

## News snaps

### Work on 3 barracks completed

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Oct 23: Construction of three barracks have been completed and work on 14 more is progressing in full swing to provide shelter to the homeless under the Asra-vaan project, reports UNB.

The project was started in 1997 on directives from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Initially, three barracks on five acres of khas land at three places of Sadar thana was completed where 30 families, 10 in each barrack, were accommodated. Sadar thana parishad has provided improved over to each family in the barrack. Besides, thana parishad provided training in healthcare, family planning, vegetable gardening, poultry, cattle-rearing and afforestation. Taken up jointly by the thana parishad and Bangladesh Army, the barracks are located in Gomastapur, Bholahat and Nachol thanas. On completion of 14 barracks, 140 homeless families will be provided accommodation three.

### Training programme on environment

TANGAL, Oct 23: A training programme on 'Environmental Awareness and Compartmentalisation Pilot Project' concluded on Tuesday at the Primary Training Institution here, reports BSS.

Teachers from primary and secondary schools, madrasa and NGO-run educational institutions took part in 10 batches in the programme. Maududur Rahman, environmentalist of compartmentalisation pilot project, acted as the course coordinator.

### Sanction for barrack construction

CHUADANGA, Oct 23: The government has sanctioned Taka 51, 17,430 for the construction of new building-cum-barracks in Jibannagar thana, reports BSS.

According to the official source, work on the scheme will start shortly and the Public Works Department, Chuadanga, will implement it. The work is expected to be completed in the current financial year.

### 330 uplift projects undertaken

JOYPURHAT, Oct 23: Some 330 projects have been undertaken in three municipalities and five thanas under the rural infrastructure maintenance programme during the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

Work on the projects will start soon, officials said. The projects include road construction, earth filling and reconstruction of bridge culverts.

### Workshop on use of fertiliser

COMILLA, Oct 23: A daylong workshop on the production and use of indigenous fertiliser was held on Tuesday in the auditorium of the district council here, reports BSS.

The workshop was jointly sponsored by the district agriculture extension department and agro-based Industries and Technology Development Project (AITDP) of USAID. A total of 65 agriculture officers, agronomists and agricultural workers participated in the workshop. Additional Director, Agriculture Abul Kashem inaugurated the workshop presided over by Deputy Director Abul Hossain Mollah. The inaugural session was addressed, among others, by the subject-matter specialists Maftuzul Islam, M A Razzak and Iqbal Ahmed.

### Lightning kills 2 agri-workers

COX'S BAZAR, Oct 23: Two middle-aged agricultural workers were killed by lightning on Oct 23 at village Dhalaghat in Moheshkhali upazila, reports BSS.

Local people said, the victims, Thanda Miah and Manzur Alam were struck by thunderbolt when they had been working in a crop land in an inclement weather. They died on the spot. Several cattle were also killed by lightning in the area on the same day.

### Mother kills daughter

PATUAKHALI, Oct 23: A cruel mother allegedly hacked her own daughter to death at village Dharandi in Sadar thana on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Family sources said Aklima Begum, wife of Kalam Shikdar, went to bed along with her four children on the fateful night and killed her four-year-old daughter Rokhsana with a sharp weapon. On hearing her screaming, the other family members rushed to the room and found the little girl dead on the bed. The cause behind the killing could not yet be known.

### New high school bldg opens

RANGAMATI, Oct 23: Chairman of the Task Force on Repatriated Tribals and Internal Refugees Rehabilitation Affairs, Dipankar Talukdar, MP, on October 20 opened the newly built academic building of Taitongpara Government High School in Razasthali thana at a simple ceremony as the chief guest. The Facilities Department constructed the building at a cost of Taka 17 lakh to accommodate the increasing number of students seeking admission into the school situated at a remote village. Chairman of Rangamati Hill District Council, Ching Kew Roza, Councillor of Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council, Mahabubur Rahman, Chairman of Local Union Parishad, Anil Kumar Tanchangya, among others, addressed the function.

### Man kills father-in-law

BAGERHAT, Oct 23: A man allegedly hacked to death his father-in-law and injured four other people at village Kulia in Moulharhat thana Wednesday midnight, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Atiar Rahman, 55. Police said Din Islam, Rahman's son-in-law, of Terokadha in Khulna, came to the house of Rahman at dead of night and swooped on him with a ramdao. Earlier, Islam quarrelled with his father-in-law as he (Rahman) rejected Islam's proposal to take away his wife Kanija to his house, family sources said. Islam also stabbed Kanija, Uzzal, Hasan and Osman when they came forward to rescue Rahman hearing his hue and cry. Islam was remaining absconding after the incident.

### Youth strangled to death

PATUAKHALI, Oct 23: A youth was strangled to death at village Charanda in Galachipa thana on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Police said to an official source, Asadul and Ilias of village Charantal — picked up Jamal, 25, from his grocery shop at dead of night and took him to a nearby riverbank. They beat him up mercilessly and later on strangled him to death. On information, villagers rushed to the spot and recovered the body. They also caught Asadul and handed him over to police.

### Relief for destitutes

MANIKGANJ, Oct 23: Bangladesh Red Crescent Society has distributed 70mts of rice and 14mts of pulse among 3,500 destitute families in seven thanas, reports UNB.

Officials here said each of the families received 20kg of rice and 4kg of pulse.

### Wheat for VGD card holders

KISHOREGANJ, Oct 23: The government has taken a programme to distribute a total of 935 tonnes of wheat under the Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) programme, in 105 unions in 13 thanas, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the wheat is being distributed free of cost among 15,500 card holders. The distribution of wheat began in the last month and continues till the end of the current month. Each card holder is getting 30 kgs of wheat every month.

### Attack on Moitri procession

BARISAL, Oct 23: Ruling party-backed Chhatra League allegedly attacked a procession of left leaning Chhatra Moitri here on Thursday injuring 10 of its activists, reports UNB.

Chhatra Moitri brought out the procession in protest against increasing terrorism, corruption and anarchy in the educational institutions. They were scheduled to submit memorandum to the local DC and SP. At a press conference in the afternoon, Chhatra Moitri said the DC and SP office-bound procession came under attack of BCL when it was passing Fazil Haq Avenue at about 11 am. Police played a silent role, they alleged. Chhatra League, however, denied the allegation.

### Life term for two killers

NAOGAON, Oct 23: A court here on Tuesday sentence two men to life term in prison for murdering a young woman in 1989, reports UNB.

The Additional District and Sessions Judge also fined the convicts, Abu Taleb and Lutfar Rahman, Tk 5,000 each, in default, to suffer one year in jail. Lutfar was tried in absentia and his jail term would be effective with his arrest, the judge said in his verdict on Tuesday. According to the prosecution, the convicts, both from Akkelpur village of Badalgachhi thana, peered petrol in the bedroom of Monwara Begum, 22, and set fire on the night of July 4, 1989 as she rejected their illicit proposal. Both Monwara and her mother Sukman Bibi, with serious burn injuries, were rushed to the hospital, where Monwara died on August 1.

# Water-logging damages crops worth Tk 1.05 cr annually in Jhenidah

From Delwar Kabir

JHENIDAH, Oct 23: Crops on 2,100 acres of land worth about Taka 1.05 crore are being damaged every year as water-logging has become a permanent problem for the people of 15 villages in Hokimpur union of Saikupa thana.

This is because of the negligence of Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) authorities.

According to villagers, D-5k, NK-4 of D5K and the drainage linked with Ganges-Kobadak (GK) main canals have been filled up and silted as the authorities did not excavate the drains and the canals since last 13 years.

Waters of Noler beel, Nadpara beel, Hiver beel, Doharo beel and Charpara beel had been discharged mainly through five kilometres long D-5K canal. The acreage of land had been about 1,000 acres. N-4-D5K drainage channel had been the branch of D-5K canal which discharged water of Noler beel, Pajar beel and Patkuror beel through its three-kilometre channel from 400 acres of land.

The side drain of Kushtia main canal discharged water on 600 acres of land through six-kilometre channel. It flew through Kana beel, Subidda beel, Gobindpur beel and some other small beels and water-bodies of Hekimpur union.

But all the canals and drainages have been filled up and silted. The farmers of villages Harihara, Boria, Nogpara, Nadpara, Charpara, Khulumbaria, Doharo, Hekimpur, Jurbomadla, Pashchimadla, Jal-

suka, Nalkola, Gobindpur, Subidda, Kowpara and Bada-para have been suffering badly.

When this correspondent visited affected Jalsuka, Khulumbaria, Shahbaria and Nalkola villages he talked to the villagers and affected farmers. Maktar Hossain, 28, Hari-pada Kundu, 71, of village Khulumbaria, Anil Kundu, 65, of Pashchimadla, Abul Kalam, 52, of Jurbomadla and some others said that the water-logging in their villages has become a regular feature.

According to them, they can not harvest their targeted 40,000 maunds of Aus paddy worth Taka 97 lakh and 18,000 maunds of pulse worth about Taka 58 lakh due to water-logging. Sometimes only Aman seedlings can be harvested in the winter season.

Villagers said that not only crops, but also a few hundred families of the villages could not move without boat or raft in the rainy season as they become marooned by water during the rainy season. Actually they have become helpless and hopeless now-a-days. Virtually the union which is located only 10 kilometres away from Saikupa thana headquarters has become an island.

Shikder Qamruzzaman Tuku, Chairman of Hekimpur Union Parishad said, his father Shikder Mosarrat Hossain Sona sent a letter to the office of the Prime Minister in February this year regarding re-excavation of the drainage channels. In reply Prime Minister's office through a letter on February 28 of the same year instructed the Secretary of Water Resources

Ministry to take necessary steps. But in vain as no action had been taken accordingly. Tuku said.

When contacted, the Executive Engineer of Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), Jhenidah said that they had informed the matter to the higher authorities of BWDB to sanction 450 metric tonnes of wheat or allocate Taka 34 lakh for re-excavation work on April 18 in 1999, but in vain.

According to the Executive Engineer, the problems of the people of the area can be removed by starting Food for Works Programme (FWP).

He said if the drainage channels are re-excavated, the socio-economic condition of the people of the union can be changed very fast, he hoped.

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## Sirajganj dam Affected men yet to receive compensation

From A Correspondent SIRAJGANJ, Oct 23: Although the construction of Sirajganj Town Protection Embankment has been completed, affected people, whose lands have been acquired for project, are yet to get compensation.

Authorities acquired 77.365 acres permanently and 37.54 acres temporarily in Ranigram, Golla, Gurkha and Dhanbandi moogas under Sadar thana for the project, financed by the World Bank.

A total of 137 landowners were considered affected for the construction by the authorities.

Victims have attributed the delay in paying compensation money to bureaucratic tangles.

Affected people recently submitted a memorandum to the deputy commissioner demanding immediate payment.

Local people have urged the authorities concerned to take immediate steps.



Fishing in paddy fields: Waters of the flash flood have receded from Mohonpur thana in Rajshahi district damaging the paddy fields there. Photo shows two little boys are engaged in fishing in the area. — Star photo

## Bid to resolve USTC deadlock

From CU Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Oct 23: A meeting between the authorities of University of Science and Technology in Chittagong chapter (USTC) and Chittagong chapter of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) was held at the conference room of USTC director on Tuesday.

The meeting discussed different issues such as introduction of the service rules for USTC employees, regularisation of services and reinstatement of teachers for the restoration of normalcy in the institution.

In the meeting, the BMA leaders and the USTC authorities agreed that no punitive measures would be taken against the agitated teachers till restoration of normalcy.

USTC Director Colonel (Rtd) Iskander and syndicate member MA Salam were present on behalf of the university authorities while BMA Chittagong Chapter President Lt Kaderi, its acting General Secretary Nasir Uddin Mahmud and BMA USTC convener Sazzad Hossain led BMA side.

The deadlock has been prevailing in USTC since October 13 following the resignation of 70 teachers out of 77 of medicine faculty. The teachers resigned from their posts protesting the 'illegal sacking' of Imam Uddin, associate professor of the Orthopaedic Department.

## Smuggled Indian goods flood Sherpur markets

SHERPUR, Oct 23: Local markets in the bordering districts of Sherpur and Jamalpur have become flooded with smuggled Indian goods posing a threat to domestic products, reports UNB.

A section of unscrupulous traders allegedly under protection of local political leaders and with connivance of BDR personnel, has been doing brisk business of various contraband goods in the local markets.

The local people alleged that each BDR camp in the frontier areas of the two districts had line-men to collect tolls from the smugglers — Tk 200 against goods worth Tk 1,000.

## Fishing of fries rampant

From Our Correspondent NETRAKONA, Oct 23: When the fisheries department has started releasing fish fries in water bodies under special programme to boost fish output, indiscriminate fishing of fries is going on in the district, casting adverse impact on the overall production.

A section of people are fishing fries of ruhi, boal, and other fishes from the rivers, canals, beels and other water bodies defying the ban imposed by the government.

Local people said a huge quantity of fish fries are being sold in local markets. They alleged a section of dishonest fishermen are selling the fries to fish traders under the nose of the members of law enforcing agencies.

# Tk 1.80 cr programme on family welfare for tea garden workers

From Iqbal Siddiquee

SYLHET, Oct 23: A comprehensive programme on Family Welfare and Reproductive Health for the tea garden labourers is being launched soon.

An official while talking to The Daily Star said, the 4-year programme involving a total amount of Taka One crore 80 lakh has been taken up jointly by UNFPA and Government of Bangladesh with a view to developing consciousness of the tea labourers about the family welfare and reproductive health.

Of the total, the donor agency will provide Taka One Crore 45 lakh while the rest of Taka 35 lakh will be given by the Government of Bangladesh. About 2 lakh 23,000 persons including labourers both working and unemployed and their family members of 55 selected tea gardens in Habiganj and Moulvibazar districts will be brought under the programme. The gardens are in M- nu-

Dholai Valley, Lashkarpur Valley, Balisera Valley, Juri Valley and Langla Valley.

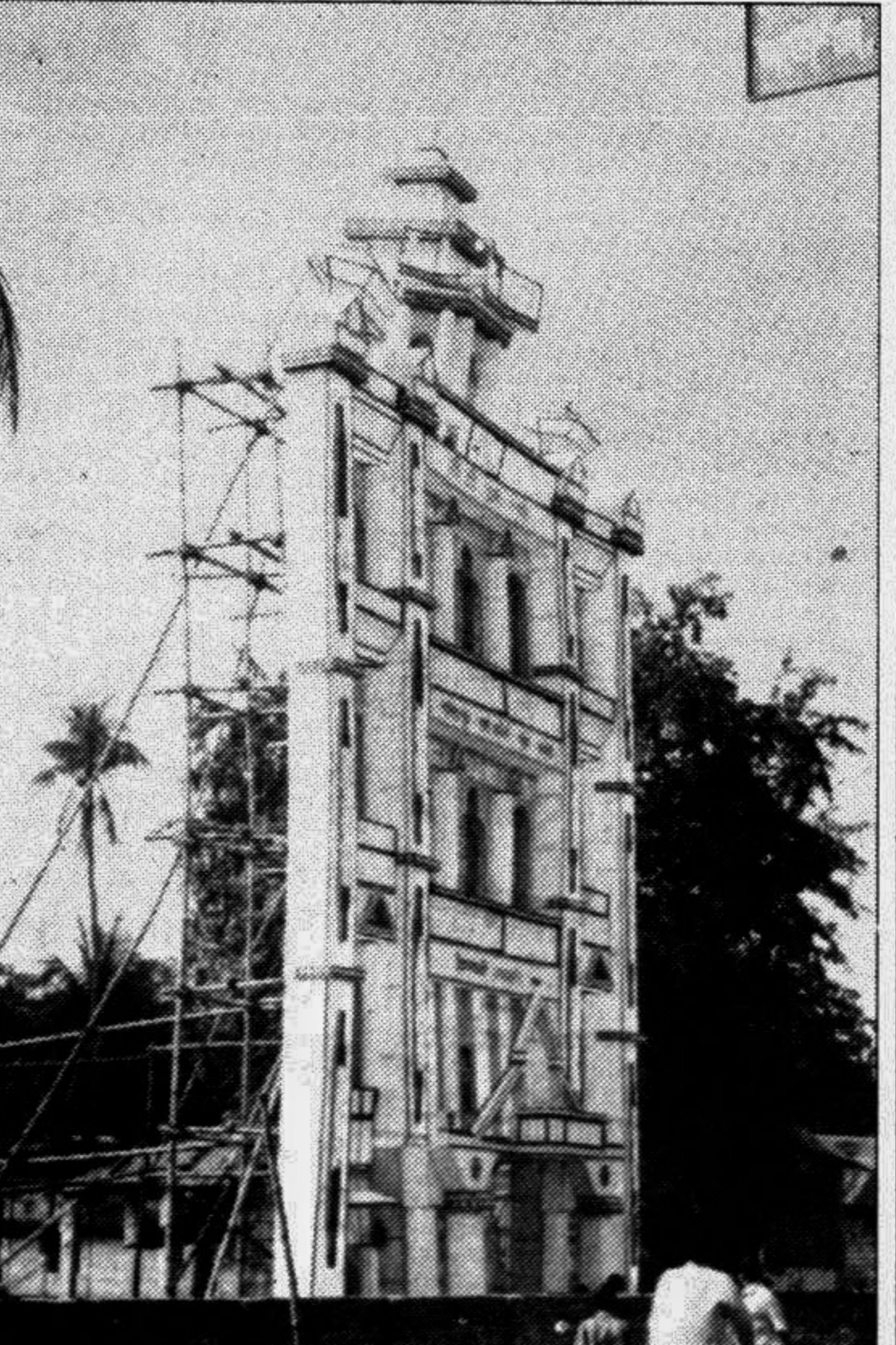
A separate office of the programme has been set up in the Tea Labourers' Welfare Fund Office at Srimangal while the deputy director of labour presently working at Srimangal has been designated as the Project Director.

Twenty officials and 165 workers from 55 gardens will be appointed this month. Besides, the labour welfare centres at Fulbari, Lohauni and Chandichara tea gardens will be used as project offices.

With a view of proper implementation of the programme, motivational seminar on reproductive health will be arranged with participation of the garden manager, physicians and labour leaders. The seminar will be arranged in each of the gardens. Small group meeting with 30 labourers in each group will be formed for hold-

ing regular motivational meetings fortnightly or weekly.

Monitoring teams will work separately from the donor agency as well as from the ministry.



Durga Puja was celebrated in Jhenidah district with religious fervour and gaiety. This year many beautiful gates were erected on this occasion. Photo shows such a gate at Kabirpur which was built at a cost of Taka 50,000. — Star photo

## Ex-chief advisor of caretaker govt laments

# Trend of replacing Gen History in private colleges increasing

RAJSHAHI, Oct 23: Former Chief Advisor of the Caretaker Government Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman has lamented the replacement of General History by Islamic History in the colleges, reports UNB.

"There are separate rooms for general education and Islamic education in our education system," he said adding that nowadays General History is not taught in the colleges.

The former chief advisor was addressing the 12th national conference of Bangladesh History Association at the Rajshahi University Senate building on Friday.

He said a trend of introducing Islamic History replacing General History in private colleges is increasing. There is a general idea among the students that they would derive more benefits by studying Islamic

History than General History.

"It's a meaningless competition to drive out General History from our education system," he said.

"Stressing the need for studying history in public relations, he pointed out that history is being written and rewritten in the post-colonial regime.

Presided over by association President Prof Sirajul Islam, the conference was attended by Vice Chancellor of Rajshahi University Saidur Rahman Khan as special guest.

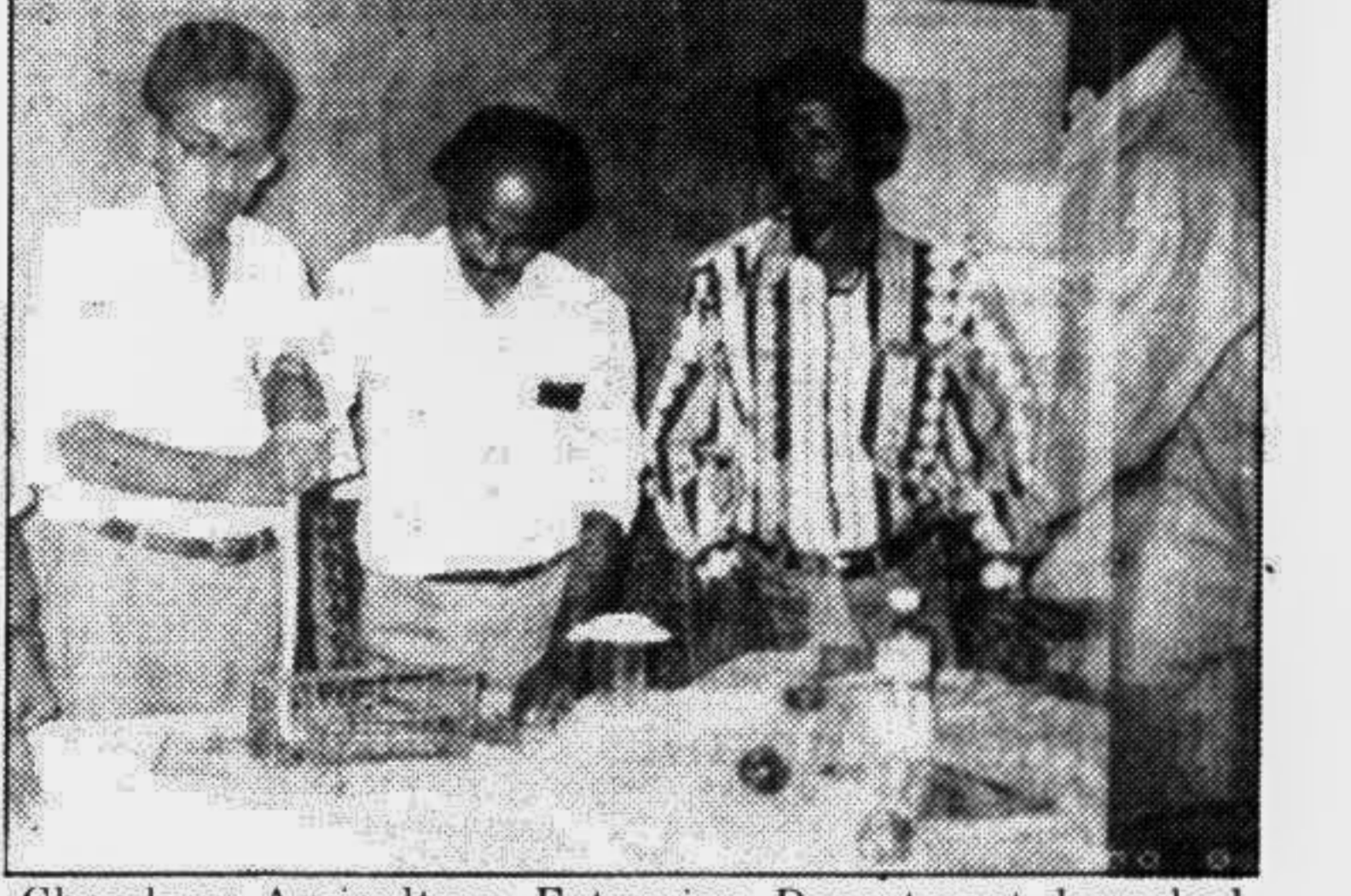
Among others, General Secretary Prof Sharif Uddin Ahmed and President of the Preparatory Committee of the conference Prof A H Shibly addressed.

More than 200 participants from host Bangladesh, India, Nepal and the Netherlands are taking part in the three-day conference.

## Events of districts in pictures



Teachers and students of Government Begum Rokeya College in Rangpur bade farewell to their outgoing vice-principal Md Ansar Ali at a simple but hearty ceremony recently at the college auditorium. — Star photo



Chandpur Agriculture Extension Department launched recently a rat killing campaign in Chandpur town. — Star photo



Papaya cultivation has been gaining momentum in Jamalpur district recently. A student of Class Ten of village Mollahpara in sadar thana cultivating papaya around his reading room. — Star photo

## Peaceful celebration of Durga Puja

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Oct 23: Immersion of images of goddess Durga was held peacefully here on Wednesday, ending the week-long Durga Puja festival.

On the last day of the Puja, the greatest religious festival of Hindus, devotees immerse the images in rivers, canals and ponds.

A total of 182 images of the goddess were erected this year in the district. Last year a total of 167 images were erected.

Adequate security measures were taken during the immersion ceremony. However, a local journalist was barred from taking photographs during immersion at Ananta Ghat in the town.

Police heeled Nishith Ranjan Saha Bindu, Paban correspondent of vernacular daily the Bhorer Kagaj, when the pressman was doing his professional duty.