News snaps

Medicine shops depriving govt of revenue

JAMALPUR, June 22: A large number of medicine shops in different rural hat-bazaars and sadar town are doing brisk business without licence depriving the government of huge revenue, reports UNB.

These medicine shops are also selling date expired and low quality medicines at higher prices before the nose of the law enforcers. According to an estimate, over a hundred such shops are situated in the town and its adjoining areas while over one thousand shops are there in the rural areas. These shop owners have their own association and any one can become its member paying a monthly subscription to carry out the business. A shop owner said the subscriptions are collected to give bribe on monthly basis to the inspectors of the health department of the district.

4,320 people to get old-age allowance

RANGAMATI, June 22: The social service department will begin the old-age allowance programme of the government from June 15 in the district, officials said, reports BSS.

A number of 4,320 distressed age-old people selected from 48 unions in 10 thanas of the district will be receiving the allowance. Thana Nirbahi Officers, Union Parishad chairmen and officials of the concerned department have finalised the list considering their financial condition and age, they said. Five hundred forty people selected from 54 wards in sadar thana, 360 from 36 wards in Naniarchor thana, 630 from 63 wards in Langadu thana, 360 from 36 wards in Kaukhali thana, 270 from 27 wards in Belaichhari thana, 270 from 27 wards in Baghaichhari thana, 360 from 36 wards in Zurachhari thana and 270 from 27 wards in Razasthali thana will receive a monthly pension of Taka one hundred each.

Fish fry released

NARSINGDI, June 22: The district fisheries department has produced 100 kilograms of eggs and 2,00,000 fish-fry of different varieties recently in Bughata hatchery under the sadar thana. The fishes include ruhi, katla, mrigel, pangus, silver carp, magur and Thai putti. There are 3,002 ponds covering 2,763 acres of land and 10 rivers covering 5,129 acres of land in Narsingdi district where at least 10 lakh fish-fry could be released, fishery officers said.

New telephone exchange at Rajbari

RAJBARI, June 22: An extended 300-line telephone exchange was inaugurated at Rajbari on Wednesday, reports UNB. Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim formally opened the new exchange making a call to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina from Rajbari. Talking to Nasim, the Prime Minister said the district had remained neglected for a long time as the previous governments did not undertake any programme for development of the region. She greeted the in-

Youth killed in clash

habitants of Rajbari through the Minister on this occasion.

LALMONIRHAT, June 22: A young man was killed and five others were injured in a clash at Dolapara village in Aditmari

thana here on Monday, reports UNB. Police said the clash erupted among the two rival groups of the village over a land dispute. The dead was identified as Abdul Kader. 25. The injured were rushed to the sadar hospital. A case

was lodged with the police.

for autopsy.

Tangail-Dhaka highway being developed

TANGAIL, June 22: Road Division Tangail is developing Tangail-Dhaka highway in four points in this fiscal year at a total cost of Taka sixty-nine lakh forty-three thousand seven hundred and thirty-eight, reports BSS.

Official sources said, under this programme earth work and flexible brick-pavement will be done on the road. Road communication will be ensured in the route after implementation of the work, official sources added.

Man succumbs to injuries

MYMENSINGH, June 22: A man succumbed to his injuries at the Mymensingh Medical College Hospital on Saturday after fighting for life for four days, reports UNB.

Police sources said Chan Mia, 40, an inhabitant of Kandigao Purbapara village in Muktagacha thana was stabbed mercilessly by his rival co-village Kafiluddin, 25, following a brawl over cutting of a branch of a tree on June 10. He was rushed to the hospital immediately a senseless condition. Police arrested Kafiluddin.

Youth killed by miscreants

SIRAJGANJ, June 22: A young man was killed by miscreants on Saturday night at Seloondah village in sadar thana here, reports UNB.

Police sources said some unidentified miscreants called Hasan Ali, 28, out of his house at 9 pm and murdered him behind the Textile Mill of Gonoshasthya. The reason behind the gruesome murder could not be known immediately. The body bore several cut marks. Police sent the body to hospital morgue

2 fishing boats looted

NOAKHALI, June 22: A gang of pirates on Saturday looted cash and belongings worth about Tk 5 lakh from two fishing boats in the river Meghna, reports UNB.

Police said a group of 10/12 armed pirates in the guise of fishermen boarded the engine of Saijal Majhi on the plea of taking drinking water. At one stage they overpowered the boatmen and looted cash and nets worth about Tk 3 lakh at gun point. The same dacoits also stormed another engine boat and decamped with valuables worth about Tk 2 lakh. In another incident, a gang of three youths took away a gold-chain and Tk 700 in cash from a rickshaw passenger near Asalpara in Ramgati thana on Saturday. Police said the miscreants intercepted Sohel Ahmed, 35, while he was going to Badder hat steamer

Sanction for construction of govt bungalows

BARISAL, June 22: The government sanctioned Tk 87.34 lakh for the construction of the bungalows of the divisional commissioner and the DIG of police, Barisal range here, reports

According to an official source, Public Works Department (PWD) will implement the projects. An amount of Taka 5218 crore will be spent for construction of the official residence of the divisional commissioner while Tk 35.16 lakh for the construction of DIG's bungalows. The work of the projects will be started soon.

Woman gets 8-yr RI for carrying hemp

KISHOREGANJ, June 22: A court here on Tuesday sentenced a woman to eight years regorous imprisonment (RI) for carrying hemp, reports UNB.

According to the prosecution, the convicted woman, Lalbanu, 35, was arrested by police with 8 kg hemp from Dhaka-Sylhet highway near Bhairab Ferry-Ghat on March 3 in 1996. After examining witnesses and records, the Assistant Sessions Judge Sufia Begum awarded the punishment.

Efforts on to change people's lot

PATUAKHALI, June 22: State Minster for Textiles AKM Zahangir Hossain said present government is working hard to change the lot of the common people, reports UNB.

He was addressing as chief guest at a function of handing over saving book and cash money of "Old Age Allowance Scheme" organised by Thana Social Welfare Office at Golachipa and Dashmina thanas on Saturday. Terming the scheme as epoch-making steps of the government, the minister said it would not only contribute to the large extent to poverty alleviation, but also to the rural economy. Later he distributed cash and savings book among the distressed elderly people of the lo-

Boy electrocuted, dies

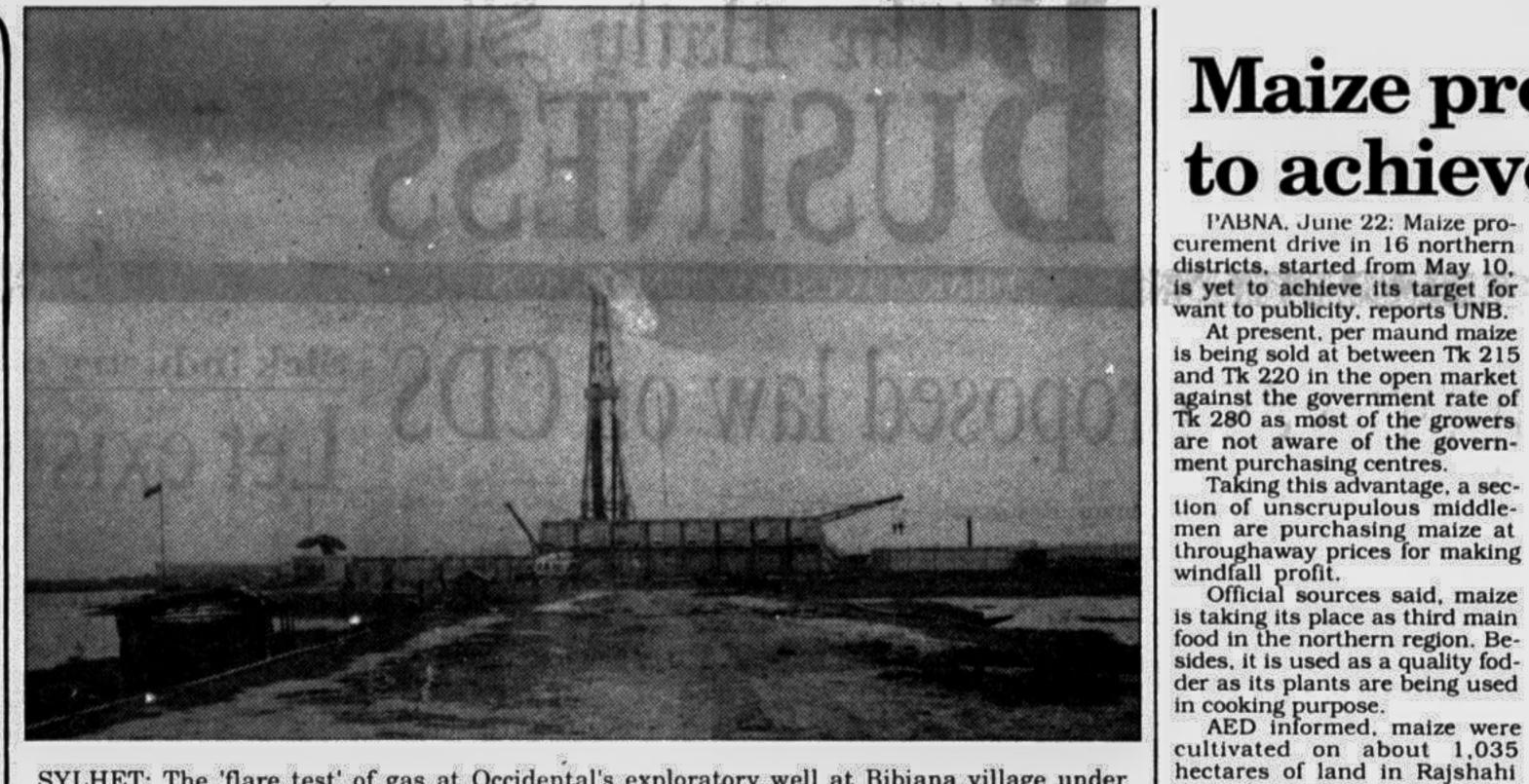
JAMALPUR, Jun 22: A young boy was killed and four people were injured as they came in touch of a live wire at Pathalia

village in Sadar thana on Thursday, reports UNB. Witnesses said Jewel. 12, was electrocuted to death when an electric cable was being connected to a roadside flour mill. Another four people — Shamser Ali, 60, Asheque 18, Akram 15, and Sumon 10, — were seriously injured as they came forward to save Jewel. They were admitted to Jamalpur General Hospital in critical condition.

293 deep tubewells being installed

PIROJPUR, May 22: Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) will install some 293 deep tubewells in the district in the current fiscal year to ensure supply of drinking water in the rural areas, reports UNB.

Of the tubewells, 26 will be installed in Sadar, 28 in Nazirpur. 34 in Swarupkathi, 59 in Kaokhali, 43 in Bhandaria and 103 in Mathbaria thanas. Besides, the department will install 119 shallow and re-install 498 different tubewells during the period at a cost of Tk 1.54 crore. Meanwhile, installation of 185 deep and 61 shallow tubewells and re-installation of 389 tubewells have been completed. Rest work is expected to be completed by June next.



SYLHET: The 'flare test' of gas at Occidental's exploratory well at Bibiana village under Nabiganj thana of Habiganj district is expected to be completed within three to four - Star photo by Iqbal Siddiquee

Sylhet Medical College Hospital

Radiotherapy machine ready for cancer treatment

From Iqbal Siddiquee

SYLHET, June 22: The Radiotherapy machine imported from abroad three and a half years ago for cancer treatment was put into operation at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.

But the hospital authorities did not get the license and necessary clearance certificate from Bangladesh

Atomic Energy Commission. However, the commission has given permission for resumption of treatment of patients. hospital officials informed. The hospital authorities put

Tuesday morning through offering special prayers. Five "Cobat-60" machines were imported from China at a cost of about Taka 10 crores un-

the machine into operation on

der a German grant for 5 medical colleges, Sylhet, Rajshahi, Salimullah, Rangpur and Barisal in 1994. One of these machines reached

Sylhet Medical College Hospital on March 16 in 1995. None of these sensational machines. however, could be put into op-

eration since the code of sensational machines, however, could not be put into operation since the code of Cobalt isotope of the machines were mistakenly interchanged at the time of installation in early 1996. An official informed, the code of the machine installed in Sylhet Osmani Medical College hospital was interchanged with that one which was installed in Rajshahi Medical College Hos-

The first 6 months of the year 1996 were spent for identifying the codes of respective machines while the rest 6 months for resetting the codes, the source added. Besides, 2 technicians from each of the medical college hospitals went to China for 3 weeks' training on operation of the sophisticated machines. They returned one year ago, source added.

A Chinese team visited Sylhet and other medical colleges and made the cobalt-60 machine ready for use about 4 months ago.

In the meantime. Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC) through a notification announced . license should be obtained from the Commission for operating such sophisticated machines. Accordingly, a 3-member team of Physicists from BAEC visited Sylhet Osmani Medical College Hospital in the second week of April for "Calibration, Dosimetry and Standardisation" of the Cobalt-60 machine. The team is supposed to submit its report to the "Radiation Safety Committee" of BAEC, which will then issue clearance to resume operation, said the official.

However, the hospital authority will have to pay a fee of Taka. 2.75 lakh for the purpose, the official said quoting the notification of BAEC.

There is apprehension, there might occur technical fault on the sophisticated machine since it remained unused for 3 and a half years, an official of the hospital said adding the machine might have lost some of its radiation strength.



CHANDPUR: Fry of Hilsha being caught regularly in the rivers Meghna and Padma by - Star photo unscrupulous fishermen.

Badarganj cyclone claims life of 1 boy

From Our Correspondent RANGPUR, June 22: At least 5,000 dwelling houses and different educational institutions were damaged completely or partially following a cyclonic storm which lashed Badargonj thana on Friday last.

A minor boy Serajul, 10, was killed by lightning, according to information received here. Twenty persons were injured due to the cyclone and lightning.

Number of dropouts in pry schools rising in Naogaon

NAOGAON, Jun 22: Some 65,000 school-age children of the region are being deprived of primary education due to shortage of schools, reports

According to a survey conducted by a non-government organisation, these children cannot get the light of education in absence of schools in their ar-

District Education Office sources said there are no worthy primary schools in 1,760 villages out of 2,758 villages in 11 thanas of the district and as such it is not possible on the part of the children to continue their education in distant ar-

Local elite said if immediate steps are not taken to open elementary schools in each village by government or NGO initiative, the education for all by the year 2000 programme will face a set back in the district. Moreover, the number of

dropouts in the existing schools are on rise as the teachers are found irregular in performing their classroom duties.

Construction of Paksey Bridge yet to be started

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, June 22: Construction work of Paksey Bridge over the river Padma at cost of Taka 600 crores is yet to be started for smooth road connection between northern and southern parts of the country.

The government approved the project with a view to establishing direct road communication between 16 districts of the southern part of Bangladesh and the northern part with the financial assistance of Japanese Government.Once constructed the bridge will be the second largest road way bridge in the country.

A source informed that a Note of Exchange on the Paksey Bridge Project has already been signed between the two governments.

According to the programme, the Paksey Bridge would be constructed over the river Padma, about 300 kilometres down stream from the Hardinge Bridge. The proposed new bridge, with a length of over two kilometres and breadth of about 18.10 metres, would be constructed only for vehicular traffic. The construction of this new bridge has been proposed as there was no provision or arrangement for vehicular traffic over the existing Hardinge Bridge, a railway bridge with a narrow provision for the pedestrians.

The Hardinge Bridge was established in 1915 during theBritish rule in India. The feasibility studies for construction of the proposed Paksey Bridge and all necessary survey works were completed in

Local people urged the government to start the construction of the bridge as soon as

Rapist gets life-term Cyclone hits RI in Faridpur Thakurgaon: One killed From Our Corespondent

FARIDPUR, June 22: One person was awarded life-term

imprisonment for raping were injured and thousands of thatched houses and trees were The District and Sessions demolished and uprooted in a Judge in a judgement delivered severe cyclonic storm that lashed several villages of recently sentenced Rahim Sheikh of village Chanpur in Ishan Gopalpur union of Kot-

Thakurgaon sadar thana recently, reports BSS. wali thana to suffer rigorous The cyclonic storm which imprisonment (RI) for life hit villages Kuji Shahar, -term in a rape case .Two other Kachubari Kristapur, Salandar Senpara Singpara Colony and Deogaon of Thakurgaon sadar accused persons Kader Sheikh and Ali Sheikh of the same village were acquitted. thana and also Thakurgaon The prosecution story in brief is, Rahim Sheikh and his town caused heavy damage to life, property and crops of the two accomplices abducted a

teenage girl of the neighbouring village Durgapur and raped her confining for many days in different places. The rapists were forced to hand over the girl to Ishan Gopalpur Union Parisad chairman Nuruzzaman Chowdhury

(Pankaz). He handed over the

tric poles were uprooted and girl to her father later on. 5,000 electric connections were Her father lodged a case with disconnected. Kotwali thana accusing the IRRI-Boro and other crops aforementioned three persons. worth lakhs of taka were also Examining witnesses and damaged. Ramesh Chandra Sen relevant documents, the judge MP visited the affected areas. pronounced the judgement.

season with a production target of 9,837.50 metric tons. But, actually 12,000 mts of

PABNA, June 22: Maize pro-

At present, per maund maize

Taking this advantage, a sec-

Official sources said, maize

AED informed, maize were

agriculture zone and 2,175

hectares of land in Rangpur

agriculture zone in the current

40 more join AL

in Satkhira

SATKHIRA, June 22: More

than 40 leaders and workers of

Gonogakati Social Welfare

Shangha of Khulna union un-

der Assasuni thana joined Bangladesh Awami League at a

function held at the residence of

Dr Mukhlesur Rahman MP at

Palashpur here on Saturday.

Dr Mukhlesur Rahman MP.

president of Assasuni Thana

Awami League was present at

the function as chief guest. The

function was presided over by

Humayun Kabir Nantu, Presi-

dent of Gonogakati Socail Wel-

B baria road

accident

Two persons were killed and 25

others were injured in a road

accident on Dhaka-Sylhet high

way at Malihata under the

and police sources, a Sylhet

roadside tree. As a result the bus

fell into a roadside ditch. This

is because the driver lost con-

trol of the speeding bus. Conse-

quently, two passengers died on

Zitendro, 50, of Sreemongol,

the spot and 25 others injured.

Md. Masa, 30, Momtaz Begom,

36, Horee Kirsno, 27, and Su-

laiman, 30 were admitted to

Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital

in a critical condition. The rest

were released after first aid at

the sadar hospital and other

fated persons were identified as

Shireen Begom, 42, wife of

Shuhilpur Union Parisad (UP)

member Shafiqul Islam and

one unidentified hawker, 32.

done at Brahmanbaria Sadar

aged to escape. A case was filed

with Brahmanbaria Police Sta-

1,139 arrested

in 2 months

in Khulna

Metropolitan Police in various

drives in the last two months

arrested some 1,139 people on

various charges and recovered

were arrested from April 21 to

May 20. Police also recovered

16 fire arms and some 314 bot-

tles of phensidyl syrup during

from May 21 to June 20, police

arrested some 457 people and

recovered 9 fire arms along

arrested 17 people including

seven Indian nationals and res-

cued 10 women and children

collected for trafficking to In-

THAKURGAON, June 22: One

person was killed, 20 others

Apart from the drives, police

with 91 rounds of bullets.

In their second round drives

Of them, some 682 people

huge fire, arms, reports UNB.

KHULNA, June 22: Khulna

tion is this connection.

The driver of the bus man-

The bodies of the two ill-

clinics.

Hospital.

bound passenger bus dashed a

According to eye witness

sader thana recently.

reports BSS.

fare Shangha.

Rahman.

Maize procurement drive yet

to achieve target in 16 N-dists

No publicity

maize have been produced in the season in the northern region exceeding the target pushing the government to start procurement drive to encourage the farmers.

According to Rajshahi Zonal Food Controller Office, some 2,000 mt maize will be procured from 16 northern districts.

District-wise break up of procurement quantum are as follows - Pabna-five mt. Sirajganj-34 mt, Kurigram-47 mt. Rangpur-316 mt, Lalmonirhat-178 mt. Nilphamari-36 mt. Gaibandha-101 mt, Panchagarh-21 mt, Thakurgaon-61 mt, Dinajpur-584 mt, Rajshahi- 26 mt, Natore-21 mt, Naogaon-155 mt, Chapainawabganj-18 mt, Bogra-390 mt and Joypurhatfive mt.

Local leaders urged the authorities concerned to take immediate steps for launching

vigorous campaign for making the procurement drive a success.

Meanwhile, growers in the district have lost their interest in cultivating maize, sweet potato, sunflower and some other cash crops despite bright prospect due to lack of seeds. proper technology and marketing system.

According to the Agriculture Extension Department, only 10 hectares of land have been brought under maize cultivation in Santhia thana with production target of 25 mt maize last season. But the target could not be achieved.

Though it is a cash crop, but farmers have lost their interest as proper marketing system could not be created yet.

AED sources said farmers should be motivated for increasing the production of these crops as cultivation system of these crops and spices is so easy and profitable than the main

cash crops. Indifference of police

Liquor shops doing brisk business at Sherpur

SHERPUR, June 22: Liquor shops and dens in the district are doing brisk business in absence of any action by the law enforcement agencies, reports Sources close to the rings

controlling the business at various places said gambling and flesh trading are also on rise with the spread of liquor shops and dens. A section of people including

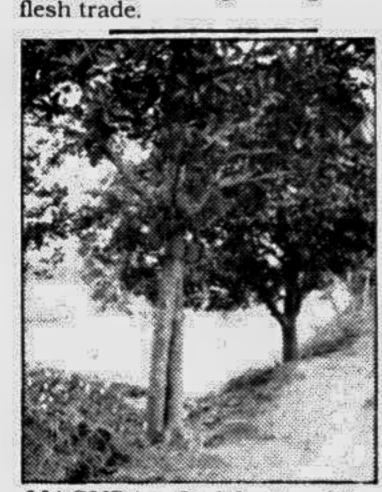
The function was addressed, thugs and musclemen with the among others, by Aktarul Isblessings of local influential lam, Nurul Alam and Motiar people have been doing the business for long as the police is Two killed in not taking any action to stop it. Local people alleged that po-

lice receive undue favour from the groups. Even some of the members of law enforcement agencies are allegedly involved in the businesses. From Our Correspondent They said liquor is being sold at residential hotels. B RAHMANBARIA, June 22:

boarding houses and a number of houses in Kanashakhola, Bhatshala, Bajitkhila. Pakuria, Kushumhat, Nandir Bazar and Jamalpur Ferry Ghat

Gambling at several guest houses at Raghunath Bazar, Munshi Bazar and Battala is on before the nose of the law enforcing agencies.

Various crimes like burglary, robbery, terrorist activities have been on the rise with the increase of liquor business and the spread of gambling and



MAGURA,: Jackfruit cultivation has gained popularity among farmers in char land of the Kumar river in Sripur thana. -Star photo

MoulvibazarNewsletter

From Our Correspondent

Agri-fair ends

MOULVIBAZAR, June 22: A three-day long agricultural fair concluded here recently at the premises of Moulvibazar district Agriculture Extension Department (AED) office.

The fair was aimed at creating mass awareness about mod-The autopsy of the bodies were ern farming among farmers.

Presided over by Ershad Hussain Khan, Deputy Director of district AED, the inaugural ceremony was attended by Begum Husne Ara Wahid, MP, and Radhika Mohan Goswami President of Moulvibazar Press Club as chief guest and special guest respectively.

Lightning kills man

One young man was killed and four others of the same family were injured by lightning at village Rakta in Rajnagar thana.

According to family sources, the victim, Shipon Miah, 15, and his family members were sleeping in their house. At on stage they were struck by thunder bolt at dead of night killing Shipon Miah on the spot. But other members of his family received serious injury. Later on the injured family members were admitted to Rajnagar

Tea looted from truck

thana health complex.

Tea worth about Taka one lakh 65 thousand was looted by a group of criminals from a truck while it was on the way of Chittagong from Karimpur Tea garden recently.

It is reported that, Karimpur tea garden authority was sending their produced tea amounting to Taka one lakh 65 thousand to Chittagong through an inter district truck. On way, handed over the award.

when the truck reached at the Kazi Khandaker Mazar area under Rajnagar thana it went out of order. Then it was night time. In the meantime a gang of miscreants came there. The miscreants tied up the people with the loaded truck and looted tea.

A case was filed with Rajnagar Police, but no arrest was made till writing of this report. It may be mentioned here

that a few months ago Taka 3 lakh 60 thousands was also robbed from the same tea gar-

4 Monipuri personalities awarded

Four Monipuri personalities received "Gakulananda Geetiswami Memorial Award" for their special contributions to 'Pouri Monipuri culture and literature.

This valuable award was given by an international organisation of the Monipuri Community — 'The Monipuri Information and Research Centre'.

The award receivers were Adittya Sena Rajkumer for Monipuri Dance, Moti Lal Singha for classical songs, Srimoti Beena Singha for Monipuri Music and Prof Ranjit Kumer Singha for Monipuri literature.

The award giving ceremony was held recently at Ranirbazar Doyamoyee High School under Kamolgonj thana of the dis-

Presided over by Sukumar Singha Bimal President of the Pouri Monipuri Association, the function was attended by Dr Shatiuddin Ahmed, Professor of the Government MC College of Sylhet as chief guest. The



AGRI-VARSITY (Mymensingh): Vice-Chancellor Prof S M Bulbul distributing certificates among the participants on the concluding day of the training programme on "In-Service Training Programme on Health Management in Cattle" held recently in the Microbilogy Gallary.