

Free health services for poor

From Our Correspondent
CHUADANGA, May 15: A Free Friday Clinics organised by a local social organisation called "Chetona Janakallayan and Sanchay Uddag" — Chuadanga is providing free health services to destitute people of the district for the last eight months.

The Free Friday Clinic was opened on September 24 last year by a group of young boys of Rupchaya Chuadanga Cinema Hall Para in cooperation with some social workers of Chuadanga town.

On every Friday over 100 destitute patients from different parts of the district are given free of cost treatment.

According to the clinic sources, medicine worth over Taka 1,000 are being distributed among the destitute patients who are being treated in the clinic over 3000 patients. So far were given treatment.

The organisation "Chetona Janakallayan and Sanchay Uddag" which is running the Friday clinic has 100 general members and an eight member executive committee. The members pay a monthly subscription of Taka 10 each which is used to run the clinic.

The sad social organisation has also a long-ranging programme to extend their hands for the help of the destitute people of the society.

In the meantime, the organisation has also formed a fund from which they have been giving loans to some destitute people of the locality for running small businesses.

One stabbed to death in Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent
SIRAJGANJ, May 15: Assaults stabbed a man to death at village Subornashara in Belkuchi thana Friday night after he refused to give them money.

The victim, identified as, Abdus Samad aged 43, along with his two daughters and wife was on his way to his in-laws house at North Baniyagati Charpara, when he was attacked by the gang of five to six people.

The miscreants indiscriminately stabbed him in as he resisted to handover his cash of Tk 5,500.

Hearing the hue and cry of his family members, local people rushed to the spot and found him dead.

A case has been filed with the local police.

Another UNB report adds: A housewife, who was a prey to a mistaken identity, at a village in Ullapara succumbed to her injuries at a clinic here today (Saturday) after receiving grievous cut injuries on her throat Thursday night by some miscreants.

Karima Khatun, 38, wife of Ayub Ali, was rushed to a clinic of the town Thursday night after miscreants tried to slaughter her by entering their house. Ayub was out of the house at the time of the incident.

The miscreants, identified as the nephew of Ayub Ali and his accomplices, mistakenly attacked Karima Khatun assuming her as Ayub in the dark.

Freshers' reception at Pabna Cadet College held

From Our Correspondent
PABNA, May 15: The freshers' reception of the 17th batch of cadets of Pabna Cadet College was held at Chihaya Kanan at the college campus on May 12. Parents and guardians of the cadets were also present on the occasion.

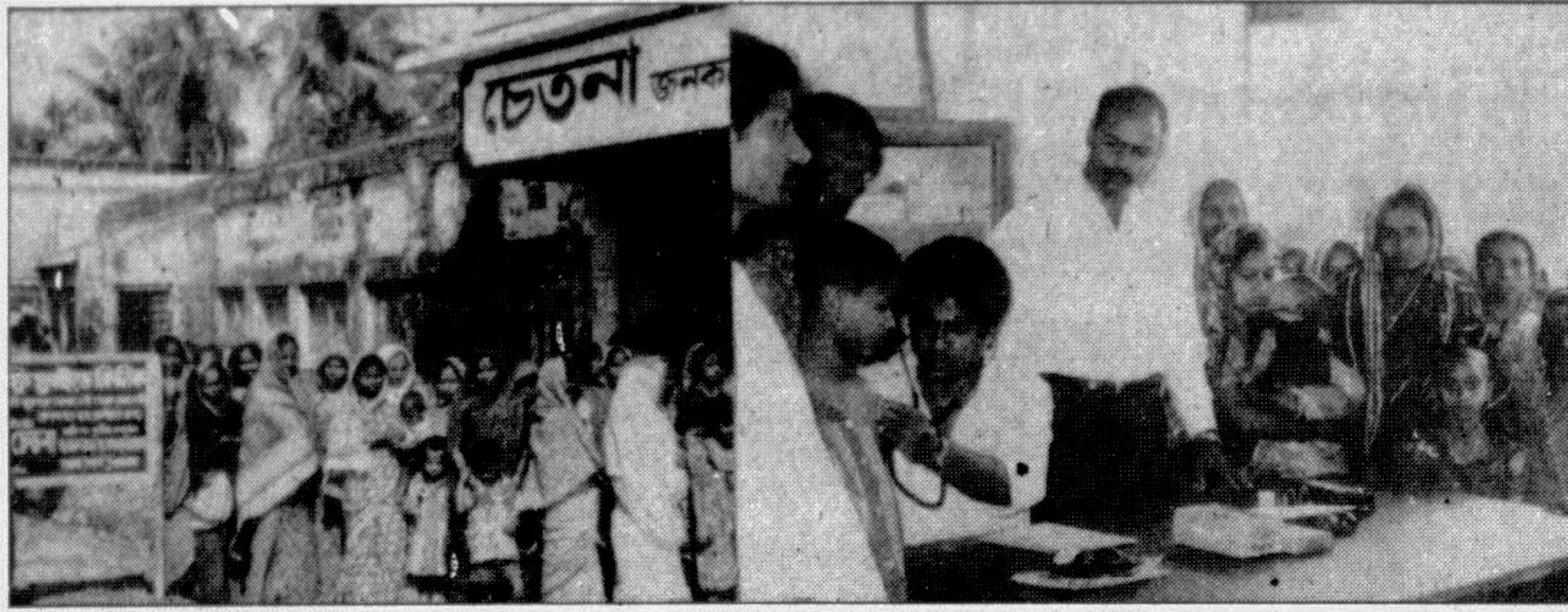
Principal of the college, Ali Ashraf Noor in his brief speech said that with every passing days the importance of the cadet colleges is gaining momentum. He also lauded the role of the cadet colleges as these institutions aim at imparting proper education to the cadets so that they become honest, modest and worthy citizens of the country.

He also stressed the need for learning English so that the cadets could make themselves acquainted with the modern world. Noor also sought cooperation of the guardians to achieve this desired goal.

The function was also attended, among others, by Mahtabuddin, Vice-Principal, Major Sayeed, Adjutant, Captain Munir, Medical Officer, ANC, and members of other faculties of the college.

Earlier, Rafiqul Islam, Assistant Professor of Bengali Department and House Master of Titumir House in his introductory speech gave a vivid description of the academic atmosphere and activities of the college.

The function was rounded off with a light refreshment.



CHUADANGA: Poor people waiting in queue for free treatment.

Primary schools in Jamalpur face manifold problems

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, May 15: The condition of 80 per cent government primary schools and almost all the non-government primary schools in seven thanas of the district has long been gripped with various problems hindering proper education.

A total of 194 government registered primary schools have not yet received any financial grant.

Most of these schools do not have adequate furniture, space and educational appliances to cope with the requirements.

According to reports, a large number of school buildings which were damaged by the devastating erosion, cyclone, storms during the last few years.

Although a very few schools have been selected for repair or reconstruction. The quality of work is anything but satisfactory, according to the reports from different areas.

The shortage of teachers and accommodation have aggravated the situation. It is found that classes are being taken under the open sky. During the rainy season, the sufferings of the children go beyond description.

In the rural areas most of the schools have no tubewell and latrine.

It is informed that most of the teachers do not go to the school regularly and some attend for only an hour or two. They manage the classes by entrusting the senior students with the task of teaching the lower classes. Most of them have kept themselves engaged in other business or professions, it is alleged.

The compulsory primary education programme is also facing a setback due to lack of facilities.

An official source when contacted could not give any satisfactory reply in this regard.

The source claimed that arrangement would soon be completed to send about 80 per cent children between the age-group of six and ten to the schools.

Co-operatives meets

A co-operatives meeting was held at Islampur thana auditorium here recently.

SM Khairul Bashar Chisty, Chairman of District unit Co-

operative Bank Limited was also present as a chief guest.

The meeting presided over by Islampur thana samabaya officer A Samad while addressed, among others, Shafiqul Islam, Khaja Miah, A Rashid, Kamal Uddin and others.

Irrigation equipment and goods worth over Taka two crore of Jamalpur BADC (irrigation) under Mymensingh circle have been sold at a throwaway price of Taka nine lakh through open auction bid recently.

It is learnt that different types of equipment, such as engine pump set, electric motor etc worth crores of taka have been lying unsold and uncared for long in the godowns of all circles of BADC.

Earlier, BADC used to sell such items through auction. But due to faulty fixation of inconsistent price of the items compared to market price and auction rate, effort of the government failed several times.

The government directed the relevant authorities to expedite disposal of the goods through inviting tender. The BADC authorities however, decided to sell all goods stocked in their godowns in the country within January 31, 1994 under government directive and pressure.

In all goods worth Taka 2,10,41,368 were stocked in 11 godowns of Jamalpur Zone auction of which was held on January 23, 24, 26, 27, 28 and 31 respectively, according to the above decision.

But it is alleged that nowhere fair and competitive auction was held. Bonafide businessmen or firms could not participate in these auctions in the face of threat and obstruction by the influential vested quarters.

Businessmen exerted their social and political influence to grab auctions bids in their favour adopting unfair means.

Of the fixed face value at over 2 crore, total auction bid of all items stocked in the 11 godowns at Jamalpur Zone of BADC stood at only 9,33,600 that is 4.43 per cent at the fixed price after government, which is on the other hand, 35.57 per cent less than the rate of minimum 40 per cent in case of disposing of government goods.

Superintendent Engineer of

BADC Mymensingh circle convenor and other members of the auction committee were present on the auction dates.

The most significant and surprising fact is, that those who obtained the bids had sold out the goods to others of prices 5 to 7 times higher than the original bids in presence of BADC's auction authority without even waiting for final approval of the same. The auction holders are now trying to get their auction orders approved by the appropriate authority.

An officer of BADC on condition of anonymity told this correspondent that although there were many types of equipment lying at BADC godowns for long the authority had failed to fix up selling price of these till date. If price of these equipment could be fixed earlier they would not have been lying unsold in the godown's for such a long time.

In some cases it is found that BADC fixed price of equipment much higher than the market price, he said. According to the office, a sizeable quantity of equipment could not be sold in time due to the above reasons. Moreover, no initiative had been taken to make the BADC to fix price of the equipment consistent with market price.

These equipment could not be sold even after minimising the price. Initiative should have been taken much earlier by deregulating the equipment at the rate of 10.20 or 30 per cent in phases.

This process may still save BADC from huge financial loss. On the other hand, genuine farmers would be benefited in purchasing their much needed equipment at a cheaper rate directly from the BADC.

69 SSC examinees expelled

At least 69 SSC examinees were expelled for adopting unfair means from seven examination halls in the district in the last five examinations.

The examination passed off peacefully despite strike by a section of teachers.

Guardians expressed satisfaction at the peaceful holding of the examination and thanked the government for making adequate arrangement of holding examination.



SYLHET: Trucks are often found loading and unloading on the roads blocking traffic movement. These trucks in Kazirbazar area are unloading goods. — Star photo

Poor train services

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, May 15: Irregular timings of train departures and arrivals, dearth of engines and passenger coaches and lack of proper maintenance of railway lines have been hampering train services of western zone of Bangladesh Railway for a long time, says UNB.

Official sources said, there are at least 138 trains running every day in different routes in two divisions of the western zone. These trains need at least 1,000 coaches to cope with the rush of the passengers. There are only 340 coaches of which 242 are running in Pakshay Railway broad-gauge section and the rest of the 98

coaches are used in Lalmonirhat metre-gauge section, the sources added.

In the two divisions of the zone, there are servicing facilities in Rajbari, Khulna, Rupsha, Ishurdi, Parbatipur, Santhar, Bonarpura and Amnura railway junctions. Trains on reaching these junctions were traditionally examined

and given fitness certificates after their servicing by the railway staff. But this procedure is not followed any more, it is alleged.

As a result, most of the coaches have become unfit for service, but these are still running.

Hot spell claims two in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, May 15: Hot spell sweeping over the district for the last one week claimed two lives today at Tarash and Kazipur thanas, hospital and family sources said, reports UNB.

Shamsur Rahman, 52, Assistant Headmaster of the Bostul Ishak High School in Tarash, collapsed at the Tarash Pilot High School examination centre while conducting the SSC examination this morning.

In Kazipur thana, Rohimunnissa, 54, wife of Belayet Hossain of Khizirpur village, fell unconscious and died when she was cooking at her house at 12 noon.

Three killed in Sirajganj road mishap

SIRAJGANJ, May 15: Three people were killed and four others injured when a loaded truck turned turtle and fell into a road-side ditch Saturday morning near Sialkhor poultry farm of Sadar thana on New Bogra road, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the driver of the cattle loaded Sirajganj bound truck coming from Bogra lost the control of the gear and the vehicle plunged into the ditch at 9 am.

The driver and the helper managed to escape. Police seized the truck and a case has been filed.

Tk 2.77cr cultural complex at Shahjadpur

SHAHJADPUR (Sirajganj), May 15: A cultural complex is being set up at Shahjadpur 'Rabindra Kuthibari' premises at a cost of Taka two crore 77 lakh. Various infrastructures including a 500 seat capacity modern auditorium would be commissioned at the complex with a view to flourishing national culture, reports BSS.

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahannara Begum disclosed this while addressing the closing ceremony of the 133rd birth anniversary of Poet Rabindranath Tagore.

Presided over by local member of the parliament Kamruddin Ehsa Khan-Majlish the function was addressed among others by Begum Rahima Khondoker MP, local eminent educationist Dr Abu Sayeed and Nasimuddin Malitha and director of the archaeology department.

Speaking on the occasion the state minister said Rabindranath could establish himself as humanitarian person apart from the literature. She said philosophy of the life of Rabindranath Tagore would be the source of inspiration for our future generation. The present government was firmly determined to create a favourable environment for flourishing of national culture, she added.

She opened the plague of the complex. The national birth anniversary programme of Rabindranath was rounded off with a cultural function.

Earlier, the state minister laid the foundationstone of the Hazrat Makhdom Shahuddoula Library to be constructed at Shah Makhdom Mazar Complex at a cost of Taka 11 lakh from the government's library promotion project.

Publication of probe body report demanded

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, May 15: The people of Jakiganj thana have demanded immediate publication of the report on killing of five villagers by the BDR personnel firing and early execution of the recommendation given by the enquiry commission.

According to reports, on July 26 last year the BDR personnel from a nearby border out post went to the Telikha Embankment. In Jakiganj thana of Sylhet district and opened fire on the villagers without any provocation.

It was learnt, thousands of villagers from different adjoining villages went to the embankment site to fill up key-point of the embankment to save several hundred acres of croplands from inundation. Four persons died on the spot while another succumbed to his injuries in the hospital by the BDR firing.

The incident created much tension in the district. The government on the following day formed a judicial enquiry commission with Anwarul Haque, District and Sessions Judge, Kishoreganj as its Chairman and had asked him to submit a report on the incident within a month. The Commission, accordingly, submitted report to the government in September along with certain recommendations.

Largescale flow of water from the hilly areas across the borders cause damages to the standing crops on thousands of acres of land in the Jakiganj, Beanibazar, Biswanath and Balaganj thanas of Sylhet district and considerable areas in Sunamganj district every year.

The situation turns serious when the hilly water cause breaches at points of the Kushiara dyke built by the Bangladesh Water Development Board inundating many of the villages in different areas. Erosion of the river also attribute much to the problems every year.

Almost all the months of the canals which start from the river Kushiara have been blocked through construction of embankments during the last few years. The existence of these unplanned embankments blocked the way of the outlet of water especially during the monsoon. It leads to overflow of the river in both the sides. Besides, about 30,000 acres of land in the low-lying areas have been suffering from stagnancy of water. Of this, 15,000 acres have become totally unfit for cultivation of any crop. The rest of the areas also go under water almost every year as the surface water can not flow down.

Common farmers prefer to break the key points of the embankments to save their lands from the clutches of floods. Due to this, they have to face clashes with groups of fishermen, almost every year.

The agitation among the people have gone to extreme point following the killing of five villagers in the BDR firing. The situation was under control when the government as-

sure the people of taking necessary steps to open the key-points of the embankments.

All These problems were discussed at a recent meeting of the Jakiganj Thana Development Council. A number of the union parishad chairmen said that, faulty and unplanned construction of The Dyke and Embankments had caused and worsened the situation. They also said that immediate steps should be taken for opening the key-points of the embankments. They also called for construction of Dyke, embankments and for dredging of the rivers.

Tk one lakh looted

More than Taka one lakh were looted by a gang of miscreants in broad day light in Sylhet town recently.

Sufiuddin Ahmed, Manager, Sylhet Liaison Office of Press International, a British firm engaged in the Kailashilla Gas Field was returning from bank alongwith a cash amount of Taka 1,22,451 to his office at Shahjalal upashahar area. At about 2 pm when he got down from the rickshaw, three armed people surrounded him.

They snatched away his bag containing the money. During the scuffle, Taka 20,000 in two bundles fell on the ground. However, the miscreants managed to escape alongwith the rest of the amount.

On getting information, a police party reached the spot after three hours, it is reported.

A case have been registered.

Two murdered

Father and son were killed in the hands of their opponent group in village Poinda of Sunamganj sadar thana recently.

The incident occurred as a sequel to a previous enmity over land dispute.

Police sources informed that, the victims, Abdun Noor, 65 and his son, Azizur Rahman, 28, were working in their paddy field when all of a sudden they were attacked by the opponent group who numbered 17. The attackers, armed with dao and other sharp weapons, also injured three other in the incident who had been admitted to the Sunamganj sadar hospital.

A case have been registered with the Sunamganj sadar thana against the 17 persons. Police arrested one of the accused while the main accused person is absconding, police source informed.

Bangladesh Chhatra League bagged all the 14 posts in the Sunamganj Government College students union election held recently.

The winners were followed by the nominees of two panels namely, Ganotantrik Chhatra Otkya, an alliance of Chhatra Union, Chhatra League (Pro-JSD) and Chhatra League (Pro-BSD) and the other of Jatityatabadi Chhatra Dal.

District roundup

JAMALPUR

Training course on livestock health management ends

May 15: A ten-day training course, arranged by Sadar Thana Livestock Department to expand the livestock health management, was held here last week, reports UNB.

On the concluding day, a function was also arranged to distribute certificates among some 118 farmers who attended the course. Kit-boxes were also supplied to the participants on the occasion.

Presided over by District Livestock Officer Dr Abdul Wahed it was attended by Deputy Director of Dhaka Livestock office Dr Kofluddin Ahmed as chief guest.

Among others, Thana Livestock officer Nurul Islam and Nasrul Islam spoke on the occasion.

The speakers stressed the need for livestock health management in raising dairy farms individually or collectively and said knowledge of primary health care is essential for the farmers.

They said there is a vast scope to increase cattle population in the country by supplying balanced fodder invented by the local scientists.

They also called upon the farmers to avail the bank loan facilities to raise dairy and poultry farms to make the country self-reliant in this field.

GAIBANDHA

Implementation of river port project demanded

May 15: A big procession was brought out in the town Tuesday demanding immediate implementation of the proposed Balashi River Port Project, reports UNB.

Organised by Balashi River Port Movement Implementation Committee the processionists also demanded construction of railway track from Trimohani to Balashi Ghat.

The government undertook a project to set up a river port at Balashi in the district a few years back but its implementation is being delayed due to some unknown reasons.

Later, the processionists handed over a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner for sending it to the Prime Minister for immediate action.

Later, a rally was held in the town in which speakers justified the commercial viability of the proposed port.

Presided over by convenor of the committee, Lutfar Rahman Balashi, it was also addressed by Mazid Mukul, Belal Hossain, Habibur Rahman, Mahbubur Rahman and Anisuzzaman Babu.

CHITTAGONG

Arms, ammunition recovered

May 15: Pahartali Thana Police recovered huge fire arms and ammunition and smuggled Indian goods from different areas of the town in separate raids during the last 48 hours, reports UNB.

The recovered arms, include one pistol, two pipe-guns and two swords.

The goods include Indian sarees worth about Tk 1.50 lakh, 2,200 bottles of Phen-sydil Syrup valued at Tk 1.50 lakh, electric goods valued Tk 50,000 and 25 Indian locks worth about Tk 2,000.

A case was filed with Pahartali thana but none has been arrested yet in this connection.

SIRAJGANJ

Storm destroys houses, schools

May 15: A storm struck Kazipur thana Thursday night and swept over 60 villages destroying thatched and school houses, poultrys and uprooting trees, official sources said today Friday.

The tropical storm accompanied by strong winds lashed the villages and damaged some 150 thatched houses, seven primary schools and uprooted at least 200 trees, local people said.

Six poultrys were also lost during the fury of the storm which hit the area at around 8 pm, they added.

However, no casualties or injuries were reported.

Another report adds: Construction works of 54 schools at a cost of Tk 5.5 crore in Rajnagar thana of the district are nearing completion and is expected to finish by the end of this month.

Of the total schools, 44 are private schools and the rest 10 government ones, official said today.

The project also includes construction of new roads, culverts and bridges in the thana.

JHENDADDAH

Night coach looted

May 15: Armed youths wounded and looted passengers of a Dhaka-bound night coach from Benapole near Barabazar on Jhenidah-Jessore highway Monday night, reports UNB.

Police said the gangsters looted the passengers at gun point. When resisted they attacked the driver and passengers with knives and daggers and got down at Dulalmondia at about 11 pm.

Driver Emdadul Haque of the Dolphin Paribahan coach was rushed to Jessore hospital with multiple injuries while 7 passengers were admitted to Kaliganj health complex.

None was arrested till Tuesday evening.

NETROKONA

Malaria breaks out

May : Malaria has seriously broken out in the two unions under Kamalakanda thana of Netrokona district, Civil Surgeon Dr Abu Mohammod Hossain said here today, reports BSS.

Hossain said that the affected unions are Rongcati and Kharnal where four persons were already died and 75 were attacked by the disease during the last one week.

8 Medical teams were rendering medicare services to the Malaria affected areas round-the-clock, he added.

Besides, sufficient quantities of medicines were being supplied from Netrokona civil surgeon office for distribution among the people of the Malaria affected unions.

An emergency medicare service camp has also been set up at Panchgoan health and family welfare centre premises at Kamalakanda thana for giving treatment of the Malaria patients.

BARISAL

Work of two projects of B M College going on

May 15: Construction work on two projects of government Brojomohun University College of Barisal is progressing fast and is expected to be completed within June next, reports BSS.

The projects involve an expenditure of Taka 1.13 crore and included construction of a science building and a commerce building.

According to an official source, Taka 82.62 lakh is being spent for the construction of the science building and the rest for commerce building.

Meanwhile, 85 per cent work on the projects have already been completed, the source added.

SATKHIRA

Tiger killed

May 15: The people of Jatindra village in Shyamnagar thana after a pitched battle killed a tiger on Sunday, reports UNB.

The villagers said they attacked the man-eater with dao, ballam and lathi when it came out from the nearby forest area. The tiger also retaliated with its paws and teeth injuring three people.

At last the villagers won the battle when a number of ballams pierced through the body of the tiger.

RAJSHAHI

Workshop on disable and women folk

May 15: A day-long workshop on "Disabled and Women Folk" was held here at Karitas auditorium on Friday, reports UNB.

Jointly organised by Swannayan Rajshahi and Voluntary Health Services Dhaka, about 100 people from different organisations participated in the workshop.

The workshop was concluded in two phases through discussion, group gathering and adoption of views to ensuring better living standard of the disabled people in the society.

Speakers at the workshop stressed the need for improving the quality of life of the disabled to mitigate their sufferings. They also emphasised to make them qualified manpower with vocational training.

Chaired by Rajshahi Civil Surgeon Dr Nurun Nessa, the workshop was addressed, among others, by Director of Voluntary Health Services Society, Dhaka, Raushan Rahman, Prof Lutfunnessa Mahmud of Rajshahi Women's College, General Secretary Swannayan Rajshahi Mostafizur Rahman, Nilufar Sultana, Associate Professor of Social Science of Rajshahi University and General Secretary Swannayan Mijanul Huda.