

4 killed, over 40 injured in road mishaps

From Staff Correspondent
SYLHET, Sept 26: A 40-year-old businessman was killed and two others were injured when a speeding truck rammed into a roadside saloon at Naiorpur area of Sylhet town Sunday night.

The accident occurred at about 11 pm. The victim, Chand Miah, was declared dead when he was rushed to the Sylhet M A G Osmany Medical College Hospital.

In another accident, a truck driver was killed and at least forty others received injuries Sunday afternoon on Sylhet-Golapganj road. The truck from Golapganj was on its way to Sylhet town when it collided head-on with a passenger bus at Kuchai, about three miles off Sylhet town. The truck driver, Safar Uddin, 40, was declared dead and 28 injured were admitted to the medical college hospital.

A BSS report from Tangail adds: Two persons were allegedly killed and seventeen others were injured in a road accident recently near Dhalla on Dhaka-Tangail highway.

The accident occurred when a bus skidded off the road. The injured persons were admitted to Kumudinee hospital. A case was registered with Mirzapur thana.

Two awarded 10 yrs' RI in Jhenidah

JHENIDAH, Sept 26: Two people were sentenced to 10 years rigorous imprisonment each in two separate cases for possessing illegal arms, court sources said Sunday. reports UNB.

According to prosecution story, police on patrol duty in village Kashmire in thana arrested Asir, Anwarul and Masum alias Milton on July 7 last year and recovered a pipe gun from their possession.

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

After examining the witnesses and records Assistant Tribunal Judge awarded 10 years RI to Asir and acquitted two others last week.

In another case, the same Judge convicted one Tayeb Ali and sentenced him to 10 years RI for possessing illegal arms and acquitted two others. He was also fined Tk 2000 in default to suffer two months more.

Tk two lakh looted from shops, 4 hurt

KISHOREGANJ, Sept 26: A gang of armed miscreants attacked two shops at Nandail thana headquarters in broad day light and looted cash Tk two lakh on Friday, reports UNB.

At least four people including one shop-owner were injured in the attack. They beat the employees of shops and hit with ramda on the head of the one shop-owner, Rabindra Paul, injuring him seriously.

According to witnesses, armed miscreants numbering about 50 led by one Abdul Barek, stormed the shops of Rabindra Paul and Anil Paul at about 5 pm.

On hearing the hue and cry, the people of the bazar and nearby village chased the miscreants and managed to catch 15 of them.

Later, police came to the spot and arrested them. A case was registered with Nandail police under Anti-terrorism Act.

Number of dropouts in schools falling

RAJBARI, Sept 26: State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahanara Begum said, the number of dropout students in primary schools have been decreasing in the country, says UNB.

This was the result of the priority given by the government in this sector to ensure education for all, she added.

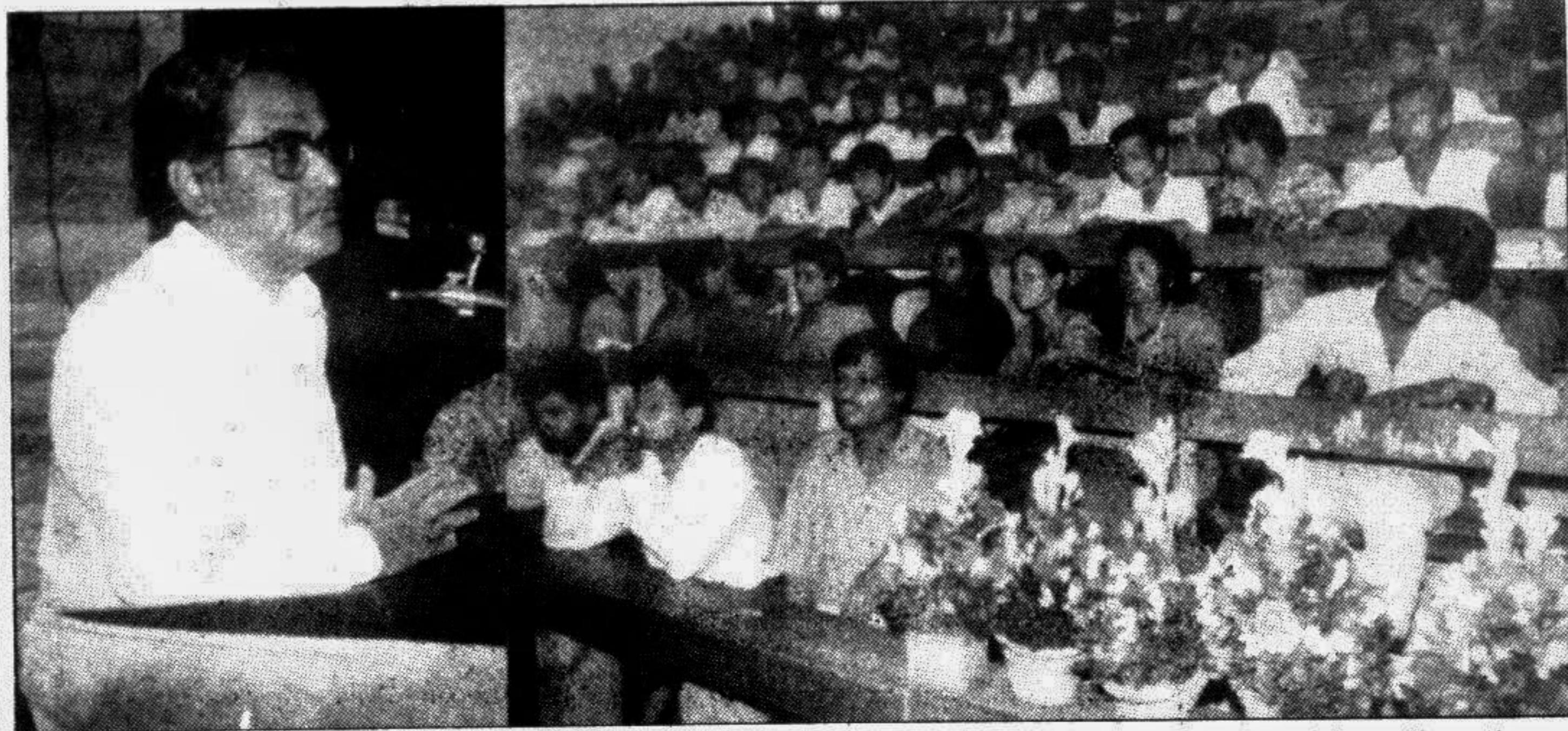
Prof Jahanara Begum was addressing a meeting while inaugurating the Shahidnagar Primary School at Bohorpur on Saturday. UP chairman Habibur Rahman presided, said an official handout.

She said Food for Education Programme of the government has been launched in the country to hold the students in the schools.

Referring to the need for women education, the state minister said, 'without educating the half portion of population, country's expected national development can not be achieved.'

She said, the present government believed in politics of development. But a section of opposition parties were trying to hinder the political stability of the country.

She called upon the people to be well alert against evil designs of the vested quarters.



Professor M Badil Alam, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Chittagong University is addressing the reception and farewell meeting for the students of the Department of Physics held recently at the Science Gallery. — CU photo

Continuous drought

Aman paddy worth Taka 10 crore likely to be damaged in Pabna

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Sept 26: Due to an unprecedented and continuous drought agriculture production has been badly affected in Pabna district.

According to an official source, the district is going to face a net loss of paddy worth Taka ten crore during the current season due to drought.

Meanwhile, sudden rise in the prices of grains have further aggravated the situation.

According to the Agriculture Extension Department (AED) of Pabna zone, the target of cultivating transplanted aman paddy in the district on 41,326 hectares of land could not be achieved due to continuous drought and flood in river Padma. The AED officials said that cultivation of the said crop could be possible on over 35,969 hectares of land out of the above mentioned targeted area. They further said that of

Taka ten crore.

Affected areas, according to the department, are Pabna sadar, Atgharia, Ishurdi, Chatmohar, Bhangora, Faridpur, Santhia and Sujanagar thanas of the district.

Relief for the middle and poor peasants and Food For Work programme are badly needed to rehabilitate those rural people.

Our correspondent from Chuadanga adds: Standing transplanted aman paddy cultivated on over 30 thousand hectares of land in four thanas of Chuadanga district are likely to be damaged due to persisting drought prevailing in the district.

Deputy Director of the district Agriculture Extension Department Mohammad Monsur Rahman said, "we are trying our best to mobilise the cultivators of the district to use their deep tube wells, shallow tube wells for the irrigation purpose so that they can overcome the current water crisis." He has also asked his thana level officers and field workers to visit the villages and talk to the cultivators for using their machines. There are over 400 deep tube wells, 8000 shallow tube wells and about 500 pumps which can supply water to the drought hit aman paddy fields.

Another report from Jhenidah adds: Production of

The impact of such crop failure is disastrous for the district so far as its economy is concerned. About 60 per cent of the marginal farmers have been affected badly and, since they have already invested whatever they had, they find no other means to cultivate alternate crops. The landless peasants are worst hit since they have been completely unemployed. The number of such unemployed agri-labourers exceeds one lakh. These one lakh agricultural labourers, along with their dependents, numbering about five lakh more, have been thrown into

utter miseries with no alternative arrangements for their rehabilitation.

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According to the Agriculture Extension

Department has further estimated

that out of the targeted area of

46,000 hectares of land for

cultivation of traditional

ordinary variety of aman paddy,

about 9,000 hectares have

been severely affected by

drought and already there has

been complete damage of

crops on about 2,000 hectares

During the last rainy season

the rainfall in the district was

also insufficient as a result the

cultivation target of transplanted aman paddy in the

district failed.

Visiting some of affected

areas it was found that the

crop fields still appeared

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When contracted the

During the current season a total of 30 thousand hectares of land have been brought under transplanted aman paddy cultivation in four thanas of the district which include Chuadanga sadar, Alandanga, Damurhuda and Jibanagar. However for want of adequate rainfall the standing transplanted aman paddy are likely to be damaged. During the last 15 days there has been no significant rainfall in the district.

Abnormal fall in rainfall throughout the district has seriously affected the cultivation of Aus and T-Aman, farmers said.

According to the Agriculture Extension Office here, the production target 2.09 lakh metric tons of paddy during the current season would not be achieved, as 74,172 hectares out of 84,510 hectares of land could somehow be brought under cultivation in the district.

The irrigation facilities available are mainly used during the dry seasons for cultivation of Borro paddy and wheat.

During the last rainy season the rainfall in the district was also insufficient as a result the cultivation target of transplanted aman paddy in the district failed.

When contacted, sources at Met-Office in Dhaka said that the rainfall is less due to the end of the current monsoon. Rainfall during September 2 to October 2 in Khulna Division will range in between 180 and 230 mm.

The normal rainfall in the division for the period is 236 mm, it added.

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