Plight of Sirajganj dwellers Problems grip Saidpur Islamia High School

From Akhteruzzaman Bablu

SIRAJGANJ July 15: The residents of Sirajganj Municipality are deprived of civic amenities for a long time.

Although the population of the municipality is increasing day by day, yet the municipality authorities are not providing basic civic amenities to them.

Sirajganj Municipality was established in 1876. At present the municipality area is 10 square miles and population of municipality area is 1,30,000. It was upgraded into 'A' grade in 1992, but the facilities of a first class municipality are not available here.

Town dwellers suffer much due to absence of proper drainage system, deplorable condition of roads, inadequate streetlight, lack of proper sanitary system, frequent traffic jam and absence of recreational facilities.

Absence of proper drainage system is a major problem in the municipality area. The town dwellers face difficulties due to stagnation of water in drains. Most of the drains are filled with filth and garbage which are not cleaned in proper time.

In many areas there are no drains. During the rainy season the drains are accumulated with dirt and filth. It causes health hazards to the inhabitants of the municipality, especially during the rainy seasons. Due to lack of proper maintenance and repair work, most of the roads of the municipality area are in deplorable condition.

The damaged roads are Diar-Dhangara Road, Saygobindo Road, Masumpur and Shahednagor (Baparipara) Road, Cracks and potholes have been developed at many points of the roads. The workers of Gas pipe line distribution company have



A very pitiable condition of Thana Road which meets with Bhasani Road, a busy road of Sirajganj town. But the municipality authorities seem to be indifferent to renovate the road. --- Star photo

Those are yet to be repaired. The flood ..

Meanwhile, the road starting from Sayagobindo flattened rice mill to Moulana Bashani Road, Sadarpara. Road, Shahednagor (Baparipara) Road are in very bad shape. Cracks and potholes have developed at all points of the roads. Some big holes have been developed on the eastern side of Saradpara mosque on Shahednago (Baparipara) Road. This has been turned into a death trap. SS Road, Mujib Road, New Dhaka Road are the main roads of the town but the pedestrians can not even walk easily through the

broken and the footpaths are

created some holes on the road. generally occupied with makeshift shop owners. Some roads of number of damaged roads has the town are very narrow which increased here due to recent are unfit to ply even two rickshaws at a time. Sardear Para Road starting from flattened rice mill to Bashani Road is such a bad road. After a slight rainfall most of the roads become muddy and slippery. Rain water remains stagnant on the roads, causing difficulties and sufferings to the passers-by and vehicular movement.

become a normal affair. It causes a serious traffic jam in different points of the town. The main market of the town, Sirajganj tempo stand, Sayadhangara Road, Masumpur Road, New Dhaka Road, Raipur Station Most covers of the drains are Road, and Mirpur crossing point are seriously affected by traffic

Violation of traffic rules has

Because of increase in number of rickshaws traffic jam has become a regular phenomenon here. According to office source of Sirajganj Municipality, there are 4,200 licensed rickshaws on the

roads here. Street lights are inadequate. Most street lights have broken down or gone out of order for a long time. Most of the roads and residential areas go under darkness just after the sunset.

road, but actually about 10.000

rickshaws are playing on the

Sanitary system of the town is not satisfactory. A few dustbins have been set up in the town which always remain unclean. Garbages of the drains are not removed at day time creating obnoxious odour. Some people who are floating, respond to the call of nature in the roadside places and drains causing inconvenience to common people. Consequently the environment of the surrounding places is polluted. Besides, some dwellers of the municipality are still using kutcha latrines.

There is a children's park on Fazlul Haque Road in front of rectified spirit sellers' shops here, but nobody takes care of it. As a result the park has been abandoned. Now it has turned into a grazing field and so-called prostitutes remain engaged anti-social activities. When contacted with an officer of the municipality, he informed that the children's park is not the property of the municipality. It is under the supervision of the district administration.

The residents of the municipality have urged the authorities concerned to take proper steps to mitigate their sufferings.

Airport at Santahar demanded

NAOGAON, July 15: Santahar Railway junction is famous since the British regime. But there is no air link here, reports BSS.

Santahar is surrounded by some districts and upazilas. The people of this region are deprived of the facility of an air-link with the capital city. People of the district have no alternative air route except Dhaka-Rajshahi air link from Rajshahi airport, which is about 90 km from Santahar.

Most of the people, especially businessmen and other officials used to go to Dhaka for urgent necessity by road in absence of air-service.

It may be mentioned that Santahar was included in the proposed airport scheme during the Pakistan regime, but the scheme has not yet been implemented.

An airport at Santahar is demanded by the people of this neglected area fulfilling the long felt demand.

Counterfeit notes flood rural bazaars

NAOGAON, July 15: Local markets in bordering areas of the northern regions, including Naogaon, have been swamped with counterfeit notes, reports

The common people and small traders are being deceived and harassed by these forged notes. According to competent

sources, dishonest traders with the connivance of organised ringleaders of forged currency notes are issuing forged notes in the local markets. The traders, who run busi-

nesses in both Bangladesh and India, are releasing counterfeit notes worth millions of taka capitalizing free market economy. The counterfeit notes, which are currently being issued in the

markets, look like the original

The number of people involved in business of counterfeit notes is increasing day by day as this business is more profitable than other business. Counterfeit notes worth Tk one lakh fetch at Tk 30,000-35,000 only in the mar-

monthly salary. While an examination was going on, this correspondent found that the head master was Established in 1949, this

government contribution to their

From EAM Asaduzzaman

NILPHAMARI, July 15:

Saidpur Islamia High School

situated in the busiest upazilla

town of the district has been

school has been plagued with

multiple problems. The school is

the seat of education mainly for

boys and girls coming from lower

middle class and labour class.

Financed by its own resource, the

two-storied building standing

with its structure has no suffi-

cient class rooms. In little rain,

the class rooms and the roofless

benches and high benches, both

the boy and girl students have to

sit together inconveniently. There

is no sufficient number of teach-

ers. Although, a pucca building

with three class rooms had been

constructed recently by the Facil-

ities Department of the Ministry

of Education of the Government

of Bangladesh, but this is not

sufficient for the real needs. An

alternate room has been raised

with bamboo barriers having tin

roof to meet the acute shortage of

class rooms. Teachers and other

employees are deprived of any

benefit from the government

except teachers availing the

As there is no sufficient

stairs are soaked with water.

struggling for survival.

surrounded by a good number of school students. The headmaster informed that the students had been pressing him to allow them to appear at their respective examination without paying examination fees. As most of the students come from lower middle class and poor families, they will not be able to continue their studies if the headmaster does not allow them to sit for the examination.

The school has no laboratory. The teachers' common room is being used as the laboratory. There is no toilet, no common room for the students, even no waiting room for the female students. Facilities of all sorts of indoor and outdoor games are totally absent.

There are some specialised high schools for boys and girls coming from rich and higher middle class families of the society. For boys and girls coming from poor and lower middle class families this is the only school in Saidpur town. The government should come out to save it.



Although Facilities Department of the Ministry of Education started construction of a pucca building in the school premises, yet the work was not completed till now. --Star photo

Land dispute in CHT Suggestions sought

RANGAMATI, July 15: Chairman of Land Commission Justice Abdul Karim held a discussion with local political leaders, chief

of Chakma circle and officials on Thursday, reports BSS. He sought suggestions on early

sorting out of land dispute at Rangamati Circuit House on the second day of his first ever visit as chairman of the commission to

Chairman of Rangamati Hill District Council Ching Kew Roaza, chief of Chakma circle Barrister Raza Debashish Roy, general secretary of district unit of Awami League and BNP leaders Ashutosh Barua and Zahir Ahmed respectively, former presidential adviser on Tribal Affairs Subimal Dewan, former MP Sudipta Dewan, president of Rangamati Headman Association B K Dewan, Additional Deputy Commissioner General Nazrul Islam and AKM Maqsud Ahmed, among others, took part in the discussion on Thursday at Rangamati Circuit House.

The high powered ninemember commission, headed by Justice Abdul Karim consisting of chairman of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council, chairman of three hill district councils, divisional commissioner of Chittagong division and three chiefs of three circles in CHT, was formed on June 3, 1999 in the spirit of the CHT peace accord for the settlement of land disputes, a vital clause of the accord.

Participants in the discussion suggested to set up commission's headquarters at Rangamati and branch offices at Khagrachhari and Bandarban in order to speed up its activities.

Chairman of land commission, Justice M A Karim urged all to cooperate the commission for early settlement of crucial pending land disputes for the sake of implementing peace accord.

News snaps Training course day, reports UNB.

SHERPUR, July 15: A daylong training course on new agricul-tural extension policy was held at DAE auditorium here on Thurs-

Krishibid Zahurul Islam inaugurated the course as chief guest while Agriculture Officer Shahjahan Ali Chowdhury and Agriculture Extension Officer Shahimul Islam gave welcome addresses. A total of 25 people, including peoples' and NGO representatives and members of Agriculture Extension Coordination Committee, took part in the course, organised by Agricultural Services Innovation Reforms Project (ASIRP).

Electrician arrested

NARSINGDI, July 15: A man was arrested from Ghoradia area in Sadar upazila Friday on charge of trafficking children and women, reports UNB.

According to the confessional statements by three other traffickers nabbed on July 6 and 7, police arrested Rashedul Alam, 32, an electrician of the District Council, and sent him to jail hajat. Police arrested three alleged children traffickers, including Quamrunnahar, wife of Rashedul, from Daspara. At least 10 children and women were kidnapped from different parts of the district recently and they were dispatched to various places of the country, including Dhaka, police and local chairman said.

Phensidyl smuggler convicted BENAPOLE, July 15: A court in Jessore has sentenced a man 10 years' rigorous imprisonment (RI) for possessing phensidyl, reports

UNB. The court also fined Atiar Rahman, son of Jihad Ali of Benapole Dighir Par village in Sharsha upazila, with Tk 10,000, in default, to suffer one year more imprisonment. According to the prosecution, BDR arrested him along with 375 bottles of phensidyl on August 5, 1997. After examining the records and witnesses, the District Assistant Sessions and Special Tribunal Judge pronounced the judge-

Valuables looted

FENI, July 15: Robbers looted valuables worth about Tk 7 lakh from a house in the town on Thursday night, reports UNB.

Police said about seven armed men entered into the flat of businessman Abul Kasem on Pathanbari road at 10pm and looted the valuables including gold ornaments, taking hostages of the house inmates. Victims said the robbers left the flat after half-an-hour threatening the house owner to keep ready Tk five lakh more by next week. Some 20 families live in the six-storied building where the victim's flat is on the fifth floor. Police visited the spot.

Road mishaps kill 3

MYMENSINGH, July 15: Three people, including a little boy, were

killed in separate road accidents here on Thursday and Friday, reports UNB.

Police and witnesses said Rakib, 8, was run over by a speeding bus in front of Bhaluka College on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway at 4pm Friday. Besides, Mannan, 65, was killed when the truck on which he was travelling fell into a roadside ditch in Bharaduba area in same upazila early today. A pedestrian Musa Ansari, 50, succumbed to his injuries at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital Thursday night. He was injured in an accident at Hossainpur in Phulpur upazila on Mymensingh-Haluaghat road on the same night.

Court order not implemented

COMILLA, July 15: The court order to provide division to BNP leader VP Jainal in the jail has yet not been executed, reports UNB. Jailer of Comilla Central Jail Abdur Rob told that the authority is yet to receive the court order regarding the division till Friday. Feni District and Sessions Judge Khademul Islam Bhuiyan gave the order during hearing of the case on July 9.

Woman electrocuted

MYMENSINGH, July 15: A woman employee of Mymensingh Medical College Hospital was electrocuted at Mashkanda area in the town on Friday, reports UNB.

Police said Rokeya Begum, 50, was declared dead by the doctor of MMCH when she rushed to the hospital with unconscious state after she touched a live electric wire at her house at noon. A UD case was filed with Kotwali police.

Kidnappers convicted

JESSORE, July 15: Four people have been sentenced to different terms of imprisonment here in smuggling and kidnapping cases, reports UNB.

They are Ata Miah of Bhaverber village of Sharsa upazila, Ali Akbar, Abdul and Selim alias Panna of Hazarkathi village of Monirampur upazila. Additional District (2) Sessions and Special Tribunal Judge Motajidur Rahman sentenced Ata Miah to five years rigorous imprisonment on Tuesday for smuggling 65 cartons of Indian goods into Bangladesh on February 24, 1998. The judge also fined him Tk 1,000, in default, to suffer six months more RI. Akbar, Abdul and Selim were sentenced to lifetime imprisonment with a fine of Tk 1000 each, in default, to suffer one year more rigorous imprisonment for kidnapping Ayesha Khatun of the same village and trying to violate her on March 16, 1998. Judge ATM Golam Kibria handed down the judgement on July 9.

Foodgrains distributed

CHUADANGA, July 15: A total of 1,002 tonnes of food grains have been distributed among 3,035 destitute female card holders under normal VGD programme during the first 11 months of the current financial year, till last month, in all the four upazilas of Chuadanga district, reports BSS.

The upazilas are: Chuadanga Sadar, Alamdanga, Damurhuda and Jibannagar. According to an official source, of the total foodgrains, 294 tonnes have been distributed among the 889 card holders in Chuadanga sadar, 544 tonnes among 1651 card holders in Alamdanga, 104 tonnes among 315 card holders in Damurhuda and 60 tonnes among 180 card holders in Jibannagar. Every card holder, under the normal VGD programme, is getting 30kgs of food grain every month. The government has sanctioned 1,093 tonnes of food grain for distribution among the selected 3035 destitute VGD cardholders of the district for the current financial year.

Jute cultivation scheme

SHARIATPUR, July 15: A total of 8,236 hectares will be brought under jute cultivation in seven upazilas during the current season, reports BSS.

According to Agriculture Extension Department sources, local variety of jute will be cultivated. The production target has been fixed at 28652 bales of raw jute in all these upazilas.

Ban ignored

JOYPURHAT, July 15: Some cable channels infamous for obscenity are being run at midnight here ignoring the government ban, reports UNB.

Cable operators run the channels on regular basis on Friday and Saturday midnight. A cable subscriber said the banned TB-6 channel is also being shown but one takes action against the cable operators. Operators also allegedly transmit porno-films through the cable at midnight. At present, two cable operators are running such business giving more than 800 connections to the subscrib-

Two killed in clashes

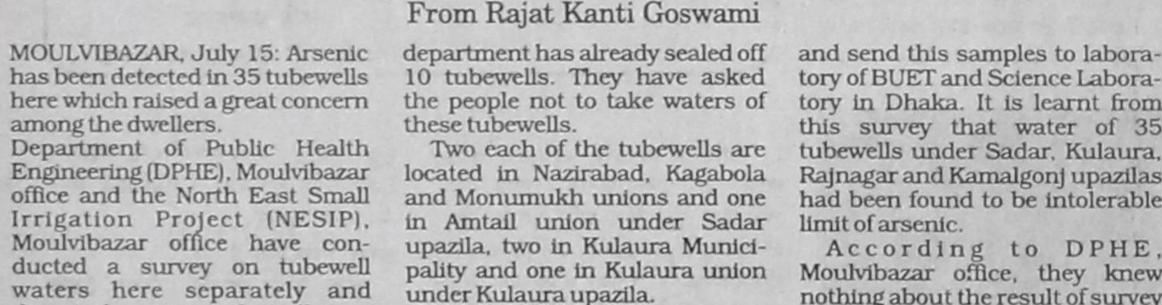
MADARIPUR, July 15: Two people were killed and five others injured in separate clashes in two upazilas here last week, reports

Police said a clash between two rival groups of villagers at Kathalbari in Shibchar upazila left one person killed and five injured on June 23. The clash between the rival villagers ensured over previous enmity. The dead was identified as Kalam Molla, 43. The body was sent to Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy. Besides a youth identified as Khokan Sarder, 20, of Sonmondi village in Kalkini upazila was beaten to death by his rivals on June 22.

Sunamganj Municipality budget

SUNAMGANJ, July 15: Sunamganj Municipality on Friday announced a Tk 3.09 crore budget for fiscal 2000-2001 with Tk 8.37 surplus as surplus, reports UNB. Municipality chairman Mominul Moujdin announced the budget at municipality auditorium in presence of the commissioners and

employees of the municipality. Of the total budget, Tk 1.88 crore would come from its own resources while Tk 1.13 from the govern-



Save the bridge: Gorai Bridge is an important bridge which connects 10 south-western districts with

the capital city of Dhaka. But unscrupulous sand traders seem to be out to damage the bridge, because

they collect sand from this spot situated in Rajdharpur area in Magura throughout the year. This trend

Arsenic detected in 35

Moulvibazar tubewells

has posed a big threat to this vital bridge. But who cares?

DPHE, Moulvibazar sources said, there are only three kits to test arsenic in their department. Of these two kits are being used as mobile and the rest is being used at district office of DPHE to test and detect arsenic in tubewells water.

Besides this, the North East DPHE had collected sample Small Irrigation Project (NESIP) from 950 tubewells of all the six had collected samples from 280 upazilas here. Of these, water of 10 tubewells were found to be at tubewells, four from each union and municipality of the district intolerable limit of arsenic. The

and send this samples to laboratory of BUET and Science Laboratory in Dhaka. It is learnt from this survey that water of 35 Rajnagar and Kamalgonj upazilas had been found to be intolerable

According to DPHE Moulvibazar office, they knew nothing about the result of survey conducted by NESIP. NESIP had yet to be informed about the findings of the survey on arsenic DPHE is yet to take necessary action in this regard. The department is yet to seal off 35 affected tubewells.

--Star photo by Hossain Seraj

However, an engineer of DPHE, Moulvibazar said that it was difficult to test water of all the tubewells in this district due to lack of necessary equipment and manpower.

Paddy farming likely to be hampered in Jhenidah

Lack of adequate rainfall

From Delwar Kabir

JHENIDAH, July 15: Transplantation of Aman and Aus paddy here might be hampered this season for want of sufficient rainfall. The situation has frustrated the farmers.

detected some tubewells as

arsenic contaminated. DPHE had

tested the collected sample of

water in their own laboratories

and NESIP had sent their sample

of water to the laboratory of Ban-

gladesh University of Engineering

and Technology (BUET) and to

Science Laboratory.

Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) had fixed a target to bring 74,000 hectares of land for transplantation of High Yielding Variety (HYV) of Aman paddy and 200 hectares of land for local variety of paddy. But till filing of this report, DAE sources said, 6,110 hectares of land were brought under HYV and the achievement of local variety was

Out of the target of 13,370 hectares of land, 9,880 hectares of land when brought under HYV Aus farming and 3010 hectares out of 4,640 hectares under local variety of Aus farming this sea-

When contacted DAE sources said, water crisis might hinder the production of both T-Aman

and Aus farming this season. Only seven millimetre (mm) rainfall was recorded here till July 7, 10 mm on July 10, 0.77 mm on July 12 and 13 mm on July 13 last, which was so inadequate for the paddy plants.

DAE sources said, the farmers here were encouraged to harvest bumper production of paddy for the last three years. In this season the farmers of Jhenidah Sadar, Sailkupa, Harinakundu, Kaliganj, Kotchandpur and Mohespur thana also showed their eagerness to cultivate paddy on their lands. But the standing paddy plants are going to be dried

up for want of rainfall.

Small cracks were developed in many places. It would hamper the production of paddy.

Deputy Director of DAE, Jhenidah admitted and said that they were expecting rainfall, otherwise production of T-Aman and Aus would be hampered.

Meanwhile, UNB reports from Rangpur: Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) sold 597 metric tons of Aman paddy seeds in five districts of Rangpur zone during the cur-

Gaibandha, Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat and Kurigram dis-Some 1,999,432 metric tons

rent season. The zone includes Rangpur,

of Aman paddy will be produced in 1,008,400 hectares of land in five districts during the season.



Preparing for the season: This is rainy season now. Rivers, canals, ponds and all water bodies have swelled. So the boat builders are not sitting idle. They have already started building all types of boats large or small, with a view to selling those to the needy persons. This picture was taken from a shoal area in Mymensingh district recently. --Star photo by Aminul Islam