# District roundup

#### MUNSHIGANJ

### "Govt firm to remove illiteracy from society"

Nov 6: Commerce Minister M Shamsul Islam Thursday underscored the need for implementing the 'food for education' programme in order to eradicate illiteracy from society, reports

He said, the present government has attached top priority on education sector to free the nation from curse of illiteracy.

· The minister was addressing as the chief guest at a scholarship giving ceremony organised by the ex-students association of Bazrojoginee J K High School under Munshiganj district here.

The minister said the present government was determined to spread the light of education in the remotest corners of the country through proper implementation of compulsory primary education, 'education for all' and 'food for education' programmes.

Islam called upon the students to establish themselves as the worthy citizens through acquiring proper knowledge for the sake of the development of the country and people.

The minister also urged the ex-students and the guardians to play their due roles to establish a congenial atmosphere in this institution to uphold its hundred years old glory and

#### NATORE

### 662 cases filed in nine months

Nov 6: At least 662 crimes including 25 murder cases have been recorded in the first nine months of the current year in the district, says UNB.

According to official sources, five dacoities, eight highway robberies, 68 clashes and 132 thefts and other cases were recorded from January to September.

During the same period at least 150 people committed suicide in different thanas of the district. Poverty, women repression, family feud and failure in love were said to be main

reasons behind the suicide. Local leaders said, crimes are on rise in the district due to deteriorating law and order situation. The peace-loving people have urged the concerned authorities to take drastic action against the anti-social elements.

#### BARGUNA

#### Spread of diseases due to lack of latrines

Nov 6: A large number of people in Barguna and Patuakhali districts do not use sanitary latrines due to their ignorance about hygiene, reports UNB.

A survey report made by UNICEF revealed that about 50 per cent of the diseases are caused due to lack of sanitation facilities. Almost all the rural people are defecating in the nearby bushes, ponds, canals, beels, roadsides and open fields polluting the environment.

Diseases like typhoid, paratypoid, cholera and dysentery are also spreading fast in the areas for lack of drinking water and use of adulterated food

Infants are the worst sufferers of the diseases, Children are often attacked by diarrhoea and intestinal diseases due to lack of hygienic sense of mothers. The report revealed that 40 per cent of the sufferers are infants upto the age of five years due to unhygienic habits followed by the mothers while cooking food and serving the foodstuff.

The survey report also revealed that only seven per cent people are using sanitary la trines and the rest cannot af ford to use the same due to financial constraints.

# **JAMALPUR**

#### BRCS gives medicines to flood affected victims

of the Bangladesh Red-Crescent Society (BRCS) has been giving treatments and distributing medicines in flood affected areas in the district, reports BSS.

Nov 6: Four medical teams

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Society is giving financial and medicare aid in the programme.

Each team consists of one medical officer, one medical assistant two Jubo red Crescents and volunteer.

District unit Red Crescent Society sources said that 20 thousand population were brought under the programme so

#### SIRAJGANJ

### Diarrhoea claims another 8 lives

Nov 6: Diarrhoea claimed eight lives in four thana of the district during the last 48 hours, unofficial sources said, reports UNB.

Official count, however, but the death figure to three only.

They are, Al Amin (10), of Mahanpur village in Raiganj thana, Monowara (31) of Krishna Govindapur and Anowara (8) of Uttar Pikepara village in Kazipur thana.

With this, the death tolls rose to 88 and 5,971 others were attacked by the disease in the last 33 days. Unofficial sources said the death toll to 130.

Deputy Civil Surgeon Dr Sukur Ahmed told UNB today that the overall diarrhoea situation in the district is improving and is expected to come under control within a week.

A total of 127 medical teams are working round the clock in the affected areas. And 15 temporary clinics were also opened in the areas to combat the disease, officials added.

#### SHERPUR

### Meeting of law, order committee

Nov 6: A meeting of the law and order committee was held at Sherpur DC hall room recently, says BSS.

The meeting was presided over by Ataur Rahman Majumder, DC, Sherpur. It was addressed among others by Mahiuddin Siddiki, ADM Sherpur Abdul Waydud, SP, Sherpur Alhaz Habibur Rahman, president, BNP district unit, Abdur Razzaque, Chairman, Sherpur Pourashava, Mazibur Rahman, TNO, Sherpur Sadar, Amzad Hossain, president Sherpur Chamber of Commerce Advocate Abdus Samad, president Bar Association, Sherpur, Advocate Abdul Kader and Abu Bakar, Editor weekly Daskahania.

Another BSS report says: A discussion meeting organised by the Bangladesh Jattyatabad Juba Dal, Sherpur district unit was held at the local BNP office recently.

Hatam Ali, president of district Jatiyatabadi Juba Dal presided over the meeting.

It was addressed, among others, by Abdur Razzak Khandakar, Mazibur Rahman, A T M Amir Hossain, Parvez Roup Pingku and Muklesur Rahman Jiban.

#### COX'S BAZAR

#### Become worthy citizens of nation: Oli

Nov 6: Communications Minis ter Oli Ahmad Thursday said the democratic government is pledge-bound to ensure pea ceful and congenial atmospheres in all educational instituti ons of the country, reports BSS

He was addressing the students and teachers of Chakaria Degree College here.

Presided over by Principal of the college Mokteur Ahmad Chowdhury, the meeting was also address by Syed Wahidul Alam PM, Redwan Ahmad MP and Enamul Hug Manzoo MP.

Oli Ahmad called upon the student community to become worthy citizens of the country for shouldering the future lead ership of the nation.

Later, the minister also ad dressed the teachers and students of Kishalaya Adarsha Shikkha Niketan at Khutakhali.

#### KUSHTIA

#### Removal of corrupt sugar mills' officials demanded

Nov 6 : Sugarcane growers of the district staged a demonstration in front of the Kushtia Sugar Mills on Tuesday protest ing alleged corruptions of some officials of the mills and demanded their immediate removal, says UNB.

The organisers alleged that corrupt and dishonest officials were causing financial losses to growers and demanded their immediate removal.

The speakers at a rally held later in the mill premises, called upon the authorities to supply fertilizer, pesticide at market rates, molasses as fodder for cattleheads.

Presided over by Zahurul Islam Bimol, the rally was at tended among others by former MP Abdul Wahab, Isratl Hossain Apu, Liakat Ali, Abdul Kuddus and Fazle Bari alias Kalu Biswas.



SYLHET: British HC to Bangladesh Peter Powler recently visited the central office of an NGO here and exchanged views with the staff of the organisation. - Star photo

# Gas turbine plant running without gas supply

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Nov 6: The 71megawatt gas turbine of Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) at Baghabari in Shahzadpur thana incurs loss amounting to crores of taka every year due to use of oil as fuel in absence of gas. Higher cost of production leads to such loss of the government, said a source.

It is gathered that the 71megawatt gas turbine was set up on 25 acres of land at a cost of Taka 200 crore in 1991 with 40 per cent financial assistance from the French Government.

The Eastern Mercantile Company of France supervised the construction work with 12 manpower including two engineers and 10 employees who are paid Taka three lakh every month as service charges. The 17 trained engineers of Bangladesh are not considered fit for the work. Instead, the French technicians are engaged in supervising the work for next one year. The Baghabari gas turbine plant is one of the five such projects of the country which supply electricity in the national grid lines. The project can produce 80 megawatt of electricity in place of 71megawatt.

At present oil in place of gas is used as the fuel as there is no gas lines in the northern zone of the country. Every hour

25,000 litres of oil is required for the project. However, if gas is supplied, production cost per unit of electricity will be only eighty paisa. Due to heavy cost of production, the gas turbine is operated only at the peak load hours. But the gas connection in the project can ensure more production of electricity for the national grids at a lower cost.

The experts have urged upon the authorities concerned to extend gas supply network at Baghabari turbine to run the project in full swing to boost power supply of the country.

#### 9 WDB staff suspended

Another report says : Nine officers of Siraigani and Ullapara Divisions of Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) have been suspended temporarily for alleged misappropriation of fund amounting to Taka 2.75 crore. The suspended officers are : Bishnu Pada Halder, Executive Engineer of Sirajganj and Ullapara,

Abdus Salam Chowdhury SDE-1. K M Faziul Karim SDE-3. Zamir Uddin, SDE-Ullapara, Abdul Mannan Matbar, Section Officer 1/3, Mainul Haq. Section Officer 1/2, Abdul Bari, Section Officer 3/2, Shah Jainal Abedin, Section Officer 3/3 and

false bills and vouchers.

It is "eported that Taka 90 lakh was spent for Belkuchi protection project without period approval of the authority. The quality of work is said to be not satisfactory and huge amount of money was grabbed in disguise of extended works through false bills and vouch-

In Kazipur thana, schedule of work was not maintained Massive irregularities were also reported in the works of Sirajganj town protection embankment. Alleged false bills and vouchers were also submitted in repairing works of abandoned Ullapara projects of

Besides, extension work of different projects and work orders to some selected contractors without tender notices lead to misappropriation of fund.

An organised group is said to be involved in this type of malpractice which needs early inquiry of the higher authority.

# Help implement uplift plans

along with the people under

the leadership of Prime

Minister Begum Khaleda Zia

had restored democracy after

becoming successful in the

anti-autocracy movement, it

would struggle similarly to

Ansar Ali, Section Officer of

PIROJPUR. Nov 6: Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda has called upon the people to get united for successful implementation of the development programmes of the present government to preserve the country's independence and sovereignty. consolidate democracy and achieve self-reliance, reports

The Information Minister was speaking as chief guest at the conference of the Pirojpur district Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) conference here on

Thursday. Held at the Shaheed Minar premises, the conference was addressed among others by Selima Rahman, MP, student leaders — Zahiruddin Shawsan Mesbahuddin, Shahabuddin, Ali Ashgar, Alamgir Hossain and Jubo Dal leader Nasir Ahmed Talukder.

Referring to the role of the JCD in the anti-autocracy movement, the minister said, vested quarter had been conspiring against the JCD in a calculated manner. He cautioned that the terrorist activities of this vested quarters would not be able to silence the voice of the JCD. He said, the way the JCD

consolidate the hard earned democracy, uphold independence and sovereignty and carry forward the development efforts to its desired goal Barrister Nazmul Huda said. the JCD is united to foil any conspiracy against democracy and independence and

sovereignty of the country. He urged the JCD to remain alert so that vested quarters could not create confusion in the He said, the vested quarters

in alliance with the defeated autocracy had given a call for hartal and programme on October 10 on the occasion of Shaheed Jehad Day and on November 10 on Shaheed Noor Hossain Day so that the memory of autocratic rule could be erased from the mind of the nation

The Information Minister said the party which partici pated in the 1986 elections to provide legality to the illegal government of Ershad, was now giving their programmes

to do away with the anti-people image of autocracy. He said, the attempt to warm up the political arena by creating issues like indemnity and Golam Azam was aimed at hindering the development programmes of the elected government

Barrister Nazmul Huda said the nationalist forces had been implementing the politics of preserving the country's independence and sovereignty and fulfilling five basic demands of life. He said the vested quarters was well aware that of the government could implement the programmes, the people would elect the BNP in the next elections.

He said the nationalist forces were the bearers of the spirit of liberation war and it had been working to bring economic anticipation and prosperity of the nation by upholding this spirit. He said, those who after the independence of the country had killed democracy, enforced dictator rule of BAKSAL, robbed off the freedom of the press and fundamental rights, created famine, oppressed people with the help of the Rakshi Bahini and signed an anti-people subservient agreement.



COMILLA: A child is reciting a self composed poem at the 'Sabbir Shishu Shahitya Sammelon' - Star photo held here on October 29.

It is gathered from the official sources that the concerned officers in collaboration with some contractors and vested interests have misappropriated government fund amounting to Taka 2.75 crore by illegal extension of works and submitting

puller following a dispute over

The angry young men stopped Abdur Rahman of the village, who knew nothing about the incident, while he was returning from the town. They allegedly beat him

other lethal weapons simply on the ground that he hailed from Gonergati. Rahman was seriously injured in the attack and was

admitted to the Siraigani General Hospital where he died Wednesday morning.

A case was filed with Sadar thana accusing seven people. None was, however, arrested.

### Ratan now young lady

PABNA, Nov 6: Whether it's fortunate or not. Ratan is now a young lady! Once a father of two daughters Ratan of Kumarpara village in Chatmohar thana, became a woman after undergoing an operation to cure his hormone disorder on Monday.

Hormone disorder has reportedly caused Ratan's masculinity to change into a fully endowed woman.

Faridul Islam Ratan, 28, a day labourer of the village. had been suffering from a hormonal disorder for the last six months, during which period his body was undergoing some radical changes.

According to doctors. Ratan was suffering from a shortage of the male testosteron hormone and presence of excessive female oestrogen hormone which caused the gender change.

Dr Golam Mahbub, a surgeon of Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) operated upon Ratan at the RMCH on Monday, turning him into a young lady.

Ratan, married to Nasima Khatun, 21, for 12 years, has two daughters - one seven year and the other two year

While talking to UNB. Dr Abdul Momin, Assistant Surgeon of Pabna Sadar Hospital informed that there are both male testosterone and female oestrogen hormones in the human body. But the quantity of testosterone in man's body is generally much more than the oestrogen hormone.

When testosterone de-

creases and oestrogen hormone increases in a man's body, then the sex changes itself automatically, which happened in Ratan's case, he added. A similar case occurred in

Raishahi University in 1982 when Abdus Samad, a student of the university, became a woman due to hormone problem. She later got married to one of his friends.

# Country on the verge of bankruptcy, says Menon

JHENIDAH, Nov 6: Workers' Party leader Rashed Khan Menon MP today alleged the country was on the verge of bankruptcy as the BNP government was running it with the 'recipe' of the World Bank and the IMF to appease the donors, reports UNB.

Calico Mills

workers gherao

Pabna DC

workers of the closed Calico

Cotton Mills gheraoed the

Deputy Commissioner's office

today (Wednesday) demanding

The workers also submitted

a memorandum to the Deputy

Commissioner containing their

demands and held a rally in

CBA president Khandoker Abul

Bashar and workers' leaders

Abdullah Al-Masud and Amiad

The authorities closed down

Addressing the rally workers'

leader said the authorities

dreds of workers jobless and of

them Keramat Ali, 38, and

last month due to lack of treat-

workers the leaders said an-

other worker Jubairi recently

committed suicide as he failed

They called upon the author-

ities to immediately reopen the

mills considering the wretched

A slap costs

an innocent

life

SIRAJGANJ, Nov 6: An in-

nocent man has succumbed to

his injuries at Sirajganj Gene-

ral Hospital on Wednesday

following an attack by a group

The victim was identified as

Witnesses said two people

of mastans, police said Friday,

Abdur Rahman (35) of Goner-

gati village in Sadar thana of

of Gonergati village hired a

rickshaw from the town to

reach their village on Sunday.

But on the way, one of the

passengers, named Sekander

(45), slapped the rickshaw

reports UNB.

the district.

condition of the workers.

to face the menace of poverty.

closed the mills leaving hun-

the mills in January last follow-

ing staggering loss of the mills.

The rally was addressed by

its immediate reopening, re-

ports UNB.

Hossain

front of the office.

PABNA, Nov 6: Some 1,000

The Awami League and the Jativa Party were also following the suit in competition with each other to please the donors, he said addressing a rally as chief guest at the Jhenidah Wazir Ali High School ground.

Referring to the situation in the jute industry, he said it was facing ruination. Other industries are also on the shambles due to lack of proper steps from the government. Retrenchment is being carried out in the jute industry, accentuating the unemployment problem in the country.

Habibur Rahman, 32, had died Criticising the government Portraying the misery of the

for introducing the Anti-Terrorism Act, he said the BNP, had betrayed with the joint

JESSORE, Nov 6 : Nearly fifty smuggled Indian motor cycles are being used openly at local town causing no concern to any quarters for sometime.

favour of their ownership.

Detailed information received from different circles indicate the border.

100-CDI Registration no. Dh-Met-02-0462, one Yamaha 100, Registration no. Dh-Cha-02-3431, another two having Registration no. Dh-Met-A-04-00924, and a Kawasaki with Registration no. Dh-Met-A-06-78081 are among those reportedly smuggled from India and

The source, told that these owners have collected false Blue Book and fake Registration numbers for eyewash to use the motor cycles. It can be easily verified with the records of RTA,

Instead of scrapping all the black laws, the BNP government has introduced a new one, he added. "Black money, black law and terrorism are the pillars now

declaration of three all ances

supporting the BNP government," the left-wing lawmaker told the gathering. "Under the umbrella of administrative machinery, the BNP government is patronising terrorism." Menon alleged, fundamental-

ist Jamaat-Shibir were practising terrorism and tendon-cutting politics in the country and the government was supporting

Speaking on the programmes of his party, Menon demanded withdrawal of all 'false' cases against Workers' Party activists and immediate halt to harassment of them.

"We are trying to change the structure of government under the slogan of save jute, save industry, save farmers and save the country.

# Smuggling, use of Indian motor cycles unrestricted

From Our Correspondent

According to informed sources, a good number of Indian motor cycles including Vespa-Bajaj, being used and owned by the workers of some political parties and musclemen of the

The users of these motor cycles have no genuine papers in

that out of two Vespa-Bajaj one bearing number Dh-Met-A-02-0663 and the other one without number are allegedly smuggled into Bangladesh from across It is also alleged that Honda

At this, the rickshaw puller returned to his village Junpur and blocked the road near Junpur embankment with a group of young men to take the revenge on the people of Gonergati village on the same have no valid paper.

with iron rods, sticks and

if any initiative is taken. It is also alleged that recently

a Vespa T-50 smuggled from

India was caught by Kotwali police. But later, it was released for reasons only known to them. It is also reported that the business of the person who was caught is smuggling of Indian Vespa and sale through a new device of false paper and transfer.

Another source hold that an organised gang is actively engaged in this trafficking since long under patronage and blessings of the police and BDR The borders of Sharsha thana and that of Moheshpur thana ir greater Jessore remain busy for this transaction, it is alleged.

# One gang rapped

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Nov 6: One, Farida Parvin (20), daughter of Noor Muhammad of village Ramnagar under Kaligani PS of the district was allegedly gang rapped by some miscreants recently.

It is reported that Amir Ali Sana, Saped Sana and Ranjan Sana of the same village called out Farida from her house and took her in a near by paddy field. The miscreants gang rapped her forcibly. After hearing her shouts, her mother went to the spot and rescued her. A case was lodged with Kaligani PS.

# Illegal extraction of trees from Sundarbans going on unabated

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Nov 6: Large-scale illegal extraction of different sizes of trees and golpata from different areas of the Sunderbans are going on unabated, it is reported.

According to sources, some organised gangs in collaboration with some dishonest forest officials are stealing the wood, golpata and other forest resources abundantly.

The illegal cutting and collection of forest resources is going on mainly in Sutarkhali, Guribari, Jorshing, Kharibari, Khasitana under Baniakhali. Kalabogi, Kasirabad forest ranges.

The unauthorised cutters sail their boats with the booty through river Sibsha without any challenges.

Some local people informed this correspondent that the unauthorised wood cutters and carriers have "give and take" contracts with some forest offi cials for which the illegal per

that the forest officials harass and lodge cases against them when they go to collect drier! branches of trees. They in. formed that the forest officials do not say anything to the owners of hundreds of boats veho are carrying illegal woods and golpatas from the Sunderbans for the reasons not known to

their trade even at day time.

Few local people complained

ment on the illegal extraction of trees from the Sunderbans but One of the forest officials who did not want to be identified told this correspondent that

This correspondent tried to

contact the Divisional Forest

Officer several times to com-

for collection of trees. The official said that the sub-ordinates simply carryout the instructions of the higher officials otherwise they can lose their jobs, or might be trans-

some high officials issue passes

#### ferred to other places. sons do not care to carry on Tk 1.21 cr post-flood plan

post-flood Agriculture Rehabi-

State Minister for Relief. Harun-Al-Rashid inaugurated the programme by distributing fertilizer and seeds among flood affected farmers at a simple ceremony held at Norsingsar community hall here today.

Under the programme, 1177 metric tons of fertilizer, 1614 metric tons of seeds of wheat, 47 metric tons of boro, 30 metric tons of pulse, eleven metric tons of aman, 4.5 metric tons of mustard and 1.5 metric tons of maize will be distributed among

The State Minister also inaugurated two newly con-

Primary School and Kalisima Primary School built at a cost of Taka 3 lakh 90 thousand each. The State Minister address-

ing a meeting arranged in this connection said, the present government is committed to do everything possible for the welfare of the farmers. He asked the farmers to put in their best efforts to boost agricultural production to ensure national economic progress.

Harun-Al-Rashid called upon them to properly use the distributed materials. He said the present government has reduced the price of fertilizer to ensure the benefit of farmers. Among cthers, the meeting was addressed by Advocate Abdus Sattar MP, general secretary of district BNP Hamidul Haque Tukku and other local BNP leaders.

### taken up in B'baria structed buildings Norsingsar BRAHMANBARIA, Nov 6: A

litation Programme has been taken up at a cost of Taka 1.21 crore in Brahmanbaria, an official handout said, reports

the farmers of the district.