

Upazila roundup

KUSHITIA

Islamic Varsity 1st year honours classes begin

Sept 10: The First-year honours classes of the Islamic University began here from Saturday, varsity sources said, reports UNB.

It may be mentioned that classes of the first-year honours could not be held on September 2 as scheduled earlier because of clashes between the activists of Islamic Chhatra Shibir and Bangladesh Chhatra League over taking possession of wall space for writing political slogans.

A five-member committee has also been formed to enquire into the incident that led to the clash and injury of 10 students including 3 seriously. The Syndicate in a meeting Saturday with Vice-Chancellor Dr Abdul Hamid in the chair decided that other classes and examinations would be held in due course.

The Vice-Chancellor called upon all to extend their cooperation in running the university peacefully. He also welcomed the freshers and asked them to devote to their studies to shoulder the future responsibilities.

BARGUNA

Property worth Tk 1.25 lakh gutted

Sept 10: Seven houses were damaged and goods worth about Tk 1,25,000 were burnt to ashes in a big fire at village Kalmegha under Pathergata upazila of the district last week, reports UNB.

A huge quantity of rice and other food grains were among the goods that were burnt.

The origin of the fire could not be known.

KURIGRAM

Husband kills wife for dowry

Sept 10: A young housewife of Uttar Tilai village of Shikuri union parishad under Bhurungmati upazila of the district was allegedly beaten to death by her husband for dowry Sunday, reports UNB.

According to family sources, the victim Kulsom Begum (18), when expressed her inability to bring dowry money from her poor parents, the greedy husband Fajul Hossain allegedly started beating her mercilessly. She died on the spot.

The body was sent to Sader hospital for autopsy.

A case has been lodged with the Bhurungmati police station in this connection.

COMILLA

Housewife jailed for smuggling

Sept 10: One house wife has been awarded one year's rigorous imprisonment in a smuggling case by the local court here, reports UNB.

The Additional Sessions Judge Md Emdadul Haque announced the judgement on August 31.

Sulfa Khatoon wife of Fazlur Rahman, ward master, Comilla General Hospital was also fined Tk 500 in default, to undergo an additional 15 days imprisonment. Three other accused persons including her husband have been acquitted.

The case in brief was that Comilla Kotwali police on a tip recovered and seized Indian sarces worth about Tk 4,700 from the official quarter of ward master Fazlur Rahman, his wife Sulfa Khatoon and two others.

Police after investigation submitted charge sheet against them.

KISHOREGANJ

Influenza spreading fast

Sept 10: Influenza has been spreading in all the upazilas of the district, affecting 75 to 80 per cent of the people so far, district health officials said, reports UNB.

The worst affected upazilas are: Karimganj, Tarail, Itana, Mitamain, Hossainpur, Bhatrab, Bagtipur, Katigadi and Sader.

Almost every family in these upazilas have one or more patients, they said. Doctors and health teams who visited the affected areas, said bad sanitation during rainy season, change of weather and consumption of adulterated foodstuff, could be the reason for the viral infection.

JHENIDAH

Villagers protest killing of a young man

Sept 10: The villagers of Pabahati under the pourashava brought out a procession Sunday in protest against the killing of a young man Kawsar Ali of the same village and demanded trial of the killers, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, Kawsar Ali was killed by some assailants on Saturday noon.

The processionists paraded the main thoroughfares of the town with the body of Kawsar and chanted various slogans in favour of their demands.

They also demanded immediate arrest of the persons responsible for the killing.

MAGURA

15 students injured in clash

Sept 10: About 15 students were injured, two of them seriously in a clash between two groups at the playground of district government boys high school on September 4, reports UNB.

The clash ensued over an inter-school football competition between Magura Academy and Magura Government Boys High School.

As the match was going on, some students attacked each other. Police resorted to lathi charge and brought the situation under control.

The two injured have been admitted to the local hospital.

No case was registered in this connection.

JAMALPUR

Couple drown

Sept 10: A couple drowned in the river Jhenai, a tributary of the Jamuna when a boat capsized near Ghusher Para Union under Melandah upazila in the district recently, reports BSS.

The victim Qurfin and his wife Rajmati of village Jhaougara were going by boat to Ghusher Para. The boat capsized in the river and the couple drowned.

Other passengers of the boat however, managed to reach the river bank.

FARIDPUR

Tumour weighing 5 kgs removed from abdomen

Sept 10: A big tumour weighing about five kgs was removed from the abdomen of a woman recently when she was operated upon at a private clinic here, reports BSS.

According to the clinic source, Hasina Begum (50) of Bhanga upazila of this district was admitted to the clinic with acute kidney ailment and hypertension. After necessary investigations it was found that the left kidney of the patient had been abnormally enlarged. Dr. Zahidul Haque, Consultant Surgeon of Faridpur General Hospital operated upon the patient and removed a big-size tumour weighing about five kgs. The kidney which became non-functioning was also removed. The operation was successful and the patient has already been released from the clinic.

The surgeon told BSS that this type of tumour in the kidney is rare. He said that the tumour has been preserved and would be sent to Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons for further investigations.

GAIBANDEHA

Rickshawpuller killed in road mishap

Sept 10: One rickshawpuller was killed and another received serious injuries when a speedy truck dashed two rickshaws at Dhanghara, three kilometre away from here on Saturday, reports UNB.

According to police and eyewitnesses, two rickshawpullers, Jamiruddin (30) of village Bahadurpur and Abdus Sabur (20) of village Tanojani under Sader upazila while coming from a by-lane of Gaibandha-Palashbari highway, were dashed by the truck (Dhaka Metro No 6442) bound for Palashbari from behind. Jamiruddin died on the spot.

Sabur was removed to Rangpur Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

Police seized the truck but the driver fled. A case has been filed in this connection.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a big public meeting at Hatir Bagan field in Shibchar upazila of Madaripur district on September 5. —PID photo

Prices of essentials go up in Chuadanga

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Sept 10: Prices of all essential commodities have shot up in Chuadanga causing great hardships to the general consumers particularly to the low-income groups.

Prices of rice, sugar, pulses, fish, meat and edible oil have registered a sharp rise. Masoor a popular pulse now sells at Taka 28 per kilo and Khesari which is largely consumed by the low-income groups is now being sold at Taka 20 to 24 per kilogram. Prices of spices particularly garlic and onion have gone up abnormally. Garlic is now being sold at Taka 40 per kg and onion Taka 18 to 20 per kg.

Prices of rice has also gone up abruptly though the harvesting of Aus paddy is still in progress. Rice is being sold in local markets between Taka 11.50 and 14.00 per kg.

Due to short supply prices

of all sorts of fish excluding hilsha have abnormally gone up.

Besides meat, high prices of eggs, milk, and edible oil is causing anxiety among the low income groups. Pure edible oil is hardly available.

It may be mentioned that most of the people of Chuadanga district have been suffering from various intestinal diseases due to consumption of adulterated mustard and soyabean oil which are now being sold at Taka 60 and Taka 40 respectively per kg.

It is apprehended that price of edible oil may further go up if the government does not take necessary step to check the price hike by supplying oil through rationing system.

On the other hand price of sugar has again gone up. Now it

is being sold at Taka 28 to 30 per kilogram.

BKB to disburse Tk 4.70 crore

The Bangladesh Krishi Bank has fixed up a target to distribute Taka 4,70,00,000 as a loan among the farmers and traders in four upazilas of Chuadanga district during the current financial year.

According to the official sources, the amount would be disbursed through ten branches of Krishi Bank in Chuadanga district. It would be distributed in Chuadanga Sader, Alamdanga, Damurhuda and Jibannagar. The loan is being distributed to purchase agricultural and irrigation machineries, bullocks, to build betel leaf baraj and for establishment of poultry farms and fish cultivation farms.

Chuadanga district Revenue office-cum-record room is in a

deplorable condition for a long time for want of proper repair and maintenance.

The small office and record room constructed during forities at first was used as Ansar office previous to the district revenue office-cum-record room. Many cracks have developed on the different parts of the room including its roof.

During rainy season water enters through the cracks of the room and is virtually flooded causing severe damage to important files and documents of the office. Polythene papers have been placed beneath the roof to save the records and files of the office.

On a visit to the office and record room of the revenue department, it was found that Head Assistant along with his staff engaged in work risking their lives.

Drug addicts on rise in Jamalpur

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Sept 10: The number of drug addicts is on the rise in the district resulting in further increase in anti-social activities.

The number of addicted youth both male and female has reached over 3000 affecting other youth in the district. It is gathered that male addicts between the age group of 14 and 35 are considered to be vulnerable while the percentage of female addicts is rising and many of them are married too.

The unemployed youth due to frustration get quickly addicted. Besides, a large number of transport workers, small

shopkeepers, restaurant owners, male and female college students and even a section of teachers and government officials and employees have become addicted to drugs, it is alleged.

The drugs are available in the shops within the municipal areas, all the road crossings, surrounding areas of the cinema halls, bus terminals, bus stand areas, surroundings of different hats and bazars.

Being failed to procure money from other sources these addicts take shelter under 'Gurus' of the localities who easily recruit and train them as thieves, robbers and dacoits.

It is alleged that the whole process is continuing under the patronage of certain members of law enforcing agencies and political parties.

When criminals are arrested the political leaders rush to the police station and ensure their release. If any police officer refuses to comply he is given threat of transfer which some times proved to be true.

Guardians of such mastans approach the police and other administrative authorities to detain their wards in prison to isolate them from their associates.

A renowned social worker of Jamalpur alleged that the police personally know almost all the drug addicts, mastans, 'gurus' and big and small liquor traders and smugglers but they hardly touch them. He also alleged that in Jamalpur town alone, there are 15 illegal liquor shops within the knowledge of the police but no legal actions are taken against such illegal traders.

Homeopathic stores have mushroomed at Jamalpur town. These stores actually sell liquors in the name of medicines after obtaining drug licences. Drug licence issuing authority issues licences without checking, it is alleged.

Local people have urged the higher authorities to take necessary action against people involved in illegal activities.

Law, order situation reviewed

KUSHITIA, Sept 10: A meeting of the District Committee was held here Saturday to review the law and order situation in the district with Deputy Commissioner in the chair, reports UNB.

Additional District Magistrate, Superintendent of Police, Upazila Chairmen and other public representatives participated in the discussion.

The meeting decided to gear up activities to nab the anti-social elements and sought cooperation from the members of the public in this respect.

It was disclosed in the meeting that 91 crimes were committed in the last month including 6 burglaries, 5 murders, 6 smuggling incidents, 3 dacoities, 2 thefts and one kidnapping. But in the month of July at least 99 crime were reported in the district.

The DC, however, dwelt at length on the prevailing situation and urged the officials to enforce law strictly to curb the crimes.

He also called upon the officials to maintain law and order during the ensuing referendum and expressed his firm determination to hold the referendum in a peaceful manner as was done during February 27 parliamentary polls.

The DC disclosed in the meeting that all preparations have been completed for the peaceful holding of the referendum.

Turning to the recent violence in the Islamic University campus, the DC said that adequate measures have been taken to resolve the dispute adding that law and order is being restored in the campus and classes are being held peacefully from Saturday.

Anti-terrorism rally held in Jhenidah

JHENIDAH, Sept 10: The district unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) held an anti-terrorism rally Sunday at the local Agrani Bank premises.

Speakers at the rally blamed Chhatra Moitry for creating terrorism in the town for the last few days. They also accused its activists of injuring three district level JCD leaders.

Presided over by JCD leader Anwarul Haque Badaha the rally was addressed, among others, by local BNP leaders Quasi Alau Hque, Abu Bakar Siddique and Advocate Abdul Majid and JCD leaders Walid Hassan Piquel and Shajedul Islam.

Mechanised boats threaten traditional boatmen

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Sept 10: Plying of mechanised boats in larger numbers at different parts of the district have thrown hundreds of traditional boatmen out of profession.

The engine boats are ferrying passengers and cargo in Assasuni, Kaliganj, Shyamnagar, Debhata, Tala, Kalaroa, and Satkhira Sader upazilas.

Thousands of traditional boatmen of these areas are passing hard days without having their daily earnings.

The engine driven boats have steadily been increased over the years.

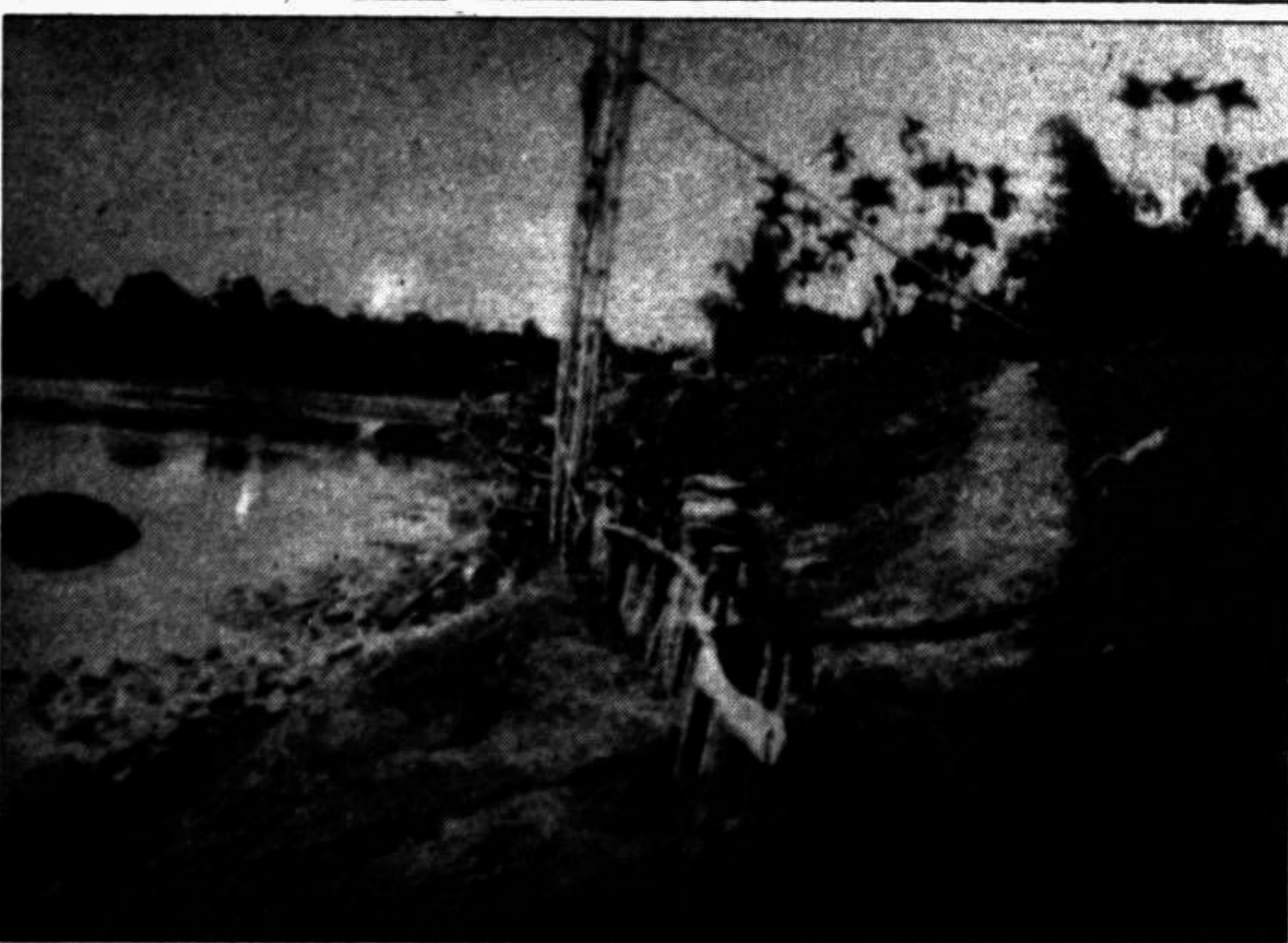
It is mentioned here that journey by engine boats is often hazardous due to lack of 'system control'.

There is no device to control the speed of mechanised boats during journey. A boat cannot be halted swiftly in case of necessity.

Besides, these are driven only forward gear and not backward. There is no gear box in it. Moreover instead of

search light, lantern is used in these boats at night resulting in serious accidents. Two or more mechanised boats coming from opposite direction often collide head on. Black smoke emitted by these boats is also hazardous.

According to the government rules, survey and registration of these boats are must but nobody abides by the legal procedures. Law enforcing agencies are also not much interested to check faults, it is alleged.



MAULVIBAZAR: Repair and reconstruction work of the Manu river embankment in progress. —Star photo

Destitute widows deprived of VGD wheat

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Sept 10 More than seven thousand destitute widows are deprived of VGD wheat since July '91 and are now almost starving.

It is learnt that a total of 7299 destitute widows of Shahzadpur, Ullapara, Tarash and Kamarkhanda upazilas under Sirajganj district do not get monthly allotment of VGD wheat since July last. Under the VGD scheme, every card holder destitute gets 30 kgs of wheat/rice every month. The card holders are to deposit Tk 25 each in the scheduled bank.

It is alleged that the UP chairmen and relief officers of the upazilas of Shahzadpur, Ullapara Tarash and Kamarkhanda failed to submit quarterly reports in time and the higher authority stopped allotments due for this reason.

Such negligence of local authority caused much suffering to the destitute widows of four upazilas in the district.

More than 3000 country boats mechanised by shallow tubewell engines are now plying in different waterbodies including the river Jamuna in different parts of Sirajganj district.

These mechanised boats are rampantly used to transport passengers and merchandise goods. The farmers are also intended in selling their engines to the boatmen rather than utilizing the same in irrigation purpose. As a consequence a large number of people residing in riverbelt areas and charlands have taken up boat-mishap following availability of

shallow engines. According to the farmers, the shallow tubewell engines often go out of order due to various reasons including lack of timely repair.

New born baby recovered from jute field

MAGURA, Sept 10: A new born baby was recovered last week from a jute field at village Mohishadanga under Moghli union of Sader upazila, villagers said, reports UNB.

A farmer of the village on his way to his work noticed a piece of cloth in the jute field on September 4. He pulled out the cloth out of curiosity and found a live baby wrapped in the cloth.

Tributes paid to Nazrul

FARIDPUR, Sept 10: Tributes were paid to the National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam on Saturday at a function organised by Faridpur Nazrul Parishad at local Shilpakala Academy auditorium to mark the 15th death anniversary of the poet, reports BSS.

Speakers at the function discussed various aspects of the life and works of the rebel poet and said Nazrul fought relentlessly against all sorts of injustice and oppression during the British rule.

They also highlighted Nazrul's contribution to Bengali literature and music. Among others the discussion session was addressed by Professor Strajul Islam, Principal Mia Lufar Rahman and Deputy Commissioner of Faridpur Mr Md Abdur Rahim, Principal Apurba Krishna Ghose presided over the function.

Smuggled goods worth Tk one lakh seized

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Sept 10: BDR personnel recovered Indian contraband items worth over Taka one lakh from a Dhaka-bound night coach recently.

Acting on a secret information, a BDR contingent led by Subedar Abdur Rashid raided a night coach Anjali Travel Dhaka DA-02-0049 and recovered two gunny bags full of Indian sarces and six carton glass worth over Taka one lakh. The goods were seized but none was arrested in this connection.

The people of the district are not getting proper treatment for want of adequate beds in the modernised hospital. This 50-bed hospital is unable to cope with the increasing number of the patients.

Hospital needs care

There is no proper medical facilities in the hospital. Everyday a large number of complicated patients return home disappointed for want of beds. Many emergency patients are found lying on the floor. Moreover, shortage of equipment, apparatus, specialists and surgical consultants are hampering treatment seriously.

There are only 10 beds in the surgical department whereas requirement of bed is 30 to overcome heavy rush of surgical patients. Besides, there is only one surgical consultant in the department and during his absence patients who need urgent treatment or intensive care often face difficulties.

At present there are only five beds in the eye department whereas demand is ten. There is no emergency power

supply unit in the hospital. Very often surgical department has to use torch light in the operation theater during power failure. A mini power generating unit should be set up in the hospital. Due to lack of blood bank patients face difficulties during blood transfusion. Moreover, desired blood donors cannot contribute for want of blood bank. The authorities concerned have been urged to take immediate steps to mitigate suffering of the patients.

Dacoits loot valuables

BHERAMARA (Kushitia), Sept 10: A dacoity was committed in the house of one Tozammel Hoque of Bamonpander, Bheramara pourashava area recently, reports BSS.

A gang of armed dacoits entered the house at about 7.30 pm and looted valuables at gun point. The dacoits decamped with goods which include 14 tolas of gold, four wrist watches, one cassette recorder, cosmetics and one television set worth about Taka one lakh fifty thousand.

The house owner Tozammel Hoq is now in Saudi Arabia. His wife and only daughter were in the house when the dacoity was committed.

A case was filed with Bheramara thana but none was arrested in this connection.

Shantibahini activist held

RANGAMATI, Sept 10: Security forces arrested a member of outlawed Shantibahini Sunday and recovered huge arms and ammunition from a house at Hatimara village of Naniarehat upazila of the district, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, the security forces raided the house and nabbed Shanti Moy Chakma. His associates managed to escape.

They also recovered a G-III rifle, a Chinese SMG, 29 rounds of bullet, 3 magazines, 74 rounds of ammunition, 2 LBS explosives, two grenades and huge quantities of wire from the house.

According to another report, a part of Balaka Cinema Hall at Nutun Bazar of Kaptai was damaged when a time bomb exploded at 7.55 pm on the same day.

Nadu Chakma (42), Thoai Ching Marna (35), Lal Moon Chong Thang Bom (18) and Kanangoo Tanchanga (25) were arrested in this connection. Deputy Commissioner Atfab Uddin Khan, Local Government Parishad member Rubayet Akhtar Ahmed and Captain Hasib on behalf of Kaptai brigade visited the spot.