District roundup

SIRAJGANJ

15 hurt in group clash

Sept 15: At least 15 people were injured, one seriously, when two rival groups clashed in Patagram village in Kazipur thana Sunday night over stealing of sugarcane, reports UNB.

Police and witnesses said the clash ensued when supporters of Soleman Master allegedly attacked the supporters of Bahar Master with hockey-sticks, clubs and other lethal weapons.

The clash was a sequel of stealing of some sugarcanes from a field of Bahar Mastar by allegedly a son of Soleman Master two weeks ago.

The seriously injured Abul Kalam (24) was admitted to Sirajganj General Hospital. He received serious head injuries.

Police arrested two people identified as 'Sohrab Master and Shah Alam in connection with the clash.

A case has been filed with the police.

NAOGAON

Hospital in poor shape

Sept 15: The 50-bed Naogaon District Hospital is facing manifolds problems, including lack of accommodation, forcing the patients to leave the hospital without proper treatment, reports UNB.

The hospital also lacks modern facilities, specialist and trained nurses depriving the patients of proper treatment, local people alleged.

The post of senior consultant in medicine, anaesthetist and orthopaedic surgeon have long been lying vacant.

The 50-bed hospital is inadequate as large number of patients pour into it from across the district everyday.

Local elite have urged the government to extend the number of beds of the hospital to 150 and transform the hospital into a modern one as was assured earlier by Health and Family Planning Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf.

C' NAWABGANJ

Workers Party committee formed

Sept 15: A 25-member Sadar thana committee of the Bangladesh Workers Party was formed here in a party meeting held last week, says UNB.

Md Akhtar Hossain, Israil Hossain and Omar Faruk were elected convenor and joint convenors. Saiful Alam Shantu chaired the meeting.

Another UNB report says: A nine-member Nachol Thana Banik Samity was elected at its general meeting last week.

Md Asgar Ali, Nurul Islam and Abdur Rashid were elected president and vice-presidents resepectively.

KHULNA

Adulterated mustard oil seized, 3 arrested

Sept 15: Police seized 72 tins of adulterated mustard oil from Anjuman Oil Mills in Daulatpur thana and arrested three people, reports UNB.

Following a tip-off Khulna Metropolitan Detective Police seized the adulterated Mustard oil from the mills on Friday and arrested mill owner Abdul Wahab, Manager Atar Ali and Shahidul. A case was filed with the local police.

Another message from Narsingdi adds: Police arrested an alleged notorious dacoit from Banichal village in Sadar thana on September 1.

Police acting on a secret information raided the house of the dacoit Kawser and nabbed him with a pistol. A case has been filed in this connection.

MAGURA

4 pipe guns recovered

Sept 15: Police recovered four unauthorised pipe guns with six rounds ammunition from two separate places in the district, reports UNB.

While on patrol duty, a police party, led by Inspector Sheikh Sirajul Islam of Sadar thana, Recovered two abandoned local-made pipe guns with three rounds of ammunition on a road at Sibrampur village on August 24.

Another police party, headed by Inspector Rokunuddin of Salikha thana, found two pipe guns with three rounds of ammunition abandoned on a road at Kaltola village on August 10 while patrolling the village and recovered the arms and ammunition.

Separate cases were filed with the police.

FARIDPUR

One miraculously escapes death

Sept 15 : A man miraculously escaped death after remaining trapped for four hours under a truck that rolled into a road-side ditch here on Monday, reports UNB.

Police and local people cut the chassis of the truck and rescued Sultan Khan (40) when he was almost dead undergoing the ordeals during which he could somehow keep his head above mud and water of the ditch.

The accident occurred at Muslendupur, 35 kilometres off the town, on the Dhaka-Khulna highway as the truck overturned while overtaking a night coach parked on the road and tumbled into the ditch.

Sultan, who was travelling by the truck, was thrown off into the ditch and then came upon him the truck.

He was rushed to Kamarkhali Health Complex in a critical condition and was later shifted to Magura sadar hospital.

The night coach caused another accident in quick succession causing injuries to five others.

Traffic on the highway was disrupted for seven hours following the accidents until police cleared the road.

COMILLA

3 held with Tk 24.76 lakh smuggled goods

Sept 15 : Bangladesh Rifles nabbed three smugglers and seized contraband goods worth about Taka 24.76 lakh from the border areas of the district during the last month, reports UNB.

The seized goods worth about Taka 24.60 lakh were recovered while being smuggled into the country and the contraband goods worth about Taka 15000 seized while being smuggled out to India.

The goods were handed over to the Customs Department. Several cases were filed with the police.

Another report adds that a mobile court of Power Development Board (PDB) conducted a drive in three villages of Brahmanbaria sadar thana and nabbed three unauthorised electricity users.

The court led by PDB Magistrate, Shaheen Ahmed Chowdhury also fined the accused. The team also realised Taka 11,000 as fine.

SAVAR

Hats, bazars in pitiable condition

Sept 15 : The hats and bazars of Savar and Dhamrai thanas have been facing manifold problems causing inconveniences to both the sellers and buyers for long, reports UNB.

Most of these markets including Savar bazar, Ashlia, Nawarhat, Fulbaria, Dhamrai bazar, Jatrabari, Kalampur, Dhantra, Kawalipara, Barabaria and Gangutia are in pitiable conditions.

Many hats have no sufficient sheds and during the rainy and summer seasons the sellers and buyers have to undergo a lot trouble. Scarcity of drinking water and sanitary latrines are also causing problems to the people.

Garbages are dumped shelter and skelter polluting the environment. The situation become worse during the rainy season. Moreover, most of the kutcha roads of the markets become muddy after a slight rainfall causing serious problems.

MAULVIBAZAR

Unhygienic condition of restaurants

Sept 15 : The hotels and restaurants in the district town are running in a very unhygienic condition causing health hazards to the people, reports UNB.

A large number of hotels and restaurants have sprung up on the roadsides and in bylanes haphazardly. These hotels prepare and stores food in most unhygienic condition before the nose of the law enforcing agencies.

The people who come in the town for various purposes are to eat these foodstuffs. Many of them complained that fell ill after taking their meals in some hotels.

It is alleged that the health officials due to some underhand dealings do not take any action against these hotels and restaurants.

Local leaders urged the authority to look into the matter and take necessary measures in this regard.

'Semi intensive shrimp culture' project

Bank loan procedures keep 60 pc fund unutilised

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Sept 15 : The procedures to disburse bank loans have kept 60 per cent of 'semi intensive shrimp culture' project fund unutilised.

The $114m project was taken up in 1986 with the assistance of IDA and UNDP. The project sites were selected in coastal areas of Khulna and Cox's Bazar.

The donors — IDA, UNDP and Fisheries Ministry okayed 32 projects and forwarded the cases to the banks for disbursement of loans.

At present, 20,000 tons of shrimp are produced on 2.70 lakh acres of land in the costal areas of Khulna and Cox's Bazar districts adopting natural system. Sixty kg shrimp can be produced per acre through this system.

One farm at Cox's Bazar and two in Khulna have successfully produced 2700, 240 and 200 kg of shrimp per acre through the semi intensive culture during the current season.

The semi intensive shrimp culture increases production by 45 times more.

More than three lakh metric tons of shrimp worth about Taka 800 crore can be produced in two monsoon in a year utilising only one fourth of 2.70 lakh acres, an expert disclosed.

One can adopt the semi intensive shrimp culture in a pond covering 2.5 acre of land with six to eight feet in depth.

One arretor with power supply which has two fans can produce oxygen in the water and can also create waves in the pond.

The Chinese and locally produced arretor are now used in Bangladesh. The Chinese arretor costs Taka 12,000 while the locally made is available at Taka 8,000.

Galda and bagda varieties of shrimp are generally cultivated in our country. Chaka and harina types of shrimp are cultivated in less quantity as these are small in size.

Bagda type of shrimp has great demand in international markets because of its size quality and taste.

Bangladesh took up a 114 million dollar shrimp culture project in October 1986 with the financial and technical assistance of IDA and UNDP. But 60 per cent of the total fund could not be utilised till now, sources informed.

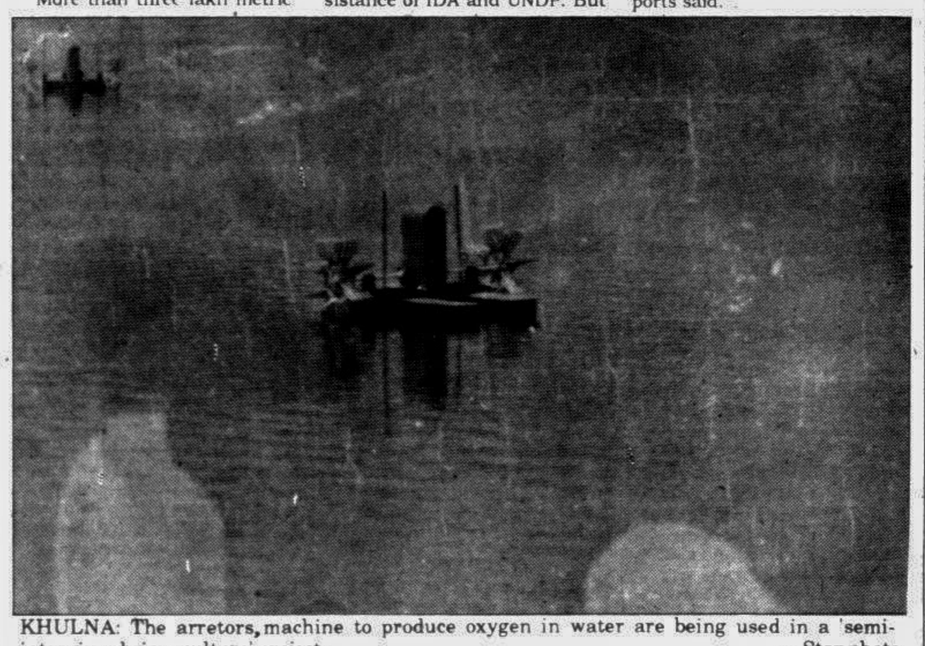
The project included creation of infrastructure, embankment and water control structures and hatcheries on 7000 hectares of project area of which 1400 hectares are in Khulna and 5600 hectares in Cox's Bazar.

The IDA soft loan could not be utilised as the banks did not find any viable party. The UNDP and fisheries ministry so far okayed 32 projects and sent those to the banks.

Most of the farmers do not quality for bank loans as they can not give proper security. However, the government has recently shown lenient attitude in this regard.

The total prawn fry requirement is three billion but 11 hatcheries including two in public sector can only supply 1.5 billion.

The farmers in Cox's Bazar and Khulna depend on fish fry from Burma and India. Necessary steps should be taken to meet the demand, exports said.



KHULNA: The arretors, machine to produce oxygen in water are being used in a 'semi-intensive shrimp culture' project. — Star photo

Poverty decreases pry school students

From Our Correspondent

MADARIPUR, Sept 15: The number of primary school-going children is decreasing in the remote areas of the district due to poverty.

A large number of children between the age eight and 12 years are engaged in different petty jobs instead of going to school to earn their livelihood.

The poverty-stricken farmers engage their kids in income generating works like cattle grazing, rickshaw pulling and as hotel boys. The children are compelled to take up these odd jobs.

Most of the marginal or landless farmers in the district have four or more children and are facing financial crisis. As a result, they cannot afford educational expenses for their children. Finding no other alternatives, they encourage their children to take up any job, they find.

During the harvesting seasons, a large number of farm labourers along with their kids migrate to other places in search of work. As a result, the primary schools in remote areas of the district have been facing acute shortage of students.

Shortage of teachers and other educational appliances in different primary schools has also deteriorated the progress in promotion of the CPEP.

Official sources said about one lakh students were enrolled in different government and non-government primary schools last year. Of them, 25,000 dropped out due to abject poverty.

Moreover, deplorable condition of most of the school is a great problem to carry on the primary education programme smoothly. Almost all the schools do have required number of teachers and other educational appliances such as chair, table, blackboard and benches for the students.

Besides, absence of reconstruction works in schools which were damaged in natural calamities also adds to the problems in implementing the programme, local people said. In many schools, classes are being taken under the open sky.

Shortage of funds and irregularities in district education office are hampering the reconstruction work, it is learnt.

Local people urged the government to immediately remove the bottlenecks to make the compulsory education programme a success.

Electric projects in Barisal

BARISAL, Sept 15 Work on rural electrification project at a cost of Taka 42 crore in Patuakhali district is going on in full swing, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the rural electrification board has been implementing the project with the financial assistance of World Bank (WB).

Meanwhile, a total of 300 kilometres of electricity lines has been built in the district till September 7 last.

Altogether, 20,000 consumers including, domestic and commercial, will be given connections in the area on completion of the project, the source added.

Another report says: Construction of connecting roads with 22 growth centres in five thanas of Barisal district with 1.293 metric tons of wheat has been going on in full swing. In the meantime, on an average, 92 per cent of the work has already been completed.

According to an official source, Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) has been executing this programme since 1991-92 fiscal year under World Food Programme. A total of 55 kilometres of these roads are being developed in Agoljhara, Muladi, Gournadi, Bakergonj, Uzirpur and Barisal sadar thanas.

WOMAN FIELD WORKERS: The women riding motor-cycles are the field workers of some NGO. They work in rural areas for the poverty alleviation of poor men in villages. — Photo by A. K. M. Mohsin

Notes From Khulna

KHULNA, Sept 15: Police seized 34 barrels of adulterated mustard oil from Ohid Oil Mill at KD Ghosh road in the town on Friday and arrested three people in this connection, reports UNB.

The arrested were identified as Golam Nabi, mill Manager, Babul Kumar Biswas and Akbar Ali.

Acting on a secret information, police raided the mill and seized the 170 maund adulterated oil worth about Taka two lakh.

Another message adds: Bangladesh Rifles seized smuggled goods worth Taka 18.65 crore during the last eight months (January-August) from different border areas of the district.

The goods worth about Taka 17.12 crore were seized while being smuggled into the country and contrabands worth Taka 1.52 crore were recovered while being smuggled out to India.

The goods include cattle-head, saree, drugs and raw materials. Several cases had been filed with the police.

Two arrested with pipe gun

Police in a drive at Sonadanga area in the city arrested two criminals alongwith a pipe gun and some ammunition on Tuesday night.

The arrested were identified as Sagor and Azizul.

Following a tip-off, police raided the house of one Sagor in the area and nabbed the two with a country-made pipe gun and two rounds of ammunition.

A case was filed in this connection.

Tk 38.45 lakh revenue collected

Power Development Board (PDB) collected revenue amounting to Taka 38.45 lakh from the Khulna region during the month of August.

Official sources said PDB also disconnected 2,232 electricity lines because of outstanding during the period. A total of Taka 1.48 remained outstanding in the region, they added.

Meanwhile, the PDB Court sentenced five people to different terms and fined 45 others Taka 1.4 lakh for illegal connection.

Seminar on malnutrition

A seminar on "Problem of Malnutrition and its Remedy" was held at the Zia Hall in the city on Tuesday.

The divisional administration organised the seminar in cooperation with the UNICEF.

The speakers said the problem of malnutrition was alarming in the country and stressed the need to bring awareness among all to check it and save lakhs of mothers and children from untimely death.

Presided over by Commissioner Abdul Moktadir Chowdhury, it was addressed, among others, by former Secretary and UNICEF Adviser Manjur-ul-Karim, Dr M Jahangir, MA Mannan and Dr TA Haque.

A total of 200 representatives from different educational institutions and voluntary organisations took part in it.

Lover gets his ears cut off

SIRAJGANJ, Sept 15: A young lover who went to meet his sweetheart at the dead of night was caught and disgraced mercilessly as her family members severed both his ears, reports UNB.

The incident occurred at Belkuchi after midnight Wednesday when Abdul Hashem (22) from a neighbouring village went on an assignation with his teenaged lover Sheuli (15).

But as ill-luck would have it, Hashem was caught by Sheuli's family members while he was waiting at the courtyard for the nocturnal tryst.

They beat up the embarrassed lover, first believing him to be a thief and then cut his ears when it was exposed that he was having an affair with the poor girl, the local people said.

Pabna JCD calls off hunger strike

PABNA, Sept 15: About 200 JCD activists called off their hunger strike here today (Tuesday) following the assurance of the Deputy Commissioner that "justice will be done" with regard to cases against their party colleagues, reports UNB.

They went on an indefinite hunger strike at the local Town Hall premises on Sunday demanding withdrawal of four cases filed against 39 JCD boys by police and pro-AL Chhatra League.

The Deputy Commissioner told UNB that he had given the assurance that justice will be done regarding the cases.

Bus journey hazardous

MAIJDI COURT, Sept 15: Bus journey in different routes in the district has become hazardous due to overloading, reckless driving and pitiable condition of the roads, reports UNB.

Local people complained that the overloaded buses move on the road at maximum speed causing accidents frequently. Most of the buses run in various routes without the valid licence or fitness certificates.

Passengers alleged that buses, mini-buses and coaches are always engaged in hard competition to pick up as much passengers as possible without taking into consideration of the capacity of their vehicles.

Most of the vehicles are also in deplorable condition and emit black smoke polluting the environment.

Moreover, bus services on Laxmipur-Chaumuhani, Chaumuhani-Feni, Feni-Maijdi, Raipur-Chaumuhani and Laxmipur-Maijdee routes do not follow the time schedule causing much delay in reaching the destinations. Office-goers are worst sufferers.

The condition of the roads including Chauddagram-Chaumuhani, Dagonbhuiyan-Bashur Hat, Raipur-Laximipur roads are also bad as cracks and potholes have developed at several points.

It also alleged that sometimes the bus conductors charge excessive fare from the passengers leading to frequent altercations and clashes.

Local people urged the concerned authorities to take immediate action in this regard.

Another report says: People of six villages around Shaikat Bazar in Sadar thana have been suffering due to absence of a sub-post office.

About 25,000 people of the villages have to walk about four kilometres to mail their letters at the post office at Pak-Kishoreganj.

Local people have been demanding a sub-post office at Shaikat bazar area to mitigate their sufferings but no step has yet been taken in this regard.

Another report adds: Inadequate street light in the poura areas has been causing much inconvenience to the town-dwellers.

They complained that most of the light posts are with fuse or no bulbs causing problems to the movement of pedestrians as well as vehicles after sundown. Moreover, the situation turns worse during the rainy season.

They further said that accidents occur frequently at many places in the town due to shortage of sufficient light.

The dwellers have urged the concerned authorities to look into the matter and take immediate steps in this respect.

Make FP programme a success: Mannan

GAZIPUR, Sept 15 : State Minister for Science and Technology Prof M A Mannan on Tuesday urged the people to make population programme and primary health care a success, reports BSS.

The minister was addressing a spontaneous gathering after laying the foundation stone of the KDDA Family Welfare Centre at Bashan union parishad sadar thana of Gazipur. Deputy Minister for Health and Family Welfare Sirajul Haq was special guest at the function.

Mannan said, no development plan will be successful in this over populated country without keeping birth rate within limit.

The government is determined to ensure health facilities to the people of rural areas. The construction of the Family Welfare Centre reflects the implementation of government assurances, he said.

The centre will cost Taka 19 lakh and it is expected to be completed within five months. The people of Bashan and its surrounding areas will be facilitated with health care and family welfare services.

Sirajul Haq said, "health for all within 2000" AD is not only a slogan but a commitment. The government is working with firm resolution to implement the programme.

He urged the people to come forward to make this programme a success. He also called upon the people to adopt birth control to arrest population boom.

Clash over fishing in river Titas, 25 hurt

BRAHMANBARIA, Sept 15: At least 25 people were injured in a clash between two rival groups on Sunday over catching fish in the river Titas, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, the clash ensued while the villagers of Shahbazpur protested the neting and fishing of villagers of Rajumaniakandi in the river. They attacked each other with lethal weapons near a highway bridge at Shabazpur.

Road communication between Dhaka-Sylhet was disrupted for half an hour due to this clash. Ten injured people were given first aid at Sadar hospital. No case was filed in this connection.

Another message from Maulavibazar adds: A boy drowned in a pond on September 8 at Chitlia village of Kamalganj thana, police said.

The victim, identified as Babul Miah (2), slipped into the pond while he was playing by the side of its bank with his mates. His body was later found floating, family sources said.

Another report adds: A Juba Moitry leader was injured in a clash between the supporters of Chhatra Moitry and Chhatra Shibir in the town on Saturday.

Witnesses said both the groups brought out processions chanting various slogans in favour of their respective candidates of the coming college elections.

The clash ensued when the processionists of both the organisations came face to face near Masjid Road in which Juba Moitry district convenior Abdur Noor received injuries.

He was admitted to sadar hospital in a critical condition.

Police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control and arrested four activists of Shibir and three activists of Chhatra Moitry in this connection.

A teen-aged girl was kidnapped and later gang-raped by unknown miscreants at Charkhala village in Sadar thana last week, says UNB.

Local people and family sources said a group of three miscreants forcibly entered the house of Shamsu Miah and kidnapped her daughter Husne Begum (14) to a remote place while she was sleeping with her sister.

The miscreants later violated her one after another. A case was lodged with the Sadar thana police.

None was, however, arrested so far.

People urged to work for removal of illiteracy

FARIDPUR, Sept 15: The International Literacy Day was observed here through holding of seminars, rally and discussion meeting, reports BSS.

The inaugural function was held at Dormakandi Primary School in the suburb of the town where Health and Family Welfare Minister Kamal Ibne Yusuf was the chief guest.

The minister in his address urged all to work unitedly to remove the curse of illiteracy from the society to help eradicate poverty from our country.

In this connection, a seminar was arranged at local Kabi Jasimuddin Hall in the evening. The seminar was presided over by Principal Mian Lutfar Rahman.

Health and Family Welfare Minister addressing the seminar said that the present government had made highest budgetary allocation for education sector. He also mentioned about other measures undertaken by the government for removing illiteracy.

Among others KM Nurul Huda, Deputy Commissioner of Faridpur, Superintendent of Police Fazlur Rahman, Pourashava Chairman Fazlul Kabir Chand, Headmaster of Faridpur High School Zainul Abedin and Professor Md Shahjahan took part in the discussion.

The seminar was followed by a musical soiree.

Another report from Chuadanga adds: International Literacy Day was observed here in a befitting manner.

The programme of the day included discussion meeting, seminars, and children rally.

A colourful procession was brought out in the morning in which students and teachers of different schools and colleges took part.

The processionists raised different slogans in favour of spreading literacy among all section of people.