

News snaps

Allowance for widows
SHERPUR, Oct 24: In an effort to help empower the abandoned women and widows, the government has decided to distribute Tk 4.68 lakh among 4,680 women in 468 wards of 52 unions in the district, reports UNB.
Officials said the amount has been sanctioned as per the Prime Minister's commitment to give one-time allowance to widows and the women abandoned by their husbands. They said the allotment has already been released for the district and the process to prepare a priority list is going on to complete the disbursement by October 31. A four-member ward committee, comprising an elected woman UP member, is preparing the priority list. The list will later be handed over to the thana committee formed with the TNO and UP chairman. After receiving the list, the thana committee will finalise it to distribute the allowance directly to the abandoned women and widows. As per the decision, 10 women from each new ward will get Tk 100 as allowance.

Pest-attack on 'Aman' crops
NETROKONA, Oct 24: Standing 'Aman' on a vast tract of land in 10 thanas of the district have been invaded by pests posing a threat to the output target, reports UNB.
Nearly 50 per cent standing 'Aman' in the area came under pest attack which cannot be contained by spraying pesticides. Farmers were worried as they were trying to recoup their output losses caused by the flood. Local experts attributed the massive pest attack to bad weather prevailing after the flood. But the affected farmers alleged that substandard pesticides which were now available in the local markets were not working effectively. Badly affected thanas are: Sadar, Purbadhala, Barhatta, Kolkakonda, Durgapur, Atpara, Kendua, Madan, Mohanganj and Khaliazury.

Milad mahfil at Hamdard office
TANGAIL, Oct 24: Hamdard Wakf, Tangail district sales and treatment centre held *fatehakhwani* and *milad mahfil* and prayed for peace on the soul of Hakim Mohammad Sayeed, chief of Hamdard Foundation, in Pakistan on Sunday evening at its campus, reports BSS.
Alhaj Maulana Azimuddin conducted the *milad mahfil* and *munajat*. A discussion meeting on the life and humanitarian service of Hakim Mohammad Sayeed was held. Dr Md Kamruzzaman, Advocate Alamgir Khan Mente, Dr Nasiruddin and Jahangir Alam participated in the discussion. Madhupur Barabaid Yatimkhana also held *khatme ambia* and *munajat* for peace on Hakim Sayeed's soul.

Loan disbursed among youths
MEHERPUR, Oct 24: The Youth Development Department disbursed about Taka three lakh as soft term loan among 37 self-employed youths in Meherpur district in the current fiscal year, reports BSS.
An official source said the recipients of the loan will be imparted training at the Greater Kushtia Youth Training Centre at Kushtia. The training centre was built last year at a cost of Taka 2.75 crore. The centre includes an administrative building 200-bed dormitories for male and female, one poultry *Bhavan* and a fishery unit for the self-employed youths of Meherpur, Chuadanga and Kushtia districts.

Shortage of T-'Aman' seedlings
NETRAKONA, Oct 24: The cultivation of transplanted 'Aman' on about 15,000 acres of land of 10 thanas has become uncertain as the farmers are facing serious problems owing to the shortage of seedlings, reports UNB.
Consequently, it is feared that the target of 'Aman' paddy production may not be achieved in the current season in the district. With the recession of flood waters, the growers started cultivating their land, but acute scarcity of seedlings is creating impediment. The tillers are in crisis after the long lasting flood damaged their seed-beds. Most of the farmers have no capability to buy seedlings, bullocks, fertiliser and other agricultural inputs. Though the government directed all commercial banks including KKB to disburse agricultural loan among the crisis ridden cultivators, the farmers have not been getting fresh loan due to non-payment of outstanding loans.

Sanction for post-flood programme
KISHOREGANJ, Oct 24: Government has sanctioned Tk 18,02,620 for post-flood agricultural rehabilitation programme on the basis of primary assessment in 13 thanas of the district, reports UNB.
According to local Agricultural Extension Department (AED) to overcome the extensive losses caused by the recent devastating flood, the government has taken up the programme to help the small and marginal farmers for the cultivation of transplanted 'Aman', 'Boro' wheat, potato, pulse, mustard and other 'Rabi' crops. Under the first phase of the programme, the affected people and marginal farmers will be provided with chemical fertilisers and cash for purchasing seeds and seedlings of different crops. Of the total, Tk 2.20 lakh has been allotted for the Hossainpur, Tk 2 lakh for Sadar, Tk 3 lakh for Pakundia, Tk 2.20 lakh for Katiadi, Tk one lakh each for Karimganj and Tarail, Tk 60,000 for Itna, Tk 50,000 for Mitamain, Tk 42,620 for Nikli, Tk 20,000 for Austagram, Tk 2 lakh for Bajitpur, Tk 1.50 lakh for Kuliarchar and Tk 1.40 lakh for Bhaibar thanas.

Relief distribution against VGF cards
MYMENSINGH, Oct 24: The State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Talukder Abdul Khaleque on Wednesday inaugurated the relief distribution against VGF cards in all the seven wards of Mymensingh Pouroshava, reports BSS.
State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Prof Dr M Amanullah was present on the occasion. According to the DRRO, Mymensingh, a total of 5,200 VGF cards have been sanctioned for Mymensingh Pouroshava.

Minister opens workshop
COMILLA, Oct 24: A two-day regional workshop on determining the requirements for enhancing the power of different bodies under the local government began here on Wednesday at Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development, reports BSS.
Abdul Matin Khairul, Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs inaugurated the workshop as the chief guest. Hasnat Abdul Hal, Secretary, Local Government David E Lockwood, representative of UNDP, Dr M H Rashid, Project Consultant, M Jalaluddin, Director General NILG, Md Khairul Kabir, Director, Training, BARD and Mir Qasem, Joint Director BARD spoke in the seminar. Akhtar Hussain Khan, Director General BARD presided over the workshop.

28 alleged terrorists held
JAMALPUR, Oct 24: Police arrested 28 alleged terrorists along with arms and lethal weapons during the last one week, reports UNB.
The arms included one 7.65-bore pistol, one 12-bore cut gun, 4 *chapat*, 13 *ramdao*, 8 *kirch* and other lethal weapons. State Minister for Land Hajj Rashid Mosharrar visited the arms at the Police Super office. The arrested were sent to jail.

Fish output being hampered
SHARIATPUR, Oct 24: Fish production is being hampered greatly due to indiscriminate fishing of fries in the district, reports APB.
Locals said the fishermen are fishing below nine inches length fish from different ponds and rivers violating the government ban. Moreover, the production of fish has decreased considerably all over the district owing to outbreak of various diseases. As a result, prices of the varieties of fish have shot up abnormally in the markets due to its short supply.

Sale of illegally manufactured liquor up
JHENIDAH, Oct 24: Sale of illegally manufactured liquor has gone up recently at a number of places in the town as well as in the adjoining thanas, reports APB.
Concerned sources said dens producing country liquor have sprung up at Satabaria, Chaklapara, Arappur, Hamdard and Beparipara of the town. It is also reportedly made at a number of villages in Kaliganj, Shailkupa and Kotchandpur thanas. The hooch producers allegedly pay up to Tk 1,200 for using private furnaces to make the intoxicant. Production of the banned item had declined considerably last year following a series of raids by law enforcing agencies.

Girl allegedly killed by miscreants
JESSORE, Oct 24: A teenage girl was killed by a gang of miscreants at a village in Keshabpur thana on Monday, reports APB.
Police said Lovely Parveen, daughter of Abdul Kader of village Kalkbadha, was chopped to death by the felons at her residence at about 12 noon as they failed to violate her. She was working in the kitchen. Villagers, however, said that the girl was raped and killed by the hoodlums. Later, police recovered the body of Lovely and sent to the morgue for autopsy.

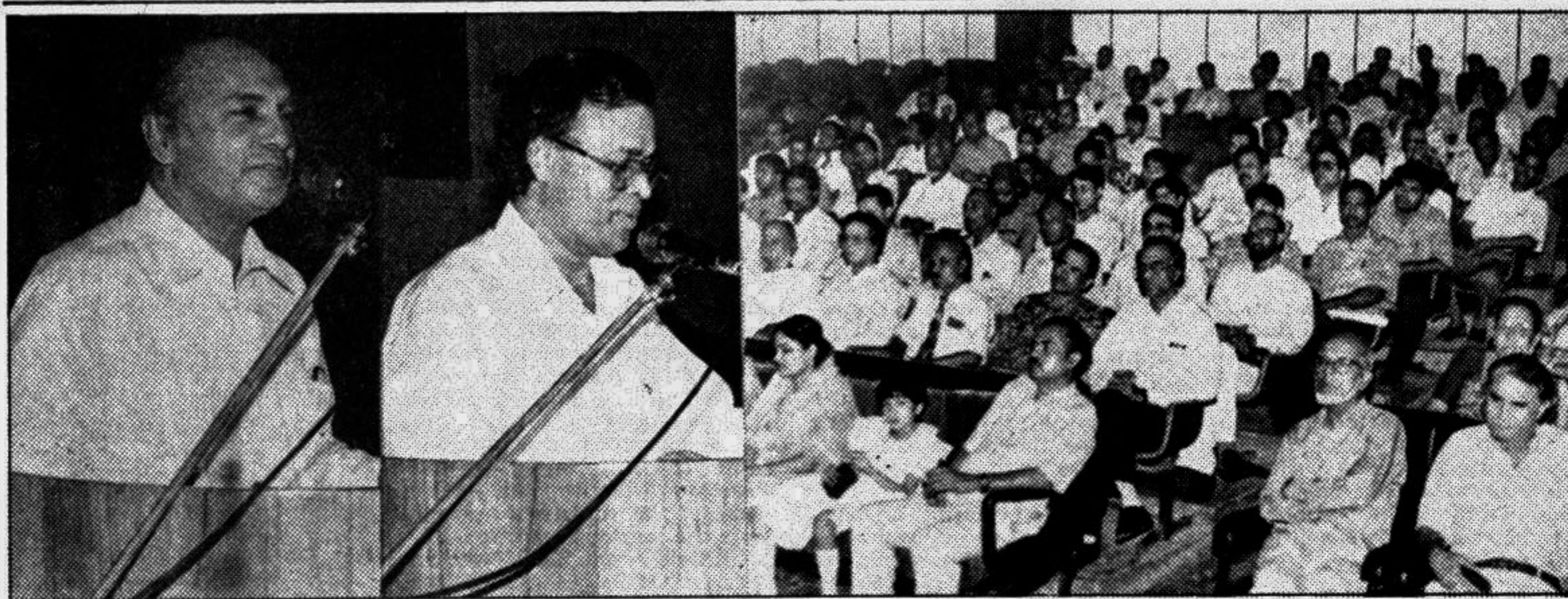
2 killed in Sathkira road accident
SATHKHIRA, Oct 24: Two persons including a minor boy were killed in separate road accidents in Shyamnagar and Kalaroa thanas of the district on Wednesday, reports BSS.
Police sources said a four-year-old boy Shariful Islam was run over by a minibus in front of Bangshipur Cinema Hall on Kaliganj-Bangshipur road while he was walking along the road. He died on the spot. Kader Sardar, 75, of village Tulshidanga in Kalaroa thana was also run over by a minibus near Kalaroa food godown on Sathkira-Jessore road while he was crossing the road. He died on way to Kalaroa Health Complex.

Diarrhoea spreading fast in flood-hit Kurigram

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Oct 24: Diarrhoea has claimed nine lives and affected 1,199 others in the district in the last few days.
Hospital sources said, the dead were identified as Izarul Haq, 12, of Chilmari, Mohammad Ali, 50, of village setajhar in the sadar thana Swapna Begam, 2, Bacha Mia, 20, of village Balidia, Liton, 7, of village Char Villat in Bhurungamari thana, Sejan, 2, of village Gopalpur, Rahim, 12, of village Narayanpur in Nageswari thana, Mariam, 25, and Murad, 6, of village Char Godokmondal in Fulbari thana.
The water-borne disease has been spreading fast in the district.
Acute crisis of drinking water is the main reason behind outbreak of the disease.
Meanwhile, repeated floods have caused an extensive damage to crops in the district.
Initially the loss in the agricultural sector has been estimated to be over Taka 55 crore. The total loss was estimated to be about Taka 200 crore.
According to a report prepared by the district administration, 4,19,000 persons of

84,800 families have so far been affected by the floods. As many as 10 people died. In total 47,300 dwelling houses have been damaged while 'Aus, transplanted 'Aman', and seabed on 39,841 hectares were also washed away by the gushing waters in the flood hit thanas.
According to the report, 1,100 square kilometre area had been inundated by floods while seven kilometres pucca road, 548 kilometres Kutcha road, four bridges, 133 culverts, 183 educational institutions and 56 religious institutions were damaged.
Report shows, all the nine thanas of the district had been affected. People in the region extremely suffered due to damages in the communication network. Road link between different thana head quarters with the district headquarter has still remained cut-off.
The government distributed Taka 8 lakh 16 thousand, 640 metric tons of rice, 617 pieces of saree 2,384 pieces lungi 50 tents, 175 polythene roll, 207 pieces of old cloth, and 400 tins of biscuits among the flood victims.



SYLHET: The publication ceremony of the book "The Administration and Land System of Sylhet Division" written by Md Hafizur Rahman Bhuiyan was held here recently. Md Habibur Rahman Divisional Commissioner and the writer himself who is also the Additional District Magistrate of Sylhet spoke on the occasion, while Mohammad Ayub, Deputy Commissioner (DC) presided over the ceremony. — Star photo

Blind Welfare Hospital yet to be established in Rajshahi

From Abdul Wadood

RAJSHAHI, Oct 24: The proposed Rajshahi Blind Welfare Hospital could not be established after 23 years of the proposal which was taken in 1975.
Negligence of the concerned authorities and red-tapism of the bureaucracy are the main reasons behind it.
According to a source in the district administration, local elite and political leaders had requested the then chief of the government, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to establish an eye hospital in Rajshahi. The proposal had been welcomed and an amount of Tk 25,000 had been granted for the purpose. The district administration had been assigned to take all other necessary mea-

asures to establish the proposed eye hospital as a private institution under the supervision of the government.
Accordingly, a project committee had been formed comprising government representatives and local elite. The then Awami League leader AHM Qamaruzzaman and Rajshahi District Board had contributed Tk 5,000 and Tk 1,00,000 to the fund respectively. The government also gave 300 pieces of blankets as primary logistic support to start the hospital at once in any suitable abandoned building situated in the town. The Deputy Commissioner had been made convener and Deputy Director (Health) had been appointed as the member-secretary of the project. But the project committee had not functioned at all since its formation.
According to a source in the district administration, the primary fund of Tk 1,30,000 has now been raised to about Tk 4, 70,000 in the bank. Out of the total 300 blankets, 280 pieces had later been given to Chhinnamal Punarbasan Kendra (Centre for rehabilitation of the shelterless) and 20 pieces to Rajshahi Lions Club.
File of the project has been lying pending since then in the office of the Deputy Commissioner during the last 23 years. Neither the government authorities nor private members of the project committee have taken any initiative to push the file forward, it is alleged.



MYMENSINGH: Prof Muhammed Hussain, Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) recently inaugurated the vaccination and vegetable seed distribution programme among the farmers at village Char Gobadia in sadar thana. — Star photo

Surma river routes become a safe passage for smugglers

SYLHET, Oct 24: Over 20 miles frontier river route of the north-eastern border area here has become a safe passage for the smugglers, reports UNB.
They are carrying out their illegal trading without any hindrance, said the sources in the border areas.
They said contrabands worth over Tk 15 lakh, on average, are entering into Bangladesh territory everyday only through the routes of the river Surma.
The smugglers even carry their goods in broad daylight despite the fact that there are seven BDR camps on the route, alleged the sources.
Local people of Zokiganj said smuggling here has become an open secret and Indian pulse, sugar, bidi, match box, spare parts of vehicles, bicycles, cosmetics, candle, fish, cow and other goods pour into the country in abundance.
On the contrary, Hilsha fish, foreign-made electronic gadgets, gold and old clothes are being smuggled out from Bangladesh.
The law enforcement agencies, however, seized some exceptional goods like mobile telephone sets from these routes

in the past. Moreover, police rescued a number of children and nabbed the traffickers on the way to India.
The contrabands are being brought to the city and other places through the rivers and the highway almost openly.
The sources said a section of influential people are involved in the massive smuggling who always remain out of the reach of the law enforcing agencies.
BDR personnel go for anti-smuggling drive occasionally and recover contrabands but local people termed it as so-called routine duty.
A source even label it as eyewash because, he said, it only appease the high officials though contribute little in curbing the increasing crime.

Prices of essentials up in Rangpur

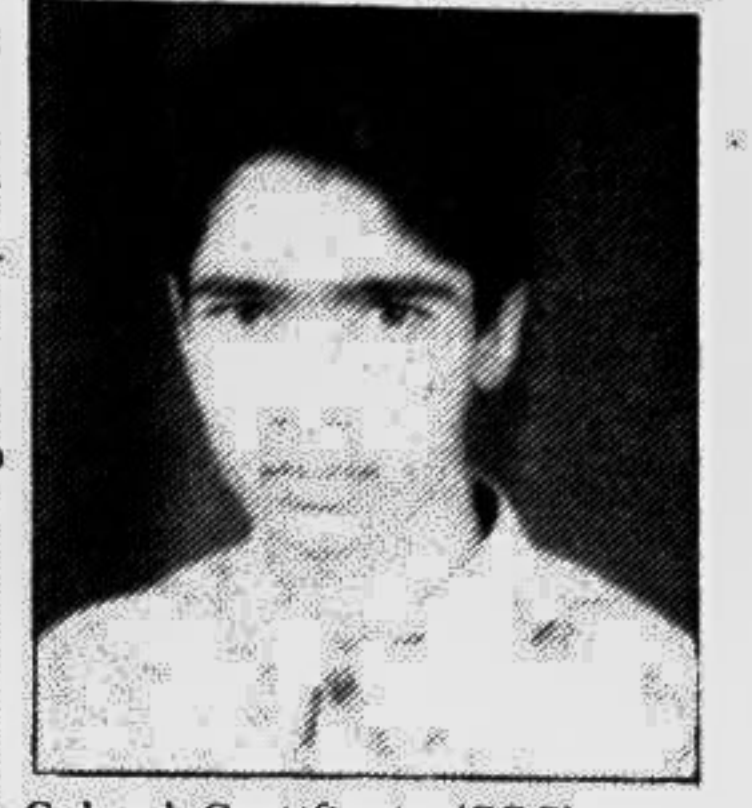
RANGPUR, Oct 24: After the worst ever flood, low-lying areas of the district experienced a serious water-logging due to incessant rainfall in last five days till Thursday, reports UNB.
Local Met office recorded 335 mm rainfall since Sunday, sending low-lying areas of eight thanas and Rangpur Pouroshava under water again.
Standing 'Aman' paddy, potato, onion and chilly on a vast tract of land were inundated with the heavy shower, inflicting limitless sufferings on the poor farmers.
Meanwhile, prices of essential commodities have shot up in the local markets in absence of adequate supply.
Market sources said per kg coarse variety of rice was now being sold at Tk 15-16, medium variety at Tk 16-17 and fine variety at Tk 19-22.
During the last week, price of chilly was Tk 80 while that of onion was Tk 40 per kg.

Tributes paid to Ganotantri Party leader

From Our Correspondent
PABNA, Oct 24: 'Aminul Islam Badsha of Pabna was a great leader who played a pioneering role in the Anti-British movement, Language movement and in our Liberation War'.
Dr Kamal Hossain, President of Goro Forum told this while addressing as the chief guest at a citizens' condolence meeting held here recently.
Presided over by Advocate Ranesh Maitra, President, Pabna district Goro Forum, the rally which was addressed, among others, by Ahmedul Kabir, Editor, The Daily Sangbad and leader of the Ganotantri Party, Prof Zannatul Ferdous MP, Shamsur Rahman Sharif Dilu MP, Rafiqul Islam Bakul MP, Moreshed Ali, Presidium Member of CPB, Jasim Uddin Mondal, a central CPB leader, Amjad Hossain ex-CP, Mahabubur Rahman DC, Shah Alam, SP, Abdur Razzauq, President, Pabna District Advocates Bar Association, Mirza Shamsul Islam, President Pabna Press Club.
The speakers recalled the contributions of Badsha, a Ganotantri Party leader. They paid rich tributes to him terming him as a great democrat, as well as, a believer in socialism and a great fighter against communalism who rose above all superstitions.
A cultural function followed the meeting.

Face of talent

Reza 19th in Humanities group
From Our Correspondent
RAJSHAHI, Oct 24: Rezaul Karim stood 19th in the combined merit list of Humanities group in the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examination of 1998 under Rajshahi Education Board.
He wants to receive higher education in English.
He appeared in the HSC examination as a student of Rajshahi University School and college and secured a total of 783 marks with distinctions in Psychology and Statistics.
Rezaul Karim is satisfied with his result. He used to study for five to six hours everyday. He had no private tutor. He is grateful to his teachers and parents for his good result. He got scholarships in the second grade in class VIII and secured star marks in the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examination.
Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SM) is his most favourite personality whom he loves and honours most. He is against politics in student life. He is very fond of cricket and usually spends his leisure enjoying sports and games in television. He also likes to read short stories and novels.
Out of his five brothers and sisters he is second in number. His father Taslim Uddin of Shyampur village in Mathar thana is a night-guard in Mader Baks Hall of Rajshahi University and his mother Reza Begum is a housewife.



Sapahar thana Press Club executives

From Our Correspondent
NAOGAON, Oct 24: The annual general election of the Sapahar thana Press Club was held recently at the club premises.
Md Taslimuddin and Md Minarul Islam Jibon have been elected president and general secretary respectively of the club.
Other office-bearers include: Vice President Md Bablu Rana, Treasurer Md Momtazul Haq and members — Md Kamrul Islam and Md Abdur Rahim.

Separate incidents claim 6 lives

JAMALPUR, Oct 24: Six people died and 14 others were injured in separate incidents in Sadar thana here in the last week, reports UNB.
Police said, Howa Begum, 70, wife of Late Moniruddin of Joyrampur village of the thana, was electrocuted while crossing Banarkhal river along with her daughter at 10:15 am on Monday. Momena Begum, 38, daughter of the victim also met the same fate when she tried to save her mother.
Both the victims died on the spot. Local people *gheraed* and ransacked the Naraina power office after the incident.
Sumon, 8, son of Iman Ali of Fulbaria village, died on the spot when he was run over by a sand laden truck at Chonkanda on Jamalpur-Mymensingh highway at 3:30 pm on the same day.
A local leader of Jubo Dal succumbed to his injuries at Muktagachha on way to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital on Friday.
Sources said, 15 workers including Anowarul Haque, 35, general secretary of the organisation, were injured in a factional clash.

Gypsy girl yet to be rescued after 3 weeks of abduction

From Our Correspondent
JHENIDAH, Oct 24: Jobeda Khatun, the 14-year-old gypsy girl is yet to be rescued after three weeks of her abduction.
The ill-fated girl was allegedly abducted by a group of about 20 to 25 young miscreants from Habiburpaddy market in Saikupa paura area following a clash over trifling matter. At least 14 people including three women were injured in the clash.
Meanwhile, seven persons including a student leader were arrested from the spot during the abduction.
The gypsy people of the area have left the place apprehending further attacks. They told this correspondent that they had shifted to a place adjacent to Saikupa town. They also alleged that the local miscreants have been threatening them to withdraw the abduction case which they had filed with Saikupa police station.

List of Barisal flood victims being prepared

From Staff Correspondent
BARISAL, Oct 24: The Agriculture Extension Department (AED) here is preparing the list of flood affected people with the help of local NGOs local UP chairmen, members and Thana Agriculture Officers.
AED field workers are assisting in preparation of the list. Post flood Agriculture Rehabilitation Programmes (ARP) have already been undertaken. The programmes are being implemented in three phases.
AED sources said, in case of pest-attack in the crop field they will supply pesticide sprayer to the farmers under this programme. Meanwhile, Tk 3,74,85,530 have already been allocated to disburse among the flood affected farmers in six southern districts under Barisal division and five districts under greater Faridpur district.
District-wise allocation is for Barisal Tk 41,18,780, for Patuakhali Tk 5,56,180, for Pirojpur Tk 25,64,330, for Jhalakati Tk 10,49,700, for Barguna Tk 6,90,720, for Faridpur Tk 70,71,760, for Madaripur Tk 64,35,800, for Gopalganj Tk 65,93,310, for Rajbari Tk 20,78,000, for Shariatpur Tk 61,78,900 and for Bhola Tk 1,47,930.



RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY: Prof Abdul Khaleque, Vice-Chancellor of the university recently addressed as the chief guest at the reception, gold medal and prize distribution ceremony at the Suhrawardy Hall. Sitting on the dais (from left) Treasurer Prof Abul Fazal Huq, hall provost Prof Entaul M Huq and Pro Vice-Chancellor Prof Sayeedur Rahman Khan. — Star photo