

National



Partial view (L) of the inundated Bridge Road in Gaibandha town. Boat and rickshaws plying together on pavement road in Purbapara. — Star photo

Development works worth Tk 11 cr completed at RU during last 5-year plan

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, July 17: A development work involving Tk 11 crore 8 lakh 87 thousand have been completed at Rajshahi University under last 4th 5-year plan (1991-95) which ended in June 1995. Four new departments and one Institute have been established under this Rajshahi University development project. The newly introduced departments are: Public Administration, Library and Information Science, Computer Science and Fine Arts, Institute of Biological Sciences is the only Institute that was introduced under last 4th 5-year plan. The construction of Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Hall and Begum Khaleda Zia Hall, extension of Administration building and Tapasya Rabeya Hall, have also been completed under this development project.

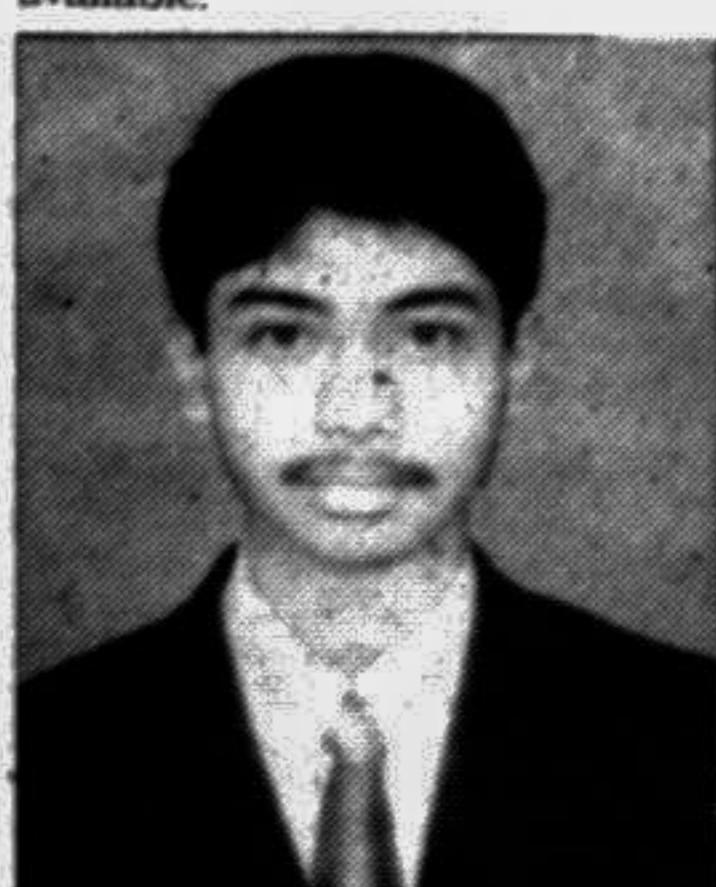
On the other hand, two new Institutes and two new departments would be setup and introduced respectively at Rajshahi University under the 5th year plan (1995-2000). RU office sources said. Government changing the five year plan into 3 years plan allotted Tk 10 crore 5 lakh in this regard. From this amount under development and teaching programme two new departments namely Population Science and Human Resources Development, Genetics and Breeding and two new Institutes viz. Institute of Business Administration and Institute of Environmental Science would be established. Moreover establishing a Institute of English Language and Institute of education and research at Rajshahi University is also under active consideration of the authority subject to receiving fund.

Fake chemical importer

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, July 17: The Chittagong Customs House has found a fake chemical importer who took delivery of most of the consignments by submitting forged documents.

According to Customs sources, the Chittagong Customs Authority ordered an immediate investigation in to the matter and seizure of the rest of the consignments. Further details were not available.

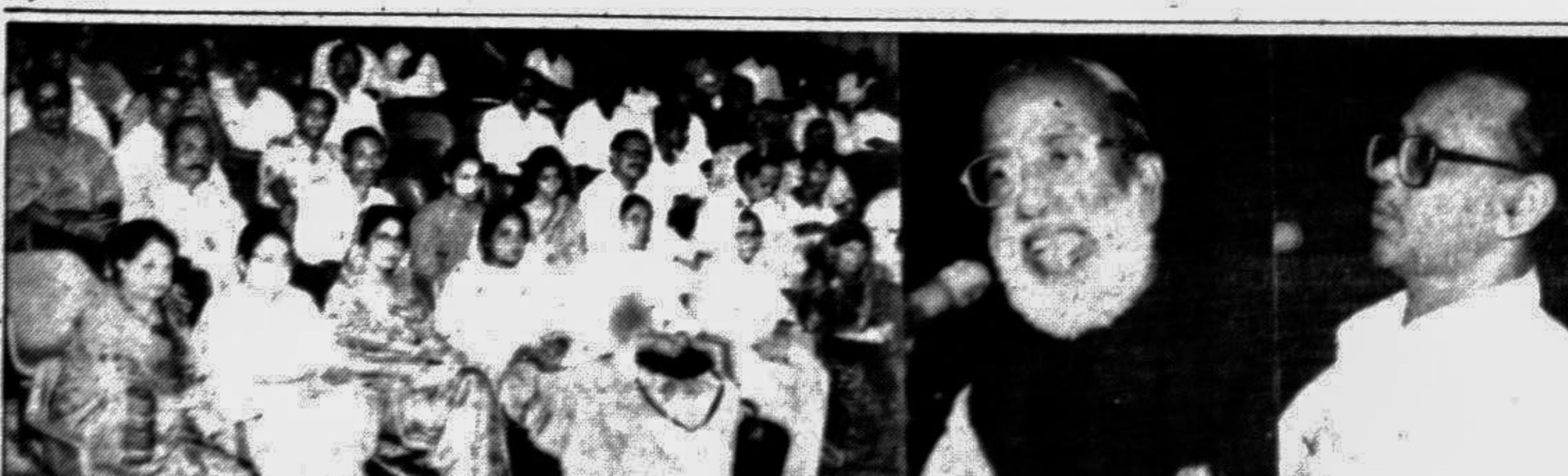


Ashik wants to be a pilot

Ashik Noon who has secured star marks with 6 letters in the Dhaka Board's Science Group SSC examination this year, wants to be an aircraft pilot, says a press release.

His father, A K Firoz Noon is a noted politician and mother Momena Begum is a former headmistress.

Ashik got awards in drawings from Bangla Academy and Shishu Academy. As a child artist delegate he visited Japan. He also visited Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Singapore and India. He has a keenness for invention and research in any field.



SYLHET: Professor Bahauddin Zakaria, president, Family Planning Association Sylhet unit and Waziuddin Khan, MP, president, Central Committee speaking at the concluding function of a 3-day workshop held here recently — Star photo

Wife strangulated to death

From Our Correspondent
PARIDPUR, July 17: Husband and his second wife allegedly killed the first wife in Nagarkanda thana recently.

It is reported that Nirumia, 35, of village Chandibardi under Nagarkanda thana had two wives who were at daggers drawn and quarreled too often.

On the day of incident, the two wives were reportedly engaged in bitter quarrel throwing abuses at each other in fifty languages. At one stage of the quarrel husband Nirumia and his second wife fell upon the first wife Aytunessa, 30, and strangulated her to death.



PABNA: Bags containing fertilisers being removed from godowns at Nagorbari ferryghat badly affected by flood and severe erosion. — Star photo

1993 BDR firing killed 5 in Jakiganj

Inquiry report not yet published

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, July 17: Neither the report on the judicial enquiry commission formed following the killing of five villagers by BDR firing three years ago has yet been published, nor the government has taken any step to implement the recommendations, though a long time has already passed.

It may be stated here that, on July 26 in the 1993, a group of BDR jawans from a nearby Border Out Post (BOP) went to the Teikhal embankment and opened fire on the villagers without any provocation. The villagers who from different adjoining areas earlier had gone there a short while before the incident to cut off the key point of the embankment attempting to save several thousand acres of land which face seasonal inundation every year. Four persons died on the spot while another succumbed to his injuries in the hospital.

The murders by BDR firing created much sensation in the region. The government on the next day formed a judicial enquiry commission with

Anwarul Haque, District and Sessions Judge of Kishoreganj as its Chairman and asked it to submit its report to the government by September '93 with recommendations.

The people of Jakiganj thana demanded for immediate publication of the report and also demanded for early execution of the recommendations. Several representations were placed before the authorities in this regard, but all in vain.

It may be stated here that, the swelling waters from the upper hilly areas across the Indian borders cause damage to the standing crops on thousands of acres of croplands in Jakiganj, Beanibazar, Biswanath and Balaganj thanas in Sylhet and considerable areas in the district of Sunamganj every year.

The situation goes abnormal when the hilly water cause breaches at points through the Kushiyara Dyke constructed by the Water Development Board inundating large number of villages in different thanas.

Erosion in the rivers also

contribute to this situation every year. Almost all the starting points of the canals which start from the river Kushiyara were blocked due to construction of embankments. These unplanned embankments though provided fishing facilities but blocked the way of the outlet of waters especially during the monsoon.

It leads to overflowing of the river on both sides. Besides, about 30 thousand acres of land in the low-lying areas have been suffering very much from stagnancy of waters. Of this, 15 thousand acres of land was totally unfit for cultivation. The rest areas also go under water almost every year as the surface water can not roll down to the rivers due to the embankments.

Every year, additional lands are becoming uncultivable as the stagnancy of water has been extending to the adjacent lands.

Common farmers prefer opening of the entry points of the embankments to save their lands from the clutches of frequent floods. Due to this, they have to face occasional clashes

with a small number of fishermen groups.

Agitation among the people went extreme following the killing of 5 villagers in the BDR firing. The situation was controlled as the government assured the people of taking necessary steps for opening the key points of the embankments.

All these problems were discussed in several meetings of the Jakiganj Thana Development Council. All the chairmen of the union parishes viewed that, faulty and unplanned construction of the Dyke and embankments had caused the situation due to which water stagnant areas were increasing and flooding the areas has become a regular feature, they said.

They also maintained that, with a view to avoiding the untoward incidents in future, immediate steps should be taken for opening the key points of the embankments. They also called for taking a master plan for construction of Dyke, embankments and for dredging of the rivers.

Brilliant students, various organisations awarded Tk 6 lakh

From Our Correspondent

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, July 17: Nawabganj education, culture, health and games development trust distributed 6 lakh 27 thousand taka among the brilliant students and educational, cultural and social welfare organisations during the last four years.

The trust gave 42 thousand taka to 21 brilliant students, 5 lakh 73 thousand taka to various educational, cultural and social welfare institutions and organisations, 12 thousand taka to the proficient people in the fields of sports, culture and education and 1 lakh 60 thousand taka to the Diabetic Association.

Unofficial source said at least 12000 kutchha houses were totally damaged during the last five years by the flood and erosion in different char areas rendering about 40,000 families shelterless.

Different non-government organisations (NGOs) distributed house-building materials among the affected families and the other families are still remaining homeless.

In Dewanganj thana all the people of 42 villages have been rendered homeless during the floods and erosion. Flood waters still remain stagnant in some places bringing farming to a standstill in 200 villages.

Eighty per cent people of these villages, who are agricultural labourers, were unemployed.

Police and witnesses said, one Mosarraf Khan, a rickshaw puller chopped his wife Lucky, 21, and her alleged lover, Abdul Kalam, 24, to death when he came to know that his wife had developed illegal love affair with Abdul Kalam, a distant relative of Mosarraf.

Police said the dacoits opened fire when the patrol team challenged them. But the dacoits immediately fled from the scene, police said.

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