

## Upazila roundup

### KISHOREGANJ

#### Founding anniversary

May 29: In observance of the 39th founding anniversary of the Central Khelagar Asar, a discussion meeting was held under the auspices of Moyukh Khelagar Asar of Kishoreganj town recently.

The meeting was presided over by Mahfuzur Rahman Kamrul and addressed by Aminul Haque Chowdhury Ferdous, Mizanur Rahman and Khalaqzaman Khokan. Later Prizes were distributed among the winners of the essay competitions.

### RAJSHAHI

#### City Mayor takes over

From Our Correspondent

May 29: The newly appointed Mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation Mr. Mizanur Rahman Minu formally took over the charge on May 21 in a simple ceremony at corporation building.

Minu in his speech, called upon the officials to work with dedication and sincerity in developing the Rajshahi city. All kinds of corruption will be rooted out from the corporation, he added.

Meanwhile, different parties and organisations in separate statements congratulated the newly appointed Mayor. Those who greeted Minu include, MP Azizur Rahman, Rajshahi Chambers of Commerce and Industries, President Mr. Mustafizur Rahman Suza and Bahauddin Bahar, General Secretary of Jattayatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), RU branch.

### PABNA

#### Body recovered

From Our Correspondent.

May 29: Pabna police recovered the body of Uttam Kumar Das (30), son of Sushil Kumar Das of Radhanagar from a road-side drain on May 19.

The victim a pathedid addict was the radio-grapher of Pabna a TB-clinic. It is suspected that this was the cause of his death.

### SATKHIRA

#### Law college beset with problems

May 29: The Law College here has been facing multifarious problems due to shortage of classrooms and necessary appliances, reports UNB.

Sources said the college building has become dilapidated and there are only two classrooms to accommodate about 200 students.

Besides, teachers are to sit in the corridors in absence of staff room. Girl students are also seen roaming here and there in absence of a common room.

The library has a poor stock to cater to the needs of the students and the staffers hardly get their salaries in time, it is alleged.

### MYMENSINGH

#### 3 labourers killed

May 29: Three labourers have died while working in a septic tank of an under-construction Agrani Bank building at Chhoto Bazar here yesterday, reports UNB.

The workers identified as Jalu (43), Sadek (21) and Salam (22) were rushed in unconscious state to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital where doctors declared them dead.

Inhalation of poisonous gas in the septic tank might have caused death of the labourers, the bank authorities feared. All three were steel binders who had been working in the pit, they said.

The bodies were sent to the hospital morgue for post mortem.

### MAULVI BAZAR

#### Directive to implement sanitation plan

May 29: State Minister for Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Tarikul Islam yesterday urged the district and upazila administrations to implement government's health and sanitation measures properly so that people are not attacked by water-borne diseases as flood waters gradually recedes from the affected areas, reports BSS.

The State Minister gave this

directive at a discussion meeting on relief activities with the concerned officials and public representatives in Mulvi Bazar.

He said everybody should be cautious during post-flood period because outbreak of various kinds of diseases may increase. Later Mr. Islam supervised relief distribution works in the flood affected Mulvi Bazar Sadar and Rajnagar upazilas. Special Assistant to the BNP chairperson, Haris Chowdhury accompanied the State Minister.

### NETRAKONA

#### 2 killed in cyclonic storm

From Our Correspondent

May 29: Two persons were killed and 200 others injured when a cyclonic storm accompanied by hails lashed the district last night. About 100 kutcha houses were also damaged. The storm affected standing crops on 10,000 acres of land under Barhatta, Mohonganj, Kalmakanda Atpara, and Netrakona Sadar upazilas.

The dead are identified as Hafiz (30) and Younusali 25 of Kalmakanda upazila.

### NETRAKONA

#### Donation to Relief Fund

May 29: Under post-cyclone relief operation programme of the government Netrakona district administration Sunday donated Taka 84,290 to the Prime Ministers' Relief Fund, reports BSS.

Deputy Commissioner, Netrakona said the money was collected from the ten upazilas under the district.

### FENI

#### Arrested murderer snatched away

May 29: Miscrants Tuesday snatched away an arrested murderer from the clutches of police from Panchbaghia road of the town, reports UNB.

Witnesses said a group of miscrants numbering about 10-12 freed Mir Hossain (22) while he was being ferried to Jail Hajat in a police van.

The attack was allegedly led by Hossain's brother Akhtar Hossain in the town.

Mir Hossain (22) was arrested on charges of murdering Jafar Ahmed and his mother Shallah Khatun at Chandpur village of Sadar upazila on April 5, 1989.

### Ansar rally

BSS adds: A rally of Feni district Ansar and Village Defence Party (VDP) was held on May 27 at Shaheed Zahir Rathan auditorium here.

Alhaj M. Solaiman, director (operation) of Ansar and VDP was the chief guest of the rally presided over by the Deputy Commissioner, Feni.

About 500 Ansars and VDP members both male and female participated in the rally.

Five swing machines, 40 umbrellas and 60 torch lights were distributed among the best Ansars and VDP members.

### RANGPUR

#### IRRI-Boro procurement progressing

May 29: Procurement of IRRI-Boro rice and paddy during the current season has been progressing fast in the district, officials said, reports UNB.

Sources said so far 1500 metric tons of rice and 4134.35 metric tons of paddy have been procured as against the target of 25000 metric tons through 15 purchasing centres.

Government has fixed Taka 369.50 for a maund of rice and Taka 240 for a maund of paddy as procurement prices, the sources added.

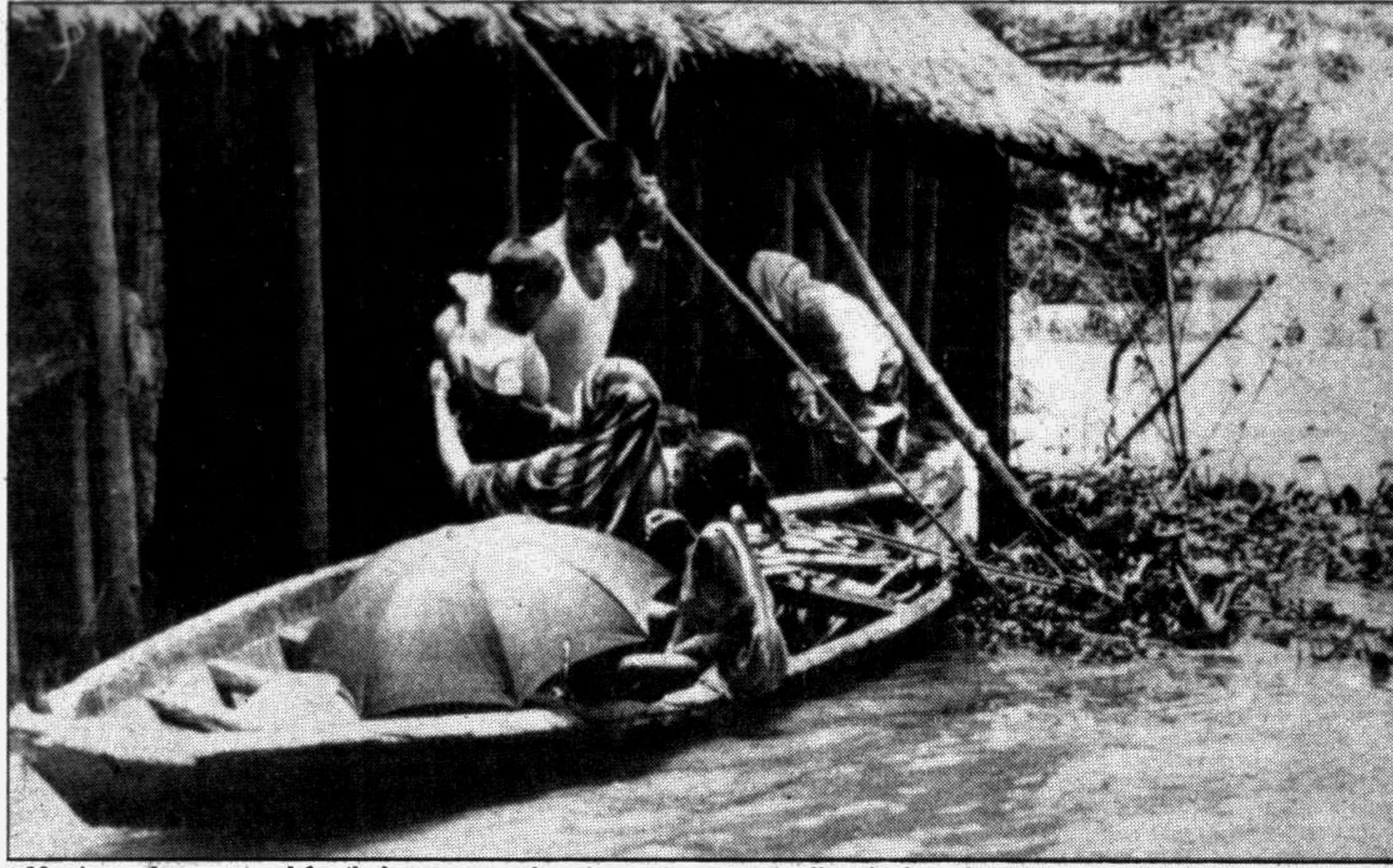
### Wheat

Wheat procurement drive has been failed to achieve its target this season in the district.

Sources said only 4.529 metric tons of wheat were procured through 15 centres against the target of 7,000 metric tons.

According to official sources, procurement drive could not be achieved due to shortage of staff and high price of wheat in the local markets.

One official of the Food department said farmers preferred to sell their produce in open markets as the procurement price of wheat fixed by the government was less than the existing market price.



Members of a marooned family have returned to their submerged dwelling by boat for taking essential items at Anirpur village in Maulvi Bazar district. They are staying at a relief camp set up by the district administration —Star photo

## Relief, house-building materials scarce in tornado-hit areas

From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, May 29: Supply of relief and house building materials are scarce in 70 unions of the two worst affected areas of the district.

Addressing a Press conference, Yunus Khan, State Minister for Education said that the distressed people of two worst affected upazilas, Gournadi and Agaljhara are still eagerly waiting for relief materials from various sources. These are hardly available. He visited the affected areas of Gournadi, Agaljhara, Muladi and Uzirpur along with Mosharrar Hossain Mangu, MP to see the devastation caused by the tornado of May 18. Mr Khan urged the well to do people, businessmen, non-government and voluntary organi-

sations to extend their helping hands to provide minimum help to the thousands of distressed people. He also stressed the need for immediate rehabilitation of the victims before rainy season.

Ceaseless rain during the last four days has multiplied the sufferings of people. The government is trying to overcome the crisis with its limited resources.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia also visited Gournadi and some other affected areas after the tornado and handed over a cheque for Taka ten lakh to the District Administration of which five lakh Taka has already been

distributed as GR cash and the rest of the amount will be spent for the reconstruction of government offices on an emergency basis.

Over 1,000 bundles of CI sheets have been allocated for the reconstruction of the damaged houses. One bundle of CI sheet and Taka 500 will be given to each affected family.

Affected people of 34 villages of five unions under. Agaljhara are still passing their days under open sky though army team has already distributed 50 tents, 300 pieces of sarces and 200 pieces of ganglies.

Besides, 10 metric tons of rice and Taka 10,000 has been sent by the District Administration

to the affected areas.

### 250 weaver families affected

More than 250 weaver families of the areas have lost everything. According to the local people these families are to be rehabilitated immediately and test relief should be distributed as early as possible to save them from starvation.

Electric supply and telecommunications are yet to be restored uprooted electric poles, disrupted power lines and telecommunication links in Gournadi upazila could not be restored as yet.

Zonal relief co-ordinator, AKM Hedayatul Haq, Divisional Commissioner of Khulna and AKM Fazlul Haq visited the affected areas.

### 3 held while crushing condensed cement

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, May 29: Narayanganj police caught three persons red handed when they were crushing date-bred condensed cement in a rice mill at village Bibirjora under Bandar upazila.

Police also recovered 127 bags of spurious cement from the stock at the mill.

The arrested persons are Alauddin, the mill owner, and Shamsuddin and Ali Akbar, his associates.

They confessed to the police that they were in this business for nearly four months.

They purchased condensed cement and old packets from the areas and supplied the cement to different shops after crushing it in the mill.

### Workshop on child health

JAMALPUR, May 29: A two-day long workshop on child health and sanitation was held at Pathalia Ansar Barrack under the auspices of district Ansar and Village Defence Party (VDP) recently, reports BSS.

Professor Abdul Hamid, Sadar Upazila Chairman inaugurated the workshop as the chief guest.

Thirty trainers including women from different unions under Sadar Upazila participated in the workshop.

## Fish production declines

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, May 29: Fish production throughout the district has declined due to indiscriminate catching of fish fries in four upazilas of the district violating government order.

According to the informed sources, a section of unscrupulous people under the grab of fishermen are catching fish fries of Ruhi, Katla, Mrigel, Kol, Magur etc in rivers, canals, ponds, beels and other water bodies.

A huge quantity of different varieties of fish fries are being sold by the fishermen in all the markets, hats and bazars openly. Government has strictly prohibited catching of fish fries below nine inches. According to the Fisheries Department sources, catching of fish fries would foil the government's open water fish culture programme throughout the country while law enforcement is lax.

### Heroin recovered

RAJSHAHI, May 29: Boalia police Friday recovered five hundred gram heroin worth about Taka fifty lakh from Hctamkhan area of the city and arrested one Manik Chand in this connection, reports BSS.

The police raided the house of one Aminul Islam, a garment businessman and recovered the heroin kept in five polythene bags, police said.

A case has been filed with police in this connection.

ing agencies are seen reluctant to take any positive measures against illegal catching of fish fries.

### Plan to instal Tara pumps

The Public Health Engineering Department has fixed up a target to instal 140 Tara pumps in Damurhuda upazila in the current financial year.

Seventy Tara pumps have

already been installed in seven unions of Damurhuda upazila under Chuadanga district.

The Tara pumps are being installed with a view to ensuring supply of pure drinking water among the people of the rural areas during the dry season when the hand pump tubewells choke up due to fall in under ground water level. About 1000 families are being benefitted from the installation.

## Rly officials asked to reduce losses

CHITTAGONG, May 29: Communications Minister Colonel (Retd) Oli Ahmed yesterday called upon the railway officials to turn the railways into a profitable organisation by reduction the losses, reports BSS.

He was addressing a meeting of senior railway officials here.

Nurul Momen Khan, Secretary, Railway Division, and Md. Lutfur Rahman, General Manager for Eastern Region of the railways also spoke.

The Communications Minister said that railways was incurring a loss of Taka 140 crore every year but the amount of loss was only Taka

two crore when the BNP government was in power nine years ago. This situation, he said, must not be allowed to continue.

Col. Oli Ahmed said if necessary, the administrative structure of the railways would be changed to suit the needs of time.

The Communications Minister said the fares of railways would not be enhanced nor the surplus employees would be retrenched. He said the surplus employees would be utilised in proper places.

He stressed on a number of measures like recovery of railway land from illegal occupation to reduce the losses of railways.

## Political scene

### Assault on Nizami condemned

CHITTAGONG, May 29: Leaders of different political parties and professional organisations yesterday condemned the assault on Jamaat leader Maulana Mattur Rahman Nizami in Dhaka on Monday and demanded immediate arrest of the offenders, reports BSS.

Movement for Press Freedom Chairman Moinuddin Quaderi Showkat and Secretary General Helal Humayun in a joint statement condemned the assault of Maulana Nizami and demanded immediate arrest of the offenders.

They said, some undemocratic elements were out to vitiate the peaceful atmosphere in the country with an ulterior motive to gain their selfish interest. They called upon the people to identify and resist such elements in the greater interest of the country.

Sammillito Peshajibi Sangsad President Advocate Badul Alam and General Secretary Principal Muhammad Taher in a statement condemned the assault on the Jamaat leader and demanded punishment to the responsible people.

Ahle Sunnat Ahle Jamaat leaders Maulana Nesul Huq and Principal Maulana Shamsul Alam Chowdhury also strongly protested the assault on Maulana Nizami and called upon the government to bring the culprits to book.

Local Freedom Party leaders Nizamul Amin, M. Tajul Islam Chowdhury, Abdul Malek Faruqi, Zahir Uddin, Mridul Kant Das, Dilip Kumar and Salaiman Basuj in their joint statement termed the assault on Maulana Nizami as barbaric. They also demanded arrest of the offenders immediately.

### Manikganj

UNB from Manikganj adds: Four activists of Jamaat-e-Islami were injured when activists of local Chhatra Sangram Parishad allegedly attacked them in a procession in the town on Tuesday.

Jamaat brought the procession to protest the incident of manhandling of their leader at the Dhaka University campus on Monday.

The processionists were attacked while they were parading through the street near Sonali Bank.

The critically injured Delwar Hossain (25) was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for treatment.

The others were released after first aid.

Earlier, the Jamaat activists were also attacked by the Sangram Parishad workers at Madrasa Masjid gate when they gathered there for the procession. Chase and counter chase followed for quite sometime.

A case was filed in this connection.

### Jubo Dal leader's killing protested

Our Faridpur Correspondent adds: A big protest procession was brought out by the Faridpur Awami-Jubo League against the killing of Liaqat Hossain, Jubo League leader, Faridpur district.

The speakers of the procession demanded exemplary punishment of the murderers of Liaqat Hossain. The processionists paraded the main roads of the town and chanted slogans against the killing of Jubo Dal leader.

It is learnt that some miscrants caused serious injury to the Jubo Dal leader at Khabashpur and as a result the leader died in Dhaka "Pangu Hospital."

### Jamalpur

Our Jamalpur Correspondent adds: The biennial election of Bangladesh

Nationalist Party (BNP) Nangla union unit under Melandah upazila was held recently with. Abdus Salam in the chair while SM Khairul Bashar Chisty, President of Jamalpur district unit BNP was the chief guest. The meeting was addressed by Mr. Salek Talukdar Kajal, Mcherrullah, Anisur Rahman, Shamim Ahmed and Moulana Abdullah AL Mamun.

Abdus Salam and Dr. Asaduzzaman were elected President and General Secretary of Nangla union unit for the next two years.

The conference of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Mahmudpur union unit under Melandah upazila was held at Mahmudpur High School Auditorium on May 7 with Nurul-Islam in the chair. SM Khairul Bashar Chisty, President of Jamalpur district unit BNP was the chief guest.

The conference was addressed by Raushan Alam Talukdar, Salek Talukdar, and Abdul Majed Sarker.

## Notes from Satkhira

From A Correspondent

SATKHIRA, May 29: Acute shortage of bullocks has been prevailing in the district posing a threat to cultivation.

According to knowledgeable sources 60 to 70 per cent farmers have no bullocks to cultivate their lands. Consequently about 25 to 30 per cent land in the district cannot be cultivated properly resulting in poor production. Most farmers carry on agricultural work on share basis as they can not afford to buy bullocks due to the sharp rise in their prices.

A survey in this respect reveals that every year various diseases take a heavy toll of cattle while some allege that greedy cobbler poison the cows to death in different places of the district only to have skins. Cattle lifting in rampant in seven upazilas of Satkhira district.

On the other hand, slaughtering of bullocks has increased to a great extent following scarcity of fish in the markets. Hundreds of bullocks are being slaughtered every week in the district.

### Cotton output declines

Production of age-old traditional cotton has decreased with a gradual destruction of Shimul trees in Satkhira, Tala, Kalaroa, Debhatta, Kalgoinj, Assasuni and Shyamnagar upazilas of Satkhira district.

There were countless Shimul trees in these upazilas but most trees are decaying due to lack of proper maintenance and cotton yield has dwindled. Consequently the prices of Shimul cotton has increased.

Wood traders have been supplying Shimul trees in large numbers to the match industries for manufacturing match boxes. The ignorant farmers sell the Shimul trees to the traders at a comparatively higher prices. But the supplings of the tree are most being planted to increase its cultivation.

Concerned section of the people feel that steps should be taken to preserve Shimul trees and increase cotton yield.

### Smuggled sarces seized

Huge quantity of smuggled Indian silk sarces worth Taka 46 lakh were seized by the BDR personnel of Satkhira from a mechanised boat on the river Betna near Damar Pota under Satkhira Sadar upazila recently.

It is reported that acting on a secret information the BDR personnel led by Major Manish Dewan, Commanding Officer 35 Rifles Battalion, Satkhira with Habildar Major Ansar Ali raided the boat and recovered 2200 pieces of smuggled Indian silk sarces.

One Zaman alias Mukul of Sultanpur of Satkhira the owner of smuggled goods including 4 boatmen were caught red handed. BDR also seized the mechanised boat.

A case has been lodged with Satkhira PS.

### 3 arrested

UNB adds: Police in separate raids arrested three people and recovered one revolver and six empty cartridges from their possession here Monday.

Acting on a tip, police arrested Adar Ali and his son Shaiful of Puspakati village in Sadar upazila and Daud Hossain of Gobrakhal village in Debhatta upazila for possessing illegal arms.

Cases have been registered in this connection.



RAJSHAHI: The Vice-Chancellor of Rajshahi University Prof. Amanullah Ahmed inaugurating the display gallery of Barendra Research Museum recently.