

# Construction of power sub-station delayed

## Rural electrification programme in Jessore suspended

From Atiur Rahman

JESSORE, Sept 14: The rural electrification programme for current fiscal in five thanas of the district under Pallibiduyut Samity-1 (PBS-1) Jessore, has been suspended following delay by Rural Electrification Board (REB) to expedite order for constructing the proposed power sub-station at the thana headquarters recently.

According to official sources, this decision has been taken by local PBS-1 management considering pre-conditions that no new construction of line in any part of this thana would be taken up until proposed power sub-station in the thana was set up.

In support of starting the primary work including survey for line construction, the source said that it was initiated in advance only to process the work.

It may be noted here that a total of 100 km new line construction was sanctioned for Chowgacha and Jhinkergacha thanas during the current fiscal.

Out of this 100 km, Chowgacha was given 60 km while Jhinkergacha was given 40 km, the source informed.

### Protest rally held

BANDARBAN, Sept 14: The Citizens' Right Preserving Committee of Bandarban (CRPCB) held a rally on Friday in front of the local Press Club protesting the killing of 30 woodcutters in Baghaichhari by the outlawed Santibahini on September 11, reports UNB.

Addressing the rally, the speakers said at least 6,500 people were killed in the hill district by the activists of Santibahini in the last 20 years. Of them, 5000 were non-tribals. 1,000 tribals and 500 members of law enforcement agencies.

They said Santibahini hoodlums have created a reign of terror in the hill districts for a long time.

They urged all non-tribal people of the area to be united to save their life and property. They also called upon the members of law enforcement agencies to ensure safety of the peace-loving people.

Chaired by Mohammad Emran Khan, the rally was addressed, among others, by Dailur Rahman, Rashid Ahmed, Anisur Rahman, Advocate Mohitul Hossain, M A Hashem, Abdul Kuddus, Abdul Mabud, Majibur Rashid, Mashuri Rahman, Jashim Uddin, S A Akber, and Nadirul Alam.

### Widespread pest attack reported in Magura

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, Sept 14: Widespread pest attack has been reported from Shalikha thana in the district damaging standing aman paddy in the area.

The agriculture officials said, transplanted aman on 10 acres of land of Arpara, Bungali, Gangarampur, Shalikha, Shatakhali, Talkhari and Dhaneswari Union under Shalikha thana in the district has been affected by 'pamri' and 'majra-pokas'. They said, 'majra-pokas' are cutting 'mais' and green paddy plant are turning white due to attack of 'pamri pokas'.

Local farmers said they are not getting fruitful results using pesticides in their paddy field.

Farmers are being advised on remedial measures to save their transplanted aman from 'pamri' and 'majra' attack, the sources said.

### Three youngmen arrested

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Sept 14: Jhenidah thana police arrested three youngmen in connection with the alleged killing of ward commissioner of Jhenidah pourashava, Mohammad Shadat Hossain, from Arappur area in the town recently, according to police sources.

Reports say, acting on a tip police raided the area and arrested Anwar Hossain of village Vekutia in Jessore Kotwali thana. Santu and Nazrul Islam alias Zinna of Arappur in the night of September 9 last.

The arrested were sent to jail-hazat, police said.

### ISD exchange demanded

COMILLA, Sept 14: Businessmen and local elite have demanded installation of direct ISD exchange in the district headquarters to facilitate easy and quick overseas calls, reports UNB.

They have to go to Dhaka or Chittagong to contact their relatives and business partners abroad after waiting for days to get a connection from Comilla, they alleged.

The telephone subscribers, they said, were incurring huge loss in terms of money and time while the government was losing revenue.

A project to install an 800-line trunk exchange here was not implemented yet, they said.

Two ISD card phone booths at Comilla head post office and the Public Call Office remain out of order most of the time.

General Manager, PBS-1, Jessore, Nazrul Uddin Sarkar told The Daily Star that they began the survey anticipating that work order from REB to start construction of power sub-station would be received any moment. He also said that all formalities to issue work-order were completed. It was only awaiting signature of the Chairman for despatch. Reason for delay was not known.

When asked why the survey has been stopped when he was confident to get the work order soon, the GM in reply said that has been done to avoid confusion among consumers.

To defend his latest decision he informed that the proposed power substation was an alternative to overcome loadshedding crisis. It would help save loadshedding, keeping valued consumers less disturbed.

He said that total number of consumers till today is 68,000 under Jessore PBS-1.

Present number of house holds is 147,358 under the PBS-1, comprising Jessore sadar, Bagherpara, Sharsha, Jhinkergacha and Chowgacha thanas.

Chowgacha thana having population slightly over nine lakh.

A source on condition of anonymity told that mounting increase in loadshedding has virtually paralysed rural electrification programme. Failure by Power Development Board (PDB) to lend power to PBS-1 as per contract, has damaged the whole situation. The entire areas of five thanas covered under rural electrification programme by PBS-1, plunges into darkness from 6 pm to 10 pm.

The source also apprehended that during next IRRI season 600 irrigation machines and 200 small industrial units will be deprived of power connection in view of present loadshedding.

PBS-1, has so far extended 2,308 km lines in all the five thanas. It extended only 750 km during last five years. PBS-1 was established in 1981.

Chowgacha thana comprising of 11 unions with total population of two lakh, it is most backward and undeveloped in rural electrification. It was reported that Jessore PBS-1, is

still as its highest system-loss despite preconditions by the authority. Frequent power failure due to unpreceded loadshedding has been the cause, the source informed. Giving details of system-loss in last five years, the source said that during 1992-93 it was 12.45 per cent, 1993-94 it was 12.26 per cent, 1994-95 it was 12.29 per cent and 1995-96 it was 13.66 per cent.

The source informed that system-loss would largely comedown if the proposed substation at Chowgacha was set-up sooner the better.

The source also told that work of another proposed power sub-station at Baghchara of Sharsha thana in the district was pending for long adversely affecting extension of new line at Jhinkergacha and Sharsha thanas. The case of these two thanas was altogether different from that of Chowgacha, said the source.

Existing Navaran Power Sub-Station feeds Jhinkergacha and Sharsha. But, it has already reached its saturation point of capacity, the officials added.

PABNA, Sept 14: Flood situation in Pabna has slightly improved with recession of flood-water both in the Padma and Jamuna but vast areas in many thanas of Pabna sadar, Ishurdi, Sujanagar, Bera, Chatmohar, Bhangoora and Faridpur were still under water. Water-logging is extremely acute rendering internal road-communication and cultivation of land almost quite impossible in most of the affected areas.

### Immediate rehabilitation plan needed for flood victims

From Our Correspondent

Recurring flood in both the

programmes and other such works were yet made by the government. These programmes were meant for employing the day-labourers thrown out of job as an effect of flood or other such natural calamities in lieu of wheat or rice. These were considered by the victims as of immense help in time of their need. The chairman pleaded for immediate introduction of these programmes.

Ferdous Alam Khan alias Gyadamon, Chairman, Char Tarapur Union Parishad under

KUSHTIA, Sept 14: Kushtia thana police has arrested one person identified as Manik, an alleged terrorist and toll collector on Sunday from Islamia College premises. On getting information Officer-in-Charge Kushtia Police Station sent a police squad in Islamia College where Manik was engaged in discussion with some students.

On seeing police, Manik tried to leave the place but failed and was arrested and taken to Kushtia Police station.

Some students of Islamia College protested against arrest of Manik and entrance of police force in the campus without permission of the Principal. They later brought out procession and ransacked the office of principal. Students also tried to snatch Manik from police custody.

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