

**District roundup**

**MAULVIBAZAR**

**Powdered milk prices shot up**

**From Our Correspondent**  
July 8: Prices of all brands of powdered milk have risen sharply in the markets of Maulvibazar causing anxiety to the consumers.  
Markets sources said, a tin of Dano (2 kg) and Redcow have been selling at Taka 315, Diploma (2 kg) at Taka 312, Anchor at Taka 315, Nespray at Taka 295 and Horlicks at Taka 100.  
Some dishonest traders are making profits by creating artificial scarcity of the milk.  
Meanwhile, prices of essential commodities recorded a rise adversely affecting the low income group of people.

**JAMALPUR**

**UP member welfare assoc formed**

**From Our Correspondent**  
July 8: Dewanganj Thana Union Parishad Member's Association was formed here at local Public hall with Shamsar Ali in the chair recently.  
Later, a 19-member executive committee of Dewanganj Thana Union Parishad Member Welfare Association was formed in the meeting with Abdus Salam Khoka and Shaful Islam Badal as President and Secretary respectively.  
The other office-bearers are: Shamiul Haque, Vice-President, Abdul Ilamid, Vice-President, Motiur Rahman, Joint Secretary, Nawab Ali, Organising Secretary, Ziaul Haque, Publicity Secretary, Khairul Islam, Sport Secretary and Younus Ali, Office Secretary.

**From Our Correspondent**  
July 8: Lack of proper drainage facility in the Rajshahi City has been causing untold sufferings to the dwellers.  
The faulty drainage system makes the city life miserable. The residents of Beldarpara, Haragram, Sasthitala, Molopara and Laxmipara areas of the city are the worst sufferers.  
Most of the existing drains of the city are kutchha and old pucca drains have developed cracks and remained filled with filth and stagnant water.  
These drains have virtually turned into ideal breeding centres of mosquitoes. A number of hotels and restaurants have been dumping huge garbage besides the roads which roll up to the drain.  
City dwellers urged the Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) authorities to take immediate steps to re-excavate the existing kutchha drains and repair the old pucca drains to alleviate the sufferings of the people.

**RAJSHAHI**

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July 8: Indian Phensidyl syrup, a contraband item, is being sold in the town almost openly, reports UNB.  
College and school students are increasingly being addicted to the drug causing concern among the guardians.  
The youths, as local people alleged, can easily by the contraband medicine from any medicine shops without any restriction.

**From Our Correspondent**  
July 8: Free World Cultural Movement, a local organisation organised a seminar on 'Afforestation and Environmental Protection' held here at a community centre in Sylhet town on July 2.  
Jahirul Haque Chowdhury, Editor of the Daily Sylhet Bani and Advisor of the organisation presided over the function while the Deputy Commissioners, Sylhet Md Abdul Latif was present at chief guest. Prof Md Shafiq, a renowned educationist was present in the function as the special guest. It was addressed among others by Khaled Lashkar and M A Wadud Ansari.

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July 8: Agricultural production has been adversely affected by the mineral deficiency of soil in nine thanas of the district.  
Agronomists said that the shortage of minerals like Sulphur and Zinc in soil had caused decline in paddy production over the last year.  
They attributed unrestrained use of chemical fertilizers in croplands to be the cause behind the decrease of soil productivity.  
The affected thanas are Pakundia, Hossainpur, Katiadi, Bhatrab, Tarail, Karimganj, Kuliarchar, Kishoreganj Sadar and Bajitpur.  
Mineral deficiency has affected about 60 per cent cropland in the thanas, they added.

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**MADARIPUR**

**Police arrest 2 Sharbahara Party activists**

**From Our Correspondent**  
July 8: Police arrested two activists of outlawed Sharbahara Party from Shikaruaugol village under Kalkini Thana of the district recently.  
Acting on a secret information, police raided a house of one Karam Ali Kabiraz and recovered one pistol from his possession.  
A case has been lodged with Kalkini thana police in this regard.  
Another report adds: The Sadar hospital is plagued with numerous problems owing to lack of blood bank, shortage of doctors, medicines, nurses and accommodation.  
Patients coming from far-flung areas go back disappointed in the absence of proper treatment facilities, it is in formed.  
Local people urged the concerned authorities to take necessary measures to mitigate the sufferings of the people.

**SATKHIRA**

**Police action on journalists protested**

**From Our Correspondent**  
July 8: A protest meeting was held here at local Press Club recently against the police action on journalists on June 21 at the National Press Club in Dhaka.  
Abdul Mutalib, President of Satkhira Press Club presided over the meeting. The meeting was addressed among others by Prof Abu Ahmed (District Correspondent, The Daily Star), Anisur Rahman Secretary, Satkhira press club, Prof Pabitra Mohan Das (Newsday), Sk Mominuddin (Ajker Kagaz), Sk Abdus Sattar (Purbanchal), Sardar Anisur Rahman (Khabar), Sakhawatulah (Sangram), Advocate Monsur Ahmed (New Nation), Golam Rahman (Anirban) and Advocate Nurul Islam (BSS).  
The speakers condemned the police action and demanded exemplary punishment to those responsible for the incident.

**NOAKHALI**

**Sale of Indian phensidyle unabated**

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**SYLHET**

**Seminar on afforestation, environmental protection held**

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**KISHOREGANJ**

**Mineral deficiency hits agri production**

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The affected thanas are Pakundia, Hossainpur, Katiadi, Bhatrab, Tarail, Karimganj, Kuliarchar, Kishoreganj Sadar and Bajitpur.  
Mineral deficiency has affected about 60 per cent cropland in the thanas, they added.



**MADARIPUR:** The bamboo clusters in the district are on way to destruction due to large-scale cutting and absence of proper care. — Star photo

**40,000 children suffering from malnutrition in 2 dists**

**From Our Correspondent**  
MAULVIBAZAR, July 8: About 40,000 children in 10 thanas of the districts of Maulvibazar and Habiganj have been suffering from malnutrition.  
A large number of children have died of various diseases in these two districts during the last few years.  
A non-government survey conducted in these thanas reveals that the attack of the diseases like diarrhoea, dysentery, pneumonia, malaria, and hooping cough follows the consecutive floods, droughts and other natural calamities in most of the thanas of these two districts during the last few years.  
In addition to the diseases, the ill-health of mothers and unhealthy atmosphere are equally responsible for the sufferings of the children of the poor parents.  
The acute scarcity of balanced diet is another factor that led to the premature death of the poor children. A large number of children die every year of the above mentioned diseases. Those who survive have to lead a miserable life during their lifetime.  
The ill-fed and unfed mothers find it difficult to give requisite breast feeding which is the only appropriate diet for the children of the have nots.  
The economic condition of the people, especially the rural people of Madhabpur, Baniachong, Ajmeerganj, Lakhi and Bahadur thanas of Habiganj district and Kaliganj, Kulaura and Baralckha thanas of Maulvibazar district live below the poverty line and find it difficult to arrange their daily food. As a result, they are unable to feed the children the requisite diet and take health care.  
The ignorance of the parents is also greatly responsible for the malnutrition of the children. They are not aware of the vitality of the locally available edible herbs and vegetables. The ignorance of the village parents and the prevailing situation are also responsible for the malnutrition of the children.  
The radio and TV advertisement on 'oral' saline and deficiency of vitamin A is much more effective to the rural people. Such kinds of advertisements are very helpful in making the ignorant parents aware of the ideas of health care.  
The concerned authorities have been urged to arrange video shows in rural areas to make aware the poor village people of primary health care. The radio and TV can also chalk out more programmes which might help the people to know more about health care and FP activities, it is felt by the social workers of the society.

**6,000 families for early payment of compensation for land**

**From Our Correspondent**  
SIRAJGANJ, July 8: Six thousand families of Sirajganj sadar thana have been facing problems for non-payment of compensation money for land acquired for the proposed Jamuna Bridge.  
It is gathered that a total of 1,800 acres of land of six mouzas under sadar thana were taken up by the government about three years ago for the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Project.  
Six thousand families of Dukhiabari, Purbamohanpur, Panchashona, Baroshimul and Jagtola mouzas did not yet get compensation money amounting to taka about 18 crore.  
Compensation for other lands acquired at the same time of Jamtali, Khidir, Baotira, Kadda, Krishnapur and Jamtoidhas mouzas were duly paid in 1990.  
Meanwhile, due to devastating and continuous erosion of the mighty Jamuna, the acquired plots of land are being washed away. Those whose plots of land had been acquired but are yet to get compensation, are not cultivating. The families are now in extreme distress and frustration. Immediate steps are needed to mitigate the sufferings of the cultivators whose lands were acquired.  
Shahzadpur college in problems  
Shahzadpur Government College, a 28-year old educational institution, situated at the middle point of Shahzadpur thana headquarters is beset with manifold problems including shortage of teachers and other material equipment which need early attention of the authorities concerned.  
It is gathered that Shahzadpur College was established in 1964 with the initiative of renowned social worker late Maulana Saifuddin Khan Yahlia of Shahzadpur with only IA and I Com classes. I Sc and BA, B Com classes were introduced in 1967 and B.Sc course was introduced in 1969. Rajshahi Education Board and Rajshahi University sanctioned HSC and Degree examination centres at Shahzadpur College in 1968 and 1969 respectively.  
Despite various limitations, the results of the college is always satisfactory. At present about 2700 students including about 400 girls are reading in Shahzadpur College which was nationalised in 1984.  
There are 30 teachers, two demonstrators, five clerical and 15 fourth class employees in the college. There are only one teacher each in the departments of Islamic History and Philosophy. There is no demonstrator in Zoology for long eight years and in Physics for about two years. The present Principal Professor Abdul Majid joined the college in 1989 offer transfer of the former Principal Tahazzad Hossain.  
The college consists of three double storied buildings of which one is named after Moulana Saifuddin Yahlia Arts Building. Yet the college faces accommodation problem for heavy rush of students.  
The only tinroofed hostel for boys, situated about one kilometre away from the college, is in a deplorable condition. A total of 70 students is living there. The facilities department have, however, sanctioned taka 36.5 lakh to construct a 50-seat hostel of the college. Taka 8.5 lakh have also been sanctioned for a girls hostel.  
People of Shahzadpur have called upon the authorities concerned to mitigate the problems of the only Government College of Shahzadpur.

**300-yr-old temple needs proper care**

**MADARIPUR, July 8:** Khali-ajore Bangla Temple constructed by the Raja Ram Mohan Ray in the 17th century is on the verge of decay, reports UNB.  
Situating at Khalia union in Rajoir thana of the district, the temple with its ancient sculpture could attract a large number of tourists in this area.  
Local people informed that some dishonest businessmen took away many precious stones from the temple.  
The temple and its adjoining areas are under control of the Archaeological department of the government but its maintenance and development have been neglected for long.  
Local people demanded rehabilitation of the temple, Raja's Palace, Jamindar's buildings and other structures which bear historical and cultural value.  
The traditional bullock-driven cottage industry called 'Ghani' of the greater Faridpur district are now on the verge of extinction due to lack of patronisation, local sources said.  
They said most of the oilmen have already gave up the profession and switched over to other vocations.  
About 200 families in the district have been affected by the decaying seed crusher 'Ghani'.  
The oilmen locally known as 'Kolu' said that the prices of oil-seeds, bullock and other inputs increased manifold and have gone beyond their means.  
Oilmen urged the authorities to provide financial assistance in the form of bank loans and market support to protect the traditional cottage industry.

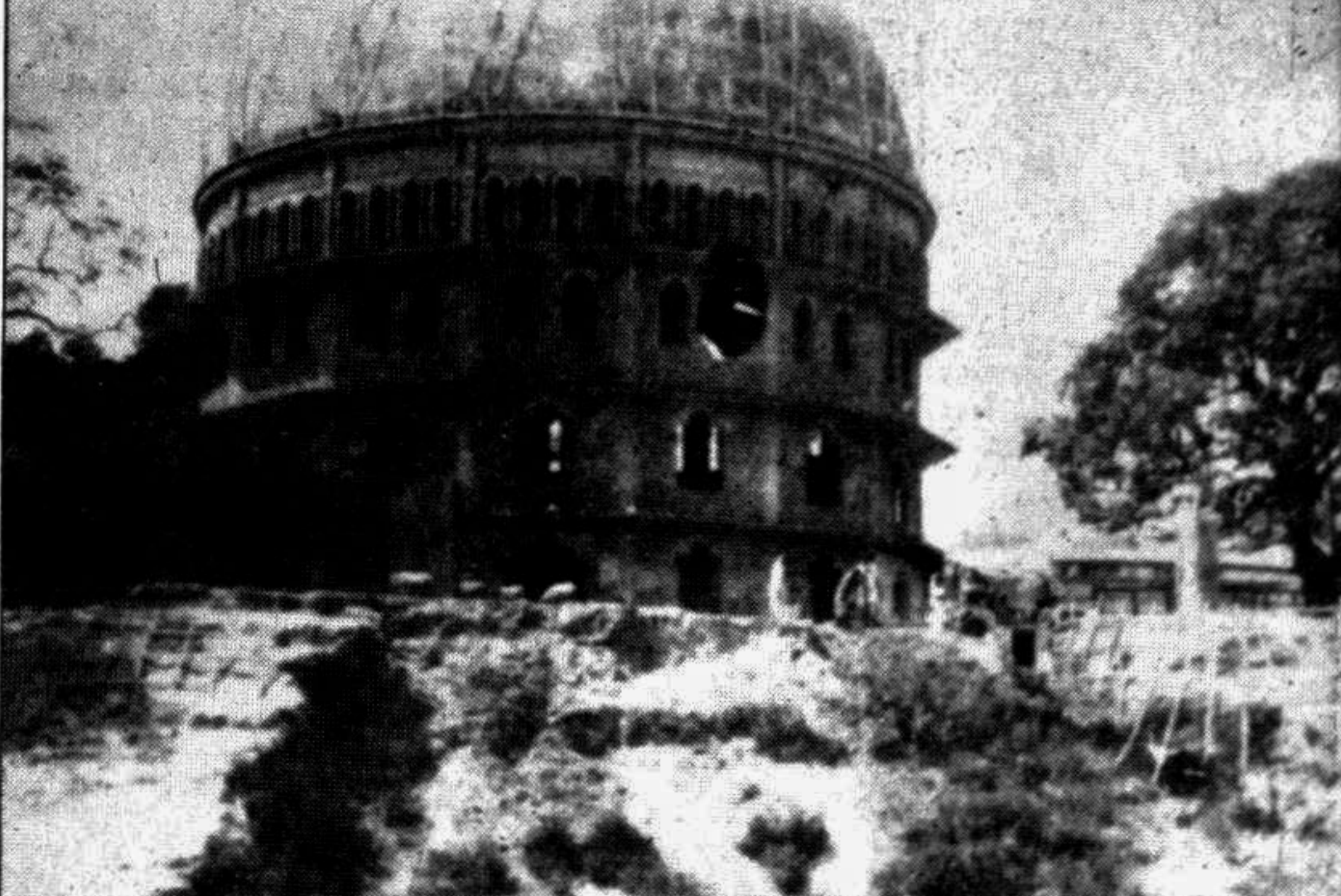


A group of artists, athletes and students of RU led Bangladesh for India early this week on a goodwill tour. S A Q M Haroon, leads the team.

**Across the country**

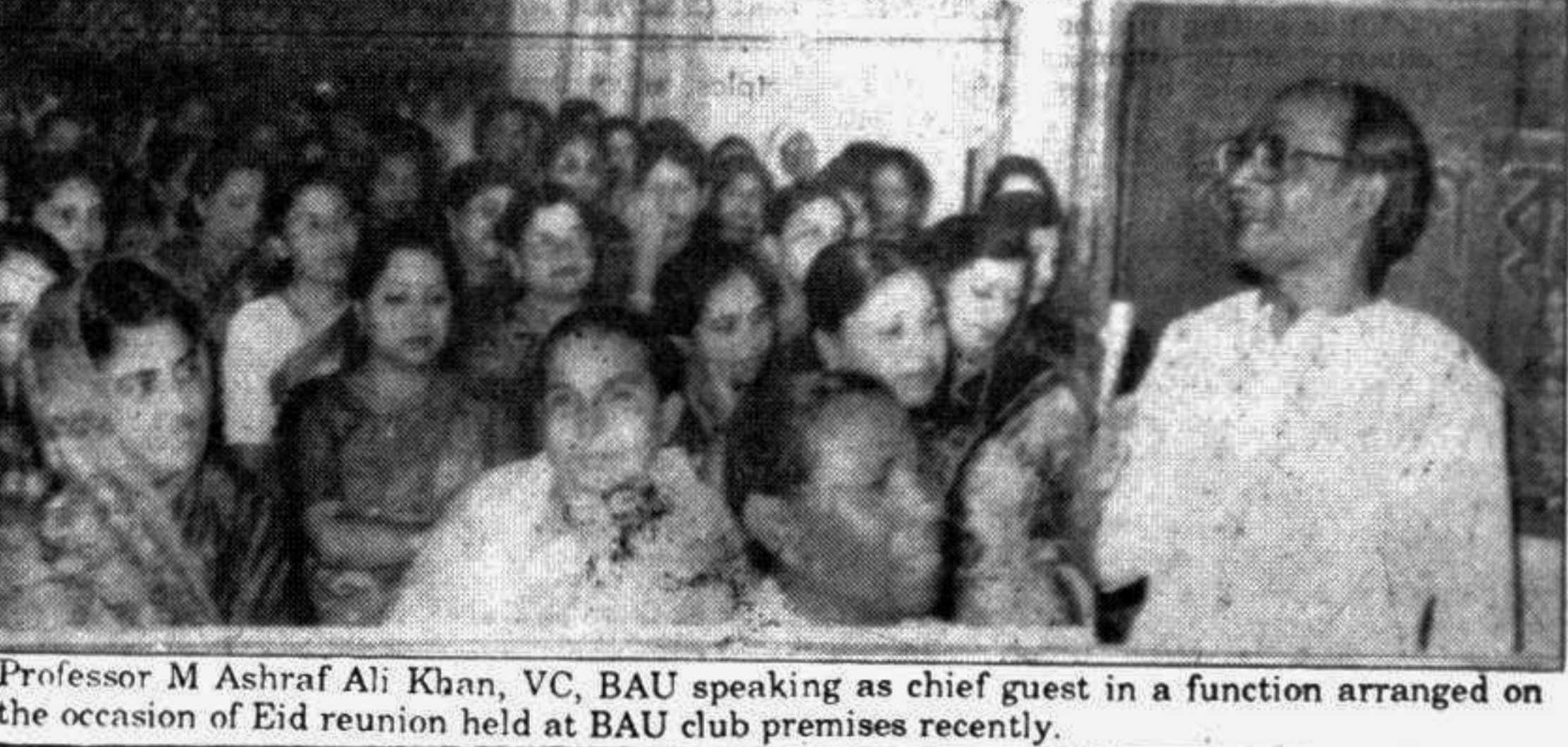
**Better care for shrine of Makhdoom Shah**

**By Ashit Chowdhury**  
SIRAJGANJ, May 20: The 500 years old mosque and shrine of Hazrat Makhdoom Shahdoola Shaheed at Shahzadpur have been transferred to the Archaeological Department to the care of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs. This was stated by Prime Minister Begum Khalida Zia at Shahzadpur. Govt College ground in early May while inaugurating the birth anniversary festival of Rabindranath Shahzadpur by boat along with a number of followers. This was in Hizi 600. The saint breathed his last in a battle with a local king. Other than the mazar of Hazrat Shah Makhdoom, there are in the shrine 18 more graves, 12 of them being his fellow 'Darbashes' and six of his 'Aulias'.  
The historical mosque was built by Hazrat Shah Makhdoom by the side of river sent an 'Urs sharif' is held on the same day every year which is attended by thousands of Muslims and Hindus.  
The existence of the mosque and mazar is threatened by continuous erosion of the river Karotoa. The erosion point is only a few yards away from the mosque. However, the government have taken up protective measures to arrest erosion an estimated cost of Tk 2,80,00,000 and the project has recently been taken over by the Archaeological Department.



The maintenance of the mosque of Hazrat Shah Makhdoom at Shahzadpur has recently been taken over by the Archaeological Department.

Tagore. The Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone of the 'mazar complex' on the same day after Zohr prayers.  
Hazrat Makhdoom Shahdoola's one of the two sons of Muazz-bin-Zabal, King of Yemen left his homeland to preach Islam. It is stated in the Journal of Asiatic Society, volume 73 (1904), first edition by Moulavi Abdul Wali that the saint came to Potazia of Karotoa. The mosque is built by small bricks and is set up on 28 pillars consisting of 15 gambujis. It is about 63 feet long, 41 feet broad and 40 feet high. A 30 inch mark on the inner wall is considered as the measurement of his hand.  
In the past, a very popular fair was held here on the 'Basanti Ashtami' to recall the memories of the 'shahadat day' of Shah Makhdoom but at present many works have been started. Sources close to the Shahzadpur municipality told The Daily Star that cement concrete blocks and other materials will be dumped in the river to protect the holy place from erosion.  
People of Shahzadpur have expressed satisfaction over the taking over of the mosque and the mazar complex by the Archaeological Department.



Professor M Ashraf Ali Khan, VC, BAU speaking as chief guest in a function arranged on the occasion of Eid reunion held at BAU club premises recently.

**River erosion 600 families become homeless in 24 hours**

**PABNA, July 8:** More than 600 people of 12 villages in Bera and Sujanagar thanas were rendered homeless due to continuous erosion by the Jamuna and Padma in last 24 hours, officials said today on Tuesday, reports UNB.  
Erosion by the two rivers increased following incessant rainfall although they were flowing 85 cm below the danger mark, said the officials at the Water Development Board (WDB).  
The affected villages are: Madhupur, Kazirhat, Nagarbari, Varendra, Singhashan, Nakalia, Ganapatadia, Latifpur, Bherakhola and Raghunathpur of Bera thana and Shakhaganj and Nazirganj of Sujanagar thana.  
District administration sources said the river erosion have left about 10,500 people of the district homeless during the last one and half months.  
Standing crops on 7,500 acres of land were damaged during the period, the source said.

**Tk 3 cr for livestock training centre**

**FENI, July 8:** The government has sanctioned Taka three crore for establishing a livestock training centre at the town, reports UNB.  
According to official sources, the centre funded by Asian Development Bank will impart training to local youths about care and treatment of domestic cattle.  
Work on the project is expected to start during the current financial year 1992-93.

**TB attacks 33,000 people every year**

**BARISAL, July 8:** About 33,000 people are attacked by tuberculosis (TB) every year in the country and more than 3 lakh new and old patients are reporting to 44 TB clinics, medical sources said here today, reports UNB.  
According to a recent survey conducted by Micro Bacterial Disease Control Programme of Dhaka, the ratio of male and female patients is 53.85 per cent and 46.15 per cent respectively.  
Incidence of disease in town area is 30.70 per cent and in the villages is 58.97 per cent. Maximum number of 30.77 patients are from the farming community, the survey report added.  
An old man was beaten to death and another seriously injured by a gang of outlawed Sarbahara Party activists at Gahapur village of Babaganj union in the district on Sunday.  
According to police, the miscreants attacked the house of Khorshed Ali (70) and dragged him along with his relation Humayun (20) to a nearby field and beat them mercilessly.  
Khorshed Ali died on the spot and seriously injured Humayun was taken to the Barisal Medical College Hospital.  
Police said Khorshed Ali demanded arrests of some Sarbahara activists who killed one chowkidar of the same village some months before.  
A week-long eye-camp sponsored by the Lions Club was held here in Haji Taheruddin Islamia College premises in Uzirpur thana of the district.

**Jute farming falls short of target**

**SHERPUR, July 8:** Jute cultivation in the district has fallen short of target this year due to non-availability of seeds, lack of rainfall and shortage of capital, reports UNB.  
A total of 19,970 acres of land was earmarked for jute cultivation in the district during the current season. But only 14,670 acres have been brought under the cultivation so far.  
Many farmers could not prepare their land due to shortage of seeds.  
An official of district Agriculture Extension Department said that farmers could not cultivate jute for want of necessary irrigation facilities and rainfall.  
Another report adds: A total of 96,330 acres of land will be brought under aus cultivation in five thanas of the district this year.  
The thanas are Sadar, Sreebordi, Jhenaidag, Nokla and Nalitabari.  
Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) will supply seeds, fertilizers, insecticides and other inputs among the farmers to make the scheme a success.