

Non-registration of marriage deeds rising in rural areas

From Our Correspondent

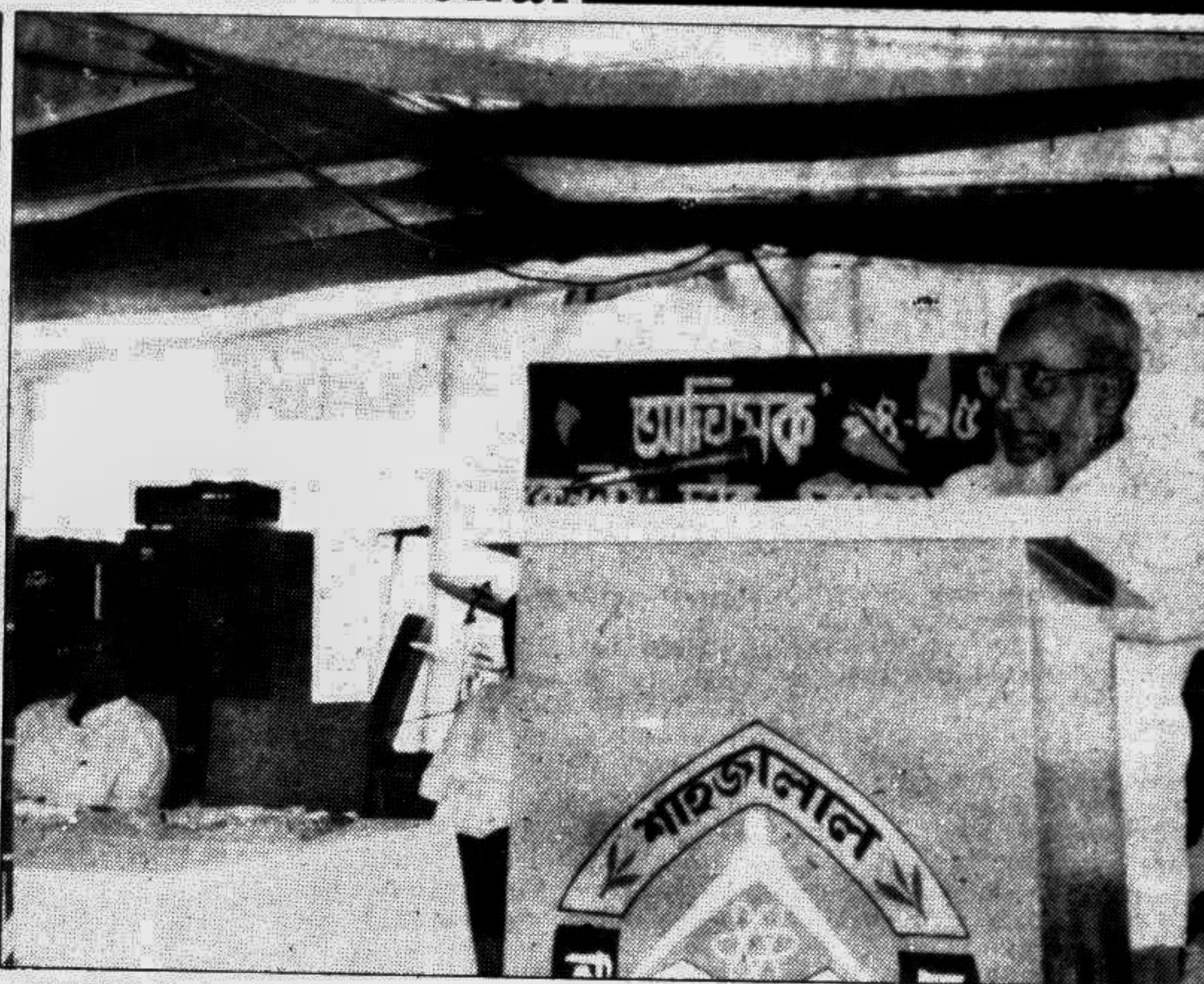
JHENIDAH, Sept 6: Non-registration of marriage deeds is one of the many reasons of women tortures including divorce and demand for dowry. A survey in some rural areas of Jhenidah and Magura districts showed that the marriages of many poor families were not registered. As a result the victims could not take any legal action against the unscrupulous husbands. On the other hand, defying the government restrictions many people specially in the rural areas marry a second or third time without written permission of the first wife. There are certain legal safeguards for a woman in the conditions of the marriage deed but as no such deeds are signed, divorce has become a common feature in the rural areas. The women are com-

pelled to live in distress. Sometimes they are also compelled to keep themselves engaged in anti-social activities. A marriage registrar, or Gazi, told that the high registration fee is one of the reasons of indifferent attitude of many illiterate poor guardians in registering the marriage deed. 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. Some guardians opined that the government should fix token fees for marriage registration which might check the alarming rate of divorce of women to some extent, particularly in rural areas.

Chandpur FRI seriously hit by irregular power supply

CHANDPUR, Sept 6: Erratic power supply in the district during the last fortnight has been causing much suffering to the common people and financial losses to the mill and factory owners, reports UNB.

Local PDB officials said, the demand of electricity in the river port town is 22 megawatt a day. But it is receiving only 12 megawatt of electricity for the commercially developed town. As a result, production in mills and factories and Fisheries Research Institute have seriously been affected. The patients in hospitals are worst sufferers. Fisheries Research Institute sources said, electricity supply in its hatcheries was snapped for long 36 hours from August 29 due to loadshedding and underground cable disorder. As a result, about one lakh shrimp fry in the hatcheries of the institute have been destroyed, incurring a loss of about Tk 50,000.



SYLHET: Professor Syed Mohid Uddin Ahmed, Vice-Chancellor of Shahjalal University speaking at the installation ceremony of Science and Technology Union (SUCSU) of the university held recently. — Star photo

Renovation works of 32 food godowns in progress in greater Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Sept 6: Renovation works of 32 food godowns have been going on in 4 districts of greater Sylhet region with an allocation of Taka ten crore. A government official source when contacted in Sylhet informed this correspondent that, the project is being implemented with financial assistance from the Netherlands government. About forty per cent of works have already been completed. The works include, 11 godowns in Sylhet, nine in Moulvibazar, eight in Habiganj and four in Sunamganj district. The godowns were earlier declared unfit for use. Foodgrains worth huge amount of money were damaged in these godowns due to the wornout condition in the past few years, the source added. The source also informed that the foodgrain procurement drive was also hampered in the region due to the absence of sufficient number of

godowns. On completion of the project, the storage facility in the region would increase further, the source added. Meanwhile, there were allegations of large-scale irregularities in the renovation works of two godowns in Sylhet district. According to the allegations, construction materials of inferior quality was being used in these godowns. A few days back, some officials from a forcing consulting firm visited the Golapganj godown number-III at Golapganj thana. They expressed their dissatisfaction over the newly constructed floor of the godown. They also suggested to dismantle about 2000 square feet of plaster of Sheola godown in Beaulabazar thana due to large-scale irregularities in the works done there. An official source informed that, necessary steps would be taken against the people involved in the irregularities, if found.

Production from FSMF shows good signs

From Our Correspondent

MOULVI BAZAR Sept 6: The Fish Seed Multiplication Farm (FSMF) a government hatchery and fish fry producing farm has achieved remarkable success in producing fish fry and roe(egg) of fish recently, according to a source of the farm. The farm, established in 1977 on 3.08 acres of land, has eight hatcheries and ponds. Ever since its inception the output from the farm has been quite poor due to largescale alleged malpractices, mismanagement, want of requisite inputs and equipment until 1990 when the production from the hatchery started to increase. Since 1991 production at the farm steadily rose and Boat capsizes, 3 feared drowned

continued to show positive signs. The authorities took initiative to develop the farm. Further, in 1993 the farm was able to exceed its output target by producing 28 kilograms of roe of fish and 2.5 lakh fish fry out of the target of 23 kg of roe of fish and two lakh fish fry. In the current season there has been no target for production as the FSMF has taken up a project to develop its infrastructure. But in the meantime, the farm has produced more than 17 kilograms of roe of fish. The farm is also engaged in producing roe of rui, mrigal, silver carp and other. With the supply of roe of fish from the FSMF, more than 100 fish-nursery has been established at private initiative at different places of Moulvibazar sadar, Rajnagar and Srimongal thanas. A source of Moulvibazar fish seed Multiplication Farm (FSMF) told this correspondent that, after completion of its infrastructural development work, the farm will be able to show better performance with its record production.

Jamuna, Brahmaputra erosion takes serious turn in Jamalpur dist

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Sept 6: The Jamuna and Brahmaputra river erosion already devouring vast tract of land in the district, continues to grab fresh areas threatening educational institutions, markets, residential areas and railway ferry port. Like every year, the devastating erosion has once again taken serious turn with the rise in the water level in the rivers. This year too, erosion has forced thousands of people homeless. About five lakh people, mostly poor, have taken shelter on roads, and other places. The railway ghat, which was earlier shifted to a new site, needs shifting again as the river, neighbouring the area, continues to engulf new areas. Many of the shops at the ghat area were devoured recently by the erosion. Measures so far taken by the concerned authority to check erosion in the district were alleged too inadequate. Thousands of acres of crop land in the district, grabbed by the river erosion during the past years, has seriously affected crop output from the district. This year too, standing crops were affected by both, drought and erosion. According to unofficial

sources, more than 12 square miles, including 90 per cent areas in five unions of Islampur thana have been washed away by the river erosion in the last ten years. The worst affected unions this year were: Kulkandi, Belgassa, Chinaduli, Shapdari and Nowrapara. Erosion in the district continues to affect rural poor who have lost at least 25,000 acres of crop land in the past few years. About 22 villages in five unions of Islampur thana alone were affected forcing hundreds of people to take shelter in different places. It was alleged that the erosion hit people were not provided with any relief goods. Many of the victims have fallen sick who urgently need medicare. The severe erosion has also threatened many buildings and similar structures. The 100 years old Gathal bazar, Gathal High School and a madrasa would probably not escape the threat of erosion. The Jamalpur-Dewanganj road, only 20 away from the river bank, may collapse any day. The Madanganj thana court building also faces similar condition by the Jamuna erosion. Meanwhile, a 40 miles long portion out of total 63 mile

long Harindara Flood Control and Irrigation Embankment from Bahadurabad ghat to Gagannathganj ghat has been washed away by the erosion of river Jamuna during the last 12 years. As a result, 60,000 acres of crops land are affected by the flood water every year. When contacted, a sources of operation and maintenance division of Water Development Board (WDB) informed this correspondent that smooth maintenance and repairing works of the embankment is disturbed as both sides of the embankment are occupied by the homeless people. Due to pressure of flood water the Dewanganj and Islampur portion of the embankment was damaged. Different NGOs distributed house building materials among same families and the remaining families have still been remaining homeless. Erosion affected landless people who are mostly agricultural labourers were facing starvation. Scarcity of pure drinking water, clothing and medicine were also prevailing. When contacted some erosion victims told this correspondent that they took shelter on the embankment after they

had lost their land due to the erosion of the river Jamuna and Brahmaputra. Different NGOs in the meantime are helping these people providing food and house building materials. Recently, they have submitted an application to the Dewanganj thana authorities asking for their rehabilitation. One Nazrul Islam, Chairman of Shapdari union under Islampur thana told this correspondent that he took shelter in Islampur thana officers' staff quarter after he lost his homestead by the Jamuna erosion. Another victim says he lost 80 acres of crops land including homestead completely eroded by the Jamuna. Md Abdur Razzak Pahlua, an affected man of Chinaduli union said, "I have been living in this union for 50 years. But I never witnessed such a devastating erosion." Total damage was estimated at Taka 25,000 crore after the liberation period in the all affected areas in the district. Rahima Khandaker, MP and Rashed Mosharaf Hossain, MP recently visited different erosion affected areas of Islampur thana and distributed some relief goods.

Biman passengers being harassed in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent

SHLHET, Sept 6: Hundreds of Biman passengers bounded for different destinations abroad are being 'off loaded' from the flights in Sylhet-Dhaka routes for the last few days causing extreme sufferings. Passengers bounded for Middle-East and European countries are the worst sufferers by situation. On September 3 (Saturday) a total of 130 passengers were given confirmed bookings for the second flight from Sylhet. The F-28 aircraft of the scheduled flight had only 84 seats. So, forty-six passengers were 'off loaded' from the flight. Twenty-five other passengers were 'off loaded' from the third flight on the same day. However, all these passengers destined to fly outside the country were sent through a special and additional flight after several hours of delay. The Biman authorities, however, denied the allegations about the frequent 'off loading' of passengers for the last few days. A number of 'off loaded' passengers alleged that, the Biman authorities did not alert them earlier regarding the

sudden 'off loading' causing much inconveniences. Most of the travellers come to the country on a short visit. They have to face a lot of trouble while returning due to break in schedule. Moreover, there are allegations that, a section of Biman employees collected extra money in the name of 'service charge' from a number of the 'off loaded' passengers. **Sinful saints!** JAMALPUR, Sept 6: Two men in the guise of Hindu saints allegedly hypnotised several women of a house in the town and slipped away with ornaments and other valuables worth about Tk. 50,000 today, reports UNB. Police said the impostors aged about 40 and 20 entered the house of one Santosh Basak, 32, in the Basakpara area around noon, saying they had come from Gobindapur in Coochbehar district of West Bengal. Female inmates of the house welcomed them, drank 'Ganga jal' (holy water of the Ganges) which they said had been brought from India and fell in a hypnotic trance.



MOER, a leading NGO organised a discussion on Free Market Economy at the office of 'Boddodoy' in Kushtia town recently. It was participated by the elite of the town. Lalim Huq, an eminent lawyer (centre) is seen speaking. — Star photo

305 bags of fertilizer stolen from BADC store

BHOLA, Sept 6: Some 305 bags of urea fertilizer, worth Tk 76,000, were stolen from the BADC godown of the district on Aug 31, reports UNB. Officials said, district Agriculture Rehabilitation Committee had bought 1,000 bags of urea on August 30 for free distribution among the marginal farmers of Rajapur union in sadar thana affected by the April cyclone. But on the following day when the officials went to the godown to physically verify the stock position, they found that 305 bags of urea had been lifted. They also found one of the windows of the godown open.

Poor condition of Faridpur town, inhabitants suffer

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Sept 6: Faridpur pourashava dwellers have been facing numerous problems which include acute scarcity of drinking water, hazardous condition of streets, irregular supply of electricity, unhygienic condition of drains, absence of recreational facilities and inadequate street light facilities. The supply of water by the pourashava is quite insufficient to meet the needs of the people. Above this water allegedly contains impurities and mineral, in such a proportion that it is not at all fit for use. Most streets of the town have developed cracks and holes. These streets need repair works. The street running from Mujib Sarak through Jhiltuly to

Govt Saroda Sundari Mahila College is in a very poor shape. This street is too narrow for two rickshaws to pass through. The street sustains damages on various points causing great inconvenience to the passengers on rickshaws and pedestrians, particularly the female students studying in Govt Saroda Sundari Mahila College and Adarsha Balika Bidyalaya. This street remains quite busy specially during school and college hours which needs to be widened and repaired immediately. The street running in front of the super market, Govt Girls' High School and Zahid Memorial Shishu Hospital is also in similar condition. Besides the Dhupabari street and Sarma street in Lumipuri area, Bania Para street in

Tepakhola, Tetal Tala street, Mollabari street are in dismal condition. The irregular supply of electricity over couples of months has been causing great inconvenience to the people as well as mills and factories. Unhygienic condition is prevailing in the town owing to the obscene of drainage system. Food items in most hotels, restaurants and sweetmeat shops are displayed in open places exposed to flies, bees and dirt. Sometime the owners of these shops sell stale and contaminated food stuff causing health hazards. For want of proper drainage system rain water remains stagnant for days together in most of the areas of the town causing inconvenience to the people of the locality.

Woman held for involvement in murder case

SATKHIRA, Sept 6: Police arrested a woman from village Magura in sadar thana of the district Thursday in connection with a murder case, reports UNB. The arrested was identified as Aklima Khatun alias Rehana, wife of Ramzan Ali. Police said, Rehana and her husband murdered one Saidul on July 30, last year, following a dispute over money transaction. Both of them were absconding since the incident.

HSC examinee seriously hurt

SATKHIRA, Sept 6: A Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinee of Satkhira Government College was seriously wounded when a gang of armed miscreants attacked him on his way to examination hall in the town on Sunday, reports UNB. Police and hospital sources said, the HSC candidate Palash was attacked with axe by a gang in front of other examinees at about 9 am. Later, he was rushed to the Satkhira General Hospital where his condition was stated to be critical. Police said Palash was attacked following a previous enmity with some students. A case has been filed.



KUSHTIA: Shofuddin Ahmed, President of Rotary Club of Kushtia West and Project Director of GK Project speaking at the inaugural session of a training course organised by the local Rotary Club. — Star photo

District roundup

MANIKGANJ 38 killed, 245 injured in road mishaps

Sept 6: At least 38 people were killed and 245 others injured in 80 accidents on 88 kilometre Dhaka-Aricha highway during the last three months, reports UNB. Official sources said of the injured some 28 people became permanently disabled and six buses, five minibuses and 10 trucks were damaged in these accidents. Of the accidents, 58 occurred in Manikganj district area killing 28 people and injuring 170 others while 22 accidents took place in Dhaka district area killing 10 people and 75 injuring others. A recent survey of an NGQ reveals that most of the accidents were mostly caused due to plying of vehicles without proper fitness certificates and reckless driving. The survey said a large number of vehicles are plying in the route daily. Of them, over 50 per cent have no proper fitness certificates. Transport workers alleged that the owners of the vehicles have been procuring certificates illegally.

RAJSHAHI 3 injured in chase, counter chase

Sept 6: At least three students were injured in a chase and counter chase between the activists of JCD and Chhatra Motri in Motihar Hall of Rajshahi University on Monday night, reports UNB. The trouble erupted over forming of puja committee of the hall and invitation to the student leaders. JCD alleged that the committee was formed mainly with the leaders of Chhatra Motri and they did not invite their leaders and workers. Police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control. A contingent of police was deployed at the hall premises to avert any further untoward incident. Meanwhile, the JCD Suhrawardi Hall unit submitted a memorandum on Tuesday to pro-VC Altaf Hossain demanding cancellation of the appointment of Prof Shamsul Islam as the new Provost of the hall. **FENI 12 commit suicide** Sept 6: At least 12 people in Nangolcot thana of the district allegedly committed suicide during the last six months, reports UNB. According to hospital sources, family problems, dowry, failure in love, unemployment, poverty and suffering from chronic diseases were the main reasons behind the suicide. Moreover, during the time six people tried to commit suicide but saved due to timely treatment, the sources said. Another report says: Mother and Child Survival Fortnight-94 is being observed in the district as part of nationwide programme from August 25 in a befitting manner. Earlier on August 22 in a get together with the local journalists the District Civil Surgeon called upon them to extend all cooperation to help make the programme a success.

SIRAJGANJ Mastans stab two

Sept 6: Two people were stabbed seriously by the mastans at Janokigati village of Rayganj thana on Monday, reports UNB. According to police, the mastans teased Nasrin Khatun on her way to Pangachi High School in the morning. She later informed the matter to her brother Ajmal (25) and Shaheedul (30) who protested the incident. At this the mastans became furious and after some time they attacked both the brothers with ramdao and stabbed them grievously. They were rushed to the local health complex. A case has been filed in this connection.