

## District roundup

### DINAJPUR

#### Preparations for wheat production

Nov 23: The production of 74 thousand metric tons of wheat has been set on 13,000 hectares of land in the 13 thanas of the district during the current year. Official sources said, reports UNB.

According to Agriculture Extension Department sources, 3,800 hectares of land in Sadar thana, 3,624 hectares in Chirbandar thana, 6,218 hectares in Birganj thana, 5,900 hectares in Birjol thana, 2,845 hectares in Nowabganj thana, 1,570 hectares in Fulbari thana, 1,659 hectares in Khanshama thana, 2,425 hectares in Kaharole thana, 2,777 hectares in Bochaganj thana, 1,790 hectares in Hakimpur thana and 1,872 hectares of lands in Ghoraghat thana have been marked for cultivation of wheat. It may be mentioned here last year production was 82,252 metric tons of wheat on 38,580 hectares of lands in the same thanas.

### COMILLA

#### Diarrhoea kills 2, attacks 200

Nov 23: Diarrhoea claimed at least two lives and attacked about 200 others at Alkara union in Sadar thana last week, says UNB.

The dead were identified as Israfil, son of Khokan Miah of Sonacha village and Roni Begum (12), daughter Latu Miah of Karchuli in the thana.

The worst affected villages are Sonacha, Sinaimuri, Kurchuli and Damarpar.

Consumption of adulterated food and taking of impure water were said to be main reasons behind the outbreak of the disease. In the absence of medical teams the affected people are suffering much.

They urged the concerned authorities to dispatch medical teams in the affected areas to combat the spread of the disease.

### BHOLA

#### Town protection work starts

Nov 23: The work on Bhola town protection embankment has begun Saturday involving an expenditure of Taka 15 crore, says BSS.

The project is expected to be completed by the end of 1995, according to an official press release.

State Minister for Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Mosharraf Hoessain Shahjahan was present on the occasion.

Later, speaking at two separate gatherings at Bhola Shahjahan said the present government was determined to protect each area from erosion. Steps has been taken to save the people from erosion, he added.

### RAJSHAHI

#### Workshop on teaching of psychology

Nov 23: A two-day workshop on "Find Out the Problems Related to Teaching of Psychology" began at the Seminar Room of Psychology Department of Rajshahi University Saturday, reports UNB.

Psychology teachers from various colleges under Rajshahi University and Rajshahi and Jessore Education Boards participated in it.

The workshop highlights problems relating to textbook, curriculum, glossary and practical classes.

Bangladesh Psychological Association has organised the workshop, said a press release signed by Prof M Nurullah, General Secretary of the association.

### NOAKHALI

#### Discussion meeting on political background

Nov 23: A discussion meeting on "Democratic Culture in Political Background", organised by Rakkhal Sanskritik Gosthi was held at the Municipal Hall here last week, says UNB.

The programme was held to mark the installation ceremony of the office bearers of the cultural organisation on November 10. Chairman of Noakhali Pourasabha Rabul Hassan Kochi inaugurated the programme.

The function was also addressed by Rabul Haq Shahjan, Abdul Awal and Saiful Azam with the President of the Rakkhal Sanskritik Gosthi Prof Bealal Uddin Kiron in the chair.

### SHERPUR

#### Election of press club

Nov 23: The election of the Jhenigati press club was held recently electing Dr Shahjahan Saju and Zainul Abedin as president and general secretary respectively for the current session, reports BSS.

Alauddin box was elected vice president and Shahbuddin Ahmed assistant general secretary. Golam Mustafa was elected treasurer of the club.

The members of the club also elected the executive members for the current session.

### NATORE

#### 5 convicted for carrying drug

Nov 23: Five people were sentenced to suffer six months rigorous imprisonment each under Drug Control Act by the Sadar thana Magistrate, reports UNB.

The convicted Abdul Aziz, Belal, Bablu, Akbar and Azizur Rahman were arrested while they were taking ganja at station areas of the town.

A case was filed and police after investigation submitted charge-sheet against them.

After examining the witnesses and records the court awarded the said punishment recently.

### C'NABWABGANJ

#### Classroom, furniture shortage

Nov 23: The Gothil Government Primary School in Nachol thana of the district is facing many problems due to shortage of classrooms, furniture and other appliances, reports UNB.

About 400 students of the school have been facing serious difficulties due to shortage of classrooms. The teachers are compelled to hold classes under the open sky. The kutcha classrooms of the school are also in bad condition and may be collapsed at any time.

There is no tubwell in the school and due to shortage of pure water the students are forced to use contaminated pond water causing the outbreak of various stomach ailments.

Shortage of the teachers is also hampering the education seriously. Guardians, alleged that most of the teachers are not regular in taking their classes as they remain busy with other purposes.

They urged the concerned authorities to look into the matter and take necessary steps to ensure smooth education of the children.

### JAMALPUR

#### Election of jewellers' assoc

Nov 23: The election of Jamalpur District Jewellers' Association was held in the town last week, says UNB.

Newly elected office bearers are: Mohammad Faruque Ahmed-President, Narendra Chandra Dutta - General Secretary, and Parimal Chandra Shaha - Treasurer.

A total of 65 members of the association participated in the election.

Another UNB report says: the election of Jamalpur district unit of Bangladesh Grammen Sangbadik Samity was held at the "Saptahik Jamalpur" office recently.

Jafar Chowdhury, Lavlu Ansar and Ibrahim Khalil were elected president, general secretary and treasurer of the association respectively.

### NARSINGDI

#### "Send your children to school"

Nov 23: State Minister for Planning Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan has said, the government is determined to ensure compulsory primary education in the country, reports BSS.

He was inaugurating the implementation programme of the compulsory primary education at Andia here recently.

Dr Khan said, the programme to ensure education for all by the year 2000 taken by the government is being implemented and that the present government has given highest allocation to the education sector in the current budget.

The state minister called upon the parents to send their children to school who are above six years old.

Later, minister inaugurated the construction work of Pachona-Danga road, which will cost about Taka one crore.

## 5000 charlands on 135-mile-long route

# Smooth plying of navigational traffic hampered

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Nov 23: At least 5000 small and big shbals (charlands) have emerged on 135 mile-long river route from Doikhawa (Kurigram) to Douladlia (Rajbari) in the Brahmaputra, Jamuna, Dhaleshwari and Padma basins hindering smooth plying of navigational traffic.

With fall in the water level of the rivers a large number of shoals have emerged on long

Ferry service in Fulchari (Teestamukh), Bahadurabad is also disturbed. Ferry service on Sirajganj-Bhuapur route closed down about a month ago. Ferry boats and motor launches are taking more time to cross the rivers Jamuna and Padma at Nagarbari-Aricha and Aricha-Douladlia routes causing problems to thousands of passengers from Dhaka to the northern and southern districts.

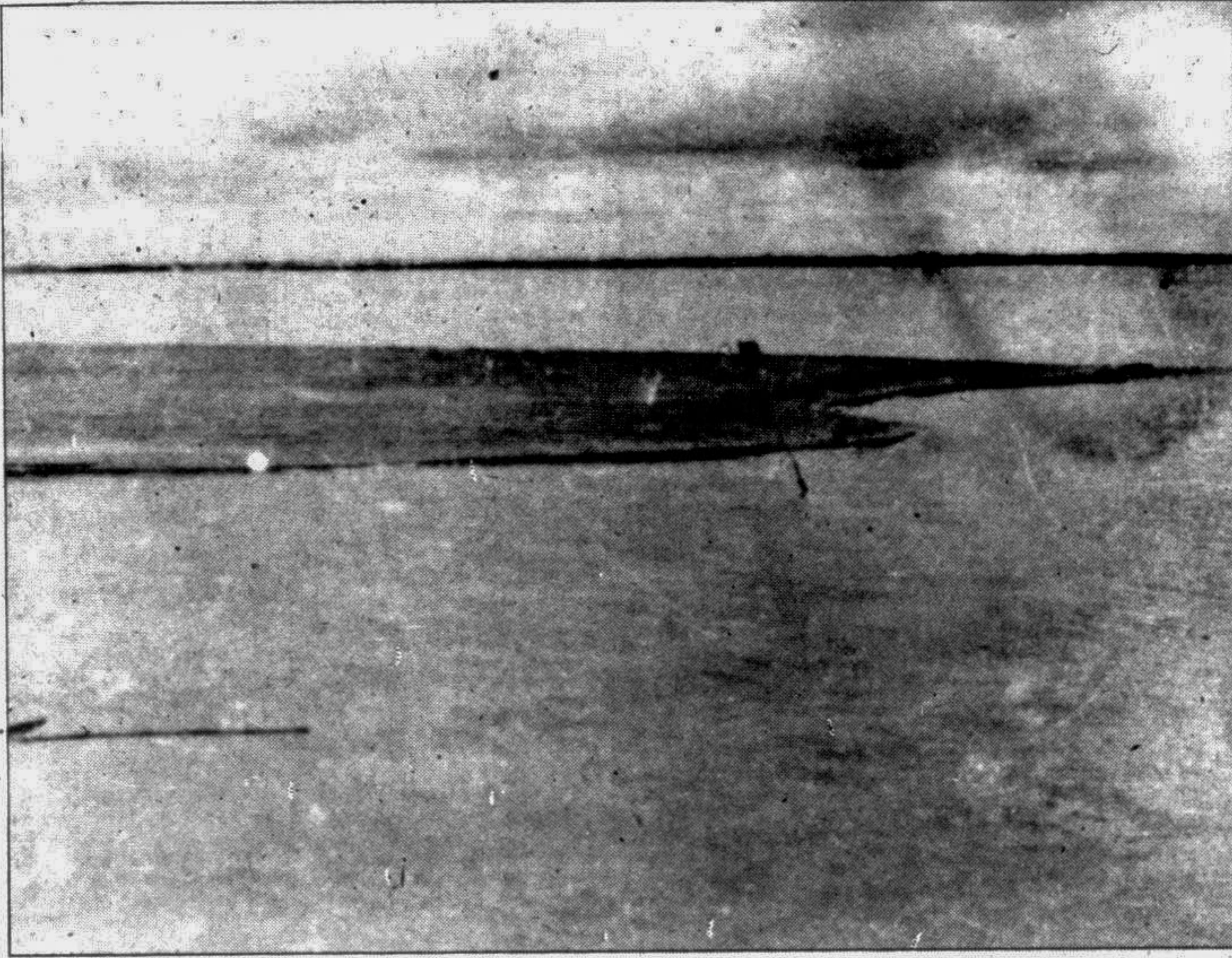
carried to make shoals every year at different places.

Due to frequently changing channels, the trained pilots of BIWTA also face problems to ply the vessels. At present the ships with six feet draft can hardly ply on the route safely.

The Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) takes steps to keep the channels navigable by dredging. But a source of BIWTA has told this

16 last. With convener Masud Rana in the chair Vice-President of JCD central committee Harun Ahmed, VP of Taposhi Rabeya Hall of RU Ashifa Ashraf Papiya, district JCD leaders Nazrul Hossain Rana, local leaders Mizanur Rahman and Amirul Islam spoke on the occasion.

The speakers called upon all to establish a terrorism free



SIRAJGANJ: A shoal (charland) is seen in the picture on Aricha-Nagarbari river route. — Star photo

river routes. Besides, a considerable number of shoals have also been originated under water.

Thus navigation is hampered causing hindrance to smooth plying of motor launches, ferry boats, cargo launches and oil tankers.

The motor launch services in between Sirajganj and Kazipur, Enayetpur and Shohagpur, Bhuapur, Shohagpur and Nagarbari and Aricha and Sirajganj and Chowhall have been closed down.

The railway ferry ghats at Sirajganj and Jagannathganj have been shifted upstream.

The oil tankers of above seven feet drafts can not enter the Baghabari depot of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) due to massive siltation at the entrance of the channel. Fuel from the big vessels is unloaded either at Nagarbari ghat or by small vessels causing higher carrying cost.

Filling system of fuel at the floated fuel depot of Fulchari is also disrupted.

It is gathered that every year, the channels of Jamuna, Brahmaputra, Padma and Dhaleswari river basins are changed due to erosion during the rainy season. The silts caused by erosion upstream are

correspondent at Aricha ghat on November 14 that due to continuous siltation, the cleaned channels could not be kept navigable for a fortnight. After dredging, the channels are again filled up by sandy silts.

Knowledgeable sources have opined that a fruitful long term scheme is needed to keep one of the biggest river routes of the country navigable throughout the year.

Freshers' reception and biennial council of Belkuchi College unit of Jalyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) was held at the college premises on November

campus to maintain congenial atmosphere.

The function was rounded off with a musical soiree presented by JSS Sirajganj unit.

One Harun-ar-Rashid (50) son of Md Nurul Huda of village Berakharna in Belkuchi thana committed suicide by hanging himself.

It is gathered that mentally unbalanced Harun-ar-Rashid came to his village house from Rangpur only four days ago. His dead body was recovered from a mango tree on November 17 morning.

A case has been lodged with Belkuchi police and the dead body was disposed up.

## Swedish Minister visits SIDA project areas

FARIDPUR, Nov 23: Visiting Swedish Minister of International Development Cooperation and Human Rights issues Alf Sovensson Sunday visited some SIDA (Swedish International Development Authority) aided projects in this district, reports BSS.

The minister who is leading a high powered delegation along with the Swedish Ambassador in Bangladesh visited some rural infrastructure projects in sadar and Nagarkanda thanas of the district. The projects include kutcha road maintenance, road to suit environment of respective locality, tree care taking, pipe casting for culverts, bridges and growth centres.

SIDA has spent Taka 310 crore for the infrastructural development projects since 1986 in 36 thanas of Faridpur, Rajbari, Gopalganj, Madaripur, Shariatpur and Kurigram districts. The programmes will continue till 1995.

Feeder roads, water schemes, rural road maintenance, growth centres, employment generation and various training facilities will be carried out to raise the standard of living of the rural people during the period.

According to an official source the socio-economic condition of people in areas where projects were completed have shown changes.

The SIDA aided infrastructural development projects in this area are being implemented through the Local Government Engineering Department.

According to the source, short and long term employment for landless people will be given more importance.

Earlier, the visiting minister in his honour appreciated the democratisation process in Bangladesh.

## Age-old facilities in modern hospital

BARGUNA, Nov 23: Barguna modernised hospital has been facing manifold problems causing immense suffering to the patients, reports UNB.

The 50-bed hospital is unable to accommodate increasing number of patients. Very often patients are seen lying on the floor and many of them have to go back disappointed due to lack of accommodation.

Local people have been asking the concerned authorities to set up a 100-bed modernised hospital in the district to meet the long-felt demand of the patients but no step has yet been taken.

Proper diagnosis of the disease is not possible in the hospital due to lack of specialists. Local people said that the specialist doctors are not interested to stay in the district headquarters even for a short time, rather they are eager to be posted in the capital or in divisional or greater district headquarters for their professional benefit.

Surgical treatment is being hampered as the posts of consultant surgeon in the hospital are also lying vacant for the last one year. Patients said that the doctor on-duty simply refer the cases of even minor surgical treatment to Barisal Medical College Hospital.

Besides, the post of eye specialist is also lying vacant since

the transfer of the concerned doctor a few months back. No replacement has yet been made.

In the absence of power generator the doctors and patients have been facing immense trouble during load shedding and power disruption.

Local leaders have urged the concerned authorities to provide necessary amenities to the hospital to ensure better medicare facilities.

Another reports says: The number of jobless female labourers in the five thanas of the district is on the rise due to completion of various projects causing economic stringency in the locality.

About 8000 women labourers earn their livelihood by husking paddy and working at brickfields and roads development works under Food for Work Programme in the district.

The next schemes under Food for Work have yet to be started in the district while opportunities in agricultural sector have also decreased to a great extent due to recurring floods and other natural calamities.

Local people informed finding no other alternative, a large number of young girls is pouring into the thana and district headquarters to earn their livelihood. Having failed to get any job, many of them are resorting to immoral activities.



SYLHET: A winner of Maushumi contest is receiving prize from the ADM recently. — Star photo

## Notorious Champa Bahini chief surrenders

by A K M Mohsin

DUMURIA, Nov 23: November 7 was a big day in this part of Khulna for entirely different reasons. It was miles away from things political and yet directly touched upon the lives of the people of this region. This was the day a long and unrelenting nightmare came to an end with the surrender of the notorious leader of the Champa Bahini — a gang of dacoits on a relentless rampage for years in this area — to police.

On hand to witness the big event was some hundreds of residents of the villages of the thana and journalists. Champa

whose real name is Shamsur Rahman Sarkar surrendered formally — almost ceremonially — to Mr Salahuddin, Superintendent of Police, Khulna. Officer-in-Charge of Dumuria PS, Mr Shamsul Alam, who was instrumental in tracking down Champa and initiating a lengthy spell of successful negotiation bringing the scourge of the area round to giving up the life of a criminal and an adventurer, was however as good an attraction of the day as Champa.

Champa is a man of quite enviable records. In years of stomping over the countryside

he almost ruled, he remained unbeaten by police. The best that police could do was catching three of his men who are at present serving jail sentences. There are a number of other associates of his who are still at large. The police are confident that Champa — a reformed gentleman that he is — would be able to bring them round to surrendering.

Champa had some very touching words for the officials as well as the crowd present. "Poverty and bad association made me to choose this abominable life of a dacoit. Now I

want to live a normal and ordinary life in this beautiful world like the rest of my countrymen. I entreat you to do me the favour of giving me the chance."

There is a list of crimes that Champa has owned up. He wouldn't be proceeded against for any of them. However, if some other cases of crime pop up he will undergo trials and face possible punishment.

With the function over some tens of thousands of villagers of the area will now pass a night of peaceful sleep — the most sought after bliss than man has ever craved for.



Champa, the scourge of Dumuria, Khulna surrendering to police ending a life of violent crimes. — Star photo

## Erosion threatens bazar areas in Patuakhali

PATUAKHALI, Nov 23: The bazars of the greater Patuakhali district are on the verge of ruin due to severe erosion of the rivers, reports UNB.

Local people said famous Kakchira bazar of Patharghata thana, Dhulia bazar of Bauphal thana and Bhuria bazar of Patuakhali sadar thana were seriously threatened by the erosion.

They said if it continued at the present rate the Kakchira and Bhuria bazar would be washed away in the river bed any time.

It is reported that launch ghat of Dharandi village in Kamapur Union has already been eroded. As a result the sufferings of the passengers have increased manifold.

Villagers of the Dhulia informed vast tract of land including the Dhulia bazar of Bauphal thana already went into the river recently.

The affected people urged the authorities to save the areas from the erosion of the rivers.

### Embankment damaged

Certain portion of the embankment attached to the Masuakhali sluice gate in Aullapur union of sadar thana has been damaged due to the pressure of the river water.

If proper measures were not taken immediately, the farmers fear that crops on 5,000 acres of land would suffer a serious setback.

About four years ago Water Development Board constructed a sluice gate of the embankment in the Masuakhali canal. A month ago the southern por-

tion of the embankment was affected and broken due to the heavy pressure of water.

Farmers said water is entering into fields through the breaches causing damages to the standing crops.

They urged the concerned authorities to take immediate steps to repair the embankment.

## Farmers not getting fair price of paddy

BARGUNA, Nov 23: The farmers of the district are being forced to sell their crops in advance to the money lenders at throwaway prices due to their economic hardship, says UNB.

The farmers alleged that they do not get fair prices of their harvested crops due to faulty marketing and loan systems. Taking advantage of the situation, the money lenders are doing brisk business by giving credit at a high rate of interest against the security of standing crops.

Moreover, a large number of landless agri-labourers have been passing their days in great hardship due to lack of job opportunities. They are compelled to sell their household articles and domestic animals to maintain their livelihood.

Prices of bullocks and goats have also recorded a sharp fall as many farmers are forced to sell their draft animals due to acute shortage of fodder.

The farmers urged the authorities to ensure fair prices of their produce through proper market mechanism.