

Upazila roundup

BAGERHAT

One held with counterfeit currency notes

From Our Correspondent
July 24: Morrelganj police arrested one Shekhar Kumar Samadhar with a five hundred Taka counterfeit currency note of Bangladesh from Moshni Bazar under Kachua upazila of the district recently.
It is learnt from a police source that Shekhar Kumar purchased something from a shop of Moshni Bazar with the counterfeit five hundred Taka note (No. BA-013010). But the shopkeeper could not be satisfied with the genuineness of the note. So, he secretly informed the local police outpost of the matter. Police rushed to the spot and arrested Shekhar Chandra. He was sent to Morrel P.S. where a case was lodged with against the man.

CHANDPUR

Tk 10 cr agri rehabilitation programme

July 24: The government has taken up a rehabilitation programme in the agriculture sector during this season involving an amount of Taka 10 crore, reports UNB.
According to sources, small and marginal farmers of 117 upazilas of 18 districts and two thanas of Chittagong district will come under the programme.
It is learnt that in the first phase of the scheme, a total of Taka 6.50 crore will be spent for providing Aus seedlings, vegetable seeds and fertilizers.
The rest amount of Taka 3.50 crore will be spent in the second phase of the programme to supply power tillers, agri-equipment, saplings of fruit-bearing trees and for saving land from salinity and distribution of power pumps for irrigation.
The district-wise break up of the first phase allocation is: Chittagong district — Taka 166.76 lakh, Cox's Bazar — Taka 96.94 lakh, Noakhali — Taka 39.47 lakh, Laxmipur — Tk 29.67 lakh, Feni — Tk 19.38 lakh, Rangamati — Tk 29.73 lakh, Khagrachhari — Tk 19.74 lakh, Bandarban — Tk 20.75 lakh, Chandpur — Tk 6.31 lakh, Bhoala — Tk 108.88 lakh, Patuakhali — Tk 28.89 lakh, Barguna — Taka 24.88 lakh, Barisal — Tk 30.79 lakh, Pirojpur — Tk 15.46 lakh, Jhalakathi — Tk 6.52 lakh, Khulna — Tk 1.13 lakh, Bagerhat — Tk 1.40 lakh and Satkhira — Tk 3.30 lakh.

The Agriculture Extension Department, responsible for the implementation of the programme, will also execute the scheme in Panchlais and Double Mooring thanas of Chittagong district.

RAJBARI

33,000 acres to be put under aman farming

July 24: A scheme has been undertaken to bring 33,000 acres of land under intensive transplanted Aman cultivation in four upazilas of the district during the current season, reports UNB.
According to Agriculture Extension Department, 25,000 acres of land will be brought under high-yielding variety, 1000 acres under Pajjam and the rest 7000 acres under local varieties.
A number of demonstration plots have also been set up to acquaint the farmers with the modern methods of cultivation.
Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation has supplied seeds, fertilizers and other necessary inputs among the farmers to make the scheme a success.
With the implementation of the scheme, it is expected that at least 45,000 metric tons of aman paddy will be produced in the upazilas, it is learnt.

JHALAKATI

Bank officer asked to refund misappropriated money

July 24: Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) has asked one of its senior officers at the Regional office here to refund Taka 60,000 in 80 equal instalments, reports UNB.
According to BKB sources, KM Nawroz Kabir, Senior Officer, misappropriated the amount while he was the Manager of Nalchiti branch in 1990.
The order for refunding the amount was issued after an enquiry by the head office of the bank, the sources added.
Recovery of the amount will be made with effect from the current month's salary of the officer, it was learnt.

JHENIDAH

2 shot dead

July 24: Gunmen shot dead two members of a family and injured another Saturday midnight at village Kalamkhali in the Sadar upazila, police said, reports UNB.
The dead were identified as Shukur Mondal (50) and his nephew Israil Hossain (16), a van driver. The injured was named Abdul Wahab (25), son of Shukur Mondal.
Witnesses said outlawed Sarbahara Party cadres kidnaped Abdul Wahab at gunpoint from his residence. His father and cousin accompanied by villagers rushed to rescue him. Wahab managed to escape, but his father and cousin were gunned down.
Shukur died on the spot and Israil succumbed to injuries at the Sadar hospital.
The bodies were sent for autopsy, and a case was filed in this connection.
Eight people have been killed in the district during the last 15 days in feuds between two underground political parties — Sarbahara Party and Biplobi Communist Party.
Police said none could be arrested.

BETAGI

Health complex in disarray

July 24: Betagi upazila health complex has been plagued with manifold problems causing much inconvenience to the patients, reports UNB.
Scarcity of medicines, pure water supply, shortage of diet and absence of ambulance have aggravated the situation in the health complex.
Everyday a large number of patients are coming from far lung areas seeking treatment but most of them go back disappointed.
The health complex has no segregation ward. As a result the patients with infectious diseases are accommodated in the general ward.
About 30 to 50 patients are crammed in the tiny labour ward threatening health and sanitation of the pregnant mothers.
It is alleged that in the absence of surgical instruments a number of critical patients died in the complex during the last few months.
The diet supplied to the patients of the health complex is quite inadequate and at times unfit for human consumption, it is alleged.
Besides, doctors, patients and other staff of the health complex are facing acute problems due to irregular water supply.
Local people have urged the authorities to take immediate steps to solve the long-standing problems of the complex.

PATUAKHALI

BKB to distribute Tk 60 cr agri-loan

July 24: Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) will distribute Taka 60 crore agri-loan among the farmers of eleven southern districts during the current financial year, reports UNB.
Bank sources said under the lending programme, Taka 30.85 crore will be disbursed as short-term loan and Taka 29.15 crore as long-term loan in Patuakhali, Barguna, Pirojpur, Jhalakati, Barisal, Bhoala, Madaripur, Shariatpur, Gopalganj, Rajbari and Faridpur districts.
Cultivation of rabi crops, processing and marketing of agricultural products, pisciculture and distribution of fertilizer will be included in the short-term loan disbursement programme.
The long-term loan will be given for buying irrigation equipment, cattle rearing, pisciculture, agro-based industries and for increasing betel leaf production.

MAGURA

Officials urged to work honestly

July 24: Government officials and public representatives of the district were urged to work with honesty and sincerity for the well-being of the common people, reports UNB.
Presiding over the monthly coordination committee meeting of the government officials and public representatives, the Deputy Commissioner Nirmal Chandra Sarkar Sunday also called upon them to contribute their mite to improve the law and order situation for the smooth running of the development projects.
The meeting held at the conference room of the DC reviewed the ongoing projects of the district and stressed the need for working hard to make the rural people self-reliant.
The Deputy Commissioner asked the officials to help the government to arrest the criminals without fear and favour and to minimise the crimes.



THE BAY STILL BECKONS: Hundreds of people still come to stroll along the beach and on parts of the battered embankment at Patenga, that stand testimony to the might of the massive wave that claimed thousands of lives. — Star photo

Cocoon production drops

Fund shortage hampers mulberry farming

DINAJPUR, July 24: Production of saplings for mulberry cultivation in three northern districts has been hampered due to fund constraints of the Sericulture Board.

There are 20 sub-centres under the Board in these three districts. Cultivators and regular rearers, numbering about 650 under Thakurgaon zone produce 850 kilograms to 1,000 kgs of silk from 5,000 to 6,000 kahon of cocoon per annum.

Mulberry farmers of the northern districts sell their cocoon to Thakurgaon Silk Factory and Rajshahi Silk

Factory. But this year, Thakurgaon Silk Factory, due to shortage of funds could not pay the cocoon bill to the cultivators, after expiry of four months, it is alleged.

Reeling work in Rajshahi Silk Factory is also hampered due to inadequate supply of cocoon, it is learnt. It may be mentioned that to minimise the sufferings of the rearers and to extend mulberry cultivation, different NGOs particularly the Rangpur-Dinajpur-Rural Service (RDRS), began to purchase the unsold cocoons from the cultivators at the rate of Taka 147 per kahon. The RDRS took intensive mulberry

From Our Correspondent

cultivation scheme at Pirganj, Thakurgaon Sadar, Ranisankail, Haripur and Balladangi all under Thakurgaon district, Bochaganj, Kaharol and Birganj under Dinajpur district and Ratnai, Barman Vita and Atwari under Panchagarh district during the current season.

Seventy-five poor people of Ranisankail and 103 people of Pirganj under Pirganj unit of RDRS had been given training to plant mulberry. They produced 35 kgs of silk valued worth about Taka 44 thousand during the season.

According to a source, Sericulture Board did not take

steps to grow saplings for September plantation, due to shortage of necessary funds.

On the other hand, various NGOs produced mulberry saplings in an area of 639 bighas of land while the RDRS produced saplings in 39 bighas of land to cultivate 571 bighas under Thakurgaon zone, it is learnt.

Weavers' problems

The weavers are facing manifold problems due to price hike of raw materials, weaving equipment and other inputs in the district. According to informed sources, weavers buy the raw materials from the market at

Two NGO officials arrested

JHENIDAH, July 24: Police Sunday arrested two NGO officials from the town for their alleged involvement in fraud, reports UNB.

The arrested, identified as Khondoker Jahruddin and Shahiduddin, were the Chairman and Project Director respectively of the so-called NESDA.

According to police, the farm was set up two months back and took a good amount of money from some unemployed youths giving assurance to provide them with jobs. Later they denied to appoint them.

The youths filed a case against the wrongdoers. The new NGO has 17 branches in the country, sources added.

Notes from Patuakhali

PATUAKHALI, July 24: The government has given Taka 1.10 lakh as grant for the repair of two educational institutions damaged during the April 29 devastating cyclone and tidal bore in Bauphal upazila here, reports UNB.

According to official sources, Taka 60,000 has been given for the reconstruction of Bauphal Degree College and Taka 50,000 for Adarsha Primary School.

Deputy Commissioner Sk. Md. Salauddin handed over the cheques to the concerned authorities of the institutions recently.

Another report from the district says that a nine-member Executive Committee of Patuakhali Taxes Bar Association has been formed. Md. Abdur Rob Munshi and Abdus Sobhan Mirza were elected President and General Secretary of the Association.

Milk output falls

Milk production has shown a decreasing trend following shortage of milch cows in the district.

According to sources, recurrent natural calamities, cattle lifting and diseases and indiscriminate slaughter have caused the paucity.

Besides, change in crop pattern causing fodder crisis has aggravated the situation. Market sources said one litre of milk is now selling at Taka 25 depriving many consumers of their taste.

Doctors feared milk shortage will lead to the outbreak of many diseases due to vitamin deficiency particularly among the children of the district.

Damaged houses to be reconstructed

The government has undertaken a scheme to reconstruct houses in Galachipa, Dashmina and Bauphal upazilas of the district damaged during the late April cyclonic storm and tidal surge.

According to sources, two bundles of CI sheet will be given to each affected family whose houses were partially damaged. Each family having their house badly damaged will be provided with two bundles of CI sheet and a cash of Taka 10,000.

During the first phase in three upazilas of the district, about 200 affected families will be brought under this programme. Another report from the district says that 406 eye patients were given treatment in a week-long eye camp held here recently in the local municipal high school.

Spurious Indian medicines flood Rajshahi markets

RAJSHAHI, July 24: The smuggled Indian medicine have flooded the markets all over Rajshahi district affecting the local pharmaceutical products.

Reliable sources said, about 20 items of medicine are smuggled into the country from India regularly. There is a high demand for these medicine which sell at high prices.

Market sources said, a well organised crime circle is allegedly smuggling banned medicine from India through different border point in greater Rajshahi district.

Medicine freely smuggled into our country are, Nurobin, Baralgin tab, Benadryl, Gripewater, Polybion inj, Phensydil syrup. A phyl of phensydil syrup is being sold here at Taka 50 to Taka 60. The sources further said,

most of the smuggled medicines are spurious and the date for use already expired. These medicines are posing great threat to the patients.

Stomach and skin ailments have assumed an alarming proportion in the district due to rampant adulteration of foodstuff. Physicians said, patients with gastro-intestinal problems are pouring into their chambers in large numbers.

Market sources said, adulterated goods like milk, ghee, butter and oil are being sold freely. Besides some vendors are found selling adulterated food-stuff in front of schools posing threat to the health of the school children.

No preventive measures have yet been taken by City Corporation and local health

department in this regard, it is alleged.

Dacoity committed

A daring dacoity was committed at night in a Dinajpur bound passenger coach Laboni Enterprise under Rangpur-Dhaka highway at Haripurpur near Gobindaganj upazila on July 16.

The bus was going from Dhaka to Dinajpur and when it reached the place of occurrence at 3 pm a gang of armed dacoits stopped the bus by felling trees on the road and attacked the passengers. They snatched away the cash and other valuables worth Taka 85 thousand.

The miscreants assaulted the passengers. Nine passengers and the drivers of the bus were injured. A case has been registered with Gobindaganj police station in the connection.

Gaibandha rly station in sorry state

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, July 24: Gaibandha railway station has been facing numerous problems. Being a district headquarters thousands of passengers travel round the clock to and from the station.

The condition of the waiting rooms are very pitiable. It is hard to stay inside the room even for a few minutes for foul smell due to lack of proper cleaning. Very often the rooms remained under lock and key. The sitting arrangement is so scanty that it cannot cope with the rising number of passengers.

The goods shed of the station has turned into a centre for anti-social activities and den of gay girls and their clients.

The station platform has now become a shelter for floating men and women. Most of them are allegedly suffering from various diseases. Many of

such families found cooking on the platform. Moreover they use space between railway tracks as open latrine which pollute the environment causing serious health hazard.

Ticketless journey by trains has increased alarmingly in this line due to absence of proper checking. Moreover, carrying of goods on the roof top and in passenger coaches have been continuing without booking. Very often unscrupulous employees collect high fare during sale of mail and local tickets as the tickets do not carry specific rate of fare.

Chandpur roads need repair

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, July 24: The roads of Chandpur town are in deplorable condition posing threat to pedestrians and vehicular movement.

Numerous holes and cracks have developed at many points which cause serious accidents, specially on Chandpur-Comilla road and Chandpur and Matlab routes.

Nazirpara Road, Bakaul Bari Road, Trunk Road, Bagadi Road, Palbazar Road are in a very bad condition. Water remains stagnant after slight rainfall on these roads. On the other hand Nazirpara and Bagadi road and trunk roads are very much dilapidated.

Absence of good roads, sanitary arrangements, proper drainage system, recreational facilities and modern markets are the main problems of the town.

Most of the roads in the town are very narrow and have developed holes and cracks

which impede smooth movement of vehicles and the people. In absence of public toilets and urinals people defecate in road sides posing health hazard to the inhabitants.

In the morning a big rally was held participated by the Family Planning workers, children of different schools and different voluntary organisations. The rally paraded the main streets of the town with fastons, posters and placards.

In the afternoon a seminar was held at Rotary Bhavan Mr Mahbubur Rahman, Deputy Director, district Family Planning office presided over the seminar. Mr Abul Kashem DC, Chandpur was the chief guest. The seminar was addressed by Dr Noorur Rahman, Dr Abdur Rashid, Civil Surgeon, Prof Mohammad Hossain Khan and Mrs Dilruba Chowdhury.

World Population Day observed

World Population Day was observed at Chandpur in a be-

Dacoity bid foiled

JHENIDAH, July 24: A dacoity bid was foiled at Moheshpur LSD last night. It is reported that a gang of dacoits numbering about 20 along with a truck attempted to loot the godown tying up the guards and labourers who were engaged in making boundary wall of the godown. The dacoits beat them mercilessly.

Anti-smuggling conference held in Satkhira

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, July 24: Anti-smuggling conference under the auspices of district administration was held recently at DC's conference room with Mr. Katebur Rahman, Deputy Commissioner in the chair.

Commanding officer of 35 rifles battalion, Satkhira, Police Super, Costumes Super, Satkhira circle, district level and other officials of the district, all upazila chairman, UNO and local journalists were present on the occasion.

The Commissioner further said, that the members of the law enforcing agencies in co-operation with the local people had so far curbed smuggling activities to a great extent.

Meanwhile, law enforcing agencies of the district seized smuggled goods worth Taka 45 lakh last month.



RANGPUR: A scene of a drama Nahabat staged at Town Hall by Shikha Sangsad recently. — Star photo

14 get life-term for murder

From Our Correspondent

BAGERHAT, July 24: Mr. Md Alauddin Sardar, District and Sessions Judge of Bagerhat while passing his judgement in the sensational Abdul Kader murder case found 14 persons including two commissioners of Mongla Poursava guilty and sentenced them to suffer rigorous imprisonment for life and to pay a fine of Tk. 5,000 each in default to suffer rigorous imprisonment for one year more. Five accused persons were acquitted of the charge brought against them.

The prosecution case, in brief, is that at about 10-30 am on November 19, 1987 workers of different organisations of Mongla Sea Port brought out a procession at Mongla town to press home their demands. But with the instigation of the Secretary of Mongla Port Workers Association the accused persons attacked the procession with axes, knives, sticks and other deadly weapons, killed Abdul Kader, a watchman of Mongla Port and injured six others.

The matter was immediately brought to the notice of Mongla police. After registration of a case in this regard police held an enquiry and submitted a chargesheet to the court against 19 persons.

The judge after examining the evidences and witnesses found Shahjahan, Mostafizur Rahman, Mostofa, Babul, Dulal, Manik, Badsha, Siraj, Afzal, Rafiq, Halim, Mahbulia, Shah Alam and Ful Mia guilty

Drama staged

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, July 24: A social drama named 'Nahabat' written by Shatya Bandhopadaya was staged for 54th time recently at the local Town Hall under the auspices of Shikha Sangsad, a well reputed cultural organisation of Rangpur.

Directed by Mr Shamsuzzoha Bablu, the artistes of the organisation portrayed different roles. They are Shamsuzzoha Bablu, Saiten Tarafdar, Chittaranjan Roy, Kiron Sankar Sarkar, Biplob Proshad, Dilip Roy, Mahbubur Rahman, Swapon Kumar Sarma, Feroz Ahmed Bappi, Kamrul Hassan Sarkar, S M Sarwar Hossain, Mahtab Uddin Liton, Hosney Ara Begum, Madhumita Chowdhury, Akhtar Jahan Mukti, Monowar, Beni Madhab, Abdur Rashid and Nagen.

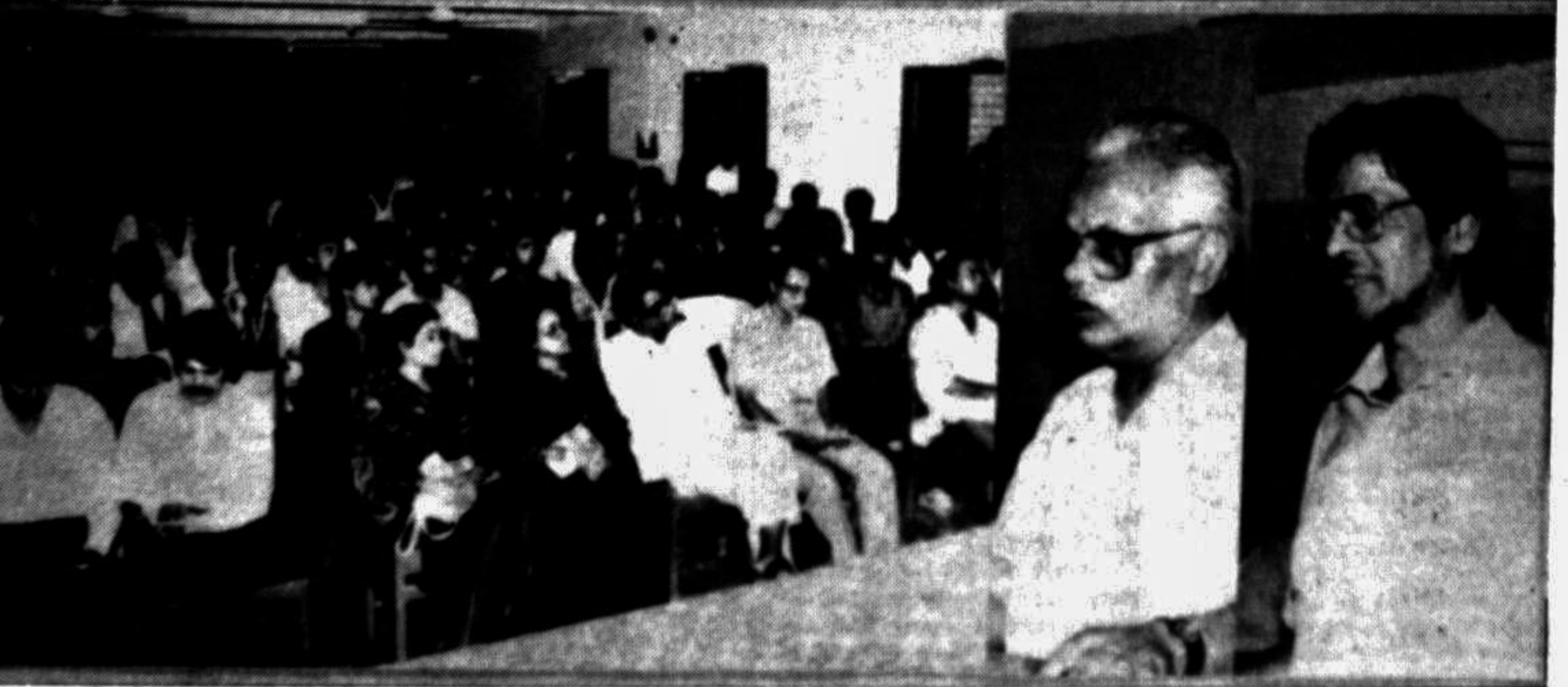
Two arrested for showing obscene films

FENI, July 24: Police arrested two people from Rathajatra Mela on charge of showing obscene films and seized TV, VCP and cassettes of blue films, reports UNB.

Police on a tip, raided different houses of Trunk road on July 14 where Rathajatra Mela of Hindu community took place.

The arrested are Parves Mahmud of Masterpara and Monwar Hossain of Bauphal of the town.

Cases have been filed in this connection.



RAJSHAHI: Vice-Chancellor of RU Prof Amanullah Ahmed and VC of Islamic University Prof M A Hamid addressing the publication ceremony of RU Habibur Rahman Hall magazine at hall auditorium recently. — Star photo