

Upazila roundup

PABNA
Jamaat activist stabbed to death
June 16: A Jamaat activist was stabbed to death by miscreant at Atua Krishnapur in sadar upazila on Tuesday...

SIRAJGANJ
Cropland inundated
June 16: About 200 bighas of cropland in Sonali bazar area here were inundated Friday night following rise in water level in the Jamuna river...

BARISAL
2400 tons wheat sanctioned
June 16: The government has sanctioned 2,400 metric tons of wheat for the implementation of a number of rural development projects in six southern districts under post-cyclone rehabilitation programme...

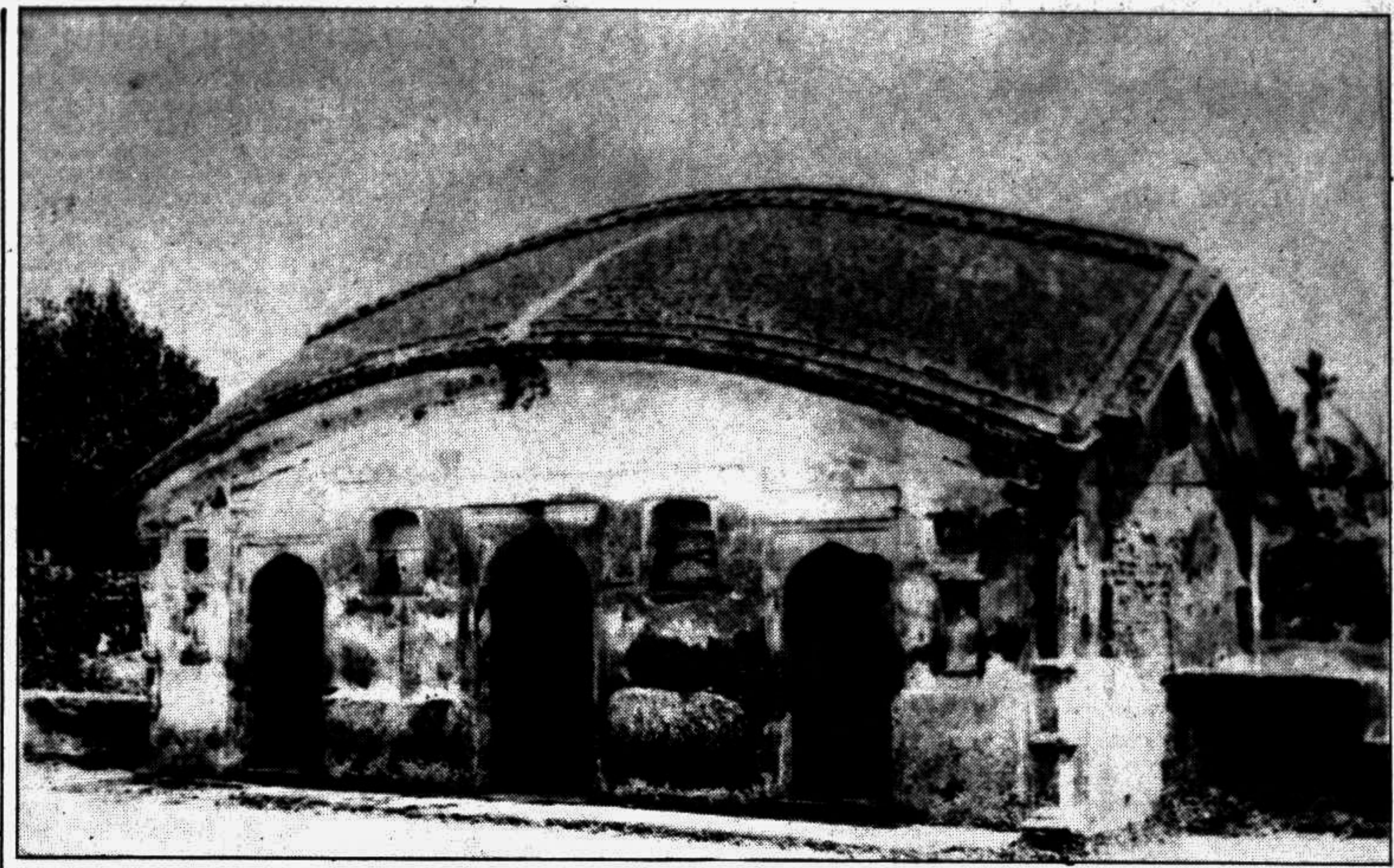
CHITTAGONG
Immunization Week observed
June 16: A colourful rally was held here yesterday in observance of the 'National Immunization Week' 1991 by Chittagong City Corporation (CCC)...

MAGURA
Five revenue collection office to be built
June 16: The district Revenue Department has sanctioned Taka 9.88 lakh for construction of five revenue collection office in the district during the current fiscal year...

MAULVIBAZAR
Bus stand not completed in 10 years
June 16: A project taken up by the Chittagong Divisional Development Board in 1979-80 financial year to construct a bus stand at the town is yet to be completed...

SHERPUR
Lightning kills 10 in one month
June 16: At least 10 people were killed by lightning in the district over the last one month, police sources said yesterday...

SATKHIRA
Potters in distress
June 16: More than 10,000 artisans here are likely to go out of job as cheaper aluminium products started replacing clay-made utensils in markets...



KISHOREGANJ: This inn of historical importance attached to the mosque of Shah Mahmud at village Egaroshindur needs early renovation. —Photo by Iqbal Siddiqui

Corruption grips Jamalpur phone exchange

JAMALPUR, June 16: The government every year incurs a huge loss of revenue earnings due to mismanagement and malpractice in the local telephone exchange. The subscribers and others with urgent messages for their kith and kins residing at far flung places have to wait for hours together to get a line...

Lightning kills 52 in 3 weeks in Kurigram

KURIGRAM, June 16: At least 52 persons were killed by lightning in five upazilas of Kurigram during the last three weeks. Sources of Rowmari, Fulbari, Nageswari, Ulipur and Bhurungamari Upazila Parishads said most of the victims were cultivators and struck to death by thunderbolt while they were working in the field...



KURIGRAM: Hundreds of female labourers brought out a procession recently in protest against the non-payment of wheat by Upazila Parishad for their earth work. —Star photo

Massive afforestation plan in N. region

DINAJPUR, June 16: A comprehensive afforestation scheme has been taken up in 16 northern districts of Panchagarh, Thakurgaon, Dinajpur, Nilphamari, Rangpur, Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Gaibandha, Joipurhat, Bogra, Sirajganj, Pabna, Natore, Naogaon, Chapainawabganj and Rajshahi. According to the report, an amount of Taka 30 crore has been sanctioned by the government for executing the scheme...

CHHATRA LEAGUE
Chhatra League sweeps Chhatak College elections
SUNAMGANJ, June 16: The joint panel of Chhatra League (S-A) and Jatya Chhatra League swept the Chhatak College Students Union election Saturday, bagging all seats...

DIARRHOEA CLAIMS
Diarrhoea claims 3 in Kushtia
KUSHTIA, June 16: Diarrhoea claimed three lives and attacked several others in the district during the last week, reports UNB. Hospital sources said the victims were Kala (10), Feroze (8), two brothers of village Paragpur of Daulatpur upazila and Masum Ali (6) of Mirpur upazila...

Father gets life-term for killing daughter

BAGERHAT, June 16: Md. Alauddin Sardar, District and Sessions Judge of Bagerhat, in a judgment delivered on June 2, convicted one Abbas Uddin, an Income Tax practitioner of Khulna and his associate Nur Islam of village Debraj under Morrelganj upazila in the district of Bagerhat and sentenced them to transportation for life and to pay a fine of Taka 5,000 each in default to suffer another rigorous imprisonment for six months on the charge of killing the former's (Abbas Uddin's) daughter Beauty (15).

On the following day police recovered the body and sent it to the morgue for autopsy. Being informed of the matter, police arrested Nur Islam and brought him before a Magistrate to whom he confessed everything. After this statement and receiving the postmortem report as homicide police registered a murder case with Morrelganj P.S. and submitted a chargesheet to the court against father Abbas Uddin, his associate Nur Islam and three others after properly investigating the matter. The learned judge after examining the witnesses and evidences found accused father Abbas Uddin and Nur Islam guilty U/S 302 and 109 of BPC and U/S 302 and 34 of BPC respectively and awarded them the aforesaid punishment.

Transport strike paralyses road link in S. Zone

BARISAL, June 16: Transport strike for the last three days has cut off road communication with 13 routes connecting Patuakhali, Jhalakati and Borguna from the district headquarters here. The strike was called by the Southern Road Transport Workers Union Monday last following the arrest of the driver, conductor and helper of a passenger bus in connection with a robbery. A daring dacoity was committed in a passenger bus at the Barisal-Banaripara road. The passenger later filed a case against the driver, conductor and helper of the bus accusing them of being involved in the dacoity. Barisal police arrested the accused, however, they were released after interrogation. Following the arrest, the transport workers union called a strike for an indefinite period demanding increased patrols by highway police and protesting the arrest on mere suspicion. A memo to this effect was submitted to the Deputy Commissioner. Meanwhile, all road links with the rest of the country have been affected as buses and trucks remain off the roads for the last three days. Only four BRCT buses are plying on the roads now. Numerous passengers remain stranded at various points and transport of goods is also being severely hampered. A large quantity of Hilsa fish at Barisal ghat is waiting to be transported by road to other destinations.

58,785 acres will be put under Aus farming

MAGURA, June 16: The district Agriculture Extension Department (AED) has taken up a scheme to cultivate 58,785 acres of land under Aus paddy in four upazilas of the district, reports UNB. According to official sources, 10,800 acres will be brought under high yielding variety and the rest 47,985 acres under local variety. Upazila-wise break up is as follows: Magura Sadar 22,410 acres, Mohammadpur 13,305 acres, Salkha 7,105 acres and Sreepur 15,965 acres. Meanwhile, the department has fixed the production target at 20,150 metric tons of paddy worth about Taka 22.16 crore during the current season. For the successful implementation of the scheme Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation distributed seeds, pesticides and other agricultural inputs among the farmers at fair prices. AED also has set up 24 demonstration plots in four upazilas of the district to acquaint the farmers with the modern methods of cultivation.

FOODER SCARCITY
Cultivators in these districts are selling out their cows and bullocks for want of fodder for the last few years. If this shortage continues indefinitely, cultivation will eventually be hampered. About 40 per cent crops and grass in these three districts were damaged by flood and drought and about 20 per cent crops and grass were damaged by the flood in 1988 and 1989. A section of cow dealers is taking advantage of this situation who is buying hundreds of cows and bullocks from the cultivators at low price. Large number of such able-bodied cows and bullocks is supplied to the markets regularly by the dealers of different districts and some traders are doing windfall profit. Cattle disease About 5,000 cattleheads die of various diseases every year in these three districts. This also contributes to the shortage of bullocks. About 4,000 cattleheads died of different diseases in the districts during the last six months and a good number have been suffering from various diseases. The cultivators alleged that they always return from the local Veterinary Hospitals without getting any medicine.

Notes from Dinajpur
From Our Correspondent
DINAJPUR, June 16: Acute shortage of bullocks in greater Dinajpur district is posing a great problem to seasonal cultivation. It is learnt that 50 per cent farmers of the district carry on agricultural work on share basis due to shortage of bullocks. The shortage is being gradually intensified due to slaughter of at least 400 bullocks per week in different hats and bazars of the district. According to an estimate, 125 bullocks in Thakurgaon, 115 in Panchagarh and 265 bullocks in Dinajpur district are slaughtered every week. On the other hand about 80 thousand bullocks were slaughtered in these districts during the Liberation War. According to sources, an area of about 26 lakh acres of land is under cultivation in these three districts. About two lakh pairs of bullocks are necessary to till this vast area. But there are only 1,12,000 pairs of bullocks in these districts which is insufficient to fulfil the purpose. On the other hand, slaughtering of the bullocks increased to a great extent because of fish shortage in the markets of these districts. It is reported that the agricultural department has failed to supply tractors and other agricultural equipment to the peasants in these districts. Besides, farmers are unable to purchase bullocks from the market because of high price.

From Our Correspondent
DINAJPUR, June 16: A comprehensive afforestation scheme has been taken up in 16 northern districts of Panchagarh, Thakurgaon, Dinajpur, Nilphamari, Rangpur, Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Gaibandha, Joipurhat, Bogra, Sirajganj, Pabna, Natore, Naogaon, Chapainawabganj and Rajshahi. According to the report, an amount of Taka 30 crore has been sanctioned by the government for executing the scheme and widening of existing forests in the districts. The Asian Development Bank has provided the forest department with this amount. Liquor is being sold to different persons in bottles and jars without any hesitation. And there is also a centre for selling marijuana, opium etc which are being smuggled into the country from India and Nepal, it is reliably learnt.

Gaibandha
Hashish plant seized by the Narcotic and Liquor Department from a village under Sadullapur upazila recently. —Star photo