

## Notes from Satkhira

From Our Correspondent  
SATKHIRA, May 10: A meeting of the newly formed Legal Aid Committee of Satkhira was held at the district Judge's Court building recently.

Alauddin Sardar, District and Sessions Judge, Satkhira, was in the chair.

Ruhul Amin Khondakar, Sub-Judge, Satkhira, Sirajuddin, Additional District Magistrate, Satkhira, Advocate Deldar Rahman president Satkhira district Bar Association, Advocate Golam Muhammad PP, and Advocate Abdur Rashid GP spoke on the occasion.

### BNP meet

A meeting of the executive committee of the BNP Satkhira district unit was held at the local pourasava auditorium recently.

Advocate Shamsul Haq, president, Satkhira district BNP, presided over the meeting while Kamrul Islam Farooq, Altaf Hossain, Shahadat Hossain, Prof Nazrul Islam, Surat Ali, Amanullah and Tojammel Hossain spoke on the occasion.

A 39-member Convening Committee of sadar thana BNP headed by Modasserul Huda and a 31-member Convening Committee of Assasuni thana BNP headed by Advocate Shahidullah were also formed.

### Ganja plant

#### recovered

Shahjahan Talukdar, Inspector, Narcotics Department, Satkhira circle recovered five ganja plants from a field owned by one Jahar Lal Rishi of village Basantapur Rishipara under Debhata thana of the district recently.

Acting on secret information officials of the department launched the drive and recovered the ganja plants cultivated by Jahar Lal Rishi, it is reported. A case was lodged with Debhata police station in this connection.

### Shahid Rimu

#### plaque unveiled

Abdul Jalil, chairman, Satkhira pourasava unveiled the Shahid Rimu memorial plaque at post office corner of Satkhira town in a simple ceremony held here recently.

A F M Entaj Ali, Jehena Chowdhury mother of Shahid Rimu, Mir Monzur Ali, Sk Abu Nasim Moine, Sk Nizam Uddin, Rowshan Ara Khanam, Advocate Mustafa Lutfulah, Golam Rasul, Advocate Sk Azad Hossain, Belal, Asit Kumar Majumdar, Ex-Principal Satkhira Government College and Kazi Shaidur Rahman spoke on the occasion.

### Unidentified

#### body recovered

Assasuni thana police recovered a body of an unidentified person (28) from the river Marichchap near village Kamalkati of the thana recently.

It is reported that the local people found the body floating on water of the river Marichchap and informed Assasuni thana police of the incident.

Acting on secret information police rushed to the spot and brought the body to Satkhira hospital for autopsy. None identified the body. A case was lodged with Assasuni police station.

### One commits

#### suicide

One Shalima Khatun (13) daughter of Nur Muhammad of village Phulbaria under Debhata thana committed suicide by taking liquid pesticide recently.

## Bullets missing from cop's bag

JHENIDAH, May 10: Forty rounds of bullet were missing from the bag of a police constable who came here Friday from Narail on a special duty, reports UNB.

Officials said a police squad came from neighbouring Narail district for duty during Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's public meeting at Kotchadpur on Saturday.

They stayed at the local police barracks Friday night. The following morning, constable Mizanur Rahman found 40 rounds of bullet missing from his bag.

Mizan filed a case with Jhenidah sadar thana yesterday morning.

## Sitakunda BNP leader stabbed

MIRSARAI, Chittagong, May 10: A local leader of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) of Sitakunda thana was stabbed in front of Nizampur College by a group of miscreants today. Witnesses said a group of Chhatra League activists forcibly take out Abedin from a bus at Nizampur College and stabbed him after beating mercilessly. He was returning home from Mirsara, reports UNB.



A view of the Tamabeel area of Sylhet district.

— Star photo

# Karnaphuli Paper Mills to grow jute for use as raw material

CHITTAGONG, May 10: Karnaphuli Paper Mills (KPM) has taken up a project to cultivate jute in the Chittagong hill tracts area for the first time for using green jute as a raw material for paper production, a KPM press release said here Monday, reports BSS.

Initially the jute growing project of KPM includes cultivation of jute on 204 acres of land. Of the total land under the project, 84 acres belong to KPM while the rest are owned by tribals and non-tribals. The KPM needs 58 thousand metric tons of green jute for making pulp to produce 10,000 metric tons of paper.

The KPM authorities are also making necessary adjustments in the mills for using green jute as a raw material.

The Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) has been supplying jute seeds and fertilizers to the jute growers in Chittagong Hill Tracts areas. Gradually, jute cultivation would be expanded in three hill tract districts.

Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban. There is a vast tract of fallow land in the three districts which would be used for growing jute.

The KPM authorities expect to increase the production level from 32,000 metric tons of paper to 48,000 metric tons per annum when green jute will be used as a raw material.

Industries Secretary Hasnat Abdul Hye Monday visited jute growing project of KPM in the hill tracts. He told the jute cultivators that use of green jute as a raw material would bring about a revolution in the country's paper production. He asked them to grow jute in the greater interest of the nation. Jute growers of the CHT would also be benefited economically, he added.

### CU students'

#### council session

The council session of the Chittagong University Chhatra Dal was held at the BNP office at Nasim Bhaban here Monday, according to BSS.

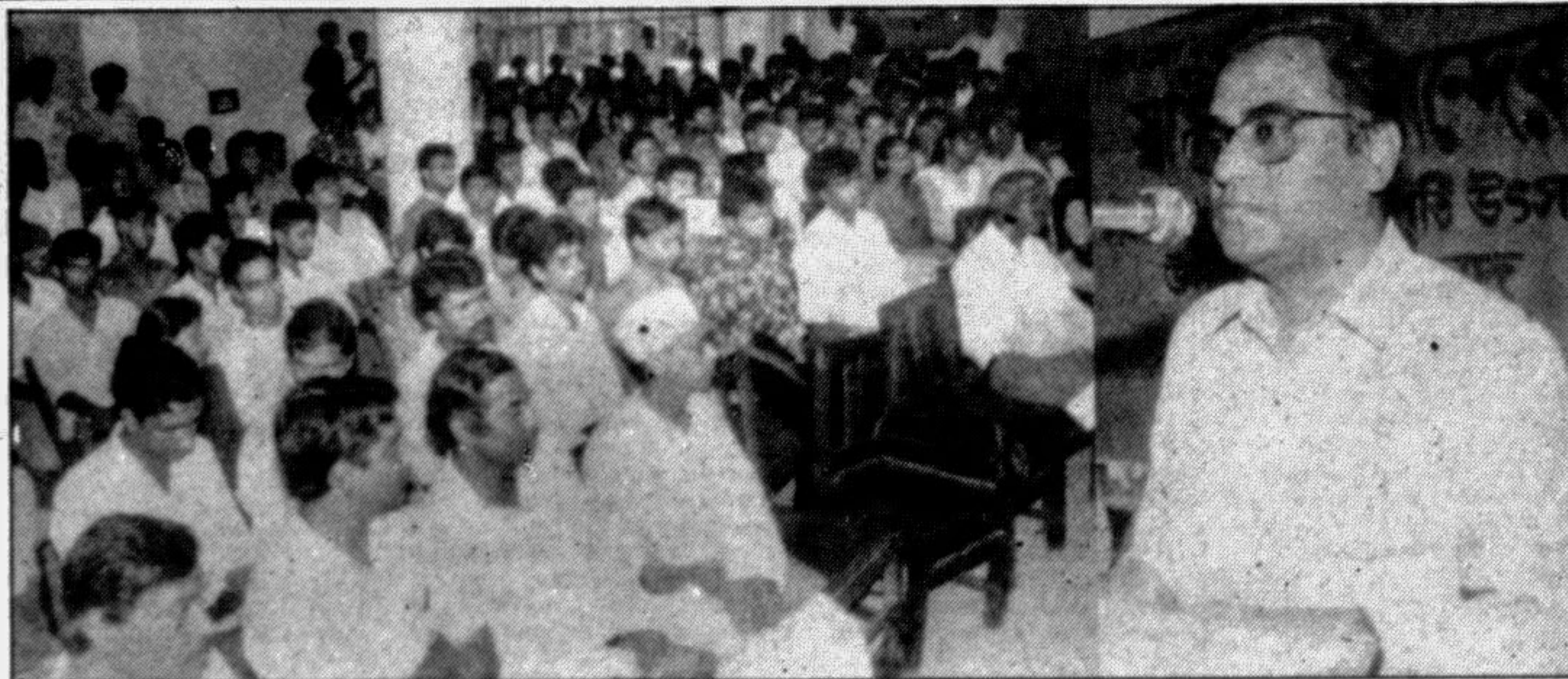
The session was presided over by the General Secretary of the Chhatra Dal central committee Nazimuddin Alam. The function was addressed by the Minister for Fisheries and Livestock and Joint Secretary General of BNP Abdullah Al Noman as the chief guest. Other speakers were Chhatra Dal central leader Iftekhar Hossain Chowdhury, Shahiduddin Any, Mahbubur Rahman Shemina, Md Zanoed and BNP leader M A Sabur, according to an official handout.

The fisheries minister said, leadership have to be developed through the dedication and devotion for increasing the strength of the organisation. He said that conspiracies were going on to spoil the forward march of BNP as some political forces were envious of the success of BNP to win over the hearts of the people. The Chhatra Dal workers have to play more and more useful roles to face those conspiracies, he added. In this connection, he termed the collabor-

ating steps of some partners of the anti-autocracy movement with the same autocratic forces as a challenge to the hard-earned democracy.

Referring to the predominance of ideology to constitute leadership in political field, Noman said that conviction and commitment were essentially needed to develop leadership in a ideology-oriented political party like BNP. He called upon the Chhatra Dal workers to play constructive role as was in the past for the interest of the organisation.

In his presidential address Nazimuddin Alam said that the tolerance and patience of Chhatra Dal to eliminate violence from the educational institutions were highly praised by the people. The onward march of Chhatra Dal can not be stopped by terrorism as could not be stopped by it unleashed by Shibir workers in the Chittagong University to frustrate the Chhatra Dal conference there, he said.



Professor M Badiul Alam, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the Chittagong University speaking as the chief guest at a discussion at CUSU Bhaban recently to mark the hundred year of Swami Vivekananda's participation in Chicago Religion Convention in 1893.

— CU photo

## They are rebuilding their battered homes

TEKNAF, May 10: Just a week after the fierce cyclone had mauled this southeastern tip of the country, taking the most of its toll in deaths and leaving a trail of devastation, life appeared to be slowly getting back to normal, reports UNB.

Villages were alive again. Fishermen were out in the Bay. Farmers working on the fields. People were seen back to their daily chores. They were also seen rebuilding their homes.

A journey by helicopter on Monday from Cox's Bazar to Teknaf gave a bird's eye view of the scars wrought by the May 2 cyclone on villages along the coast.

"They are rebuilding their battered homes and even started life as usual. We are trying to help them in whatever way possible," said Md Enamul Kabir, Deputy Commissioner of Cox's Bazar.

The official death toll here gave was 188, including 83 Burmese Rohingya refugees and some 61 bodies of unidentified foreigners, mostly of Thai fishermen, that were washed ashore or found floating in the Bay.

Kabir said, some 550,000 people inhabiting 18 Unions had been affected by last week's cyclone. Some 3,450 cattle perished in the disaster.

He said, a door-to-door survey was underway which should give a complete picture of damage wrought by the cyclone. It caused heavy destruction to forestry in the Cox's Bazar and Teknaf area.

The government has so far sanctioned relief worth Taka

47 lakh for the cyclone affected areas of the country, including the off-shore islands. The storm had blown away many of the shanties at the 18 refugees camps for the Burmese Rohingyas. But thanks to the UNHCR and other relief agencies, including the local administration, that most damages at the camps have already been repaired.

There were already new "blue sheetings", the plastic covers on the roofs of most of the huts at the refugee camps. "We moved quickly to repair the damages," said Stefano Severe, the UNHCR representative at Cox's Bazar.

The situation seems to be getting under control, UNHCR officials said.

Today (Monday), UNHCR Director for Asia and Oceania Werner Blatter visited, some refugee camps in Teknaf area. "The destruction came at a difficult time because of the rainy season ahead," he said.

Besides reviewing the situation at the camps, Blatter took the occasion to hand over a token relief of some plastic rolls, biscuits, chira and gur for distribution among the cyclone-hit local people in Teknaf. He also announced that UNHCR will provide relief worth Taka 10 lakh for the cyclone-affected local people.

M Hafizuddin Khan, Additional Secretary of the Ministry of the Disaster Management and Relief, who was present on the occasion, told UNB the government was trying to devise a "coping mechanism" to deal with natural calamities.

He said, a Disaster Management Bureau at the Ministry was at a formative stage. Its functions will include creating awareness about natural calamities among the people at the grassroot level.

"We can't prevent calamities. But we can surely save lives. That was proved during the latest cyclone," Hafizuddin said. "We are learning from our experience."

"He said, the government had started mobilising relief materials and volunteers in the vulnerable areas to help evacuate the people as soon as danger signals were hoisted. "Our quick action and round-the-clock vigil helped save lives."

Meanwhile, the post-cyclone relief and rehabilitation programme has further been intensified in the district with formation of another four relief teams each headed by a magistrate, who already rushed to four affected unions of Ramu thana, says a BSS report.

Earlier such ten teams were sent to Teknaf and Ukhiya thanas to streamline the relief and rehabilitation activities so that normalcy could be restored in the cyclone battered areas within the shortest possible time.

These teams under the direct supervision of the three ministers, assigned by the Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, for Cox's Bazar, Teknaf and St Martin, have been working round the clock in the distressed areas to assess the needs of the affected people and their rehabilitation.

Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al Noman, Telecommunications Minister

Tariqul Islam and State Minister for Textiles Maj. (Retd) Abdul Mannan are constantly observing the whole relief operation, visiting the affected areas and holding meetings with the local administration for smooth operation of the relief and rehabilitation activities.

District control room sources said that Taka ten lakh has already distributed among the affected people of the district as relief. A total of 316 tonnes of rice, 3000 bundles of CI sheets and taka ten lakh as house building grants were distributed among the affected people.

Talking to the local people, the ministers said that normal life in the cyclone hit areas had started within a short time due to planned distribution of relief materials. They said that relief operation could not be a lengthy programme and people should try to stand on their own footing utilising the relief materials.

In this connection they called upon the BNP workers to have closer observation of the people's opinion and must inform the appropriate authority if there is any dissatisfaction regarding distribution of relief material.

Earlier the ministers visited the Ukhiya High School, where suspended SSC examination were being held.

The relief operations by the army in the affected areas have started and army helicopters have already reached Teknaf and St Martin Island with a huge quantity of relief materials.

## UP Chairman shot dead in Magura

MAGURA, May 10: Chairman of Sreekoil Union Parishad in Sreepur thana of the district was shot dead by unknown assailants Monday night, reports UNB.

Police said, Shamsul Alam alias Sajjad, 45, also the President of union BNP, was killed at Barobeel, one kilometre away from his residence. Two bullets pierced his head and chest.

Family sources said, in the morning he left out from his house for Jhenidah and knew nothing about his return.

They said, a few days back an outlawed group tried to take his life at Sreekoil Bazar but he luckily escaped.

Police recovered the body from the beel at about 7 am Tuesday and sent it for autopsy at sadar hospital.

A case has been filed with the local police.

### SSC exams

## High Court order ignored

JAMALPUR, May 10: The students, teachers and guardians of Nandina Nek Jahan Girls High School in a press conference has accused the Chairman and Controller of Dhaka Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board for not complying with the directives of the High Court, reports UNB.

In the press conference held at the residence of former MP Shaiful Islam Khoka at Station Road on May 3 the acting Headmaster of the School Atiar Rahman said, the Controller of the Board deliberately did not supply forms for the SSC candidates of the school though the time for filling up the form for this year's SSC examination has already expired. As a result 43 SSC candidates of the school could not appear at the examination.

The school authorities filed a writ petition in the High Court seeking order to supply forms for the SSC candidates.

A Division Bench of the High Court comprising Justice M A Jalil and Justice Ruhul Amin in a verdict on April 3 last ordered the Board authorities to supply forms to the students of the school immediately. But the order which was served on the Chairman and Controller of the Dhaka Board was not obeyed, it was alleged in the press conference.

Mentionable that the Headmistress of the school, Monwara Khatun was suspended on November 14 last year on charges of various irregularities and corruption. She was terminated on January 13 this year. It is alleged that 43 female students of the school could not appear in this year's SSC examination due to conspiracy of the former Headmistress.

It was informed in the press conference that another case against the Dhaka Board for non-compliance of the High Court's directive would be filed soon. They also said yet another case would be instituted in the local court claiming compensation for the affected students.

## Naogaon-Patisar road link soon

NAOGAON, May 10: Government has taken up Taka 1.20 crore project to construct a road between Naogaon town and Patisar, a remote village in the district well known for the activities of Poet Rabindranath Tagore, says UNB.

State Minister for Establishment Minister Aminul Hoque inaugurated the construction work of the road on Sunday.

Under the project, 12 kilometres of metalled road will be constructed connecting Patisar of Atrai thana with Abadpukur in Raninagar thana. Abadpukur has direct road connection with Naogaon.

Local Government Engineering Department is implementing the project under the Annual Development Programme and expected to be completed within three years.

Addressing a gathering, the State Minister said, through this road the general mass and researchers would be acquainted easily with the social activities of Rabindranath Tagore at Patisar and also local areas would be developed.

## Heroin worth Tk 50 lakh seized

RANGPUR, May 10: The Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) recovered 500 grams of heroin worth about 50 lakh from a minibus recently, reports UNB.

On secret information, the BDR jawans raided the Rangpur bound bus at Killaband, near the local BDR check post and recovered the contraband item.

However, none was arrested from the spot. They seized the bus and a case was filed with the Kotwali police.

## District roundup

### JHENIDAH

## One gets three years RI

May 10: A young man has been awarded three years rigorous imprisonment (RI) in a dowry case, court sources said here Friday, reports UNB.

The accused was identified as Masudur Rahman of Tuplpara village in Sreepur thana.

According to prosecution, Masud has sent back his wife Shahinur to her father's house after about two years of their marriage demanding Tk 30,000 from her father.

Shahinur filed a case with the district court against her husband as Masud refused to take her back.

The Judge after examining witnesses and evidences punished the accused on Saturday.

### C'NAWABGANJ

## Number of quacks on rise

May 10: The number of quacks is on rise in the rural areas of the district threatening public health and causing great concern among the conscious people, reports UNB.

A good number of half-educated young men, having failed to find any job, have taken up quackery to earn their livelihood. Most of them entered into the quackery after completion of primary education while only a few have passed SSC, HSC and bachelor examinations.

These rural physicians can be found at the hat and bazar areas in Sadar, Shibganj, Bholahat, Gomostapur, Nachol thanas of the district. Poor rural people prefer quack's treatment due to its low cost. It is also reported that many patients died due to their wrong treatment.

On the contrary, patients are deprived of necessary medical treatment in the thana health complexes as these are vexed with various problems including shortage of medicine and doctors.

It is alleged that some dishonest doctors and other staff of the health complexes take gratifications from the poor patients for providing them with prescriptions and medical treatment.

Being harassed by them, the helpless poor patients go to the quacks instead of the doctors. The villages people also alleged that some government health workers are engaged in quackery in the rural areas.

The local leaders urged the government to look into matter and take immediate steps in this regard.

### RAJBARI

## Opposition urged to join JS

May 10: State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahan Ara Begum called upon the opposition political parties to join the Jatiya Sangsad for consolidating the base of parliamentary democracy, reports UNB.

She made the call while addressing a big public rally at Rajbari station premises on Thursday.

Prof Jahan Ara Begum said, "we should take into account that Jatiya Sangsad is the centre for solution of national problems." She also said, "participation in the parliament has no alternative to solve the national problems."

The State Minister called upon the opposition parties to shun the politics of "hartal" and violence for accelerating the development tempo, says an official handout.

Concerted efforts of government and opposition political parties are essential to give the democracy an institutional shape, she added.

Organised by district unit of BNP, the rally was also addressed by Deputy Minister for LG and Cooperatives Abdul Hye and local BNP leaders.

Earlier, the State Minister addressed the conference of "Jatiyatabadi Talilajibi Samity". Among others, Deputy Minister Abdul Hye also spoke on the occasion.

### SIRAJGANJ

## Rival groups clash: 12 hurt

May 10: At least 12 people were injured, one seriously, in a clash between two rival groups over a cricket match in the town recently, reports UNB.

The clash erupted as a sequel to Sunday's altercations between leaders of the two groups Shamim and Faruque at PTI ground over the results of a cricket match held here.

Supporters of Faruque allegedly attacked Shamim's brother Salim Sheikh and his associates with hockey sticks and rods at Kogolia in the town. The clash continued for half an hour until police intervened.

Salim (22) was admitted to Sirajganj General Hospital with head injury, hospital sources said.

### HABIGANJ

## Flash flood damages IRRI boro crops

May 10: IRRI-boro crops on about 3,310 hectares of land have been damaged by flash flood and other natural calamities in the district this year, reports UNB.

Official sources said IRRI-boro crops on 180 hectares in Sadar, 405 hectares in Madhabpur, 225 hectares in Nabigonj, 1650 hectares in Baniachang and 850 hectares in Ajmirigonj were damaged.

Meanwhile, harvesting of IRRI-boro paddy is going on in full swing throughout the district. Farmers hope that they will harvest expected quantity of paddy if the weather remains favourable till the harvesting season ends.

Paddy is selling between Tk 180 and 190 per maund in the paddy field while in market the price is between Tk 200 and 220 per maund, farmer sources said.

Agriculture Extension Department sources said 75,500 hectares of land were brought under IRRI-boro cultivation in the district during the current season.

### MAJDEE COURT

## Two awarded death penalty

May 10: Two people were awarded death penalty on charge of killing a union parishad member, court sources said here Sunday, reports UNB.

The convicts are Giasuddin and Jamaluddin of Boalia of Char King union of Hatiya thana.

The prosecution story, in brief, was that Mostafizur Rahman, UP member of Char King union while coming home by a rickshaw was attacked and stabbed to death by the two men along with their accomplice Hedayetullah on Char King-Kharodia road on April 18, 1990.

On the following day, the angry people beat Hedayetullah to death.

A case was filed against the two murderers of the UP member and police after investigation submitted charge-sheet against them.

The Additional Sessions Judge M Mainul Islam after examining the records and witnesses awarded the punishment recently.

### PABNA

## Three projects on fisheries being implemented

May 10: District Fisheries Department has implemented three projects utilising 988 metric tons of wheat to boost fish output under Food for Works Programme in the district last month, reports UNB.

At least 200 metric tons of additional fish worth about Tk 100 crore is expected to be produced annually in the district with the completion of the re-excavation work of the WAPDA pits at Asutoshpur and Sujaganar, river Ichhamati and Tarapasha canal.

More than two lakh people of Asutoshpur, Sujaganar and Sadar thanas will be benefited by the implementation of the projects, which will also help protect the environment of the areas, officials said.

Moreover, the Fisheries Department removed water hyacinths from 13 waterbodies utilising 280 metric tons of wheat under FWP for cultivation of fish in the current fiscal.

### BRAHMANBARIA

## Two caught red handed while mixing poison with fodder

May 10: Two people were caught red handed by the local people at Sonarampur village in Ashuganj thana last week while mixing poison with the fodder, reports UNB.

The arrested, identified as Lal Mia and Munia, were mixing poison for killing the cattle of Rostam Ali of the same village following a previous enmity.

Later in a village arbitration they confessed their crimes and were fined to pay Taka 4000.

The villagers said, an organised gang is active in the thana who are stripping skins after killing the cows by food-poisoning.

Another report from Magura adds: Police arrested an alleged dacoit from a local bazar in sadar on April 27.

Acting on a tip, police led by OC, Serajul Islam arrested Kabir Hossain, 30 of Gahar Shingra village from Berial Bazar who was wanted in connection with various crimes including a dacoity case.