

## District roundup

### RANGAMATI

#### Marauding tigers eat up 12 cows

May 19: The marauding tigers swooped on three villages of Kaptai thana, ate up at least 12 cows and injured a villager in the last fortnight, reports UNB.

The injured Asgar Ali (28) of Raikhal village of the thana, was admitted to Chandraghona Mission Hospital in a serious condition. He was attacked by a tiger on Monday, hospital sources said.

Raikhali union parishad chairman said normal life in the villages of Panchhari, Mittyachhari and Merrychhari has been paralysed following the repeated attacks by the tigers and the panicked villagers were reportedly getting ready to desert the villages.

The villagers did not dare to go the field to collect fodder for their cattlehead, the chairman added.

### COMILLA

#### One to suffer 5 yrs RI for smuggling

May 19: A man was awarded five years prison term on charge of smuggling, court sources said here Tuesday, reports UNB.

He was also fined Taka 2000, in default, to suffer two months rigorous imprisonment more.

The case, in brief, was that acting on a tip, police recovered phensidyl syrup worth about Taka 32,500 from near a bridge at Rajapur and arrested Abdur Rashid, son of Sekhendar Khan of Shankuchanil village in Burichang thana in this connection.

A case was filed and police after investigation submitted a charge-sheet against him.

Md Istiaque Hossain, additional Sessions Judge after examining the witnesses and records awarded the punishment Sunday.

### NETRAKONA

#### Flash flood affects four thanas

May 19: The flash flood triggered by wide spread rainfall for consecutive seven days and on rush of hilly waters from Garo region in India caused extensive damage to crops and properties in four thanas under Netrakona district, reports BSS.

The affected thanas are Durgapur, Madan, Mohanganj and Kalmakanda.

Netrakona district relief and rehabilitation office sources said on Friday that flood water submerged high yielding Irri-boro paddy, vegetables and other standing crops on about 35,000 acres of land in the district.

Torrential rains also caused damage to over one thousand and five hundred kutcha houses in the areas, the sources said.

### CHUADANGA

#### Minor girl violated

From Our Correspondent  
May 19: One Bilkis Nahar (10), daughter of one Montu Mondol of village Shubolpur under Damurhuda thana of the district was raped by one Zahurul Islam, son of one Ahamed Ali of the same village recently.

It is learnt that said Zahurul Islam called the said minor girl Bilkis from her residence to a nearby garden and forcibly raped her.

Later the girl was taken to Chuadanga Sadar Hospital for treatment.

A case has been started in this connection with the Damurhuda police station.

### BAGERHAT

#### Scheme taken up to renovate 3 college buldgs

May 19: Facilities Department of the Ministry of Education has taken up a scheme to construct, repair and renovate buildings of three colleges under Khulna Zone at a cost of Taka 33,92,182 in the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the colleges are Bagerhat PC College, Khulna B L College and Kalaroa College.

The scheme includes construction of boundary wall, extension of college buildings, construction of auditorium, water supply system and repair of old buildings. The work will be completed within next three months, the source said.

### SUNAMGANJ

#### Project for pavement work taken up

May 19: Road division of the Roads and Highways Department has taken up a project for pavement work of Pagla-Jagannathpur road under Sunamganj district at a cost of Taka 1,91,82,024 in the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the work will start soon and be completed before August next.

### JAMAPLUR

#### Ganatantrik Forum unit executives

May 19: A 71-member committee of Jamalpur unit of Ganatantrik Forum was formed on Saturday with Advocate Nazrul Islam Dulus as Convenor, reports UNB.

The committee will be responsible for holding the ensuring conference of the forum.

The committee was formed at a meeting on the same day at the local public hall with Advocate Nazrul Islam Dulu in the chair. It was addressed, among others, by the central leader Barrister Aminul Islam, Shahjahan Siraj MP, Major Gen (Retd) Khalilur Rahman, Advocate Zahurul Islam and Abdul Matin Choudhury.

Another report adds: Jamalpur regional committee of Sonali Bank Employees' Union organised a discussion meeting on Saturday with Ashrafuddin in the chair. It was addressed, among others, by central leader Jahangir Alam Choudhury, Jitendra Chandra Barman and Abdul Awal.

The speakers demanded of the concerned authorities to fulfil their demands without further delay.

### MAGURA

#### Youth killed in road mishap

May 19: A youth was killed in a road-mishap near Natrinhat village in Sreepur thana of the district Monday, police sources said, reports UNB.

The victim Zikur Rahman Ziku (22), son of Mollah Mottar Rahman of village Amtali in Sreepur thana died on the spot. The body was sent to Magura Hospital morgue for autopsy.

According to police, Zikur was killed when a speeding truck hit him from behind on Magura-Jessore Road in the morning. He was travelling on a motor-cycle.

The driver, however, managed to flee with his truck.

### FARIDPUR

#### Chhatra Dal sweeps college union polls

From Our Correspondent  
May 19: Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal won the student union election of Nagarkanda college on Thursday.

Abu Shahid and Sayfur Rahman Mukul were elected as VP and GS of the student union respectively.

Awami League backed Chhatra League and Bangladesh Chhatra Dal also contested the election.

### SHERPUR

#### Thana Parishad official assaulted

May 19: An official of Jhenigati Thana Parishad was assaulted by a group of unruly youths at his office Monday, reports UNB.

Thana parishad sources said Nure Mahtab (35), Assistant Project Implementation Officer, was assaulted by the students at noon when he refused to give a jeep of the parishad for their personal use. He was admitted to the local health complex in a critical condition.

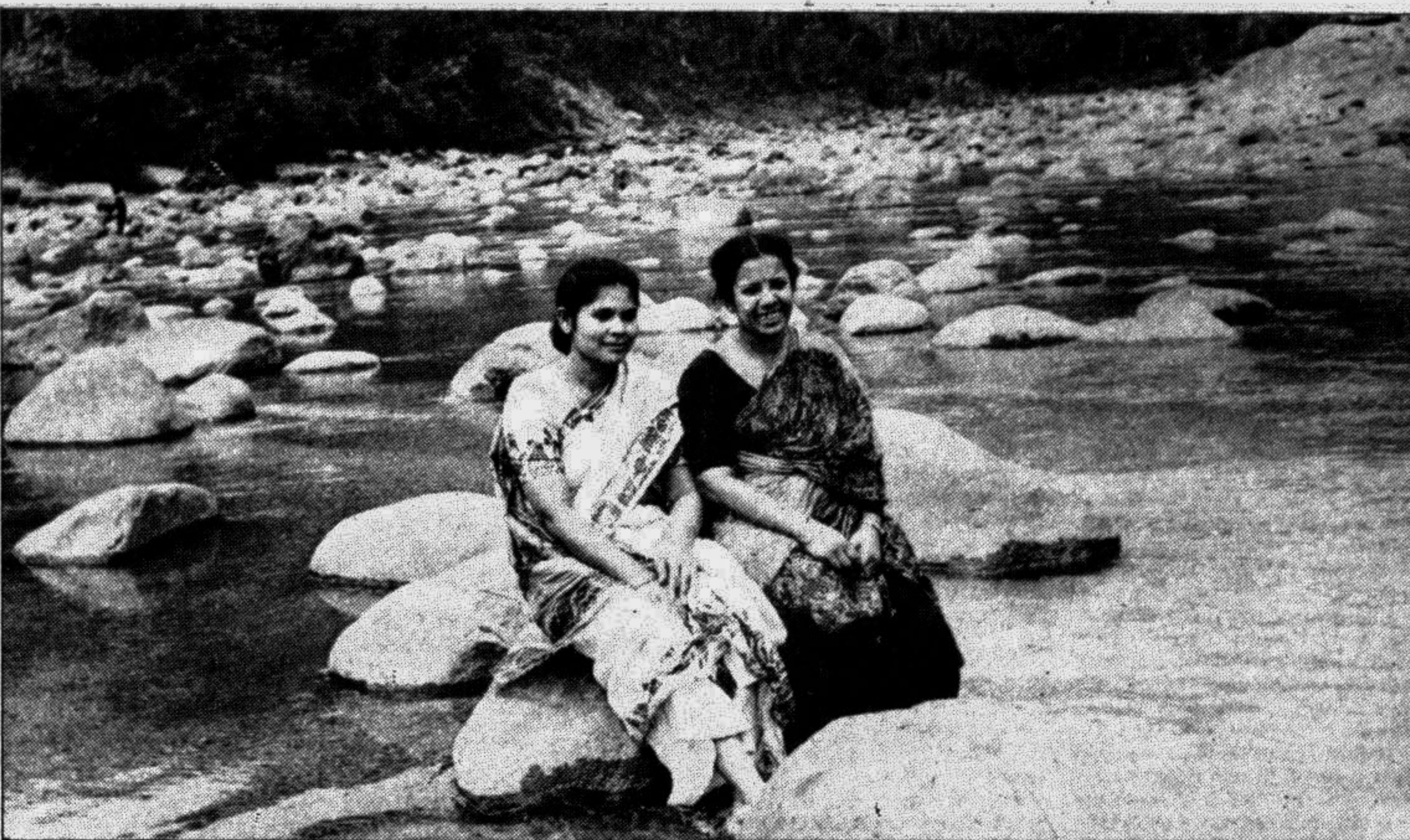
### JHENIDAH

#### Press club ransacked

May 19: Some unruly youths assaulted the president of the Mohespur Press Club and ransacked its office on Thursday, reports UNB.

Press Club sources said that a group of unruly youths numbering about 20 armed with lethal weapons ransacked the club at Mohespur town. They also set afire the club office.

However, the reason behind the attack could not be known immediately.



**TAMABIL-JAFLONG:** It is a rare treat for the lovers of nature. Tamabil is a border outpost on Sylhet-Shilong road, about 55 Km away from Sylhet town. Besides, enchanting views of the area one can also have a glimpse of the waterfalls across the border from Tamabil. Jaflong is also a scenic spot nearby amidst tea gardens and rare beauty of rolling stones from hills.

—Star photo by AKM Mohsin

### Adverse affect of Farakka

## Over 15000 shallow tubewells inoperative in Rajshahi

RAJSHAHI, May 19: Over 15,000 shallow tubewells have become inoperative in greater Rajshahi district during the current day season due to adverse affect of Farakka, reports BSS.

Official sources told BSS that ground water level have also gone down to 35 feet in some places of the region for which acute scarcity of pure drinking water disrupted normal life.

Rivers, ponds and other sources of water are being dried up for that reason agriculture and fish production was greatly hampered. Though scanty rainfall during the last few days slightly improved the situation. But water crisis was still prevailing in the region. Hot spells continue to prevail in the region due to ecological change and dry weather disrupted normal life.

Meanwhile, Farakka Sammasya Shahayak Committee Saturday brought out a big procession in the city and

chanted various slogans. The processionists demanded that India should solve the Farakka water problem and stop unilateral withdrawal of water by India at Farakka.

They also demanded due share of the Ganges water so that problems being faced by the people of Bangladesh could be mitigated.

Later the processionists went to the Assistant Indian High Commissioner's mission here at Lakshimpur and handed over a memorandum containing the demand to solve the Farakka water problem immediately. Advocate Emdadur Rahman, Kamruzzaman Badal and other leaders of the committee were present on the occasion.

UNB report adds: Workers Party leader Rashed Khan Menon, MP, today urged the government to take the Farakka issue to international forums for early solution of the water sharing problem, reports UNB. He was addressing a public

meeting at Shaheb Bazar crossing of the town this afternoon to mark the Farakka Day commemorating the Long March led by Moulana Bhasani towards the Farakka barrage in 1976.

Menon also demanded that the issue be discussed in the next session of Parliament and called upon the people to launch a united movement for realising Bangladesh's due share of the Ganges water. The Workers Party General Secretary criticised the BNP and Awami League for failure to find a permanent solution to the water sharing problem with India.

He also blasted Jamaat for its communal politics.

Presided over by General Secretary of district Workers Party Ferdous Kamal Masum, the meeting was addressed, among others, by party leaders Abdul Matin, Tipu Biswas and Fazle Hossain Badsha. The public meeting preceded a procession that paraded the city streets as a "token long march."

### Moheshkhali fire: 3 more victims die

COX'S BAZAR, May 19: Three people, who were injured in a fire that raged through a village in Moheshkhali thana Sunday, died in the Christian Memorial Hospital here Monday.

One person was killed and 19 people were injured as the fire broke out in the house of one Nurul Islam in village Ghotibhanga when a lamp fell into a drum of diesel and spread to neighbouring houses. At least 10 houses and property worth about Tk 20 lakh were burnt to ashes in the blaze, villagers said.

Islam was feared to have been burnt alive. But his body was not found after the flame was extinguished.

His wife Momena Khatun, 34, son Boduuzzaman, 18, and daughter Shakila, 6, died in the hospital early today, hospital sources said.

The other injured were being treated at the Moheshkhali Health Complex, the Cox's Bazar Sadar hospital and the Dulahazara Christian Memorial Hospital.

### Three shot dead in Chuadanga

CHUADANGA, May 19: Three people were shot dead and slaughtered allegedly by Purba Bangla Communist Party activists at villages of Boalmari and Natipota in Damurhuda thana of the district on Friday, reports UNB.

The victims were identified as Sirajul Islam Boga (40) and Shomer Ali (45) of village Boalmari and Abdul Quddus (30) of village Natipota.

Two separate cases have been filed with the local police.

### Driving training programme for BCS cadre officers begins

JOYDEEPUR, May 19: A four-week driving training programme for BCS cadre officers began Saturday at Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) training institute, report UNB.

A total of 186 BCS officers belonging to different cadres, now undergoing foundation training at Public Administration Training Centre (PATC) will be imparted training in four batches to make them able in driving light vehicles.

Inaugurating the programme, Roads and Road Transport Secretary Syed Rezaul Hayat said the programme, unique of its kind in the country, would help increase the efficiency of the cadre officers.

BRTA Chairman HMB Zaman, BRTC Chairman Abdur Rob Khan, member of PATC directing staff Moazzem Hussain and GM (Tech) of BRTC also spoke on the occasion.

### Three youngmen held with sharp weapons

PABNA, May 19: Three youngmen with sharp weapons were arrested from Patlanpur area of the town Saturday, reports UNB.

Police said they arrested Chhatra League activists Sohail (18), Jewel (22) and Tutuluddin (20) and recovered one sword and a razor from their possession.

The arrested were wanted in connection with cases under Anti-Terrorism Act, police added.

## Across the Country

### Needed a lifeline to mainland

From Ashit Chowdhury

THE thana headquarters of Chowhali is separated from the mainland of Sirajganj, the district it belongs to, by the river Jamuna and from neighbouring Tangail by the river Dhaleswari. Chowhali's isolation is made the more complete by the government functionaries' total shunning of the island thana. No wonder people live there without the minimum facilities of civilised life.

The 210 square kilometre area of the thana consists of five unions and 117 villages. Out of the five, two unions are situated on main land (on the western side of Jamuna) and three are on the charlands. The Police Station, thana administrative complex, health complex and the only college is in the charland at Khaskanlia. In the absence of electricity, the offices turn into haunts of ghosts at night. The buildings meant for the officers and staff remain vacant as a major part of them do not stay there, of course, the Thana Nirbahi officer and the O.C of Chowhali thanas live in their respective quarters and they get their electricity from generators.

Only two medical officers are posted for the 31-bed Chowhali hospital. Other posts have been lying vacant for a long time as doctors avoid joining there. As a result the 1.07 lakh population gets next to nothing.

The only college of the thana is financially hard up. About two months ago, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, while addressing a public meeting at Chowhali college ground, assured that the college would be nationalised in the next fiscal year. Amenities in 79

primary schools, including 19 private, and 11 high schools, including two girls' high schools, are too poor to meet the minimum academic demands of the students.

Agriculture is the economic mainstay of the island thana. But the sandy soil does not permit irrigation. Cottage industry is mostly handlooms and these are not faring well at all—the wait is for outright extinction.

The state of communication with Chowhali thana headquarters is beyond description. Shallow driven country boats are the only transport to cross the Jamuna. In dry season, people have to trudge about eight kilometers of sandy land to reach the thana sadar from the riverside. In the rainy season people have to cross the mighty Jamuna by shallow boats with heavy risks to life. More than 100 shallow boats are engaged to ferry people in Chowhali.

People of Chowhali charlands have appealed to the authority to construct a bridge over the river Dhaleswari for easy communication with Tangail district via Nagarpur thana.

During the past regime a scheme was proposed to connect the two mainland unions with Belkuchi and merge the charlands with Tangail. But the proposal came to nothing after the fall of Ershad.

Even in this time of technological progress Chowhali thana headquarters stands as an abandoned area. Easy communication and development including power supply may bring prosperity to the Chowhali thana sadar at Khaskanlia.



**SIRAJGANJ:** Shallow-driven country boats are the only transport for reaching Chowhali thana sadar.

—Star photo

## Need for more publication on Liberation War stressed

CHITTAGONG, May 19: Eminent intellectual and former Vice-Chancellor of Jahangirnagar University Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui said all evil and motivated propaganda against the Liberation War must be defeated by establishing the true spirit of the war, reports UNB.

Prof Siddiqui was speaking as the chief guest at a publication ceremony of the book "Bangaleer Jatiyatabadi Sangram: Muktiyuddhe Chhattagram" (Nationalist Movement of the Bangalee: Liberation War in Chittagong) at a local Railway Officers Club on Thursday.

While speaking on the book written by freedom fighter Dr Mahfuzur Rahman, Prof Siddiqui stressed the need for more publication regarding the Liberation War adding, "It is the proper time to start new struggle for second phase of liberation war and it will be the best way to resist the anti-liberation forces."

The publication ceremony was divided into three sessions. The inaugural session was held in the morning with Jahangir Alam in the chair. At least 25 local freedom fighters recalled their glorious memory of liberation war in the morning session.

Presided over by Prof Mohammad Khaled, Editor of the Daily Azadi, the discussion session was also addressed by Principal of Chittagong Medical College Prof Nur-Un-Nabi, Prof Anupam Sen, Prof Mahub Ullah and Prof Aftab Ahmed of Chittagong University, Prof Muntasir Mamun of Dhaka

University, Principal Mohammad Hossain Khan, Prof Shamsul Alam Sayeed, Btoud Bihari Chowdhury, former MP Abdullah Al Haroon, Editor of the weekly Protirodh AMM Shadullah, Saber Ahmed Asgari, Dr M A Karim and Advocate Rana Das Gupta. The concluding session was followed by a cultural function.

## Work of 96 development projects on

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, May 19: Work of 96 development projects has been going on in full swing in ten thanas of Sunamganj district, under Food for Works Programme.

When contacted, the District Relief and Rehabilitation Officer, Sunamganj Abul Bashar informed that, a total of 2904.764 metric tonnes of wheat were allotted for execution of these projects taken up in all the 10 thanas under the district. The thana wise number of schemes and sanction of wheat is as follows: Sunamganj Sadar-461.483 metric tonnes for 18 schemes, Chhatrak-370 metric tonnes for 13 schemes, Jagannathpur-

302.002 metric tonnes for 8 schemes, Doarabazar-264.002 metric tonnes for 8 schemes, Dera-299.871 metric tonnes for 9 schemes, Shulla-192.889 metric tonnes for 6 schemes, Jamaiganj-221.571 metric tonnes for 6 schemes, Dharampasha-339.944 metric tonnes for 12 schemes, Tahripur-254.002 metric tonnes for 11 schemes and Biswababarpur-199 metric tonnes for 5 schemes. On average about 75 per cent works on these schemes had been completed, the source said.

The schemes include, reconstruction of 91 roads and re-excavation of 3 canals and 2 ponds.



**RANGPUR:** Social Welfare and Women Affairs Minister Tariqui Islam visited the local UNESCO club run ideal poultry farm at G L Roy road in the heart of the town recently. Deputy Commissioner Md Afzal Hossain and Industrialist Nurul Huda Sultan are also seen in the picture.

—Star photo