

Salam at rally in Barura

# BNP believes in politics of work

BARURA (Comilla), Aug 23: LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder said BNP believes in politics of work and not in politics of words, reports BSS.

Barrister Talukder who is also secretary general of the ruling party was addressing as the chief guest a rally, organised by thana unit of BNP at Barura Pilot High School premises Sunday.

Presided over by Comilla district BNP chief Begum Rabeya Chowdhury MP, the

rally was also addressed by Energy Minister Dr Khondker Mosharrar Hossain, Shipping Minister M K Anwar, Forest and Environment Minister Akbar Hossain, A K M Abu Taher MP, A T M Alamgir MP, Jahangir Ahmed, Shah M Kabir, Helal Uddin Ahmed, Mushtaque, Awlad Hossain, Shah Alam Chowdhury and Amiruzaman Amir.

Barrister Talukder said the present government has been trying hard to improve the socio-economic condition of the people.

He said the ruling party has fulfilled its electoral promises. The government has exempted land tax upto 25 bighas, waived agricultural loan upto taka 5000 and raised the age limit for entry into government job upto 30 years. He said the government has ensured freedom of press and restored multi-party democracy.

Barrister Talukder said the government is trying to meet the basic needs of the people and with this objective has started programme for spread of education.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister expressed the hope that by the year 2000 the country's literacy rate would increase to 65 per cent. In this context, he said certain quarters were conspiring against the prevailing development process of the country. He stressed the need for unitedly foiling such evil design.

The Energy Minister said self-sufficiency in foodgrain production has contributed to strengthening the country's economy. He said BNP government would not quit power under threat from any quarters.

The Shipping Minister said the government had taken revolutionary step in the country's education sector. The forest and Environment Minister said: BNP favours free and fair polls as it helps the party to win election. He said BNP was voted to power through free and fair elections.

## Girl killed in Munshiganj road mishap

From Our Correspondent  
MUNSHIGANJ, Aug 23: A young girl died and two others were seriously injured when a mini-bus hit a rickshaw at Char Muktarpur on the Dhaka-Munshiganj highway Sunday.

The body of the deceased Reena Akhtar 13, was recovered by the local police and injured Panna Akhtar, 8, and Selim, 30, were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Police held the killer bus. The driver however managed to escape.

## Barguna boat capsized: Four bodies found

BARISAL, Aug 23: Local people searching for passengers of a boat that capsized in the river Paira on Sunday so far found four bodies, reports UNB.

Five other passengers of the capsized boat are still missing. The accident occurred at Amtali Ghat in Barguna district.

Witnesses said the boat, carrying about 20 passengers, capsized when it hit the pontoon on reaching the ghat.

## Marriages of poor families not registered in Kushtia

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Aug 23: Non-registration of marriage deeds is one of the many causes of women tortures including divorce and demand for dowry. In a random spot survey made by this correspondent in some rural areas of the district it was found that the marriages of many poor families were not registered. As such the victims could not take any legal action against the unscrupulous husbands.

Besides, defying the government restriction many people in the rural areas marry second time without the written permission of the first wife.

There are certain legal safeguards for a woman in the conditions of the marriage deed. But in the absence of such deeds divorce has become a common feature in the rural areas. The women are bound to live in distress in this

case. Sometimes they are involved in immoral activities for their livelihood.

The high registration fee is learnt to be a cause of indifferent attitude of many illiterate poor guardians in registering the marriage deeds. It is alleged that many marriage registrars in rural areas charge higher registration fees than the fixed one. As a result the poor parents do not bother to get the marriage of their wards registered.

It is felt that government should fix a token fee for registration upto 'Moharana' of Tk 25,000/- to encourage marriage registration among the poor and also to make wide publicity through news media of the evils of non-registration of marriage deeds.

This will check the alarming rate of divorce of women to some extent particularly in rural areas.

## All-party meeting held Call to solve problems of Sylhet region

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Aug 23: Leaders of different political parties have called upon the government for taking immediate and necessary steps to solve the different problems of greater Sylhet region. They also stressed the need for united and all-party movement to realise the legitimate demand of the one-crore people of the four districts of the region to form a new administrative division immediately.

The leaders were speaking at a reception meeting arranged in honour of Alhaj Zillul Haque, convener, Sylhet Division Implementation Committee, UK during his short visit in Bangladesh.

The meeting presided over by Advocate Nurul Islam Khan, Convener, of the central committee of Jatiya Janata Party was also addressed among others by senior BNP leader Fatch Yunus Khan, district Awami League president and Convener, Division Implementation and greater Sylhet Development Action Council, Syed Abu Nosor Advocate, Secretary, Greater Sylhet, Sylhet Ganadabi Parishad, Professor Shafiqur Rahman Advocate Khondker Mubaswir Ali, Maniruddin Chowdhury, Sheikh Faruque Ahmed, Sayeed Chowdhury, Saleh Ahmed Hassan, Moulana Mansurul Khan, Dewan Alosi Chowdhury, Shah Ajmal Ali.

Sirajul Islam Advocate, Dr Abdul Wahid, Dr Subhash Das, and Mohiuddin Ahmed.

Alhaj Zillul Haque in his speech, assured of extending all possible help on behalf of the Bangladeshi community living abroad especially in the UK to realise the different legitimate demands of the greater Sylhet region.

## Training course opens

From Our Correspondent

MAIJDÉE COURT (Noakhali), Aug 23: A fifteen day basic training course for field organisers of Poverty Alleviation Programme under Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) was inaugurated in the local BRDB Training Centre, Noakhali recently.

The training course was inaugurated by Kamal Uddin Ahmed while Dy. Director of the BRDB Mostafizur Rahman presided. Muhammad Mozammel Hossain Miron, Editor, Weekly Upakul Barta, Muhammad Shamsul Faruque, Correspondent, The Daily Star and other journalists and local officials of BRDB also spoke on the occasion highlighting the importance of the programme.

Thirty two female field organisers from fifteen districts of the country participating in the course.



NARAYANGANJ: The Ashkane Maizbandari and Truck Malik Samity (Truck Owners Association) jointly organised a *waz mahfil* Sunday last on the occasion of the observance of holy Eid-e-Miladunabi. Among others, State Minister for Planning Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan and Shahebajda Syed Habibur Bashar spoke on the occasion. — Star photo

# Barisal Irrigation Project fails to achieve target

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Aug 23: Due to lack of coordination, necessary efforts of the implementing organisations and the faulty policies of the concerned government authorities the Barisal Irrigation Project (BIP) failed to achieve its target.

This project was started with an expenditure Taka 75 crore including foreign currencies of donor agencies during 1995-76 financial year. The Barisal Irrigation Project (BIP) was undertaken with a target to produce more 3.20 lakh tons of paddy through intensive cultivation. It was decided to cultivate 'Ufshi boro' on one lakh 78 thousand acres of land in dry season and lifshi aman paddy in lieu of local variety of aman on 1.50 lakh acres of land in rainy season.

According to sources, Nalchhiti, Barisal sadar, Babuganj and Jhalakathi thana areas of the greater Barisal dis-

trict were brought under this project.

To implement the project about Taka 35 crore was allocated later with which 450 miles canals were repaired and dug, pumps of about 60 cusec capacity was installed, 340 sluice gates were constructed and 2.5 thousand low lift pumps were also installed in the project area in the first phase during 75-76 to '80-81 financial years.

According to sources, when the works of second phase was started Bakerganj, Rajapur and Kanchali thana areas were included with an expenditure of Taka 30.50 crore.

In second phase digging of 250 miles of canals, setting of 22 primary pumps including installation of 166 low lift pumps and other works were included.

Works of the second phase of this project was completed during '85-86 financial year

with the financial assistance of EEC and IDA.

But lately local people alleged that many unnecessary works were done in some project areas as pumps were installed in such areas where it was not necessary particularly in rainy seasons. Thus crores of taka was misused.

Since the very beginning of this project participation of the local farmers was almost nil. Moreover they opposed and created obstacles in implementing some works of this project.

In that case schedule of use of 3.450 low lifting pumps were declined to only 600 during '92-'93 financial year in the project areas.

As a result due to faulty decision of the project authority, lack of coordination of different organisations involved in this project the entire project plan is now in a mess.

## Notes From Faridpur

From Our Correspondent  
FARIDPUR, Aug 23: Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) took up a massive water supply and sanitation programme during 1993-94 fiscal year in the district.

According to official source, a total number of 761 shallow tubewells have been sunk in eight thanas of the district under different heads and 7197 sets of sanitary latrines have been sold out at nominal price fixed by the government.

The source also added that 467 tubewells which went out of order were resunk more-over, the sale of the number of sanitary latrine was 7197 as against the target 5880 fixed.

### Poura budget announced

Faridpur pourasava at a meeting of the poura parishad held recently announced taka 4 crore 78 lakh 92 thousand and 2 hundred as budget for the year 1994-95. The meeting was presided over by Fazlul Kabir Chan, Chairman of the pourasava.

Taka 2 crore will be spent for development works and Tk 43 lakhs and 60 thousand was earmarked for ensuring water supply and sanitation. The Dainik Bhorer Runner' a vernacular daily was published from Faridpur on recently.

In this connection a publication ceremony was held at the local press-club with its president Syed Inamul Azam Abdur Rob in the chair.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf was the chief guest on the occasion. The Minister welcomed the publication of the daily and emphasised the need for impartial and unbiased journalism.

He also added that the present government is encouraging healthy growth of journalism which contributes greatly to institutionalism democracy.

The function was also addressed among others by Prof Md Shahjahan, Syed Ashraful Azam Abdur Rob, Ramananda Biswas, Editor of the Daily and Munshi Harun-or-Rashid.

## District roundup

JHENIDAH

### Bridge over river Padma demanded

Aug 23: A meeting of different professionals here demanded a bridge over the river Padma connecting Daulatdia and Aricha soon, reports UNB.

Chaired by Jhenidah Bar Association President M A Majid, the meeting held on August 16 was also attended by Faridpur Pourasava Chairman Fazlur Rahman Chand, Faridpur Press Club President Enamul Azam, Faridpur Chamber of Commerce chief Atiar Rahman, Jhenidah Pourasava Chairman Anisur Rahman Khoka and leaders of local labour and student organisations.

The meeting urged the authorities to take necessary measures to construct a bridge without further delay. The meeting also decided to form a central committee to press home their demand.

Another message adds: A man was killed in a road mishap at Vatal Bazar in Sal-kupa thana on Jhenidah-Kushia road.

According to police, Jamal (30) of Tripurakandi of the same thana while crossing the road on August 16 was hit by a speeding truck killing him on the spot.

The driver fled away with the vehicle. A case has been filed with the police.

BARISAL

### LGED implements Tk 22cr uplift projects

Aug 23: Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) has been implementing 590 uplift projects in the district at a cost of about Tk 22 crore, reports UNB.

According to official sources, the projects are being executed with the financial assistance from Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Of the total amount, about Tk 15 crore is being spent for construction, reconstruction of 485 government and non-government registered primary schools while Tk 7 crore for the development, construction and repair of 105 roads, bridges and culverts.

The projects include reconstruction of 310 primary schools, one iron bridge, 10 bridges, one RCC culvert, construction of 13 iron bridges, one HBB road, development of 44 roads, repair of one bridge, 23 iron bridges and 175 primary schools.

The schools are being constructed and repaired under Rural General Education Programme and Post-cyclone Rehabilitation Programme.

SATKHIRA

### BDR seizes medicine worth Taka 2 lakh

Aug 23: Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) seized Indian smuggled medicine worth about Tk 2 lakh from Taltala checkpoint and Kalaroa border recently, reports UNB.

BDR also arrested a man, identified as Subash, in this connection and recovered medicines including injections from his possession at Taltala check post.

Bicycle and spare parts were also seized from Kalaroa border. The seized goods were deposited with the Customs officials and two cases were filed with the police.

Another report adds: Police arrested a man, identified as Abdul Mannan Gazi, of Champal village in Kaliganj thana last week who was absconding since September 1989.

Mannan Gazi was awarded life term imprisonment by the Additional Sessions Judge in October 1993 for killing a man in Kalaroa thana.

PATUAKHALI

### 12 injured in road mishap

From Our Correspondent  
Aug 23: Twelve persons were injured, four of them seriously in a road accident on Patuakhali-Amtali highway near Ballavpur recently.

It is reported that a passenger bus belonging to Meghna Paribahan bearing number Dhaka-metro-04-0041 bound for Patuakhali from Amtali when reached near Ballavpur, was skidded off and fell into the road side ditch.

Twelve passengers were wounded. Four seriously wounded passengers were admitted to Patuakhali Sadar Hospital for treatment.

They were identified as: Shahjahan Talukder, 40, Krishna Ranjan Das, 45, Kalpana Rani, 30, and Abu Saleh, 25. The rest of the wounded passengers were given first aid. The driver of the bus managed to flee away.

SYLHET

### Property worth Taka 20 lakh gutted

From Our Correspondent  
SYLHET, Aug 23: Property worth about a total of Taka more than 20 lakh were gutted in a big fire that at Munshibazar under Jakiganj police station under Sylhet district in the early hours of Saturday last.

According to the reports, the fire originated from the short-circuit of a restaurant and spread soon to the adjoining shops. The fire continued for about four hours from about 3am and burnt the valuables and money in cash worth about a total of Taka 20 lakh.

The demanded shops include, two godowns of food-grains, two hotels, five pharmacies some stationary and others.

The Mushibazar Government Health Centre located in the market area was also damaged by the fire badly. However, there was no report of any casualty. The people of the locality brought the fire under control.

FARIDPUR

### Publication ceremony of new daily

Aug 23: Health and Family Welfare Minister said here that the present government ensured freedom of press to help institutionalise democracy in the country, reports BSS.

The minister was speaking as chief guest at the publication function of a new vernacular daily 'The Dainik Bhorer Runner' held at local press club recently.

The minister urged the newsmen to project their area in the regional newspapers.

He also invited constructive criticism.

The function was addressed among others by Alhaj AKM Manjurul Haque, Additional District Magistrate, Dr Kazi Syed Ahmed, Civil Surgeon of Faridpur, Journalists Munshi Haroon, Md Shahjahan, Syed Ashraful Azam and publisher of the daily Habibur Rahman Habib. The function was presided over by Syed Inamul Azam, president of Faridpur Press Club.

It may be mentioned here that this is the second daily being published from this district town.

TANGAIL

### Seminar on Islamic banking

Aug 23: Islamic Economics Research Bureau and Islami Bank Bangladesh jointly held a seminar on Islamic economics and banking recently at local Islami Bank premises, reports BSS.

Engineer Mostafa Anwar, Director of the Islami Bank was chief guest on the occasion. He said that Islami Bank is working for the socio-economic development of the country.

Md Tazul Khan of Islami Bank presided over the function. Principal Md Nurul Islam and Abdul Awal Sarkar presented two papers on the topic.

Among others Md Nuruzzaman Mia and Professor Syedul Islam took part in the discussion.

The seminar stressed the need of knowing about Islamic economics and of the benefit available in the system.

C'NAWABGANJ

### Train services hazardous

Aug 23: Train services in Chapainawabganj-Parbatpur and Chapainawabganj-Sirajganj lines have become hazardous due to shortage of passenger coaches and engines, reports UNB.

A total of eight up and down trains ply every day on these routes carrying thousands of passengers, official sources said.

Most of these trains are found running with only four to six coaches and as such, all the trains run overcrowded causing great inconveniences to the passengers.

Finding no other way out passengers have to travel on the footboard and rooftops of the train risking their life.

Moreover, most of the compartments are worn-out having no proper arrangement for lighting and water. As a result, passengers are being robbed of frequently after the sunset.

Latrines of the train compartments are lying uncleared most of the time causing health hazards to the passengers.

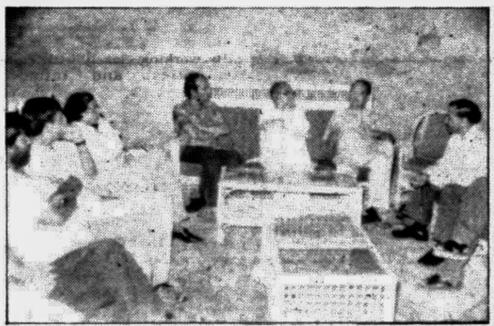
## Ten die of malaria in Rangpur

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Aug 23: Malaria has broken out in scattered areas of Pargacha thana at least ten persons died of malaria while over five hundred others suffering from the disease.

The Health Department has admitted the death of two persons and attacks of nearly one hundred persons by the disease.

In January last the disease was first detected in small areas in the thana and gradually now it is turning in epidemic form due to lack of proper treatment facilities and want of required medicines.



SYLHET: A S Mahmud, Managing Director, Mediaworld Limited speaking at an open discussion with the journalists at the Sylhet Press Club Saturday. — Star photo

## Broadbased national consensus stressed

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Aug 23: A S Mahmud, Managing Director, Mediaworld Ltd, has stressed the need for a broadbased national consensus to achieve the socio-economic development through meeting some of the basic needs of people.

The affluent section of the society should come forward to create social awareness on literacy, employment and health, he said.

Mahmud was talking to the journalists at an open discussion meeting at the Sylhet Press Club Saturday afternoon. The Banglabazar Patrika Editor Matjur Rahman Chowdhury also spoke on the occasion.

To achieve the overall development of the country and its people, all sections should shoulder their responsibilities, he opined. The journalists can play a vital role in creating the people's awareness, he said.

Highlighting the importance of formation of a new administrative division comprising the four districts of greater Sylhet region, he said.

Though the region had been lying underdeveloped for long decades due to negligence. The greater Sylhet is lagging behind than the other parts of the country in all respects, he alleged.

Mahmud called upon the government to declare the proposed Sylhet division immediately to ensure the development of the region and to honour the legitimate demand of about one crore people of the region.

The open discussion was also addressed, among others by, Burhanuddin Khan, Nurul Islam, Abdul Malik Chowdhury, Aftab Chowdhury, Abdus Sattar, Helal Uddin Rana, Haris Mohammad, Ibrahim Chowdhury Khokon, Shamim Siddiquee, Chowdhury Mumtaj Ahmed and Iqbal Siddiquee.

# Clinics in Maijdee Court beset with problems

From Our Correspondent

MAIJDÉE COURT (Noakhali), Aug 23: The General Hospital and all the health complexes of the district have been facing multiple problems including shortage of physicians, staff and water supply. The power supply in the hospitals is also irregular.

The unhygienic atmosphere, absence of blood bank and shortage of medicines and apparatus have multiplied the miseries of the patients coming from the town and as well as far flung rural areas for treatment. Everyday a large number of the patients coming for treatment go back without treatment due to absence of medicare facilities.

Most of these health complexes have no X-ray machines, blood banks, dental or ophthalmic and infectious disease, treatment facilities. Char-

Jabber thana health complex has no power supply.

Besides, shortage of physicians and their irregular services and indifference of other staff have aggravated the situation. Most of the doctors of these health complexes including general hospital are found busy with their private practice, alleged by patients and local leaders.

The sufferers alleged that some senior doctor were practising in private clinics and some technicians were also working in private clinics. They compel the patients to go to the private clinics, it is alleged.

The life saving and essential drugs supplied to the health complexes and general hospital are sold in the markets by some dishonest staff of the health complexes and hospital, it is alleged. The patients are

compelled to buy the medicines from the market at an exorbitant price.

Many doctors of different health complexes and sub-centres of the district working on deputation indifferent health complexes and hospital are found absent most of the time. It is further alleged, it is also alleged that some doctors working on deputation in other districts. As a result, the poor patients coming from remote villages to the health complexes go back without treatment.

On the other hand, scarcity of drinking water, lack of proper conservancy services, inadequate number of beds, supply of substandard food to the patients have multiplied the sufferings of the indoor patients of the health complexes and hospital.

## Erosion of Jamuna devours five villages

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 23: Massive erosion of river Jamuna that continued for the last couple of days devoured five villages of Chowhall thana in the district during the last 24 hours, official sources said, reports UNB.

The villages are Sakfal, Bir Almasuka, Bir Baunia, Armasuka and Char Guchuria where some 3,000 people were rendered homeless by the erosion.

Earlier, about 2000 people became rootless in the affected areas as erosion continued for the last seven days.



A fifteen-day training course for field organisers of Poverty Alleviation programme was inaugurated at the Bangladesh Rural Development Board training centre recently. — Star photo