

## News snaps

### Upazila complex demanded

BRAHMANBARIA, Oct 17: A procession was brought out by the people of 14 villages on Tuesday to demand establishment of Ashuganj Upazila complex at Talshahar, reports BSS.

The procession started from Talshahar and paraded the main roads of the town. Later, the processionists went to the office of the Deputy Commissioner and submitted a memorandum. Earlier, a meeting was held. Awami League leaders Kamruzzaman Ansary, Naz Farid Ahmed, Prof Abu Sayeed, Idris Hasan and student leader Md Salah Uddin spoke in the meeting supporting the demand of the people of 14 villages.

### Child Rights Week concludes

CHUADANGA, Oct 17: The Child Rights Week '99 was observed here in a befitting manner from September 29 to October 5, reports BSS.

In observance of the week local Shishu Academy arranged a week-long elaborate programme. The week-long programme included children rally, competitions of painting, debate, essay writing, extempore speech, dance, song and recitation for the students of local blind school, hand writing competition for the destitute children, and discussion meeting. Prizes were distributed among the best competitors. Cultural functions were also held.

### Advocacy meeting

MUNSHIGANJ, Oct 17: An advocacy and planning meeting was held on Tuesday at the premises of the civil surgeon's office here to devise ways and means for implementing the National Immunisation Day (NID) successfully, reports BSS.

The NID programme is aimed at eradicating polio disease from the country by the year 2000. Fifty district and thana-level officers, public representatives, teachers, NGO representatives and newsmen took part in the deliberations. Deputy Commissioner Nurul Huq attended the meeting as the chief guest while civil surgeon Dr Dil Afroz Huq presided over.

### Hasan Saeed's death condoled

BARISAL, Oct 17: Barisal Press Club and Barisal district Journalists Union have condoled the demise of eminent journalist and former AP Bureau Chief Hasan Saeed, reports BSS.

In separate messages of condolences S M Iqbal and Munir Hussain, president and secretary respectively of Barisal Press Club and G M Babar Ali and Gopal Sarker, president and general secretary respectively of journalists union expressed their deep shock at the death of Hasan Saeed. They prayed for the peace of the departed soul. They conveyed their heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved family members.

### Wonder girl

From Our Correspondent



RANGPUR, Oct 17: A six-year-old girl has set up a record in memory test.

The wonder girl, Sabrina Akhtar Nadi can tell the names of 227 countries with the capitals fluently just in three minutes. Nadi, student of Class One in Rangpur Polytechnic Primary School showed her extraordinary performance at Rangpur Press Club recently. She informed that her father, Noor Mohammad Ali, 35, a teacher of Harati High School in the Sadar thana, inspired her to achieve the success. She expressed her desire to take part in any memory test if held at home or abroad. She is a regular reader of newspapers. Her handwriting is very beautiful and she can speak English fluently.

### Mental Health Day observed

LALMONIRHAT, Oct 17: The World Mental Health Day was observed here on Sunday, reports BSS.

Manosika, a non-government organisation dealing with mental health programme, arranged a day-long programme on this occasion. The programme began with the hoisting of national flag at office premises. A colourful rally was brought out which paraded the main roads of the town.

### Child Rights Week observed

BANDARBAN, Oct 17: Child Rights Week was observed here recently with the participation of children and guardians, reports BSS.

District information office arranged befitting programme to observe the week. A cultural function was held on the occasion. Additional Deputy Commissioner (Rev) Habibur Rahman was the chief guest and ADC (Gen) M Siddiqur Rahman was the special guest in the function.

### Five cops suspended

JOYPURHAT, Oct 17: Five constables were suspended and closed to the police lines for gambling at a police outpost here on Wednesday, reports BSS.

Police Super Abdul Khaleque, during a surprise visit, found the five cops gambling at the sadar police outpost. The suspended cops are Abdur Rashid, Shahjahan Ali, Abdur Razzak, Rezaul Karim and Motaleb Hossain.

### Man with counterfeit notes arrested

SATKHIRA, Oct 17: One person was arrested with counterfeit currency notes of 100 taka denomination on October 12 from Satkhira Judge's Court area here, reports BSS.

According to police, the arrested person was identified as Shimul Mukherjee, 28, son of Profulla Mukherjee of village Deganga in Mollarhat of Bagerhat district. Police recovered 28 counterfeit currency notes of 100 taka denomination from his possession.

### 50 mud-built houses collapse

NAOGAON, Oct 17: At least 50 mud-built houses collapsed under the impact of heavy downpour at village Bhatkura of Shironti union of Sapahar upazila last week, local people said. reports BSS.

Several kutchha houses were damaged at village Tulshipara in Sapahar union. Though no person was killed, a large number of poultry birds and cattlehead perished when collapsed mud-walls fell on them.

### Three terrorists with firearms held

SATKHIRA, Oct 17: Satkhira police on Sunday arrested three alleged terrorists from Babulbari and Jamtola areas here and recovered one shotgun, one pipe gun and three cartridges from their possession, reports BSS.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided the areas and nabbed the terrorists. They are Shahela Babu, 28, of village Radhanagar, Nowsher Ali, 30, of village Chowdhury and Khokan Sardar, 30, of village Kholashkhali under Sadar upazila. Cases have been filed against them. The alleged terrorists have been forwarded to the court for trial.

### Top terrorist arrested

BRAHMANBARIA, Oct 17: Police arrested Md Kajol Mia, an alleged top terrorist of the area, from village Charchatola in sadar upazila recently, reports BSS.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Ashuganj police raided the house of Md Kajol Mia, son of Md Bachchu Mia of village Charchatola of Ashuganj thana and arrested him from the same place. Kajol Mia was an enlisted terrorist, police sources said. Later, he was produced before the magistrate. The magistrate ordered to send him to the jail *hajat*.

### Saadat College Teachers' Council polls

TANGAIL, Oct 17: The annual general meeting and election of the Teachers' Council of Government Saadat College was held at the college auditorium on Thursday, reports BSS.

Prof Nazim Uddin, principal of the college, presided over the meeting. Tapas Kumar Barman, Associate Professor of English Department, and Sanwar Hossain, Lecturer of Zoology, have been elected general secretary and joint secretary respectively of the Teachers' Council for the next term.

### Rat killing campaign

MEHERPUR, Oct 17: National Rat Killing Campaign sponsored by Agriculture Extension Department began here last week, reports BSS.

The campaign was inaugurated by B M Elias Hossain, deputy director of Agriculture Extension Department, at a function here. Farmers, ansar and VDP members, union parishad chairmen and members and NGO workers were present on the occasion. The best rat killers will be awarded prizes.

## National

### Aman crops under pest attack in Moulvibazar dist

From Rajat Kanti Goswami

MOULVIBAZAR, Oct 17: Standing Aman crops on vast areas of land are under pest attack in six thanas here.

The pests are locally known as *Pumri Poka*, *Mazra Poka*, *Leda Poka*, *Kalo Poka*. The pests have attacked the Aman paddy fields in various parts of the districts. The badly affected areas are Moulvibazar Sadar, Rajnagar and Kulaura.

About two thousand farmers at Mumrujpur village in the sadar thana arranged a *doa mahfil* for blessings of Allah for the protection of standing crops from pest attack.

Affected farmers of different areas informed that the green paddy plants had turned yellowish. The farmers said that

the spray machines distributed by the Agriculture Extension Department are too ineffective to control the situation. The farmers of the affected areas cannot afford to purchase the required quantity of pesticides which are being sold in the local markets at an exorbitant price.

Moulvibazar District Agriculture Extension Department (AED) source said a total of 104 hectares of land under Aman paddy have been affected by *Pumri* and *Mazra* insects. They claimed that the situation was now under control.

About 52 thousand 155 hectares are high yielding variety and 16 thousand 941 hectares are local variety. However, they claimed that the situation was now under control.

The farmers have urged the concerned authorities to take immediate measures to save the standing crops from destruction immediately.

sources informed.

In the meantime, 69 acres of land have been protected from the pest attack.

AED sources added that this year a total of one lakh three thousand hectares of land had been brought under Aman cultivation.

About 52 thousand 155 hectares are high yielding variety and 16 thousand 941 hectares are local variety. However, they claimed that the situation was now under control.

The farmers have urged the concerned authorities to take immediate measures to save the standing crops from destruction immediately.



**White gold:** Shrimp plays an important role in Bangladesh economy. The fries, known as *bagda*, are trapped in fine nets in the rivers and sea by thousands of poor villagers to earn a living. In the process, all sorts of tiny marine life is wiped out. The practice has been going on for years without any government concern.

— Star photo by A K M Mohsin

### Fire incidents up in Sylhet

SYLHET, Oct 17: Property worth crores of taka are gutted by fire in four districts of the division every year due to various reasons, including absence of fire stations in most of the thanas, reports UNB.

An unspecified number of people also receive burn injuries every year. Even many are burnt to death.

Officials said there are no fire stations in 29 of the 35 thanas in the districts of Sylhet, Habiganj, Sunamganj and Moulvibazar.

As local people demand setting up of fire stations in the 29 thanas, six such stations in four district headquarters, and

at Srimangal and Kulaura thanas have been facing problems in carrying out their duties properly.

The post of senior station officer and three out of the five posts of leader at the Sylhet Fire Station have been lying vacant since long.

The leaders play important role in extinguishing fire and facing natural calamity.

Local people urged the authorities concerned to provide more vehicles to carry water and construct water reservoirs in a bid to save lives and properties from fire incidents in the division.

### No dist judge courts in 3 hill dists

BANDARBAN, Oct 17: Judicial activities in three hill districts are seriously being hampered due to absence of District and Sessions Judge courts, reports UNB.

Despite a government decision, appointments of the District and Sessions Judges in the three hill districts are yet to be made.

Competent sources said a meeting of the Law Ministry on February 15, 1998 decided to appoint the District and Sessions Judges in Bandarban, Rangamati and Khagrachhari districts.

Out of 64 districts in the country, 61 districts have District and Sessions Judges. Only the three hill districts have no judges due to administrative complexities.

After signing of the CHT Peace Treaty, the government has decided to appoint such judges in the three districts to ensure constitutional rights of some 12 lakh people.

courts for appeal against the verdict of the Sessions Judge Courts of Chittagong led by the Additional Divisional Commissioners.

If trial of a case begins, it is uncertain when the verdict would be given," said a complainant.

A section is opposing the appointments of the District and Sessions Judges in the CHT fearing increase of in junction tendency on the administrative activities after introduction of the said courts.

Two Additional Divisional Commissioners of Chittagong have been conducting the activities of the District and Sessions Judges of the three districts.

People feel shaky in filing case against any government decision under administrative authority.

Moreover, most of the people can not afford to go to higher

### New non-political body floated

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Oct 17: A meeting of Chittagong University (CU) authorities and Bangladesh Railway (BR) was held in the city on Tuesday to discuss different problems of shuttle trains, which run between the city and the university.

In the meeting, the CU authorities asked the BR authorities to increase the number of compartments and renovate the railway tracks. They also asked the BR to maintain the time schedule of the shuttle trains.

**Malaria claimed 78 in 8 months in Bandarban**

BANDARBAN, Oct 17: The outbreak of malaria in the hilly countryside is common, but this time it has assumed an alarming proportion in the district, claiming at least 78 people in eight months, reports UNB.

Officials said malaria killed 78 people and affected 3,502 others since January to August this year. They said bloods of 6,554 people were examined during July and August last, and of them 3,502 detected with Malaria germs.

Civil Surgeon of the district said adequate steps have been taken to combat the outbreak of the disease. Other members of the committee are Prof M A Hamid, ex-

vice chancellor of Islamic University; Prof Altaf Hossain, former pro vice chancellor of Rajshahi University; Advocate Mokbul Hossain, Principal of Rajshahi Law College; Prof M A Kader, former principal of Rajshahi Medical College; Prof Moklesur Rahman, Dean, Arts Faculty of Rajshahi University; Advocate Ekramur Rasul, former general secretary of Rajshahi Bar Association; Journalist Rezaul Karim Raju; Amjad Hossain, President of Rotary Club of Rajshahi unit; Prof M A Razzaque, ex-general secretary of Rajshahi University Teachers Association; Journalist Sardar Abdur Rahman; Advocate Enamul Huq, General Secretary of Rajshahi Bar Association; Sirajul Islam; Advocate Shamsul Alam; Prof Nazmul Islam; Engineer Fazlul Huque; Prof Abdul Qader Bhuiya; Advocate Mokbul Hossain; Advocate Abdus Sabur; and Prof Tareque Fazal.

The organisation will organise seminars and symposiums on the issues to create awareness among people.

### Night coach robbery: 10 injured

At least 10 passengers, including a police constable, received stab injuries during a night coach robbery last week in Shailakupa thana.

Victims said robbers who were travelling in guise of passengers in a Kushtia-Dhaka route night coach overpowered the driver at about 8pm near Garaganj and asked the passengers to hand over their belongings. When some passengers tried to resist them, the robbers stabbed them. The injured cop was identified as Mafizuddin, 40. The gang of robbers, numbering eight, looted cash and valuables from the passengers. The robbers left the bus near BSCI estate at Dhanbaria under Sadar thana. A case was filed in this connection.

### Siege to PBS office

A group of agitated subscribers laid siege to Pally Biduyut Samity (PBS) office in Harinakundu thana recently for what they said issuing excess electricity bills.

The subscribers also damaged some furniture of the office, witnesses said. PBS officials could not be contacted for comment regarding issuance of excess electricity bills.

### Community centre opens

A community centre of a non-governmental organisation 'Unnayan Dhar' was inaugurated at village Harisankar under Sadar thana.

Shahidul Islam, KM Akbaruzzaman and UP member Fuly Begum were present on the occasion.

### Outlaw arrested

A leader of outlawed Purba Bangla Communist Party was arrested from Beparipara area in the town recently.

The outlaw was identified as Maidul Islam Rana, an associate of absconding Sabuj Bahini leader Sabuj. Police said Rana was involved in a large number of murder incidents in Meherpur and Chaudanga districts.

### Int'l Elderly Day observed

From Our Correspondent

GOPALGANJ, Oct 17: International Elderly Day '99 was observed here with befitting manner on October 1.

Several programmes were chalked out on the occasion. The programmes included colourful procession and discussion.

A colourful procession was brought out in the district headquarters. The procession led by Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) Mohammad Golam Rababin paraded different town thoroughfares.

A discussion was held at the Deputy Commissioner's conference room. Presided over by Md Nurul Islam, Deputy Director Social Welfare Directorate, the discussion was addressed, among others, by Sardar Mohammad Mohsin, Mahamud Ali Khan, Moilana Emdadul Haque and Advocate Asraf Ali Bhuiyan.

