

Split in Netrakona BNP

From Jahangir Alam

NETRAKONA, Aug 9: Serious disagreement and conflict between two factions of Netrakona district BNP has been prevailing, hampering organisational activities of the main opposition party.

Workers and supporters of BNP in district town including 10 upazila headquarters are frustrated.

The conflict surfaced in the middle of 1998 when the then former district Jatiya Party president and former Zila Parishad chairman Asrafuddin Khan left Jatiya Party and joined BNP. In April this year, chairperson of BNP Begun Khaleda Zia appointed Asrafuddin Khan president of Netrakona district BNP without any conference.

Because of the decision of chairperson, leaders and workers are divided. One group is led by Asrafuddin Khan and another group is led by former MP Abu Abbas.

The two factions take part in organisational activities separately. It has caused frustration among workers at grassroots level.

The conflict has taken a serious turn when general secretary of the new district BNP committee Abu Taher Talukdar filed a case under PSA accusing 16 JCD and Juba Dal activists.

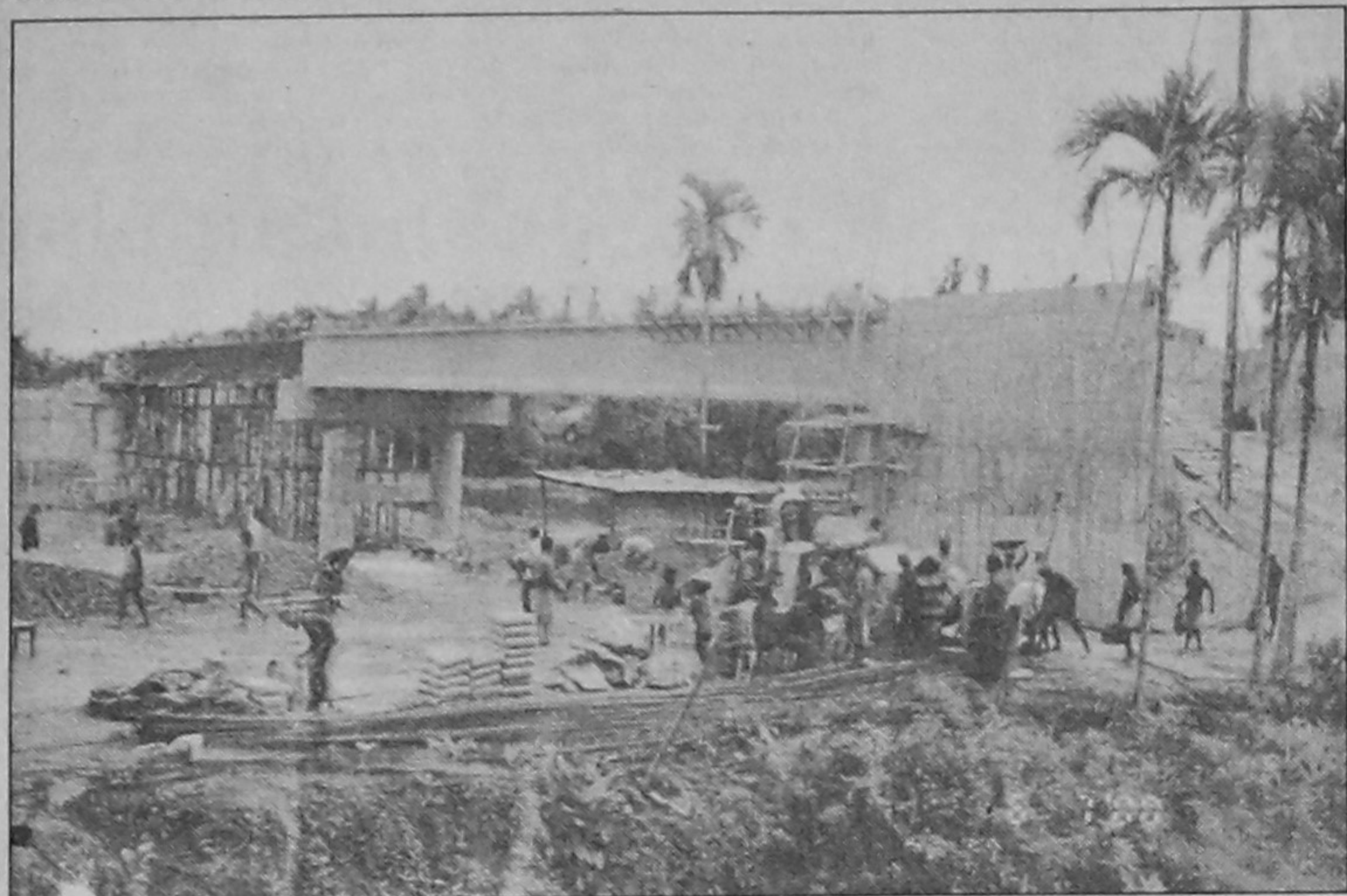
Former whip and former district BNP president advocate M.A. Karim, general secretary of district BNP Abdul Kuddus Advocate, former joint secretary of Netrakona district BNP and general secretary of Bangladesh Human Rights Organization Advocate Nuruzzaman (Nuru), former vice-president of Netrakona district BNP Nurul Islam Bhuiyan, former BNP secretary of Netrakona Municipalities Kamal Ahmed, and convenor of district Krishok Dal Salauddin Khan (Milky) have rallied round Abu Abbas.

General secretary of the new district BNP committee Abu Taher Talukdar, organising secretary of district BNP Mahfuzul Haque, president and secretary of Netrakona sadar upazila BNP Shamsul Alam (Maruf) and Rafiqul Islam (Jweel) are the main backers of Asrafuddin group.

The internal conflict of Netrakona BNP is tarnishing the image of late President Ziaur Rahman and that of Begun Khaleda Zia day by day.

BNP workers are getting frustrated gradually. Awami League has been gaining ground due to this reality.

An influential leader of Netrakona district BNP Advocate Nuruzzaman (Nuru) told this correspondent that central leaders should resolve the conflict immediately for the greater interest of the party. He added, if this situation continues the party will face a serious setback.



Construction work of Chitra Bridge in Narail district, a dream of renowned artist late S.M. Sultan was started in 1995, but its work remains stalled for reasons unknown to all. Initially an amount of Taka 4 crore was allocated and on another occasion an amount of Taka 19 lakh was allocated for the purpose. None knows when the rest work of this bridge will be completed. On completion of the bridge the distance of Narail with the capital city will be shortened by 100 kilometres.

—Star photo

Landslides claim 12

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, Aug 9: Landslides claimed 12 lives and injured 35 others last month.

Four members of a family were killed and six others sustained injuries in a landslide at Himchhari village under Ramu upazila on July 19.

The dead victims were identified as Abdur Rahim, 45, and his wife and children named Rahima Khatun, 35, Salamat Ullah, 4, and Enayet Ullah, 2, Rehana Begum, 22, and her two day old son Muktar Ahmed were killed in the incident.

The landslide occurred due to incessant rain. The victims met the tragic end of their lives when their houses collapsed.

Local people recovered the bodies and rescued six injured people by digging mud.

Another incident of landslide occurred at Muhurpara village of Sadar upazila on July 24. A seven-year-old boy Saiful Hassan killed and five others sustained injuries in this incident.

Local people recovered the body and rescued the five injured persons by digging mud.

Earlier, five members of a family were killed and three others injured in another landslide at Fakirjhum village under Moheshkhali upazila on July 17.

The dead persons were identified as Mohsena Begum, 40, and her four children named Dilruba Begum, 12, Yasmin, 5, Sagor Hossain, 6, and Kajema Khanam, 3.

On the other hand, 21 people were injured in four separate incidents of landslide at Teknaf, Ramu and Ukhiya upazilas last month.

Sub-standard treatment in clinics

From Akhteruzzaman Bablu

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 9: The standard of treatment in private hospitals and clinics is deteriorating day by day.

There are even allegations against some clinics of cheating. There is a government hospital, nine health complexes, many health sub-centres in the district. The government hospital was established in 1958 as a 100 bed hospital. Now rush of patients to hospital has mounted so high that it always remains overcrowded. Patients are always seen to crowd in the floors and verandahs. There are no sufficient number of doctors, nurses, and ayas. Medical facilities are too short to meet the demands. So the patients are to suffer much. Especially the patients of general surgery, obstetrics, gynecology, orthopedics and neuro-surgery are to suffer most. They are to wait for weeks after weeks on the beds and floors to have their turns.

In this perspective, private clinics are established and gained popularity. These clinics also become overcrowded, commercially viable within a very short period. This has led to establishment of more new clinics. As a result a mushroom growth of clinics took place. The private clinics are increasing in number every year. The office of the civil surgeon could not say the actual number of private clinics and hospitals working in the town and other upazilas. The number will be over 100 said an official. These private hospitals and clinics are mainly surgery-based. But most of those have no well-equipped operation theatre. In Sirajganj Hospital, Moven Uddin Memorial Hospital and Clinic, Poli Clinic are the few exceptions which are more or less well-equipped and well-managed with modern operation theatres. Others have no cardiac monitor or pulse oxymeter. Situation of cleanliness and sanitation is not satisfactory in most of the clinics. Patients are kept in corridors and verandahs, raising temporary curtains of cloth and hardboards. The rooms are not cleared properly. Bed smells evolve from the rooms. When number of patients increases sufferings of patients multiply.



A private clinic in Sirajganj town

—Star photo

Only one or two junior doctors run a clinic. They do not attend the patients always when needed. Nurses are not trained well. The clinic owners do not usually appoint nurses from the nursing institutes, rather than take untrained distressed young women at a very less amount of salary. They cannot give expected service to the patients. Operations are also done by junior doctors in most clinics. As a result number of complications are abnormally higher in the private clinics. Senior and specialist doctors come only when called for. Patients are to pay extra price for these visits. Doctors, nurses and other employees of these clinics are given abnormally less amount of salary. That is why they cannot become serious and sincere in their duties. A junior (simple MBBS) doctor is given only Taka 3,000 to Taka 5,000 per month. But he or she has to work for at least 10-12 hours a day. On the other hand an experienced nurse having no degree gets only Taka 5,000 per month. But he or she has to work for at least 10-12 hours a day. On the other hand, an experienced nurse having no degree gets only Taka 1,000 to Taka 12,000 per month.

The clinics charge Taka 5,000 to 12,000 from the patient for a minor operation. Taka 35,000 for major operation. Seat rents range from Taka 80 to Taka 150 in ordinary wards and Taka 200 to Taka 300 for cabins per day. Most clinics have their own diagnostic units.

It is alleged that patients are often advised to do unnecessary

investigation. These diagnostic units lack trained and experienced laboratory technicians. These are more serious allegation against some clinics. They catch patients by their agents and compel them to get operated though it is not necessary. There are even allegations that only the skin has been incised in the name of operation. Patients coming from rural areas and outside Sirajganj usually become victims of cheating.

Sirajganj District Civil Surgeon office sources acknowledged the prevailing situation in the private clinics.

There is no clear cut specific rules and regulations to supervise the private hospitals and clinics, said an official in the office of the Civil Surgeon. So the malpractices and irregularities goes on, he said.

Some clinic-owners said that there was a system of registration for the private clinics previously, but the system is not followed now. The registration fee is Taka 5,000. The registration should be renewed every year paying Taka 5,000. "We applied for registration 2/3 years ago, but the concerned authorities have not sent any team to visit our clinic," said an owner of a clinic on condition of anonymity. So their registration remain hanged, he said.

For this reason the government is being deprived of a handsome amount of revenue income every year.

The government should promulgate specific rules and regulations regarding establishment and running of clinics to check malpractices and irregularities.

Housewife receives acid injuries in Rangpur

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Aug 9: Unidentified miscreants threw acid on a housewife at Kismat Jhija village under Pirgachha upazila recently.

The woman was rushed to hospital.

Family sources said miscreants threw acid on Ayesha Khatun, 35, at night when she came out of house.

Details could not be known. A case was filed.

Obituary



From A Correspondent

DINAJPUR, Aug 9: Md Saidul Haque, retired Circle Officer (Rev), a former member of East Pakistan Civil Service (EPCS) and father of Md Mesbatul Ferdous, Acting Editor of the Weekly Dinajpurer Kagoj died on August 1 at his residence at Araje Alrai Shakoopara in Parbatpur upazila. He was 70.

He left behind his widow, five sons, three daughters and a large number of admirers to mourn his death.

The namaz-e-janaza of the deceased was held at the local Nurul Majid High School premises on August 2. He was buried at his family graveyard at his village. He was involved in many social works.

Installation of TV sub-centre begins in Rangamati

RANGAMATI, Aug 9: A team of experts from France has started installing a tower of Rangamati Television Sub-centre which is likely to be completed by September to fulfil the long-felt demand of people in the district, reports BSS.

An amount of Taka 13 crore was allocated to construct the Rangamati Television Sub-centre with the French assistance of Taka 10 crore, executive engineer of Rangamati Unit of Public Works Department said.

Construction of infrastructure of TV Sub-centre has already been completed under the supervision of local PWD unit, official said.

Rangamati TV Sub-centre is likely to start functioning from September next, official sources said.

15 hurt in Noakhali

NOAKHALI, Aug 9: A clash between land less and landowners at Charbagya in Sadar upazila last week left at least 15 people injured, six critically, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the clash erupted on August 2 when the landowners tried to evict the landless people from the land they took on lease from the government. The landless people have been living on the land for a long time.

Of the injured, Idris, 29, Monnan, 50, Latif, 47, Kadir, 52, Nurul Huda, 48, and Efran Uddin, 59, were admitted to hospital.

Meanwhile, about 16 people were injured, four by bullets, when robbers opened fire on them during a robbery at the house of Abdul Kaseem of village Kaladrip in Sadar upazila on August 1. The robbers fired the villagers when they tried to chase them.

Rapist gets life term

KISHOREGANJ, Aug 9: A court here has convicted a man and sentenced him to lifetime imprisonment for violating an eight-year-old girl, reports UNB.

Third Additional Sessions Judge SM Helal Uddin awarded Matiur Rahman with the punishment for seducing the girl of Khagra village in Pakundia upazila.

People of Chhaygaon.

Construction of Feni Diabetic Hospital completed

From Our Correspondent

FENI, Aug 9: Construction of 25-bed Feni Diabetic Hospital has been completed.

According to Feni Diabetic Association, the three storied hospital at a cost of Taka three crore was constructed in Mizan Road area in the town with the financial assistance of Health Ministry.

The construction work started in 1995. Patients from Feni, Noakhali and Laxmipur will be benefited from the hospital.

Policemen's predicament

From Anwar Ali

NATORE, Aug 9: A growing tendency of taking voluntary retirement at the police department here is visible in recent days.

Sources in the Natore police said, a total of 56 police men have volunteered to go on retirement in the last three and a half years in the district. Most of the policemen are of the rank of constable.

Official sources could not show any reasonable reason for this tendency among the constables. A senior police official, however, pointed out that this occupation of police has, now-a-days, become risky and troublesome following the rising tendency of crimes and their pattern.

The constables' financial supports are not adequate for their survival, he added.

Several constables told this correspondent that the legal

opportunity of enjoying leaves are rare in the police department.

The concerned law permits every government employee to enjoy 30 days leave in a year. But, it was reported in many cases that the constables are deprived of the opportunity.

Sometimes, the constables are to perform much more duty due to the increasing rate of crimes and lack of manpower in police.

Official sources said, at least 50 posts of constable are lying vacant for a long time while there are 184 posts in the Special Armed Force (SAF) here.

In recent days the acceptability of police has remarkably decreased following their corruption. People hardly honour policemen. This may be a reason for leaving this job.

An official, however, said that a good amount of pension money lures policemen leave the job.

Child-lifters active in Moulvibazar

From Rajat Kanti Goswami

MOULVIBAZAR, Aug 9: Panic of child lifting has gripped the inhabitants of this district town and other areas.

Janl, 8, son of Monju driver became unconscious when a unknown woman tried to abduct him while he was returning home from his school on August 2. The woman escaped safely when pedestrians understood her ill motive.

This incident occurred at the old hospital road near the government boys high school here.

Mujib, son of Jalal Miah of Nasratur village under

Kamalganj upazila and Talia, daughter of late Alauddin Mohalder of Kumrakopon village under the same upazila were abducted recently. Police of Kamalganj thana rescued Mujib, but Talia returned home later on. Two women were arrested in this connection and they were sent to jail.

Most of the guardians of the school-going children are increasingly becoming worried.

However, police of Moulvibazar Sadar Police Station, said they have no information about child lifting.

Test saffron farming

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, Aug 9: Saffron, the orange-yellow colouring and flavouring powder obtained from the flowers of the crocus plant, is being cultivated at Horticulture Development Centres of Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) here.

Saffron, locally known as *jafran*, is one of the valuable spices of the world. *Jafran* is used in cooking to give colour and flavour to food.

According to officials, saffron cultivation is going on at nine Horticulture Development Centres on experimental basis.

Officials said out of ten plots at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre, two plants had bloomed and others were growing fast.

Officials said during March to April crocus or saffron plants grow well. The plants start blooming within one and a half years.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.

Now saffron is collected from India. If saffron can be produced successfully, the country will be able to earn foreign exchange, officials at Muktagachha Horticulture Development Centre said.