

## Mishap claims 2 in Tangail

TANGAIL, Oct 17: Shamsuddin 30 and Wazed Ali 45 of village Paikara were killed in a road accident recently on Tangail-Shuruz Road under sadar thana, reports BSS.

The accident occurred while an autorickshaw fell to road side ditch. Two passengers were allegedly killed and five others on board were injured.

A case was registered in Tangail thana.

## Two killed by thunder bolt

NARSINGHDI, Oct 17: Two boys were killed when thunder struck them in Hamti village in sadar thana last week, reports UNB.

The boys were identified as Sadek Miah, son of Joinal Miah and Salam Miah, son of Moslem Miah of the village.

They were taking bath in river Meghna near their village when a streak of thunder light struck them, witnesses and family sources said. They died instantaneously.

Sadek and Joinal were students of class V of Chandrapara Primary School.

## Taka 35 crore uplift works in progress in Jamalpur

JAMALPUR, Oct 17: Work on 175 projects at a cost of Tk 35 crore in 12 thanas and three paurasas in greater Jamalpur district is progressing in the current fiscal, reports UNB.

Local Government Engineering Department, Roads and Highways Department, Public Works Department and District Council are implementing the projects.

According to official sources, the projects included reconstruction of rural roads and culverts, development of rural infrastructures, construction of irrigation drainage, renovation of Dak Bungalow and UP Bhaban, reconstruction of Collectorate Bhaban and extension work of educational institutions.

The work on the projects is expected to be completed by June next year.

## Frequent piracy in Padma, Jamuna

MANIKGANJ, Oct 17: Riverine transports plying through different routes of the Padma and Jamuna rivers are often being attacked by pirates, launch owners alleged, says UNB.

At least two people were killed and 35 others wounded as pirates attacked and looted goods from launches and fishing boats in these river routes in last two months.

Cargo owners said poorly equipped river police posted in the launches are unable to check piracy in the river routes. The vulnerable points are: Daskandi, Bororia, Paturia, Baghabari, Alokdia, Aricha, Daulatdia, Azamnagar, Chowhali and Nagarbari.

However, some members of a gang of pirates, who looted Taka 20,000 after injuring six people of five fishing boats last week, were rounded up by the river police.

## Tk 103.46 crore agri loan disbursed in Barisal Division

BARISAL, Oct 17: Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Barisal region, has been distributing a sum of Tk 103.46 crore among the farmers under the region during the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

The region comprises the districts of Barisal, Jhalakathi, Bhola, Pirojpur, Patuakhali, Barguna, Faridpur, Gopalganj, Madaripur, Shariatpur and Rajbari.

According to an official source, this loan is being disbursed for boro, aman, wheat, pisciculture, beef fattening, poultry farm and dairy farm agriculture equipments, small trades, cottage industries and self-employment programmes.

Of the total, Tk 64.84, 46,000 constitute agriculture loan and the rest non-crop loan.

Meanwhile, Tk. 13.16 crore has already been disbursed through 191 branches of the bank till first week of the current month, the source added.

Of the total, Tk. 1.51 crore was disbursed in Barisal district, Tk. 1.24 crore in Bhola, Tk. 1.47 crore in Pirojpur, Tk. 65 lakh in Jhalakathi, Tk. 1.53 crore in Patuakhali, Tk. 1.34 crore in Barguna, Tk. 1.30 crore in Faridpur, Tk. 71 lakh in Madaripur, Tk. 1.06 crore in Shariatpur and Tk. 1.37 crore in Rajbari districts.

On the other hand the bank realised Tk. 11.01 crore as repayment, the source added.

At a cost of Tk 8.42 cr

# 271 schools, colleges developed in greater Jessore district

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Oct 17: A total of 271 academic institutions were developed in greater Jessore comprising Jessore, Jhenidah, Magura and Narail district at a cost of Taka 23 crore 70 lakh 41 thousand, funded by Facilities Department during last fiscal, said a source.

According to information, in Jessore, 90 schools and colleges were taken up for development at a cost of Taka eight crore, 42 lakh 62 thousand. It included construction and repair of school and college buildings.

The class rooms and science rooms of 35, non-government secondary schools, 3 intermediate colleges, science buildings of Degree colleges,

science building of Jessore Michael Modhusudan University College, construction and repair of government and non-government primary schools were completed during the period.

In Jhenidah a total of Taka seven crore 88 lakhs 53 thousand were earmarked for development of 95 academic institutions including construction, repair of government and non-government intermediate and Degree Colleges, government and non-government secondary schools, government and non-government primary schools and madrasahs.

In Magura, 48 academic institutions were built at a cost of Taka four crore 32 lakh 81

thousand. It included construction of class rooms and science rooms of 21 non-government secondary schools, class rooms and science buildings of Intermediate and Degree colleges, besides, construction and repair of government and non-government primary schools.

In Narail, a total of 38 schools and colleges were developed at a cost of Taka three crore six lakh 45 thousand. It included 16 non-government secondary schools, two intermediate colleges and a Degree college. Repair of three government college and six government secondary schools were also included in the development programme, the source added.

An UNB reports from Bhola adds: primary schools of the district are beset with manifold problems, including shortage of teachers, accommodation and furniture, hampering the Compulsory Primary Education programme (CPEP).

This was stated at a meeting of district Co-ordination Committee recently.

According to official sources, the number of students is increasing day by day in the primary schools under the Compulsory Primary Education Programme. As a result, students of these primary schools have been studying under open air.

However, the development programmes like building construction are being taken in these schools but accommodation has not been increased in accordance with the proportion of the student during the time, the source added.

Besides, the number of teachers is not sufficient for the large number of students in seven thanas of the district. The source said, 65 posts of head master and assistant teachers are lying vacant here.

Meanwhile, District Primary Education Officer requested the concerned authority to increase and create 200 posts of assistant teachers for the primary schools of the district.

## Lalan festival inaugurated in Kushtia

KUSHTIA, Oct 17: Barrister Aminul Haq, State Minister for Establishment opened the 3-day programme in connection with death anniversary of Lalan Shah at Lalan Akhara here yesterday, reports BSS.

A large number of bauls and admirers have been attending the function from here and abroad.

## Massive afforestation programme taken up

BHOLA, Oct 17: A massive afforestation programme has been taken up along the roads and highways and on newly emerged charlands in seven thanas of the district in the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

Forest Department source, said in the first phase of the programme 10 Kilometres of road, 10 Kilometres of embankment road and 50 kilometres of thana connecting road will be brought under afforestation.

In the second phase, about 500 hectares of charlands in the river Meghna will also be brought under afforestation.

Meanwhile, land has already been requisitioned and handed over to authorities concerned.

Local Forest Department sold about six lakhs of saplings from its thana nurseries.

## Three persons claim for same DV-1 lottery mail

From KM Rezaul Hoque

GAIBANDHA, Oct 17: Three persons have claimed ownership of a long expected DV-1 lottery. This happened when concerned post office bit pen was about to make the delivery to the addressee of one DV-1 winner Md Abdul Hamid Sarker of village Pubokamarnai under Gaibandha-5700 on October 8. But the postman could not make delivery as three other persons having the same name claimed the mail in the postman's hand. Finding no way the postman however, returned the letter to Gaibandha post office being undelivered.

When the Post Master Abdul Jobbar Mia said, the postal authority will return said mail to the sender as per postal rules.

Meanwhile only three persons won the DV-1 lottery in the district. Two of the lucky fellows identified as Feroz Khan of Bridge Road of Gaibandha town and another Abdul Malek of village Salmaria under Gobindganj thana.

## Goods worth Tk 1.5 lakh looted from boat passengers

MANIKGANJ, Oct 17: Armed dacoits attacked a country boat in the river Jamuna at Shibaboy thana, three kilometres from Aricha ghat, Saturday morning and looted valuables worth Tk 1.50 lakh, reports UNB.

According to passengers, a gang of 10 to 12 robbers in a shallow boat attacked their boat at 8:15 am and snatched cash Tk 20,000, ornaments and watches from them at gun point.

Police said, the boat started from Enayetpurhat bazar of Pabna district with 25 to 30 passengers most of whom were yarn traders of Pubna district.

A case was lodged with Shibaboy police.

## Three killed in separate incidents

JHENIDAH, Oct 17: Three people were killed in three separate incidents in the district on Friday night, reports UNB.

A gang of five to six armed miscreants called out Haran Biswas (65) of village Rathkholia in Harinakundu thana from his house and hacked him to death by a sharp weapon at a nearby place.

One Alauddin was injured when he tried to resist the miscreants.

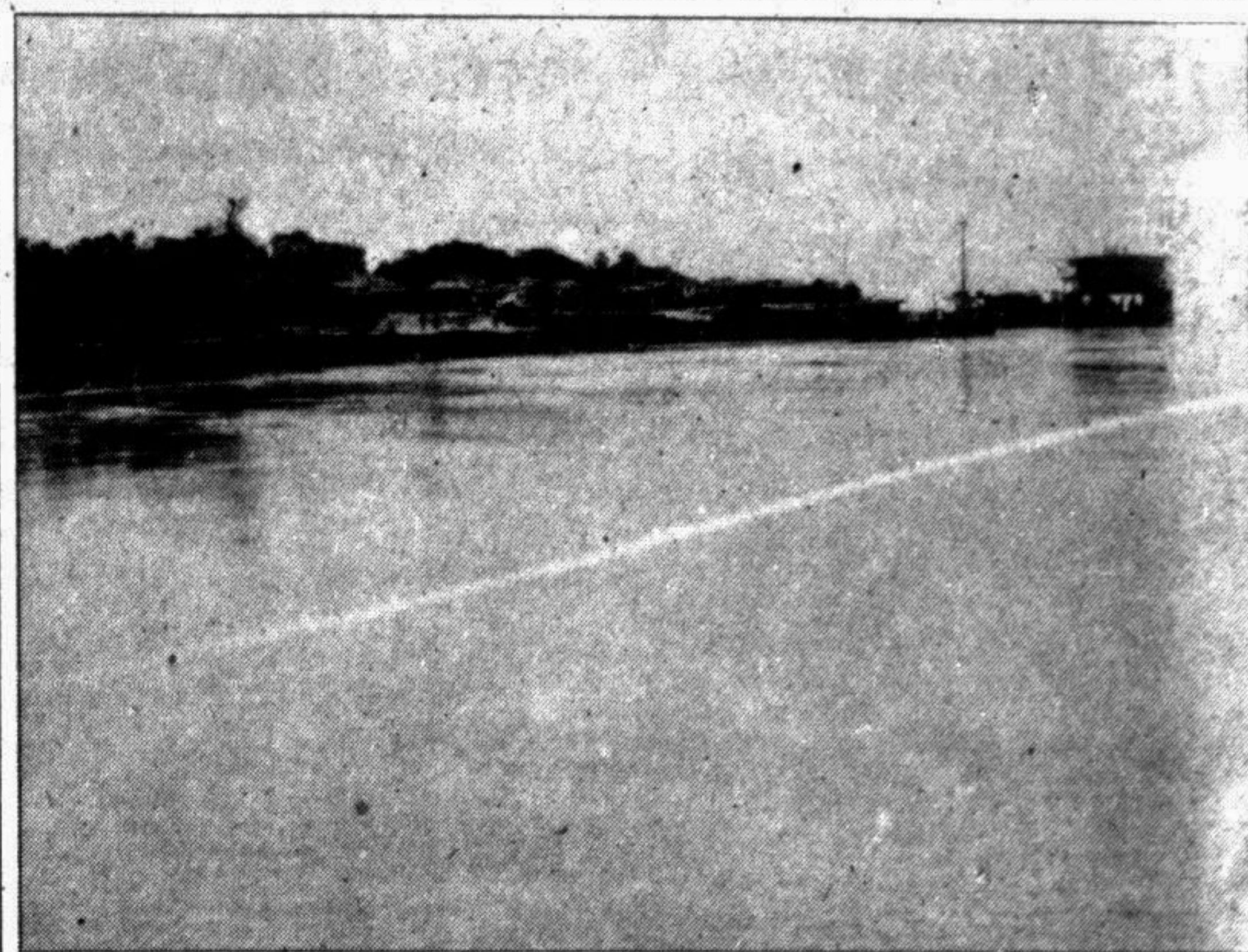
Police said, enmity might be the reason behind the killing.

In another incident, Aminul Islam, 45 of village Sadekpur in Kaliganj thana succumbed to injuries at the Khulna hospital. He was seriously injured on Tuesday night by his nephew Mofizur Rahman.

Mofiz attacked his uncle Aminul Islam with a sharp knife at around 11-30 pm. Islam was rushed to Kaliganj hospital and later shifted to Khulna 250-bed hospital where he succumbed to injuries.

Police said Mofizur Rahman's illicit relationships with his elder aunt Shakila Begum might be the reason behind the murder. A case was filed with Kaliganj police.

Another report adds: An identified body aged about 40 was found at a sugarcane field on Friday evening with a bottle of insecticide at his village. Choikhada in Kutchandpur thana.



SIRAJGANJ: The neighbouring areas of the ferry ghat on the river Jamuna, in Sirajganj experienced severe erosion this season. The main ghat area also faces erosion. —Star photo

## Fake 'NGO' activities Taka 10 crore missing

From Our Correspondent

Jamalpur, Oct 17: Some Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) reportedly collected over Taka 10 crore in the name of employment from the jobless youngmen and women from all the seven thanas of the district and later disappeared during the recent years.

Nine NGOs reportedly started their programmes in different parts of the district and all of them disappeared after collecting the above mentioned amount of money from the jobless youngmen and women.

The nine NGOs who started work here were identified as Agro-Fisheries Socio-Economic Development Organisation, People Economic Development Organisation, Bangladesh Gono Biddalay Mission, Bangladesh Rural Development Organisation Unemployment Rehabilitation Programme, Ahad Samaj Unnayan Sangstha, SIDA and Brouco of Bangladesh.

These organisations established branch offices at different locations of the district and published advertisements for recruitment of staff. The local organisations collected security money from the intending candidates.

Agro-Fisheries established their office at the local Collage Road of the town and advertised for the recruitment of staff at every union. Soon, the organisation recruits a large number of people and took security money from them between Taka 2000 to 2500 and

at thana level Tk 5,500 from each candidate. After few months the activities of the organisation were found suspicious. One day, the job seekers gheraoed the district office of their organisation and demanded their security money back. The authority of the organisation fixed time to return/back the money. One day they were found missing.

All the NGOs established their branch offices for the implementation of different projects like, women rehabilitation, small poultry farms, projects for destitute women, fish cultivation, agri-rehabilitation and interest free small trading loans.

The NGOs recruited large number of employees to cover up the programmes from union level to district level. After completion of the collection of the entry money, all the NGOs disappeared without giving any notice. About 5000 jobless youngmen and women were deprived by these so called NGOs.

A Gramin Health Organisation established their office at the Station Road in the Mehandah thana town and collected taka five per head in the rural areas for free treatment. A reliable source disclosed that the office collected Taka 15,000 in this way. Ultimately, they also disappeared from the scene.

All the people of these NGOs fled away from the Jamalpur district leaving the office and furniture behind.

## Fertilizer crisis

# Crop output seriously affected in Kushtia

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Oct 17: Acute crisis of chemical fertilizers has been prevailing in six thanas of the district for the last one month affecting crop production, in the district.

A bag of urea weighing 50 kg is being sold in the local markets at Tk 300 as against the factory rate of Tk 187 and a bag of TSP is being sold at Taka 400, murate at Tk 370 and gypsum at Tk 220.

A few days back, urea was sold at Taka 230, MP at Tk 335 and gypsum at Tk 210 in different markets of the district.

The Deputy Director, Agriculture Extension Department, Kushtia told this correspondent that sharp rise in price of urea and MP and scarcity of fertilizer in the markets put the farmers in a state of uncertainty which will hamper the production of transplanted aman.

The different socio-cultural organisations and political parties urged the government to ensure the availability of fertilizer and fixation of price for the greater interest of the nation.

It is feared that the production of rice may fall by 20 per cent due to unprecedented drought. The yield of transplanted aman may decrease by 30 per cent for want of chemical fertilizers, it is expected.

Meanwhile, the price of different varieties of rice and wheat all over Kushtia district has abnormally gone up, according to local traders.

At present the low quality rice is being sold between Taka 13.00 and 13.50. The finer quality of rice is available between Taka 14.50 and 15.00.

The price of rice has increased within the last 30 days. A month ago the low quality of rice was sold between Taka 10.50 and 11.00 and the fine quality rice was sold between Taka 12.00 and 12.50.

In the meantime, the gov-

ernment has introduced Open Marketing System (OMS) for selling rice and wheat in the district. However, it is alleged that the system is not benefiting the local consumers.

Under this system commodities like, rice and wheat are sold five days a week. On remaining two days of the week OMS is not followed according to local traders.

Only a few dealers have been appointed in Kushtia town for the purpose and each dealer is only selling one metric ton of rice and one metric ton of wheat a day, which is also inadequate.

It was alleged that arrangements for selling rice and wheat under OMS have not been made in the rural areas of the district as a result the trend of price hike of rice and atta are continuing in the rural areas of the district.

To control the trend of price hike of rice, immediate steps are needed to supply huge quantities of rice and wheat in the rural areas.

## Housewife beaten to death for dowry

SATKHIRA, Oct 17: A young housewife was allegedly killed by her husband in a village of Kaliganj thana on Saturday for dowry, reports UNB.

Police said Maya Rani, 18, was beaten to death by her husband Prabir Sarker at their home in Gabindakati village as her father failed to provide him with one lakh taka.

Rani's father had paid fifty thousand taka as dowry during their marriage, but Prabir insisted that his wife bring more money.

As Rani succumbed to torture Prabir poured poison in her mouth to prove that she committed suicide, police said. Her body was sent to the hospital for autopsy.

A case was filed with Kaliganj thana in this connection.

## Hungry card phone!

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Oct 17: A hungry card phone has eaten up at least 14 hundred taka denomination cards and already digested with the course of 48 hours.

This card phone was set up at Gaibandha Railway Station few months before which remains out of order due to lack of regular check up when asked local T&T officials said they had not yet received any complains in regard to this card phone.

T&T board established three card phone booths in the district head quarters which reportedly could not serve its purposes other than incurring financial losses to the people. In Gaibandha only 100 taka denomination 50 unit card is available which is not always available, it was alleged.

The NWD system in Gaibandha do not work properly as out going channels often remain out of order.

## Scarcity of newsprint, white paper in Jhenidah

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Oct 17: Acute scarcity of newsprint and white paper has been prevailing all over the district since last two months. As a result, the students and the local newspaper publishing centers are in great trouble.

According to reports, white paper is now being sold between Taka 13 and 13.50 a quire as against Taka nine, two months before. Newsprint is being sold between Taka 470 and 480 per ream as against its government rate of Taka 280.00.

Further prices of other types of papers like thin paper, offset and colour papers have gone up.

An Editor of a local daily said that they are in hardship to run publishing business.

It may be noted here that two dailies namely the Dainik Jhenidah and the Dainik Nabachitra and three other weeklies namely the Weekly Jhenidah Barta, the Weekly Chalanika and the Weekly Nirban are published from Jhenidah district.

Local people alleged that some dishonest traders are creating artificial crisis in the markets. But while talking to some of the traders it was clear that sufficient quota of newsprint and white paper were not available for the traders.

Local leaders have urged the concerned authorities to probe into the matter and take immediate steps against the dishonest paper traders responsible for creating artificial crisis in the markets.

Meanwhile Kaliganj police arrested an accused for dacoity cases from village Daulatpur in Kaliganj thana recently. Police said, Moslem Ali a notorious dacoit was involved with dacoity at a local trading center in 1992. Police submitted charge sheet against the accused but he was abscond. At last police nabbed him from his village home at Daulatpur.



Muhammad Musa (2nd from left), delivering speech as special guest at a conference of Rajshahi Divisional Mujibnagar and Freedom Fighters' Welfare Association held at Rajshahi circuit house recently. On his right are Khondokar Asaduzzaman, retired secretary and President of the association and Montaz Uddin, DC, Barisal and convener of the Rajshahi Divisional Committee of the association.

# Tarash, famous for many glories, remains underdeveloped

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Oct 17: Once famous for many glories, the Tarash thana in Sirajganj district is now one of the most underdeveloped areas. Yet people from different parts are coming to Tarash to visit the places of historical importance.

There are many old temples and structures in Tarash with archaeological values which have been left uncared. Some of the temples have collapsed and some are on verge of extinction.

The three-storied 'Dol ranch' is one of the main attractions in Tarash Bazar. So far according to history, in 1720, after the death of the then King Ramkrishna Sanyal, his wife Queen Sarbari Devi took over the charges of 'Santal' dominated kingdom. Due to lavish expenses made by the departed king, the queen inherited a huge burden of debt. Later she appointed one Ram Ram Roy as the 'Dewan' who successfully administered the kingdom and soon brought the area into a profitable concern. One of the brothers of Ram Ram Roy was a senior employee of the Nawab of Dhaka. When the mother of Ram Ram Roy died, both the brothers wished to spend Taka one lakh each for her funeral ceremony. After

completing the ceremony gorgeously, Dewan Ram Ram Roy constructed the three storied temple, popularly known as the 'Dol ranch' at Tarash Bazar with the savings from the funeral ceremony.

The two-storied 'Dol ranch' in early 18th century, one Balaram Chowdhury of Tarail served under Subedar Murshid Kuli Khan of Bengal and earned handsome money. In 1718, he constructed a palace at 'Kunjbari' in Tarash thana. To offer prayers to his family deity 'Radha Gobinda' he constructed a two-storied temple, locally known as the 'Dol ranch'. The palatial house of Balaram Chowdhury was demolished but the temple still stands left neglected. By the sincere effort of Balaram Chowdhury, the Tarash-Dhaka road through Chalmohar was constructed about three hundred years ago.

The Kapileswar Temple at village Chebcharia about 12 kilometers away from Tarash thana sadar: Basudev Talukder Alias Narayan Dev Chowdhury, an influential employee of Subedar Islam Khan constructed the temple at his village residence. History says that the Subedar presented 200 'mouzas' as Jaigis to Basudev for his satisfactory

performances in service. One day, when Basudev was walking, he saw that a cow was giving milk inside a bush. His curiosity ended up in discovery of a 'Shiva' deity in the bush and soon replaced it in the 'Kapileswar' Temple. He also donated Gopinathpur and Charia mouzas to bear the expenses of the deity.

The birth place of Behula: The village Binshara, about six kilometers from Tarash thanas. Sadar is famous for the birth place of 'Behula', a heroine of Chand Sawdagar and Laxminadar tales. Binshara was known as Nishaninagar. Behula was the daughter of Bachu Bania alias Sai Sawdagar of this village. There is a big well, known as 'Bachu Bania's Jiyon Koop'. This well has four small wells inside. Each small well was covered by red earthen jars which were full of snakes. More than 360 small and big ponds were dug here for use of the common people.

The 'Jiyon' well was partially repaired in 1986 by the then Upazila parishad of Tarash. A link road from thana headquarters was also constructed then.

The house of Bachu Bania was situated on 40 bighas of land full of buildings, gardens and ponds. Most of this area have allegedly been occupied

by the intruders. About a century ago, the buildings of Bachu Bania were demolished by earthquake which await digging. There was also a milk pond in the house of Bachu Bania full of poisonous snakes where people dropped milk everyday instead of selling it in the market.

Behula used to go to the market of Chand Sawdagar by boat through a canal which is still known as 'Behula Khari'. There she met Laxminadar, the only son of Chand Sawdagar and later they were married. It is a proverb that when going to Chand Bazar, the boat of Behula capsize in the canal and it is believed that the boat is still there under the soil but no one dared to dig it out because of dire consequences, according to tales.

The Binshara Government Primary School is situated at the house of Bachu Bania. The name of Behula is also engraved in the signboard.

Other than the above mentioned temples and buildings, there are more places in Tarash which also have historical importance. The Archaeological department can take initiatives to preserve the past glories of Tarash by developing the communication network of the neglected area.