

## Sirajganj BSCIC project in limbo for 7 years

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Sept 5: Works on the proposed industrial site of the Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) at Sirajganj is well behind schedule — supposed to be completed in 1987.

The BSCIC undertook a scheme to set up an industrial site at Sirajganj and acquired 10.14 acre of land for the purpose at Sialkole, about two kilometers west of the Sirajganj town. The scheme included allotment of 67 industrial plots at the rate of Tk. 7.32,000 per acre.

During past years, only 20 per cent earth work has been completed and seven plots have so far been allotted to the interested entrepreneurs. Meanwhile, construction

works of the office buildings are completed but the BSCIC office at Sirajganj is working in a rented house in absence of water supply and partial work of electrification. The allottees also have not started any works in the plots.

The industrial areas of BSCIC at Natore was completed in due time.

But works on Sirajganj BSCIC area are delayed.

When contacted, some allottees of the plots told The Daily Star that they are not starting work in the plots in absence of facilities.

The Assistant General Manager of Sirajganj BSCIC told this correspondent that necessary steps are underway to complete the project soon.



The proposed industrial site of BSCIC at Sirajganj.

— Star photo

## 'Govt staging silent revolution of infrastructural dev'

BHOLA, Sept 5: The Fakirhat bridge over Bethua canal on Shashiganj Kunjer Hat Road under Tajumuddin thana of Bhola district was opened to traffic Saturday, reports BSS.

The 100-feet long and 12-feet wide portable steel bridge on permanent structure, built at a cost of Taka fifty lakh is a fulfillment of a long awaited demand of about four lakh people of Tajumuddin thana, the Communications Minister Oli Ahmed said while inaugurating the bridge.

Oli Ahmed said, the government is staging a silent revolution of infra-structural development in the country judiciously utilising its own resources together with financial assistance from the development partners.

He said, within the span of last three and a half years the

BNP government spent about Taka 3000 crore for road and bridge construction and completed construction of about 200 bridges of which 48 are big including Meghna-Gumti bridge, Mohananda bridge, Shambhuganj bridge, Manda bridge, Monu bridge, Shabapur bridge and Shikabaha bridge.

Besides, Daudkandi bridge is going to be opened to traffic almost one and a half year ahead of the schedule, he said. The minister said the Daudkandi bridge will enable travellers to drive no stop between Dhaka and Chittagong without the ferry interruption at Daudkandi.

Oli Ahmed said people-oriented politics is a must to keep up this pace of development.



AGRI-VARSITY (Mymensingh): Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dr Shah Muhammad Faruk, giving away certificates and prizes among the participants of the seventh Rotaractors Training Camp jointly organised by the Rotaract Club of Agri-Varsity and the Graduate Training Institute held at BAU campus recently. — BAU photo

## Saifur tells a rally Caretaker govt will create bad precedence in history

RAJNAGAR (Moulvibazar), Sept 5: Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman has said, any provision for a caretaker government in the constitution would change the very nature of the parliamentary system and create a bad precedence in the history of parliamentary practices, reports BSS.

The finance minister was addressing as the chief guest a public rally here on Friday.

Organised by the local unit of BMP, the meeting was addressed, among others, by central BNP leader Ilyas Ali.

The finance minister said, by raising much hue and cry over the caretaker government issue the opposition parties, particularly Awami League, only showing their disregard and disrespect to the parliamentary system of government.

Saifur Rahman regretted that it was the same opposition party which wholeheartedly backed the present government's move to switch over to a parliamentary form of government through the 12th amendment of the constitution.

Referring to the ill motive of the opposition behind their demand for a caretaker government, the finance minister said, the opposition are demanding for such a government to adopt widespread rigging in the election process.

He asked, how can a caretaker government which is weak and unstable in nature ensure a fair poll by checking rigging in the election process. Rahman reminded the opposition that Justice Sahabuddin Ahmed's government

was not a caretaker government. It was formed in accordance with the provisions of the constitution against the backdrop of the fall of an autocratic regime.

He said, Justice Shahabuddin was appointed the vice president when former vice president Moudud Ahmed resigned and later he became the president as per provisions of the constitution when autocrat president General Ershad resigned his office.

## CB didn't supply results to Ctg newspapers

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Sept 5: Different political parties organised meetings and processions and issued press statements today criticising the Comilla Board for not supplying SSC examination results to the newspapers in Chittagong on Friday.

A protest rally attended by people from all walks of life was held in front of the Darul Fazal Market on Friday with local Awami League leader Ibrahim Hossain Babul in the chair.

The rally was addressed by Muktiyoddah city commander Syed Abul Bashar, APSU leader Fazul Kabir Minto and others.

The speakers alleged that the government had shown stepmotherly attitude to Chittagong by not supplying the results of the SSC to local newspapers. They demanded a separate education board for Chittagong.

## Rise in outlawed party activities Law, order situation deteriorates in rural areas of Kushtia

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Sept 5: Law and order situation in different thanas of the district deteriorated as the criminal activities of the outlawed party members intensified during the last few months.

Local people alleged that the anti-social activities of the outlawed Sarbahara Party members as well as Biplobi Communist Party members have increased in Mirpur and Khoksa thana.

It is alleged that these party activists are carrying out terrorist acts in the areas and collecting tolls at gun point. They even frequently threaten the local businessmen of meeting their demands. As a result, security of life and property has become uncertain in the district. The district headquarters is not immune from that, it is also alleged.

The peace loving people of the district have been passing their days as they fear they can be victim of terrorism act at any time.

A few days back one Abdul Latif, a young electrician was severely beaten by a group of hired miscreants near Kushtia Government Girls College and later handed him over to thana police along with three arms. The victim, Abdul Latif has been sent to Dhaka Pangu Hospital with serious injuries.

A few days later a contractor of R&H Department was victim of an assault by a group of armed miscreants in broad day light. On August 31 this year three outlawed party activists were killed by their own partymen at village Kursha under Mirpur thana as the victims ceased all connections from the party. No arrest has

yet been made in this connection.

On August 7 a daring high way dacoity was committed near village Gobindapur of Mirpur thana by placing barricade on the road. The passengers of the night coach were robbed of their belongings. Kushtia Motor Sramic Union protested against the dacoity incident.

On August 3 a daring dacoity was committed in the house of Kader Ali of village Thotarpa under Daulatpur thana. Dacoits looted Taka 50 thousand in cash and gold ornaments worth over one lakh taka. House owner, Kader was injured by a sharp weapon.

On August 2 Mirpur police recovered a body of one Billal, 30 from a field of village Jhutadanga under Mirpur thana. On July 31 one Zaher Ali Molla, 70, and his son Alauddin, 35, were injured by a

group of terrorists in Kamarkhali thana.

On August 26, armed terrorists attacked one businessman, Nazimuddin, 45 and snatched away Taka one lakh 58 thousand from his possession in Daulatpur thana. Nobody has yet been arrested.

On August 19 Sarbahara partymen shot dead one UP member of Khoksa thana Mozammel Haq, 36 near Ferry ghat of Khoksa. Few days later, one Taizal Ali, son of late M Ali of village Alampur of sadar thana was shot dead by armed miscreants when the victim, a betel leaf trader, was returning home from Poradah hat at night.

Local people of these areas have urged to the district administration to ensure security for the inhabitants.

## Some political quarters are against country's interest: Oli

LALMOHAN (Bhola), Sept 5: The Communications Minister, Oli Ahmed, Saturday said that those politicking with illogical demands were working against the interest of the country, reports BSS.

Speaking at separate public meetings at Lalmoohan Bazar and Char Fashion Bazar in Bhola district the minister said that it would be insufficient to say that they were merely working against the BNP.

But, the minister said, such negative exercises were bound to be futile "because the people of the Bangladesh know who are their real friends and who

are not." The people of Bangladesh, he said, "also know where to lend their support and where not to."

Oli Ahmed said that it is BNP which has taken the initiative to bring in positive politics in Bangladesh by placing the people, their interest, expectation and will above all else.

Like late President Ziaur Rahman, he said, "we also firmly believe that it is for the people to decide which party will have the responsibility to run the country."

The communications minister

described it as "very unfortunate" that some political quarters are using hartal as an indiscriminate and injudicious political tool.

He said that while calling hartals they even did not spare the day when the foundation stone of the Jamuna Bridge, Bangladesh's single largest project, was laid or the day when the 40-member Japanese investment delegation was on a visit, or on the day SAARC foreign ministers' conference was inaugurated or even on the day of anniversary of the late leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's death.

Among others, Major (retd) Hafizuddin Ahmed, MP, and the general secretary of Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DUCSU), Nazimuddin Alam, the general secretary of Bhola district unit of BNP, Aminul Islam Amin and the assistant general secretary of the Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DUCSU) also spoke at the meetings.

Earlier, the communications minister addressed a public meeting at Shashibhushan under Char Fashion thana.

## Taka 1.15 crore sanctioned Five unions of Comilla to be brought under REB project

COMILLA, Sept 5: Five backward unions under Homna and Daudkandi thana of the district will be brought under rural electrification within next five years in phases, according to a PID handout here Sunday, reports BSS.

Work on electrification of the unions under Rural Electrification Board (REB) will be started by November next and it is expected that, electricity will be provided in some areas of the unions by June next. The unions are Radhanagar, Chandanpur, Barakandi, Gobindapur and Loterchar.

Shipping Minister MK Anwar said this while addressing a public meeting as the chief guest at Mugarchar High School ground under Radhanagar union of Homna thana in Comilla district Sunday.

The minister said, Taka one crore 15 lakh has been sanctioned for this purpose in the first phase. Electrification in the unions was a commitment of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, he added.

The minister also said that work on construction of new

roads connecting the unions will be started in the current fiscal year. He assured them of providing all necessary government assistance to develop Mugarchar High School set up by the initiative of local people.

Anwar said, the BNP government after coming to power is endeavouring hard to fulfil the five basic needs of the people to make the hard-earned democracy meaningful. The government at least ensured food and cloth for every people, he added.



SYLHET Foreign Secretary M R Osmany speaking at a reception arranged by the Daily Sylhet Sanglap recently.

## 3 killed in road accidents in Sylhet

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Sept 5: Two persons were killed in a road accident on Sylhet-Sunamganj road Saturday. The victims Dilshad Ali, 65, and Tuhid Ali, 70, were crushed under the wheels of a speeding minibus near Rauli village (Sunamganj) Ja-04-0004) having started from Sylhet. Dilshad Ali died on the spot while Tuhid Ali succumbed to his injuries while he was being taken to the hospital.

Another report says: A youngman was crushed under the wheels of a speeding minibus at Akhalla on Sylhet-Sunamganj road Sunday morning.

## Nine get life-term in Sylhet

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Sept 5: The Additional District and Sessions Judge of Sunamganj has sentenced nine persons to life-term imprisonment. The accused were also sentenced to pay a fine of Taka five thousand each.

One Dhanu Miah of village Jharjhar under Sunamganj sadar thana was stabbed to death in his own house on January 17, 1990. Abdul Latif, son of the slain Dhanu, registered a case with the police. The Sunamganj police after holding investigations submitted chargesheet against the accused persons. The court after examining all the records and witnesses found the accused persons guilty.

## District roundup

JAMALPUR

### Three AL leaders arrested, one granted bail

Sept 5: Police arrested three local leaders of the Awami League for their alleged involvement in a clash with the BNP supporters, reports UNB.

The BNP had filed a case with the local police against 13 AL leaders following Wednesday's clash in the town that left six people injured.

The arrested are Mizanur Rahman Mizan, General Secretary, of district AL, and Mujibur Rahman and Alamgir of the Sramik League.

Party sources said Alamgir was granted bail but the two other leaders were sent to jail.

District AL staged a demonstration and held a rally in front of the DC office demanding their release. The rally was presided over by district AL president Matir Rahman Talukder.

MAGURA

### Young man commits suicide

Sept 5: A young man allegedly committed suicide by taking poison at a village in sadar thana of the district last Friday, said a delayed message received Friday, reports UNB.

Police said Shahidul Islam (26) of Borai village in the thana committed suicide following a family feud.

The body was sent to Magura Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

A UD case was filed with the sadar thana in this connection.

SATKHIRA

### Three die in separate incidents

Aug 5: Three people died in the district in three separate incidents on Monday, police said, reports UNB.

According to family sources, Abu Bakar (22) of Dumurpota in Assasuni thana allegedly committed suicide by jumping into a river after being rebuked by his father.

Ashraf Ali of Chapra village in Sadar thana allegedly committed suicide by taking poison following a family feud.

In yet another incident Samad Gazi (35) of the same village died of snake bite on the day.

Three cases were filed with the police.

KHULNA

### Workshop on rural entrepreneurs

Sept 5: A three-day workshop on "growing rural entrepreneurs" began here at Khulna BMDC auditorium under the auspices of BRDB yesterday, reports BSS.

The objective of the workshop is to set up general guidelines for poverty alleviation and identifying major problems in this field.

Thirty three executives from various departments and organisations are taking part in the workshop.

The workshop was inaugurated by Khulna Divisional Commissioner Abdul Mukhtar Choudhury. The inaugural session was addressed, among others, by Deputy Commissioner Khulna Kazi Rezaul Hoq, project director of BRDB Fazlul Hossain Yousuf, and director of Planning Brdb Hamidur Rahman.

In his inaugural speech Abdul Mukhtar Choudhury called for increasing facilities as well as maintaining congenial atmosphere in the rural areas for establishing entrepreneurs in rural areas.

PATUAKHALI

### Price hike of commodities

Sept 5: Price hike of essential commodities and economic hardship of the people mingled with scarcity of jobs have made the life unbearable in the district, reports UNB.

Local people said landless farmers, daily labourers of Bauphal, Kalapara, Dasmina, Mirzaganj, Galachipa, Dumki and Sadar thanas have been facing severe economic crisis due to non-availability of jobs.

Prices of different commodities including food items, house building materials, medicines, health care items are increasing day by day in these thanas which are beyond the purchasing capacity of the low income group.

Meanwhile, many landless farmers and day labourers have been compelled to start begging. They are found begging at bus stations, launch terminal, court premises and in front of mosques, hospitals and residential areas.

NETRAKONA

### Pucca drains project in full swing

Sept 5: Netrakona pourashava has taken up a project for the construction of 15 pucca drains at a cost of Tk 15 lakh in the area, reports BSS.

According to the pourashava sources, the project includes improving the drainage system and solving the water logging problem.

Works on the project are going on in full swing and it is expected to be completed next month, the sources said.

BARISAL

### 1,635 cases against illegal users of power

Sept 5: A total of 1,635 cases have been filed against the illegal users of electricity and defaulters of electricity bills in five districts under Barisal circle of Power Development Board (PDB) in the last fiscal, reports BSS.

According to an official source of the total, 1,140 cases were settled in the period and 495 cases are pending till date.

Meanwhile, Tk 34,97,407 was realised from the defaulters and Tk 8,40,300 was realised as fine from the illegal users.

Besides, 1,645 illegal electricity connections were snapped in the circle during the period, the source added.

MANIKGANJ

### Drug addiction on rise

Sept 5: Drug addiction on rise in the town and adjoining areas of the district, reports UNB.

Town-dwellers complained that phensidyl, ganja, heroin, opium and liquor are being openly sold in the town and Harirampur thana headquarters with impunity.

Besides, school and college students, drug users include rickshawpullers, transport workers and unemployed youths. The dwellers alleged that the addicts and other connected people are storing and selling the drugs before the nose of the law enforcing agencies.

After sundown the drug addicts seen assembling near the different medicine shops which sell the drugs freely. Meanwhile, anti-social activities have registered a sharp rise in the areas following increase in the drug addiction.

Women can hardly move after sun set for fear of being attacked by the hijackers.

MUNSHIGANJ

### Sewing machines distributed

Sept 5: Girl students of three high schools in the district Thursday received machines to learn sewing and embroidery as part of vocational training, reports UNB.

Seven sewing and embroidery machines from Singer-Annesha Sewing Training Project were handed over to Rekabi Bazar Girls High School, Rekabi Bazar High School and Bindopur Ram Kumar High School.

The function held at Rekabi Bazar Girls High School was addressed by Abid Ahmed Ali, manager (marketing) of Singer Bangladesh Ltd, Rtn. Fazle Rabbi, chairman of Annesha Welfare Trust and journalist Farid Hossain. It was presided over by M Hafizullah, chairman of managing committee Rekabi Bazar Girls High School.

The project aims at benefiting especially for drop-out girls.

The project has already covered 25 high schools across the country during the current year.

FENI

### Daring dacoity

Sept 5: A daring dacoity was committed in a drug store at Trunk road in the town on Monday, police said, reports UNB.

According to police, the dacoits entered the shop by cutting the roof of the tin-shed store and looted medicines worth about Tk one lakh and cash Tk 3,500.

A case was filed with the police.

Another report says: Police arrested a man with five forged notes of Tk 100 denomination last week.

Police said Shah Alam of Motiganj village in Monagazi thana bought a cinema ticket from Dulal Cinema hall in the town with a fake note. But hall counter employee got suspicious at the note and they recovered another four fake notes from his possession.