

District roundup

MADARIPUR

JCD wins college union election

June 19: Jattiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wing of ruling BNP, swept the students union election of Madaripur Government Nazimuddin College, reports UNB.

College sources said JCD won 17 seats out of 21 including the VP and GS in the election held on Tuesday. The other four seats went to Chhatra League (M-I).

Abdul Manna Khan and Mizanur Rahman were elected the VP and GS respectively, the sources said.

JAMALPUR

Jamuna erosion turns serious

June 19: Some 300 families in three unions of Islampur thana were rendered homeless due to erosion by the river Jamuna during the last few days, reports UNB.

Official sources here said Thursday the erosion and flood in the district took a serious turn following incessant rain over the last few days.

Standing crops on a vast track of land in the three unions — Belgacha, Kulkandi and Chhainaduly — were washed away by the flood water during the period.

Officials said Bahadurabad Ferry Ghat and Gohail Bazar were also threatened by the erosion.

According to officials a total of 25 villages of the unions devoured by the river in last two years.

Local people urged the concerned authorities to take immediate steps to check the erosion and send relief materials to the affected people.

CHAPAINAWABGANJ

School beset with numerous problems

June 19: The Nayaw Lavanga Primary School, beset with multifarious problems, is hindering the government primary education programme, reports UNB.

About 350 students of the school, situated in Shibganj thana, have been facing serious difficulties due to shortage of classrooms, furniture and other appliances.

Shortage of class rooms compels the teachers to hold their classes under open sky.

The school lacks supply of pure drinking water due to absence of tubewell which forced students to use contaminated pond water.

Shortage of teachers also hampers the education seriously. Local people alleged that most of the teachers are not regular in taking their classes as they remain busy with other business.

Guardians of the students urged the concerned authorities to look into the matter and take necessary steps to ensure smooth education.

PIROJPUR

4 sentenced to life term

June 19: Four people were sentenced to life term rigorous imprisonment (RI) for throwing acid on a school girl, says UNB.

Court sources said the District and Sessions Judge M Kamaluddin also fined the accused Taka 10,000 each, in default to suffer three years more RI.

According to prosecution, the accused Dulal, Zahid, Farook and Abu threw acid on Rumana Akhter Rukshana (16) at her residence in Mathbaria thana in February 28, 1992.

The Judge after examining the witnesses and evidences delivered the judgement on Wednesday.

JHENIDAH

Brief road barricade

June 19: Agitated people barricaded the Dhaka-Kushtia highway near Jhenidah Cadet College Tuesday Morning blocking road communication with North Bengal to protest the killing of a compounder in a road accident Monday night, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Shaukat Ali (46), a compounder of the Cadet College. He was returning home after duty at 10 pm when a truck crushed him under its wheels near the college.

Protesters put up barricade at 5 Tuesday morning and withdrew it after five hours following assurance of justice given by the district authorities.

A case was filed with Jhenidah thana in connection with the accident.

SIRAJGANJ

Another 700 families under open sky

June 19: Some 700 families of 15 unions in four thanas of the district were rendered homeless by Jamuna river erosion in the last 24 hours till 6 pm Tuesday, reports UNB.

Sources said five riverside villages in Kazipur thana were devoured by the swelling river during the period. The villages were Charshingrbari, Mesuakandi, Tekhanipara, Fakirpara and Khudbandi.

Five schools and four mosques also went down the gorge of the river. The mosques were Mesuakandi Masjid, Tekhanipara Masjid, Khudbandi Masjid and Patgram Masjid. The destroyed schools were Khudbandi High School and four primary schools.

Water Development Board sources here said the homeless took shelter on the sprawling flood control embankments.

Sources added at least 30,000 people of 6,000 families had been left homeless by unabated erosion in last one month.

KUSHTIA

Huge arms recovered

June 19: Kushtia police during a month-long special operation ending on June 10 recovered huge arms and ammunition from different areas of the district, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the recovered arms and ammunition included 75 illegal arms and 90 rounds of ammunition.

The arms included cut rifle, local made rifle, revolver, pistol, single barrel gun, double barrel gun, pipe gun etc.

During the operation police arrested three absconding convicts and 211 persons wanted by the police on various charges.

BARISAL

Workshop on uplift works of women

June 19: Badhumata Seva Samity, a local Non-Government Organisation, held a six-day workshop on women development and training at its office premises recently, reports BSS.

Ms Delwara Islam, chairman of the organisation, inaugurated the function. It was attended by 20 members of 13 different NGOs of Barisal town.

Dr Abdul Hadi, consultant of World Health Organisation (WHO) was present as chief guest.

The inaugural function was addressed among others by Prof. Bijal Rani Halder, Jaherunnessa (Nipu), Shamsun Nahar Rahman and Mir Maniruzzaman.

The training was imparted by Joyrab Akhter of Women Development Strength, Dhaka and Shahida Begum, Executive Director of the same organization.

MAGURA

4 commit suicide

June 19: Four people, including three women, in three thanas of the district allegedly committed suicide during the last two weeks, reports UNB.

Police said Rawshanara Begum (45), wife of Khalilur Rahman, of Ghashira village in Sreepur thana killed herself by taking poison on June 5.

Soloka Rani (18), wife of Mritanjoyee, of Charpara village in Sadar thana also took her own life by taking poison.

Ali Sikder (25), son of Motalab Ali Sikder, of Fulbaria village in Mohammadpur thana committed suicide by taking poison.

Mita Begum (13) of Sdoharpar in Sadar thana also killed herself by taking poison. The causes behind the deaths could not be ascertained, police added.

Separate cases were filed with respective police stations.

NARAIL

PDB worker electrocuted

June 19: A field employee of the Power Development Board, Rafiqul Islam (40) was electrocuted on Thursday, reports BSS.

Eye witnesses said Rafiqul Islam was working on the electric line in the street. He came in touch with a live wire and was electrocuted. He was sent to the Lohagara Health Complex where the doctors declared him dead.



MADARIPUR: Scarcity of fish has put local fishermen almost out of business for quite some time. Here is an example of a fishing net lying idle in Tubia area of the district. — Star photo

Writ petition on legality of Bazar Fund Administration

From Our Correspondent

Rangamati, June 19: The people of Rangamati Municipality and Bazar Fund area will file a case on the legality of Bazar Fund Administration and its activities established in 1937.

The decision was taken after three days discussion at a meeting held here recently with Advocate Ahmedul Haque in the chair. Among others, former Magistrate Haripada Chakma, Dr A K Dewan, former Municipality Chairman Mahabubur Rahman, former Commissioner Sayedul Haque Talukdar, Political Leaders Badul Alam and Badsah Miah participated in the discussion.

The Bazar Fund Administration would supply electricity, water and discharge garbage alongside co-ordinating with hats and bazars with their maintenance and development immediately from the establishment in

1937 as there was no other agencies in that area to look after those, the meeting observed.

With the inception of Rangamati Town Committee in 1967, the Bazar Fund Administration become in active and no service oriented activities by it continued to render, where as regular realisation of taxes, selam on the statement of land and land taxes are still in operation, compelling the town dwellers in paying double taxes since then, the speakers said.

At present the Power Development Board supplies electricity & the Public Health Engineering Department is looking after the maintenance of hats and bazars by the municipality authority alongwith rendering of philanthropic activities. In addition, the Local Government Council and the Chittagong Hill Tracts De-

velopment Board are implementing development works in and around the municipality area.

With the introduction of Local Government Council system in the Hill Tracts region, the Bazar Fund Administration was placed under their administration with the existing set-up, speakers told.

The speakers demanded the control and co-ordination of hats and bazars to be placed under the revenue departments like all other districts in the country.

The meeting unanimously decided to file a writ petition in the High Court appealing to stop inclusion of land in Bazar Fund Administration, realisation of taxes illegally and realisation of selam on settlement of land violating the civic rights. The meeting also demanded the cancellation of British law on Bazar Fund Administration.

Notes from Gazipur

From Our Correspondent

GAZIPUR, June 19: Kaliganj thana police arrested two terrorists with UP chairman in anti terrorism act for attack on a newsman in Kaliganj thana of the district recently.

According to the police, Shahidullah, a Correspondent of Daily Ittefaq in Kaliganj thana was attacked by some local armed terrorists at 9 pm recently.

Shahidullah was returning home after his duty. When he reached near college road a group of armed terrorists led by Abdul Baten Morol, UP Chairman of Jamalpur attacked him. Some local people were present there and they saved Shahidullah.

On that night a group of armed terrorists attacked the house of Shahidullah at the dead of night and entered the house forcibly and they demanded ten thousand taka.

Protest meeting

A protest meeting was held at Gazipur Press Club premises by the journalists of Gazipur district for attack on the newsman, Shahidullah recently.

The meeting presided over by MAI Boro, President of Gazipur Press Club was addressed among others by Gazi Abdus Sattar, Secretary of Press Club, Ataur Rahman, Staff Reporter of Daily Janata, Mr Mukul Kumar Malik (Sangbad), Shafigul Islam (Daily Inqilab), M A Matin (The Daily Star).

Clinton's letter to a school girl

Bill Clinton, the President of USA sent a letter to a school girl in Bangladesh.

Mchbuba Rahman Ratna is a student of class X of Tongi Pilot High School and College. She wrote a letter to Bill Clinton before the US presidential election. She wrote Clinton, "you must win the election. You will do something for the world."

US President Bill Clinton in reply wrote a congratulatory letter to Ratna. He said, "I was so very pleased to receive your warm message of congratulations. I've been humbled and also thrilled by the tremendous outpouring of support and enthusiasm from around the world."

The next four years will pose many critical challenges. Al Go... and I look forward to doing all we can help to make the future better for everyone."

Night college inaugurated

The inaugural ceremony of Tongi Night College was held at Tongi Pilot School & College hall room recently.

The inaugural function was chaired by Hasan Uddin Sirker (MP). In his inaugural speech, Sirker said, it is the only Night College for two lakh people of Tongi. They will get the chance to read in this college.

Teachers who will teach us this college will not take salary initially.

Safuddin Sirker academy building was used for the college as temporary basis.

Later a 31 member executive committee was formed with Hasan Uddin Sirker as President and Shabder Ali Master as Secretary.

Ansar, VDP rally held

The annual rally of Ansar and Village Defence Party (VDP) of Gazipur district was held here at Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute (BARI) premises recently.

Major General Syed Badruzzaman, Director General Bangladesh Ansar and Village Defence Party attended the rally as chief guest. In his speech, he called upon the Ansar and VDP personnel to devote themselves in nation building activity.

Abdus Salek, ADM, Gazipur presided over the rally.

Scarcity of medicine hampers treatment in health complexes

From Our Correspondent

MADARIPUR, June 19: Scarcity of medicine in different health complexes in the district has been causing inconvenience to the patients.

Local people alleged that simple medicines like dettol, paracetamol are not available in almost all the thana health complexes.

A huge numbers of patients coming from far flung areas to the thana health complexes everyday are to go back disappointed due to lack of proper treatment and admission facilities.

Some of thana health complexes are without doctors and it is alleged that in the absence of physicians, staff compounders or staff members give prescriptions to the patients.

The doctors posted in the rural areas are reluctant to discharge their responsibilities as they are found busy arranging transfer to urban or town areas.

It is also alleged that some doctors without attending the patients at the health complexes are busy with their private practice.

The physicians of the thana and union health complexes are also said to be unwilling to attend the outdoor patients due to non-availability of medicines.

According to officials sources Taka 2.5 lakh is sanctioned every year for medicine for

about 20 lakh people in 10 thanas and pourashavas in the district which is quite inadequate to meet the local demand.

Wheat production

About 11200 metric tons of wheat is expected to be produced in eleven southern district under Barisal Agriculture Zone (BAZ) during the current season.

The districts are Barisal, Madaripur, Rajbari, Gopalganj, Shariatpur, Barguna, Faridpur, Patuakhali, Pirojpur, Jhalakathi and Bhola.

According to an official source, a total of 58,560 hectares were brought under wheat cultivation in these districts this year.

Indiscriminate felling of trees

The number of fruit-bearing trees is gradually decreasing in the district due to indiscriminate felling of the trees.

The poverty stricken poor people of the district are selling their trees like mango, jackfruit, blackberry, woodapple, lichi, palm and other species to the wood traders to meet their livelihood costs.

The demand of wood has been increased largely due to its increased use in the brickfield and also for making furniture. On the other hand, the plantation of trees were not

increased proportionally. Squeezing of land due to construction of houses also barred the rural people from tree plantation.

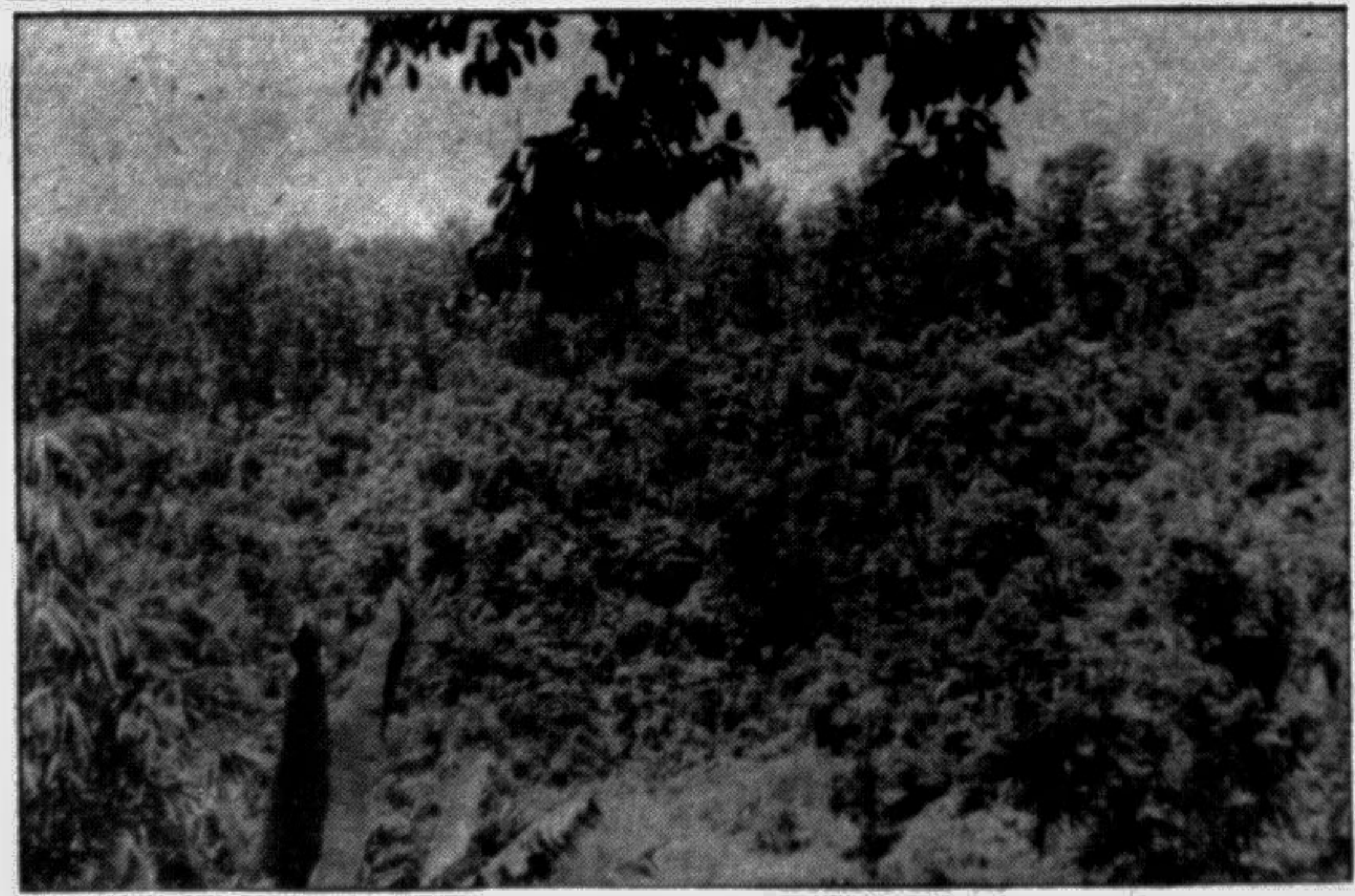
Despite the government ban, the brickfield owners are using wood for manufacturing brick. A large quantity of wood is also being used in match and biscuit factories, furniture factories and as fuel. Wood traders are also purchasing huge quantity of wood every day to meet their requirement.

Experts said the wanton felling of trees is adversely affecting the environment causing ecological imbalance in the district.

PHE sinks 40,000 tubewells

The Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department has already completed sinking of about 40,000 shallow and more than 2,500 deep tubewells to ensure the supply of pure drinking water particularly to the rural people of Madaripur, Barisal, Faridpur, Bhola, Jhalakathi, Patuakhali, Pirojpur, Barguna, Shariatpur, Rajbari and Gopalganj under Barisal circle.

According to official sources, the PHE fixed a target for sinking 1395 deep and 2,500 shallow tubewells, 150 deep set pumps and resinking of 1800 shallow tubewells in the circle during the current fiscal year.



A view of a forest area of Rangar in the Hill Tracts. — Star photo

Influx of Indian arms

Random at Jessore, Jhenidah border

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, June 19: Influx of Indian arms and explosives into Bangladesh through different border routes of Jessore and Jhenidah is reported adversely affecting law and order situation of the country since long, said a source.

It is learnt, police recovered a total of two hundred fifty three illegal arms from different places of greater Jessore in three years and four months ending April last, while conducting combing operations against the anti-people elements.

According to detailed information, police recovered sixty eight illegal arms in 1990, eighty five in 1991, seventy three in 1992 and seventeen in four months from January to April, this year.

Another source said that BDR and police nabbed eleven Indian citizens from Narail, Magura and Jhenidah with Indian arms in last four months. Recently police rounded up Indian dacoit Shudhansu of Jhikra in West

Bengal from Noaripara of Moheshpur in Jhenidah, with powerful Indian explosives, thirty eight Indians with arms from Benapole in Jessore in separate raids.

Reports received here also indicate that an organised gang is active in carrying arms and explosives from across the border for anti-people elements including outlawed party activists. Arms including revolver, pistol cut-rifle, shotgun, and pipeguns, so far recovered by police, are manufactured in underground workshop of India.

According to statistics, four hundred people were shot dead in ten districts of Khulna division during last one year. In Jhenidah, fifty eight were gunned down during the period from January to May 20, in the current year.

Halt of arms in infiltration and recovery of illegal weapons are pre-condition for restoration of law and order in the country, said a group of socially aware people.

Ten thousand child labourers below twelve years in Barguna

BARGUNA, June 19: The number of child labourers are on increase in the district due to economic hardship, reports UNB.

Unofficial sources said that about 10,000 child labourers below twelve years were engaged in different odd jobs for earning their livelihoods.

Continuous floods, drought and other natural calamities have made the marginal and landless farmers destitutes. Many of them became sick for want of food and lost working abilities.

Finding no other alternatives, the poor parents are forced to send their children for earning breads instead of providing them education.

The child labourers are engaged in hotels, restaurants, bidi factories, motor garage and workshops. Some of them are also found working hard jobs like playing rickshaws and working in brick fields.

Local people alleged that

taking the advantage of the situation, some unscrupulous businessmen and smugglers engage them in unlawful activities.

These children used to stay at railway stations and abandoned places, without minimum amenities, as they are not able to live in rented house.

The ill fated child labourers, who remain half fed most of the time, are attacked with various diseases and in course of time become weak for want of medicines and necessary food.

Although the International Labour Laws prohibit children below 15 years to engage in any hard work, this is not practiced. Moreover, the child labourers have to work more than 12 hours a day at a minimum wage, sources said.

Local people urged the concerned authorities to rehabilitate the child labourers on an urgent basis.

200 projects completed in six southern districts

BARISAL, June 19: Facilities Department of Education Ministry completed the 200 projects in six southern districts of Barisal Division at a cost of Taka 7,88,91,000 during the last two years, reports BSS.

The districts covered by this programme are: Barisal, Jhalakathi, Bhola, Pirojpur, Patuakhali and Barguna.

According to an official source, the projects included the construction of nine two-storied government primary schools in the urban areas, 52 government primary schools in rural areas, and repair, extension and reconstruction of 123 government primary schools in different districts.

Of the total, 52 schools were constructed under the financial assistance from the Islamic Development Bank

(IDB) and the rest from the government own resources the source added.

One hundred and forty seven projects were completed in 1991-92 fiscal year at a cost of taka 7,06,95,000 and 57 projects in 1992-93 fiscal year at a cost of 81,96,000, the source said.

Besides, the department also constructed eight non-teaching office and residential buildings at a cost of taka 1,06,97,000 during the period.

On the other hand, construction of five district primary education offices, one four-storied academic and administrative building and one three-storied students hall is progressing fast in these districts at a cost of Taka 1,58,24,000.

Only hospital beset with problems

Number of TB patients on increase in Satkhira

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, June 19: The number of TB patients is increasing alarmingly in seven thanas of Satkhira district.

The only TB clinic in the district is beset with enormous problems causing much suffering to the increasing number of patients.

The clinic established in 1964 is extending treatment facilities to the patients. Normally 10 to 15 patients visit the hospital every day and every year about 20,000 new TB patients and admitted to the clinic, who get out door treatment on fixed dates subject to prior appointment.

According to the sources, the overall environment of the clinic is not at all hygienic. Toilets and urinals remain dirty as they are not cleaned regularly. Water supply is totally absent. There is no X-ray plant in the hospital which is essential for the TB patients.

Besides in absence of boundary wall a section of miscreants of the locality engage themselves in anti-social activities in the clinic compound after office hours.

Moreover cattleheads including goats move freely

which are left by neighbouring people for grazing in the clinic compound polluting the atmosphere and creating health hazard to the patients.

There are 14 staff members including one medical officer and one junior consultant. Two posts of LHV are lying vacant for long.

Residential facilities are not provided to the staff. On the other hand roof of the clinic is in a very deplorable condition.

No steps have yet been taken to mitigate the sufferings. The local people stressed the need for improving the environment of the clinic area.

Storing and processing of skins of the animals in the residential areas of Satkhira pourasava is posing health hazard to the people and the pedestrians.

When the raw skins are salted in the open spaces adjacent to roads bad odour emits all along in the areas causing health hazard to the people of the town.

In addition they have constructed sheds for this purpose in the residential areas with least consideration of the public annoyance and sufferings.