

News snaps

1,000 tribal families rehabilitated

RANGAMATI, Oct 18 : Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Development Board has so far rehabilitated 1,000 tribal families of two hill districts under the second phase of its highland settlement project, reports UNB.

Of the rehabilitated families, 500 are from Matiranga thana of Khagrachhari district and 500 from sadar thana of Bandarban district. Officials said dwelling houses have been built on 4.50 acres of land under the five-year project undertaken in 1993-94 at an estimated cost Tk 29.30 crore. They said some 1,000 acres of land have been earmarked for horticulture, while 400 acres for rubber garden. Five playgrounds, an office-cum-community centre, 20 connecting roads, five shrines and five primary schools have been constructed in addition to 80 ring and tube wells in the new villages.

321 puja mandaps erected

SATKHIRA, Oct 18 : A total of 321 Puja Mandaps have been erected in seven thanas to celebrate the greatest Hindu festival 'Durga Puja' with due solemnity, reports BSS.

Of the total, 100 mandaps have been erected in Tala thana, 63 in sadar thana, 36 in Kaliganj thana, 45 in Assasuni thana, 33 in Shyamnagar thana, 27 in Kalaroa thana and 17 in Debhat thana. Local administration has taken all preparations to maintain law and order during the festival.

Father kills son

THAKURGAON, Oct 18 : A cruel father allegedly slaughtered his son at Bakua-Sagartala village in Haripur thana here on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Police said Abdul Khaleque killed his two-year-old son Suman with a motive to indict his father and brother. On October 13, he had a brawl with them over land. Soon after killing his sleeping son at night, Khaleque tried to shift the responsibility of killing to his father and brother. But the villagers understood his design and caught him. He was later handed over to police.

Discussion on natural disaster

NETRAKONA, Oct 18 : A discussion on the ways and means to save life and property from natural disaster was held on October 13 in the conference room of the district collectorate here, reports BSS.

The discussion was sponsored by the district administration to mark the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction Day. Presided over by additional district magistrate, Netrakona Amir Hossain, the meeting was addressed, among others, by district relief officer M Akram Hossain, general secretary of Netrakona Press Club Shyamolendu Pal and district correspondent of Bangladesh Television Prof Ruhul Amin. The speakers underlined the need for increasing awareness of people about natural calamities.

Mugger caught

JOYPURHAT, Oct 18 : Local people caught red-handed a mugger with a country-made pipe gun from station purbapara in the town on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said three muggers riding a motorbike waylaid two traders on their way home and tried to snatch away cash from them after exploding bombs. Hearing hue and cry of the traders, local people rushed to the spot and caught one of the muggers and beat up him mercilessly. The arrested, identified as Enamul Haque, 27, of Kazipara in Naogaon district, was admitted to sadar hospital.

Man beaten to death

MANIKGANJ, Oct 18 : A bamboo trader was beaten to death by his rivals near Singair Thana Bhaban here on Thursday, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Alauddin, 34, of Baira village. Police said the assailants swooped on Alauddin near the thana bhaban on way to Savar from Singair and beat him to death in broad day light. Police suspected that he was killed over an illicit affair with the wife of a person in the area. Wife of the victim Monwara Begum filed a case with the police.

100 join Awami League

SATKHIRA, Oct 18 : More than 100 leaders and workers of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami of Shyamnagar thana joined Awami League at a function held at Sraikati bus stand recently, reports BSS.

A K M Fazlul Huq M P, president of Shyamnagar thana Awami League was present in the function as the chief guest. Prominent among the leaders who joined Awami League were Abdul Jalil, Rashidul Islam and Abdur Rashid.

Loan distribution programme

BANDARBAN, Oct 18 : In a bid to boost farm output, Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) has decided to distribute Tk 23.73 crore among farmers of three hill districts in the current fiscal, reports UNB.

BKB sources said a total of Tk 7.59 crore would be distributed in Bandarban while Tk 7.51 crore in Rangamati and Tk 8.63 crore in Khagrachhari districts. BKB has also set a target to realise Tk 19.50 crore outstanding loans from the three hill districts in the current financial year. Of the loan, Tk 4.50 crore is overdue in Bandarban, Tk 8 crore in Khagrachhari and Tk 7 crore in Rangamati. Meanwhile, the bank has recovered Tk 30 lakh overdue loan from seven thanas of Bandarban district till September.

Progress of uplift projects reviewed

KISHOREGANJ, Oct 18 : A meeting of the district development coordination committee was held on October 11 in the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner here, reports BSS.

The meeting was presided over by Deputy Commissioner, Kishoreganj A M M Farhad, district and thana-level officers including Thana Nirbahi Officers and local elite participated in the meeting. The meeting discussed various development projects taken up by different ministries and their progress in implementation.

Youth falsely implicated in arms case gets bail after 3 months

From Iqbal Siddiquee

SYLHET, Oct 18 : A young man who was 'falsely' implicated in an arms case by police, was granted bail on Friday after a period of three months.

This was revealed during an investigation of a senior police official that the victim had been intentionally implicated in the arms case and was detained in the jail.

Folk Uddin of village Lama Chandpur in Golapganj thana of Sylhet district had been living in UK for a long time. He came to his village home a few months ago. A police party arrested him in the morning of July 7 last when he went to the pond situated in front of his village home.

Police produced him before the magistrate's court along with a revolver and five rounds of ammunition. The magistrate sent him to the jail *hajat*.

The arrest sparked agitation among the villagers who strongly protested the incident and alleged that police being influenced by some vested quarters of the area and with an ulterior motive caught the innocent expatriate.

He had returned to his village home recently, they informed. They held a press conference and demanded fresh investigation by the higher police officials. They also blamed the

Officer-in-Charge of Golapganj Thana Inspector Khondker Kabir Ahmed for the managed 'drama'.

Additional SP of Sylhet, Abdullah Baqui in his report of the case wrote "the matter of arms recovery is not correct and it happened within full knowledge of the OC."

Later on Sylhet Detective Branch (DB) of police was entrusted with the task of further enquiry of the case. Inspector Shamsuddin of DB took statements from five members of the police party who arrested the victim. In their separate and written statements all the police constables said that, nothing was in possession of the victim during his arrest. The DB Inspector, Shamsuddin also submitted an interim enquiry report to the court on September 10. He, in the report, stated that, neither any arms nor any ammunition was found in possession of the victim.

Meanwhile, judicial statements of five police constables were taken in the court of First Class Magistrate Sanjay Kumar Chowdhury. The constables, on October 4, gave their statements before the magistrate. They said that, no arms were found in possession of the arrested man, Folk Uddin during the arrest. They said, "being instructed by

the OC and the havilder, we laid siege to the house of Folk Uddin in the late night following July 6 at village Lama Chandpur". "We arrested him in the morning when he (Folk Uddin) came out of his house and went to the pond", said the constables adding, at first, we took him to the Achirganj Police Camp. After some time, the OC reached the police camp and then Havilder Molla Allamgir handed over a revolver to him and said, it was in the possession of Folk Uddin. But, during the arrest none of us found the revolver, they all added.

Meanwhile, after submission of the supervision report by the Additional SP to the court, all the five constables and the Havilder who was in-Charge of the police camp had been closed to the district police line.

When contacted, OC Khondker Kabir Ahmed told The Daily Star on Thursday that, the police party who went to arrest the man produced the revolver to me and accordingly, I did the needful, according to law.

The bail prayers of the victim was rejected several times. But, on October 14 he was granted bail by the District and Sessions Judge, Sylhet.

Govt programmes inadequate to raise nutritional status of babies

RANGPUR, Oct 18 : Poverty is not only the reason behind the plight of 50,000 malnourished children of the district, lack of government programmes also played a part in worsening their condition, reports UNB.

According to a survey conducted by a local NGO, these malnourished children belong to the families whose livelihoods depend on day-labour and they fall prey to seasonal unemployment during the Bangla months of Ashwin and Kartik.

It showed that the children in shol areas of Gangachhara, Kaunia and Pargachha thanas

are the worst victims of malnutrition.

During the survey, it was found that the people living in shol areas usually take unwholesome foods and contaminated water due to abject poverty.

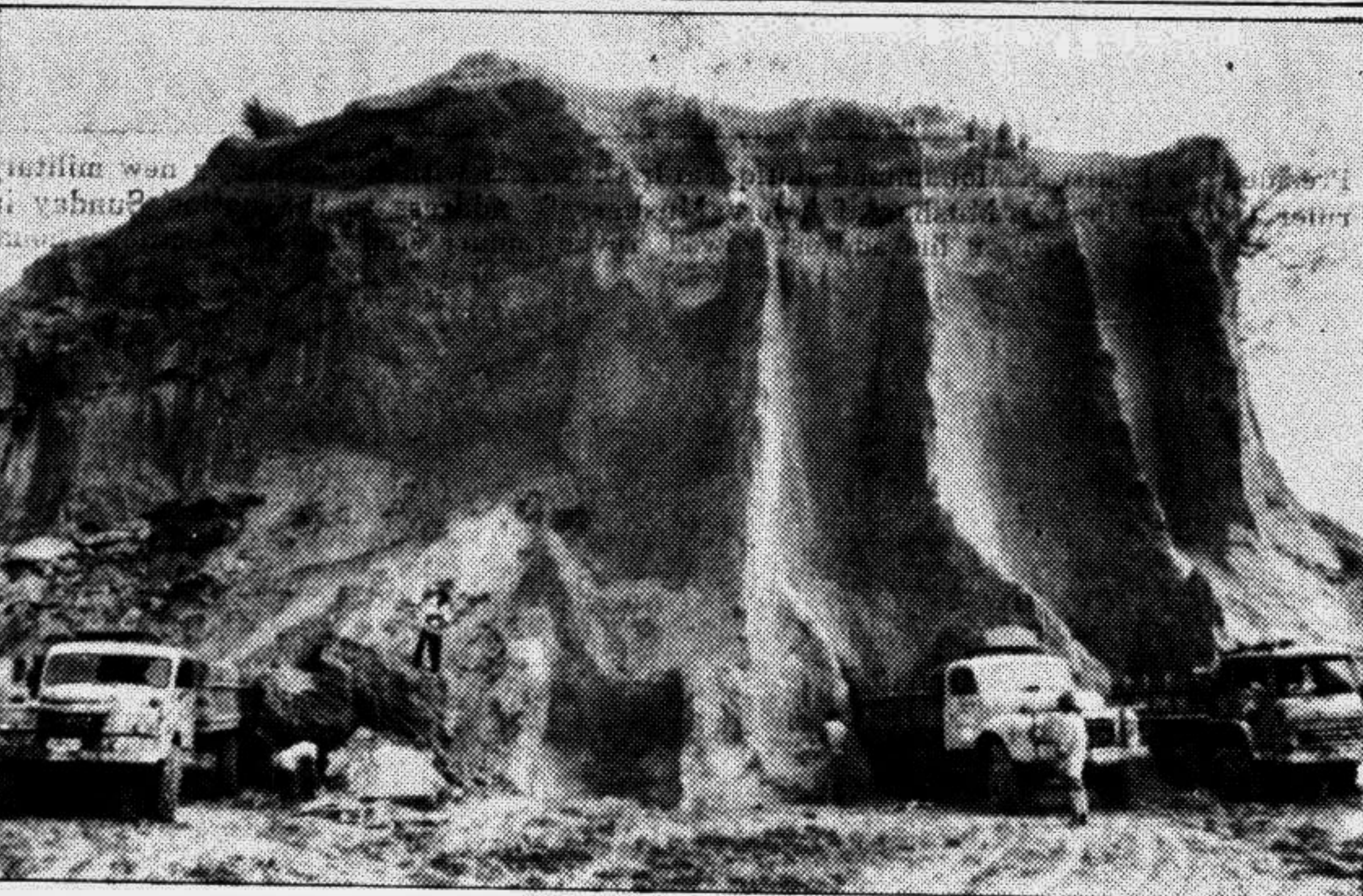
About 90 per cent people of these areas are day labourers and they find no agricultural works during drought and severe flood.

Children of 4-6 age group, the survey showed, are affected by various complicated diseases, including polio and blindness as they do not get nutritious foods.

Doctors said these malnourished children are also the easy prey of waterborne diseases like diarrhoea, dysentery and typhoid.

They also blamed lack of awareness of the people about nutrition and sanitation for the worsening condition of their children.

"Government programmes to feed the poverty-stricken people during the seasonal food crisis are too inadequate to raise the nutritional status of the malnourished children," said a doctor at Sadar hospital insisting anonymity.



Environmental degradation

Chittagong is the city of hills and sea. Hills and sea have also beautified the port city. An unhealthy competition of destroying these beautiful hills has started among the local influential in recent times. Following destruction of hills, the lands are being sold among prospective buyers at higher rates. The trend has been going on unabated for a long time, but the authorities concerned are apathetic to curb the illegal act.

Extortionist beaten to death in Fatickchhari

From Our Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Oct 18 : One alleged extortionist was killed and four others were seriously injured in a mass beating at Fatickchhari in the district this afternoon.

The victim was identified as Nurul Islam, 25, Nurul Islam and four of his accomplices came to one Badal Sawdagar's business firm at Narayanhat under the thana demanding a toll of Tk 1 lakh at around 1 pm. As the businessman refused they started ransacking the firm. In response to cry for help local people laid siege to business house and caught all the miscreants. The mob severely beat them up and chopper Nurul Islam to death while his other accomplices — Selim Jahangir, Mahmudul Haq Shiblee, Noor Md. Babul and Zahurul Islam — were critically injured. They were later handed over to police and were undergoing treatment.

Revival of Haor Unnayan Board demanded

From Our Correspondent
NETRAKONA Oct 18 : Local people have demanded the now defunct Haor Unnayan Board be revived for the implementation of development programmes in haor areas of Netrakona, Kishoreganj, Sunamganj, Sylhet and Brahmanbaria districts.

The board was set up in 1978 covering 33 thanas of the five districts for the development of agriculture-based economy and communication networks. But the board was abolished in 1981.

Terrorism up in Barisal

From Aroop Talukdar

BARISAL, Oct 18 : Armed terrorists secretary have been creating a reign of terror in the divisional headquarters for last few days.

Local people said most of the time police forces remain silent during clashes between armed rivals and terrorist attack on houses and business establishments. They alleged police often show reluctance to register cases by victims of different incidents.

The armed terrorists recently attacked, ransacked and looted houses of the BNP district unit secretary Ebadul Haq Chaud, his brothers and relatives in Amanatganj area in the town for three days. But members of the law enforcing agencies here are not playing their due role, witnesses said.

District BNP and its front organisations condemned the attack on the house and business establishments of Ebadul Haq Chaud.

Rival terrorist groups here often lock in clashes. On October 11 at Kishipur, a suburb, supporters of Jalkader Mollah cut off wrist of one Selim, a supporter of Aftab Hossain, with sharp weapon. Later Aftab's supporters caught Jalkader's son Kalam Mollah and severed his tendons of legs.

A tense situation has been prevailing in the area, local people said.

Two rival groups recently locked in clashes in Kaunia and Natunbazar areas. The clashes left at least two people injured critically. Two houses have also

been ransacked during the clashes.

Advocate Golam Abbas Chowdhury Dulal and Habibur Rahman Sajahan, Awami League town unit president and secretary respectively, on Thursday in a press statement said police had failed to maintain law and order situation in the town.

The also expressed grave concern over the recent armed terrorist activities at Kishipur, Chandmari and Sagardi. They urged the members of law enforcing agencies here to arrest the terrorists immediately and take legal actions against them.

Two killed in B'baria road accident

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, Oct 18 : A woman and her grand son were killed in a road accident in the town on Thursday.

Witnesses said one person named Chamely, 45, and her grand son Pradip, 8, were killed when a tractor hit a rickshaw from behind. The victims were travelling in the rickshaw.

The boy was killed on the spot, while the woman died on way to hospital. The bodies were sent to hospital for autopsy. A case was filed.



Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Abdul Matin Khasru addressing as the chief guest at a public meeting arranged by Comilla EPZ Implementation Committee on Saturday at Comilla Old Airport. Abu Hena Mustafa Kamal presided over the meeting.

Open sale of sub-standard drugs

From Our Correspondent
SATKHIRA, Oct 18 : Owners of a large number of unlicensed medicine shops have been running their businesses for a long time in both urban and rural areas of the district.

It has been alleged that the owners of these pharmacies are doing business in collaboration with a section of officials concerned.

Local people said officials of drug administration seldom check the licences of these shops. They alleged that these shops often sell sub-standard medicines. They have urged the authorities concerned to take immediate steps to stop this practice.

Kushtia farmers passing hard days

From Our Correspondent
KUSHTIA, Oct 18 : Flood-affected farmers in the district are passing hard days as they are unable to repay the outstanding loan they borrowed from local money lenders.

Farmers generally borrow money from lenders against their standing crops. This year the flood has played havoc here. Poor farmers are now compelled to sell their Aman paddy only at Tk 150 to Tk 160 per maud.

Local people said as the floodwaters recede money lenders have become active in the rural area.

Stolen goods recovered

From Our Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Oct 18 : Stolen goods of electronic components of a Korean company at Chittagong EPZ area worth around Tk 8 lakh was recovered and two members of a well organised gang of thieves were held here early Tuesday morning.

Electronic components of Messers Eu-Zin amounting to Tk 27.50 lakh were stolen from its factory inside CEPZ on September 24.

DB police of Chittagong city, acting on a tip off, recovered some of the stolen goods worth Tk 8 lakh from a jointly owned godown at Bondorita in Bondor thana. Police also arrested two gang leaders, Abdul Mannan and Morshed Alam (Taju) for their involvement in the stealing case.

Ethiopian team visits BARD

COMILLA, Oct 18 : A five-member Ethiopian delegation visited Bangladesh Academy For Rural Development (BARD) here on Tuesday for gaining experience mainly about micro-finance and development, reports BSS.

The delegation visited Newra village in the Sadar thana to see the group activities under Small Farmers Development Programme (SFDP).

They spoke with the women members of the group and saw their income generating activities themselves. Earlier the delegation members met Akhtar Hussain Khan, Director General, BARD and Dr Mihir Kumar Roy, Project Director, SFDP.

They expressed their satisfaction to see the activities of BARD initiated micro-credit project.

Netrakona T&T office in bad shape

From Our Correspondent
NETRAKONA, Oct 18 : The building of local Telephone and Telegraph (T&T) office remains in pitiable condition.

Many cracks have developed on the ceiling and walls of the nearly 100 years old building. Many apprehend the building may collapse any time.

When contacted Fazlul Haque, sub-assistant engineer of Netrakona T&T, said higher authorities have been urged to take immediate steps in this regard several times. But no step so far has been taken, he added.

Durga Puja in dists

By Staff Corresponded

The Hindu community of various districts began celebration of Durga Puja, the greatest Hindu religious festival, with due solemnity and enthusiasm.

Our Netrakona Correspondent says: Durga Puja began here on Friday evening amid joy and merriment.

On the first day Shasti Puja was celebrated.

Netrakona Kendrio Puja Uddapan Committee chalked out an elaborate programme to celebrate the Puja festival in a befitting manner. The programme include Aroti, Shandhi Puja on the day of Ashtami, Kumari Puja at Satpai Ram Krishna Mission, distribution of sweets and voluntary blood donation.

District administration sources said, a total of 210 puja mandaps have been set up in 10 thanas here including 26 in Netrakona sadar thana. All the puja mandaps have been illuminated.

Our Sirajganj Correspondent reports: Durga Puja began here with full enthusiasm.

A total of 294 puja mandaps were erected.

Thana-wise break up is: Sirajganj Sadar-49, Shahajadpur-67, Ullapara-46, Raiganj-35, Belchuchi-45, Tarash-23,

Kamarkhand-11, Chowhali-05, Kazipur-12, Bangabandhu bridge west side thana-one.

Adequate police forces were deployed to maintain peaceful atmosphere near the puja mandaps.

BSS from Feni reports: A total of 103 puja mandaps were erected in five thanas here including Feni Poursabha, according to local unit of Bangladesh Puja Uddapan Committee.

The thana-wise number of the Puja mandaps are: 30 in Parshuram, 14 in Chhaganaiya, 30 in Feni sadar, 11 in Dhagon Bhuiya and 18 in Sonagazi.

Debasish Nag, Deputy Commissioner, Feni informed that the district administration took necessary steps to maintain law and order in the mandap areas during the festivals. Additional forces were deployed in the mandap areas under the supervision of magistrate.

Zainal Abedin Hazari, MP called upon his partymen to remain alert to maintain law and order during the puja festival.

Similar programmes were arranged in all other districts to celebrate Durga Puja befittingly.

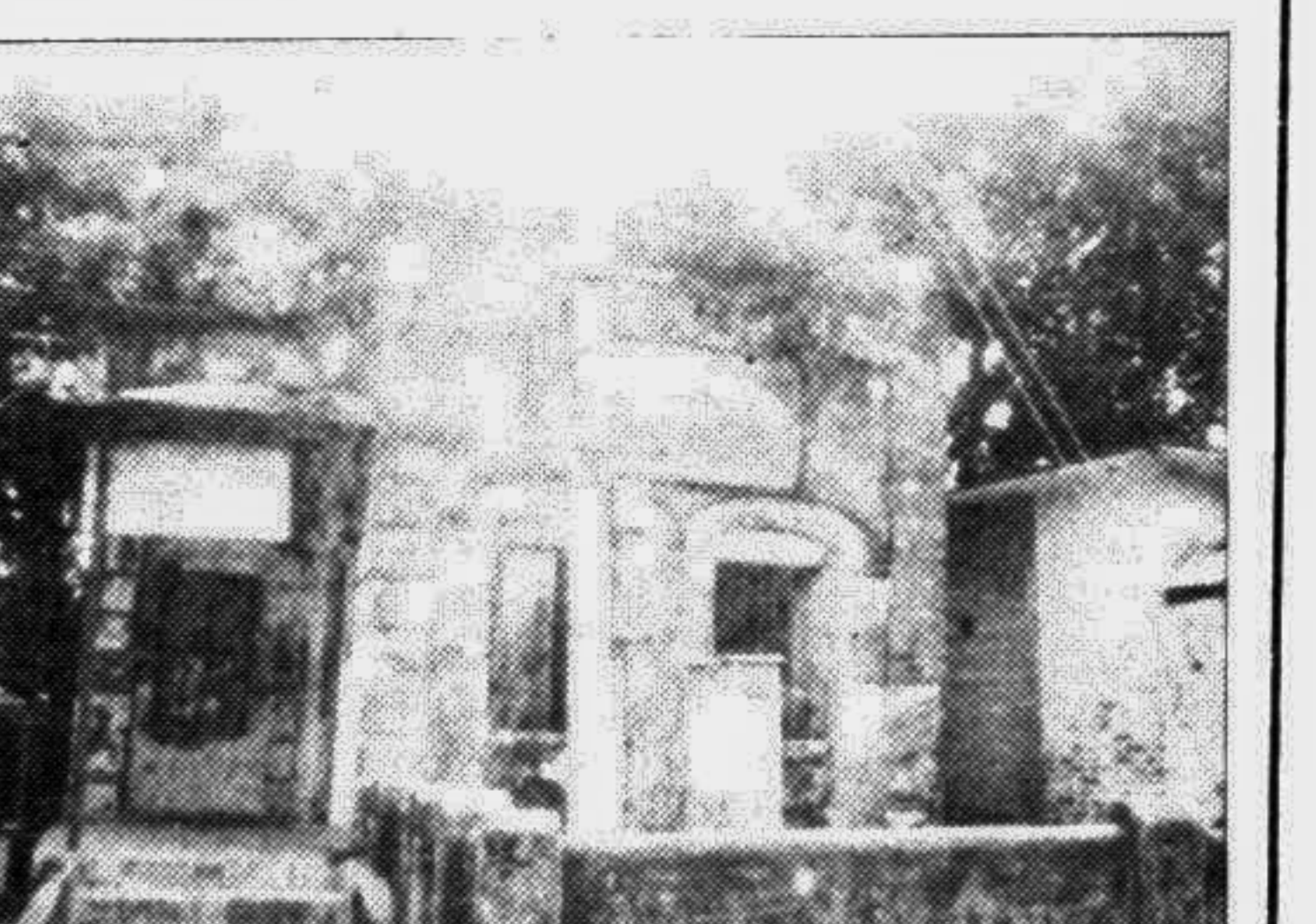
Events of districts in picture



Engineer M R Khan, district governor of Lions Club speaking at a debating competition arranged by Bangladesh Debating Society on Saturday at Sirajuddin Ahmed Academy in Sylhet. — Star photo



Rajshahi University Vice-Chancellor Prof Sayeedur Rahman Khan addressing a freshers' reception recently at Genetics and Breeding Department. — star photo



The 100-year-old Netrakona Telephone and Telegraph Office is now in pitiable condition. It may collapse at any moment causing death or injury to the staffers and outsiders. The building needs immediate renovation. — Star photo



Bachchu Mia, a lame rickshawpuller of Magura town has set an example by overcoming physical disabilities. Like other able-bodied persons of the society he has been earning his living by pulling a rickshaw. — Star photo