

News snaps

Discussion on National Poet

COMILLA, Sept 29: A discussion on the life and works of the national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam organised by Comilla University was held on September 24 at the local KTCC campus, reports BSS.

The discussion was presided over by Prof Shamsul Huq, former Advisor to the Caretaker Government and vice-chancellor of Comilla University. Chairman of Nazrul Institute Prof Rafiqul Islam and Vice-Chancellor of the National University Prof. Amirul Islam Chowdhury, among others, discussed various aspects of the life and literature of the poet. The discussion was rounded off with a cultural function. Earlier a procession brought out by the teachers and students of Comilla University paraded the main thoroughfares of the town.

Tk 23 lakh Indian goods seized

JOYPUHAT, Sept 29: Police in their separate raids seized Indian goods worth about Tk 23 lakh in last two days, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, plainclothes police halted a truck at Birnagar on Panchibibi-Gobindaganj road and recovered Indian insecticides, ornaments making machines, cosmetics, toys and knives from it on Saturday. Later on Sunday, police recovered 14 sacks of Indian sugar, 158 packets of cumin seeds and 23 bottles of horlicks from a bus on Joypurhat-Bogra road. Police seized the bus and arrested its driver and helper. They were sent jail.

Kidnapped girl rescued

NAOGAON, Sept 29: A kidnapped girl was rescued on Thursday from Tanka Shibpur village in Mahadevpur thana a day after her abduction, reports UNB.

Police said miscreants picked up Rekha Banu, 13, daughter of Abdul Khaleque, of Laxmanpur village, when she came out of their house to go to the outdoor toilet. On information, police raided the house of Razzak at Tanka Shibpur village in Mahadevpur thana and rescued the girl.

Madhu Purnima celebrated

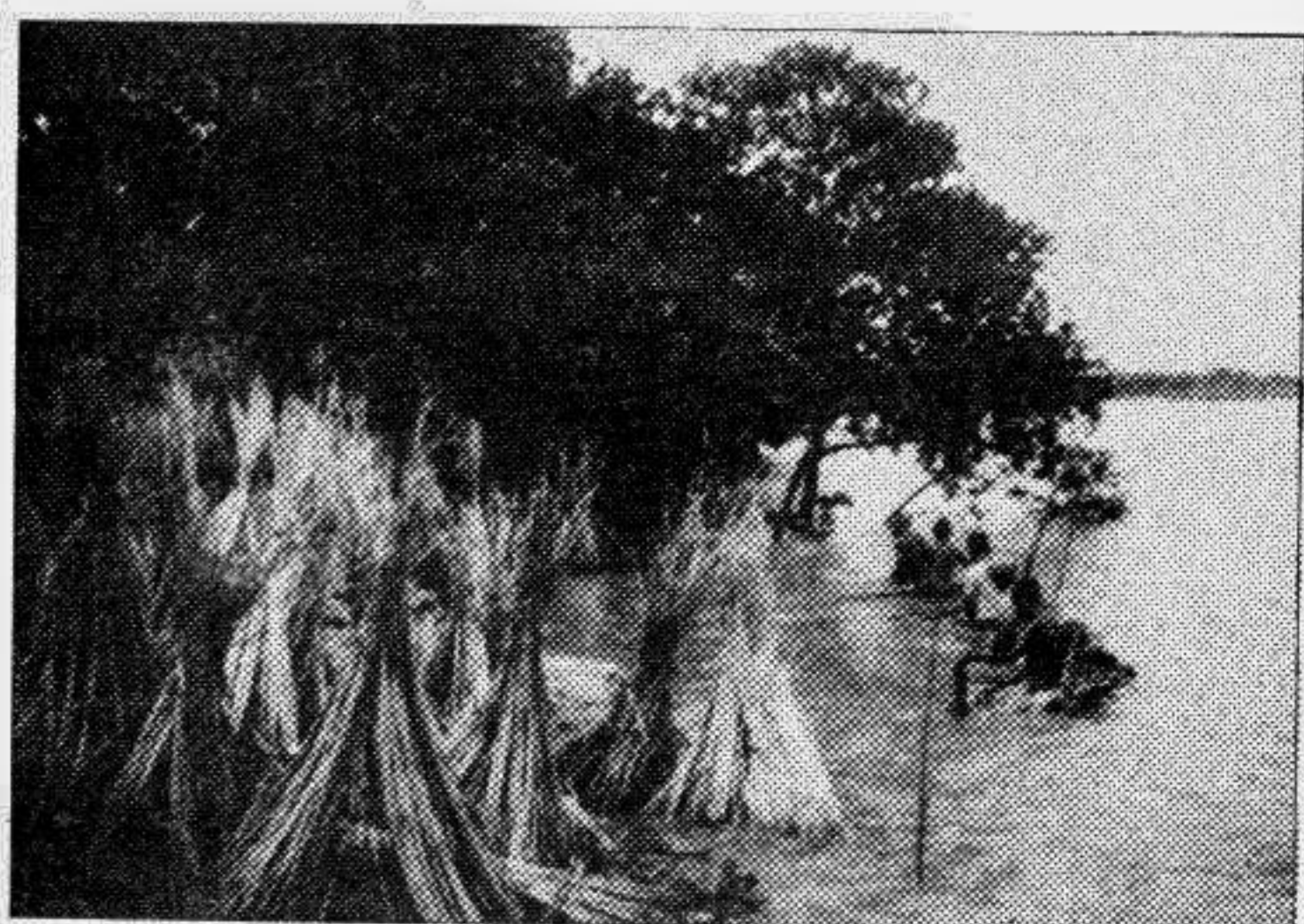
COMILLA, Sept 29: 'Madhu Purnima', one of the greatest Buddhist religious festivals, was celebrated with due solemnity, reports BSS.

Various programmes were arranged on this occasion. The programmes included 'Buddha puja', 'Pindadan', 'Ashtashila' and 'Panchashil grahan', discussion meeting, 'Pradip puja', 'Modhudan' and prayer. Buddhist community celebrated the 'Madhu Purnima' at Comilla Kanakstupa Boudha Vihar, Alishwar Shantiniketan Boudha Vihar, Baraigao Kanakchitya Boudha Vihar and all Boudha temples.

Girl raped

NARSINGDI, Sept 29: A girl was raped allegedly by a neighbour at Char Subaddi in Raipura thana here on Sunday evening, reports UNB.

Hospital sources said Monir Hossain 19, son of Anwar Hossain Anu, of the same village took the girl of class II to a nearby bush and forcibly raped her. Monir left the place leaving the girl unconscious. Later on the family members found her in the bush and took her to the hospital. On return of her sense, the girl identified the rapist as Monir.



Processing of golden fibre: Farmers of Mymensingh district are engaged in processing jute fibre from the rotten sticks, while jute sticks are being dried up on the bank of a canal recently near village Char Gobindapur in the Sadar thana. — Star photo

Bridge in danger

NARAIL, Sept 29: Lack of maintenance has put an important wooden bridge over Horiakhali canal in Sadar thana in danger, reports UNB.

Locals said some 10,000 people from Bahirgram, Kogram, Mulla, Nirali, Deybhog, Agdin, Shimulia and Ramnagarchar cross the bridge everyday to reach the District headquarters and Noapara Bazar. Besides, there are five high schools and five primary schools in the area and students of these schools have to cross the bridge. The bridge, connecting Bhairab canal, was constructed only four years ago. Repeated appeals to the authorities by the locals for repairing the bridge went unheeded.

New variety of lady's finger

TANGAIL, Sept 29: The Compartmental Pilot Project (CPP), Tangail has introduced cultivation of lady's finger Kharip-1 high yielding variety evolved by the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI) in its project area here in the current season, reports BSS.

A CPP source told the news agency the big size stalk of the plant can also be used as fuel. Selected farmers of the project area of CPP have been growing this vegetable from this year.

Fake police arrested

MYMENSINGH, Sept 29: A fake police was arrested from a night coach at Tangail bus stand on Sunday, reports UNB.

Plainclothes police nabbed Abul Hossain, 40, of Dhaka, when he identified himself as the OC of Mymensingh DB police when the bus conductor demanded fare. Hossain confessed to the police that he had resorted to the trickery in an effort to avert bus fare.



The foundation laying ceremony of a municipal market complex in Brahmanbaria was done recently by the local municipality chairman Md Helal Uddin. — Star photo

Training on soil management

MADARIPUR, Sept 29: A two-day training course on soil management and use of fertiliser for the block supervisors of the agriculture department was held in the auditorium of Sadar Upazila Parishad here last week, reports BSS.

Thirty block supervisors participated in the training course organised by the Agriculture Extension Department. Subject-matter specialist Md Salam conducted the training. The participants were acquainted with the knowledge of proportionate use of chemical fertiliser and manure according to the quality of the soil.

Tk 16.28 cr loan for farmers

PROJUPUR, Sept 29: Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) will distribute loan totaling Tk 16.28 crore among the farmers in the current fiscal, reports UNB.

The bank will disburse the loan through its 21 branches in six thanas. BKB officials said they have already begun the loan distribution programme and it would continue till June next year. Meanwhile, Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) disbursed loan to the tune of Tk 6.84 crore during the last fiscal. The loan was distributed among BRDB's 6,973 members of its 3,973 samities. They received the financial assistance for undertaking small programme like paddy crushing, cattle rearing, nursery, poultry farming and vegetable cultivation.

Problems grip Met offices in N-region

RAJSHAHI, Sept 29: Meteorological offices in the northern region have been grappled with various problems, including shortage of necessary equipment and manpower, reports UNB.

The offices located in Rajshahi, Pabna, Bogra, Rangpur, Dinajpur and Nilphamari were operating with outdated wireless and radio sets and teleprinters.

Besides, 20 posts of employees in the six meteorological offices have long been lying vacant, hampering important works, particularly during inclement weather.

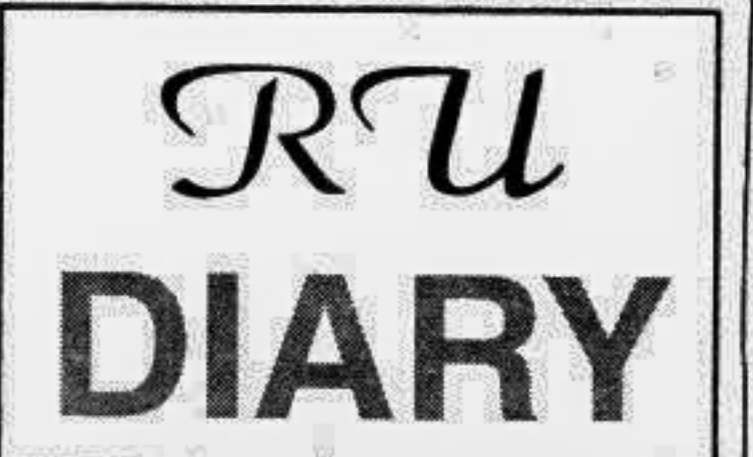
As there is no regional office in the region, the officials also have to depend on the head office for many emergency decisions.

Rain paralyses life in Faridpur

From Our Correspondent
FARIDPUR, Sept 29: Continuous rainfall for the last few days paralysed the normal life of the people.

Bank and business transaction were in doldrum, official works were also hampered. Day labourers who live from hand to mouth were the worst sufferers because of the rainfall as they could not sell their labours in spite of sitting hours together at labour markets in the town. They had to return to their houses without any food articles. Their family members were passing their days half-fed or unfed.

Low lying areas have been submerged destroying, the standing crops. Lanes, by-lanes and low-lying areas of the town have gone under water causing untold sufferings to the pedestrians.



Rimu killing day observed
From RU Correspondent
RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, Sept 29: Bangladesh Chhatra Moitri (BCM) observed here 'Rimu-killing' day on September 19.

On this day in 1994 Jubair Chowdhury Rimu, a moitree leader was murdered by the armed cadres of Islami Chhatra Shibir at Sher-e-Bangla hall, Hailing from Sathkira, the slain leader was a Management final year student.

Their programmes included placing of floral wreaths at the killing spot, wearing of black badges, protest rally demanding trial of killers and banning Jamaat-Shibir politics on the campus.

They also arranged a students' rally in front of the central library premises.

Publication ceremony

The publication ceremony of 'Islamic Arthanit' was held on September 19 at the university Senate hall.

The book has been authored by M A Hamid, former Vice Chancellor (VC) of Islamic University.

Rajshahi University Vice-Chancellor Prof Sayeedur Rahman Khan was present as the chief guest. M A Mannan, the founding president of Social Investment Bank, and Prof Mohsin Ali, Dean of Social Science faculty were present as special guests. Prof Mosharrar Hossain, chairman of Economics department presided over the meeting.

Prof Mohsin Ali delivered the welcome address. A large number of students, teachers, and journalists were present on the occasion. Prof M A Hamid in his speech mentioned the utility of the book among the students.

Later on five professors of Economics department reviewed the book. They are Tarik Saiful Islam, M Abdur Rahman, Muhammad Younus, S M Habibur Rahman and M Solaiman Mondal.

New chairperson of Library Sc Deptt

Rehana Islam has taken over the charge of the Department of Library and Information Science as its new chairperson.

She took the responsibility from the outgoing chairman Prof Mohsin Ali, also the Dean of the Social Science faculty who was given the additional responsibility, according to the official sources.

She is the 7th chairman of the department since its inception during 1992-93 session.

However, after taking the charge the new chairperson vowed to help brighten the image of the department by making the department 'session jam free'.

She sought all-out cooperation of her colleagues, students and officers of the department.

Anti-smoking rally

An anti-smoking rally was brought out on the campus to create consciousness among the common people about the harms of smoking.

Arranged by Adhunik, an anti-smoking organisation, the rally was attended Vice-Chancellor (VC) Prof Sayeedur Rahman Khan and other high officials of the university.

The rally started from the Shahid Minar premises and paraded the main thoroughfares of the campus.

On this occasion, VC Prof Khan highly lauded the organisers.

Flood damages standing crops on 39,649 hectares in Gaibandha

From K M Rezaul Hoque

GAIBANDHA, Sept 29: Standing crops on 39,649 hectares of land have been damaged completely by the flood this year.

The assessment was conducted by the district Agriculture Extension Department (AED). Crops like Transplanted Aman, Broadcast Aman, Aus, seedbeds of crops, sugarcane and other crops have been damaged completely.

According to district AED during the flood a vast tract of lands in Gaibandha district went under water. As such standing crops on the aforementioned lands have been damaged completely for long

standing stagnant water. All the seven thanas of the district have also been affected. Thana-wise break up is as follows: Gaibandha sadar-6,565 hectares, Sadullapur-6,565 hectares, Shaghata-4,000 hectares, Fulchari-2,862 hectares, Palashbari-2,510 hectares, Gobindaganj-10,200 hectares and Sunderganj-6,358 hectares.

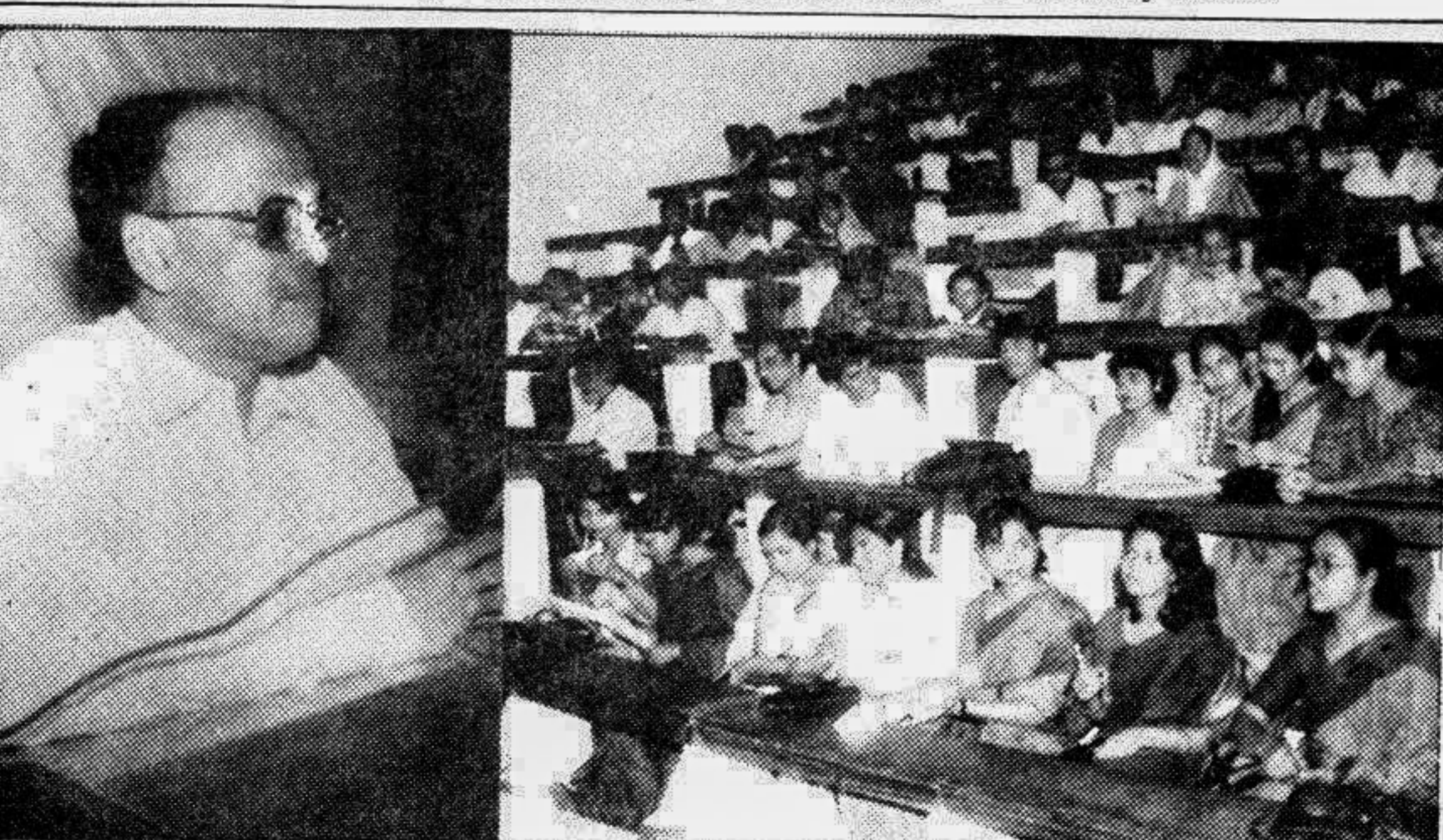
With a view to recouping the loss of Aman crops AED has arranged new Aman seedlings on four acres of land from Nasipur of Dinajpur, vegetables gardens of Rangpur and local seedbeds.

When contacted Abdul Aziz Ferdous, Assistant Director of AED told The Daily Star that Aman seedlings on four acres

of land have been disbursed among the flood affected farmers free of cost. The seedlings will cover nearly 64 acres of land.

Local farmers, however, opined that the seedlings supplied by government had been too meagre against the huge requirement.

With a view to rehabilitating the flood ravaged people the government, in the mean time, allocated 500 VGF cards in each union and 4,498 cards in the district for distribution among the flood and erosion victims. The programme will continue for the next three months and each card holder will get 10 kg of rice every month.



Reception: Prof Abdul Mannan, Vice-Chancellor of Chittagong University addressing recently at a reception programme of the Philosophy Department. — Star photo

Tk 15 lakh KDDB project unused after completion

From Delwar Kabir

JHENIDAH, Sept 29: A post-mortem house, a tennis court and sheds for paddy markets constructed at a cost of Tk 15 lakh in Shaiklupa thana have virtually remained abandoned.

Khulna Division Development Board (KDDB) constructed two large size sheds at Habibpur Mouza in the thana at a cost of Tk about 12 lakh about 19 years ago to use as paddy market.

But later the sheds were 'abandoned' when the KDDB was abolished. Then government officials concerned urged local people to use the sheds as weekly bazaar. But a section of people did not show their eagerness to shift weekly bazaar

to the place meant for paddy market.

The weekly bazaar which occupies large portion of a main road in the thana headquarters creates traffic jam on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

Recently local authorities are using the 'paddy market' as weekly cattle market.

Local people have observed the entire weekly bazaar should be shifted from its congested place to the spacious paddy market.

The post-mortem house was constructed near the paddy market at a cost of Tk one lakh in 1983-84 fiscal. But it has not

been used for the purpose so far. Recently some landless people have occupied the house.

The tennis court was constructed at a cost of Tk two lakh in the thana parishad complex premises in 1983-84 fiscal. But no one plays on the court. The court has remained abandoned since its construction.

However, local people hold Eid-ul-Azha and Eid-ul-Fitr congregations.

When contacted Khalilur Rahman, Chairman of Shaiklupa Municipality said the authorities had tried to shift the weekly bazaar to paddy market but people were not interested.

10 more police outposts in Moulvibazar

From Our Correspondent

MOULVI BAZAR, Sept 29: Ten more police outposts will be set up in the tea garden areas here soon.

Besides this, Kamalgonj thana headquarters and Shamernagar bazaar under Kamalgonj thana will be upgraded as pourasabha and two more pourasabhas will be established at Kamalgonj and Shamernagar.

This was disclosed by the whip of the parliament and local MP Vice Principal Md Abdus

Shahed while he addressing in a function recently at Shamernagar Suja Memorial College in Kamalgonj thana.

The whip attended the function as the chief guest at the foundation stone laying ceremony of a science building at Suja Memorial College.

Presided over by Abdul Mosabbir, Chairman of Shamernagar Union Parishad, the function was also addressed by the principal, teachers and students of the college and local

political and social leaders. Chief guest of the function, whip Md Abdus Saheed also handed over a cheque of Taka one lakh from the fund of the Prime Minister to a freedom fighter of Shamernagar Md Abdul Gafur.

Later on Whip Md Abdus Saheed laid the foundation stone of the science building of Suja Memorial College and attended in a milad mahfil arranged on the occasion.



Welcome new executives: Installation ceremony of the newly elected office-bearers of Chittagong University Employees Association was held recently on the university campus. Vice-Chancellor Prof Abdul Mannan seen addressing on the occasion. — Star photo

Kishoreganj butchers selling meats of sick cattle

KISHOREGANJ, Sept 29: Butchers in the town have been selling meats of sick cattle, even of milch cows and pregnant animals, after slaughtering them indiscriminately in unhygienic and unauthorised places, reports UNB.

According to rules, butchers must slaughter animals only at the authorised places and sell the meat in the market after obtaining 'quality seal' from the authorities concerned.

There are about 25 meat shops and only one slaughtering house in Harua area of the town.

About 4,000 cows and 20,000

goats are slaughtered yearly in the district town, but butchers hardly slaughter their animals at the authorised slaughtering house. They slaughter those in secret places to avoid the quality seal.

Moreover, most of the meat-sellers, especially the roadside shops, usually cheat the buyers giving less in quantity while weighing the meat.

As the municipal authorities do not seriously enforce the rules, the buyers are kept in the dark about the quality of the meat they take home.

The meat traders run their business even on the meatless day violating the rules under

the very nose of the health inspector of the municipality.

It was alleged that butchers slaughter diseased, stolen and unsuitable animals every day in unauthorised places and then they obtain quality seal from health inspector.

Butchers often cite inadequate number of slaughtering houses as an excuse for secret and unauthorised slaughtering of animals in unhygienic surroundings.

Local elite urged the authorities concerned to take immediate necessary steps against the dishonest butchers for the sake of public health.

Erosion affects dam in Rangpur dist

RANGPUR, Sept 29: Erosion by river Teesta has taken a serious turn, leaving hundreds of families homeless in recent weeks, reports UNB.

According to officials, at least 50 families were rendered homeless at North Kholond village in Kholond union of Gangachara thana during the last 15 days.

Villagers said standing crops on a vast tract of land in the thana went under floodwater.

They said some 8,000 CC blocks made to save the Flood Protection Embankment have disappeared into the gorge of the river, threatening the existence of the dam.

Meanwhile, the government has distributed Tk 6 lakh as grant among the erosion-hit people in 10 unions of the thana.

BSS from Khulna reports: The Water Development Board (WDB) has taken up a project at a cost of Taka 1.60 crore for the

construction of Khulna Town protection embankment in the current fiscal year.

According to an official source, the work of the two-kilometre embankment from Labonchara to Tetultala is in full swing and is scheduled to be completed by December.

When completed the embankment will save Khulna town from flood, the PDB source said.

Ghost phone bills

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Sept 29: Telephone subscribers here often receive ghost and inflated bills.

Subscribers complained a section of employees of the local telephone exchange in collusion with some dishonest subscribers manipulated bills.

When contacted a local T&T engineer said authorities have nothing to do with the problem as billing is done in Barisal office.

CCC to implement Tk 200 cr schemes

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 29: Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) has decided to implement a total of 15 projects at a cost of Taka 200 crore for the development of the port city.

The decision came at the meeting of Chittagong Development Coordination Committee held at City Corporation office here this morning with Minister for LGRD Zillur Rahman in the chair.

The projects undertaken by Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) mainly include construction of 40 first aid centres, modern children's park at Agrabad Jamburi field, five star hotel at Batali Hill, swimming pool at Panchlaish residential area, installation of a power

generator with a capacity of 5 MW, two diplomatic zones at Jalalabad, residential project at Baizid Bostami area, four hospitals and monuments in each ward commemorating martyrs of the Liberation War in 71.

The meeting stressed on the infrastructural developments of the city to ensure civic amenities including electricity, gas, water and telecommunication service etc.

The meeting was attended by Mayor of CCC Mohiuddin Chowdhury and other heads of Chittagong Development Authority, Chittagong WASA, Chittagong railway, Chittagong Port Authority, and other government bodies in Chittagong.

BKB loan for poverty alleviation in CHT

BANDARBAN, Sept 29: Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) has undertaken a massive loan disbursement programme in the hill district to alleviate poverty, create employment and boost agricultural production, reports UNB.

The Bank disbursed crop loan amounting to Tk 52.18 lakh among 328 farmers during the month of July and August against its target of Tk 7.41 crore for the current fiscal year.

BKB regional manager Ali Hossain informed that they have been disbursing loans charging an annual interest of 5 per cent from the tribal farmers and 14 per cent from non-tribals.

He said this has come as a great relief to the borrowers as local moneylenders and NGOs charge exorbitant rate of interest, sometime as high as 60 per cent a year.

Besides agricultural loan, the BKB disbursed Tk 16.08 lakh among 355 distressed people during the two months of July and August.

The BKB regional manager said the bank has a project of giving loan for rubber cultivation in the hill district. More than Tk 25 crore is now outstanding from 370 rubber cultivators.

During the last fiscal year (1998-99), the Krishi Bank disbursed Tk 6.96 crore among the

farmers and the distressed people and realised Tk 3.59 crore.

BSS from Manikganj says: Jatiya Mahila Sangstha, Manikganj district branch disbursed Taka 2.86 lakh among 41 unemployed women of Hari-rampur upazila last week under its self employed loan project.

The loan was disbursed at a meeting of unemployed women held at Hari-rampur upazila headquarters.

Presided over by Luxmi Chatterjee, president of Manikganj branch of Jatiya Mahila Sangstha the meeting was addressed, among others, by Barrister Abdul Hamid as the chief guest.

The loan was given for poultry farming, cattle fattening, pisciculture, tailoring, small business and other income generating activities.

11 pirates arrested in Bagerhat

BAGERHAT, Sept 29: Police arrested 11 pirates from Sinduratala area in Mongla thana recently while they were planning to commit robbery in a ship, reports UNB.

The arrested were identified as Abul, Yusuf, Hasan, Mohidul, Jahangir, Eskander, Kabir, Shahidul, Yusuf Sardar, Masud and Shahidul Mollah. All of them were wanted in several dacoity cases, police said.

Faridpur market in bad shape

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Sept 29: The crowded Hajj Shariatullah kitchen market in the town has been in unhygienic condition.

About 90 per cent people under the municipal area make their daily purchases from this busy market. But the buyers have to face tremendous difficulty to make their way from one shop to another.

The road in front of the market experiences perennial water logging.

Fish, meat, egg, poultry birds, vegetables, pulses, spices, sugar, flour and rice are mainly being sold in the market.

Meat shops also remain unclean and blood stained, always emitting obnoxious smell. Fish shops always are wet muddy, causing immense inconveniences to the customers.

Local people have urged the authorities concerned to renovate and expand the market to make it a beautiful shopping centre.



Arun Kumar Sen, general secretary of Chittagong Sangbadpatra Hawkers' Multilateral Cooperative Society placing his annual report on the occasion of the society's annual general meeting in Chittagong on Saturday.