

Aman cultivation programme in 11 S-dists

JHALAKATI, July 7: Some 7,04,196 hectares of land have been brought under aman cultivation in 11 southern districts of the country in the current season, reports UNB.

Under Extensive Autumn Cultivation programme, high yielding variety of aman will be cultivated on 2,43,496 hectares of land while local variety on 4,60,700 hectares.

The production target has been fixed at 12,53,720 metric tons.

In Jhalakati district, 46,450 hectares of land will be brought under the programme to achieve the target 80,925 mts.

The other districts are — Barisal, Bhola, Pirojpur, Patuakhali, Barguna, Gopalganj, Madaripur, Faridpur, Shariatpur and Rajbari.

Agriculture Extension Department will supply necessary seeds, fertilisers, pesticides and other inputs to make the programme a success.

A total of 1,147 demonstration plots will be established in 11 districts.

Seminar on tree plantation in Magura

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, July 7: Speakers at a seminar on tree plantation at Magura thana parishad auditorium stressed the need for creating awareness about tree plantation to protect the world from environmental disasters.

The seminar was organised by Magura thana parishad on the occasion of tree plantation programme on June 29.

Newly elected MP MS Akbar and Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Magura district Md. Nuruzzaman Khan were the chief guests at the seminar, while Md Golam Mostafa, TNO of Magura Sadar Thana presided.

Deputy Director, Agriculture Extension Department, M. Wasmuddin, Divisional Forestry Officer, Jessore, Tarek Hasan spoke on the occasion.

Two saplings of 'Neem' were planted at the premises of Magura Zila Parishad on the occasion of tree plantation programme.

A number of saplings of various species were also distributed among the people.

Many agriculturists, environment experts were present at the convention and seminar.

Five commit suicide in Satkhira

SATKHIRA, July 7: Five people allegedly committed suicide in the district in a single day on June 29, reports UNB.

Police said the victims are Romsa, 9, daughter of Manik Mollah of Kazra, Jaman Sarker, 18, of village Tarail in Kaliganj thana, Nabiya Khatun, 15, daughter of Shamsur Ali of Gobindakathi, Ramzan Gazi 65, of village Bhamra and Asad son of Anwar in Sadar thana.

Family feuds were the main causes behind the suicides. Separate cases have been filed with the police.

Agri fair held in Narshingdi

NARSINGDI, July 7: District Agriculture Extension Department organised a three-day long agriculture fair at the office premises on June 27-29, reports UNB.

Shamsuddin Ahmed Ahsaq, MP, inaugurated the fair on Thursday while Amanul Haq, director, AED, distributed prizes among the winners at the concluding ceremony on Saturday.

A total of 15 stalls were set up in the fair.

6000 children suffering from malnutrition in Barguna

BARGUNA, July 7: More than 6,000 children in five thanas of the district have been attacked by various diseases due to malnutrition, a recent survey said, reports UNB.

The survey conducted jointly by Bangla Bazar Patrika Barguna Bureau and Anushandhan, a research centre, revealed that the children, most of them between one and 12 months, are being attacked by dysentery, diphtheria, jaundice, tetanus, polio, skin diseases, whooping cough and pneumonia.

The reports also showed that of the total number of children, 1,200 are in Sadar, 1,150 in Bamna, 1,300 in Amtali, 1,200 in Betagi and 1,150 in Patharghata thana.

These children whose parents are labourers, landless farmers and unemployed people are not getting proper treatment for want of preventive measures and supply of necessary medicines.

It is reported that the government health complexes are not well equipped for the prevention of these diseases.

Besides, child specialists are not available in the district hospital for which many children die without proper diagnosis and treatment.

Frequent load-shedding hits industries in 16 N-dists

NATORE, July 7: Frequent load-shedding and low voltage of electricity have alarmingly affected the production in the small and cottage industries in 16 northern districts including Natore, reports UNB.

The entrepreneurs said all small and cottage industries and various middle grade industries remain closed 5 to 8 times a day due to electricity crisis incurring per day loss at Taka more than half a crore.

The sources said at least 35 megawatt electricity is required to meet the demand of 24 hours in Rajshahi region. But the actual supply has been decreased to only 12-13 mw a day during the last month.

According to an information, 99 per cent of the industries in the north Bengal region use electricity and only one per cent consume gas and

furnace oil as fuel.

National Industries of Small and Cottage Industries Bangladesh (NASCIB) sources said that the owners of small and cottage industries of Rajshahi region had been suffering a loss of about 50 lakh taka every day for frequent load-shedding and low voltage electricity supply.

Situation is almost same in other districts of northern region.

A statistics of Rajshahi Chamber of Commerce and Industries (RCCI) shows that load-shedding and low voltage have been a regular phenomenon every year, especially the period between March and July.

According to an estimate, electricity supply to Rajshahi region remains closed for 165 days every year on an average.

This deficit of electricity causes incredible loss to the industry owners.

As many as 160 small and middle sized mills and factories have already been closed in this belt, the sources informed.

NASCIB, Rajshahi region demanded regular and normal electricity supply to this region and urged the the concerned authority to establish a separate feeder line for ensuring regular and uninterrupted supply.

An official of PDB, Rajshahi Circle, admitted the power crisis and said that the distribution of electricity was controlled by the central authority.

Power problem is also creating hazards in the hospitals, clinics, offices and households, as well as the sufferings for the residential consumers.

Genuine dairy farm owners deprived of govt incentives

RAJSHAHI, July 7: Allegations of corruption and discrimination has been raised in distribution of government money allocated for development of dairy farms under private and individual entrepreneurship in Rajshahi.

Sources said that the money was allegedly distributed to those who were not eligible for getting the sanction. Some people got the money who reportedly had not been owners of any dairy farms. They had managed it by fabricating false papers, the sources said.

For this corruption and discrimination, the government sanction for development and extension of private dairy farms could not reach its aims and goals, it is observed.

Rajshahi Dairy Farm Owners' Association sources said that most of them, who had fulfilled all conditions and prerequisites, had failed often to get the money.

Meanwhile, marketing system of milk in Rajshahi has been lying in very old fashioned condition. That is a major drawback which is hindering development and extension of dairy farming and cow-rearing both in large and small scale farms in the region.

Rajshahi Dairy Owners' Association leaders in-

formed that the cow-owners had been facing much troubles in selling milk for many days as there had been no milk market in the city or any where in the district. They have to sell milk to the owners of sweetmeat shops and tea-stalls. That is why they often do not get just price, it is alleged.

On the other hand, about six lakh residents of the city have also been facing much trouble to collect fresh and pure cow milk as there is not even a single milk market in the city. They have to depend on the traditional milkmen for fresh cow milk which is often adulterated with water.

Most people cannot manage to get milk from milkmen as their number is considerably very few. The private owners of cows and dairy farms cannot hawk about their milk from door to door in the city.

There is a big dairy farm owned by the government at Rajbari hat under Godagari Thana situated by the side of Rajshahi-Chapainawabganj high way about 25 kilometres west to the city. Here a considerable amount of milk is produced everyday but it has no specific way of selling milk.

The Farm authorities, however, send some milk to the city to hawk

around by it tiny tranly driven by engine.

Rajshahi Dairy Farm Owners' Association leaders said that they had repeatedly contacted and requested Rajshahi City Corporation authorities to open at least one big milk market in Shaheb Bazar area, the heart of the city and one small market each at Binodpur, Kazla, Talaimari, Uposhohor, Shirol, Shalbagar, Laxmipur and Haragram market areas, but nothing has been done yet.

Rajshahi City Corporation authorities is, however, keenly considering the matter, it was informed when contacted.

Many consumers alleged that the milkmen and owners of cows, dairy farms, tea stalls and sweetmeat shops are deliberately selling and using milk adulterated with water, cheap powdered milk and wheat flour, but the Health Services of the city corporation is completely indifferent to it. The health wing of Rajshahi City Corporation, however, replied that selling and buying of milk in the city conducted on individual level which is very much difficult to supervise. They also feel establishment of scheduled milk markets in the city.

Six more unions in Jamalpur inundated

JAMALPUR, July 7: The overall flood situation of the district aggravated further as six more unions in four thanas were inundated due to rise of water level in river Jamuna, on Saturday, reports UNB.

The new flooded unions are — Mesta, Kendua, Adra, Pugalda, Gomaritola and Syamganj Kalbari.

With this, a total of 22 unions of the district's six thanas—Sadar, Melandah, Sarisabari, Madarganj, Boxiganj and Dewanganj — were affected by the monsoon flooding.

A large portion of Dalupara ghat in Sarisabari pourashava were eroded in the last few days due to strong current in the Jamuna, which was flowing above its danger mark at Jagannathganj ghat and Bahadurabad ghat.

Road communications between Sarisabari and Jamalpur district headquarters remained snapped since last eight days after an diversion road at Kendua washed away by the flood water.

2 killed in Pabna road accident

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, July 7: Two persons were killed and 15 others injured in a road accident on Wednesday night.

According to witnesses, the accident occurred when a Pabna-bound minibus from Chatmohar skidded into a near-by ditch near village Moheshpur.

The victims have been identified as Umed Ali, 40, of village Noadafara of Kushtia district and Azmat Ali, 31, of village Paikpara of Pabna district.

Ten critically injured passengers were admitted to the Chatmohar thana health complex and their condition in critical, health officials said.

101 arrested in B'baria

BRAHMANBARIA, July 7: A total of 101 people were arrested on various charges from Gokarnaghat area in Brahmanbaria Pourashava on June 29, reports UNB.

Police in a raid arrested 71 people who were wanted in connection with various cases. The rest arrested were the charge-sheeted accused.

Police also rounded up a woman trafficker from Manikpur village in Bancharampur thana and lodged a case in this connection.

Another report from Sirajganj adds: A young man was arrested while collecting tolls from a Bidi Factory owner at Kandapara in the district on Thursday.

Police said Liton, 24, while demanding Tk 20,000 as toll from the owner was caught red handed by the labourers of Kismat Bidi Factory.

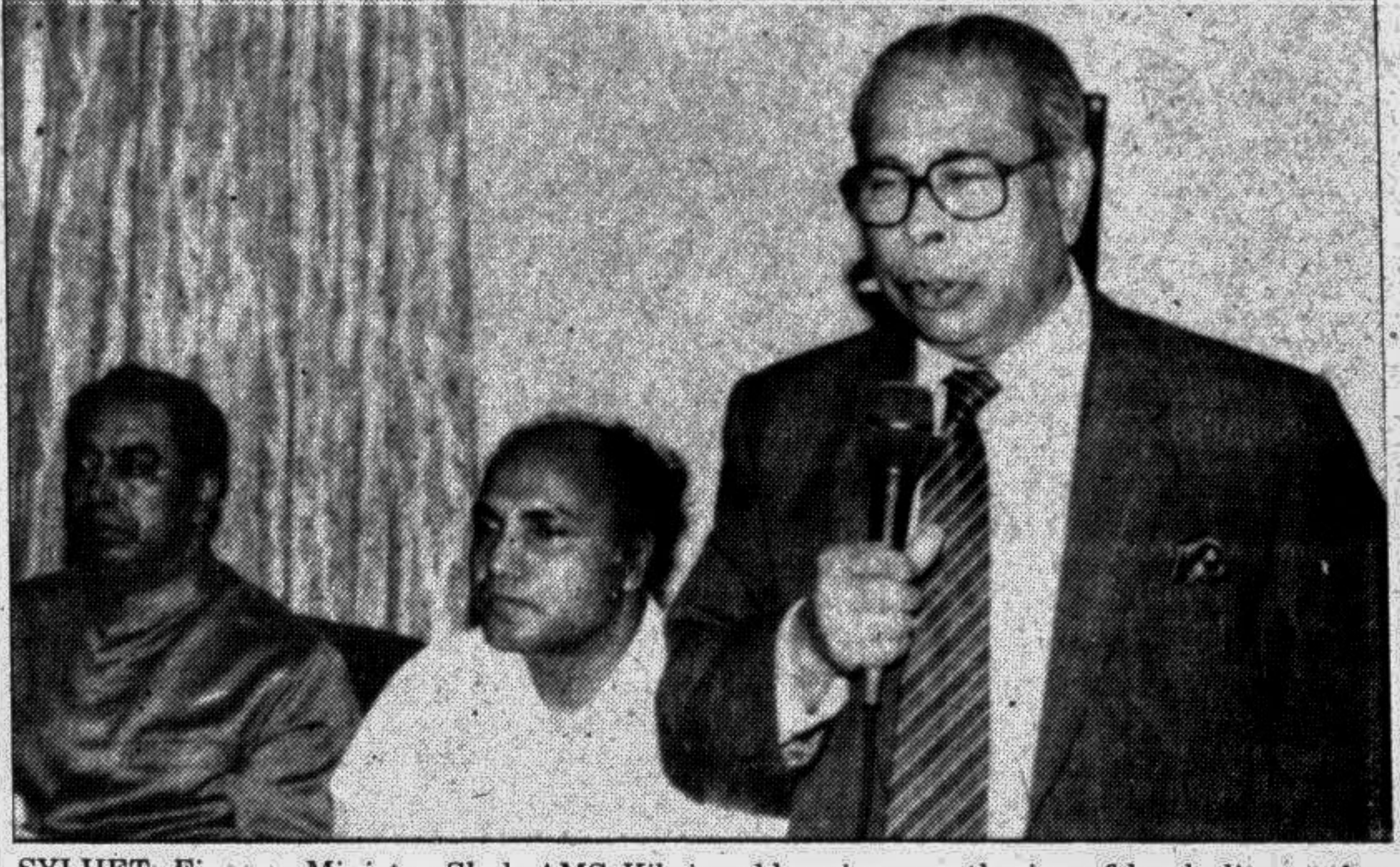
Liton was later handed over to the police.

New hostel for Kumudini Mahila College opens

TANGAIL, July 7: The 100-bed hostel building for Kumudini Mahila Government College was inaugurated recently by Dr Salma Banu, Principal of the college, reports BSS.

The four-storied hostel building was constructed by the facilities department at a total cost of Tk 76 lakh.

Speaking in the inaugural function, the principal said with the construction of the hostel building, accommodation facilities for residential students have been increased. The function was followed by a milad mahfil.



SYLHET: Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria addressing a gathering of local elite at the Collectorate building Friday afternoon. — Star photo

Dacoities rise in Magura

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, July 7: The number of dacoities and thefts in different offices of Magura district have increased in the last few weeks.

According to the police sources, about 10 dacoities and thefts were committed in Sripur and Magura Sadar thana till June 19.

Dacoities in different government and educational institutions are on increase in Sripur and Magura Sadar thana. Last incident of dacoity took place in the office of Sripur MC Pilot High School at dead of night on June 18. The miscreants looted Tk 20,000 and other valuables, official sources said.

On June 5, dacoities were committed in Magura Government Boys' High School, Child Hospital, Zila Parishad, Roads and Highways Department, Sripur Degree College, Thana Agriculture office, Sripur Government Primary School were also not spared, according to the police.

Cases were lodged with Magura Sadar thana. Four persons were arrested in this connection and police investigation is going on.

In Sripur Degree College office, the miscreants breaking the rods of window centered the room and looted Tk 15,000 and gold medals by breaking all steel-almirahs of the room, sources said.

Two BAU students awarded

MYMENSINGH, July 7: Two brilliant students of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) have been awarded Dr SA Kadir Smrity Award for outstanding results in their honours final examinations, reports UNB.

Mitul Kumar Shaha and Gazi Mostafa Kabir Uddin of Agriculture and Rural Society Science faculty have received the award at a simple ceremony for securing the first class first positions in the examinations.

BAU Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Shah Mohammad Farook attended the function as chief guest and distributed the awards along with certificates, said a press release Friday.

Dr SA Kadir Smrity Award is given among the students who get first class first from the departments under the Agri-economics and Rural Society Science Faculty every year.

Erosion intensifies in Mongla, Pashur rivers

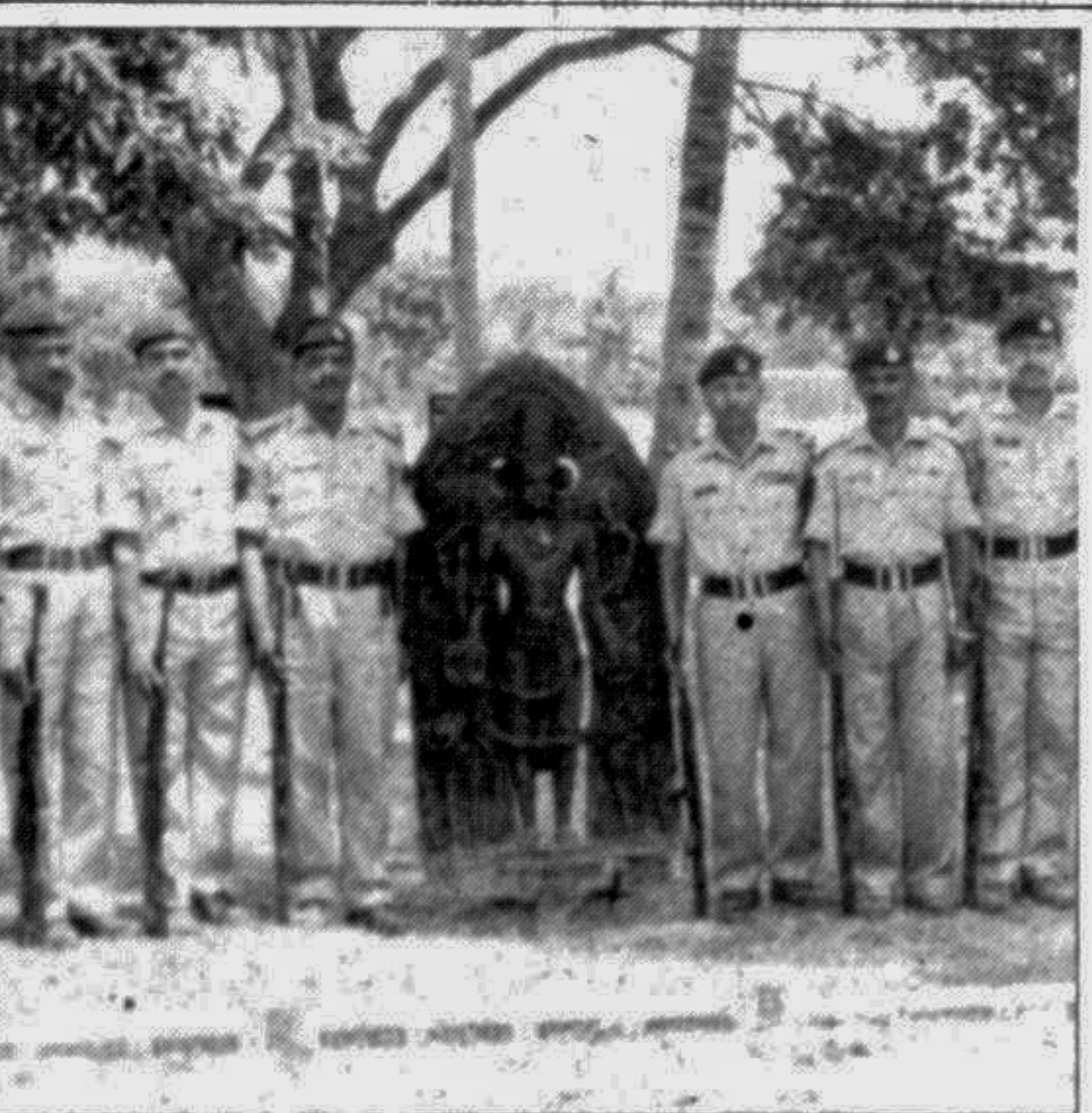
KHULNA, July 7: Navigability of the river Pashur, known as Green Channel of the Mongla Port, has been reducing due to continuous siltation and erosion of the river, reports UNB.

Informed sources said erosion has intensified in both sides of Mongla and Pashur rivers from Dangmari area, western side of the confluence, to the downstream areas than the previous year.

The river Pashur widened by about 50 metres at Laudov point during the last decade but the depth of the river decreased by two metres.

The erosion started in 1970 and the intensity is more in the eastern side than that of western side. Now on an average one kilometre of land erodes every year increasing the width of the river.

Local sources said construction of embankment and setting up of shrimp farms are causing reduction of natural floodings helping in accumulation of silts at the river bed.



RAJSHAHI: BDR personnel recently recovered a valuable idol made of touchstone while being smuggled out of the country. — Star photo

Chapra Shishu Sadan needs proper care

From A Wadood

RAJSHAHI, July 7: Fifty three orphans residing in Chapra Shishu Sadan situated at Chapra under Tanore thana of Rajshahi district are leading inhumane life for many years but none is there to share their sufferings.

Insufficient nutrition, lack of proper treatment and educational facilities, shortage of space, clothings and beds and unhealthy environment have made the innocent lives of the children very miserable.

Mohammad Khalequzzaman, a social worker, with the help of CDB, an international non-government organisation, established the orphan centre in 1983. The Shishu Sadan was started in an old tin-shade mud house consisting of six small rooms. The sadan has now about two acres of land there which also has a small pond.

All 53 orphans are to accommodate themselves in these six small rooms crowding together. Besides, there are one superintend and two other home tutors to stay with them. They have not sufficient bedsteads, mattress, quilt rag and bed covers or clothings.

The shishu sadan lacks any kind of library and facility of indoor or out door games or any kind of recreation facilities.

There is only one hand tubewell in the campus which often goes out of order. The shishu sadan has no boundary wall.

Open fields around it go under water in the rainy season. The whole sadan campus

including the floors of the rooms become damp. Rural electric lines, run by the side of the sadan but sadan itself has no power connections. The minor orphans pass nights in a ghostly environment.

Mohammad Liakat Ali, Superintendent of Chapra Shishu Sadan informed that all the orphans were being given formal education. They go to the nearby primary and high schools. They are also being given some vocational training in some easy trade courses like tailoring. Experienced and necessary number of home tutors and trainers cannot be employed for shortage of money, he said.

It has been learnt that the government gives a monthly sanction of Tk. 400 for 38 orphans each. Tk 300 for food. Tk 35 for medical treatment,

Tk 25 for education and Tk 40 for clothings.

The money is not at all sufficient to meet the demands of the orphans. The shishu sadan authorities, however, try hard to collect donations.

Zakats and fitras from the local people often bring smiles in the sales of the orphans. The children are to pass days sometimes without food, it is learnt.



RAJSHAHI: Inmates of Chapra Shishu Sadan. — Star photo

Valuables worth Tk one lakh looted in Sherpur

From Our Correspondent

SHERPUR, July 7: A group of miscreants raided a house of Girdhanaryanpur in the town and looted valuables worth about Taka one lakh at around one pm Friday.

House owner, a retired food inspector, Babu Lal Mollik including his wife had gone out from the house around 12:30 pm for shopping. At that time there was no one in the house miscreants first broke the inner door and later broke open the steel almirah and decamped with 15 (fifteen) carats of gold ornaments and cash Taka 5 thousand. Sadar police said that a case has been registered in this connection and investigation already started by police.

One killed by tiger

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, July 7: One Hajera Khatun, 11, daughter of Fakir Ali of village Ramjannagar under Shyamnagar Thana was killed by the Royal Bengal Tiger on last June 30.

It is reported that the victim Hajera with her father, Fakir Ali went to the Sundarbans for catching fish. While catching fish in the river Kalindi, a tiger swooped on her and took her into the jungles.

Navigation in Narsingdi river routes hampered

NARSINGDI, July 7: Navigation in Narsingdi river routes including Sreenagar-Panchabati route is under threat as the four kilometre route have remained silted up since long, reports UNB.

The river Meghna flowing through the area has become a narrow channel here since the siltation began 20 years back and so far no measures were taken for dredging the river.

For the want of dredging, the link between the Narsingdi river port and rest of the country may be cut at any time.

Narsingdi river port is the country's eighth port through which several lakh farmers of char areas of Sylhet, Mymensingh, Bhairab, Comilla, Brahmanbaria districts and Narsingdi Sadar and Raipura thanas are involved in trading as the river routes are their only means of communication.

Meghna from Bhairab flows towards south through Sadar thana crossing Charmathua and Nilkhiya area in Raipura thana and divided at Sreenagar-Panchabati area driving its flow towards Chandpur and the river port. But the river flow has been changed following a barrage at Barak river by India.

Base Supply Depot, ASC Dhaka Cantonment Auction Notice

It is hereby notified for the information of all concerned that a huge number of serviceable/repairable/unserviceable empty soyabean oil barrels, drums, tin, polythene/nylon/gunny bags, tea chest and other packing materials will be sold by open auction at 1000 hours on 09 Srahan 1403/24 July 96 at "Base Supply Depot, ASC, Dhaka Cantonment." A Bank Draft/Pay Order for Tk 50,000.00 (Fifty thousand only) should be deposited as security money (Refundable) by the contractor/individual interested to participate in auction in favour of Commanding Officer, Base Supply Depot, ASC, Dhaka Cantonment before auction. Highest bidder has to deposit 25% of total auctioned value in cash on the auction day immediately after the auction. Auctioned packing materials have to be collected within the next 7 days of auction at the risk and expenditure of the successful bidder after depositing the remaining 75% of auctioned value and an additional amount @ 3% income tax on total auctioned value in cash. In case of failure 25% auctioned value (Deposited during auction) will be forfeited and deposited in to the Govt Treasury. Other rules and conditions will be intimated at the place of auction. Board of Officers for the auction reserves the right to accept or cancel any auction bid without showing any cause.

ISPR/Army/96/1212 Commanding Officer
DFP-14943-4/7 Base Supply Depot
G-828 Dhaka Cantonment

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer PWD Division, Bagerhat Notice Inviting Tender No 53/95-96

1. Sealed tenders in Bangladesh Form No. 2911 are hereby invited from the approved enlisted Building contractor/Firm of PWD according to their Enlistment capacity for the undermentioned work and will be received by the undersigned and as well as the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, No I/II, Khulna and Satkhira up to 12.00 Noon of 21.7.96 and will be opened on the same day at 12.15 PM in presence of the intending tenderers who may like to remain present. The tender form and tender documents may be seen and obtained from all the office of the Executive Engineer, under PWD Circle, Khulna up to 20.7.96 during office hours on payment of usual charges.

2. Name of work : Construction of 44 Nos new Dist H/Q in Bangladesh one at Bagerhat (SH)-Construction of Boundary wall & Gate in front of Civil Surgeon Office).

3. Estimated cost : Tk 2,92,275/-

4. Earnest money : Tk 5,850/-

5. Time for completion of the work is of 2(two) months from the date of issue of work order.

DFP-14950-4/7 Executive Engineer
G-829 PWD Divn, Bagerhat