

National

Over 150 killed in 5 mishaps while ferrying buses

BAGERHAT, June 4: More than 150 people were killed in five serious accidents while travelling passenger buses at different ferry ghats of the southern region in last 10 years, reports UNB.

The accidents were mostly attributed to negligence of the ferry employees and bus drivers.

Of the total, 40 passengers drowned in Kacha river at Charkathi in Pirojpur district when a bus fell into the river while boarding the ferry on May 27 this year.

Similarly, about 50 passengers died when a bus fell into the river at Daratana ferry ghat in Bagerhat district in 1996 and another 50 drowned near Kalijira ferry ghat in Barisal in 1990.

Lives of thousands of passengers come under threat as the bus drivers or the ghat employees do not obey rules that strictly forbid boarding the ferry with passenger on the buses.

There are 14 ferry ghats in seven districts of the region.

Admission at SUST: 17,641 to vie for 760 seats

SYLHET, June 4: Some 17,641 admission seekers will vie for 760 seats in the first year course for academic session 1999-2000 of the Shahjalal Science and Technology University (SUST), reports UNB.

Of them, some 12,664 applicants will compete for 535 seats in 'Ka' unit and 4,977 others for 225 seats in 'Kha' unit.

The admission tests for 'Ka' and 'Kha' units will be held on June 16 and 17 respectively.

The university earned about Tk 35.6 lakh from the sale of some 17,800 forms, according to an official source.

There are 60 seats each for Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Chemical Technology and Polymer Science, Electronics and Computer Science, Economics and Social Science departments and 50 each for Statistics, Political Studies and Public Affairs, Anthropology, and Social Work departments.

Besides, there are 40 seats each for Industrial and Production Engineering, and Environmental and Pollution Control departments and 30 each for Forestry and Business Administration departments.

Meritorious student killed

BARISAL, June 4: One meritorious student of Bakerganj Pilot School (BPS) here was killed by armed miscreants here on May 20, reports BSS.

The victim was identified as Masum Billah Sohag, 15, a ten grade student of BPS, who hailed from Kalikapur village under Bakerganj Upazila.

Police said, Sohag was killed by miscreants while he was returning home after visiting one of his neighbor's house at around 10 pm.

They beat him up mercilessly and as a result he died on the spot.

Police could not arrest any of them till writing of this report. A top ranking official of the district police administration visited the spot recently.

Police suspected that family feud might be the reason behind the killing.

Mugger convicted under PSA in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, June 4: A court trying cases filed under Public Safety Act (PSA) here has sentenced a mugger to ten years' rigorous imprisonment.

The court found Badsha Sheikh guilty of mugging and pronounced the verdict on Thursday. The man was also fined Tk 10,000 and in default to suffer one year more RI.

According to the prosecution story, Badsha robbed Panchanan Das of his cycle at gunpoint on Cenetary Road in the city on March 2 this year.

The mugger was arrested on the same day and the cycle was also recovered.

Agri Varsity in Naogaon demanded

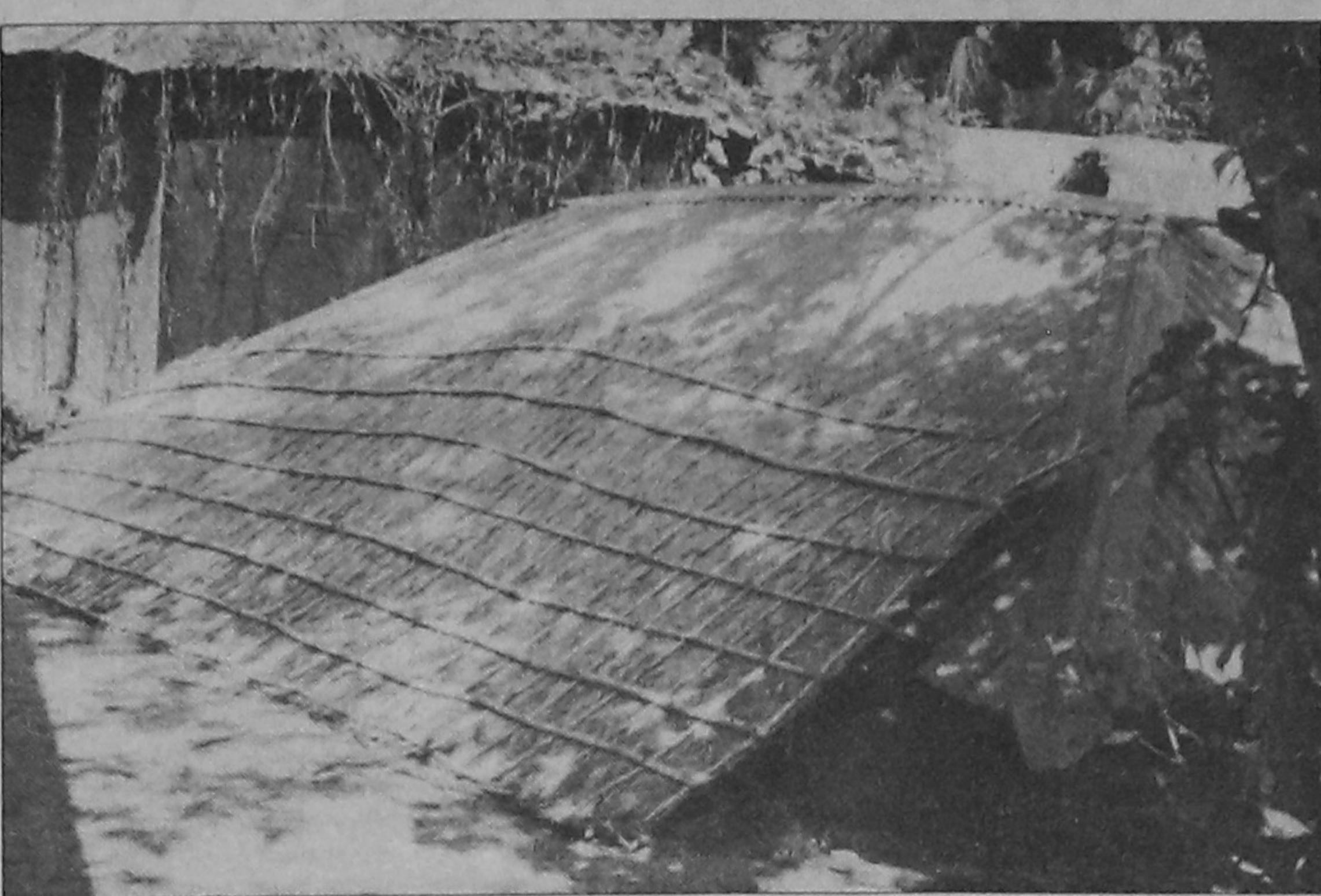
NAOGAON, June 4: Naogaon district is well-known for Barendra Agriculture Project, reports BSS.

There are also 19 'Dighis' with more than 300 bighas of cultivable lands. There are two big zamindar palaces at Dubalhati village, situated at five miles off from Naogaon town. The palaces are now in deplorable conditions.

People of the areas strongly demanded for setting up an Agriculture University at Dubalhati. It is the long standing demand of this neglected region.

There is no agriculture university in Rajshahi and Khulna divisions. The country has only Agriculture University in Mymensingh.

People of the region urged upon the government to set up another Agriculture University at Dubalhati, considering the above mentioned facts.

Thousands hit by storms in 5 Barisal upazilas

Storm multiplies misery of poor villagers

A recent cyclonic storm damaged a tin-shed house completely at village Kabirpur in Sailkupa thana of Jhenidah district.

— Star photo

nado-hit Ariadangi High School here.

The state minister said the present government will extend all-out cooperation for repairing and rebuilding of schools, colleges, madrasah and houses of Ariadangi, Kazipur, Chaitrakhati, Bamandanga, Bilkula, Chalkbaisa villages and adjacent areas that have been damaged severely by the tornado on May 28.

Property worth about Tk 35.6 lakh from the sale of some 17,800 forms, according to an official source.

There are 60 seats each for Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Chemical Technology and Polymer Science, Electronics and Computer Science, Economics and Social Science departments and 50 each for Statistics, Political Studies and Public Affairs, Anthropology, and Social Work departments.

Besides, there are 40 seats each for Industrial and Production Engineering, and Environmental and Pollution Control departments and 30 each for Forestry and Business Administration departments.

The government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina always wants to serve and stand by the people," Prof Sayeed said at a meeting while visiting the tor-

victims. He instructed the district administration to start rehabilitation and repair work immediately.

The state minister instantly distributed Taka 500 each among the 60 disaster victims from the government relief fund.

He urged the local people to attend the conference of the freedom fighters scheduled to be held on June 20 at Rajshahi to give vent to their feelings including the demand for the trial of the Bangabandhu Murder Case.

He said daughter of Banga-

bandhu, Sheikh Hasina has introduced many social welfare programmes like old-age pension, allowances for the widows and for the deserted wives and soft loans for the development of women to ensure social justice and overall development of the country.

Deputy Commissioner Mahbubur Rahman, Police Super Subadzaman Miah, Civil Surgeon Dr Shamsuddin Mondol, Principal of Bulbul Government College M Nurunnabi, officials of the district relief and rehabilitation and local elite were present at the meeting.

Food procurement drive yet to start in Sirajganj

Drive suspended in Natore

From Akherruzzaman Bablu

SIRAJGANJ, June 4: The farmer are not getting fair prices of their products mainly due to absence of foodgrains procurement drive by the government.

The procurement drive is yet to start this season here.

The government's foodgrains procurement drive could not yet be launched in the northern region as most food godowns are saturated with last season's grains. So the poor growers are now forced to sell their products at through away prices in local markets to meet harvesting expenses including loans they took while planting the crops.

Farmers said they are selling paddy at between Tk 195 and Tk 220 in local markets against the government rate of Tk 320 per 40 kg. Many selling centres are now under the control of *farias* and unscrupulous

agents. They are now controlling the paddy procurement centres in every area and they threatened the officials and farmers under a banner of political party, alleged local farmers.

Farmers of Kazipur in Sirajganj district with farmers of some other districts alleged that some *dalal* and *farias* illegally made so called associations and control the godown areas. So the farmers are facing manifold problems. Official sources said the government bought 3 lakh 35 thousand tons of paddy, rice this season from the farmers.

But farmers said it is not possible for the government. They alleged that the government procured only in black and white.

UNB from Natore says: The IRRI-Boro procurement drive has been suspended in Natore district following a court order.

The court order came upon a petition filed with Baraigram Assistant Judge Court by rice trader Moslem Uddin, Proprietor of Khan Rice Mills in Baraigram upazila, on May 29.

In his petition, the plaintiff

filled up, in the mean time 20 per cent paddy and rice were bought by the government, but not from farmers.

Officials said government declared they bought 3 lakh 35 thousand tons of paddy, rice this season from the farmers.

But farmers said it is not possible for the government. They alleged that the government procured only in black and white.

Clamping an injunction on the grains procurement drive, the court issued show-cause notices to six high officials, including DC, DC (Food), UNO and AC (Food) or Baraigram, to explain their respective positions in this regard by seven days.

When contacted, the Deputy Commissioner of the district said a probe body, led by ADC (Rev) Abdul Quayyam, has been formed to investigate the matter.

complained that Chief Advisor of the District Procurement Committee and State Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Prof Abdul Kuddus MP has illegally prepared a list of rice suppliers, ignoring 70 genuine millers and suppliers.

He further alleged that the suppliers chosen by the state minister have no licence and rice mills.

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He said the ruling party has breached its election pledge by not giving autonomy to the state-owned electronic media.

Dr Kamal was addressing a party gathering at Asaduzzaman Auditorium here on Saturday.

He also criticised main opposition BNP for its hobnobbing with anti-liberation forces.

Dr Kamal also suggested that bank loan defaulters be barred from contesting any election.

Presided over by Mijanur Rahman, the gathering was also addressed, among others, by Sifuddin Ahmed Manik, Pankaj Bhattacharya, Engineer Abul Kashem, Advocate Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Advocate Abdus Sahid Zal and Professor Abul Kashem.

They are deprived of salaries for 10 months

BAGERHAT, June 4: The families of four officers and employees of the local Youth Development Department have been passing their days in great distress due to non-payment of their salaries for the last 10 months, reports UNB.

On the other hand most of the rural post offices do not have their own offices and have been working in the UP offices, drawing rooms of the influential people and sometimes at the residences of the employees.

Following their countrywide strike programme the allowance was raised by 20 per cent in 1991 and 20 per cent in 1995.

During the present government, the allowance was raised by 20 per cent in 1997 totaling the remuneration at Tk 684 per

month. An employee could hardly maintain his family with this small amount of money.

On the other hand most of the rural post offices do not have their own offices and have been working in the UP offices, drawing rooms of the influential people and sometimes at the residences of the employees.

When contacted a senior official of the postal department said, government has taken up a project to build tin-shed houses for the post offices if any generous person in the locality donate minimum five decimal of land.

Ferry service suspended

KURIGRAM, June 4: Ferry service at Kurigram Ferryhat remained suspended from Sunday following increase in water level in the River Dharla which submerged the approach road on the sandy shoals connecting the ferryghat, reports BSS.

The North Dharla area, comprises of Fulbari, Bhurangamari and Nageswari and inhabited by about eight lakh people, became detached from the main land. Due to recent moderate to heavy rainfall ripe Boro crop has been damaged partially throughout the district and harvesting of the crop has been affected. Water logging everywhere has caused immense sufferings to the citizens.

According to local Water Development Board sources, a total of 126.7 mm rainfall at Kurigram and 161.5 mm at Chilmari were recorded during these periods. The Dharla at Kurigram rose by 22 cm on Saturday and 22 cm on Sunday up to 6 am. The Dharla was flowing at 23.99 m (danger level 26.5 cm) on Monday at Kurigram. The Brahmaputra at Chilmari rose by 8 cm on Saturday and 25 cm on Sunday up to 6 am and was flowing at 20.84 m (danger level 24 m) on Monday. The WDB official sources said there might be an early devastating flood here this year.

On the other hand, with the rise in water levels in all rivers here, erosion took a serious turn devouring banks and many places, according to reports reaching here from the Dharla, the Brahmaputra and the Teesta basins.

News snaps**Shortage of voter forms**

COMILLA, June 4: Completion of the voter registration work may be delayed due to shortage of form-2 here, reports UNB.

Local Election Office distributed about 22.35 lakh forms in 12 thanas and one Cantonment here till May 23 since the beginning of the registration on May 15. But different thanas and municipalities have sent letters seeking more forms for their respective areas. When contacted, District Election Officer Mejbah Uddin Ahmed said they would seek more forms from the Election Commission Secretariat on emergency basis after ascertaining the actual number of forms required for each thana. The local authorities have already informed the Election Commission Secretariat about the shortage of form-2.

Dacoit gets 10-yr RI

KISHOREGANJ, June 4: A court here has sentenced a man to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment (RI) for dacoity committed five years back, reports UNB.

The court also fined Dulal, who was tried in absentia, Tk 10,000 and in default to suffer another two years' RI. According to the prosecution, a group led by Dulal looted cash and valuable worth about Tk 59,700 from the house of A Wahid of Daugri village in Hossainpur at gunpoint on January 2, 1995. After examining the evidences and witnesses, Assistant District and Sessions Judge of the 2nd Court Nanda Kumar Sarker delivered the judgement on Tuesday.

A threat to environment

THAKURGAON, June 4: Most of the rice mills here, particularly in Ruhia commercial area in sadar upazilla, are run without chimney creating pollution that causes sufferings to the residents, reports UNB.

Local people said the sparks of fire and ashes often fell on the bodies of pedestrians as these mills either have no chimney or have only 4-5 feet-long chimneys to emit smoke and ashes to a short distance. Of the 50 rice mills in Ruhia commercial area, only four have big sized chimneys. People of nearby residential area said their houses are always covered with smoke and ashes from the mills as the owners do not pay heed to their complaints. The mills have been established disobeying the rules and regulations of the government.

Ministry of Defence**Office of the Chief Administrative Officer**

198, Dhaka Cantonment

Dhaka-1206

Employment Notice

Applications are invited from bona fide male Bangladesh nationals for filling up the undermentioned vacant civil posts in the Armed Forces Headquarters and Inter-Service Establishment under the office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

Sl No.	Name of post and pay scale	Number of posts	Educational qualification & experience	Candidates of districts who can apply
a)	Civilian Staff Officer-3 4300-7740/-.	03	First class Masters degree from any recognised university or second class Masters degree with second class Honours degree.	All districts.
b)	Stenotypist 2250-4735/-.	04	Higher Secondary or equivalent examination passed from any recognised Board should have speed for 70 and 100 words per minute in steno-typing and should have speed of 30 and 40 words per minute in type in Bangla and English respectively.	All districts.
c)	Upper Division Clerk 2100-4315/-.	03	Graduation passed. Candidates with typing and computer will be preferred.	Dhaka, Narayanganj, Rajbari, Shariatpur, Jamalpur, Sherpur, Mymensingh, Kishoreganj, Netrokona, Tangail, Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Bandarban, Khagrachari, Rangamati, Rajshahi, Naogaon, Nawabganj, Natore, Dinajpur, Thakurgaon, Panchagarh, Rangpur, Nilphamari, Kurigram, Gaibandha, Lalmonirhat, Joypurhat, Pabna, Khuila, Satkhira, Bagerhat, Jessore, Jhenidah, Chuadanga, Meherpur, Barguna, Sylhet, Hobiganj, Moulvibazar and Sunamganj.
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