

News snaps

Man commits suicide

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, June 21: A 30-year-old man committed suicide recently by taking poison at village Musuli in Nandail thana.

Kajal Chandra Debnath went to their banana garden and swallowed poison there. He was immediately brought to the Nandail Thana Health Complex where the doctor declared him dead. The cause behind the suicide could not be known till filing of this report.

Three dacoities in one night

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, June 21: Three dacoities were committed recently in three houses at Jugia Palpara, three kilometres off the district town.

A gang of armed dacoits numbering 12 forced their entry into the house of Rintoo. At gun point the dacoits made members of the house hostages and looted cash, gold ornaments and other valuables worth Taka 30 thousand. Later on they forced their entry into the houses of Shorab driver and Amirul one after another. They escaped safely after the dacoity. Police visited the spot, but none were arrested till filing of the report.

BDR personnel arrested

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, June 21: Police and local people caught two Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) personnel red-handed while they were involved in anti-social activities at a house in Shiroil in the city on June 12 night.

BDR Commander Lt Col Thin later on got them released on bond. Departmental actions are being taken against them, BDR sources said. According to police, local people kept the BDR personnel named Nasir and Borhan under siege in the house along with the two say girls and informed the police. Police rushed to the spot and took them to the thana. The two women were arrested and sent to jail. Local people beat the BDR personnel and a so-called newsmen, said to be their agent.

Indian sugar, sari recovered

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, June 21: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Gaibandha in a swoop recovered 100 bags of Indian sugar and 355 pieces of Indian sari which was smuggled into the district recently.

On the day during his regular visit to different offices in Palashbari and Gobindaganj thana in connection with revenue collection he was returning to Gobindaganj. On suspect he challenged a bus on Kamdia-Gobindaganj road and recovered the aforementioned smuggled goods. The driver and goods were handed over to Gobindaganj thana custody. On the same day the DC's escort also recovered Indian sari and Indian sugar. Those were handed over to Palashbari thana.

Development work progressing

JHALAKATI, June 21: Work on 377 development schemes to develop communication network and socio-economic condition of the people in the region is progressing fast in four thanas here, reports UNB.

Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) is implementing the schemes in Rajapur, Kathalia, Nalchhiti and sadar thanas at a cost of Taka 19.63 crore, officials said. The schemes included construction and repair of 76 km road, construction of 51 bridges and culverts, renovation of 71 bridges and culverts and re-excavation of 9 km canal.

Advocacy meeting

JOYPUHAT, June 21: Preparatory work has been launched ahead of the UNICEF sponsored health service programme on Acute Respiratory Tract Infection in Children, reports UNB.

An advocacy meeting held here recently to create awareness among the people was attended by 50 people representing a cross-section, including political leaders, teachers, journalists, physicians and health-workers. Presided over by Civil Surgeon Dr Anwar Ali and attended by the Divisional health official Tanjimul Haque and UNICEF representative Rezina Sultana, the meeting discussed prevention, care and management of respiratory infection particularly pneumonia affecting the children.

Outbreak of cattle disease

MADARIPUR, June 21: A fatal disease locally known as Tarka claimed lives of 50 cattle in three unions of Kalkini thana here recently, reports UNB.

The disease has been spreading fast in different villages in an alarming proportion creating panic among the farmers. The affected unions are Nabogram, Kazibakal and Dasar. About four to five cows on average are being affected every day. In absence of any vaccine in the district veterinary hospital the farmers cannot save their animals. Ainal Khan, Subodh and Rafizuddin Mia of South Maizpara village said the cows and calves affected by the disease lie down quivering and succumb after a while. When contacted Veterinary Surgeon Abdul Jabbar said there is no vaccine of this disease in the hospital here.

Cash, valuables looted

HABIGANJ, June 21: Dacoits looted cash and valuables worth about Tk two lakh from two houses at Shahangar village in Amtirganj thana recently, reports UNB.

Police said a gang of armed robbers, numbering about 15 stormed into the houses of Shitesh Roy and Nitesh Roy at dead of night and decamped with booty. They also beat up the inmates of the two houses indiscriminately. Before fleeing, the gang exploded several hand bombs to create panic in the area.

Frogman dies while on duty

PIROJEPUR, June 21: A young frogman died in the river Sandha at Swarupkathi. He died while engaged in salvage operation of a sunken boat on Friday evening, reports UNB.

Abul Kalam, 25, was hit hard on the head and back by propeller of a passing by trawler ML Rafiq. The body was recovered after several hours from the river bed. Earlier in the day a country boat, heavily loaded with timber, sank seven feet deep in the river.

Housewife strangulated to death

MANIRGANJ, June 21: A young housewife, mother of one child, was strangulated to death recently allegedly by her husband at North Kesti village in the sadar thana, reports UNB.

Family sources said Hossain Ali of the same village married Sakshina, 22, three years back. He was demanding dowry from her since then. On the fateful day of June 13, Hossain and his relations beat Sakshina mercilessly and later strangulated her to death following her refusal to bring the dowry money from her poor parents. The body was sent to sadar hospital morgue for autopsy.

Notorious arms trader arrested

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, June 21: Daulatpur police arrested Ibrahim Hossain, 32, son of Chatur, of village Sadipur in Daulatpur thana recently from hospital bed.

Police said Ibrahim is a notorious arms trader and wanted in many cases. It is alleged Ibrahim lost his ear by his co-partner when there was a dispute over sharing of money. He was immediately admitted in Daulatpur Thana Health Complex. On getting information police rushed to the hospital and arrested him. He is being treated under police custody.

Bridge over Old Bramhaputra

NARSINGDI, June 21: The construction of a 160-meter long RCC (Reinforced Cement Concrete) balance cantilever bridge over the Old Bramhaputra river at Belabo is progressing fast, reports BSS.

An official source said the government sanctioned Taka one crore 79 lakh and 49 thousand for implementation of the project. According to the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), 25 per cent work has already been completed. The entire work will be completed within a year. The bridge will fulfil the needs of the people of Belabo of Narsingdi district and Kuliar-Char of Kishoreganj district.

Boy drowns in Kaptai lake

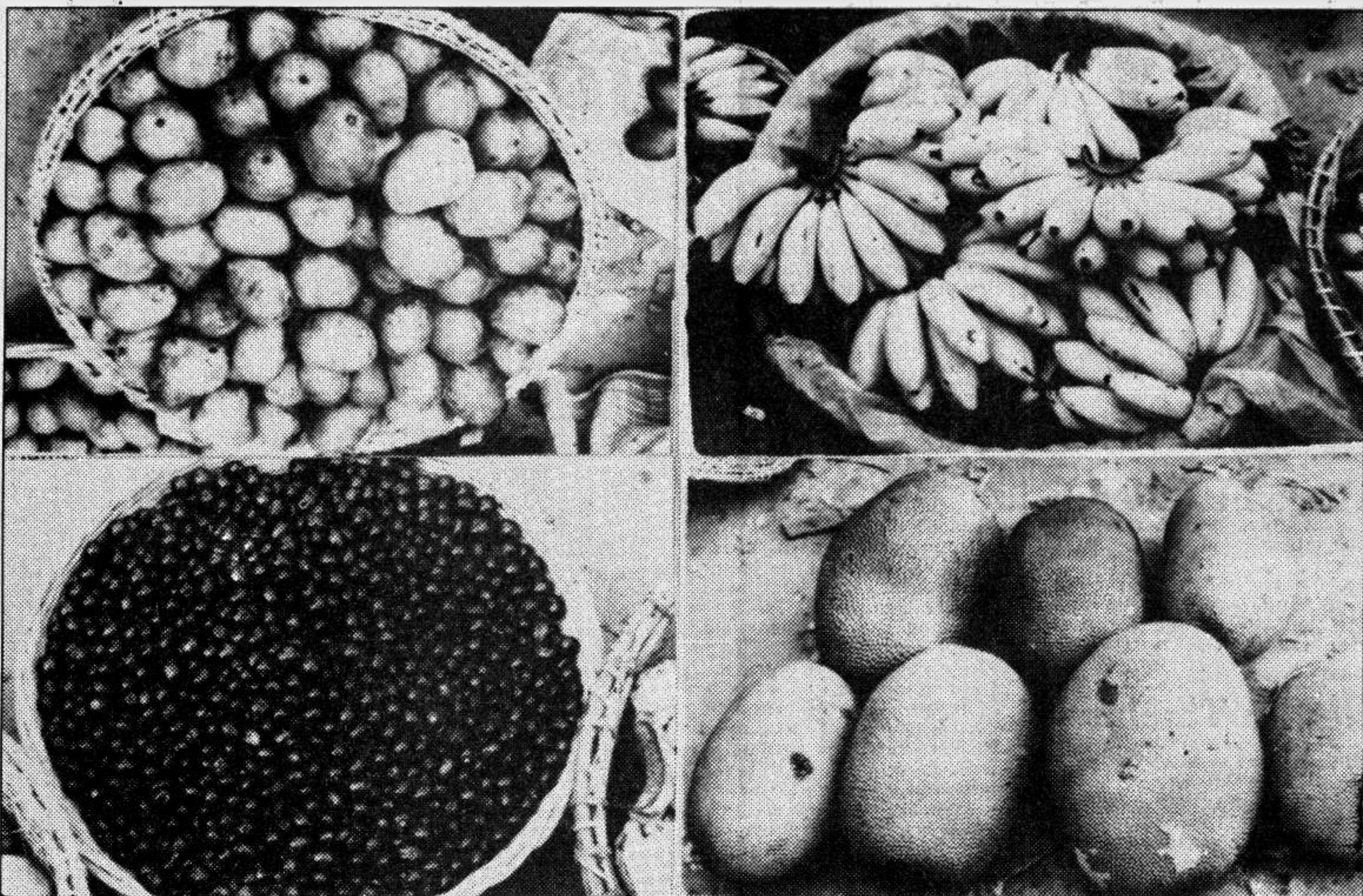
RANGAMATI, June 21: Baghaichhari police recovered a floating body of a boy from Kaptai Lake near Pablaikhali, reports BSS.

The boy drowned while collecting firewood in the lake near Marishya Bazar of the thana. The victim was identified as Tridip Barua, 12.

Jail term for deer hunter

COX'S BAZAR, June 21: One person has been sentenced to one year's imprisonment for killing a deer at Bangabandhu Park in Dulahazara, the country's only deer breeding centre, reports APB.

First Class Magistrate Shah Alam Mridha convicted Mohammad Isahq and gave the prison term, court sources said. Isahq was caught by the Forest Department employees while he, along with some others, were fleeing with the deer after killing the same on February 7 last year.



Now is the season of fruits. An abundant supply of various types of fruits is visible in the markets all over Bangladesh. Prices are also reasonable this year. The picture above was taken from Saikupa 'hat' in Jhenidah district. In this 'hat' mango, the king of fruits is being sold at Taka 14 to 25 per kilogram while black berry at Taka 8 to 12, a jackfruit of medium size at Taka 12 to 25, four bananas at Taka 4 to 8.

— Star photo by Delwar Kabir

Nazrul Academy branch in each district suggested

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, June 21: Speakers at a seminar here in the city recently paid glowing tributes to national poet kazi Nazrul Islam and urged the authorities concerned to establish branches of Nazrul Academy in each district headquarters in the country.

The speakers also called upon the authorities to make special arrangements to market the rebel poet's complete works in reduced price, introduce compulsory 100 marks on Nazrul in honours and master's courses of Bangla Literature in the universities.

Organised jointly by the

National Committee for Celebration of Nazrul's Centenary Birth Anniversary and cultural organisation Rajshahi Sangskritik Jote, the seminar—'Poet Nazrul's Role and the Revival of National Consciousness'—was inaugurated by Professor Muhammad Yusuf Ali, former vice chancellor of Rajshahi University. Professor Mokhesur Rahman, Dean of Faculty of Arts of Rajshahi University, presided over it.

In his inaugural speech, Professor Muhammad Yusuf Ali said a group of intellectuals were trying to tarnish the image of Nazrul in a planned way.

The former vice chancellor demanded that a compulsory paper of at least 100 marks on Nazrul be introduced in university syllabuses.

Renowned actor and convener of the National Committee for Celebration of Poet Nazrul's Centenary Birth Anniversary Ariful Huque said the poet had taught us to protest against oppressions and fight for liberty and humanism.

"Nazrul is a symbol of our faith, aspirations and vigour. His works injected consciousness in the mind of the nation and eventually inspired to struggle against political op-

pressions. His works also guide our personal, social and national activities.

Addul Wadood, Rajshahi Correspondent of The Daily Star, in his keynote paper presented at the seminar, said the poet was a symbol of non-communal but at the time he worked hard for Bengali Muslim renaissance.

Professor Mokhesur Rahman said Kazi Nazrul Islam was a rebel not only in literature but also in our struggle for liberation. "He always inspires us at all occasions of our national crises and that is why he is our National Poet", he said.



RAJSHAHI: A seminar on "Nazrul's Role in Revival of National Consciousness" was arranged recently jointly by the National Committee of Nazrul Birth Centenary Celebration and Rajshahi Sangskritik Jote at the Zilla Parishad auditorium. Prof Mokhesur Rahman, Dean of Faculty of Arts, Rajshahi University, presided over the function. Former Vice-Chancellor of Rajshahi University Prof Yusuf Ali (right) inaugurated the seminar while eminent actor Ariful Huque (middle) was the chief guest. Journalist Dr Abdul Wadood presented the key-note paper.

— Star photo

Magistrate, cops hurt

Transport workers, mob clash in Thakurgaon

THAKURGAON, June 21: One magistrate, a sub-inspector of police and six others were injured seriously in a clash between a group of transport workers and a section of local people at Khochabarihat, five kilometres off Thakurgaon town recently, reports BSS.

Abdul Halim, Chairman Jagannathpur Union Parishad, Babu, a girl student of a college and twelve others were arrested in this connection.

The clash ensued when a group of young men with a girl were denied to embark a Thakurgaon bound minibus at Thakurgaon.

gaon bus stand. The group had forcibly embarked the bus and halted at Khochabarihat and locked in clash with the transport workers, witnesses said.

When a contingent of police under the leadership of a magistrate had rushed to the spot to control the situation brickbattling was started from among the public. In the brickbattling magistrate Mustafizur Rahman Mridha, SI of Police Isahaque Ali, constable Firoz Kabir, bus driver Ashraf, conductor Rustom and helper Kamal were injured seriously.

They were admitted to

Thakurgaon Modern Hospital. About fifty vehicles were damaged in the incident.

The situation aggravated when some transport workers mercilessly beat some people of Khochabarihat area at Thakurgaon bus stand and some passengers including a woman were confined in the Bus Owners Association office.

The Deputy Commissioner and the Police Super of Thakurgaon visited the spot. Two separate cases, one by the police and the other by the bus owners association were lodged with Thakurgaon police station in this connection.

Proposed Rupsha Bridge Programme to protest poor allocation

KHULNA, June 21: The local liaison committee of four-party opposition alliance Sunday announced a 15-day agitation programme in Khulna district to protest inadequate allocation in the national budget for the proposed Rupsha Bridge, reports UNB.

The programmes include rally and procession in the city, district and thana headquarters on June 21-23, submission of a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner on June 24, dawn-to-dusk hartal and hoisting of black flag on July 1 and public meeting at Shaheed Haid Park on July 5.

Convener of the Liaison Committee and city BNP president Nurul Islam announced the programme at a press conference at the local Press Club.

He said a poultry amount of Tk 3 crore was earmarked in the national budget for 1999-2000 for construction of Rupsha Bridge. The inadequate allocation had frustrated the people of Khulna, he added.

Meanwhile, Nagarik Samaj brought out a procession this morning and submitted a memorandum, addressed to the Prime Minister, to the Divisional Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner, demanding early construction of the Rupsha Bridge. It also demanded of the Prime Minister to ensure uninterrupted supply of power and development of Khulna region.

Tragic

JHALAKATI, June 21: Girl student, Nipa, who appeared at this year's SSC examination could not bear the shock of failure as the results were published on Thursday, reports UNB.

She collapsed on hearing the bad news and was declared dead at the hospital.

Nipa, 15, daughter of Bhuvan Chandra Halder of Nalchhiti thana, appeared at the examination from the Ichhakati Secondary School.

Faces of talents

From Delwar Kabir

JHENIDAH, June 21: A total of 11 candidates of Jhenidah Cadet College were placed in the list of top 20 examinees of Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations under Jessore Board this year.

Atik of Jhenidah Cadet College (Roll number 238347) stood seventh in the combined merit list with seven letters in General Science, Islamic religion, Physics, Chemistry, Higher Mathematics, Mathematics and Biology. He secured a total of 913 marks. He usually read for eight hours a day. His hobby is book collection and reading. His father Anisur Rahman is an Accountant.

Imamul of Jhenidah Cadet College stood eighth in the combined merit list securing 912 marks. He bagged letter marks in Mathematics, General Science, Islamic Religion, Physics, Chemistry, Higher Mathematics and Biology. His hobby is reading and collecting books. His father Sohrab Hossain is a retired Army personnel.

Foyez of Jhenidah Cadet College (Roll number 238354) stood ninth in the combined merit list securing 910 marks. He scored letter marks in Mathematics, General Science, Islamic religion, Physics, Chemistry, Higher Mathematics and Karmamukhi Shikkha. His hobby is singing. His father Choudhury Abul Kashem is an official of the Customs Department.

Mahit (Roll number 238365) of Jhenidah Cadet College stood 12th in the combined merit list securing 917 marks. He scored letter marks in Mathematics, General Science, Islamic religion, Physics, Chemistry, Higher Mathematics and Biology. His hobby is playing chess. His father Nazrul Islam is an Army personnel.

Sadid (Roll number 238372) of Jhenidah Cadet College stood 12th (jointly) in the combined merit list securing 907 marks. He scored letter marks in Mathematics, General Science, Islamic religion, Physics, Chemistry, Higher Mathematics and Biology. His hobby is reading books. His father is an official of Janata Bank.

Sarif of Jhenidah Cadet College (Roll number 238350) stood 13th in the combined merit list securing letter marks in Mathematics, General Science, Physics, Chemistry, Higher Mathematics and Karmamukhi Shikkha. His hobby is reading books. His father Sheikh Muzibur Rahman is a businessman.

Raihan (Roll number 238358) of Jhenidah Cadet College stood 18th in the combined merit list. His hobby is reading of

books. He secured a total of 901 marks with letters in Mathematics, General Science, Islamic religion, Physics, Chemistry, Higher Mathematics and Karmamukhi Shikkha. His father Abul Razzaq is an official of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC).

Sayed (Roll number 238379) of Jhenidah Cadet College stood 19th in the combined merit list securing 900 marks. He obtained letter marks in Mathematics, General Science, Islamic religion, Physics, Chemistry, Higher Mathematics and Biology. His hobby is gardening. His father Sadullah is an instructor of Primary Training Institution (PTI).

Fakhruddin (Roll number 238375) of Jhenidah Cadet College stood 20th in the combined merit list. He secured 899 marks with letters in Mathematics, General Science, Islamic religion, Physics, Chemistry, Higher Mathematics and Karmamukhi Shikkha. His hobby is reading books. His father Abdul Quayum is a government employee.

Qayum of Jhenidah Cadet College roll 491519 stood 9th in Humanities group securing 811 marks in SSC examination. He obtained letter marks in Mathematics, General Science, Economics, History and Karmamukhi Shikkha. His hobby is postage stamp collection. His father Siddique Ali Mollah is an official of Agrani Bank.

Mamun of Jhenidah Cadet College (Roll number 491521) stood 13th in the Humanities group this year. He bagged 802 marks with letters in Mathematics, Islamic religion and Karmamukhi Shikkha. His hobby is listening to radio programmes. His father Isahaque Mia is a retired Army official.

Hasibul-Hasan of Katlagari High School in Saikupa thana stood fifth in the Commerce group obtaining letter marks in Islamic religion, Mathematics, Business introduction, Business entrepreneurship, Commercial Geography and Accounting. His hobby is playing cricket. He desires to be a banker. His father Maniruzzaman is an official of Bangladesh Krishi Bank. He had no private tutor. He is not interested in student politics.

Suchitra Biswas of Saikupa Pilot Girls' High School stood seventh (jointly) in the Humanities group. She secured 817 marks with letters in Mathematics, Hindu religion, Geography, History and Agriculture science. Her father Ashoke Biswas is a businessman at Saikupa. Usually Suchitra read for about 11 hours a day.

Bamboo production in Kishoreganj declining

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, June 21: Production of bamboo is declining in the district due to lack of proper plantation method.

Numbers of bamboo clusters in the district, which was once rich in bamboo, are now declining, creating an acute scarcity of bamboo in the district and its adjoining areas.

The farmers of bamboo clusters are ignorant of proper method of growing bamboo. Besides, roots, which remain under ground, are often uprooted and being sold in the markets as fuel. As a result, tender bamboo plants are being destroyed.

No effort has been taken up to save the bamboo in the area, local people alleged.

Agriculture experts opine that proper nursing enables a bamboo to give birth to at least 20 tender ones. "But now only two or three tender plants grow in a year. Naturally production of bamboo is not increasing in proportion to the growing needs."

This scarcity has also started casting adverse impact on bamboo-made cottage industry.

Repair and construction works of bamboo-made houses in rural areas are being hampered badly for want of bamboo. About 90 per cent of dwelling houses in the rural Bangladesh are bamboo-made.

The suffering of people who

earn their living by making or selling bamboo-made articles has been multiplied due to abnormal rise in the prices of bamboo.

Punishment demanded

From Our Correspondent

MOULVI BAZAR, June 21: A meeting was held recently protesting the killing of Sadeque Husain, a senior officer of Janata Bank's Juri branch here.

The protest meeting was held at the premises of Janata Bank's Kulara branch. Shamsul Haq, Manager of the bank presided over. The meeting was also addressed, among others, by Kulara Press Club president Shushil Sengupta, Jatiya Samaitantrik Dal (JSD) leader Gias Uddin Ahmed, bankers Aminul Islam, Gias Uddin, merchant leaders Syed Kamal Uddin, Jahir Rayhan and Abu Tahir.

Speakers demanded arrest and punishment to the killer of Sadeque.

A memorandum was also submitted to the Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO) and the Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Kulara.

It may be mentioned here that the officer Sadeque was killed recently at his village home at Prithimpasa in Kulara thana.