

News snaps

5 alleged dacoits arrested

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, July 2: Phulbaria police recently arrested five alleged dacoits from Bakta and Radhakani union. Acting on a tip-off, police raided Bakta union and arrested Abdul Berek, 36, Abdus Salam, 40, Hossain Ali, 38, Abdul Berek, 35, and Shahera Khatun, 37, on charge of dacoity. In another drive police nabbed another alleged dacoit from village Kandapara in Radhakani union. He was identified as Nazrul Islam, 35.

People deprived of treatment

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, July 2: Patients are being deprived of treatment at Daulatpur Thana Health Complex now.

Only two doctors and three nurses are working here while there is a vacancy of nine doctors and six staff nurses. Posts of seven doctors remained vacant for years together. Although there are two doctors who are working there, but some times they are not available. As a result the patients' sufferings know no bound. Doctors remain busy with their private practice with a fee of Taka 100 or more, it is alleged. There is no medicine in the hospital and doctors prescribe only medicine to be purchased by the patients from outside. During loadshedding the hospital remains dark as there is no generator.

No-confidence against UP chairman

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, July 2: All the members of Goyeshpur Union Parishad (UP) in Sreepur thana brought no-confidence motion against the chairman of the UP Abdul Majid Molla.

The members decided to abstain from all sorts of functions of the union UP. In a written complaint to Deputy Commissioner of Magura, the members raised 10 allegations against the chairman including misuse of fund, abuse of power and so on.

AL leader killed

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, July 2: The Vice President of Pakundia thana unit of Awami League (AL) was killed by miscreants recently.

Police sources said, AL leader Khondakar Omar Faruk Selim, 49, was called out of the house at dead of night by some miscreants. His body was found floating in the river Singua, about two kilometers away from his house at village Shaikhahana. No mark of injuries was found on the body. He was strangled to death, hospital sources said.

Girl killed in road mishap

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, July 2: A six-year-old girl was crushed under the wheels of a speeding micro-bus at Joyrampur, 10 km away from the town.

The ill-fated girl named Marry died on the spot when she was crossing the road on June 24. The driver managed to escape with vehicles from the spot.

Theft committed

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, July 2: A theft was committed at a medicine godown belonging to Transcom Distribution company LTD at South Kalbari area in the town on the night following Wednesday.

According to local people, the thieves entered into the godown at dead of night by breaking open the ventilator and took away medicines worth Taka 10 thousand. Sheikh Sharif, in charge of the district unit of the company lodged a case with Kotwali thana in this connection.

Lightning kills girl with cow

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, July 2: A girl and a cow were killed when a lightning struck them at village Fathepur in Matlab thana recently.

The girl was identified as Asha, 10, daughter of Abdul Mannan. The incident occurred at about 8 am on the fateful day when she was going to the field with a cow.

Armed dacoity on trawler

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, July 2: A dacoity was committed on a trawler loaded with huge quantity of merchandise goods on Kirtankhola river near Barisal town recently.

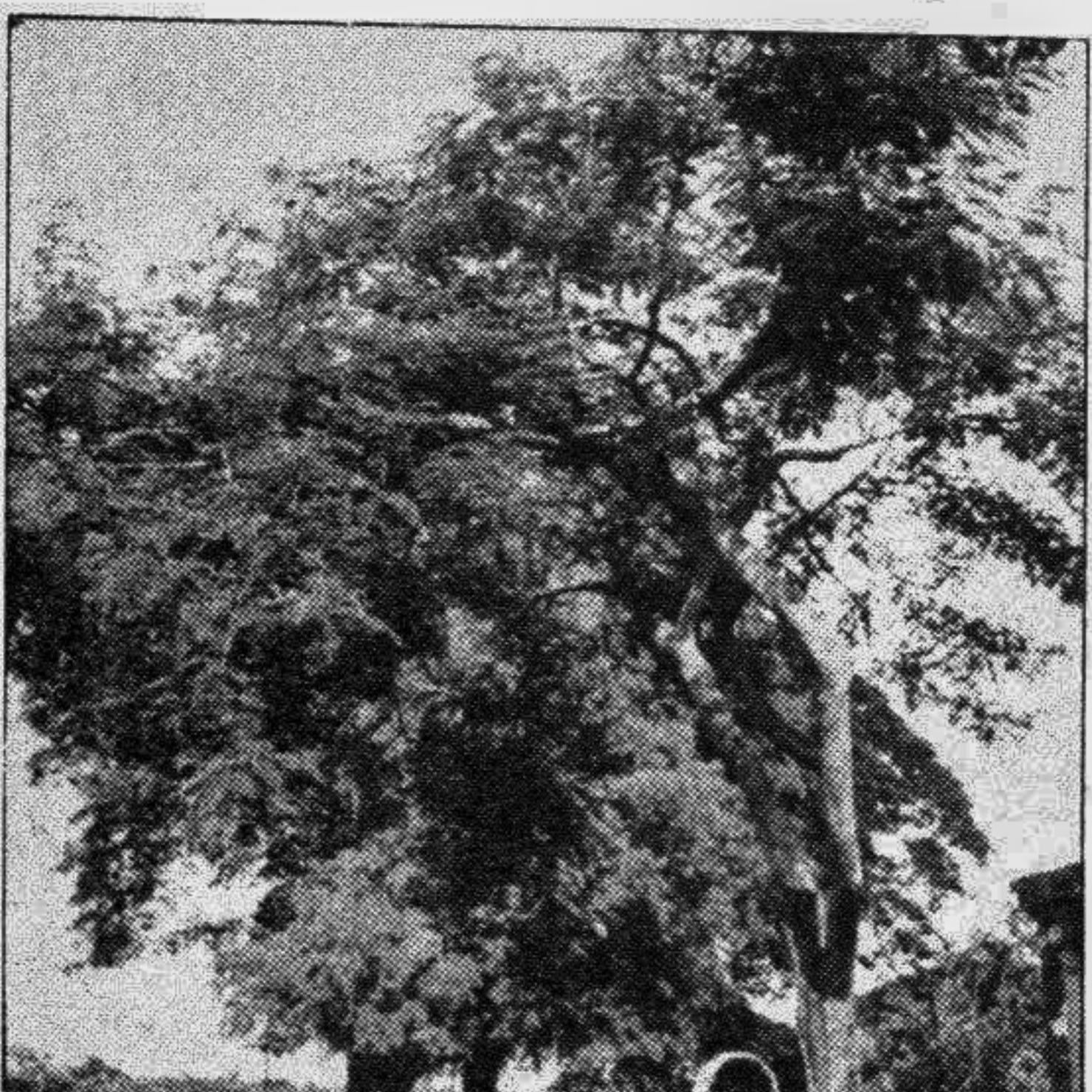
According to police and witnesses, the trawler loaded with merchandise goods of several lakhs of taka came under attack by a gang of armed dacoits numbering 10 to 12 at Dapadia, 3 miles off Barisal town after sailing from the port road area in the town at about 4-30 am. The dacoits coming with another trawler swooped on the crew, tied them up and took control of their trawler on gun point. Later on they took the crew at Bhasanchar and freed them. The merchandise loaded trawler was taken to an unknown destination. Police could not trace the hijacked trawler and arrest any one.

Sanction for CHT uplift

RANGAMATI, July 2: The government has sanctioned Taka 6.80 crore for the Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board (CHTDB) in the fiscal 1999-2000 to carry out development activities and meet the establishment expenditure, reports BSS. This was disclosed in the regular monthly meeting of CHTDB held in its conference room on June 21. Chairman of CHTDB Bir Bahadur MP, presided over the meeting. It was attended, among others, by the deputy commissioners of the three hill districts of Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban, members of the CHTDB and other high officials.

Cold storage work nearing completion

SHERPUR, July 2: Construction work on the lone cold storage here is nearing completion, reports UNB. Official sources said Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADCO) is implementing the project at a cost of Taka Two crore. Ninety per cent work of the five-chamber cold storage has already been completed. On completion some 1,000 maunds of potato will be stored in the plant. An official said preservation of potato and its seeds would be started from the next season. The cold storage is being constructed near Sheri Bridge in the pourasabha area.



NETRAKONA: Now the district town has been turned into a town of Krishnachuras. This is because of abundance of Krishnachuras of red and yellow colours all over the town. Such flowers have beautified the small town. Krishnachura trees with pretty leaves not only please the town dwellers but also give shade to tired pedestrians. According to botanists saplings of Krishnachura were first brought in the Indo-Bangla-Pak subcontinent from Madagascar by the Portuguese sailors. May flower is the English name of Krishnachura, now a traditional flower of Bangladesh. In Hindu mythology Krishnachura means long hairstyle of Lord Krishna.

—Star photo

Armed terrorists regrouping themselves in Jessore

From Atiur Rahman

JESSORE, July 2: The armed terrorists are regrouping themselves in different parts of the district.

The general public are feeling insecure as a group of outlaws are openly moving in the area in broad day light in their usual manner.

It may be mentioned here that the law and order situation in the district improved appreciably following the police combing operation which was launched in 10 districts of the southwestern region from April 20.

People of this area regained confidence in police administration after surrender of the leaders and their cadres along with arms to the home minister at the local Town Hall Maidan on June 7 last.

But those who did not surrender fled away from the area. A sense of insecurity was spreading among the local people after the killing of two political leaders and three others. A number of acts of violence and terrorism were also committed in this month.

According to detailed information one Awami League leader of Monirampur thana Abdul Kader was killed by the armed terrorists on June 19 last. They chopped him to death.

On the same day another person named Asgar Ali of Komilpur in Kotwali thana was seriously injured by a group of armed terrorists. He succumbed to injuries the next day at Khulna Hospital where he was removed in a critical condition.

A Juba Dal Leader Helal, 30, of Pagladah in Kotwali thana was shot to death by some armed assailants on June 21 last. A student of Class X, Sarani, daughter of Khairul Alam of Doharpura in Kotwali thana was seriously injured by acid

thrown on her person by a group of terrorists while she went on a visit to her grandfather's house at Narikelberia in Bagharpara thana on June 14 last. She is still in danger at a local general hospital. She was removed there in a critical condition immediately after the incident.

Besides, highway robberies in day light in different areas of the district have also been reported in this month.

A dacoit was killed by the local public and four others escaped while they were committing robbery in a Jessore bound passenger bus coming from khulna at Paddabla in Kotwali thana at midday in this month.

Kotwali police arrested a group of four dacoits and recovered fire arms and looted booties from their possession when they were coming to Jessore via Monirampur in a microbus after committing da-

coity at a Satkhira bound bus at Dumuria in Khulna in day light on June 22 last.

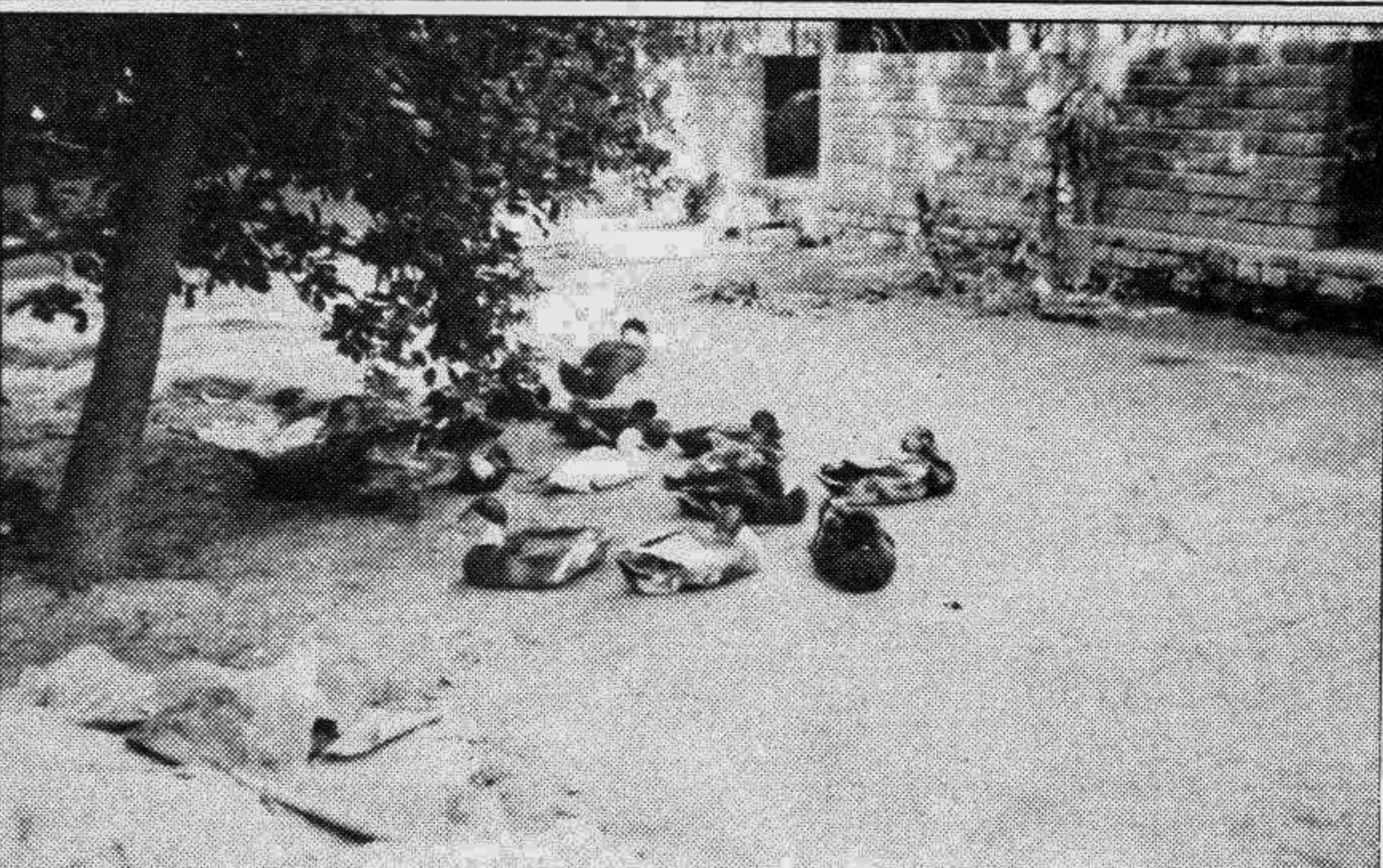
According to latest reports, the law and order situation in Chowgacha thana, has deteriorated in this month. Dacoits were committed at seven houses at Kobulpur in Dhuliani union of this thana on June 19 last.

The dacoits decamped safely with valuables worth nearly Taka Two lakh.

It is also reported that dacoits had been committed at four houses at Bariali in Pashapole union of this thana on June 14 last. They looted away all the valuables.

Incidentally, Bariali is situated near village Dashpakia where a permanent police camp has been set up recently.

A total of eight murders have been committed in the district during this month. But the alleged killers have not been arrested till filing of this report.



JAMALPUR: An enchanting scene of rural Bangladesh. Photo shows some geese resting under the shade of a tree at a village here. As if the geese were a symbol of peace.

—Star photo

Long term plan to protect Sirajganj

Erosion turns serious in dists

By Staff Correspondent

With the advent of the rainy season, river erosion is taking a serious turn in Jamalpur, Tangail and Faridpur districts.

UNB from Jamalpur says: Erosion by the river Brahmaputra is taking a serious turn in the district, threatening important establishments.

The pourashava building, public hall and Kisholoy Adarsha School may disappear into the river at any time, local people said.

The river already devoured the boundary wall of the pourashava, some dwelling houses and a mosque and threatened some other government and non-government offices situated on the north bank.

Official sources said a temporary measure was taken to protect the erosion by piling works in the river, which already sank under the rising waters.

People here urged the authorities concerned to take immediate steps to protect the district from the river erosion, which may cause a severe damage.

Another report from Tangail adds: River erosion in different parts of the district has taken a serious turn, displacing a large number of poor people.

Villagers said a vast tract of land in Gopalpur thana was devoured by the mighty Jamuna during the last three days.

They apprehended that a large portion of Nalin Flood Protection Embankment and Nalin Bazar might go into the gorge of Jamuna at any time.

Meanwhile, some 1,000 families of Jagotpora, Jamer Boira and Bhurua in Bhupur thana, Subarnaphuli, Makharia and Nalin in Gopalpur thana were rendered

homeless by river erosion since the onset of rainy season.

Meanwhile, local administration started to caution the people against the danger of the impending erosion through microphone.

BSS from Faridpur reports: More than one hundred homesteads, including one primary school, and a vast tract of land with standing crops in Decree char union of Faridpur Sadar thana were eroded in the river Padma during last week.

According to TNO of sadar-thana, erosion is still continuing at the same place. Meanwhile, about eight per cent area of North Channel union of sadar thana has gone under water with the increase of water in the river Padma.

According to an official source, a vast area of Char Jhaikanda and Gazir Tek unions of Char Bhadrassan thana has also been submerged by the Padma affecting a large number of people.

Char Bhadrassan-Faridpur connecting road, including a bridge, was also threatened by river erosion and the communication may be snapped any moment, said TNO of the thana.

According to the Deputy Commissioner of Faridpur, the condition of a bridge damaged in last year's flood on Faridpur-Sadarpur road has also become quite risky and may collapse any time causing traffic disruption.

In view of this situations and apprehending recurrence of flood in few days, a meeting of the district disaster management committee was held Thursday in the conference room of the DC. The DC who is also president of the committee, apprised the members of the situation prevailing in this

flood-prone district. DC Atiqul Islam Chowdhury urged upon all to be alert against any odds due to flood and erosion.

He also asked the concerned departments to take up road and bridge repair work immediately. He directed the concerned officials to take measures for safe evacuation of erosion hit people.

BSS from Kazipara (Sirajganj) reports: Home, Post and Telecommunication Minister Mohammad Nasim on June 27 visited the under construction spar embankment at Singrabari and Patgram in Kazipur thana of Sirajganj district which is being built for protection of the villages from erosion of the Jamuna.

Construction of the spar embankment started in March last and is expected to be completed by next month at a cost of Taka 7.46 crore. The total length of the embankment is 1,000 feet, official sources said.

The minister said the government has undertaken long term plan for protection of Sirajganj from erosion of the Jamuna and urged the local people to give all-out cooperation to the officials of the Water Development Board working in the area.

He said after success of the spar embankment at Singrabari and Patgram similar short term programme would be undertaken for protection of Kazipur. He said construction of concrete spar embankment would soon be started at Meghah.

Chief Engineer of Rajshahi Zone of Water Development Board Asaduzzaman Khan, Sirajganj district Awami League General Secretary Abu Yusuf Surya and Deputy Commissioner Sirajul Huq were present during the visit.

Earlier, addressing a big public meeting at Ali Ahmed High School premise in Gandhail Ratanakandi union, the Home Minister said the government was destroying the hideouts of the terrorists and taking all-out measures with co-operation of the people to root out terrorism from the country.

Presided over by the Headmaster of Ratanakandi High School Azizul Huq, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Gandhail Union Parishad chairman Md Ashrafur Alam, district Awami League President Motahar Hossain Talukder and General Secretary Abu Yusuf Surya.

Another report from Tangail says: Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak on June 28 directed the concerned authorities to take adequate measures for protecting Tarakandi embankment and Nalita Bazar from erosion.

The directive came when the minister visited the eroded site of the Water Development Board (WDB) embankment and the bazar here.

Breaches were developed in the embankment following sudden rise of water level and strong current in the river Jamuna.

Addressing a huge gathering at the site the minister said the present government of Sheikh Hasina is working relentlessly for the welfare of the people.

The minister called upon all to come forward for facing any calamity with courage and fortitude.

Chairman of WDB AKM Shamsul Huq, president of the district Awami League Tofazzal Hossain Mukul and others senior officials of the board were present on the occasion.

Couple beaten to death by miscreants

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAH, July 2: A couple was brutally killed by some unidentified miscreants at Makranda village in Godagari thana on Wednesday night.

The victims have been identified as Mofizul Haque, 35, and Nazma, 28, respectively.

Local people said, a group of unidentified miscreants entered into the house of the victims and beat them indiscriminately. As a result they died on the spot.

On information police rushed to the spot and recovered the bodies. Later on they sent the bodies to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) morgue for autopsy.

Police failed to arrest any suspect of the killing incident. Tense situation has been prevailing in the area following the incident.

Lack of storage facilities Mangoes perishing

NATORE, July 2: When the price of mango continued to fluctuate in capital Dhaka based on supply, over 50,000 MT of quality mangoes, particularly 'Fazlee' and 'Lengra', worth about Tk 15 crore are being perished in three northern districts for lack of storage facilities, reports UNB.

Mango growers in Natore, Rajshahi and Chapainawabganj districts, who incur huge losses every year for lack of storage facilities, said they would face the same fate this year.

According to sources at Rajshahi Regional Agriculture Information Service office, production of mango in the region this year is satisfactory despite severe drought and lack

of moisture during budding time. A visit to the markets in the three districts showed that the prices of mangoes are cheap this year compared to the previous years.

Delicious 'Gopabhog', 'Kalua' and 'Khirsapat' are selling at Tk 18-20 per kg in local markets against Tk 30-35 during the last season.

'Fazlee' and 'Lengra' are selling at Tk 15-25 and Tk 25-30 per kg respectively in Natore. In the last season, the best quality of these varieties were sold at Tk 50-60 per kg.

Some 70 per cent mangoes, one of the most perishable tropical fruits, are produced in Rajshahi region and supplied to different parts of the country.

SSC talents of Rangpur

From Mozammel Hoq

RANGPUR, July 2: Intiaz Ahmed, a student of Rangpur Zila School, who stood first in the SSC examination in combined merit list under Rajshahi Education Board, secured 945 marks and got eight letters.

Md Shamsuzzoha, a student of Rangpur Zila School stood second (jointly) in the SSC examination in combined merit list under Rajshahi Board. He secured 938 marks and got nine letters. He wants to take higher education in medical science.

Md Zahid Hossain Masud, a student of Mithapukur High School stood fifth in the combined merit list in Science group in SSC examination under Rajshahi Education Board. He wants to be a physician in future. He secured 931 marks and got eight letters.

Md Rizwan Arif, a student of Rajshahi Cadet College stood fifth in the Science group in

combined merit list in the SSC examination under Rajshahi Education Board. He secured 931 marks and got seven letters. He is a resident of local Mula-tola area in Rangpur Pourasabha area.

Nihar Ayatun Jannat Sumona of Rangpur Cantonment Public School and College stood sixth in the Science group among female students in the SSC examination under Rajshahi Board. She secured 903 marks and got six letters. She wants to take higher education in medical science.

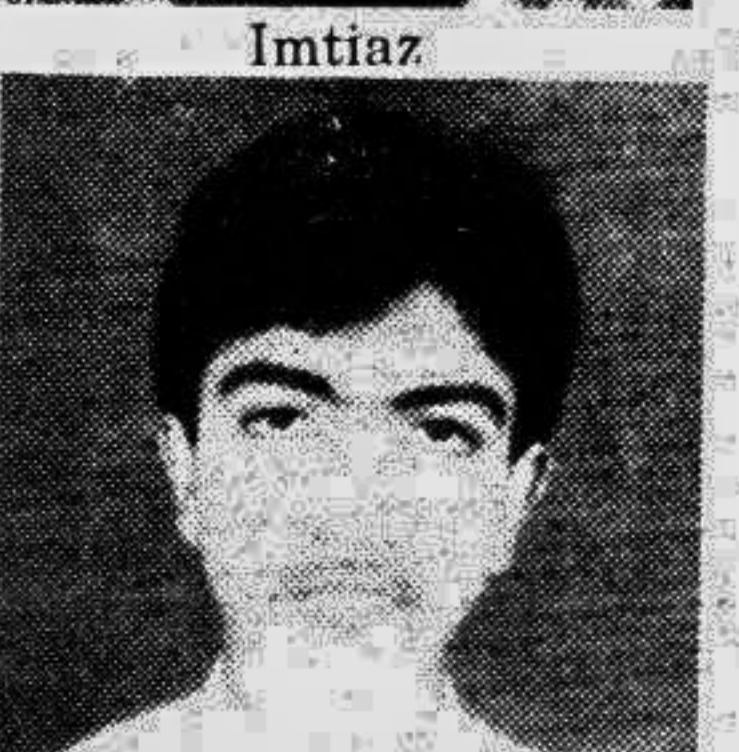
Tanzina Zaman Happy, a student of Rangpur Cantonment Public School and College stood 10th in the SSC examination under Rajshahi Education Board in combined merit list of the Science group she secured 893 marks and got six letters. She wants to be an engineer in future.



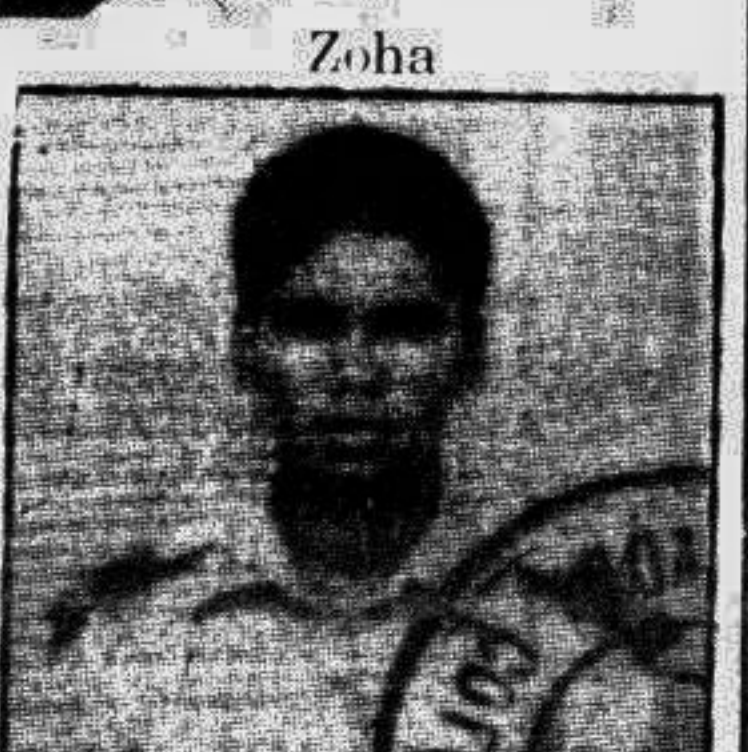
Intiaz



Zoha



Zahid



Arif



Sumona



Happy

BAU Bangabandhu Hall to be inaugurated soon

From Aminul Islam

MYMENSINGH, July 2: Bangabandhu Hall, the tenth students' dormitory of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), will be inaugurated soon.

The dormitory, the largest one in the university, constructed at a cost of taka about 6.30 crore will accommodate 608 students.

All necessary arrangements, including appointments of officers and other staff and purchase of furniture for the

At present the university has nine students' dormitories. Of them one is meant for female students. The eight male students' halls have the accommodation capacity for 3104 against 3905 students, official sources said.

The accommodation problem of male students will be solved when the newly constructed hall is opened, said a student of the university.

The female students of the university, however, have been



residential hall, have already been completed. Provost Professor M Golam Shah Alam told this correspondent, adding 'We are expecting to open the newly constructed dormitory this month'.

The newly constructed four storied dormitory will have library and other facilities.

facing serious accommodation problem. Sultana Razia Hall, the only female dormitory, cannot cope with the rising demand for accommodation facility.

The female dormitory has only 500 seats against the demand for about 800.

People urged to build social movement against drug abuse

By Staff Correspondent

President, Chandpur Press Club.

The speakers of the meeting

Miladunnabi celebrated in Mymensingh

MYMENSINGH, July 2: Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University Dr Muhammad Hussain has said here that the teachings and ideals of the holy Prophet Muhammad (SM) can bring peace and prosperity in the society, reports BSS.

He was speaking as the chief guest at the closing function of the three-day Eid-e-miladunnabi programme organised by the Islamic Foundation, Mymensingh branch in collaboration with the district Administration and Mymensingh Pourashava on June 28.

called upon the people to build a social movement against all kinds of drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

Another report from Madaripur adds: The Department of Narcotics Control chalked out various programme to mark the day.

A discussion was organised by the district Narcotics Control Department at Shadinata Angon in the district town. The discussion was presided over by Md Saiful Haq Bhuiyan, Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) while Md Masudul Haq, an officer of the Narcotics Control Department, among others, spoke on the occasion.

Earlier, an anti-drug procession was brought out from Shadinata Angan which paraded the main streets of the town.

Similar programmes were also arranged in all other districts of the country to mark the day.



President

Secy

Leo Club of Ctg Progressive West executives

By Staff Correspondent

A 24-member executive committee of Leo Club of Chittagong Progressive West for 1999-2000 was formed recently with Leo Chowdhury Mohammad Osman as president and Leo Mohammad Mamunur Rashid as secretary. Leo Khaled Morshed Rizvi was treasurer.

The new executives were formed at a meeting held in the office of the club in Chittagong. Noted social worker and industrialist Lion Adarsha Kumar Barua who is also the advisor of the club and Leo Mohammad Nasimul Ahsan Chowdhury were present as the chief guest.

Lion Adarsha Kumar Barua M.A. in his speech advised the new committee to extend their services in the coming years. He also promised to donate an air conditioner for the club office.

The International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was observed in districts in a befitting manner on June 26.

BSS reports from Chandpur: The Department of Narcotics Control in collaboration with the district administration chalked out an elaborate programme to observe the day.

An anti-drug rally, organised by different social, cultural and educational institutions, was brought out from Chandpur Press Club and paraded the main roads of the town.

A discussion meeting on drug abuse was held at Chandpur Rotary Bhavan. The meeting was presided over by Tanal Kumar Gosh, President of Chandpur Rotary Club.

The meeting was addressed among others by Deputy Commissioner Md Rezaul Karim, Additional Deputy Commissioner Md Serajul Islam, Narcotics Control Officer Md Nurul Hoque, Dr Ruhul Amin and Quamruzzaman Chowdhury.