

Diarrhoea claims 385 lives in Sylhet Division this month

From Md. Iqbal Siddiquee

SYLHET, Oct 28: The outbreak of diarrhoea has taken a serious turn in different areas of Sylhet Division for the last few weeks. According to the reports from all the four districts, at least 385 people died of the disease since October 1, while about three thousand others were suffering, in different thanas.

In Sylhet district, a total of 185 persons died, of the killer disease. It includes, 70 in Companyganj, 70 in Gowainghat 20 in Kanaighat 10 in Jakiganj, 7 in Biswanath and 3 in the sadar thana, sources informed. The badly affected areas are in Companyganj and Gowainghat thanas, which are in the remote areas with a very poor communication facility. Villages of all the three unions of Companyganj thana have been gripped by the disease.

Eight including three of a same family died at village Dalaigaon under, Telikhal union, while 4 of another family breathed their last at village Baramsiddhipur under Ranikhal union. Many others were still suffering at village Majhergaon, Batural, Parua and Potamara villages. Treatment facilities are totally absent in these villages due to absence of communi-

cation in all these remote villages, though a very scanty activities of medical men of the health department is on in some villages adjacent to the thana headquarters, alleged a number of villagers.

However, the Thana Health Administrator refused to give any information about the situation, though he claimed of taking necessary steps in the affected villages. He also claimed that, four medical teams were working in the thana. The Thana Health complex there was now full of Diarrhoea patients. Even a number of patients were seen on the floor due to absence of necessary beds in the hospital.

A good number of villagers, however taking indigenous treatment.

In Gowainghat thana, the disease has so far claimed atleast 70 people. The badly affected villages here are in Rustampur, Alirgaon, Toakul Nandirgaon, Lengura, Purba Jafflong, Pashchim Jafflong and Fatehpur unions. More than 700 others were also suffering in these areas. The Gowainghat thana Health Complex has been lacking minimum medicines like Oral Saline and others. The dearth of beds and staff in

the hospital has also attributed much to aggravate the situation. Health Officials here claimed that, 3 medical teams were working in different villages of the thana. But, the service is too meagre to cope with the situation.

In Kanaighat thana, 20 people died of the disease during the last 25 days. The seriously-hit villages were in Pashchim Lakshmi Prasad and Bara Chatul unions. A fifteen-year old boy named Mamun of Govindapur union died of diarrhoea two weeks ago. He was refused admission into the Thana Health Complex. It is alleged. Acute scarcity of Oral Saline has been prevailing in different remote villages of the thana, said some UP members last week.

The disease has also spread in Garegram Bara Chalia, Bara Pathar Gadadhar, Liakatpur, of Brosree union, Bhaktipur, and Shahidabad of Sultampur union, and Karaimura of Kajalsha union of Jakiganj thana. More than 15 per sons died of the disease in Jakiganj thana areas.

Besides, 7 others died in Biswanath thana while 3 were in Hatkhola and Jalalabad Unions of Sylhet thana.

In Sunamganj district, atleast 130 people died of

the killer disease since October 1. A serious outbreak of the disease has been reported from Chhatak, Sunamganj sadar, Doarabazar, Jagannathpur Dera and Sulla thanas. The situation in the villages of Doarabazar thana remained worst. Thirty people died in Sonapur village under Pandargaon union in the thana during the last two weeks, the UP chairman alleged.

The service of medical team in these thanas totally absent, said a number of villagers.

The worst system of communication in these Haor thanas is the main cause of absence of minimum medical facilities.

District health officials, however, claimed of running medical teams in the badly-hit Doarabazar thana.

In the district of Habiganj, at least 40 persons died of the disease during the last few weeks. Besides, 30 others also died in different thanas of Moulvibazar district. Of them, 15 were in the remote tea garden areas.

The health department should start vigorous measures to bring the situation under control, it is widely felt.



PABNA: Speaker addressing a seminar held in Pabna Rashid Hall Milanayatan organised by the District Administration in celebration of the 50th founding anniversary of the UNO. From left; Advocate Ranesh Maitra, President Pabna District Gono Forum and senior journalist, Advocate Zahir Ali Quaderi, a prominent social worker and former Public Prosecutor and Hedayetul Islam, Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Pabna, are seen speaking. — Star photo

UN 50th anniversary

Speakers urge to establish democracy all over the world

From Ranesh Maitra

PABNA, Oct 28: At a seminar organised by the District Administration of Pabna while celebrating the 50th anniversary of founding of the United Nations, speakers stressed the need to abolish veto power for the five permanent members of the Security Council, expansion of the membership of the Security Council for ensuring wider representation of the developing nations and to amend the human rights charter suited to the present day needs for establishing democracy all over the world.

Shishu Academy, Maksudul Islam, District Education Officer, Pabna, Hosne Ara Begum, a research officer of CCDB of Pabna and Abdur Rahman Khan, a student, participated in the discussion.

The speakers criticised the role of UNO in Bosnia, on the question of Bangladesh during the liberation war in 1971 and on many other issues but stated assertively that there was no alternative to the United Nations Organisation which also had a positive role in tackling various international issues not only of dispute but also of mutual co-operation. The speakers asserted that the role of UNO, on establishing human rights all over the world, on the question of development of women, on economic, social, educational and cultural co-operation was becoming more and more vital with the changing situation of the world.

The speakers also touched the issue of financial constraints with which the UNO has been unfortunately faced with, could easily be solved if the big powers repaid their dues and if the massive build-

up of armaments could be done away with and a fantastic amount of 1,000 billion dollars could be saved annually and this amount could very well be diverted to the UN Fund.

It was also suggested that by amending the charter of the UN and inserting therein that the world body would uphold democracy alone and would never recognise, nor would ever co-operate with but would effectively oppose military coupe-tat in any part of the globe for meaningfully patronising the ideals and concept of democracy.

After the seminar, prizes were awarded to the best competitors participating essay competition organised in this connection.

The winners of the prizes were: Kafia Shaon Sharmeen, Moniruzzaman Mukta and Marufa Manzuri Khan of Group A.

Sanchaya Kumar Ghosh, Md Zubair Bin Shajahan and Mamunur Rashid of Group B.

Hedayetul Islam, Additional Deputy Commissioner (General), Pabna distributed the prizes.

13 police camps to be set-up to curb activities of lathials

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Oct 28: With the advent of the harvesting season in the southern districts under Barisal Division the lathials backed by rich local land lords have already started taking preparations.

To curb the activities of lathials decision has already been taken by the district administration to set up 13 police camps in different char areas of Patuakhali district.

According to sources, five camps are being set up at Galachipa thana area, five camps in Baufal thana and three camps in Tauhumina thana of the district.

Docoit caught red-handed

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Oct 28: One dacoit was caught red-handed by the local people at village Kharikhali in sadar thana of the district recently, it was learnt.

According to reports, some dacoits numbering 10 to 12 attacked the house of Joy Prakash Kanjilal at about 10:00 pm on October 16. They looted valuables worth Tk at least 10 thousand from the house. It was alleged. During dacoity Bhojan, 35, was stabbed by the dacoits, it was further alleged. He was rushed to Jhenidah sadar hospital, and then was referred to Khulna General Hospital in critical condition, local people informed.

The village people nabbed the dacoit, Badrul alias Badu during dacoity. Local people informed that Badu was allegedly caught when some village people hit on his head with a lathi. Badu, who lost one of his hand earlier while committing dacoity was allegedly involved with many robbery cases including theft and some other anti-social activities, police sources said. The alleged dacoit was released on bail only three days before the dacoity incident, it was further learnt.

Husband tortures wife to death

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Oct 28: Anjuara Khatun, 21, housewife of Azizur Rahman Dafadar of village — Singal under Kalaroa thana was beaten to death by her husband recently.

It was reported that Azizur Rahman Dafadar married Anjuara Khatun daughter of Afsar Ali of village Dhandia under Tala thana three years ago and at the time of marriage, he took dowry. Later he demanded more dowry which Anjuara's parents failed to pay.

As a result her husband often tortured her and on the day of occurrence, Azizur beat her wife mercilessly and she died on the spot. Later he tried to suppress the killing by pouring liquid pesticide into her mouth and informed his neighbours that his wife committed suicide by taking pesticide.

An UD case was lodged with Kalaroa police station in this connection.

BKB to give Tk 13 cr loan

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Oct 28: Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) will distribute Tk about 13 crore in Jhenidah district this fiscal year among the farmers, it was learnt.

According to BKB sources, the authorities will distribute Tk 7.84,000.00 as short term loan, Tk 2,15,000.00 as medium term loan and Tk 2,08,000.00 as long term loan. The amount will be distributed for purchasing cattle, irrigation equipment and to cultivate crops, sources informed.

BKB already has started distribution of the loans and it might be completed by June next year, it was informed.

Nine dacoits held, arms recovered in Jessore

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Oct 28: Police arrested nine dacoits including the gang leader and recovered a rifle looted from Bhatpara branch of the Sonali Bank under Obhainagar thana in the district with huge quantity of arms and ammunition recently.

According to information a contingent of police from Obhainagar in Jessore and Fultala thanas in Khulna nabbed the gang leader Nazrul from Bejerdanga under Fultala thana during their joint operation to track down the dacoits.

Acting on the confessional statement of the gang leader, police recovered one pistol, four pipe guns, one toy gun, huge ammunition besides the rifle of the bank from a nearby hide-out. Eight other dacoits were also nabbed by the police from the same place during the operation, it was learnt.

Incidentally, cash money worth Taka 85 thousand and the rifle of the security guard were looted away from the bank on 18th of this month.

A case has been recorded with the local thana.

Police-outlawed party activists gun battle: Arms recovered

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Oct 28: Police seized good number of firearms and ammunition by defeating a group of outlawed party activists in hour-long gun-battle at Pachali under Satharia union of Keshabpur thana in the district Monday night. No casualty from either side was reported.

According to source, on a tip off a contingent of police led by SI Kabir of Keshabpur thana rushed to the spot. The outlawed party activists, who were ready from earlier opened volleys of fire on the police soon after their arrival. They also exploded bombs. Police under force of circumstances replied 10 to 15 rounds of fire. Outlawed party activists retreated leaving behind all their arms.

Police picked up 5 pipe guns, 3 revolvers, ten rounds of live cartridges and two powerful hand bombs and two torch lights.

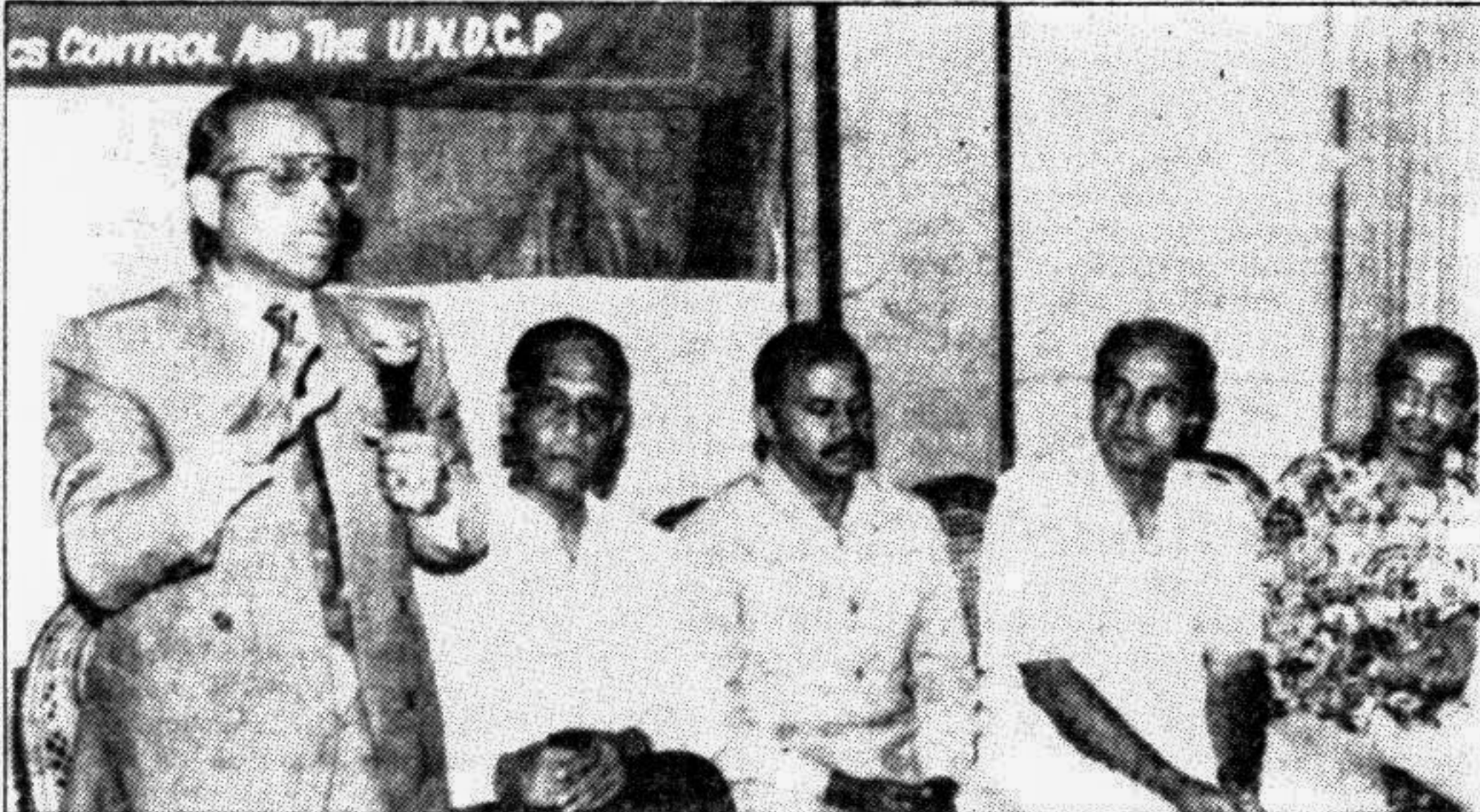
Police source informed that they were unhurt in the gun battle nothing was known whether or any of the opponents suffered injury in the fight.

Taka two lakh looted, two abducted

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Oct 28: A gang of armed dacoits of 15 to 20 in number committed dacoity in the house of a landlord Anwar Hossain, 46, of Tafalbaria village under Patharghata thana of Borguna district.

Dacoits broke into the house and looted away more than two lakh taka and on way back they kidnapped Anwar Hossain and his niece Bilkis Begum, 24, at gun point.



SYLHET: Additional Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs speaking as chief guest at the concluding session of two-day workshop on "Drug demand reduction strategy" organised by the Department of Narcotics and UNDCP on Wednesday. The function was also addressed by Md Habibur Rahman, Divisional commissioner, Modabber Hossain Chowdhury, DIG of police, Sector Commander BDR, Colonel Nurul Islam and others. — Star photo

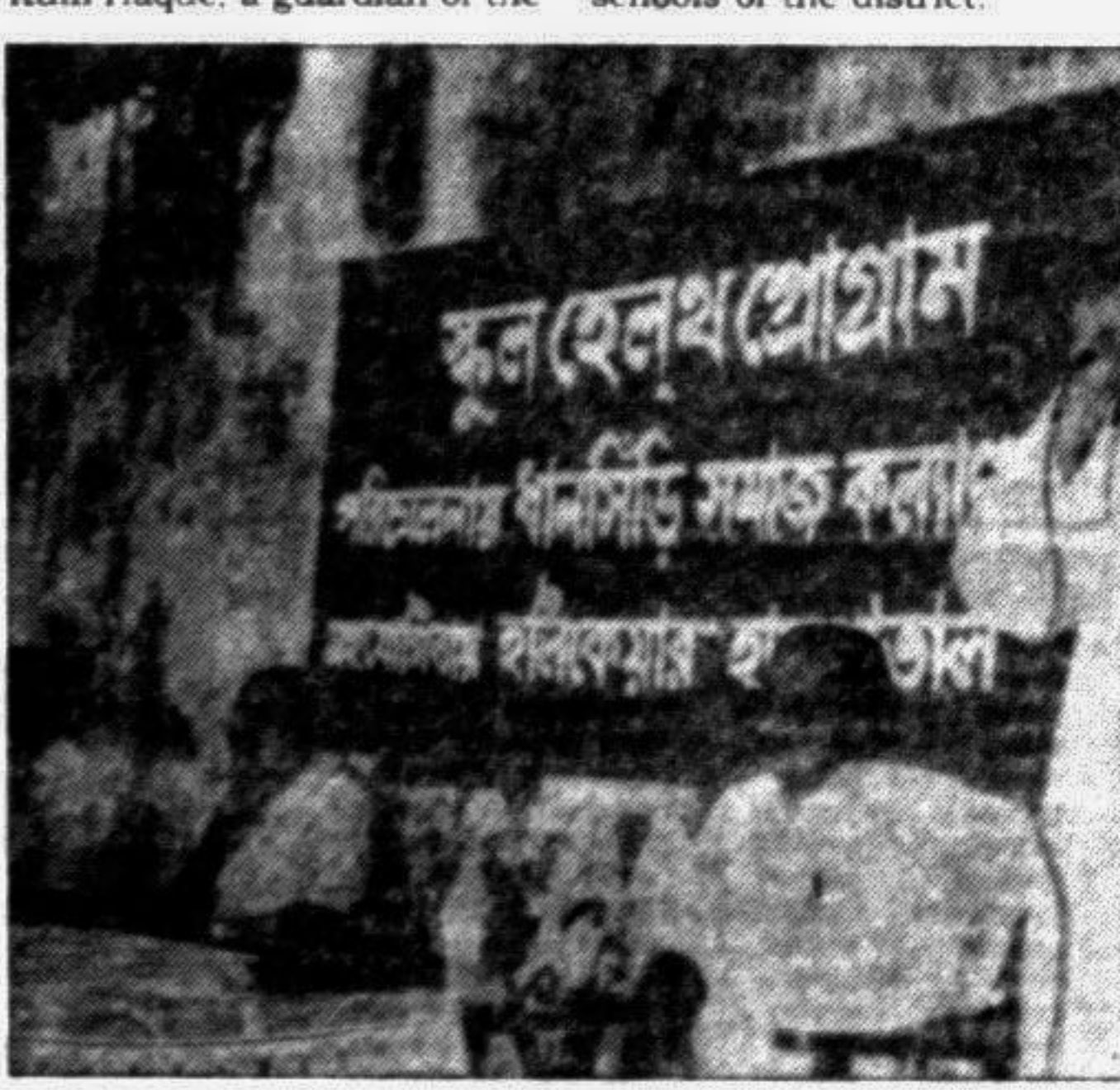
200 students receive free medical treatment

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Oct 28: School Health Programme of "Dhanshiri Samaj Kalyan Sangstha" has formally inaugurated in the local Gopal Shishu Shiksha Niketan within Pabna town recently.

Advocate Abdur Razzaque, President, Pabna District Advocate Bar Association and also the president of the Gopalpur Shishu Shiksha Niketan presided over the function while Sharifun Nessa Begum, headmistress, Pabna Government Girls High School, addressed the function as the chief guest.

Among other speakers were: Sarwar Khan, executive director of Dhansiri, Dr Mustafa Kamal, Chief Medical Officer, Pabna Diabetic Hospital, Advocate Abdul Aziz, Mrs Raoshan Akhtar, headmistress, Gopalpur Shishu Shiksha Niketan, Mrs Kum Kum Haque, a guardian of the



PABNA: Abdur Razzaque, President, Pabna District Advocate's Bar Association, speaking at the inaugural function of School Health Programme of "Dhanshiri Samaj Kalyan Sangstha" of Gopalpur in Pabna town. — Star photo

Unmarried mother seeks justice

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Oct 28: One unmarried mother is moving from door to door of the concerned higher authorities as well as the local headmen seeking justice to establish the right of husband and to get the paternal identity of her child.

According to report, Mousumi 15, daughter of Arshad Ali Mollah of village

BAU authorities urge to maintain peace in campus

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, Oct 28: Authorities of Bangladesh Agriculture University (BAU) called upon all to maintain peace and discipline in the campus, reports UNB.

The appeal was made at a Syndicate meeting held on Saturday with Vice Chancellor Dr Shah Mohammad Farouq in the chair. The meeting urged the university students and their guardians, teachers, officers and employees to help restore proper environment for the smooth functioning of the university.

Discussing the prevailing situation of the university the meeting also sought every cooperation from local as well as higher authorities to help make the campus free from tension and indiscipline, said a press release.



Baro Kupat under Shyamnagar thana of the district fell in love with Sultan Gazi of the same village who promised her to marry. On his assurance she agreed to live with him. After establishing illegal sexual contact with him, she became pregnant. She then requested him to marry her but he refused. Later, her parents re-

quested the local headmen including UP chairman to take appropriate measures in this regard but all their efforts were in vain. Claiming to get the right of husband and to get the paternal identity of her child, she filed a case with Shyamnagar police station. But no action was taken by the police till writing of this report.

Over 6 lakh MT of aman paddy may fall short of output target

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Oct 28: The production of transplanted aman paddy is apprehended to fall by about 6,75,000 metric tons this year in eight northern districts of greater Rajshahi, Pabna and Bogra regions due to damage of crops caused by the recent devastating floods.

This will incur a direct loss of about Taka 742.50 crore.

Meanwhile, due to a great fall of production of trans-

planted aman paddy, the main crop of the eight districts of greater Rajshahi, Bogra and Pabna areas, acute shortage of food is being apprehended.

Meanwhile, sufferings of the flood-hit people have mounted as the relief materials are inadequate. People have been found to sell their house-hold materials. The able farmers who had storage of paddy, were found selling their paddy in the markets

of Rajshahi and Naogaon paddy is now being sold at Taka 265-275 per maund. Most rice mills are closed.

Famine like condition is prevailing in the flood-stricken areas. People are seeking for work from here and there. Experienced sources suggest that measures should be taken to sell rice at a subsidised rate and works of test relief should be started without delay in the flood affected areas.

Fire stations doing little for the people

From CHT Correspondent

RANGAMATI, Oct 28: The people from all walks of life in Rangamati demanded to upgrade the existing Fire Service Station to an 'A' grade one replacing the old and outdated fire fighting vehicles and water lifting as well as water spraying pumps immediately.

In the face of persisting demand of the people of this district, leaders irrespective of political affiliation and the social workers made a proposal to the chairman of the Rangamati Hill District Local Government Council to set up a river fire station and arrange an ambulance at an early date, which received no attention. Rehan Uddin, president of the Rangamati district unit of Awami League alleged.

The concerned authority can do nothing, if fire breaks out at Langadu, Baghaichhan, Zurachhari, Bilachhari and Borkal police stations of the district as these police stations are connected with river-ways and the district does not have any river fire station or fire fighting vessels, Rehan further alleged.

Meanwhile, the Rangamati Fire Service Station has saved properties worth Taka 13,12,950 by taking part in extinguishing 44 fire havocs which broke out in different places of the district from January to June this year, officials claimed.

Simultaneously, fire consumed properties worth Taka 10,50,250 in those havocs during the period in the district, officials estimated.

The district experienced the highest number of fire havocs in the month of March last at fourteen and the lowest in May at three. Fire broke out eight and eleven times in January and

One dies falling from bus roof-top

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Oct 28: Ayub Ali, 25, helper of a bus was killed when he fell down from the bus at Nagar Bathon on Jhenidah-Chudanga highway recently.

According to reports, Ayub Ali while collecting fair from the passengers who were travelling on the roof of the bus No Jessore-Ba-787 at about 11 am, suddenly fell down. He was rushed to Jhenidah sadar hospital in critical condition and succumbed to his injuries. The bus was going towards Jhenidah town, it was learnt.

A case was lodged with Jhenidah thana in this connection, police sources said.

5 arrested for carrying fire arms

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Oct 28: Satkhira thana police arrested two persons with one fire arm from their possession recently.

Police sources said, acting on a secret information Satkhira thana police led by Officer-in-Charge CA Halim arrested Ziaur Rahman of village Alipur under sadar thana and Rabiul Islam of village Mahmudpur of the same thana and recovered one Indian made rifle from their possession. A case was lodged with Satkhira police station.

Another report adds: Three persons were caught red handed with one pistol by the local people of Kulia under Debhata thana recently.

It was reported that on suspicion the local people caught red handed Alauddin, 25, Raihan, 23, and Rabiul Islam, 21, from Kulia area and recovered on pistol from their possession. Later they handed over them to Debhata thana police.

Piracy in the Bay, valuable worth Tk, 3 lakh looted

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Oct 28: A gang of armed pirates is 20 in number, looted away fresh, fishing nets, engine parts including other valuables worth about three lakh taka at gun point from two fishing boats in the Bay of Bengal in between Sonarchar and Ruparchar of Charfasion thana of Bhola district.

According to the President of South Bengal Fishing Boat Association, pirates swooped on two fishing boats FB Ganga and FB Talukder in the Bay and beat the fishermen on board and looted away all the valuables at gun point. They threw Suvash Chandra Das Master of FB Ganga into the Bay who was later rescued by another nearby trawler FB Rahma.

FB Ganga and FB Talukder later were taken to Charkhali of Charfasion thana of Bhola by another trawler from the sea yesterday afternoon.