

News snaps

Poverty alleviation programme

KISHOREGANJ, Sept 26: Rural Advancement Committee for Bangladesh (RAC-Bangladesh) in Bajitpur, disbursed Taka 46,34,000 among 1,537 members in the thana in August '99, reports BSS.

According to official sources, the amount has been given to alleviate poverty, eradicate illiteracy, provide sanitation and supply safe water in the rural areas. The programme of the organisation is going on satisfactorily.

Workshop on mother, child health

SATKHIRA, Sept 26: A day long workshop on mother and child health was held at the Zila Parishad Auditorium on Tuesday, reports BSS.

Deputy Commissioner Saiful Alam inaugurated the workshop as the chief guest. Additional Deputy Commissioner (general) A B Mohammad Ali presided over the inaugural function. Child specialist Dr Azizur Rahman delivered lecture on mother and child health care while district information officer Kawser Ali Mollah on child's right. Thana family planning officer Dr Proshanto Kumar spoke on population control in the workshop. Teachers of different educational institutions and NGO officials participated in the workshop.

Allocation for road construction

MAGURA, Sept 26: Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) has allocated Tk 23 lakh for construction of roads and culverts in Shaikha thana, reports UNB.

Officials said construction works on eight culverts and a four-km road had begun and those are progressing fairly well. They said road communication, irrigation and drainage facilities in the thana would remarkably improve upon completion of the schemes. Meanwhile, LGED has constructed the buildings of three non-government primary schools in the thana, spending Tk 17.86 lakh.

Truck with smuggled onion seized

NAOAGANJ, Sept 26: BDR personnel seized a truck loaded with smuggled Indian onion from Naohata crossing in Mahadebpur thana here on Thursday, reports UNB.

They also seized three cartons of Indian glass from the truck. The value of goods, which were later on handed over to the Customs, could not be known.

Rat killing drive launched

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Sept 26: Agriculture Extension Department launched a month-long special rat killing drive, reports UNB.

Additional Director of Agriculture Extension Department, Rajshahi inaugurated the programme at Shaheed Satu hall here last week. The function was told that rats destroy huge quantity of food grains every year apart from spoiling other household materials. Forty-one block supervisors have been given responsibility to kill 82,000 rats here during the drive with the help of farmers.

Girl violated

MANIKGANJ, Sept 26: A group of terrorists, who were bailed out recently, raped at village Bengoi in sadar thana of the district on September 19, reports UNB.

According to police, the hoodlums numbering three abducted the girl at gunpoint while she was returning home from a village fair at night. They took her to a nearby field and raped her one after another.

Mother of the victims filed a case against the terrorists — Monnu, Alim and Arshad — with sadar thana. She told newsmen that the terrorists ransacked their house on August 1 and beat her and other members of the family. Police arrested them following filing of a case after the incident. She said after coming out of the jail they were threatening to take revenge for sending them to jail and finally took it through raping her daughter.

Road construction works progressing

RAJBARI, Sept 26: Development work on six roads here is progressing at a cost of Tk 68 lakh under financial assistance of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), reports UNB.

Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) has been implementing seven kilometres of carpeting work on the six roads — Pangsha-Goumatpur, Ramdiah-Kamardah, Matipara-Bagnara, Bishopur-Chotabakla, Pangsha-Kalukhali and Bahakandi-Kamarkhal. LGED sources said the work is likely to be completed by November.

Aman seedlings distributed

SHERPUR, Sept 26: As part of the post-flood agricultural rehabilitation programme, 210 affected farmers in Sadar thana have been given Aman seedlings, reports UNB.

Ataur Rahman MP distributed the seedlings of 12 unions and paurasabha at the thana parishad premises on Sept 18. District agriculture extension department sources said that with these seedlings, each of the farmers would be able to cultivate .33 decimal of paddy land. Unionwise farmers who received the Aman seedlings were 25 farmers in each of Charsherpur and Gazirkhamar unions, 20 in each of Charamcharia and Charpokhimari unions, and Sherpur paurasabha, 15 in each of Kamarcher, Dhola, Bolierchar, Nachmonpur and Betmari unions, five in each of Pakuria, Bhatshala and Rowha unions.



JAMALPUR: A tree full of green coconut at village Kutamoni in sadar thana which is famous for coconut. — Star photo

Construction work completed

MEHERPUR, Sept 26: The Facilities Department of the Ministry of Education completed construction of academic building of three primary schools in the sadar upazila in 1998-1999 fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the government sanctioned Taka 39 lakh for implementation of the project. The schools are BM Government Primary School, Kalachandpur Government Primary School and Bazar Government Primary School in the sadar upazila. The department also implemented another project for reconstruction of seven primary schools at a cost of Taka 13 lakh in the upazila in the last fiscal year.

Arms, ammunition recovered

NARSINGDI, Sept 26: The police recovered 20 fire arms and 56 bullets and cartridges from different places of six thanas between January 1 and August 31, reports BSS.

Among the fire arms are single and double barrel guns, a rifle, revolvers, pipe guns and shutter guns. The ammunition included 45 bullets and 11 cartridges. Police said 16 cases were filed and 37 persons were arrested in this connection.

Road development work progressing

FENI, Sept 26: The development work of different roads under Road Division, Feni is going on at a cost of about Taka seven crore, reports BSS.

According to an official source, Asian Development Bank (ADB) has sanctioned the amount under Flood Damage Rehabilitation Programme. The roads are: Feni-Comilla, Feni-Parshuram, Feni-Noakhali, Feni-Sonagazi, Chhagalnaiya, Mahuriganj and Feni-Rajapur Roads. The programme includes extension of roads, carpeting and sealcoat. Besides, the road department is constructing six bridges in different roads at a cost of about Taka 12 crore. The work is expected to be completed within this financial year. After completion of the project communication system of the district will improve.

Pry school teachers' training on

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Sept 26: The month-long training for the primary teachers under the Intensive Approach Education for All programme is progressing in different primary schools in the town, reports BSS.

A total of 170 primary school teachers are participating in the training. Primary Education Department, Chapainawabganj, is imparting training on various modern methods of teaching.

11 check-posts set up at various points Panic of highway robberies grip northern dists

SIRAJGANJ, Sept 26: Highway robberies on various routes of northern districts, including Sirajganj, are on rise creating panic among the passengers and bus workers, reports UNB.

Police have failed to curb highway robbery in the region although they have been asked to be alert in this regard.

Seven policemen, including two SIs, were suspended and show cause notices were served upon another 10 policemen, including two SIs, for their alleged negligence in performing duties.

Police have so far nabbed 12 people with arms in connection with the robberies in the region.

A daring dacoity was committed on Dhaka-Bogra highway near Ghoga bridge on September 19. Two policemen, including a SI, were suspended and show cause notices were served upon 10 policemen, including two SIs.

Besides, a dacoity was committed on Bogra-Nagarbari highway near Rural Development Academy on September 17. The dacoits looted goods worth over Tk one lakh from the passengers. Four policemen,

including a SI, were suspended due to their negligence in discharging duties.

On September 10, armed dacoits looted belongings worth about Tk 2 lakh from the passengers of a night coach at Mahira on Bogra-Nagarbari highway.

Armed dacoits in guise of passengers boarded a night coach and looted valuables from the passengers on Natore-Bogra highway near Chakzora on September 9.

Just after two and half an hour after the incident, the dacoits looted goods from three trucks at gunpoint. One policeman was suspended due to negligence to his duty in this regard.

Bandits looted cash and valuables from the businessman of a bus at Konagati on Sirajganj-Belkuchi road on September 7.

Besides, an armed group of dacoits looted goods worth about Tk five lakh from seven shops at a bazaar in Royganj thana on September 6.

Another report says: In an attempt to put a lid on highway robbery, special measures have been taken in the northern re-

gion to check the night coach passengers with metal detector.

A total of 11 check-posts have been set up at different points of various routes of the region to save the night coach passengers," a senior police official said.

The points are Belpukur in Rajshahi, Madrasa Crossing, Shingra and Bonpara in Natore, Sathmatha in Bogra, Mithapukur in Rangpur, Dashaulia in Dinajpur, Gohindaganj in Gaibandha, Panchagarh, Pabna and Chapainawabganj.

Since the commissioning of the check posts, seven bids to commit robberies have been foiled and 25 road pirates arrested, said the police official.

Talking about the steps taken by Rajshahi police, President and General Secretary of Uttar Bangla Sarak Paribahan Federation said highway robberies in the region have decreased remarkably after the setting up of the check-posts.

A total of 92 highway robberies were committed in night coaches during the last one year in the region, leaving three people killed and 45 others injured.

3 food contractors suspended in Sirajganj

From A Correspondent
SIRAJGANJ, Sept 26: Three food contractors were suspended for supplying low-quality of rice to a godown in the district following submission of a probe body report on Thursday.

Earlier the one member probe body headed by Sirajganj Food Inspector Abdul Hannan submitted its report.

District food control office sources said the three — Korban Ali, Abdul Khaleq and proprietor of Mohana Enterprise — were entrusted to carry 90 metric tons of rice to Chowhalli thana godown from Sirajganj district warehouse in the last week of August this year. But the trio supplied inferior quality of rice to Chowhalli instead of quality rice.

It was alleged that the contractors sold the quality rice in black market and supplied low-quality rice to the thana warehouse.

When contacted Ashraf Ali, In-Charge, Sirajganj food warehouse, said he had supplied quality rice from the district godown.

The three contractors have denied the allegation.

Nat'l health policy soon, says minister

DINAJPUR, Sept 26: Health and Family Welfare Minister Salah Uddin Yusuf has said a national health policy acceptable to all concerned will be announced soon, reports BSS.

"The present democratic government has ensured dynamism and accountability in the health sector," he said while addressing a conference of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) here on Friday.

Presided over by local BMA president Dr Khair Uddin, the function was addressed, among others, by State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Sri Saikat Chandra Roy, central BMA President Dr Rashid-e-Mahbub, Secretary General Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin and Treasurer Dr Sharuddin Ahmed.

He said the government has completed all formalities for setting up "one Stop Service" centre in each union of the country to ensure health and family welfare services to the people from one place.

The minister said the government is fully aware of the existing problems in the health profession. The government has already met different important demands of the doctors within a short time, the minister added.

He said the nation will recall the contributions of the doctors to the country's Liberation War and different democratic movements.

The minister on Sunday visited Thakurgaon General Hospital and announced the upgradation of the hospital from 50 beds to 100 beds. He also visited the Panchagar General Hospital.

Jamuna devours over 100 homes

SIRAJGANJ, Sept 26: The flood situation in five thanas along the River Jamuna has deteriorated due to torrential rains and onrush of hill waters, reports UNB.

More than a hundred homesteads along with vast tract of lands and property have already went into the river.

Low-lying areas of four more thanas have also been inundated by floodwaters.

Water Development Board sources said erosion by the mighty Jamuna has taken a serious turn with increase of water level in the river.

Besides, many people are shifting their homesteads elsewhere in the face of erosion.

Jamalpur DIARY

25 injured in clash

From Our Correspondent
JAMALPUR, Sept 26: At least 25 persons were injured and a club was ransacked following an incident of teasing a school girl at village Pogal Digha in Sarisabari thana on September 11.

According to witnesses, a girl of class ten of Pogal Digha High School was teased by some youths while she was returning home from school. When the elder brother of the girl protested the incident the youth assaulted him. At that time some boys of a club chased the youths to rescue the girl's brother. In retaliation the youths, with lethal weapons, attacked the club and damaged its furniture. During the melee 25 persons were injured. Of the injured persons, Nazrul Islam 32, Kamala Begum, 50, Zorina Begum, 25, and Asma Khatun, 28, sustained severe injuries. They were rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) in a critical condition.

Housewife commits suicide

A housewife, mother of three children committed suicide by hanging herself with the branch of a jackfruit tree at village Mulbari in Sarisabari thana on September 10.

The victim was identified as Momena Begum, 30. Family dispute was the cause of her suicide. The body was sent to Jamalpur General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Two killed in road accident

Two persons were killed in a road mishap on Jamalpur-Mymensingh highway at Sonkanda in the town recently.

Witnesses said when a truck hit a rickshaw and turned turtle in a roadside ditch, its helper Hafizur Rahman, 20 was killed on the spot. Two others named Ashad, 20 and Mannan, 18, were injured. Later on the injured were rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) in a critical condition where Ashad also died.

Four children drown

Four children drowned at Jamalpur sadar thana on September 9.

The victims were identified as Sumita, 4, daughter of Motaleb, village Kutamoni, Gomez Ali, 7, son of A Rashid of village Beldia, Kusum, 6, daughter of Malek of village Kachasora and Rasel, 5, son of Quddus of village Mollahpara.

According to eyewitnesses, the victims were playing beside a pond near their house when all on a sudden they slipped in to the pond and drowned. The villagers, later on, recovered the bodies from the pond.

Two more killed in road mishap

Two persons were killed and 11 others injured in a road accident at Binanderpara mur on Jamalpur-Tangail-Dhaka highway in the sadar thana on September 9.

The victims were identified as Morium Begum (Azafia), 32, of village Belapingalhat of Sharifpur union of sadar thana and Monwar, 25.

According to eyewitnesses, a tempo collided head-on with another tempo causing death of the woman passer-by on the spot. Of the passenger Anis, 35, Sanwar, 20, Monwar, 25, Dipali, 8, Rupali, 3, Moniruzzaman, 20, Zorina, 26, Sohrab, 35, Karim, 10, Shafali, 16 and Fakir, 30, were rush to Jamalpur General Hospital in a critical condition. Later on Monwar and Fakir rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) where Monwar died. Police seized a tempo, while the other one managed to escape.



Divisional Commissioner of Sylhet Md Habibur Rahman speaking recently at the opening ceremony of B Ed course in the newly established Jalalabad Teachers' Training College in Sylhet. — Star photo

Ershad tells Narsingdi rally

Accord will make Bangalees in CHT 2nd class citizens

NARSINGDI, Sept 26: Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad on Friday said Chittagong Hill Tracts agreement would make Bangalees in CHT second class citizens, reports UNB.

Ershad said this at a public meeting at Pubali Jute Mills ground here.

His remarks came at a time when Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina received UNESCO Peace Prize in Paris in recognition of her contribution to ending the insurgency in CHT through signing an agreement with tribal leaders.

Due to this CHT agreement, Ershad said, the people who

settled there from different parts of the country would lose their voting rights.

"At least 10 lakh Bangalee settlers would be dropped from voter list as per the agreement," he said.

The former president said the government would not have any control on natural resources, including oil and gas, of the CHT region as the agreement placed the entire area under CHT Regional Council.

Referring to the move to provide transshipment facilities to India, Ershad said the Awami League government is trying to "empower" India to rule

Bangladesh by giving 600 miles of road for its use.

"The government is trying to remain in power selling out the interest of the people and the country," he said.

He feared that Bangladesh would turn into a safe route for India to carry illegal arms, drugs and other goods if it gets transshipment facilities.

Presided over by Palash Jatiya Party President Amjad Hossain, the meeting was also addressed by JP Secretary General Nazir Rahman Manju, Begum Razia Fayez, Shahjahan Sajju, Delwar Hossain and Maluuddin Bhuiyan.

Natore-Shantahar train service threatened by erosion

NATORE, Sept 26: With the major rivers continuing to recede, riverbank erosion has assumed an alarming proportion in the district, leaving hundreds of families homeless, reports UNB.

Witnesses said some 4km railroads on Natore-Shantahar route have been threatened by erosion due to strong waves from rain-swollen Chalan Beel.

A railway official here said train services between Natore and other parts of the country might be snapped if the erosion could not be contained immediately.

Railway engineers from the Western Zone are working round-the-clock to protect the vulnerable rail tracks dumping sandbags, concrete foundries and blocks.

Meanwhile, the trains crossing the vulnerable points have been asked to run slow with maximum speed of 10km per hour.

The erosion triggered by the rapid downturn of floodwaters has also put a large portion of Natore-Dhaka highway — from Sherkole to Shingra — at high risk.

Shortage of teachers in Faridpur pry schools

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Sept 26: Government and non-government primary schools in the district have been facing shortage of teachers and accommodation problem for students for a long time, hampering the academic activities.

Faridpur has 1,083 primary schools, including 543 government primary schools. Of the government schools, 42 schools have been running without head masters for a long period. Besides, 36 posts of assistant teachers have been lying vacant, causing great inconveniences to imparting education properly.

According to government rules, the ratio of the teacher and the students should be 1:50. But in reality, the ratio varies between 1:100 and 1:150.

Most of the government primary schools have been facing acute accommodation problem. In these schools, four or five students have to share a bench meant for two.

Moreover, four thanas — Sadarpur, Madhukhali, Alfadanga and Char Bhadrason — have been running without assistant thana education officer

(ATEC), for a long time, hampering administrative activities.

A total of 33,158 students of 254 government and non-government schools under 18 unions in eight thanas are enjoying the benefits of Food for Education Programme. Each student is getting 15 kg of wheat per month under the programme.

Annual dropout rate of these schools is 10 per cent, according to official report. But unofficial sources said the dropout rate is 25 per cent.

Child drowns in Sirajganj

From A Correspondent
SIRAJGANJ, Sept 26: A child drowned in the river Karotoa near Bhenganali village under Raiganj thana Sunday, family sources said.

Shampa, 10, daughter of Jahurul Islam, an Agrami Bank official, went to the river to enjoy swimming with four other children.



Md Kamruzzaman, President of Bangladesh Teachers' Association addressing a conference of Dhaka divisional non-governmental teachers at Mymensingh town hall recently. — Star photo

Tagore-Nazrul joyanti at RU

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, Sept 26: A two-day Rabindra-Nazrul musical conference was held at Kazi Nazrul Islam auditorium here recently.

Rajshahi University Club arranged the programme to celebrate the birth centenary of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore and National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam simultaneously.

Eminent Tagore singer Laisa Ahmed Lisa and her husband Partha Ahmed rendered songs in the jam-packed auditorium. Local artists also performed.

Renowned Tagore song singer Gulam Murshid was present there as special guest and coordinated the programme. Prominent writer Hasan Azizul Haq, who won this year's Ekushay Padak was also present.

About three thousand admirers of Nazrul songs thronged the Kazi Nazrul Islam auditorium. Nazrul Sangeet artist Nilufar Yasmin, some artists of Rajshahi Betar also performed there.

However, the arrangement of such programme bears some special significance on the RU campus as the university authority is yet to celebrate the National Poet's birth centenary owing to fund shortage.

VD spreading in Netrakona

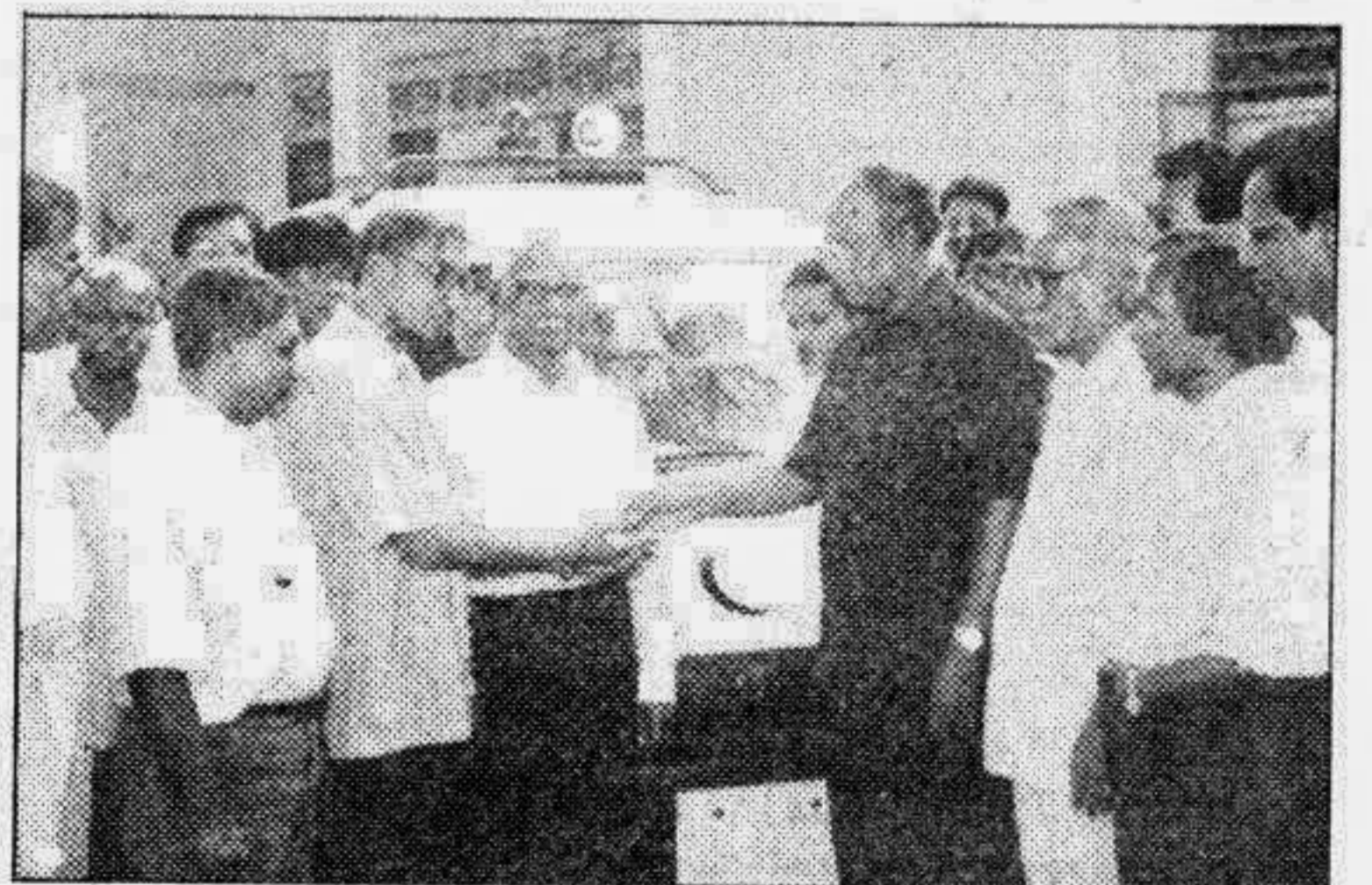
From Our Correspondent
NETRAKONA, Sept 26: Venereal diseases (VD) are spreading fast in the district, Netrakona Sadar Hospital sources said.

More than 2000 people have been suffering from various venereal diseases.

Most of the patients are youths. They are rickshaw pullers, bus drivers and conductors and day labourers.

According to the hospital physicians, common venereal diseases include syphilis, gonorrhoea, congenital syphilis and gonococci.

Events of districts in picture



Vice-Chancellor of Rajshahi University Prof Sayeedur Rahman Khan handing over the key of an ambulance to the chief physician of RU medical centre, Mirza Wahed Hossain. Treasurer Abul Fazl Huq is also seen. — Star photo



A colourful procession was brought out in Brahmanbaria town recently on the occasion of inauguration of a mass literacy programme. — Star photo



Prof Sayeedur Rahman Khan, Vice-Chancellor of Rajshahi University addressing the publication ceremony of a book "Islami Arthaniti" by Prof Abdul Hamid, a teacher of Economics Department. It was held recently at the university Senate Hall. — Star photo