

One awarded death penalty, two others sentenced to life

COMILLA, Sept 8: A man was awarded death penalty and two others were sentenced to life term in jail on August 31 in a double murder case, says UNB. The Additional District and Sessions Judge Nurul Dadud has awarded Jasmuddin Jusu death penalty while Moinul Hossain and Mona Mia have been sentenced to life term in jail for killing a young housewife and her minor son. Moinul Hossain and Mona Mia have been fined Tk 2000 each in default to suffer another one year imprisonment. Mona Mia was still into hiding. Two other accused of the case - Nusu Mia and Sarifat Ali - were acquitted. According to prosecution, Jusu with the help of Moinul and Mona killed Amena Khatun, wife of Mujibur Islam of Alua village in Brahmanpara than and her two years old son Monir Hossain on March 3, 1993. Saidul Bashar Noman, a central committee member of the BCL was admitted to a local hospital. Sources said that an unidentified group reportedly attacked the residence of the State Minister for Relief here following the clash.

B'baria BCL leader shot

From Our Correspondent, BRAHMANBARIA, Sept 8: A leader of the pro-Awami League Chhatra Dal (S-P) received bullet injury during a clash between the BCL and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) at Brahmanbaria Government College. Saidul Bashar Noman, a central committee member of the BCL was admitted to a local hospital. Sources said that an unidentified group reportedly attacked the residence of the State Minister for Relief here following the clash.

One gets 17 yrs jail term for possessing arms, smuggling

From Our Correspondent, SATKHIRA, Sept 8: ANM Bashir Ullah judge special tribunal court Satkhira convicted one Ayub Ali Sheikh of village Tala thana on charge of keeping illegal arms and sentenced him to suffer rigorous imprisonment for 10 years under section 19 (A) BPC and 7 years RI under section 19 (F) recently. They prosecution story in brief is that acting on a secret information Tala thana police searched the house of Ayub Ali and recovered one Indian made pumpgun and 3 rounds of cartridges from his house on September 14, 1994. A case was lodged with Tala police station in this connection.

4 JCD leaders held in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, Sept 8: Four leaders of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) district unit were arrested for their alleged involvement in illegal toll collection, reports UNB. The arrested are: Enamul Huq, Abu Sena Mostafa Hossain, Bela Uddin and Apu. They were picked up from different places of the town this morning.

Minor girl killed in road accident

From Staff Correspondent, SYLHET, Sept 8: A minor girl was killed and 25 others were injured in a road accident on Sylhet-Jakiganj road Tuesday afternoon. According to the reports, a minibus (Sylhet Ba-2641) having started from Sylhet on way to Jakiganj when reached at a place near village Ramdha Kargam turned turtle as the driver lost his control over the vehicle. A 16-month girl died on the spot while 25 others received injuries. The injured were admitted into the Golapganj thana health complex. The victim hailed from village Biorsoor under Jakiganj thana. The driver managed to escape from the spot just after the accident. A case in this connection had been lodged.

CU students protest suspension of train

From Staff Correspondent, CHITTAGONG, Sept 8: Some two hundred students of Chittagong University demonstrated at the Chittagong railway station. In protest against suspension of the shuttle train service. Police said the shuttle service from the city was suspended after a local train's engine fell down near Sholashahar.



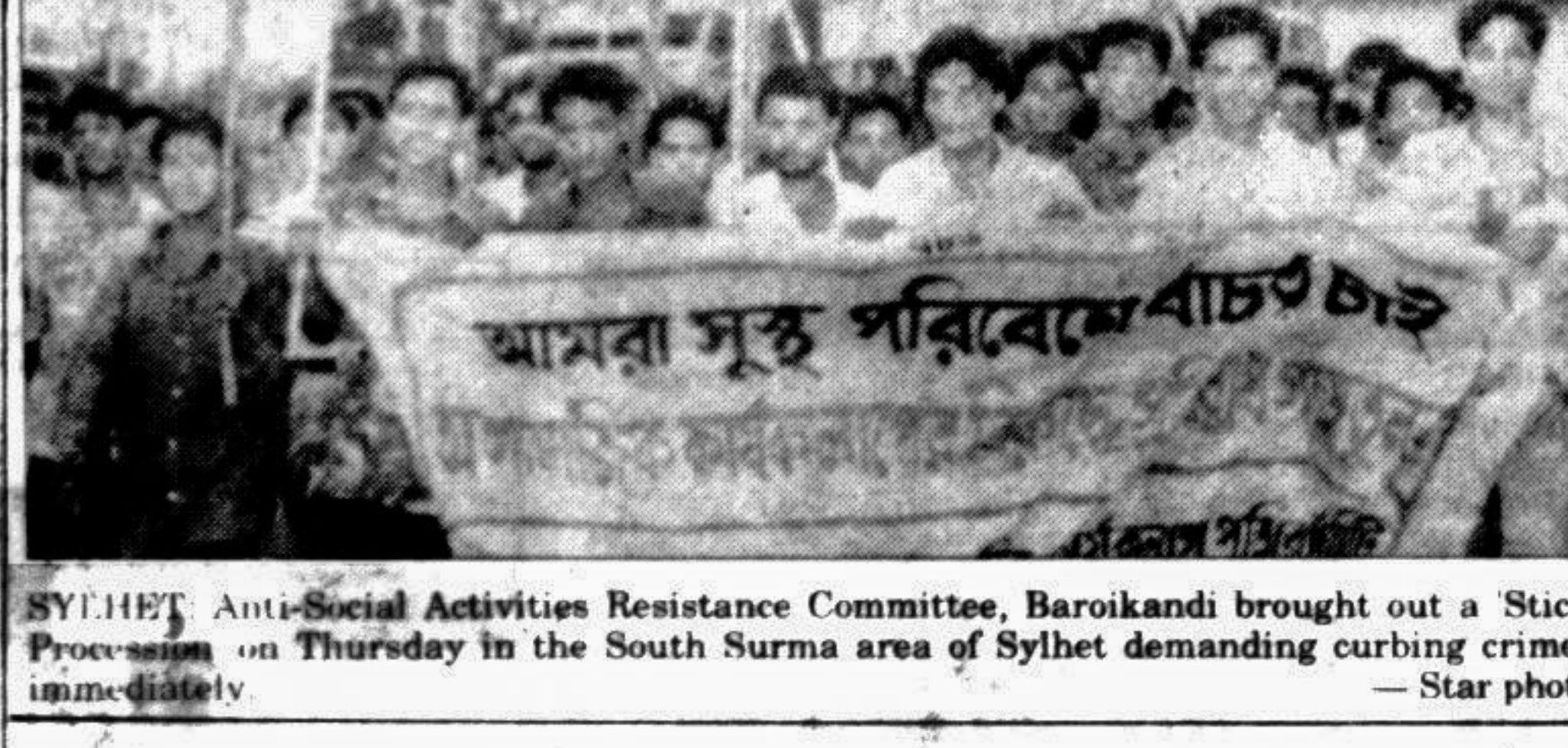
DINAJPUR: Fishermen wading through the Poonarbava river near the historical Kuntanagar Temple, about 30 km from Dinajpur town. Many rivers experience similar condition like Karatoa in Bogra, Choto Jamuna, Atrai in Naogaon, Baronai in Rajshahi. Beside this major river like Padma over the years has seen development of numerous shoals. — Star photo

Sonali Bank starts credit programme to encourage pisciculture in N-dists

From Our Correspondent, RAJSHAHI, Sept 8: Sonali Bank has undertaken an exclusive credit programme for fish cultivation in 16 northern districts of Rajshahi Division during the current fiscal year of 1995-96, official sources here said. The bank has fixed a target to distribute Taka 11.85 crore loan this year under the programme in Rajshahi Division. These loans, each case amounting upto maximum Taka five lakh, will be sanctioned especially on fish culture in ponds. However, loans will also be allocated for pisciculture farm, fish hatchery, shrimp hatchery, semi-intensive shrimp culture project and other noncrop projects related to fish production. To make the credit programme successful Sonali Bank has specially designated its five branches in every district to give the service. It may be mentioned here that Sonali Bank started a credit programme for pond fish culture last fiscal year on intensive surveillance basis with a view to extend pisciculture and thereby enhance fish production in the country. Under the programme, the bank fixed a target to distribute Taka 50 crore loan all over the country in 1994-95. In Rajshahi Division, Taka 72.01 lakh was distributed that year against the target of Taka 86.01 lakh. Though the target of loan disbursement could not be fulfilled, the programme was accepted by the fish cultivators and proved successful, said Shamsuddoha Mahmud, General Manager of Sonali Bank, Rajshahi Division. For this reason, the target of loan distribution had been increased many times this fiscal year, he said, adding that the bank had also made the terms and conditions considerably easier. Now, no mortgaging or security money will be required to get loans upto Taka 50 thousand. Loans will also be allocated against the ponds of joint-ownership or ponds those which got under ledge from the government or any other bonafide organisation provided that the original owner or owners should authorise the cultivator or cultivators to take loans. Groups of small and marginal farmers will also have the facility. Each case of loan will be sanctioned for a three years term on 12 per cent interest. The bank has also taken some necessary initiatives so that the loanees must use the money for fish culture with probable highest production rate applying modern technology. The initiatives include training of the loanees on pisciculture in modern method, holding rallies to motivate and inspire people in fish cultivation, collection of exact number of ponds in the area, identification of the actual owner of the ponds, cultivating fallow and silted ponds and swamps, shrimp culture in soft water and so on. To realise these initiatives, the bank has appointed some pisciculture experts in different branches and undertaken programmes to train its own officials on processing of project proposal, evaluation and pisciculture as well. The bank has also kept provisions to involve NGOs like Grameen Bank, BRAC, Swanirvar Bangladesh and government organisations like Directorate of Fisheries, BADC, BSCIC and so on, when necessary for getting practical knowledge, suggestion and training.

2607 distress people get loan facility Small loans for small projects

From Our Correspondent, RAJSHAHI, Sept 8: Rajshahi Samaj Unnyan Karma Sangastha a local NGO (Agency for Social Development works) has distributed Taka 47 lakh 72 thousand 364 loan on different small projects till July this year in last three years. According to the concerned source, a total of 2607 poor and distressed people have got the loan facility. About 95 per cent loan is recovered. It is learnt. After the inception in 1992, Rajshahi Samaj Unnyan Karma Sangastha has continued to play vital role in social welfare service and community development works in the districts of Rajshahi, Natore and Chapainawabganj. This organisation has given emphasis on taking part of the wealthless people in development activities through savings of money and thereby making themselves self-reliant. My development is also the development of the society — is the motto of the organisation. Under the credit programme, the sangastha at first selects the target area and people. At the same time, it identifies the sectors for loan allocation and their prospects and hindrances and then chalks out plans on small projects. One can get a maximum amount of Taka 5,000 loan against a project. The loanees are given necessary guidelines and all cooperation in conducting their activities from time to time and kept under strict supervision. All loans of the sangastha are payable at instalments which is fixed during allocation of the loan. Taka 200 in realised as service-charge per Taka 1000 loan. A fixed portion of the service charge, however, is kept as savings in the name of the loanee. The Samaj Unnyan Karma Sangastha has also started a sewing-machine project since July, 1994 to help especially the young males and females to become self-reliant. Jobless youths are given necessary training free of cost and then are allocated loans for buying sewing machine on easy conditions. The sangastha also runs some mass education centres. It has established a fee-free madrasa in Natore. Under the Health Assistance Programme Rajshahi Samaj Unnyan Karma Sangastha distributor tubewells for drinking water and sanitary latrines for safe and healthy defecation.



SYLHET: Anti-Social Activities Resistance Committee, Baroikandi brought out a 'Stick Procession' on Thursday in the South Surma area of Sylhet demanding curbing crimes immediately. — Star photo

Magura yet to have an industrial estate

From Our Correspondent, JHENIDAH, Sept 8: Industrial estate of Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) has not been established at Magura even after taking decision by the authorities in 1987, it was learnt. According to a source, number of small industries in Magura district is about 3,075 which includes beer-gearing, chira or 'muri' preparation, sweetsmeas, block and batik, embroidered quilt stitching, fishing net weaving, tailoring, quilt making, cane and bamboo work and others. In 1993 Magura purasabha was declared as class one and the pauras authorities had taken an ambitious plan to 'keep' the town neat and clean. But this plan could not be successful due to heavy rush of small industries which have been growing in the town here and there, by both sides of Dhaka-Khulna highway and other places without proper plan. Many times some engineering workshops by the roadsides create hazards as they are compelled to run their activities even sometimes on the roads. It was gathered that the authorities of BSCIC decided to set up an industrial estate in 1987 and a site was selected on 13.62 acres of land in Magura pourasabha area. But still the acquisition of land was not completed, it was learnt. According to a statistics, out of total number of 3,075 small industries, 150 were registered so far. This year two dairy farms were started at village Kukno under Magura pourasabha and at village Nischchintapur in sadar thana of the district where Taka three lakh was sanctioned, sources said. Fifty farmers were trained for cultivating honey in the district last year, of them at least 45 are engaged with the same. They produce at least 400 kilograms of honey yearly through their 40 honey producing boxes. It was learnt. In last year Taka 1,96,000 was given among 50 entrepreneurs against cottage industries and Taka 4,18,000 was given to 16 entrepreneurs for small industries, sources informed. In last year sources said, entrepreneurs development training was given to 66 per cent 12 small industries and 25 cottage industries were registered. BSCIC authorities studied 12 seek industries. This year they had prepared project profile for 10 industries and three of them were completed so far, sources said. Further 30 small, and 67 cottage industries project appraisal was done so far. Magura is an important district headquarters from where road communication with Khulna, Barisal, Dhaka, Chittagong and other important places is easily available. But the BSCIC authorities is reportedly not showing their interest to set up an industry estate at Magura for an unknown cause. When contacted some entrepreneurs who have been waiting hoping for BSCIC industrial estate at Magura expressed their deep sorrow that they have appealed to the authorities to set up the industrial estate but in vain. They further urged the authorities to take necessary steps for the prosperous industries here at no delay.

14 shops gutted in Brahmanbaria

BRAHMANBARIA, Sept 8: At least 14 shops have been gutted in a devastating fire at Rasullabad Bazar in Nabiganj thana of the district, reports UNB. Witnesses said the fire, originated from an electronic laundry shop, soon engulfed the adjacent area and burnt down the shops last week, damaging valuables worth about Tk three lakh.

Smuggled goods seized in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent, CHITTAGONG, Sept 8: Detective Branch police in a raid at Laldiarchar of Patenga last night seized smuggled goods worth Taka 35 lakh. The goods were being unloaded from two trawlers. The seized goods include current-nets, locks and foreign cigarettes. The smugglers jumped into the Karnaphuli river to escape arrest.

'Extend hands to less fortunate people,' rotarians asked

From Our Correspondent, KUSHTIA, Sept 8: Rotarian Maguruddin Ahmed called upon the rotarians to extend their helping hands to the less fortunate people of the community in improving their lot through various projects sponsored by Rotary Club of Kushtia West. He was speaking as chief guest in the 6th Installation Ceremony of the Rotary Club of Kushtia West recently at Baradi Irrigation Training Centre one mile off Kushtia town. He underlined the efforts of the members of the Rotary Club of Kushtia West in mitigating the sufferings of the diabetic patients of Kushtia and its adjoining areas through the Mujibur Rahman Memorial Diabetic Centre sponsored by Rotary Club of Kushtia West. The centre is working as an affiliated branch of Bangladesh Diabetic Association and has already registered over 3000 diabetic patients of the area and giving medical aid to the patients at nominal cost. Regular weekly meeting of the club was called to order by immediate Past president Engr Shofiuddin Ahmed Hony. Secretary Hasan Ahmed Chowdhury gave a brief account of his club activities and invited guest of honour Prof Dr Anwarul Karim to speak. Dr Karim in his speech recalled the past memories of being a rotarian when Rotary Club of Kushtia was born in the year 1975. One foreign rotarian, Collins from Sweden was also present on the occasion and spoke a few words. He said that he was very much impressed by the activities taken up by the Past and Present President of the club. While delivering his address Rtn PP S M Kausar said that he was appointed governor special representative while forming Rotary Club of Kushtia West. He also said that District Governor Rtn. Emdad-ul-Huq has also appointed him governor special Representative to sponsor another club at Dhaka where all members will be ladies. Rtn Kausar said that he has become successful in forming the club and all of its members attended the District Membership Development seminar held at Hotel Purbani recently with one of the International Director attending as chief guest.

One sentenced to 10 yrs for smuggling

From Our Correspondent, SATKHIRA, Sept 8: Ala-uddin Sardar, Judge Special Tribunal Court Satkhira convicted one Mizanur Rahman of village Pakuria and Kalaroa thana and sentenced him to suffer ten years rigorous imprisonment and to pay fine of Taka 10,000. On charge of smuggling and in the same case, the other accused Rahmatullah Gazi of village Sonabaria under the same thana was awarded 5 years rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Taka 6000 by the same judge recently. The prosecution story in brief is that the said accused persons while smuggling Bangladeshi polyester cloth worth Taka 2 lakh out of Bangladesh to India and reached Sonabaria village, the BDR personnel caught them red handed on May 12, 1993. A case was lodged with Kalaroa police station and after investigation police submitted chargesheet against them.

4 women caught red handed carrying banned drug bottles

From Our Correspondent, JHENIDAH, Sept 8: Jhenidah thana police arrested four female persons and recovered 103 bottles of Indian banned Phensedyl syrup from them recently, it was learnt. According to reports, acting on secret information Qamrul Islam, Officer In-Charge, Jhenidah thana stopped a Dhaka bound coach of Soheli Paribahan, No. Dhaka Metro-02-0635 near Jhenidah thana at about 9pm September 4 and challenged Noorjahan, Rahima Khatun, Shereha Khatun and Rokhsana who were travelling as passengers. All the three female admitted that they were carrying the phensedyl to Dhaka, they claimed, police sources said. But the arrested did not disclose names of the owners of the phensedyl syrup bottles which was being carried from Darsana. A case was filed with Jhenidah thana in this connection and the arrested were sent to jail.

Smuggled goods worth Tk 9 lakh seized in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent, SYLHET, Sept 8: The BDR of 20 battalion in Sylhet district seized Indian smuggled goods worth about Taka 9 lakh in a number of raids from different borders in 17 days. Three alleged smugglers were also caught by them during the period from August 14 to August 31. BDR sources said, the seized goods include, Indian animal skins, betel leaf, betel nut, sugar, phensedyl syrup bottles and other medicines, spare parts and others. A number of cases were also registered while, the seized goods were handed over to the customs officials the source added.

Housewife commits suicide

From Our Correspondent, JHENIDAH, Sept 8: Reshma Khatun, 22, wife of Mokheisar Rahman of village Helai in Kaliganj thana of the district committed suicide by taking poison recently, it was learnt. Family troubles might be the cause of the suicide, it was learnt.

Fake newsman arrested

From Our Correspondent, JHENIDAH, Sept 8: A fake journalist was nabbed by Magura police recently, it was reported. According to reports, Rustam Ali Mallik of village Parul in Magura sadar thana was allegedly involved in collecting money from some innocent people including jobless young women. Earlier Rustam allegedly collected Taka 10,000 from a young woman of village Binodpur and told that the money was handed over to the wife of a minister. While the job seeker challenged Rustam, he could not reply. Then the matter was informed to the local Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO) and the TNO filed a case against the fake journalist and police arrested him. While the arrested was produced before the court, a petition was submitted for his bail but the court rejected the bail, it was learnt. It was alleged that arrested Rustam have been collecting money from job seekers claiming himself as the Magura correspondent of the Daily Meilatt, Desh Janata, Dinkal, Aparadhchitra, Bartaman Dinkal and some other newspapers, police said.

Beggars form association

From Our Correspondent, JHENIDAH, Sept 8: The beggars of Saikupa thana of the district formed a committee named, 'Fakir Samity' (Beggars association) with Darbesh Ali as their chairman recently. Darbesh Ali said that there are about 500 beggars in the thana who are deprived of facilities like relief goods or other helps from the government. Darbesh Ali expressed that the prices of all types of essential commodities have gone up. Due to some unavoidable circumstances they will not accept five or ten paise — coins any more. From now they will claim at least one Taka so that they can earn well. Ali also informed that they have already met the local MP and were assured for assistance from his end. Ali told that if their demands are not fulfilled, they might go on action like strike or some similar actions.

Three awarded life term for murder in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent, SYLHET, Sept 8: The Additional District and Sessions Judge, Sylhet MA Hossain while passing judgement in a murder case found 3 persons guilty and sentenced them all to suffer life imprisonment each and to pay fine of Taka 5 thousand each in default to which to suffer two years more. Five other accused persons in the same case were also acquitted of the charges brought against them.

Prosecution case in brief is that, Siraj Uddin of village Rahimkhar Chak of sadar thana was hit with sharp weapons by the accused persons on March 3 in 1993. The victim was rushed to the Sylhet MAG Osmany Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries on the same day. A case in this connection was immediately lodged with the police. After holding investigations, the police submitted chargesheet against the accused persons. The court after examining all the records and witnesses passed the said judgement. The convicted are, Tasaddar Ali, Amir Ali, and Akol Ali. Among them Tasaddar Ali has been absconding.

87 killed in separate incidents in Habiganj

From Our Correspondent, MOULVIBAZAR, Aug 8: Eighty-seven persons were killed in Habiganj district during last six months in separate incidents. According to police source, 30 persons were killed by rivals over land-disputes, enmity and dowry, 16 were killed in different road accidents, 12 were drowned, 6 were killed by thunderbolts two died from snake-bite, three were ran over by train, two were killed by wild-boar, two were killed in boat-capsize, two were electrocuted, one died from dried-fish eating and rest 11 committed suicide. The police source added that of the total victims, 13 persons in Habiganj sadar, 18 in Chunarughat, 11 in Baniachong, 19 in Nabiganj, 11 in Bahubal, 7 in Madhyapur, 6 in Lakhai, and 2 in Azmireegonj thanas. The victims included 18 children and 14 women. Beside this, at least five hundred people were injured in different incidents during the period. It was informed by the police that proper investigations are underway regarding the different cases.

Drastic fall in fish output in Gaibandha

From Our Correspondent, GAIBANDHA, Sept 8: Indiscriminate catching of fish fry from open water bodies caused extinction of many species of fish which ultimately will lead to its scarcity in the near future, it is alleged. Despite restriction imposed by the concerned department fry are being caught in the rivers Brahmaputra, Teesta and Ghagot using current nets. Besides using of chemical fertilizer and powerful pesticide in the crop fields many of the local species of fish are on the verge of extinction. On the other hand, natural breeding of fish are decreasing due to siltation of river beds, ponds and water pools which went dry during dry season. As such the production of fish specially the local species could not breed duly. All such factors attributed in the fall of fish production in the district. Many species of fish abundantly available in the rainy season are rarely found in the market. The markets are sometimes found flooded with the fry of Hilsa and other species. According to the existing law catching of fish fry below four inches in length is a punishable offence. But for the lack of initiative to enforce the law, the fish production has abnormally fallen causing protein deficiency in the district.

15 injured in Sirajganj fire

SIRAJGANJ, Sept 8: At least 15 people were wounded, five of them seriously, in a fire at village 'Alampur Pashchimpara' in Kazipur thana last night, police and hospital sources said here today, reports UNB. Seriously injured Khosh Lehaj Uddin, Fazur Rahman, Azizul Haque, Azmal and Abu Bakar were admitted to Kazipur Health Complex with burn injuries. The fire that broke out Tuesday midnight at Alampur, engulfed ten thatched houses and wounded 15 inmates. The fire, which originated from lamp, also damaged property worth Taka nine lakh.