

3 arrested for pushing a man under running train

JAMALPUR, Sept 13: Rail Police arrested three people on September 5 for pushing a man under a running train two years ago which caused the loss of his right leg, reports UNB.

The arrested are Banesa Begum, second wife of the victim rail porter Abdus-Sobhan, her paramour Paltu and another man.

According to police, Paltu and his three other accomplices stopped rail porter Abdus Sobhan and his wife Banesa while they were going to Baushil Rail Station on September 29, 1992. At one stage of altercation they pushed him under the running Jamuna inter-city train.

Abdus Sobhan's first wife Obiron Begum filed a case with Sharishabari thana Magistrate court on October 8, 1992. Later the case was shifted to Jamalpur court. The court directed the rail police to nab the accused.

Food for Edn Programme getting good response in Kishoreganj

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Sept 13: A total of 1,971,045 metric tons of wheat were distributed in Kishoreganj district under the Food for Education Programme during the last financial year. The wheat was distributed among the 15,213 poor students of 108 primary schools and nine madrasahs in 13 unions of the district.

According to the District Primary Education Office source, the programme was getting good response from both, students, especially girls and parents. More and more parents were sending their children to schools. The poor villagers are showing more interest on the programme. The parents seemed to realise the value of education.

Girl students were particularly showing greater interest. The attendance of female students in some schools were twice the number of males. In fact, girls respond better than

the boys in class room lessons. "Attendance in the schools have never been better," said one teacher. "We had, at one time, very poor attendance in our school but following implementation of the Food for Education Programme students started to pour in masses," the teacher added.

Unfortunately, some of the schools lack proper facilities like benches, adequate number of class rooms, black boards etc.

Of the total 78,825 metric tons of wheat were distributed among 661 card-holders of six primary schools and one madrasa in Kastul union of Austagram thana, 156,885 metric tons distributed among 871 card-holders of six primary schools and one madrasa in Lohajhuri union of Katiadi thana, 108,845 metric tons distributed among 849 card-holders of six primary schools and one madrasa in Sutarpara union of Karimganj thana, 210 metric tons dis-

tributed among 1523 card-holders of fourteen primary schools and one madrasa in Katkhal union of Mitamain thana, 87,245 metric tons distributed among 715 card-holders of six primary schools in Ballardi union of Bajitpur thana, 139,990 metric tons distributed among 1255 card-holders of twelve primary schools and one madrasa in Chowdashata union of Kishoreganj sadar thana and 189,785 metric tons distributed among 1155 card-holders of thirteen schools and one madrasa in Gobaria-Abdullahpur of Kuliarchar thana.

Under the programme, each child who attended more than 85 per cent of the total classes were provided with 15 kilograms of wheat per month. Maximum two children of a family were allowed for the benefit, official sources added.

Notes From Satkhira

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Sept 13: A decomposed body of a young woman was recovered from a paddy-field in village Satani here recently.

The twenty-eight-year-old Hasina Khatun is believed to be killed after being gang-raped.

A case was lodged with Satkhira police station.

Thunderbolt claims one

One peasant and his two bullocks were killed as they were struck by a thunderbolt at Balabaria village recently.

Tapan Kumar, 28, and the animals were struck by flash of lightning while ploughing. They died on the spot.

One gets 3 yrs RI

A person was indicted on armed robbery charges.

Afsar Ali of village Goamath was sentenced to three years Rigorous Imprisonment and to pay fine of Tk 500 or three months imprisonment in default by Assistant Judge of Satkhira recently.

The convict was caught red-handed while committing robbery by villagers on November 7, 1991.

Three commit suicide

Three people, including a teenage girl, of village Kathanda allegedly committed suicide recently.

Salahuddin, 27, and his wife, 22, reportedly, committed suicide by taking poison after quarrelling over trifles.

The fourteen-year-old, Rina Parveen reportedly killed herself by taking poison. She took poison after being pestered by teasing by a group of young people on her way to school, her family sources said.

3 get life term in Rangpur

RANGPUR, Sept 13: Three people have been awarded life term imprisonment with a fine of Tk 5000 each, in default, to suffer six months more for murdering a man, court sources here said, reports UNB.

The prosecution story, in brief, was that Montaz of village Shahbongapur of Kaunia thana was found dead at a nearby paddy field on June 2, 1992.

In his plaint Montaz's brother said Bijoy, Binod and Binoy of the same thana were responsible for the murder and police after investigation submitted charge-sheet against them.

The District and Sessions Judge after examining the witnesses and records awarded the punishment on Monday.

Two killed in road mishaps in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, Sept 13: Two children were killed in separate accidents on the Bogra-Nagarbari Highway Monday morning, reports UNB.

In one incident, Hossain Ali, 10, was run over by a speeding truck near Barasabari in Shahjadpur thana when he was crossing the road at 9 am. Ali, who hailed from Barasabari died on the spot.

The killer truck was running towards Bogra from Nagarbari escaped.

In another accident Rina, an eight-year-old girl was crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck near Shahbajganj area in Raiganj thana on the same highway at 11 am.

Rina, who was playing at the roadside, met the accident when she suddenly ran to cross the road. The Dhaka-bound truck was coming from Bogra.

The truck fled the scene of the incident.

Separate cases were filed with the local police.

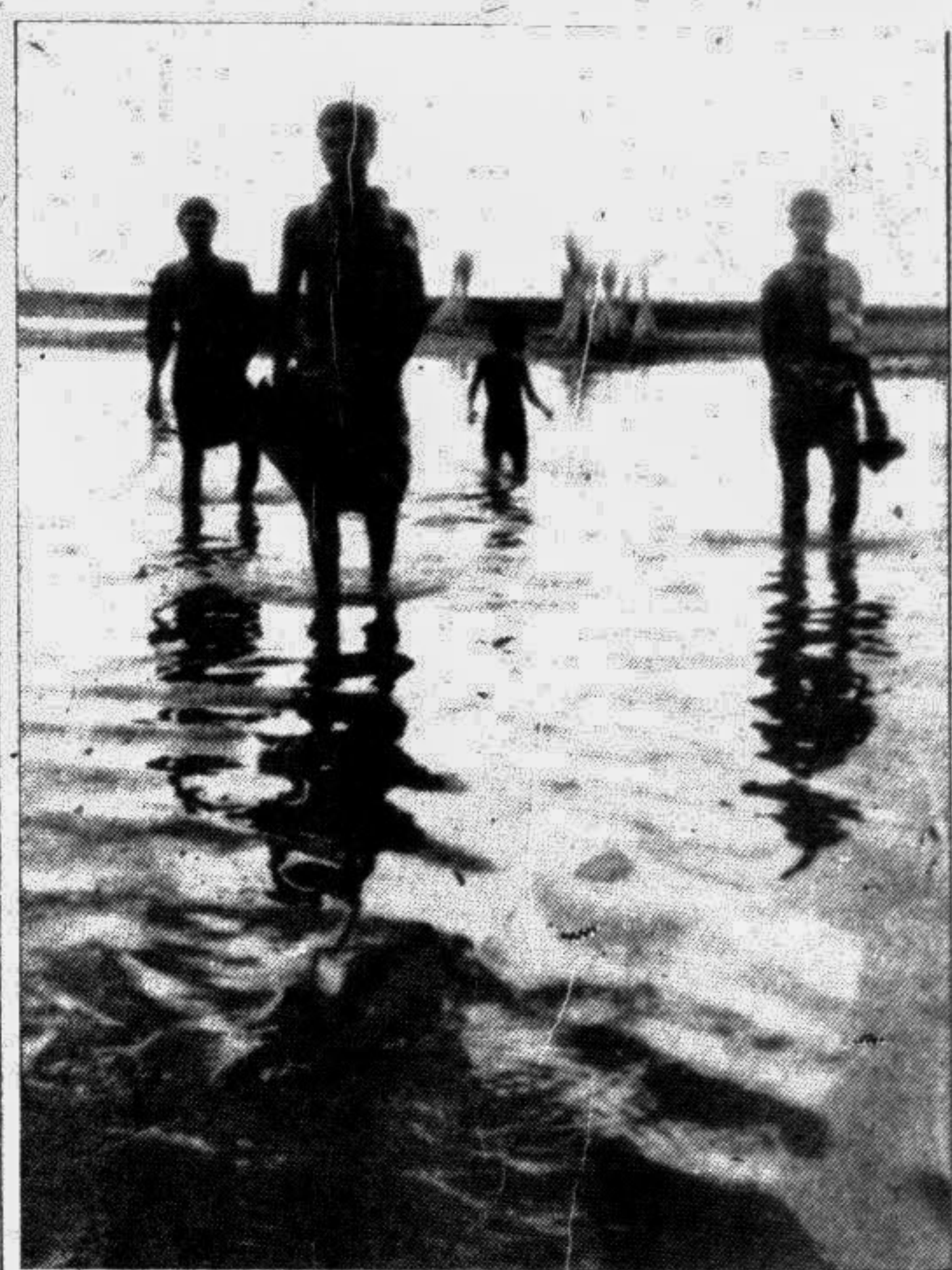
Tk 32.76 cr sanctioned for Bhola Irrigation Project

BHOLA, Sept 13: The government has sanctioned about Tk 32.76 crore for the implementation of Bhola Irrigation Project Phase-2 in the current fiscal, reports UNB.

According to official sources, under the project 15 km new embankment road will be constructed, 50 km embankment road will be repaired, 67 km canal will be excavated and 10 km road will be renovated. Four multi-storied buildings will also be constructed under the project in Tajamuddin, Lalmoan, Daulatkhana and Charfashan thana headquarters.

The whole project of Tk 165 crore will be completed by next 5 years with the financial assistance from ADB.

After the completion of the project at least 1.50 lakh acres of land will be brought under irrigation facilities. The work will start in October next.



SHERPUR: The present state of the river Shurka.

—Star photo

21 sentenced to 15 years' RI for committing dacoity

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Sept 13: Twenty-one persons were convicted and sentenced to suffer Rigorous Imprisonment (RI) for 15 years and to pay a fine of Taka 10,000 each in default to suffer two years more RI for committing dacoity on an inter-city train by Md Anwarul Haque, Judge of Anti-Terrorism Tribunal, Kishoreganj.

The convicted are Kabir, Abu Taher, Shamsul Alam, Mosharraf, Golam Mostafa, Alauddin, Chand Miah, Arshad Ali, Abbas Ali, Jalal Uddin, Kajal, Qudus, Siddique, Shahabuddin, Azizul Hoque, Islam Uddin, Mati (1), Dilip, Moharram, Fazul and Mati (2). The last six accused persons have been absconding who were tried in absentia.

The court found Mendu guilty and sentenced him to suffer RI for eight years and to pay a fine of Taka 2000 in default to suffer three months more RI. Five persons were acquitted of the charge.

The prosecution story in brief is that on July 21, 1993, a gang of armed dacoits numbering about 25 boarded the Egarsindur Express Train in the guise of passengers at Kishoreganj Railway Station. As soon as the train left Kishoreganj the dacoits started looting the passengers. They looted Taka 15 lakh in cash and beat and stabbed the passengers.

The dacoits pulled down the chain of the train at Jasodal Railway Station and got down. Hearing the hue and cry of the passengers the neighbouring villages chased the dacoits and caught 14 of the dacoits.

coits. They were later handed over to the police. A case was registered with Bhairab Railway police. Police after investigation submitted charge-sheet against 27 persons.

Family planning service project inaugurated

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Sept 13: The family planning service project of Integrated Social Development Association was inaugurated by M A Rashid, Divisional Commissioner, Barisal division recently at the Barisal Development Society (BDS) auditorium.

The inaugural ceremony was presided over by Wilfred Prabar Guha, Abdur Rouf, chief executive of the family planning service and training centre at tended the function as special guest.

The function was addressed by Hosne-Ara-Begum of the association, Anwar Zahid, Milan Bikash Paul, Ayesha Kabir, Enayet Peer Khan, ADC (Rev), Kishoreganj, principal Barisal Law College, M A Rahman, director, Family Planning Directorate, Barisal and Khulna divisions and Col (Rtd) Abdul Latif, ex-DG of Family Planning Directorate.

Speakers said that the population boom had to be checked side by side eradicating illiteracy from the society.

District roundup

NOWABGONJ

Foundation of Charcharia primary school laid

Sept 13: State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan underscored the need for collective efforts to eradicate the curse of illiteracy from the society and to spread education to convert our vast population into a human resources, reports UNB.

He was addressing separate public meetings in Nowabgonj thana in Dhaka district held on the occasion of foundation laying ceremony of Charcharia Primary School building and prize giving ceremony of Mohabbatpur Junior High School on Friday.

Emphasising the need for education of common people and making them self-reliant, Mannan said, "there is no alternative to attain self-reliance and to ensure country's overall development without imparting education to the common people."

He also said, to achieve this goal, the government has given highest budgetary allocation to the education sector in the last national budget.

Referring to the development activities initiated by the government of Begum Khaleda Zia the state minister said, "we are now self-sufficient in food production, and the country's literacy rate is also increasing gradually."

He sought the fullest cooperation of the sensible and educated people of the society to help implement the development programmes.

Among others, Thana Nirbahi Officer and local BNP leaders spoke.

SIRAJGANJ

Women gets 6 yrs' imprisonment

Sept 13: A woman was Thursday sentenced to six years in jail for murdering a young woman at Bornia, Shahjadpur, in May 1991, reports UNB.

The verdict of the Additional District and Sessions Judge against Panchul Begum, 35, mother of three children, came at a crowded court after a lengthy hearing. The court also fined her Tk 5,000 in default to suffer another 6 months in prison.

According to the prosecution, Panchul Begum mercilessly beat Shefali Begum, 22 and kicked on her abdomen following a quarrel with her. Shefali, a neighbour, was seven months' pregnant.

FENI

70pc works of six godowns completed

Sept 13: Development works of six godowns in six thanas of the district are nearing completion at a cost of Tk 3.86 crore, reports UNB.

Officials said 70 per cent works of the godowns in Fulgazi, Pourshuram, Sonagazi, Daganbhutyan and Sadar thanas have been completed. The remaining works are expected to be completed by the next month.

The works included construction of guard sheds and renovation of the godown buildings. District Food Department are supervising the project.

Regular use of irrigation facilities stressed

AGRI VARSITY (Mymensingh), Sept 13: Vice-Chancellor Dr Shah Mohammad Faruque underscored the need for regular use of irrigation facilities based on science and technology, reports UNB.

The VC was speaking as chief guest at the concluding day of 10-month long advanced training on "Minor Irrigation Distribution System and Farm Water Management," organised by Graduate Training Institute (GTI) on Sept 5.

Emphasising the need for projecting irrigation system to the farmers properly, Dr Faruque said positive results in agriculture sector could be achieved through the coordinated management.

17 students of Gouripur school get scholarship

MYMENSINGH, Sept 13: Gouripur Abdul Wahed Memorial Trust has awarded scholarships to 17-students of the Gouripur Pilot High School, reports UNB.

The trust has given Tk 10,000 to Mushfiq Rifat Lathi for her brilliant results in this year's SSC examination under Dhaka Board. Lathi stood 20th in the combined merit list and 14th among the female students.

Prof AKMA Mukhtar, Head of the Eye Department of Salimullah Medical College Hospital distributed the scholarships among the students at the simple ceremony on Sept 1.

Gouripur Thana Nirbahi Officer and Pourashava Chairman attended the function as chief and special guests. Chairman of the school managing committee presided. The function was followed by a cultural programme.

BSF returns launch

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Sept 13: The passenger launch, which drifted to the Indian border Thursday, was returned by the BSF Friday.

A passenger launch was kept anchored at the Jakiganj Bazar ghat Thursday. The vessel drifted to the Indian border at Karimganj ghat (opposite the Bangladesh border) at about 2 am by stormy winds. The BSF seized the vessel along with its crew.

The BDR protested and asked BSF to return the vessel. The BSF later sat in a flag meeting with the BDR and returned the launch at about 12 noon Friday, official sources said.

2 crushed under wheels

BRAHMANBARIA, Sept 13: A man and his granddaughter were crushed under the wheels of running train near Talshahar railway station here on Sunday, reports UNB.

Railway police sources said Berek Mia, 42, and her minor granddaughter were walking along the rail track and at one stage the girl attempted to cross the nearby railway bridge. Suddenly Berek Mia saw that Chittagong-bound intercity Mahanagar train was coming towards them. To save the life of his granddaughter Berek Mia rushed to her but meantime the speeding train crashed them.



JAMALPUR: Integrated non-Formal Education Programme, Jamalpur brought out a rally recently.

—Star photo

Prices of essentials mark sharp rise in Rangpur

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Sept 13: The prices of grain and various essentials have registered a sharp rise in the markets resulting in a decrease in purchasing power of consumers here.

In the markets, rice is now sold at between Tk 12 and 16 per kg while flour sells at 10 and 11 per kg.

According to the traders, the poor supply of rice in the markets resulting in the upward trend of its prices.

Minor boy killed in road accident

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Sept 13: A minor boy was crushed under the wheels of a speeding minibus on Sylhet-tamabil road this morning.

The nine-year-old Habibur Rahman, a student of class III — of village Mokambati was crushed under the wheels of a speeding minibus (Sylhet-04-0072) near village Najuri about 9 am. The killer vehicle was on its way to Jafflong from Sylhet town. The victim's body was sent to the Sylhet MAG Osmany Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

Under the "open market sell" (OMS) programme, launched throughout the country from September 1, the food department has established four self-centres in the town. Initially one metric tonnes of rice and required quantities of wheat are being supplied to each centre daily. The centres are selling rice, at the subsidized price, at Tk 10.50 per kg and wheat at Tk 7.00 per kg.

There are allegations that due to supply of low-quality of rice to the OMS centres, the consumers are showing less interest. The introduction of OMS is yet to create any impact in arresting the upward trend of prices.

The prices of edible oil have shot up abnormally and at present soyabean oil is selling at Tk 52.00 per kg. The fine quality of soyabean in plastic cans is sold at much higher rate between Taka 60 and 64 per kg. In the rural markets, adulterated edible oil are being sold openly causing health hazards.

The prices of fish are also high in the markets and the supply is also low as per demand.

The local fish like singi, magur, tetra and gochi are sold between Tk 100 and 140

per kg while big size fish such as hilsha, ruhi, katol, mregel etc are available at Tk 70 to Tk 150 per kg.

Fish traders complained that due to drying up of the river, beels, ponds and other water bodies, fish supply is scarce in the markets.

The price of onion is now showing upward trend and is selling at Tk 12 per kg. The prices of vegetables also showed high trend in the markets all over the district.

8000 saplings distributed

BHOLA, Sept 13: Local Agriculture Extension Department distributed 8,000 saplings among the marginal farmers of seven thanas of the district during the current season, reports UNB.

Deputy Director of Agriculture Extension said the saplings are being distributed among the farmers with the financial assistance of the Southern Districts Agriculture Development Project.

Meanwhile, about 25 lakh saplings will be planted in the district this year, official sources said.



RANGPUR: Police arrested a robber from Padagoj Bazar recently. Atowar Rahman was wanted in connection with a series of robberies in different areas of the district. —Star photo

Compensations for launch disaster victims demanded

CHANDPUR, Sept 13: The Gono Forum demanded compensations for the families of the victims of the Meghna-Dakatia launch disaster, reports UNB.

Dr Kamal Hossain gave the call while addressing a public

meeting at Circuit House premises on Friday with local unit general secretary Binoy Bhushan Majumder in the chair.

He suggested the family members of the victims to file 'compensation suit' against the people responsible for the tragic accident. Dr Kamal assured them to assist through the Legal Aid Trust, an organisation for conducting law suit on behalf of poor people.

Gono Forum president expressed his concern over the growing numbers of launch, road and train accidents. He condemned the reckless drivers and the owners of the vehicles and launches for the accidents.

The meeting was also addressed by Gono Forum leaders Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, Mostafa Mohsin Montu, Fakir Anwar and Nur Mohammad. Earlier, Dr Kamal visited the place where the launch capsized and also expressed his deep sorrow and grief for the family members of the victims.

Pistol recovered, 3 arrested in Rangpur

RANGPUR, Sept 13: Police arrested three people from the Engineering Para of the town and recovered a country made pistol and ammunition from their possession on Sunday, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, police rushed to the spot, raided the area and nabbed Shakil, Shabu and Rihku. Police recovered the arms and ammunition on the basis of their confession.

A case has been filed in this connection.