

Upazila roundup

KISHOREGANJ

5 killed, 70 crimes committed

From Our Correspondent

February 7: Five persons were killed and 70 crimes of various nature were committed in 13 upazilas of Kishoreganj district in December last year.

The crimes committed are as follows: Dacoity-4, robbery-1, burglary-7, theft-5, murder-5, rioting-18 and other crimes 35.

Preventive measures have been taken by the law enforcing agencies to stop the crime.

RAJSHAHI

Seminar on kidney disease held

February 7: A day-long scientific seminar on 'kidney diseases' organised by Bangladesh Renal Association, Rajshahi branch, was held at Rajshahi Medical College auditorium recently, reports BSS.

Presided over by Prof Nazimuddin Ahmed, President of Bangladesh Renal Association, Rajshahi branch the seminar was inaugurated by Prof Nazim Hossain of child health of Rajshahi Medical College. It was addressed, among others, by physicians of kidney diseases of IG Hospital.

BHOLA

Primary schools need care

From Our Correspondent

February 7: Government and non-Government primary schools of the seven upazilas of Bhola district have been facing multifarious problems.

Lack of accommodation, absence of library, toilets, first aid arrangement, pure drinking water, playground and shortage of teachers are the main problems.

Out of 700 government and non-government primary schools most of the non-government schools have not yet been given recognition in spite of having a good number of students and other requisite facilities. Some of them set up before the liberation period have been running in deplorable condition.

Due to constraint of funds payment of teachers is not regular. As a result many teachers have resigned from their jobs.

On the otherhand the government schools have plunged into manifold problems. Students are compelled to sit on the ground due to absence of furniture. Nearly 100 schools are not having even blackboards and other essential materials.

Guardians complained that some teachers are very irregular in discharging their duties without any reasonable cause.

BOGRA

3 killed in road mishap

From Our Correspondent

February 7: Three persons were killed and 30 others injured when a Lalmonirhat bound night-coach from Dhaka met an accident at Sherpur Upazila on Monday last. Faridul Haq died on the spot while Sultan Ahmed and Zahurul Haq succumbed to their injuries in the hospital.

One Khalilur Rahman, a candidate in the ensuing parliament polls from Gabtindagorj also received injuries. It is alleged that the driver was drunk. A case has been lodged with Sherpur police but no arrest has yet been made.

B'Baria

Rally against Gulf war

From Our Correspondent

February 7: A big demonstration was brought out in the town in support of Iraqi President Saddam Hossain recently. The demonstration carried banners, festoons, posters and a big picture of Iraqi leader and also an effigy of Bush. They protested US-led multi-national actions against holy places in Baghdad.

Later the processionists held a rally at the court premises with Moulana Abul Kashem in the chair.

KUSHTIA

Death anniversary

February 7: The 32nd death anniversary of Moulvi Afzaruddin Ahmed, an eminent social reformer and a pioneer of Muslim renaissance was ob-

served here recently. In this connection a function was held at Quatul Islam Alia Madrasa Hall to discuss his life and achievements. Large number of prominent people including elderly ones with whom he was associated in his life time attended the function.

Moulvi Afzaruddin was born in 1883 in village Sultanpur in Kushtia district and received his education in Hoogli Collegiate School along with three brothers and also studied Quran and Hadis together with the history of the Arabs. He and his younger brother Shamsuddin Ahmed joined politics and participated in Khelafat Movement and were put behind the bar in 1920. Three Muslims of Bengal who joined Khelafat movement were Moulvi Afzaruddin Ahmed, his younger brother Shamsuddin Ahmed and Moulvi Md. Yasin of Burdwan district, father of prominent lawyer of Bangladesh late Md. Azam. Later Moulvi Shamsuddin Ahmed became the Minister of undivided Bengal. In 1930 Moulvi Afzaruddin Ahmed published a weekly newspaper 'Azad' from Kushtia Sulav Press.

PABNA

Smuggled goods recovered

From Our Correspondent

February 7: Members of 22 Battalions of BDR headed by Major A. Bari recovered smuggled goods worth Taka 18 lakh from Chapainawabgonj-Scrangonj 6-Down mail train at Gopulpur recently.

According to an eye-witness that the smuggled goods were recovered after searching all the compartments of the train.

The goods included 31 bails of thread and 5 bags of Indian red-chillies which were booked from Chapainawabgonj rly station. None could be arrested in this connection.

Petrol being sold on Fridays

Violating the government order, petroleum and lubricants are being sold openly on Fridays by a good number of dishonest businessmen on the footpaths of Pabna town at an exorbitant price.

People of this district urged the concerned authorities to take appropriate steps to stop this illegal practice immediately.

SYLHET

BDR men asked to be more active during polls

February 7: Director General of Bangladesh Rifles Maj Gen Abdul Latif on Monday asked the BDR personnel to remain active for ensuring free and fair elections.

The Director General was addressing all levels of BDR officers, GCO and BDR-men at Darbar function while visiting Sylhet Sector Sadar here.

Maj Gen. Latif said the BDR personnel were able to contribute as front soldiers to the economy of the country by discharging their duties bestowed on them to check smuggling in the bordering areas.

Earlier, the Director General also inspected quarter guards.

DINAJPUR

Farewell reception

From Our Correspondent

February 7: A farewell meeting was arranged at Setabganj Pilot High School premises with Mr. A. N. M. Abbas Ali, headmaster of the school in the chair recently. Farewell reception was arranged in honour of Md. Muziuddin Ahmed and Mr. Md. Daimuddin, both assistant teachers of the school retired recently. Principal Abdur Rashid, Chairman of Borhaganj upazila parishad was present as chief guest while Mr. Aminul Haque Chowdhury, Vice President of the school managing committee was present as special guest.

One killed

One Mohon Lal Jhan (35) of village Bhusrbandar in Chirribandar upazila was killed by some unknown miscreants recently. The body was found on the bank of Atrai river. The body was sent to the morgue for autopsy. A case has been registered with Chirribandar PS in this regard.

Suicide

One Abdul Malek (36) of village Sahodar in Rensankail upazila allegedly committed suicide by taking insecticide recently. Family trouble was said to be the cause of his suicide. The body was sent to the morgue for autopsy. A case has been registered with Rensankail PS in this regard.



A dilapidated road at Lohajang upazila of Munshiganj district. — Star photo.

Facilities absent in Jamalpur Hospital

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Feb 7: Treatment at the Jamalpur general hospital is being hampered due to shortage of doctors and absence of other facilities. There are only nine doctors to treat hundred of patients everyday. Many of the patients are being accommodated on the floor and verandah of the hospital due to lack of requisite number of beds.

The hospital also lacks pure drinking water, blood bank facilities and sanitation. Shortage of medicine also prevails in the hospital. Essential drugs like antibiotic, tablets and antacid are not available. Due to shortage of drugs, the hospital cannot cope up with epidemic. There is no separate ward to accommodate patients carrying infectious diseases. These patients are kept in the general wards.

Tuberculosis is widespread in this area. But the hospital has no special arrangement for the TB patients. The hospital supplies poor and below standard diet to the patients.

Most of the departments lack modern equipment. It is also alleged that the doctors and nurses do not carry out their duty according to schedule. Doctors are not often available in the hospital.

Woes of rly passengers

Railway passengers of different lines have been facing serious difficulties due to acute shortage of passenger bogies in the trains.

Passengers of Jamalpur-Mymensingh, Jamalpur-Jaganathganj Ghat and Jamalpur-Bahadurabad ghat lines complained that compartments are quite insufficient to cope with the heavy rush of passengers. Most of them are compelled to travel either on roof tops or on footboards at the risk of their lives.

Irregularity in train timings is yet another problem. Trains come one to two hours late creating much inconvenience to the passengers. The present time table is not at all convenient especially to school and college going students.

Due to absence of first and second class compartments in the trains the ticket holders of these classes are compelled to overcrowd the third class compartments or railway engine and sometimes the guard rooms.

Only three small and old bogies are attached to most of the trains creating much inconvenience especially to old and female passengers. They fell helpless in boarding the train at different stations. Only seven trains including four inter-city trains run on these lines everyday which make trains overcrowded.

Small businessmen of fish and other goods block the compartments with their loaded container further to narrow the space.

On the other hand electric fans, bulbs and water supply in almost all the compartments remain out of order causing untold sufferings to the passengers.

Meanwhile, there is no separate compartments for the women passengers, who can hardly board the trains. Most of the stations do not have sheds on the platforms. As a result passengers have to wait for hours together for the late coming trains under the scorching heat or in rains.

Moreover their is no waiting rooms in almost all the stations.

Notes from B'baria

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, Feb 7: 'Saraswati Puja' a big religious festival of Hindus was celebrated in different upazilas of the district.

Nachirnagar, Sarail, Akhaura, Kasba, Nabnagar and famous temple 'Kali Bari Mandir' in Brahmanbaria arranged an elaborate programme to mark the occasion.

Housewife stabbed to death

One Ferdusi Akhtar (26), wife of Shishu Mia was stabbed to death by her brother-in-law on recently at Aurail under Sarail Upazila of the district.

Informed sources said that victim's autopsy was done at Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital. A case has been registered with Sarail police station in this connection.

300 cattlehead lost

About 300 cattleheads were perished following different diseases in all seven upazilas of the district.

According to the reports, during the last one month cattle diseases were detected at Branchampur, Akhaura, Kasba, Nabnagar, Nachirnagar, Sarail and Brahmanbaria upazilas.

Hundreds of cattle being attacked by this disease die after showing slight symptoms. On the other hand the cured ones are not fit to be utilised for ploughing or other purposes as these diseases reduce them to skeleton.

Meanwhile due to scarcity of fodder cattleheads eat harmful waterhyacinth and rotten straw.

Indian pepper

Indian pepper is being sold at Taka 70 per Kg against Taka 40 due to shortage of local pepper in the district markets.

According to the sources, some illegal traders are making high profits by selling Indian pepper on high rates as local pepper is out of the stock.

Excess fees realised from SSC examinees

From Our Correspondent

NARAIL, Feb 6: Excessive fees have been realised from the SSC examinees under Jessore Board, it is alleged.

It is learnt that different school authorities are realising excessive fees from the students violating board order. As a result numerous students are not able to appear for the examination.

The fee fixed by the board per theory paper is Taka 14, Practical paper Taka 36, centre fee Taka 40 and marksheet Taka 15. In total each examinee is required to pay Taka 295 for the examination but the school authorities are realising Tk. 800 to Tk. 1200 from each student.

It is learnt that most of the guardians in the district are poor cultivators.

Political scene

Umbrella procession defy downpour

Star report

Heavy downpour that continued for three consecutive days till February 4 in Barisal, Patuakhali and Khulna districts caused dislocation in election campaigns. Posters, festoons, banners and wall writings of various political parties were almost washed away due to drenching rain.

The rainfall, considered to be untimely during this part of the year, forced the political activists to remain totally confined to their houses.

But a section of the party workers were not at all discouraged by the inclement weather at Barguna. Defying torrential rain they brought out an umbrella procession in the market place in support of their candidate.

Our Jhenidah Correspondent writes: The candidates and their supporters are now very busy with every passing day of the ensuing Jatiya Sangshad election. Meanwhile, district town and upazila head quarters were a festive look. Multicoloured posters, festoons, banners bearing photos of the candidates along with their respective. Party chiefs photos are seen displayed widely in the towns, villages and wayside walls.

With the writings on walls the public and private building structures have a different look in these days. Of course the Gulf war has shadowed the election campaign to some extent. The candidates with their supporters are visiting far-flung areas, exchange greetings and seeking votes in their favour.

In all 36 candidates are contesting in four constituencies of Jhenidah district of which 11 in Jhenidah 1, 9 in Jhenidah 2, 7 in Jhenidah 3 and 9 in Jhenidah-4. Earlier, 13 candidates withdrew their

interest of growth of a self-reliant and equitable economy and this could be done only through a socialist political system, he emphasised.

Panchbibi

UNB from Panchbibi, Jaypurhat adds: Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abbas Ali Khan on Saturday called upon the people to remain alert against conspiracies by 'allies of deposed autocracy'.

Addressing an election meeting at the premises of Sarail Madrasa of the upazila, he warned that the associates of the past regime were still active even after the success of nine-year struggle.

The Acting Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami alleged that all the post-independence government of the country imposed autocratic rule in some way or other.

They plundered people's wealth, gagged press, established one-party rule and led the country to corruption, anarchy, violence and injustice, he said.



Candidates contesting from Jhenidah district. From top left: Mashur Rahman (BNP), Jahangir Alam Siddique (AL), Prof. Nazrul Islam (Jamaat), Shahiduzzaman Beltu (BNP), Motiar Rahman (AL), Moulana Abul Kashem (Jamaat), Abdul Matin Munir (GOJ) and Abdus Salam (GOJ). — Star photo.

Comilla

Our Comilla Correspondent

says: National Awami Party, President Prof Mozaffar Ahmed called upon the people to help create a congenial atmosphere for establishing democracy in the country.

Addressing a public meeting at the Debidwar here Prof Mozaffar said effective steps should be taken to recover illegal arms and ammunition for maintenance of peace and discipline in the society.

35 teachers and invigilators the tardily attack was criticised.

The meeting demanded expulsion of examinees involved in the incident and exemplary punishment.

They also expressed their inability to conduct examination. Two separate cases were filed in this connection with Kishoreganj police.

Sixteen examinees were expelled for adopting unfair means at the Netrakona Government College on the first day of Degree examination on Monday.

In two centres of Netrakona, a total of 679 candidates appeared in the examination—536 in Netrakona Government College and 143 in Netrakona Mohila College sub-centre.

Netrakona

Another report from Tungipara says: Five party coordinator and acting First Secretary of Samajbadi Dal Mr. Nirmla Sen on Saturday said only a planned economy, not free or mixed economy could emancipate people from poverty.

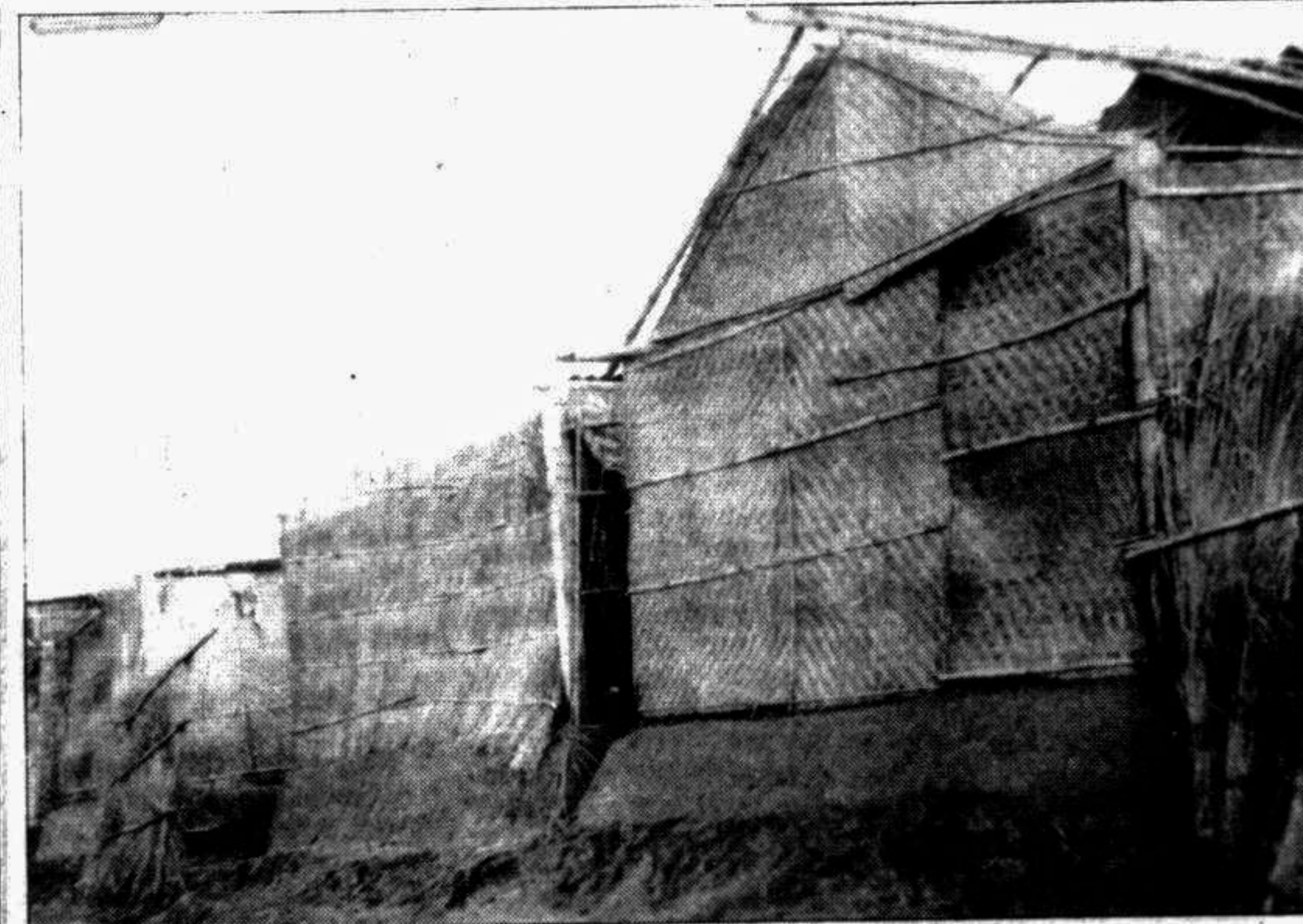
Addressing an electioneering public meeting at Patgati here Mr. Sen said due to unplanned investment and widespread corruption, industries could not grow in their national courses. So planned economy should be the basis of our industrial policy in the in-

terest of growth of a self-reliant and equitable economy and this could be done only through a socialist political system, he emphasised.

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They plundered people's wealth, gagged press, established one-party rule and led the country to corruption, anarchy, violence and injustice, he said.



PABNA: Kutchha houses damaged by hailstorm that lashed Pirpur, 10 km off the town recently. — Star photo.

Plea to make Balashi a full-fledged river port

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Feb 7: Materialisation of Balashi river port at Rasoolpur five kilometre off Gaibandha town is a long felt demand of Gaibandha people which is yet to be implemented in its full capacity.

On implementation of the port communication with the capital city and other port cities through river route could be easier. Moreover, the port will serve commercial and business purposes of northern districts.

Balashi port on the bank of the river Brahmaputra can be an alternative to Baghabari and Nagarbari ghats if a road link is connected with Jamalpur via Dewanganj through Balashi ghat.

According to a survey it is ascertained that on implementation of this communication network about 55 kilometres roads of eight northern districts through Aricha-

Nagarbari will be reduced. At the same time, continuous pressure of vehicular traffics on Nagarbari-Aricha route will also lessen.

Earlier, it was the committing of the government to make Balashi as full-fledged port but the plan is yet to be implemented.

People of this areas urged the government to take adequate step for creating Balashi as full-scale river port.