

News snaps

Work progressing

BANDARBAN, Aug 31 : Three roads are being constructed under the supervision of Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board to develop communication network in remote areas of the hill district, reports UNB.

The roads — Kibuchchora-Bakchchora, Vangchha-Tirdeem-Eldgarh-Balsahari-Nalkhongchhori-Lemuchhori and Roangchhori-Lemuchhori roads — are being constructed at a cost of Tk 39.83 crore under a special project. Board Chairman Bir Bahadur MP said works on the roads virtually began in 1997 and Tk 10 crore have already been spent in completing a major portion of the project.

Three killers to die

JAMALPUR, Aug 31 : Three men were condemned to death by a court here Sunday in the sensational Fakir murder case, reports UNB.

The convicts were identified as Babu, Dipu and Haripad. The case history in brief : The three accused called Fakir out of his house on August 27, 1996 and he was missing since then until his body was recovered from the River Brahmaputra near Charchalapara nine days later. The Additional District and Sessions Judge after examining witness and records found them guilty of murder and handed down the judgement. Of the convicts, Haripad remained absconding.

Kushtia public library budget

KUSHTIA, Aug 31 : The annual general meeting of Kushtia Public Library was held in the library hall recently with senior executive committee member Mizanur Rahman in the chair, reports BSS.

The annual budget of Taka 2,24,900 of the library for the year 1999-2000 was passed in the meeting. Dr Abdul Hasan Chowdhury, general secretary of the public library, placed the report of the last year. Different measures have been taken this year for the improvement of the library.

Arms recovered : One held

JAMALPUR, Aug 31 : Police arrested a man, said to be a gang leader from Bhatipara village in sadar thana and recovered arms and ammunition from his possession recently, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided the house of Zakir Hossain, wanted in dacoity and murder cases and nabbed him along with a foreign-made cut rifle and four rounds of cartridge.

Loan for rural poor

RAJBARI, Aug 31 : The Social Welfare Directorate disbursed more than Taka 1.63 crore as interest-free loan among the rural poor of the four thanas here in the last fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to an official source, 19,689 rural poor, both male and female, from Rajbari sadar, Goalanda, Pangsha and Balikandi thanas received the interest free loan amounting to Taka 1,63,12,000. The loan was given under the poverty alleviation programme of the government. The borrowers utilised the loan in various income generating activities.

Allocation for uplift work

MAGURA, Aug 31 : Facilities Department under the private college development scheme has allocated Tk 78 lakh for construction of academic buildings of two colleges here, reports UNB.

The educational institutions are: Babukhali College in Mohammadpur and Darjapur Sammiloni College in Sripur thanas. Construction works on the buildings are expected to be completed by the year-end, facilitating education of over 1,000 rural students.

Man killed in Habiganj road mishap

HABIGANJ, Aug 31 : An old man was killed in a traffic mishap on Chunarughat-Amuroad in Chunarughat thana here on Sunday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said Abdul Quddus, 60, of Gochapara village in Chunarughat thana was critically injured when a tempo hit him from behind in Ranikut area. He was rushed to sadar hospital, where he died after admission.

Training on land management

MANIKGANJ, Aug 31 : A five-day training on land management concluded recently in the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner here, reports BSS.

A total of 50 field-level tahsildars, assistant tahsildars, surveyors revenue assistants, certificate assistants and other employees of the Land Department took part in the training. The training course was inaugurated by Sheikh Mozahar Uddin, Deputy Commissioner, Manikganj.

Loan for jobless youths

KHAGRACHHARI, Aug 31 : The Youth Development Directorate disbursed Taka 17 lakh among the unemployed youths in Dighinala thana here, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the Youth Development Directorate imparted training to 322 unemployed youths, both male and female, in the thana on different subjects including poultry farming and pisciculture. A good number of youths have already started different income-generating projects utilising these loans.

Three girls gang raped

KURIGRAM, Aug 31 : Three girls, including two sisters, were gang raped at village Charshoulmari in Roumari thana recently, reports UNB.

According to a delayed report, Momin, Rob Mia, Salam, Latif, Hares and Soyful of Chughumari area picked up the girls from a deserted house at gunpoint, took them to a nearby jungle and raped them overnight. The girls took shelter at the house during heavy rainfall while they were returning home after watching a movie at Roumari Bazaar along with their cousin on August 24. Police could not yet arrest anyone in this connection.

20 deep tube-wells reactivated

SHERPUR, Aug 31 : As part of its countrywide deep tubewell rehabilitation programme, Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation reactivated 20 inactive deep tubewells here in the fiscal 1998-99, reports UNB.

Officials said Bangladesh Rural Development Board registered 1,200 deep tubewells across the country for rehabilitation in a bid to enhance irrigation facilities during the lean season. They said of 20 deep tubewells, 13 have been reactivated in Nalitabari while seven in Sribwardi thana.

BKB loan for farmers

NETRAKONA, Aug 31 : Bangladesh Krishibank (BKB) disbursed Taka 34.28 crore as agriculture loan among 46,699 farmers of 10 thanas here in the 1998-1999 fiscal year, a BKB source said, reports BSS.

The BKB realised outstanding loan amounting to Taka 20.55 crore from 19,619 borrowers though its 19 branches in 10 thanas here in the last fiscal year. The borrowers utilised the loan for purchasing cattle, fertilisers, insecticides, agricultural equipment and setting up of dairy and poultry farms.

Grains for destitutes

HABIGANJ, Aug 31 : The government under its VGF programme has allocated some 42,100 tons of grains for the destitute people in eight thanas and four municipalities here, reports UNB.

Officials said Relief and Rehabilitation Directorate has provided rice and wheat to feed the poor people of the areas during the Bangla months of Bhadra, Ashwin and Kartik. Of the grains, 4,000 tons have been earmarked for sadar and Chunarughat thanas each while 6,500 for Nabiganj, 7,500 tons each for Banachang and Madhabpur, 3,500 for Bahubal, 3,000 for Lakhai and 2,500 for Azmiraniganj thanas. Besides, 900 tons of grains have been allocated for Habiganj, Shayestaganj, Madhabpur and Nabiganj municipalities each.

251 phone lines disconnected

KISHOREGANJ, Aug 31 : As outstanding bills continued to heap up, Telegraph and Telephone Board disconnected 251 telephone lines in Bhairab thana in last one week, reports UNB.

Officials said they disconnected the telephone lines as arrear bills of Tk 50,000 remained unpaid by the subscribers. But the subscribers alleged that they could not pay the bills timely due to ghost billing by a section of corrupt officials. They urged the authorities concerned to take necessary action against the corrupt officials and convert their telephone lines into digital ones.

Youth succumbs to injuries

PATUAKHALI, Aug 31 : A young man, who was critically injured in an armed attack, died at Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital SMCH on recently after four days' fight for life, reports UNB.

Police said terrorists stabbed Kalam Peda, 30, of Sabujbagh area in the town and chopped off his leg while he was taking tea at a stall at College Road. He was taken to Patuakhali General Hospital and later on shifted to the SMCH as his condition sharply deteriorated on Wednesday. He died there on Saturday. Police could not yet arrest anyone in this connection.

Pabna dwellers deprived of basic amenities

From Ranesh Maitra

PABNA, Aug 31 : The century old Pabna municipality lacks all kinds of civic amenities, causing immense sufferings to nearly one lakh and seventy-five thousands people in the area.

The population of the municipality, which was established 124 years ago, has increased over the years but the numbers of roads, streets and lanes are not increased, resulting in chronic traffic jam in the town.

At least 20,000 rickshaws and rickshaw vans have been plying on the streets in Pabna municipality area. But the authorities concerned said only 4,000 rickshaws and rickshaw vans have licences, depriving the municipality of huge amount of revenue.

Usually no attempt to seize the unlicensed rickshaws and rickshaw-vans is made. But only during the 'Traffic weeks' authorities become active.

The roads and streets, which were damaged badly during the last year's floods, are not repaired for want of required funds. Numerous cracks and holes have developed on the roads and streets.

The town also lacks drainage and sanitation system. Several *pucca* drains were constructed in the last ten years. But those were not built as per plan, local people alleged. Besides, sub standard construction materials were used, they added.

Most of the areas under *Pabna pourasabha* are low-lying areas. Water logging is one of the main problems in the town. At least 60 per cent of the dwellers suffer from this problem for about six months every year.

The municipality authority cannot supply adequate water to the residents. The dwellers have to depend on tube-wells and pond waters.

The main kitchen market in the town remains in unhygienic condition. Bara Bazaar, the market, is usually strewn with litters and garbage. A large number of people crowd in the market everyday to purchase fish, meat and vegetables. Moreover, butchers slaughter animals in public place.

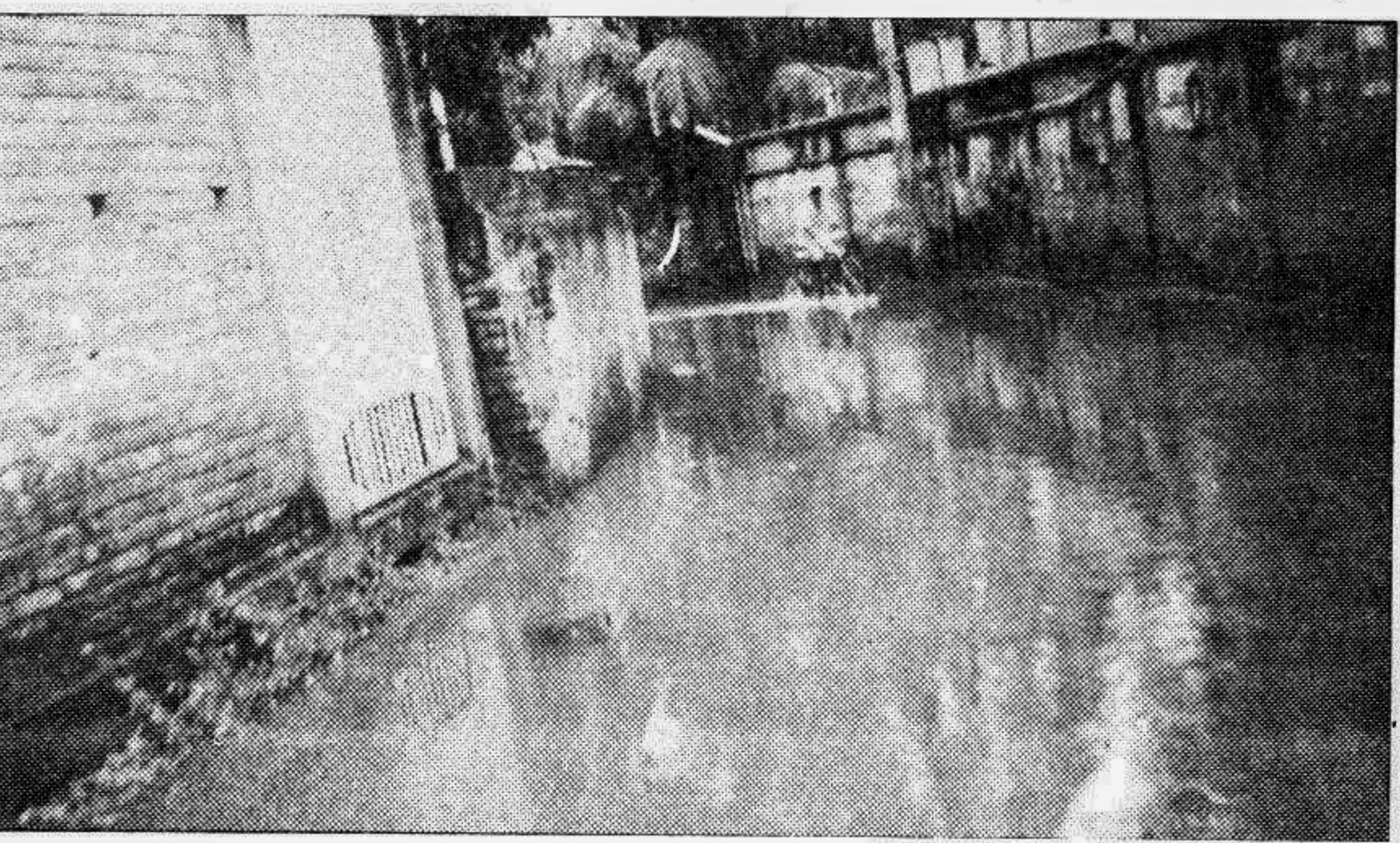
The municipality chairman,

Mosharrif Hossain, said shortage of fund is main obstacle to addressing the problems.



Unhealthy environment: Loitered wastes polluting the environment of densely populated Gopalpur area in Pabna Municipality.

— Star photo



Submerged Beltala road near Pabna Shaheed Rafiq Girls' High School causes untold sufferings to the town dwellers of the area. Medium rainfalls have created such water logging

— Star photo

Faces of HSC talents

From Aroop Talukdar

BARISAL, Aug 31 : The cadets of Barisal Cadet College fared well in this year's Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examination held under JESSORE Education Board.

Abdullah Al Reza, a student of Barisal Cadet College scored the highest mark in the HSC examinations in all the five education boards of the country this year.

He secured the first position in the combined merit list in Science group from this cadet college.

He obtained 957 marks in total with four letters in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Statistics.

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His father Dr AKM Golam Mostafa hails from Galachipa in Patuakhali district. His mother Begum is a housewife.

His hobby is reading various kinds of books. He wants to be an army officer in future.

Md Abdullah-al-Mamun secured 12th position from the Science group. He obtained 891 marks in total with four letters in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology.

He is gentle and a meritorious student. He secured 10th place in the SSC examination in 1997 from this cadet college.

His father Md Rezaul Hossain is the divisional accounts officer of Roads & Highways (Ferry) division. His mother Salma Reza is a housewife. His hobby is playing games and

reading books. He wants to be a computer engineer.

M Alvi Ahmed stood second from the Science group in the HSC examination under JESSORE Education Board this year.

He obtained 957 marks in total with four letters in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Statistics.

He stood 13th in SSC examination in 1997 from this college.

His father Dr AKM Golam Mostafa hails from Galachipa in Patuakhali district. His mother Begum is a housewife.

His hobby is reading books. He wants to be an army officer in future.

Our Jhenidah correspondent

reports : The girl students of Jhenidah performed better in the HSC examination held under the Board of Intermediate

and Secondary Education (BISE) JESSORE this year.

Mita Nasrin of Jhenidah KC college stood 9th among the female students securing 861 marks. She scored letter marks in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology.

She used to read for about eight hours daily. She is not interested in student politics. She wants to be a doctor to serve the humanity. Her father KM Manwar Hossain is a lawyer in Jhenidah and mother Feroja Begum is a housewife.

Aparna Karmaker of Jhenidah Government Nurunnahar Mohila College stood 9th in the combined merit list among the female students securing 852 marks with letter marks in Home Economics, Social Welfare, Logic and Geography.

Her hobby is reading books. Usually she used to read for about seven hours daily. She wants to read in English literature. Earlier, she secured the 10th place in the combined merit list in SSC examination under the same board held in 1997.

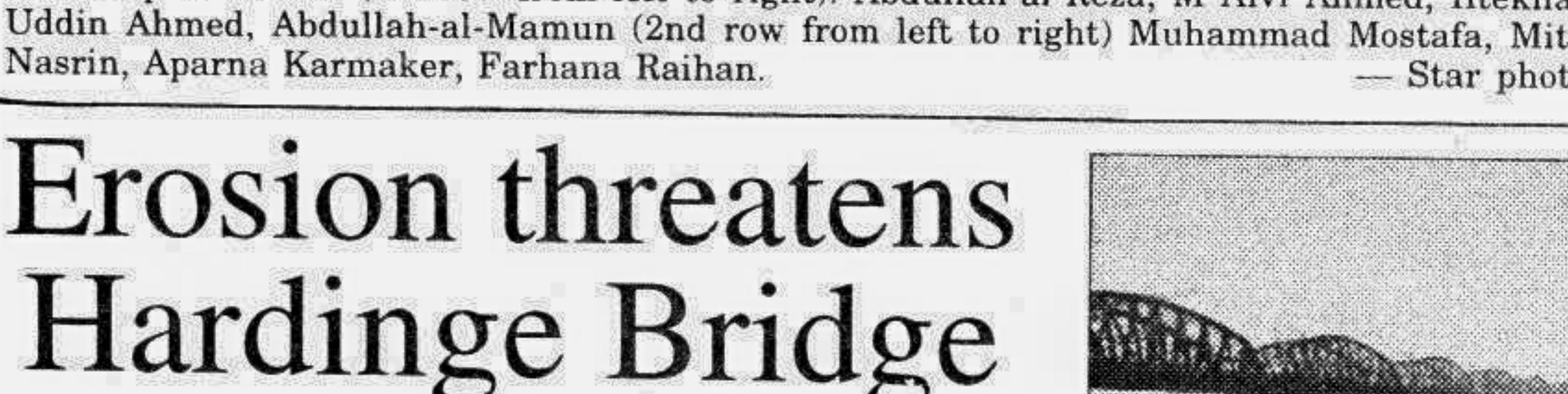
Her father Ajit Kumar Karmaker is a lecturer in Kaliaganj Mahtabuddin Degree College in Jhenidah while her mother Kalpana Sarkar is the Assistant Headmistress of the local Jamila Khatum Girls' High School. She is not interested in student politics, rather every body should be aware about politics, she said.

Farhana Raihan of Jhenidah Government Nurunnahar Mohila College stood 17th in the combined merit list and 11th among the girls students. She got letter marks in Economics, Logic and Islamic Studies. She secured 835 marks. She usually reads for 10 hours daily. She wants to be a lawyer. She is interested in students politics. But Farhana added that actually there had been no proper environment of student politics in our country as almost all the students wings were involved in terrorism. Her father Raihanuddin is a businessman of Jhenidah and mother Shahana Begum works in the Family Planning department.



From top to bottom (1st row from left to right): Abdullah-al-Reza, M Alvi Ahmed, Iftekhar Uddin Ahmed, Abdullah-al-Mamun (2nd row from left to right) Muhammad Mostafa, Mita Nasrin, Aparna Karmaker, Farhana Raihan.

— Star photo



Age-old bridge threatened: Hardinge Bridge at Paksey in Pabna district is threatened due to onrush of flood waters in the Padma.

— Star photo

BAU Bangabandhu Hall to be opened soon

MYMENSINGH, Aug 31 : The construction of the 10th residential hall of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) named 'Bangabandhu Hall' has been completed at a cost of Taka 6.30 crore, reports BSS.

The newly constructed hall is now awaiting inauguration through the procedure of admission and room allotment for the students.

According to the Director, Public Relation and Publication Department of the BAU, the four storied building in two blocks of the hall has 152 apartments having the capacity of 600 residents.

The 'Bangabandhu Hall' is the biggest residential hall of Bangladesh Agricultural University. It provides facilities for 600 residents including two dining halls, two kitchens, one canteen, one common room, one prayer room and a library.

Besides, provost and five house tutors, about 60 employees of different categories will be appointed for the hall.

The foundation stone of this hall was laid on June 30, 1996.

Man crushed under wheels of train

From A Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 31 : A man fell from a running train and was crushed under the wheels at Lahiri Mohanpur railway station in the district on Friday evening, police said.

The victim was identified as Niran Chandra, 32, son of Balai Chandra Chowkidar of village Gonergati under Sirajganj thana.