

## 32 killed in May Law and order deteriorates in Khulna division

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, June 25: The law and order situation is deteriorating in Khulna division day by day. Murder, robbery, toll collection, dacoity, mugging, rape are increasing alarmingly in the division.

A total of 32 persons were killed in the month of May in nine districts of Khulna division.

According to police sources, during the period, seven persons were murdered in Khulna district, five persons each in Jessore, Kushtia and Chuadanga districts, three persons in Narail, four persons in Jhenidah and one person each in Satkhira, Bagerhat and Magura districts.

The persons who were murdered are: Abdul Mannan of Keshabpur, Abdur Razzak of Jhikargachha, an unidentified youth of Sharsha, Selim of Ghope and an unidentified

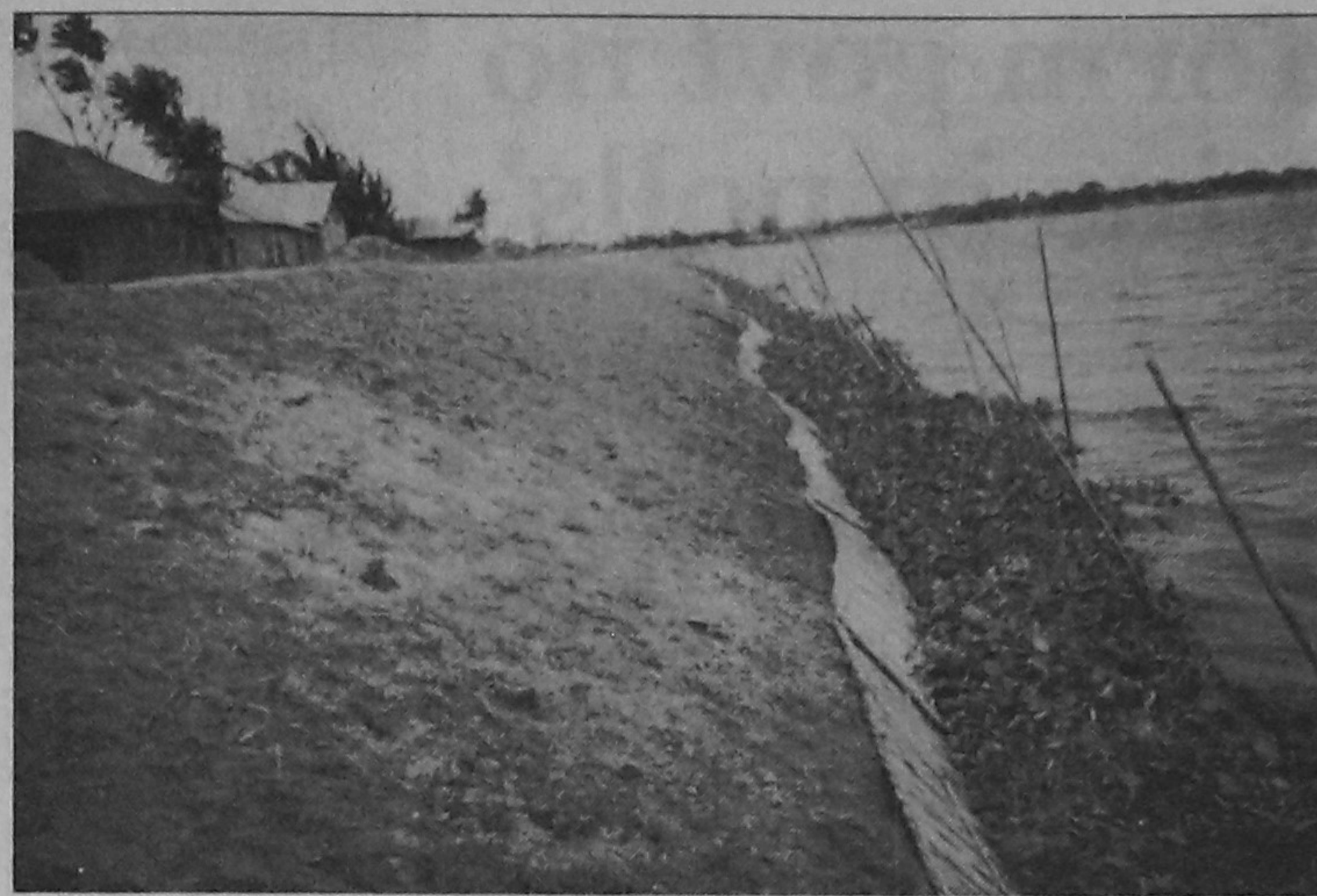
youth of Murail, all of Jessore district. Saiful Islam of Sonadanga, Rehana Khatun and Anwar Hossain of Dumuria, Malati Rani of Koiria, Shahjahan of Labanchara, Nazma Khatun of Pakgachha and Ayub Ali of Dighalia, all of Khulna district. Piyari Begum and Didar of Kalia and Rafi Shaikh all of Narail district. Nasu, Jani, Shariful Islam, Shekhar and Nazrul Islam of Kumarkhali all of Kushtia district. Shahabuddin, mother of Harun and Abdul Jalil of Alamdanga and Nesa Khatun and Shikha of sadar all of Chuadanga district. Parvej, Subal Das and Shukur Ali of Kaliganj and Ala Sardar of Harina Kundu all of Jhenidah district. Meherun of Bagerhat, El-tumish of Magura and Abdus Sattar of Satkhira district.

Besides murder, 58 persons were killed in road accidents, 34 persons committed suicide, 3

persons were killed in road accidents, 25 persons were killed by lightning, 30 persons died by drowning and 12 persons died in other incidents.

During the period, a total of 17 women and minor aged girls were raped in different places of these districts. A total of 65 dacoities were committed in different places of these districts. More than 1000 incidents of robbery, mugging, toll collection and other crimes were committed.

Previously law and order situation improved remarkably after the surrender of outlawed party activists under the general amnesty of 1999 in these districts, but the situation deteriorated due to failure of the administration and the situation took a serious turn at present, observers said.



Construction work of Daya-Jamirta road in Sirajganj district is being hampered seriously due to onrush of flood water. High officials of Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) visited the affected spots. Despite their assurances no effective measures have been taken till now.

— Star photo by Akhteruzzaman Bablu

## Foodgrains procurement drive faces setback in Natore

NATORE, June 25: Space shortage in government food godowns is severely hampering the ongoing IRR-Boro procurement drive in northern region, pushing down the grain prices, reports UNB.

The procurement drive in the region began three weeks behind the schedule as the authorities failed to shift the last year's grains from the silos in time.

Official sources said some 3 lakh mts of wheat, gunny bags and other grains remained stockpiled in the godowns of the region.

A senior official at Rajshahi food office said the government has a target to procure 2,40,000 mts of paddy at Tk 320 per maund and 1,10,000 mts of rice at Tk 520 per maund from the 16 northern districts this season.

"But it is unlikely that the target will be achieved," he said wishing anonymity.

He said there are 124 local supply depots (LSDs), three central supply depots (CSDs), one scientific instrument for loading and off loading (SILO) depots in the northern districts with a capacity of storing 4,75,000 mts of grains.

Among the godowns, 71 LSDs have virtually been abandoned due to their shabby condition and poor road communication. And 56 of them were declared unusable by PWD in 1996 and 1997. But they could not take any steps to renovate the godowns since then.

As the procurement drive failed to gain momentum, grain prices in the districts continued to decline, forcing the farmers to sell paddy at Tk 230-250 per maund, much below the government rate.

Another report from Kushtia says: The farmers of Kushtia district are likely to suffer a setback due to low production of IRR-Boro and low price of the paddy.

Harvesting of Boro has already been completed but the production is less than the expectation due to the storm,

which lashed the district several times at the beginning of May.

Farmers got bumper production last year and as a result they had utilised their land in full capacity this year. But the production is very poor as many power pumps did not work for want of electricity and fall in the groundwater level.

A total of 29,510 hectares of land was brought under the cultivation in the district but the production of per hectare was less than the previous season due to the natural calamity.

On the other hand, the middlemen are controlling the market price of paddy at the cost of growers.

The government has not yet started purchasing paddy from the growers who need immediate money to repay the loan and the water charge of the rich farmers.

A senior official of Agriculture Extension Department of Khulna told that the yielding of Boro paddy this season would be 30 to 35 per cent less than the target.

Bittipara, Bhadalia Ujangram, Laxar of Sadar upazila, several villages of Mirpur and Bheramara upazila are known as the best paddy growing areas of the district. But the growers of these areas will incur a heavy loss for the problems, which they faced in the period of maturing stage of the paddy plant.

Severe nor-westerly accompanied by hailstorms during pre harvesting period, high temperature during maturity stage of paddy and irrigation crisis due to sharp fall in groundwater level in the peak irrigation season made the bumper production impossible, the officials said.

The growers alleged that the supply of fertiliser was inadequate and it was of low quality. They also alleged that the price of fertiliser was high during the peak season (February-April). Besides, a good number of irrigation machines were rendered inoperative due to abnormal fall in groundwater level during

the last March and first half of April.

The price of the newly harvested paddy in the different markets was showing a downward trend from the first week of this month in absence of government procurement drive. The paddy, per maund, is being sold between Tk 210 and Tk 230 in the market.

## Tornado lashes two villages

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, June 25: A tornado lashed two villages under Sadar upazila here last week, injuring at least 100 people and destroying 60 houses.

According to witnesses, the storm, which lasted 15 minutes, also uprooted many trees and destroyed crops in Ishan Gopalpur and Dayarampur villages.

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## Proper initiative can turn Sylhet into a major fruit producing zone

From Rajat Kanti Goswami

MOULVIBAZAR, June 25: The ongoing season is considered to be the season of fruits. The month of Jaistha is also called the Moudhu Mas. Because various kinds of fruits are available in this month.

The north-eastern region of Sylhet division was enriched with different kinds of fruits. The region played a pioneering role in the field of fruit production. Though a bright prospect of fruit production is prevailing in this region, but no effort is being made for massive fruit farming.

The production of almost all kinds of fruits has been decreasing alarmingly due to lack of government initiatives. Lack of public consciousness, lack of scientific cultivation method and above all indiscriminate felling of fruit-bearing trees are the causes of decline in fruit output.

No statistics of various kinds of fruits bearing trees and its production and cultivable land areas are available in any department of government here as they do not maintain data in this regard. Moulvibazar, Sylhet and Habiganj districts are famous for pineapples and jackfruits cultivation. Pineapples cultivated in different hilly areas of these three districts are juicy and delicious.

Pineapple of Srimangal upazila under Moulvibazar district is very popular all over the country. Jackfruit is our national fruit and is cultivated in the hilly and tea garden areas and almost in every homestead. It is a very nutritious and tasteful summer fruit. Jackfruit is popular among the Bangladeshi community living abroad like UK, USA, Canada and the countries of middle-east.

Summer seasonal fruits like blackberry, local varieties of mango, guava and lichi were available in every homestead here previously.

Winter fruit orange was once produced abundantly in Sylhet and Moulvibazar districts.

With a view to celebrating the summer vacation in educational institutions, every year a grand fruit party was used to be arranged by the students and teachers in this region. But now-a-days, this traditional culture is being disappeared because of scarcity and high price of fruits. Favourable climate prevails here with widespread land and man power for growing fruits in Sylhet region.

If the government takes proper initiatives in this regard, Sylhet region can be a top fruit growing zone in the country.

## Goitre patients up in Gr Faridpur

SHARIATPUR, June 25: The number of goitre patients, in greater Faridpur is increasing alarmingly due to iodine deficiency, reports UNB.

A recent survey conducted by Shariatpur Development Organisation (SDO), an NGO, revealed that number of disabled

Jamuna devours  
800 houses in  
Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, June 25: At least 800 houses of five upazilas in the district have been eroded by the River Jamuna during

Agriculture Extension Department (AED) official sources said about 5,000 hectares of croplands of the affected upazilas have gone under water.

Officials and witnesses said water level of the mighty river has been increasing day by day due to onrush of hilly waters. As a result the erosion has taken such a serious turn.

The erosion affected upazilas are: Sirajganj Sadar, Kazipur, Belkuchi, Chowhali and Shahjapur while the seriously affected upazilas are Chowhali and Shahjapur. At least 550 houses of the two seriously affected upazilas have been eroded. In Sirajganj Sadar, Kazipur, Belkuchi upazilas the rest 250 houses have been devoured by the river. The erosion affected people have taken shelter on the Water Development Board (WDB) embankment and other highlands.

people has also increased in the five districts owing to iodine deficiency that hamper their physical and mental growth.

The districts are Faridpur, Shariatpur, Madaripur, Gopalganj and Rajbari.

On average the daily intake of iodine for an adult should be 150 microgram, but this could not be procured from water and soil, the main sources of iodine, the report said.

Excess rainfall and flood water wash away iodine every year. To meet the deficit of iodine in human body, government enacted a law in 1994 for producing, selling and using iodized salt.

But with a view to gain windfall profit, a section of unscrupulous traders are engaged in selling non-iodized salt showing disregard to the official rules.

Local people alleged that the businessmen are selling the non-iodized salt in colourful packets labeling it as iodized salt.

Non-iodized salt from across the border has flooded the local market and is being sold at a very cheap rate. Poor people, unaware of benefits of iodine, are using the sub-standard salt, said a local doctor.

The survey also revealed that only 42 per cent of the total population in five districts now use iodized salt.

Local elite called upon the government and voluntary organisations to launch strong publicity drive to make the people living in rural areas aware of benefits of using iodized salt.

## Magura DIARY

### Removal of principal demanded

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, June 25: A section of students of Aminur Rahman Degree College in Mohammadpur upazila here brought out a procession recently in the district headquarters demanding the removal of the college principal.

The agitating students also chanted slogans against the college management and demanded investigation into the alleged misappropriation of college fund. The procession paraded main thoroughfares of the town. The students also submitted a memorandum to deputy commissioner of Magura. Additional Deputy Commissioner Farooque Ahmed Khan received the memo on behalf of the DC.

When contacted the principal of the college, Motiur Rahman, denied the allegations and said he was the victim of conspiracy.

### School teachers' sit-in

District unit of Non-government Schoolteachers' Association (Kamruzzaman group) staged a sit-in in front of the office of Magura Deputy Commissioner (DC) last week.

They also submitted a five-point memorandum to the DC. The teachers also held a rally in the office premises of DC. The rally was addressed, among others, by Gohm Rabbani, Chittaranjan Shikdar and Jafar Ali Benu.

### Old man slaughtered

An old man was slaughtered at village Rajapur in Mohamudpur upazila recently.

The victim was identified as Kutubuddin, 70. According to police, the old man was killed over land dispute. Three people were arrested in this connection. They were identified as Ayenuddin, Ali and Ali Khan.

### 13 convicted in murder case

A court here recently convicted 13 people in a murder case.

Of the convicted people, two were sentenced to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment (RI) each. They were identified as Bebdas and Sumit Kumar. Others got six months RI each.

According to the prosecution, the convicts attacked the house of Sanjit Biswas at village Thaipara under Shalikhap upazila and stabbed him on April 20, 1998. Later Biswas succumbed to his injuries in hospital. After examining the witnesses and records Additional District and Sessions Judge ARM Zahir Ahmed pronounced the verdict.

## News snaps

### Mehedi 7th in Humanities group

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, June 25: Mehedi Hasan, Cadet No 959, of Barisal Cadet College stood seventh in Humanities group in the SSC examinations under Jessore Education Board this year.

He obtained 856 marks with six letters. His father Md Shaheed Imam is serving as the principal officer in Rupali Bank Ltd at Jhalakata and mother is a headmaster of a Government Primary School. Mehedi's hobby is reading books. He is the eldest son of his parents. Mehedi wants to be an army officer.



### Mujib 12th in Science group

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, June 25: Mohammad Mujibar Rahman Rony, a Cadet of Comilla Cadet College stood 12th in Science group in the SSC examinations under Jessore Education Board this year.

He got 909 marks with seven letters. His father Dr Abdur Razzak is now serving in the Department of Cardiology of Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital (SBMCH).

Mujib is the second son of his parents. He wants to be a physician.



### Masud 15th in Humanities group

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, June 25: Mohammad Masudur Rahman, Cadet No 941 of Barisal Cadet College secured 15th place in the Humanities group in the SSC examination under Jessore Education Board this year.

He got 838 marks in total with four letters in Mathematics, General Science, Karmamukhi and Geography. His father Mohammad Mintu Mia of Tangail is a businessman. Masud is a gentle Cadet. He is the eldest son among three sons of his parents. Masud's hobby is reading books. He wants to be an army officer.



### Zahid 19th in Humanities group

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, June 25: Abdullah Al Zahid, Cadet No-933, of Barisal Cadet College stood 19th in the Humanities group in the SSC examination under Jessore Education Board this year.

He got 831 marks with three letters in Mathematics, General Science and Karmamukhi. His father DM Maqbul Hossain of Tangil is working as a laboratory assistant at Mirzapur Cadet College. Abdullah is the youngest son among seven children of his parents. His hobby is reading books. In future he wants to be an army officer.



### Sohani wants to be a lawyer

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, June 25: Sohani Kushon of Jhenidah Government High School stood sixth among female students and 11th in Humanities group in SSC examination in Jessore Board this year.

Sohani secured 851 marks with letter marks in English, Mathematics, General Science, Islamic Religion, Geography and Agriculture. Usually she reads for seven hours daily. While talking to this correspondent Sohani told that her hobby was reading of books and listening to songs. She wants to be a lawyer so that she can stand by the distressed people who are deprived of proper justice. Sohani's father, Abu Bakar hails from village Chandpur in Saikupa thana now residing in Jhenidah town is a businessman.



### Taimur read for 8 hrs daily

Taimur Hossain of Garaganj High School in Saikupa thana stood 14th in the combined merit list in SSC examination from Jessore Board this year.

Securing 841 marks Taimur bagged letter marks in Mathematics, General Science, Economics, Islamic Religion and Agriculture. Hailing from village Krishnanagar in the same thana Taimur's father Tofazzel Hossain is a farmer. Taimur usually reads for eight hours daily. He also obtained primary and junior scholarships.



### He hands over boy to police

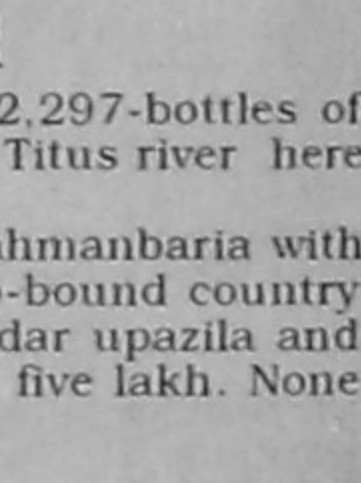
NAOGAON, June 25: As his all efforts to correct his drug addict son went in vain, a man of Ukil Mohalla in the town handed over the spoiled boy to police, reports UNB.

Police said Abdul Jabbar handed over his drug addict son Sohel to them as his wildness for drug reached an unbearable stage. Another report adds: A middle-aged man, Yusuf Ali, was electrocuted at Julapottimor in the town while repairing a transformer on June 14.

### Phensidyl seized

BRAHMANBARIA, June 25: Police seized 2,297-bottles of smuggled Indian phensidyl from a boat on the Titus river here recently, reports BSS.

Action on a tip-off, Police Super (SP) of Brahmanbaria with a team of police personnel raided the Bhairab-bound country boat near Chokarnaghat in Brahmanbaria sadar upazila and seized the contraband item worth about Taka five lakh. None was arrested.



## RU budget session June 28

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAH UNIVERSITY, June 25: The annual budget session of the university Senate will be held on June 28, official sources said.

The session will take place at the University Senate building on the campus. Vice Chancellor (VC) Prof Sayeedur Rahman Khan is expected to preside over the budget session while Treasurer Prof Abul Fazl Huq will present the budget for 2000-2001 fiscal year.

Pro-VC Prof M Wazed Ali will also be present in the budget session. However, all the incumbent members of the university senate have been requested to attend the session.

## Girl kidnapped in Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, June 25: A schoolgirl was kidnapped by armed miscreants from Shahjapur municipality area on Wednesday.

The girl was identified as Shanta Islam, daughter of Majibur Rahman of Domepara under Shahjapur municipality.

Police said the gang, numbering about seven, kidnapped the girl from in front of Shahjapur girls' School.

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer

Public Works E/M Division-8, Mirpur, Dhaka

## Tender Invitation Notice

No-1 Pra100/99-2000

- 1) Tenders in Bangladesh Form No-2911 in sealed addressed envelopes are invited from special class I/class I (E/M) class II E/M contractor's establishments having valid ABC/BC supervisory and contractor's licence and Value Added Tax Department registration/TIN certificates enlisted with Public Works Department for the undermentioned work. Tenders will be received in the tender box kept at the offices of the Executive Engineer, Public Works E/M Division-8, Mirpur, Dhaka including the division till 12:00 Noon on 6-7-2000 and will be opened the same day at 12:30 PM in presence of tenderers (if anyone remain present).
- 2) Tender form, schedule of items and rules and regulations etc can be seen and purchased from the offices of the Executive Engineer, Public Works E/M Division-1/2/3/4/5/6/7, Timber Workshop Division, Workshop Division, Public Works Eden Building Division, Dhaka including this division during office hours latest by 5-7-2000 on payment of Taka 425/= in cash (non-refundable) by the contractor firms or their nominated representatives by producing all necessary papers including registration books.
- 3) Tenderers must submit the original money receipt for purchasing tender at the time of submitting tender.
- 4) Security money at the rate of 2% of the estimated cost in the form of Bank Draft/Pay-Order/CD from any scheduled bank in favour of the Executive Engineer, Public Works E/M Division-8, Mirpur, Dhaka will have to be deposited with each tender. Otherwise, tenders will be treated as rejected.
- 5) Mentionable that quantity of items including the amount of estimated cost/specification/rate etc will be refixed with necessary amendments on the basis of the approved technical estimate for the said work.
- 6) The authority is not obliged to accept the lowest tender of the tenderer and reserves/maintains power to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.

Serial No	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Time allowed
1.	Installation of wiring in concealed system by attiring the old and inoperative batten wiring and alteration of fittings the 8-unit residences of residence No W-4 (first floor), 8-unit W-6 first floor or the class III employees of Chest Disease Instt and Hospital at Mohakhali in Dhaka.	Tk 3,78,281	Tk 7570	21 (twenty-one) days.

DFP-15636-20/6  
G-1227

Executive Engineer  
Public Works E/M Division-8, Mirpur  
Dhaka.

## BCIC Tender Notice

বিসিআইসি পণ্য শিপিংয়ে কাজের অগ্রগতি রিপোর্ট

The Managing Director, Zia Fertilizer Company Limited, Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria invites sealed tender in two envelope system for procurement of various types of V-Belt & Ball Bearing against Tender No CM/MPIC/112/2000.

Tender schedule may be purchased on payment of Tk 400/- only from