

Student bodies getting ready to take control of new IU halls

From Delwar Kabir

JHENIDAH, June 6: Fierce battles may occur at any moment on the Islamic University (IU) campus as three main students organisations here are allegedly taking preparation to occupy the newly constructed Bangabandhu Hall and Begum Fajlalunnissa Mujib Hall.

Some teachers, students leaders and elites have apprehended this.

According to IU office sources, 400-seat Bangabandhu Hall has been constructed at a cost of Taka 6.50 core and 200-seat Begum Fajlalunnissa Mujib Hall has been constructed at a cost of Taka 3.50 core. Within a week applications will be invited from the for allocation of the seats.

Activists of the three main student organisations Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Islami Chhatra

Shibir (ICS) are very active in the campus.

Activities of BCL and JCD have reportedly been geared up on the campus, while ICS activists have been allegedly been provided with firearms and they have undergone training so that they can occupy the halls, alleged some students leaders and local people of Saitkhpara, Basantapur and some other villages.

Now tension has been mounting at the campus as BCL leader Milon was allegedly beaten up by a JCD activist recently. Here JCD might favour ICS to combat their BCL rivals. Another source said that they were not interested in occupying the halls forcibly. But they would claim 80 per cent of the seats, if those were allocated on party quota basis and the rest 20 per cent might be allocated among other student organisations. This is because of ICS's majority in number, the source claimed.

It may be noted here that ICS had been the most influential party in two IU halls. The campus is virtually under their control.

BCL activists may face troubles if they want to occupy the newly constructed halls, apprehended some pro-Awami League teachers of this university.

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Activists of BCL, JCD and ICS are showing their muscle before the very nose of law enforcing agency men at the campus where policemen play the role of spectators only.

On May 6 last BCL and JCD activists engaged themselves in a clash which leaves 10 students injured in presence of police. A

group of JCD activists showed their arms before the policemen, alleged some students. On May 29, tension gripped again when some ICS activists allegedly tore down a poster of ex-general secretary of Chhatra Mohila here when the mohila activists were demonstrating on the occasion of the 15th death anniversary of Jamil Akter Ratan, a Rajshahi University student. Ratan was allegedly killed by the activists of ICS at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) in May, 1985.

When asked leaders of BCL, JCD and ICS denied the allegations of any arms training and said that they wanted impartial allocation of seats among the students on merit basis.

When contacted, the universities told The Daily Star that they would maintain neutrality in distribution of seats in the two aforementioned newly constructed halls.

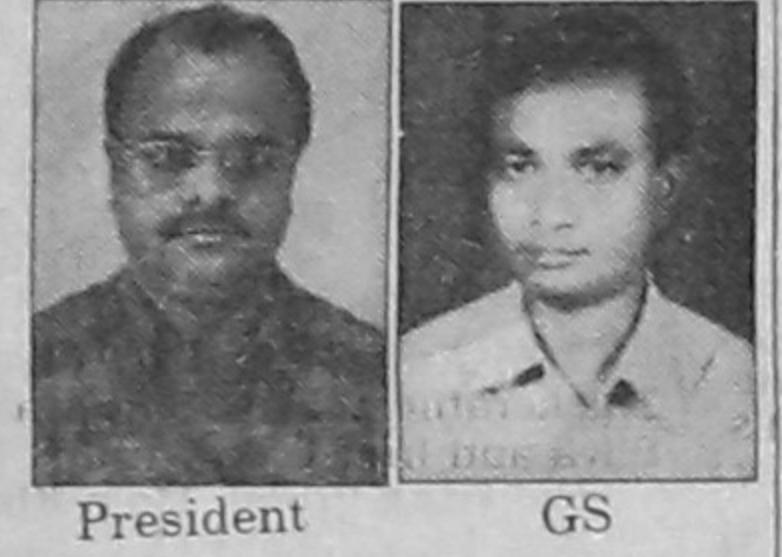
Tension mounts along Kurigram border

KURIGRAM, June 6: Tension along Phulbari border here has been mounting with tightening the Indian siege on the Bangladesh enclaves of Sitkarpur and Sitimustafai resulting in scarcity of daily necessities there, reports UNB.

Information trickled from across the border said Indian border security force (BSF) has been mobilising additional troops with heavy guns and artilleries, digging bunkers and setting up camps along the border heightening tension in the area.

Residents of Khariza Haridas village across the border said they saw arrival of a large number of BSF troops at Gitalda railway station on Monday. Police and BSF tightened their grip on the Bangladesh enclaves from where nobody was allowed to come out.

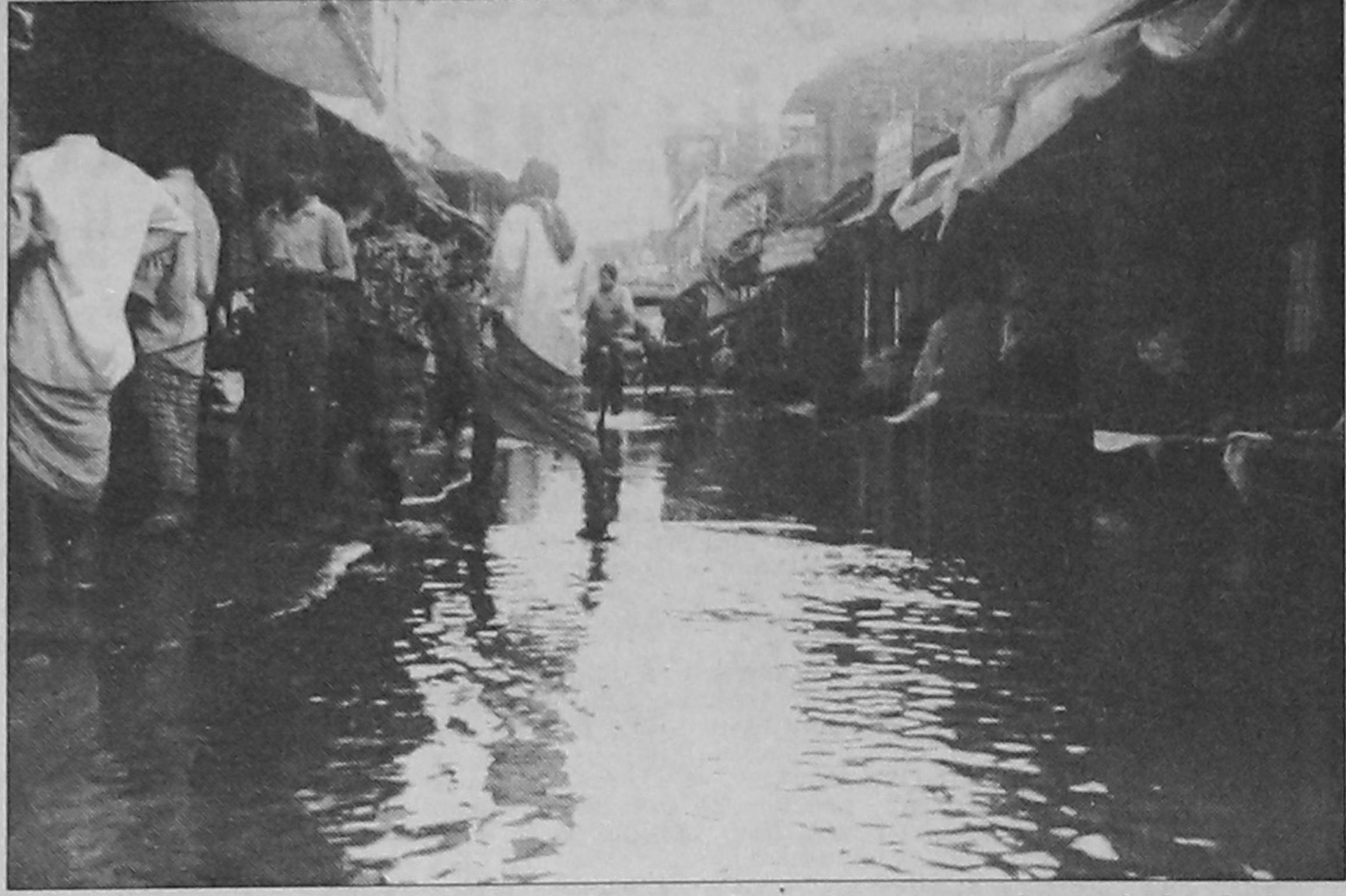
New president, GS of Jessore Press Club

President GS

From Our Correspondent JESSORE, June 6: Farazi Azmal Hossain and Motiuzzaman Mitu have been elected president and general secretary respectively of Jessore Press Club.

The election was in the club premises recently.

Farazi Azmal Hossain is local correspondent of the Ittefaq, while Motiuzzaman is local correspondent of the Ajker Kagoj.



Water remains stagnant in Tangail town even after moderate rain due to faulty drainage system. Photo shows the submerged Tulapatty Road after a downpour recently. This picture has been taken by a correspondent in Tangail.

— Star photo

Loan facilities not available for 20 lakh fishermen

NOAKHALI, June 6: Down by poverty, some 20 lakh fishermen in 16 coastal districts of the country are demanding bank loan so that they could change their lots, reports UNB.

"Despite fishing throughout the day, we cannot earn our family members two meals a day, as a large chunk money we earn goes on repaying loans to our greedy moneylenders," said fisherman Satya Narayan while talking to the news agency.

In absence of loan facilities from scheduled banks, the poor fishermen have to take loan

from local moneylenders at a high interest rate only to worsen their living conditions.

According to surveys conducted by two NGOs working on fishermen of the coastal districts, most fishermen borrow money from local moneylenders at cent per cent interest rate.

The NGOs — Community Development Center (CODEC) and Poor Development Programme (PDP) — conducted the surveys in Cox's Bazar, Chittagong, Noakhali, Laxmipur, Fen, Chandpur, Bhola, Barisal, Pirojpur, Jhalakati, Sharikpur.

From local moneylenders at a high interest rate only to worsen their living conditions.

Their findings show that the local moneylenders taking advantage of their poverty, force the fishermen in one way or the other to take loan from them at an unusual high interest rate and then continue to exploit them throughout the year.

The moneylenders exploit the fishermen in four ways: Collect Tk 50 per hundred as interest for five months, forced the fishermen to sell fishes to them at a nominal price, cut 5 per cent commission and take away 1-4 fishes free.

The moneylenders apart, there are musclemen who collect toll from the fishermen. In case of non-payment of toll, they are tortured by the musclemen who have links with the law-enforcers.

Fed up with such incidents, many fishermen in Laxmipur now opt out of their ancestral profession.

Patuakhali, Barguna, Bagerhat, Khulna and Satkhira districts.

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Divorce rate up in Cox's Bazar area

From Abdul Monayem Khan

COX'S BAZAR, June 6: Hundreds of divorce cases have been recorded during the last four years in seven thanas here.

Non-payment of dowry, poverty, polygamy, early marriage, non-registration of marriages and immoral activities have been identified as the main reasons behind the separation.

Women of the poor class are the worst victims. Due to non-registration of marriages, poor divorced women cannot go to the court for legal action.

Non-payment of dowry has been identified as the main reason of separation now-a-days.

The marriage registrars in the remote areas demand higher fees which discourages the parties regarding the registration of marriages.

Social workers feel that government should take measures to encourage the registration of marriages through charging a nominal fee.

Defying the government restriction, many people marry more than once in the far flung areas without the written permission of the first wife.

There are certain legal protection for a woman in the conditions of the marriage deed. But in absence of such deeds divorce has become a common feature in the rural areas. Women are bound to live in distress in this case. Sometimes they are involved in immoral activities to earn their living.

The high registration fee is a cause of indifferent attitude of many illiterate poor guardians to register the marriage deeds. It is alleged that many marriage registrars in rural areas charge higher registration fees than the fixed one. As a result, poor parents do not bother to get the marriage of their wards registered.

It is felt that government should fix a token fee for registration and "moharan" of Taka 25,000 to encourage marriage registration among the poor. The government should also make wide publicity through news media about the evils of non-registration of marriage deeds.

This will check the alarming trend of divorce of women to some extent particularly in rural areas.

Tk 1 spent per head in coastal areas?

BARISAL, June 6: Only Taka one is being spent per head for saving the life and properties of one crore people living in the coastal areas of the country from cyclones and tidal surges. These people are living fighting these natural disasters, reports BSS.

This was revealed by some experts who are engaged in different activities in the coastal areas. According to the report about one crore and ten lakh people have been living in 35 upazilas of 11 coastal districts of the country. Of them, about 70 lakh people are living in tension and threat in the period of cyclonic season.

There are 1,841 cyclonic shelters in the coastal areas of the districts for about 13 lakh of people only. For the safety of the people, the requirement of the cyclone shelters is three thousands in the areas. Most of the people of the coastal areas of the districts of Barisal, Bhola, Pirojpur, Barguna, Patuakhali, Noakhali, Laxmipur, Fen, Chittagong and Cox's Bazar have been living fighting against cyclones and tidal surges always.

According to an official source, there are 32,904 volunteers of the Red Crescent Society.

The now coastal people need more cyclone shelters, modern equipment, sirens for awareness and transports for easy transfer of the people of the coastal belts.

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News snaps

Opposition rallies at Meherpur

MEHERPUR, June 6: The main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and its ally Jamaat-e-Islami on Sunday marched separately to Election Commission Office here in protest against what they called unilateral appointment of MA Syed as Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), reports BSS.

The two parties also laid siege to the District Election Commission Office here. The opposition parties organised separate rallies prior to bringing out processions towards the Election Commission Office. Jatiya Party (Ershad) and Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ) did not participate in the programme. The two parties did not participate in any agitational programme of the BNP led four-party opposition alliance earlier.

SI of police killed in road mishap

NAOGAON, June 6: A police sub-inspector was killed and five of his family were injured in a road accident at Jatsajani in Mohadebpur upazila on Monday, reports UNB.

Police and witnesses said SI Bimal Sarkar posted in Panchbibi police station of Joyphurhat district was coming with the family to his village home in Safapur in a hired microbus that hit a standing truck with a big bang. Bimal, 45, died on the spot. His wife Chhanda Rani Sarkar, 38, two sons Rajat Kanti Sarkar, 24, and Sampad Kanti Sarkar, 20, Niece Biva Rani, 38, and granddaughter Jhumu Rani Sarkar, 18, injured in the mishap were rushed to the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital. After the post-mortem at the Naogaon Sadar Hospital the body of Bimal Sarkar was sent to his village home.

Reconstruction works delayed

SYLHET, June 6: Reconstruction works on various rural roads, taken up under Food-for-Work Programme, in Sadar and Companiganj upazilas could not yet be started due to delay in reaching the allotted grains to the local authorities, reports UNB.

Officials said some 857 mts of wheat and rice were sanctioned in April this year to reconstruct 17 roads in Sadar and 10 roads in Companiganj, but the allotment reached the district when the monsoon has taken its course. When UP chairmen of the two upazilas are in favour of putting off the project works. Local people apprehend that the grains might be misappropriated if it takes time in launching the works.

Teen electrocuted

BAGERHAT, June 6: A teenage boy was electrocuted when he came in contact with a live wire at Sutul village in Sadar upazila on Sunday, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Sheikh Mohammad Akram Hossain, 16, a madrasa student. Akram was electrocuted while switching on a table fan at his room. He died on way to Bagerhat Sadar Hospital.

Construction work begins

CHUADANGA, June 6: The construction work of a Fire Service Station has begun at Alamdanga Upazila Sadar under Chuadanga District recently, reports BSS.

The Fire Service Station is being constructed at a total cost of Taka 39 lakh. At the initial stage, the construction of the boundary walls of the station has been started. The construction of the two-storyed fire service station is expected to be completed by October next. The Public Works Department is implementing the scheme.

Workshop

JAMALPUR, June 6: A two-day workshop on "Intensive District Approach of Education for All" (IDEAL) under the joint auspices of UNICEF and government, was held on May 27 and 28 at Deputy Commissioner's conference room here, District Primary Education office sources said, reports BSS.

Presided over by Deputy Commissioner of Jamalpur, Abul Bashir, the inaugural session was addressed by District Primary Education Officer of Jamalpur, Sheikh Jamaluddin, UNICEF Project Officer, Dhaka, M Nurul Islam, Assistant Director, Primary Education, Dhaka Division, M Nurul Islam and Prof Alauddin Ahmed of IDEAL Project, Dhaka. Japan International Co-operation Agencies (JAICA) Representative Miss Yuko Ogino also attended the workshop. The participants in the workshop were selected Thana Primary Education Officers, Primary Schools Management Committee members and related people.



The chairman of Muslim Hands in United Kingdom (UK) distributing clothes among the destitutes at village Fultali under Jakiganj upazila in Sylhet district recently.

Separate incidents kill 3

BOGRA, June 6: Three people were killed and six others injured in separate incidents in last three days ending Sunday, reports UNB.

Police said a 70-year-old man, Kala Chan, was killed and four people were injured when a tractor hit a van at Mokomata

Port on Friday. The injured were admitted to a local hospital. In another incident, Abdur Rashid, 45, accused in a case, was chopped to death by his co-accused at Gobor para in Sonatola upazila on Friday. In the district jail, a prisoner, identified as Abdul Kuddus, 45, son of Mechher Ali of Mohipur village in Shinpur upazila, died in the jail hospital on Saturday. At Birampur village, one Abutalo, 54, and his two sons Atikur, 15, and Shahidul, 17, were injured in a clash with their opponents on Saturday.

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০০/০৬/২০০০	বিএই ২৩০১	মাট ফসল উৎপাদনের কোশল (তাঁয়ী)	সকল ১৯:৩০ থেকে ১২:৩০ পর্যন্ত
	বিএই ২৩০৪	মাট ফসল উৎপাদনের কোশল (ব্যবহারিক)	বিকাল ২:০০ থেকে ৫:০০ পর্যন্ত
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