relief goods
 Nov 3: Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BRCS), Tangail unit, distributed one hundred lungers, one hundred saucers, ten cartons of emergency food packets and six tons of biscuits among the distressed people of the district recently, reports BSS.
 Official sources said, besides this the unit also distributed one thousand packets of oral saline.



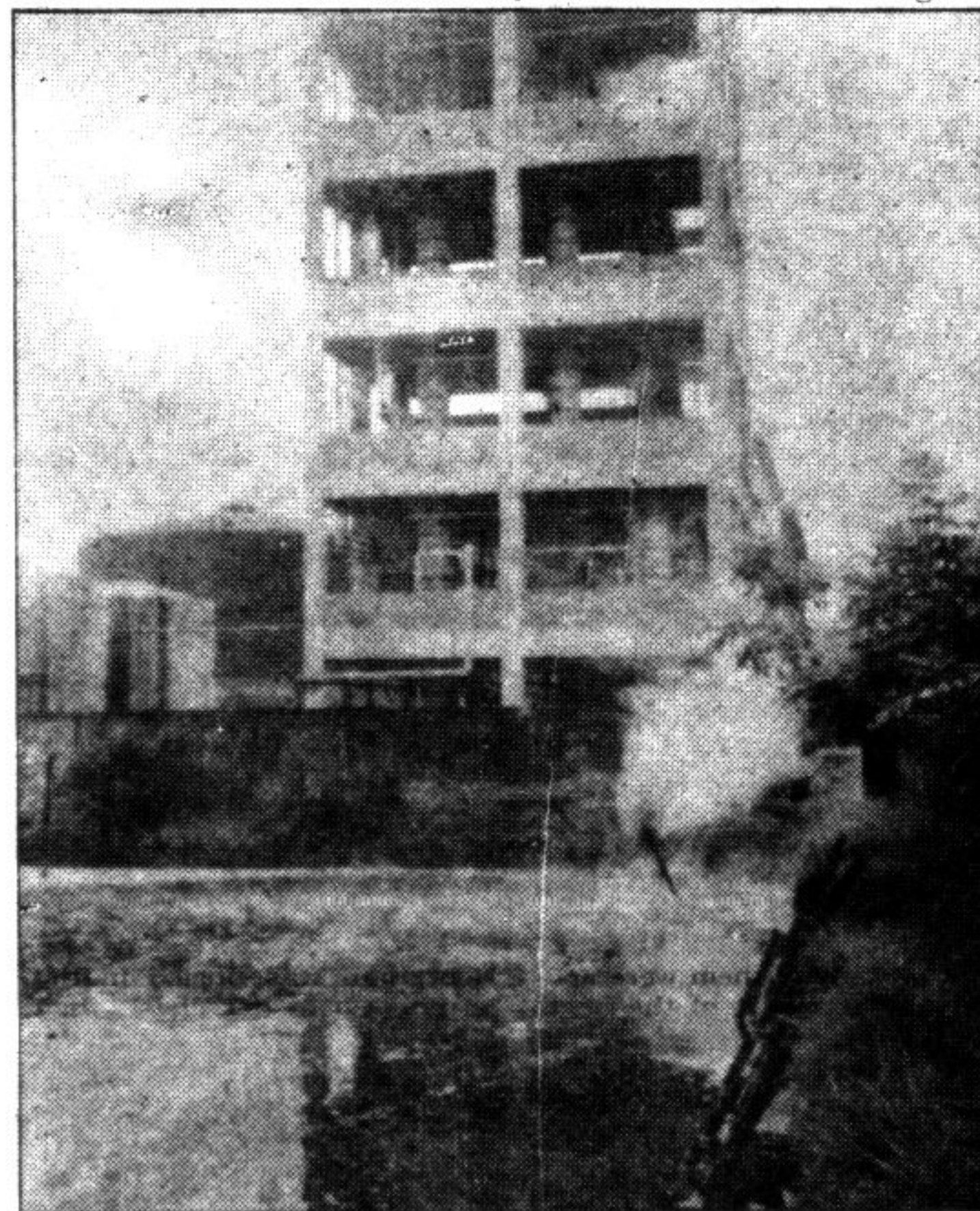
SYLHET: Prof Syed Mohibuddin Ahmed, VC, University of Science and Technology inaugurating the 17th National Science Week held here recently. — Star photo

All 3 acquitted in a murder case
 JAMALPUR, Nov 3: All the three people accused in a sensational murder case were acquitted, court sources here said, reports UNB.
 The case, in brief, was that Matbar Ali (40) of Birganj village of Bakshiganj thana was allegedly killed by his octogenarian father Mohammad Ali along with his two other sons.
 Bakshiganj police after investigation submitted charge sheet against them mentioning that Mohammad Ali killed his son by beating him with an iron rod.
 After examining the witnesses and records District and Sessions Judge in his verdict on Oct 26 said that Matbar died while his father tried to punish him for the offence that caused family feud adding that Mohammad Ali had no motive to kill his son.

Five commit suicide in one thana on Sunday
 SATKHIRA, Nov 3: Five women committed suicide and another was beaten to death in sadar thana of the district on Sunday, reports UNB.
 The victims are: Saleha Khatun (35), wife of Ashraf of Kamalnagar village, Nargish (22), wife of Abdul Haque of Baddi, Sandha Rani (40), daughter of Jogesh Sarker of Debnagar, Sajeda Khatun (23), wife of Arshak Ali of Rajnagar, Kamla Rani (36), wife of Jatindra of Fingri, Saleha Khatun (25) of village Mirerdanga.
 Saleha Khatun was allegedly beaten to death by her husband and her co-wife Momena Khatun.
 The body was sent to Satkhira hospital for post-mortem.
 A case was filed with the police in this connection and Saleha's husband and her co-wife were arrested.
 According to police and local people, rest of the victims committed suicide either by taking poison or by hanging themselves.
 Another report from Satkhira says: A boy was crushed under the wheels of a running tractor in Shymnagar thana of the district on Sunday.
 The victim was identified as Jamal (8), son of Siddique of village Arulia.
 Police said the tractor dashed Jamal from behind when he was crossing the road near his residence killing him on the spot.
 The body was sent to hospital for post-mortem.
 A case was registered in Shymnagar thana.

Wastes from industrial units vitiating environment

From Our Correspondent
 NATORE, Nov 3: The poisonous wastes discharged from two sugar mills and a distillery plant into the river Narod is seriously polluting the environment.
 Our correspondent who visited the sites reports, Gurudaspur, Baraigram thanas and Chalan Beel areas are the worst affect places. Different chemicals discharged from the Natore Sugar Mills, North Bengal Sugar Mills and Jamuna Distillery plant have partially affected life of all types of living creatures in the said areas.
 Experts who expressed their views on the subject said, the poisonous chemicals discharged into the river Narod are more harmful for living beings. A survey showed that fishes in the Narod river are found carrying various types of diseases. Hundreds of fishes have died and found floating in the water following the discharge.
 The sugar mills were set up back in 1985 with the initiative of the then government. The villagers of Zangli prospered growing sugarcane for the mills. The distillery plant was set up in 1988 adjoining the Natore Sugar Mills with an initiative of a non-government organisation.
 The distillery plant buys molasses from Natore Sugar Mills to make distilled water. Only three per cent alcohol is produced from the molasses and the rest of the remaining 97 per cent is discharged as poisonous chemicals, experts say. This poisonous waste from the distillery plant is thrown in the river Narod. As a result of this, during production season and unhygienic environment prevails threatening the very existence of life in the river.
 The wastes from the distillery is preserved in five small ponds located just behind the factory building. Soil is mixed with the wastes which is finally pushed into the river through a system of canal.
 When contacted, Jamuna Distillery Plant officials said, only the water from the river, used for cooling the heated vapour container, is discharged in the river Narod which, they added, is not at all poisonous. The officials further informed that, the poisonous waste discharged in the river is, from Natore Sugar Mills.
 According to an expert, the claim is not at all true. He said, during closing hours of the sugar mill, meaning when the sugar mill is not on production hours the wastes are still found discharged, meaning the distillery plant is responsible for the wastes.
 The chemical wastes have also affected a vast area of agricultural land in the surrounding villages. When farmers use water from the Narod river for irrigation, crops were seen to grow very slow due to presence of unwanted chemicals in the water.
 In addition to crop damages, diseases were also noticed in the villages. A housewife who explained that her family members are victims of the wastes discharged in the river. She said, water used for bathing and washing clothes and other household purposes from the river cause various diseases.
 The distillery plant and the mills were set up to favour the villagers but now it seems that they (villagers) are more affected than being benefitted.



NATORE: Photo shows that wastes are coming out of the Jamuna distillery plant. — Star photo

Diarrhoea death toll now 254 in Jamalpur
 JAMALPUR, Nov 3: Diarrhoea has taken serious turn in two thanas of the district killing six people including two children and attacked 275 others in the last 24 hours, hospital sources said, reports UNB.
 With this, the death figure in the district rose to 254 and 2,700 others were attacked by the waterborne disease during the last one month.
 Officials sources, however, said so far 28 people died of the disease and 7,500 others were attacked during the same period.
 The worst hit areas are Goshperara, Fulkuha, Mahmudpara, Adra unions in Melanda thana and Gonartala, Adarvita and Karotchara unions in Matherganj thana.
 The deaths were identified as: Faiz Uddin (60) and Nasirun Beoya (57), of Rekhirpara village, Mohez Uddin (60) and Happy (7) of Gomrapara village, Jamila Beoya (40) of Talipara village and Tahirun of Bir Adiapara village in Melanda thana.
 While talking to UNB, Project Coordinator of B K Hospital at Rekhirpara, said the situation has aggravated as there is inadequate supply of oral saline and medicine in the affected areas.
 The BK Hospital, a voluntary hospital, so far distributed 15,000 packets of oral saline and other medicines.
 Local people alleged that treatments of patients in the affected areas in the two thanas, are being hampered as there is no supply of government salines and other medicines.
 When contacted the Chief Surgeon office they said there is no shortage of saline and medicines in the Thana Health Complexes.
 The local people urged the concerned authorities to take necessary steps to ensure adequate supply of saline and other essential drugs in the health complexes immediately to combat the disease.
More 7 killed in Sirajganj
 Another report from Sirajganj says: Diarrhoea claimed seven more lives in four thanas of the district in the last 24 hours raising the total number of deaths to 122 since October 1.
 Official sources said more than 400 people were attacked by the water-borne disease in last 24 hours ending 6 am on Tuesday.
 Tuesday's victims were identified as Lutfia Khatun (20) of Sadar thana, Nantu Mia (10) of Ullapara thana, Rehana (4) and Al Amin of Meherpur in Rajganj thana and Ayesha Khatun (35), Asiya, and Shephali of Kazipur thana.
 A total of 127 medical teams has been working in the affected areas to combat the disease, officials said. National Youth Day was observed in the district in a befitting manner on Monday.
 The Youth Development Office here chalked out elaborate programmes to observe the day. The programmes included rally, discussion meeting and cultural function.
 A colourful procession was also brought out in the town on the occasion.

Tk 14 cr for uplift of schools

From Our Correspondent
 SYLHET, Nov 3: A major scheme has been taken up for improvement of the 455 educational institutions and for supply of furniture to 525 primary schools of four districts of greater Sylhet region during the current financial year.
 Taka 14 crore would be spent for executing the scheme, said an official source.
 The source informed that one class room building will be constructed in each of Non-government High Schools of the thanas of Sylhet, Moulvibazar, Habiganj and Sunamganj districts at a cost of Taka 7 lakh 81 thousand. The total amount will stand at Taka 2 crore 73 lakh 36 thousand for 35 schools.
 Of the total amount, an amount of Taka 4 crore 41 lakh would be spent for development of 105 Government Primary schools in four districts. Under the programme, Taka 4 lakh 20 thousand would be spent for each of the 3 government primary schools in each thana.
 Under the scheme, another Taka 2 crore 62 lakh 50 thousand has been allocated for improvement of 105 Government primary schools. Taka 2 lakh 50 thousand had been kept for each of these 3 schools in each of the thana, the source said.
 Another 315 government primary schools had been selected for development throughout the region. Nine schools had been included in each of the thana while Taka 65 thousand had been sanctioned for each of the school. These would cost a total of Taka 2 crore 4 lakh 75 thousand, the source added.
 Besides, furniture worth about Taka 50 thousand would be supplied to each of the 15 primary schools in each thana during the year. Taka 2 crore 62 lakh 50 thousand would be spent for supplying these furniture to 515 schools.
 Work on the scheme would be started in phases soon, the official source informed.
Role of newsmen in FP programme
 A one-day workshop on "The role of journalists in expanding the family planning programmes" was held at Sunamganj district headquarters on Tuesday last.
 Md Kamaluddin Ahmed, Deputy Commissioner, Sunamganj formally inaugurated the workshop which was participated by journalists from Habiganj, Sunamganj, Moulvibazar and Sylhet districts.
 The Sylhet unit of Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB) organised the workshop. The inaugural session was presided over by Professor Bhabuddin Jakaria, President of the Sylhet unit of the Association while it was also addressed among others by Professor Abul Quasem, Vice-President of the central FPAB, Advocate Badruddin Ahmed, honorary Treasurer, Principal Mujbarul Hannan, Honorary Assistant Secretary-General, Humayun Kabir Khondaker, honorary Secretary (IEM) of the central committee and Dr NIA Qureshi, honorary General Secretary.
 Editor of the Daily Ajker Sylhet, Iqbal Kabir read out the motto paper.

Just for a saree

JHENIDAH, Nov 3: Failing to get a saree from her husband a young housewife committed suicide in Harikunda thana of the district on Saturday, reports UNB.
 Police said, Turjan Bibi (22) wife of Sanwar M ondul of village Ibrahimpur demanded a saree from her husband. But her husband refused to give her the same and walked out of his house.
 At this Turjan Bibi found herself offended and committed suicide by hanging from the ceiling of her room.
 A case was filed with the local police.
 Another message from Magura adds: A housewife of village Barasia in Sadar thana allegedly committed suicide on Oct 23 by taking poison.
 According to police, the victim Manjura Khatun (25) was leading an unhappy conjugal life with her husband Faridul Islam. A case has been filed in this connection.

Fish diseases break out alarmingly

NARAIL, Nov 3: Fish disease has broken out in an alarming proportion in various areas of the Kalta thana causing concern among the consumers and fishermen community, reports UNB.
 According to local people, the disease broke out here a few years back. At the outbreak of the disease for the second time, the fishermen and the consumers are both in great problems.
 Local fishermen informed that fish like koi, singh, puti, magur, takti, baim, shol, gazar and other varieties have been attacked by the killer disease.
 Meanwhile, many people of the locality have stopped buying and eating fish. On the contrary, the fishermen community is passing hard days at the sudden outbreak of the disease.
 Fisheries Department could not give any protective solution to the problem. The pisciculturists are very much worried about the spread of the disease in nearby areas.
 They urged the concerned authorities to look into the matter and take necessary steps to stop the menace on an emergency basis.
 The betel leaf growers of the district are facing manifold problems due to price hike of necessary inputs like bamboo, fertilizers, oil cakes and pesticides.
 The growers alleged that in the absence of marketing facilities and bank loan they are on the brink of giving up their age-old occupation.
 There are about 2000 betel leaf growers in this district and most of them are poor. They are to take loans from the greedy money lenders at high rate of interest to continue their occupation.
 Meanwhile, many growers have given up the betel leaf cultivation due to non-availability of bank loan on easy terms.
 The growers urged the concerned authority to extend financial assistance to them to boost betel leaf cultivation in the district.
 Sale of rectified spirit, Indian phensidyl syrup and other spurious medicines has become rampant in different places of the district.



GOPALGANJ: The local DC, Abdul Motaleb Mia addressing a seminar arranged here on the occasion of World Food Day. — Star photo

Removal of BNP leader demanded

PABNA, Nov 3: District Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal on Tuesday demanded removal of the district BNP General Secretary Advocate Shahjahan Ali on charges of corruption, misuse of power and autocratic behaviour, reports UNB.
 At a press conference, the JCD leaders alleged that Advocate Shahjahan, who is also a Public Prosecutor, took about Taka 15 lakh from the people as bribe after the BNP came to power.
 They also threatened that they would go for a movement to remove him if their demand was not met within November 7.
 District JCD President Shaikh Tuhin, General Secretary Moshaddiq Hossain Manju and Organising Secretary Mahmudun Nabi Shwapan were among others present at the press conference held at a local hotel.
 When contacted, Advocate Shahjahan, denied the allegations brought against him by the JCD.

Soil favourable for coconut farming

BARGUNA, Nov 3: Coconut production has declined to a great extent in the district due to absence of planned plantation, reports UNB.
 Local farmers said the climate and soil of the district is highly suitable for cultivation of this lucrative crop but this opportunity is not being seized by them due to various reasons.
 Experts said coconut can be produced in district in large scale with a minimum cost which can help poverty alleviation to a great extent. But due to lack of motivation and proper guidance, the ignorant growers are less interested to cultivate the crop.
 They said thousands of green coconuts from Barisal and other southern districts are being sold to various parts of the country every day. Many families are maintaining their livelihood by cultivating the crop.
 It is felt that if the concerned authorities take necessary steps for planned plantation of the crop in the district the people will come forward the grow the crop on commercial basis.
 There also a bright prospect to develop and promote coir industry in the area out of the remains of coconut but no step has been taken in this regard.
 Another report says: Inflated and fake arrears telephone bills made the lives of subscribers in Patharghata thana unbearable for quite a long time.