

News snaps

Law and order reviewed

KISHOREGANJ, Nov 5: The monthly review meeting on law and order of the district for the month of October was held at the Deputy Commissioner's office on October 25, reports BSS. Presided over by Deputy Commissioner A M M Farhad, the meeting discussed matters relating to law and order of the district. All thana and district level officials attended the meeting.

85,000 saplings planted

PIROJPUR, Nov 5: About 85,000 fruit bearing and timber saplings were planted in the district during the just concluded tree plantation drive, to help maintain ecological balance, reports UNB.

Agriculture Extension Department planted the saplings on the premises of different public institutions, including school, college, madrasah, orphanage, graveyard and Eidgah. Thana-wise break-up of saplings planted: Kalkuli 9,440, Nesarabad 17,080, Nazirpur 14,395, Bhandaria 14,395, Mathbaria 13,685 and Sadar 12,410.

Abbasuddin Mela

RANGPUR, Nov 5: Three-day Abbasuddin Mela concluded here on October 29 as people enjoyed the immortal *bhawaiya* songs till midnight, reports UNB.

The mela was held at the Shaheed Minar Square in the district town to mark the 98th birth anniversary of Abbasuddin, the king of *bhawaiya* songs. Folk culture expert Dr Ashraf Siddiqui inaugurated the mela on October 27 at a function attended, among others, by Mostafa Zaman Abbasi, Ferdousi Rahman and Nasid Kamal, son, daughter and grandchild respectively of Abbasuddin. During the fair, nightlong sessions of *bhawaiya* songs were organised and 10 stalls set up exhibiting books and handicrafts. On the concluding day, Abbasuddin Academy of Domar, Nilphamari organised a function to hand over Abbasuddin National Award to Dr Ashraf Siddiqui and PDB chairman Kamrul Islam Siddique.

Seminar on community welfare

FARIDPUR, Nov 5: A seminar on "collective responsibilities to improve community welfare with cultural activists and local media" organised by Dhaka-based Theatre Centre for Social Development (TCSD) was held here last week at local Kabi Jasimuddin Hall, reports BSS.

Gulam Rabbani, Lecturer, Social Welfare and Research Institute, Dhaka University, presented the keynote paper on the subject. Rabbani described different phases of the development process and its barriers in our country. He emphasised on the role of the cultural activists and local media. The seminar was addressed, among others, by Prof M Shajahan and Prof Feroza Begum of Government Sarada Sundary Mahilla College, Prof Kakali Mukherjee of Government Rajendra College and Prof Rezaul Islam of Dhaka University. It was presided over by Shahidul Alam Sachchu, President of TCSD.

50 hurt as rivals clash

LAXMIPUR, Nov 5: At least 50 people were injured in a clash between rivals over sharing of tolls at Bibihat Bazar in Rangati thana of the district on Tuesday night, reports UNB.

Witnesses said supporters of lessee Sarwar engaged in a fierce clash at about 10 pm with the supporters of another lease holder, Tulu, over the sharing of tolls collected from traders at Bibihat Bazar. The fighting groups chased each other in the 3-km stretch that left 15 men of Tulu group and 15 others of Sarwar group wounded. Twenty other people, mostly small traders, also received injuries. A case was filed with the local thana.

Foodgrains distributed

CHUADANGA, Nov 5: A Total of 273 metric tons of foodgrains have been distributed among the 3,035 card holders of 31 unions of four thanas of the district under VGD programme during the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to official sources, 149 metric tons of foodgrains were distributed among the 1,651 card holders of 13 unions under Alamdanga, 80 metric tons among 889 card holders of seven unions under Chuadanga, 28 metric tons among 315 card holders of seven unions under Damurhuda and 16 metric tons among 180 card holders of four unions under Jibannagar thanas of the district. Each card holder is getting 30 kg of food grain every month under VGD programme, official sources added.

Villages under electricity scheme

CHUADANGA, Nov 5: A total of 292 villages of all the four thanas of Chuadanga district have been brought under Rural Electrification Programme (REP), reports BSS.

The four thanas of Chuadanga district are Sadar, Alamdanga, Damurhuda and Jibannagar. According to an official source, of the total villages 77 have been brought under the Rural Electrification Programme in Sadar thana, 124 villages in Alamdanga thana, 50 villages in Damurhuda thana and 41 villages in Jibannagar thana. So far, over 26,000 residential, commercial, irrigational, industrial and other connections have been given in the district under the Rural Electrification Programme.

Drug addicts on rise

KUSHTIA, Nov 5: Alarming rise in the number of drug addicts in the district town and adjoining areas caused concern among the peace loving people and the guardians, reports UNB.

The addicts, mostly youths, are often engaged in mugging, toll collection and dacoity to collect money for buying opium, morphine, sedative tablets, mirta sanjibini sura, phensidyle and alcoholic spirit. The junction of Thanapara, Katakshara and Kadamtala, Majampur Railway Crossing, BADC Markets, Milpara, Chheuria Laonmajar are the main hub of the drug addicts. Local people alleged the police were playing a role of silent spectators to the misdeed. They urged the government to take strict measures to save the youths for the sake of the country.

UP member assaulted

NATORE, Nov 5: A woman member of Faguardiar union parishad under Bagatipara thana has been assaulted by supporters of her rival who was defeated in the last election, reports UNB.

Supporters of Abdur Rashid stormed the house of Nurjahan Begum and beat her mercilessly on October 27, according to a delayed report. They said the hired goons of Rashid did not spare even her young daughters Dalia, 15, and Julia, 17, when they tried to protect their mother. The attack as a sequel of enmity. Nurjahan Begum and her daughters were admitted to Sadar hospital with severe injuries. A case was filed with the local police station in this connection.

Cop killed in road accident

RANGPUR, Nov 5: A young man was killed and 35 were injured as a bus collided with a truck at Mirzapur in Pirganj thana on Tuesday, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Abdul Jabbar, 35, a constable of Borodargapur police outpost. Witnesses said the accident occurred in the evening when the Boga-bound BRTC bus collided with the truck coming from opposite direction, leaving 36 passengers of the bus injured. Jabbar succumbed to his injuries in Rangpur Medical College Hospital. Condition of the bus helper, Ratan, 32, was stated to be critical. The other injured passengers of the bus were admitted to RMCH and thana health complex.

Fake colonel arrested

NOAKHALI, Nov 5: A fake colonel was arrested by the police from the Banglabazaar in Begunganj thana Wednesday night, reports UNB.

Police said a local youngster, A M Yusuf, claimed himself colonel in the Army and demanded toll from the businessmen of Banglabazaar. The businessmen caught him and handed over to the police. A case was filed against Yusuf.

Boy injured in bomb blast

NOAKHALI, Nov 5: The right hand of a minor boy was blown away by explosion of a bomb at Golabaria in Begunganj thana in the district Thursday morning, reports UNB.

The police and hospital sources said Saidul, 12, son of a poor man, lost his hand when he was collecting polythene bags from a roadside dustbin. The boy was rushed to the Sadar hospital. Police visited the spot and recovered three more bombs from the dustbin.

20 hurt in gunfight

MADARIPUR, Nov 5: A fierce gunfight between rival groups of traders left at least 20 people injured, 8 of them critically, at Karimganj bazaar under Kalkini thana on Sunday, reports UNB.

Police and hospital sources said the fighting was a sequel to quarrel over the lease of Karimganj hat. Supporters of Bepari and Sardar groups fought the battle that lasted about an hour. During the clash both sides used fire weapons. About 50 gunshots were fired injuring at least 20 people. Both the groups filed case against each other.



Passengers of the first London-Sylhet direct Biman flight disembark as the inaugural flight lands at Osmani International Airport in Sylhet on Thursday. The national carrier will operate the flight twice a week with wide-bodied aircraft.

London-Sylhet flight lands

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Nov 5: The first direct international flight in London-Dubai-Sylhet route reached Sylhet on Thursday at 12:55 pm, 65 minutes behind the schedule.

The 221-seat Airbus landed at the Sylhet Osmani Airport with 169 passengers on board. Of them, 159 were from London and 10 from Dubai, said an official source. With this, a long-felt demand of the people of greater Sylhet had been met as most of the expatriate Bangladeshis in the UK hail from this region.

Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury received the passengers at the airport. Prime Minister's Advisor on Parliamentary Affairs Suranjit Sengupta, Civil Aviation Minister Engineer Mosharraf Hossain, Whip Abdus Shahid, Syeda Zebunnissa Haque MP, Dewan Farid Gazi MP, Nurul Islam Nahid MP, Imran Ahmed MP, Sultan Mohammad Mansur MP, Shah Azizur Rahman MP, Hafiz Ahmed Majumder MP, Sylhet Pourashava Chairman Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran, District Awami League president Syed Abu Nosor, General Secretary ANM Shafige, Anwaruzzaman Chowdhury, General Secretary of UK unit Awami Jubo League, and Manager, Marketing and Sales, Biman, Mahmudur Rahman with Rafiqul Islam, MD of Biman, in the chair.

The flight BG 016 left the Heathrow at 5:53 pm Wednesday and made a one hour stop over in Dubai at 4 pm. The flight started operation in Dubai-Sylhet route on December 20 last year. It has now been linked with London, said the officials. An additional fare of 25 pounds is being charged from the London passengers, the source added. There will be two weekly flights on Wednesday and Friday.

Prior to the arrival of the flight, an inaugural function was held at the Concorde Hall of the Airport. Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury attended it as chief guest. The Speaker said we want the airport free from terrorism and corruption. The Speaker called upon the political leaders to form an all-party surveillance committee to check all sorts of harassment and corruption with a view to ensuring a peaceful atmosphere for the passengers. He said with the start of London-Dubai-Sylhet Flight a long felt demand of the people of this region is met by

the government of Sheikh Hasina. The Speaker thanked Hossain for fulfilling her commitment to the people of the Sylhet region.

The function was also addressed by the Prime Minister's Advisor for Parliamentary Affairs Suranjit Sengupta, Civil Aviation Minister Engineer Mosharraf Hossain, Whip Abdus Shahid, Syeda Zebunnissa Haque MP, Dewan Farid Gazi MP, Nurul Islam Nahid MP, Imran Ahmed MP, Sultan Mohammad Mansur MP, Shah Azizur Rahman MP, Hafiz Ahmed Majumder MP, Sylhet Pourashava Chairman Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran, District Awami League president Syed Abu Nosor, General Secretary ANM Shafige, Anwaruzzaman Chowdhury, General Secretary of UK unit Awami Jubo League, and Manager, Marketing and Sales, Biman, Mahmudur Rahman with Rafiqul Islam, MD of Biman, in the chair.

eral secretary Sheikh Lokman Hossain were present as chief and special guests respectively. Local leaders of BRSL Serajul Haq, Nur Ahmad Faruqi, SM Gulam Murtaza also addressed the meeting.

They demanded speedy trial of the killers of four national leaders in Dhaka Central Jail. In Bandarban, the day was observed by the district unit of Bangladesh Awami League and its front organisations in a befitting manner.

The Awami League and its front organisations organised a discussion where the speakers described the day a 'black chapter of the history of the country'. The discussion was presided over by Safiqur Rahman.

The discussion was addressed, among others, by Awami League leaders Kajal Kanti Das, AKM Jahangir, Mizanur Rahman Biplab, Uttam Das and Mohammed Ishaq.

Jail Killing Day observed

Jail Killing Day commemorating the brutal killing of the four national leaders inside Dhaka Central Jail 24 years ago on November 3 was observed in districts, report agencies.

In Khulna, the day was observed by Awami League Khulna city and district units and different political and socio-cultural bodies.

The programmes of the day included hoisting of national and party flags at half-mast and black flags atop the central office of Awami League. Floral wreaths were placed at the portrait of the four national leaders. 'Milad Mahfil', 'Quran Khwani' and feeding of the destitute were arranged on the occasion.

A discussion meeting was held recalling the glorious contribution and supreme sacrifices of the four national leaders. Presided over by Khulna city Awami League leader Gazi

Shamsur Rahman, the meeting was addressed, among others, by party leaders Monirul Islam Moni, Abul Bashir Khan, Advocate Mohammad Ali, Anwar Hossain, Md A Babul Rana, Abul Kalam Azad, Talukder Shamsul Huq, Prof Hosne-Ara-Runu, Malik Abid Hossain Kabir, Mortoza Shaikh, Ali Akbar Tipu and Shaikh Mohammad Abu Hanif.

AL mayoral candidate for Khulna City Corporation SMA Rob was present as the chief guest.

In Chittagong, Bangladesh Railway Sramik League (BRL) held a meeting and brought out a procession to demand speedy trial of the killers of four national leaders.

The procession paraded different city streets chanting slogans in support of their demands. They also held a meeting with MA Mottalib Meah in the chair. Central president of BRSL Rahmat Ullah and gen-

Smuggling rampant in Kushtia

KUSHTIA, Nov 5: Smuggling is going on unabated along the border of the district affecting marketing of local products and depriving the government of duty, reports UNB.

According to local people, a large number of cattle, printed saree, crockeries, batteries, electrical goods, sugar, salt, bicycle, spares, spices, imitation ornaments and other goods and commodities are being smuggled into Bangladesh through the border almost every day.

The day labourers, unemployed young boys and girls, men and women are either involved in smuggling or helping the smugglers in the crime.

BDR personnel conducted raids several times during the last one month and forced the smugglers to roll down their illegal business. But the greedy traders became active again

with BDR relaxing their duties. Influential people are engaged in smuggling, shop owners in the town alleged. They said that smugglers carry the contraband through the inter-city trains, buses and trucks.

Local shop owners estimated that 3,000 maunds of sugar and salt are smuggled into the every day from India across the border and sent to different places.

BSS from Satkhira reports: Bangladesh Rifles seized various kinds of Indians goods worth over Taka 3.75 lakh last week here.

The BDR members raided several border areas of the district and seized the Indian goods smuggled into Bangladesh.

The goods include one lakh Indian eggs, 40 bags of sugar, dyes and colour, fish, bidi and 15 bottles of phensidyle syrup.

According to BDR sources, the seized goods were deposited to the Satkhira Customs authorities.

The sources said 346 cases were lodged during the period.



Growers display their products at a jute-purchase centre in Magura town recently. Farmers said they are selling the crop below the production cost. At present, jute sells between Tk 280 and Tk 340 a maund in local markets. —Star Photo

Cattle diseases break out

From Our Correspondent

NETRAKONA, Nov 5: Cattle diseases have broken out in the district in an epidemic form.

A large number of cattle have been attacked with the diseases in Kalmakanda, Duragapur, Atpara, Madan, Mohanganj, Barhatta, Kendua and Khaliyara areas.

According to an official source, at least 80 cattle died of the diseases, popularly known as 'galaphula' and 'khura' in recent days. The diseases cripple jaws and hooves of cattle.

Most of the cattle are not getting proper treatment because of absence of adequate number of veterinary doctors in rural area. However, quacks are doing brisk business, local people said.

People in the remote areas said since the outbreak of the diseases no attempt for vaccination of the cattle has been initiated by the Livestock Department.

Farmers alleged many cat-

tle, which were vaccinated earlier, have been attacked with the diseases.

UNB from Gopalganj adds: Poultry diseases have broken out in epidemic form in five thanas of the district.

The farm owners alleged that they did not get treatment

Old man chopped to death

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Nov 5: An old man was chopped to death by unidentified assailants at village Kutargati under Raiganj thana in early hours Tuesday.

The victim was identified as Kalu Sheikh, 52.

Police said a gang of miscreants, numbering about nine, attacked Kalu Sheikh at about 12:30 am and chopped him to death.

The cause of murder could not be known immediately. Police sent the body to hospital for autopsy.

facilities from the local veterinary hospitals, which forced many of them to shut down their farms.

The post of District Livestock Officer (DLA) is lying vacant for long, they said.

Meanwhile, hens and ducks are being sold at throwaway prices for lack of buyers in different parts of the district. Meats of affected hens and ducks are also being served at wayside hotels and restaurants. Prices of eggs, fish and beef marked a steep rise.

The poultry diseases are spreading to the rural areas with hundreds of hens and ducks dying every day. The dead poultry birds were seen floating in heel, canal and other water bodies causing environmental pollution.

The people in the affected areas urged the authorities to take immediate necessary steps for setting up a camp to vaccinate the poultry birds.

80,000 children immunised

RANGAMATI, Nov 5: Local health department has exceeded the target by giving polio vaccine drops to about 80,000 under-five children in the district on the inaugural day of the Sixth National Immunisation Day (NID) Tuesday, reports BSS.

The district health administration was prepared to fulfil the target of giving polio vaccine to 77,423 under-five children in the district by employing 6,155 health professionals, including a good number of volunteers, at 1,231 centres in the district. Civil Surgeon Ahmed Kabir told the news agency while monitoring the drive from centre to centre in the town.

Earlier, Chairman of the Task Force on Repatriated Tribals and Internal Refugee Rehabilitation Affairs, Dipankar Talukdar, MP, gave polio vaccine drops to a few children at Rangamati Sadar Hospital Centre and Reserve Bazar Perapara Centre in the town in the morning while formally inaugurating the Sixth NID here.

Chairman of Rangamati Hill District Council Ching Khew Roaza and Deputy Commissioner Abu Haidar Sardar also gave polio vaccine drops to a few children at Monoghar Orphanage Centre and Shapchari-Manikchhari Centre to encourage the spontaneous health professionals and rushing guardians of the under-five

children.

A crash programme is likely to follow the Sixth NID in January, 2000, to ensure eradication of polio from the district by the year end, Ahmed Kabir said.

Another report from Bandarban adds: The Sixth National Vaccination Day's programme began on October 28 in difficult areas of the Chittagong Hill Tracts. In those areas, children under age group 0-5 years will be vaccinated till November 10 under the Micro Programme.

Special arrangements were taken from October 28 to ensure vaccination of those who could not be vaccinated earlier. To fulfill the target to vaccinate one hundred per cent children army helicopter will be available if necessary, Civil Surgeon of Bandarban said.

In this connection 696 EPI centres have been opened in 270 wards of seven thanas. 996 health workers including 3,480 volunteers will be engaged there.

Kala Azar breaks out in Jhenidah

JHENIDAH, Nov 5: An outbreak of Kalaazar a deadly tropical fever, affected some 50 people here in last eight months reports UNB.

Although the disease is fully curable all the health complexes here have been alerted to tackle any emergency situation, hospital sources said.

Nowadays the outbreak of this tropical fever is rare. But it used to spread from one village to another within a short span of time decades ago," said a doctor at Sadar hospital.

Pests attack Aman in Netrakona

From Our Correspondent

NETRAKONA, Nov 5: Pests have attacked Aman crops here, casting an adverse impact on the output.

According to local Agriculture Extension Department Netrakona, a total of 1.08 lakh hectares of land were brought under Aman cultivation in the current season.

Sources said insects, particularly *pamri* and *majra*, attacked crops on about 80,000 hectares of land in the district. The affected areas are Atpara, Kendua, Madan, Mohanganj, Kalmakanda, and Barhatta thanas.

Girl stabbed to death by lover

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, Nov 5: A 13-year-old girl was stabbed to death allegedly by her lover on Wednesday in Binodpur Bazaar area under Mohammadpur thana.

Local people said angry lover Mijan, 15, son of Shamsul Haque Shikder, stabbed her girl friend, Anjana Khatun, daughter of Akbar Biswas of Binodpur village, with sharp knife following an altercation. The girl died on her way to hospital.

Local people said Anjana's family had refused to marry her off with Mijan.

Police arrested Mijan. A case was lodged with Mohammadpur thana in this connection.

Use of engines in boats on rise in Gopalganj

From Our Correspondent

GOPALGANJ, Nov 5: Use of diesel engines, meant for irrigation purposes in passenger and goods carrying boats has been on rise in the district.

These mechanised boats carry a large number of passengers and goods.

About 1,000 engine driven passenger boats are plying in different routes in five thanas of the district. The routes are Gopalganj-Chachia, Gopalganj-Mollahat, Gopalganj-Khulna, Gopalganj-Rawdia, Gopalganj-Dhaka, Gopalganj-Botapara, Gopalganj-Jogaria, Gopalganj-Takerhat, Botapara-Radganj, Satpara-Ujani, Hariaduspur-Vjani, Katalipara-Patligati, Kotalipara-Sreepur and Katalipara-Shikarpur.

Unskilled boatmen, who used to ply indigenous boats, often cause accidents. In the last seven years at least 60 people were killed in separate accidents.

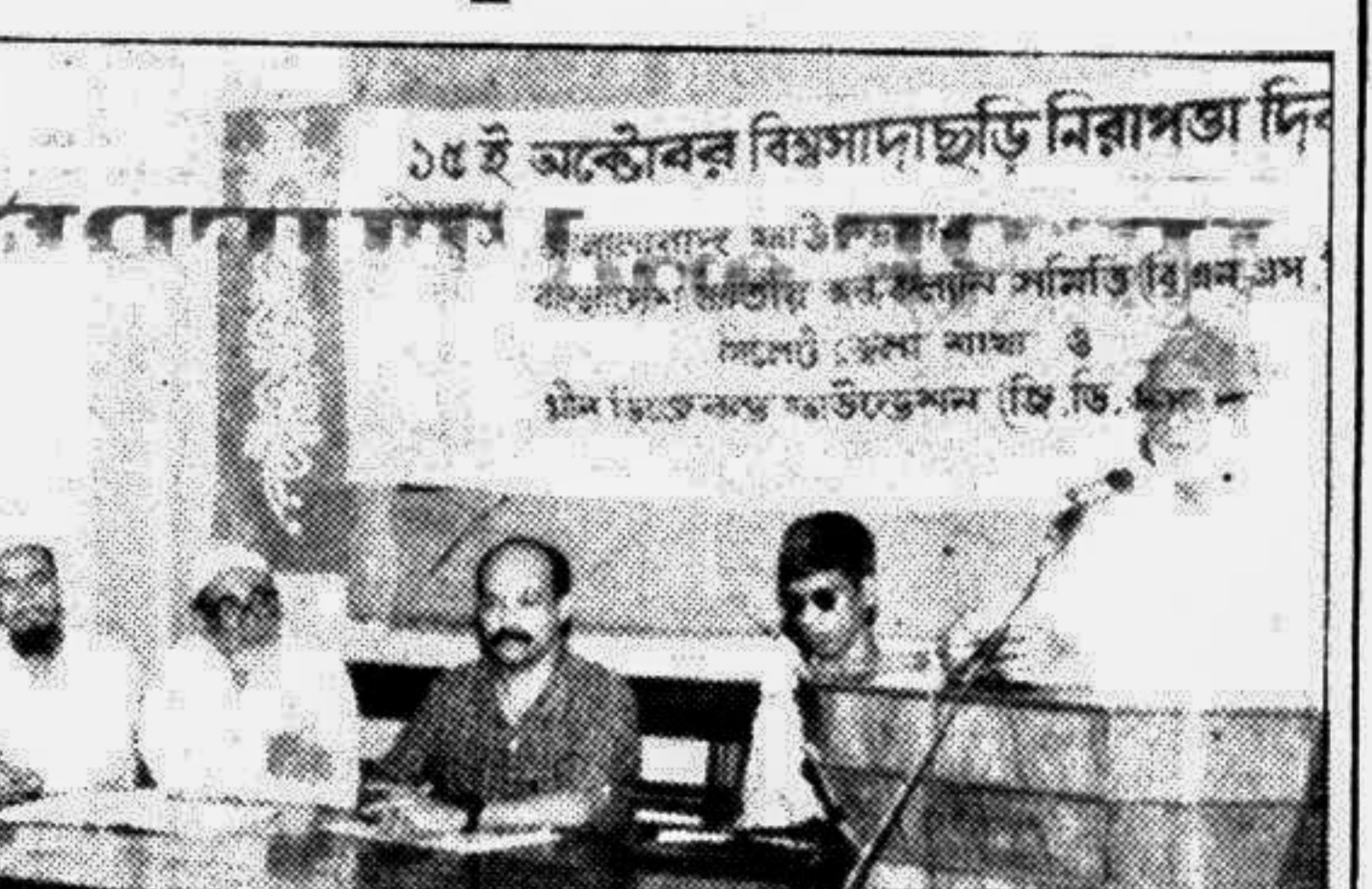
Young man found dead in Rajshahi

From Our Correspondent

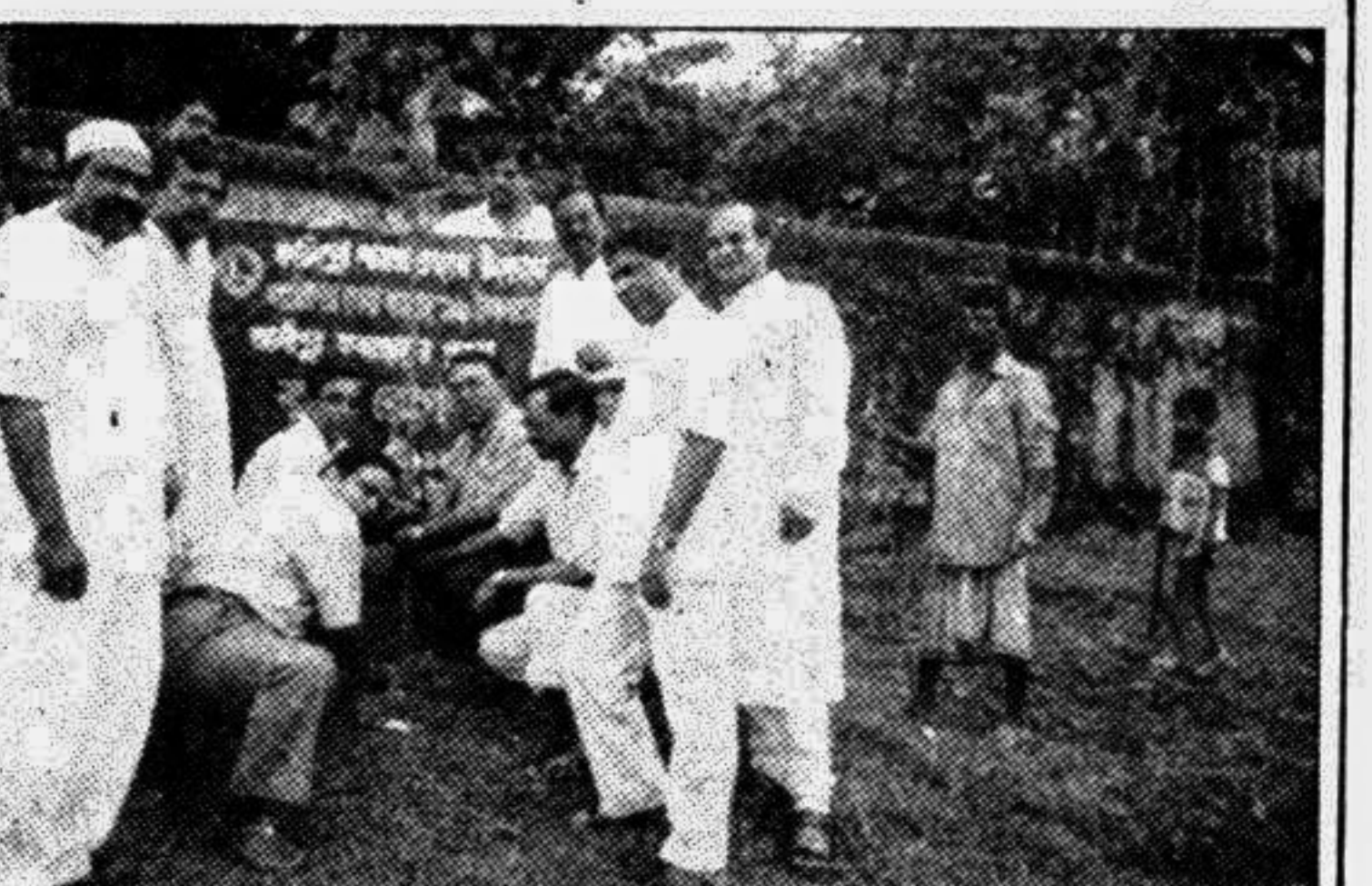
RAJSHAHI, Nov 5: An unidentified young man was found dead at Meherchand in the city on Tuesday.

Police suspected the young man was strangled. The hands of the youth were tied with rope. A case was filed in this connection.

Events of districts in picture



Dewan Farid Gazi MP, addressing a discussion meeting arranged recently in Sylhet town in observance of White Cane Safety Day. —Star photo



The Lions of Faridpur Lions Club planting saplings beside a pond of Alipur graveyard in the town recently to mark the International Lions Service Week '99. —Star photo



Shamsunnahar, lecturer of Gaibandha Government College, addresses a seminar on 'Reserved Seats for Women in the Parliament', organised jointly by Gaibandha unit of FEMA and Gaibandha Development Network, in Gaibandha town recently. —Star Photo



The students of Rangpur Polytechnic Institute brought out a rally in Rangpur town recently demanding fulfilment of their 14-point charter of demands including removal of DG of Technical Education Board and introduction of 4-year technical education course. —Star photo