NATIONAL

DANIDA project brings changes in Patuakhali, benefits ultrapoor

1600 women employed, infrastructure being built: Project should continue, beneficiaries say

MD SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

A DANIDA project, besides building rural infrastructures in Patuakhali, has helped 1600 ultrapoor women become self-reliant.

The women, organised under groups, are engaged in various development works including road maintenance, re-excavation of canals and tree plantation.

The ten-year programme launched in 1994 comes to a successful completion in the ensuing dry season, but different quarters say its duration should be extended for overall development of rural infrastructure and rehabilitation of the ultrapoor.

The Rural Development Project-16 (RDP-16), assisted by DANIDA, is being implemented jointly by the Local Government and Engineering Department (LGED). The project involved Tk 67 crore, of which, Tk 57 crore has been utilised so far, DANIDA official Abul Kalam told this

Every woman working in the project earns Tk 80-100 per day. They have to save 25 per cent of it with their bank accounts as per a mandatory provision. They will get the savings at a time for income generating activities, in which they are being trained. Kalam said. They are being trained in fish and vegetables cultivation, poultry farming and rearing cow and goat.

They are also being made aware of sanitation, adult education and to rise against dowry and other social

The success of the project in building infrastructures is tremendous. So far, 447 km roads including 150 km rural roads, five concrete bridges, 52 box culverts, 180 pipe culverts, 10 steel frame bridges, 47 village markets, twokm river protection embankments have been built, 78 km canals reexcavated and trees have been plated along 132 km roads, according to project officials.

Nine day care centres have been opened for children of the working men. Each centre accommodates at least 30 children.

Talking to this correspondent, Halima Begum, 35, wife of Ahmed Ali of Aliapur village in the Sadar upazila said, "I was virtually starving with my three children and a disabled husband.

"I am now earning for the family and also saving for future. I will raise a poultry farm with the savings. This oject has changed our life"

Another woman, Monwara, 30, said, "My two sons are going to school since I joined the project two

"My husband is a day labourer.

We are better off now with my

has so far covered only 25 per cent area of the district. Road links

Khalilur Rahman said the project between villages with upazila headquarters have been established in the project area



Women renovating the Pautikhali- Shohakathi road in the Sadar upazila. The photo was taken recently

SNÄPS

72-hour transport strike in Khulna threatened

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,

Oikya Parishad has threatened a 72-hour transport strike from 6 am on October 2 if heir three-point demand is not fulfilled by October 1. This was decided at a meeting held at 11am on Sunday with Senior Vice President of city BNP and President of Oivka Parishad Abdul Gaffar Biswas in the chair. The demands are abolition of he car requisition system by police, stoppage of carrying local passengers in long route Khulna-Dhaka buses and stoppage of movement of bus from any place other than central bus terminal at Sonadanga.

divisional confce of Jubo Dal held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,

Khulna divisional conference of Jubo Dal was held at Shahid Maharaj Square here on Monday. Presided over by Assistant Organising Secretary Md Fakhrul Alam, it was attended by Jubo Dal President and Advisor of Commerce Ministry Barkatullah Bulu as chief guest. General Secretary Moazzem Hossain Alal MP, was present as the main speaker. The chief guest asked the Jubo Dal activists to face those who are fishing in troubled water taking full advantage of extreme nationice shown by the ruling party. 'None will be given the chance to seize state power from back doors by creating anarchy in the country', he warned. The grand conference was addressed, among others, by city BNP President M Nurul Islam MP and city BNP Secretary Nazrul Islam Manju.

CASE UNDER EXPLOSIVES ACT

7 Barisal leaders of AL fronts sent to jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Seven leaders of Awami Jubo League (AJL) , Sechchashebak League (SL) and Chhatra League (BCL) -- all fronts of opposition Awami League (AL)-- were sent to Barisal Central Jail after their bail prayers were rejected by the District Judge Court on Monday.

The are Mejbahuddin Jewel, joint convener of Barisal city Jubo League and former president of district BCL; Kamal Hossain, joint convener of Kotwali thana SL: Jobo League leaders Shahin Sikder, Md Dollar and Farhad Hossain and BCL leaders Titu and Mamun. They are among nine persons sued by BNP eader Mustafizul Huq Golap under the Explosives Act on August 24 in different areas of the city.

They had appeared before the High Court on September 1 for bail. The High Court granted them four them to appear before the District Judge Court for permanent bail.

The seven appeared before the District Judge Court on Monday and prayed for bail

But District and Sessions Judge Saiful Islam rejected their bail prayers as they were accused under the non-bailable Explosives Act and sent them to jail.

The next date of hearing is October 10.

Kidnap bid: 2 Chhatra Dal, 2 BCL men held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Two Chhatra Dal activists and two Chhatra League activists were caught by people while trying to kidnap a girl from Shannal para village in Sherpur upazila on

The Chhatra Dal activists are Mosharof and Masud and the Chhatra League activists are Rasal and Rakibul

A bullet-loaded foreign made pistol was also recovered from their possession, according to Sherpur

They went to the village with the bullet-loaded pistol to kidnap a college girl, Shammi Akter at mid-

But her guardians raised a hue and cry and caught Chhatra Dal activist Masud with the bulletloaded pistol on the spot. People from the neighbourhood rushed and caught three others from there. Later, they were handed over to

Sherpur Thana police filed a case against them under Arms Act.

IU reopens Oct 2

The Islamic University authorities have decided to reopen the institution on October 2, hoping that the floodwater with recede from the campus by that time.

The decision was taken at a meeting of Deans, departmental heads and high officials held on the campus yesterday, Vice-chancellor Prof Rafiqul Islam told this correspondent.

Classes will resume on October 2 and examinations will be held on October 5

To avoid session iam, academic activities will continué till October 21 during the Ramadan, he said.

The authorities had closed the university on September 15 and asked students to leave as their dormitories were inundated along with other vital installations and

During a visit to the campus

academic building, engineering building, commerce faculty building, library, two dormitories for teachers and officials, two staff quarters, the central mosque two female students' hostels-- Begum Fazilatunnesha Mujib Hall and Khelada Zia Hall

will improve in next four days and allow resumption of academic activities any how.

two crore, other sources on the campus said said.
Dr Moslem Uddin, Register of the

University, however said the actual damage is yet to be assessed.

The rain-fed water is virtually stagnant as the flood plain outside the campus are also flooded. The drainage system of the



A part of the inundated IU campus, snapped on Monday.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

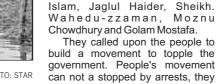
inundated. These include one

The VC hoped that the situation

The water-logging has caused property damage worth nearly Tk

University is linked with Padamdi

water body, which is also flooded



One hundred and twenty-nine teachers of Chittagong University (CU) has said the ongoing agitation

by Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) Shawkatul Meher

instigated by vested quarters

removed.

sphere on the campus. The teachers also called upon the JCD leaders and activists to sop

129 CU TEACHERS SAY

CU CORRESPONDENT

for removal of the Vice Chancellor is

"an act instigated by vested quar-

In a joint statement issued here

on Monday night, the teachers

reportedly aligned to Jamaat-e-

Islami said that the quarter is trying

to destroy the academic atmo-

Token strike by

OUR CORRESPONDENT. Barisal

supporters in vacant posts.

Medical Association).

They staged a one-hour token

strike followed by sit-in in front of the

hospital director's office yesterday

and the day before and brought out

processions on the campus

demanding removal the Director, Dr

Aziz Rahim, also president of

Barisal unit of BMA (Bangladesh

strike today and tomorrow, five hours'

strike on October 5 and then go on

September 16 snatching of recruit-

ment lists prepared by the hospital

authorities. Those were snatched

reportedly by some opposition activ-

ists on allegations that those con-

Satkhira AL

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Awami League (AL) brought out a

procession and held a rally in the

town on Monday protesting arrest of

the party leaders and activists in

Police Superintendent's office. They

also volunteered to be arrested, but

and activist took part in the procession brought out from in front of the

The rally was held in front of the

More than 2,000 party leaders

The rally was addressed by,

among others, district AL convenor Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, former

MPs Munsur Ahmed and Dr. Mokhlesur Rahman, Dr. AFM Ruhul Haque, Nazrul Islam, Abu Ahmed, S

M Shawkat Hossain, Sk Nurul

Satkhira and other districts.

none was nabbed.

district AL office.

protests

arrests

tained only names recommended by

continuous strike, sources said

They will stage two hours' token

Their agitation followed the

RECRUITMENT IN

pro-ruling

party staff

continue

BSBMCH

demand".

JCD agitation for VC's removal

The signatories to the statement include Prof Dr. Abul Kalam Azad. Prof Abdun Nur. Dr. AKM Abdul Quader, Dr. Kazi Ahmed Nabi, Prof Nuruddin Mahmud and Dr.

Meanwhile, the JCD at a rally held on the CU library premises on Monday vowed to continue their agitation till the VC, Prof AJM Nuruddin Chowdhury, is not

JCD president Md Selim and general secretary Milton Chowdhury addressed the rally.

Thursday to press their one-point demand of removal of the VC for his alleged corruption in appointing teachers and patronising Jamaat

Shibir activists. JCD on Sunday observed a token hunger strike to press their demand. Milton said they would launch a signature collection campaign within a week in support their

When contacted, the VC refuted the allegations and said all appointments at CU in last two years were made in a fair and transparent

'Ensure rights of the disabled'

Seminar at RMCH told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,

Speakers at a seminar here yester-A tense situation is prevailing at Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical day said disabled people have the College Hospital (BSBMCH) as 3rd right to access to all facilities including medical treatment like others in and 4th class employees aligned with the ruling party continued society because these are basic human rights. agitation for recruitment of party They are not liabilities but assets.

f property trained and educated. The seminar on "Role of Rajshahi Medical College Hospital in treatment of disabled people" was organised by Action on Disability and Development (ADD), an NGO, at the conference room of RMCH Director.

Habibur Rahman, General Secretary of National Grassroots Federation (NGF), an NGO working for the disabled, presided over the seminar, addressed by, among others, RMCH Deputy Director Dr Rokeya Begum, Prof Mozaffar Ahmed, Prof B K Dam, ADD

Programme Development Officer Joy Chand Karmaker, Area Coordinator Monjur Elahi and lawyer Faiz Uddin.

The speakers said disabled

people have the right to get proper

treatment all in the society so that

they do not suffer from any inferior Doctors at the seminar elaborated problems in treating disabled patients and said import duty on

equipment for their treatment should be slashed. The speakers also highlighted activities of ADD and said that it

helped formation of nearly 550 grassroots level organisations for the disabled in 23 districts since its inception in 1995. It also made the government

pass the Disabled Welfare Act in 200, paving way for ensuring rights of the disabled

6x2

5x3

Vote for JP for peace, uplift

Ershad tells Netrakona by-polls rally

Jatiya Party chief H. M. Ershad addressing rally at CKB High School ground in Netrokona

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Jatiya Party (JP) chairman and former president HM Ershad said the government has failed to ensure security of people's life and property and the country's development. He called upon the people to rally round his party to ensure peace and development. "There was peace and develop-

ment during Jatiya Party rule", he said

addressing a rally held to campaign for

JP candidate Fakir Ashraf in the

Netrakona-2 by-election, scheduled

for October 9. The rally was held on the

Barhatta upazila headquarter Monday Ershad said crimes have increased because the ruling party men are

sheltering criminals. They also utilising law enforces against the people to cling to power. Democracy and people's life are not safe under the government.

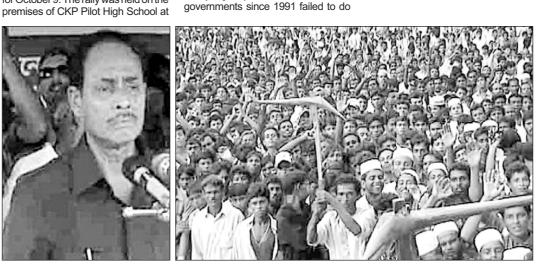
Jatiya Party does politics for peo-

ple's welfare, not for power, he said and called upon the people to vote for FakirAshraf. The former president said, in the next general election, people will vote

his party to power because the two

anything good for them. They speak of democracy but repress people when their corruption

is protested, Ershad said. Presided over by Achab Uddin, conveyor of Barhatta Upazila JP (Ershad), the rally was addressed by, among others, JP central vicepresident Anisur Rahman, general secretary Ruhul Amin Howladar, Presidium member and ex-MP Sardar Amzad Hossen, Netralona district JP president Liakot Ali and general secretary Mostafizur Rahman Rajvi and others local leaders



5x2