

District roundup

SATKHIRA

Woman trafficker arrested

Nov 26: Police arrested a notorious woman trafficker from Kaliganj bus stand on Friday, reports UNB.

Police sources said trafficker Rehana was wanted by the police for kidnapping Moslema of Askarpur village in Kaliganj thana. She was sent to jail *hazari*. Rehana confessed to the police that she was the active member of a gang belonging to a group of women traffickers.

Another report says that three girls were missing in the district for the last few days. It is believed that they became the victims of the women traffickers who sent them to India and Pakistan for prostitution.

Salma Begum (14), daughter of Jonab Ali of Kakshiali in Kaliganj thana, Hamida Khatun (14), daughter of Noor Ali of Godaghat and Marjina Khatun (14) daughter of Abdus Sattar of the same village have been missing for the last 15 days.

Cases have been filed with the police. The guardians have urged the concerned authorities to do everything possible to rescue the ill-fated girls without further delay.

RAJBARI

5 get 10 yrs RI for stabbing magistrate

Nov 26: Five students of Pangsha College of the district were awarded 10 years rigorous imprisonment each under Anti-terrorism Act for stabbing a magistrate in the examination centre, reports UNB.

The Special Tribunal and Sessions Judge Sirajul Islam also fined Taka 10,000 each on November 10, in default, to suffer six months more imprisonment.

The convicts are: Saiful Morshed Rinku, Md Idris Ali, Md Eken Ali, Jouban Kumar Kundu and K M Obaidul Haq.

The prosecution story, in brief, was that Saiful Morshed was caught by on duty Magistrate Mojahed Hossain on July 27 while adopting unfair means in the HSC examinations. He was later expelled from the examination.

Saiful and his accomplices took revenge by stabbing the magistrate grievously.

The magistrate filed a case with the Pangsha police.

KHULNA

Mayor election campaign gets momentum

Nov 26: The election campaign of City Corporation is gaining momentum although the election date has not yet been announced officially, says UNB.

The probable mayor and commissioner candidates of the corporation, in the mean time, have started wall writing and placing placards at different points.

Main political parties, excepting the BNP, have already finalised their respective candidates for the post of mayor. However, the BNP nomination to present mayor Taibur Rahman is almost certain.

The Awami League President Sheikh Hasina has named Mahbul Alam Harun while Jatiya Party nominated S M A Rab for the post of mayor. On the other hand, Jamaat-e-Islami nominated Mia Golam Porwar for the mayor post. Besides, the former mayor Sirajul Islam began his campaign as an independent candidate.

District Election office sources said two additional wards were formed this year raising the total number to 31. The newly formed wards are Diana and Mirerdanga.

The sources said the demarcation of wards and voter lists have already been finalised. The number of voters in the city corporation are 3,28,825. Of them, 1,87,733 are male and the remaining 1,41,032 are female voters.

NATORE

Two killed in separate incidents

Nov 26: Two people died in two separate incidents at Gurudaspur thana, police said here today, reports UNB.

Subash Chandra Halder (25) son of Subal Chandra Halder of Patpara village of the thana was crushed under the wheels of the running bus when he suddenly fell down from rooftop of the vehicle on Natore-Gurudaspur highway on November 17.

Another Kalu Mondal, following a quarrel was allegedly hit with a hammer on the head by his rival Abdul Mattin of Khubripur of the same thana. He succumbed to his injuries at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital on November 14.

BRTA staff hold fake driving licenses

BRAHMANBARIA, Nov 27: Police chargesheeted against 62 people, including government officials and employees, for their alleged involvement in possessing fake driving licenses and registration certificates, reports UNB. The accused are six BRTA officials, including an Assistant Director, two cops, three brokers and 51 owners of buses and trucks. Police submitted the chargesheet after investigation in which 145 false driving licenses and 150 registration certificates were detected.

Sylhet sadar hospital to have 200 beds soon

From Our Correspondent SYLHET, Nov 26: The Sylhet Sadar Hospital is going to be upgraded into a 200-bed hospital, an official source informed. The old Medical College Hospital was converted into a 100-bed Sadar Hospital a year before. The Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is expected to open the newly converted 200-bed Hospital soon.

A project Committee was formed for the upgradation with Khandaker Abdul Malik MP and the Civil Surgeon as President and Secretary. The other members include, Begum Fatema Chowdhury MP Sharfuddin Khasru MP, Professor Enayattullah, Principal, Sylhet Medical College Colonel Fahim Ahmed Chowdhury, Director MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital, Mokbul Ali and Badroddoza Badar.

Son's marriage takes his life

DINAJPUR, Nov 26: A father allegedly committed suicide in Kotwali thana of the district Monday when his son got married against his will, reports UNB.

According to family sources, Mahiruddin (50) of Shidipur village got angry with his son for marrying the girl and exchanged hot words with him.

Later at one stage, he committed suicide, by hanging himself from a nearby tree.



RAJSHAHI: Prof M Anisur Rahman, VC of RU speaking at a workshop on "Identification of problems and solution to psychological study" at Jubery Guest House of the varsity on November 21.

VC of RU at a workshop

Help reduce unrest thru removal of frustration

RAJSHAHI VARSITY, Nov 26: Vice-Chancellor of Rajshahi University M Anisur Rahman called upon the psychologists to identify the causes of frustration and unrest among the youths, reports UNB.

"If we can remove frustration from the youth community, terrorism in educational institutions could largely be reduced," the Vice Chancellor said, at the inauguration session of a two-day workshop on "Finding Out the Problems Related to Teaching of Psychology".

The VC said, terrorism was hindering congenial academic atmosphere in the country's educational institutions and emphasised the need for overcoming such social menace in the greater interest of education.

Organised by Bangladesh Psychological Association the workshop was held at the campus on Nov 20 and 21, campus sources said. Chairman of the Psychology Department Dr Mozammel Huq presided over the inaugural session.

The workshop was addressed, among others, by Prof S Taher Ahmed, Prof Nurullah, Prof S M Morshed, Dr Khaleq, Dr A B M Zahurul Huq, Dr Afrer Uddin and Zamini Kumar.

They discussed the teaching problems in psychology relating to textbook, curriculum, glossary and practical classes.

A total of 60 psychologists took part in the workshop.

Another report says: The strike of the Rajshahi University Officers' Association (RUOA) entered the fifth day on Wednesday disrupting administrative functioning of the university, reports UNB.

The association went on strike to press home its two-point demands as per the call by the Inter University Officers' Association.

One stabbed to death

MAGURA, Nov 26: A fish trader of Rainagar village in Sreepur thana was killed by a gang of miscreants on Friday, says UNB.

Police sources said, while the victim, Nirapada Malo (40) and other four fish traders were on their way to purchase fish from Firshandi beel before sunrise, a gang of dacoits swooped on them and looted their cash. At that stage Nirapada managed to catch one of the dacoits but other dacoits freed their mate at the cost of stabbing him to death.

After the incident, local people rushed to the spot and caught the gang leader Sohrab Hossain (26) and handed him over to the police.

A case has been registered with the police. The body was sent to morgue for postmortem.

The demands are inclusion of officers' representatives in Senate, Syndicate and other bodies of the university and reversal of down-graded pay scales.

The association leaders threatened to go for greater action programme if their demands are not met immediately.

A BSS report adds: The 20 battalion of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) has so far seized smuggled goods worth over Taka eleven crore twenty-seven lakh forty thousand during the last ten months from January to October this year, a BDR press release said Thursday.

The Bangladesh Rifles personnel also arrested two hundred twenty-one smugglers and filed two thousand forty-one cases during the period, the press release added.

The seized smuggled incoming goods from India was worth over Taka eleven crore seven lakh twenty thousand while outgoing was over ten lakh nineteen thousand. The seized smuggled goods included gold, sarees, cattleheads, blades, heroin etc.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Rifles have intensified drive against smuggling in the border belt areas.

BDR will launch a new operation named 'saiyaprabaha' soon in the border areas, the press release added.

Civic life at Barguna miserable

BARGUNA, Nov 21: Barguna pourashava is beset with manifold problems causing inconvenience to the residents, reports UNB.

The residents said, the dilapidated condition of the roads, lack of proper drainage system and inadequate water-supply have made the civic life miserable.

Most of the roads in pourashava are kutcha. Cracks and potholes have developed at many points of the roads due to lack of proper maintenance and repair works. During the rainy season the roads become muddy and slippery hindering the movement of pedestrians and vehicles.

All the kutcha drains are filled with garbages and stagnant waters, which cause mosquito breeding in the local-

ity. Lack of dustbin in the poura area compels the town dwellers to dump their garbages in the drains blocking the waterout-lets.

Street lights in the town are insufficient. Many electric poles are lying without bulbs for long hampering the movement of vehicles after the sun set.

Besides, water supply is irregular in the area causing suffering to the residents.

The pedestrians are also facing much trouble due to mushroom growth of a large number of unauthorised shops on the roads and foot-paths.

Meanwhile, the number of pye dogs has increased alarmingly in the poura area posing threat to the town residents.

Local people urged the concerned authorities to solve the problems of the residents without further delay.

Cultivation hampered for want of bullock

HABIGANJ, Nov 26: Acute shortage of bullocks is causing serious setback to cultivation in the thanas of Habiganj district.

It is learnt from the cultivators that bullock shortage prevails every year as their number diminishes owing to different kinds of diseases and natural calamities.

The cultivators alleged that some greedy and dishonest traders are found poisoning cattleheads in different rural areas of the district to collect the skin.

Besides, slaughtering of bullock has increased following the scarcity of fish in the different markets.

Epidemics and diseases have also taken heavy toll as there is acute shortage of necessary medicines at the veterinary hospitals particularly in the rural areas.

According to a survey, about 60 per cent families having no bullock of their own are unable to till their land.

Many farmers carry on their agricultural works on share basis as they can not afford to purchase cattleheads due to sharp rise in prices. At present, a pair of bullocks costs Taka 10,000 to 15,000. Some cultivators also said that they even use milch cows to cultivate their land, resulting in gradual reduction in the milk production.

Taking advantages of the situation, a section of cow traders are purchasing cattleheads from the farmers at nominal prices to be supplied to other places for slaughtering.

If this trend continues, the

cultivation in the different places of the district would be greatly hampered.

At least 20 people were injured, four of them seriously in a clash between the supporters of two rival groups at village Manduri of Baniyachang thana in Habiganj district recently.

Seriously injured were identified as, Atiul Hamid (45), Talyedul (35), Idris Mia (40), Shamim (25). All of them were admitted to hospital.

Witnesses said, the clash started when supporters of two groups, UP chairman Shamsu Mia and village leader Mahtab Khan, argued in reference to previous enmity. Both the groups attacked each other with sharp weapons, lathis, iron rods and stones.

Diarrhoea kills 52

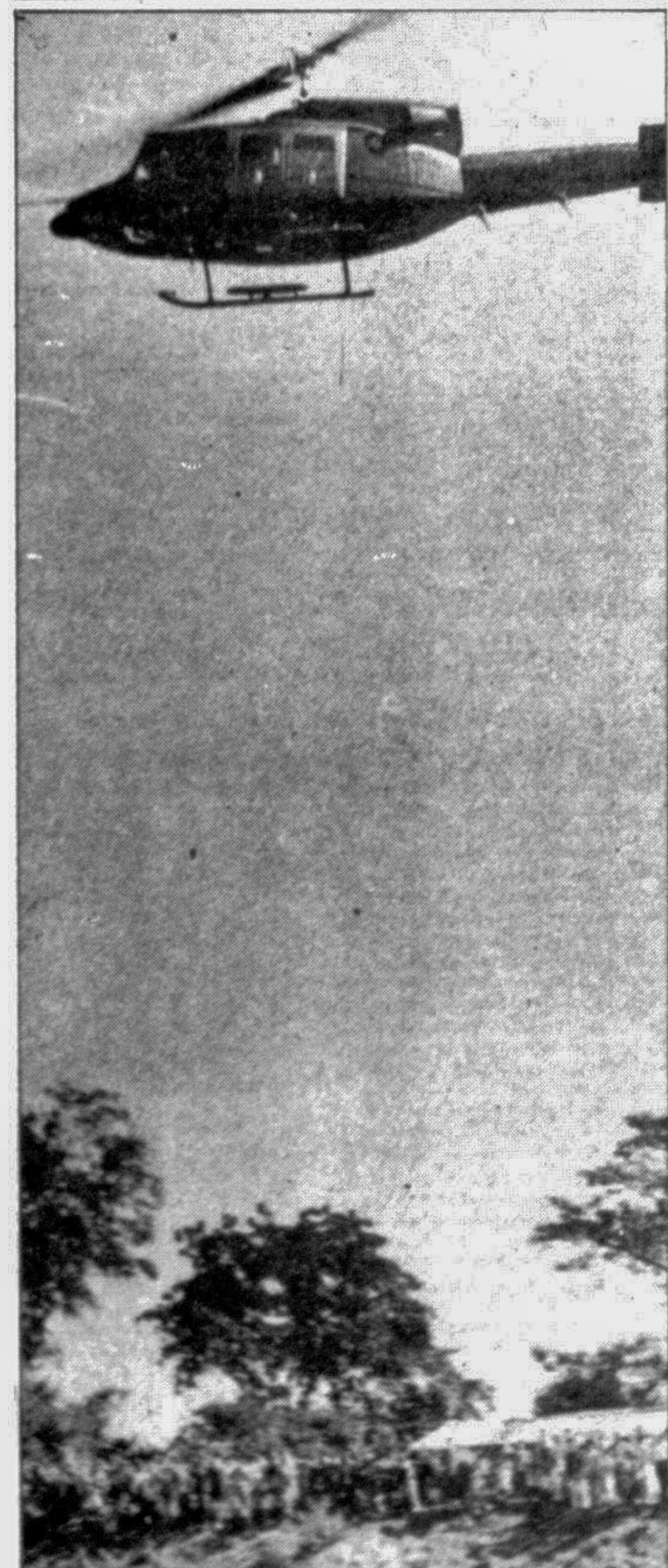
TANGAIL, Nov 19: Diarrhoeal diseases have broken out in the district, reports BSS.

Civil surgeon office source said that 52 persons so far died and several thousand were affected.

UN official sources claimed that at least 75 persons died and 1400 were attacked by the disease.

The affected areas fall under Tangail sadar, Kalihati, Madhupur, Bhuapur and Nagarpur thanas. Sporadic incidences have also been reported from all other thanas of the districts.

Some medical teams have been working in the affected areas.



The BAF helicopter carrying the Parbattya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) delegation leaders from Shantibahini camp area under Panchhari thana is about to land. Local tribal civilians are seen waiting anxiously to see them. — Star photo

A pictorial record of a few historic moments before the sixth round of official peace talks between the government and the PCJSS held at the Khagrachhari Circuit House, Chittagong Hill Tracts on November 24. The government delegation, a nine-member team, led by Communications Minister Colonel (Retd) Oli Ahmed, included among others, Kalpa Ranjan Chakma of the Awami League, Barkat Ullah Bulu of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and Rashed Khan Menon of the Workers' Party. The PCJSS (Parbattya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity) was represented by the Shantibahini leader J B Larma, Rupayan Chakma, Ushatun Dewan and others.

ALL these photographs were taken by **A K M Mohsin**, chief photographer of The Daily Star.



The PCJSS delegation leaders J B Larma, Rupayan Chakma (wearing cap), Ushatun Dewan and others are seen coming out of the helicopter at the Khagrachhari Circuit House ground. — Star photo



The local administrative body is seen receiving the PCJSS delegation leaders at the helipad ground prior to the peace talks. — Star photo



The PCJSS leaders are seen surrounded by the volunteers, selected by the Shantibahini forces. — Star photo



The government delegation led by Communications Minister Col (Retd) Oli Ahmed is welcoming the PCJSS leaders at the Circuit House premises. — Star photo