

News snaps

First phase of 6th NID observed

CHUADANGA, Nov 6: The first phase of 6th National Immunisation Day (NID) was observed here on November 2, reports BSS.

About 1,50,000 children from age group zero to five years were given polio drops in all the four thanas. The thanas are Chuadanga Sadar, Alamdanga, Damurhuda and Jibannagar. A total of 889 centres were opened for the purpose and 4,000 volunteers and 1,000 health department staff were engaged to make the day a success.

Jail Killing Day observed

KUSHTIA, Nov 6: The jail killing day was observed Wednesday by Awami League with due solemnity, reports BSS.

Black flag was hoisted in the morning at Awami League office. The National flag and the party flag were also hoisted at half mast. Leaders and workers were seen putting on black badge. A discussion meeting was held at the Awami League office organised by town Awami League committee presided over by Hasan Munir Mukti. Those who spoke were Anwar Ali, former district secretary, Zulfikar Ali Arju, former joint secretary and Asgar Ali former organising secretary. District Committee of Awami League in Kushtia, however, condemned the killing in jail of four leaders on 3rd November 1975. They demanded punishment of killers. They paid rich tributes to the martyrs.

Two get 3-yr RI

KURIGRAM, Nov 6: A court here has sentenced two people to three years rigorous imprisonment (RI) for carrying 9.5 kg of Indian hemp, reports UNB.

Judge Quazi AM Joyal also fined the convicts Tk 3,000 each, in default, to suffer three months more RI. According to the prosecution, BDR personnel of Dolkhawa outpost arrested Mozammel Haq and Mongla Mia of Rolakata village along with 9.5 kg of hemp on Dec 31, 1997 and handed them over to police. The judge after examining records and witnesses pronounced the verdict on Monday.

Over Tk 6 cr road dev projects

BARISAL, Nov 6: The Roads and Highways Department (RHD) of Jhalakati district has undertaken 20 major projects at a cost of Taka 6.41,41,638 during the 1999-2000 fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the projects to be implemented include the construction of 22 kms flexible pavements and 18 culverts on three roads. Of the total, Taka 3,05,12,430 is being spent for the construction of pavement on 18 kms road and Taka 71,54,959 for the construction of four culverts on Rajapur-Kathalia-Amua-Bamna Road, Taka 1,06,18,772 for the construction of six kms pavement and Taka 1,14,10,564 for the construction of 10 culverts on Gabkhan-Shekerhat-Guaton Road and Taka 44,44,913 for the construction of four culverts on Jhalakati-Nabagram-Gava-Eksharapara Road.

Workshop for youths

KHAGRACHHARI, Nov 6: A workshop for the youths was held here at Manikchari recently, reports BSS.

Thana Youth Development Department organised the workshop. Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO) SM Morshed was the chief guest in the workshop. He commended the welfare activities of the Youth Development Department and said, the present government has taken steps to generate employment opportunities for the unemployed educated youths. Thana Youth Development Officer SAM Nurul Abser presided over the inaugural function of the workshop. Among others, Assistant Director of Youth Development Department M Mizanur Rahman and Credit Supervisor M Nurul Islam addressed the function.

Two killed in road mishaps

SATKHIRA, Nov 6: Two persons including a little girl were killed in separate road accidents in Kalaroa and Shyamnagar thana last week, reports BSS.

The victims were identified as Tumpa, 7, daughter of Abdur Rahim of village Raghunathpur under Kalaroa thana and Sheikh Hayder Ali, 75, of village Mautola under Kaliganj thana. Police sources said, a Satkhira-bound passenger mini bus from Jessore ran over the girl near at Raghunathpur road crossing area on Satkhira-Jessore road under Kalaroa thana, while she was walking through the road.

She died on the spot. Another Kaliganj-bound mini bus from Munshiganj ran over Sheikh Hayder Ali near at Khanpur Islamic mission on Munshiganj-Kaliganj road under Shyamnagar thana, while he was trying to cross the road. He died on the road.

BHDHD starts pilot project

BANDARBAN, Nov 6: Bandarban Hill District Health Department (BHDHD) has planned to distribute about one lakh of mosquito nets soaked in Deltha-Mathaprin in seven thanas here as the second phase of the pilot project, official sources said, reports BSS.

Civil Surgeon of Bandarban said that the programme started from November 1. Initially, around one lakh mosquito nets will be soaked in Deltha-Mathaprin in the phase-wise separate programmes in seven thanas and about 10 medical teams will work under the programme. About 23,000 mosquito nets were soaked in Deltha-Mathaprin in Bandarban Poursabha area in last September. The use of the mosquito nets would completely free the bed-rooms from malaria for at least 9 months and would also help check mosquito biting, official added.

Tk 27.50 lakh 'Asrayan' project

MAGURA, Nov 6: The government has constructed 12 housing barracks under the 'Asrayan' project at a cost of Tk 27.50 lakh to rehabilitate 110 homeless families in two unions of Mohammadpur thana, reports UNB.

An official said, five barracks each with 10 rooms, were constructed under the supervision of the Army. The construction was made on 9 acres of khas land at Banogram in Palashbari Union for rehabilitation of 50 families. Another five barracks each with 10 rooms and two barracks each with five rooms were built on about 5 acres of khas land in village Mousha of Balidia Union where 60 families have been sheltered, he said. The authorities are giving necessary loans and training in various fields and helping the families to form cooperative samity in order to make rehabilitated families self-reliant.

Power bills remain unpaid

BAGERHAT, Nov 6: More than Tk 2 crore of electricity bills remained outstanding with different government and non-government organisations in the district till September this year, reports UNB.

The defaulters included Bagerhat Pourashava Tk 17 lakh, DC's Office Tk 2 lakh, Health Complex Tk 11 lakh, banks Tk 2 lakh, Medical Training Centre Tk 4.4 lakh, mosques and shrines Tk 17.29 lakh. Officials said they are issuing notice to the defaulters for realising outstanding bills. Besides, in 17 cases have so far been filed with the mobile court to disconnect illegal electricity lines.

2 with fake notes held

NAOGAON, Nov 6: Two persons with forged notes were caught by the local youths and handed over to the police on Saturday, reports UNB.

Police said Javed and Saiful were caught by local youths from Parnagaoon area in the town with two forged notes of Tk 500 and 4 notes of Tk 100 denomination. Their two other accomplices managed to flee. The youths told the police that the culprits went to Krishnalal, a money changer, gave him the forged notes and forcibly tried to take away from him Tk 800 in exchange. The arrested persons were sent to jail *hajai* after they were produced before the court on Sunday.

Loans distributed

TANGAIL, Nov 6: The Social Welfare department has distributed interest free loans of Tk 12 lakh among distressed and poor people of Sadar thana for self-employment, reports UNB.

The department under its poverty alleviation programme distributed the loan among 282 people in ten villages during the current fiscal year. The borrowers purchased rickshaw, goat and poultry birds and for small trading. They were given Tk 4000 to Tk 5000 each for improving the living standard through poverty alleviation.

Winter crops farming

JHALAKATI, Nov 6: Some 25,000 hectares of land in the district have been brought under winter crops during the current season, reports UNB.

Agriculture officials said, of the total cropland in the district, Boro paddy would be cultivated on 8,270 hectares, pulses on 8,825 hectares, mustard on 3,500 hectares, winter vegetables on 2,550 hectares, sugarcane on 300 hectares and wheat, maize, potato, sweet potato, pepper, onion, coriander, garlic, turmeric and nut on remaining areas. Agriculture Extension Department will distribute fertilizers, seeds and pesticides among the farmers to boost the production.

T-Aman cultivation target achieved in Mymensingh

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, Nov 6: Transplanted Aman farming target was achieved this year here, thanks to favourable weather condition and availability of seeds during cultivation.

Agriculture Extension Department (AED) had fixed a target to bring 2,50,400 hectares of land under T-Aman cultivation. Of them 1,35,000 hectares were meant for High Yielding Variety (HYV) and the rest 1,15,400 hectares for local variety.

According to AED, a total of 2,72,000 hectares of land were brought under the cultivation this year, surpassing the target by 21,600 hectares. Of the total cultivation, 1,60,000 hectares were under HYV and 1,12,000 hectares under local variety.

AED sources said 21,880 hectares of land were brought under the cultivation in Sadar, thana against the target of 21,330 hectares; 22,345 hectares in Muktagachha against the target of 21,610; 22,737 hectares in Phulbaria against target of 22,310 hectares; 17,916 hectares in Trishal against the target of 17,030 hectares; 20,592 hectares in Bhaluka against the target of 19,370 hectares; 21,925 hectares in Gofargaoon against the target of 19,580 hectares; 23,333 hectares in Nandail against the target of 22,670 hectares; 20,462 hectares in Ishwardi against the target of 23,190 hectares; 42,911 hectares in Gouripur against the target of 21,390 hectares; 25,196 hectares in Haluaghat against the target of 21,270 hectares; and 10,612 hectares in Dubaura against the target of 10,165 hectares.

AED officials expressed hope the production target will also be achieved as farmers experienced comparatively less pest attack in the district. An AED official said farmers here surely will enjoy bumper production this year.

While visiting some villages under Sadar thana this correspondent found smiling faces of growers. Some farmers of village Char Gobindapur said they expect good harvest this year.

Although short-live flash flood had affected shoal areas, we will recoup last year's output losses, said a farmer of village Char Sirta. Some farmers of Lakmipur, Anandipur and Bawanipur villages echoed him.

Immunisation programme suffers a setback

NARSINGDI, Nov 6: The immunisation programme of the government has suffered a setback at the field level in the district due to irregularities of the Health Department, reports UNB.

Although the National Immunisation Day was observed for the sixth time in the country at a cost of huge money, a large number of children of the six thanas could not be freed from the curse of six killer diseases.

After completion of each NID, the health workers and health officials filed a report to the health directorate claiming cent percent successes of the day.

But the actual situation is different. The vigilance team of World Health Organisation expressed its dissatisfaction after collecting a list of 13 children attacked by poliovirus and submitted the list to the Civil Surgeon.

Of the attacked, 9 were found in Sadar thana, two in Manohordi and two in Raipura thana. The figure may be increased if closely monitored.

As the field workers were not competent enough, the health department arranged several meetings to increase awareness among the people in preventing the disease.

During the last NID on December 14, 1998, the then Civil Surgeon of the district visited the health sub-center at Bhatpara in the town at 11 am, but he found medical officer Jamal Uddin Bhuiyan absent.

Local people complained that the medical officer often remained absent in the health center. He used to work at a private clinic, Popular Diagnostic Centre, owned by his brother at Kawripara in the town.

The Civil Surgeon issued a show cause notice to the doctor and officially informed the matter to the Director General of Health. But for mysterious reason no action was taken against him.

Besides, on March 15, 1999, the Civil Surgeon informed the DG to take action against Health Assistant Golam Mohammad Hossain, Matru Rahman Chowdhury, Abul Kashem Sakkar and Umme Habiba accusing them of creating obstruction in the official activities and negligence of duty. No action was taken against them.

Local people urged the authorities concerned to restore discipline in the health department to achieve the objective of rural health care coined in the slogan 'Polio-free Bangladesh and health for all by the year 2000'.

Debate competition

FARIDPUR, Nov 6: A divisional debate competition on 'Sex and Reproductive Health Education Can Protect the Youth and Adolescent from Moral Erosion' was held at local Kabi Jasimuddin Hall recently, reports BSS.

Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB), Faridpur unit organised the debate.

Anjumana Ara of Jamalpur Ashique Mahmud College was adjudged first while Sabrina Sultana of Mymensingh Muslim Girls' School and College and Syeda Nishat Ara of Jamalpur Zaheda Saifi Women College stood second and third respectively.

Prof. Subhash Chandra Ghose, Principal of Rajendra College attended the debate competition as the chief guest while Advocate Saidur Rahman, President of FPAB, Faridpur unit presided.

60 pc hilly people do not use sanitary latrines

RANGAMATI, Nov 6: Despite hectic campaign by the government and different NGOs, 60 per cent hilly people still do not use sanitary latrines, reports UNB.

According to a survey conducted by a local NGO, only 40 per cent people of the hill districts use hygienic latrines while the rest use latrines set up over canals and beels, spreading various diseases like dysentery, dropsy and diarrhoea. In most cases, children are the victims.

Illiterate people use unhygienic toilets as they do not know the merits and demerits of sanitary latrines while some others cannot afford sanitary latrines.

Jessore orphanage faces closure threat

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Nov 6: Government orphanage at Keshabpur under Keshabpur thana is facing closure threat due to fund constraint.

As such fate of 70 orphans and four other staffers is now uncertain.

This orphanage enjoyed full benefit of free food and lodging with medical facilities for long.

A total of 35 orphans out of 70, were provided stipend worth Taka 400 each per month to cover food, clothes and sundry expenses.

This sanction was too insufficient to meet up the minimum needs, in the light of present market prices.

A source close to the orphanage told that the fund received as grants during the last fiscal year was totally exhausted before June last. No fund has been available so far from there during the current fiscal though four months of the year are over.

When contacted, Superintendent of the orphanage, Rafikul Islam, informed that the difference of sanction between the orphanage of non-government and government orphanages is a much wider.

Sanction for orphan of non-government orphanage is Tk 400 while that of government orphanage is Taka 720.

He, however, mentioned that during the visit to this orphanage recently, the wife of the Education Minister, donated of a handsome amount of money. This has helped a lot to mitigate the sufferings of the orphans.

Fulbaria College Principal sued


MYMENSINGH, Nov 6: The Controller of Examination, Dhaka Board, on Tuesday filed a case against Principal of Fulbaria College Mujibur Rahman accusing him of juggling answer papers of 52 HSC examinees appeared from the college centre, reports UNB.

After investigation the Secretary of the Board found that the Principal in collusion with a section of corrupt employees changed all papers of the examinees.

The counterfeit registration and admission papers were seized and two employees of the Board were suspended temporarily.

On detection of the foul play, results of the 52 examinees were withheld and the ministry was recommended to stop salaries and government grants for the college. A show cause notice was also served on the Principal as to why the examination centre of the college would not be cancelled.

Abdur Rahman, the Controller of Board, came here on Tuesday and filed the case against Principal Mujibur Rahman for cheating the HSC papers.




Poor road: A motorcyclist passes a damaged culvert cautiously on Shailakupa-Langal-bandha road near Kushbaria village under Jhenidah district recently while his companion looks on. Local people have urged the authorities concerned to repair the road immediately.

— Star photo by Delwar Kabir

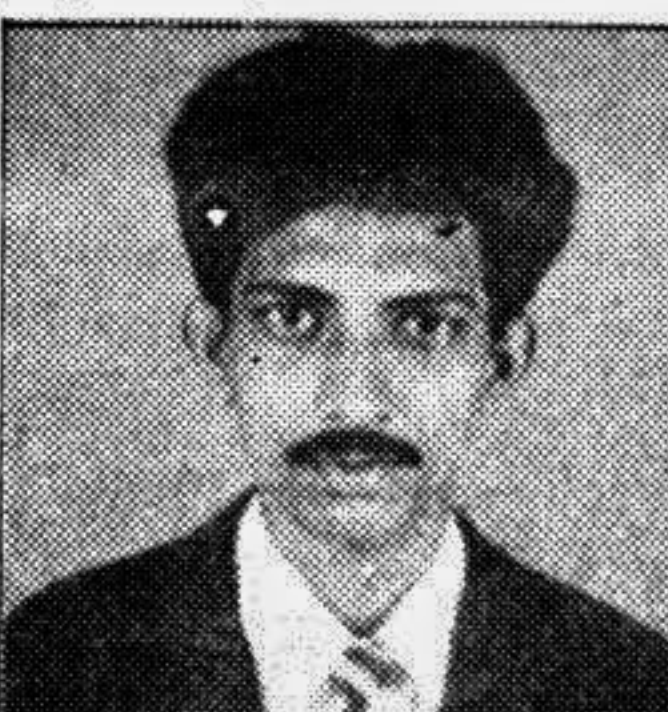
N'ganj BPJA executives

By Staff Correspondent



President

A 13-member committee of Narayanjan unit of Bangladesh Photo Journalists' Association (BPJA) was formed with Motiur Rahman Sentu (Desh Janata) as president and Tapash Shah (Aker Aoi) as general secretary at a meeting held in Narayanjan recently.



Gen Secy

Safuddin Bitu presided over. Other office-bearers of the committee are GM Mdunul (Weekly Fair News) and Pronab Krishna Roy (Sitalakha) as vice-presidents, Rafiqul Islam (Koboror Pata) and Tanjinn Ahmed Antu (Koboror Pata), Anisuzzaman Anu (Banglar Bani), Zakir Hossain (Weekly Fair News) -office-secretary, Shipon Ahmed (Koboror Pata)-cultural secretary, Pankaj Bhattacharya (Sitalokhya), Abu Sayeed Al-Kaderi (Sitalokhya), Swapan Saha (Prime) and Habibur Rahman Shyamal (Narayanjan) Posti as members.

Netrakona morgue beset with problems

NETRAKONA, Nov 6: The only morgue in the district is beset with manifold problems, including shortage of equipment and doctors, reports UNB.

With increasing number of unnatural deaths in 10 thanas of the district, the lone morgue at the Sadar hospital here can hardly cope with the pressure causing untold sufferings to relations of the victims.

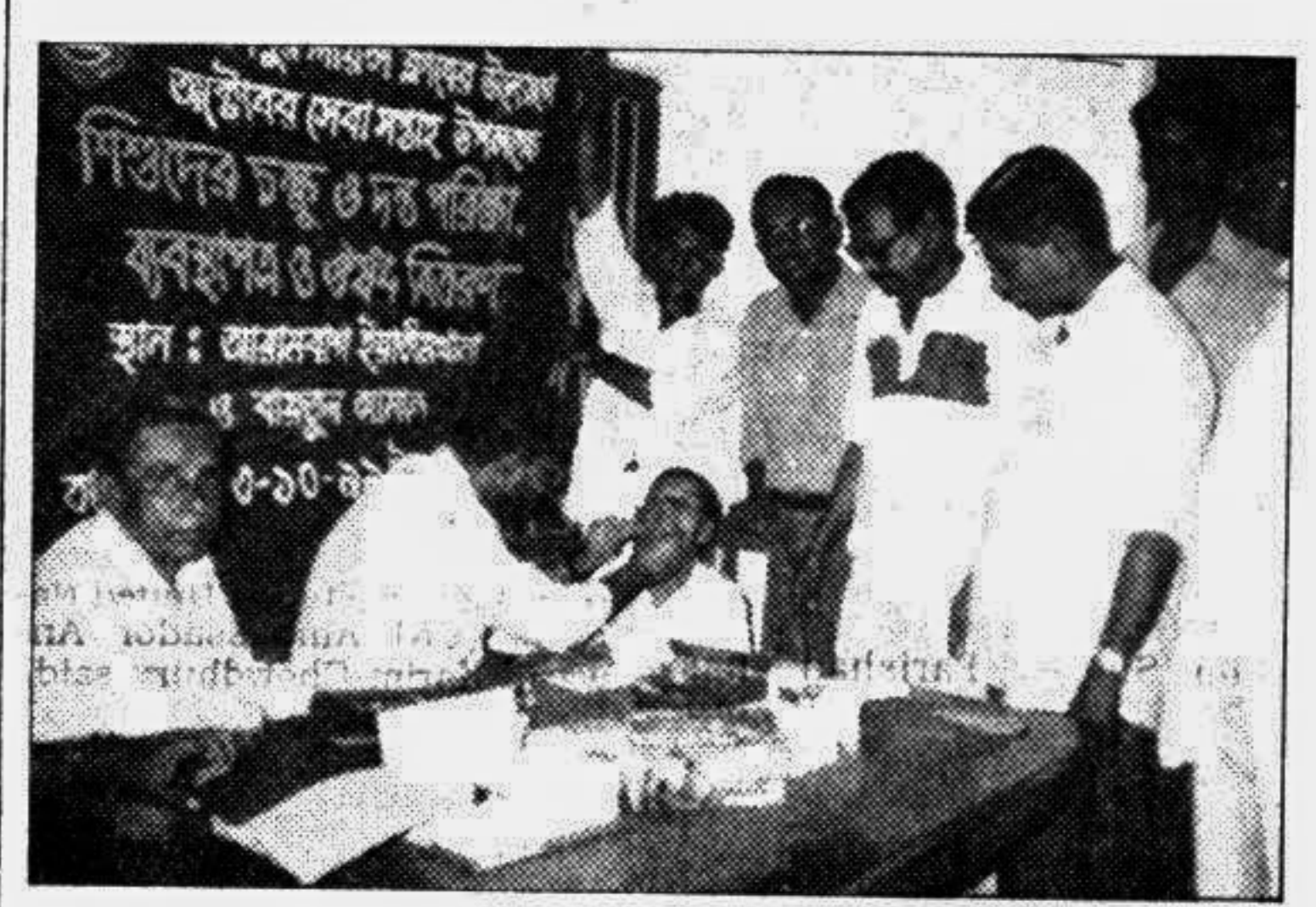
Being a backward district with inadequate communication network, relations of the victims face lot of difficulties to bring the bodies to the Sadar Hospital in the district town.

In most cases, they cannot reach early in the hospital with the bodies from remote areas of the district and have to stay overnight in the town as autopsy is not performed during the night.


Shortage of doctors and equipment also multiply their sufferings. Finally, it takes a couple of days to collect the autopsy report costing a large amount of money to the hapless relations of the victims.

People of the district urged the authorities to set up a morgue in each thana health complex to carry out post-mortem of the bodies.

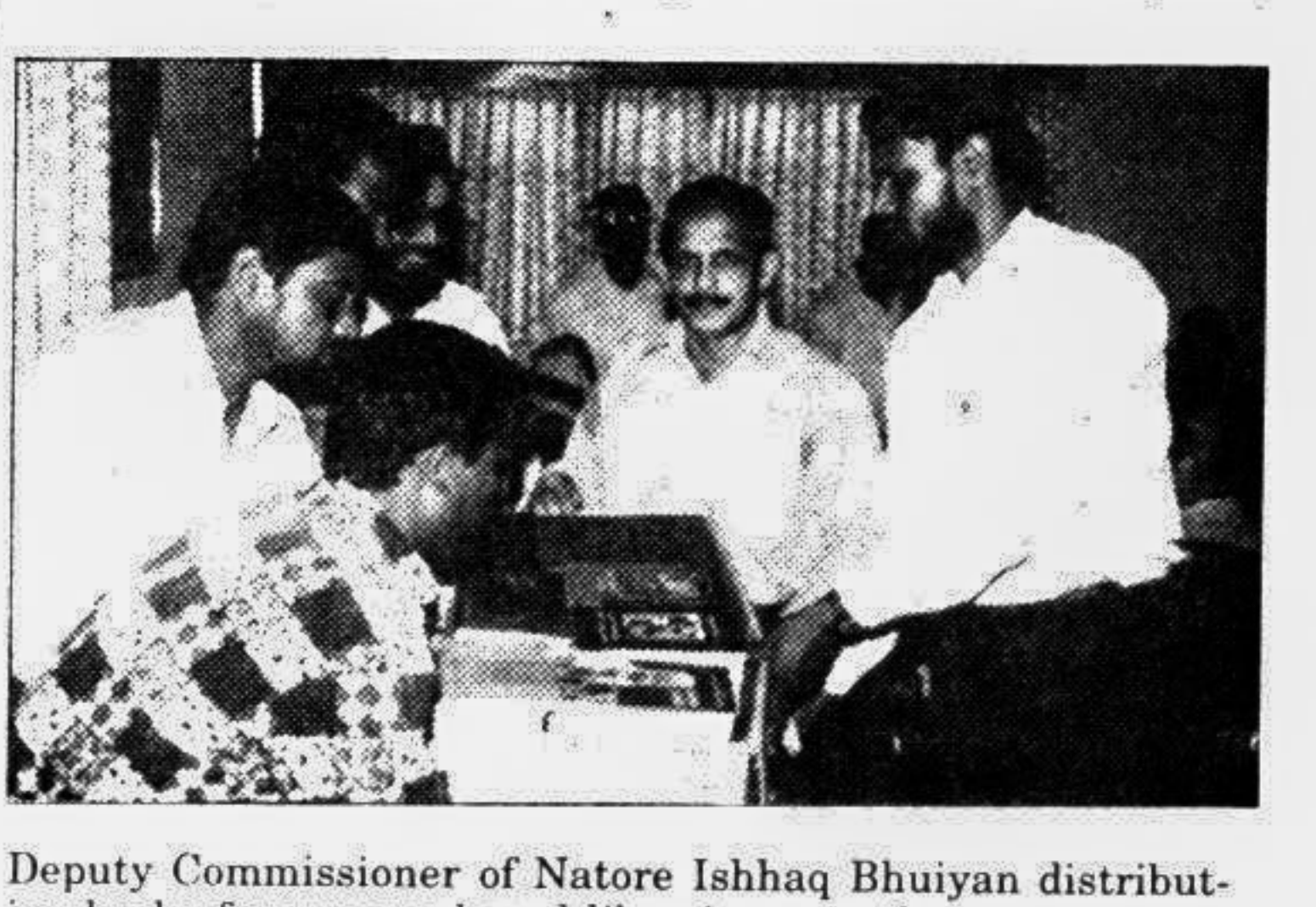
Events of districts in picture



A doctor attending a child recently at a medical camp, organised by Faridpur Lions Club, in Faridpur. —Star photo



Children performing in a cultural function, organised by Spandan Shilpi Gosthi, recently in Gaibandha. —Star photo



Deputy Commissioner of Nature Ishhaq Bhuiyan distributing books for mosque-based libraries recently.

Sirajganj DIARY

Youth killed in clash

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Nov 6: A young man was killed and four were injured in a clash over a trifle matter at village Rahimpur under Sadar thana on Tuesday.

The dead was identified as Abdul Wahab, 27, People from Dhopapara and Kodompal areas were involved in the clash. They used sharp weapons. The injured were admitted to Sirajganj Sadar Hospital.

Man crushed under wheels of train

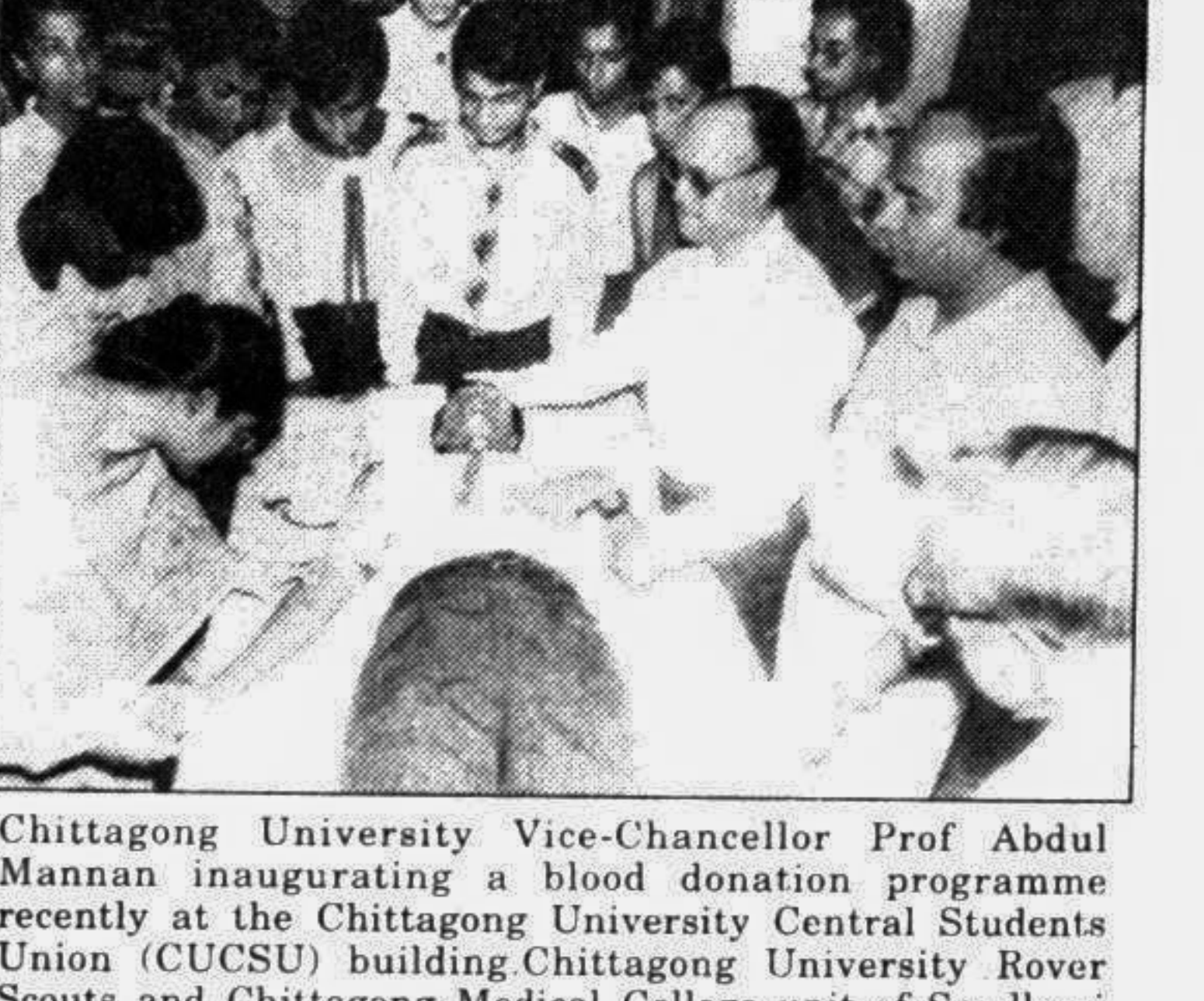
A man was crushed under the wheels of train recently near Ullapara station in the district.

The dead was identified as Sawkat Ali, 30, son of Nabir Uddin of Chatmohar village under Pabna district. Witnesses said when the young man was crossing the rail track at night the Ishwardi-bound train hit him. Police recovered the body and sent it to Sirajganj General Hospital for autopsy.

Cop killed in road accident

A police constable was killed in road accident on Bogra-Naragarbari near Garadha village under Ullapara thana recently.

He was identified as Abdur Rahim Mattohor, 27. Police said Mattohor was killed and Si Rejaul Karim seriously injured when a truck hit a motorcycle in which they were riding.



Chittagong University Vice-Chancellor Prof Abdul Mannan inaugurating a blood donation programme recently at the Chittagong University Central Students Union (CUCSU) building Chittagong University Rover Scouts and Chittagong Medical College unit of Sandhani organised the programme.

— Star photo

Sellers wait amid dirt and filth for buyers in Barabazaar kitchen market in Sirajganj town. —Star photo