

District roundup

GAZIPUR

Training course on sewing

Oct 9: A three-month long training course on sewing begins here Saturday at Ansar Academy Garments Complex, reports UNB.

A total of 150 women trainees from 64 districts are participating in the course which included poultry rearing, vegetable cultivation, sewing and measurement of cloths.

Alhaj M Sulaiman, Commandant, Ansar Academy, urged in his inaugural speech to the participants as chief guest that they would receive the training for the benefit of their personal life which will help bring financial support to their family.

ATM Muzammel Hoque, Deputy Director (Dev), presided over while Khalilur Rahman, Deputy Director (Admin), Tozammel Hoque, Deputy Director (Training) addressed the function.

NARAIL

Meeting on test relief coordination

Oct 9: A meeting of the district test relief coordination committee was held Sunday at Narail with Agriculture and Irrigation Minister M Majid-Ul-Haq in the chair, reports UNB.

Some 142 development projects were submitted at the meeting by the local district and thana administration for approval.

The meeting discussed projects and sanctioned 230 metric tons of wheat under the food for work programme.

The wheat would be utilised for renovation and development of schools, madrasahs and feeder roads in the rural areas.

Sharif Khashruzzaman MP, Dharendra Nath Saha MP, and Shamsunnahar Ahmed MP were present.

Earlier, the Irrigation Minister along with the members of site selection committee selected the sites of proposed Narail district jail at Borashula and the Narail pourashava.

Majid-Ul-Haq said the jail would be provided with modern facilities.

An amount of Taka 55 lakh had already been sanctioned for land acquisition and construction of jail at Narail earlier.

COMILLA

One awarded 10 yrs RI for violating minor girl

Oct 9: A man was awarded 10 years rigorous imprisonment by the Additional Sessions Judge for violating a minor girl, court sources said here Saturday, reports UNB.

The court found the accused Abdur Rahim of Chandana village of Laksam thana guilty for cruelty to woman and also fined Taka 2,000, in default, to undergo rigorous imprisonment for further one year.

The case, in brief, was that Abdur Rahim brought Yasmin, the victim with him from her village with the assurance that he would help her reach her in the Laksam station on April 2, 1991. But he violated her after nightfall and left her at Chandana village unconscious.

Police filed a case against him after investigation.

The judge after examining the witnesses and records delivered the judgement recently.

MADARIPUR

Risky bus journey, accidents increase

Oct 9: Overloading, reckless driving and frequent stoppage at unschedule places have become regular phenomena causing much sufferings to the passengers of the district, says UNB.

Hundreds of people travelling in Madaripur-Barisal, Madaripur-Shibchar, Radanipur-Takerhat, Radanipur-Bhadrabata routes have to undergo a lot of trouble as most of the buses are old and worn-out.

The passengers have to suffer much in the rain and scorching heat due to absence of waiting sheds. The children and the women are the worst sufferers.

The passengers of these routes allege that the drivers of the buses hardly maintain the time schedule.

They often stop their vehicles here and there to lift passengers causing delay in reaching their destinations.

Besides, reckless driving has increased the number of accidents in recent days.

JESSORE

'Pragmatic plan taken up to protect children's right'

Oct 9: Posts and Telecommunications Minister Tariqul Islam said that the present government had taken up pragmatic programmes for the implementation of UN charter for the protection of the right of the children, says BSS.

The per capita allotment for the subsistence of the orphan children was made more than double, he said. The allotment has been enhanced from Taka 340 to Taka 720 per month, an official handout said.

The minister was addressing a children's rally organised here recently at the Jessore Zilla School premises in observance of World Children's Day and implementation of international charter of children's right week '93.

Presided over by District Social Welfare officer Md Nadar Hossain Biswas the rally was addressed, among others, by local DC, SP and others.

Tariqul Islam said, 22 district branches of Shishu academy are engaged in flourishing the talents of children in different faculties. He said by 1995, Shishu academy will extend its programme in districts of the country.

PATUAKHALI

Poverty bar to pry edn

Oct 9: About 26,000 children in six thanas of the district are being deprived of primary education due to acute poverty, reports UNB.

Guardians of the children are forced to engage them in works for earning their livelihood.

According to official sources, there are about 1,96,700 school-going children in the district and most of them are from poor families.

There are about 576 government primary schools, 228 registered primary schools, 477 madrasahs and five kindergarden schools in the district. About 6,193 teachers are employed in these educational institutions.

Seven out of the total 66 unions in the district were brought under "Food for Education Programme" introduced by the government recently.

Under this programme each of the poor student will get 15 kg of wheat per month for prosecuting primary education. Villagers said as most of the primary school going students are poor, food for education programme particularly in rural areas should be introduced for all.

NARAYANGANJ

Rally held to observe World Children's Day

Oct 9: Naba Diganta Kachar Mela held a rally in the town Monday in observance of the World Children's Day, reports UNB.

The rally was addressed, among others, by Arifur Rahman Kamal, Shakil Ahmed, Manir Hossain and Khaleda Habib Smriti.

The speakers at the rally demanded proper medicare facilities for the children and ban on child labour with immediate effect.

They also demanded to set up children's parks in the thana and district headquarters with adequate recreational facilities.

Later, they brought out a colourful procession with banners, festoons and placards, which paraded the main streets of the town.

They also submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner to press home their demands.

KHULNA

Training course on drug abuse

Oct 9: The Vice-Chancellor of the Khulna University Professor Ghulam Ali Fakir inaugurated the two-day training course on how to contain drug abuse at the local officers club auditorium recently, reports BSS.

The programme was jointly sponsored by Bangladesh Inter Religious Brotherhood Association and Department of Narcotics Control. The training course was participated by about one hundred and fifty persons from different socio-cultural and voluntary organisations including fifty females.

The objective of the programme is to create consciousness among the masses about the danger of drug abuse.

FAP project in Tangail
Fast completion emphasised to avoid wastage of resources

TANGAIL, Oct 9: Local MPs of both position and opposition, UP chairmen, leaders of professional groups, journalists and the elite have agreed that the FAP (Flood Action Plan) pilot project taken up in Tangail was necessary for the development of the area and emphasised on its fast completion to avoid wastage of resources, says a BSS report.

Those who were opposing the implementation of the project could not present any reasonable cause or suggest measures to enrich the project planning, they observed.

State Minister for Industries Lutfar Rahman Khan attended the meeting of a cross section of people, organised by Flood Action Plan authorities Thursday, to discuss measures to ensure public participation in the compartmentalisation pilot project (FAP-20) in Tangail.

Chief Engineer of Flood Plan Coordination Organisation (FPCO) A M Siddiqui Bir Uttam chaired the function.

Speaking on the occasion the state minister said the FAP-20 project was approved following all feasibility and environmental

assessment studies and consulting the people of the project area and now it was on its implementation stage.

He said some NGOs were vocal against the implementation of the project but they themselves were not sure of their objectives.

Rahman, however, said the experts must be sure that the project would ensure balanced welfare of all section of people and sustainable development.

He also emphasised on participation of local people and groups including NGOs in the development projects but cautioned that no vested quarters might interfere in the projects.

Begum Matia Choudhury, MP said flood management projects were needed to protect and promote the country's limited resources but it had to be ensured that one project might not cause damage to other areas.

Shahjahan Siraj, MP said the people were well aware of their problems and as they approved the project no one should oppose that unless there was a justified reason.

Khondokar Badaruddin, MP said some NGOs were trying to foil the project whose objectives were not clear to the people.

Abu Kaisar, MP said if the MPs and local people's representatives could ensure their due role in development programmes, problems in implementation of projects could be avoided.

Referring to the project planning process, he said, "We need foreign consultants but they must be aware of the problems of the people and of the area."

FPCO Chief Engineer, Siddiqui said FAP authorities were aware of the possible demerits of the FAP projects and all-out measures were being taken to minimise them.

He said, successful implementation of the FAP projects would promote environment particularly in the urban areas.

UP chairmen of the FAP-20 area said the people of their respective areas were aware of the project planning. The chairmen assured all-out cooperation for the implementation of the project and urged the FAP authorities to ensure their effective participation in the implementation process.

Explaining the objectives of FAP-20, its Project Director and the team leader Obaidur Rahman and Hans Visser said the project would develop procedures for controlled flooding and improve drainage situation inside the compartment which would be surrounded by embankments with gated and ungated openings.

With the completion of the project the 13,169 hectares of compartment area including Tangail town would come under an integrated water management system.

This would prevent damage of properties and crops worth Taka 6.5 million annually and expand transplanted aman rice production area from 220 hectares to 1977 hectares. Of the intensity, crop production will gradually rise from 203 per cent to 220 per cent.

They, however, said that the project would cause loss of flood plains fisheries and hamper internal navigation at some points, but mitigation plans were there to minimise the loss, they said.



Prof R I Chowdhury speaking at a function arranged on the occasion of 44th founding day of China. — CU photo

Law, order situation deteriorates

KISHOREGANJ, Oct 9: The law and order situation in Nandail thana has further deteriorated and the peace-loving people of the thana have been passing days under uncertainty.

According to political leaders and local people, the rate of crimes like theft, dacoity, robbery, murder, rape, gambling, cowkilling, illegal VCR show and illegal ganja cultivation has increased surpassing all the previous records.

At least seven dacoits and 20 thefts were committed in Nandail thana during the last one month. The pickpockets have been running their activities unabated in Nandail Road and Musnoli Railway Station areas.

The rate of divorce has alarmingly increased causing much concern among the parents. About 30 divorces were committed in Nandail during the last two months.

Ganja plantation in different char areas at Nandail thana has increased alarmingly. Narcotic and Liquor Department some days back seized several ganja plants from the thana.

Cow-lifting has become rampant in different parts of Nandail thana. Over 60 cows were stolen in a fortnight.

Gay girls have created social

problem and spreading venereal diseases among the young people.

Illegal sale of liquor in different areas in Nandail thana is going unabated. Many stationery and grocery shops are allegedly selling liquor freely without any valid licence, it is informed.

Gambling in broad day light has become a regular practice at the thana town.

River port Bhairab has become a paradise for the smugglers. Spurious and smuggled goods have flooded the port town exceeding all previous records.

The smuggled goods include spices, sarees, sugar, jira, pulses, cattle, cosmetics, turmeric, onion, chilli, cut-pieces, crackers, medicines, cardamom.

These are entering Bhairab Bazar through Akhaura and bordering areas of Brahmanbaria and Comilla districts and on sale in the market with out any restriction.

This illegal entry of Indian goods have badly affected the local traders.

Rural women procure these from the agents and sell from door to door. The traders of Bhairab informed that smuggled goods enter through Kanchanpur, Sripur via Brahmanbaria and Ashuganj by buses, trucks and trains from Akhaura. Afterwards they are unloaded at Bhairab Railway Junction and Meghna Ferry Ghat. Besides, the agents of smugglers throw away illegal goods from local trains and Sylhet mails at the outer signals of the railway junction.

These illegal activities are going on in full swing in cooperation with the police, it is alleged. Some political leaders of Bhairab informed that the local administration is responsible for such corruption. It is gathered that at the railway junction, one of the leaders of the smugglers issues coupons for the goods. The railway staff allow the smugglers and goods in compliance with previous deal. Local merchants and traders also disclosed that smugglers carry cartons of 555, Benson cigarettes and Burmese betelnuts by intercity Mahanagar train coming from Chittagong.

A section of smugglers backed by a powerful circle was involved in smuggling. A big margin of profit attracts them to smuggling. Local people also alleged that even if the smugglers are caught red-handed police do not take proper action.

Leprosy affects 82000 in 16 N-districts

SIRAJGANJ, Oct 9: Number of leprosy patients have been increasing alarmingly in different parts of northern districts. According to an unofficial survey, there are about 82,000 leprosy patients in 16 northern districts. The districts of Rangpur, Dinajpur, Gaibandha, Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari, Thakurgaon, Rajshahi and Pabna are the worst affected areas.

It is gathered from the specialists who are conducting thorough studies on the subject that there are four types of leprosy in the country which include 'leprotaeosis', 'bhulwat', 'inditamint' and 'border line'. A foreign NGO has taken intensive programme to cure leprosy in Bangladesh. According to the organisation, 7.45 per cent people of northern districts are affected by the disease. In Panchagarh and Thakurgaon districts alone about 370 people out of examined 45,000 samples were found affected by leprosy. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has reported more leprosy patients in the country recently.

The scientists have expressed that due to ignorance

and sensitiveness, the affected people of our country do not disclose the fact that they are affected until it takes a serious turn.

A micro bacteria called 'lepra' germ is responsible for the disease. In our country, treatment facility for all kinds of leprosy is not yet extended. But if detected primarily, the disease is learnt to be curable, said an expert.

The knowledgeable sources

Outdoor services at CU hospital

CHITTAGONG, Oct 9: At least 40 patients were given treatment Sunday on the opening day of the University Hospital, Chittagong, attached to USTC, reports UNB.

The hospital, teaching and research wing of the University of Science and Technology, Chittagong, has started functioning of its outdoor services formally inaugurated by National Professor, Dr Nurul Islam.

Production target of wheat is fixed at 6,84,950 metric tons and of potato at 10,06,390 metric tons.

Another news says: Office of the newly floated NGO, Belkuchi Sirajganj Development Programme (BSPD) was inaugurated by Shahidullah Khan, MP recently at Belkuchi.

Notes From Gaibandha

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Oct 9: One Paritosh (18) of village Kanakray under Sadar thana was electrocuted when came to contact with a live power line recently. The victim was taking illegal electric connections from a nearby electric pole. Suddenly he came in contact with a naked power line and was electrocuted instantly.

Diarrhoeal disease

Diarrhoeal disease claimed two lives in sadar and Sadullapur thanas during last two days and 50 others have been suffering with the disease. The victims were Sajeda Begum (20) of Gaibandha CPC and another Kasiran Khatun (10) of village Dhopadanga under Sadullapur thana.

One killed

One person was killed after being hit by a running train near Gaibandha Railway station on September 25. The victim, Rabul Alam (30), an employee of local bureau of anti-corruption office was walking along the railway track. Suddenly 708 down Teesta Express dashed him from behind. The victim sustained severe head injury and died instantly.

Protest demonstration

All party student unity, Gaibandha brought out a protest procession against the killing of student Rimu at Rajshahi University recently. The procession paraded main roads of the town demanding exemplary punishment of the accused and also demanded ban on the activities of Jamaat and Shibir.

Imam assaulted

Mawlana Abu Bakker Siddique, Imam of Kachari Bazar mosque was assaulted by some agitated youth near sub-jail at night recently. He was returning home from mosque after Isha prayer. A case was filed with thana accusing eight persons.

Rat control

Agriculture Extension Department began rat control drive in a ceremonial function held at the auditorium of sadar thana recently. The programme was inaugurated by sadar MP Abdur Rashid Saker. The programme will continue for one month.

River erosion

With the increasing erosion of river Teesta vast tract of arable including home-stead, cultivable land along the river side are being devoured by the surging water within the course of last few days. About 1200 families were rendered homeless. The erosion hit people now living under the open sky and are passing miserable days.

Health workshop

A work-shop on massive health education programme under the auspices of district health department concluded here at Gaibandha zila parishad auditorium recently. On this occasion Prof Nurunabi, Director General of Health was present. Those who attended on the occasion were Dr Motiur Rahman Chowdhury, Dr Raihanuddin Chowdhury, Dr Mahfuzul Islam and Dr AKM Shamsuddin.

Cattle lifting

A total 15 cows were lifted by a gang of miscreants from village Kapasia under Sunderganj thana in a single night recently. Cow lifting became an everyday affair in different char land of Sunderganj, Gaibandha sadar, Fulchhari and Shaghata thanas.

Massive programme to cultivate boro paddy in northern region

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Oct 9: Agriculture Extension Department (AED) has taken up an elaborate programme to bring about eight lakh hectares of land under boro paddy cultivation in 16 northern districts during the current rabi crops production season, official sources said.

About 30.5 lakh metric tons of boro paddy is expected to be produced in this region once the cultivation target achieved.

The district-wise break-up of cultivation target and production target is as follows: Of the total, 2,83,550 metric tons (mts) of boro paddy is expected on 50 thousand hectares of land in Natore district while 1,23,750 mts of paddy is expected on 29,300 hectares of land in Rajshahi, 3,52,350 mts paddy is expected on 81 thousand hectares of land in Naogaon, 70 thousand mts of paddy is expected on 16,600 hectares of land in Chapainawabganj, 7,46,100 mts is expected on 1,74,400 hectares of land in Bogra, 1,78,200 mts on 42 thousand hectares of land is expected in Pabna, 4,02,600 mts on 95 thousand hectares of land is expected in Sirajganj, 1,71,600 mts of paddy on 60,400 hectares of land is expected in Rangpur, 1,91,400 mts of paddy on 44 thousand hectares of land in Joypurhat, 1,800 mts of paddy on 64,200 hectares of land in Gaibandha, 1,09,500 mts of paddy on 40,600 hectares of land in Lalmonirhat, 46,050 mts of paddy on 16,300 hectares of land in Nilphamari, 1,36,245 mts of paddy on 47,900 hectares of land in Dinajpur, 14,475 mts of paddy on 5,150 hectares of land in Panchagarh and 46,050 metric tons of paddy on 16,300 hectares of land is expected in Thakurgaon district.

Boro paddy is one of the cash-crops to farmers of this region. Bangladesh Agricultural Extension Department will ensure necessary facilities to boost production.

The BAED has brought about 29 lakh hectares of land under boro paddy cultivation in the country during the current 1993-94 fiscal year and fixed the boro production target at about 78 lakh 60 thousand.

ICMAB in poor shape

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Oct 9: The educational atmosphere of more than 1,500 students at the Institute of Cost and Management Accounts of Bangladesh (ICMAB), Khulna branch is reported to be in quite a poor shape.

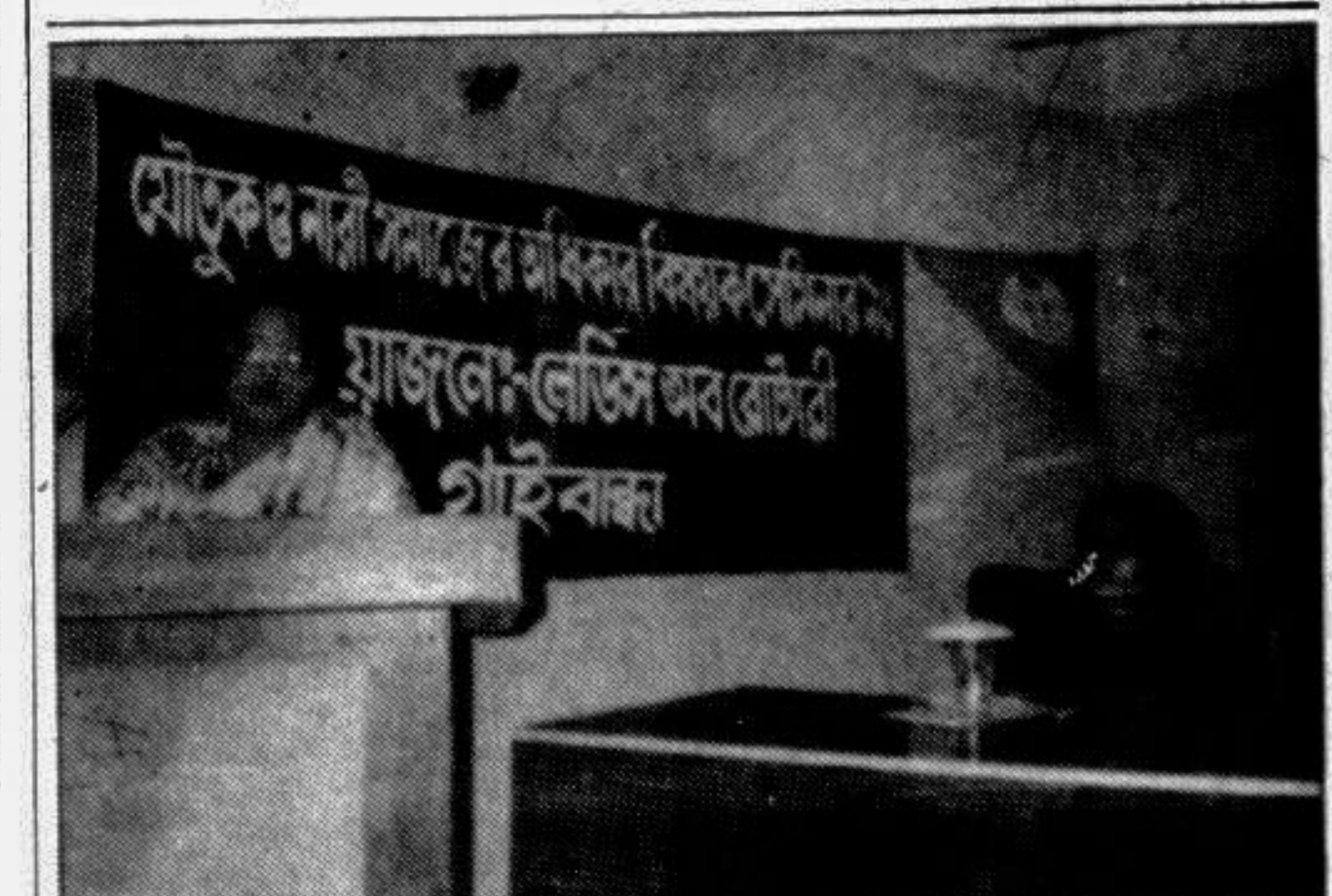
9 awarded life term

Additional district and session judge II awarded nine persons in connection with Ahmed Ali murder case of Batiaghata recently. The hon'ble judge Shame Narayan Pal in his judgement acquitted three accused as the court could not prove them guilty of the said charges. The case in brief that Ali Ahmed with his brothers, Habibur Rahman and Abdur Razzaque while returning after Tarabi prayers on 1931993. The convicts attacked them with *lathi* and *ramdao*. The victim was seriously hurt and was later admitted to Khulna sadar hospital where he succumbed to his injury on the same day.

The persons who were awarded life imprisonment are: Harun Biswas, Abu Hayat Biswas, Atiar Biswas, Abu Bakar Sardar, Rafiqul Sardar, Israjil Biswas, Farid Biswas, Karimul Mollah and Khokon Mollah.

The three who were acquitted are: Mazid Biswas, Rashid Biswas and Abdul Latif Biswas. The convicts were fined Taka five thousand each or further face six months imprisonment.

The students do not receive proper library facilities due to shortage of adequate number of books. Further, the signboard of the institution is said to be hanging in a poor condition which was later replaced by the initiative of the students themselves using their own pocket-



GAIBANDHA: Jasmine Ali, President, local ladies Rotary Club addressing a seminar on 'dowry and rights of woman' held here recently. — Star photo

Four people murdered in separate incidents

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Oct 9: Four persons have been killed in four separate villages of two thanas of Chuadanga district by some miscreants.

Of the total victims one Ilus Hossain aged about 35 years of village Bolleshorpur under Alamdanga thana was killed brutally by the miscreants recently.

A gang of armed miscreants numbering 20 to 22 called the deceased Ilus Hossain out of his residence and killed using fire arms. He was shot on the head. He died on the spot.

One Abdul Halim (22) of village Balhuda under Jibannagar thana of Chuadanga district was also brutally killed by the miscreants recently.

The victim, Halim was called out from his residence at dead of night and was taken to a nearby field where he was attacked with sharp weapons. The villagers after getting information started to search the victim and traced him out in a critical condition. He was taken to Jibannagar thana hospital but he expired on the way.

One, Atiar Rahman (27) was shot dead at village Par-Alamdanga under Alamdanga thana of the district recently by some armed miscreants.

The ill-fated man of village Malidah under Kushtia district came to the residence of his father-in-law at village Par-Alamdanga.

The victim was sleeping when he was called by the miscreants at night and shot dead there.

On the same night one Abbas Ali (30) of village Ambaria under Alamdanga thana of the district was also killed brutally by sharp weapons by a few miscreants.

Post-mortem of all the dead bodies had been completed at Chuadanga sadar hospital morgue.

Separate bases have also been started with the respective police stations in this regard.

35 current nets seized

Thirty-five pieces of fish catching current nets were burnt recently by the local sadar thana fishery department. The use of current nets for catching fish from the water bodies like river, beels, swamps and khals is strictly forbidden by the government.