

News snaps

Animators training ends

GOYHATA, Tangail, Nov 2: The first ever four-day union parishad level animators training concluded here recently for creating hunger-free zones, reports BSS.

The animators would play a catalytic role for the overall development of an area by fostering self-help, human creativity and utilising local resources. The training was jointly organised by the Goyhata Union Parishad and the Hunger Project, Bangladesh. The Country Director of the Hunger Project, Dr Badiul Alam Majumder, and former Chief News Editor of BTV, Rafiqul Islam Sarkar, conducted the training. A total of 145 persons including elected union parishad members, teachers and NGO workers participated in the training.

Meeting on Immunisation Day

MUNSHIGANJ, Nov 2: An advocacy meeting of the 6th National Immunisation Day was held in the Islamic Foundation auditorium here on October 31, reports BSS.

The district Information Office, in collaboration with the UNICEF, arranged the meeting.

Loan disbursed among poor

KISHOREGANJ, Nov 2: District Social Service Directorate has disbursed Taka 2,67,78,000 as loan among the poor in the current fiscal year to alleviate poverty, reports BSS.

According to official sources, the loan has been given to borrowers in income generating projects. The borrowers have already started their projects with the loan money.

7 projects being implemented

CHUADANGA, Nov 2: The implementation of seven schemes in three thanas of the district by the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) is in full swing, reports BSS.

The schemes are being implemented at a cost of Taka 1.25 crore. According to an official source, two schemes are being implemented in Alamdanga, three schemes in Damurhuda and two schemes in Jibannagar thanas. The schemes include reconstruction of 8 kilometre roads of the three thanas.

New college opens

MYMENSINGH, Nov 2: State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Prof M Amanullah inaugurated the newly-constructed Government Commerce College here on Wednesday, reports BSS.

Facilities Department of Education Ministry constructed this three-storied college building at a cost of Tk 70 lakh at Akua near warren house. Speaking on the occasion, the state minister called upon the students to equip themselves with appropriate education to face the challenge of the 21st century. He advised the students of this institution to keep it free from terrorism.

Erosion damages Aus crops

COMILLA, Nov 2: Aus crops worth over Tk 50 crore were damaged due to flood and riverbank erosion in July last, reports UNB.

According to local agriculture office, HYV paddy was cultivated on 42,815 hectares of land while local variety on 12,197 hectares in 11 thanas of the district in the Aus season. But the flood damaged Ufsi variety of Aus on 13,348 hectares of land while local variety on 4,854 hectares. Official estimated 29,471 mts of crops worth Tk 50 crore were damaged by the flooding while farmhands in low-lying Homna thana could not be brought under cultivation. But the government has failed to take any rehabilitation programme to recoup the output losses, forcing the poor farmers to borrow money from moneylenders at high interest rates and some others to sell off their meagre household appliances, the farmers alleged.

Chandpur unit of BMA polls

CHANDPUR, Nov 2: The Annual General Meeting and election of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA), Chandpur district unit was held on Saturday in the office room of Consultant of Chandpur Sadar Hospital, reports BSS.

Dr M A Gafur, Dr Kazi Mostafa Sarwar and Dr M G Faruque were elected as President, General Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Dr Biswanath Podder, Dr Rafiqul Islam Sarkar, Dr Gafur Mia and Dr Shahidul Islam were elected in different posts. Besides, Dr Sayed Abdul Karim, Dr Abul Khair, Dr Sujit Kumar Paul, Dr Shahneswar, Dr Paresh Chandra Paul, Dr Manul Islam Manik, Dr Mukit, Dr Moqbul Hossain, Dr Waliur Rahman, Dr Azharul Islam, Dr Dilara Hoque and Dr Nurul Huda were elected as executive members unopposed.

148 landless families rehabilitated

CHUADANGA, Nov 2: A total of 148 landless and destitute families were rehabilitated under five 'Ashrayan Projects' in three thanas last month, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the projects are Dhuturhat under Chuadanga Sadar thana, Gargari under Alamdanga thana and Karpashdanga Subolpur and Chitla under Damurhuda thana. Of the total landless and destitute families, 18 families were rehabilitated in Dhuturhat 'Ashrayan' project, 30 families in Gargari project, 40 families in Karpashdanga project, 40 families in Subolpur project and 20 families in Chitla project.

65 arrested

GAZIPUR, Nov 2: A total of 65 persons were arrested from different places of the town and unions of Sadar thana during last one week for their involvement in various crimes, according to district police sources, reports BSS.

Sadar thana police also recovered 20 bottles of phensedyl syrup from Shibbari and arrested one person named Jarina Begum, 32, on Friday. Separate cases were filed with Sadar thana.

Eye camp

NARSINGDI, Nov 2: An eye camp organised by the Rotaract Club of Narsingdi was held in Barghari Rajnagar Hafija Madrasa premises of Rajnagar thana on October 26, reports BSS.

Mohammad Azizul Islam, Rtn Forkan Ahmed, President of the Rotary Club of Narsingdi and Sirajul Islam, Chairman of Barghari union, were present in the inaugural function.

Tubewells out of order

SHARIATPUR, Nov 2: Some 1000 tubewells went out of order, creating an acute scarcity of safe water, reports UNB.

Rural people were seen taking pond waters as the authorities concerned could not yet take any steps to repair the tubewells, spreading waterborne diseases.

Tempo driver hacked to death

BARISAL, Nov 2: A tempo driver was hacked to death by unidentified assailants in Babuganj thana on Friday, reports UNB.

Police said the miscreants killed Manik, 30, while he was returning home at Pangsha village Rahmatpur at night. He was believed to have been killed over a land dispute. The body was sent to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy. Meanwhile, police arrested a man in connection with the killing.

94,500 mt of Aman expected

PIROJPUR, Nov 2: Agriculture Extension Department has cultivated Aman paddy on 82,935 hectares of land in the district under its Extensive Summer Crop Production Programme, reports UNB.

Some 94,500 metric tons of paddy are expected to be produced from the lands. The thana-wise breakup is: 18,300 hectares of land in Sadar, 6,120 in Kakhali, 11,475 in Nesarabad, 11,740 in Nazirpur, 11,550 in Bhandaria and 23,750 hectares in Mathbaria.

Sanction for schools

NETRAKONA, Nov 2: Facilities department has sanctioned Tk 35 lakh for construction of two school buildings, reports UNB.

The schools are Durgapur Govt Primary School and Mohanganj Pilot High School in Mohanganj thana. Works on the school buildings are expected to begin soon.

Acute scarcity of fish

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Nov 2: An acute scarcity of fish has been prevailing for more than a month.

Supply of fish in the markets has declined sharply. As a result the prices of fish have gone beyond the purchasing capacity of the common people. Hilsha costs Tk 180 to Tk 200 per kg, shrimps costs Tk 140 to Tk 160 per kg, Katal and Ruih costs Tk 100 to Tk 120 per kg. Fishes of other varieties are hardly seen in the markets. Some observers told this correspondent that indiscriminate fishing of fries has caused this scarcity. The rivers have become almost fishless as some unscrupulous fishermen are fishing fries at random by current nets allegedly with the collaboration of some unscrupulous officials of the Fisheries Department. Besides, a large number of water bodies dry up during the dry season which is another cause of fish crisis.

225 field workers working in Faridpur Pests likely to affect Aman production in Moulvibazar

From Rajat Kanti Goswami

MOULVI BAZAR, Nov 2: Aman cultivation is likely to fall short of target due to massive pest-attack on paddy field.

Aman paddy on 1,000 hectares have been affected by *Pumri* and *Mazra* insects. However, the district Agriculture Extension Department (AED) claimed to have taken adequate measures to protect crops from massive damage.

About two lakh one thousand 480 metric tons of Aman is likely to be produced in the district, according to local AED. The production target has been fixed at 35,320 metric tons in the Sadar thana, 26,940 metric tons in Srimongal thana, 26,092 metric tons in Rajnagar thana, 45,956 metric tons in Kamalgonj thana, 49,071 metric tons in Kulaura thana and 18,081 metric tons in Baralekha thana. AED sources said.

A total of one lakh 12 thousand 900 hectares of land was brought under Transplanted Aman cultivation in the six thanas here.

Out of the total land, High Yielding Variety (HYV) of Aman was cultivated on 66 thousand hectares and local variety on 46 thousand 900 hectares of land.

The thana-wise break-up of land under T-Aman cultivation was as follows: in Moulvibazar sadar thana a total of 19,850

hectares land was brought under cultivation. Of this, 11,500 hectares under HYV and 8,350 hectares under local variety of cultivation.

In Srimongal thana, the total land under Aman cultivation was 15,975 hectares. Of this 7,770 hectares under HYV and 8,205 hectares under local variety.

In Rajnagar thana, the total cultivated land was 15,785 hectares. Of this 7,150 hectares under HYV and 8,635 hectares under local variety.

In Kamalgonj thana the total cultivated land was 22,880 hectares. Of this 18,500 hectares under HYV and 4,380 hectares under local variety.

In Kulaura thana, a total of 26,530 hectares of land was brought under cultivation. Of which 17,255 hectares under HYV and 9,275 hectares under local variety.

In Baralekha thana a total of 11,880 hectares was brought under T-Aman cultivation. Of the total figure 3,825 was brought under HYV and 8,055 hectares under local variety.

However, the official source said, 23,074 metric tons of urea fertiliser were allocated for Moulvibazar district though demand of urea was 12,950 metric tons. Later on this allotment was reduced, according to the demand.

On the other hand, SSP fertiliser was yet to be allocated according to the demand. So farmers here are purchasing SSP fertiliser from the market at high price.

Our Faridpur Correspondent reports: A total of 7,653 hectares of land has been brought under Transplanted Aman paddy cultivation in eight thanas during the current season.

Of the total 7,653 hectares of land, 6,790 hectares have been brought under HYV and the rest 863 hectares under local variety.

Thana-wise break-up is as follows. A total of 3,267 hectares of land has been brought under T-Aman cultivation in Sadarpur, 23 hectares in Char Bhadrason, 251 hectares in Nagarkanda, 195 hectares in Sadar, 253 hectares in Bhanga, 1415 hectares in Madhukhali, 1,851 hectares in Boalmari and 398 hectares in Alifdanga thanas.

The production of paddy (HYV) is expected to be 2.5 tons per hectare while that of local variety is 1.1 tons per hectare.

According to the District Agriculture Extension Department (AED) sources, 225 field workers have already been engaged across the district to supervise and make the programme a success.



The city dwellers of Chittagong have to suffer a lot due to unplanned growth of Agrabad area. In many places of the area vehicles of the Fire Brigade or ambulances of various hospitals and clinics cannot reach the destinations in case of fire incidents or for the purpose of emergency medicare service.

Akram Ali murder: Inquiry yet to start

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Nov 2: Inquiry into the sensational killing of the local transport leader Akram Ali, 35, is yet to start although the man was killed about two and a half months ago.

Akram Ali, executive president of Rangpur Transport workers' Union, was stabbed to death by some assailants on August 15 in the town.

Police, however, have so far arrested two persons in this connection.

Following the killing local transport workers staged

demonstrations, demanding immediate arrest of killers.

The case was shifted to detective branch of police a month ago.

Widow and two girl children of the deceased are now passing hard days. They have no other source of income. Local transport union leaders, however, are assuring them of help.

Shahera Khatoon, the widow, said she feels insecure following the killing of her husband. She demanded exemplary punishment to the killers.



Bleak future: Helpless Shahera Khatoon, widow of Akram Ali, with her two little innocent daughters. She can see no ray of light. But who cares? — Star photo

Separate incidents claim four lives in 2 dists

Four persons were killed in separate incidents in the districts of Naogaon and Magura on Tuesday and Saturday, reports UNB.

Two little girls, who sustained severe injuries in a house collapse, died in a local hospital on Tuesday in Naogaon district.

The dead were identified as Moni, 11, and Suma, 9, daughters of Sanaulah of Bilpalse village in Raninagar thana.

Villagers said the house collapsed while the girls were playing on its rooftop. A UD case was filed.

Another report says: At least 50 people were injured when the roof of a school collapsed at Atakula village in the same thana.

Witnesses said the roof of the school building broke down when people crowded on it to enjoy a *Jatra* organised on the occasion of Laxmi *puya* in the school compound.

Two people were killed and

30 others injured when a bus and a tractor fell into a roadside ditch after a collision on Magura-Jessore road on Saturday, in Magura district.

Tractor driver Abul Kalam, 22, died on the spot while worker Jahidul Islam, 25, succumbed to his injury in the hospital soon after the accident.

Police and witnesses said the Jessore-bound bus hit the tractor at Chhaygharia under Shalikha thana at 10 am when the tractor driver tried to give side to the bus. Both the vehicles fell into the ditch.

The injured passengers of the bus were rushed to Magura sadar hospital.

Condition of five bus passengers — Babul, 30, Sonawan, 30, Mosharrat, 21, Shamsul Alam, 30, and Karim, 25, was stated to be critical.

The bus driver managed to flee. A case was filed with Shalikha thana.

BRAC undertakes social welfare programmes

MEHERPUR, Nov 2: Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC), a non-government organisation, has undertaken various programmes to alleviate poverty, eradicate illiteracy and develop the socio-economic condition of the rural people, reports BSS.

The programmes are Rural Development Programme (RDP), BRAC Urban Programme (BUP), Health and Population Programme (HPP) and BRAC Education Programme.

Under its urban programme BRAC will disburse loan amounting to Taka five crore among the poor people in the current fiscal year.

Foundation of Bandarban TTC laid

BANDARBAN, Nov 2: Labour and Employment Minister M A Mannan has stressed the need for increasing technical know-how among the vast unemployed population to involve them in the country's on-going economic development activities, reports BSS.

He was laying the foundation stone of the district Technical Training Centre (TTC) at Meghla here on Saturday.

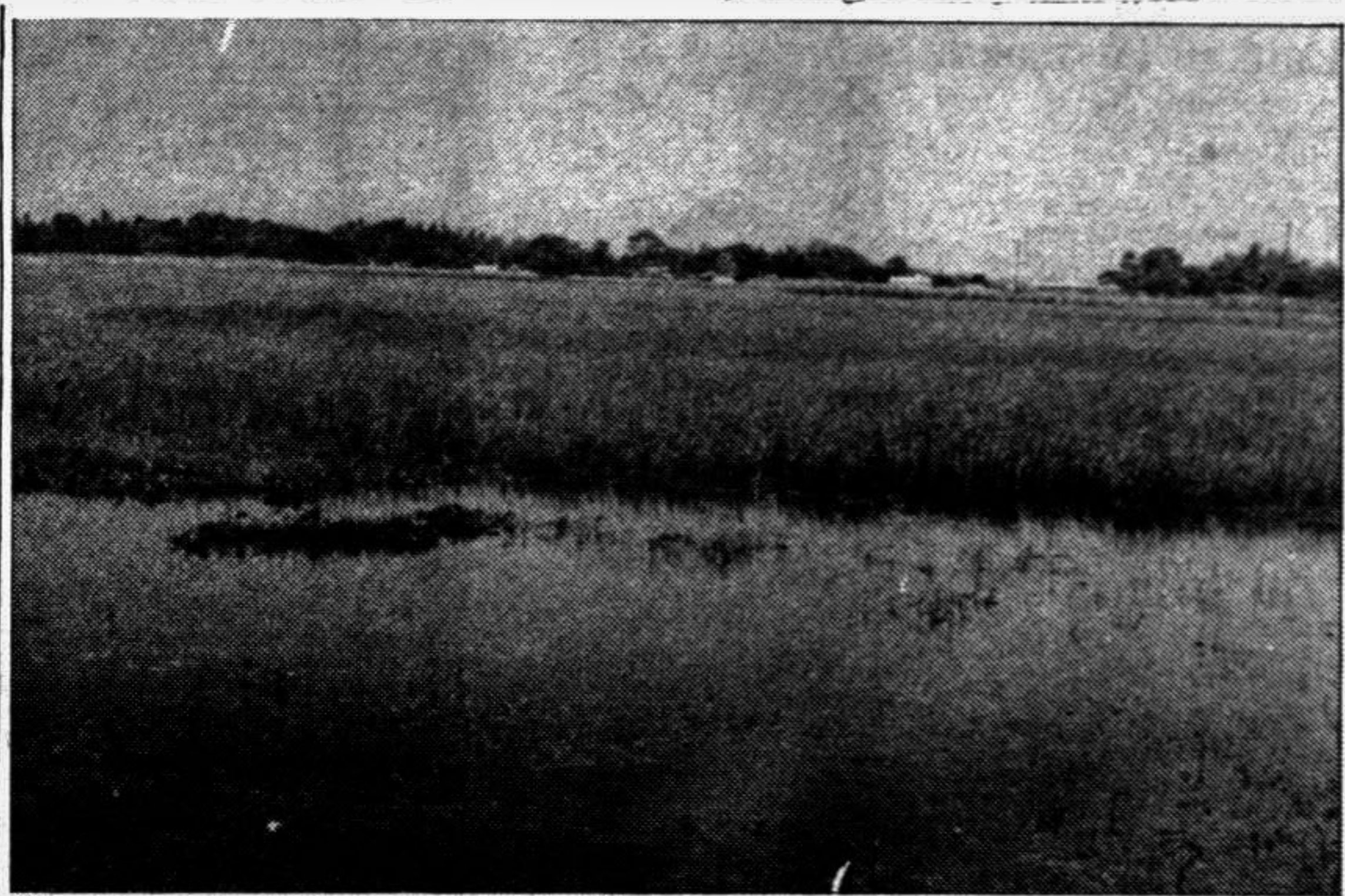
The minister said the present government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has given due importance to people's education and efficiency to build a poverty- and illiteracy-free society.

The ministry has been implementing a large project of Taka 100 crore to set up 12 TTCs including Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Women's Technical Training Centre in Dhaka and the under-construction TTC here," he said, adding, "five women TTCs in five divisional cities and 15 TTCs in different district headquarters will also be established during the next plan period."

Mannan referred to the landmark Chittagong Hill Tracts peace agreement which heralded a new era of development in the region.

The under-construction TTC here will be completed at a cost of nearly Taka seven crore while another at Khagrachhari district will cost Taka 10 crore.

The function was addressed, among others, by CHT Affairs Minister Kalparanjan Chakma, Chairman of the Task Force on Tribal Refugee Dipanker Talukder, MP, CHT Development Board Chairman Bir Bahadur, MP, Bandarban district Local Government Council Chairman Master Khowaing Cha Prue and Rangamati district Local Government Council Chairman Ching Kew Roaza.



Standing crops on a vast tract of land have gone under water recently at village Purba Madia in Jhenidah district due to incessant rains. — Star photo

Satkhira DIARY

Four get life term

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Nov 2: Four persons were sentenced to suffer life term in two separate cases here recently.

In the first case, court convicted Rakibul Gazi and Shaharul Islam both from village Kuskhali under Sadar thana for raping a woman. According to prosecution story, the convicts entered a house at Babulia under Sadar thana and took the 22-year-old woman at gun point to a nearby place at Thanagata on February 9, 1997. Later they raped the woman. In the second case, two persons were sentenced to suffer life term imprisonment on charge of trafficking in woman. The convicts were Manir Hossain and Baset Bhuiyan both from village Shakhari Munsiganj district. According to prosecution story, the convicts were taking the woman, Joytsna Khatoon, daughter of Amanullah of village Shakhari under Sadar thana of Munsiganj district, to India, alluring to marry her off.

When they reached at Brojobaka under Kalaroa thana, police arrested them on suspicion on August 8, 1998.

Woman gangraped

A woman was gangraped by a group of miscreants at village Magura under Sadar thana recently.

Police sources said at the dead of night, four miscreants—Mansur Ali, Amer Ali, and two other unidentified young men—of the same village entered her house and raped her. The woman, a divorcee, filed a case with Satkhira police station in this connection.

Youth with fake notes held

A young man was arrested with four counterfeit currency notes of Taka 100 denomination from Naktara Bazaar under Asasuni thana recently.

Police sources said Uttam Kumar Chakravarty, 22, son of Dhirendra Nath Chakravarty of village Kharhati under Asasuni thana, bought goods from a shop owned by Shahidul Islam in the bazaar and exchanged for a 100 taka note. The shop owner on suspicion about the note caught Uttam with the help of other shopkeepers and handed him over to police. Later police recovered three more notes of the same denomination from his possession. A case was filed in this connection.

Old man killed in road accident

An old man was killed in a road accident on Khulna-Satkhira road near Kumira under Tala thana recently.

The victim was identified as Tapan Behari Ghosh, 60, of village Kalapota under Tala thana. According to police sources, the old man was killed when a passenger bus hit a bicycle from behind on the road. The old man, who died on the spot, was riding the bicycle. A case was filed in this connection.

Three muggers caught

Three muggers were arrested by police from Patkelghata bazar area in Tala thana on September 22.

The arrested muggers are: Azibar Rahman, 25, and Abu Taleb, 27, both of village Talikupi and Abul Kashem, 30, of Lalchandrapur all in Tala thana. Police said that five businessmen of Pirojpur town while returning home after selling betel nut amounting to Taka 50,000, were attacked by muggers. They tried to snatch the amount of money from them. Local people chased the muggers and caught them.

Phensedyl recovered

Satkhira Narcotics Control Department recently conducted a raid and arrested one person and recovered 55 bottles of phensedyl.

A team of police headed by Shahjahan Talukdar, Inspector of Satkhira Circle of Narcotics Control Department raided the house of Rup Chand Fakir of Polashpole in Satkhira Foursabha and recovered the item. They arrested Rup Chand Fakir.

6 pc people use sanitary latrines in Kushtia

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Nov 2: Only six per cent people use sanitary latrines in the district, said a survey.

The Public Health Engineering Department has been entrusted with the responsibility to create awareness among people about the utility of the use of sanitary latrines and provide them with articles of sanitary latrines.

Many non-governmental organisations are also working for the purposes.

Referring to the survey conducted by UNICEF local people said it is unfortunate that only a few numbers of people are getting the facility of sanitary latrines.

Many locals have expressed their financial inability to procure sanitary latrine articles.

Fruit-bearing trees decreasing in Satkhira

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Nov 2: Number of fruit-bearing trees has been decreasing in the district due to indiscriminate felling.

Because of indiscriminate felling of trees like mango, jack fruit, blackberry, litchi and palm fruits are getting dearer in markets, fruit traders said.

Poverty stricken people, especially in the remote areas, sell their trees, giving rise to tree felling.

Elderly people said in the past villagers used to plant fruit-bearing trees in their house premises. But the tradition of planting trees in and around dwelling houses is on the wane now, the added.

Trees are usually used as furniture wood, besides firewood. In brick-fields a huge quantity of wood is used as fuel.

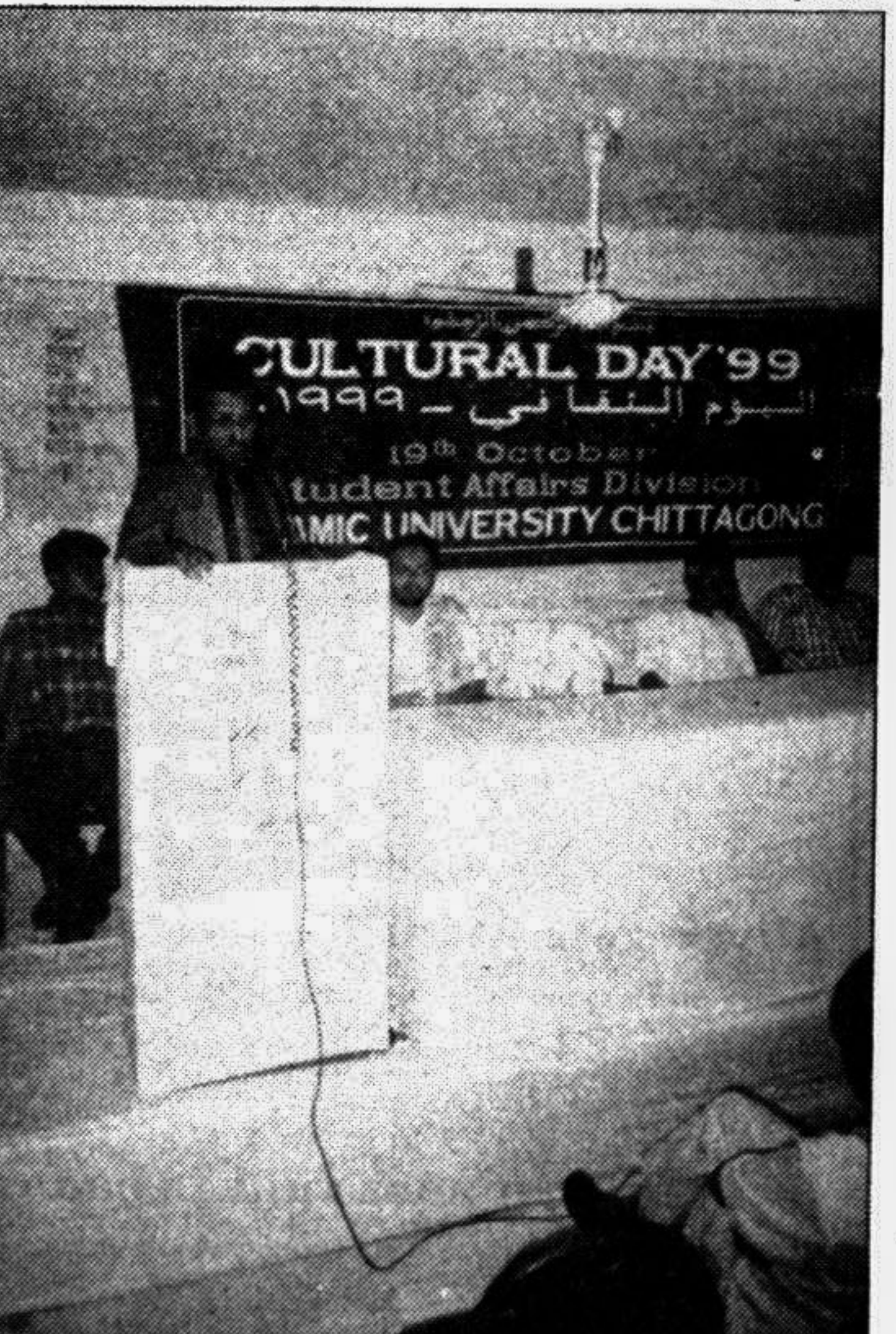
Events of districts in picture



Communist Party of Bangladesh organised a human chain at Kadamtoli in Gaibandha town demanding immediate renovation of the local Bridge Road. — Star photo



The Deputy Director Of Islamic Foundation, Natore distributed electric fans recently among the representatives of various mosques under Taka 60,000 Mosque Development Programme. — Star photo



Prof Abu Baker Rafiq Ahmed, Pro-Vice Chancellor of the Bangladesh Islamic University addressing recently at the inaugural function of the university's Cultural Day. — Star photo