

Rehabilitation project for fishermen remain suspended

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Aug 7: Thousands of fishermen of the coastal districts who suffered severe losses during the 1991 cyclone are yet to be rehabilitated.

According to sources, after the devastating cyclone of '91 a rehabilitation programme for thousands of cyclone affected fishermen of 12 districts of Patuakhali, Borguna, Bhola, Jhalakathi, Pirojpur, Khulna, Bagerhat, Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Noakhali, Laxmipur and Chandpur had been taken with an estimated cost of Tk 110 crore. Financial assistance for this project was provided by the Japanese government.

The National Fishermen Co-operative Society had taken the responsibility for implementing the project. Under this project there were 906 fishermen's co-operative societies which were eligible for loans under the project.

It was decided that with this loan each group or cooperative society will purchase

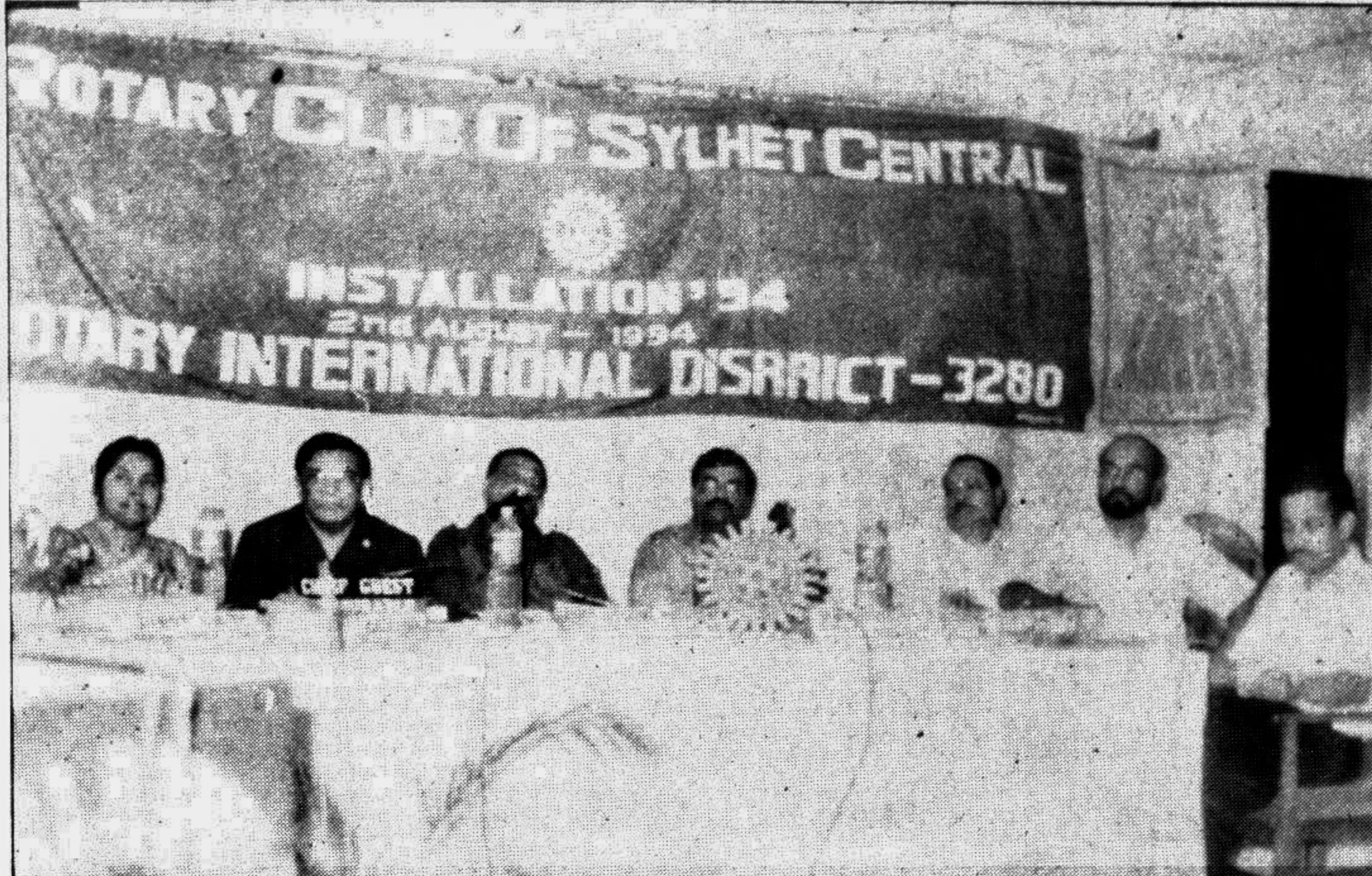
trawlers fishing nets and other necessary fishery apparatus.

Taka 96 crore was allocated to purchase all these things and the rest of the amount was left for maintenance purposes.

Groups were formed with 10 to 12 fishermen from each district and sent to the office of the registrar for registration. As time passed allegations of mismanagement and corruption started to pour in.

Some non-fishermen formed fake groups and sent for registration to the concerned authority who were ultimately identified as not genuine fishermen from the area.

More, and more such 'fake fishermen' went for registration claiming their loan. This situation increasingly gave trouble in deciding who were the genuine fishermen. Eventually, loan disbursement among the groups of the districts had to be stopped.



SYLHET: Mosharrif Hossain (second from left), District Governor of Rotary Club speaking as chief guest at the installation ceremony of Rotary Club, Sylhet Central held recently. — Star photo

District roundup

BARISAL

Breast Feeding Day observed

Aug 7: Several discussion meetings, rallies and seminars were held here to observe the World Breast Feeding Day, organised by divisional and district Health Department last week, reports UNB.

Some 1000 mothers participated the main rally started from Aswini Kumar Hall premises at 10 am and paraded the streets of the town.

Participants from Health Department, Family Planning Society, Ansar, VDP, Women's Affairs Directorate, CARE, BRAC, FWVTI, BUKE, ICDA, Girls Guide Association and other government and non-government organisations took part in the functions.

A discussion meeting was held at Aswini Kumar Hall at 11 am with Sheikh Haider Ali, Civil Surgeon, Barisal, in the chair, Dr SM Anisur Rahman, Director, Health, was present as chief guest.

Speakers underlined the need for strengthening the family and social responsibilities to children and health care.

They also stressed on breast feeding to protect children from malnutrition and other diseases.

PATUAKHALI

Rival groups clash: 1 killed, five hurt

Aug 7: A man was killed and five others were injured in a clash between two rival groups at Krishnanagar village in Amtali thana recently, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Abdul Aziz of the village. Two of the injured were sent to Barisal Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

Police said Abdul Aziz was attacked by his rival group led by Suja Bhuiyan and his accomplices equipped with lethal weapons while he was ploughing the disputed land. Aziz died on the spot.

A case has been filed with the police.

RAJBARI

Conference of Krishak League held

Aug 7: Bangladesh Krishak League recently held its district conference at the auditorium of Railway Hall and formed an executive committee for the next two years, reports UNB.

Abdul Karim Sikder and Ramjan Ali became President and General Secretary of the newly elected 41-member Executive Committee.

The conference was inaugurated by MA Mannan MP and presided over by Fakir Abdul Zaber, Convener of district unit Krishak League. Rashed Mosharrif, General Secretary of the Krishak League was the chief guest.

Krishak leaders called upon all to strengthen the hands of AL chief and Opposition Leader Sheikh Hasina in materialising the 41 point demands.

They expressed concern over the present price hike of agri inputs like insecticide and fertilizer and urged the government to maintain fair price of the items.

It was addressed among others by Kazi Keramat Ali MP, Central Committee member MA Wadud, and district AL unit President Rafiqul Salehin.

JESSORE

AL rejected in all the polls in past: Tariq

Aug 7: Post and Telecommunications Minister Tariqul Islam said that people of the country were not so fool as they were considered by Awami League chief, reports BSS.

Addressing a meeting at Tejrole under the sadar thana, he said the electorates had rejected the Awami League in all the polls in the past.

Bewildered by the wave of development initiated by the present democratic government, the Awami League has been conspiring with its old allies the fundamentalist Jamaat and autocratic JP to topple the government realising that this time also the people would not vote for them.

He said the conspiracy of Awami League was not against BNP, but against those electorates who had voted BNP to power.

Presided over by Ansar Master, the meeting was also addressed by Nurunnabi, Abul Hasan, Ismail Hossain and A Farook.

KURIGRAM

Farmers' rally held

From Our Correspondent

Aug 7: A big farmers rally was held at the demonstration plot of maize crop in Fulbari thana of the district recently.

Presided over by Mosiem Uddin Mia, Thana Krishi Officer the rally was attended, among others, by training officer Abdur Rahman, as chief guest and subject matter specialist (PP) Kalidas Debnath as special guest.

A large number of peasants of the area attended the rally.

Another farmers rally was held at the sugarcane demonstration plot in Ulipur thana of Kurigram district recently.

Abdur Rahman Khan, training officer, agriculture was present as chief guest while Aktaruzzaman, S M S (crop), and Kalidas Debnath S M S (PP) were the special guests.

HABIGANJ

Power failure frequent

From Our Correspondent

Aug 7: Frequent power failures in Habiganj has become a regular feature for over 3 months causing untold suffering to the people, students and HSC examinees in particular.

Everyday, the electricity goes off for hours together without any prior information to the consumers.

The production in mills and factories are being greatly hampered owing to the absence of electricity for two or three hours daily in total.

Patients in hospitals are also suffering much. Emergency operation cannot be performed due to power failure.

JHENAI DAH

Over 10 thousand hectares of land brought under jute cultivation

From Our Correspondent

Aug 7: More than ten thousand hectares of land was brought under jute cultivation in five thanas out of six thanas of Jhenaidah district this season.

According to source, related to Agricultural Extension Department fold that two thousand four hundred hectares in Jhenaidah sadar thana, one thousand seven hundred one hectares in Salkupa thana, one thousand eight hundred one hectares in Harinakundu thana, one thousand six hundred one hectares in Kaliganj thana and one thousand four hundred one hectares of land was brought under intensive jute cultivation.

BRAHMANBARIA

Load shedding hampers normal activities

Aug 7: Erratic power supply in the district including the town has been causing suffering to the people particularly the HSC students, reports UNB.

Local people said the suffering of the people in the eight thanas of the district increased manifold due to load shedding and frequent power failure for the last few months.

Electricity goes off every now and then plunging the entire town area into darkness after sun set giving rise to anti-social activities.

Production in mills, factories and workshops have been hampering seriously due to this causing price hike of the commodities.

Students particularly the candidates of the ongoing HSC examination are the worst sufferers for erratic power supply. Meanwhile, fluctuations of voltage caused damage to many household electronic gadgets.

KISHOREGANJ

Dacoity committed

From Our Correspondent

Aug 7: A daring dacoity was committed in the passenger launch M L Santipur in between Austagram and Chatapur at about 10 am recently. The launch was coming from Ajmiriganj of Habiganj district to Bhairab bazar.

According to passengers, the dacoits numbering about 12 to 16 who were travelling by the launch in the guise of passengers suddenly attacked the passengers with arms.

The dacoits looted cash and other valuables worth about Taka 8 lakh on gun point. Eight passengers including two women were beaten by the dacoits.

A case has been filed with Austagram police station in this regard.

Tk 8 cr sanctioned for development of Barisal Airport this fiscal

BARISAL, Aug 7: The government has sanctioned Tk eight crore for the development of Barisal Airport during the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

Local MP, Mojibur Rahman disclosed this while addressing a press conference at the local press club on Wednesday.

"It will be a full fledged airport with a 6000-feet runway, terminal building and technical apparatus. It's now ready to operate STOL services," the MP told the newsmen.

A total of 11.40 crore was sanctioned during the last financial year to make the airport operational, he said.

Rahman said a divisional stadium would be constructed in the district and more galleries would be added to the existing local stadium.

He told the journalists that the government had also sanctioned Tk 8.23 crore for setting up dairy farms in Barisal, Bogra and Chittagong districts in the current fiscal.

Besides, Tk 3.75 crore has been allocated to construct the Barisal-Bhola-Laxmipur national highway during 1994-95 financial year.

He said more than Tk one crore would be spent for development and construction of 11 high schools, one madrasa and a college in the district.

The MP said a total of Tk 12 lakh had been allocated for Barisal BM University College and Barisal Women's College hostels while Tk 5.30 crore for the development works of Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College.

More than 12 crore has also been sanctioned for setting up divisional headquarters, commissioner's secretariat, construction of residential quarters for the DIG and divisional commissioners in the current fiscal.

Rahman said Tk two crore had been sanctioned for construction a 10-kw-radio station at Rupatali while Tk 1.50 crore for setting up of a Vocational Training Institute in the district and Tk one crore for construction of residential quarters for judicial officers.

Besides, Tk 12 crore has been sanctioned for feasibility study to construct a bridge over Sugandha river at Sikarpur-Doarika.

Scarcity of drinking water acute in Faridpur town

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Aug 7: Acute scarcity of drinking water has been prevailing in Faridpur Pourashava for long time. The water supplied by the pourashava can hardly meet twentyfive per cent needs of the people. Besides the water contains iron to such an extent that it cannot be used even for bathing and washing clothes.

The population of Faridpur Pourashava is nearly one lakh and the requirement of water in the area for various purposes is about thirty lakh gallons a day. But the pourashava supplies only six lakh gallons of water everyday. And this scanty supply is not even steady and sometimes the supply of water is so poor that people have to procure water from nearby ponds and ditches for domestic use other than drinking.

Out of total six lakh gallons of water supplied by the pourashava, only 3.5 lakh gallons is filtered and the rest is supplied directly from deep tubewell. This unfiltered water is unhealthy and causes intestinal disorders if drunk.

It may be mentioned that the overhead water tank built

in Goalchanat, area of the town about a decade ago at a huge cost has yet been put into commission.

If commissioned the demand of pure drinking water of the pourashava would be greatly mitigated.

Admitting the poor supply of drinking water, a spokesman of pourashava opined that they would be able to meet the total demand of drinking water by the end of 1996.

With this end in view, the poura authority is working hard and doing their utmost to utilise Taka eleven crores funded by Asian Development Bank (ADB) for ensuring smooth and sufficient supply of pure drinking water in the poura area.

Project completes

Daulatdia-Faridpur section of 145 km Daulatdia-Kushitia Highway project has been completed to the great relief of the people of the area.

The smooth plying of the vehicles of all kinds has fulfilled the long standing aspiration of the people at large. Construction work of this ADB

financed project was taken up in July 1990 by China National Complete Plant Corporation — a Chinese construction firm on international tender at a cost of Tk 147 crores 80 lakhs.

But the work could not be completed within the stipulated period allegedly due to certain reasons including possession of some lands acquired which caused difficulties for the vehicles to ply through the road.

According to the company source, the company later entered into a fresh agreement to complete the whole project by March 1995. The source further disclosed that they engaged a fresh team from China along with some equipments and with an earnest desire to complete the project within the period fixed afresh they worked vigorously even at night and have been awarded with calculated effect.

The source further told this correspondent that they are sure to fully complete the work by 1994 in place of 1995. They also lauded the co-operation extended to them by the consultants and the department concerned.

Chandpur Govt Women's College beset with problems

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Aug 7: Chandpur government women's college is plagued with multifarious problems hampering the education of students. Established in 1962 the college was nationalised in 1985 but educational facilities and requisite number of teachers have not yet been provided to run the college smoothly.

There were about twenty four post of teachers in different departments of science, and arts, but now the college is run by eleven teachers.

There is no teacher in the department of Geography, Social Welfare, English, Logic and History. The post of the teachers has not yet been created. There is no post of demonstrators in the college.

About one thousand five hundred students are studying in the college. The proper education of the students is being hampered due to shortage of teachers for a long time. A

large number of the post of the teachers has been lying vacant for a pretty long time. There are only one laboratory room which can hardly accommodate science students. Science students have been doubled after the introduction of BSC course. There is no librarian in the college.

Despite rich collection of books in the college library, students are unable to borrow books from the library regularly. The college hostel has no visitors and guardians rooms. There is no canteen for the students. There is no staff quarters for the teachers. So the accommodation for the teachers are not provided in the campus they live in rented house which eat up a substantial portion of their salary.

There is no transport facilities for the students. In the absence of examination halls, all classes are suspended during the HSC and Degree examinations.

Caretaker govt can't be an alternative to elected govt: Mannan

NOWABGANJ, Aug 7: State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan called upon the people to unite under the leadership of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to consolidate the hard-earned democracy and carry forward the country's process of development initiated by the present government, reports BSS.

He said that BNP government was determined to fulfill the hopes and aspirations of the people.

Mannan was speaking as chief guest at a public meeting at Sholiah High School ground in Nowabganj thana on the occasion of foundation laying ceremony of two-storied pucca building of the school by government grant.

He said, caretaker government cannot be the alternative of an elected government. He said, elected government is an accountable government and caretaker is unaccountable. So the question of caretaker government is not acceptable in the democratic process. He said those who are raising this question they want to destroy our democracy.

Mannan said, members of the parliament are the representatives of the people. They were elected to sit in parliament and to work for the well-being of the people, but the opposition parliament members are abstaining from the House and not representing their voters. He urged the boycotting parliament members to join the next session of parliament for the interest of the voters and as well as the country.

Dacoity at Sylhet town

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Aug 7: Dacoits looted gold ornaments and cash worth about Taka five lakh from a house in Sylhet town early Saturday.

The armed gang attacked the residence of Ziaus Shams Chowdhury at Dargah Mohallah, Jharnarpar area at about 3 am.

They beat the inmates and tied them up with ropes before committing the dacoity.

The dacoits reportedly took away sixty tolas of gold ornaments, Taka forty-one thousand in cash, and other valuables from the house.

A case has been lodged. Another report says, an under-trial prisoner died in the Sylhet jail today. An official source said the victim Abul Hossain, 35, son of Bahar Ali of Bogra was brought to Sylhet jail a few days back. He was suffering from TB and died at about 3 am today.

Poor tax collection from Barisal region

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Aug 7: The tax collection target was not satisfactory from eight districts under Barisal region during the last financial year.

According to Custom and Excise Department of Barisal, tax collection target fixed at 41 crore 90 lakh, was far below at Tk 26 crore four lakh during that time. Of the total target of VAT collection was fixed at Tk 30 crore 41 lakh but collection was only Tk 15 crore 94 lakh 54 thousand from eight districts of Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola, Borguna, Jhalakathi, Pirojpur, Sariapur and Madaripur.

The Value Added Tax (VAT) collection was very poor which failed in the construction sector where collection was only Tk six crore 19 lakh out of the target fixed at Tk 20 crore. Besides, Tk 92 lakh was collected as VAT and other taxes

from cinema halls out of the target of Tk one crore 13 lakh. Taka 28 lakh 23 thousand was collected as tax out of the total Tk 32 lakh fixed as target from brick field owners.

On the contrary, the Customs and Excise Department also failed to achieve their target in collecting taxes from biscuit factories, hotels and restaurants, Jewellery shops, video shops, packaging factories, furniture shops etc from the region.

As excise duty, the department collected Tk nine crore 89 lakh from bidi factories out of the target fixed at Tk 11 crore 22 lakh.

The target in collecting all sorts of taxes by the Customs and Excise Department of Barisal failed due to shortage of necessary manpower and other problems, the sources said.



COMILLA: The local Jannitik Natya Shampraday, a cultural organisation recently arranged for a children's cultural competition in memory of late Abdul Quddus, a renowned educationist. The photo shows winners who received their certificates. — Star photo

Notes from Madaripur

From Our Correspondent

MADARIPUR, Aug 7: The Charmingia Bandar Bazar within Madaripur Municipal area is beset with various problems including shortage of accommodation bad drainage system.

The bazar has not been expanded since its inception. The bazar is too small to provide space for both buyers and sellers. The sellers of different commodities huddle together under the open sky.

The condition of the weekly cattle market is pitiable and unhygienic. Fithis and garbages are seen here and there. It has become the breeding ground of germs of various diseases.

During the rainy season the bazar is found in a deplorable state.

One beaten to death

Abdur Razzak Fakir allegedly was beaten to death by cousin at village Almodaster under Rajor thana recently.

A case has been filed in this connection with Rajor Polla station and the body was sent to Madaripur sadar hospital for autopsy.

House wife commits suicide

Nelu Biswas (20) wife Depok Biswas of village Kamlapur under Rajor thana allegedly committed suicide by taking endrine at her residence.

A UD case has been filed with Rajor thana in this connection.

780 certificate cases filed

A total of 780 certificate case against the farmers of Shariatpur district have been filed to realise loan of taka one crore and 65 lakhs by the Shariatpur branch of Bangladesh Krishi Bank.

The peasants, who were deprived of fair price of their products during the last few years are to repay the loan.

It may be mentioned here that due to heavy rain, drought and other natural calamities, the farmers could not grow crops.

Moreover, high price of essential and agriculture inputs worsened their position, as a result the cultivators are not in a position to repay loan.

Phensidyl recovered

The Madaripur sadar thana police recovered 101 bottles of Indian phensidyl syrup worth Taka 10,000 and arrested two smugglers at Mustafapur union under sadar thana July 1.

The arrested person are Biton Malo, and Enayet Hossain. A case was registered with Madaripur police station.

Stands first class first

Shahanaz Parvin stood first class first in the M A final examination of 1990 (held in 1994) from the history (South Asian History) department under Rajshahi University, says a press release.

She also got first division both in SSC and HSC examinations under Rajshahi Education Board and stood first in upper second class in B A (Hons) from the department of history under Rajshahi University.

Shahanaz Parvin is only daughter of Md Mohib Ullah, Sub-assistant engineer of Water Development Board Rajshahi and Noorjahan Begum.