

Seminar on 'rule of law' held in Rajshahi

RAJSHAHI, Nov 21: A seminar on 'The Role of Society to Establish the Rule of Law' was held here at the Education and Practising Centre Thursday reports UNB.

President of Rajshahi Bar Council Alhaj Abul Kashem was the chief guest.

The key note paper, presented by Advocate Rafiqul Hasan observed that people should be aware of their rights and duties for effective implementation of the Rule of Law. To serve the purpose united initiative of the people is essential, the paper pointed out.

Organised by the District Lawyer Association the seminar was presided over by Saiful Islam, convener of the seminar.

27 posts of doctors remain vacant

MADARIPUR, Nov 21: Some 27 posts of doctors remained vacant in Civil Surgeon office and Modern Hospital of Shriyampur district causing suffering to the patients, reports UNB.

Patients are deprived of proper treatment due to lack of doctors in important departments like Gynecologic, Dental, Surgical and Anesthesia.

District Civil Surgeon Office source said, of the total 75 posts of doctor, 48 doctors have been working in Sariyampur district for 12 lakh population of the district.

Seven posts are vacant in Modern Hospital, five in Zazira thana hospital, three in Naria thana hospital, five in Vedarganj thana hospital, two in Damuja thana hospital and two in Gosair Hat thana hospital.

However, one doctor from Zazira thana hospital, two from Naria thana hospital, four from Bhedarganj thana hospital and four from Gosair hat thana hospital were on deputation.

Massive rabi crop cultivation scheme in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Nov 21: An intensive programme for cultivation of different Rabi crops have been taken up in eleven thanas under Sylhet district during the current winter season.

An official of the department of agriculture informed this correspondent that, under the programme, boro paddy would be cultivated on 54,490 hectares of land while potato on 1400 hectares, wheat on one thousand hectares, and Mustard on 5100 hectares. Besides, Maize, Masur Dal and some other crops would also be cultivated under the programme.

The source further informed that, the target of Boro paddy production has been fixed at one lakh 21 thousand and 450 metric tonnes, potato at 15,500 metric tonnes, and wheat at 11,000 metric tonnes.

Of the total targeted area of boro paddy, 23,422 hectares would be used for different high yielding varieties and 30,993 hectares for the local varieties. The thana wise breakup of the targeted area boro paddy is as follows: Sylhet sadar-9500 hectares, Gowainhat-4000 hectares, Balaganj-7200 hectares, Companiganj-7000 hectares, Bishwanath-3100 hectares, Fenchuganj-2800 hectares, Gopalganj-5500 hectares, Jaintapur-2000 hectares, Kanaighat-795 hectares, Jakiganj-3400 hectares and Beanibazar-7122 hectares.

Pirates loot valuables worth Tk 5 lakh

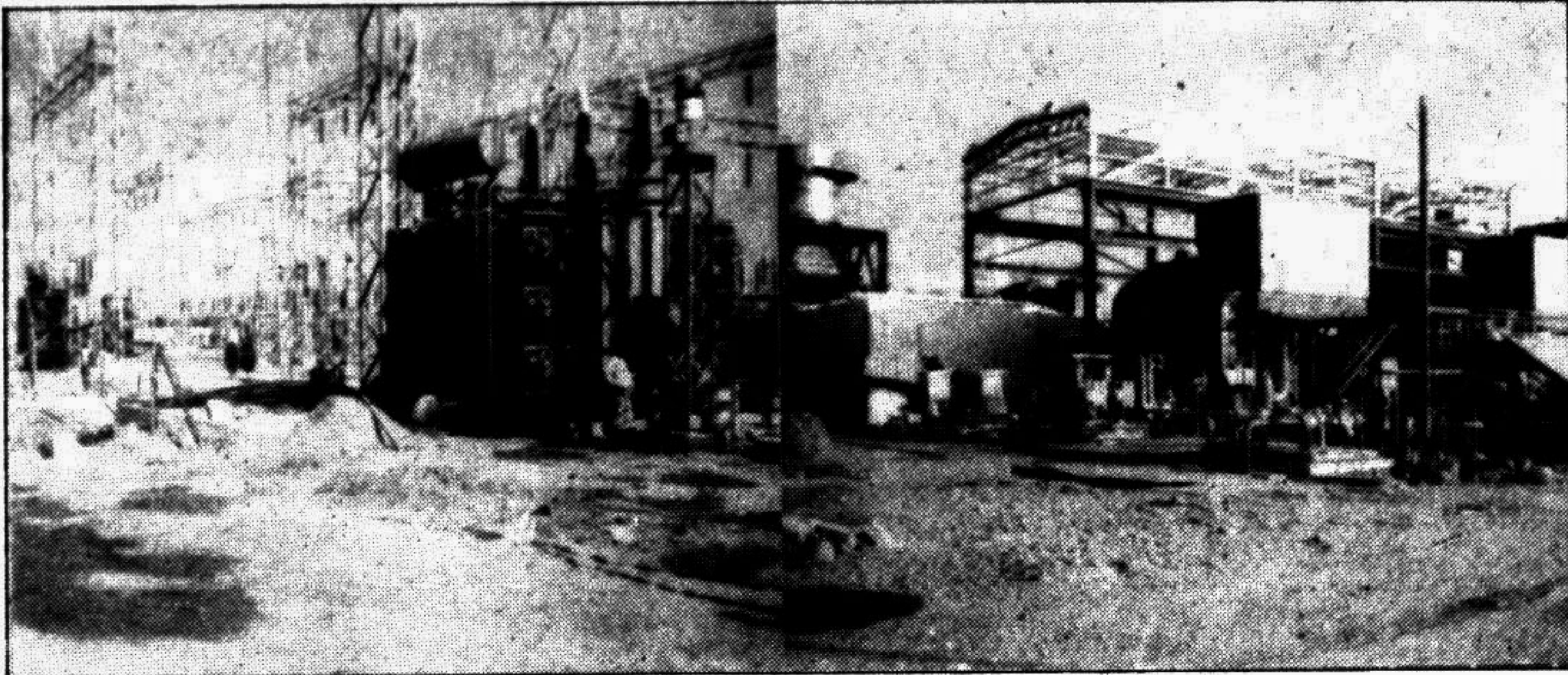
BARISAL, Nov 21: Pirates swooped on a passenger launch at Char Beduria union in river Tetulia and decamped with valuables worth about Tk 5 lakh, reports UNB.

Witnesses said, the pirates numbering about 15 to 20 boarding a fishing boat stormed the MV Bappi, beat the passengers and snatched away their belongings on the night of November 9.

Later, the pirates forced the driver to stop the launch at Chakimara near Mehendiganj thana of the district and fled away.

A case has been filed with the police.

Local passengers urged the authorities to arrange security guards on every launch for their security.



Various sections of the Fenchuganj 90mw power plant.

— Star photos

11 months ahead of schedule

90mw Fenchuganj power plant will soon go into operation

From Iqbal Siddiquee

SYLHET, Nov 21: The first unit of the 90 megawatt combined cycle power plant in Fenchuganj will soon go into operation. With completion of the installation works, the test operation of the unit will be conducted today (Nov 22), said the officials, adding, "it is about 11 months ahead of the schedule".

Foundation stone of the 3-unit plant was laid on November 25 last year with a target expenditure of Taka 404 crore under a Japanese loan funded by the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) of Japan. A Japanese firm, Sumitomo Corporation, was entrusted with the task of installation of the plant. The Finance Minister, Saifur Rahman formally laid the foundation stone.

The long-term loan will have to be repaid over a period of thirty years including ten years of grace. The interest is one per cent. Of the total expenditure, 12 billion 735 mil-

lion 676 thousand yen has been funded by the OECF, Japan while Bangladesh's contribution stands at Taka 151 million 998 thousand, the source added.

The source further informed that 25 per cent of the total cost is being spent for installation of the unit no. 1, that is the gas turbine, 1.25 per

cent for the unit no. 2 that is the gas turbine-2 and 30 per cent for the 3rd unit that is the steam turbine while installation of the sub-station would cost about 5 per cent of the total expenditure and the rest of the 15 per cent for the civil works of the whole project.

Under the contract, the works of the project is to

ready the plant for operation within two years. However, the Japanese experts with the help of Bangladeshi engineers and workers made it possible to complete the works ahead of the schedule. The plant is now undergoing test operation 11 months ahead of the schedule.

The unit-1 (gas turbine-1) was scheduled to go into operation on August 1 of 1995. Now it is expected that it would start commercial operation by middle of December, this year. Officials informed that they were hoping that the test operation of unit-2 (gas turbine-2) will start by the first half of December this year and expected to go on commercial operation on January 10 of 1995.

Unit-3 (steam turbine) is expected to go into test operation by mid-March 1995 and to commercial operation by the end of April 95 against the schedule in November 1995, the source added.

Plan to cultivate IRRI, boro crops in Khulna Div

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Nov 21: Massive programme has been taken up to cultivate IRRI/boro crop on a total of two lakh 90 thousand 615 hectares of land in 10 districts of Khulna Division during current season.

The source also informed that the target IRRI/boro cultivation includes both the HYV (High Yielding Variety) and local variety.

Giving details on the cultivation plan the source said that HYV of crops will be planted on a total of two lakh 82 thousand 562 hectares, while a total of eight thousand 53 hectares will be brought under cultivation of local variety.

The programme has been taken up against an expected crop production of nine lakh 16 thousand 277 metric tons.

Battle of Muktingar

On this day 23 yrs ago Jessore western front was liberated

From Atiur Rahman

JESSORE, Nov 21: Today is a red-letter day in our history of Liberation War of 1971.

On this day (Nov 22), Jessore western front was liberated from Pakistan occupation forces following their crushing defeat at Battle of Muktingar fought against the offensive launched by allied forces comprising Freedom Fighters and Indian forces.

The battle of Muktingar continued for two days. It started on November 21 and ended the next day in the afternoon.

The witnesses in neighbouring villages, Ashraf Ali, Abdul Hamid, Ahad Ali of Goribpur, Walul Islam, Kitab Ali and Ismail Hossain of Jahangirpur, Noor Baksh, Abul Hossain and Moula Baksh of Huda Fatepur, Abdul Latif, Moksed Ali and Daud Hossain of Jamalta, described some of the events and actions of the battle. Remembering the nightmare, they said, the battle was a fierce one. Troops on both sides fought face to face.

The battlefield was full of dead bodies and none came to remove them. The allied forces advanced under coverage of 25mm gun, destroyed the enemy front in the battle, they described. In fact, the disastrous consequence suffered by



Writings on a wall tell facts about the battle ground at Muktingar.

— Star photo

Pakistani forces at Muktingar led to their decision to retreat towards Khulna.

The retired Chowgacha Sahadat Pilot High School teacher, Mujibor Rahman, ward member of Shinghajhully Union Dewan Wazed Ali, and a noted social worker Abdur Rahim Mollick of Shinghajhully added that pull-out by the Pakistani forces from frontiers began all of a sudden on November 19. They retreated back to Shinghajhully and stayed there overnight. Next morning they moved to Muktingar mango garden and built a

new stronghold. They ordered for massive concentration of artillery, troops, armoured core at Muktingar. They also had a dozen tanks fitted with anti-aircraft machine guns. They were ready to attack the allied forces.

On this day (Nov 20) two fighter jets, belonging to Pakistan Air Force, out of four which took part in the attack, were gunned down by allied forces near the frontier. One Pilot Officer of PAF (Pakistan Air Force) was caught by local Freedom Fighters (FF) when he landed by parachute at

Dighalsingha, adjacent to Chowgacha. Later he was handed over to FF Commander. Villagers said that these fighters were attacked when they tried to fly over bordering Indian territory to destroy army camps.

It was also learnt from local people that subsequently, all the captured Pakistani tanks, lost in the battle were taken to India except four which were left behind until 1974.

According to a source, there was speculation in district administration to construct a platform at Muktingar for preservation of the captured tanks for display.

But all these speculations ended in failure for reasons unknown. All the four tanks were sold on auction by the concerned authority.

After long eight years, the then Deputy Commissioner, Jessore, Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, thoroughly investigated the records and identified Muktingar as one of the battle fields of Liberation War of 1971. He was very keen and was also interested to develop it as a historic landmark.

Accordingly he took up a plan to construct a school, library, museum, rest-house, road, and supply electricity to make the historic site worth visiting.

Halfway through construction of the school, Muktingar Shahid Sarani Sikkha Niketan, he was transferred. The foundation of the school was laid on February 21, 1979 by him. The remaining planned project was not completed. The chairman of the upazila parishad in May 1985 took initiative to complete the project of the school on priority basis.

A programme has been taken for the first time in 24 years by local Freedom Fighters to commemorate the historic day of November 22 at Muktingar by holding a colourful rally.

The GOC, Jessore Cantonment, Major-General Mustafizur Rahman Bir-Bikram, Colonel (Retired) Showkat Ali, Major (Retired) Asaduzzaman are expected to attend the rally.

Muktingar is two kilometres south of Moshir Nagar on Jessore-Chowgacha highway, Muktingar in under Shinghajhully union of Chowgacha thana in Jessore.

— Star photo

85 schools, colleges built in Magura

MAGURA, Nov 21: Construction works of 85 educational institutions, including college, in the district have been completed, reports UNB.

This was disclosed at a meeting in the Deputy Commissioner's conference room on Thursday. The meeting was organised to distribute cheques against grants for constructing new educational institutions.

Agriculture and Irrigation Minister Major General (Rtd) Majidul Haq handed over cheques among the representatives of 25 schools and colleges.

The minister said that the present government had attached top priority to the education sector to develop infrastructure of the country's educational institutions.

He urged the schools authorities to raise standard of education by utilising all facilities.

5000 tubewells remain out of order in southern dists

PIROJPUR, Nov 21: About 5,000 tubewells have gone out of order in 11 southern districts of Barisal, Pirojpur, Patuakhali, Bhola, Barguna, Jhalkati, Faridpur, Madaripur, Shariatpur, Rajbari and Gopalganj due to lack of necessary repair and maintenance, reports UNB.

According to Department of Public Health and Engineering, there are 82,531 shallow and 27,771 deep tubewells in the districts. Of the total, 3,060 shallow and 706 deep tubewells have gone out of order since long.

Official sources said the disordered tubewells both shallow and deep are 611 in Barisal, 201 in Patuakhali, 183 in Bhola, 346 in Jhalkati, 495 in Pirojpur, 205 in Barguna, 304 in Faridpur, 321 in Shariatpur, 476 in Gopalganj, 302 in Madaripur, 325 in Rajbari.

Supply of pure water and irrigation systems have been affected adversely as a large number of tubewells went out of order in these districts.

Road mishap claims one in Patuakhali

From Our Correspondent

PATUAKHALI, Nov 21: A minor boy was killed when a BRTC bus ran over him near the Patuakhali bridge in this sadar thana at about 3 pm Saturday.

According to witnesses the victim Ferdous, 7, was crossing the Patuakhali Amtall highway when the bus hit him. Ferdous died on the spot.

The driver of the bus, however, managed to escape, sources said. The body was taken to the Patuakhali hospital and a case has been filed.

LGED completes 219 projects in Madaripur

MADARIPUR, Nov 21: Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) has completed works on 219 development projects with an expenditure of about taka four crore in three thanas of the district, says UNB.

According to official sources, the projects included, development of five bazars, reconstruction of 21 bridges, 44 culverts, two sluice gates, one embankment, two ghats and 158 self-employment projects.

Moreover, LGED has taken up several uplift programmes at a cost of Tk 2.04 crore under WFP, ADB and ADF.

The department also allotted Tk 4.89 lakh for development of registered non-government primary schools, repair of 213 km road in six thanas of the district.

Old man killed in Meherpur

MEHERPUR, Nov 21: An old man was suffocated to death by unidentified miscreants in Bandargram village in sadar thana recently, reports UNB.

Police said Jatful Sheikh, 60, of Radhakantapur village was killed in a field of the village while he was coming to the district town along with some 50 people to attend a Workers Party meeting.

Police recovered the body. Meanwhile, Meherpur unit of Workers Party and its front organisation Khet Major Union held a joint protest meeting Thursday and claimed Sheikh as their worker.

Sheikh was buried at his family graveyard after post-mortem in Sadar Hospital Thursday.

A case was filed with local police in this connection.

DISTRICT NOTES

Piracy in deep sea

BARISAL, Nov 21: Armed pirates attacked two fishing trawlers in deep sea, some 65 km away from Patharghata thana of Barguna district and looted goods worth about Taka five lakh, reports UNB.

According to fishermen, about 10 to 12 pirates equipped with fire arms stormed FB Bhai and FB Surma trawlers at 7:30 pm on November 7 and snatched away fish, fishing nets, engine parts and cash.

When resisted the pirates beat the fishermen of FB Surma mercilessly and threw five of them into the sea.

One held for attempting to seduce woman

SATKHIRA, Nov 21: Police arrested a young man from village Gabindapur in Kaliganj thana on charge of attempting to seduce a woman on Sunday, reports UNB.

The arrested was identified as Nurul Haque Tarafder. On November 7, Tarafder reportedly took an attempt to seduce a woman of a house in the same village. When the co-villagers came to the aid of the victim, Tarafder fled the scene.

On the basis of a case filed by the neighbours, police managed to arrest him.

Crops worth Taka five cr damaged in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, Nov 21: Crops worth about Tk five crore have been damaged in the district due to unprecedented drought, Agriculture Extension Department sources said, reports UNB.

Local people said, food crisis has turned acute in remote areas of the district and the marginal and landless farmers are facing problems to maintain their livelihood. Prices of rice and wheat are increasing day by day.

In the absence of job opportunities they are pouring into the town to earn their livelihood.

Meanwhile, unemployment problem has become acute in the northern districts, including Sirajganj, due to temporary closure of some mills and factories.

Usually job opportunity squeezes in the region during the dry season every year. However, situation in this region turned worse due to delayed operation of food for works and other similar programmes, it is learnt.

Sirajganj Spinning Mills and many other small factories have already been closed due to various reasons including fund constraints rendering a large number of workers jobless.

Stadium in Barguna remain abandoned

BARGUNA, Nov 21: The sports stadium of the district town, once a centre of sports and games, remain abandoned for a long time, writes UNB.

The stadium was established by the initiatives of local fans, organisers and enthusiasts a few years back. A committee was also formed for the maintenance of the stadium. But the committee has failed to come up to the expectations creating despair among the sportsmen of the district.

The stadium has now turned into a grazing ground in the absence of maintenance.

Local people alleged that no attempt has yet been made for the development and promotion of the stadium up to the expectation of the sports lovers.

Some local institutions and clubs also alleged that they could not arrange any tournament this winter due to the lack of co-operation from the sports committee.

Pipegun, bullets recovered

PIROJPUR, Nov 21: Police recovered one pipegun and four rounds of bullets from a house in sadar thana on Saturday says UNB.

Ali Akbar, owner of the house, was also arrested. Acting on a tip, a contingent of police led by the OC of sadar police station, raided the house and recovered the arms and ammunition from his possession.

Another message from Brahmanbaria adds: Police recovered two stolen electric poles from a house at Satbarga village in sadar thana recently. Police arrested one Abdul Hamid.

The steel-made electric poles were missing from Shashi Islampur village. A case was filed with the police.

Toll collectors harass small traders in Narail

NARAIL, Nov 21: Poor farmers and small traders are being harassed by some toll collectors at different hats and bazars in the district, reports UNB.

The lease-holders are collecting tolls, three to four times higher than the fixed government rates from traders at different hats of Ruppaganj, Tularampur, Candchuri, Agdia, Naldi, Mithapur, Madrasa Bashgram and Maizpara, the traders alleged.

They added that the toll collectors are reportedly not providing any receipt against collection of tolls who they alleged do not maintain the required chart for the purpose.

They said, with cooperation of some officials the lease-holders take undue benefit by collecting tolls at high rates.

The traders also said that no scheme for the development of the local markets have yet been taken in spite of repeated appeals to the concerned authorities.

Local traders have urged the district administration to stop collecting of tolls above the rates fixed by the government and take action against its violators.

Smuggled goods penetrating Satkhira border areas

SATKHIRA, Nov 21: A huge quantity of smuggled goods have been entering into the district through different border areas every day, local people said, says an UNB report.

The volume of contraband items have increased in the recent weeks as the smugglers have become active at several border points, they added.

The contrabands included Indian cows, phensidyl, sarees and spare parts of by-cycles, fruits, species, imitation ornaments, salt, sugar and razor blades.

According to BDR sources, these goods are entering through Bhatsala, Khanjia, Naria, Noapara, Sreepur, Kakkanga and Baikari areas, of the border.

They said, Indian goods amounting to Taka two to three lakh on an average are being seized every day. However, local people claimed that smuggled goods worth crores of taka are pouring in the district daily.



BRAHMANBARIA: The BDR men recently seized Indian made phensidyle syrup bottles worth Tk two lakh from Debagram of Akwra thana of the district.

— Star photo