

News snaps

Edn secy observes survey

COMILLA, Nov 3: Education Secretary Kazi Raqib Uddin Ahmed on Tuesday visited different educational institutes of Chowddagram thana to see for himself education survey activities there, reports BSS.

He visited a school, a college and a madrasa. Ninety-four supervisors are conducting the survey in 1,070 educational institutions in 12 thanas as part of the countrywide education survey. Deputy Commissioner Chowdhury Golam Maula, District Education Officer Kazi Monwar Hossain and concerned officials were with the secretary.

Aman output exceeds target

MEHERPUR, Nov 3: Aman output seems to have exceeded the target by 48,000 metric tons, reports BSS.

When the farmers started Aman cultivation, it was estimated that some 45,000 metric tons of paddy would be produced on 20,000 hectares this season. But ultimately Aman was cultivated in over 23,000 hectares, which is likely to push up the paddy output to 53,000 metric tons, according to office sources.

Workshop on health

BANDARBAN, Nov 3: A three-day workshop on 'Decentralisation of Health System' concluded here at the civil surgeon's conference room recently, reports BSS.

Official sources said, a total of 20 thana health officers from Bandarban, Chittagong, Rangamati and Cox's Bazar districts participated in the workshop, organised by the World Health Organisation (WHO). Bandaran Hill District Chairman Thawing Cha Prae-Master attended the concluding function of the workshop as the chief guest. District Civil Surgeon Dr Sarfaraz Khan Chowdhury presided over the function.

Absconding convict arrested

JHENIDAH, Nov 3: Police arrested an absconding convict from his house in Maheshpur thana on Saturday, reports UNB.

Abdul Majid, 35, of Mohammadpur village, has been absconding for 11 years after he was convicted of a crime by a court. Acting on a tip, police raided the house and arrested Majid. Later, they handed him over to the district jail.

Man killed in road accident

JHENIDAH, Nov 3: An old washer man was killed in an accident at Hatkhola on Sher-e-Bangla road here Saturday, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Taher Ali, 60, of Bhuteergati village in sadar thana. Police said the accident occurred when a speeding tempo hit the old man from behind while he was crossing the road. Taher died on way to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital.

Killer to die

Tangail, Nov 3: The additional district and sessions judge's court here on Tuesday convicted a man and sentenced him to death by hanging for killing the wife of elder brother, reports UNB.

Ganesh Chandra Mandol of Mushuria Ghona village under Mirzapur thana was found guilty and handed down the death penalty. According to the prosecution, Ganesh killed Shyamali Rani, wife of Shital Chandra Mandol, on April 30, 1997. He strangled her to death after rape behind a bush. After examining the witnesses and records, First Additional District and Sessions Judge Chowdhury Muniruddin Mahfuz gave the verdict.

Allocation for road construction

MEHERPUR, Nov 3: Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) has allocated Tk three crore for the construction of Meherpur-Mujibnagar Road and culverts in Mujibnagar thana, according to official sources, reports BSS.

The road communication, irrigation and drainage facilities in Mujibnagar thana would be improved after completion of the work.

Khas land distributed

CHUADANGA, Nov 3: A total of 911 acres of agricultural khas land has so far been distributed among 3000 landless people of four thanas, reports BSS.

The thanas are: Chuadanga sadar, Alamdanga, Damurhuda and Jibannagar. According to an official source, 198 acres have been distributed in Chuadanga sadar, 229 acres in Alamdanga, 395 acres in Damurhuda and 89 acres in Jibannagar. The distribution of agricultural khas land among the landless people is continuing.

New bldg construction scheme

RANGPUR, Nov 3: The Facilities Department has been executing a new building construction programme in five government high schools at a cost of Taka 80 lakh, reports BSS.

A spokesman of the Facilities Department told here that the new construction includes Rangpur Government Girls' School, Samaj Kalyan Biddabithi School, Rangpur High School, Daradi High School and Haragachha College. The construction is expected to be completed by the end of June next year. With completion of the construction at least 15 thousand students of both sexes will enjoy better educational facilities in these educational institutions, official sources said.

Loan disbursement schemes

BENAPOLE, Jessore, Nov 3: Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) has undertaken a massive loan disbursement programme to boost Rabi crops cultivation in Jessore district, reports BSS.

Official sources said the bank has sanctioned Tk 8,79,000.00 for disbursement among the Rabi crops growers during the current season. In eight thanas, the government has fixed the target for cultivation of Rabi crops. On the basis of thanawise arable Rabi crops land the loan will be distributed. The loan was sanctioned for boro paddy, wheat, potato, pulses, ch'li, mustard and vegetable cultivation.

Wheat allocated

PIROJPUR, Nov 3: The Relief and Disaster Management Department has allocated 1,319.04 metric tons of wheat for the district under the Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) programme during the current financial year, reports UNB.

The allocated wheat will be distributed to some 3,664 distressed families holding VGD cards in 51 unions. Of the VGD card-holders, 889 are in Bhandaria thana, 635 in Kaukhali, 330 in Mathbaria, 240 in Nazirpur, 300 in Sadar and 1,270 card in Nesarabad.

Loan for poor

KISHOREGANJ, Nov 3: Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC), Kishoreganj, distributed Tk 4,62,000 as loan in 13 thanas in August '99, reports BSS.

According to official sources, the loan has been given to the poor to alleviate poverty through raising of poultry and making of baskets, bamboo goods, eastern wears and other handicrafts. The corporation has recovered Tk 42,000 arrear loan during the period.

Plan to build bridge

PATUAKHALI, Nov 3: The government has undertaken a plan to construct a 366-metre 'Patuakhali Bridge' over Laukathi river at an estimated cost of Tk 25 crore, reports UNB.

The foundation of the bridge is likely to be laid in January next. The construction of the bridge will reduce travel time between Patuakhali and Barisal by about 45 minutes mitigating the sufferings of bus passengers to a large extent. According to the Roads & Highways Department, Tk 1 crore has already been allocated for preliminary expenses. A feasibility study on the bridge will begin soon.

Road development schemes

MUNSHIGANJ, Nov 3: The Roads and Highways (R&H) Department has undertaken a scheme to develop and widen three important roads during the fiscal 1999-2000 at a cost of Tk one crore and twenty-five lakh, a R&H Department sources said, reports BSS.

The Mukterpur-Sepoypara stretch on Fatullah-Munshiganj-Louhajang road, the Rekabibazar-Sepoypara part on Rekabibazar-Rampal-Dighirpar road and the Mukterpar ferry ghat-Munshiganj bus stand strip on Munshiganj-Siloi-Bangla Bazar road will be repaired and widened under the scheme. The scheme has been financed by the Asian Development Bank.

3,95,578 voters' cards distributed

KISHOREGANJ, Nov 3: District election office-2, Kishoreganj, has already distributed 3,95,578 identity cards among the voters, reports BSS.

According to official sources, the total number of voters in the district is 12,82,490. Of them pictures of 8,20,701 voters have already been taken. The percentage of distribution of cards is 31. A total of 5,28,504 voters' identity cards will be distributed by the district election office-2.

Growers sell jute below production cost

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, Nov 3: Jute growers here are not getting fair prices of their products due to absence of competitive buyers.

Although four jute mills have opened jute-purchase centres, middlemen are influencing the prices, farmers said.

The four mills—Alim Jute Mills Ltd, Platinum Jute Mills Ltd, Gul Ahmed Jute Mills Ltd and People's Jute Mills Ltd—have opened four jute-purchase centres at Notun Bazaar under Sreepur thana.

Growers said they are now selling their products below their production cost. At present, jute sells between Tk 280 and Tk 340 a maund in local markets.

Local Agriculture Extension Department (AED) took up the scheme to bring 16,100 hectares of land under jute cultivation

with the production target of 161,000 bales.

AED sources said the target to bring 16,100 hectares under the cultivation was not achieved as farmers showed reluctance because of poor prices of jute in the last couple of years. Growers have cultivated jute only on 7,735 hectares of land this season.

Thana-wise break-up of land under jute cultivation was 2,080 hectares in Sadar, 2,365 hectares in Sreepur, 480 hectares in Shalikhah and 2,810 hectares in Mohammapur, thana.

Abdur Rahman, a farmer of village Parnandual who came to Notun Bazaar to sell jute, told this correspondent that he had sold his crop below the production cost.

He also said this year's pro-

duction cost was much higher than that of the last year because of price-hike of fertiliser and pesticide.

Our Faridpur correspondent adds: Jute production this year in Faridpur has fallen short of the target. The target was 129,324 bales fixed by the district Agriculture Extension Department.

Farmers and agriculture officials have attributed the failure to prolonged drought followed by heavy rainfalls during the sowing period.

Because of unusual drought and rainfalls during the Bengali months of Falgun and Chaitra, sowing period for jute, we harvested low quality crops, said some farmers.

However, the farmers said they are selling their crops below production cost.



Abdur Razzak, Minister for Water Resources opening a new divisional office of Bangladesh Krishi Bank in Faridpur on Sunday. Governor of Bangladesh Bank Dr Mohammad Farash Uddin, Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources Dr A T M Shamsul Huda, BCI President Khondker Mosharrif Hossain, Chairman, Board of Directors Of Krishi Bank Dr Mirza A Jalil and Managing Director of the bank Dr Shoab Ahmed were present on the occasion. —Krishi Bank photo

Hashi murder Autopsy report yet to be submitted

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Nov 3: Post-mortem report of Hashi Khan, a 14-year-old maid who was allegedly murdered following rape by her employer at Syagobida here Saturday night, was not submitted till Wednesday.

Locals believe that the alleged killer of the maid, Saidul Islam, was trying to hush up the matter by trying to show it as a case of suicide.

Acting Police Super Aurangzeb Mahub visited the area and assured local people of fair investigation into the case.

Misconduct protested

MYMENSINGH, Nov 3: Prof Atiar Rahman, provost of Ashrafal Haq Hall of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), has submitted his resignation protesting misconduct by some students, including Hall Union vice president, reports UNB.

Campus sources said VP Mofizuddin Akhand and his associates misbehaved with the provost at the hall office on October 26 on the issue of constructing a mosque and allocation of seats in the hall.

Prof Atiar Rahman alleged that they also threatened him not to leave the hall and kept him confined for sometime in the hall on the day.

After the incident the provost submitted his resignation on October 28 protesting the misdemeanour and demanding action against the offenders.

University registrar Nazibur Rahman admitted the fact and said they were yet to take a decision in this regard.

Kumudini College earns rare distinction

TANGAIL, Nov 3: Kumudini Government College has earned a rare distinction winning three best awards in the thana-level competition held at the local TNO office on October 31 in observance of the National Education Week 2000, reports UNB.

Besides winning the Best Institute Award, Principal of the College Prof A N Alangir Khan won the best head of the institution award (College) and Ataur Rahman Khan won the best classroom teacher award (College).

The girls students of the college won a number of medals, including the first prize in 10 out of 15 cultural events. The winners are: Aminun Nahar, Shamima Akhter, Farhana Rahman, Nighat Sultana, Anamika Pal, Tahmina Siddiqui and Anjum Ara.

Seventeen students of the college secured star marks in the last HSC examination from Science group and two from Humanities group.

One killed in launch accident

PIROJPUR, Nov 3: A female passenger of a Dhaka-bound launch was killed after its front side was smashed by another launch while anchoring at Hularhat station here today, reports UNB.

Police said Rahima Khatun, 40, wife of Motaieb of Kaukhali thana in the district, was injured seriously when the front side of Parabat-2, anchored at the station, was hit by Sagar-15. Rahima died on her way to hospital.

The passengers alleged that Sagar-15 did not reduce its speed while anchoring in the ghat.

Sagar-15 left the station immediately after the incident. A case was filed with local police.

Three bombs recovered in Khagrachhari

KHAGRACHHARI, Nov 3: Three bombs were recovered from the district contractors association office on Tuesday morning, reports UNB.

The bombs, half kilogram each, were found on the floor of the office covered with black scotch tap at 9 am. Police on information recovered the bombs at 10 am and kept those in sadar thana.

ASP Devdas Bhattacharya said two of the bombs might be of high intensity.



A jute loaded boat is seen at Pakulla ghat in Tangail. A farmer has brought it from far flung area. But jute is being sold at Taka 260 per maund in the local bazaars, while the farmer produced one maund of jute at the cost of Taka 300. Observing the poor price the farmer has become completely frustrated.

11 unnatural deaths in nine days in Joypurhat

JOYPURHAT, Nov 3: Eleven unnatural deaths were reported from different thanas in nine days (October 23-31), reports UNB.

Six of the victims were women, according to police and hospital sources.

They said six people were killed in road accidents. Others allegedly committed suicide by hanging and taking pesticides.

Helena Khatun, 31, of Kathail village in Kalai thana, allegedly committed suicide by taking poison over a family feud on October 23.

On the same day, Asia Begum, 47, wife of Abul Khasem of Rasulpur village in Khetlal thana, was killed in a road accident.

Khuki Begum, 31, of Gopinathpur village in Akkelpur thana, was killed in another road accident on October 24.

On October 25, two people, including rickshaw-puller Saber Hossain, 34, of Bambu village in sadar thana, were killed in separate accidents on Bogra-Joypurhat road.

Halima Khatun, 12, of Ikar-gara village in Khetlal thana, allegedly committed suicide by taking pesticide on October 26.

Waresh Ali, 50, of Sotahar village in sadar thana, was killed in a road accident on the same day.

Fulbapu, 29, of Maduka vil-

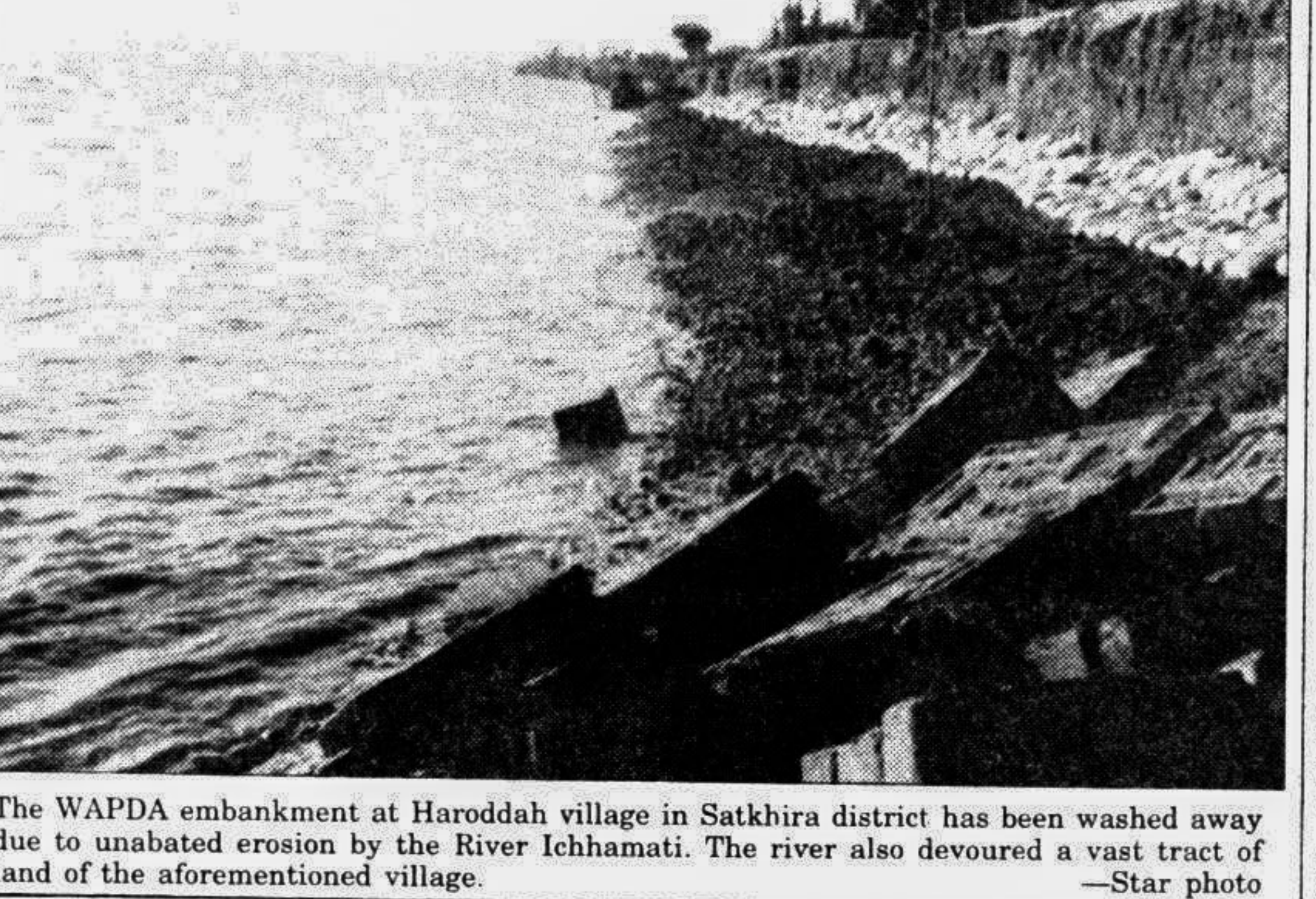
lage in Khetlal thana, who was abandoned by her husband, committed suicide at her father's residence on October 27.

Abuiya, 10, of Nikardighi village in Panchbibi thana, allegedly committed suicide by taking poison after he was rebuked by his father on October 28.

Abdur Razzak, 36, of Jamaipur village in sadar thana, was killed by a speeding bus on October 30.

Nur Saba Begum, 39, wife of Mohammad Alam of Chak-dadra village in sadar thana, allegedly committed suicide by taking poison on October 31.

Separate UD cases were filed with the respective thanas.



The WAPDA embankment at Haroddah village in Satkhira district has been washed away due to unabated erosion by the River Ichhamati. The river also devoured a vast tract of land of the aforementioned village. —Star photo

Mosquito menace in Netrakona

From Our Correspondent

NETRAKONA, Nov 3: Mosquito menace has gripped the town dwellers.

Just after sun sets mosquitoes start their mission, causing untold sufferings to people, especially children and patients in hospitals and clinics.

Local people alleged the municipality authorities have failed to contain the menace.

Poor people, especially slum dwellers who cannot afford to buy mosquito nets, pass nights almost sleepless.

Murder of BCL leader Tense situation at Kasba

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, Nov 3: Tense situation was prevailing at Kasba thana headquarters following the killing of Omrahan Omar, thana unit president of ruling party-backed BCL, till filing of this report on Wednesday.

Omrahan Omar was killed on October 25. BCL blamed JCD activists for the killing. Main opposition BNP-backed JCD, however, denied its involvement, saying the murder was a sequel to factional conflicts of BCL.

A mourning procession by Kasba unit of BCL paraded main roads of the thana headquarters, which wore a deserted look because of tense situation.

Nabinagar thana and Brahmanbaria district units of BCL also brought out processions in their respective areas. They demanded arrest of killers.

Incidents of oppression on women rise

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, Nov 3: Incidents of oppression on women have been increasing alarmingly in the district.

According to police sources, a total of 526 cases were lodged in four thanas in connection with oppressions on women from January to September this year.

Of the cases, 40 were lodged for physical harassment while 486 for dowry related incidents.

Human rights activists said the number of cases does not show the whole picture of women repression.

Efforts on to alleviate poverty

COMILLA, Nov 3: State

Minister for Textiles A K M Zahangir Hossain said, present rural economy and social infrastructure is more stable than that of any previous time, because of various timely steps taken by the present government, reports BSS.

Zahangir said the present government is committed to improve the standard of the life of the poor and distressed through alleviation of poverty from the country.

The state minister said this at a workers rally when he visited Habibur Rahman Textile Mill at Debidwar of Comilla on Saturday.

Zahangir said, present government has already undertaken a massive programme to make the rural downtrodden widows and divorcees self-reliant by giving one gram grant, interest-free loan and old-age allowance.

The state minister said some opposition parties through haral, intrigues and heinous activities interrupted the country's peace, stability and development work which was introduced by the present government.

10 get life-term for murder in Khulna

KHULNA, Nov 3: A court here today awarded life imprisonment to 10 people, including nine of a family, for killing a man nine years back, reports UNB.

Of the convicts Akbar Ali Gazi, Abu Bakar Gazi, Abu Taleb Gazi, Abdul Jalil Gazi, Azizul Gazi, Sirajul Gazi, Musa Gazi, Nur Mohammad Gazi and Nekbar Gazi of Begunbari village are from the same family. Another convict is Harun Tarafdar.

The convicts were also fined Tk 5,000 each and in default, to suffer one year more rigorous imprisonment.

According to the prosecution, the convicts in collusion with each other killed Nur Muhammad of Begunbari village of the thana on October 12, 1990 over a land dispute. Later, police framed charges against them.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Abdul Qudus Mia today delivered the verdict after hearing.

The court also sentenced five years more RI and fined Tk 1,000 to one of the convicts, Abu Taleb Gazi, for setting fire to the house of the victim, Nur Mohammad.

Events of districts in picture



Visitors thronging at a children's art exhibition arranged in Sylhet recently on the occasion of Child Rights Day. —Star photo



Combined Cultural Alliance brought out a rally in Rangpur town recently protesting attack on The Daily Sangbad correspondent of Rangpur. —Star photo



Bangladesh Workers Party laid seize to Satkhira DC and SP offices recently in protest against leasing out of Canadia canal in Tala thana. Local peasants used the canal for irrigation purpose. They have launched a movement for cancellation of the lease. —Star photo



Meena Day: Magura District Information Office and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) observed Meena Day recently at Dighi village of Shalikhah thana. To mark the occasion street dramas were arranged. Photo shows a sequence from such a drama. —Star photo