

JCD, Shibir clash in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent SYLHET, July 1: Ten students were injured in an armed clash between the activists of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and the Islami Chhatra Shibir at Madan Mohan College today. Of the injured, three JCD activists were admitted to the Sylhet M A G Osmany Medical College Hospital while the others went to private clinics. Police have been deployed on the college campus.

Flood situation in Netrakona improves

NETRAKONA July 1: Flood situation in Netrakona district has been improving with the recession of waters from the affected areas and sharp fall of water levels in the rivers of the district, reports BSS.

All the rivers of the district were flowing below their respective danger levels, officials sources said.

According to the sources, the flood triggered by torrential rains and onrush of water from the Garo hills in India claimed a number of lives, affected 77,000 people of 13,625 families, damaged 3785 kutcha dwelling houses, 21 educational institutions, 25 flood control embankments, 22 bridge and culverts.

Standing crops including aus, aman, jute and vegetables on 28,300 hectares of land were washed away by the flood waters.

Thick layers of stones and sands carried by the water from across the border have been deposited on a vast tract of land in Durgapur and Kalmakanda thanas making the land unsuitable for cultivation.

One electrocuted, another commits suicide in Jhenidah

From Our Correspondent JHENIDAH, July 1: One person was electrocuted and another old man committed suicide in Jhenidah Sadar thana of the district on Wednesday.

According to reports, Jahurul Islam, 35, of village Lohajiang in Sadar thana was electrocuted when he touched a clothing hanging from a electric pole near his house. He died on the spot.

In another incident, an old man Surja Kanta Mandal, 85, of village Kazali in same thana, committed suicide by hanging on the same day.

He was suffering from colic pain, police sources said.

An unnatural death (UD) case was recorded with Jhenidah Sadar thana.

Another reports says: A daring bus dacoity was committed near Halidihani bazar in Sadar thana of the district recently.

According to reports, while a Jhenidah-bound bus reached near Halidihani bazar at about 7:30 pm, some armed miscreants numbering 8 to 9 who were travelling in the guise of passengers took control of the bus and began looting at gunpoint. They looted valuables worth about Tk 50 thousand from the passengers. They stopped the bus near Jhenidah TV relay centre and fled away.

A case has been filed with Jhenidah sadar thana.

2 Sharbahara leaders held

BARISAL, July 1: Police arrested two leaders of the outlawed Sharbahara Party from Guthia union under Wazirpur thana of the district on Thursday under a special drive, police sources said, reports BSS.

Police said they were engaged in various criminal activities in the area.

Besides, Barisal police arrested nine criminals from different places the same day, the source added.

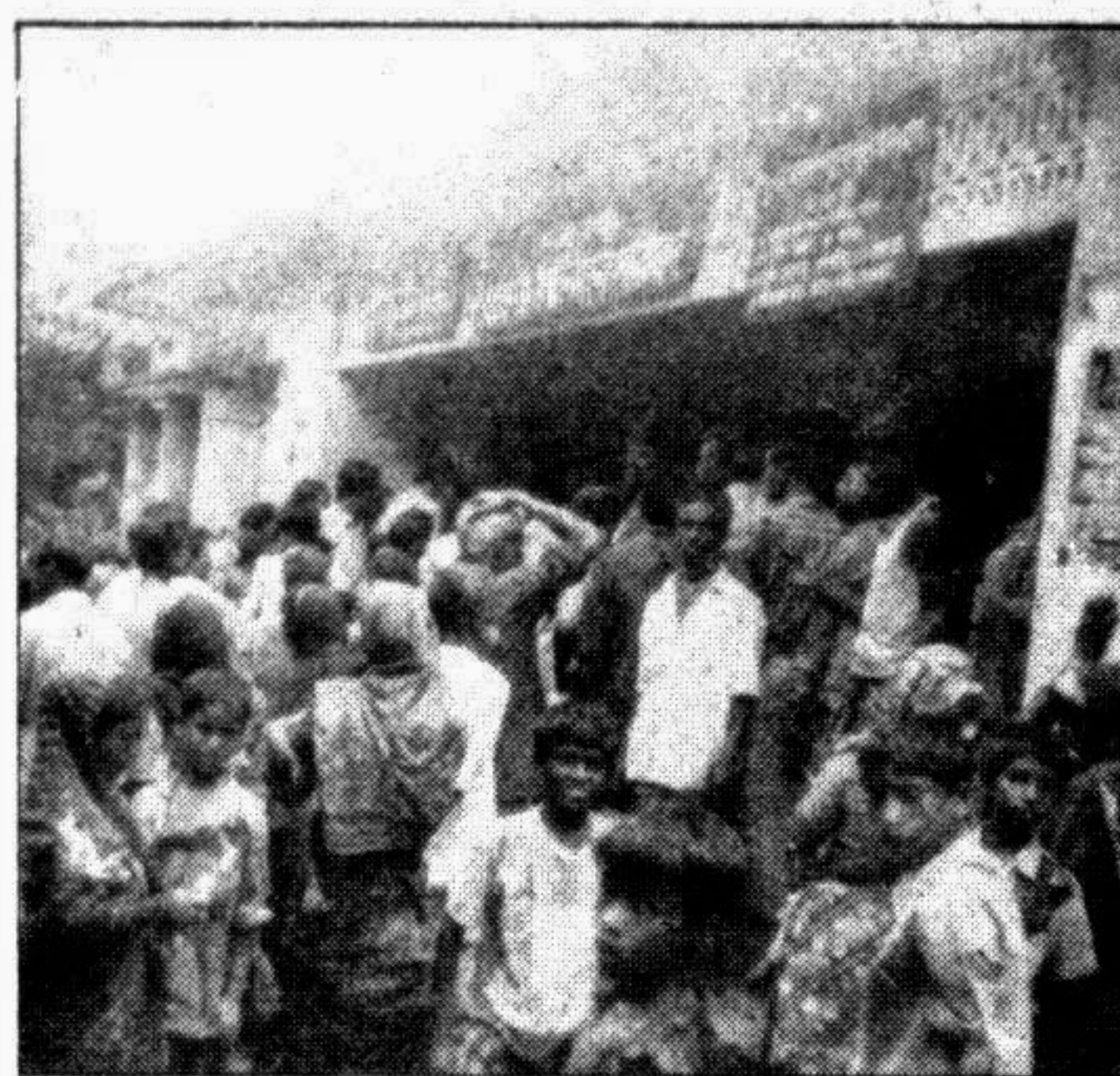
Biochemical society executives

MYMENSINGH, July 1: Professor Muhammad Hussain and Professor Ishtiaq Mahmood of the Agricultural University were elected president and general secretary respectively of the Bangladesh Bio-chemical Society for the year 1995-96, says a press release.

Other elected office-bearers are Vice-presidents: Prof HKM Yousuf and Prof Sayeed S. Quadri, treasurer: Prof M Khalilur Rahman, joint secretaries: Prof Golam Shahid Alam and Dr Yearul Kabir, members: Prof Rafiqur Rahman, Prof Nurul Absar, Prof Quazi Salam Ullah, Prof M Afzal Hossain, Prof Suhrah Ali, Prof Anwar Hossain, Prof Laila Noor Islam, Nani Gopal Banik, Majeda Begum, Mumtaz Faruki and Md Shahjahan.



SYLHET: With the recession of flood water, most of the villagers have started to come back. Some villagers of Uttar Kholachhara under Companyganj thana rebuilding their thatched house. — Star photo



SYLHET: Flood victims crowd the premises of Chhatka Union Parishad office for relief. — Star photo

Shahabajpur gas well drilling to resume soon

From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, July 1: Drilling works of gas well of Sahabajpur of Bhola, which was suspended in April, 1993, will start soon. Drilling was first started from the beginning of the year 1993.

Drilling works were suspended due to strong upward pressure of the underground water level after the completion of drilling of nearly 3,650 metres deep. Later, to stop the upward pressure of the underground water, the drilling well was sealed with about 300 tons of white cement.

Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration Company (BAPEX) is conducting the drilling works.

After proper and necessary inspection, it has been decided to start further drilling

works up to 3,000 to 3,400 meters deep through different channels. According to the authority, after completion of this second time drilling, gas may be found at that level. To implement this project, more 15 to 20 crore taka will be required, the sources said. Meantime, more than 25 crore taka has already been spent for this project.

The survey was conducted for this project in 1984 at Sahabajpur village under Borhanuddin thana of Bhola district. The works of the project was started in 1989 and drilling works were started in December, 1993.

A foreign consultant firm is providing consultancy to the engineers and workers deputed by the BAPEX in this project.

Flood, erosion affect 1.5 lakh people in Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, July 1: Simultaneous effects of flash floods and erosion have caused extensive damage to property and sufferings to thousands of people in five thanas of Sirajganj district.

It is learnt that continuous heavy downpour and onrush of water from northern hilly regions have caused flood in Brahmaputra and Jamuna river basins. The Flood Control Room sources of Sirajganj told The Daily Star that more than 1.50 lakh people of 304 villages in 40 unions of Sirajganj district are affected by flash floods.

Erosion at Brahmaputra Flood Control Embankment at Raotara, Ramgati, Bangabazar and Bilpara in Shahzadpur, Sadar, Kazipur and Belkuchi thanas respectively aggravated the situation by inundating new areas in the western part of the embankment. Vast tracts of land were submerged in Tarash, Rajganj and Ullapara thanas.

Official sources report that about 40,000 families are directly or indirectly affected by the flood. About 2000

houses in the flood affected areas were damaged totally and 6,000 houses were damaged partially. Standing crops on more than 15,000 acres of land were totally destroyed. Unofficial estimate of losses of valuables are much more than the official records.

Jamuna is now flowing below danger level. But flood water entering through the eroded points of embankment is worsening the overall flood situation of the district. People living in remote chars are the worst sufferers as marooned people there could not be rescued due to incessant rain and stronger current in the river.

People who took shelter on highlands and embankment have suffered due to acute crisis of food, fuel and drinking water. More than 5,000 flood victims who took shelter on WDB embankment at Banglabazar in Kazipur thana were rendered shelterless for the second time when the embankment faced erosion on June 26.

According to the District Relief and Disaster Manage-

ment Office and Flood Control Room of Sirajganj, 100 metric tons of wheat and Tk 50,000 in cash have been sanctioned for the flood affected people.

Meanwhile, the tributaries including Fulzor, Karotoa, Bangalee and Harasagar are still swelling due to onrush of water from Jamuna through the breaches of embankment.

Erosion of Jamuna has turned severe in Kazipur, Sadar, Belkuchi, Chowhali and Shahzadpur thanas, rendering a considerable number of people homeless everyday. No positive steps are taken by the concerned department to check erosion of Jamuna this year.

When contacted, a source of Sirajganj Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Division of Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) told this correspondent that steps could not be taken due to fund constraints. However, emergency works are going on to repair the eroded point of abandoned WDB embankment at Bilpara in Belkuchi thana.

Ullapara College exams postponed

SIRAJGANJ, July 1: First year final examinations of the intermediate class of the Ullapara Government Akbar Ali College were postponed Thursday after an armed clash between two rival student groups which left 15 students injured, reports UNB.

Fresh dates of the examinations were not announced immediately. Two of the seriously wounded students were admitted to a local health complex.

The clash ensued following an altercation between some activists of the pro-Awami League Chhatra League and the BNP-backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) in an examination hall of the college in the morning.

Soon after that the rival students entangled in an armed clash in and around college compound. Both the groups used country-made weapons including hockey-stick, sword, dagger and some other deadly weapons.

BCL sweeps Shariatpur College polls

From Our Correspondent

SHARIATPUR, July 1: The Bangladesh Chhatra League (S-P) has swept the Shariatpur Government College Students' Union election held on June 28.

The BCL (S-P) bagged all the posts. Tariqul Islam Sohag, A H Sipu and Md Julhah have been elected vice-president, general secretary and assistant general secretary respectively.

Meanwhile, Awami League leader and Chairman of the Muktiyoddha Sanghati Parishad Col Shawkat Ali has congratulated the elected office-bearers of the students' union.

One sentenced to life imprisonment for killing son

BARGUNA, July 1: A man was sentenced to life imprisonment on charge of killing his minor son, court sources said on Saturday, reports UNB.

According to prosecution story, the accused Nesar Hawlader, 35, of village South Mookamia in Betagi thana killed his son Sohag on April 17, 1993, following a quarrel with his wife for non-payment of dowry.

Nesar was demanding dowry from his wife for a long time and on the fateful day he picked up a quarrel with his wife who expressed her inability to bring the dowry from her parents.

At one stage of the quarrel the accused murdered his minor son. A case was filed and police after investigation submitted a charge-sheet against him.

Law and order situation in Pabna deteriorates

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, July 1: Law and order situation in Pabna district particularly in the town and its adjoining areas under Sadar, Bera and Ishurur thana has deteriorated sharply.

All sorts of crimes have become regular features of daily life. The people of the town helplessly watch as they are frequently caught between cross-fire of feuding groups at the very presence of law enforcing agencies. The town dwellers are frustrated over the patronization of these hoodlums by the major political parties.

A lawyer on condition of anonymity told this correspondent that the present scenario proves that the masters, police and the political leaders belong to the same family. It has been alleged that hardly any FIR is recorded against the criminals. What is more alarming is that some thana officials allegedly refuse to record any complain if the offender belongs to some political quarter.

In the courts, it is found that witnesses are hardly present in 80 per cent of the

cases.

Criminals charged with offences are, in most cases, found to have been bailed out. It is alleged that in many cases criminals are set free according to the directive from the top tyre of the administration. Often police forward a criminal to the magistrate

2 shot dead in Meherpur

MEHERPUR, July 1: Two people were shot and killed by unidentified gunmen at the bank of Jotapur river in sadar thana today, reports UNB.

Police said Jahirul Islam, 40, vice-president of Khetmujur Samity, and an unidentified young man were shot and then slaughtered by the miscreants when they were going to Mohajonpur village riding a motorcycle at about 5 pm.

Another report adds: An alleged dacoit was killed in a bomb blast at Bhomordah village in Ganjani thana on Sunday night.

The victim was identified as Abul Hossain, 22.

court showing them arrested under suspicion. This enables them to win bail as soon as they pray for it.

Public prosecutor also alleged that proper investigations are hardly made by the investigating officers and the case records are prepared in a way that it is hardly possible to make proper trial and convict a criminal. They suggested proper training of the police officers in conducting investigation and submission of charge-sheets.

When contacted, several police officials, however, denied the charges. But admitted that they are not generally allowed to work properly, independently and impartially due to pressure from powerful quarters. They said that due to non-cooperation of the people, who even after knowing the criminals do not want to become witness, many cases end in the final report.

They said that the number of police officers and constables are too meagre to check the crimes and they do not have proper transport arrangement to act quickly.

90 pc afforestation programme completed in Khagrachhari

From Our Correspondent

KHAGRACHHARI, July 1: Despite a lot of natural odds and untold problems, Khagrachhari Forest Division (KFD) has completed 90 per cent planting of different valuable species of seedlings numbering about 13,50,000 on an area of 1,110.0 acres of barren lands in the hillock of Chittagong Hill region this year.

KFD has also started distribution of about four lakh seedlings of valuable trees like, teak, mahaguni, champal, chapalish, Silkora and of fruit-bearing plants, such as jackfruits, guava, lemon, papaya raised in seven nurseries centres, at a nominal price, said M A Baten, the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) of KFD.

Started in April and supervised by the officials of KFD with about 400 tribal labourers, afforestation on an area of 555 acres in Jugalchhari and Duldula mauza in Panchhari range and 560 acres at Bailychhari in Matiranga range of

KFD is progressing fast, said the DFO.

Seventy per cent of the planned afforestation will be covered with the seedlings and stumps of teak, the sources said.

Established in 1985, KFD has so far covered 6,700 acres of land with seedlings and stumps of valuable species like, teak, garjan, teisur, champal and chapalish numbering about 82,00,000. In 1993-94, it has brought the denuded lands under plantation cover of 1,610 acres overcoming a lot of natural and man-made hazardous.

The severe drought in the peak of plantation has damaged at least 2,25,000 stumps of teak planted early in April, causing a loss in terms of money around Tk 2,50,000 including labour cost, M A Baten said.

Under the Jhumia Rehabilitation Scheme in 1994-95, a total of 50 tribal families have been rehabilitated, 15 at Alutilla in Khagrachhari sadar, 15

at Jugalchhari in Panchhari range as well as 20 families at Bailychhari in Matiranga range of KFD with an amount of Tk 7.5 lakh at the initial stage.

Each family was provided with five acres of unclassified state forest land with a dwelling house raising a horticulture plantation as well as vegetable garden on it. In addition to that, the adult members are employed in forestry activities, allowing them practising with 'Taungya method-inter-croppy agriculture with forestry species for one or two years, the DFO added.

Meanwhile, the Timber Traders Welfare Association of Khagrachhari has started planting of different valuable species on an area of 200 acres at Alutilla, five kilometres from Khagrachhari district town, besides Khagrachhari Chittagong Highways under the supervision of KFD, the sources said.

Chuadanga road network needs urgent repair

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, July 1: Most of the Zilla Parishad roads in Chuadanga district are in a state of dilapidation causing much suffering to the passengers and passers-by.

The roads, bridges and culverts have become unfit for use, due to lack of proper development and maintenance work. Innumerable holes and deep breaches have developed on these roads causing great inconvenience to the traffic and the people. There is no adequate fund to develop the roads, culverts and bridges under the Zilla Parishad, sources said.

According to official sources, there are 74 miles pucca roads, 210 miles kutcha roads and 290 bridges and culverts under Zilla Parishad in Chuadanga district. Chuadanga district comprises four thanas — Chuadanga Sadar, Alamdanga, Damurhuda and Jibanagar.

Most of the roads, bridges and culverts are in a pitiable condition and need immediate repair and reconstruction. According to the sources,

about Taka 10 crore is needed to rehabilitate all the roads, bridges and culverts.

Some new roads and bridges are also require to be constructed in some important areas of the district.

It is learnt that LGED have repaired and maintained a few roads and bridges of Zilla Parishad but these are insufficient to meet the demand.

Our Kushtia Correspondent adds: Most of the roads in Kushtia Pourashava are under repair or reconstruction and as such sufferings of the people have been mounted as no vehicles, even rickshaws, can play.

Pourashava has floated tender for almost all roads, and constructors have started the works but due to shortage of bitumen, no road could be completed and movement of traffic has almost been stopped.

Virtually almost all roads are now blocked and huge quantity of construction materials lying by the side of the roads have congested the narrow roads leaving no space for pedestrians.

Erosion leaves 500 families homeless in Hatiya

MAIDLE COURT (Noakhali), July 1: Erosion of the river Meghna rendered some 500 families of Nalchira union of Hatiya thana during the last one month, reports UNB.

The erosion in the area took a serious turn after a tidal surge hit the coastal areas of the country including Hatiya thana on May 15 and 16.

According to official sources, in the last one year at least 5000 families have rendered shelterless owing to the continued erosion of the river.

A large number of educational institutions, offices and establishments and a vast areas of land have been engulfed by the mighty river.

According to an official estimate more than 60,000 families have lost their homes in the past 22 years. Two unions — Harni and Chanandi were totally engulfed by the river.

To date, no effective measures have been taken to check the erosion, the affected people alleged.

The victims have urged the government to take immediate schemes to rehabilitate them.

Voter registration Number of voters reduces by 2.5 lakh in Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, July 1: Number of voters this year in the district has decreased by about 2.5 lakh in comparison with the number of voters registered in 1990.

A total of 14,64,098 voters were registered in 1990. But this year only 12,16,326 voters were registered in nine thanas of the district up to June 15.

According to the primary statements submitted by the enumerators it is learnt that sharp fall in number of voters has recorded in Mesra Union under Sadar thana. Only 8,450 voters are enlisted as against 18,213 of 1990.

Number of female voters has exceeded the number of male voters in Chowhali thana. In Chowhali, 27,061 female voters and 26,533 male voters are registered.

Some voters of Chowhali have alleged that the enumerators did not visit the remote char areas.

When contacted, the District Election Officers said that in the present system of voter registration, absentees were not enlisted, causing the decrease of number. Regarding abnormal fall of number in Mesra union, it is learnt that a large number of people left the union due to erosion of Jamuna. A considerable number of voters in the char areas

of Chowhali thana could not enlist their names as most of them work in the croplands during day time.

Our correspondent from Jhenidah adds: Number of voters have registered a sharp decline in 10 southern districts.

According to the voters list prepared in 1990 there were 72,26,607 voters including 37,38,327 male and 34,88,280 female voters.

But according to the new list prepared recently, the number of voters in these districts has reduced to 67,87,703, registering a fall of 4,38,904 voters. The new list includes 34,21,700 male and 33,66,003 female voters.

Arms recovered in Satkhira

SATKHIRA, July 1: Sadar thana police arrested four wanted criminals and recovered two country-made guns with 10 rounds of ammunition from their possession on Saturday night, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip off police raided a house in the village and arrested Shawkat Ali Gazi, Abdul Jalil Sheikh, Abdul Wahab and Mujibur Rahman along with the arms and ammunition.

School boy drowns in Khagrachhari

From CHT Correspondent PANCHHARI (Khagrachhari), July 1: A school boy drowned in Punzang river of Panchhari thana of the district Tuesday, police said.

Santosh Priyo Chakma, 15, son of Arun Bikash Chakma of Punzang village and a student of class ten in Punzang High School, went to river with his friends to bath. While they were playing in water, Santosh dived into the water but did not surface. Later, his friends recovered his body from the bed of the river, some 12 feet under the water.

One beaten to death in Jessore

From Our Correspondent

Jessore, July 1: One person was beaten to death by villagers on charge of raping a housewife at Sharupdh union of Chowgacha thana in the district.

Police recovered the decomposed body from a bush at the village last week. A case has been filed in this connection.

According to local union chairman, the victim Aminul, 35, raped a housewife of the same village in the morning. The housewife disclosed the incident to her husband.

Next morning when Aminul went to the field to work he was caught and beaten up by the family members of the housewife. As a result, he died on the spot. Then his body was kept hidden. None was arrested till filing of the report.

Detainees clash with police in Satkhira

SATKHIRA, July 1: Four detainees were injured when they allegedly clashed with the on duty police at the court hayat of the district yesterday, official sources said, reports UNB.

The injured were Bari, Salam, Hakim and Rafiqul. Witnesses said the clash erupted as most of the detainees refused to be produced themselves before the court demanding well feeding and more time of interview with their relatives.

A case has been filed against seven of the accused including the injured four. Other accused are Idris, Moniruzzaman and Khaleque.



JESSORE: Director-General, Health Services, Professor A K Shamsuddin Siddiqui Tuesday distributed prizes among workers, volunteers, departmental personnel and public representatives for best performance in Polio vaccination programme on National Immunization Days. — Star photo