

Five expelled from JP in Magura

MAGURA, May 28: Five leaders and workers of Jatiya Party were expelled from the party on Friday for their anti-party activities, reports UNB. They were district JP Vice President Sajjadur Rahman Tarafdar, Organising Secretary Islam, Members Kumud Ranjan Das, Ali Sardar, Abul Hossain and Omar Farukh. This was decided at a party meeting on Friday held with Khan Ziaul Haq in the chair. Hasan Siraj Suja, MA Rashid, Abu Bakar Siddique, Ratan Kumar Mitra and Rakunuzzaman also addressed the meeting. They said Jatiya Party Chairman Hussain Muhammad Ershad is determined to make the party strong by discarding the betrayers from the party.

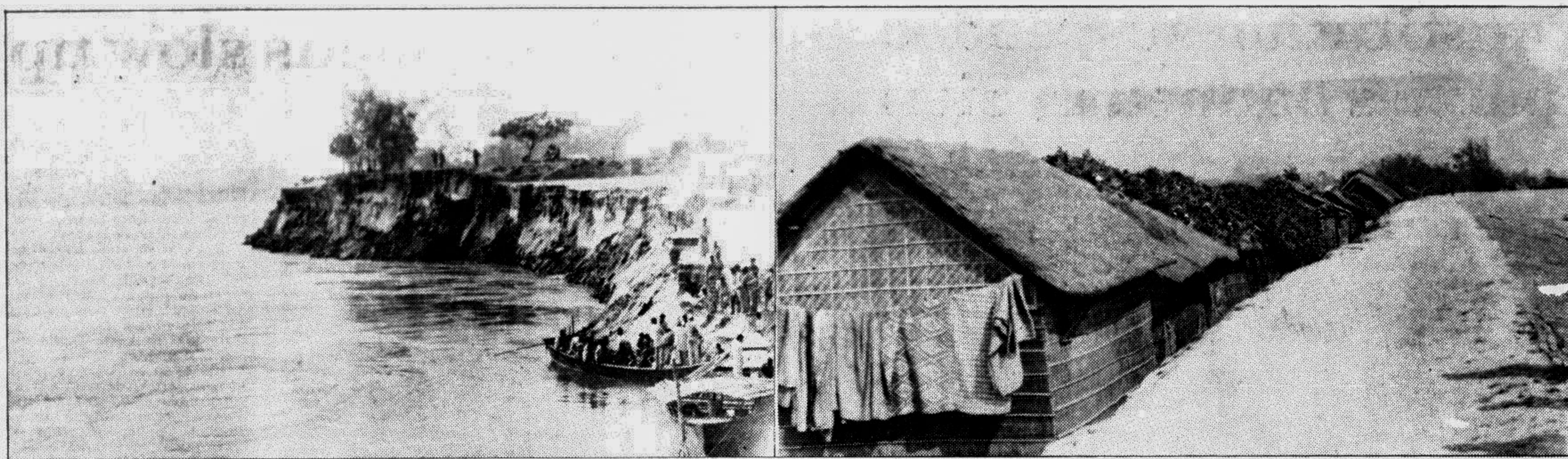
Caritas' relief drive for cyclone victims

An emergency relief programme at a budget of Tk 64.87 lakh has been undertaken by Caritas, a national private voluntary organisation, to provide succour to thousands of cyclone victims in Cox's Bazar and Chittagong districts, says a press release. Caritas relief teams rushed to the worst-affected areas in four unions of Anowara thana and distributed relief items like pressed rice, molasses, match boxes, candles, ORS and water purification tablets among cyclone victims. Caritas is now distributing relief items including food-stuff — 15 kg rice, 3 kg pulse, 1 kg salt, and 10 yards plastic sheeting for temporary shelter to each of the estimated 10000 families of Chokoria, Moheshkhali, Sandwip, Anowara and Baskhal thanas. Caritas also plans to build 7000 low cost houses in the affected areas; crop recovery and professional rehabilitation to 500 families; and cash for work equivalent to 85,000 mandays for restoration of communication like repairing of roads, culverts, bridges and embankments with a total budget of Tk 10.34 crore. These houses will be twin-roofed with CI sheet, having six RCC pillars, bamboo mat walls and MS angle truss the press release added.

Stipends awarded to 28 poor pry students KISHOREGONJ, May 28: Some 28 poor but meritorious primary school students were awarded stipends by a Japan-based organisation at Pakundia thana here on Sunday, reports UNB. The stipend was given by Taketani Brothers and Tomimatsu of Japan which was arranged by Mumtazuddin Bhuiyan, former professor of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET). Seven students each from Pakundia Adarsha Primary School, Char Pakundia Primary School, Char Pakundia Pashimpura Primary School and Charfaradi Government Primary School received the stipend. M Shamsul Haque, former Chief Operation Manager, Fenchuganj-Ghorashal fertiliser factory distributed the stipend. Thana Education Officer Shahidul Islam was also present on the occasion.

One killed in Gopalganj bus accident

From Our Correspondent GOPALGANJ, May 28: One person was killed and at least 35 persons were injured in a bus accident near Kongshoor bus stand on Gopalganj-Takerhat road recently. It is learnt that a passenger bus Shetu Paribahari (Khuana Ba-1008) was coming to Gopalganj from Bhatiapara. When the bus reached near Kongshoor bus stand the driver reportedly lost control of the bus and the bus suddenly fell down into the roadside ditch. As a result, Wobidur Rahman, 60, of Nowahata under Muksdupur thana in Gopalganj district died on way to the hospital. The report also said 35 passengers were injured, of them five seriously injured were admitted to Gopalganj hospital. A case was registered with the police. Seven houses ransacked in rivals' clash MAGURA, May 28: Seven houses were ransacked in a clash between the rival groups of villagers in Sadar thana on May 19 following the murder of a teenage boy, reports UNB. Sohrah Hossain, 18, was killed on May 18 in another clash ensued between the two groups after the love affair of Sohrah and Nasima came to light. Villagers said supporters of Sohrah, on the following morning, attacked the houses of rival group to take revenge and looted goods. It is also alleged that valuable worth about Tk 5 lakh were looted from the ransacked houses. Two cases were filed in this connection by the rival groups.



GAIBANDHA: (L) Hundreds of people became homeless at village Baguria under sadar thana in the district due to alarming river erosion as water level rose sharply in the Brahmaputra basin. (R) Many of the erosion victims have ultimately shifted to the embankment of Rasoolpur to begin their life anew. — Star photo

She seeks justice

From Our Correspondent GAIBANDHA, May 28: A teenaged maid servant has been seeking justice from society for due recognition of herself and her unborn baby she was carrying for the last eight months, out of an illicit love affair with her master's son. The victim, Felthi Khatun, 13, of village Gobindapur under the sadar thana was a maid servant in the house of one Abdus Samad in the same village. Saiful Islam, a school going son of the houseowner tried to seduce her frequently, but in vain. Finally he offered a marriage proposal to her and developed an illicit relationship with her. Meanwhile, the innocent maid servant got pregnant with an eight month old unborn baby. She asked her fiancé to marry her, but he flatly denied having any relationship with her. The would be mother moved from door to door of the local influential for justice, but more came forward. Finally she went to Gaibandha police station seeking justice. There she filed a case accusing Saiful Islam for her misery.

Two extortionists caught by people

SIRAJGANJ, May 28: Local people rounded up two terrorists and handed them over to police in Belkuchi thana here on Monday night, reports UNB. Witnesses said a gang of terrorists led by Abdul Quader and Shukur Ali stormed the house of Moulana Abdul Monaf at 10 pm on the day and demanded Tk 20,000 toll. Monaf, headmaster of Khidmatia Primary School, refused to pay any toll and called his neighbours for help. Meanwhile, local people gathered around the house and at one stage locked in clashes with the extortionists. Later, they caught red-handed Abdul Quader, 26, and Shukur Ali, 19, who are reportedly BCL activists. A case was filed with the police.

One awarded 4 yrs imprisonment for smuggling

From Our Correspondent SATKHIRA, May 28: One person was convicted and sentenced to suffer four years rigorous imprisonment on charge of smuggling. The convict, Ashrafur Islam of village Barat under Tala thana of the district was given the punishment last week. The prosecution story in brief is that the accused Ashrafur Islam was caught red handed by the forces of 21 rifle battalion of BDR from Banshtala village under sadar thana on July 20, 1991. The BDR personnel also recovered smuggled goods amounting to Taka about 20000 from his possession. A case was lodged with sadar thana. After examining the records and witnesses Abdus Salam Siddik Additional District and Sessions Judge, Satkhira awarded the said punishment.

15 persons convicted for robbery in Chandpur

From Our Correspondent CHANDPUR, May 28: In a recent judgement, announced by the Additional District and Sessions Judge, Chandpur, 15 persons were found guilty for committing decoity in a house and sentenced to suffer rigorous imprisonment for seven years and a fine of Tk 1000 each in default to suffer additional 3 months. The prosecution case in brief was that on 16 March of 1991 the guilty 15 persons had committed a decoity at the house of Md. Abdur Razzak of village Sayedpur under Kachua thana of Chandpur district. The decoits entered the house by breaking open the door and decamped with cash, ornaments and other valuables worth Taka about 50 thousand. In this connection a case was initiated with Kachua thana. The police after investigation submitted charge-sheet against the accused. The learned judge after examining the witnesses found Md. Rafiqul Islam, Abdul Mannan, Shah Alam, Rahamat Mia, Bilal Hossain, Md. Maznu Mia, Md. Alamgir, Md. Afabbuddin, Abdul Khaleque, Monir Hossain, Almas, Julhaj Mia, Mizanur Rahman, Md. Suruj Mia and Ranu Mia guilty.

An ambitious irrigation project shelved for last 21 years

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, May 28: After long 21 years of start, implementation of the Chitra-Nabaganga rivers irrigation project covering crop land areas of Magura and Narail districts looks uncertain. According to source, the project was taken up in 1975 at a cost of Taka three crores. Kuwait government provided the fund. The project was to bring 70 kilometres long area of lands on both sides of Chitra-Nabaganga rivers under modern system of irri cultivation and thereby boost crop production from the area. Accordingly, the entire area was split up into fragmentations for proper supervision and cultivation. A total of 306 agriculture blocks were set up enabling the farmers to cultivate land easily with the help of power pumps and mechanical facilities, in stable manner. But it is alleged that despite all these constructed of a huge cost it failed to achieve material benefit to farmers. Lack of proper planning, designing have been identified as the main faults of the project. Reports received from different sources say that all valuable irrigation machineries including power pumps, electric lines, poles and connections are being destroyed due to alleged corruption negligence and care business of the authority concerned. As a result, the poor farmers are facing bleak future out of the project. It may be noted here that Nabaganga river flowing from Magura, joins the Chitra in Narail district. According to statistical report there are 234 blocks in Narail Sadar, 17 in Lohagara of Narail, 30 in Shalikka, and 25 in Mohammadpur thanas of Magura. All these were done in a bid to cultivate over 15 thousand acres of land under the project. What is mysterious is that ever after expiry of long 21 years, the implementation of the project is still a distant hope. Incidentally, boro crop was cultivated on 800 areas of land under the project with the help of power pumps in 1996. During the current season farmers felt reluctant to avail to power facility in cultivating boro and IRRI nor only of them applied for permission to use the electric motors for the purpose of crop cultivation in the project area. When contacted, a group of farmers under the project, told this correspondent that the farmers have lost interest in cultivating the lands through power pump. Following the corrupt practices and construction of blocks in unplanned way besides the ongoing load-shedding. They further interned that cultivating land in the project area by using surface water from the river and the deep tubewell is far less and that has been the key reason of the farmers to avoid electric facilities.

Use of 'rejected' jute seeds slash hope of achieving output target

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, May 28: The farmers in the south-west zone of the country have been widely fooled by using 'rejected' jute seeds smuggled from neighbouring India in this fields, local officials of the department concerned said. It may be mentioned that during every jute cultivation season farmers face crisis of fresh jute seeds. Procurement of good quality seeds is very hard of worth 14 lakh 22 thousand metric tons. But all hopes to achieve the target this year have been dashed following blossoming in the jute plants at 'premature' stage. A case was filed with the police.

Young man commits suicide

From Our Correspondent GOPALGANJ, May 28: A young man committed suicide by taking poison Thursday last. It is learnt that the victim, Shomar Biswas, 25, of village Ragunathpur under Gopalganj sadar thana committed suicide by taking poison. Cause of the suicide was suspected to be family feud, police source said. On the other hand, local people said, Shomar Biswas committed suicide following his failure in a love affair. A case of unnatural death (UD) was filed with the Gopalganj police station.



RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY: Prof M Abdul Khaleq, Vice-Chancellor of the university exchanging views with class III employees about the prevailing situation on the campus at the Senate House recently. — Star photo

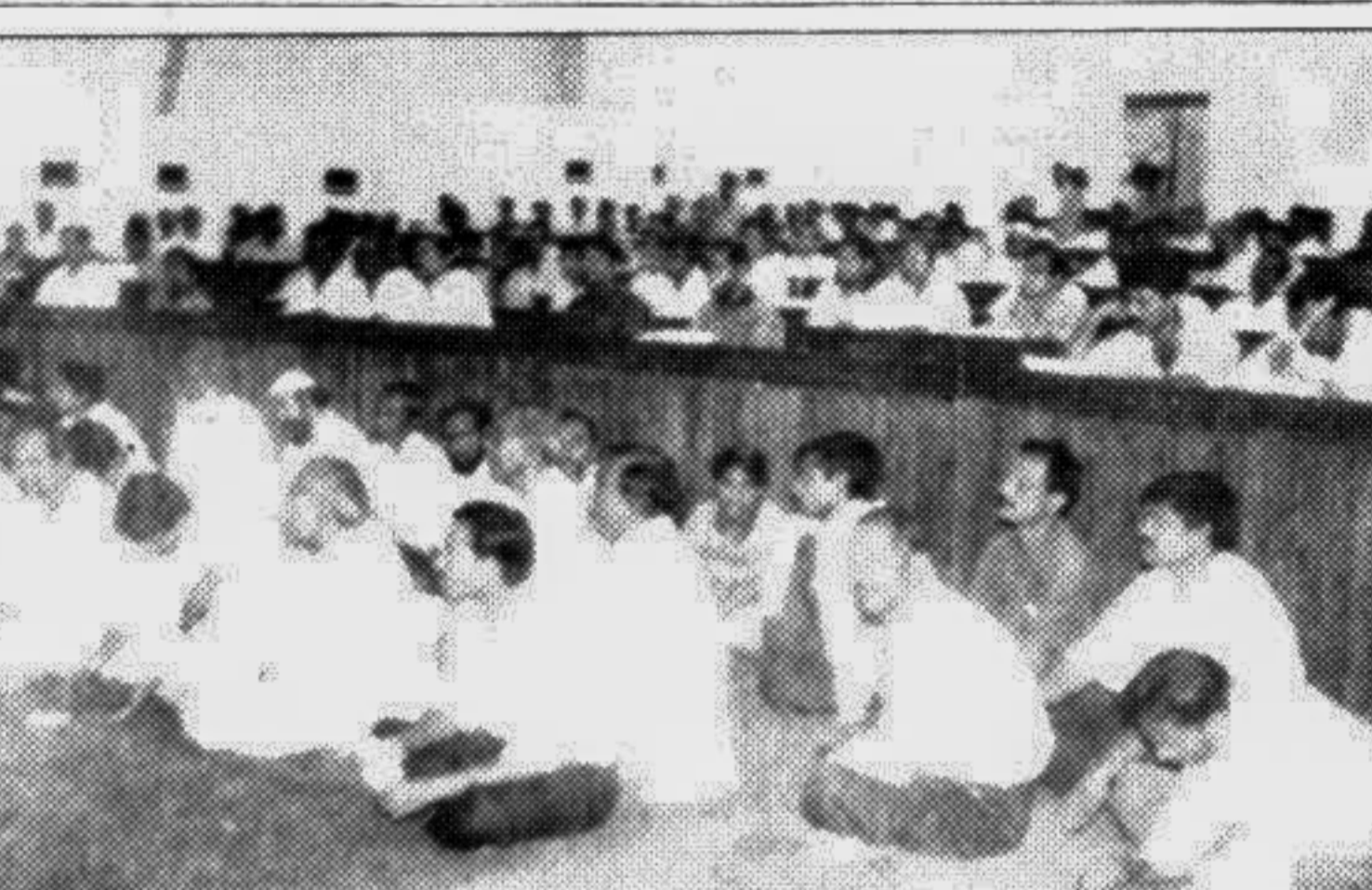
Farmers of N-dists get Tk 179 cr loan

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, May 28: Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank has disbursed a total of Taka 179 crore as loan among the farmers of 16 northern districts during the last 10 months of the current fiscal year. Out of total loan, Taka 90 crore was allocated as crop loan which was disbursed among the small and marginal farmers, Taka six crore 30 lakh for setting up small and cottage industries and the remaining Taka 82 crore 91 lakh for procuring bullocks, cattle rearing, fish cultivation, poultry and agriculture equipments. The bank disbursed all the fund through its 300 branches in 16 northern districts. Utilizing the loans, about 23,000 farmers and entrepreneurs are being benefited. According to informations this amount of loan is higher than that of last year's. The bank disbursed a total fund of Taka 145 crore 53 lakh as agriculture credit among the farmers of northern areas last year. Meanwhile, Rajshahi Unnayan Bank has realised Taka 146 crore 19 lakh as outstanding loan from farmers. The bank realised outstanding loan of Taka 112 crore 72 lakh last year. According to bank sources, a target of Taka 250 crore agricultural credit was fixed for disbursing among the farmers and industrial entrepreneurs of northern districts during this current fiscal year. The bank also fixed a recovery target of outstanding loan of Taka 450 crore this current fiscal year.

Woman carrying contraband drugs arrested

BARISAL, May 28: Officials of the narcotics control department of Barisal sadar thana seized 40 bottles of phensedyl from the possession of a woman on Friday near central bus terminal at Natul-lahbar here, police said, reports BSS. Acting on a tip-off, the officials challenged one Selina Begum, 30, and recovered 40 bottles of phensedyl from her possession. The contraband medicine was hidden under the lower part of her body. Selina was later handed over to police. A case was registered in this connection, police said.



RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY: Prof M Abdul Khaleq, Vice-Chancellor of the university exchanging views with class III employees about the prevailing situation on the campus at the Senate House recently. — Star photo

Call by the VC Help bring back peace on RU campus

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, May 28: Prof Abdul Khaleque, Vice-Chancellor of Rajshahi University has made a clarion call to the patriotic citizens of the country to come forward and help bring back a congenial atmosphere on RU campus. He made this appeal while he was exchanging views with the officers of the university to exclusively discuss present campus atmosphere at senate house on May 26. Prof Khaleque said that congenial atmosphere of the campus was severely disturbed during last three months by a vested quarter and some of its supporters. He said, certain quarter had been engaged in a motive to paralyse the campus by enforcing strike by making non-issues into a issues. The overall atmosphere of the entire Rajshahi city has been facing adverse effect of the deadlock condition of the campus as in many parts of the town depends on function of the university, the VC said. The officers present at the meeting assured their full cooperation to the university authority regarding the issue.

Because of ear rings

From Our Correspondent GAIBANDHA, May 28: Two gold ear rings were the reason for untimely death of a girl at village Rajaher under Gobindaganj thana in the district on May 19. According to police, on the day of the incident, Nargis, a 12-year promising girl of the same village wanted from her poor mother a pair of gold rings. But her mother failed to fulfil her desire. She promised to fulfil her daughter's desire sometime later. But Nargis could not rely on her mother's assurance. At once she decided to commit suicide out of frustration. Accordingly she took pesticides and fell seriously ill. She was rushed to a nearby clinic immediately where the attending physicians declared her dead. An unnatural death (UD) case has been filed at Gobindaganj thana in this connection.

Ex-bank manager imprisoned for misappropriating deposited money

From Our Correspondent GOPALGANJ, May 28: One Belayed Hussain of village Imshua Nagar of thana Muksdupur, district Gopalganj, ex-manager Rupali Bank, Joy Nagar branch, Kashiani thana was awarded 10 years rigorous imprisonment (RI) with a fine of Taka 50 thousand in default to suffer another six months rigorous imprisonment (RI) for misappropriation of public deposited money amounting to Taka 1,19,958 from the bank. A special case, No 28, was filed by the district anti-corruption office, Gopalganj. The punishment was awarded by the special judge and assistant sessions judge Gopalganj judge court Mr Abdul Hamid on May 15.

Five sentenced to life for murder

From Our Correspondent JESSORE, May 28: Five persons were convicted and sentenced to suffer rigorous imprisonment (RI) for life last week and to pay fine of Taka five thousand each in default to suffer rigorous imprisonment for another one year in the murder case of one Abdur Razzak. The prosecution case in brief is that accused Golum Rabbani, Golum Mostafa, Abdus Satter, Ahmed Ali and Mohiuddin all of Kotwali thana brutally killed Abdur Razzak on December 4, 1990. Father of the deceased, filed the case against the five persons. Police submitted charge-sheet on investigation.

Manpower agents cheat youths in Natore

From Our Correspondent NATORE, May 28: At least seven youths of Borairam thana have been allegedly cheated recently by a group of manpower agents here, according to a police source. According to the FIR submitted with Borairam police station, the alleged group of manpower agents, after giving assurance to send Singapore having job opportunity, received about one lakh taka from each of the youths. The youths were taken to Calcutta in India and stayed there for two months. Later the youths were forced to work at a hotel in Calcutta town. But the youths somehow managed to escape and fled a case with Borairam police station in Natore.

Four killed in N'ganj road accident

NARAYANGANJ, May 28: Four people were killed when a private car collided head-on with a bus at Baber Char under Gajaria thana on Dhaka-Chittagong highway this morning, reports BSS. Three of the dead were identified as driver Fazul, 35, Rafsanjani, 17, and Rokhsana Sultana, 35. The other person who died at Pangu Hospital could not be identified. Police said the accident occurred when the Comilla-bound private car was taking a turn on road bend and the bus was coming from the opposite direction.

Body exhumed after 8 days of burial

From Our Correspondent GAIBANDHA, May 28: The body of one Asma Begum, 60, of village Sonarpara under Gobindaganj thana was exhumed after eight days of her burial and sent to morgue for post-mortem on May 26. According to information on May 18 Asma Begum was killed in a road mishap near Technical College on Gobindaganj-Mohimaganj Road. The body of the victim was buried without any post mortem. Receiving an allegation on May 26 the body of the victim was exhumed in presence of one magistrate and Officer-in-Charge(OC), Gobindaganj Thana. Then the body was sent to Gaibandha for post mortem. Asma was the wife of Moslem Mian of the same village.

Four sentenced to 4 yrs RI for throwing acid

From Our Correspondent SATKHIRA, May 28: Four persons have been sentenced to suffer four years rigorous imprisonment each in an acid throwing case on May 21. The court also fined Taka 1000 each in default to suffer one year RI more. The convicts are Prasanta Kumar Sarkar, Asit Kumar Sarkar, Debashis Sarkar and Birinchi Sarkar all of village Krishnanagar under Paikgachha thana in Khulna district. The prosecution story in brief is that the accused Prasanta Kumar Sarkar married one Madhabi Lata daughter of Ghosto Bihari Sarkar two years before the incident. After two years of their marriage Prasanta demanded dowry amounting to Taka 4000 which Lata's father failed to pay. As a result Prasanta tortured very often and at last she came to her father's house. On the night of December 4, 1994, Prasanta with the help of his accomplices threw acid on Madhabi Lata. She sustained severe burn injuries. A case was lodged Satkhira police station. After examining the records and witnesses, additional district and session judge Abdus Salam Siddik awarded the said punishment.

Body recovered

From Our Correspondent GAIBANDHA, May 28: Palashbari thana police recovered the body of Abdur Majid Sarker, 40, a member of Hossainpur Union Parishad (UP) under Palashbari thana from a paddy field adjacent to the UP office on May 25. Police sources said, the labourers who were engaged for harvesting paddy from the plot found the dead body of Majid first. They informed the matter to local thana. Later police recovered the body from the paddy field. According to a family source, the victim went out of his house on Saturday last and disappeared for a few days. It is apprehended, some unknown assailants killed him and concealed the body to the nearby paddy field. Police arrested a female UP member, Shakhina Begum for interrogation in this connection.

Six inter-district dacoits held

COMILLA, May 28: Police Tuesday arrested six alleged inter-district dacoits from Comilla town and recovered one private car from their possession, police sources said, reports BSS. According to police, the gang committed a dacoity in a godown of a foreign pharmaceutical company in the town Monday night. Acting on secret information, police arrested the alleged dacoits. They were identified as Delwar Hossain and Golum Maula of Munshiganj, Abdur Aziz and Rafiq of Demra, Dhaka, Rahman of Chuadanga and Arif Hossain of Rajbari.

Boat capsizes: three missing

SATKHIRA, May 28: Three persons were missing when a boat capsized in the Kalindy river under Kaliganj thana of the district on May 24, reports BSS. The missing persons were identified as Motag Mollah, 45, Kausar Morol, 55, and a seven-year-old boy of Hazipur village under Kaliganj thana. The boat was coming to Kaliganj ghat, capsized in the Kalindy river when the nor-wester swept over the thana areas on the day, local people said.

Contraband goods worth Tk 8 lakh seized from Satkhira border

SATKHIRA, May 28: The members of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) have seized contraband goods worth over Taka 8.94 lakh recently, reports BSS. The members of 21 battalions of Bangladesh Rifles, Satkhira district raided several border areas and seized the contraband goods. The BDR source said, the goods include spare parts of watch, worth over Taka eight lakh, sugar, salt, sarees, bicycles etc. The goods were later handed over to the custom authorities. Noddy was arrested in this connection.