

National

District roundup

TANGAIL

Ahmadiya
yatimkhana
executives

Sept 21: The Annual General Meeting and election of Madhupur Jameed Islamia Syed Ahmadiya Yatimkhana was held Friday at its office premises, reports BSS.

Professor Md Kamruzzaman presided over the meeting. Maulana Muhammad Abdus Salam Rajee, secretary of the organisation placed the annual report.

The meeting in a resolution lauded the contribution of State Minister Lutfar Rahman Khan towards the yatimkhana and also congratulated him on his appointment as state minister for industries.

The meeting also elected an executive body of fourteen members for a three year period headed by Moulavi Md Abdul Basit.

KHULNA

Take more
initiative
to pry edn
programme'

Sept 21: Jatiyo Sangsad Whip Ashraf Hossain called upon all to take more initiative for making the government's education-for-all programme a success, reports BSS.

He was inaugurating the food for education programme of Khulna district at Samantashena Government Primary School under Rupsha thana in Khulna district Sunday.

The function was addressed among others by Advocate AH Deldar Ahmed and Deputy Director of Primary Education Prof. Kabiruddin Ahmed.

Highlighting the positive benefit of education, Ashraf Hossain said that education was a must for ensuring individual and national progress. He said the present government had realised the problems of the poor who could not send their children to school due to poverty. It had thus taken up the epoch-making programme like food for education programme. Later he inaugurated the programme by distributing the wheat among the students under this programme.

RAJSHAHI

Training course
for imams
concludes

Sept 21: A 45-day-long training course for imams organised by Imam Training Academy ended here on Monday, reports BSS.

A total of 107 imams from seven districts of Rajshahi, Nawabganj, Natore, Naogaon, Bogra, Pabna and Sirajganj participated in the course.

The main objective of the training programme was to train the imams of Islamiat, mass-education, family welfare, agriculture, forestry, livestocks and fisheries.

Divisional Commissioner of Rajshahi M Arminul Islam was present as the chief guest at the concluding session and distributed certificates and first aid bags among the trainees.

The function was presided over by Executive Director of Barind Multipurpose Development Authority M Asaduzzaman.

FARIDPUR

Int'l seminar
on rural
transport,
development

Sept 21: A five-day long international seminar on rural transport and development jointly organised by Local Government Engineering Department and International Forum for Rural Transport and Development of the United Kingdom will begin here from September 26, reports BSS.

According to an official source the seminar entitled first Asian regional seminar on rural transport and development is designed to project matters related to rural transports, rural infrastructures and other related problems of Bangladesh. According to the source about fifty representatives from UK, Laos, the Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Nepal, India and Bangladesh would attend the seminar.

According to the source the seminar has been organised here with a view to acquainting the participants with the rural environmental problems related to transport and communication system of the country.

LORD and Co-operatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukder will inaugurate the seminar.

SIRAJGANJ

25 hurt as
JCD, Shibir
activists clash

Sept 21: Twenty-five students were injured, three seriously, in a clash between activists of JCD and Shibir in Beluchi Government College here on Monday, police and witnesses said, reports UNB.

The seriously injured — Ariful Islam Sohel (22), GS of Beluchi Thana Shibir, and Abdul Malek (19) and Sohel Aman (22), President and GS of the college unit of Shibir respectively — were admitted to Sirajganj General Hospital.

Shibir alleged that the JCD activists armed with iron rod, hockey stick and other lethal weapons attacked the three Shibirites in front of the college at noon.

Later, chase and counter-chase between the supporters of the two rival student groups continued for about an hour, leaving at least 22 students injured. They were given first aid.

The JCD blamed Shibir for spearheading the attack.

CHITTAGONG

Stress on
industrialisation

Sept 21: US Ambassador in Bangladesh William B Milam Sunday said that Bangladesh would have to go for rapid industrialisation to meet its growing unemployment problem, reports BSS.

He was inaugurating the food for education programme of Khulna district at Samantashena Government Primary School under Rupsha thana in Khulna district Sunday.

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The ambassador said Bangladesh cannot depend on development of agriculture alone but it will have to expedite industrialisation to meet the challenging unemployment problem.

Earlier, welcoming Milam, Chamber President S M Abul Kalam called upon the US government to give special consideration to Bangladesh garments export to America.

NARAIL

Lack of
civic
amenities

Sept 21: Narail pourashava lacks civic amenities causing inconvenience to the town dwellers, reports UNB.

The dilapidated condition of the roads, lack of proper drainage system and shortage of water supply facilities have made the civic life miserable.

About three-fourth roads in the pourashava areas are kutchha and cracks and potholes have developed at many points due to lack of proper maintenance and repair works.

The dwellers said the situation turns worse in the rainy season. After a slight rainfall, the roads become muddy and slippery hampering the movement of pedestrians and vehicles. Moreover, all the kutchha drains are filled with garbage and stagnant water leading to the breeding of mosquito.

Local people urged the concerned authorities to take necessary measures to solve the problems of the pourashava immediately.

CHAPAINAWABGANJ

Football match
ends in draw

Sept 21: Dhumketu Juba Kishore Sangstha and Alinagar KC ended their match 1-1 draw in the First Division Football League of Chapainawabganj on Monday, reports UNB.

Both the goals were scored in the first half of the match, played in the Chapainawabganj Stadium.

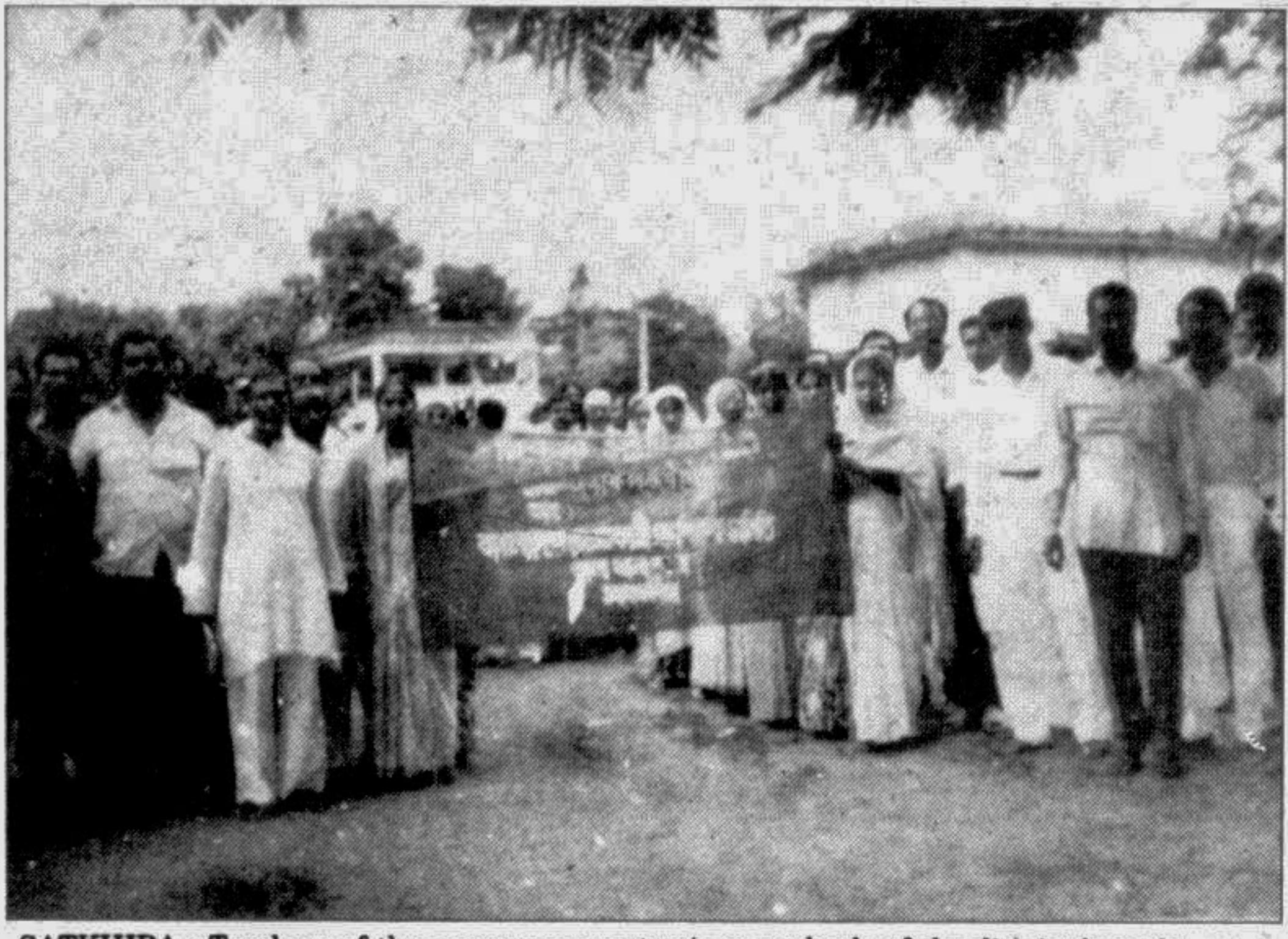
Alfaz of Dhumketu netted first at 12th minute of the first half while Kalam scored the equaliser for Alinagar, a few minutes after.

Another report from Faridpur says: Madhukhali union team became champion beating Kamarkhali union by a solitary goal in Primary and Mass Education Gold Cup Tournament in the district.

The final match was played at Madhukhali High School ground on Sunday. Alfaz of Madhukhali team netted the victorious goal in the first half.

Ali Akbar Chowdhury, ADC (General) attended the inter-union competition as chief guest and gave away trophies among the winners.

The Gold Cup Tournament was introduced this year to create awareness and interest about primary and mass education in the district.



SATKHIRA: Teachers of the non-government primary schools of the district brought out a procession in the town recently in support of their three-point demands. — Star photo

Notes From
B'baria

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, Sept 21: A special squad of BDR 32 battalion acting on secret information recovered 20 bags of Indian motor vehicle spare parts from a boat in the river Titas of the district.

The seized goods worth about Taka seven lakh 20 thousand. The goods were deposited to Custom house. No one was arrested.

One commits
suicide

Ratna Rani Dev (15) a student of village Chalipara of Gokarna union parishad under Nasirnagar thana of the district committed suicide by taking poison.

It is learnt that she appeared at the SSC examination from Nasirnagar centre but could not pass the examination.

Rehabilitation
programme

The Agriculture Extension Department, B'baria has taken a post-flood rehabilitation programme costing Taka 12 lakh in all the seven thanas of the district.

The thanas include: sadar thana, Kasba, Akhaura, Sarail, Nabinagar, Nasirnagar and Banchampur thana.

Meanwhile, seven thousand metric tons of seeds of rupa aman were distributed among the cultivators. Besides, 30 thousand kg of maskalai and seeds of winter vegetables worth about taka one lakh will be distributed among the cultivators.

Goods worth Tk 8
lakh gutted

UNB adds: Eight shops were gutted and goods worth Taka 8 lakh were damaged when a fire broke out at Chandina bazar of Sadar thana on Wednesday.

According to witnesses, the devastating fire originating from an electric short circuit engulfed the bazar area soon.

The Fire Service men rushed to the spot and brought the fire under control after two hours of frantic efforts. A case has been filed with the local police.

Workshop on Jubo
Red Crescent

A four-day-long workshop on "Jubo Red Crescent" was concluded at the Nabinagar Pilot High School auditorium of the district recently.

On the concluding day, Additional Zila Magistrate Shah Alam was present as chief guest and Advisor Zila Red Crescent Dr Syed Sadru Huda Niaz and Headmaster Eschamayee Pilot Girls High School Abdul Kadir were present as special guests while Shahidul Haque, Headmaster of Nabinagar Pilot High School presided.

Woman smokers on rise

From Our Correspondent

MADRIPUR, Sept 21: The number of female smokers, an unusual phenomenon in our society is increasing day by day in the district.

The tendency of smoking among the old women has increased mainly in the areas of tobacco crushing mills and bidi factories throughout the district.

It is learnt that 15 out of 30 women in Laxmipur village of Kalkini thana are smokers.

The landless and the labour class of women are found more interested in smoking. Of them, 20 per cent are said to be minors. Eighty per cent of the smokers use tobacco dusts which are prepared with paper locally known as 'noshia'.

It is observed that the anti-smoking publicity is being carried out only in the urban areas but it is absent in the rural areas particularly in the remote ones.

Local people urged the anti-smoking organisations to be more active in the rural areas.

**Soil fertility
on decrease**

Indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers and continued cultivation of same crop on same

plot of land are steadily destroying the fertility of soil in Kalkini, Rajtor, Shibir and sadar thana of the district.

Cultivators having little knowledge about the soil components use chemical fertilizers indiscriminately to get maximum production and thus the production capability of the soil decreases.

The growers are also seen cultivating same crop on the same land without interval.

The farmers rarely use organic fertilizers including cowdung. The production capability of land thus rapidly declines.

Production capability of soil is also being destroyed by the maximum iron of underground water extracted by deep and shallow tubewells used for irrigation and siltation of sands on soil due to floods.

**Child labourers
on rise**

Child labourers are on increase in the district day by day.

There are about 10,000 such labourers working in different vocations for maintaining their own as well as their family members.

According to informed sources, these children are engaged mostly in hotels, restaurants, motor garages, welding shops, tobacco factories and as house servants.

Meanwhile, seven thousand metric tons of seeds of rupa aman were distributed among the cultivators. Besides, 30 thousand kg of maskalai and seeds of winter vegetables worth about taka one lakh will be distributed among the cultivators.

The government earns huge revenue from these hats and bazaars every year but local people alleged no schemes have yet been taken to improve condition of these markets.

In the absence of proper drainage system water remains stagnant after a slight rainfall on roads causing problems to the movement of pedestrians and vehicles. Most of the drains are kuchha and remain filled with filth and garbages polluting the environment.

Bullock shortage affects farming

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Sept 21: Cultivation of lands in ten districts of Khulna division has been affected following scarcity of bullock in recent times, said a source.

It is learnt that poor farmers of Jessore, Jhenidah, Magura, Narail, Chuadanga, Kushtia, Meherpur, Khulna, Satkhira and Bagerhat districts are facing

throughout the division. Indiscriminate slaughtering of calves and young cows is one of the reasons to deepen the bullock crisis, the source added.

Witnesses say, smuggling of Indian cattle through border areas of these districts is rampant for long.

The rich agriculturists are buying power-tiller.

Substitute for rotenone. In addition, it is assisting its target groups to procure necessary inputs not available locally and transporting fish seed over longer distance.

Introducing improved fish species offers a major advance in productivity. Thus, nilotica, rafpunti, magur and shingi are promoted along with yearlings of Indian and Chinese carp in seasonal ponds. It is discouraging the use of exotic species such as African catfish, as well as silver carp, for fear of their impact on local species.

Freshwater prawns are also being introduced a small prawn hatchery set up.

Improved management methods also hold great potential. It is setting up low-cost hatcheries using treadle pumps and one nursery pond in each Union.

Integrated fishculture projects (including poultry, tree planting and crop production uses around fishponds) serve as demonstration ponds. Field research continues to evolve innovative and cost-effective technologies suitable for poor fish farmers. The feasibility of pearl and cage culture particularly for landless is being studied.

The problem of access to water is also being confronted. It assists groups to negotiate leases to potential public and private water bodies. It has a major programme of fishpond excavation, with World Food Programme wheat support, to excavate fishponds cost-effectively. The RDRS Credit funds enables small farmers to obtain loans for managing fishfarming schemes.

Sometime in the future, aquaculture may match farming as a source of food and income for rural Bangladesh. The practical measures taken by the organisation in northern Bangladesh, real progress is already being made to realise the immense potential of fishfarming.

In the area of awareness and

motivation, a number of measures show considerable promise. In addition to spreading awareness of the nutritional and economic value of fishfarming, RDRS gives training on the basis of learning while doing.

The organisation is working to overcome many of the technical constraints faced by fishfarmers. Water-holding capacity can be increased by using organic manure for fertilising and uniformly sprinkling rice husk over the water as supplementary feed. Tea seed is used as

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