

National

Outlawed party activities intensify in Jessore, Jhenidah, Chuadanga

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Sept 3: The outlawed party activities have been intensified in the districts of Jessore, Jhenidah and Chuadanga over the past two years.

Police have arrested twenty people so far from different places of Jessore district for their alleged involvement in the killing of a police constable and snatching away three rifles from a contingent of police during their patrol at Charavita Bazar of Bagherpara thana in the district recently, said a source.

Of the arrested, three have been taken into custody and the rest have been produced before the court.

Jamuna erosion 400 homeless in Pabna

PABNA, Sept 3: As Jamuna continued to rise further, erosion has intensified in eight villages of Bera thana rendering some 400 people homeless, reports UNB.

Official sources confirmed the erosion in the region. Local people alleged that no relief material has yet been reached at the affected areas.

The affected villages are Nakalia, Nayapur, Bijoyganj, Raghunathpur, Puranbari, Khanpara, Madhupur and Nagarbari.

Crops on 3000 acres of land and 400 kuthi houses were damaged during the period. Bera Irrigation Pump Station and Nagarbari Ferry ghat were also threatened due to the erosion.

Some 2000 people were homeless during last 7 days in the areas. Most of them have taken shelter on the flood control embankment.

5 missing as boat capsizes in Jamuna

MANIKGANJ, Sept 3: Five cattle traders were missing after a mechanised boat, bound for Aricha, capsized in the Jamuna river at Dhalarchar here on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said, the boat carrying 145 heads of cattle and 15 traders from Fulbari in Kushtia district sank about 9 am.

Fishermen rescued 10 traders from the river.

3 electrocuted in Manikganj

MANIKGANJ, Sept 3: Three people including two women were electrocuted in Sadar and Singair thanas of the district in two separate incidents recently, reports UNB.

Anwara Begum (45) and Lalima (29) of Singair thana suddenly came in contact with a live electric wire while they went to cut bamboo. They died instantly.

In another incident, a maid servant in Molgan village in Sadar thana was electrocuted while she was cooking in an electric heater.

Separate cases were filed with the police.

Four southern districts brought under ARP

From Staff Correspondent
BARISAL, Sept 3: Four southern districts have been brought under Agricultural Rehabilitation Programme (ARP).

These four districts are: Barisal, Bhola, Pirojpur and Faridpur.

According to Agriculture Extension Department 650 acres of land will be primarily brought under this programme with an estimated cost of Taka 8 lakh 6 thousand.

Bridge across river Padma demanded

MEHERPUR, Sept 3: Local leaders, professionals and cross section of people held a meeting here on Friday demanded a bridge across the river Padma to connect the country's southwestern districts with the capital, reports UNB.

Prof Abdul Mannan MP, Abdul Ghani MP, Faridpur Poura Chairman Fazlul Kabir Chand, Jhenidah Poja Chairman S M Anisur Rahman Khoka, SK Abbasuddin Harun, panel chairman Jessore Pourashava and other local leaders addressed the meeting at Meherpur Pourashava auditorium.

Speakers at the meeting reiterated the demand for construction of a bridge over the Padma to link south and south-western districts with the capital as well as rest of the country.

Police launched following the incident, a swift hunt to track the miscreants and recovered the arms.

Sources said, a group of miscreants overpowered the patrol police. They shot at a constable, Sirajul Islam and snatched away two rifles and a SMG rifle with five cartridges of bullets.

In November, 1992, a group of miscreants looted away two rifles in a similar action from a police patrol party at Babitala thana in Jessore town. A few days later two more rifles were snatched away by miscreants from Ansar guards at Jessore Picnic Corner on Jessore-Khulna highway while they

were patrolling in Chakladeri Paribahan. The rifles, however, were returned under political pressure.

Reports received here say Talana thana in Satkhira, Dumuria in Khulna and Keshabpur in Jessore are now under control of outlawed party activists. The areas have turned into inferno. Anarchy and disorder are reigning in these places.

Police come on patrol during day time to track the miscreants and innocent law abiding people are harassed, it is alleged.

During the night, the situation changes. The inhabitants are ruthlessly kept hostage by them.

According to another source, during the last seven

months ending July, a total of 17 persons were killed by this outlawed party activists in the area without any protest from any corner.

Similar is the report from Kaliganj, Kotchandpur, Harinakundu, Saitakupur of Jhenidah district, Magura sadar and Salikha thanas of Magura district and Chuadanga sadar and Damurhuda thanas of Chuadanga district.

When contacted, a number of leaders of the areas, told The Daily Star that general public are passing days in complete insecurity. They also expressed that police maintain network of intelligence services all over these districts to keep eye on the movements of those party activists.



A F M Kamal, Chairman Sylhet Pourashava, speaking (L) at a orientation course, for Imams, on Mother and Child Health Fortnight recently. Barisal Division Health Department (R) brought out a colourful procession with banners and festoons marking the Mother and Child Health Fortnight '94 recently.

— Star photos

Tale of two fishermen

By Naimul Haq back from Cox's Bazar

The roaring of the sea waves frightens you as they pound the beach menacingly. But they never succeed in frightening Abul Hossain, 50, a born fisherman from Barisal.

Hossain, father of four daughters and two sons, has been fishing in the Bay for the last two and a half years. "I was forced to come to Cox's Bazar when I lost everything in river erosion. One of my relatives suggested that I could start a new life catching fish in Cox's Bazar. This is it. Back home, I had a house, a boat, a cow, a small piece of land and hosts of friends but here all I have is my family."

This method, though a risky one, earns Nizam more money. On an average he catches 900 to 1000 kg a day. "Separating the fry is the toughest part," says Nizam. "You must have a professional eye to distinguish

22 kg tumour removed

PATUAKHALI, Sept 3: A tumour, weighing 22 kg was removed from the stomach of a woman at the Sadar Hospital here last week, reports UNB.

The patient, Saleha Begum, 35, wife of Md Abul Hossain of village Taktabunia in Amtali thana was having the huge lump for the last six years.

She was admitted to the hospital under Dr Habibur Rahman, junior Consultant of Surgery, and later operated upon in the Himi Poly Clinic in the town.

The operation was successful and the patient's condition is steady, clinic sources said.

Meanwhile, people are rushing in to see the huge tumour.

Medium wave radio station will be set up in Barisal

BARISAL, Sept 3: A medium wave radio station will be established at Rupatali, about four kilometres from here beside Barisal-Jhalakati highways at an expenditure of Tk. 18.65 crore including a foreign exchange component of Tk. 6.50 crore during the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to an official source, government sanctioned Tk 20 crore for purchasing land and earth-work for this project.

Meanwhile, Land Ministry issued an order to acquire 18.77 acres of land immediately for the implementation of the project.

12 die of snake bite

SATKHIRA, Sept 3: Twelve people in different parts of the district died of snake bites in the last one month, local people said, reports UNB.

Some 400 people of the district were also bitten by snakes during the period, they said.

The incidents of death have been reported from Matikamura, Pub Natha, Ziar Khal, Bejartias and Karpur villages.

A large number of snakes came out in the locality as saline water poured into snake holes due to massive shrimp cultivation in the district.

Proper system of election should be formulated: Rouf

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Sept 3: The first mother and child health fortnight '94 began here with a promise to save some eight lakh children and 28 thousand mothers from early death.

In a press conference held at the Barisal Circuit House conference room recently, Dr Anisur Rahman, Deputy Director (Health), Barisal Division discussed the programmes taken up in observance this fortnight in Barisal Division.

The press conference was also addressed by M A Rashid, Divisional Commissioner, Barisal, Abdur Rahman, Divisional Director, Family Planning, Fazlul Haq, Deputy Director, UNICEF, Barisal and Khulna Divisions. Dr Sheikh Haider Ali, Civil Surgeon, Barisal, conducted the press conference.

Speakers here said that EPI programme was successfully implemented with 60 per cent of target achieved in Barisal division.

Speakers also said, some eight lakh children under one year of age would be immunised with measles vaccines while 51 lakh would be given vitamin 'A' capsules. They admitted that the mortality rate of mothers and child is still higher in the country. Maternal mortality in Bangladesh is 150 times more

than other developed countries, they said.

Besides, during this fortnight pregnant mothers will be immunised and school-going children will be given tablets for eradication of intestinal worms.

Speakers also stressed on the awareness and necessity of breastfeeding, family planning and the use of iodised salt and oral dehydration saline (ORS).

Eleven programmes including sanitation and diarrhoea control, ORS distribution, anti helminthine drive, control of iodine deficiency, TT campaign, distribution of vitamin 'A' capsules have been taken up in observance of the fortnight.

Mother, Child Health Fortnight in Faridpur, Jamalpur

Mother and Child Health Fortnight, a part of the nationwide programme began here recently through a colourful rally at the premises of Dr Zahid Memorial Shishu Hospital, reported BSS.

The programme of the fortnight organised by local health and family planning department

The day began with a colourful rally which paraded different roads of the town starting from the local stadium and terminated at Ladies Club. People from all walks of life including representatives from NGOs, health department, family planning department and students from different educational institutions took part in the rally.

A discussion meeting was also held at the Ladies Club hall. Presided over by civil surgeon Dr Askar Ali, it was attended by deputy commissioner Jalal Ahmed as chief guest.

The speakers called upon the educated section of the society to create awareness among the mothers about family planning, use of iodised salt and breastfeeding which will bring down death rate of mothers and children.

The other programmes of the fortnight are — seminar, discussion meeting, photo and video exhibition, jari song, football competition and home visit to tell the people about the utility of the iodised salt.

For the successful implementation of the 15-day programme, a committee of 15 members has been formed with deputy civil surgeon Dr Mohammad Shahidullah as coordinator.

Coastal areas of Patuakhali, Barguna have potentials to produce gol pata

PATUAKHALI, Sept 3: Coastal areas of Barguna and greater Patuakhali districts have potential lands to produce "Gol-Pata", a tropical plant used for making huts in the rural areas, reports BSS.

Local people said both the water and soil in Patherghata, Amtali, Bamina, Betagi, Burga Sadar, Patuakhali Sadar, Bauphal, Dasminda, Kalapara, Mirzaganj and Galachipa thanas in the districts are very favourable for 'Gol-Pata' cultivation.

Salinity of water in the region is potential ingredients for large scale production of "Gol-Pata" and making it a commercially viable project, experts said.

Hundreds of acres of charland and lowlying areas in the district left unutilised and unfit for paddy and other crop production, is suitable for growing the plant, it is learnt.

The plant, used for roofs in rural houses, mainly grow in and around the Sunderban regions of Khulna, Bagerhat, Pirojpur and Satkhira districts.

The local people urged the authorities concerned to take initiative for cultivation of "Gol-Pata" in the areas to increase the economic standard of the rural poor.

Continuous drought, aman output may decline

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Sept 3: Continuous drought for the last two months severely affected the cultivation of aman crop in the district. As a result, farmers could not transplant aman seedlings on huge areas. About 60 per cent of the land is still lying fallow for want of adequate water.

At the same time, jute cultivators could not process jute plants due to storage of water. Most of the water bodies went nearly dry for want of adequate rainfall. Many of the aman cultivators meanwhile, have started planting aman seedlings using water from pumps. Inadequate rainfall will severely hamper aman production from the district.

Abul Hossain with his fishing net.

Hossain lives with his family in a slum only 350 meters away from the shore. He catches shrimp fry twice a day, with a triangle of a net having bamboo frames. He braves 12 to 18 metres deep into the wild sea. "I agree it's risky to go in there but it's the only option I have," says Hossain describing the method he uses to catch fry. "I run my net along the length of the beach for about two hours to let as many fry into the net as possible. It's not an easy job; you could lose your net in those mighty waves. The catch is sometimes good but at times you end up in disappointment. On an average I collect 400 to 500 kg which can fetch up to Tk 100 a day. We sell the fry at the rate of Tk 21 for every 100. During the off-season the traders offer Tk 12 to 18 for a 100."

Hossain says, "I stay away from the sea for two months when it becomes too rough. Then I work as a day labourer."

Even though the people of Bangladesh are all very familiar with soyabean oil, they are not yet aware of the food value contents of the soyabean seeds. Soyabean is not a new crop in Bangladesh. Presumably, due to lack of knowledge of its intake value, its uses and want of required culinary skills, the soyabean has remained undercultivated, mostly underused and its possible benefits unknown. No doubt that in certain parts of Bangladesh, soyabean is a new crop.

It is an inescapable fact that it is difficult to introduce any new food into the existing food-habits of the people. However, the existing agricultural system in the country is suitable for cultivation of soyabean. The growers need to be made aware of the benefits they may derive from sowing it.

Satana Uttarpara is a village under Belgachia union in Kurigram Thana under Kurigram district in the northern Bangladesh. The impoverishment of the local people is significantly visible. They prominently depend on agriculture or offer labour.

The women folk increasingly feel that they need to supplement their husband's income to make both ends meet and gradually become self-reliant. In the wake of this enlightenment, they have started to explore the possible ways and means to enhance the income of their families. They have the will and potentialities. They further realise

that without proving their worth as potential partners in bread-winning of the family, it will not be possible to establish their status as equal to men.

The RDRS, a leading NGO in Kurigram district has taken up programmes to help them become self-reliant.

Bharati Rani, a social worker, was assigned to organise the poor women into small groups with 15 to 20 members each. After a few weeks of persuasion, she was able to form desired groups of women.

After obtaining training, the organisers, in turn, conduct cooking demonstrations for their group members. Bharati has so far conducted two such

common find in the rural areas. Her spirit, dedication and selflessness is commendable.

She uses a motorcycle to attend office as well as to visit the field. She took the initiative to arrange the necessary cooking demonstrations for the women groups under her thana to familiarise the use of

soyabean. Bharati Rani, the organiser said that the villagers had not been acquainted with the words "protein or calorie". But, they had known about the benefits of taking "vitamins". So, the easiest way to make them understand is by explaining that soyabean is rich in vitamins and contains the food

smash, soy-milk.

The use of soyabean and benefits obtained from consuming soyabean have been explained. More people were interested in the programme. Bharati Rani, the organiser, said that the villagers had not been acquainted with the words "protein or calorie". But, they had known about the benefits of taking "vitamins". So, the easiest way to make them understand is by explaining that soyabean is rich in vitamins and contains the food

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