

Upazila roundup

JHENIDAH

BCL demands reopening of edn. institutions

From Our Correspondent

Aug 19: Jhenidah district Chhatra League (H-A) brought out a procession here demanding the reopening of all closed educational institutions, elimination of campus violence and adoption of Indemnity repeat Bill Saturday.

The processionists paraded the main thoroughfares of the town and chanted various slogans. After the procession a protest meeting was also arranged at local Govt KC College campus chaired by Saidul Karim Mintu while Nazrul Islam, GS Chhatra League BTT, Rajshahi unit and Ananda Kumar Bhowmik, President, Chhatra League, Matihar Hall unit, Rajshahi varsity were present as chief and special guests respectively.

KUSHIA

Mechanised boat with smuggled goods seized

Aug 19: Bangladesh Rifles seized a mechanised boat and recovered huge quantity of smuggled goods worth about Tk 1.20 lakh from the river Padma near Chilmari border outpost, reports UNB.

The goods seized recently include 185 pieces of Indian bi-cycle tube and 180 kgs of spices. The gang of smugglers and the boatman jumped into the river and escaped.

A case has been registered with Daulatpur police station in this connection.

Local people alleged that the smugglers with the collaboration of influential are engaged in this heinous act for a long time. They urged the authorities to take stringent action against the smugglers who are ruining the country's economy.

PABNA

Heroin recovered, one arrested

Aug 19: Narcotics Control Department arrested a man and recovered 45 grams of heroin worth about Tk 5 lakh from Radhanagar area of the town, reports UNB.

According to sources, Abdur Rashid (36), of Ramanandhapur of Pabna Sadar upazila was arrested in this connection Saturday.

The sources said that the recovered heroin was handed over to local customs authority and a case was filed with Pabna Police station.

SHIBALAYA

Indian saris seized

Aug 19: Police here seized Indian saris worth about Tk 50,000 at Aricha Ferryghat Saturday, reports UNB.

Acting on a secret information, police raided a Dhaka bound passenger coach from Khulna and recovered the contraband items.

A boy was arrested in this connection and a case was lodged with the local police.

FARIDPUR

Chehum of Shamsuddin Mollah held

Aug 19: The Chehum of veteran Awami League leader and former MP Shamsuddin Mollah was held yesterday at his Khaspur residence here, reports BSS.

People of all walks of life including local Awami League, CPB and JSD leaders attended the Chehum.

Mr Mollah did of old age complications on July 10.

CHUADANGA

5 held for bank dacoity

From Our Correspondent

Aug 19: Jibannagar than police under Chuadanga district arrested five persons, from different areas of Jibannagar Upazila on August 14 last in connection with a bank dacoity committed at the Uthali Sonali Bank branch under Jibannagar upazila recently.

It learnt that the Officer-in-charge of Jibannagar police station arrested one Lokman Hossain of village Sirganj on August 14 last. On the basis of his confession police recovered one country made gun, three rounds of 17S ammunition and two live bombs from the house of the arrested persons.

The police also arrested four of his accomplices the same day from different villages of Jibannagar. The other arrested persons are Yunus, Tetul, Mukul and Afzar.

RANGPUR

Tk 1,70,000 missing from Sonali Bank

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Aug 19: An amount of Taka 1,70,000 was lost from the principal branch of Sonali Bank in a ghostly incident on Sunday, police sources said.

It is learnt that one of the colleagues of cashier of the bank told the cashier that he had a telephone call on the other room of the bank.

Cashier Akram Ali locked his cash and went to attend the phone but on return he saw his cash was open and Taka 1,70,000 was short in it.

Police arrested four employees including the cashier and the telephone informer in this connection.

NARAYANGANJ

6 dacoits held

Aug 19: Police arrested six alleged dacoits and recovered two hand bombs and two Chinese knives from their possession from Nischintapur at Pagla under Fatullah Police Station here Friday night, reports UNB.

Patrol police headed by ASI Shahadat Hossain challenged a gang of 10 armed miscreants at 2 pm for their suspicious movement near local rail line and arrested five of them while others managed to escape. The miscreants while fleeing hurled three cocktails at the police.

Police said the miscreants were preparing to commit a dacoity. On their confessional statement, police arrested another one on the following morning.

The arrested are: Ramzan (19), Ishaque (20), Shamsul (22), Harun (20), Sona Miah (23), and Kalu (18).

A case was filed in this connection.

MAULVI BAZAR

Indiscriminate felling of trees on

Aug 19: Several densely planted areas of the district have been denuded by indiscriminate felling of trees for use in the brickfields as firewood, reports UNB.

Firewood for domestic cooking is hard to find and the price is beyond the reach of the common villagers. At present, one maund of firewood is selling between Tk 70 and Tk 80.

The worst sufferers are the middle income group and the day labourers who have to procure firewood for their daily kitchen needs.

According to sources, about 20 lakh maunds of firewood are needed in the district every year. Natural calamities are also responsible for the extinction of forestry, according to experts.

GAIBANDHA

Massive Aman farming plan

From Our Correspondent

Aug 19: District Agriculture Extension Department has under taken a massive transplanted Aman cultivation plan in the district during the current crop season.

A total of 1,19,766 hectares land will be brought under intensive Aman cultivation. Of them HYV will be cultivated on 78,193 hectares and local variety on 41,573 hectares.

Meanwhile HYV seedlings have been transplanted on 54,735 hectares and local variety on 16,629 hectares land. Besides, according to official source, Aman seedlings on 400 hectares of land were damaged completely during last flash flood in the district.

SIRAJGANJ

Flood situation deteriorates

Aug 19: Flood situation in six upazilas of the district deteriorated further following continuous rise in water level of the Jamuna river.

The river is now flowing below 12 centimetres of danger level engulfing more than hundred villages, district flood control cell said yesterday.

About 15 thousand people are affected in Kazipur, Sadar, Belkuchi, Chowhalli, Royganj and Shajadpur upazilas.

Flood water have penetrated Char areas of Kazipur upazila affecting about 10 thousand people, villagers said.

Standing crops on about 50 thousand acres of land have been completely damaged by flood water and farmers fear they will starve in absence of new grain season.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia inaugurating the national tree plantation programme by planting a sapling at Salna in Gazipur district on August 13. — PID photo

Bamboo clusters on the wane

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Aug 19: Bamboo production is declining very fast due to lack of proper maintenance, nursing of bamboo clusters and absence of planned plantation programme.

The district was once very famous for bamboo production. There were thousands of clusters on vast tracts of the district but now they are vanished. As such acute scarcity of bamboo has been prevailing in these areas and consequently prices of bamboo have increased several times.

On the other hand no efforts are being taken to save the bamboo clusters from decaying in these areas. The owners of the clusters lack

production method. The bamboos are lifted at random and sold in the markets as firewood. Tender bamboo plants are not left to spread for future growth.

Production of bamboo is not increasing according to the growing needs of the people. This has also created an adverse effect on both day labourers and bamboo based cottage industry.

Meanwhile, repair and construction works of kutcha houses in the rural areas are being hampered badly for want of bamboo and traditional cottage industry depending on bamboos is also facing extinc-

tion. It may be stated that 90 per cent of the houses in the rural areas are kutcha and bamboo is basically used for the construction of these houses. The price of a bamboo is now between Taka 60 and 80. As a result, 75 per cent of the villagers are unable to buy it at an exorbitant price.

The sufferings of those who depend on bamboo based industry for their livelihood are uncountable. Many of them are sitting idle for want of work while others have been compelled to leave the profession due to poor return from their products.

Eight members of Kumira Union Parishad under Tala upazila demanded immediate removal of Atiar Rahman, UP Chairman for his alleged involvement in corruption.

The UP members in a meeting expressed their dissatisfaction over the Chairman accusing him of abuse of power, misuse of funds, misbehaviour with the members and misappropriation of wheat and taking bribe.

They also submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner, Satkhira and urged the authorities to probe the allegations and take immediate action against him.

Madrasha education faces setback

From Our Correspondent

NANDAIL, Aug 19: Ebtedal Madrasha in the upazila are facing closure due to financial crisis caused by the non-payment of the government grants.

In a meeting held at Bhatganj Bazar Maidan the teachers expressed their grave concern over the situation now prevailing in Madrasha education sector.

Children are deprived of Ebtedal system of education which could easily bring light of knowledge with combination of Quranic and primary education, the speakers added.

Presided over by Moulana Abu Taher Khan, President, Ebtedal Education Implementation Movement Committee the meeting was addressed by Ismat Bhuiyan, Abdur Rahman, Khondakar Golam Sandani and Abdullah Mir.

15 injured as students clash in Rangpur

RANGPUR, Aug 19: About 15 students were injured following a clash between rival groups of students at Pirgacha on Thursday, witnesses said, reports UNB.

They said the clash occurred when Chhatra League (N-S) brought out a victory procession on the campus as their organisation won all the seats in the Government Rangpur College. Student Union election held on Wednesday.

The trouble started when procession was crossing the meeting venue of Chhatra League (S-A) which was observing Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib's 16th death anniversary.

Police immediately rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

The resident students except HSC examinees have been asked to vacate the hostel, college administration sources said.

Teenage girl gang raped

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Aug 19: A teenage school girl of village Ramkristopur under Sadar upazila of the district has been lying unconscious at the hospital after having been gang raped, hospital sources said today, reports UNB.

Police sources said, the girl (15), a student of Class Nine, was kidnapped by some boys of the same village on August 9.

The kidnapers took her to a house and forcibly violated her one after another until she lost her senses. Later the victim was taken to Sadar hospital for treatment.

A case has been filed with Chapainawabganj police in this connection.

Rural hats, bazars in bad shape

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGONJ, Aug 19: The hats and bazars in 13 upazilas of the district are in pitiable condition causing immense sufferings to both customers and sellers.

Lack of proper maintenance by the authorities concerned is the main reason behind the gradual deterioration of the condition of hats and bazars.

These markets came into being at local initiative, but there is no proportional expansion of bazars according to the growing population. Not a single bazar has drainage system. The situation worsens during rainy season when most of the hats and bazars go under knee-deep water. Congested places for selling fish, vegetables and other commodities and extortion of tolls by ijardars have multiplied the difficulties of buyers and sellers.

Absence of pure drinking water facilities in these markets is an added problem. All the district hats and bazars lack latrines and urinals. Filths and garbage are piled up hither and thither emitting bad odour threatening public health.

Shopping of different commodities on the adjacent roads and lanes of the hats and bazars in the district is a regular feature.

Pests damage crops on 12000 acres

JAMALPUR, Aug 19: Standing aus crops on about 12,000 acres of land have been seriously damaged and fresh areas are being attacked by pests creating concern among the farmers in seven upazilas of the district, reports UNB.

The pests locally known as pamri, mazra have been causing extensive damage to crops in Dewanganj, Islampur, Bakshiganj, Melandah, Madarganj, Sharishabari and sadar upazilas.

According to farmers, after the attack, paddy plants turn yellowish and gradually dry up. Agriculture extension Department officials said that adequate preventive measure could not be taken due to acute scarcity of insecticides and spray machines.

Local people alleged that most spray machines are lying inoperative in the office store for want of spares.

They urged the authorities to spray insecticides on the croplands to combat the menace without further delay.

3 killed in road accidents

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, Aug 19: Three persons were killed and four others received injuries in a road accident on Mymensingh-Tangail road at Muktagacha recently. The victims were Shahjahan (16), Abdul Matin (12) and Janab Ali (35).

Satful Islam (8) was killed in another accident recently on Mymensingh-Kishoreganj road.

Separate cases have been filed with Muktagacha and Iswarganj police station in this connection.

Students urged to make campus violence-free

TANGAIL, Aug 19: State Minister for Relief Lutfur Rahman Khan yesterday called upon the people to give their verdict on the system of government in the coming referendum, reports BSS.

He was addressing a gathering of students and local people at the premises of Government M M Ali College in Tangail.

Presided over by the Principal of the college the meeting was also addressed by Abdus Salam Pintoo MP.

Recalling the vital role of the students during the recent democratic movement, the State Minister said students were the backbone of the nation because they would lead the country in the future.

He advised the students to engage themselves in their studies and to make the campus free from terrorism by sinking differences among them.

Students ransack DC office in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 19: A Chhatra joint procession of pro-JSD (Inu) Chhatra League (N-S) and Union, demanding release of a student leader, yesterday ransacked Deputy Commissioner's office, reports UNB.

Police arrested seven persons, including President of the district unit of Chhatra Union Nasiruddin and General Secretary of the Chhatra League (N-S) district unit Mahmud-A-Khoda Tutul who were leading the procession.

The procession demanded immediate release of Organising Secretary of the district unit of Chhatra Union Monjur-E-Khoda Torik who was arrested in connection with the killing of Jamaat leader Sahhaj Uddin.

Sahhaj Uddin was killed on September 28, 1988 at the district Jamaat office and a case was lodged against 18 people, including Torik. HE was arrested on August 15.

Those arrested also included Jehadul Islam, Vice President of district Chhatra Union, Shahidul Islam, a student of Dhaka University, and three school students Mamun, Humayun and Masum.

Meanwhile, police allegedly beat up motor worker Mobarak and arrested him from the court area. They also allegedly assaulted some lawyers who had protested the police excesses.

Jawan killed in road accident

FENI, Aug 19: An army personnel was killed and two others were injured in a road accident at Feni bypass road near Jatra Siddhi area of Sadar upazila today. Nayek Amir Hossain of Chittagong Signal Corps died on the spot when a Chittagong-bound Pajero jeep carrying him and two others skidded off the road reports UNB.

Notes from Sherpur

From Our Correspondent

SHERPUR, Aug 19: Law and order situation has been deteriorated in Sherpur district recently.

It is alleged that one Mabyta Khaton (20), daughter of Md. Noor Hussain was seriously burnt by acid throwing in Charnucharia union under Sadar upazila recently.

It is learnt that Mabyta Khaton was asleep in her father's house when Channia (24) son of Abdul Haque Sarkar allegedly threw acid on her body through window resulting in serious burn injuries. Later she was admitted to Sadar hospital.

A case was lodged with Sherpur Sadar police station and police investigation is going on.

School girl violated

A school girl was violated at village Munchirchar in Charnucharia union recently.

It is learnt that Rowshanara Alias Maina (13), daughter of Tuta Master of village Munchirchar and a student of Class VII at Kamarechar Bazar on her way to home was raped in a jute field by Md. Hazrat (20), son of Jabbar and Md. Sanuwar (22), son of Sekander Ali of Munchirchar Nutun Bazar. Later she was rescued by passerby. A case has been registered with Sadar thana but no body has yet been arrested so far in this connection.

Cowlifter held

Local people of Kamarechar Bazar under Sadar upazila held a cow-lifter Burhan (22) along with a stolen cow at night.

The cowlifter was handed over to the Sherpur police. Later he was sent to jail hajat by upazila Magistrate.

As cattle lifting has become a frequent menace in the district most of the cattle owners are passing their nights in the cowshed to protect their cattle.

Best school teacher in Satkhira

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Aug 19: Mrs Amena Begum, Head Mistress, Satkhira Government Girl's High School has been adjudged as the best teacher of Satkhira district as well as Khulna division for the year 1990-91.

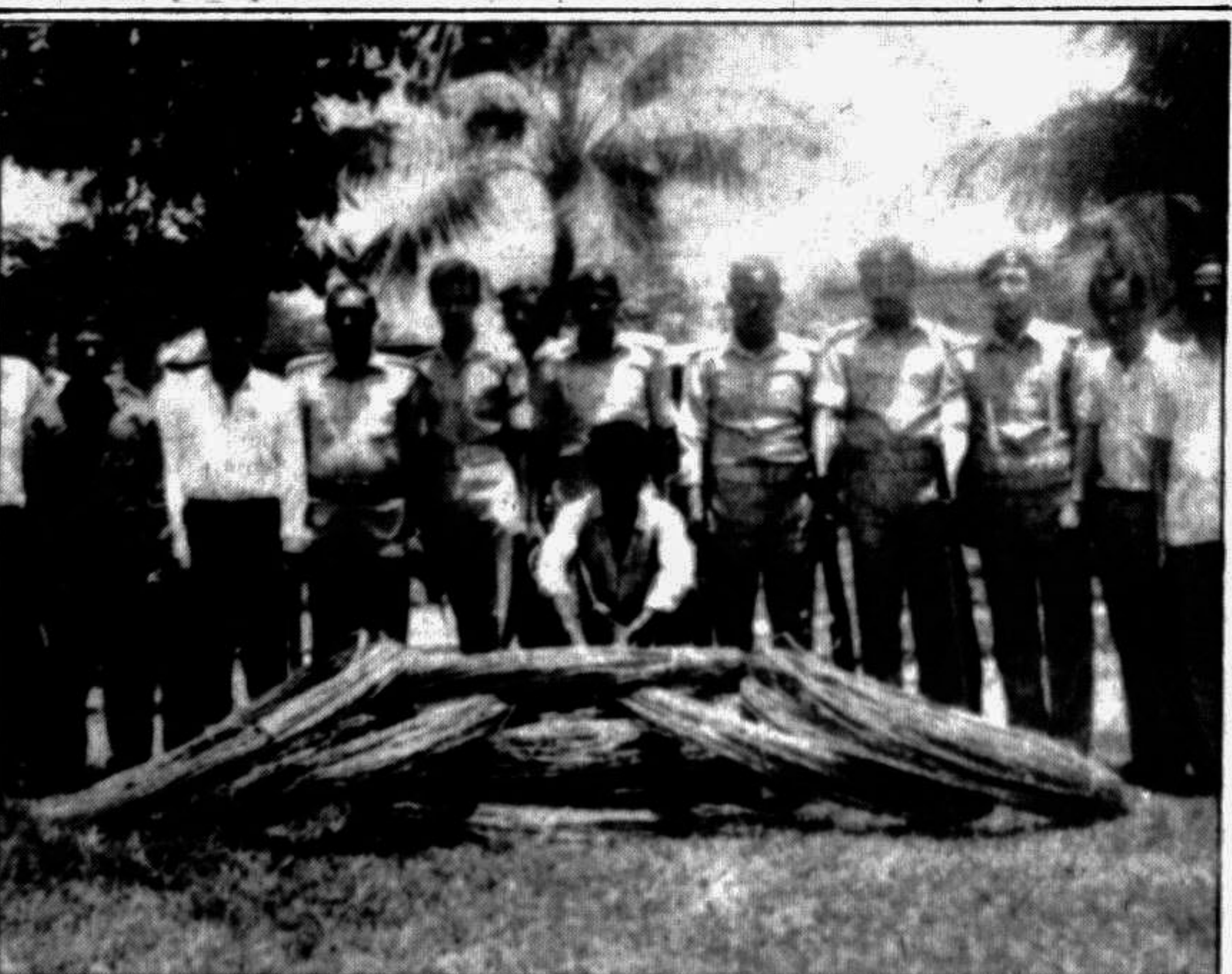
Mrs Amena Begum stated her career as assistant mistress in 1968 and promoted to the post of Assistant Head Mistress in the year 1974. She was promoted to the post of Head Mistress, in Bangladesh Education Service (BES) in 1983 and joined Pirojpur Government Girl's High School.

She is the district Girl's Guide Commissioner and Councillor. National Committee. She is also connected with various social organisations including Satkhira Mahila Samity.

Gaibandha Sangbadik Samity observes demand day

Gaibandha, Aug 19: Bangladesh Sangbadik Samity, Gaibandha unit observed 'Demand Day' on August 10. On this occasion a rally was held with Mr Gobinda Lal Das, President of the unit in the chair.

The meeting demanded immediate implementation of 4th Wage Board Award for journalists working in remote areas of Bangladesh. The meeting was addressed, among others by Abu Zafar Sabu, Central Publicity Secretary, KM Rezaul Hoque, Unit Secretary, Abdus Samad Babu, Secretary, Gaibandha Press Club, Enamul Kabir Rupom, Azad Hossain Sarkar, Rezaul Haq Mita, Siddique Alam, Afzal Hossain, Siddique Alam Dawal and Rajat Kanti Barman.



BRAHMANBAZRIA: Aluminium electric wire seized by Sarail police from Rasulpur recently. — Star photo