

Training course on environment

MYMENSINGH, June 2: A five-day training course on "Environment Education" was concluded here on Wednesday at the Bangladesh Agricultural University Graduate Training Institute (GTI), reports UNB.

Acting Vice-Chancellor and Convenor of the Dean Council Prof Md Monem Dad attended the concluding session as chief guest.

Dr Monem urged all to work with a view to increase consciousness about environmental protection. He said, "Environment must be protected from pollution at any cost."

Prof Amir Ali and the Course Coordinator Prof Dr Tajul Islam also addressed on the occasion, explaining various aspects of environmental training course.

Representatives from the Bangladesh Rich Research Institute, Nuclear Agriculture Research Institute, Jute Research Institute, Agriculture Extension Directorate and Agricultural University participated in the training course.

Police action in Feni: 9 wanted criminals nabbed

FENI, June 2: Police in a series of drives from Tuesday night arrested nine wanted criminals from different parts of the town and its adjoining areas, reports UNB.

The arrested are Manik, Roni, Faizullah, Jalal, Mostafa, Nurul Huda, Arif, Shahabuddin and Kamaluddin.

Police following their confession statements recovered two pipe guns, two foreign made axes and one round of bullet.

Tiger kills one

SATKHIRA, June 2: A young man was reported to be killed and eaten by a tiger while he was fishing in Sundarban on Monday, reports UNB.

Local people said Abu Bakar, 30, of Pankhali in Shyamnagar thana, fell prey to the tiger as he was fishing with his father.

The body was recovered by the local people.

Dacoits kill 2 in Barguna

From Our Correspondent

BARGUNA, June 2: Two persons were killed and ten others injured with bullets when a group of dacoits opened fire on the mob at Amtali thana here recently.

The dead were identified as Joyal Fakir, 40, of Dalachara and Chand Mla, 40, of village Angulika.

The dacoits were fleeing after committing a dacoity in the house of Abdul Khaleque Howlader of village Ghatkhali.

About 15 armed dacoits looted money and goods worth about Tk 40 thousand from the house. They also injured Khaleque's wife with ram dao.

When the local villagers gheraoed the dacoits, they opened fire to escape. One of them was caught red-handed and handed over to police.

2 Indian nationals arrested

SATKHIRA, June 2: BDR jawans arrested two Indian nationals from Benapole border with cash, including Indian rupees, on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Officials said Santilata Biswas and Saifullah of 24 Pargana in India were arrested with Rs 9,000 and Tk 18,000.

The cash was handed over to Satkhira Customs Department. A case was filed with Sharasha thana.

4 arrested, arms recovered in Jhenidah

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, June 2: Police arrested three persons on charge of looting a double barrel gun and one round bullet from village Goolhuda in Mohepur thana of the district recently.

According to police, a group of armedmen raided house of Abdul Kader at village Goolhuda in Mohepur thana and looted his double barrel gun and one round bullet.

Police arrested Lal Mia of the same village and Fazal and Erin of Jibannager under Chuadanga district in this connection.

The arrested might be the activists of outlawed Purbabanga communist party, police said.

Another report says, Kaliganj police arrested one person and recovered one Chinese gun and two daggers from village Shibnager in Kaliganj thana of the district recently.

Acting on secret information, police raided the house and arrested accused Ibrahim in connection with looting rifles from GRP at Sundarpur railway station.



SYLHET: Artists rendering songs at a cultural function organised by the Nazrul Academy, Sylhet, to mark the 96th birth anniversary of the national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam. — Star photo

Number of school going children decreasing in Madaripur

MADARIPUR, June 2: The number of primary school going children is decreasing in the rural areas of the district due to abject poverty, reports UNB.

A large number of children between the age of eight and 12 years are engaged in different petty jobs to earn their livelihood instead of going to school. The poverty stricken farmers engage their kids in income generating activities like cattle grazing, rickshaw pulling and as hotel boys.

Most of the marginal and landless farmers in the district have four or more children and are facing financial hardship. As a result, they cannot afford educational expenses of their children. Finding no other alternatives, they encourage their children to take up any odd jobs.

During the harvesting season, a large number of farm labourers along with their kids migrate to other places in search of work. As a result, the primary schools in rural areas of the district have been facing acute shortage of students.

Shortage of teachers and other educational appliances in different primary schools are also hampering the implementation of compulsory primary education programme.

About one lakh students were enrolled in different government and non-government primary schools last year. Of them, about 25,000 were dropped out due to poverty, official sources said.

Moreover, deplorable condition of most of the schools is a great problem to carry on the primary education programme smoothly.

Besides, absence of reconstruction work in the schools which were damaged during the natural calamities also adds to the problems in implementing the programme. In many schools, classes are being taken under open sky.

Local leaders have urged the authorities to take immediate measures to remove the bottlenecks to make the compulsory primary education a success in the district.

48000 hectares to be brought under aus cultivation in Moulvi Bazar

From Our Correspondent

MOULVI BAZAR, June 2: Under the programme of Intensive Summer Crop Production (ISCP), a total of 48 thousand hectares of land will be brought under aus cultivation in the six thanas of Moulvi Bazar district.

According to the Agriculture Extension Department (AED) source, out of the total land, high yielding variety will be cultivated in 30 thousand hectares and local variety in 18 thousand hectares. The production target has been fixed at about 78 thousand metric tons of paddy.

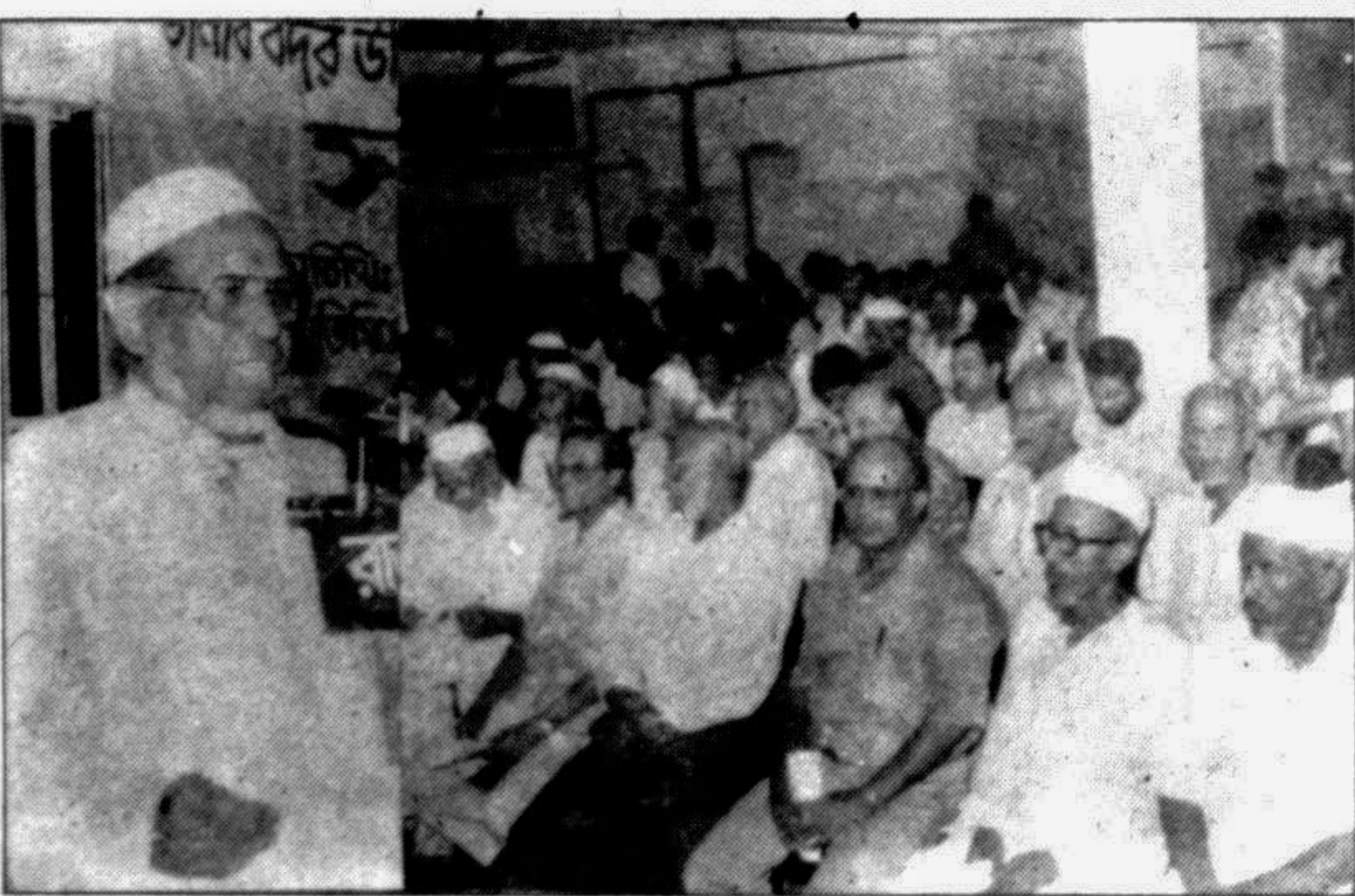
Out of the total land, 8190 hectares of land have been brought under aus cultivation in Moulvi Bazar Sadar thana.

2250 hectares in Rajnagar thana, 9875 hectares in Kulaura thana, 5375 hectares in Baralekha thana, 7550 hectares in Srimongal thana and 9660 hectares in Kamalganj thana.

The production target is fixed at 11080 metric tons in Sadar thana, 11,150 metric tons in Rajnagar thana, 16,875 metric tons in Kulaura thana, 6985 metric tons in Baralekha thana, 12,750 metric tons in Srimongal thana and 19,160 metric tons in Kamalganj thana.

Meanwhile, the production target of IRRI-boro has not been achieved due to drought and acute crisis of fertilizer.

In a recent interview with



SYLHET: Awami League leader Abdus Samad Azad speaking at a function arranged to accord a reception to the newly elected office-bearers of the Shahjalal Upashahar Kalyan Parishad recently. — Star photo

7534 families receive BRDB loan in Kushtia

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, June 2: 1997 and during this period 2500 landless families in each thana will come under the purview of this loan project aiming at technical training, small savings and ultimately creating opportunities of establishing landless people through income generating projects.

Under the programme 374 poor & landless male and 635 poor & landless female cooperative societies have been formed and total members of these societies stand at 22,650 persons. Share and deposit amount stand at Tk 2027 lakh and 49.57 lakh respectively.

Besides 2398 leading co-operators and 2688 common co-operators have been given training to increase their skills. Apart from that proper accounts are being maintained and in this respect regular monitoring is continuing the official said.

The scheme have been launched with financial aid of Asian Development Bank. The project period is from 1993 to

One killed in Munshiganj clash

One person, who was injured during the gun battle between two rival groups in Gazaria thana of Munshiganj district succumbed to his injuries on the way to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital Tuesday, reports BSS.

The victim was identified as Nanna Miah, 23, the second son of former chairman of the Imampur Union Parishad Salauddin Ahmed Bakul Khan.

Bakul Khan was also injured in the clash as a group of alleged miscreants armed with sawed-off rifles and guns raided the Imampur village twice Tuesday.

Deputy Minister for LGED and Cooperatives, Abdul Hal, visited the Imampur village yesterday and assured of bringing the culprits to book.

The situation is now under control, police sources said Wednesday.

Water crisis in Meherpur

From Our Correspondent

MEHERPUR, June 2: Acute scarcity of drinking water is causing serious problems in rural areas of the Meherpur district. The existing number of tubewells in two thanas of the district are quite inadequate to meet the demand of the people.

According to a report, a large number of tubewells are out of order for the last two years causing untold sufferings to the villagers. Large number of tubewells are out of order due to the damage of filter pipes, leakage in the pipe and for want of spare parts. Plans for resinking the choked tubewells were initiated by the concerned authorities but to no avail as yet.

Reliable sources said, adequate fund was needed for resinking and repair works of the tubewells.

Navy foils piracy attempt, arrest two in Dhaleswari

KHULNA, June 2: A patrol squad of the Bangladesh Navy recently recovered two double-barrel guns with 37 live cartridges and arrested two pirates from the Dhaleswari river near Pathorghata, an ISPR press release said, report BSS.

The arrested persons were preparing for piracy on a fishing trawler.

The arrested persons alongwith the fire-arms were later handed over to the Pathorghata police.

Meanwhile, patrol squads of the navy have recovered smuggled sunduri, geouva and garjon wood worth about Taka one lakh from the Mongla Nala and adjoining areas recently.

The recovered timbers were later deposited with the forest authorities.

Erosion renders 150 families homeless in Gaibandha

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, June 2: Erosion of the river Teesta rendered at least 150 families of three unions under Sunderganj thana homeless in 15 days.

With the rise in water level in Teesta basin during the last fortnight the erosion hit the villages of Chandipur, Belka, and Haripur along the southern bank of river that devoured cultivable lands and homesteads. The victims are now living under open sky in a miserable condition.

The Water Development Board, Gaibandha, has undertaken programme for the rehabilitation of a partially damaged embankment located at Chandipur and Bochagari. But the erosion hit about 100 metres from the embankment and badly affected Ujan Bochagari, Bhuiyarpur, Nondolpara, Narsirtari and Chartabari villages.

Many of the erosion victims took shelter on abandoned embankment if the precautionary measure was not taken immediately, the erosion will take a serious turn in the ensuing rainy season.

20 injured in Faridpur clash

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, June 2: At least 20 persons were injured in a clash between two rival groups at Nizgram under Sadarpur thana on May 26. The seriously injured persons were admitted to Faridpur General Hospital.

The clash ensued over crop damaged by a goat. In the clash both the group used lethal weapons. It is reported.

Foundation of Gaibandha diabetic hospital laid

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, June 2: Foundation stone of the Gaibandha Rotary complex and Gaibandha Diabetic Hospital building was laid at its site adjacent to the Gaibandha circuit house recently.

The corner stone was laid by 3280 Rotary District Governor M. Mosharaf Hossain at a simple ceremony which was followed by tree plantation.

On this occasion, a discussion was held at the local circuit house auditorium on May 3. Deputy Commissioner Shafiq Hossain, Golan Mostafa, Police Super and Kamrul Islam Siddiqui, District and Session Judge, were present among others.

The speakers called upon all to extend co-operation in rendering services for the welfare of the society. They also said that after completion, the diabetic hospital sponsored by the Rotary club will meet a long-fled requirement of the areas.

River Gorai almost dried up

KUSHTIA, June 2: The once mighty river Gorai is now almost dead following emergence of innumerable chars in its bed causing complete disruption in navigation, reports UNB.

People living along the banks of the river can easily cross it on foot during the lean period of the season. Ferry boat services have already been suspended.

The river Gorai is the tributary of the river Ganges whose flow of water has come to its lowest ebb due to unilateral withdrawal of its water.

The natural and normal flow of about 60,000 to 70,000 cusecs of water during pre-commissioning of Farakka Barrage days has now come down to all time low at about 9,000 cusecs.

If the situation continues further, the experts said, the whole area will come under the process of desertification giving a death blow to the ecological balance in the northern and south-western parts of Bangladesh.

It will also hamper the Ganges-Kobadak Project, the biggest irrigation project of the country which is completely dependent on water from the river Ganges.

The process of desertification has already been started and navigability of the river Gorai has been lost and irrigation from its water has come to a dead stop.

The worst affected Ganges-Kobadak Project has been threatened with closure of its main pump house situated 3,000 feet away from the river Ganges linking with an intake channel.

Erosion at intake channel has created additional problems for G-K Project authority.

Number of drug addicts rises in Meherpur

From Our Correspondent

MEHERPUR, June 2: The number of drug addicts is growing alarmingly in the Meherpur town. Even youths in the rural areas have started taking different types of like opium, morphin, sedative tablets, Marita Sanjibani and other types of liquids containing alcohol.

According to an official survey, Meherpur town and its suburbs have turned into open markets of drugs. All kinds of drugs and alcohol are available at drug stores, grocery stores and other shops. Cigarettes containing ganja are also available in certain places.

The survey reveals that addicted teenagers at present constitute about 10 per cent but the number is growing fast. It is alleged that a well-organised gang has been smuggling in these drugs from across the border.

It is also alleged that these drug addicted youths are involved in the various crimes.

Residents complain that most youths buy the rectified spirit from homeopathic doctors and take it as alcohol mixing it with water.

It is alleged that some people are illegally selling the spirit to the addicts at exorbitant prices.

School and college students make up the largest segment of addicts, it is learnt.



GAIBANDHA: Erosion by the river Teesta has devoured huge tracts of cultivable land and dwelling houses in village Ujanbochagari under Sadar thana recently. — Star photo

Tk 8 cr loan disbursed to boost crop production

PATUAKHALI, June 2: Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) disbursed loan about Tk 8.10 crore among the farmers in Pirojpur district during the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

Officials said of the loan, Tk 1.21 crore was disbursed in Sadar thana, Tk 1.7 crore in Nazirpur, Tk 1.83 crore in Nesarabad, Tk 1.40 crore in Kalkhali, Tk 66 lakh in Bhandaria, Tk 1.49 crore in Madbaria and Tk 92 lakh in Indurkani thanas of the district.

The loan was distributed to boost IRRI, boro, aus, amon and other rabi crops production in the region.

Another report adds: Roads and Highways Department is implementing 21 projects in Pirojpur district at a cost of Tk 9 crore.

The projects include construction of roads, culverts and earth filling, official sources said.

Meanwhile, 60 per cent works of the projects has been completed and the remaining works are expected to be completed by December.

Farmer robbed in Madaripur

MADARIPUR, June 2: A farmer was robbed of cash money and other materials worth about Taka twenty thousand near Mollakandi bridge under Rajair thana on Monday night, reports BSS.

Ali Akbar, a farmer of Mollakandi village, was attacked by some miscreants when he was returning home after selling paddy at Rajair hat.



GAIBANDHA: The Foundation laying ceremony of the Gaibandha Diabetic Hospital and Gaibandha Rotary complex was held recently at the local circuit house auditorium. — Star photo

Plantation programme in Bogra

BOGRA, June 2: As part of the nation-wide tree plantation programme, Bogra Forestry Department will plant 3 lakh 37 thousand fruit and wild plants in different areas of the Bogra district, reports BSS.

This programme includes the planting of 8000 saplings along 5 kilometers of roads, 11650 saplings along 7.28 kilometers of railways, 32000 saplings along 20 kilometers of embankment, 1 lakh and 32000 saplings along 165 kilometers of different connecting roads, 83350 saplings in 50 hectares of char of Jamuna and 70,000 saplings in different educational institutions.