

## District roundup

### SATKHIRA

#### 3 commit suicide

Dec 10: Three people, including two women of two thanas of the district allegedly committed suicide by taking a poison, police and family sources said, reports UNB.

They are: Masura Khatun (12), daughter of Mosharrif Hossain of Sonargati in Tala thana, Feroza Khatun (30), wife of one Sobhan of Kanidya in sadar and Atiar Rahman (42), village Chowmuhuny in Kaliganj.

School girl Masura, allegedly committed suicide as her guardians failed to give her examination fees while Feroza took her life due to family feud on Monday. On the other hand, Atiar allegedly committed suicide on Tuesday following a quarrel with his wife.

Three UD cases were filed with the respective police stations.

### PATUAKHALI

#### Polio spreads, attacks many children

Dec 10: The deadly disease polio has broken out in various parts of the district, says UNB.

According to doctors, polio is a serious disease which normally attacks the children upto 12 years of age affecting the limbs, gradually paralysing the whole body. The children of 5 years are very much prone to the disease.

They said polio is non-curable disease although it could be prevented if timely vaccinations are taken.

Sources said, that about 85 per cent children of the district has been brought under the Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI) and the rest of the 15 per cent are reportedly being attacked by polio and other diseases.

Civil Surgeon instructed the health assistants working in the field to identify the polio-stricken children and to arrange their immediate treatment.

### SYLHET

#### Twelve Shibir activists arrested, arms recovered

Dec 10: Police arrested 12 shibir activists and recovered some arms from Tilagarh area of the town last Sunday night, reports UNB.

Kotwali police in a midnight swoop took into custody Yusuf Ali, Mustansir, Kabir, Shah-nawaz, Nurul Ambia, Chowdhury Taher, Yasin Ali, Ashique Ahmad, Kamaluddin, Abul Lais, Ashrafuddin and Shihabuddin from Shaplabagh Chowdhury Villa mess in the town's Tilagarh area.

Twelve ram daos, four cock-tails and three sacks of stones were recovered from their possession. They were identified as Shibir activists and students of the different colleges in the town.

An arms case was filed with Kotwali police. The arrested Shibir men were sent to jail *hajaf* after their bail was rejected by the thana court.

### FARIDPUR

#### 2 killed, 46 injured in road mishaps

Dec 10: Two people, including a young woman, were killed and 46 others injured, 16 critically, in two accidents on Khulna-Dhaka highway, near the Faridpur town on Sunday night and early Monday, police said, reports UNB.

Krishna Rani Sarker (24) and Sha'adul Islam (28) died on the spot and about 30 other passengers were injured when a Dhaka-bound night coach from Benapole fell into roadside ditch at Komorpur, seven kilometres from the town, around midnight Sunday night.

The bus belonged to Shohag Paribahan (Dhaka-Metro-Cha-9018).

Krishna Sarker was on way to her village home at Sultanpur in Raosan thana of Chittagong district. She was coming from Calcutta with her husband and an 18-month-old daughter.

Sixteen critically injured were admitted to Faridpur General Hospital.

In another accident, 16 people were injured at Chandpur on Khulna-Dhaka highway, 10 kilometres from Faridpur town, when a night coach of Saikhin Paribahan (Dhaka-Metro-Cha-5234) fell into roadside ditch at 2 am Monday. The bus was on way to Dhaka from Khulna.

Passengers blamed both the accidents to bad condition of the highway which is under construction for a long time.

### RAJBARI

#### 14 get life-term for murder

Dec 10: Fourteen people, including three in absentia, were awarded life term rigorous imprisonment each for murdering a man, court sources said here Tuesday, reports UNB.

The court also fined the absconding three convicts Taka 30,000 each, in default, to suffer three years RI more while the other convicts were fined Taka 5000 each, in default, to suffer three months RI more.

The case, in brief, was that a group of people of Gopinathpur village in sadar thana picked up a quarrel with a grocery shop owner over the outstanding arrears on March 11, 1992. At one stage both the groups were locked in a clash and the victim Shajahan of the village came forward to pacify the matter. At this the feuding groups became furious and hit him with sharp weapons killing him on the spot.

The victim's father filed a case with the police.

### COMILLA

#### 113 damaged schools reconstructed

Dec 10: Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) has so far completed reconstruction of 113 flood damaged primary schools of the district at a cost of over Taka 44 crore, reports UNB.

Thana wise break up of the schools is as follows: Muradnagar-9, Burichang-4, Drahmanpara-4, Langolkote-10, Homna-7, Sadar-13, Choudadagram-6, Laksham-17, Devidwar-7, Daudkandi-18, Barura-6, and Chandina-10.

LGED completed the scheme with the financial assistance from the World Bank. With the reconstruction of the schools the implementation of the universal primary education programme will further boost in the district.

### BARISAL

#### 51 land protection projects completed

Dec 10: Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) has completed 51 projects in Barguna sadar and Betagi thanas of Barguna district at an expenditure of Taka 6,28,61,000 in the last four years, reports BSS.

According to an official source, International Development Agency (IDA) and Dutch government financed for these projects.

The projects included, construction of 26 kilometres of embankment, 13 closures, eight drainage sluice, 13 fishing sluice, 15 inlet pipe sluice and re-excavation of 12 kilometres of khal.

A total of 2700 hectares of land are being protected from saline water and tidal waves.

### JESSORE

#### Office bearers of Red Crescent

Dec 10: Jessore unit of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society held its Annual General Meeting Saturday at Jessore club auditorium, reports BSS.

The meeting elected office bearers and members of unit executive committee for 1994-95 session.

S. M. F. Ahad, Vice Chairman of Jessore unit presided over the meeting. A. S. M. A. Ahad and Abu Sayeed were elected vice chairman and secretary respectively while Tauhidur Rahman, Advocate, Nazrul Islam, Mohammad Ishaque, A. K. M. Morshedul Fahan and M. Nazmul Hasan Babul were elected members of unit executive committee.

### PABNA

#### 10,723 children brought under Food for Edn Programme

Dec 10: The government has brought 10,723 children of 101 primary schools under food for education programme at Pabna district in the current fiscal year to ensure primary education for all children, reports BSS.

Each children attending the classes over 85 per cent days is being provided with 15 kilograms of wheat per month, an official handout said.



MYMENSINGH: The students of the Faculty of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology of BAU brought out a procession here demanding job opportunities on December 5. —BAU photo

## Indian salt, sugar, cattle coming regularly

NATORE, Dec 10: Despite heavy protection taken by the law enforcing agencies, huge smuggled Indian goods including salt, sugar and cows are coming into the district every day, local people said, reports UNB.

At least two to three thousand maunds of smuggled sugar and salt are being brought into the Bilmaria bazar in Lalpur thana daily. Later, these contraband goods are carried to different areas of the country.

Local retail shopowners said, due to cheaper rate of Indian salt and sugar, people usually try to avoid indigenous ones. Indian per kg sugar is being sold at Taka 20 and per kg salt at Taka 4. As a result no customer of these two indigenous commodities are available in the local markets.

At least four to five hundred cows are being smuggled into the district every day, local people said adding 1500 to 2000 of them are being brought into the biggest Gopalpur bazar.

After a brief stay in the market these bolder cows are being supplied to different parts of the country including Dhaka and Chittagong by the organised gang of smugglers.

Another report says: Natore Railway authorities earned an amount of Taka 80.88 lakh during the fiscal 1992-93.

According to official sources, the earning was Taka 71.84 lakh from ticket selling, Taka 2.77 lakh from parcels.

Taka 4.92 lakh from carrying goods and Taka 34,000 from the other sources.

But the train passengers alleged that due to lack of basic amenities they are facing various problems for a long time. They said the toilets of the local and express trains are mostly in dilapidated condition in the absence of maintenance and care.

They said the seats are quite uncomfortable and fans remain out of order most of the time and the trains cannot maintain time schedule causing unwanted suffering to them.

The local Railway authorities said steps are being taken to solve the problems of the travelling people.

## Rich tributes to Begum Rokeya

PAIRABAND (Rangpur), Dec 10: State Minister in charge of Cultural Affairs Prof. Jahanara Begum on Thursday paid rich tributes to Begum Rokeya saying she was the greatest pioneer for the socio-economic emancipation of the women of this area, reports BSS.

She was addressing a memorial meeting organised in observance of 113th birth anniversary and 61st death anniversary of Begum Rokeya here at Begum Rokeya Girls High School and College.

Begum Rokeya Smriti Sangsad organised the function at the birth place of Begum Rokeya.

The State Minister said that 'Begum Rokeya Complex' would be set up at Pairaband in memory of Begum Rokeya to inspire the women community in making them worthy citizens.

Prof. Jahanara Begum said, Begum Rokeya first realised

about the illiteracy of the women in the area and launched movement for spreading education among them. She said, we have to follow the ideals of the great lady for the advancement of women community.

Prof. Jahanara Begum said, Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman had dreamt of acquainting the women in socio-economic uplift activities for ensuring overall development of the country the present government had undertaken steps for educating the masses including the women, he added.

Presided over by Chairman of Pairaband Union Lutfar Rahman, the function was addressed, among others, by Shahida Sarkar MP, Secretary of Cultural Affairs Ministry Islam Uddin Malik and BNP leaders Nurul Huda Sultan, Rahim Uddin Bharsa and Badrul Islam.

Milad mahfil and cultural function was also held on the occasion.

Prof. Jahanara Begum also placed wreaths on the memorial plaque of Begum Rokeya there. She also visited the abandoned house of Begum Rokeya.

Another report says: "Rokeya Complex" would be set up at the Pairaband village in Rangpur, the birth place of Begum Rokeya, a pioneer of the women awakening in the country.

The State Minister said that a public library would be set up and cultural activities would be held at the complex.

Speaking on the occasion Prof. Jahanara Begum said, Begum Rokeya played a significant role in freeing the backward and illiterate woman community from social confinement and all sorts of superstitions through spreading the light of education.

## Poor farmers at lathials' mercy

BARISAL, Dec 10: Lathials have created a reign of terror at the inter-district borders, char areas of Barisal, Patuakhali and Bhola.

With the advent of the winter harvesting season hired lathials have become active. The jodars forming armed lathial groups try to capture more charlands and loot huge quantity of paddy illegally.

Many influential people, jodars have lodged false cases against the innocent poor farmers. This situation prevails in charlands of Char Sitaram, Hazirchar, Ilisa, Char Samia, Char Patila, Char Kukri Mukri, Char Jahiruddin of Bhola district.

It is informed that the same thing is happening in seven thana areas of Bhola district. Police camps to control the situation should immediately be set up there, informed sources said.

In Barisal district also the situation is much alarming in Baherchar, Sreepur, Koralia,

Ghagra, and Tunchar of Mehendiganj thana located at the Barisal-Bhola border area.

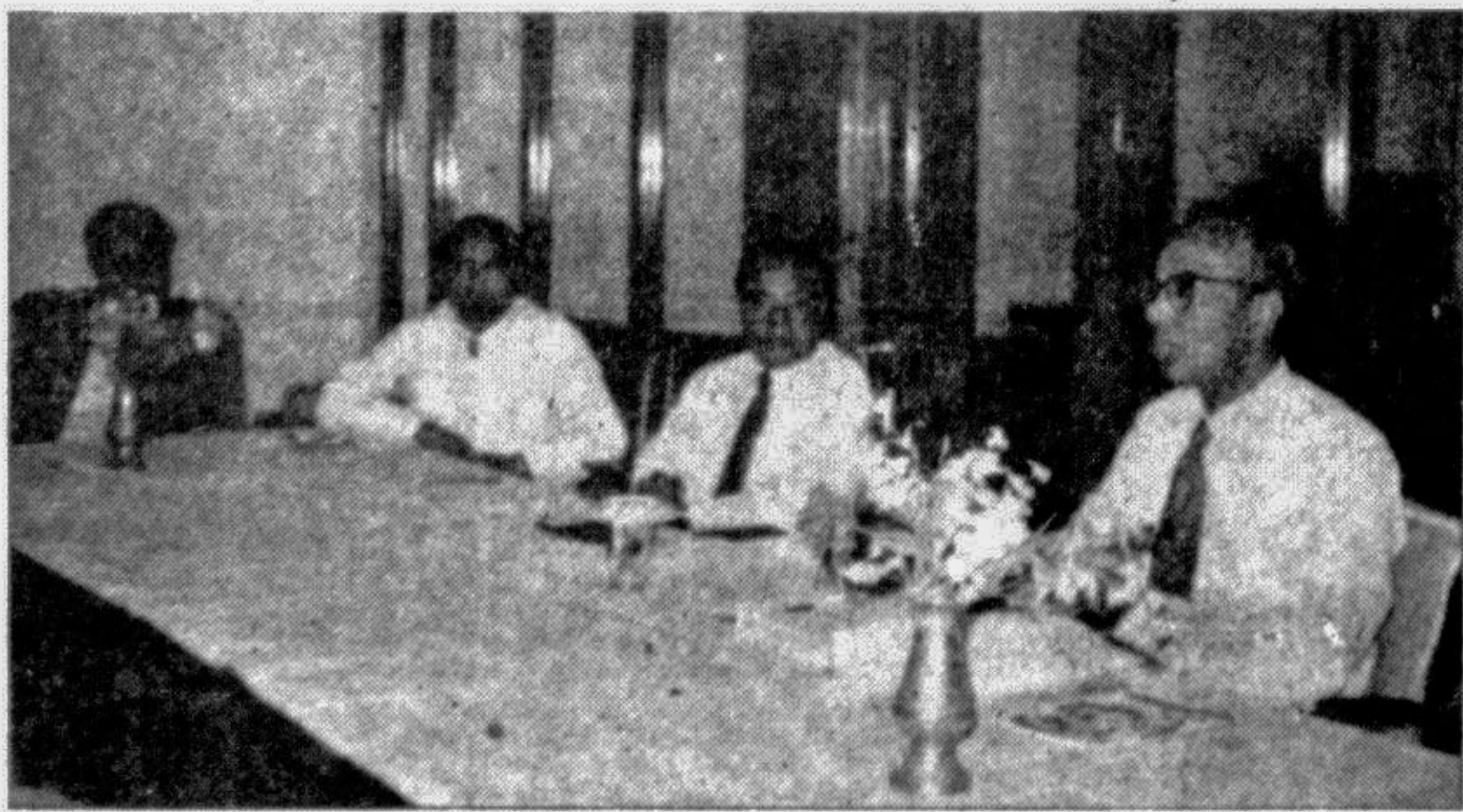
It is informed that paddy on about 100 acres of land of Baherchar have already been looted away by the hired lathials of Bhola.

There are two police camps at the border areas of Barisal and Bhola. It is learnt that the lathials looted away these huge quantity of paddy at late night.

To control the situation, district administrations of Barisal and Bhola met and discussed solutions, the sources said.

Mehendiganj thana police informed that the looters and lathials of Bhola also kidnapped six farmers who were freed later. Local people urged to the concerned authorities to deploy ansars and battalion police at both the border areas during harvesting season.

It is reported that in Char Bashbaria of Dashmina thana under Patuakhali district hired lathials also looted away about 10,000 maunds of paddy recently.



SYLHET: Quazi Abdul Majid, MD of Pubali Bank addressing a meeting of officers and branch managers of the bank in Sylhet and Sunamganj recently. —Star photo

## Tk 91cr ADB grant to improve Khulna city drains

KHULNA, Dec 10: Khulna City Corporation (KCC) has taken up a five-year programme for improving its drainage and sanitation systems, reports UNB.

The programme will be implemented with the financial assistance from Asian Development Bank (ADB) at a cost of Taka 91 crore.

Official sources said, in the first phase under Secondary Integrated Flood Protection Project, Taka 10.33 crore will be spent during the current financial year.

The project includes, construction of two and half km long main drain, 22 km tertiary drain, 150 culverts, 130 dustbins, four public toilets, 1,025 sanitary latrines and 184 safety tanks and soak wells.

For successful implementation of the programme, 11 officials of the Local Government Engineering Bureau (LGE) have already been deputed to Khulna City Corporation.

On completion of the programme, the longstanding problems of waterlogging in the city area will be removed.

## Warrant of arrest against police officers

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Dec 10: Warrant of arrest were issued by the sadar thana magistrate of Sylhet Sunday against three police officers including an OC and two Sub-Inspectors as they failed to produce the arrested accused before the court after repeated orders.

The case in brief is that Jakir Ahmed, organising secretary of the Sylhet district unit of JSD was arrested by the police of Sylhet Kotwali Thana in 1986 on charge of participating in the demonstrations against the autocratic rule. The then OC, Rustom Alam now OC Kulara PS and police officers Amanullah and Mobarak punished him causing his serious injuries. They also gave him electric shocks in the jail.

On behalf of the guardian of Jakir Ahmed, Ali Ashraf Khan lodged a case against the said police officers on charge of torturing the accused.

The sadar thana Magistrate Nurul Islam asked the accused police officers to appear before the court earlier. As they failed to do so, the court issued the warrant of arrest against the police officers.

## Road accident patients die for want of treatment

Dec 10: The number of deaths in Rajbari-Daulatdia-Kushtia highway accidents have been increasing due to lack of treatment facilities in the thana, health complexes and hospitals of the nearby districts, says UNB.

According to informed sources, most of the hospitals of the adjoining areas of the Kushtia-Daulatdia highway cannot provide adequate medicare facilities when patients of road accidents are brought in. As a result, many fatally injured patients die.

In most cases, they refer the patients to Dhaka for treatment causing deterioration of the condition of patients. Moreover, many people cannot send their patient to Dhaka for want of money and transport problems.

Although, there was no statistics of actual casualties due to accidents in 145 km of Daulatdia-Kushtia road, the number is considerably high as road accident is a regular feature on this route.

The concerned officials said if the proper facilities of treatment could be ensured in the adjacent hospitals the number of deaths could be lessened.

## 385 dairy farms get Tk 1.5 crore loan

RAJSHAHI, Dec 10: Government has so far given registration to 1,111 dairy farms in 16 districts of Rajshahi division and sanctioned an amount of Taka 1.5 crore for 385 farms, reports UNB.

Official sources said, Taka 3.5 crore will be provided to these farms as grant during the current financial year.

In Rajshahi district Taka 9.20 lakh has been given to 25 farms during the last financial year.

Government disbursed Taka five crore during last year under special grant programmes for encouraging cattle rearing to increase milk production in the country.

During the current year the grant will be raised upto Taka 15 crore, officials said. The owner of the milk cows is being given Taka 5,000 as grant for each cow.

## Afforestation programme 5000 inhabitants paying for whimsical execution

From A Correspondent

BOGRA, Dec 10: About 5000 people of 'Dharabarsa Char' under Sariakandi thana of the district have, become victims for the whimsical implementation of afforestation programme.

The Forest Department earlier took up a plan to plant 1,66,700 saplings on 100 hectares of land of the char at a cost of Taka 95 lakh.

The afforestation plan was taken to save the charland from the erosion of the river Jamuna. But the way of implementation of the project has become a curse to the inhabitants of the charland area.

The department has posted two planters, Aftab and Lutfur Rahman and another two to help implement the project.

It can be mentioned here that the inhabitants took lease of the lands of the char in last part of 1970 under section 86 KA and since then they are paying land tax regularly.

Forester Aftab has appeared to the inhabitants as terror. Some inhabitants informed that Aftab not only misbehaves with the people of the area but also punish them. Some women

complained that he uses slang words.

Saplings have been planted on homesteads, paddy and other crop fields. The departmental people did not allow the farmers to cut crops and they are not allowing the farmers to cultivate lands.

The departmental people also demolished houses of Kasim Mondal, Farid Sheikh, Ainal Sheikh and Arab Box of the char. Aftab has occupied one house where he passes time.

One, Bablu informed that the forest officials have taken away his tubewell by which he used to irrigate lands. Nijamuddin of the area complained that the departmental staff do not allow him to install shallow tubewell.

The people expressed their cattle and goats are not getting fodder due to the palm.

The inhabitants of the charland have been passing their days in uncertainty as they could not harvest the last crop and now are not allowed to cultivate next one.

## 30 pc tubewells inoperative in Khulna Division

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Dec 10: Five thousand tubewells are found out of order in ten districts of Khulna Division causing scarcity of pure drinking water.

According to sources the number of inoperative tubewells is 30.61 per cent of the total number which is 1,08,400 sprawling in Jessore, Jhenidah, Magura, Narail, Khulna, Bagherhat, Satkhira, Kushtia, Chuadanga and Meherpur districts.

Detailed information say that the highest number of inoperative tubewells is in Khulna district which is 1141 followed by 890 in Satkhira, 731 in Bagherhat, 519 in Jessore, 436 in Jhenidah, 358 in Narail, 260 in Magura, 168 in Meherpur, 206 in Chuadanga and 156 in Kushtia.

It is alleged that various types of intestinal diseases, including diarrhoea have spread in all these districts.

Death toll due to diarrhoea in Jessore district has been increasing everyday, according to recent reports received from various thanas of the district.

A source of the Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) told that meantime a massive programme has been undertaken to install deep, shallow and hand tubewells in these districts. It is learnt, sinking of 1,340 deep and shallow tubewells in addition to another 3,500 hand tubewells is the highlight of the programme. The programme will be completed within next March, the department sources say.



GOPALGANJ: Abdul Motalib Mia, DC, Gopalganj inaugurating the Food for Education Programme at Haridaspur Govt. Pry School of the district recently. —Star photo

## Diarrhoea claims 27 lives

JHENIDAH, Dec 10: Diarrhoea claimed 16 lives including three children and attacked 400 during the last fortnight in the district, reports UNB.

The disease that broke out in an alarming proportion claimed ten lives in Sadar and six in Kaligonj thanas.

Meanwhile, four medical teams have been working in the affected areas. Civil Surgeon office sources said.

Health workers said, they could not take necessary steps due to scarcity of saline packets.

Doctors said, unhygienic environment, adulteration of food stuffs, malnutrition and taking of impure water were the main causes behind the outbreak of the disease.

Miking has been arranged in the affected areas to make alert the people against the disease and to use pure water.

People of the diarrhoea-stricken areas urged the authorities to take immediate steps to provide necessary medicines including saline packets to combat the spread of the disease.

Another report says: A local salt trader was killed by armed miscreants on Saturday night at village Nagorbathan in Sadar thana, police sources said.

According to the villagers, the miscreants numbering about 25 raided the victim Bholal Sarder's (50) residence at 9 pm, dragged him out and axed him to death.

Police arrested eight people including one dafader of the Nagorbathan union parishad namely Abu Bakar and also seized a licensed gun from his possession.

Later, the villagers carrying the body brought out a procession in the town and demanded immediate arrest and trial of those responsible for the gruesome murder.

A case was lodged with the police.

BSS from Sherpur adds: Diarrhoea claimed eleven lives, including four children and affected 100 others during the last one month in Sherpur sadar thana, reports BSS.

The dead are Muslimuddin (25), Rabia Khatun (30) and Ashia begum (52) of Nabinagar village and two unknown children of Pakuria village under sadar thana.

Ilias Uddin, Chairman Chair Pakshimari union parishad told newsmen that Abdul Jubbar (50), Abul Miah (45) Rafaz Uddin (42), Hanifuddin (35) and two unknown children of village Janghaldhi died of diarrhoea.

Sherpur district civil surgeon office source said 14 medical teams are working in the affected areas.

## Arial Khan renders 120 families homeless

MADARIPUR, Dec 10: Arial Khan river erosion has rendered 120 families homeless in Koyaria union of Kalkini thana of the district, reports UNB.

A UP member said about 200 acres of land were devoured in the river in Alimabad and Raynandapur village in the last few months.

The homeless villagers took shelter on the cross dam and are passing their days in great hardships due to lack of relief materials. The condition of the shelterless people turned worse with the advent of the winter season.

Local leaders urged the authority to take immediate steps to mitigate the suffering of the homeless people.