

Modern hospital in Faridpur to be commissioned soon

FARIDPUR, July 19: The 250-bed modern hospital built in the west Khabashpur area of this town built at a cost of Taka 14 crore will be commissioned very soon, reports BSS.

According to an official source, about Taka 10 crore were spent for the construction of hospital building, nurses dormitory, staff quarters, superintendent's quarters and other facilities.

The other paraphernalias including machinery, equipments and necessary articles costing about Taka 4 crore are ready for installation, the source said.

According to the source, the appointments of doctors, staff and technicians are complete and they have also joined in their duties presently at the existing 700-bed 'old Faridpur Modernised Sadar Hospital.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf who visited the newly built 250-bed hospital recently said that Faridpur Medical College which is presently functioning at Faridpur Medical Assistant Training School will be shifted to 250 bed hospital after further construction.

The newly build hospital will fulfill the long felt demand of the locality for better medical care because the present 100-bed hospital is already overcrowded.

Notes from Chuadanga

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, July 19: A total of 440 metric tons of wheat was distributed among the 1,170 destitute families of four thanas and three pourashavas of Chuadanga district during the last financial year under the Vulnerable Group Development Programme (VGDP) of the government.

According to Chuadanga district Relief and Rehabilitation Office sources, this wheat was distributed at the rate of 31.25 kilograms per family per month through 35 centres of the district. Of the total wheat 68 metric tons was distributed among 180 families of Chuadanga sadar thana, 34 metric tons among 90 families of Chuadanga pourashava, 146 metric tons among 390 families of Alamdanga thana, 34 metric tons among 90 families of Alamdanga pourashava, 79 metric tons among 210 families in Damurhuda thana, 34 metric tons among 90 families of Darsana pourashava and 45 metric tons among 120 families of Jibannagar thana.

Officials conduct land survey Inhabitants of Dahagram, Angorpota harassed

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, July 19: The inhabitants of Dahagram and Angorpota enclaves have been subjected to much harassment and many of them are being cheated which conducting land survey, according to the allegations received here.

A team of land survey personnel have started collective land survey reports in the enclaves few months ago. They are allegedly now demanding land record documents from the inhabitants of the enclave who never owned them as they are residing here for the past 40 to 45 years.

Many residents of the enclave said that they had lost their documents due to massive looting and arson by the Indian hooligans in 1965 while many others lacks the documents as their forefathers did not preserve them properly.

Yet the survey officials have been insisting on the residents to produce the land record documents which were issued 85 years ago.

In the face of such undue pressure, many of the people of the enclave may become landless. Meanwhile, many of them are now trying to obtain temporary documents for their land through back-door satisfying the concerned officials by any means.



MADARIPUR: Police recently seized more than one hundred bottles of phensidyl syrup from Mostafapur area of the district. One person, identified as Malo, was arrested. — Star photo

Over 1.25 lakh handlooms in Barisal face closure

From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, July 19: More than one lakh twenty-five thousand handlooms of six districts under Barisal division out of a total of over 1.50 lakh are now under lock and key on the verge of permanent closure.

As a result thousands of weavers of Barisal, Patuakhali, Bholia, Barguna, Pirojpur, and Jhalakathi who are particularly dependent on this profession have become jobless and leading a sub-human life with their family members.

Informed sources said, meantime, many weavers have already been forced to change their hereditary profession.

Weavers alleged that they have no future as the prices of necessary articles like yarn, dyes and chemicals have gone up and those are beyond their buying capacity particularly for the poor weavers living in the remote village areas.

Further, government has also imposed a high rate tax on dyes and chemicals, they said.

On the other hand smuggling of cotton cloths from India is rampant which is a vital problem for our handloom products. Uneven competition has made the future of local product bleak, they pointed out.

Further, the government policy for granting loans and realising the same has made the future and financial condition of the poor weavers of this region utterly miserable.

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

The weavers said that they have already paid up more than Tk 300 crore but still the rest amount is lying as outstanding loan with them which is now a burden to them. So, it should be exempted, they urged to the authority concerned.

Hats in Barguna in pitiable condition

From Our Correspondent

BARGUNA, July 19: Taltali hat, one of the biggest business centres of Barguna district has been facing various problems. Adequate accommodation supply of pure drinking water, drainage system and dearth of conservancy services are few of the problems. During the last few years the hat was not expanded with respect to increase in buyers and sellers creating severe stalemate in business transaction.

The roads inside the hat are not spacious enough to facilitate easy movement of the market goers. Besides, indiscriminate installation of shops has further narrowed the roads. The roads are in bad shape for want of renovation. The hat authorities care little to keep the market neat and clean.

Although the realise increased taxes from the traders and shop keepers. Heaps of garbage and filth are always dumped in the hat, polluting the atmosphere. There exists no drainage system in the market and so in the rainy season the hat goes under water. The market goers have to take contaminated water from the nearby ponds and canals as the only tubewell there remains out of order for days together.

The hat has no sanitary latrine and urinals. The people respond to the call of nature in the open space much to the annoyance of the people. There is no dustbin in the hat and hence garbage is piled up on the roads sometimes blocking the movement of pedestrians.



MYMENSINGH: A World Bank team recently visited the Fish Research Institute (FRI) here. Dr M A Mazid, Director of the Institute showed round the team members different sections of the research fields. — FRI photo

“Rejected quarter hatching conspiracy to undo Sangshad”

KULaura (Moulvibazar), July 19: Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda said here that the rejected quarters, which were forced to dissolve the 1986 parliament of entente in the face of people's movement under the leadership of Begum Khaleda Zia, were now hatching a conspiracy to undo the representative parliament elected by the people in 1991, reports BSS.

These rejected quarters were trying to achieve their goal by creating anarchy, unrest and chaos in the national life unitedly in the name of forming caretaker government out of anger and revenge, he added.

The information minister was addressing two public meetings at Kulaura Dakbanglow premises and Chowdhury Bazar recently.

Barrister Huda said BNP believed in democracy and rule of the people. The government, elected by the people, is the constitutional government and is mandated to supervise the overall activities of the country, he added.

He said the formation of the caretaker government was necessary because of farcical elections during the autocratic regime. A government elected by the people is now in power. Hence the formation of caretaker government by a person liked by a single quarter and bypassing the people's elected government tantamount to showing disrespect to the mandate of the people. It would also amount to no confidence in the people, he said.

The Information Minister said that a care-taker government could not be a government of the people. He said only an elected government could have the legal basis and be entrusted with the responsibility of supervising all affairs during its tenure.

He pointed out that even two-third majority in parliament did not enjoy unlimited privileges to bring amendment to the constitution. Huda observed, that moving any amendment to the constitution with regard to the forming a care-taker government would jeopardise “democracy” which is one of the main pillars of the constitution.

The minister categorically said that under democratic rule only an elected government was the constitutional one and not a care-taker government.

Reerring to the political quarters which are demanding the care-taker government, Huda said by making such demand they want to resort to malpractice in the elections through forming a care-taker government, comprising weak people and personalities of their choice and thereby taking away the voting rights of the people.

Because, he said, they know that hijacking votes could not be done in elections held under BNP government.

The minister said that the present government was making all-out efforts to establish Bangladesh in the community of nations as self-reliant, educated and a nation of skilled manpower. He said with this end in view countrywide programmes for spread of education and various development programmes were being successfully implemented.

Huda said, “our politics is aimed at ensuring the five basic needs of people like food, clothing, housing, education, and health”.

He recalled that shaheed President Ziaur Rahman had introduced politics of production on the basis of 19-point programme for achieving the basic needs.

The Information Minister said “We don't believe in care-taker. We believe in the government of the people. You don't believe in people's government, you want to establish caretaker government. So bring bill to this effect.”

He said the nation had seen your treachery in 1986 and also in 1972-75. He accused certain opposition quarters of forgetting the interest of the people and capturing power by any means. The nationalist force believed in the rule of the people. People would not tolerate any unholy activities in the country, he said and called upon them to stand under the banner of the nationalist force to safeguard the country's sovereignty and preserve democracy unitedly.

During his tour of Moulvibazar district the Information Minister visited Kulaura Jalalia Alia Madrasa, Rabeya Adarsha Government Primary School and Kulaura Girls' High School. At the district circuit house he held meeting with the local representative of Bangladesh Human Rights Enforcement Society and leaders and workers of BNP separately.

Begumganj thana beset with manifold problems

MAJDEE COURT (Noakhali), July 19: Begumganj thana of the district is beset with manifold problems causing untold suffering to the people, reports UNB.

Out of 222 kilometre road of the largest thana of the district only 61 km is pucca. As a result, during the rainy season most of the roads become muddy and slippery hampering the movement of vehicles and pedestrians.

The Chayani-Majde Court Road, Gopalpur-Begumganj Road, Gopalpur-Banglabazar Road, Banglabazar-Amishapara Road, Chaumuhani-Nadana Road, Chaumuhani-Mohammedpur Road have been lying in deplorable condition a long time. These roads have become unfit for vehicular movement.

The condition of the schools, colleges and madrasas are very bad having no pucca construction, adequate benches and accommodation facilities in most of the institutions.

Many institutions affected by last cyclone have not yet been repaired. The roof of the government degree college hostel may collapse at any moment as cracks have developed at many points.

Almost all of 50 hats and bazars of the thana are in bad shape due to lack of drainage system and shortage of drinking water supply. Moreover, garbage is dumped in hapazard way polluting the environment.

There is no dustbin even in the municipal area. Water supply arrangement is very poor causing suffering to the dwellers.

The health complex is suffering from insufficient doctors and inadequate supply of medicines. There is no recreational facilities nor any park in the thana for its 6.76 lakh people.

Absence of bus, truck and rickshaw stands in the thana headquarters has been creating much trouble for the passengers.

A large area of government land has been trespassed by hawkers and businessmen depriving the government of huge revenue.

The landless and unemployed people are increasing gradually in all the six thanas of the district.

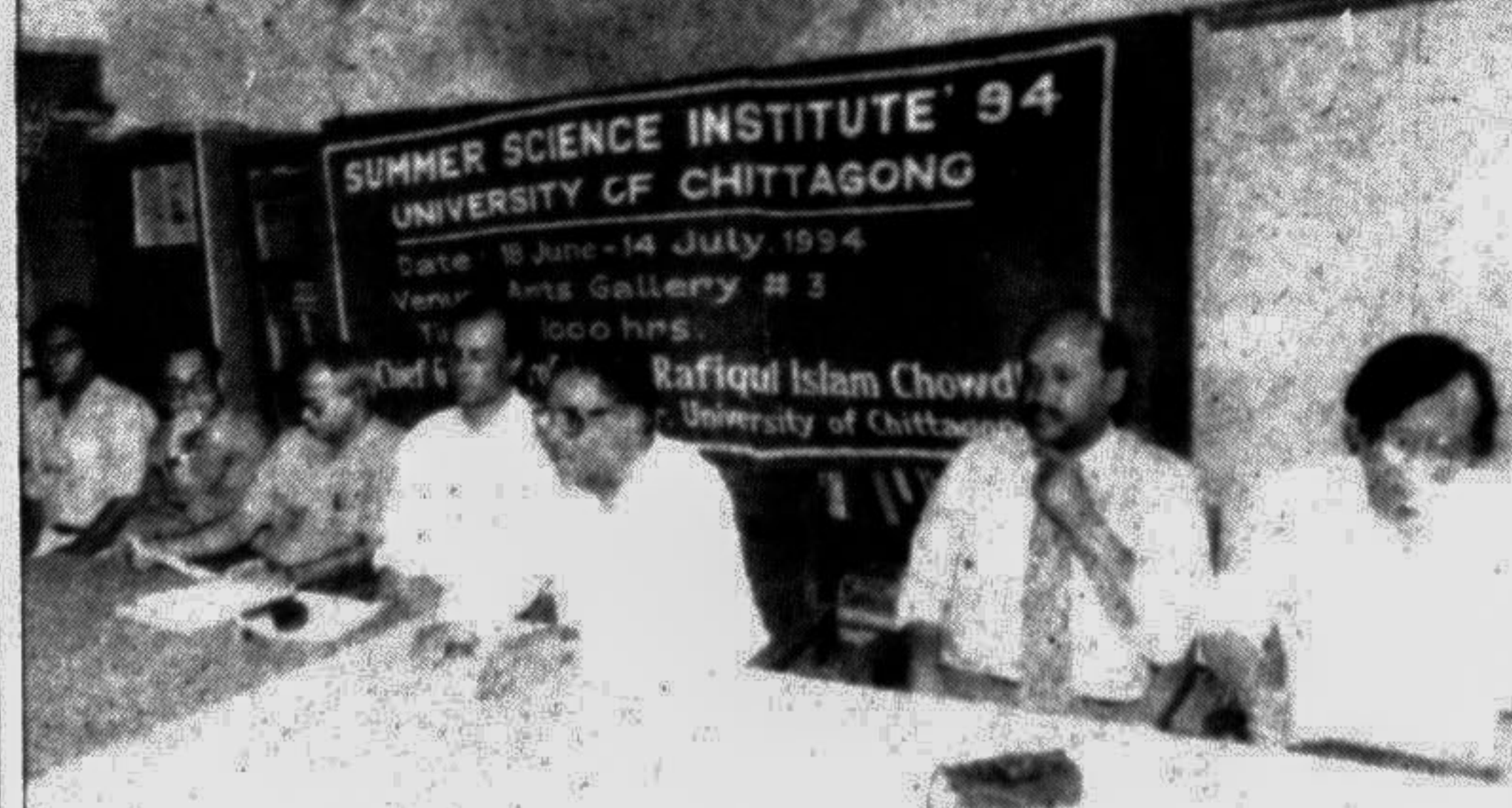
The thanas are Sadar, Begumganj, Chatkhill, Hatiya, Senbag, and Companiganj.

Of the total 22 lakh population of the district, three lakh people are unemployed of which one lakh are educated unemployed.

According to a recent survey conducted by an NGO revealed that 60 per cent of the total population depend on agriculture of which 50 per cent are small land holders, 20 per cent depend on other occupations and the rest 20 per cent are unemployed.

Besides, hundreds of acres of cultivable land are being eroded by the river Meghna in Sadar and Hatiya thanas every year resulting in the increase of landless people.

Moreover, the marginal farmers who have few acres of land cannot afford to buy necessary inputs



Professor R I Choudhury, Vice-Chancellor of Chittagong University delivering his speech on democracy to the participants of Summer Science Institute of the university Sociology Department recently. Professor A F Imam Ali, Chairman, Department of Sociology presided over the function. Dr Mizanur Rahman Miah, Acting Director of the School of Social Work in southern Illinois University, USA was also present on the occasion. — CU photo

District roundup

JHENIDAH

Rickshaws distributed

July 19: Islamic Foundation in the district distributed five rickshaws among the destitute families of the district, reports UNB.

A function was arranged in this connection held at local collectorate office last week.

These rickshaws were distributed from the fund of Zakat Board to rehabilitate the destitute families.

Presided over by Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Ali Akhand, the function was attended by Alhaj Moshir Rahman MP as chief guest, MA Wohab MP was also present on the occasion as special guest.

Another report says: A revenue budget of Tk 7.67,80,761 has been approved for Jhenidah Pourashava for the current fiscal year.

The budget was approved in a meeting held here with the Chairman Anisur Rahman in the chair and it was announced in a press conference at Pourashava office last week.

Of the budget, Tk 5,94,55,000 will come from the government grant and Tk 1,73,25,761 from own resources.

Of the amount, Tk 6.5 crore was earmarked for the development of communication system and no new tax was imposed in the budget, said an official of the pourashava.

BRAHMANBARIA

Ganja worth Tk 60,000 seized

July 19: Police seized 20 kilogram of ganja worth Tk 60,000 from a Dhaka bound bus at Ashuganj ferry ghat last week, reports UNB.

Acting on secret information, police raided the bus coming from Sunamganj at mid-night and recovered the ganja from the roof of the bus.

In another drive, Sadar thana police recovered 300 bottles of phensidyl syrup from a bush near Saydabad of Kasba thana on July 11.

Police following a tip-off raided Saydabad village and seized the drug worth about Tk 60,000.

A case has been filed in this connection.

MALJDEE COURT

Govt buildings in dilapidated condition

July 19: About 30 three-storied buildings constructed by PWD in early sixties for the accommodation of the government employees have been lying in a dilapidated condition since long, reports UNB.

These old buildings have developed cracks and plusters are mostly absent. During the rainy season rain, water leakage damage the articles of the residents.

The residents repeatedly appealed to the concerned authorities for repair and maintenance of these buildings but nothing has yet been done in this respect.

The authorities said that due to lack of fund the repair and maintenance of the buildings are not possible. But the residents of the buildings said the PWD could easily repair and maintain the buildings from the rents they are realising annually.

KUSHLIA

Nursery sapling fair ends

July 19: A ten-day nursery sapling fair, arranged by the district Forest Department, was concluded here at the Collectorate premises on Wednesday, reports UNB.

The concluding function was presided over by the Deputy Commissioner of the district while it was attended as chief guest by Alhaj KM Abdul Kaeque MP.

Liton nursery, Nur nursery and Pippas nursery were awarded first, second and third prizes respectively. A total of 11 stalls were set up in the fair where certificates were given among the participants.

During the fair, some 42 thousand saplings worth about Tk 1.85 lakh were sold.

The speakers lauded the role of the district administration and the Forest Department for arranging such fair which generated enthusiasm among the people.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Rifles Kushtia sector also arranged a tree fair in their office premises.

BDR also released huge quantity of fish fry to their ponds Thursday.

SHERPUR

Exhibition of obscene films rampant

July 19: Rampant exhibition of obscene films through cinema halls and VCRs in the town and rural areas is going on causing moral degradation of the youths, reports UNB.

A group of people are screening the violent English and Hindi films including blue ones at certain cinema halls and particular areas on commercial basis.

A large number of students and youths gather in the halls or in the VCR exhibition centres to enjoy the obscene films.

Meanwhile, anti-social activities are on rise in the district. The mastans are often engaged in violent activities including hijacking and stealing.

Guardians have urged the authorities to take necessary steps to stop showing of these films to help save their children from moral degradation.

JAMALPUR

Seminar on water supply sanitation

July 19: A day-long seminar on water supply and sanitation was held here recently under the joint auspices of Public Health Engineering Department and UNICEF, reports BSS.

The seminar was presided over by Faizur Rahman, Chairman Jamalpur Municipality and addressed among others by Jalal Ahmed, deputy commissioner.

Mrs Ashraf Hossain, Principal A M College, Raoshan Ara Rashid, Principal Zaheda Saifur Women College, Nurul Islam, Executive Engineer, Public Health Engineering Department, and Mansur Fakir, Deputy Director Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) also took part in the seminar.

MOULVIBAZAR

Killing of Juba Dal activist protested

July 19: A meeting was held at thanabazar of Sadar thana on Thursday protesting the killing of local Juba Dal activist Saidur Rahman, reports UNB.

Saidur, student of Sylhet Law College, was killed on July 2 allegedly by his uncle as a sequel to family feud.

The speakers in the meeting condemned the killing and demanded immediate punishment of the persons responsible for the incident.

The meeting was addressed, among others, by Mosharaf Hussain, Saiful Akhter, Abdur Noor, Rafiz Miah, Saidul Islam, Akhlaque Rahman and Fakhru.

GOPALGANJ

Corruption in distributing of VGD cards

July 19: Large scale irregularities and corruption were alleged in distributing VGD cards in different unions of the district, reports UNB.

It is alleged that the Union Parishad Chairmen have been distributing VGD cards to the people of their choice or their own partymen and some times in exchange of money.

According to official sources, the distressed divorced women, widow, poor women who were deserted by their husbands and women day labourers are entitled to get the cards.

Moreover, he alleged that the beneficiaries of the card of the year 92-94 were again enlisted for the year 94-96. He also called upon the DC to probe into the matter.

Local people urged the concerned authorities to enlist the really distressed women and ensure fair distribution of VGD cards.

CHANDPUR

Current nets seized

July 19: District river police seized foreign-made current nets and Chinese padlock worth Tk 25 lakh from a trawler and arrested 11 people at mid-Jamuna, reports UNB.

Acting on secret information, police raided the Dhaka bound trawler coming from Chittagong and recovered 540 kg current nets and 2100 pieces of padlocks on July 10.

On the confessional statement of the arrested people police again searched the trawler on Wednesday and recovered more 1324 kg current nets and 300 pieces of padlocks worth Tk 15 lakh from inside the trawler kept secretly.

A case has been filed with the police.