

National

News snaps

Reception to noted personalities

From Our Correspondent

BARIDPUR. May 25: Faridpur Lalor Parishad accorded a hearty reception to five personalities who attained excellence in literary and cultural life at a function at Kabi Jasimuddin Hall recently.

The recipients were Dr Abdul Ahsan Chowdhury, Associate Professor of Bengali Department of Kustia University and a noted researcher in Lalor works. Mamta, wife of Poet Jasimuddin, Khondaker Nurul Hossain, Syed Ashraf Ali Azam, Abdur Rob and Pijus Benerjee in cultural activities specially as a BTV star.

New annex bldg of BAU hall

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH. May 25: Vice-Chancellor Prof Muhammed Hussain assured the female students of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) to solve various problems as well as to provide better accommodation facilities within limited resources of the University.

Inaugurating the new annex building of BAU Sultan Razia Hall built at a cost of Tk 25 lakh with a living accommodation of 60 students, the vice-chancellor reminded that a new female hall would be constructed very soon as per announcement of the Prime Minister while addressing as BAU Chancellor during the fourth convocation '97. Presided over by Prof Md Rafiqul Haque, Provost, Sultan Razia Hall, the function was addressed, among others, by senior professors, University Engineer Md. Rahmatullah and Hall Sangsad General Secretary Nasreen Sultan Jueela.

Body recovered

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA. May 25: Dead body of an 11-year-old girl was recovered from a ditch at village Agardar in sadar thana recently.

The victim has been identified as Taslima Khatun, 11, daughter of Abul Kashem of village Agardar in sadar thana. Police said, the victim has been missing since May 13. She was kidnapped and raped by a group of miscreants and strangled her to death, police sources apprehended.

PDB office ransacked

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA. May 25: Agitated viewers of World Cup cricket attacked the local Power Development Board office, Gaibandha after being deprived in witnessing the World Cup cricket match between Bangladesh and West Indies following power failure.

Angry youngmen rushed to the office soon after the disruption of power. They ransacked the office and damaged one motorcycle. During the period none was available in the office. Power disruption has become a regular feature here. On May 21 power remained suspended for long six hour.

Kala aazar claimed 7 lives in 7 months

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR. May 25: At least seven persons died in the district, especially in Sadar thana for the last seven months, according to the local Civil Surgeon office sources.

They were identified as Rahman Ali of Amin Nagar of Shababai union, Amena Begum, 38, and her daughter Fatema, 28, and her nephew Laboni, 7, Akbar Ali, 45, Rawshan Ara, 30 and Urs Ali, 11, of village Ranarampur in Sharifpur union of Sadar thana.

Growers deprived of fair price of Boro

From Our Correspondent

NETRAKONA. May 25: Growers are not getting fair price of Boro paddy for want of buyers causing their frustration.

Its price in the market is falling sharply in the current harvesting period.

They are compelled to sell the Boro paddy at a price which is below the production cost. The market of paddy is being controlled by a section of middlemen who are offering a low price in credit. Boro paddy is being sold in the markets between Tk 240 to Tk 260 per maund, while its production cost is Tk 280 to Tk 300, the production cost was higher this year due to prolonged drought and belated rain.

Seminar on community theatre

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA. May 25: A seminar on "Issues and Strategies in Community Theatre and Development" was held at the Shilpkala auditorium recently.

The seminar was organised by Theatre Centre for Social Development (TCSD). It was presided over by Khondoker Saiful Islam, Lutfor Rahman, lecturer of Jahangirnagar University delivered the inaugural speech. The seminar was addressed, among others, by Prof Kazi Saifuzzaman and Khan Ziaul Huq.

Viral diseases in JESSORE

JESSORE. May 25: Various viral diseases like influenza, chicken pox, fever and diarrhoea have broken out in the district in an epidemic form, reports UNB.

District Health Department sources said five people died of diarrhoea and 2,301 others were attacked in last April. The number of death and attack stood at 23 and 6,668 respectively from January to April. The rush of patients has increased in the hospitals and thana health complexes where 365 people were treated in a week. The water-borne disease attacked the highest 148 people on April 12. But the unofficial sources said 30 people died and some 8,000 were attacked during the January-April period. During the period some 3,100 people were also attacked by chicken pox and 3,000 by viral fever including 3,000 by flu.

Bridge construction begins

RANGPUR. May 25: Work has begun on the construction of a bridge on the river Korota on Shadullahpur-Pirganj-Nawabganj road, reports UNB.

Communications Minister Anwar Hossain Maju laid the foundation stone of the bridge at Dudheybari-Kachchha ghat at Pirganj thana of the district on Thursday. Official sources said the 259.88-metre long and 9.50-metre wide bridge will be built at a cost of about Tk 10 crore. On completion, the bridge will greatly improve road communication between Shadullahpur thana in Gaibandha district and Nawabganj thana in Dinajpur district via Pirganj thana in Rangpur district.

Segun timber seized

HABIGANJ. May 25: BDR Jawans and forest officials in a joint raid seized segun timber worth Tk 4.50 lakh from Haritali village in Bahubal thana last week, reports UNB.

BDR sources said acting on a tip-off, they along with the forest officials raided the houses of Yasin Miah, Elias Miah, Ekhlas Miah, Abdur Ali and Kala Miah and recovered 330 pieces of segun timber.

Awami Lawyers Parishad meeting

KISHOREGANJ. May 25: The Deputy Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsads Abdul Hamid Advocate said, lawyers can easily highlight the programmes and activities of a party by exchanging views with the common people, reports BSS.

He was addressing the annual meeting of Bangladesh Awami Lawyers Parishad, held at local Bar Association Hall Room on May 20. He said the lawyers can mix with general public, influence them and lead them towards the ideology of a party. Presided over by Advocate Md. Zillur Rahman, the meeting was addressed, among others, by advocates Zillur Rahman, Zinnatul Islam, Md. Mohammad Ferdous, Shafee and Bimal Biswas.

Arms seized

BAGERHAT. May 25: Police recovered 183 firearms and 596 rounds of ammunition during the anti-terrorist operation in the district last year, reports UNB.

A total of 3,971 dacoits, terrorists and extortionists were also arrested during the period, a police report said. The recovered arms and ammunition were displayed on Thursday at the office of the District Police Super Alhaj Jalaluddin Al-Azad.

Two commit suicide

NOAKHALI. May 25: Young Alamgir, 18, allegedly committed suicide on Saturday by hanging himself from a tree near Sata-pukur of the town here, reports UNB.

Body of Alamgir, son of Shahjahan, was recovered from a tree in the area by police and sent it for post-mortem. Alamgir is said to have felt offended by his parents' behaviour. Another report adds: A middle-aged woman of Sagardi village in Raipur thana allegedly committed suicide by taking poison at her home, police said. They said Rahima Khatun, 38, committed suicide following a family feud on May 11.

Fund misappropriated

SHARIATPUR. May 25: A school headmaster here went away India misappropriating Tk 50,000 of the school fund, police said, reports UNB.

Ranjan Chowdhury, the headmaster of Panchapalli High School of Naria thana after withdrawing Tk 50,000 from the school development fund fled away India one month ago. Police after investigation confirmed the report on Thursday.

19 passenger launches sank in 15 years in southern districts

From Aroop Talukdar

BARISAL. May 25: At least 19 passenger launches, both single and double decker, sank in different rivers of the southern districts under Barisal division in last 15 years.

This has been learnt from the BIWTA authority and news published in different national dailies of the country.

More than 1,500 people drowned and wealth, merchandise including money amounting to Taka 20 crore were lost in these incidents.

It may be recalled here the two major incidents of capsizing the vessels, MV Soni in 1987, near Mehdinagaj and MV Atlas Star in 1989 in the Meghna river. Both vessels were steel body double decker passenger launches. They were on way to Dhaka.

A similar widebody launch MV Samia, a passenger launch along Dhaka-Bhola route sank in the Kalabazar river near Moulaibhat of Barisal four years ago.

According to official and unofficial sources, the incidents

left more than 700 passengers dead and wealth of several lakhs of taka lost.

According to a survey report, the major incidents took place in the rivers of Kirtankhola of Barisal, Paita, Tetulia, Lohalia of Patuakhali, Sandhya of Jhalakati, Bishkhali and Agunmukha of Barguna, Kalabazar and Meghna of Bhola during the last decade.

Furthermore, the same passenger vessel was renamed and very illegally kept on plying in other routes without any permission from the proper authority.

At several times enquiries were conducted against this passenger vessel, but to no effect.

Authorities concerned have admitted, there are many marine vessels, both cargo and passenger carrier which do not have their survey and other documents properly renewed.

An enquiry committee has already been formed regarding the 'ML Dweep Kanya' tragedy which sank on May 8 in the Sabhabajpur channel of the river Meghna amid stormy weather and strong current leaving 40 passengers dead and more than 60 missing.

Vessels are classified in four categories, ocean-going ships

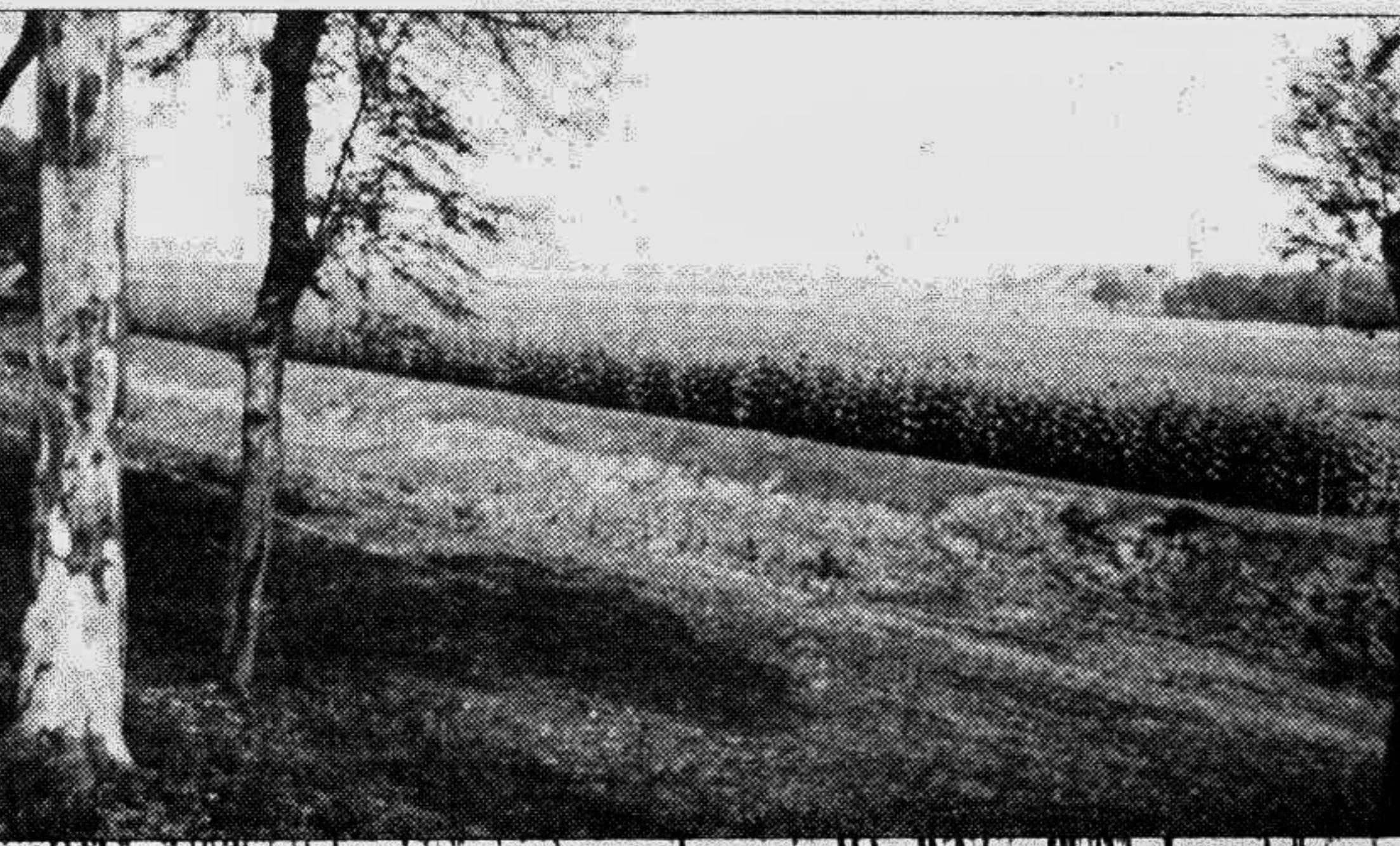
An example may be cited here. The 'Queen of Patuakhali', a passenger launch sank at least four times during the last seven years in different rivers leaving many people dead.

sailing along international routes, passenger-cum-cargo vessels in the coastal areas, inland passenger carrier steamers, fishing boats and engine boats which are usually known as trawler. These are meant for fishing purpose in the rivers and in the Bay of Bengal almost throughout the year.

Number of these passenger and cargo carriers are about 2,000 while different kinds of registered marine vessels are more than 6,000. These vessels normally ply in the domestic routes.

Most of these marine vessels have no regular valid papers. On the other hand, thousands of emerging shoals in the river banks are also responsible for such mishaps. As a result, the riverine journey becomes very risky at nights.

Dredging is necessary and inoperative or missing beacons should be replaced immediately to make the rivers navigable. But BIWTA and other concerned authorities are not paying heed to the suggestions.



KUSHTIA: Sunflower has turned into a cash crop in this district. Photo shows a demonstration plot of sunflower near the district town.

Star photo

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