

## News snaps

### 11 woman UP members' ultimatum

KURIGRAM, Oct 12: Eighteen women members of six union parishads in Chilmari thana have protested, what they termed, their overall 'lowering' of position, reports APB.

In a memorandum submitted recently to the Deputy Commissioner of Kurigram, they said that they had been ignored in running the affairs of the parishads since being elected in the 1997 UP polls. They alleged that women members of the UPs had not been entrusted with the responsibility of distributing relief materials among the flood-stricken people. The women members of the parishads were also not consulted in matters of women development, the memorandum said. The signatories to the memorandum warned of launching a greater movement unless effective solutions regarding the matters were taken.

### Madhupur TNO office gheraoed

TANGAIL, Oct 12: About a thousand distressed people laid a siege to the office of Madhupur TNO on Sunday afternoon protesting irregularities in distribution of VGF cards, reports APB.

Earlier, the landless people, including several hundred women, took out a procession demanding proper distribution of VGF cards and agricultural loans. They accused concerned departments of corrupt practices in distribution of seeds and agricultural rehabilitation loans. The demonstrators handed over a memorandum to the TNO.

### Steps sought to stop dowry

MADARIPUR, Oct 12: A day-long seminar on 'ensuring empowerment of women and human rights' was held on Thursday at Madaripur Human rights Commission office, reports BSS.

The seminar was jointly organised by Human Rights Commission and local NGOs. Representatives of human rights commission, women organisations, NGOs and journalists participated in the seminar. N Nabi, Executive Director of International Project for Rural Advancement (IPRA), Nazma Sultana, Director IPRA, Razia Begum, Secretary IPRA and Rawan Ara Begum, Director Madaripur Unnayan Samiti addressed the seminar. The speakers called for adopting appropriate measures to stop dowry and all forms of repression on women.

### Woodcutter missing

RANGAMATI, Oct 12: A woodcutter of Baghaichhari thana here, missing from Friday, could not be rescued till Sunday, reports UNB.

According to family sources, Jahuruddin, 18, son of Badshah Miah of Jeorongochhara village went to collect wood in the Khilkila forest area in the thana on Friday. But since then he remained missing. Forest officials while contacted confirmed the missing of the wood cutter but failed to trace out him. The family of the victim urged the authority concerned to take immediate steps to rescue him.

### 50 hurt in Rangpur road accident

RANGPUR, Oct 12: At least 50 people were injured when a passenger bus skidded off the road and fell into road side ditch on Rangpur-Dinajpur highway at Taraganj thana parishad here on Thursday, reports UNB.

The injured were rushed to Taraganj thana Health Complex from where 11 were shifted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital following deterioration of their condition on Friday. Police sources said, the mishap occurred at about 9:30 pm when front wheel of the Dhaka bound bus from Panchagarh burst out and the driver lost control over the steering.

### 2 killed in Sylhet road accident

SYLHET, Oct 12: Two people were killed and four others injured in separate road accidents on Monday in the district, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, five people were seriously injured when a baby taxi and a truck collided head-on at airport area at 8 pm. Later an unidentified youth succumbed to his injuries at the Osmany Medical College Hospital. In another incident, an unidentified old man 50, also succumbed to his injuries at night at the Osmany Medical College Hospital after he was hit by a bus at Pathantula area of the town on Friday.

### Barisal Savings Bureau earns profit

BARISAL, Oct 12: The district savings bureau had earned Tk 29.63 crore as saving deposit by selling different Savings Certificates in the last 1997-98 fiscal, reports BSS.

According to official sources, the Savings Certificates included: Family Savings Certificates, Five Years Deposit Savings Certificates, Three Months-Duration Savings Certificates, Six Months-Duration Savings Certificates and Defence Savings Certificates. Meanwhile, the bureau earned deposit amounting to Tk 9.02 crore in two months — July and August of current financial year.

### Contraband recovered

JESSORE, Oct 12: District Task Force and anti-smuggling team of Bangladesh Rifles in two joint drives recovered contrabands worth about Tk 4.51.510 from town area here on Friday, reports UNB.

BDR sources said, acting on a tip-off, they raided SA paribahan near Kotwali thana and seized three-piece dress for girls, cloth and medicine worth Tk 3,51,560. In another drive, they recovered China silk yarn, salt, bicycle parts, fruits and Indian wire worth over Tk 99,950 from Manoshi Cinema Hall road and bordering areas.

### Irregularities in relief distribution alleged

RANGMATI (Laxmipur), Oct 12: Government so far distributed 91 metric tons of rice and Tk 85,000 in cash among the 1,65,246 flood and erosion affected people of 33,445 families of Rangmat thana here, reports UNB.

Officials sources said, on an average per head 52 paisa and nearly one and a half kg of rice were distributed during the last two months. A non-government organisation working in the affected areas said three per cent of the affected families received nominal government relief during the period. Pointing out irregularities in distribution of relief materials by the supporters of UP chairman, the source said, 721 erosion hit destitute families of Barakerhi village got only Tk 900 and one metric ton of rice.

# Diarrhoea death toll now 31 in Gaibandha, Natore

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Oct 12: Diarrhoea has claimed 20 lives and over 25,000 attacked with the disease in seven thanas of the district.

The district health administration, however, admitted, 13,626 people have been attacked. The official figure of diarrhoea deaths is 13 in different flood affected areas.

Every day the number of diarrhoea patients have been increasing in remote areas.

Adulterated

food, contaminated drinking water and unhygienic environment were the major causes of diarrhoea, said NGO workers. According to opinion of an NGO worker, he visited vast areas of flood affected areas. The flood affected villagers are habituated to taking contaminated drinking water from well, pond and river. Moreover, at present preparation of dry fish is common sight in almost all the village homes. This trend pollutes the environment causing the influx of fly. The NGO worker further said that he had been surprised to witness the scene of children taking open food where thousands of flies were flying around the food item. Their mothers were not available there. Most people of village homes were found unconscious about the minimum health awareness. They arrange tube-well water for any diarrhoea patient. They are reluctant to use home made saline of ORS. According to the maximum housewives, they use ORS once or twice after being victimised by diarrhoea or other water-borne diseases.

UNB reports from Natore: Diarrhoea, pneumonia and various skin diseases have broken out in an epidemic form with the recession of flood water in the flood affected areas of Natore district.

At least 11 people including five children died of diarrhoea since September 15 to October 1. With the recession of flood water from September 12 diarrhoea and other water borne diseases have been spreading fast, local people said.

Official sources said 2,700 people including 1,790 children have been attacked by diarrhoea so far while about 390 are undergoing treatment at different thana health complexes and union level health-sub-centres in six thanas of the district.

Acute scarcity of drinking water and adulterated food are the main causes behind the outbreak of the diseases, the sources added.

Meanwhile, District Administration in collaboration of Health Department formed 65 medical teams which have been

working round the clock to check the menace.

The affected poor people alleged that they are mostly being provided with prescriptions only.

Another report from Kushtia adds: Various water-borne disease including diarrhoea have broken out in the flood-hit areas of Kushtia district due to acute scarcity of pure water.

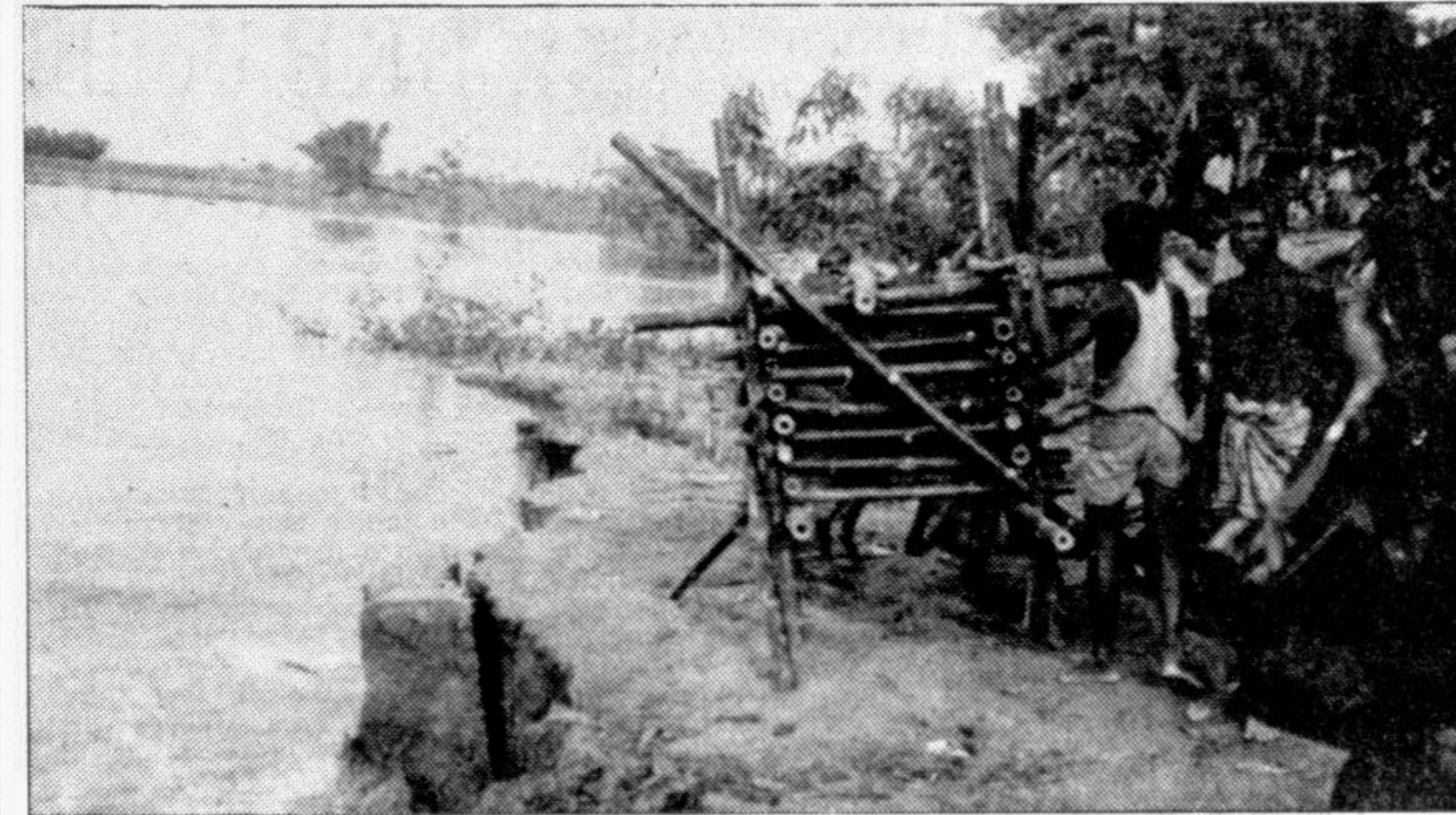
Most of the tubewells in those areas went inoperative due to prolonged flood.

The situation is alarming at many villages in Kumarkhali thana. Most of the victims were affected during their stay at the flood shelters as the supply of pure water there was not regular and adequate.

Absence of sanitary latrine at the shelters aggravated further the situation spreading the germ to other people. The children are the easy victims of the water-borne disease.

The supply of oral saline in the rural areas is inadequate and villagers aid even the Thana Health Complexes are running short of the saline, essential for preventing diarrhoea.

They further alleged that some medical teams are seen working in the affected areas, but they are unable to supply any medicine.



RANGPUR: Villagers' bid to check the river Teesta's erosion at Kolkond union. — Star photo

## Erosion renders 50,000 families homeless in Gopalganj

From our Correspondent

GOPALGANJ, Oct 12: A total of 50,000 families who were rendered homeless due to erosion by the rivers Modhumati and Kumar have been living in a sub-human condition.

Pathgati and Gohardanga villages in Tunjipara thana and Gobra and 'Char' Gobra villages in Gopalganj sadar thana have been affected seriously by the Modhumati erosion following recession of flood waters. As many as 100 houses and 500 acres of land were devoured in the Modhumati. As a result 700 families became homeless and the homeless families took refuge on Gopalganj-Tungipara Road and on Sattia-Baghadha flood control embankment.

About 15,000 families have become homeless. A total of 1,200 houses and 700 acres of land including big trees were devoured in the Modhumati river-bed in different villages of Kashiani thana. The homeless families have taken shelter in Bhatiapara Railway Station and Gopalganj-Bahatiapara Road. The Modhumati erosion has affected villages of Kashi-

ani thana. The villages are: Bhatiapara, Gohalgam, Raital, Chaptia, Ghonapara, Gopalpur, Tarail and Fukra.

About 12,000 families have become homeless, 800 houses and 550 acres of land including huge trees were washed by the Modhumati river. The homeless families have taken shelter in Gopalganj town and on West Gopalganj Flood Control Embankment. The Modhumati river erosion has affected many villages of sadar thana. The villages are: Eshakhali, Durgapur, Manikdha, Poddar 'Char', Haridaspur, Ghosher 'Char', Ulpur, Bailtal, Satpar and Bhennabari.

About 3,000 families have become homeless, 400 houses and 300 acres of land including many giant trees were washed by the Kumar river erosion in different villages in Maksudpur thana.

The homeless people have taken shelter on Gopalganj-Takerhat road and on Faridpur-Barisal highway. The Kumar river erosion affected the following villages of Maksudpur thana: Jalirpar, Baniar

char, Kaligram, Chagolchira and Takerhat North in Maksudpur thana.

Gopalganj-Tungipara Road near Gobra Madrasa in Gopalganj sadar thana, Sattia-Baghadha flood control embankment Kotailpara thana portion, Gopalganj town connecting embankment near Gopalganj are worst affected by the erosion recently. Ghandiashur, Bherarhat, Chamta and Bhenabari on Gopalganj-Takerhat Road partially damaged and threatened by the Modhumati river erosion. Bhatiapara river port, Manikdha and Pathgati river port are seriously threatened by the Modhumati river erosion. A total of 25 shops in Bhatiapara, 15 shops in Tarail Bazar in Kashiani thana, 25 shops in Manikdha, 10 shops in Gobra Bazar in the sadar thana and 30 shops in Pathgati Bazar in Tunjipara thana have been devoured in the Modhumati. As many as 30 shops in Jalirpar Bazar and 15 shops in Bhanirchar Bazar in Maksudpur thana have been washed away by the Kumar river.

## Wagon shortage Emergency food supply hampers

LALMONIRHAT, Oct 12: Emergency food supply and the supply of relief goods in different northern districts have been hampered due to the shortage of rail wagons here, reports UNB.

At present only 900 wagons are available here for transporting relief materials and other important goods, but the number was about 2,000 a few days back.

Railway officials said the number of wagons loaded with goods went from the western region to east during the last 16 days is much higher than that of the returned wagons.

This is one of the main reasons for the wagon crisis in the region, said the officials.

Local businessmen particularly the jute traders have been facing serious setback in transporting their goods.

The jute traders can not send jute to the eastern region as railway wagon is not available, thus further lowering the price of jute in the markets across the region.

The post-flood rehabilitation programme in the western region is also being hampered due to wagon shortage.

## 40,500 tubewells damaged in Barisal circle during flood

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Oct 12: The Public Health Engineering Department (PHED), Barisal circle has started a programme to ensure supply of safe drinking water from tubewells in six southern districts.

According to PHED sources, 40,500 tubewells in this circle have been damaged in the last flood. Most of the tubewells were under flood waters. A total of 13,716 tubewells were kept operative raising the bases of the tubewells.

Later on 15,156 more tubewells were made usable after doing necessary repair works so that the flood affected people in different southern districts under Barisal circle may get pure drinking water from the tubewells.

Meanwhile, 796 tubewells were installed in different rehabilitation centres to ensure drinking water for the rehabilitated flood victims.

Besides, 13,662 tubewells were deprogrammed in the flood affected areas under this circle. Of the total deprogrammed tubewells

district-wise numbers are: Barisal - 9,082 Rajbari - 3,871, Saraiatpur - 10,229, Faridpur 5,466, Madaripur - 11,179, and Gopalganj - 1,740 tubewells.

More tubewells will be installed in different south-eastern districts to ensure safe drinking water for the villagers, said Kutub Uddin Ahmed, Superintendent Engineer of PHED, Barisal circle.

According to him, 1,500 more deep and 500 shallow tubewells are necessary in Barisal district, while 200 deep and 500 shallow tubewells are necessary in Rajbari. A 500 deep tubewells are necessary in Saraiatpur, 30 deep, 500 shallow tubewells and 500 Tara pumps are necessary in Faridpur, 2,500 deep tubewells are necessary in Madaripur and 2,000 deep and 400 shallow tubewells are necessary in Gopalganj district under this circle on emergency basis.

Mentionable, 36,385 out of 8,70,805 tubewells in 52 flood affected districts in the country have been totally damaged, PHED sources said.

## Jubo League factional feud leads to death of one in Faridpur

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Oct 12: One person was shot dead on the spot and another injured here recently as a sequel to past enmity between two rival factions of Jubo League. One faction was led by Moina and the other was led by Liton.

The dead was identified as Biswanath Ghose, 45, and the injured was Ramesh, 40.

It was learnt that rivalry had been persisting for a long time between the two factions over power politics.

On the day of incident just after sundown chasing and counter-chasing between the two belligerent factions took place at East Khabashpur area of the town. Ramesh was injured there and later Biswanath Ghose was shot dead.

The wife of Biswanath Ghose lodged a murder case with Kotwali thana accusing 17 persons.

It is mentionable that internal conflicts of local Awami League have started here ever since Awami League assumed power. As a consequence, the nightings a prominent Awami League leader was severely beaten in broad day light a few months ago and the house of another prominent Awami League leader was attacked at dead of night.

## Magura Durga Puja body distributes relief to flood victims

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, Oct 12: Durga Puja, the biggest religious festival of the Hindu community was observed throughout the district with due religious fervour.

Magura District Puja Udjapan Committee curtailed the budget of Puja with a view to donating money for the flood victims of the district. The committee has already distributed relief goods to the flood victims of Mohammadpur thana.

## Goods over Tk 3 lakh looted from ex-dy minister's house

JAMALPUR, Oct 12: Armed dacoits attacked the house of former deputy minister for health Serajul Haque Friday night and looted goods and ornaments worth over Tk three lakh, reports UNB.

Police said the dacoits stormed into the house at about 9 pm and exploded bombs to create panic.

There was only a servant present in the house during the attack, police said.

The looted goods included a colour TV, telephone sets, a licensed gun, some bullets and 20 tolas of gold ornaments.

Police are yet to arrest anyone in this connection.

## Faces of talents



SAVAR: Alhaj Abdul Mannan, a noted social worker and founder of Alhaj Abdul Mannan College, situated in Gohail Bari area, distributing prizes among meritorious students of the college

## Najnin wants to be a physician

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Oct 12: Najnin Akhtar who stood 6th among girls in the Science Group of HSC examinations held under Comilla Board wishes to become a physician. Najnin appeared in the examinations from MC college, Sylhet. She has obtained star marks and got letter marks in Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Mathematics. She got 832 marks in total. Najnin is thankful to her teachers and parents for her good result. She also studied at a coaching centre. Everyday, Najnin used to study 7 to 8 hours. She is the daughter of a retired school teacher Kaji Intaj Ali of village Chandpur in Fenchuganj thana which is now staying at Pathantula area of Sylhet town. Najnin passes her leisure time reading religious books, story and enjoying songs. Hajrat Muhammad (SM) is her most favourite personality.

## Subarna wishes to study BBA

Jinat Afjah Subarna of Sylhet Government Girls College stood 9th among girls in the Humanities Group of Comilla Board in this year's HSC examination. She got a total of 718 marks including letter marks in Logic. Subarna is the daughter of Abdul Gafar, a businessman of village Bagbari in Chhatka thana of Sunamganj district. Late Jahannara Imam is her most favourite personality. Subarna wishes to study BBA. She is grateful to her parents and teachers for the good result. She dislikes student politics.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
**Habiganj Public Works Division, Habiganj**  
(Postponed Notice No-2 (S/D-1) year 1998-99)

Tender invited for filling up of earth in the recently occupied (in deep pool) in the south-eastern side of the office of the Habiganj Public Works Division through this office tender notice number-1 (S/D-1) year 1998-99 memo no. 1256 dated 15.9.98 has been postponed due to unavoidable circumstances.

Kazi Golam Mortuza  
Executive Engineer  
Habiganj Public Works Division  
Habiganj

DFP-21227-7/10/98  
G-2281

## R&H Quotation Invitation Notice (2nd Call)

- Quotation Notice : 02/R&H, FD Khulna/98-99 (2nd call). No.
  - Name of work : Work of supply of spare parts for repairing gear box of 120 HP Ford engine under Ferry Division (R&H), Khulna during 1998-99 fiscal year.
  - Estimated cost : Total taka of quoted rate.
  - Earnest money : 2% (two per cent) of the total amount of taka of the quoted rate.
  - Stipulated time for completion of work : 25 (twenty-five) days from the date of issue of work order.
  - Eligibility of contractors : From 'A' to 'C' general classes of contractors enlisted under (R&H) Directorate, 'D' general class enlisted contractor of Ferry Circle, Khulna, 'E' general class enlisted contractor, Ferry Division, Khulna.
  - Officials to receive quotations : Superintendent Engineer, R&H, Ferry Circle, Khulna/Executive Engineer, R&H, Ferry Division, Khulna/Barisal/Equipment Control Division, Khulna.
  - Places where quotations will be available : Executive Engineer, R&H, Ferry Division/Equipment Control Division, Khulna/Sub-Divisional Engineer, R&H, Ferry Sub-Division, Khulna.
  - Last date of selling quotation : 21-10-98/06-07-1405 Bangla.
  - Last date and time of receiving quotation : 22-10-98/07-07-1405 Bangla till 12:00 Noon.
  - Date and time of opening quotation box : 22-10-98/07-07-1405 Bangla at 12:15 PM.
  - Date and time of opening quotation : 27-10-98/12-07-1405 Bangla at 11:00 AM in this office.
  - Cost of schedule : Taka 500/- (Taka five hundred) only per set and Taka 15/- (fifteen) only each 2908 form.
- Md Nurul Alam Khan  
Executive Engineer, R&H, Mechanical  
Ferry Division, Shirononi, Khulna
- DPP-21296-7/10/98  
G-2280

## 8 including 5 housewives killed in different incidents in Mymensingh

MYMENSINGH, Oct 12: At least 8 people including five housewives were murdered in different incidents in the district during the last months, reports UNB.

Police said Zamena Begum, 25, of Noishakanda village in Muktatgacha thana was beaten to death by her husband Abdul Mannan and to prove the case as suicide the cruel husband hanged the body with the ceiling of his house on September 30.

On September 27, another housewife Asma Begum, 30, daughter of Abdul Khaleque of Goadal area in the town was strangled to death only for 2 decimal of land. Asma got the

land from her father and her husband Abdus Salam Sento pressed her to register the land in his name.

Following the refusal Sento became angry and strangled her to death and threw the body into a pond. Later police arrested him.

In another incident a farmer Abdur Rashid of Gagati village in Trisal thana was killed by his neighbour following a trifling matter on September 26.

Witnesses said the cattle of Quddus of the same village damaged the seedbeds of Abdur Rashid on September 25. They locked in a quarrel of the matter and at one stage Quddus hit the victim with a sharp weapon

and the victim succumbed at Mymensingh Medical College on the following morning.

On September 18, Abdul Malek, 40, of Behaitarapur village in Sadar thana succumbed to his injuries at MMCH. He received serious injuries when his rivals attacked him with a sharp weapon.

Another housewife Farida Khatun, 25, of North Goari village in Muktatgacha thana was chopped to death in broad day light by her husband Yunus following a family feud. The killer husband was arrested by police.

In another incident a pregnant housewife Rokeya Begum, 22, was killed by her husband and his accomplices at her father's house at Badesail Chhapa village in Muktatgacha thana due to her failure to meet the demand of dowry.

It was alleged that Rokeya used to be tortured by her husband for dowry. Following the inhuman torture the victim came to her father's house and on September 8 the killer came to the house and demanded the dowry.

Following the refusal the killer husband and his accomplices attacked her again wounding the victim and some of her relatives including her father.

Rokeya was rushed to the MMCH in a critical condition where she succumbed two days later. A police officer of the murder case was also suspended for helping the killer by suppressing the evidence.



MAGURA: Magura district has been freed from the curse of illiteracy. This is because of success of Total Literacy Movement recently. Photo shows a group of women appearing at the final examination of the movement under Bikoshito Magura. — Star photo