

News snaps

Seven block supervisors awarded

BANDARBAN, July 4: Local Agriculture Extension Department (AED) has awarded seven block supervisors of the district in recognition of their contributions to agriculture, reports UNB.

The awards were given at a Staff Appreciation Evening held at the AED training room on Monday with AED Additional Director Abul Quasem in the chair. Speaking on the occasion, he said recognition and incentives can make work more enjoyable and isolate those who do not work sincerely. He called upon the awarded to work with more courage and devotion for the development of farmers. Deputy Director Abdul Quaddus also addressed the function.

Anti-drug day observed

HABIGANJ, July 4: International "Drug Abuse and Illegal Trafficking Day" was observed here, as elsewhere in the country, on Friday, reports UNB.

A colourful rally was brought out from local PTI premises to mark the day. The rally paraded the main streets of the town. Students and teachers of different schools, government officials and employee, local political leaders and elite took part in the rally. Later, a discussion meeting was held at the local Circuit House, auditorium. Jointly organised by the District Administration and Narcotics Control Directorate, Deputy Commissioner Ahmed Fazlur Rashid presided over the meeting. Local MP Enamul Huq Mostafa Shahid was present as chief guest. Besides, another discussion meeting was held at Shyestaganj Road and Highways' auditorium in sadar thana in the evening.

Old-age allowance distributed

NARSINGDI, July 4: The old-age allowance was distributed for the first time among 2160 men and women of 24 unions of Raypura thana in the district on June 29, reports BSS.

Rajuddin Ahmad MP, formally handed over cheques to the pensioners at a function held at Raypura thana parishad premises. An amount of Tk 4,32,000 against two months pension was distributed among 2160 helpless men and women. Additional Deputy Commissioner, Narsingdi, Bijan Kanti Sarker, Raypura Thana Nirbahi Officer Rabindranath Sarma, Deputy Director, Social Welfare Department Narsingdi, Bilkiss Banu, and Raypura Thana Awami League President Kaji Nurul Hoque also spoke on the occasion.

Aus, Aman output may fall short of target

HABIGANJ, July 4: The production target of Aus and Aman paddy in the district may fall short of target due to massive pest attack, reports UNB.

According to Agriculture Extension Department some 37,000 hectares have been brought under Aus and 32,150 hectares under Aman during the current season in the district. The farmers said of the total land, some 2000 acres have been attacked by pests causing extensive damage to the standing crops. The affected thanas are Sadar, Madhabpur, Chunarughat, Bahubale, Baniachang, Lakhal and Ajmiriganj. They also said the production also affected due to lack of necessary rainfall in the peak season. The farmers urged the authority concerned to arrange spray of insecticides on their affected crop fields without further delay.

253 uplift schemes implemented

RANGPUR, July 4: Some 253 development schemes have been implemented in eight thanas of the district under Food for Works Programme during the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

Official sources said, about 3,496 metric tons of wheat were utilised for the implementation of the schemes which included development of rural roads. Meanwhile, a total of 1,132 Test Relief schemes were executed during the period with an allocation of 1,594 mts of wheat. Besides, Bangladesh Water Development Board has implemented the loop cutting work for the river Ghagot. For the project, World Food Programme provided 3500 mts of wheat while Tk 1.1 lakh were given from the government fund. Another report adds: Construction work of 70-metre RCC bridge on Boirathat-Bamondanga road over the river Ghagot is nearing completion. Local Government Engineering Department is implementing the work at a cost of Tk 55 lakh, official sources said.

Pistol recovered

JAMALPUR, July 4: Police recovered a foreign made pistol from a pond of Charahi Munshipara village in sadar thana here recently, reports UNB.

Police acting on a tip-off, recovered the Unique 7.65 mm modern pistol from the pond of late Abdul Majid. A GD was filed with the police.

Housewife raped

MYMENSINGH, July 4: A housewife was raped by her neighbour at Char Puliamari village in sadar thana here recently, reports UNB.

Police sources said while working at the courtyard of her house at noon the 18-year-old victim was suddenly attacked by Hazrat Ali. He dragged her to a nearby place and violated her. The medical test of the victim was performed on the following day. It may be mentioned that Hazrat Ali, an accused of another rape case, was recently granted bail by the court. He was arrested for violating another housewife of the same village on March 29, this year. A case was filed with the police.

Spurious phensidyl claims life of one

LALMONIRHAT, July 4: A prominent young businessman died in the town Monday following the intake of spurious phensidyl syrup, reports UNB.

At the sudden demise of glassware trader Abdul Halim, 30, who got married some eight months back shocked merchants of the town. Though family sources said he died from taking spurious phensidyl, but mystery shrouded over his death. In an another incident Sukumar Roy, 30, son of late Nagendra Mistry of Mission road in the town allegedly committed suicide by taking poison on Sunday. The cause of the suicide could not be known immediately. On the following day, Joyнал Abedin, 40, of village Karnapur in the sadar thana was killed by his rival over a land dispute. Separate cases were filed with the police.

Commercial production of fish fry at BAU

MYMENSINGH, July 4: The Field Research Complex of Fisheries Faculty in Bangladesh Agriculture University here has started producing fish fry on commercial basis, reports UNB.

The complex, now being used in mainly fisheries research, and for practical classes of the students, is producing fry of various species of fish including Silver Carp, Rohit, Kalia and Mrigel. Vice-Chancellor of BAU Prof Muhammad Hossain, while visiting the complex on Tuesday, expressed satisfaction over the activities of the hatchery and hoped, it will help in increase production of fish resources in the open water bodies. Dean of Fisheries Faculty Prof Lutfun Hossain, Students' Affairs Advisor Dr Abu Reza Mohammad Masud and Prof Shahidul Huq of the Field Research Complex were present during the visit.

Incidents of cattle lifting up

JAMALPUR, July 4: The incidents of cattle lifting are on alarming rise in the Sadar thana here causing untold sufferings to the farmers, reports UNB.

Over 50 cattle were lifted from Baschhara, Sreepur, Rashidpur, Itail, Narandi and Ghoradhap unions in the last one month, farmers said. After lifting, the cows are slaughtered in the open field for skin. Meanwhile, many farmers have been rendered destitute due to the lifting of their cows. The farmers

Indian sugar seized

HABIGANJ, July 4: Special Task Force in a sudden drive has recovered 68 bags Indian sugar worth about Tk one lakh from some trains at Shaestaganj Railway Station here, reports UNB.

The drive led by Deputy Commissioner, was started from 2.30 am and continued till 4 am on June 22. The task force conducted the drive Habiganj-Balla and Akhaura-Sylhet local trains and recovered the contraband item. The sugar was deposited with the Customs godown and a case was filed with the police.

Afforestation drive progressing

ISHURDI, July 4: The three-month plantation drive launched by the Forest Department is in full swing in all the areas of Ishurdi thana from June 15, reports BSS.

A discussion on the significance of the tree plantation drive was held here to mark the occasion. Thana Nirbahi Officer, Ishurdi Rafual Alam and Assistant Commissioner (Land) Abul Kalam Azad, among others, participated in the discussion.

Rice air-lifted to Ruma, Thanghi

BANDARBAN, July 4: About 11 metric tonnes of rice has been air-lifted to Ruma and Thanghi thanas of Bandarban district during the last four weeks for distribution among the distributees of remote areas, reports BSS.

An official source said the district administration has been striving to solve the food crisis of the remote hill areas. Price of foodgrains has come down following the air-lifting of rice.

Tk 100 cr socio-economic uplift project for 3 N-dists

NATORE, July 4: A socio-economic development project at a cost of Tk 100 crore has been undertaken for Natore, Pabna and Sirajganj districts by Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC), reports UNB.

The project which was included in the Annual Development Programme (ADP) of immediate past fiscal 1997-98 aims at increasing food production, poverty alleviation and ensuring irrigation system development in the three districts, BADC sources said.

The five-year project which was to have been started from July 1997, would soon get off the ground, the sources added. A primary allocation of Tk 50 lakh has already been available for the purpose.

About 75 km of canals and 300 derelict ponds would be re-excavated and 25 cross-dams constructed in the areas.

The project would also ar-

range for irrigation through the installation of 250 cusec pump.

The growers will be trained to ensure the minimum wastage of irrigation water and bringing it down from the existing 17 per cent to five per cent.

Some 493 deep tube-wells which are currently lying inoperative will be repaired and an additional 17,832 acres of land to be brought under irrigation network in the districts.

3 gangraped in Jhenidah

JHENIDAH, July 4: Three female construction workers were gangraped by some miscreants at Kasthabhanga in Kalliganj thana Monday night, reports UNB.

Police said the miscreants stormed the Kasthabhanga union parishad office where the victims were sleeping and took them to a nearby jute field and raped them overnight.

The victims were admitted to Kalliganj Thana Health Complex.

Some 15,000 youths and another 15,000 adult people would also be brought under the literacy programme.

A number of NGOs will be involved in the implementation of various programmes of the project, it is learnt.



SYLHET: Foreign Minister Alhaj Abdus Samad Azad handing over cheques of allowance for elderly people at a function held at the Deputy Commissioner's office on Sunday. Syeda Zebunnessa Haque MP, was also present. — Star photo

22 abductors awarded RI on various terms in Mymensingh

MYMENSINGH, July 4: Some 22 people were awarded rigorous imprisonment on different terms in connection with two abduction cases in the district, court sources said, reports UNB.

Two separate courts delivered the judgements on Tuesday.

Additional District and Sessions Judge AKM Nasir Mahmud awarded 10 years RI to 17 men each and 7 years RI to another one for abducting Tofazzal Hossain from his residence at Puraputia Mallikajanda in Fulpur thana on March 4, 1992.

Those who were awarded 10 years RI were: Liaquat, Sohrab, Ayub Ali, Shafiqullah, Shamsul Refugee, Matin, Nurul Islam.

Ali Hossain, Samar Ali, Harunul Jabbar, Litu Sheikh, Quadir, Atar Ali, Torab Ali, Sabir and Baduzzaman. Six of them are absconding. Badar Ali received 7 years jail term.

The prosecution story, in brief, was that the accused men abducted Tofazzal from his residence at gun point and demanded ransom of Tk 1.20 lakh to his family. As his family refused to give the money, they tortured Tofazzal for long 52 days keeping him confined at a secret den. Acting on a tip-off, police conducted a raid and recovered him from the mud cave.

The judge delivered the verdict after examining the witnesses and records.

In another case, four people were awarded seven years RI each by Additional District and Sessions Judge Ashrafur Islam for abducting Abdul Jabbar of village Barasunai in the same thana of the district.

The convicts are Tofazzal, Afsar, Abdul Mannan and Kalam. Among them Mannan and Kalam were awarded punishment in absentia.

The prosecution, in brief, was that Jabbar was abducted by them at gun point on the night of February 27, 1992 and they sent a letter to his family to pay a ransom of Tk 2 lakh. But Jabbar managed to escape after two days of confinement and filed a case with the police.



AGRI-VARSITY (Mymensingh): Noted educationist Prof M Hazrul Ali, Director, Graduate Training Institute (GTI) distributing certificates among the trainees on the concluding day of a higher training programme on "Office Management and Communication" organised by CTI of the university recently.

Stones being plundered from hill

SHERPUR, July 4: A vested quarter in the district has been plundering stones from the Garo Hill violating the government prohibition, reports UNB.

The government imposed ban on collecting stones and lifting white soil from the hills, surrounded at the northern belt of the district, following its adverse effects as well as aiming to save its natural panorama.

Official sources said, a section of local people of Rangtia and Gajnee Pahar area in Jhenaidah thana have been stealing stones at night with the help of some influential people.

Due to lifting of white soil, deep holes have been created at the foot of the hill causing extensive damage to the hilly forest. They are also engaged in felling trees to collect the stones and soil.

Besides, some local people are stealing valuable trees of the hills, officials said.

Local elite urged authorities concerned to save the Garo Hill from the vested quarters which is losing its scenic beauty day by day.

Clash over toll collection: 1 killed, 25 hurt

LALMONIRHAT, July 4: A man was killed and 25 others were injured in a clash between two rival groups at Burirdighi market in Adaitama thana recently over toll collection, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Harisuddin, 38, resident of Chandanpur village.

According to police, the clash occurred as a sequel to an altercation when the toll collectors, appointed by the lease holders, demanded excess toll from the traders against the government rate.

Both the groups used lethal weapons in the clash that took place in the evening killing Haris on the spot. The injured were admitted to the Sadar Hospital.

A murder case has been filed with the police accusing Kamalbari UP chairman and organising secretary of district Awami League Shamsul Islam Suruj.

12 highway dacoits get RI on various terms

FARIDPUR, July 4: A total of 12 persons were awarded rigorous imprisonment (RI) on various terms on charge of dacoity in a night coach.

Assistant Sessions Judge Moniruzzaman in a judgement delivered, recently convicted those persons and sentenced each of them to suffer RI for seven years and five years respectively and to pay a fine of Taka 2,000 each, in default, to suffer RI for six months more. They were convicted in a night coach dacoity case. The sentences will run concurrently.

The prosecution story, in brief, is that the convicts had committed dacoity in a Dhaka bound night coach belonging to Al-Madina Night Coach Paribhan at Kazikoria in Nagarkanda thana on August 13, 1993. A case was lodged in this connection with Nagarkanda thana. Police submitted chargesheet after investigation.

The judge examined the witnesses and pronounced the judgement.

The convicts are: Sazzadur Rahman, Golam Nabi, Aminur Rahman, Md Haris Mollah, Abdul Jabbar, Md Siddique, Sazzad, Rezaul Karim, Atiar Rahman, Afsar Ali, Golam Sarwar and Muksed-all from greater Jessore district.

Advocate Biswajit Ganguly, Assistant Public Prosecutor (APP) led the prosecution, while advocate Mirza Sharif and advocate Shakhawat Hossain stood for the defence.

Killer gets life-term imprisonment

MOULVIBAZAR, July 4: A murderer has been sentenced to life-term imprisonment recently.

Narendra Chandra Das, Additional District and Sessions Judge of Moulvibazar has sentenced a man to life-term imprisonment for murdering a fellow villager.

The court also fined him Taka 10,000, in default, to suffer two years more rigorous imprisonment (RI). Three other accused of the same case were also awarded punishment on different terms. The court delivered this judgement recently.

According to prosecution story, the accused, Samaruddin and his accomplices of Goyghar village in the sadar thana attacked and murdered Saidur Rahman Shabul, son of Hazi Durud Miah of the same village, two years ago, due to enmity.

A murder case was lodged with Moulvibazar sadar thana and Police after investigation chargesheeted the accused persons.

The judge found them guilty and awarded Samaruddin to suffer life-term imprisonment.

Two alleged dacoits beaten to death

JHENIDAH, July 4: Two alleged dacoits were beaten to death by the local people at Kulbaria Non-government Primary School premises at midnight on June 28, according to police.

Police said, local people caught five notorious dacoits named Afsar, Farazi, Habibar Mollah Sayeed, Naser Khondker and Kota at night from Ponnatola in Jhenidah Sadar thana. They shifted the dacoits to Kulbaria Primary School and started beating. At one stage injured Afsar Farazi and Habibar Mollah died on the spot. Rest three managed to flee.

The dead persons were allegedly involved in dacoity, rape and other anti-social activities in the locality, local people said.

A case was filed with Jhenidah thana in this connection.

Engineer killed in road mishap

MOULVIBAZAR, July 4: An engineer of Moulvibazar Zila Parishad was killed in a tragic road accident on Dhaka-Sylhet highway recently.

Eye witnesses said, Shafique Uddin, 39, a sub-assistant engineer of the local zila parishad was returning to his office riding on his motor-bike after visiting a project of the zila parishad at Sirimongol. When he reached near the Moulvibazar divisional office of Roads and Highways Department he saw an on-duty traffic police collecting tolls from a loaded truck in the middle of the highway. The ill-fated engineer tried to overtake the truck when a speeding coaster hit his motor-bike from the opposite direction. As a result the engineer was crushed under the wheels of the coaster.

Police seized the killer coaster, but the driver and the conductor fled away. After the accident the traffic police also fled away from the scene.

It has been alleged widely, traffic police of Moulvibazar frequently collect toll from vehicles on the busy highway. As a result road accidents occur very frequently.

Plassey Day observed in Kushtia

KUSHTIA, July 4: Historic Plassey Day was observed here in a befitting manner on June 23.

Kushtia Oitijhya Parishad arranged a discussion meeting at the auditorium of Kushtia High School and College. Prof Nurul Islam Chowdhury was the chief guest. Principal Lulul-Bahar and journalist KNM Motahib were special guests. The meeting was presided over by advocate Badruddoza.

In another discussion meeting speakers dwelt on the significance of the day in our national history. The meeting was presided over by Kuttubuddin while it was addressed, among others, by Alhaj Shorabuddin, Sajedur Rahman Bahar, Firoz Afabbuddin, Shamimul Hasan Apu, Rezaul Karim and Mirazul Islam Dablu.

Brahmaputra erosion takes serious turn in Gaibandha

GAIBANDHA, July 4: Erosion of the river has taken a serious turn at Shaghata thana due to rise in water level in Brahmaputra basin.

As a result 1,200 families have become shelterless within three days. The affected areas are: Kalurpara, Kumapara, Hatbari, Fatilbari Dighalkandina Bagda in the aforementioned thana. Many of the affected villagers could not even shift their belongings due to the impact of erosion. Surging water eroded away standing crops, trees, bamboo sprouts including many homesteads. The erosion affected areas have already been devoured in the river.

The local member of parliament Advocate Fazley Rabbi visited the affected areas. The affected people have been shifting to safe places like abandoned embankment and roadside areas. They need food and work on an emergency basis.

Fake policeman arrested

RAJSHAHI, July 4: A fake policeman was arrested from Rajshahi Court premises on June 29 noon.

Sources said, Non-GRO of Rajshahi Metropolitan Court saw a person talking with the accused in the safe custody in the court and challenged him. The person impersonated himself as a policeman of Santaha thana of Pabna district. The Non-GRO enquired about himself over telephone with Santaha Police and arrested him from the spot. He was identified as Korban.

Seminar on Human Rights

SATKHIRA, July 4: A day long seminar on 'Human Rights and Trade Unionism' was held at Satkhira Central Public Library auditorium recently.

It was organised under the joint auspices of Bangladesh Institute of Human Rights (BIHR) and Paralegal Training Services Centre, Dhaka. Akram Hossain Chowdhury, Secretary General of BIHR conducted the seminar, while 25 trade union leaders took part in the seminar.

Bumper production of IRRI-Boro paddy in Narsingdi district

NARSINGDI, July 4: The farmers of the district produced a bumper production in the current IRRI-Boro season by cultivating a new high yielding variety (HYV) paddy-BR-29, reports UNB.

According to Agriculture Extension Department, the farmers cultivated the new variety on 500 acres of land. AED cultivated the variety on eight acres of land in its demonstration plots and per acre yield was 110 maunds.

The BR-29, innovated by Bangladesh Rice Research Institute by successfully cross-breeding BG 90-2 and BR 51-46-5, went for cultivation after due approval of the government.

The 95 cm length paddy on the variety has all the qualities of contemporary rice. About 30

to 32 plants are grown from a bunch and the weight of 1000 matured paddy is 20 gram, sources added.

The paddy which needs 150 to 160 days to be matured depending on the climate is less attacked by pests and diseases.

Official sources said after experiencing a bumper production this season, local farmers have become more enthusiastic for cultivation of the new variety.

The new variety has appeared lucrative among the farmers as it produces more rice by spending minimum cost for pest attack and buying the seeds, they said.

The farmers are to pay only Taka eight for per kg new local variety seeds against Tk 200 to 250 for per kg foreign seeds.

Two Narail high schools in grip of problems

NARAIL, July 4: Two age-old high schools in the sadar thana headquarters here are facing manifold problems hampering education of the students, reports UNB.

The institutions are Narail Victoria Collegiate (VC) High School and Shib Sankar Girls' High School.

Narail VC High School established in 1857 is facing acute classroom accommodation problem forcing a large number of students to cram into a small space.

Moreover, shortage of teachers and lack of necessary furniture and education appliances are hampering the education adversely.

The standard of education has come down negating the main objective of the school. The results of the SSC examination is very poor with only 20 to 30 per cent students coming out successful on an average.

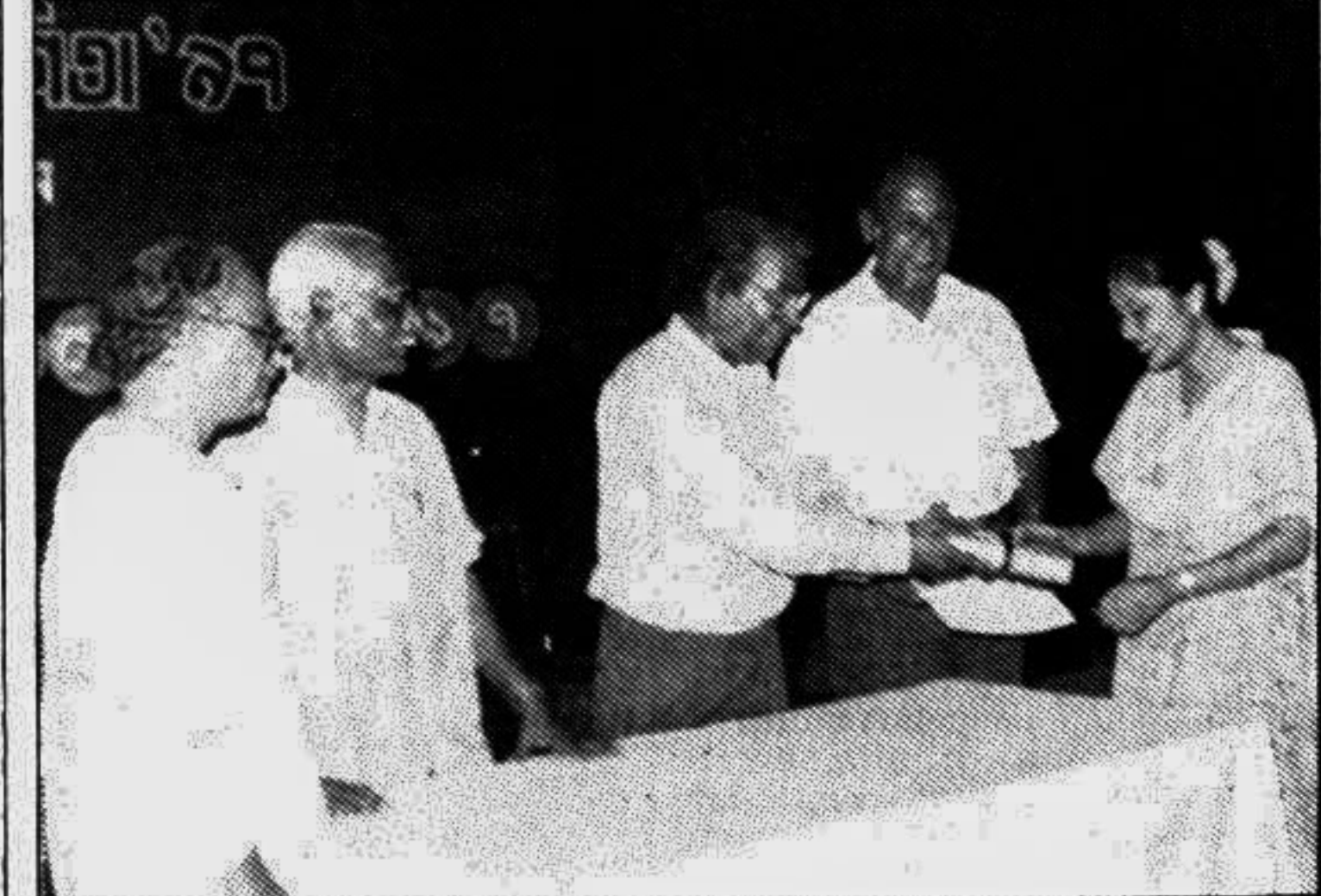
There is also no playground, library or common room facilities for the students.

The Shib Sankar Girls' High School named after the name of co-zamindar Shib Sankar Roy was established on a plot of 6.67 acres of land in 1886 to expand women education in the area.

The school is now beset with manifold problems. The accommodation problem has turned acute. The number of students at present is about 500. But due to lack of classroom accommodation the students cannot prosecute their studies properly.

The adult girls are compelled to learn lessons sitting under the banyan tree in the school compound.

In recent years the performance of the school is miserable with 40 to 50 per cent success in the SSC examination. Local people alleged, no schemes have yet been taken to develop the age-old institutions of the district to redress the sufferings of the students.



RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY: Vice-Chancellor Prof Abdul Khaleque recently distributed prizes among the winners of Rajshahi University Central Students Union (RUCSU) Cultural Competition 1997. Pro-Vice Chancellor Saeedur Rahman Khan and Treasurer Prof Abul Fazal Huq were present. — Star photo

Workshop for journalists of Barisal region

BARISAL, July 4: A five-day workshop on 'Reporting on Mother and Child Affairs' for the journalists of Barisal region concluded in the conference room of LGED of Pirojpur district on Friday, reports BSS.

Organised jointly by the Bangladesh Press Institute (PIB) and Pirojpur Press Club, the workshop was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner of Pirojpur A T M Zulfikar Hyder Chowdhury.

Senior instructor, PIB, Kazi Shafiqur Rahman and Lecturer in Mass Communication and Journalism Department of Dhaka University Shafiqul Alam conducted the workshop as the resource persons.

Twenty-two journalists from the districts of Barisal, Bhola, Jhalakati, Barguna and Pirojpur participated in the workshop.

Kazi Shafiqur Rahman, Pirojpur Press Club Secretary Gopal Bose and Barisal Bhorer Kagaj correspondent Kamal Masudur Rahman spoke at the concluding session which was presided over by Pirojpur Press Club president Maniruzzaman.

The chief guest gave away certificates among the participants.

Policemen warned against harassment of innocent people

JAMALPUR, July 4: Inspector General of Police Ismail Hossain has warned the policemen against harassment of innocent people and violation of human rights, reports UNB.

The warning of the police chief came in the wake of rising incidents of violation that tarnished the image of the police.

Ismail Hossain was speaking at a function here on Saturday in connection with opening of a Police Box at Amlapara in the town.

He told the police to maintain law and order to ensure stability in the society without which no country could reach its goal of development.

Referring to the increased facilities to the police, IGP said the ration has been increased by 20 per cent. In case of injury sustained on duty, a police man is now paid Tk 50,000 instead of Tk 25,000.

Rezaul Karim Hira, MP, also briefly spoke at the function which was presided over by Police Super Faruque Ahmed, Deputy Commissioner Achyutpada Goswami, Principal of AM College Ikrampudoloh, Prof Shahidullah, Poura Chairman Fayejur Rahman, Mirza Shakhawatul Alam.