

News snaps

Rains cripple life

LALMONIRHAT, Oct 22: Normal life of people has been crippled due to heavy rains during the last few days that also submerged low lying areas, reports UNB.

Aman paddy plants on about 3,000 hectares of land were inundated. Suffering of day labourers increased as they could not come out of their homes. Many of them were passing days near starvation. Price of essentials including fish and vegetables increased due to poor supply.

Pure water being supplied

BARISAL, Oct 22: Bhola Pourasabha has topped the list of 18 town development projects under Health and Pure Drinking Water Supply Scheme aided by the Dutch Government, Project Specialist G Kemars told BSS here recently.

The scheme was taken in 18 district towns in 1989 in the country with the financial assistance of the Government of the Netherlands. With the installation of 1,407 water connections by placing 25-km underground pipe-line here, 75 per cent people of this town have been getting pure drinking water. The authorities also installed 20 water metres for the non-wastage of the supplied water. The newly elected Chairman of the pourasabha Shafiqur Rahman Kiron said, cent per cent people would be brought under this programme with the installation of further 4-km pipe-line and 100 deep tubewells and the construction of overhead water tank.

84 hijacked cows recovered

MUNSHIGANJ, Oct 22: Eighty-four hijacked cows were recovered by Munshiganj Police recently, reports BSS.

Of the total, 45 cows were recovered from near the Kanchpur Bridge under Bandar thana in Narayanganj while the remaining 39 were retrieved from Jhapter Char in sadar thana. According to police sources, the cows were being ferried in two engine boats from Kazirhat in Pabna to Daudkandi for transportation to Chittagong by truck. While plying across the River Meghna near Mohanpur in Matlab thana of Chandpur district, the engine boats carrying the cattle were interrupted by a gang of armed dacoits. Dacoits threw the cowherds and boatmen in the river and drove off with the cows under the cover of darkness. Being informed of the incident, Munshiganj Police followed the trail of the fleeing dacoits and succeeded in recovering the hijacked cows and the boats. The dacoits, however, managed to escape.

Death condoled

COMILLA, Oct 22: A meeting was held on October 16 in the conference room of the deputy Commissioner here to conole the death of Akhtar Hamid Khan, founder of Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) and father of 'Comilla Cooperative System', who died on October 10 in the United States, reports BSS.

Law Minister Abdul Matin Khasru, Public Administration Reform Commission chairman ATM Shamsul Huq, Whip Mujiburul Huq Mujib, Director of the BARD Khairul Kabir and journalist Golam Mostafa Chowdhury, among others, discussed various aspects of the eventful life of Akhtar Hamid Khan. They said that late Khan was not only an efficient administrator but also a social worker and economist who played a significant role in the cooperative movement of Bangladesh in the 1960's.

Arms recovered : 43 arrested

NARSINGDI, Oct 22: Police in their separate drives seized huge firearms and ammunition from different parts in last nine months till Sept 30, reports UNB.

Police said they also arrested 43 people for possessing illegal arms and filed 18 cases during the period. The recovered arms included one rifle, one cut-rifle, three revolvers, five pistols, eight pipe guns, one LG, 11 cartridges and 45 bullets.

Best Child Artist

From Our Correspondent



Goswami (Rebon), a primary school teacher. She is niece of Rajat Kanti Goswami, district correspondent of The Daily Star based at Moulvibazar.

MOULVI BAZAR, Oct 22: Kankana Goswami Ripa, a student of Class V of Bazar Model Government Primary School here received the award of 'The Best Child Artist' in poetry recitation competition in Sylhet division during 'National Primary Education Week' which concluded recently.

This competition along with a cultural meet was organised by the Directorate of Primary Education.

Earlier, Ripa got the first prize in poetry recitation competition at thana and district level each. She got a medal and a certificate for the best performance.

She is the eldest daughter of Kamal Krishna Goswami (Chunui) a banker and Reba

Loan disbursed among weavers

BARISAL, Oct 22: An amount of Taka five lakh was disbursed as loan among 50 weavers in Agailjhara upazila at a function held at Agailjhara Dak Bungalow recently, reports BSS.

Chief Whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah and senior government officers including chairman of the handloom board were present on the occasion. An official source said, each weaver received Taka 10,000 as soft-term loan to invest in their business.

Terrorists open gunfire: 3 hurt

SUNAMGANJ, Oct 22: Three people received bullet wounds when some terrorists opened gunfire on them at Mohanpur village in sadar thana recently, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the terrorists swooped on the house of UP member Abul Hasnat Chowdhury apparently with a motive to kill him. As they failed to kill the UP member, the armed hoodlums opened gunfire on the villagers while departing. Villagers alleged. Recently police went to Chowdhury's house and sought his assistance to nab the killers of Abdu Sobhan Afendi, a leader of Jamaiganj thana Awami League. The UP member with family members left his house for safety after the incident. The injured people identified as Sanu, 30, Angur Mia, 35, and Farid Mia, 30, were admitted to sadar hospital.

Foodgrains allocated under FEP

RANGAMATI, Oct 22: The government has allocated about 1,400 metric tons of foodgrains under Food for Education Programme (FEP) in three hill districts in the first phase of current fiscal year, reports UNB.

The foodgrains include 857 metric tons of rice and 535 metric tons of wheat. The foodgrains would be distributed among the cardholder guardians of poor students of the selected schools of 50 unions in CHT region.

According to the programme, the cardholder families having one student would get 12-kg rice and 15-kg wheat while the families having more than one student would receive 16-kg rice and 20-kg wheat per month.

Help sought to nab terrorists

SAVAR, Oct 22: Home and Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim directed police to take stringent measures against terrorists to establish rule of law in the country, reports BSS.

Addressing a public meeting at Savar Bazar, the minister called upon the political leaders and people to help police in nabbing terrorists and stopping extortion for ever in the area. Calling upon Awami League leaders and workers not to favour terrorists and criminals, the minister said action would be taken against those who would recommend for terrorists.

Indian sarees seized

RAJSHAHI, Oct 22: BDR personnel in an overnight operation have seized Indian sarees and pulse worth about Tk 36 lakh along with a truck that was carrying the smuggled goods, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, BDR patrol teams of Rajshahi Sadar Sector and 34 Battalion challenged a truck at Chapainawabganj town early Tuesday. As the truck continued to run, BDR teams chased the truck up to Rajshahi town. The smugglers then deserted the lorry at about 4 am parking it at a roadside before reaching the teams. Later, the BDR men recovered the costly Indian sarees worth Tk 32.67 lakh and pulse worth Tk 3.43 lakh from the truck. The recovered goods and truck were deposited to local Customs department.

Many children in Bandarban still out of NID activities

BANDARBAN, Oct 22: Like previous years, the National Immunisation Day (NID) programme appears to suffer a setback in remote villages of the district due to lack of doctors, reports UNB.

Health officials said 26 posts of medical officer out of 38 had long been living vacant in Thanchi, Ruma, Rowangchhari, Ali Kadam, Naikhangchhari and Lama hampering medical services in the hilly countryside.

They said frequent appeals to fill up 105 vacant posts of third and fourth-class employees also went unheeded, causing serious inconvenience in implementing healthcare programmes.

The National Immunisation Day is observed in the district every year with limited activities at district and thana head-

quarters, clouding the prospect of achieving the main objective of the day here.

Civil Surgeon of the district told that 51 mouzas out of 81 in six thanas are located in remote areas, where there is no communication facility.

Though the nation has already observed National Immunisation Day for five times, children of these remote hilly areas could not be brought under the NID activities.

When the government claims 90 per cent success in the last five NIDs, chairman of remote union parishads said the success rate in their areas is almost zero as most people of these areas do not even know what NID is.

As the sixth NID is scheduled for November 2 and December 2, Civil Surgeon Dr Sarfaraj Khan said the risk of six

killer diseases would continue to persist in the district as the NID programme could not properly be implemented here in the previous years.

For successful implementation of the sixth NID and to ensure minimum healthcare facilities for the hilly poor people, he has put forward a number of suggestions for government consideration.

His suggestions include enhancement of budgetary allocation and medicine supply, filling up of vacant posts of doctors and employees, fresh employment of health workers, helicopter facility for carrying vaccines, medicines and health workers to inaccessible areas of the district.

"These are the preconditions to eliminate six killer diseases," said Dr Sarfaraj Khan.

Mosquito menace in Faridpur

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Oct 22: The town dwellers have been subjected to extreme persecution by mosquito menace which assumed an alarming proportion with the onset of Autumn.

Just after sun-set these tiny but formidable insects start coming into the nearby houses from their abodes in derelict waterbodies. The inmates go in a hurry to close doors and windows of their rooms to make a futile attempt to prevent their entry.

Students and patients of hospitals and clinics are the worst sufferers. Poor people who cannot afford to buy mosquito nets have to pass either sleepless nights or have to sleep being exposed to the severe

mosquito-bites. The mosquito menace has taken such a serious turn that people cannot work sitting in rooms even in day light.

Reception

RAJSHAHI, Oct 22: The 22 fishermen, who were kidnapped by Indian BSF from river Padma and later released following government intervention, were given a reception here today, reports UNB.

Bangladesh Matshajibi Samity accorded the reception to the fishermen at city's Zero Point. City Mayor Mizanur Rahman Manu attended the function as chief guest.

Ponds with water hyacinths, kutcha drains, marshy lands, filths and garbage piled up on road and water of derelict ponds are the ideal places for the mosquitoes to breed.

The municipality authorities are quite indifferent to combat this mosquito nuisance which has turned the town dwellers' life miserable.

People buy mosquito coils from markets, but the products prove to be useless as they cannot prevent the inmates from mosquito-bites. People alleged that these coils are spurious and ineffective and their thick smoke creates health hazards. But there is none to look into the matter and bring these dishonest traders to book.



Bad shape of Magura-Sreepur road. It needs immediate repair.

— Star photo

Drive against drug addicts: Phensedyl seized

GAIBANDHA, Oct 22: Police seized 300 bottles of contraband Indian phensedyl and arrested three people from a night coach at Bakchar in Gobindaganj thana on Rangpur-Dhaka highway on August 31, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, police raided the Dhaka-bound coach and found the contraband in handbags and a sack of rice carried by the three people.

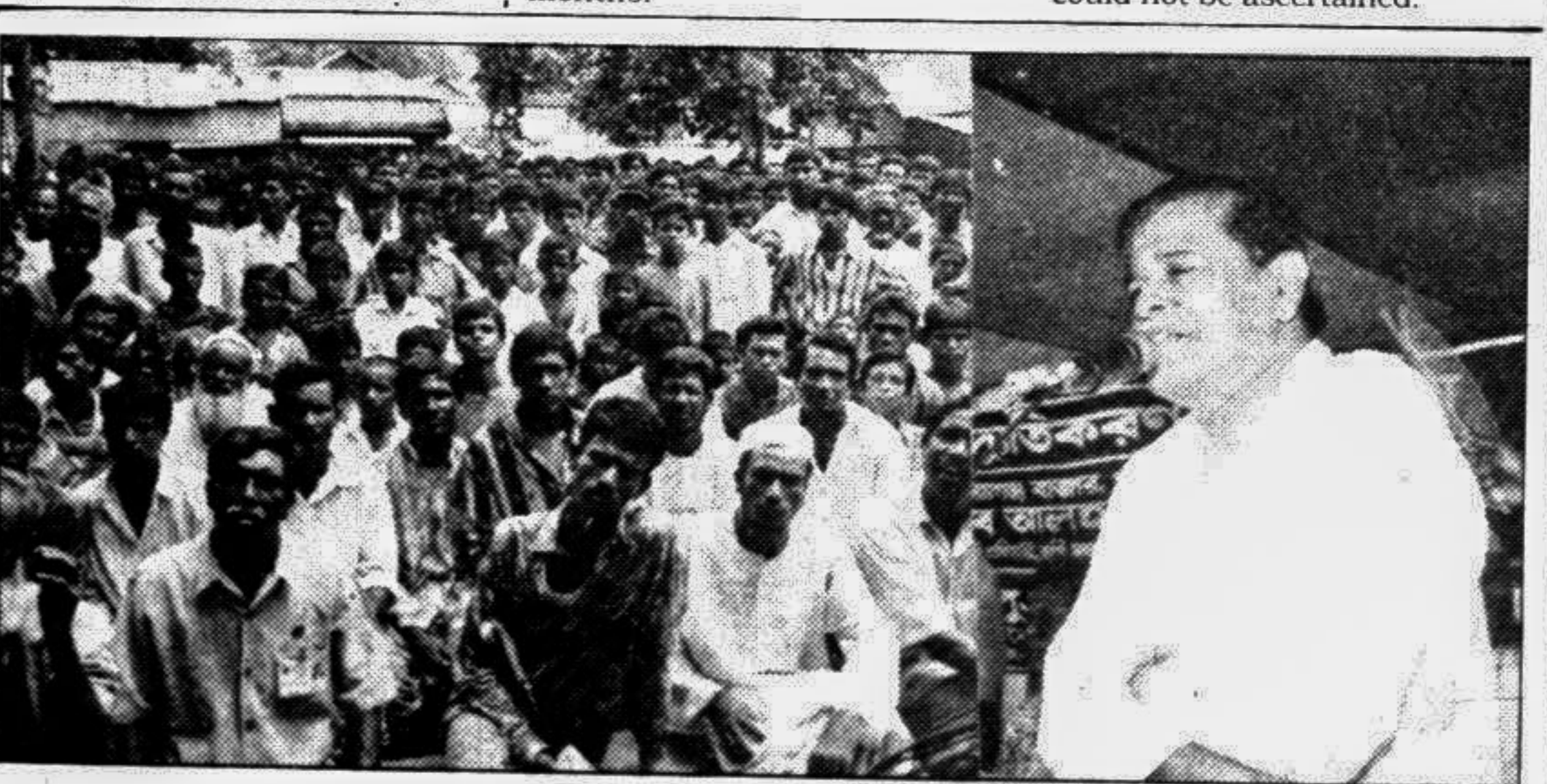
The arrested were identified as Tayebur Rahman of village Kalupara, Rakibuddin of Betara and Ashraf Ali of Pulhara in Gobindaganj thana.

Dinajpur hospital extension bldg opens

DINAJPUR, Oct 22: Minister for Health and Family Welfare Salahuddin Yusuf has directed the concerned authorities to start the work of infrastructure of Dinajpur Medical College Hospital immediately for making the college a full fledged one, reports BSS.

The minister gave this directive while addressing the teachers and officers on the occasion of inauguration of newly built extension building of Dinajpur General Hospital on Saturday evening.

He visited different sections, wards and talked to the patients regarding treatment and food.



State Minister for Land Alhaj Rashed Musharraf addressing recently at the opening function of the new electric line of Jamalpur Palli Bidyut Samity at Ghuatail bazaar in Islampur thana of Jamalpur district.

— Star photo

Khulna can serve as a model in development of fisheries: KU VC

KHULNA, Oct 22: Khulna can serve as a model in the development of fisheries as it has tremendous potentials in this field, said Khulna University Vice Chancellor Prof SM Nazrul Islam, reports UNB.

His observation came when a 4-member consultant team of Support for University Fisheries Education and Research (SUFER) project under the University Grants Commission (UGC) called on him at his residence on Thursday.

The team discussed with him the project objectives and the possible role that the Fisheries and Marine Resources Tech-

Smuggled goods seized in Rajshahi

RAJSHAHI, Oct 22: Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) personnel seized huge quantity of Indian smuggled goods worth over Taka 29.85 crore from different border areas under Rajshahi sector during the last eight months.

Official sources told BSS today that Indian smuggled goods worth over Taka 1.53 crore were seized from Rajshahi, Chapainawabganj and Naogaon border areas during the last month.

The sources added that Bangladesh Rifles filed 2,285 cases and arrested 236 smugglers during the last eight months.

nology Discipline of Khulna University can play in the development of fisheries in the region.

Prof Islam said the university could play a vital role through the project in achieving the target in developing the demand oriented fisheries education and research if it gets proper assistance.

The team members included project Coordinator Dr Tony Thompson, Dr Edward Allison, Dr Michael J Greaves and Dr M Shahjahan Howledar. Prof Dr MS Shah, Head of Fisheries and Marine Resource Technology Discipline and Dean of Life Science School of KU was present.

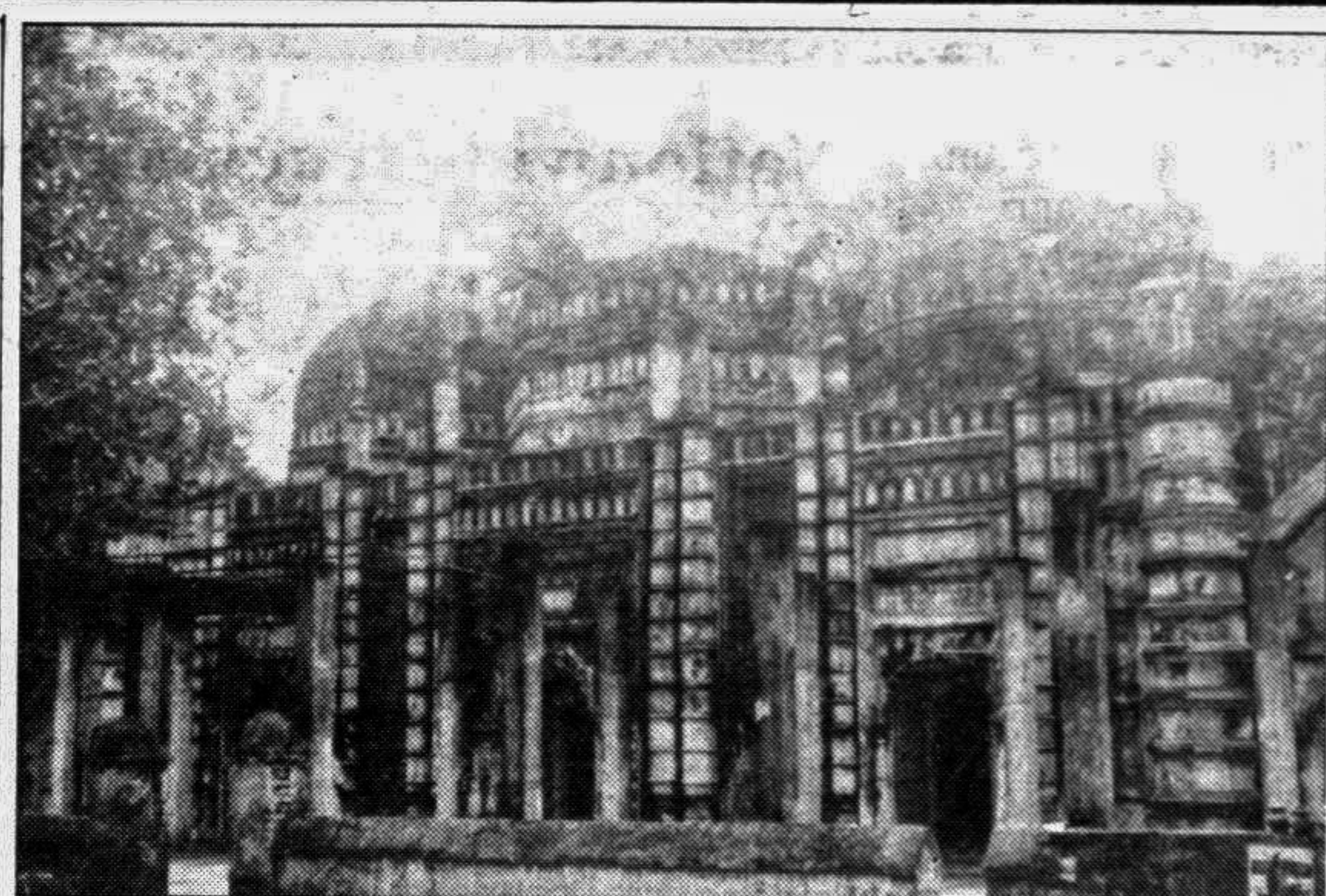
Earlier, the team members visited the discipline to know the baseline status of fisheries education, research and institutional aspects of the discipline.

Old man chopped to death in Bagerhat

BAGERHAT, Oct 22: An old man was chopped to death at Pakladapara village in Fakirhat thana Sunday night, reports UNB.

Police and hospital sources said unknown assailants stabbed the victim, Abdul Karim, 55, at 9 pm.

Motive behind the killing could not be ascertained.



Past glory: Pitiable condition of historic Atiya Mosque, picture of which has been depicted on 10 taka note of Bangladesh currency. Built during the Mughal regime five miles off Tangail town, the famous mosque has lost its beauty due to lack of proper preservation. It has been learnt that the National Museum looks after the mosque, though officially but not in reality. Because no touch of the museum authorities' love and care is visible on the glorious mosque.

—Star photo

Legal notice on Mymensingh DC

MYMENSINGH, Oct 22: The District Bar Association today served a legal notice on the Deputy Commissioner asking him to close and seal-off the dilapidated record room of the Collectorate building within 24 hours, reports UNB.

President of the Bar Advocate Nazrul Islam warned the deputy commissioner and the administration of legal action if immediate action is not taken to close to record room for safety.

The Public Works Department had declared the building unfit for use in 1994 and recently the department hanged a signboard containing a warning "Risky for Use".

Waterborne diseases in Kushtia

KUSHTIA, Oct 22: With the recession of floodwaters, waterborne diseases have broken out in the flood-hit areas of the district in an epidemic form, reports UNB.

When the outbreak of the waterborne diseases has been attributed to large-scale use of contaminated water, a good number of tubewells across the district went out of order.

Hundreds of people are visiting hospitals of the district everyday with complaints of intestinal problems while many others are being admitted with diseases like strong diarrhoea and acute dysentery.

Local people alleged that the authorities concerned could not yet take any effective measures to check the outbreak of the diseases.

Tunia Agarwala murder: 12 chargesheeted

JOYPURHAT, Oct 22: Police on Sunday submitted chargesheet against 12 people in the sensational Tunia Agarwala murder case, reports UNB.

Agarwala, a rich rice trader of Akkelpur, was robbed of Tk 8.5 lakh and killed by dacoits near Bhulki bridge on Joypurhat-Akkelpur road, on February 15 this year when he was returning home from Dinajpur in a microbus.

Detective police after eight months of investigation submitted the chargesheet against 12 suspected culprits. Physical evidences, including two knives, a microbus and cash were seized from their possession.

Curse of dowry

From Our Correspondent

NETRAKONA, Oct 22: Parents of marriageable daughters in rural areas of the district are facing difficulties to marry their daughters off because of dowry.

Demand for dowry has been increasing day by day, although anti-dowry law exists in the country. Usually family members of bridegroom demand gold ornaments, motorbikes, television sets, furniture and cash money as dowry.

Despite economic hardships parents are marrying their eligible daughters off. In most cases, parents sell their lands and other belongings.

Sometimes, demand for dowry continues even after marriage. Husbands create pressure on wives to bring dowry from their parents.

Local people said dowry plays an important role in most of the cases of divorce.

Non-tribal forestry owners' body

RANGAMATI, Oct 22: An 11-member ad hoc committee has been formed here at a meeting on Tuesday to create awareness among the non-tribals who own forest-land in the hill district, reports BSS.

The meeting was presided over by timber merchant Hazi Nazmul Islam.

The newly formed committee decided to extend necessary assistance to the non-tribal inhabitants here to raise forest-trees on the land owned by them and take part in the government participatory afforestation programme.

Voluntary organisations to remove dirt from Khulna

KHULNA, Oct 22: With the port city reeling under growing pressure of stinking garbage, some voluntary organisations have come up to quickly remove dirt from around the city, reports UNB.

Of the organisations, "Pradipan" and "Rajuk" are carrying out their activities with financial help from Swiss Development Corporation (SDC) and UNDP.

World Bank is monitoring the overall activities of the organisations under its Municipal Solid Waste Management Project.

Ashrafur Alam, coordinator of CDP, a voluntary organisation, said setting up of a garbage organic recycling unit is badly needed for quick disposal of wastes and preventing envi-

ronmental pollution.

City Corporation sources said it has become difficult for the corporation to remove huge quantum of garbage dumped around the city everyday due to lack of its manpower and vehicles.

With its present manpower and vans, the corporation can remove only 100 to 120 mts of garbage a day.

The sources said seven garbage trucks, out of 10, were now working round-the-clock while the rest three remained out of order for long.

They said everyday some 200-300 mts of waste are dumped in dustbins or alongside roads and a huge chunk of it remained stockpiled for days, spreading bad odour.

Events of districts in picture



The president of Jalalabad Rotary Club planting a sapling recently inside the premises of Regional Resource Centre of Bangladesh Open University.

— Star photo



Maj Gen (Retd) M S A Bhuiyan, Chief Patron of Retired Soldiers' Welfare Association at Juranpur in Daudkandi of Comilla district addressing on Saturday as the chief guest at a discussion meeting relating to its organisational matters. He asked the ex-soldiers to remain always beside the people in their happiness and distress including at the time of next general election. The meeting also conole the death of Habilder Daumoddin, a member of the association.



Kushiyara Lions Club, Sylhet brought out a rally in the divisional town recently campaigning against drug addiction.

— Star photo



A colourful rally was brought out in Chandpur town recently on the occasion of International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction.

— Star photo