

4 killed as bus skids off road

PABNA, Dec 11: Four people were killed and 30 injured, five seriously, when a bus skidded off the Pabna-Nagarbari highway and plunged into a ditch Saturday, reports UNB. Police and witnesses said, Mokbul Hossain 60 and Nayeb Ali Pramanik 65, expired on way to hospital while an unidentified passenger and Khayer Pramanik died on the spot.

The overloaded Pabna-bound bus from Nagarbari skidded off the road trying to overtake another bus near Pushpapara at about 12.30 pm. Twentyone of the injured were admitted to Pabna General Hospital.

Among them, Emdadul Haq, 30, Elahi Box, 50, Qudus Mridha, 25, Monsur, 28 and Motaleb Hossain, 30 were said to be in critical condition. The driver and the helper of the bus fled. A case was filed in the sadar thana.

Robbers loot valuables worth Tk 1 lakh from boat passengers

CHANDPUR, Dec 11: Cash and valuables worth one lakh taka were looted and 30 passengers sustained injuries when a gang of pirates swooped on a launch in the river Meghna on Monday, says UNB.

Police sources said, the Chandpur-bound launch M V Trina with 170 passengers was coming from Narayanganj. When it reached near Shanto, about 25 kms north of Chandpur, the pirates numbering 20 to 22, who were travelling in the guise of passengers, forced the Sareng to drive the vessel towards Char Gazaria of Munshiganj.

When the launch reached the area, the dacoits beat the passengers indiscriminately and decamped with the booty. Meanwhile, the three passengers, who jumped into the river for fear of life, are still missing.

Two critically wounded passengers were admitted to Chandpur sadar hospital. A case was filed with the police.

Computer stolen from school room

From Our Correspondent
FARIDPUR, Dec 11: A computer of Faridpur High School in the heart of the town was stolen from a well protected room on the first floor of a two storied building on the night of Friday. The miscreants unlocked the three locks of the room and got off with the computer installed at a cost of Tk about 70,000 only a few months ago.

The Faridpur high school is the lone institution in the greater district of introduce computer lessons as per directive of education ministry to impart modern technology to the students.

A case has been lodged with the Kotwali police.

Buses fined for carrying excess passengers

PATUAKHALI, Dec 11: A mobile court led by a first class Magistrate fined six coasters for carrying passengers beyond capacity and realised Tk 8,000 as fine, reporter UNB. The buses of Patuakhali-Barisal route carry passengers beyond capacity at high risk of accident and the conductors charge excessive fare, local people alleged.

On the basis of complaints from the local people, the mobile court led by Magistrate Mashur Rahman checked the buses recently and realised the fine from the bus owners.

The passengers alleged that after the realisation of fine the bus owners at many routes started realising high fare from them.



RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY: The Vice-Chancellor of the university Prof M Eusuf Ali addressing the freshers reception of Monnojan Hall recently. — Star photo

Sonali Bank to give Tk 20 cr as loan to farmers in S-dists

JHENIDAH, Dec 11: The local branch of Sonali Bank will distribute Taka two crore seventy lakh among the farmers of 16 southern districts for wheat cultivation this fiscal year.

According to a source of the Taka 20 lakh will be disbursed for the farmers of Jhenidah district. Taka 80 lakh for Jessore and Satkhira districts each. Taka 10 lakh for Magura, Narail, Khulna, Bagerhat, Meherpur, Barisal, Jhalakathi, Bhola, Pirojpur, Patuakhali and Barguna districts each. Taka 15 lakh for Kusthia and Chuadanga districts each will be distributed by end of December this year. The farmers of these districts will be provided loans for land preparation and to purchase seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and agricultural equipment, the source said.

Pulse cultivation programme
According to another report, Agriculture Extension Department has taken an am-

bitious programme for pulse cultivation in 10 southern districts of Khulna Division on 94 thousand four hundred hectares in current fiscal year, a source said.

The districts are Jhenidah, Jessore, Magura, Narail, Khulna, Bagerhat, Satkhira, Kusthia, Chuadanga and Meherpur. A number of demonstration plots will be arranged to draw the attention of the farmers the source added. About 69 thousand nine hundred metric tons of pulse will be produced in these 10 districts, the source added.

Another report says, Magura thana police recovered one pipegun and three bullets and arrested two dacoits from village Delubari in Salikha thana of the district recently. Report says, acting on a secret information police raided a house and recovered the arms. Police arrested Sabur and Bakiar Mollah. The arrested were reportedly taking preparations for dacoity, police said.

Price also arrested Bashi and Jakir from village Bhatpara-Satrujtipur in same thana and recovered a pipegun from them recently.

Separate cases were filed with Magura thana in these connection. Another report says, Abdul Mannan Sardar, 45, of village Goalpara in Sreepur thana of Magura district was killed by his rival groups recently.

Police said, the deceased, Mannan Sardar was returning home from a local market at about 8 pm. Some miscreants numbering 14 to 15 attacked him with sharp weapon and looted all his belongings leaving the victim seriously injured.

He was rushed to Magura hospital in critical condition and succumbed to his injuries. Village enmity following a dispute over a piece of land was the cause of this murder police said.

A case was lodged with Sreepur thana in this connection. But police could not arrest any one yet.

Property worth Tk one cr gutted in Kishoreganj

KISHOREGANJ, Dec 11: A devastating fire that broke out at Niamatpur Bazar in Karimganj thana on Thursday night gutted property worth about Tk one crore, says UNB.

According to witnesses, fire originating from electric short circuit in a shop soon engulfed the adjacent 32 business establishments including seven jute godowns, one ice-cream factory, a pharmacy and some hotels and restaurants.

At least 1500 maunds of jute were destroyed in the fire. On information, firemen from sadar thana rushed to the spot and after frantic efforts brought the fire under control.

A BSS report from Jamalpur adds: Property worth about Taka six lakh was gutted in two devastating fires in the district recently.

A fire incident in Bir Ghosher Para village under Ghosher para union in Melandah thana burnt to ashes thirty three tin sheds, cash and kinds worth Taka four lakh were lost in the incidents. According to reports twenty-seven families were rendered homeless.

In another fire incident at village Binaderpara in Kendua union under sadar thana, property worth about Taka two lakh were gutted.

The cause of the fire could not be ascertained.

One drowns, two commits suicide

BHOLA, Dec 11: A man drowned and another allegedly committed suicide at Borhanuddin and sadar thanas of the district, police said, says UNB.

Mofazzal Hossain, master of a motor-launch drowned in the river Meghna on November 29 when he was measuring the water level from the deck of the launch.

His body was found in the river eight kms away from the accident spot after two days.

Meanwhile, one Nirob, 25, of Borhanuddin village of Borhanuddin thana allegedly committed suicide on the same day by taking poison.

Family feud was said to be the reason behind the suicide. A case has been filed with the police.

Another report from Jamalpur says: A man allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself from a tree, police said here recently.

According to family sources, Abu Bakar Siddique, 28, of Shyamganj-Kalibari in Madarganj thana was doing business at sadar thana residing at his maternal uncle's house at Valuka village.

But on the night of November 29 he allegedly committed suicide. The reason behind the incident could not be known.

Meanwhile, police said a case was filed against Abu Bakar on November 27, two days before his tragic death.

BAU GTI course ends

AGRI-VARSITY (Mymensingh), Dec 11: Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr Shah Muhammad Farouk stressed the need for education and cultural development of the university students in order to build honest leadership of the country, says a BAU press release.

Speaking as chief guest at the certificate awarding ceremony of the higher training course on Administration, Office Management, and Communication organised by the Graduate Training Institute (GTI) of the Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), the Vice-Chancellor called upon the students to utilise their knowledge and skills gained through the training course for the production oriented agricultural development of Bangladesh.

Professor Dr Md Tazul Islam, GTI Director presided over the function. Professor Md Mustafizur Rahman, Professor Md Amir Hossain, Course Coordinator Md Mozahar Ali and others spoke on the occasion.

Later, the Vice-Chancellor awarded the certificates to the 50 participants drawn from the six faculties of BAU.

Lathials prepare for war in char areas of Chandpur

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Dec 11: With the beginning of harvesting new aman crops, the small farmers of different char areas of Chandpur district are passing their days and nights in agonising tension. 'Char' means accreted land in and around the river Meghna and Padma. These char land have emerged in the rivers where poor farmers cultivate crops. These land are called 'khash land' some important char lands are Balur Char, Raj-Rasherwar Char, Ibrahimpur, Hanarchar, Himchar, Char Bhairavi, Nilkamal, Char Kashem, Borow Char.

The farmers of char land are apprehending attack from lathials. The land lords in char area hire these professional lathials to snatch away the harvest paddy from the farmers.

It is reported that lathials all over the char land are preparing their country made weapons such as bamboo sticks, mounted with spearheads to swoop on the farmers. Preparation of these group of miscreants are already observed. They also use firearms in their operation.

The terror unleashed on

the poor farmers by the lathials are age old common feature in the char areas for a long time.

Looting of harvested crop, arson, torture and killing of local people are continuing for a long time. But this is happening in the area for a long time. Such violence in the char areas has claimed several lives leaving hundreds injured every year. The lathials looted crops worth crores of taka and set fire to dwellings houses belonging to the poor peasants.

The clashes and violence

over the harvested crops occur mainly due to disputes over the ownership of newly accreted land. Their claims are often challenged by rival landlords having forged documents. Absence of proper border demarcation of district in the char areas is one of the causes of the dispute.

A large number of cases were filed by rival claimants of the chars remain pending in the courts for years. These unsettled litigation also contribute to the violence in the char areas.



New charland emerged in the river Meghna in Chandpur. — Star photo

'Poor must not suffer for any lapses, mistakes committed by lawyers'

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Dec 11: The senior-most member of Pabna Bar, Advocate M. Abdus Sabur, who is also the eldest son-in-law of the great leader late Moulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani called upon the members of the bar to uphold rule of law, to devote themselves sincerely and honestly to their profession of legal practice so that public, specially the poor do not have to suffer for any lapses mistakes or negligence committed by lawyers.

Advocate Abdus Sabur was speaking at a reception organised by the Pabna District Advocates Bar Association in the Bar library auditorium, upon completion of 50 years of legal practice by him. This is for the first time that Pabna Bar accorded such a reception to any senior member of the Bar in its history of about long 120 years. Advocate Abdur Razzaque, Pabna District Bar, presided.

Mohammad Ali Khan, District and Sessions' Judge, Pabna, attended this function as the chief guest while Ashiquil Haque Choudhury, Deputy Commissioner, Pabna, as the special guest.

This rare function was addressed, among others, by Shahidul Islam Sub-judge, Pabna, Advocate Amzad Hossain, Advocate Golam Hasnain, Advocate Abdul Hamid, Advocate Saiful Islam Sirajee, Advocate Abdul Matin Miah.

In course of their speeches, the above-mentioned speakers paid tributes to senior most and eminent Advocate Abdus Sabur for enviable professional fame he earned during the long 50 years of practice. They also mentioned that Advocate Abdus Sabur had not only a remarkable professional career of half-a-century covering British, Pakistani and Bangladesh regimes but was also much renowned for his professional dignity integrity and honesty, hardly found now a days among the lawyers. They all prayed for a longer and healthy life for this reputed lawyer.

During their speeches, the

District Judge and the Deputy Commissioner of Pabna, landed the members of Pabna Bar for showing such honour to their senior and expressed satisfaction that they could avail the opportunity of attending such a function of rare nature. They also paid rich tributes to Advocate M Abdus Sabur for his immense contribution made to the field of legal profession.

Judge Magistrates, layers, political leaders, businessmen and persons from various sections attended the function. Begum Sabur also attended the function.

Tauter president of Pabna Bar, Advocate Abdur Razzaque profusely garlanded Advocate M. Abdus Sabur and secretary of the Bar, Advocate Abdul Matin Miah, presented token gifts to Advocate Abdus Sabur in the happy occasion of his completion of long 50 years on the profession.

All the participants were later supplied with light refreshment.

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PABNA: Advocate Abdus Sabur addressing a reception accorded to him on the occasion of completion of his long 50 years of legal practice. Begum Sabur is seen sitting on his right. Advocate Abdur Razzaque, President of Pabna Bar sitting on the far right. — Star photo

JEXCA's voluntary services appreciated

From Staff Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Dec 11: The seventh reunion of the Jhenidah Ex-cadets' Association (JEXCA) began at the Jhenidah Cadet College ground here yesterday.

Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Abu Saleh Mohammad Nasim declared the two-day festival open at a colourful parade. The parade was followed by a discussion meeting held at the college auditorium.

Chaired by the JEXCA president, Sajjad Hayat, the meeting was also addressed by Lt Gen Nasim as chief guest, Maj Gen Amin Ahmed Chowdhury, chairman of the governing bodies of the cadet colleges, and Maj Gen Mostafizur Rahman, GOC of the Jessore Army Division, as special guests. Principal of the college Lt Col Md Mosharrif Hossain Miah, JEXCA executives Dr Mamunur Rahman and Naser Shahedi also spoke.

In his speech, General Nasim urged the cadets to carry out their duties with a missionary zeal and dedication. He urged the present cadets of

the college to devote themselves to their studies and live a disciplined life.

He highly appreciated the JEXCA activities, especially its voluntary social activities and called upon the association to keep up its good works.

Gen Nasim recalled the glorious role of the college during the Liberation War when many faculty members of the institution embraced martyrdom.

Four held for killing father

SATKHIRA, Dec 11: Police arrested four people of Proshadpur village in Tala thana on Friday on charges of killing their father, reports UNB.

According to police, the arrested Daud, Shafige, Jaharakh and Liaguat were demanding share of the land property of their father Ibrahim, 65, for a long time. But Ibrahim to satisfy his three other wives has been refusing the demand of the four sons of his first wife.

Problem grips in tuberculosis hospital of Brahmanbaria

BRAHMANBARIA, Dec 11: Patients and staff of Brahmanbaria Tuberculosis Hospital have been suffering badly due to shortage of accommodation, pure drinking water and deplorable condition of the building, reports UNB.

Established in 1960, the only 20-bed TB hospital in this region is covering Comilla, Noakhali, Habiganj, Kishoreganj and Narasingdi districts.

According to the officials, at least 50 to 60 patients go back everyday failing to get themselves admitted into the hospital due to lack of sufficient number of beds. Sometimes, the patients have to wait for months to get themselves admitted here it is learnt.

Hospital authorities said at least more 100 beds are needed to meet the present demand.

The sources said the only overhead tank of the hospital remained out of order for the last two years causing immense suffering to the patients and staff. Of the two tubewells of the hospital one went out of order long before.

The man who returned from mass grave

From Tareq Chowdhury



RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, Dec 11: Although it sounds impossible that one can come back from a grave, it happened so in case of Rupchand Mondol. He was able to come back from a mass grave of 1971 amidst hundreds of victims who were killed in a brush fire. Rupchand is still alive at the age of 75. He is from Shampur of Rajshahi, a village near the university campus.

On a bright sunny day of 1971 Rupchand was called at the union council office at Katakhal (in Rajshahi) in the morning. The office was full of peace committee members. Rupchand was asked why did he go to India. One of the members said, "you are an agent of the Freedom Fighters. You pass information in camps in India". At one stage, Rupchand along with another fellow was at long last declared as enemy agents. They were kept in a small room and was tortured severely. After an hour of torture they were taken to Zoha Hall of Rajshahi University known as the cantonment of Pak Army then. Along with others they were tortured here for four days. On Sunday, eight of them were taken to the Railway Bridge at a nearby place. One person was able to untie his rope and tried to run away. He was shot dead on the spot.

At dead of night they were lined up before a ditch which was dug early by some of them. There was total silence. All of a sudden the troops opened brush firing on them. Most of the injured jumped into the ditch. The troops also fired bullets inside the ditch to make sure everyone was dead. Some of them were bayonet charged to see if anybody was alive. Then the ditch was filled with earth and garbage. The army left. Rupchand heard from the grave that troops were leaving the area. Rupchand was not wounded as the machinegun bullet passed near his ear without touching him. He had lost his hearing power for 14 days. He found dead bodies all around him. Blood was spilled everywhere. He found himself amidst many dead bodies. He tried very hard to remove the earth on top of his body. Finally he was successful. He came out from the grave. Then he fled the area and walked in fear to his home after 14 days. Carefully he finally reached a place for away and took shelter there.

With grief and frustration Rupchand is still alive. With the earning from making handicraft he can still barely support himself and his wife.

Call to implement Sandwip cross dam project

CHITTAGONG, Dec 11: Leaders of Sandwip Bhangon Protirode Sandwip cross dam project prepared in 1984 — have on Friday, reports BSS.

They also called for immediately taking up dredging of Baggar Phari near Ramgati to check continuous erosion by the Bay of Bengal.

Addressing a press conference at a local hotel, the parishad president ABM Mustafa regretted that over Taka 500 crore Sandwip cross dam project prepared with the help of the Netherlands not been implemented for unknown reasons.

He said, Sandwip had an area of 425 sq miles during thirties but it has now been reduced 70 to 75 sq miles areas. The Bay of Bengal is devouring Sandwip and its existence is now threatened, he added. ABM Mustafa also said that the future of over three lakh people of Sandwip island was uncertain as the Bay had been devouring the island by continuous erosion.

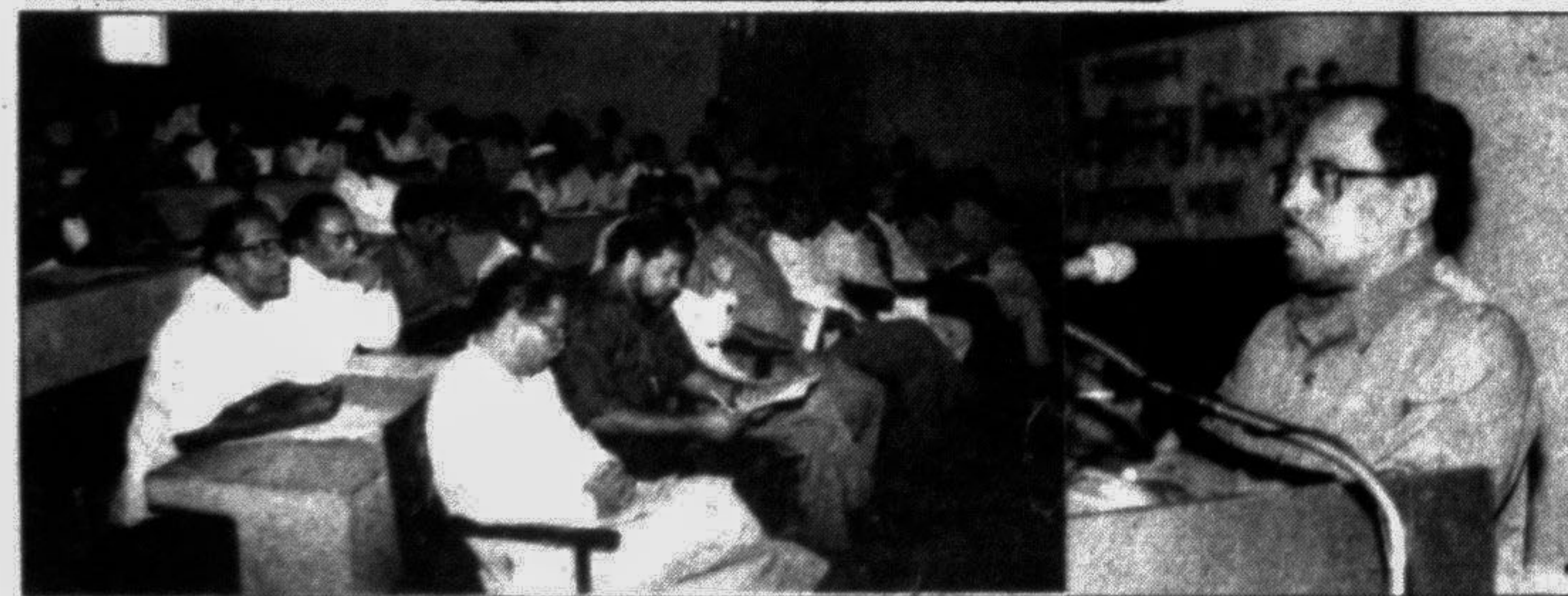
Parishad secretary A M Gulam Kibria Bahadur, former MP ARK Rafiqullah Chowdhury, Abul Mohsin Chowdhury, and Faizul Mowla — all members of the parishad were present at the press conference.

Grameen Bank gives Tk 35 cr as loan in Rajbari

RAJBARI, Dec 11: The Grameen Bank during the last five years disbursed loan worth Tk 35.20 crore among its 21,000 members of the district for their socio-economic development, reports UNB.

The amount was disbursed through 12 branches of the bank in three thanas of the district, officials said. Of the amount, Tk 27 crore were allocated for small business, 6.13 crore for seasonal crops production, 1.35 crore for housing and Tk 72 lakh for development of family environment.

Meanwhile, the bank has realised Tk 25.36 crore taka from the borrowers.



AGRI-VARSITY (Mymensingh): Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr Shah Md Farouk speaking as chief guest at the conference of College-University Teachers Association held at the BAU faculty of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology recently. — BAU photo