

# News snaps

## Two commit suicide

**BRAHMANBARIA, Oct 1:** One Jalal, 28, of village Dithpara in sadar thana committed suicide by taking poison recently, reports BSS. Police recovered the body and sent for autopsy. The cause behind the suicide could not be known. An unnatural death case was filed with sadar thana in this connection. In another incident, recently, Sandha Rani Das, 30, wife of Pabitra Das of village Paltan in sadar thana committed suicide by taking poison. The cause of her suicide could not be known.

## Nephew kills aunt

**BAGE RHAT, Oct 1:** An aunt was killed and uncle injured at the hands of their nephew at Malipatan village in Kachua thana here on Tuesday morning, reports UNB. Hospital sources said Abul Hossain, 36, came under attack by his nephew Safayet, 16, and his accomplices when he was collecting groundnut from jointly owned field. Rabeya Khatun, 30, received fatal head injuries while she was trying to save her husband. Local people brought them at sadar hospital here in critical condition where Rabeya succumbed to her injuries. Abul Hossain was shifted to a Khulna hospital following deterioration of his condition.

## BKB loan for farmers

**PIROJPUR, Oct 1:** Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) will distribute loan totaling Tk 16.28 crore among the farmers in the current fiscal reports UNB. The bank will disburse the loan through its 21 branches in six thanas. BKB officials said they have already begun the loan distribution programme and it would continue till June next year. Meanwhile, Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) disbursed loan to the tune of Tk 5.84 crore during the last fiscal. The loan was distributed among BRDB's 6,973 members of its 3,973 samities. They received the financial assistance for undertaking small programmes like paddy crushing, cattle rearing, nursery, poultry farming and vegetable cultivation.

## Woes of telephone subscribers

**THAKURGAON, Oct 1:** Many telephones in Halpara and Ghoshpara of the town remained out of order for 10 days in absence of any remedial measure, reports UNB. The disruption began after a cable line was severed while installing an electric pole in the area on September 20. They alleged that the construction workers covered the trench without fixing the severed cable line. Subscribers said they sent a letter to the telecommunication minister failing to get any solution of the problem from the local telephone department after repeated complaints.

## Eight uplift schemes progressing

**JHALAKATI, Oct 1:** Works for implementation of eight schemes under the Small-Scale Irrigation Project are progressing rapidly at a cost of Tk 2.64 crore, reports UNB. Official sources said the schemes are aimed at poverty-alleviation, flood control and creating communication facilities in eight unions of sadar, Nalchiti and Rajapur thanas. On completion of the schemes, about 5,000 hectares of land will be brought under Boro cultivation. Local Government Engineer Department is implementing the schemes, formulated in coordination with the Water Development Board and the Agriculture Department.

## Rat killing drive

**SATKHIRA, Oct 1:** The national Rat Killing Drive '99 sponsored by the Agriculture Extension Department began on Sunday, reports BSS. The drive was inaugurated by S M Shahjahan Ali, a plant protection specialist, at a function held in the auditorium of Assasuni Upazila Parishad. The function was presided over by Assasuni Upazila Agriculture Officer Sheikh Eftekar Ali. Prizes were given to the farmers, educational institutions and block supervisors of the agriculture department for their extraordinary performance in killing rats in order to save crops.

## Bridge built over Bashanda canal

**JHALAKATI, Oct 1:** A bridge over Bashanda canal at Baokati Pajpithipara in sadar thana has been constructed at a cost of 96.82 lakh, reports UNB. Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) constructed the 90-meter long bridge, obviating the long-standing demand of the people of Bashanda, Pajpithipara, Baokati, Shtadashkati, Bhimruli and Kritipashia areas. Meanwhile, construction works on another RCC-bridge over Gurudham canal on Bangabandhu road in sadar thana have begun. LGED will construct the 42-meter long bridge costing Tk 36.12 lakh, which is expected to be completed by the year 2000.

## Man killed in road mishap

**GAIBANHA, Oct 1:** A middle-age man was run over by a Rangpur-bound bus at Katakahi Baluhat under Gobindganj upazila on September 26, reports BSS. Eye witnesses said the victim, Md Entaj Ali, 55, of village Uttar Singra died on the spot. None was arrested in this connection.



**Zoo animal:** Villagers of Durgapur in Aditmari thana in Rangpur district handed over a Ghorial to the Rangpur Zoo authorities which they caught recently on the bank of the Teesta. — Star photo

## Textbooks distributed

**RAJBARI, Oct 1:** In a bid to help spread women education, some 221 sets of textbooks have been distributed among the first year students of Rabeya Idris Women College in Gualanda thana, reports UNB. Founder of the college M Idris Ali donated the books worth about Tk 2.5 lakh. Local MP Kazi Keramat Ali distributed the books among the students at a simple ceremony on September 18. Speaking on the occasion, teachers of the college highly appreciated Idris Ali for his remarkable role in spreading women education in remote area here.

## Training for women

**KISHOREGANJ, Oct 1:** District Women Affairs directorate has given training to 50 women on various income generation programmes during 1998-99 fiscal year, reports BSS. The training was given on sewing, poultry farming, handicrafts and other income generating activities. The directorate has also decided to give training to 50 more women in the current fiscal year.

## BRAC's development programme

**KHULNA, Oct 1:** Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC), a non-government organisation, has undertaken various programmes to eradicate poverty and illiteracy and develop the socio-economic condition of the rural people, reports UNB. The programme are Rural Development Programme (RDP), BRAC Urban Programme (BUP), Health and Population Programme (HPP) and BRAC Education Programme (BEP). Under its Urban Programme, BRAC will disburse loan totaling Tk 16.61 crore among the poor people of four districts in the current fiscal. It will also provide training on handicrafts, food supply and furniture repairing. The organisation is providing medical services to nearly three crore people in 28 districts under its HPP programme.

# Flood situation in 3 dists remain static

From Abdul Wadood

**RAJSHAHI, Oct 1:** The overall flood situation in Rajshahi, Chapainawabganj and Naogaon districts remained static on Thursday although the major rivers marked slight recession but still flowing far above the danger level. In Rajshahi the Padma was flowing at 18.87 metre, 37 centimetre above the danger level. Near Pankha in Chapainawabganj, the Padma was flowing 1.47 metre above the danger level on Thursday evening while the Mahananda was flowing 76 centimetre above the danger level in Chapainawabganj on Thursday evening. Meanwhile, the death toll in flood had been raised to six with two more deaths at Godagari and Dhamorhat thanas on Wednesday noon. The victim

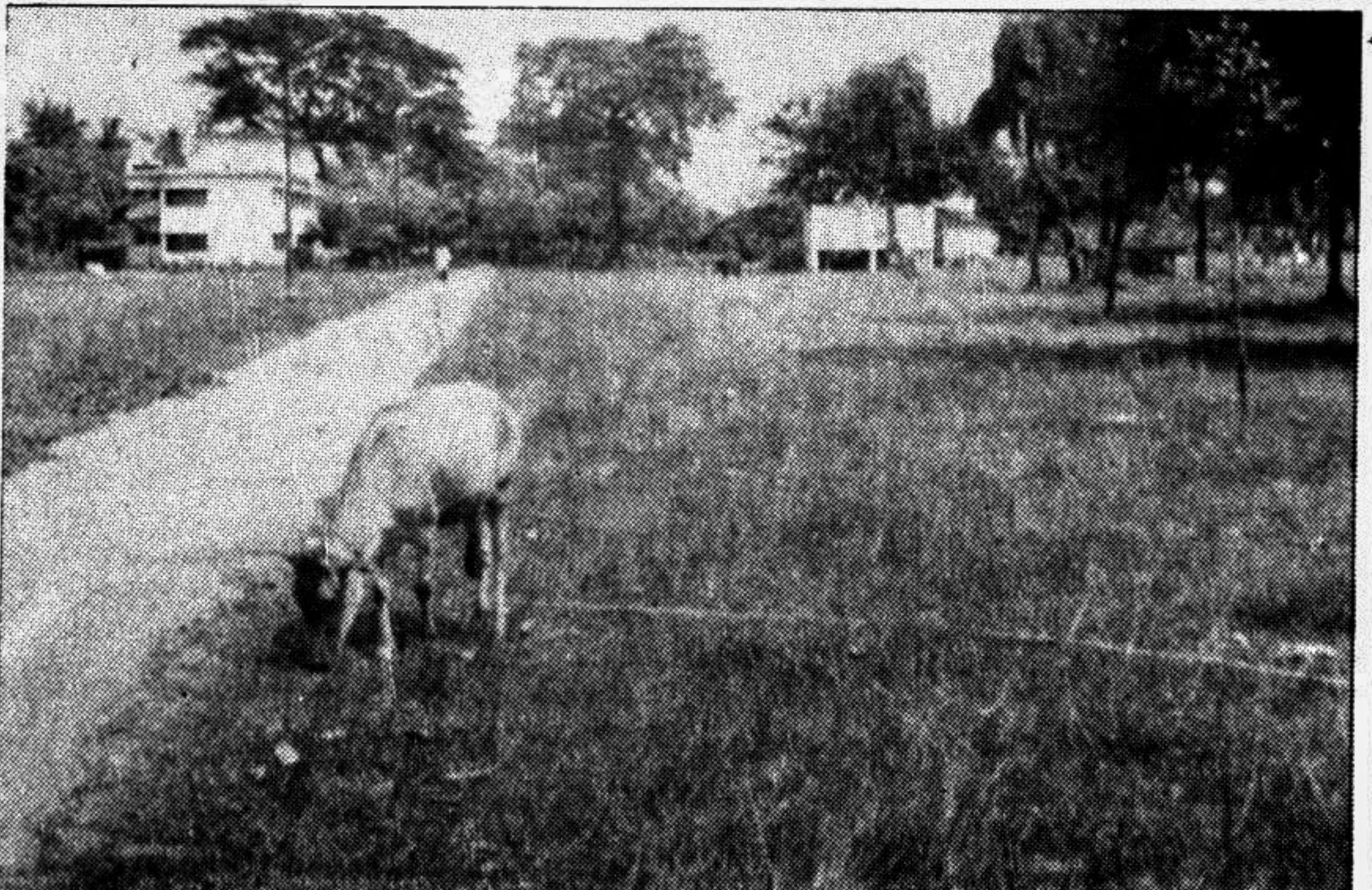
has been identified as one and-a-half year old Nurul Alam of village Sarangpur in Godagari and Rozina, 50, of Dhamorhat thana. Plight of the flood affected people reached to the peak as scarcity of food, fire wood and fodder became acute. Hundreds of families from the flood affected areas were seen shifting their cattle-head and families to the Barind highlands. So far crops on about 12,000 hectares of land have completely been damaged by flood in Rajshahi district. The relief distributed for the flood affected people in the district was scanty. In Chapainawabganj, scarcity of drinking water became acute in the flood affected areas. About 10,000 hand tubewells of the districts inundated

completely by flood. Activities of the medical teams in the flood affected areas were not satisfactory. The erosion along the River Pagla turned alarming and the villages Kalinagar, Sundarpur and Bagchar were devoured by the River Padma in 24 hours. More than 8 lakh people of the district, so far had been affected by flood.

Bholahat thana administration sources said, 48 square kilometre areas of the thana had been flooded affecting 50,000 people. Six flood relief centres had been opened in this thana. All 11 thanas of Naogaon district were affected by the flood. On Thursday evening the Chhoto Jamuna and the Atrai were flowing above 17 and 92

centimetre above the danger level. The Punorbhava river was flowing 1.53 metre above the red level. The flood situation took a devastating turn following the erosion of the WAPDA embankment along the Atrai river near Shimultali of Dhamorhat thana and embankments at Parsambari and Begun Joar points along the River Chhoto. Jamuna in Badalgachi thana. So far crops on over 50,000 acres of lands were damaged by flood. Road communication from Sapahar to Patnitola was snapped following the washing away of the road near Kanjipur.

The district administration has, so far, allocated Taka 20 thousand for relief works for the flood victims.



The open space of Jhenidah Sadar Hospital has now virtually become a safe grazing ground of animals as it is not well-protected by surrounding walls. — Star photo

## Dakatia devours 75 feet area in Chandpur Erosion takes serious turn in Jhalakathi

**JHALAKATHI, Oct 1:** Erosion by river Sugandha has assumed an alarming proportion, devouring a vast track of land on Wednesday night, reports UNB. Villagers said nearly one acre of land, including dwelling houses, behind the district bus terminal, disappeared into the river on the night, sending some 200 families into packing for shifting to safer places. Earlier, the river eroded away a Shwashaan Ghat of the Hindu community, a historical Jamindar house and a road of pourasava. Now the bus terminal, two petrol depots, the Circuit House, a government boys' school, the district education office, some roads of the pourasava, Shishu Kallayan Biddalaj and some government and private build-

ings have come under threat. Pourashava chairman Be-slayet Hossain visited the erosion-hit areas on Thursday. Another report from Chandpur adds: Continuous erosion by the river Dakatia caused a sudden breach in the town protection embankment in Bara Station area Tuesday morning creating panic among the local people. Within a moment, about 75 feet area, including a tea stall and two fish warehouse, were grabbed the Dakatia river near the Meghna estuary. Witnesses said large cracks developed on the town protection embankment, which gave way in Bara Station area threatening the railway station and many business establishments there.

The erosion, which could not be halted as the river was still 25-30 feet deep in the area, has been rapidly grabbing the CC blocks of the embankment. Deputy Commissioner Rezaul Karim and other high government officials visited the spot Tuesday. The officials of Meghna-Dhonagoda project also rushed to the spot and were dumping more CC blocks to protect the embankment. This year, the Water Development Board strengthened the embankment by dumping CC blocks worth Tk 5 crore. Local Railway station master Abul Khair said he had informed the Railway authorities about the urgent need to protect the station from erosion. The railway station is only 50 feet from the river.

## Shariatpur Pourasava fails to provide civic amenities

**SHARIATPUR, Oct 1:** Beset with manifold problems, the Pourasava failed to provide civic amenities to 50,000 residents of the district town, reports UNB. Established in 1984, the municipality was upgraded to the second class in 1996. But no changes are visible in the quality of road, sanitary, water and health services. The pourasava covering an area of 21.50 square kilometer consists of 5500 holdings in nine wards. The deplorable condition of the roads, paucity of safe water, inadequate power supply, lack of proper drainage and sanitary arrangements, shortage of accommodation, insufficient street lighting, mosquito menace and absence of other civic amenities have made the life of the residents miserable. Only 15 kilometer roads out of fifty kilometer have been

made pucca. Path holes and cracks developed at several points hampering movement vehicular traffic and pedestrians. Even with moderate rain, 80 bottles of phensidyl seized. From Our Correspondent GOPALGANJ, Oct 1: Police seized 80 bottles of Indian made phensidyl syrup and arrested two women from Shankarpasha ferry ghat under Mukusdpur thana recently. Suspecting movements of Fatema Begum, 20, and Nazma Begum, 20, local people searched their bags and found 80 bottles of phensidyl. Police later seized the contraband and arrested the two women. A case was lodged in this connection.

fall, roads become muddy and slippery. Waters remain stagnant for long causing suffering to the pedestrian. Roadside ditches filled with filth and garbage not cleaned for days spread putrid smell. Unplanned parking of about 1000 rickshaws and rickshaw vans, fifty percent of which has no licence, caused unbearable traffic jam in narrow roads and lanes of the town. In the absence of recreational facilities, the youth gather on the road corners causing annoyance to women and elders. There was no Shishu Park in the town and condition in the markets is deplorable. The chairman of pourashava, ABM Gias Uddin, said that the development activities were hampered due to the shortage of fund. He has programme to develop the pourasava and sought fund from the government.

## 2 SSC exam centres in Netrakona cancelled

**From Our Correspondent NETRAKONA, Oct 1:** Two SSC examination centres were cancelled by the authorities of the Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board, Dhaka for adopting unfair means in the examinations. The centres are Madanpur centre under the sadar thana and Bykharhati centre under Kendua thana. Official sources said, actions were taken against the two centres as part of a special drive launched by the board authorities. The centres were identified as the institutions for mass copying since inception. It may be mentioned here that one invigilator including headmaster of Madanpur High School were arrested by police when they were trying to change an answer script during the last SSC examination.



Md Habibur Rahman, Divisional Commissioner of Sylhet speaking at the closing ceremony of the 3-day workshop on debating organised recently by the Debating Society. — Star photo

## Non-govt primary schools face shortage of teachers

**KUSHTIA, Oct 1:** Academic activities in 275 non-government registered primary schools are being hampered due to shortage of teachers, necessary logistics and educational appliances, reports UNB. Some 1,100 teachers of these schools have been facing hardship for the last 15 years as their salary, ranging from Tk 500 to Tk 750 is quite inadequate to maintain the family. As a result they could not pay their whole attention to the profession of teaching. They go for other sources of income hampering the academic pursuit of about 77,000 students studying in these schools. Officials sources said there were 730 primary schools, including 250 non-registered,

with a total number of 2.78 lakh students in six thanas. Out of the total, some 46,000 students could not attend school regularly due to object poverty. Food for Education programme has failed to some extent due to alleged corruption by a section of teachers and the managing committees. Most of the schools have no pucca construction, furniture and other educational appliances. Moreover, some 40 educational institutions were damaged by the recent cyclonic storm but no government initiative is visible to repair the damages. In many schools, students are being taught under the open sky.

## Catching of snails pose a threat to bio-diversity

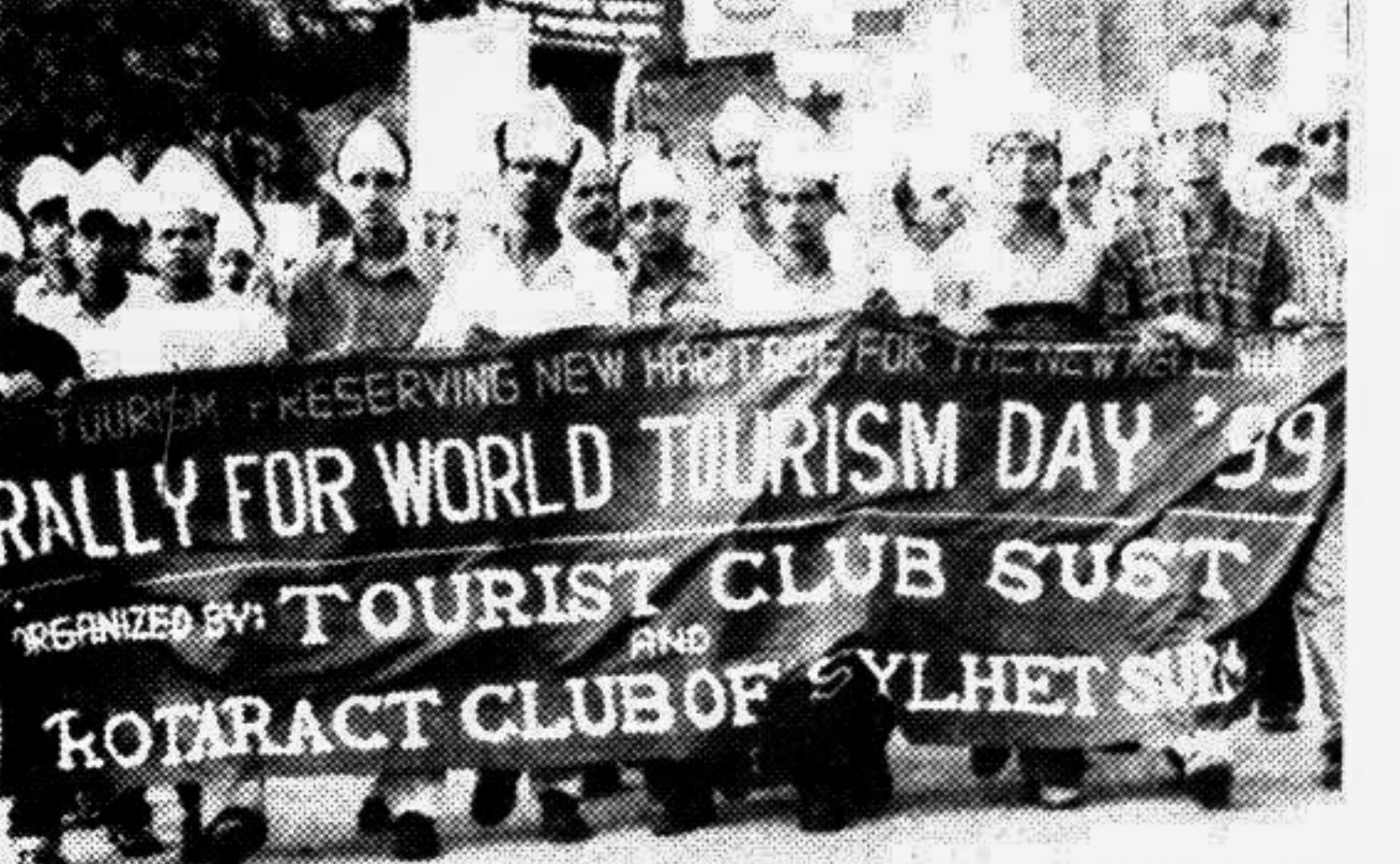
**MADARIPUR, Oct 1:** Trading in snails is brisk in Sadar and Rajor thanas with its indiscriminate catching posing a threat to bio-diversity, reports UNB. Some people of the low-income group are engaged in catching of snails in the two thanas to earn their living. Snails have good demand by the shrimp farms, where these are used as feed for shrimps. Businessmen from the shrimp farms areas Bagerhat, Khulna and Satkhira come to the two thanas where snails are available in abundance. As a result of its high demand, people of all ages are seen looking for snails in local ponds, trenches, and paddy and other crop fields. These people told the news agency they could collect snails worth about Tk 90 during a nearly five-hour hunt a day. The quantity of catch goes up during the rainy season when

more snails are found, they said. "I earn enough from snail business to maintain my family easily," said Jalil Matbor of Mostafapur village in Sadar thana. The representatives from shrimp farms buy snails from the catchers visiting every corner of remote villages by engine-boats. They later put those into trawlers and trucks for carrying to Khulna, Satkhira and Bagerhat districts. Snails, which breed naturally in the country in absence of any organised cultivation, eat up many insects, including leeches, from paddy fields thus protecting environment. Experts said that if indiscriminate catching of snails is allowed to continue, the district would face environmental degradation. They suggested taking up programme to maintain a balance between snail production and catching.

## Events of districts in picture



Maj Gen M S A Bhuiyan (Retd), a noted freedom fighter of Bangladesh visited recently 30 villages of Jagotpur, Balarampur, Korikandi and Majidpur unions of Daudkandi thana in Comilla district. At present Gen Bhuiyan is preparing himself for the next parliamentary election in his Daudkandi constituency as his candidature in the next poll is almost confirmed. He is meeting with the people four to five days a week by engine driven boats or by automobiles and enquiring about their welfare. Ex-soldiers, freedom fighters, social workers and youths are volunteering spontaneously in his campaign.



Seeing is believing: A colourful rally was brought out in Sylhet town on Sunday in observance of World Tourism Day. — Star photo



A colourful rally of Samajtantric Chhatra Front paraded the streets of Rangpur town following its conference recently in the old press club premises. — Star photo



A tree plantation campaign started recently at Tangail Rotary Polli School in Tangail.

## Jamalpur DIARY

### Adult literacy centre opens

**From Our Correspondent JAMALPUR, Oct 1:** An adult literacy centre under the Total Literacy Movement (TLM) programme was inaugurated in Kuchgar Nabaratna Government Primary School in the Sadar thana recently. Rezaul Karim MP, inaugurated the centres as the chief guest while Alauddin ADM, Ashis Kumar Pal, ADG (general), Civil Surgeon Hamidullah Feroz and Mahaburur Rahman Chairman of Kendua Union Parishad were present as the special guest. The Sadar thana Nirbahi Officer Abu Mohammad Yusuf presided over the function. Some 300 adults, both male and female learners are taking education in 10 units of the villages Kuchgar, Mongalpur and Kachasara in the sadar thana. All the learners are day labourers and housewives. Later on the chief guest distributed educational implements among the learners.

### Three killed in road mishap

A century old man was killed when a speeding motorcycle hit him at Jamtali bazaar in the Sadar thana recently. The victim was identified as Jasmuddin Mollah of village Kalabaha in Kendua union of the Sadar thana. According to witness the old man met the tragic end of his life when a motorcycle hit him from behind. He was returning home after marketing. The body was handed over to the deceased's family after autopsy. A young man was crushed under the wheel of a speeding microbus at Ban Par Bazaar in Dewanganj thana recently. According to witnesses, the victim, Hossain Ali, 22, son of Suruzaman while disembarking from a microbus went under the micro and crushed under the rear wheel. He died at Bakshigonj Thana Health Complex. Police rounded up two helpers of the microbus. A boy was crushed under a speeding truck near Kalibari on Jamalpur-Mymensingh highway recently. Witnesses said Azhar Uddin, 12, son of Gias Uddin, a student of class five at village Ranagacha in the sadar thana was run over by a speeding truck. He died on the spot. The driver managed to escape with the vehicles.

### Four commit suicide

A housewife committed suicide by throwing herself under a running train at Boira railway station in Sarisabari thana recently. Momtaz Begum, 28, wife of Kalo Mia and mother of two children of village Satpoa killed herself after being failed to manage money for paying loan of an NGO. Repeated pressure from the NGO to pay the loan attributed to the incident. A pregnant housewife committed suicide for dowry at village Kanil of Itail Union in the Sadar thana recently. According to local people Seuli Begum, 25, wife of Johurul Islam committed suicide throwing herself under the wheels of a running inter-city train. Seuli was carrying an unborn baby. She killed herself to get rid of the persecutions by her husband and members of in-laws for dowry. Aleya Begum, 25, a housewife of village Banurchar under Islampur thana committed suicide in a river recently. The cause of her suicide could not be known. One young man committed suicide consuming poison at village Polisha in Melendah thana recently. Dabir Ali, 22, son of Alimuddin was a gambler. He killed himself when his father refused to pay money for gambling by selling paddy.

### UP member murder

A former Union Parishad member was killed by a group of terrorists at Tanki Bazaar in Melendah thana recently. Witnesses said Thanda Mia was chopped to death by some terrorists at a bazaar over previous enmity.