

District roundup

BOGRA

Workshop on EPI

Nov 15: A day-long workshop on 'role of pourashaba chairmen in implementing the Expanded Programme of Immunisation (EPI)' was held at rural development academy, Bogra Saturday, reports BSS. Mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation Mizanur Rahman Minu formally inaugurated the workshop. Pourashaba chairmen of Rajshahi division took part in the workshop held under the joint auspices of USAID, UNICEF, local government division and the health ministry. The Mayor in his speech said, the government was committed to cover all children under EPI by the year 2000. He called upon the pourashaba chairmen to help implementation of EPI to save the posterity from six deadly diseases. Senior officials of concerned organisation also participated in the workshop.

JAMALPUR

17 uplift projects undertaken

Nov 15: Local Government Engineering Bureau (LGEB) has taken up 17 development projects in the communication sector against an estimated of Taka two crore this year, says BSS. Official sources said that under the programme seven bridges will be constructed in Madarjanj, five culverts in Dewanganj and five in Bakshiganj Thanas. On completion of these projects road communication in the rural areas of the district will be improved.

TANGAIL

"Malpractice will not be tolerated"

Nov 15: State Minister for Industries Lutfar Rahman Khan has said that all government projects, including canal digging must be completed on schedule, reports BSS. Addressing a meeting of district canal digging committee on Friday at Deputy Commissioner's conference room, the minister said that malpractice, irregularities, failure of any sort will not be tolerated. He said, the present government is working for public welfare and higher production. Earlier in the morning, the minister distributed relief materials among the distressed people of Ghatail thana at the thana parishad premises.

KUSHTIA

One stabbed, Tk 10,000 looted

Nov 15: Miscreants stabbed a farmer of sadar thana gravely and looted cash Taka 10,000 from his possession, police said on Wednesday, reports UNB. The hoodlums attacked the farmer Gani Miah in broad day light at Karimpur in sadar thana on November 3 while he was going to purchase a cow from a village hat. He was rushed to sadar hospital where his condition was stated to be critical. A case has been filed with the local police.

Another report adds: Four shops were gutted and six others partly damaged when a fire broke out in Harinarayanpur Bazar in sadar thana on November 3. Affected people said property worth about Taka four lakh was gutted in the fire. The fire servicemen reached the spot late due to faulty telecommunication system between Harinarayanpur and the district town and brought the fire under control with the cooperation of the local people.

NATORE

Ansar, VDP training course concludes

Nov 15: A three-week long general training of Ansar and VDP members of the district concluded here recently, officials said Friday, reports UNB. They said that the course imparted training on physical exercise, increasing skill in war like situation and participation in socio-economic development programmes. Deputy Commissioner and District Commander of Ansar Aziz Uddin Ahmed took salute in the passing out parade held at the local stadium on November 5. A total of 192 people from each thana of the district took part in the course.

C'NAWABGANJ

Nine lakh children deprived of pryd

Nov 15: About nine lakh children of 16 districts of Rajshahi division are being deprived of primary education due to manifold problems, reports UNB. The problems including shortage of teachers, accommodation, necessary educational materials and the poverty of the guardians. The districts are: Chapainawabganj, Rajshahi, Natore, Naogaon, Joypurhat, Bogra, Pabna, Sirajganj, Nilphamari, Gaibandha, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Rangpur, Panchagar, Thakurgaon and Dinajpur. The number of school-aged children in these districts are 42.31 lakh of whom 33.37 lakh are studying in 9,2632 government and 2,872 non-government primary schools, according to a survey conducted by a non-government organisation. The rest of the 8.93 lakh are being deprived of primary education in the division. According to official sources, 2312 posts of primary school teachers have been lying vacant for a long time hampering the elementary education adversely.

BARISAL

Two dacoits held with sharp knife

Nov 15: Angry people of Diapara village in Kotwali thana gouged out eyes of two alleged dacoits following a dacoity in the village on Tuesday night, reports UNB. Police said a gang of 10 dacoits stormed the house of Faridul Karim at around 10 pm and looted gold ornaments and other valuables worth about Taka three lakh. On hearing hue and cry, the villagers rushed to the house and caught two of the dacoits named Arif (28) and Jamal (30). The villagers then gouged all their eyes out on the spot. Police rushed to the village soon after the incident and recovered a sharp knife from the possession of the accused.

Arif and Jamal were admitted to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital in police custody. A case was filed with Kotwali police.

KHULNA

Work hard for proper use of opportunities

Nov 15: Speaker of Jatiya Sangsad Shaikh Razzak Ali underlined the importance of united efforts for the implementation of various development programmes launched for removing poverty from the society, reports BSS. The speaker was addressing a meeting in connection with the opening of *Bastee Urnayan Prakaipa 2* in the city Monday. Presided over by Moshed Khan, the meeting was addressed among others by the Whip of Jatiya Sangshad Ashraf Hossain, Mayor of Khulna City Corporation Shaikh Tayebur Rahman and Syeda Nargis Ali, MP. Referring to *Bastee Urnayan Prakaipa* undertaken by the government, the speaker stressed the need for hard work and proper use of the opportunities available now. He advised the people not to be led by cheap slogans of vested interest and engage themselves in various self-employment projects and earn their livelihood.

RANGPUR

One killed, 26 injured

Nov 15: A boy was killed and 26 others were injured, 19 seriously in three separate road accidents here on Thursday, Police said, reports UNB. A 12-year old unidentified boy was killed under the wheels of a speeding truck when he was crossing road at Kasaipatti in the town. In another accident, 25 persons were injured when a Badarganj bound minibus turned turtle at Gopinathpur on Rangpur-Badarganj road after its driver lost control and fell into a roadside ditch. Seriously injured people were admitted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital. Another mishap occurred when a minibus knocked down a rickshaw from behind injuring a passenger seriously in front of the local Fire Brigade office. Seriously injured Abdul Matin, General Manager of Shilpa Bank Rangpur branch was admitted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital. Three separate cases were filed with Kotwali Police.



KHULNA: Thousands of people attended a rally organised on the occasion of the 3rd death anniversary of Karunamayee Sardar, a former leader of the workers of shrimp gher held here on November 7. The meeting was addressed by Khushi Kabir, Coordinator, Nijera kori, Prof Makbula Manzur, Nurul Anwar, Sheikh Moniruzzaman. — Photo by A K M Mohsin

Diarrhoea kills 400 in greater Sylhet region

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Nov 15: Diarrhoea has claimed at least 400 lives in the four districts of greater Sylhet region during the last one month. The districts are: Sunamganj, Moulvibazar, Habiganj and Sylhet. According to the reports, in Sunamganj district, the badly affected areas are: Deral, Sulia, Jamalganj and Dharampasha. The patients living in remote haor areas can not reach the thana headquarters or important bazars for treatment as the communication is bad. The attendance of medical teams in these areas is also irregular. It is alleged. According to the reports, more than 95 people died of diarrhoea in these thanas during the last one month and about 1100 have been suffering. The disease has also taken a serious turn in the Balaganj, Kanaighat, Gowainghat, Jakiganj, Golapganj, Beanibazar, Fenchuganj and Sylhet sadar, in Sylhet district, Rajnagar, Komoiganj, Barlekha, Srimangal, Kulaura, and Moulvibazar sadar in Moulvibazar district, Jagannathpur, Shilla, Chhatak in Sunamganj and Nabiganj, Lakha, Bahubul and Chunarughat thanas in Habiganj district. Paucity of pure drinking water in most of the villages in

these areas has still been prevailing. Supply of saline and other medicines to the government Health complexes and health centres is inadequate. According to reports, diarrhoea killed 19 and attacked 600 more in Gowainghat, killed nine in Balaganj thana and attacked 500, killed 15 in Fenchuganj and killed 10 in Sylhet sadar thana. The total number of people attacked by the disease was about 1000 in the district. Diarrhoea has claimed 325 lives and attacked over 3000 in all the thanas of Habiganj district during the last one month. Official sources confirmed the death of 127 persons attack of 1400 people. Thirteen people died of diarrhoea in Habiganj sadar thana while 2449 were attacked there, 10 persons died and 2845 were attacked in Madhabpur, 10 died and 745 were attacked in Bahubul, 8 died in Nabiganj where 800 were attacked, 15 died and 850 were attacked in Ajmiriganj, 44 died and 4200 were attacked in Baniachang, 6 died in the Habiganj municipal area where 1400 were also attacked. When contacted, some official sources informed this correspondent that no special team was sent to the affected

areas. Supply of necessary medicines had been arranged for those areas. The source however admitted that absence of pure drinking water was the main cause of outbreak of the disease. UNB report from Sirajganj says: Diarrhoea claimed nine lives including five children and attacked 1,107 others in four thanas of the district during last 24 hours, official sources said on Sunday. A total of 32 people died and 4928 were attacked by the waterborne disease in the last two weeks. Unofficial sources, however, put the death figure at 41 and said 6,243 people were attacked during the same period. The deaths were identified as Orpita Rani (17), Rubel (6), Nargis (8) of Saraidah in Raiganj, Sobhan Ali (55) of Matikora, Zohura Khatun (26) of Kumargati in Ullahpara thana, Rasidul Islam (12) of Chandidasgati in Sadar thana, Faridul Islam (4) of Alampur in Kazipur, Provati Howlader (20) of Gopinathpur in Shajadpur thana and Marzina (6) of Delua in Belkuch thana. Twenty special medical teams are working in the affected areas, Civil Surgeon official sources said.

Winter crop farming uncertain for want of fertilizers

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Nov 15: Cultivation of winter crops including IRRI and boro in ten districts of Khulna division has become uncertain for acute scarcity of fertilizers during current dry season. According to informed source, prices of TSP and MP have shot up exorbitantly during last two weeks. The TSP (black) produce in Tunisia sells at Taka 410 per bag, 60 taka more than its usual rate. Crisis of TSP is acute due to inadequate capacity of only TSP factory in Chittagong. Its output can meet three months national demand. The rest is imported. The MP is out of market. It is importable items. The price and availability entirely depend on import policy and stock position, the source said. When contacted some leading fertilizer importers of Noa-

para of the district told that failure by exporting agencies to procure TSP and MP from different factories in Tunisia, China, Indonesia and USA as per the indent has created this situation across the country. It can be mentioned here that Nowpara is the nerve center for import and distribution of TSP and MP to other places in Khulna and Rajshahi divisions. It is learnt that despite opening LC or import of TSP and MP well in time, the arrival has become uncertain. Messers Nowpara Traders opened LC for import of 16,000 tons of TSP from USA. But the exporting agency has already called back of its inability to comply. Fifty thousand tons of TSP and twenty thousand tons of MP imported from USA, were scheduled to arrive at Mongla

Port in this month. But it is also uncertain as per the latest information causing mounting concern among the farmers of both the divisions to grow winter crops as the backdrop of fertilizer scarcity. According to a source of Agriculture Extensive Department, programme has been taken up for cultivation of IRRI and Boro on five lakh, ninety thousand five hundred sixty nine acres, wheat on two lakh thirty eight thousand nine hundred forty five acres, potato on forty three thousand two hundred forty two acres, maize on twentyone thousand acres and vegetables on eightysix thousand nine hundred seventy nine acres besides oilseeds on eighty thousand acres and pulse on one lakh and fifty thousand acres of land in Khulna division in current season.

Fake phone bills

KUSHTIA, Nov 15: Inflated and fake arrears telephone bills made the lives of the subscribers in the district town unbearable, says UNB. Local telephone subscribers alleged that they are receiving inflated bills regularly even after using their sets in a restricted way. Moreover, many subscribers who are regular in payments of monthly bills sometimes receive arrears bills from the T&T Department much to their astonishment. General subscribers alleged that there are some dishonest subscribers who have clandestine relations with some of the T&T officials, they are seen doing brisk business by letting their telephones to others to make NWD calls and receive payments for those calls. These telephones are being used almost all the times in long distance calls. But they allegedly get monthly nominal bills against payment of bribe to those officials. As a result, the department is being deprived of huge revenue every month, they added. BSS added: Kushtia Sugar Mill started sugar production Friday evening. The production target for the season is 14,250 metric tons.

"Strengthen party through dedication, sincerity"

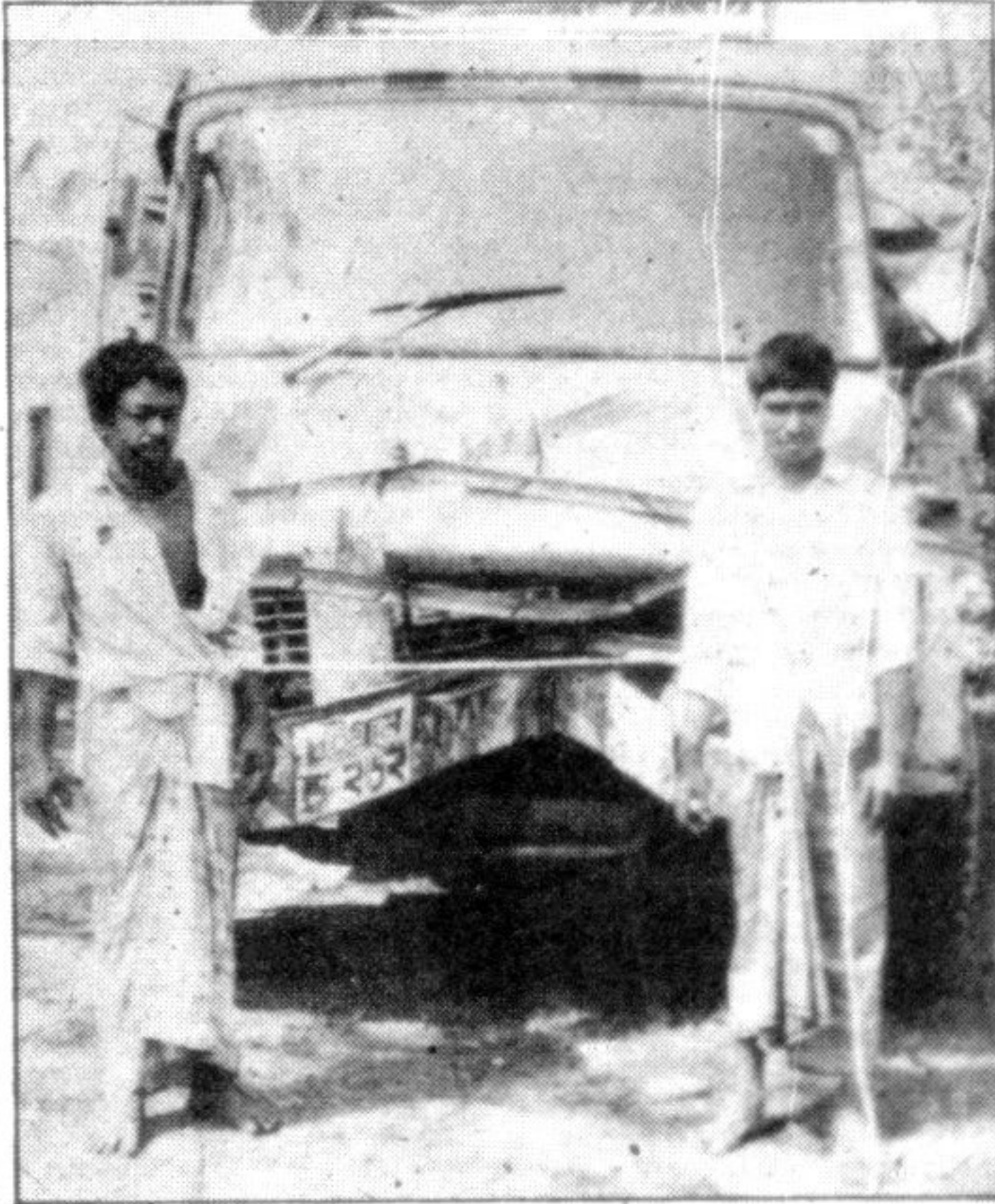
BOGRA, Nov 15: State Minister for Relief Harun-al-Rashid called upon the workers of BNP to work with sincerity and dedication for strengthening the party, reports BSS. He was addressing as chief guest the biennial conference of Bahadighati union, BNP of Gabtali thana of the district held at Atabjan High School ground here Sunday. The state minister said, present government of BNP is working to ensure welfare of the common people through implementing people and development oriented programmes. Referring to destruction and anti-people programmes taken up by some vested quarters, the state minister said, they do not want development of the country and the people. The state minister said, BNP believed in democratic manners in politics and pledge-bound to continue development process taken up by the present government. Presided over by Union BNP President Mohammed Ali Masrur, the conference was also addressed by Helaluzaman Talukder, MP, Shahin-ara-Haque, MP and other leaders.

Crops on 15000 acres of land under pest attack

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Nov 15: Standing crops on 15,000 acres of land in Mirpur and Kumarkhali thanas of the district have been attacked by pests causing concern among the farmers of these areas. Pests, known as brown grasshoppers, attacked transplanted aman and IRRI crops which appear yellowish and are reduced to straw once attacked. The concerned authority depends on the reports of black supervisors who prepared reports of pests attack without visiting the affected areas. As a result, timely action is not taken causing loss to the farmers. It is alleged that the insecticides spraying machines available at the agriculture office are lying inoperative for want of necessary spare parts. The farmers also complain of the high cost of insecticides in the local markets. If the necessary steps, to solve the problems, are not taken immediately it is expected

that more areas will be affected. Another report says: Officials of both, Government and private organisation have been facing an acute residential problems at the town. It is learnt that floating people and thana level officials have made an extra burden on accommodation as all thana courts have been shifted in the district town. The low paid employees and the people of the fixed income group have been victimised by rent hike of houses and flats. They are to share a big amount of their income through spending for the rents. On the other hand fewer building are being constructed against the population growth. It is reported that house building lands in the district are being sold at exorbitant prices ranging between Taka 30,000 and Taka 50,000 per decimal. It is felt that government should take measures to solve the problem by constructing flats for the government officials.



GAZIPUR: Local police seized a truck loaded with 90 bags of rice and arrested two persons in this connection recently. — Star photo

Polythene bags causing health hazards

NARAIL, Nov 15: Polythene bags, mostly used for shopping purposes, have been causing health hazards in the district, reports UNB. According to the sources, the used bags are dumped helterskelter indiscriminately blocking the drainage system causing water logging and polluting the environment. The bags, which do not either dissolve in water or in ground, remain intact and eventually affect the environment. It is to be mentioned that over the years many factories were established to manufacture polythene bags in the district. Local people urged the authorities to ban the setting up of polythene manufacturing factory for the greater interest of the public health. Another report says: Anti-social activities and various crimes are on rise due to unlicensed liquor shops in different thanas of the district. Local people alleged that more than 50 unauthorised liquor shops are being run in different parts of the district including Kalia, Lohagora and sadar thanas. But the administration has permitted only one liquor shop at Rupganj bazar under Narail pourasava, they added. It is alleged that the unauthorised liquor shops are selling liquor almost openly to the

people and causing rise to anti-social activities in the area. Besides, illegal sale of liquor is also depriving the government of huge amount of revenue. At least 500 unauthorised medicine shops in different thanas and bazars throughout the district have been posing serious health hazard to the common men. Local people alleged that antibiotic are being sold in these shops without any prescription. Sub-standard and banned drugs are also being sold frequently in these unauthorised medicine shops, they added. They urged the concerned authorities to take action against the unauthorised liquor traders to save the young generation from moral degradation. Only Islam can guarantee basic needs of people. CHITTAGONG, Nov 15: Jama'at-e-Islami leader Shamsur Rahman said here Sunday that only Islam could guarantee the basic needs of the people, says BSS. He said, Islam, being a religion of equality can ensure equal justice for all in the society.

Mir Mosharraf — a bright star

KUSHTIA, Nov 15: State Minister for Establishment Minister Aminul Haque on Sunday assured all possible help and cooperation to preserve several manuscripts of the great writer Mir Mosharraf Hossain, reports UNB. He was speaking as chief guest at the 146th birth anniversary of Mir Mosharraf Hossain held at Lahnipara of Kumarkhali thana, the village home of the noted writer on Sunday. Lauding the contributions of the late writer in Bengali literature the Minister said, Mir Mosharraf Hossain stepped into the Bengali literature when Bengali Muslims were gripped by superstition and taboos. He was unparalleled in his writings excepting Bongkim Chandra in his contemporary period. He took it as challenge and went on writing books on different aspects of Muslim culture and tradition during the

British rule, he said. Mosharraf Hossain is still remembered for his memorable book 'Bisad Sindhu', the Minister pointed out. He said, 'Mir Mosharraf Hossain was a bright star in the world of literature. The function organised for the first time by District Administration was presided over by the Deputy Commissioner and addressed by Abdur Raul Chowdhury MP, Alhaj KM Abdul Khaleque MP, Ahasanul Haque Mollah MP, Salina Shaheed MP. Later a discussion meeting was held on works and life of the writer followed by a cultural function. Another report says: Governor of Rotary International District-3280 Magfuruddin Ahmed urged the rotarians to serve the poor and neglected people in a spirit of dedication and zeal. He was addressing a special weekly meeting of the Rotary

Club of Kushtia West at the Irrigation Extension Training Centre of GK Project on Tuesday. Magfuruddin said, the Rotary International had given the entire cost for polio vaccine need to immunise the children of developing countries, including Bangladesh to remove the disease by the year 2000. He mentioned the Rotary International had also undertaken '3H Projects' meaning health, hunger and humanity, which created working zeal among the rotarians to serve the suffering humanity. First Lady of the Rotary Club called upon the rotary ladies to work along with their male partners to ensure women's participation in development works. The meeting was addressed, among others, by Dr Amir Hossain, SM Kausar and Dr Rabul Karim.



SYLHET: Md Kamaluddin, DC, Sunamganj speaking at a day-long workshop on role of journalists in the spread of FP programme held here recently. — Star photo