

District roundup

SYLHET

355 uplift schemes undertaken

From Our Correspondent
Aug 21: A total of 355 development schemes has been taken up in 11 thanas of Sylhet district under the Post-Flood Test Relief Programme (PFTRP). The Relief and Rehabilitation Directorate has sanctioned a total of 700 metric tonnes of wheat for execution of these schemes.
According to an official source, the schemes will be implemented through project committees under the different thana parishes. The schemes include, repair and improvement of roads, embankments and other damaged by the recent devastating floods throughout the district. Of the total sanctioned quantity of wheat, 110 metric tonnes of wheat will be spent for execution of 38 schemes in Jaktiganj thana, 75 metric tonnes for 31 schemes of Kanaighat, 85 metric tonnes for 41 schemes in Beanibazar, 70 metric tonnes for 42 schemes in Gowainghat, 75 metric tonnes for 48 schemes in Golapganj, 95 metric tonnes for 55 schemes of Balaharj, 20 metric tonnes for seven schemes of Fenchuganj, 90 metric tonnes for 49 schemes in Sylhet sadar, 20 metric tonnes for 20 schemes in Jaintapur, 40 metric tonnes for 24 schemes in Biswanath and 20 metric tonnes will be spent for execution of nine schemes in Companyganj thana.

MALDIVE COURT

Town faces manifold problems

Aug 21: Noakhali Poursahava is beset with multifarious problems causing inconvenience to the town-dwellers, reports UNB.
The dilapidated condition of roads, absence of proper drainage system, inadequate water supply and street lights made the civic life miserable.
Various ponds, ditches and other waterbodies of the town are filled with water hyacinths, which are the ideal breeding centres of mosquitoes. Mosquito menace have assumed an alarming proportion causing spread of malaria and other diseases.
Only one-fourth of the total length of roads in the poursahava is metalled. Cracks and pot-holes have developed at many points of the roads. The kutcha roads become muddy and slippery after a slight rainfall. The sufferings of the dwellers increase manifold in the rainy season.

BHARIA

One killed, 20 injured in road accident

Aug 21: A two-month-old boy was killed and 20 people were injured, nine of them seriously, when a passenger bus fell into a roadside ditch near Godol in Sarail thana of Brahmanbaria district today (Saturday), police and passengers said, reports UNB.
The boy, identified as Shah Alam of village Shialkuri in Sadar thana of Brahmanbaria district, died on the spot.
Of the seriously injured passengers, five were admitted to Sarail thana health complex while four others were taken to Brahmanbaria Hospital.
Police and passengers said the Madhabpur (Habiganj) bound bus from Brahmanbaria fell into a roadside ditch this afternoon after hitting a tree while trying to give side to a truck coming from the opposite direction.

SIRAJGANJ

Prison house threatened by Jamuna erosion

Aug 21: Prisoners of Sirajganj jail were evacuated Tuesday evening as the turbulent Jamuna eroded the nearby embankment and threatened the prison house, reports UNB.
About 50 yards of the town protection embankment in front of the jail were devoured by the swelling Jamuna at about 6:30 pm, and there remained only 2 yards to swallow the jail.
Police said 350 inmates of the jail were transferred to Sadar Thana Court Hajat, Sadar Thana Hajat and Judge Court Hajat on an emergency basis.
The erosion threatened the embankment at the same place five days back and Water Development Board checked it by throwing 10,000 cft CC Block (stones) into the river.

PABNA

Two arrested, bombs seized

Aug 21: Police arrested two people from Raghobpur area of the town Tuesday and seized bombs and a huge quantity of bomb manufacturing materials from their possession, says UNB.
Acting on a tip, police caught JCD activists Md Sachchu (30) and Md Tutul (25) when they were making bombs and also recovered 25 bombs and some equipment from Sachchu's house.
Three other accomplices escaped, stabbing police constable Atuzzaman (30). He was admitted to Pabna Police Hospital.
A case was filed with sadar thana in this connection.

CHITTAGONG

Islamic education programme

Aug 21: A two-day Islamic education day celebration-93 programme of Chittagong city chapter of Islami Chhatra Shibir began at the Muslim Institute Hall here Wednesday, a Shibir press release said, reports BSS.
According to growers, jute is being sold between Taka 120 and 140 per maund and paddy is being sold between Taka 120 and 145 which is below the production cost.
Local farmers informed that production cost of per maund of jute is between Taka 250 and 270. Jute and paddy are the only cash crops of the district, they added.
When contacted, some growers said they are in great difficulty due to sudden fall in prices of two cash crops. They informed that in spite of repeated appeal no purchasing centres have yet been opened in the district by the government to ensure fair prices of their produce.
Some traders alleged that different jute mill companies failed to pay off their arrears of jute sold to them in the last two to three seasons.
The farmers have urged the

NOAKHALI

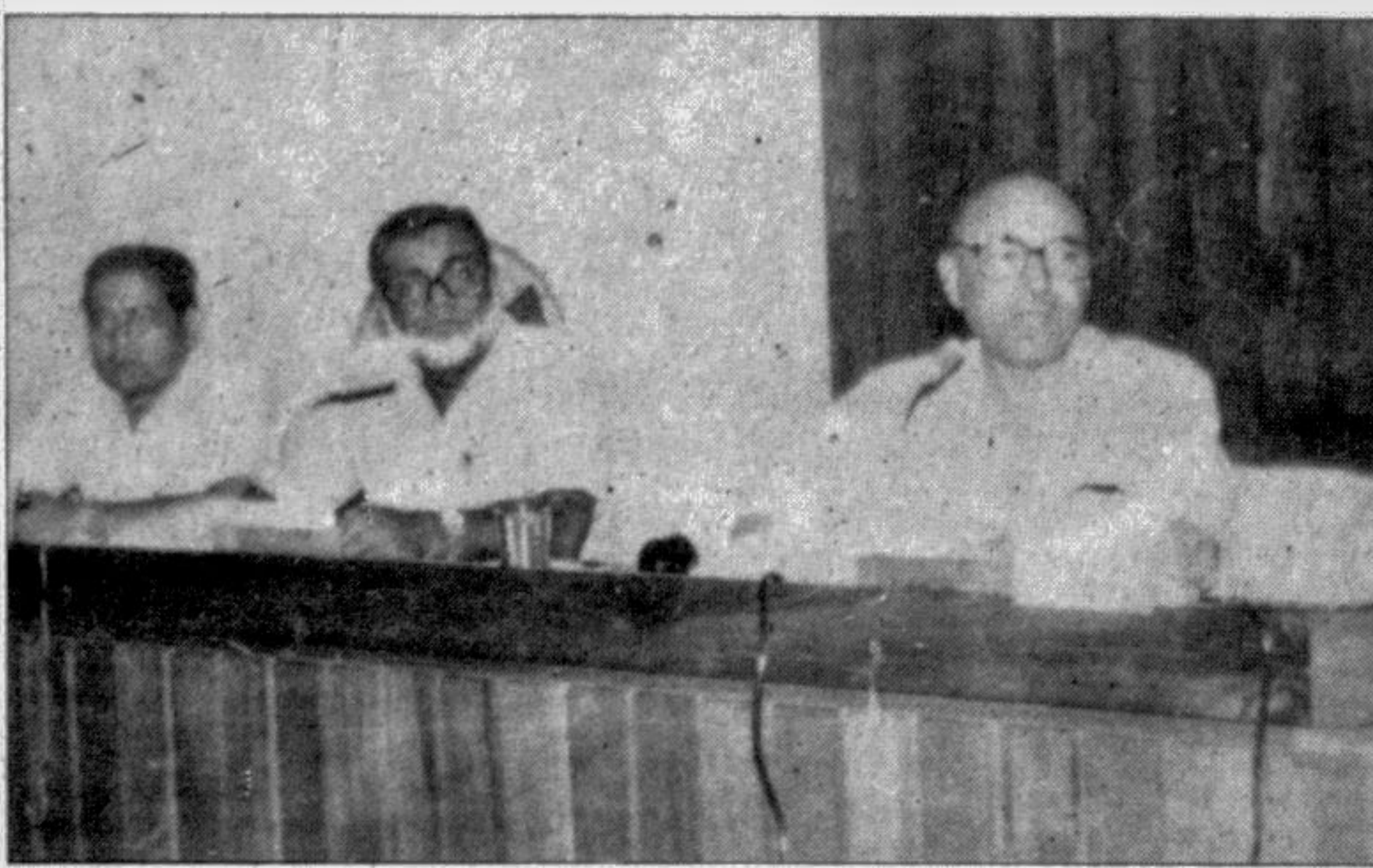
Training school admission programme suspended

Aug 21: Admission of students into Noakhali Medical Assistant Training School remained suspended since 1985 due to shortage of fund, reports UNB.
It was established with the financial assistance from Netherlands government in 1980 and began to enroll students to train them as paramedics.
During the 1980-'85 period, the school trained up about 500 students who are being absorbed by the rural health centres and different hospitals under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
However, the training school, together with 17 other educational institutions, financed by the Netherlands government, remained closed since 1985, as the contract between the two governments could not be extended.
It is gathered that the agreement could not be extended due to the negligence of the concerned authorities — the school management committee and the related department as well.
On the other hand, so far Taka one crore has been spent for the payment of salary of the doctors, workers and employees of the school.

GAIBANDHA

One killed by assailants

Aug 21: A youth was killed brutally by unknown assailants in the town Saturday, police and hospital sources said, says UNB.
According to the sources, Abdur Rashid (22) was dragged by the miscreants to a nearby area and stabbed to death. The miscreants left the place hanging the body from a tree.
The reason behind the murder could not be known immediately. The body was sent to Gaibandha Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy and a case was filed with the police.
Another report from Satkhira adds: A daring theft was committed on Sunday at the house of Advocate Azharul Hoq in which the burglars decamped with valuables worth about Taka 40,000.
According to police, the thieves entered the house by breaking open the window in the absence of the house owner and looted cash, gold ornaments and other valuables in broad day light.
A case has been filed and police investigation is on.



RAJSHAHI: Dr Khawaja Amjad Saeed, Dean of Arts Faculty and Director of IBA, Punjab University, Pakistan (right) speaking at a seminar held recently at Senate Hall, RU. Prof Azhar Uddin, Pro-VC of RU (centre) and Prof Amiruzzaman Khan (left) are also seen in the picture. — Star photo

Jute, paddy selling below production cost

MAGURA, Aug 21: Prices of jute and paddy have gone down abruptly in different markets in four thanas of the district causing suffering to the growers, reports UNB.
According to growers, jute is being sold between Taka 120 and 140 per maund and paddy is being sold between Taka 120 and 145 which is below the production cost.
Local farmers informed that production cost of per maund of jute is between Taka 250 and 270. Jute and paddy are the only cash crops of the district, they added.
When contacted, some growers said they are in great difficulty due to sudden fall in prices of two cash crops. They informed that in spite of repeated appeal no purchasing centres have yet been opened in the district by the government to ensure fair prices of their produce.
Some traders alleged that different jute mill companies failed to pay off their arrears of jute sold to them in the last two to three seasons.
The farmers have urged the

government to open jute and paddy purchasing centres in the district to save them from economic bankruptcy.

Anti-social activities on increase

Anti-social activities are on rise in different parts of the district town causing concern among the residents.
Local elders said the anti-social elements are active in the bus stands, cinema hall, Natun bazar and Noman bazar areas and these points have turn into dens of gamblers, gay girls and drug addicts.
Besides, drugs like phensidyl syrup, sedaxin, morphin, alcohol and other intoxicants are being sold almost openly in the markets. The school and college students are the victims of the situation.
Meanwhile, snatching, hijacking and sporadic clashes among the local mastans are the regular features after sundown in the town. Local elite the mastans who are patronised some political parties can escape police arrest somehow or other.

The school and college going girls are often subjected to unwanted harassment by the hoodlums.

Housewife killed after gang rape

A young housewife was killed after gang rape at Jhagordia village in Mohammadpur thana, police said today.
According to villagers a gang of miscreants forcibly entered the house of Rokeya Begum (25), wife of Mohammad Sajal Khan and abducted her while she was sleeping with her two children on August 4 midnight. They raped her one after another in a nearby field and threw the body into a nearby pond after slaughtering her brutally.

8 hurt in rival groups clash

At least eight people were injured, three seriously, in a clash between two rival groups of people at Kalinagar village in Sreepur thana, police said.
The seriously injured Torab Ali (25), Momrej Ali (30) and Haider Ali (18) were sent to Sadar hospital.

Notes From Khulna

KHULNA, Aug 21: A discussion meeting on "Women's legal rights," organised by Bangladesh Federation of University Women's Club was held at Khulna Pioneer School on Friday.

It was also addressed by Principal Anwara Begum, Prof Mamtaj Begum and Advocate Taslima Khatun with the President of the Federation Sajeda Haque in the chair.

The speakers dwelt at length on the subjects of inheritance, marriage and divorce law, law regarding dowry and rights of women preserved in the constitution of the country.

They said the women who constitute half of the population are subjected to various deprivation and torture in the society as the laws cannot provide adequate safeguard for them.

Poorer section of the women community are the worst sufferers and almost every day incidents of brutal killing and torture are taking place here or there, they said.

They called upon the government to come forward to save the women from the hand of oppressors and create congenial atmosphere so that they can participate in the development activities.

Fish Fortnight '93 concludes

A fortnight long fish and tree fair jointly organised by the district administration and Agriculture Extension Department was concluded here on Saturday.

Ashraf Hossain, Whip of Jatiya Sangsad distributed prizes and certificates among the participants on the concluding day.

Fish farmers Wazed Ali and Aziz obtained the first and second prizes respectively among the 51 participants.

City Mayor Sheikh Tayebur Rahman and Deputy Commissioner Kazi Rajul Haque addressed the prize giving ceremony.

1,344 electric lines snapped

Power Development Board (PDB) snapped 1,344 electric connections in Khulna region for non-payment of arrear bill of Taka 1.38 lakh.

PDB sources said 724 lines were disconnected in Faridpur district, 340 lines in greater Khulna district, 176 lines in greater Jessore district and 104 lines in Barisal district.

Meanwhile, local PDB office realised Tk 8.90 lakh outstanding bills in the last month. The mobile court of the board also realised Taka 57,000 as fine from the illegal power consumers in the same month.

The above news were reported by UNB.

Teachers urged to play pioneering role

Whip of Jatiya Sangsad Ashraf Hossain asked the teachers to play their pioneering role to improve the standard of education and implement the government's education policy. He was speaking at a function held here recently in connection with the handing over cheques for government grants to various educational institutions.
Cheques of Taka three lakh and fifty thousand for twenty three educational institutions were handed over on the occasion.

The function as presided over by Deputy Commissioner Kazi Reazul Huq. It was attended by the teachers of different educational institutions and president of Bangladesh College Teachers Society.

The above news were reported by BSS.

Ex-cadets team renders medical service to flood affected people

The JEXCA, the association of the Ex-Cadets of Jhenidah Cadet College, under its emergency medical assistance programme, sent a 7-member medical team to the flood affected Rajnagar thana of Maulvibazar district, says a press release.

The team includes three doctors and four volunteers.
The JEXCA, being a voluntary organisation, is engaged in social welfare activities since its inception. The JEXCA provided health care coverage for a sustainable period of time at the outskirts of Chittagong city and Kutubdia Island of Cox's Bazar district in the aftermath of 1991 cyclone. After the devastating flood in 1988, JEXCA operated a 20-bed diarrhoea hospital at Mirpur of Dhaka for a month with a view to combating threats of diarrhoeal diseases. The members of the association actively participate in such endeavours completely on voluntary basis.

3,580 tonnes of wheat for destitute families

BARISAL, Aug 21: Government has sanctioned 3,580 metric tons of wheat for distribution among 9,549 destitute families of Barisal district under Vulnerable Group Development Programme (VGDP) during the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to district Relief and Rehabilitation Office sources, this wheat will be distributed at the rate of 31.25 kilograms per family per month through 86 centres of the districts.

Of the total, 72 metric tons will be distributed among 300 families in Barisal Sadar thana, 651 metric tons among 1,736 families in Agailjhar, 735 metric tons among 1,960 families in Gournaidi, 146 metric tons among 390 families in Hizla, 293 metric tons among 782 families in Mehendigonj, 163 metric tons among 435 families in Muladi, 145 metric tons

among 387 families in Babugonj, 157 metric tons among 420 families in Bakergonj, 974 metric tons among 2,599 families in Uziarpur, 90 metric tons among 240 families in Banaripara thanas and 112 metric tons among 300 families in Barisal pourashava areas, the source said.

Another report says: Livestock Director sanctioned Taka 9,11,250 as incentive bonus to owners of twentyfour non-government dairy firms of Barisal district in last fiscal year.

According to an official source, district committee recommended over of 57 non-government dairy firms for incentive bonus.

Twentyfour out of these 57 owners received the incentive bonus for better performances this year.

Farming of local varieties of paddy on decrease

BARUNA, Aug 21: The cultivation of local varieties of paddy is decreasing in Barguna, Patuakhali, Pirojpur, Bhola, Jhalakathi and Barisal districts, reports UNB.

The farmers of the districts previously grew different local varieties of paddy namely Panisial, Binipakri, Khirshahog, Kalijira, Dudkumar, Dhyapa, Uknimda, Sattia, Poraigi, white Aus and Kalamanic on their land.

These varieties grew abundantly. After the harvest of the varieties of paddy, the farmers used to procure sufficient straws which were used as fodder and there was no scarcity of fodder then.

Owing to the sharp fall in the cultivation of local varieties of paddy, many problems have now developed including scarcity of fodder.

The production cost of IRRI-Boro is increasing day by day with the increased price of agricultural inputs. Farmers alleged that the price of the agri-inputs have now gone beyond the purchasing capacity of the peasants.

Besides, the local varieties of paddy are more nutritious than IRRI-Boro, local experts said.

Some farmers of Barguna Sadar thana told UNB that the local varieties of paddy could be cultivated without using fertilizers and irrigation facilities. Moreover, the production cost is also very low. But the cultivation of IRRI-Boro was impossible without using fertilizers and irrigation facilities.

The per-acre production cost of IRRI-Boro is very high and many farmers of the region unable to spend such an amount, have now run into debts.

Other crops cannot be cultivated after harvesting IRRI-Boro and as a result the cultivation of these varieties of paddy have become less profitable.

Before the introduction of IRRI-Boro, the farmers could produce three crops in a year.

The IRRI-Boro is now cultivated in large scale in Barguna, Patuakhali, Bhola, Pirojpur, Jhalakathi and Barisal districts but the authorities have taken no steps to operate power-pumps in order to minimise the production cost of the paddy.

Besides, the local varieties of paddy are more nutritious than IRRI-Boro, local experts said.



GOPALGANJ: The artistes of local Nandan Shahitya Sanskritik Sangstha rendering songs on the occasion of 'Sraboni Baran Festival' held at the local public hall recently. — Star photo

1.25 lakh handlooms now under lock and key

BARISAL, Aug 21: More than one lakh 25 thousand handlooms of six districts of Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola, Jhalakathi, Borguna and Pirojpur out of one lakh 40 thousand are now under lock and key.

As a result, thousands of weavers who are dependent on this profession have become jobless and leading a sub human life with their family members.

According to reliable source, many weavers have already changed their hereditary profession weavers have no future as the prices of necessary articles like yarn, dyes and chemicals have gone up and those are beyond the buying capacity of the poor weavers particularly in village areas. Government has also imposed a high-rate tax on dyes and chemicals they informed.

On the otherhand, smuggling of cotton clothes from India is rampant which is a vital problem for our handloom products. Unusual competition has made the future of local products bleak. Future, the government policy for granting loans and realising the same has made the financial condition of the poor weavers miserable.

It is learnt that the government had so far disbursed Taka 90 crore through different organisations which has now reached at an amount of about 450 crore taka with interests.

According to weavers, they have already paid up more than 310 crore taka and still them, the rest of the amount are still lying outstanding with the weavers. It should be exempted, they urged.

Stress on semi-intensive shrimp cultivation

KHULNA, Aug 21: Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan has said that the government has declared technology based pisciculture as an industry to raise fish production in the country, reports BSS.

The minister was addressing a seminar on semi intensive shrimp cultivation in the context of Bangladesh, held here on Thursday. It was jointly organised by Khulna district administration and BSCIC. The inaugural function was addressed, among others, by Khulna City Corporation Mayor Sheikh Tayebur Rahman, Secretary, Ministry of Industries

A H M Abdul Hye, Bangladesh Shrimp Cultivators Association President Dr Aftabuzzaman, BSCIC Chairman Moniruzzaman Chowdhury and Khulna Divisional Commissioner Abdul Muktaadr Chowdhury.

The objective of the seminar is to disseminate knowledge about the semi intensive shrimp cultivation system in the country for yielding maximum production.

It may be mentioned that 2,365 kgs of shrimp had been produced in an acre through semi intensive shrimp cultivation in Khulna area this year.



The JEXCA (association of the ex-cadets of Jhenidah Cadet College) medical team rendering services to the flood victims of Maulvibazar.