CHUADANGA, Oct 1: The

Public Works Department has

implemented a number of de-

velopment projects in

Chuadanga district headquar-

ters during the last 10 years

since the inception of

Chuadanga district in 1984.

The total cost of the projects

The schemes implemented

are construction of two-storied

district and session judge's

court building at a cost of Tk

2.47 crore, construction of po-

lice super's office building

costing Tk 56,30,000, con-

struction of civil surgeon's of-

fice at a cost of Tk 39,81.000,

construction of the office

building of the executive engi-

neer, PWD, at a cost of Tk

38.34,000, construction of the

residence of the deputy com-

is Tk 16.47 crore.

JHENIDAH, Oct 1: One person was killed and ten others were wounded in two road mishaps here on Friday, police and hospital sources said, reports UNB.

Shakhlain Hossain, 25, former AGS of Matlab Uddin Degree College, died instantly when a truck run over him near Arappur in Sadar Friday afternoon. He was crossing the

Friday another mishap took place Nagarbachhan in sadar on the Chuadanga-Jhenidah highway Friday afternoon when a Jhenidah-bound bus lost its control and fell into a wayside ditch, leaving 10 passengers injured.

All the wounded passengers were admitted to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital

Two cases were filed with the sadar police.

Clashes in Kushtia: 35 injured

KUSHTIA, Oct 1: At least 15 people were injured, four seriously, when a group of people attacked the rival group on Wednesday in Kushtia Sugar Mills area, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, the group attacked and damaged the houses of one Latif and Ajgar and set ablaze one power tiller machine. They also took away Latif's four cattle.

Of the injured, Shahidul, 35, Anis, 18, Ajgar, 30, and Hafizur, 20, who received bullet injuries were admitted to Kushtia General Hospital.

A case has been lodged with the police.

Another report says: At least 20 people were wounded, four seriously, when two rival groups clashed over harvesting of paddy in Bedinagar village in Khoksha thana on the same day. One house was also ransacked during the clash.

Injured Shaheb Ali, 25 Abdul Aziz, 20. Rabiul Islam. 18, and Aslam were admitted to Khoksha Thana Health Complex.

Of them, Shaheb Ali was later removed to Kushtia General Hospital on Thursday. His condition was stated to be critical.

College-boy kidnapped in Jamalpur

JAMALPUR, Oct 1: A college-boy was kidnapped by a gang of armed miscreants in the town on Sunday, police said on Friday. reports UNB. Mizanur Rahman Suman.

18, was abducted on his way home from his teacher's house after the sun-set.

Suman appeared at the HSC examinations and did not belong to any political organisation. He was kidnapped for ransom, family sources said.

A case was filed with the Sadar thana. Another HSC examinee was

also kidnapped from Bagabaid-Rashidpur area in the town some days ago.

Diarrhoea claims 25 in Gaibandha

GAIBANDHA, Oct 1: Diarrhoea took a serious turn and claimed 25 lives in different areas of the district in the last few days, official said on Friday, reports UNB. Unofficial sources, however,

put the death figure 44 and claimed that over 200 others were attacked by the waterborne disease during the pe-

According to sources Gobindagani thana is the worst affected area where most of the deaths occurred.

Health Department sources said paucity of drinking water and oral saline are the main causes of spreading the deadly

Local people urged the authorities concerned to send oral saline and water purification tablets in the affected ar eas on emergency basis to check the out break of the dis-

Clinic damaged in Sylhet

SYLHET, Oct 1: Agitated demonstrators damaged a clinic in the town Wednesday protesting the indefinite strike called by the doctors across the country, reports UNB.

Witnesses said, a group of people in a procession swooped on the Computer Diagnosis Centre, a pathological clinic at Zindabazar and damaged its doors and window panes at 12 noon.

Laboratory in-charge Abdur Rashid Talukder and technician Kazal Kanti Bardhan were injured in the attack.

The demonstrators also attacked the chamber of Dr Mossadeque at Zindabazar and damaged his chamber.

Owner of the clinic filed a case with the local police.

Taka 16cr uplift projects implemented in Chuadanga

From Our Correspondent

missioner at a cost of Tk

27,16,000, construction of the residence of the district and sessions judge at a cost of Tk 17,10,000, construction of the residence of the police super at a cost of Tk 18,05,000, construction of the residence of the civil surgeon at a cost of Tk 14,16,000, construction of the residence of the executive engineer. PWD at a cost of Tk 13,57,000, construction of the officers quarter at a cost of Tk 99,09,000, land purchasing for the above development works for Tk 4,64,000, construction of district police line at a cost of Tk 6,17,86,000, Tk 41,20,000 for land development cost for the construction of police line and construction of Nurse staff quarter at the premises of Chuadanga sadar

hospital at a cost of Tk

51,00,000. The construction works of the new district collectorate building is now going on in full

months. Meanwhile construction of the three-storied main building of the collectorate building

swing and is expected to be

completed by the next two

has been completed. The new collectorate building for Chuadanga district

headquarters is being constructed at a total cost of Tk 3.61 crore. Most of the offices have been shifted to this new

The construction work of the staff quarters for the 4th class employees of Chuadanga sadar hospital has also been completed.

building from the old one.



SYLHET: Committee for Upholding the Interest of Patients brought out a procession in the town recently protesting the ongoing countrywide doctors' strike. -Star photo

2.38 lakh acres of arable land unutilised in Sylhet region

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET. Oct 1: Some hundred thousand acres of arable land have been lying uncultivated for years together in different districts of the greater Sylhet region. Taking advantage of the situation, a number of influential quarters have been engaged in grabbing the valuable government land. Lack of proper planning for bringing the land under cultivation, the country is being deprived of crops worth about Taka 105 crore each year. According to a survey, a to-

tal of about two lakh 38 thousand acres of arable land re-

mained uncultivated in this north-eastern region of the country. It includes, one lakh 19 thousand acres in 11 thanas under Sunamganj, 62 thousand acres in 11 thanas under Sylhet, 34 thousand acres in eight thanas under Habigani district and 23 thousand acres in six thanas under Moulvibazar district.

An official of the department of agriculture extension told this correspondent that, different crops like, IRRI-boro paddy, wheat, jute, sugarcane. tobacco, beteinut, mustard and others could easily be pro-

duced on these land. The total yield would be about three lakh metric tons, he said. The total value of the crops would be about Taka one hundred and fifty crore, he added. Besides. of the total acreage, some considerable area could be used for afforestation purposes, he expressed. It is alleged that, due to ab-

sence of proper planning to utilise these land some interested quarters have been trying to occupy the governmentowned land in cooperation with a section of government employees in different thanas

Drought-hit northern region

Farmers assured of smooth supply of urea fertilizer

NILPHAMARI, Oct Minister of State for Planning Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan has said that supply of urea fer tiliser would continue among the drought affected peasants at the lowest price of Taka 218.75 per 50 kilogramme a bag, reports BSS. Addressing public meetings

at Kishoreganj and Kamarpukur unions of Svedpur of Nilphamari district on Wednesday, the minister said it was possible to supply the fertiliser at the lowest price to the genuinely affected farmers by pursuing the improved management system at the instruction of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

Explaining the development programmes being undertaken by the present government, he said the BNP government is the government of the people and it will remain at the side 'of the people in their time of distress and happiness.

Dr Moyeen Khan said following timely steps taken by the prime minister herself, the drought condition was now under full control of the people. In this context, he referred to the allocation of wheat worth Taka 40 lakh and planned supply of various agricultural inputs including seeds and fertilisers at fair prices in the coming weeks.

The minister also mentioned the continuous daily sale of 29 metric tons of rice and wheat in six thanas of Nilphamari district at fair price. Besides, he said sale of gfains under Open Market Sale (OMS) in all thanas had been doubled.

Dr Moyeen Khan visited the far flung areas of all the thanas of the district during the last two days and gave patient hearing to the problems of the farmers. He instructed the local branches of Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Sonali Bank, Janata Bank and Agrani Bank to provide soft term agricultural and grain loans to the

He said the present gov-

ernment under the leadership of Begum Khaleda Zia was totally engaged in the services of the people and was ready to face any calamity that might hit the country.

The minister distributed fertiliser at fair prices in Domar, Dimla, Jaldhaka and sadar thana on Tuesday and Kishoreganj and Syedpur thanas of the district on Wednesday.

Huge amount of urea fertiliser have been directly distributed among the farmers of the district at fair prices for their rehabilitation and another 142 metric tons of fertiliser are on way to Nilphamari by trucks.

Agriculture and Water Resources Minister M Majid Ul Hag has said that due to the appropriate measures taken up by the government the drought situation in the country's northern areas is now under

He said this while talking to a cross section of people and government officials during his visits to different drought affected areas in Rajshahi Thakurgaon, Lalmonirhat and Nilfamari Thursday, an official press release said Friday.

The concerned ministers Mosharraf Hossain Shahjahan and Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan, Director General of Agriculture Extension Dr Ayubur Rahman and Chairman of BADC M Sahidul Islam were with Haq during the visits. The agriculture minister

talked to the farmers of the affected areas and enquired about the situation in their respective areas. The farmers said they are preparing their land for transplanted aman. boro, wheat of high yielding variety, potato, mustard and other winter vegetables following a recent rainfall.

The minister was informed that the irrigation pumps are operating in a almost all the drought affected areas. The agriculture officials in-

formed the minister that about 95 per cent arable land in the

northern districts have been brought under cultivation and the loss of crops is negligible. Meanwhile, relief activities

in Lalmonirhat district have been stepped up by sanction ing more grains to assuage the sufferings of the drought-hit

This was informed at an emergency meeting of the district Relief Coordination Committee held with State Minister for Water Resources Mosharraf Hossain Shahiahan in the chair Saturday.

The meeting was told tha the committee had urged the government to allocate 1.300 metric tons of additional wheat as Test and Gratuitous Relief for the district

Some 700 metric tons of wheat have so far been provided as TR and GR while 320 metric tons of wheat and rice sanctioned for Open Market Sale in different important bazars of the district

A task force has been formed to assess the relief and rehabilitation activities in the district. It has been asked to submit its report within 10

Another report says: "Nobody will starve in droughthit areas of Rangour". Housing and Public Works Minister Barrister Rafigul Islam Mia said here Saturday, reports

The minister said, this while he was addressing separate public meetings at Mohipur Eidgah Maidan of Gangachara thana, Gazaghanta Bazar, Hazir Bazar of Haraghachha union of Kawnia thana of Rangpur district recently The minister visited some

drought-hit areas of the district where he talked to the people about their sufferings. said a PID handout. Barrister Rafiqui Islam also

assured the people of all possible help and assistance to alleviate their sufferings. upholding some rehabilitation programmes taken up by the government in the region.

52 arrested for illegally entering into Bangladesh

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Oct 1: Fifty-two people, including 13 children and 29 women, who crossed into Bangladesh from India through Bangabari border, were arrested here Friday, reports UNB. BDR sources said they

rounded up those people for illegally entering into Bangladesh territory. BDR handed over 24 people to Gomostapur thana while 28 others were kept at Bangabari Union Parishad. Claiming themselves as citi-

zens of Bangladesh they told the BDR men that they had gone to India in search of jobs a few years ago and fled the Indian city of Bombay because of the outbreak of plague there.

They said they hailed from the districts of Jessore, Khulna, Narail, Feni, Noakhali and Sariatpur.

Plague-phobia in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, Oct 1: The sale of shaving blades, bangles, sarees, beef, salt, onion, oil and spices in the markets of 9 thanas of the district has almost come to a dead stop due to plague panic, reports UNB.

The customers want to know whether the items are Indian or Bangladeshi. They remain unconvinced even if they are told that the items are Even drug addicts are giv-

ing up taking Phensidyl for fear of plague.

Gas-stove blast: One killed in Bhola

BHOLA, Oct 1: A young man was killed and another one seriously injured when a gasstove blasted at a house in Char Fashion thana of the district last week, said a delayed message on Friday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the gas-stove blasted while Shah Alam, 25, and Selim, 30, were engaged in cooking.

Both of them received burn injuries and admitted to thana health complex in critical condition where Shah Alam succumbed to his injuries. Later Selim was rushed to Bhola Sadar Hospital.

Another report adds: A minor girl drowned in a pond at a village in Sadar thana of the district last Friday.

The dead identified as Rupban, 3, daughter of Moslem Mia of Ilish union, drowned in a nearby pond of their house while her mother was busy with household works.

Flash floods in Patuakhali damage aus crops

PATUAKHALI, Oct 1: Aus crops on 11,000 hectares of land in four thanas of the district have been damaged due to flash flood and salinity, reports UNB.

Sources said, about 22,500 hectares of land were brought under aus cultivation programme in the current season.

Of the total land, 7,500 hectares were brought under High Yielding Variety (HYV) and the rest under local vari-

The production target of aus crops was estimated about 30,000 metric tons but outstanding aus paddy over 50 per cent of land has been badly affected due to salinity and heavy rainfall in the first part of Ashar month

Local agriculture department said a kind of virus has also affected the growth of aus crops in the area particularly in Naichiti and Jhalakathi thanas of the district.

Price of urea fertilizer increases

fertilizer is being sold at exorbitant price in different south ern districts under Barisal Division despite the government's decision to reduc price during the current fiscal reports UNB.

unscrupulous businessmen are increasing the price by hoarding it in their godowns and creating artificial crisis in the market.

215 per bag instead of the new price of Tk 186.25 per bag. The farmers said though

They urged the government to take immediate steps to enNew syllabus at IU

Students, teachers protest inclusion of Islamic Studies

From IU Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Oct 1: The Islamic University (IU) here was close sine die on September 12 in apprehension of violence on the campus following an emergency syndicate meeting with Vice-Chancellor Prof MA Hamid in the chair.

Earlier, eight students' organisation of the IU, including JCD and BCL, under the banner of the Syllabus Resistance Committee (SRC) - except the Jamaat-e-Islami student wing - demanded exclusion of Islamic studies from syllabus of the new academic session.

According to the authority, the syllabus was made with the help of the Malaysian Islamic University.

A four-member Islamic University Inter-nationalising Committee (IUIC) had already been formed headed by the Dean of Humanities and Social Science (now register) Dr Ashraf Ali and formally informed Prime Minister and Chancellor of IU Begum Khaleda Zia on the 2nd Feb. The syllabus is divided into

four topics: 900 marks for major courses (departmental), 500 marks for minor courses (supplementary and complementary), 200 marks for vivavoce and tutorial, 100 marks for Islamic studies, 50 marks for Bangladesh studies and 50 marks Bengali or Arabic language are newly included in the syllabus as a compulsory "university courses" (as part of complementary course).

The controversy began mainly over the inclusion of 100 marks for the Islamic studies part-1 and part-2.

The SRC protesting the syllabus, called a three-day strike on September 5,6, and 7. They also observed a halfday hartal in Kushtia and Jhenidah on Sept 9. On September 10 when they were observing the Kushtja-Jhenidah highway blockade programme, a serious clash between police and students occurred injuries at least 50 students. The agitated students broke glasses, furniture. and many offices of the administrative and academic build-

The rampage cost a loss of Tk 20 lakh, official sources said. The SRC brought out processions, held meeting and also demanded removal of VC Prof M A Hamid.

According to the Syllabus Resistance Committee, Islamic Studies is an unrelated subject to the social-science faculties. If it is included, the madrassah students will be benefited They wanted modern subject as a 'university course' like computer science instead of fundamental Islamic Studies They protested that by the inclusion of the subject the total marks of the honours course would be decreased and the improvement of education will be hampered.

Replying to a question Pekul Rahman, a leader of the committee, said that the subject has been included in the current academic year 93-94. but in their prospectus there was no mention of subject as compulsory.

Some of the teachers of the IU also protested the new syl-

Alarming rise in anti-social activities in Sirajganj From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ. Oct 1: Law and order situation in Sirajganj district has deteriorated re-

cently. Official sources said during last eight months this year, 30 persons including 12 women were killed in different incidents. On trivial issues, at least 500 persons were injured in about 97 clashes during the period.

Local political leaders said, that shortage of police personnel and negligence in enforcing law and delay in taking steps contributed much to deteriorating situation.

On the other hand, the meeting of District Law and Order Committee have claimed that the situation of law and order in the district is satisfac-

It is learnt that anti-social in disguise of ayurvedik activities have increased medicine, and intoxicating alarmingly in the district. drugs are widely sold in differ ent markets of the district. Open shows of obscene films on videos have been rampant The worst situation prevails in the thana areas. Law in the charlands of Kazipur. enforcing agencies keep Siraigani sadar, Belkuchi and Chowhali thanas. Police from mysterious silence about the matter. Visiting some areas of the mainland fails to reach any spots of incident in the remote Sirajganj sadar and Belkuchi thanas, it was found that nude charlands in absence of mech posters were on display at anised boats. The remote areas various points of Mirpur. of Chalan Beel, Tarash thana Malshapara, Hossainpur, are also deprived of prompt

presence of law enforcing Bhangabari and Dhangara in sadar and Khamargram, agencies for shortage of neces Gopalpur, Mukundaganti, Chala and Shomeshpur in Belkuchi thana. At least eight video shows are going on round the clock at Belkuchi thana sadar within half a kilometer area being taken to improve the law

sary vehicles. Activists of dif ferent outlawed groups are also active here. When contacted the police of Sirajganj said that steps are

and order situation by intensi-

fying patrol in the areas.

Make uplift programmes a success: Aminul

'National consensus needed

to establish democracy'

RAJSHAHI, Oct 1: State Minister for Establishment Barrister Aminur Haque on Friday said the present government had given top priority on compulsory primary and mass education including women's education with a view to turning the country into a modern and developed country, reports BSS.

He said this while laying the foundation stone of a new building to be constructed at Vatopara Girls High School and inaugurating a newly-constructed extension building of Vatopara Government Primary School under Godagari thana of the district.

The state minister said the BNP government was deter-

DAUDKANDI (Comilla), Oct

l: Energy and Mineral Res-

ources Minister Dr Khandaker

Mosharraf Hossain called for a

broad based national consensus

to establish democracy on a

solid foundation for the greater

interest of the nation, reports

ity of both the ruling party and

the opposition to work for

giving democracy an institu-

tional shape", Dr Hossain said

while addressing a public

meeting at Narandia under

Daudkandi thana of Comilla on

Moazzem Hossain, local UP

"It is the equal responsibil-

mined to ensure the basic needs including political rights of the people. The present democratically elected government has been endeavouring hard for socio-economic development of the country.

from Belkuchi police station.

Besides, country made liquors.

Barrister Haque urged all to come forward spontaneously to make the development programmes of the government a

An amount of about Taka eight lakh has been allocated for construction of a new building of Vatopara Girls High School and Taka about 2.50 lakh had been spent to construct the new extension building of Vatopara Government Primary School.

chairman presided over the

meeting. It was addressed.

among others, by convenor of

Comilla district Jubodal K M

Khalil, president of thana BNP

Sadek Hossain and general

in the evening the minister

addressed a reception ac

corded to the new comers who

formally joined BNP from

Jatiya Party and Awami League.

he urged them to engage

themselves in nation building

activities imbued with the

ideal and spirit of late

Welcoming the new comers

secretary Shamsul Hoq.

Sirajganj, report agencies. heroin raiding a Nababgani

Rajshahi bound passenger bus at Baliar north of the Rajshahi district on Thursday. Two persons both resident of Pabna have been arrested in this connection. The arrested

Control Department respec-Beside, the members of 20 Rifle Battalion also recovered Indian goods worth over Taka two lakh from the areas of Kashinathpur, Dargah Ghat and

thana police and the Narcotics

same day. The seized items include spare parts of watches, salt, sarees and eggs. These were deposited with the customs

A voung man was arrested after the Narcotics Control personnel recovered 30 grams of heroin from the Siraigani town on Friday

A squad of the Narcotics Control Department recovered the heroin during an afternoon raid in the house of Menhaz at Soyagovinda in the town. His brother, Jelhaz, was arrested

A case has been lodged with Sirajganj sadar police.

They are returning disappointed

President Ziaur Rahman.

RANGPUR, Oct 1: thanas of Rangpur district are in grip of an acute food crisis despite Open Market Sale (OMS) operation of rice and ata, reports UNB.

The situation aggravated due to unemployment of the landless agricultural day labourers caused by prolonged drought. The low income group of people have already lost their buying capacity. Continued drought has

hampered cultivation of aman and other seasonal crops. Aman cultivation in the district achieved only 50 per cent of the target of over 1.53 lakh hectares of land this year.

Large number of people from rural areas are rushing to the district town for jobs but returning disappointed. Prices of foodgrains and other essential commodities have registered a sharp rise. Increasing polluting the civic life of the town for the last one month. Every day, hundreds of

number of beggars have been

people have been pouring into the town seeking jobs. Besides young women are resorting to prostitution to maintain their According to local people.

Abdul Qader, 50 of village Gapalpur in Mithapukur thana died of starvation. Local administration, however, denied the report and said he died of heart attack. The agricultural and land-

less labourers of the rural areas have been passing hard days for want of jobs. The harvesting period is late. The day labourers of Rangpur sadar Gangachara, Kaunia, Pirgachha, Badarganj. Mithapukur Taraganj and Pirganj thanas depend fully on agricultural

village Bagdahora in Nohali union of Gangachara thana as at least 72 families were rendered homeless by the erosion of river Teesta. Besides, about 60 acres of land were washed away by the river. The homeless people have taken shelter on WDB embankment passing their days in great hardships. District administration sanctioned 500 metric tons of

The situation aggravated in

Programme and 100 metric tons of wheat and 100 tins of biscuit for distribution among the jobless people as relief which is too meagre to face the situation. Local people urged the gov-

wheat under Food for Works

ernment to start massive test relief programmes to provide the jobless people of the rural areas for at least next three months till IRRI-boro season.

BARISAL, Sept 28: Urea

Farmers alleged that some

The government had refixed the price of fertilizer from July 1, this year. But in the markets fertilizer dealers and traders are selling the fertiliser between Tk 210 and

the fertiliser is being sold at a high price in the markets no steps are being taken against the sellers.

sure fair supply of fertiliser so that they can get the same at the fixed price.

80 grams heroin seized from two dists A total of 80 grams of

heroin was seized in two dif ferent districts - Rajshahi and A special squad of 20 Rifle Battalion seized 50 grams of

persons and seized heroin were handed over to Rajpara

Durlaypur of the district on the

authorities.

in this connection.