

# Outlawed groups hold some 15 lakh people hostage in Jhenidah

## News snaps

### New elected chairman of Kalidaspur union

**From Our Correspondent**  
CHUADANGA, Nov 13: Nurul Islam was elected the chairman of Kalidaspur union in Alamdanga thana by obtaining 4,788 votes. He defeated his nearest rival Emdadul Hoque by 3,102 votes. Emdadul Hoque got only 1,686 votes. The by-election to the post of chairman was held on October 26 peacefully. The post had fallen vacant due to the murder of the former chairman Gauhar Ali by miscreants on September 9 last. A total of 64 per cent of the total voters cast their votes in the by-election. The total number of voters were 11,057.

### Girl killed in road accident

**From Our Correspondent**  
FARIDPUR, Nov 13: A girl student of Gangabardi Agriculture Training Institute was killed in a road accident recently near the institute on Faridpur-Kamarkhal highway.

The accident occurred when a speeding micro-bus suddenly knocked down the victim identified as Shikha Rani Biswas while she was crossing the road. The victim was rushed to Faridpur General Hospital from where she was shifted to Dhaka in a critical condition. Shikha succumbed to her injuries just after her admission there.

### Three shops gutted in Ishwarganj

**From Our Correspondent**  
MYMENSINGH, Nov 13: Property worth about Taka 7,00,000 was burnt to ashes in a devastating fire that broke out at Sohagi Bazar in Ishwarganj thana recently. The fire originated from electric short circuit gutted three shops of the bazaar. The owners of affected shops were: Khairul Islam, Abul Kashem and Fazul Haque. Villagers tried their best to extinguish the fire, but in vain as there is no fire service station in Ishwarganj.

### Three commit suicide

**From Our Correspondent**  
SATKHIRA, Nov 13: Three persons including two housewives committed suicide by taking poison in two days. Police sources said, Saheb Ali, 23, son of Babar Ali of village Sara and Anita Rani Sarder, 25, wife Ganga Ram Sarder of village Thakurabad both of Assassuni thana committed suicide recently by taking poison. Family troubles were the cause of their suicide. On the following day, Padma Rani Mondal, 25, wife of Prasad Kumar Mondal of village Naver Abad in Assassuni thana committed suicide by taking poison.

### Apex Club executives

**From Our Correspondent**  
BRAHMANBARIA, Nov 13: The executive body's election of APEX-club of Brahmanbaria was held here recently. Muhammad Arjoon and Md Humayun Kabir were elected president and secretary respectively of the club. The other members are: Senior Vice President- Advocate Amit Kumar Paul, Junior Vice president- Al-haj Aminul Islam, Treasurer- Mil Chowdhury, Service Director- Advocate Abdul Malek, member Tajul Islam Babu, Fellowship and PRS director Mohsin Asgar, Public speaker and Debt Director Advocate M H Sarker Pasha and Sgt-At-Arms Sayed Muhammad Angur.

### New convening body of DAB

**From Our Correspondent**  
NETRAKONA, Nov 13: The new convening committee of Doctors' Association of Bangladesh (DAB), Netrakona district branch was formed here recently. The committee of 17 members was formed with Dr Kamal Uddin as convenor and Dr Shama-e-Tabrij as member-secretary. This committee was formed in a meeting held at DAB office in Mukterpara area in the town with Dr Kamal Uddin Ahmed in the chair. The meeting was addressed, among others, by Dr Aftab Uddin Kajoj, THA Mohangong Thana Health complex, Dr MA Satter and others.

### Youth killed in road accident

**From Our Correspondent**  
JHENIDAH, Nov 13: A young man was killed when a paddy loaded truck skidded off the road recently near Chhalabara in Kaliganj thana. The dead was identified as Sanjit Kumar Saha, 39, a paddy merchant of village Fulahari in Saikrupa thana, according to police sources. Police and eyewitnesses said, the accident occurred when the driver of the truck tried to overtake a Jhenidah bound bus. Sanjit died on the spot while five others received injuries. The body was sent to Jhenidah sadar hospital morgue for autopsy. Police seized the truck, but the driver managed to flee.

### Election of Chamber executives

**From Our Correspondent**  
BAGERHAT, Nov 13: Election of president and senior vice-president of Bagerhat Chamber of Commerce and Industries was held on November 3 in the chamber office, reports BSS. Kazi Mahfuzur Rahman and Kazi A Mukit were elected president and senior vice-president respectively.

### Five children missing

**From Our Correspondent**  
SHARIATPUR, Nov 13: The incidents of abduction of children have increased alarmingly in the district causing concern for the guardians, reports UNB. Five children have remained missing from Kerokandi area in the district last week and the people feared that they had been abducted by traffickers. The children were identified as Chanchal, 11, Jashim, 9, Milon, 8, Sarwar, 10, and Towhidul Huq, 12. In another incident in the same area, a boy Babu, 9, was saved from the clutches of the traffickers by chance, said the local people. The culprits offered him some biscuits and took him into a car on his way to the school. But the engine of the car developed a trouble on the way and the boy got down from it. The men later left the area apprehending trouble from the local people.

### Winter clothes distributed

**From Our Correspondent**  
TANGAIL, Nov 13: Jaglu Foundation, a social welfare organisation, distributed winter clothes among 132 distressed families of Huga union of sadar thana on November 10. The families lost their lands and properties due to erosion by the river Jamuna. Prof Shamsul Huda, president of the foundation, distributed the clothes in a simple ceremony.

### Prize bonds scarce

**From Our Correspondent**  
COMILLA, Nov 13: Prize bonds and postal stamps have become quite scarce in almost all the post offices of the district for over the last one month, reports APB. Most of the post offices do not have postal stamps of Taka one and two denominations, although those of 40 paisa denominations are available, consumers said. Apart from the commonman, the publishers of newspapers have been facing a great deal of problems in sending them to the destinations due to this scarcity of postal stamps. The post office sources said the problem has arisen owing to the fact that inadequate number of postal stamps had been supplied to them from the headquarters. A good number of intending customers go back disappointed from the post offices and banks due to non-availability of prize bonds, alleged the consumers.

### Road construction scheme undertaken

**From Our Correspondent**  
MUNSHIGANJ, Nov 13: Work on 37 schemes for reconstruction of flood-ravaged roads, culverts and bridges in six thanas of the district has been undertaken by the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) under a Taka 2.27 crore post-flood rehabilitation programme, reports BSS. Reconstruction of 15 roads, five bridges and culverts and repair of 16 bridges are included in the schemes which are expected to be completed by December next, an LGED source said.

### Boro' farming programme in Gazipur

**From Our Correspondent**  
GAZIPUR, Nov 13: A total of 50,608 hectares have been brought under 'Boro' cultivation in five thanas and two pourashavas in the district in the current 'Boro' season, reports BSS. The Agricultural Extension Department (AED) sources said, of the total land 29,250 hectares have been brought under High Yielding Variety and 21,358 hectares under local variety. AED supplied necessary seeds, fertilisers, insecticides for successful implementation of the programme. Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Sonali, Janata and Agrani Bank have disbursed loans among the farmers to boost production.

### Medical representative commits suicide

**From Our Correspondent**  
JHALAKATHI, Nov 13: A medical representative of a local pharmaceutical company committed suicide by taking poison in the town on Tuesday night, reports APB. The victim was identified as Sadananda Chandra, 30, of Kamarkati village in Swarupkati thana of Pirojpur district. He was a medical representative of Medimade Pharmaceutical Company and posted at Chittagong. Witnesses said local people found him lying at the neighbouring Muslim graveyard at about 8 pm and rushed to the sadar hospital. Later, he was shifted to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital in Barisal where the attending doctors declared him dead at about 1 am on Wednesday.

JHENIDAH, Nov 13: Following increased rivalry between outlawed armed groups, the law and order situation in the district has taken a turn for the worse, reports APB.

Locals said, 15 lakh people in all six thanas of the district are virtually hostages in the hands of the outlawed armed groups, whose number totals some 5,000.

In all, according to police, 96 people have been killed over the past 10 months of the current year and most of them fell prey to the armed activists of outlawed political parties.

The victims were workers or supporters of such political parties as Awami League, BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami, JSD, and underground political organisations as Gano Fouz, Sramajibi Mukti Andolan, Purba Banglar Communist Party, Revolutionary Communist Party (RCP), Sharful Bahini, Bidhan Bahini, Montoo Bahini, Siddique Molah Bahini, Krishna Bahini and the like.

Of the killings, 32 were held in Jhenidah Sadar, 18 in Hari-nakundu, 17 in Kaliganj, 16 in Shaikakupa, eight in Kotchandpur and five in Moheshpur thana areas, police said.

There are also allegations of

loot, arson and rape against the outlawed groups. Commonman, however, do not dare to lodge official complaints against the armed groups.

The armed groups, sources said, often commit armed dacoities and indulge in armed clashes amongst themselves. The elements behave like 'government' in their areas of command. As a result, people who do not feel safe to stay in the areas usually move on the safer places.

Notwithstanding 'special operations' by the law enforcing agencies from time to time, the armed political groups continue to operate quite openly in the areas, locals said.

A high ranking police official told that they were ill-equipped to cope up with the armed groups, because, they do not have adequate and modern arms and ammunition, speedy vehicles and adequate manpower.

Jhenidah has been listed as a 'crime zone' in view of the activities of these groups, he said, adding the government has decided to set up 16 new police stations in Khulna division to contain crime in the areas.

Of these new police stations, four are to be set up at Baro Bazar, Hatgopalpur, Dakbanga and Barokestapur of the district.

The sooner these police stations are set up, the better for the peace-loving people of the area, he said.

UNB reports from Khulna: Five members of an outlawed political party were arrested along with arms and ammunition from a residence at Kaminibasi village in Dakope thana on Wednesday night.

They were identified as Rahmat Ali Gazi alias Kamrul, 30, Shibpur Kabiraj, 41, Brozen Thidar, 30, Bibretbala, 25, and Sontosh Mondol of Purba Banglar Communist Party.

On information, police raided the village at the about 3 am and arrested the outlaws along with one rifle and a bullet.

APB reports from Jessore: The proposal for setting up of 16 new thanas, four outposts and 12 police investigation centres in 10 southern districts has been lying shelved for about a decade now.

The district administrations of Jessore, Jhenidah, Narail, Kushtia and Meherpur had proposed the setting up of these thanas and other installations in view of the rising incidence of crime, terrorism and killing in the region, official sources said.

The proposed thanas are Khajura, South Kotwali, Bankra and Rajganj in Jessore; Jhaudia, Mathurapur and Poradaha in Kushtia; Mujibnagar in Meherpur; Naragati, Gobra and Chhatroahajari in Narail and Dakbungalow, Barbaraz, Keshtapur and Haat Gopalpur in Jhenidah district.

The proposed outposts are to be set up at Sanyashibazar in Bagerhat, Baroipara and Ferryghat in Narail and Talbaria in Kushtia district.

The planned investigation centres are Baganchara in Jessore, Chulka, Bazar and Pooherat in Bagerhat, Barodia and Ruppaganj in Narail, Kholishakundi in Kushtia and Titudaha, Khas Koiba, Darshana and Luxmipur in Chuadanga district.

Although preliminary works on setting up of these units had begun after the proposal was made by the concerned district administrations, no further progress has been made till date, sources informed.

APB adds from Khulna: The harvesting of forest resources from the Sundarbans is facing a setback with an alarming rise in incidences of piracy in the areas during the recent months. Sawalis, Mowalis, and others, who earn their livelihood working inside the Sundarbans, cannot enter the world's largest mangrove forest owing to stepped up activities of the pirates.

Using fast moving boats, they say, the thugs operate along the rivers and canals in forest areas like Shibusa, Sachia, Nangla, Aruashili, Gawakhali, Andharmanik, Salakmoni, Kamirchar and Mandarbana under Khulna and Satkhira ranges.

Forest Department sources said that attacks by the well-armed dacoits have increased in the areas over the last six months. The pirates kidnap fishermen, Bawalis and Mowalis, hold them hostages and free them on payment of ransom. The captives are often killed in case of failure to pay the demand.



MAGURA: Jute sticks are being sold in rural areas at a higher price due to acute scarcity of fuelwood following the deluge. — Star photo

## Outbreak of eye, skin diseases in Netrakona dist

**From Our Correspondent**

NETRAKONA, Nov 13: Eye and skin diseases have broken out in an epidemic form throughout the district during the last one month.

More than 30 per cent people in 10 thanas have been attacked by the diseases. Many people including children have been attacked with the diseases at Netrakona sadar, Barhatta, Kalmakanda, Atpara, Mohangonj, Madan, Khalajuri, Purbadhala, Durgapur and Kendua.

Civil Surgeon of Netrakona Dr Matir Rahman told that eye disease was being spread by bacteria and virus. The patients feel discomfort. The patients are advised to apply antibiotic drops and ointment. Eyes should be washed with normal saline and dark glasses should be used as the very disease is contagious. Proper treatment is being ensured to the patients, he added.

The civil surgeon said that skin diseases like Itching, Scabies, urticaria and eczema are found in most of the patients. Besides, scabies is spreading alarmingly all-over the district after recession of flood water. Skin diseases are found in ear, nose, throat and basal stage. The disease is a contagious one as it is contracted by intimate contact with the infected individuals.

According to hospital sources, about 150 patients suffering from eye and skin diseases are being treated every day in each thana hospital including Netrakona Modern Hospital. Besides, local medical practitioners have been treating on average 15 to 20 patients in a day.

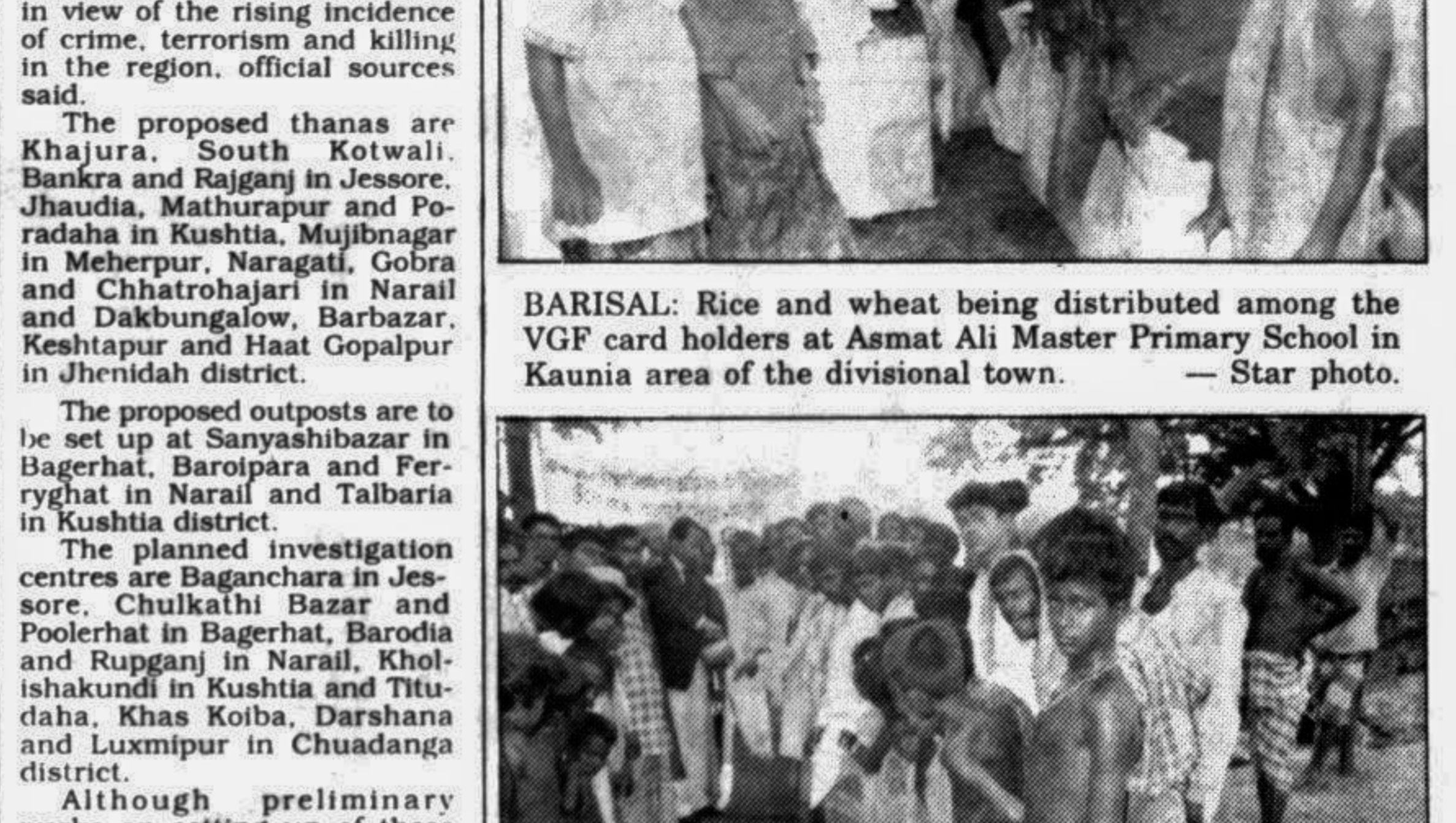
Besides, venereal diseases like gonorrhoea and congenital syphilis are also found in bodies of many people. The diseases are so serious and complicated that thorough examination of patients by sophisticated medical equipments which are not available here, according to local doctors.

Eye and skin diseases are spreading rapidly for want of preventive and curative measures. Curative medicines are not available at the local markets and charitable dispensaries including hospitals, it is widely alleged. As a result, the patients are suffering greatly.

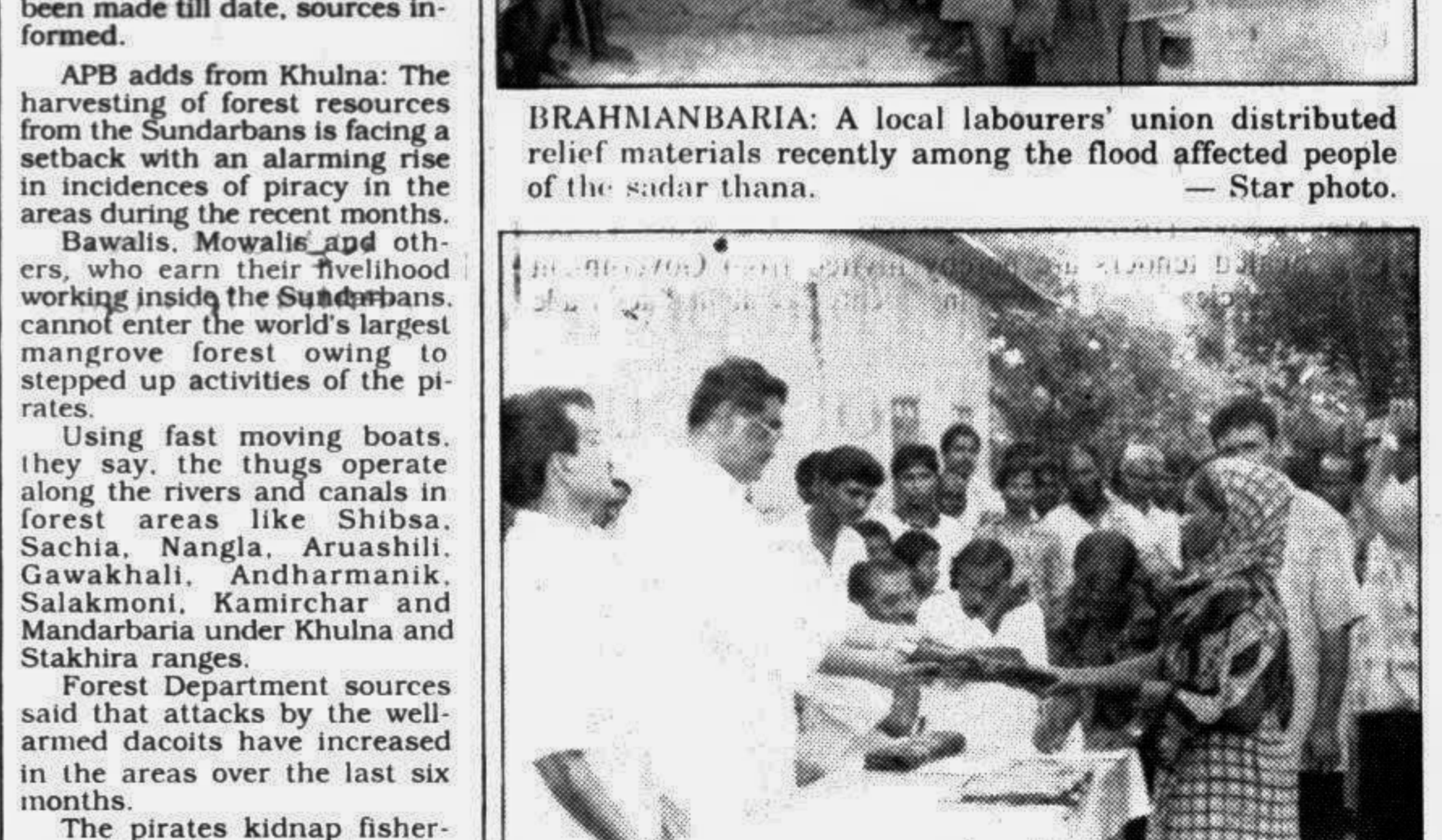
Necessary steps should be taken immediately to combat the disease.

der Food for Works programme are being hampered in the district due to want of adequate soil here.

Official sources said a total of 608 metric tons of wheat have been allocated in five thanas including Lalmonirhat pourashava against 433 projects under the test relief scheme. The earth works are being hampered as most of the fields beside the roads are filled with 'Aman' paddy causing obstruction of collection of soil.



BRAHMANBARIA: A local labourers' union distributed relief materials recently among the flood affected people of the sadar thana. — Star photo.



FARIDPUR: Awami League leader Khondaker Mosharruf Hossain distributed relief goods among the flood victims of Char Madhabdia in the sadar thana. — Star photo.

## Flood damaged roads hindering traffic movement

NARSINGDI, Nov 13: Most of the roads and highways in six thanas were damaged by the devastating floods. The executive engineer of Roads and Highways Department here said the extent of damage is worth about Tk 20 crore.

The worst affected roads are: Narsingdi-Demra road, Narsingdi-DS road, Narsingdi-Dhaka-Sylhet road, Narsingdi-Madanganj road, Panchdona-Palash-Charsingdur road, Panchdona-Danga road and Panchdona-Motkhola road. Shibpur-Dulapur via Lokhpur road, Jangshibpur-Raipura road, Narsingdi-Chalakchar via Monohordi road and Panchdona-Charsingdur road were also ravaged by the floods.

At least Tk 7 crore would be needed to repair the roads and highways temporarily, R&H officials said. Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) sources here said about 474 kms of kutcha roads, 133 kms of pucca roads and 579 metres span of bridges and culverts were also damaged by the flood waters.

Some 16 growth centres, 26 TTDC UP complexes and 224 educational institutions were badly affected by the flooding as well, said the LGED sources. The executive engineer of LGED said the damaged roads and other infrastructures should be repaired immediately.

Local people, political leaders and truck owners in a joint statement recently have urged the authorities to sanction the amount required for repairing of the roads as early as possible for smooth plying of traffic. UNB reports from Natore: The damage wrought by the devastating flood in the rural communication sector in the district may worth over Tk 150 crore.

Officials of Local Government Engineering Department here estimated that a total of Tk 7 crore, 15.48 lakh will be needed for the repair and renovation of the roads, culverts and bridges in six thanas.

A total of 704.23-km kutcha road, 15.8-km metalled road, 29 bridges and culverts were damaged by the flood.



AGRI-VARSITY (Mymensingh): Vice-Chancellor Prof Muhammad Hussain presenting a crest to the Charge d'Affaires of the Royal Danish Embassy Finn Thilsted during his recent visit to the Bangladesh Agricultural University. — Star photo.



BARISAL: Rice and wheat being distributed among the VGF card holders at Asmat Ali Master Primary School in Kaunia area of the divisional town. — Star photo.



BRAHMANBARIA: A local labourers' union distributed relief materials recently among the flood affected people of the sadar thana. — Star photo.



FARIDPUR: Awami League leader Khondaker Mosharruf Hossain distributed relief goods among the flood victims of Char Madhabdia in the sadar thana. — Star photo.

Some 21 points of Rohonpur-Bholarhat road, six points of Kansat-Comostapur-Pasasara road and three points of Nawabganj-Uttara Mallik-Gomostapur road of Chapainawabganj district were the worst affected.

Two points of Naogaon-Atrai road, five points of Choumasia-Mohadevpur-Soraigha road and some points of Patnitola-Dhamurhat and Naogaon-Badagachi road of the Naogaon district also were damaged.

Besides, 16 points of Baneshwar-Charghat-Iswardi road and seven points of Puthla-Taherpur-Bagmara road of Rajshahi district were destroyed by the recent flooding.

The department hopes to make the rest of the damaged roads fit for plying of vehicles within another week. BSS reports from Chuadanga: Four schemes have been implemented by the Local Government Engineering Department in all the four thanas of Chuadanga district in the current fiscal year at a cost of Taka 50.31 lakh.

The implemented schemes include maintenance of 3.5 kilometre Sarajganj-Hatbali road in Chuadanga sadar thana, 11.03 kilometre Bhalipur-Hatbali road in Alamdanga thana, 35 kilometre Shantoshpur-Andulbaria road in Sonaragar thana and six kilometre Damurhuda-Karpashdanga road in

Damurhuda thana. The schemes were implemented under the Rural Development Project-18 of the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED).

UNB reports from Pabna: Traffic movement in 38 roads in three districts under Roads and Highways Department is being hindered adversely due to its dilapidated condition caused by the recent devastating flood. The R&H Department sources said the government has not yet allocated any fund to re-construct the damaged roads, bridges and culverts in Pabna, Sirajganj and Natore districts.

Under Pabna Roads and Highways Circle, the department has incurred a loss estimated at about Tk 34 crore due to the catastrophe. Vehicles cannot ply on several routes as bridges and culverts at some points have not yet been re-constructed. The department sources said a total of 14 roads and highways each in Pabna and Sirajganj and another 10 in Natore districts have extensively been damaged by the flood.