

District roundup

MAGURA

Teachers procession

JUNE 23: The District Teachers' Association of private primary schools brought out a procession in the town recently to realise their three-point demand including nationalisation of the government registered primary schools, reports UNB.

Their demands are: Nationalisation of all registered private primary schools, regularisation of the jobs of the private primary school teachers and fixation of their salary at Tk 1500 per month before the nationalisation.

The processionists gheroad the District Primary Education Office and submitted a memorandum containing their demands. Later, they paraded the main roads of the town by chanting different slogans.

BARGUNA

Bidis being sold without bandrols

JUNE 23: Bidis are being sold without bandrols in the local markets of Barguna and Patuakhali districts causing heavy revenue loss to the government, reports UNB.

Local people complained that many bidi factories in 11 thanas of Barguna and Patuakhali district are involved in the malpractice in collaboration with local customs and excise officials.

It is alleged that bidis are being sold without bandrols or in some cases used bandrols collected from the retailers are even re-used. Moreover, actual production of the factories is not usually shown in the paper submitted to the excise officials, they added.

Local leaders have urged the concerned authorities to take necessary measures to check duty evasion by the bidi manufacturers.

C'NAWABGANJ

BMDA will plant 2,40,000 saplings

JUNE 23: To maintain ecological balance and to save the country from desertification especially the northern region, the Barendra Multipurpose Development Authority (BMDA) has chalked out an elaborate programme this year, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the BMDA will plant 1,40,000 saplings both fruit bearing and nonfruit bearing trees in the district. These saplings will be planted in the fallow lands, by the side of railway track, roads, embankments, at the compound of educational institutions, hospital and health centres etc.

The sources further said that BMDA since its inception has planted 20 lakh 70 thousand 867 saplings in five thanas of Chapainawabganj district.

KUSHIYA

Rathajatra observed

JUNE 23: Rathajatra one of the main Hindu festivals was observed here recently in a befitting manner, reports BSS.

Hundreds of Hindu men, women and children participated in the Rathajatra at Gopinath Jeyor Mandir.

In this connection a traditional mela was held near the temple.

RANGAMATI

Body of youngman recovered

From Our Correspondent

JUNE 23: The Kaptai thana police recovered a body of an unidentified youngman recently from the top of the hill besides BERD office building in the Karnaphuli Paper Mills area, police said.

The body was sent to Rangamati Sadar Hospital for autopsy immediately after recovery.

A case of unnatural death was registered with Kaptai police but none was arrested.

JHENAI DAH

90 ganja trees seized

From Our Correspondent

JUNE 23: Narcotics Control Department, Jhenidah seized 90 trees of ganja amounting Taka fifty thousand from the village Kayragachi in Kalgongj police station recently.

Acting on a secret information narcotics control personnel raided the house of Paban Das and seized 50 trees (matured plants) of ganja from his house and 30 trees from the house of Abdul Mazid in the said village. A case was lodged with Kalgongj police but one was arrested.

BARISAL

BM College ex-principal accorded reception

JUNE 23: The teachers of government Brojomohan University College, Barisal accorded a farewell to Professor Md Hanif, ex-principal of the college recently at the college auditorium, reports BSS.

Professor Md Makbuluddin Ahmed, Principal was in the chair.

Prof Md Hanif served different colleges for about 35 years starting in 1958 from Brojomohan College of Barisal. In 1988 he was appointed Principal of Government Brojomohan University College and served there for about 4 years.

JAMALPUR

Farmers rally held

JUNE 23: A farmers rally was held at Government Girls High School ground recently under the auspices of Melandah branch of Bangladesh Agriculture Bank, reports BSS.

Presided over by the branch manager Abdul Jalil the rally was addressed by regional manager Alimuzzaman Mollah and Abdul Hal Bachchoo, former Upazila Chairman. Alimuzzaman in his speech urged farmer to avail of the opportunity of exemption of interest as declared by government by repaying their agriculture loan before the time schedule.

RAJBARI

44.10 hectares of land to be brought under Aman cultivation

JUNE 23: The Agriculture Extension Department will bring 44.10 hectares of land under aman cultivation programme during the current season in the greater Faridpur district, official sources here said, reports UNB.

High Yielding Variety (HYV) of aman paddy will be cultivated on 33,200 hectares of land while local variety will be cultivated on 900 hectares.

The district wise breakup: Rajbari — 22,000 hectares, Faridpur — 7,100 hectares, Gopalganj — 2,300 hectares, Madaripur — 3,200 and Sariapur — 9,500.

According to the Agriculture Extension Department, one lakh metric tons of wheat will be produced in these districts after completion of the programme.

JAMALPUR

Three children drowned

JUNE 23: Three children drowned in Sherpur and Jamalpur district recently, reports BSS.

One Abul Hashem son of Muslim Uddin of village Raniganj under Nalitabari thana drowned in a pond in village Kapashia.

A minor girl Mariam, daughter of Misir Ali of village Balooghata under Nalitabari thana drowned in a pond where he went to take bath.

In Jamalpur district Jannat Khatoon, daughter of one Abdul Jalil of village Pingalhati under Sadar thana drowned in a pond.

MADARIPUR

Influenza spreads

From Our Correspondent

JUNE 23: Influenza has been spreading alarmingly all over the Madaripur district.

According to a reliable source, about 60 per cent people of the district have been attacked with the disease.

The worst affected thanas are Rajor, Kalkini, Shibchar and Sadar. Almost every family is under the grip of fever, it is learnt.

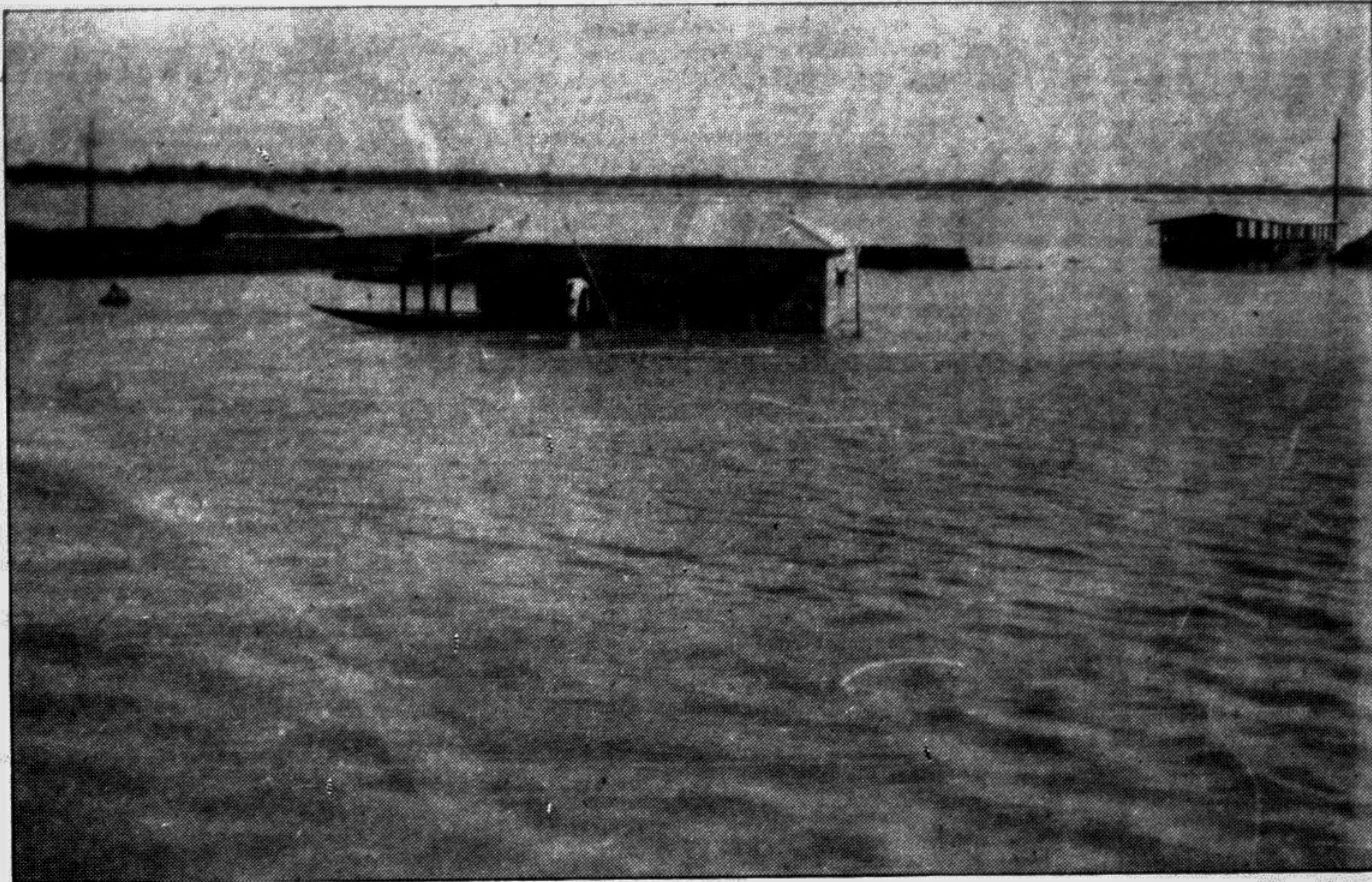
MAGURA

Tree plantation programme undertaken

JUNE 23: District Agriculture Extension Department has taken up a programme for tree plantation in Sreepur and Sadar thanas during the current season, reports UNB.

Saplings of different trees will be planted on two sides of the 20 kilometer-long roads under the plantation programme, official sources here said.

The District Forest Extension Department also taken up a afforestation plan in four thanas of the district during the current season. Meanwhile, they have produced 1.78 thousand saplings in their farm.



SYLHET: Flood hit area near Sadakhali in Beanibazar Thana.

Khulna-Mongla Railway Project still remains abandoned

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, June 23: Khulna-Mongla Railway Project is pending for implementation since long due to dilatory tactics and willful negligence of Bangladesh Railway (BR), said a source.

According to information, during the fiscal 1965-66 the project was taken up with the intention to update the port connecting the whole country with network of communications. With that view, a sum of Taka thirty three crore, twenty three lakh and fifty thousand was estimated for construction of the project.

Soon after, one hundred acres of land starting from Rupsa thana in Khulna to Rampal and Mongla thanas in Bagerhat were acquired on priority basis. Huge number of bricks were also manufactured at the sight to start the work in no time. A sum of Taka forty lakh were spent in doing all these preliminaries, source added.

It is learnt, additional fund of Taka five lakh was placed in 1976 and a separate office with executive engineer in-charge and forty other staff was set-up to implement the project.

But the work, came to a halt suddenly without assigning any reason.

Later, all the offices and staff were declared surplus. Land acquired, and bricks were handed over to Roads and Highways Department. Surplus employees were absorbed in different departments of BR.

It may be mentioned here that the project was given fresh approval in a meeting of ECNEC in 1984. But no initiative has been taken by the BR to start the work despite latest decision of the government.

It is reported that Soviet experts proposed to construct the 60 km long railway from Khulna to Mongla Port side by side the construction of high-

way through the construction of a bridge over the given Rupsha.

Mysteriously, negative was the response from BR to undertake steps for feasibility study of the project for reasons only known to them.

13000 children still do not go to school

Thirteen thousand children are still unschooled in eight thanas of the district since introduction of compulsory primary education programme in January, this year said a source.

Detailed information indicates that total number of children worthy of school-going is ninety three thousand six hundred and ninety while the actual number of school-going is eighty one thousand eight hundred and sixty four. Number of unschooled children is thirteen thousand one hundred and ninety nine.

It is learnt that total num-

ber of government free primary school in the district in six hundred sixty two.

It is also learnt that total number of sanctioned post of teachers is three thousand one hundred forty three. Number of head posts in six hundred ninety two and assistant teachers posts is two thousand four hundred fifty one.

According to a source, a total of fifty head posts are vacant while one hundred two posts of assistant teachers are vacant since long.

Besides, allegations say that teachers are most irregular. It is also alleged that local school managing committee does not have any supervisory power over the teaching staff.

Children, who were out of school, have not been enrolled nor the programme. The attention of the Education Department for implementations of the programme is questioned by many.

Notes from Jamalpur

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, June 23: Jamalpur Chambers of Commerce and Industries, District Businessmen Association and Jamalpur Industry Owners' Association hailed the Minister for Finance for presenting the national budget for 1993-94 fiscal year.

Nearly 70 per cent families having no bullocks of their own are unable to till their land. Most farmers carry on their agricultural works on share basis as they cannot afford to buy bullocks due to sharp rise in prices. At present a pair of bullock costs Taka 8,000 to 12,000 or sometimes more. It has been observed that farmers till their land with spades. Many of them even use milk cows to cultivate their land resulting in gradual reduction in the milk production.

According to a survey, bullock shortage prevails every year due to different kind of diseases and natural calamities. Besides, that it is also alleged that some greedy and dishonest traders are found poisoning cattleheads in different places of the district only to collect the skin.

On the other hand, slaughtering of bullocks has increased much following the scarcity of fish in the markets. Epidemics and diseases also take heavy toll as there is acute shortage of necessary medicines at the veterinary hospitals. It is noticed that in

most cases butchers are not observing the meatless day once in a week. Moreover, bad communication is another factor, it is learnt.

Taking advantages of the situation of the farmers a section of cow traders is purchasing cattleheads from the farmers at nominal prices to be supplied to other places for slaughtering. If this trend continues for long time cultivation would be hampered to a great extent, it is feared.

Some farmers of Satkhira sadar thana told this correspondent that local varieties of paddy could be cultivated without using fertilizer and irrigation facilities. The production cost would be low. They also said that the cultivation of Irri-Boro was impossible without using fertilizer and irrigation facilities.

Per acre production cost of Irri-Boro is now nearly Taka 4800. Many farmers of the region unable to spend much an amount have now run into debt.

Other crops cannot be cultivated after harvesting Irri-Boro. As a result the cultivation of these varieties of paddy had become less profitable. Before the introduction of Irri-Boro the farmers could produce three Crops once a year.

The local varieties of paddy are said to be more nutritious than Irri-Boro.

Owing to the sharp fall on

Shortage of draught animals hamper cultivation

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, June 23: Acute shortage of draught animals is causing serious hindrance to cultivation in all the seven thanas of Satkhira district.

Nearly 70 per cent families having no bullocks of their own are unable to till their land. Most farmers carry on their agricultural works on share basis as they cannot afford to buy bullocks due to sharp rise in prices. At present a pair of bullock costs Taka 8,000 to 12,000 or sometimes more. It has been observed that farmers till their land with spades. Many of them even use milk cows to cultivate their land resulting in gradual reduction in the milk production.

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Owing to the sharp fall on

Two get six-year RI each for grabbing money

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, June 23: Sadar thana Magistrate Md Anwarul Islam Sarker sentenced Sulman Miah and Malai Miah to suffer 6 years Rigorous Imprisonment (RI) each and fined Taka one thousand in default to suffer three months jail on charges of grab the money by cheating. Accused Malai Miah is absconding.

The prosecution case in brief is that Sulman Miah and Malai Miah of village Andidil under Ashuganj thana of this district took cash from Musa Miah and other people amounting to Taka 50,000 telling that they would be provided with job. But both accused persons grab the money and did not provide them with jobs.

Later in this connection a case was filed in the sadar thana Magistrate court.

Woes of rly passengers

Lack of some basic amenities has made the local train journey of the passengers of this district troublesome.

The passengers travelling on local train running in this line Ballah-Bhairab Bazar, and Chandpur-Bhairab Bazar are facing a lot of problems.

Specially passengers of Mukandapur, Singer Bill, Akhaura, Gangasagar, Batsihala, Pagachang and Talshahar rail stations of this district are worst sufferer. Every day many office goers and other passengers travel by this trains from these stations to go to the district town Brahmanbaria.

Late arrival of Ballah train has become regular feature causing immense difficulties to the waiting passenger including office goers, women and old people.

The local train often run overcrowded only 3 to 4 small compartments including goods wagon are attached to the train.

Where as in comparison with the number of passengers the compartments attached to the train are not sufficient. For which heavy rush befall and passengers find it very difficult to board the compartments.

They often travel on the foot-board, roof of the train and in the goods wagon to the risk of life.

The compartments and toilets always found dirty. Sometimes it is found that some people are using the toilets and compartments as carrying their goods, particularly jackfruits, clothes and other materials instead of carrying them on goods wagon.

Anti-smoking rally held

Under the auspices of Chhatra Kallayan organisation of Nasiragar thana under this district organised an anti-smoking rally recently.

Professor Kripal Narayan Chowdhury of B'baria Pura College was present as chief guest while Dr A Rasul former Civil Surgeon and Arif Ifekhar joint secretary B'baria central Rotaract Club were present as special guests.

Syedur Rahman and Hannan Al-Mamun president and general secretary of the Chhatra Kallayan organisation led the rally.

Reception to new principal

A reception was accorded to newly appointed Principal

Attur Rahman at B'baria Government College.

Held at the teachers parishad auditorium of the college the meeting was presided over by Vice Principal of the college Md Mukleshur Rahman. It was addressed among others by general secretary of teachers parishad of the college Professor A.K.M. Harun-ur-Rashid, joint secretary Professor Mujibur Rahman, Associate Professor Iqbal Hussain, Associate Professor Md Ishaque, Assistant Professor Abdul Alim, Associate Professor Aminul Hoque and Barkatullah.

The newly appointed principal in his speech urged teachers, students and others to maintain the educational atmosphere in the college.

Drama staged

'Ajagar Mousumi' a play written by Professor Abdur Noor was staged at the town hall of the district by Udichi Shilpi Goshthi recently.

Dr A H M Faruqi presided over the function while Deputy Commissioner Md Abdul Matin was present as chief guest.

Paura chairman Al-Mamun Sarker, A G M Janata Bank, Dulal Krishna Dutta and Professor Harun-ur-Rashid were present as special guests.

Abahaman Titas

Under the auspices of Abahaman Titas stationed in Dhaka awarded scholarship to 45 students of the district at the local Model Girls High School auditorium recently.

Barrister Mujammel Hoque Bhuiya president of 'Abahaman Titas' was in the chair. State Minister for shipping advocate Harun-ur-Rashid and Deputy Commissioner Md Abdul Matin were present as chief guest and special guest respectively.

General secretary of Abahaman Titas Md Shamul Ahmed Khan, pura chairman Al-Mamun Sarker, Police Super Habibur Rahman and chairman of the Titas Trust Hamiduzzaman Chowdhury spoke on the occasion.

Cultural competition

A three day long literature and cultural competition organized by Nabinagar thana education committee in observance of the education week at the Nabinagar thana auditorium of this district concluded recently.

The competition inaugurated by Thana Nirbahi Officer of Nabinagar Mohiuddin Ahmed while in the concluding day Thana Education Officer Shahidul Kabir distributed prizes among the students.

Family Planning Department

The officers and employees of Family Planning Department of different thana under this district brought out procession demanding separate ministry and submitted the memorandum of 5-point demand to Thana Nirbahi Officer.

A meeting under the chairmanship of sadar thana family planning officer Md Jahangir Hussain was held at the thana parishad premises. In the meeting speakers demanded implementation of their five-point demand.

Erosion engulfing huge areas of land

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, June 23: With sharp rise in water level in the rivers Teesta, Brahmaputra and Ghagot erosion has taken alarming turn in different points along these river side.

The erosion affected vast areas of Jumarbari, Fulchari, Munshirhat, Raidusbari, Kambarjani, Belka, Tarapur, Kanchbari and Sunderganj. Besides, erosion of river Ghagot affected large portion of Bridge Road, David Co para and Shadherpara under Gaibandha pourashava. Meanwhile, erosion devoured many dwelling houses, hundreds of acres of cultivable land and large portion of roads. Erosion of rivers has become a threat to the inhabitants of the district residing on the banks of these rivers. Due to wide spread erosion number of homeless people has continued to increase every day.

Although local Water Development Board has taken measures to halt the erosion of different rivers spending crores of fund but all went in vain. They neither stop the erosion of any river nor produce any fruitful results. Water Development Board did not pay heed to the cry of town dwellers despite repeated appeals. Instead, last year the department sanctioned Taka

five crore for dropping concrete blocks at Raidusbari to protect Rasoolpur Sluice gate at the confluence of river Ghagot and Brahmaputra which is now on the verge of total extinction.

Another report adds: Government Local Supply Depot (LSD) godowns adjacent to Mohitaganj Railway Station is now on the verge of utter collapse due to continued erosion.

A large size ditch appeared at the northern foundation of godown number 3 due to heavy rainfall since last few days. As a result soil around the foundation of godown and staff quarters is starting to erode away.

During the Pakistan regime a total of Taka 15 lakh was spent to build three LSD godowns including office and residential quarters. The total capacity of these godown in 1800 metric tons. Just adjacent to these godowns lie a big horizontal ditch linked with Katakhal river. As a result major portion of the land under the godown has already been eroded by the ditch and the river.

This constant erosion may see the godowns, offices and the staff quarters to landless area if necessary steps are not taken in this respect.



SYLHET: Mendibag Government Primary School of Sylhet hit by the flood waters.

— Star photo