

Price hike of inputs, farmers badly suffer

From Our Correspondent BRAHMANBARIA, May 11: Farmers of the district have been facing manifold problems due to price hike of necessary inputs like seed, fertilizer, fuel, pesticides etc.

Most of the farmers depend on loans for cultivation. But they are not getting bank loans on easy terms. As such farmers are to take loans from greedy money lenders at high rates of interest to till their lands.

Exploiting the situation the local money-lenders are doing brisk business by giving loans at high rates of interest against the growing crops on the field. Later the farmers are being compelled to sell their crops to the money lenders at nominal rates as they fail to pay the loans and its high interest due to hardship.

The link roads between rural areas and the district town are not good. As a result the carrying cost of the agricultural inputs and outputs become high hampering the net profit of the farmer.

Farmers are compelled to buy fertilizer and pesticides at high prices due to malpractice of some dealers of the district, it is alleged. They stock the fertilizer in their own godowns and create an artificial crisis.

Then the farmers, finding no other alternatives, are forced to buy the fertilizer at three or four times higher the rate.

The farmers are to pay the irrigation charge about Tk 600.00 per 30 decimal only for a season as scheme managers are being compelled to buy fuel and lubricating oil at high rate from dishonest dealers.

Some of electrified irrigations in IRRIs fields are hampered much due to irregular power supply by PDB, Brahmanbaria.

According to informed sources, "khura", "golafula" and other diseases of the cattle have broken out in the rural areas including Shahjadpur, Malish, Niamatpur under Sarail thana of the district.

Cultivators depend on the non-professional doctors. No effective measures have yet been taken by the veterinary department of the district to check the "khura", "golafula" and other diseases.

As a result, smooth cultivation has been greatly hampered. The cultivators have no means to till their lands while a part of fertile land remains out of cultivation due to manifold problems.

Clash leaves 10 injured

SATKHIRA, May 11: At least 10 workers were injured, two seriously, in a clash between two groups of the CBA of the Sundarban Textile Mills here Monday, reports UNB.

Mills sources said, two groups of workers, one led by CBA President and Srani League leader Abdullah Sarder and another led by CBA Secretary Shahidul Islam of BNP earlier in the morning sat in a meeting to solve their internal conflicts but failed to reach a solution.

Later a clash erupted at noon in which both the groups used sticks, brickbats and stones during their half an hour chase and counter chase. Police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control. A contingent of police has been deployed inside the mills.

SPGRC meeting held in Khulna

KHULNA, May 11: A meeting of Stranded Pakistanis General Repatriation Committee (SPGRC) was held at its office Friday, reports UNB.

Presided over by the founder of the organisation Ejaz Ahmed Siddiqui, the meeting discussed various matters relating to repatriation of the Pakistanis who remained stranded in Bangladesh for the last 23 years.

The Speakers reiterated their demand for issuing identity cards and Pakistani passports by the Pakistan embassy in Bangladesh and grant of subsistence allowances through the government of Pakistan. They also demanded the voting rights of the stranded Pakistanis during the general election of Pakistan.

The committee expressed deep shock at the recent painful happenings in the Pakistan province of Sindh in which members of Mohajir Quasmi Movement and innocent people were subjected to inhuman atrocities by what they said they ruling party.

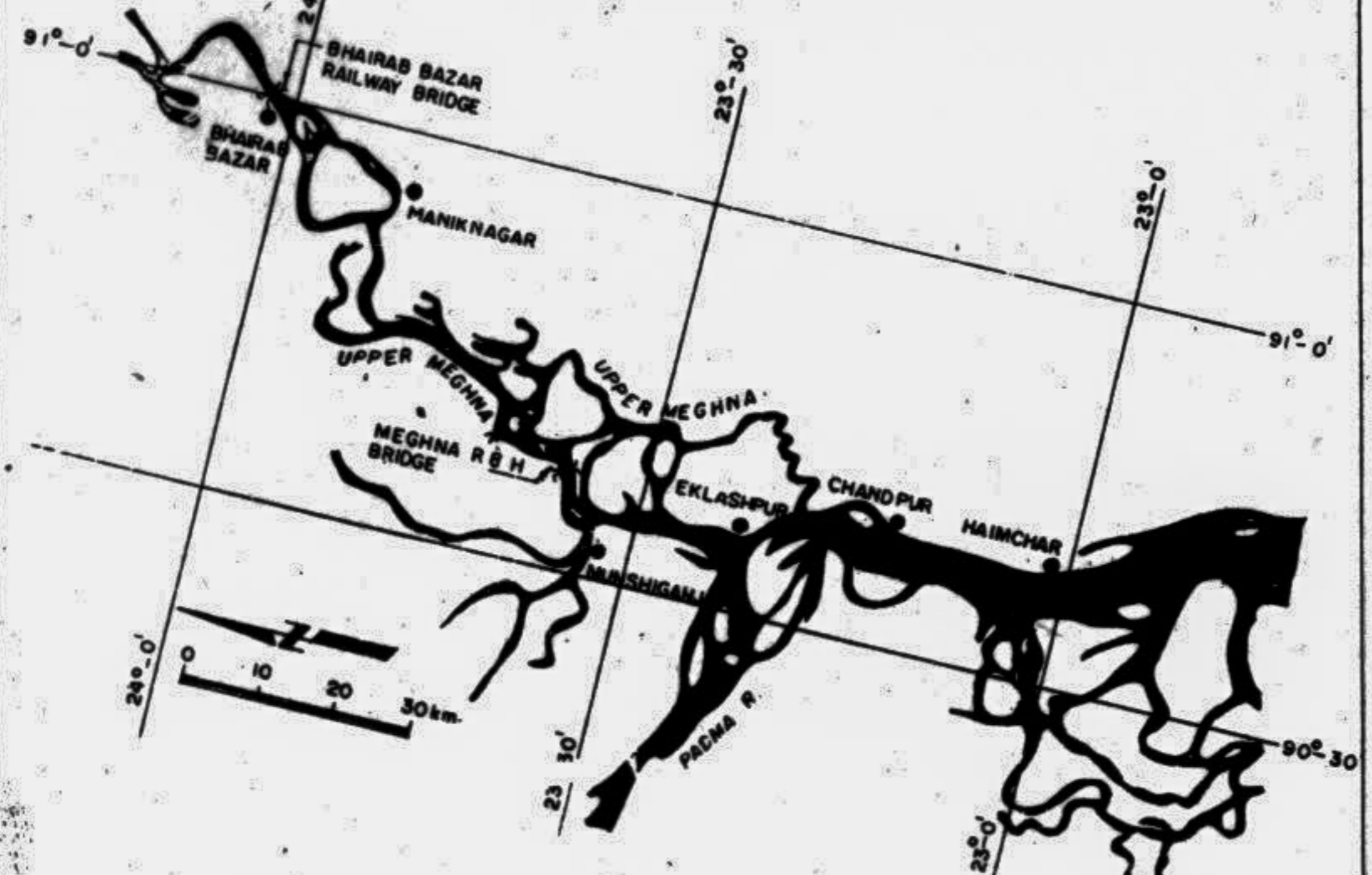
They also demanded to maintain peace in the area and arrest of those who are responsible for such terrorist acts. The meeting further demanded compensation for the members of the disturbed families and also for their relief and rehabilitation so that peaceful condition prevails in the entire area.

BWDB approves project Tk 300 cr Meghna embankment project not yet implemented

CHANDPUR, May 11: Taka three hundred crore Meghna survey report sponsored by Bangladesh Water Development Board could not be implemented due to shortage of fund and necessary initiatives. Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) had undertaken a scheme to conduct thorough survey on the erosion of the river Meghna at a

From Our Correspondent map. Experts studied the effects of waves hitting the river embankments during peak seasons when Meghna water level increases. They also conducted experiments on how to solve the problems. Following detail studies, the committee had submitted a survey report on the findings of Meghna erosion. Solutions

preparing such project to implement the work. Besides, the construction of few more major embankments were also proposed by the committee along the river from Bhairab Bazar point to Chandpur point. The work of the project, approved by the BWDB, at Chandpur point was supposed to be started during this current season. However, it is un-



cost of Tk ten crore. The Board formed a committee named "Meghna Survey" which also included a number of foreign experts on hydrology. The committee conducted the survey exclusively to find out the causes of erosion in the river Meghna. The area of survey study was from Bhairab Bazar point to Chandpur (as shown in the

map) were proposed which included construction of a huge embankment along Chandpur river port to save the town from continuous erosion. An estimated cost of Tk 300 crore was agreed by the committee members to cover the embankment construction cost. This proposal was forwarded to the Bangladesh Water Development Board for

understood that the work could not be started (first phase work) largely due to fund shortage. Meanwhile, continuous erosion by the river Meghna at different points has started to engulf fresh areas of land along the river. The river port of Chandpur, a famous port, is also threatened by the erosion of mighty Meghna river.

Seeds kept in godowns in Jamalpur BADC playing leading role in short supply of jute seeds

JAMALPUR, May 11: The target of jute cultivation in all the seven thanas of the district may not be achieved during the current season for want at seeds.

According to reliable sources, Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) preserves seeds in its godowns to supply among the growers in all the seven thanas of the district.

About 50,000 acres of land have been brought under cultivation during the current season. The thanas are: Sarishabari, Dewanganj, Bakshiganj, Madarganj, Melandah, Islampur and Sadar.

The change in distribution system of seeds by the BADC this year has depended the supply crisis. It is learnt that seeds are being sold to approved dealers at wholesale rates by the BADC from the godowns. The dealers are selling the seeds to the growers at higher rates, it is reported.

It is alleged that genuine growers are not getting the seeds from BADC godowns. The growers complained that BADC seeds are sold on blackmarket. The BADC seeds are available in the different hats and bazars.

Farmers of the district have urged the government to ensure supply of seeds in the

From Our correspondent greater interest of the country. Farmers said, one kg of jute seed selling at Tk 40.00 to 60 in different hats and bazars whereas, BADC rate of per kg seeds at fixed Tk 27.50 only.

Tolls at higher rate realised The buyers and sellers of the hats and bazars in the district have been suffering much for the collection of tolls at higher rate by the leaseholders, it is alleged.

The leaseholders realise tolls at inflated rates in flagrant violating the official orders in the hats and bazars of Dewanganj, Melandah, Madarganj, Bakshiganj and sadar thanas. While collecting the tolls official chart mentioning rates of tolls for articles is not shown at all anywhere, it is alleged.

Tolls are realised according to the whims of the leaseholders. No receipts are given against these realisations which often leads to row and even scuffles.

Local people alleged that though tolls are supposed to be realised on fixed days the leaseholders realise the same on all the seven days of the week at enhanced rates. It is widely complained that toll is realised every day but nothing is done for the improvement at the hats and bazars.

Local people urged the concerned authorities to look into the matter and take steps against the dishonest leaseholders without further delay.

Cattle-disease breaks out About 500 cattlehead died and 10,000 other have been attacked in all seven thanas of the district during the last six month, according to an unofficial source.

The affected thanas are: Sadar, Sarishabari, Melandah, Dewanganj, Bakshiganj, Madarganj and Islampur. Cattle diseases locally known as Khuragolafula, and "Bugur Sua" have broken out alarmingly in the said thanas causing grave concern among the farmers.

Villagers said, the diseases affect the throat and mouth of the cattle milk cows and calves are worst victims of the diseases. Shortage of necessary medicines in the local markets for the treatment are the worst sufferers as they cannot purchase cattlehead to plough their lands.

Local people urged the concerned authority to take proper steps to check the outbreak of the cattle diseases and come forward with short term loan for the affected farmers to enable them to purchase cattlehead on an emergency basis.

Engineers asked to complete road improvement work in two yrs

SIRAJGANJ, May 11: Communications Minister Oli Ahmad has directed the engineers and the concerned authority to complete the massive road improvement works in the northern districts in two years in place of three years, reports BSS.

The directive came when the minister was inspecting the construction of the Road Improvement Project (RIP) on Sunday now being implemented at a cost of about 325 crore Taka. Local MP Qumruddin Yahia Khan Majlish was with the minister.

The project is aiming at widening and raising of over 148 km of national highways from Peerganj to Rangpur, Ullapara to Nagarbari and Kashinathpur to Shurdi via Pabna.

The project, being implemented under seven contracts. When completed, the highways will be elevated to international standard with a width of 40 feet including 24 feet blacktop. Besides, bridges and culverts on these roads are being rehabilitated.

The communications minister was apprised that during the last eight months since the commencement of works in June '93 about 30 per cent progress had been achieved. He directed the executing agencies to augment the pace of construction works so that it could be completed in two years against the stipulated period of three years.

The project, as part of more than 500 crore Taka comprehensive project for the improvement of roads in the northern districts will directly benefit the people of Pabna, Sirajganj, Rangpur and Dinajpur districts.

Police foils dacoity attempt

JHENIDAH, May 11: Police foiled a bus dacoity attempt and arrested three alleged dacoits in Kaliganj thana of the district on Sunday, reports UNB.

Police said, a gang of dacoits stopped a Khulna-bound night coach and a truck by raising barricade on Jhenidah-Jessore road in the early hours of the day.

The dacoits started looting the valuables of the passengers and the truck. In the meantime, a squad of patrol police arrived at the scene. Sensing the police presence most of the dacoits managed to escape the scene but police caught Abdul Mannan red handed.

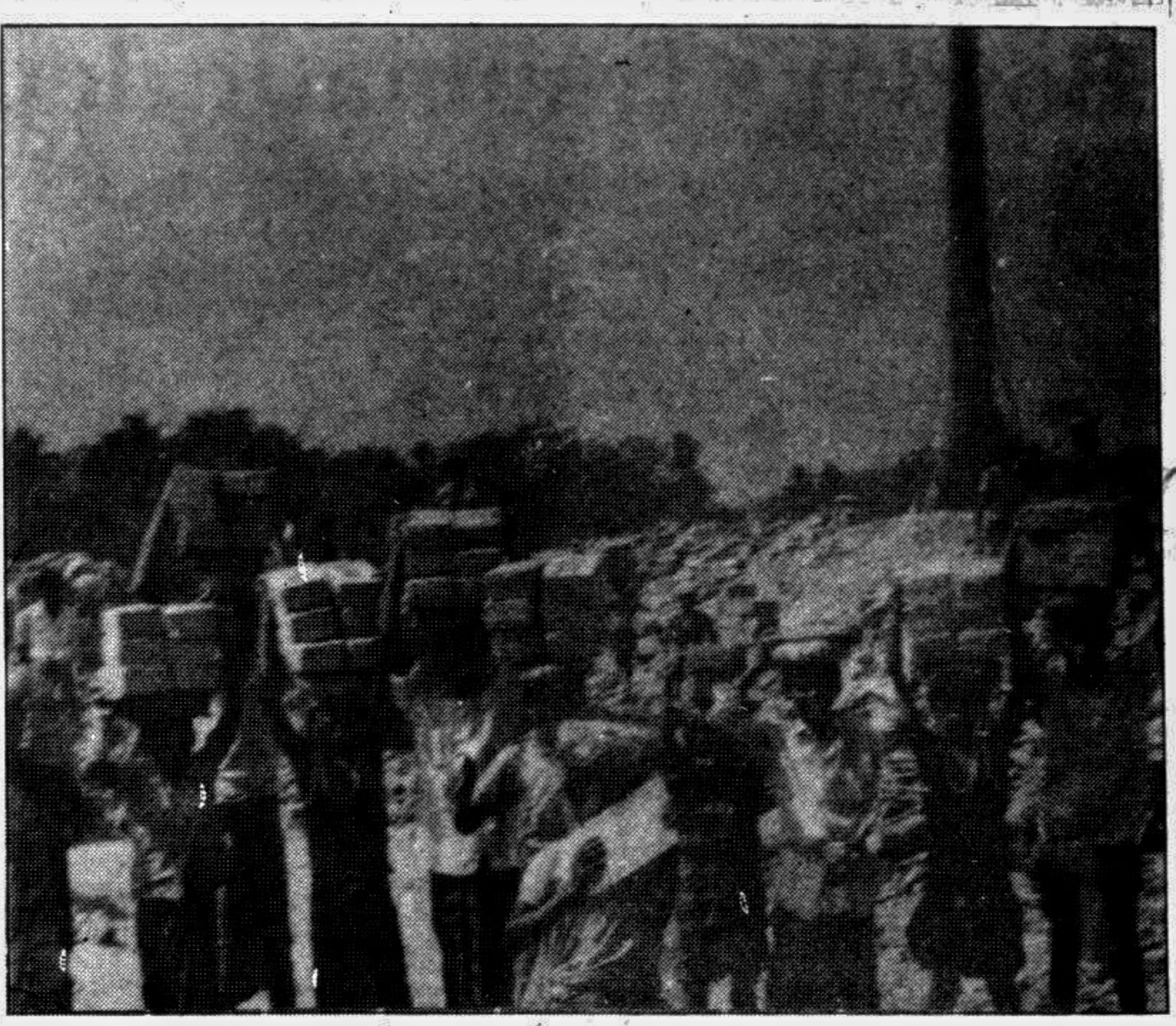
Later, police also nabbed two of his accomplices on the basis of his confessional statement. A potato trader, Ayub Hossain and the truck driver received stab injuries by the dacoits during dacoity.

One gets life-term for murder in Chittagong

CHITTAGONG, May 11: The Third Additional District and Sessions Judge here Mozilul Islam, yesterday awarded life term to one Zahurul Huq and fined him Taka five thousand in default to suffer another six months, on charge of murder, reports BSS.

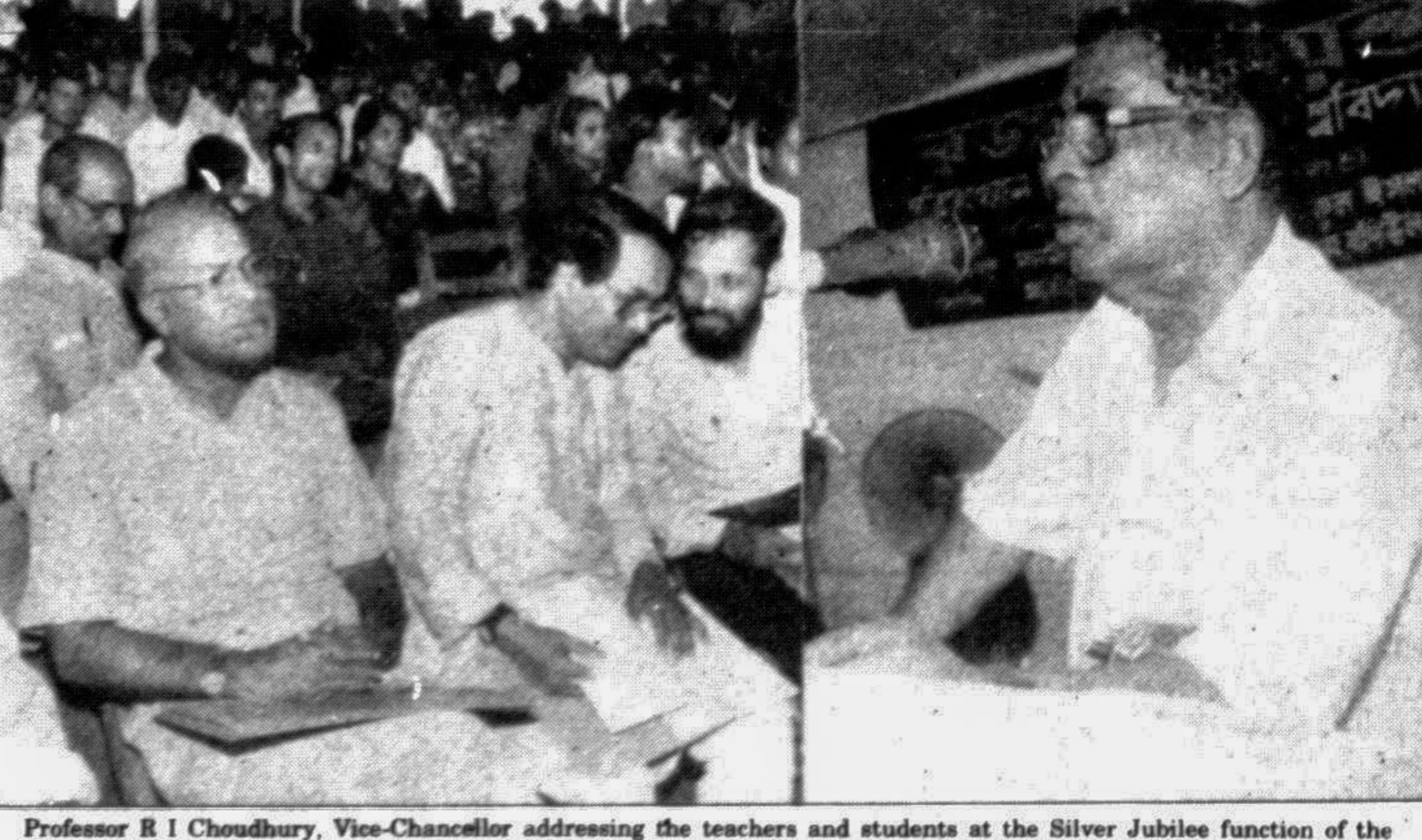
The judge acquitted two persons as charges against them could not be proved.

The prosecution story is that accused Zahurul Huq, Nazrul Islam and Muhammad Hashem exploded crackers and seriously injured Nurul Absar, a shop assistant at Katalogonj on March 9, 1988, with a view to snatching away cash from him. Nurul Absar died at the medical college hospital.



These children are supposed to attend schools but instead they are found working as day labourers like in this brick manufacturing factory in Noakhali district. — Star photo

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয় (সওজ)
নারায়ণগঞ্জ সড়ক বিভাগ
শিমরাইল, নারায়ণগঞ্জ
সওজ দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী বিজ্ঞপ্তি
১। দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নম্বর : ১৩৬/নারায়ণগঞ্জ সড়ক বিভাগ, সন ১৯৯৩-৯৪ ইং।
২। কাজের নাম : ১৯৯৩-৯৪ ইং অর্থ বৎসরে নারায়ণগঞ্জ সড়ক বিভাগের আওতাধীন বিভিন্ন সড়কের বিভিন্ন কিলোমিটারে প্রতিরক্ষামূলক গাইড ওয়াল, পেভমেন্ট এবং মেইনটেন্যান্স সিলেক্টকরণ কাজ ১০ (দশ) মাসে বিস্তৃত।
৩। প্রাপ্তি নম্বর, কাজের নাম ও অবস্থান, প্রাকল্পিত মূল্য, বায়ারের টাকা, সময় বরাদ্দ, ঠিকাদারের যোগ্যতা ইত্যাদি



Professor R I Choudhury, Vice-Chancellor addressing the teachers and students at the Silver Jubilee function of the Department of Statistics, Chittagong University recently. The function was held at the varsity campus. — CU photo