

Contraband goods worth over Tk 8 lakh seized in different raids in Gaibandha

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, June 25: BDR task force in separate drives around Gobindganj thana recovered Indian contraband goods worth over Taka three lakh from different points during the last two weeks, officials sources said.

According to sources 29 BDR battalion task force launched several drives at different locations of Gobindganj thana and recovered huge Indian banned items including sarees, sugar, clothes, spare parts worth Tk 8,31,600.

Dacoity

An armed dacoity incident took place at the house of Superintendent, Fis' Farms Adjoining to local PDB Colony on June 17 night. The miscreants looted away cash and valuables worth about Tk 15,000, said the inmates. At deep night a gang of 17 miscreants armed with deadly weapons raided the house of Fishery Superintendant Rahman breaking open the door. They tied up inmates of the house and looted away cash and valuables. The miscreants later ransacked the furniture of the house.

A case was filed with sadar thana.

Workshop

A workshop on health, sanitation and tree planting sponsored by Hunger Project, Gaibandha concluded here at Kamarjani High School on June 17.

A total of 56 students and 15 teachers took part in the workshop. The workshop mainly highlighted on tree plantation to avoid extensive ecological imbalance. The workshop further discussed on the preparation of oral saline and its proper use.

The programme was presided over by Lal Md Sarker, Head Master of the high school and the workshop was conducted by Rakul Adhikari, Gaibandha district coordinator, the Hunger Project.

TB clinic beset with various problem in Noakhali

NOAKHALI, June 25: Tuberculosis patients of the district are being deprived of proper treatment as its lone TB clinic is grappled with various problems, reports UNB.

Sources at Noakhali TB Clinic said at least 30 TB patients are everyday visiting the hospital with the hope of better treatment, but they have to return home with terrible disappointment after not getting the treatment.

The number of doctors and modern equipment in the clinic were said to be too inadequate to ensure proper treatment of patients.

Lack of accommodation in the clinic was also an added disappointment for the patients, particularly for those who come from far-flung areas of the district.

Local people urged the authorities to take immediate measures to solve problems of the clinic.

Shops looted in Satkhira

SATKHIRA, June 25: Dacoits looted goods and cash worth about Tk 2 lakh from three shops at Fulbaria Bazar in Tala thana of the district on Saturday night, reports UNB.

Police said a gang of dacoits numbering about 15 broke open the doors of the shops and decamped with the booties. They also broke the gate of Janata Bank branch but failed to break the strong room.

Another report adds: An under-trial accused Shamsur Rahman died at 250-bed Khulna Hospital on Sunday.

Arrested on charge of smuggling he was in Satkhira jail for about 8 months.

Shamsur Rahman was shifted to Khulna Hospital when he fell seriously ill. His body was handed over to his relatives.

Two commit suicide in Satkhira

SATKHIRA, June 25: One village doctor and a teenaged girl committed suicide by taking liquid pesticide on June 16 last.

According to Assasuni thana police source, village doctor Ashutosh Das, 28, of Ramdevkati under Assasuni thana married one Kalpana Rani two years back and their conjugal life was reportedly not happy due to his wife is alleged love affairs with another man. Police suspect that the victim had gone to Maheswarhati beel where he took poison and died on the spot. A case was lodged with Assasuni police station.

In another incident one Basantika Sarkar, 16, daughter of Kanti Sarkar of village Kasubati under Kaliganj thana allegedly took poison and died on the spot. Family trouble was the cause of her suicide, it is learnt.

AL wins 13, BNP, JP win 3 each in '96 polls

AL gains more seats in Sylhet division

From Iqbal Siddiquee

SYLHET, June 25: Awami League has been able to strengthen its position in the four districts of Sylhet Division by capturing a total of 13 seats out of 19 in the just concluded seventh Jatiya Sangsad elections, while the BNP and Jatiya Party got three seats each. Of the total 6 seats in Sylhet district, AL got 4 seats while BNP and JP got one each this time while in Sunamganj district, 3 went to AL, and one each to BNP and JP. In Moulvibazar district, AL got 3 seats while another was bagged by the BNP. Of the four seats in Habiganj district, AL got 3 and one went to JP.

In 1991 elections, the BNP had only one seat in the Sylhet Division which they lost this time. However, BNP gained 3 new seats, all held by AL. Awami League had 9 seats, of which it retained 5 and lost 4 (three went to BNP and one to JP). They won 8 additional seats totalling 13 seats.

The JP had 8 seats. It lost 6, and retained 2 while won a new one. No other party or candidate won any seat in this division, this time.

Seven ministers and ex-ministers tested defeat in the division while as many as 121 candidates of different parties and independents lost their security deposits in the seventh JS elections from Sylhet Division.

Polling in 5 centres in 4 constituencies were postponed on June 12 elections for different reasons in Sylhet. These include, Companyganj government primary school of Sylhet-1, Jan Alishah primary school of Sylhet-3, Muslimnagar government primary school and Doubari primary school of Sylhet-4 and Munshibazar primary school of Sylhet-5 constituency.

With the completion of repolling in the 5 centres of 4 constituencies in Sylhet district on June 19 last election procedure have been completed.

Repolling was held at Companyganj government primary school of Companyganj thana of Sylhet-1 constituency, where the total number of voters were 1266. Of them 1061 votes were caste. Awami League nominee Humayun Rashid Chowdhury got 805 votes while BNP nominee M Saifur Rahman got 230 votes. Besides, Babrul Hossain of JP got 4, Jamaal nominee Dr. Shafiqur Rahman got 9 and 5 other candidates got one each and 8 votes were declared invalid. With this result, the total number of votes polled by AL's Humayun Rashid Chowdhury stood at 59,710. His rival M Saifur Rahman of BNP polled 58,990 votes. AL got the victory by only 720 votes. In this constituency, except the AL, BNP and JP candidates, all the rest 13 lost their security deposits.

In Sylhet-2 (Biswanath and Balaganj thanas) ex-upazila chairman Shah Azizur Rahman of Awami League bagged 42265 votes and defeated Moksudul Hossain of JP who got 39044 votes. BNP nominee ex-secretary general of the central JCD Ilyas Ali polled 38,473. In this seat also 6 candidates out of the total of 9 lost their security deposits. It includes all except the BNP, AL and the JP nominees.

Sylhet District JP president and ex-MP Abdul Mukit Khan

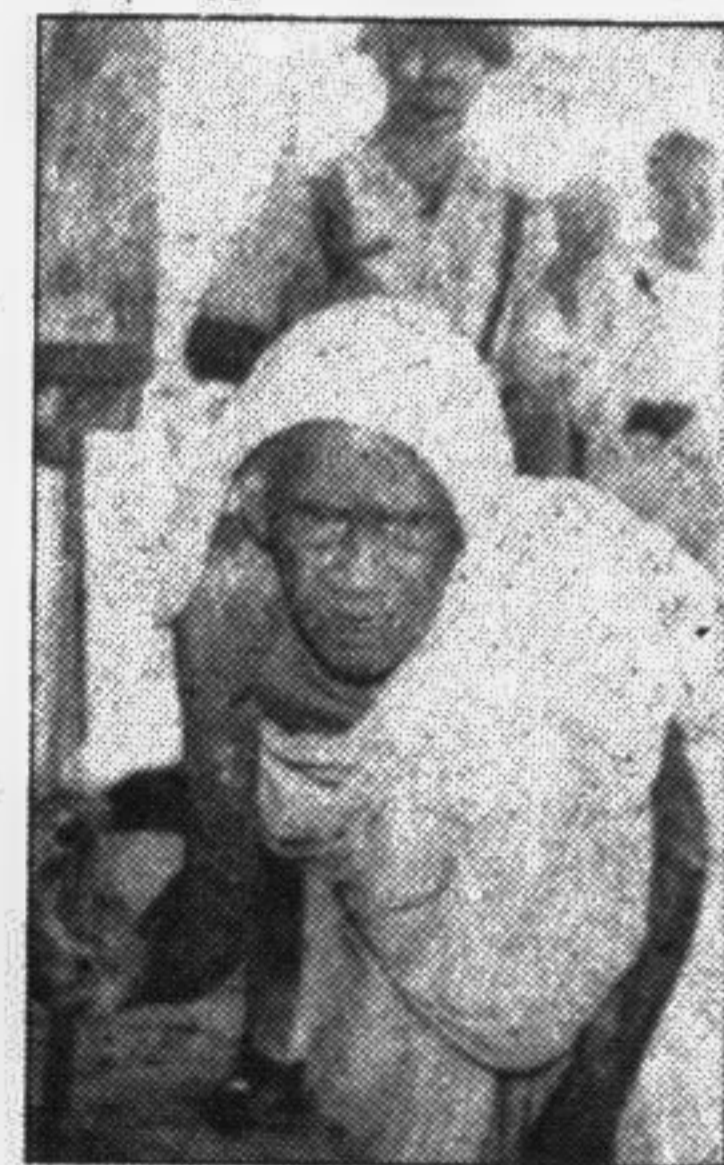
had been declared elected in the Sylhet-3 constituency comprised of South Surma and Fenchuganj thanas. The results here was kept withheld after June 12 election due to postponement of polling in Jan Ali Shah Centre of South Surma area. In the repolling on June 19 Mukit Khan bagged a total of 26659 votes while his nearest rival AL nominee Mah-mudul Samad Chowdhury got 26168 votes. BNP nominee Shafi Ahmed Chowdhury got 25954 votes. As many as 9 candidates out of the total of 12 lost their security deposits in this seat.

BNP stalwart ex-finance minister M Saifur Rahman won the Sylhet-4 constituency comprised of Gowainghat and Jaintapur thanas by polling 23946 votes while his nearest rival Awami League ex-MP Imran Ahmed got 22725 votes and an AL dissident who contested the elections as independent candidate Dilder Hossain Selim got 17702 votes. Six among ten candidates in this constituency lost their security deposits. The decision in this seat came after the repolling in two centres on June 19. Polling on June 12 in Muslimnagar primary school and Doubari primary school centre of Gowainghat thana were postponed.

Hafiz Ahmed Majumder of AL had been declared elected in Sylhet-5 comprised of Jakiganj and Kanaighat thanas. He polled 29483 votes against Jamaat nominee Moulana Farid Uddin Chowdhury who polled 28,120 votes. The results were made final after the repolling at Munshibazar primary school

Among the 34 contestants in the district of Moulvibazar 23 lost their deposits. In Moulvibazar-1 the number was 4 out of 7. Sultan Mohammad Mansur of AL was declared elected in Moulvibazar-2 constituency comprised of Kulaura thana. Mansur polled 52,580 votes against his nearest rival Nabab Ali Abbas Khan of Jatiya Party polling 39,992 votes. BNP nominee M Moksudul Shahin became the third. Seven among 10 in this constituency lost their security deposits.

BNP stalwart M Saifur Rahman bagged the Moulvibazar-3



SYLHET: Election enthusiasm brings this 95-year-old woman to a polling centre at Jakiganj thana on June 19.



SYLHET: People queuing up at a polling centre at Gowainghat thana during the repolling on June 19.

centre on June 19. Seven out of 11 lost their security deposits in this constituency.

Awami League nominee Nurul Islam Nahid was declared elected in Sylhet-6 comprised of Golapganj and Beanibazar thanas. He polled 53,965 votes while his nearest rival was JP's Md. Mujamill Ali with 34,691 votes. BNP nominee, Dr. Syed Moksudul Hossain got 31,970 votes. As many as 10 candidates out of 13 in this seat lost their security deposits.

The total number of deposit losers in Sylhet district stood at 50 out of the total of 71 in 6 constituencies.

In Moulvibazar-1 comprised of Barlekha thana, AL nominee Shahabuddin was elected with 33,178 votes against his rival BNP nominee Ebadur Rahman Chowdhury who polled 20,047 votes.

constituency comprised of Moulvibazar sadar and Rajnagar thanas by polling a total of 84,117 votes while his nearest rival Awami League ex-Whip Azizur Rahman polled 61,905 votes. The third position was of JP's Giasuddin Chowdhury. Eight among 10 here lost their security deposits.

Awami League nominee Abdus Shahid got 91,811 votes in the Moulvibazar-4 constituency comprised of Srimongal and Komolganj thanas where JP nominee ex-upazila chairman Ahad Miah got 59,824. BNP nominee Shafiqur Rahman was the third here. Four among 7 lost their security deposits in this constituency.

In Sunamganj-1 constituency which is comprised of Tahirpur, Jamaiganj, Dharampasha and Madhyagar thanas. Awami League nominee

Syed Rafiqul Haque was elected through polling a total of 68,787 votes while his nearest rival BNP nominee Nozir Hossain got 67,312 votes. The rest 5 candidates of this constituency lost their deposits.

In Sunamganj-2 which is comprised of Deral and Shulla thanas Nasiruddin Chowdhury of Jatiya Party won by polling 58,998 against the AL stalwart Suranjit Sengupta who polled 58,493 votes. The rest 4 in this constituency could not secure their deposits.

Awami League stalwart Abdus Samad Azad retained his seat by polling 42,850 votes while his nearest rival JP's Faruque Rashid Chowdhury got 32,322 votes in the Sunamganj-3 constituency comprised of Jagannathpur and South Sunamganj, where Dewan Jaimul Jakerin of BNP polled 17,451 votes. The rest 7 candidates in this seat lost their security deposits.

Fazlul Haque Aspia of BNP bagged the Sunamganj-4 constituency which is comprised of Biswambaharpur and Sunamganj sadar thana. Aspia polled 36,155 votes while his nearest rival AL's Abdur Jahur got 34,357 votes and the JP nominee Major (ret'd) Iqbal Hossain Chowdhury got 31,208 votes. The rest 3 candidates lost their security deposits here.

Awami League nominee Muhibur Rahman Manik was elected in Sunamganj-5 comprised of Chhata and Doarabazar thanas, as he polled 43,039 votes against the JP nominee Barrister Mohammad Yahia with 41,120 votes. Kolumuddin Milon of BNP got 33,875 votes here.

Awami League nominee Dewan Farid Gazi bagged the Habiganj-1 constituency comprised of Bahubal and Nabiganj thanas. Ex-state minister Gazi polled a total of 52,939 votes against his nearest rival Khalidur Rahman Chowdhury of JP with 44,121 votes, while BNP nominee Sheikh Sujar Miah polled 27,242 votes. The seven others here lost their security deposits.

In Habiganj-2 constituency, which is comprised of Ajmiriganj and Baniachang thanas. AL nominee Sharifuddin Ahmed got 51,364 votes defeating BNP's ex-minister Jakaria Khan Chowdhury who polled 34,530 votes. Ex minister Sirajul Hossain Khan of JP polled 32,381 votes. The rest three candidates here lost their security deposits.

In the Habiganj-3 constituency which is comprised of Habiganj Sadar and Lakhal thanas, Abu Lais Mohammad Mubin Chowdhury got 55,793 votes and defeated the AL nominee Pourashava chairman Shahid Chowdhury who polled 45,487 votes. Seven others including the BNP nominee Advocate Atiqullah lost their security deposits in this seat.

In the Habiganj-4 constituency which is comprised of Madhabpur and Chunarughat thanas, Enamul Haque Mohammad Mostafa Shahid of AL got a total of 70,239 votes. He defeated BNP nominee Syed Mohammad Faisal with 59,663 votes while JP nominee MB Chowdhury got 39,408 votes. Six other candidates here lost their security deposits. The total number of deposit losers in Habiganj district's 4 constituencies stood at 23 out of the total of 36 contestants.

7 sentenced to life in Cox's Bazar

COX'S BAZAR, June 25: Seven people were given life term imprisonment with a fine of Tk 5,000 each, in default, to suffer another 6 months imprisonment for murdering a madrasa student of Chakaria in the district, reports UNB.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Abdul Mannan gave the verdict on Sunday against Manzoor Alam, Mohammad Ilyas, Razaul Karim, Abdul Halim, Shahidullah, Razaul Karim and Shahabuddin. The prosecution, in brief, was that the convicted people caught Ahmad Hossain, a student of Rajakhila Madrasa in Chakaria thana and stabbed him mercilessly following a previous enmity on August 3, 1993.

He was rushed to the local hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

Minor boy killed in truck mishap

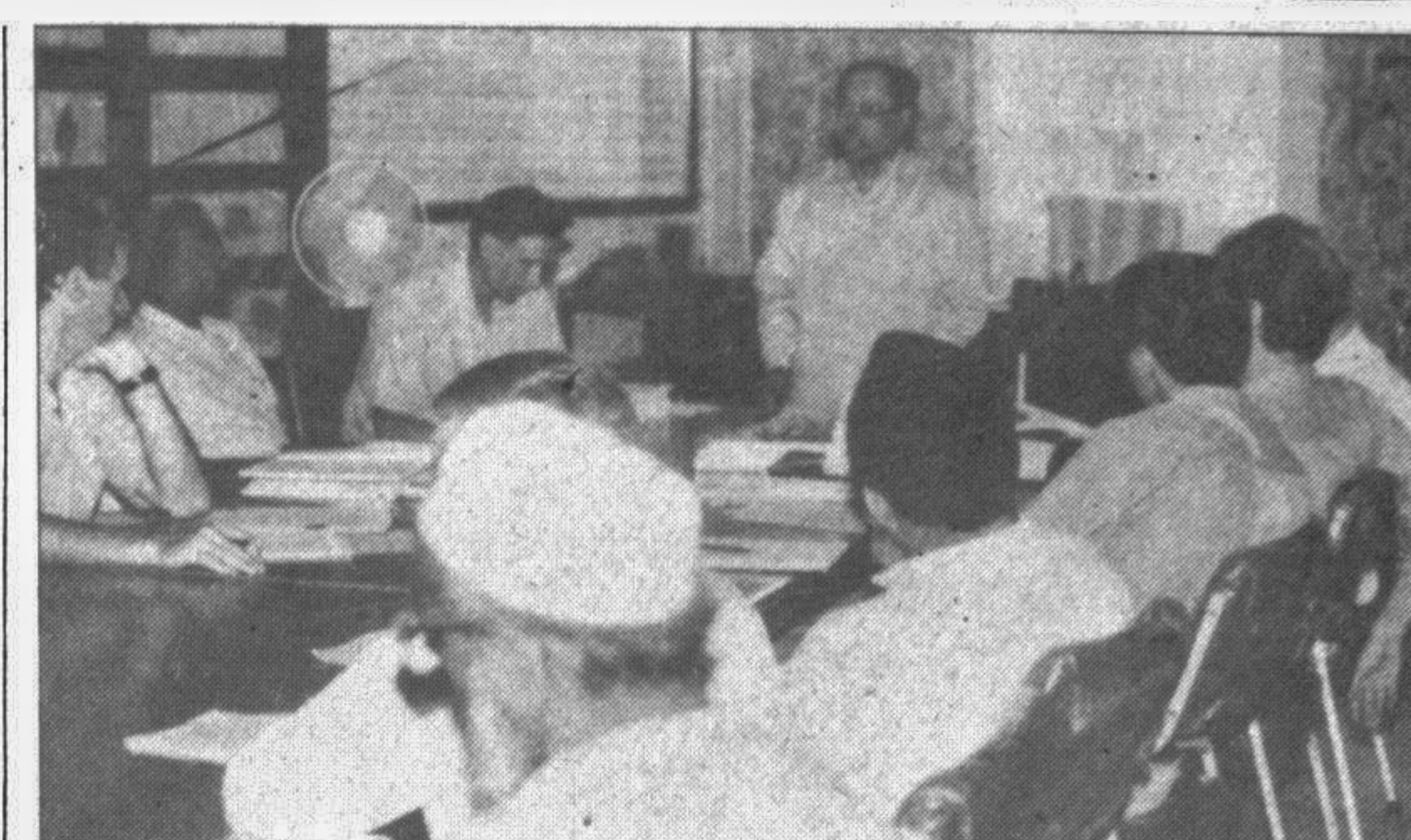
JAMALPUR, June 25: A minor boy was killed and four other people were injured when a truck carrying them plunged into a 50-feet-deep ditch at Laherikanda in Sadar thana today, reports UNB.

Police recovered the body on Jinal, 8, from under the cement-laden Jamalpur-bound truck.

The injured Shaiful, Rafiqul, Sohrab Ali and Titu were admitted to Jamalpur Sadar Hospital in critical condition.

District administration and police who were jointly conducting rescue operation suspected that more bodies could have been trapped under the truck.

The driver and the helper of the truck, coming from Dhaka, fled the scene. A case was filed with Sadar thana.



Agri-Varsity (Mymensingh): Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr Shah Muhammad Farouk speaking as chief guest in the final evaluation meeting of Fisheries Training and Research Assistance — a British ODA Project held recently at Fisheries faculty seminar room. — BAU photo

Prices of essentials up in Pabna district

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, June 25: Prices of all the essential commodities have gone up abnormally in the district causing hardship to the people of fixed and low-income groups.

Fish of all varieties have almost disappeared from the market. The prices of fish are quite beyond the reach of the common people. Hilsa fish is selling at Tk 80 per kg. (big size) and Tk 70 to Tk 75 per kg. (small size); Tangra sells at Tk 120 to Tk 150 per kg; small size of Rohit at Tk 90 and big size at Tk 120 per kg; pangash sells at Taka 200 to Tk 250 per kg. magur Tk 200 to Tk 250 per kg.

Beef sells at Tk 60 per kg, mutton at Tk 100 to 110 per kg, chicken (small size) at 60; hen egg Tk 12 per four and duck egg at Tk 12 to Tk 14 per four. Milk in its pure variety is almost not available. Adulterated milk is selling at Tk 12 to Tk 16 per litre. prices of baby-food are also too high.

Along with rise in the prices of fish, meat etc, prices of different varieties of pulses have also gone up steadily. Musur is selling at Tk 36 per kg; motor at Tk 28, khesari at Tk 18, gram at Tk 28, mug at Tk 40 to Tk 42 per kg.

As regards vegetables, potato is now selling at Tk 10 per kg, patal at Tk 6 per kg, ladies finger at Tk 6 per kg, kumra Tk 10 per piece, moderate size, brinjal at Tk 16 per kg and so on.

The prices of sugar have gone up abnormally. Country-made sugar is selling at Tk 34 against Tk 24 per kg, while Indian sugar is selling at Tk 31 against Tk 27 per kg. The prices of gur (molasses) has also recorded all time high in Pabna district. The item, commonly used by the villagers, is selling at Tk 26 per kg, as against Tk 12 to Tk 14 per kg, during the corresponding period of the last year.

Fruits are also selling at unthinkably high prices. Mango,

known as the queen of all fruits of Bangladesh, is extremely rare as its production was too low this year and whatever varieties of mango is available in the market is of much lower standard. Still, fazli is selling at Tk 50 per kg, nangra, at Tk 70 per kg, gopalbhog at Tk 70 per kg, and ordinary local variety of mango (of some good quality) at Tk 50 per kg. Banana sells at Tk 8 to 10 per four and its prices are rising everyday. Black-berry, guava, pine-apples have started appearing in the market but their quality was generally too low and prices too high. It is expected that within two to three weeks time, their supply would somewhat increase and their prices might also record some fall.

Due to severe drought continuing till the third week of June this year, the production of the vegetables of the rainy season become seriously hampered.

Gorai brings sorrows to thousands of villagers

From Our Correspondent

KUSHLIA, June 25: The river Gorai, once known as mighty Gorai, flowing through Kushiya, Kumarkhali and Khokha thanas brings sorrows to lakhs of people every year.

The damage caused by the river every year is estimated to be about Taka one crore which include agricultural produce and other property, cattleheads and homesteads.

The river is a tributary of the Ganges and with the low flow of the Ganges the river Gorai becomes almost dead in dry season. Due to massive siltation, the river is now unable to contain the heavy rain and flood water during monsoon. As a result agricultural crops, homestead and other property are submerged every year. Moreover erosion has devoured a large portion of Kumarkhali town, College premises, M.N. High School premises and their buildings, and a large portion of Jayanabad village.

In the dry season the people of the area suffer much as they cannot cultivate on their lands on both sides of the river due to want of irrigation water. Innumerable chars have

been emerged causing complete dislocation in navigation. People living across the river can easily cross it on foot during this lean period of the season since Ferry boat service are kept suspended.

The river Ganges, also brings sorrow to the people of Kushiya, Chuadanga, Jhenidah, Magura and Jessore district since their production of crops depend on the water of the Ganges. Low flow of water of the Ganges caused by unilateral withdrawal of water by India through Farakka Barrage has been threatening the Ganges Kobadak Project biggest irrigation project of the country.

The main pump house is situated 3000 feet away from river Ganges linking with an intake channel. The natural and normal flow of about 60,000 to 70,000 cusecs of water during pre-commission of Farakka Barrage days has come down now to all time low about 9,000 cusecs.

If the situation continues further and the water flow from the upper riparian is not increased the whole area will come under the process of desertification giving a blow to

the ecological balance in the northern and southern parts of Bangladesh. The mouth of the intake channel has been silted up and the authority has to spend Taka one lakh per day for dredging purpose to keep the pump house working with its deficient capacity. This process was going on for several years but as depth of water has gone below the capacity for last four years the authority have failed to operate the pumps at all resulting in the crop failure under GK Project command area covering an area of 1.20 lakh acres of land in 6 districts causing loss in money to the tune of Taka 100 crore every year.

It may be mentioned that the main pump house has a provision of 3 pumps of 1300 cusecs of water each and 12 subsidiary pumps of 125 cusecs each for irrigating 3.50 lakh acres of land in six districts. But, work stoppage of pump house in the dry season caused by construction of Farakka Barrage by India on the other part of the border brings sorrow to the people here in northern and southern part of Bangladesh.

Jamuna erosion threatens fresh areas in Pabna

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, June 25: Erosion in the river Jamuna, considered to be almost a chronic affair apparently without any remedy, has started taking place with the beginning of the rise in the water-level in the said river. It has already grabbed vast areas of cultivable and crop land within Haturia, Nakalia and Natun Bharenga unions under Bera thana of Pabna district.

About seven kilometres area of flood control embankment and the pump station of Kaitola built a more than a decade back by the Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) were under severe threat due to the said erosion proceeding with all its fury.

Erosion has reached an alarming dimension near Bherakhola, close to Shahzadpur and Char Pechakhola village under Bera thana were two big rivers, Hurasagar and the Jamuna have met. Maidapara, the meeting point on the said two rivers and Char Pechakhola area became worst affected. Over 600 feet area of these village have already gone deep under water being completely eroded this season.

River Jamuna, at the moment stands at about 300 feet from the flood control embankment near Pechakhola. According to an engineer of BWDB if erosion in river Jamuna continues with the ex-

isting speed and fury for some two weeks more the said flood control embankment may be grabbed by the river.

According to an information gathered from the Bera sub-divisional office of the Water Development Board, a survey was conducted in 1988 over the situation and on completion of the survey-works, a recommendation was submitted before the relevant authorities over the measures required to be taken for protecting the embankment and its related areas from the chronic erosion. The said recommendation, according to same source, also contained necessary data, design and sketch etc. It was also estimated that a total of taka one crore and fifty lakhs would be required to implement the scheme and necessary approval was also given.

It is also gathered that out of the said estimated amount, a fund of Tk 5 lakhs was sanctioned in the year 1989 and tender was also invited for work worth Tk 7 lakhs. According to the said tender, bidders were manufactured for using the same for diverting the course of the river Jamuna. But, it is further learnt from the source that meanwhile, some defects were detected in the above approved scheme and ultimately, the project had to be abandoned.

Again, in 1990, another survey work was conducted in the erosion-zone of Nakalia and its adjacent areas through Morphology division of the Water Development Board. Again, along with new design and sketch, an exhaustive report, containing recommendations for the construction of three Groynes within the river Jamuna, at a total estimated expenditure of Tk 36 crores was submitted before the relevant authorities of the WDB. But again, for reasons best known to the authorities concerned, the project was apparently thrown into cold storage.

It was gathered from different official sources on condition of anonymity that the said scheme, after lengthy, course of reminders, was forwarded the River Research Institute and after their approval was received, the file was forwarded to the office of the Director, Finance, Water Development Board where it was still lying due allegedly to official red-tapism.

About five thousand inhabitants of eight villages, namely Pechakhola, Maidapara, Nakalia, Bijoiganj, Sarulla etc — all under Bera thana of Pabna district — were also going to lose their health and home due to erosion and they were passing their days and night amid fear and panic.

Gopalganj pourashava beset with various problems

From Our Correspondent

GOPALGANJ, June 25: The people of Gopalganj pourashava have been facing manifold problems, which include deplorable conditions of roads, inadequate water supply, insufficient road light, absence of proper sanitary arrangement, mosquito menace, stagnancy of rain-water and excess poura taxes etc.

Most of the roads in the pourashava area are scattered, narrow, uneven and not properly planned. With the rain-fall water remains stagnant on the roads causing difficulties to the pedestrians as well as to the vehicular traffic.

problems for the people of the pourashava. The rain-water causes serious health hazards to the people. Most of the drains of the pourashava are in the lamentable conditions. The public ponds and pools are filled with water hyacinth and the pourashava authority has taken no measure to destroy the water hyacinth. Moreover, the roadside ditches are filled with filth and garbage which are not cleaned regularly. The road lights are insufficient and as a result the roads are plunged into darkness after the sun-set and the anti-social elements get the opportunity to be active.

problem to the poura dwellers as construction of new houses are not properly planned with the future modernization of the pourashava. And the pourashava authority to quiet indifferent with the matter.

The people of Gopalganj pourashava have been bearing the burden of excess poura taxes in comparison with that of Madaripur and Faridpur pourashavas in contravention of the government rules and regulations.

The poura people are deprived of minimum civic facilities and the pourashava authority has no initiative to provide with the same.

Housing poses a great



PABNA: Condition of a dustbin in Salgaria area of the town. — Star photo