

News snaps

Palash 14th in Sc group

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, June 29: M M Erfanul Karim (Palash) secured the 14th position in the merit list of Science group under Comilla Board in the SSC examination. He obtained 908 marks with letters in eight subjects.

He is the second son of Md Sekandar Mia, Associate Professor of Management of Chandpur Government College and Sanwara Begum, a housewife.

He has been inspired by his parents and teachers. He appeared in the examination from Chandpur Government Hasan Ali High School. He wants to be a computer engineer. His hobby is playing cricket and reading books.

Murdered man dropped in hospital

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, June 29: One person was killed by miscreants and dropped in the emergency ward of Brahmanbaria Modern Hospital at around 10pm on June 15.

According to hospital sources, some unidentified persons rushed to the emergency ward of the hospital with the profusely bleeding person. They dropped the man there and fled from the scene. The doctor on duty declared him dead. According to an identity card which was found in the pocket of the victim, he was Ronojit Dey, 42, a store keeper of Ghorashal power station. However, the card was not clear.

Sub-standard items on sale

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, June 29: Sub-standard essential commodities are being sold with impunity at various places here causing grave concern among the conscious people.

soyabean oil, salt, mineral water, bread, biscuit and cake are being sold in different parts here without being tested by Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institution (BSTI). According to BSTI, food items and mineral water must have fitness certificates for consumption. This situation has exposed the general consumers to health hazards, it is alleged.

Founding anniversary of AL

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, June 29: The 50th founding anniversary of Bangladesh Awami League was observed here on June 21.

The local unit of Awami League chalked out befitting programmes which include hoisting of national flag and party flag at the local Sreemonto Town Hall, procession by party leaders, workers and members of its front organisations. A discussion meeting and a crest giving ceremony was also held on the occasion.

Cost of kissing

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, June 29: An open kiss costs Taka 10,000.

The incident of kissing a school girl by a college going youth at village Paschim Salua in Fulchhari thana which was settled later on in a village arbitration recently. On June 16 evening a college student named Afzal Hossain caught Rashida Begum, a student of Class VIII and kissed her openly against her will. At last the matter was raised in gurdian level and a village arbitration took place on June 18 where the accused was fined Taka 10,000 for committing such objectionable incident.

Body recovered

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, June 29: Body of a young man was recovered on June 21 by police after 19 days of missing.

Saidur Rahman alias Saidu, 24, of village Jharaitala in Nikli thana lived in his father-in-law's house. He was called out of the house by four persons in the afternoon of June 2. Since then he has been missing. The body was found lying in a drain near a paddy field in Harchakir haor (beel). The body was fully decomposed and several cut marks were found on it. Relatives of the deceased identified the body.

250 British classics donated to RU

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, June 29: Everyman Millennium Library and some other organisations of Great Britain have donated 250 great classics of English literature to Rajshahi University.

Simon Kay and Philip Powell-Davies of the British Council handed over the first 100 books of the donation to the Department of English on Monday morning at a brief function at the department premises.

The donation is being funded through Britain's Millennium Commission Grant. Everyman publishers as well as various other British charities. The British Council is assisting the programme.

The Chairman of the Department of English Prof Ator Ali and Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Saidur Rahman Khan received the donation.

Many other members of the department including Prof Daud Hasan, Prof. Enamul Huque, Prof Aali Arefur Rahman, Prof Shahidullah, Prof Zahurul Islam and Prof Asim Kumer Das were also present during the presentation ceremony.

All the members of the department expressed deep gratitude to the donors and commended that the books would immensely help them in studying and research activities.

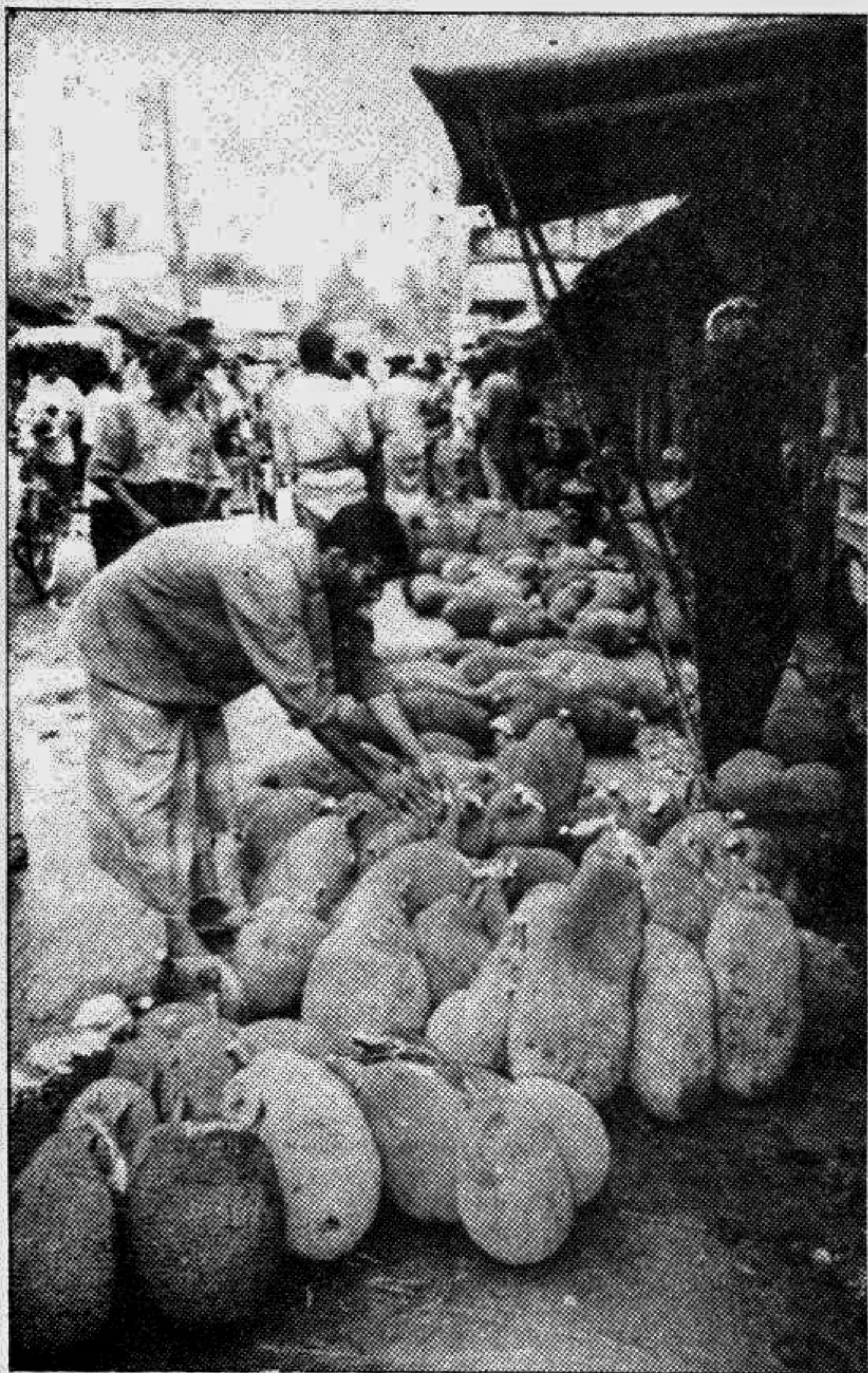
Prof Ator Ali said that the books would be kept in the departments, seminar library and opened for use by the teaching staff and students alike.

Lightning kills housewife

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, June 29: A housewife was killed recently on the spot by lightning at village Barall in Madhukhali thana.

According to local people, the victim identified as Aleya Begum, 25, was sitting on the verandah of her house when lightning struck her during rain.



MAGURA: Jackfruits have flooded the hats and bazaars of the district. Local traders selling one hundred jackfruits at the rate of Taka 2,000. This picture was taken recently from Katakali hat.

—Star photo

Gopalganj hospital beset with manifold problems

From Alimuzzaman Miah

GOPALGANJ, June 29: Gopalganj district hospital is beset with various problems, including shortage of physicians, beds and medicines, depriving patients of adequate medicare facilities in the district.

About 300 to 350 patients come to the hospital from different areas of the district everyday, but they do not get proper treatment due to lack of physicians and medicines, besides modern diagnosis facilities, ambulance service and isolation ward for patients suffering from infectious diseases.

As the hospital has no adequate number of beds many patients are compelled to stay on the floor and verandas in an unhygienic condition. Sometimes the hospital authority refuse to admit patients due to lack of accommodation.

The hospital was established during Pakistan regime with 25

beds. In 1984 the numbers of beds were increased to 50. Later the numbers were increased to 100 in 1990. Finally the numbers were increased to 250 in January 1999.

The scarcity of life-saving drugs is another problem for the patients. The patients who get themselves admitted into hospital are to buy medicines from markets at high price. Sometimes plaster, bandage and other necessary medical accessories are not found in the hospital.

Sometimes expired medicines are supplied to patients from hospital, patients complained.

The ambulance service in the hospital is in a deplorable condition now. The only ambulance has been out of order for a long time. However, Health Minister, during his recent visit, assured the authorities concerned of supplying two am-

bulances to the hospital.

The post of a surgical consultant has been lying vacant since 1995, much to the suffering of patients in the district. No step has so far been taken to recruit a consultant, patients alleged.

Moreover, most of the physicians are busy paying extra attention to patients at private clinics, ignoring the patients at the government-run hospital, local people complained.

The patients coming to the hospital for surgical treatment are often advised to go to particular clinics, alleged patients.

The hospital has no eye and ENT specialists, forcing patients to go to Khulna, Barisal and Dhaka for treatment.

The hygienic condition of the hospital is very poor. Nobody can enter the hospital premises without pressing handkerchief on noses. In fact, the hospital premises is

littered with used cotton, bandage and other medical accessories.

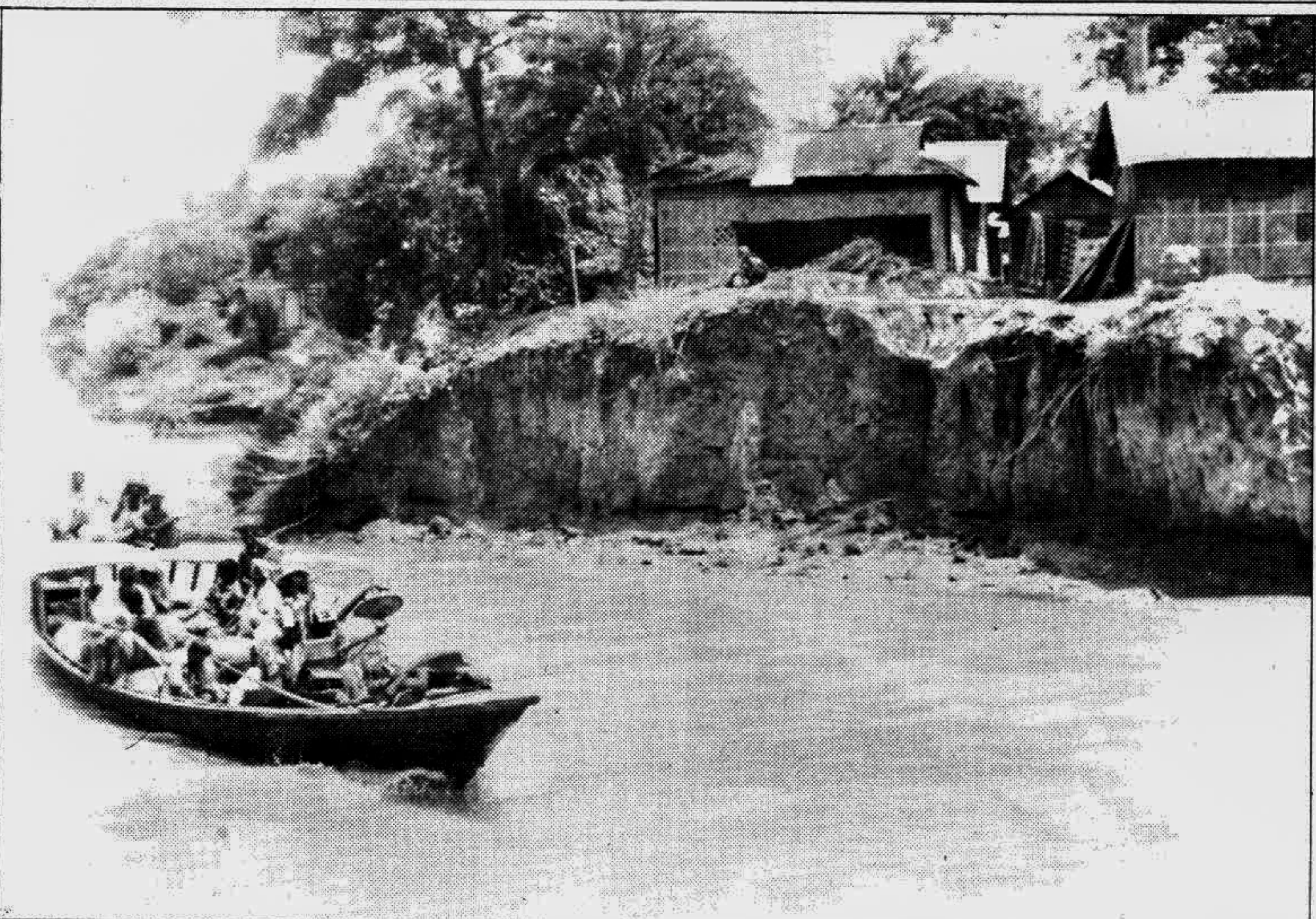
The latrines and bathrooms are found always overflowing with dirty water. Dogs and cats are found moving here and there in the hospital premises.

The quality of diet supplied to patients is not satisfactory. Patients live on foods supplied by their families. Besides, the beds, pillows, mosquito nets and bed sheets are unfit for use.

Medical tools worth several lakhs taka like incubator and endoscopy are lying idle for years together as the hospital lacks adequate manpower.

The hospital also has no There are no posts of obstetrician, paediatrician and radiologist, causing much suffering to the patients.

Meanwhile, frequent power failure is playing havoc with preserving essential drugs in fridges.



MUNSHIGANJ: Erosion by Taltala-Gaodia canal has rendered many people homeless recently. The canal locally known as Suez canal needs immediate dredging. The canal which links the capital city of Dhaka with the southern region has shortened its distance by 10 miles.

—Star photo by A K M Mohsin

Flash flood in Jamalpur

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, June 29: On rush of heavy downpour and hilly water from upstream has caused flash flood in the district.

Rivers Jamuna and Brahmaputra have been flowing above danger mark.

Many kutcha houses, jute field, Aus crops and Aman seed beds have been washed away. Tarakandi-Bhuyapur road is under threat. Road communication may be disrupted at any time.

Jamalpur-Pourashava Bhaban is under threat due to severe river erosion. Ten houses of this area have been fully damaged in two days.

Hundreds of people of Bat-tazur and Kamelpur union in Bakshigonj thana have been marooned, according to TNO of Bakshigonj thana.

Groyne work uncertain Flood control dam near Rangpur town threatened

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, June 29: The construction work of a groyne at Nohali union in Gangachara thana has allegedly been hampering adversely due to tug of war between two rival groups. Water Development Board undertook a Taka five crore project to construct the groyne to protect the flood control embankment on the southern bank of the river Teesta to save people from erosion at Nohali union. But before starting the construction works, a quarrel started between two rival groups over the selection of site and taking contract of its construction. One party of the warring group is the sitting chairman of the union, Abdur Rouf while the other group is led by his younger brother Abdur Noor Dulal.

The local people have been apprehending that if the construction works of the groyne delayed further, flood and erosion might damage the embankment causing colossal damages of houses and crops in vast area.

The flood water might hit Rangpur town, people have apprehended further.

Identity of dead woman still unidentified

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, June 29: Sonadanga police could not identify till Monday evening a beautiful young woman, 28, whose dead body was found hanging from the branch of a tree at Basupara on Sunday morning.

Tk 3 cr Pabna irrigation project dam threatened Erosion renders 2,700 families homeless in Sirajganj, Bera

By Staff Correspondent

A total of 2,700 families were rendered homeless in Sirajganj district and Bera thana of Pabna district due to onrush of hill water with onset of the rainy season.

UNB from Sirajganj reports: Erosion by river Jamuna has taken a serious turn in five thanas here due to incessant rain and onrush of hill water.

Officials said some 2,500 families in different parts of the five thanas had so far been affected by the river erosion.

They said although the mighty river was flowing below its danger mark, four villages — Ratandia, Mohonganj, Gopalpur and Hatkora in Shahajpur thana — went into its gorge.

Soilabari Groin in Sadar and an underconstruction hospital in Enayetpur thana have been threatened by the river erosion.

Local WAPDA officials said a report on the devastating sit-

uation has been sent to the higher authorities and steps have been taken to tackle any emergency situation in the affected areas.

The worst affected areas included Banglabazar, Patragram and Singra in Kazipur thana, Chardelua and Sholo Jangail in Belkuchi thana, Enayetpur, Betil and Saudi Chandpur in Chouhali, Barapiyari, Bhatpiyari, Mechhara, Chormara, Shoilabari and Ranibari.

Deputy Minister for Commerce and Industries Hasibur Rahman and Executive Engineer of WAPDA Mohammad Ali visited the affected areas on Wednesday.

Another report from Pabna adds: Some 200 families were rendered homeless in Bera thana here by the erosion of the river Jamuna during the last week.

The homeless families of Nagarbari, Nakalia, Ganopatia and Puran Bharenga areas have taken shelter on high land and embankment and passing

their days in great hardships.

Local people said the erosion intensified further with onset of the rainy season. The lands on the riverbanks are being inundated almost every day during the high tide damaging the standing crops.

The erosion also threatened the Nagarbari ghat as the river has already engulfed the nearby Raghunathpur village.

An Engineer of Power Development Board (PDB) said erosion has intensified due to the emergence of new shoals in the riverbed. The river came nearer to Pabna Irrigation Project embankment. The river is threatening the 3-crore taka project, taken in 1989.

He said part of the embankment was severely damaged in 1997 causing damage to standing crops worth about Tk 200 crore.

Under the project, work on protecting the river bank began in 1989, but it was stopped later on for unknown reasons.

Separate incidents claim 9 lives in Rajshahi, Ctg

By Staff Correspondent

A total of nine persons were killed in separate incidents in Rajshahi and Chittagong districts in two days.

Our Rajshahi correspondent reports: Two young men were killed in two separate incidents in Godagari thana in 48 hours.

Police arrested four people in this connection.

Abu Sayed, 26, son of Afazuddin of village Laskarhati was killed at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) as a sequel to clash between two groups of people which took place on Saturday.

Abu Sayed was injured seriously by the rivals when he was hit by bamboo sticks. When Abu Sayed went to cut a drain to let out flood water on the road near his house, his neighbours refrained him from doing so. As a result, hot exchange of words took place between them. At one stage the neighbours hit Abu Sayed on head with bamboo sticks. He was rushed to RMCH in a critical condition where he succumbed to his injuries on Sunday noon. Police arrested four people.

Meanwhile, police recovered the body of Jamal, 16, from a

drain of village Tajerpur in Godagari thana.

Jamal, son of Babar Ali of Tajerpur village went out of his house on Friday night but did not return home till Sunday morning.

Police recovered his dead body from a drain of the village on Monday noon.

BSS from Chittagong says: Seven persons were killed and eight others injured in four separate incidents in the city and the district during the last two days.

According to police and eyewitnesses, two persons were killed and eight others injured when a passenger bus collided head-on with a tempo at Baizid Bostami on Monday morning.

1,302mts of HYV wheat seeds

RANGPUR, June 29: Con-

tract growers of Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation, Rangpur Zone, have produced 1,302 metric tons of High Yielding Variety (HYV) wheat seeds this year, reports UNB.

The injured were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH).

Of the dead, one was identified as Meraj Sharif, 32, a BDR man but identity of the other could not be ascertained immediately.

Gia Paul, 32, a housewife allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself from a ceiling fan at her house at Hajari Lane here on Monday.

Two persons including one railway keyman were killed when the Dhaka-bound Karnaphuli Express ran over them at a place between Bhatiyari and Kumira on Monday noon. The victims met the tragic end when they were working on the down line of the railway track.

One of the victims was identified as Mohammad Haris, 50, and the other could not be identified.

In the last incident, a motorcyclist and his co-rider were killed when a speeding truck at Madambibirhat in Sitakunda thana knocked them down on Sunday. The victims were identified as Saiful Alam, 30, and Mohammad Ali, 25.

The bodies were sent to hospital for autopsy.

Seed crisis likely to hamper aman output

NATORE, June 29: Acute seed crisis, apparently caused by short supply and illegal hoarding, appears to squander the chances of bumper production of aman in northern region this season, reports UNB.

Official sources said some 25 lakh hectares of land in 16 northern districts are likely to be brought under aman cultivation this season, requiring some 28,500 mt of seeds.

But BADC has so far distributed only 4,500 mt of seeds, which is too inadequate to meet the demand, they said.

While talking the farmers termed the crisis as artificial and held a section of unscrupulous officials and dealers responsible for it.

They said that they could not preserve seeds during the aman season last year due to prolonged flood and massive pest attack.

Witnesses said everyday farmers rush to BADC's sales centres and the shops of authorised dealers for collecting seeds, but they have to return home empty-handed.

Usually BADC collects seeds from those growers with whom they have contracts and subsequently distribute those among the farmers.

BADC officials, however,

said their seed collection drive this year could not achieve the target due to flood and pest attack.

Having no alternative, the poor farmers are purchasing low quality seeds from markets at an exorbitant price.

Rain paralyses life in Faridpur

From Our Correspondent

FRIDPUR, June 29: Continuous rainfall on Friday and Saturday across the district paralysed the life of the people completely.

Standing crops on low lying lands have gone under rain water.

The town-dwellers are facing water logging at Niltuly, Jhiltuly, Luxmipur and Tepakhola area in the town.

The day-labourers were the worst sufferers due to the two days' uninterrupted rainfall. Most of them could not earn their breads.

Ponds, tanks, rivers ditches and water bodies have overflowed with rain water.

Infrastructure uplift scheme progressing

KISHOREGANJ, June 29: Work is nearing completion on rural infrastructure development and maintenance project with an allocation of 1961 metric tons of wheat under Food for Works Programme in 13 thanas of the district, reports UNB.

District Relief and Rehabilitation office sources said damaged roads and culverts are being rehabilitated and earthwork on educational, religious institutions and playgrounds are continuing under the programme.

A total of 201 schemes were taken up under the programme creating employment opportunities to the poor people, including women of the district.

The thana-wise breakup of the wheat allocation and schemes is: 340 mts against 37 schemes in sadar, 130 mts against 14 schemes in Itna, 110 mts against 11 schemes in Mitamain, 121 mts against 8 schemes in Austagram, 155 mts against 16 schemes in Bajitpur, 100 mts against 13 schemes in Nikli, 185 mts against 7 schemes in Bhairab, 150 mts against 14 schemes in Kularchar, 160 mts against 14 schemes in Katiadi, 110 mts against 14 schemes in Hossain-

pur, 140 mts against 20 schemes in Pakundia thana, 160 mts against 22 schemes in Karimganj and 100 mts against 11 schemes in Tarail thana.

All the schemes are being executed under the supervision of the TNOs of the respective thanas.

Moin wants to study computer engg

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, June 29: Syed Abdul Moin of Sylhet Government Pilot High School stood 13th in the combined merit list of Science group from Comilla Board in the SSC examination this year.

He got a total of 910 marks including letter marks in eight subjects. Moin wishes to be a Computer Engineer.

He is the youngest among two sons and one sister of Syed Abdul Momen, a retired government official. Dr Muhammad Jafar Iqbal and Rakib Hassan are his favourite writers, while Hajrat Mohammad (SM) is the favourite personality.

He dislikes student politics.



BAGERHAT: BNP leader Amanullah Aman, MP, addressing recently at the biennial conference of local unit of the party.

—Star photo



RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY: Vice-Chancellor (VC) Prof Abdul Khaleque addressing the inaugural ceremony of a week long workshop on "Weather and Climate" held recently at the varsity Senate hall. Pro-VC Prof Sayeedur Rahman Khan (3rd from left) is also seen.

—Star photo



COX'S BAZAR: A cake festival was arranged here recently under the auspices of Cox's Bazar Cultural Centre.

—Star photo