

# Shortage of bullocks hampers cultivation in Chuadanga dist

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Aug 15: Acute shortage of bullocks has been prevailing in all the four thanas of Chuadanga district. The thanas are Chuadanga sadar, Alamdanga, Damurhuda and Jibannagar.

According to informed sources 40 to 50 per cent farmers have no bullocks to till their land. As a result the genuine farmers can not cultivate their land and they are to keep their land mortgaged to some well-to-do people of the locality.

At present a pair of bullocks is being sold at Taka 12,000 to 16,000. As a result it has gone out of the purchasing capacity of the poor and genuine farmers.

Finding no other alternatives farmers are compelled to cultivate their land by milch cows. Every day hundreds of bullocks are being slaughtered in the hats and bazars of the district to meet meat crisis as there has been a severe scarcity of fish throughout the district now.

# PHED installs 4,630 tubewells in Barisal circle last fiscal

BARISAL, Aug 15: The Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) installed 4,630 tubewells in its Barisal circle in the last fiscal year at a cost of Tk 9,50,46,000 for ensuring supply of pure drinking water, reports BSS.

The circle comprises the districts of Barisal, Jhalakati, Pirojpur, Barguna, Bhola, Faridpur, Rajbari, Gopalganj, Madaripur and Shariatpur.

According to an official source, 4,278 tubewells were sunk in co-operation with the UNICEF and 352 tubewells with the financial assistance from Saudi Arabia.

Eight hundred and eight deep and 1,255 shallow tubewells were installed in four districts of Barisal, Jhalakati, Pirojpur and Bhola under Barisal division, 884 deep tubewells in two districts of

# Some political parties trying to obstruct uplift efforts: Sarwari

TANGAIL, Aug 15: State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Begum Sarwari Rahman said that the present government is implementing various development projects for creating employment opportunities for the poor and unemployed women, reports UNB.

She was addressing as chief guest at a women's gathering at the Bhashani Hall in the town on Thursday.

The state minister said when the government is materialising poverty alleviation programme in the country, some political parties are trying to obstruct the development efforts in the name of an unconstitutional issue the care-taker government, she added.

She urged all to be cautious against the ill motives of those who are trying to create chaos and confusion in the country.

Organised by Tangail district unit of Bangladesh Jatiyatobadi Mohila Dal, the meeting was also addressed by Begum Khurshid Jahan Haq MP, Begum Selima Rahman MP and Begum Rowshan Elahi MP, Begum Anwara Habib MP presided over the meeting.

Earlier, Begum Sarwari Rahman visited Tangail district branches of Shishu Academy, Jatiya Mohila Sangstha and women's affairs office.

The state minister also visited a non-formal literacy centre being run by Tangail Shishu Academy and enjoyed a cultural programme presented by the child artistes of the academy.

She saw for herself the activities of vocational training projects being run by women's affairs office and Jatiya Mohila Sangstha in Tangail.

Begum Rahman also visited a project site of women's self employment generation at Karatia in Tangail.

# Unrestrained use of chemical fertilisers decreases productivity

NETRAKONA, Aug 15: Unrestrained use of chemical fertiliser is gradually decreasing productivity of agricultural land throughout the district in the last few years, reports UNB.

Local farmers said that chemical fertilisers are being used rampantly in all the 10 thanas of the district to grow more crops in every season during the last few years.

But due to lack of proportionate use of natural manure like cow-dung and green manure fertility of the land is decreasing alarmingly, they added.

An official of Livestock Department said cow-dung is rarely used in land now-a-days following the degeneration of livestock population.

Unofficial statistics show that every year in an average 10,000 cattleheads die due to various diseases. Besides, use of cow-dung as fuel has increased in the rural areas.

Experts said that increasing side-effects due to unrestrained use of chemical fertiliser include less water

# Taka 93 crore flood protection project yet to be implemented

From Meherullah

JAMALPUR, Aug 15: The flood control and irrigation project under taken about 25 years ago still awaits implementation.

The 93 crore taka project was planned to control flood and explore irrigation facilities in Jamalpur and Sherpur districts, the Bangladesh Water Development Board took the task of implementing the project with World Bank aid.

It is learnt that B M A Abbas, an expert on flood, irrigation and erosion led a team of experts who conducted a survey to select the project site in 1978. Unfortunately, the site, selected for the project work, was illegally occupied and in due course the occupants' settlement grew large and larger who were difficult to evict.

A reliable source said that a proposal was submitted to the concerned ministry for setting up of a BWDB divisional office at Jamalpur to make the implementation work easier. In this connection an official file was opened at BWDB head office at the directive of the late president Ziaur Rahman. However, noting was done to revive the project.

Another proposal was forwarded by then Deputy Commissioner of Jamalpur to the BWDB head office on December 23 in 1983 regarding the project work. The response was not effective at all. The late president Ziaur Rahman formally inaugurated the work on the Brahmaputra Barrage, an internal part of the project near Dewanganj thana town in 1980.

Following an approval, the government had also sanctioned huge amount of money for the project that included Taka one crore for the construction of embankment along the river Nalji in Nalitabari thana, Taka one crore 25 lakh for two regulators and a bridge in Melandah thana, Taka one crore 25 lakh for Gobakhali canal digging in Jamalpur sadar thana, Taka nine crore 33 lakh for old Brahmaputra flood control and rehabilitation project, Taka 10 crore 26 lakh for Jamalpur flood control and rehabilitation project in Dewanganj and Sarishabari thanas, Taka 13 crore for flood control embankment along Dawsari river, Taka two crore 77 lakh for Madarganj thana town protection project, Taka one crore 50 lakh for Pullahkandi union protection embankment under the Dewanganj thana, Taka two crore 54 lakh for Dewanganj town protection and rehabilitation project, Taka one crore 25 lakh for construction of a regulator at Kurinjura river under Sreebodi thana, Taka

# Rickshaws handed over

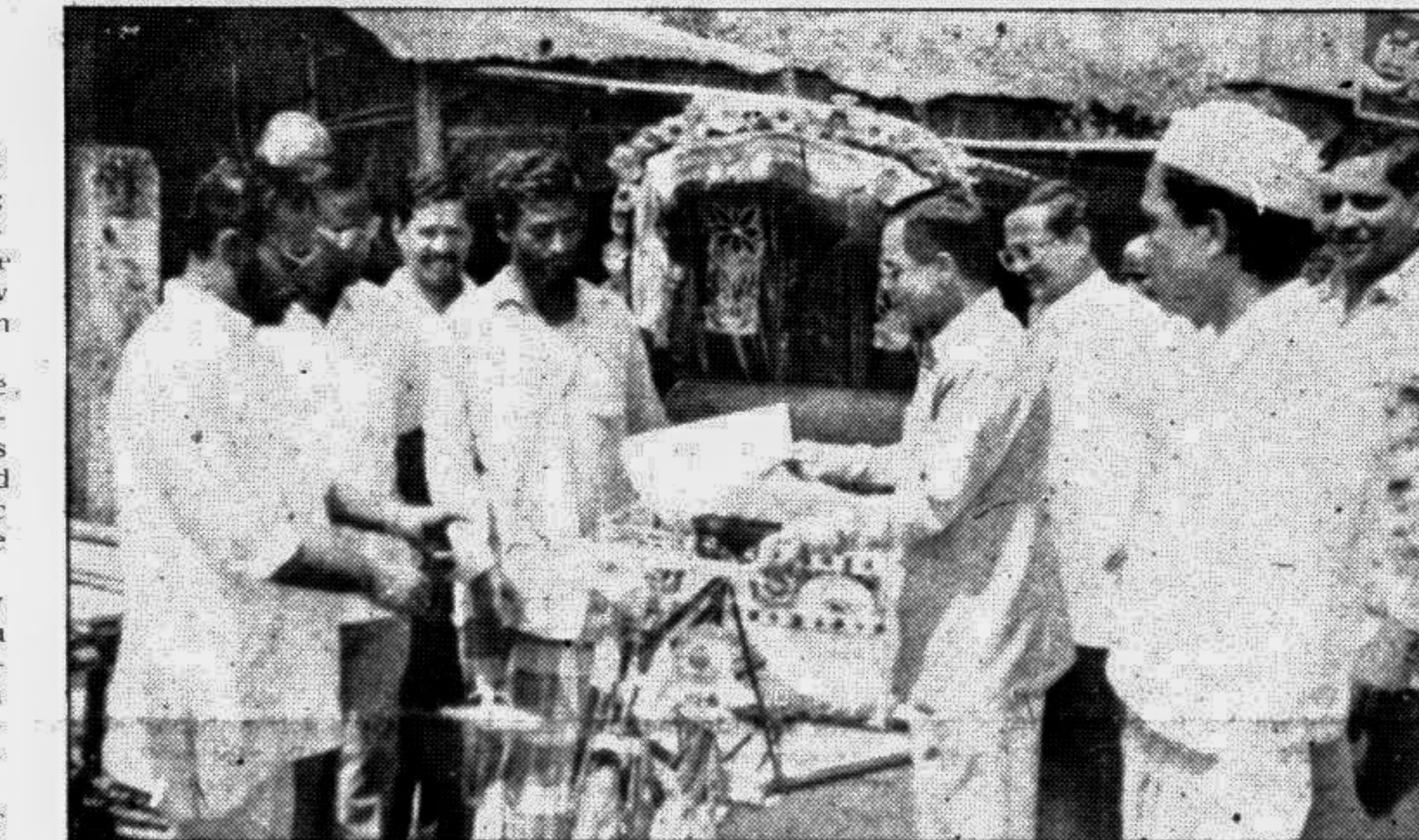
From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, Aug 15: Islamic Foundation Brahmanbaria unit distributed three rickshaws and two rickshaw vans among the five poor men of the district recently.

Islamic Foundation office source said these three rickshaws and two rickshaw vans were distributed from the fund of jokat board of the Islamic Foundation to rehabilitate unemployed and distressed.

Md Abdul Matin, Deputy Commissioner of Brahmanbaria district handed over the rickshaws and rickshaw vans as a chief guest at a ceremony organised by the Islamic Foundation held at its office.

Deputy Director of Islamic Foundation Brahmanbaria unit Md Abdul Haque presided over the function where officials, local elites and a cross section of the people were present.



BRAHMANBARIA: The Islamic Foundation of the district unit distributed three rickshaws and two rickshaw vans among five poor men of the district recently. The Deputy Commissioner of the district, Md Abdul Matin handed over the rickshaws who was the chief guest at a simple function arranged on the occasion.

# 'Govt implementing development programmes'

KISHOREGANJ, Aug 15: The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) government has been implementing massive development programme including Food For Education, Free Tuition and Stipend for their age old profession due to lack of fund, scarcity of fishing materials like nets, boats, price-hike of inputs and exploitation of fishermen by the non-professional fishermen.

Kishoreganj was once famous for fish production. About 65,000 fishermen living in Jina, Mitamain, Nikli,

# Fishermen in Kishoreganj dist face manifold problems

From Our Correspondent

Austagram, Kishoreganj sadar, Bajitpur, Katiadi, Hossainpur, Tarail, Karimganj, Pakundia, Kullarchar and Bhairab thanas of the district earned their livelihood by fishing in the rivers, beels, canals, haor and ponds. Pisciculture has been affected due to drying up of the water bodies.

Besides, the fishermen find it very difficult to buy fishing appliances like boats, nets and other things due to fund shortage. They borrow money from

the local mahajans at a very high rate of interest.

Some fishermen alleged that they did not get any bank loan for purchasing appliances. The non-professional fishermen have made monopoly over the whole fishing profession causing concern among the genuine fishermen.

The existing law in the country providing for leasing out the beels of jalmahals to the genuine fishermen is not properly applied, it is alleged.

# Family planning methods: Popularity growing everyday despite hurdles

COMILLA, Aug 15: Mothers of sleepy villages of Chowara union have now awakened to a new consciousness to adopt family planning methods despite prevailing social conservatism in rural countryside.

"Husbands are mostly silent now in face of our determination. Some social elders are still trying to influence us but we pay no heed to them," Rokeya Begum told BSS senior correspondent Shamsul Alam Belal who visited the area recently.

With a tranquil smile on her creased face, the 32 years old mother of three children also said, village chieftains and other superiors were encouraging married couples to adopt family planning devices for reducing the rates of birth.

Rokeya, now using 'Copper-T' who does not wish to have any more children, is one of those enthusiastic poor women who are visiting Chowara health and mother welfare centre everyday to take services on family planning.

The centre is located about 12 kilometres from Comilla town on the east side of Dhaka-Chittagong highway. A small sign-board with two pillars directs the way to the centre in a shabby one-floor old building on a grassy land amidst green landscape all around.

One medical officer, one medical assistant, one family welfare visitor, one midwife and one security guard together are attending around 50 clients along with their children every month.

Dr Ayesha Nasrin, in-charge of the centre, said, "all possible services including post and ante-natal check-up, child-care, follow-up check-up of family planning methods and advices on immunisation and breast-feeding were being provided to the clients visiting the centre."

She said, "there was no arrangement for indoor treatment or delivery in the centre but the trained midwives visit particular houses on calls to help give birth."

The centre, about half a kilometre from the Chowara Bazar, is situated in a quiet place from the humdrums of busy life and is considered an ideal location for both clients and the staff.

However, the clients complain of poor cleaning and maintenance inside the centre but they are highly appreciative of services they are getting.

The doctor and her staff members are trying to give whatever service, available here," Nilufar Begum, who has been using pills for the last 10 years, said.

Dr Nasrin gave a steady trend of Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR) in the area and said the CPR was now around 40 per cent. "We hope it will rise in the coming days," she said.

She also said that the use of pills topped the list of popular contraceptives followed by Intra-Uterine Device (IUD) and Depo-Povera among mothers. The use of condoms is also increasing among the male counterparts.

Over 90 per cent of the contraceptive users are learnt to have been illiterate and belong to the grass roots level of society. Some persons, accompanying their wives to the centre, said, other eligible couples of the area were showing interest in family planning as they had realised the importance of it at long last.

In the Chowara union, there are eight more satellite family welfare centres under the Chowara health and mother welfare centre. Each satellite centre covers three villages providing reproductive health information, contraceptives and motivation through various ways.

The family welfare visitor goes to these centres by rotation and counsels the clients on family planning as well as against social taboos that hampers it.

Fatema Begum, the only family welfare visitor of Chowara centre, described her sad experience of facing adverse criticism against family planning months back.

"The critics are a bit soft now in face of defiance of

# District roundup

JHENIDAH

**Cocoon production research centre to be set up**

Aug 15: One Cocoon Production and Research Centre will be established at Kola village in sadar thana of the district, official sources said, reports UNB.

For the project, acquisition of 25 acres of land has already been completed and construction work of the centre will begin shortly at a cost of Tk one crore.

The sources also said after completion, the project will create large scale employment opportunity for the youths, both male and female.

Meanwhile, a goat firm is being set up at Gopinathpur village in Jhenidah Poursashava at a cost of Tk 60 lakh. The work on the firm is progressing fast and is expected to be completed soon.

SIRAJGANJ

**10 robbers arrested**

Aug 15: Police arrested ten robbers after a gunfight in the river Jamuna near Gobindapur of Chowhali thana on Friday night, reports UNB.

Acting on secret information, police swooped on the dacoits numbering 20 to 25 while they were committing dacoity by an engine boat. Police and dacoits exchange 50 rounds of gunfire during the fight in which ten robbers were injured.

Police arrested the ten injured dacoits and seize the engine boat while others managed to flee.

Police recovered one revolver, one pipegun, one ram-dao and one round of bullet from the boat. One of the dacoits, Sultan (30), son of Bashiruddin of Madingar, Sibalaya thana in Manikganj district was admitted to Chowhali Health Complex.

A case has been filed with the police.

Police said two dacoities were committed in the same area on August 3.

SATKHIRA

**Housewife strangulated to death**

Aug 15: A young housewife of a village in sadar thana was allegedly strangulated to death by her husband when she turned down his proposal for second marriage on Friday, police said, reports UNB.

Rizia, 25, wife of Akshed of Baikari village, did not give her consent to Akshed for second marriage. At this, Akshed got furious and strangulated her to death.

The autopsy of the body was performed at Satkhira General Hospital.

A case was filed but Akshed remained absconding since the murder.

COMILLA

**Indian sares worth Tk 75 lakh seized**

Aug 15: A special patrol party of BDR seized Indian sares worth Tk 75 lakh from a truck at Padur bazar on Dhaka-Chittagong road last week, customs department said, reports UNB.

On suspicion, BDR raided the truck while the smugglers and conductors were loading Indian saree placing it in a cartoon of Bangladeshi garments. The smugglers fled away on the appearance of the jawans.

Meanwhile, BDR in a special drive during the last fortnight seized Indian goods worth of Tk one crore from different areas.

Another report adds: Police arrested a fugitive from Shijanagar in Kotwali thana last week.

RANGPUR

**Husband gets life term for killing wife**

Aug 15: A man was awarded life imprisonment on charge of killing his wife, court sources said here, reports UNB.

District and Sessions Judge Ibrahim Ali also fined the convict Yeasin Ali Tk 5,000, in default, to suffer another six months rigorous imprisonment in a judgement delivered on Thursday.

The prosecution story, in brief, was that accused Yeasin beat his wife Shahanara Khatun (21) to death over a family feud on August 4 in 1993.

After examining the witnesses and records the learned judge found Yeasin guilty.

Public Prosecutor Advocate Abdur Rashid Chowdhury conducted the case on behalf of the state while Advocate Haider Ali defended the accused.

PABNA

**Businessmen hold rally**

Aug 15: A group of businessmen Saturday held a rally in support of their scheduled day-long hartal call on August 28, reports UNB.

Organised by the Council of Pabna District Businessmen Unity, a committee of local businessmen, the rally was held at Indra pott with president of the council Abdus Sattar Biswas in the chair.

It was also addressed by the council members, including general secretary M A Kafi Sarker and joint secretary Abdur Rais Khan.

The speakers at the rally criticised the president of Pabna Chamber and demanded enrollment of new members in the Pabna Chamber committee.

Earlier, the council brought out a procession in the town in the evening in support of its day-long strike programme.

BARISAL

**Afforestation fair concludes**

Aug 15: The three-day afforestation fair-4 was concluded at the central Shahid Minar premises here recently, reports BSS.

Organised jointly by the Barisal District administration and the Forest Department, the inaugural function was presided over by Deputy Commissioner Mauntaz Uddin. It was attended by M A Rashid, divisional commissioner, as chief guest.

The function was addressed among others by Saidul Haq Bhuiyan, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), M Atiul Azam, Divisional Forest Officer, Mozammel Hossain, Prof Mostafa, Hafizur Rahman, Nurul Alam Farid, S M Iqbal, Khan Shahab Uddin, Additional Divisional Commissioner.

BRAHMANBARIA

**Foundation of madrasa building laid**

State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Harun-Al-Rashid laid the foundation of Tanki Sadekul Ulum Dakhil Madrasa building here on Thursday, reports UNB.

The building will be completed at a cost of about Tk 9.50 lakh.

Later the State Minister addressed a public meeting at Dheli Pataisar High School ground in Kasba thana of the district.

Speaking on the occasion, the state minister said there is no alternative other than BNP to upkeep the independence and sovereignty of the country.

BNP has been running the government with the spirit of Liberation War for fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of the common people, said an official handout.

Presided over by union parishad chairman Advocate Fakaruddin Ahmed Khan the function was also addressed by Mia Abdul Wazed MP, district BNP secretary Hamidul Hoque Tuku and other local BNP leaders.

The State Minister called upon all to cooperate with the present government in order to continue the development process.