

National

Investigation sought for slow progress of Tk 75-cr WDB projects

From Our Correspondent

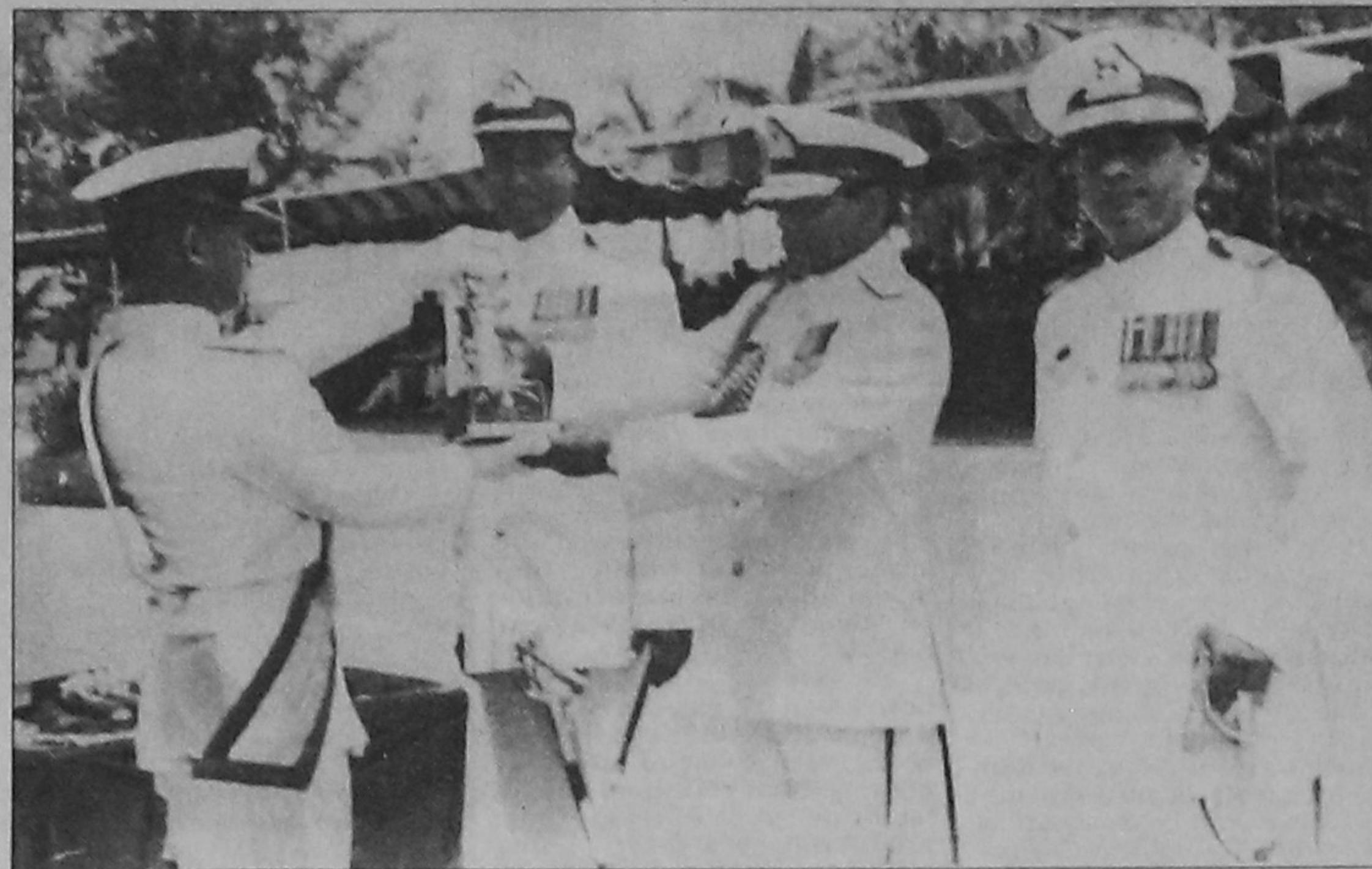
SIRAJGANJ, June 23: The Executive Engineer of Water Development Board (WDB), Sirajganj, Abul Haseem recently said at least 15 kilometres area covering 100 villages of Sadar upazila, Meghal Bazaar and Shuvgacha union will be protected from erosion by the rivers Jamuna, Barai and Karotoa and 2,000 hectares of land will be recovered if the Taka 75 crores erosion protection projects of WDB are completed.

However, the local people have demanded of the concerned authorities to form an inquiry committee to investigate into the allegations of slow progress of work.

WDB already constructed Soilbari groyne under the Sadar upazila at a cost of Taka Eight crores 67 lakh with the help of World Bank (WB).

Meanwhile, onrush of hilly water has been increasing daily and hampering the spars construction work.

WDB already completed the Korotoa river protection work



Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral A Taher giving away the trophy to the Best All-round Midshipman at the President's Parade marking the commissioning of a batch of Midshipmen of the Bangladesh Naval Academy at Patenga in Chittagong recently.

Paddy procurement drive yet to start

Mymensingh farmers not getting fair prices

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, June 23: Paddy procurement drive by the government is yet to be started here, although the harvesting is nearing completion.

The authorities concerned, however, have fixed the target to procure 5,000 mts of paddy at the rate of Tk 8.25 per kg.

The officials of Food Department said that the procurement drive would be launched through 18 purchase centres in different places of the district.

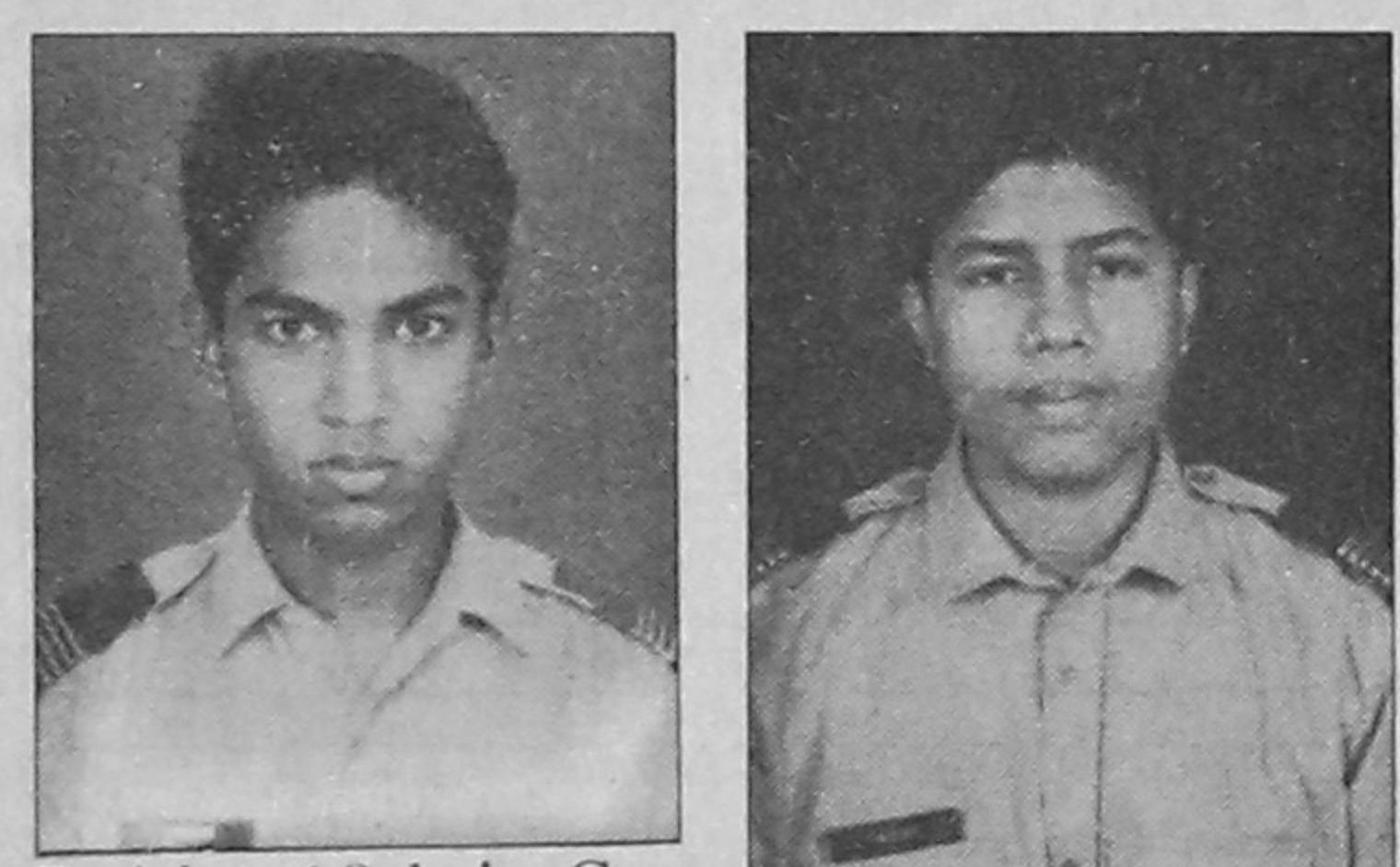
District Food Controller ABM Nazmul Huda said that the godowns of two purchase centres are totally unfit for use.

But it is learnt that the number of purchase centres is not sufficient to continue the procurement drive in 12 upazilas in the district. More purchase centres should be opened in remote areas, local people said.

The farmers are not getting fair prices of their products mainly in absence of the procurement drive by the government.

The poor growers are now forced to sell their products at throwaway prices in local markets to meet production expenses including loans they took while planting the crops.

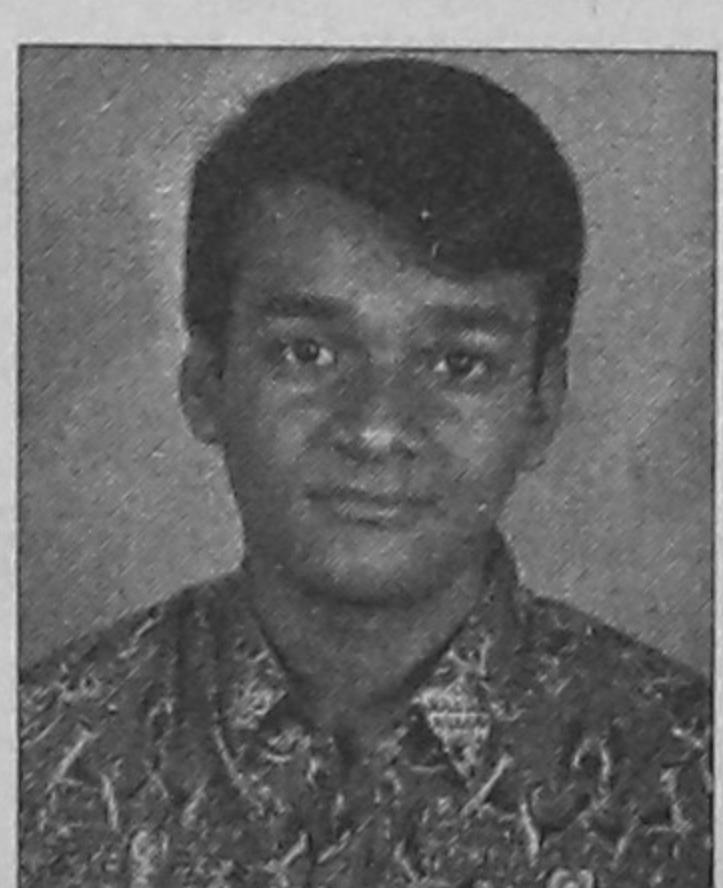
Now the farmers here are



Rahim 19th in Science group from Rajshahi Board

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, June 23: Md. Mushfeq-ur-Rahim of Rangpur Cadet College secured 19th position in the Science Group of combined merit list scoring 918 marks with eight letters in this year's SSC examination from Rajshahi Education Board.



Bashir wants to be a cricket player

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, June 23: Md. Khairel Bashir, a student of Mymensingh Pre-cadet School secured 11th position in the combined merit list from Science Group in the SSC examination under Dhaka Board this year.

Bashir obtained 933 marks in total with eight letters in English, General Mathematics, Elective Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Social Science and Religious Studies.

He is the only son of Md. Monsur Ali, and Khadija Begum Runu of village Rayer Char in sadar thana of Jamalpur district.

He wants to study Computer Science in future.

Asheq wants to study Computer Science

By Staff Correspondent

Cadet Ashequl Qadir of Mirzapur Cadet College has obtained 925 marks with eight letters and secured 19th position in the merit list of Science Group of Dhaka Board.

He is the only son of Asma Kader and M.A. Kader Miah, Joint Secretary, Jamuna Bridge Division, Ministry of Communication.

Cadet Asheq is interested to study Computer Science in future. He solicits blessings of all.

Mango prices up despite bumper output in Chapainawabganj

pervious years.

Another report from Kushtia says: Although different varieties of mango have hit the market, their prices continued to show upward spiral.

Market sources said the mango supply is poor compared to the last year. They said Lengra now costs Tk 35-40 per kg against Tk 20-25 last year.

According to another sources, mango production fell by 50 per cent in last 15 years for various reasons. Including widespread logging to trees for brick-fields and tobacco factories.

Officials said mango is now produced in orchards on 45,000 hectares of land in Kushtia district and it produced three lakh mts of mango in 1985, but it came down to 1.80 lakh mts in 1991. The downturn continues since then.

BSS reports from Kurigram:

A bumper production of Jackfruit is expected in Kurigram district, famous for production of the fruit, according local Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) sources.

Jackfruit grows well throughout the district. An important business centre at the heart of the district has been named Kanthalbari, because of huge production of the fruit there. A large number of jackfruit traders from south-eastern parts of the country flock to Kanthalbari every year to purchase.

After visiting a number of local markets it was found that there was a plentiful supply of various varieties of mango like Langra, Gopalbhog, Khirsapati, Mohananda, Bandaband and Himsagar.

More interesting is that the volume of wholesale in the markets was larger than that of the retail business.

The Langra verity is now selling at Tk 1000-1200 per maund while Gopalbhog at Tk 800-900. Khirsapati at Tk 800-1000, much higher than the

chase hundreds of tonnes of the fruit, as the place is situated on the Kurigram-Rangpur highway, only nine kilometres from Kurigram town.

Almost every jackfruit tree in the district blossomed to the full this year, indicating a bumper production of the sweetest fruit. There are nearly 40 lakh jackfruit trees in the district excluding the tender trees. Harvesting of the fruit is expected to start from the end of June this year.

According to jackfruit growers of Kanthalbari area, they do not get fair price of their produce every year, for lack of preservation facilities of the perishable fruits. They are to sell the fruits at very nominal price during peak season of harvesting which continues for a shorter period. The farias, in connivance with the big jackfruit traders from other parts of the country, generally create artificial crisis of fund and transportation in the peak harvesting season every year to compel the growers to sell their produce at throw-away prices. The growers suggested the government to set up fruits processing industries in the fruit surplus district like Kurigram to provide them fair prices of their produce.

The local farias, on the other hand, are very happy for bumper production of the fruit this year. They have already made necessary contacts with the jackfruit traders of other districts with a hope to earn more profits this year.

Deputy Director of AED

Kurigram, Abdur Rouf and Training Officer Hossain Ahmed told that the production of the fruit would be bumper this year because of favourable climatic conditions from the beginning of the year.

Nine unnatural deaths in Mymensingh

From Our Correspondent

day labourer.

A schoolboy was killed and another rice mill worker injured in a boiler blast at village Baksimul in Tarakanda upazila on June 4.

Shohor Rabi De, son of Gobinda Rabi De, died on the spot following the blast at Salam Rice Mill. Another man was killed at village Mohebshari in Muktagacha upazila on June 6 when a group of hoodlums attacked him with sharp weapons. The victim was identified as Mafizul Islam Mafiz, 28, and Mia Hossain, 30.

The accident occurred when a three-wheeler maxi cab collided with another three-wheeler tempo, killing two and injuring eight others.

A motorcyclist was killed and 20 others were injured when a passenger bus collided with a motorbike at Digharkanda on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway on June 6.

In separate accident, two people were killed and 15 injured at Bagherapara near Seed Store Bazaar in Bhaluka upazila on June 11. The accident occurred when a passenger bus collided with a jeep.

The victims were identified as Abdul Latif Sarker, 45, an agriculture official at Barhatta upazila, and Sunil Malakar, 30, driver of the jeep. The injured were rushed to hospital.

Two children drowned in a pond at village Baksimul in the district on June 4. The victims were identified as Shamsunnarain, 5, daughter of Kasimuddin and Rajib, 5, son of Akkas Ali, a

Police said Momin hit Subed Ali following an altercation over land dispute. He died the following day.

An infant was killed in a wall collapse at Gafargaon upazila headquarters on June 1. The victim was identified as Muktadir, 4, son of Abdul Kadir.

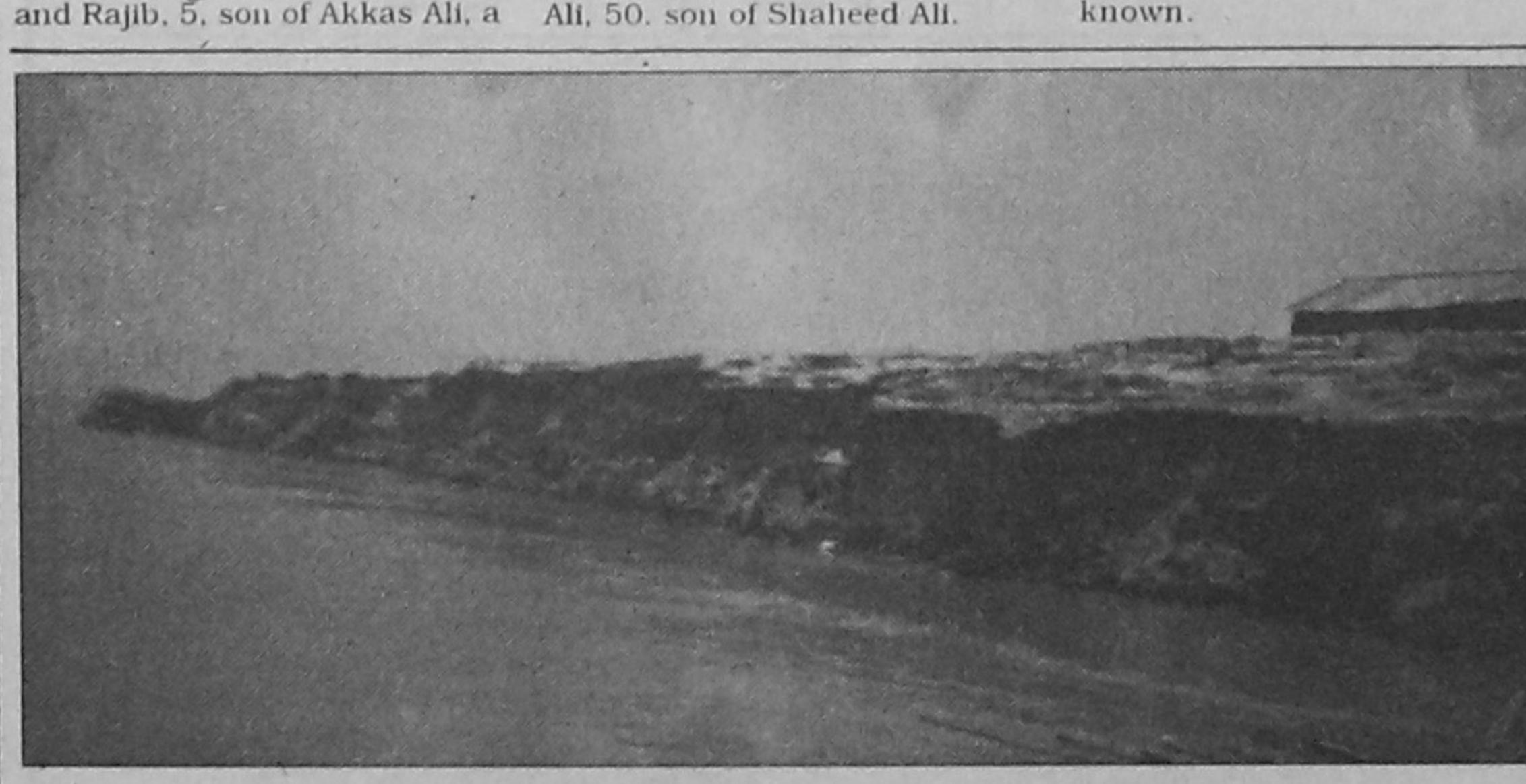
The victim died on the spot when an old wall collapsed on him at a house on Gafargaon Veterinary Hospital Road.

A construction worker was electrocuted and three others were injured when they were working at 2nd Khiree Bridge in Bhaluka upazila on May 31.

The four workers were injured when they came in touch with live wire. Details could not be known. Of the injured, Moin Uddin, 30, died on his way to Bhaluka Upazila Health Complex.

A young man committed suicide by taking poison at village Hasanpur in Gouripur upazila on May 29. The victim was identified as Babul, 20, son of Sayed Mica. The cause of suicide could not be known immediately.

Mymensingh Railway police recovered a body from railway track on June 14. The identity of the victim could not be known.



Wrath of nature: The River Jamuna has devoured almost the entire area of Sonatoni Bazar in Shahjadpur upazila under Sirajganj district, a famous commercial centre in the northern region. Only a tin-shed house is awaiting its extinction now.

— Star photo

Female students face problem due to lack of hostels

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, June 23: Female students in the town face problem as educational institutions lack hostels for them.

The district town has three colleges with co-education system, a women's college and three girls' schools with nearly 4,000 girl students. But the students lack residential facilities.

Female students from outside the district headquarters have to make accommodation arrangement in relatives' houses.

Parents and guardians have urged the authorities concerned to construct female hostels here to address the problem.

Fund shortage hits Gorai bridge construction work

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, June 23: Fund constraints has been hampering the construction work of the bridge over the Gorai river.

The construction work, which began in 1998, is now progressing at a snail's pace mainly due to fund crisis.

When contacted the authorities of the construction firm concerned said no fund for the bridge has been received during the current fiscal year, hampering the progress of the work.

Upon completion of the Tk 16 crore project, distance between Kushtia and Dhaka via Rajbari by road will be reduced by at least 70 kilometres.

College principal assaulted in Jhenidah

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, June 23: A college principal was beaten up by a group of miscreants on the college campus recently.

Sujit Kumar Saha, principal of Seikhpura DM College in the district, came under attack launched by a gang of miscreants led by Jahangir Alam Joarder, who once failed to get appointment as a lecturer of Management.

In the morning the gang entered the office of the principal and manhandled him. Later at noon the hoodlums, who used batons and stones, again swooped on him in the college premises. During the attack, Sahanaz Khanam, teacher of Psychology, Nazma Sultana, teacher of Economics, Sahidul Islam, teacher of Islamic History, among others, who came in rescue of the principal, were injured.

The principal was rushed to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital in unconscious state.

Land distributed among landless in Kurigram

KURIGRAM, June 23: Some 15.79 acres of land were handed over among 41 landless families in three unions of Rajbari Upazila Thursday, reports UNB.

Officials said 13.89 acres of land were distributed among 23 families at Ghorial Danta union, 1.77 acres among 16 families at Rajbari union and 0.21 acres among two families at Chhinali union.

Deputy Commissioner of the district AFM Solaiman Chowdhury distributed the documents of the lands at a function at Upazila Parishad's conference room.

Obituary

 Feroza Begum, mother of AKM Delwar Hussain, Treasurer of the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh and Additional Chief Accountant of Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation died of old age ailment at her residence at Pakundia, Kishoreganj on June 12. She was 80, says a press release.

She left behind five sons, two daughters and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn her death. Feroza Begum was the daughter of renowned educationist of Pakundia late Dainish Master. Her Chehulam will be held after Jum'a prayers on July 21 at her residence at Kumarpur, PO Hossain under Pakundia Upazila in Kishoreganj district.

A young man committed suicide by taking poison at village Hasanpur in Gouripur upazila on May 29. The victim was identified as Babul, 20, son of Sayed Mica. The cause of suicide could not be known immediately.

Mymensingh Railway police recovered a body from railway track on June 14. The identity of the victim could not be known.

Attack on 2 alleged terrorists

JHALAKATI, June 23: Two alleged terrorists were critically injured in an armed attack by their rivals at Palbadi in the town on Saturday night, reports UNB.

Witnesses said rival members of 'Sunny group' attacked another group leader Hafiz and his associate Kamal, and stabbed them indiscriminately in front of Kamal's house. Locals rushed to the spot and took them to a local hospital where Hafiz's one hand was amputated from arm.

Drugs, firearms recovered

COMILLA, June 23: Drugs worth about Tk 6.5 lakh and 16 firearms were recovered in various drives across the district during the months of April and May, reports UNB.

Police also arrested 12 people during the period. The drugs included 3,638 bottles of phenylid, 174 bottles of Indian wines, 60 liters of homemade wine and heroin, foreign cigarette and hemp. The recovered arms included two revolvers, one pipe gun, three LGs and 15 rounds of bullet, according to police.

News snaps

Nazrul Joyanti celebrated

KISHOREGANJ, June 23: The 101st birth anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam was celebrated by Swarbaro Natya Monchya, Kishoreganj in a befitting manner recently, reports BSS.

On the occasion, a discussion meeting was held at the Shilpkala Academy here which was presided over by Advocate Muzammal Haq Khan, Adviser of Sharbarano while the Secretary of the local District Council Kishoreganj Sobas Sarker was present as the chief guest and M Abdul Mauman, a retired education officer was the special guest. A large number of people of all walks of life attended the function. General Secretary of Swarbaro Debashis Bhownik welcomed all audiences. The meeting was addressed, among others, by Advocate Nasir Uddin Faruque, Advocate Anamika Reza Rozy. The meeting was followed by a cultural function, staged by the local artistes.

Training on modern crops farming

SHARIATPUR, June 23: A daylong training course for farmers, organised by Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC), was held at local TTDC auditorium here on June 18, reports BSS.

A total of 60 farmers from different thanas participated in the training. The participants were imparted training on modern methods of the cultivation of crops and protection of crops from various disasters including attacks of pest and harmful insects.

Outbreak of viral fever, jaundice

KUSHTIA, June 23: An outbreak of viral fever and jaundice affected some 2,000 people in last 15 days, reports UNB.

According to physicians