

Upazila roundup

GOPALGANJ

14,550 acres will be put under jute farming

June 10: Jute will be cultivated in 14,550 acres of land in five upazilas of Gopalganj district in the current season, reports BSS.

According to Agriculture Extension Department, 12,900 acres have been brought under Tosa variety while 1,600 acres under local variety.

Demonstration plots have been set up in different areas to teach the farmers modern method of jute cultivation. Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) have been selling improved variety of seeds, fertilizers and other necessary inputs to the jute growers.

Bangladesh Water Development Board has taken up eight schemes under Food for Work Programme in Gopalganj and Tangipara upazilas in fiscal 1990-91, reports BSS.

An official source said the government sanctioned 700 metric tons of wheat for the implementation of the schemes.

Work of the schemes include re-excavation of six-mile long canals and rivers. About 5,000 acres of land will have irrigation facilities following the completion of the schemes.

MADARIPUR
Diabetic outdoor opens

June 10: The outdoor of the Hajera Howlader Diabetic Hospital was inaugurated here amid much enthusiasm, reports UNB.

Built at a cost of Taka three lakh, the money for the construction was donated by a local businessman and Lions club here. The inauguration ceremony was held recently.

The outdoor would facilitate the medicare facilities for a large number of diabetic patients in the region.

Lion's district governor also donated one modern machine in this connection.

BRAHMANBARIA
Gourd weighing 20 kg produced

June 10: Believe it or not, a gourd weighing 20 kg was produced in the village Daulatpur under Nabinagar upazila here, reports UNB.

Villagers said a farmer Dhan Miah planted few seeds of a high yielding gourd in his house premises which produced fruits weighing from 10 to 20 kg.

Each of the plant bears five to 10 gourds which are being sold at Tk. 125 each in local markets.

SIRAJGANJ
School girl kidnapped

June 10: Gunmen kidnapped a teen-aged girl student in broad daylight from the town today while she was returning from school, police said, reports UNB.

Mukta Rani, daughter of Nomi Gopal Saha, was picked up from Dhanbandi area and driven away in a micro-bus.

Sources blamed Uzzal, a youth of the area, for the kidnap. Mukta Rani (14) is a student of class eight of Gouri Urban Girls High School.

A case was lodged in this connection. None was arrested.

GAIBANDHA
No confidence against UP Chairman

June 10: All the members of the Union Parishad of Belka union Sadar upazila adopted a no-confidence resolution Sunday against the Chairman Chand Mia for alleged corruption, reports UNB.

Allegations brought against him included misuse of official power, misappropriation of various government and non-government funds.

The UP members urged the authorities to probe into the allegations and take necessary action against him.

The UP members also submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner in this connection.

JHENIDAH
2 held in connection with murder

June 10: Two people were arrested Sunday in connection with a murder case from village Ghoramara under Sadar upazila of the district, police said, reports UNB.

According to sources, To-fazzal Hossain (60), a farmer of the same village was killed and two others were injured when a rival group attacked them at Goalpara in the evening of June 7.

Arrested Lutfar Rahman (45) and Shamsheer Ali (50), both from the same village were sent to jail here.

The incident occurred following a dispute over the possession of a plot of land, police said.

CHUADANGA
Load-shedding hampers industrial output

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, June 10: Irregular power supply and continuous load-sheddings are hampering irrigation work in all the four upazilas of Chuadanga district causing serious threat to food production this season.

Frequent disruption and abnormal load shedding of electricity are causing suffer-

MEHERPUR
Book exhibition

MEHERPUR, June 10: A two-day book exhibition organised by National Book Centre was held on June 5-6 at the auditorium of Meherpur Public Library, reports BSS.

A discussion on education and culture was held on the occasion. The Deputy Commissioner, Meherpur presided over the function. Director of the National Book Centre Mr Fazle Rabbi was the chief guest in the function.

A two-day workshop for the farmers of Meherpur Sadar upazila was held recently at the upazila auditorium.

RANGPUR

Workshop on livestock

June 10: A two-day regional workshop on implementation of Development and Expansion Programme of Livestock was held at the town hall here, reports UNB.

According to informed sources, officials of livestock department from greater Rangpur and Dinajpur Districts took part in the workshop which began on Saturday.

Director Administration Dr Najir Ahmed, Deputy Director Dr Ziauddin Ahmed of livestock department attended the inaugural session as chief guest and special guest respectively while Deputy Director of Rajshahi Division livestock department Dr Abdul Aziz presided.

RAJSHAHI

Girl students' rally

June 10: Hundreds of girl students of Rajshahi University Saturday brought out a procession in the campus and submitted a memorandum to the Vice-Chancellor to press home their demand, reports UNB.

Their demand included immediate construction of a residential hall.

The existing halls can not meet the increasing demands and more than 2,500 girl students have been facing trouble due to lack of residential facilities in the university, sources said.

The processionists carrying placards and festoons chanted various slogans in favour of their demand.

Student affairs Adviser Dr Shamsul Alam received the memorandum on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor.

BARISAL
Three commit suicide in Gaibandha

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, June 10: Three persons including two housewives committed suicide within four days.

In the first incident one Momena Khatun (25), wife of Abdul Jalil of village Nizpara under Sunderganj upazila committed suicide by hanging herself on May 19. Family feud is the reason of suicide.

Khuku Begum (22) wife of one Mozammel of village Huraviya under Sunderganj upazila committed suicide by taking pesticide following a quarrel.

One Abdur Rashid (20) of village Huraviya under the same upazila committed suicide by taking pesticide. The victim decided to commit suicide being enraged over the issue of quarrel ensued between the inmates of family. He was removed to hospital for treatment but doctors declared him dead.

Twentyeight persons were injured six of them in critical condition when an overcrowded bus skidded off the road on way to Rangpur at Kalitola under Gobindaganj upazila recently.

Bahadur a passenger bus was proceeding towards Rangpur. The bus was running overcrowded in high speed. When it reached Kalitola under Gobindaganj upazila on Bogra-Rangpur highway suddenly the bus veered off the road after the driver had lost control over the wheels.

NETRAKONA
Floods damage crops on 40,000 acres

NETRAKONA, June 10: Standing crops on about 40,000 acres of land were inundated and about 100 mud and straw houses damaged following the onrush of hilly waters in the district, reports UNB.

Officials said road communication between Shyamganj and Zaria remained cut off as 200 yards of kutchra road washed away by the flash flood.

Badly affected upazilas are, Khalajuri, Mohanganj, Durgapur, Alpara, Madan, Kalkanda, Purbadhala, Barhatta and Netrakona Sadar.

District Flood Forecasting office said the flood situation deteriorated Saturday due to heavy downpour and rise in water levels in major rivers.

According to Khalajuri UNO, the dwelling houses were damaged mostly in haor areas.

SYLHET
Move to close down welfare desk protested

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, June 10: Bangladesh Overseas Union representing the wage earners has appealed to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia not to close down the Kalayan Kendra (Welfare Desk) operated by the Bureau of Manpower for the help of the incoming and outgoing wage earners at the Zia International Airport.

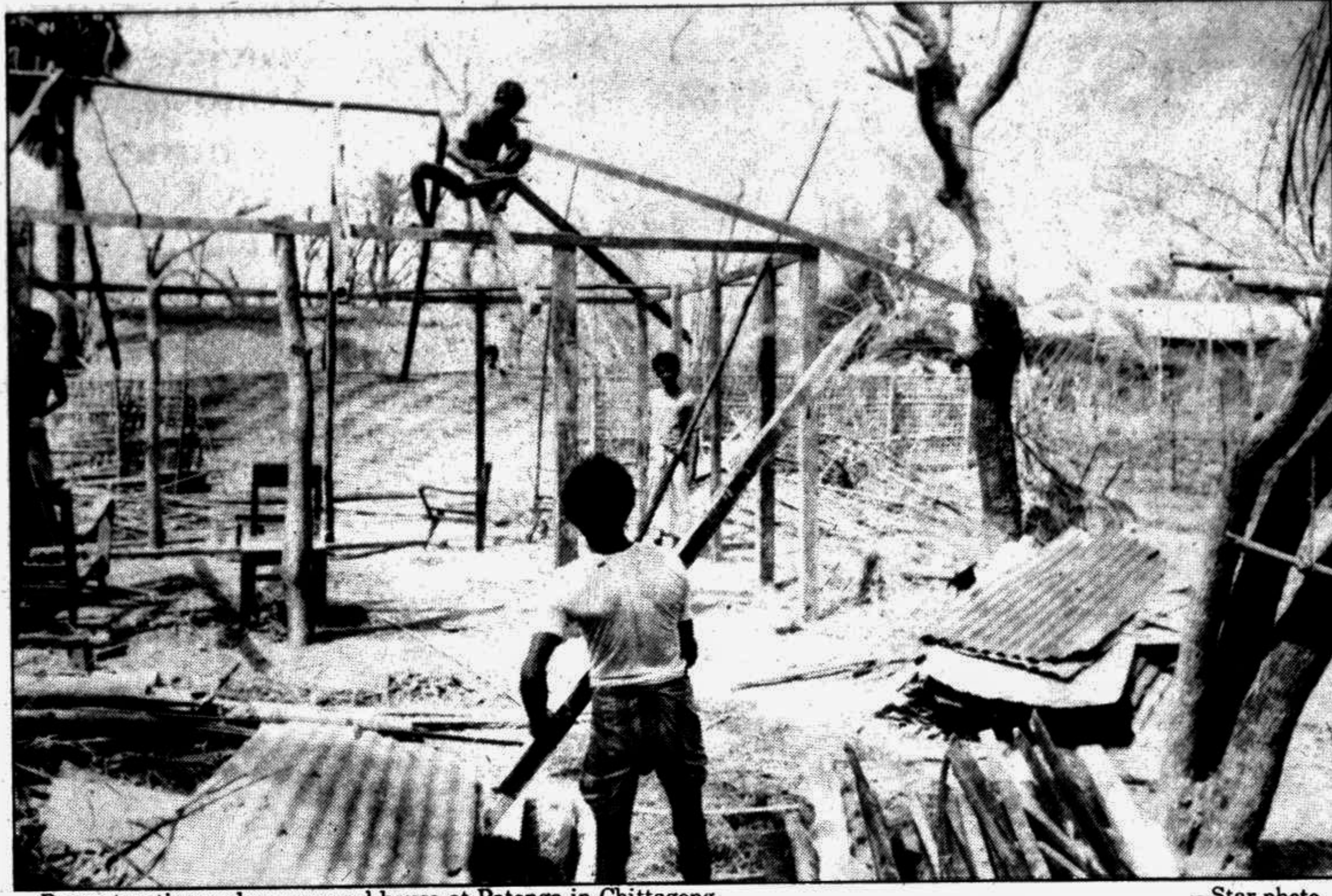
Mr Nurul Islam, General Secretary, Bangladesh Overseas Union and the member of the Consultative Committee on Remittances and Problems of the Wage Earners after deliberations for a long time and the final decision was taken by the committee in its meeting on May 6 last under the chairmanship of the Finance Minister.

The Manpower Bureau furnished two rooms allotted by the Civil Aviation authority at a cost of Taka two lakh.

If the Kalayan Kendra is eventually closed it will cause resentment among the wage earners, Mr Islam added.

COX'S BAZAR
Divisional Commissioner of Chittagong M A Bari inaugurating new Zila Parishad building here recently. Zila Parishad Chairman (5th from left) M. C. Barman is also seen in the picture.

—Star photo



Reconstructing cyclone ravaged house at Patenga in Chittagong. —Star photo.

1054 primary schools damaged in 5 southern districts

From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, June 10: At least 1054 primary schools were damaged in the recent cyclone in five southern districts of the country.

According to Education Department, 340 primary schools have been completely and 714 primary schools partially damaged in the tidal surge. The affected districts are Barisal, Bhola, Jahalakkati, Patuakhali and Borguna.

According to a preliminary assessment financial loss to schools in Barisal Taka 2,08,88,200, in Bhola 1,76,03,200, in Jhalakhati Taka 35,03,200, in Patuakhali 1,59,31,500 and in Borguna 1,85,07,300.

Two lakh tornado affected

people in five upazilas of Barisal district are suffering much due to lack of sufficient relief materials including CI sheets and other construction materials.

During the recent cyclone 1000 square kilometres area of Gurnadi, Agaljhara, Muladi and Uzirpur upazilas of the district have been severely damaged.

According to the official sources, 29,000 dwelling houses and 241 educational institutions were damaged.

Meanwhile, army relief team distributed 1000 tents including polythene sheets to prevent the distress people from rain. On the demand of 10,000 bundles of CI sheets

and 2000 tons of wheat only 1000 bundles of CI sheets were allocated.

Besides, 11,000 pieces of clothes, 105 tons of rice, wheat and dry food have already been distributed among the people of ravaged areas of the district.

Due to irregular services of steamers thousands of passengers to and from Dhaka and Khulna have to face untold sufferings particularly in rainy season.

The services of three steamers PS Masud, Lepcha and Ostrich in between Dhaka Barisal and Khulna after necessary renovation and modernisation with an expenditure of 12 crore Taka are yet to be re-

stored.

The project was taken up in 1979 and was finished in 1984. It is first time in the world that padel wheel engines were turned into diesel engines through hydraulic system. After giving services for 3,000 hours two steamers stopped working due to mechanical troubles, the other steamer Ostrich is being used for VIPs recreational services. But it may also stop functioning at any time.

Steamers Gazi, Tran and Madhumati are continuing their services as rocket steamer service four days a week in lieu of daily rocket service.

Attack on Suranjit's house condemned

MADARIPUR, June 10: Chairman and Secretary General of Bangladesh Research Centre here condemned the attempt by some quarters to undermine the contribution of late President Ziaur Rahman in the War of Liberation, reports UNB.

In a joint statement, Forkan Ahmed and Selim Farazi on Saturday said these people were conspiring to dislodge the present democratic government to bring back autocracy in the country.

These people are out to unleash terror in campuses to fish in the troubled water. The recent attack on a political leader and member of the Jatiya Sangsad in the Dhaka university campus amply demonstrated the evil designs of the vested quarters.

This quarter legalised autocracy in the country by participating in the so-called elections under Ershad regime, the press release added.

Describing the attack on the house of Ganatantri Party leader Suranjit Sengupta MP as "barbaric". They demanded immediate arrest of the culprits.

They also condemned the humiliation of Dr Lutfar Rahman of Bangla department during a meeting of the Dhaka University Teachers Association.

Notes from Feni

FENI, June 10: A man has been sentenced to 21 years rigorous imprisonment (RI) in connection with two arms and dacoity cases, reports UNB.

District Sub-Judge delivered the judgement on two separate dates recently.

The court also fined him Taka 20,000, in default, to suffer RI for two years more.

According to prosecution story, police arrested the accused on January 26, 1990 while he was preparing to commit a dacoity at a house in Sadar upazila. He was involved with four other dacoities. Police also recovered are pipe gun and nine rounds of bullets from his possession.

Police after investigation charge-sheeted him and the learned Judge after examining the records and witnesses, awarded the accused Jalal Ahmed, son of Abdur Sobhan of village Nairajpur under Sadar upazila seven years jail term for dacoity and 14 years imprisonment for arms case.

One held

Abdul Malek of village Sindurpur under Daganbhuiya upazila here was arrested by the police for selling forged stamps.

According to police, Malek was caught red-handed while he was selling stamps in front of the upazila magistrate court last week.

A case has been filed with upazila magistrate court in this connection.

Rehabilitation

Local Government and Engineering Bureau has sanctioned 41.65 metric tons of wheat in two upazilas here for the implementation of two cyclone rehabilitation projects under World Food Programme.

According to official sources, 20,017 metric tons of wheat were sanctioned for construction of 3.721 kms road from Lemua to Sonagazi and 21.48 metric tons of wheat for construction of 3.465 kms road from Sonagazi bazar to Companiganj upazila.

The works on the projects were progressing fast and is expected to be completed soon.

Plan to distribute improved variety poultry birds

BRAHMANBARIA, June 10: A scheme has been undertaken to distribute free of cost improved variety of 737 poultry birds among the families in six cluster villages of the district, reports UNB.

Agriculture Extension Department sources said a total of 193 destitute families of the district have been rehabilitated in these cluster villages. The poultry birds were supplied from its Comilla farm.

Besides, packets of food and emergency medicines for poultry birds were also supplied free of cost by the animal husbandary department.

2 get life-term for murder in Gazipur

From A Correspondent

GAZIPUR, June 10: Matiur Rahman, Additional District and Sessions Judge, Gazipur, in a judgement delivered recently sentenced two persons to transportation for life and a fine of Taka 20 thousand each in default to suffer three years more for murdering one Nasiruddin, a university student.

The convicted persons are Almas Ali and Mazibur Rahman. The prosecution story is that the victim Nasiruddin and M Sc final year student of Jagannath University College and a resident of Datta Para under Tongi Pourashava while returning home at night on February 28, 1989 the convicted persons attacked him at Banamala rail crossing and stabbed him to death.

It is also revealed that the murder occurred owing to a feud between the deceased and his opponents over a land dispute and the local pourashava election.

Tongi police submitted charge sheet accusing the two persons. The Judge after examining the witnesses and evidences awarded the aforesaid punishment.

Headmistress sued for fund embezzlement

NOAKHALI, June 10: Bureau of Anti-corruption last week filed two cases against a headmistress of a school here for alleged misappropriation of government funds, reports UNB.

Sources said the government allocated Taka three lakh during 1984-85 and 1985-86 fiscal years for the construction of the school building.

But the headmistress of Majdee Girls' Academy allegedly defalcated about Taka 20,000.

The Bureau, after investigation, found the allegation correct and filed two cases against the headmistress.

A week-long training course for rural journalists got underway at Press Club here.

A total of 22 journalists of greater Noakhali district are taking part in the course jointly arranged by the Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) and the local Press Club.

A four-member team of instructors is conducting the course. Local MP Md. Shajahan and A K Mohamudullah spoke on the opening day of the training session.

Western Railway limping

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, June 10: Bangladesh Western Railway with 985 miles of track including 685 miles broadgauge and 300 miles meter gauge suffers from multifarious problems threatening the normal train communication. Heavy flow of passengers and cargo in the western railway section covering the northern districts of the country has aggravated the situation to a great extent.

Set up 129 years ago, the Ishurdi Railway Station remain almost the same since its inception. Only a 200 km railway line from Chuadanga to Khulna has been added to the Western Zone so far. Many small lines were closed down in the last few years.

At many places rail-lines have neither sleepers nor stones. The third Five-Year-Plan included additional number of 117 broadgauge passenger coaches and 20 engines but it was not implemented. Most of the compartments are

with leaky roofs and rain water drench the passengers and luggage without obstacles. On the other hand supply of electricity and water is completely absent in the train. As a result, latrines are left uncleaned creating health hazards to the passengers.

Besides, many passengers travel on the roofs and on the engine body. There are total 565 passenger coaches in the Western Railway Zone of which many coaches are old and half damaged. Many trains run with only four to five passenger coaches and as such people are bound to travel on roofs, foot-steps and engines.

Meanwhile, ticketless travelling, pilferage of sleepers, stones, machineries, engine oil and fuel have become a regular feature.

The most affected routes are Ishurdi-Faridpur, Ishurdi-Sirajganj, Ishurdi-Chapainawabganj, Santahar-Parbatipur and Dinajpur-Panchagarh.

32 injured in two road mishaps

By Staff Correspondent

At least 32 people were injured, seven of them seriously, in two separate accidents on Dhaka-Aricha Highway on Sunday.

At least 22 people were injured when a truck and a minibuss collided on Dhaleswar bridge at Jagir of Manikganj district in the afternoon.

Firefighters from Manikganj with the help of local people rescued the injured persons. According to district administration sources, 18 of the injured were rushed to Sadar Hospital and 15 of the them were later shifted to hospitals in Dhaka.

Our DMCH correspondent adds: Five of the injured persons were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Of them, the condition of three, including the truck



NABINAGAR: A scene from the drama 'Gariber Meye' staged at Uttar Fatehpur under the auspices of Juba Sangha recently. —Star photo

driver, was reported to be critical. The admitted persons were identified as Hazrat Ali (38), Ebadul (32), Abdus Samad (45), and Mozaffar (50).

However, the truck driver could not be identified as he remains unconscious. Ten other injured persons were admitted to the Hospital for the Disabled.

UNB adds: In another accident on the same highway, at least 10 people were injured, four critically, when a passenger bus rammed a roadside tree near Golara bus stand in Satturia upazila at around 10-30 in the morning. The front portion of the Aricha-Bound local bus coming from Dhaka crumpled, police said. The seriously injured persons were admitted to the Sadar Hospital.

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