

Upazila roundup

KISHOREGANJ

Rickshawpuller stabbed to death

From Our Correspondent
March 13: A rickshawpuller was stabbed to death when he tried to stop the quarrel of a neighbouring family at Kamalpur village in Bhairab upazila, police said here on Wednesday.

Witnesses said the victim Hossain Miah (38) went to the house of the neighbour while he was quarrelling with his wife on Monday. At one stage, the neighbour got infuriated and hit Hossain by a sharp weapon on his chest.

The body was sent to sadar hospital for autopsy. A case was registered with local police.

KURIGRAM

Illegal sale of note-books

From Our Correspondent

The book-sellers of Kurigram have been selling note-books of different subjects ignoring government ban on the business.

It is learnt that the publishers and the book-sellers of the libraries kept note books in their houses and sell them on Fridays, at a high margin of profit.

It is reported that the owners of libraries of the rural areas come to the book-sellers on Fridays to collect note books.

A section of unscrupulous teachers of primary and secondary schools of the region was also involved in the note book business.

JHENIDAH

Birth anniversary of Pagla Kanai observed

From Our Correspondent

March 13: The 181st birth anniversary of mystic poet (Marami Kabi) Pagla Kanai was observed at his village Barbari of Jhenidah district on March 10.

On the occasion Pagla Kanai Smriti Sangrahan Sangshad chalked out a day long programme which included placing of wreaths at his graveyard folk song, discussion meeting and cultural function.

Dr. Momen Chowdhury Deputy Director Folklore Sub-department, Bangla Academy attended as chief guest while Dr. Reazul Hoq Khandaker, Chairman Lalai Parishad Central Sangshad and Deputy Director, Bangla Academy attended as special guest.

M.M. Al-Farook, President of the Pagla Kanai Smriti Sangshad presided over the function.

PATUAKHALI

Fall in water level affects ferry service

March 13: Bus journey between Patuakhali-Barisal has been hampered as ferry services were affected by the sudden fall of water level in the river Lebukhali, reports UNB.

According to sources, many shoals have emerged in the river affecting navigation. As a result, bus services between Patuakhali and Barisal have also been affected.

Officials suggested immediate extension of the river jetty at the Lebukhali ferry ghat costing Taka 5 lakh. But nothing has been done so far in this regard.

SATHKHIRA

5 get life-term for murder

From A Correspondent

March 13: Five persons were sentenced to life imprisonment and fined five thousand Taka each in default to suffer R.I. for one year more for murdering Jafar Ali of village Katchua under Assasuni Upazila of Sathkhira district recently.

The convicted persons are Resazuddin Sarder, Abdul Hal, Moharok Sarder, Prabir Sarder, and Yahya Sarder.

According to the prosecution, concerning previous incidents leading to enmity, the convicted persons killed Jafar Ali while he was going to Assasuni crossing the WAPDA embankment on 17.11.88.

Accordingly, a case was recorded with Assasuni P.S. Police investigated and submitted charge sheets against the said five persons.

Examining the witnesses and evidences, the Sessions Judge Abdul Rab Miah, found the above five persons guilty and awarded them the aforesaid punishment.

PABNA

7 Sarbahara party activists arrested

From Our Correspondent

March 13: Chalmohar police arrested seven outlawed members of Sarbahara Party and recovered one pistol and three rounds of ammunition from the village Handiyal under Chalmohar upazila recently.

Acting on a tip off police raided the house of Akbar Ali of Handiyal Union Parishad and nabbed Iqbal Hossain, Kajam Uddin, Zahir Ali, Abdul Gaffur, Momtin and Abdul Kalam Azad. Acting on secret information Bhangora police recovered ten rounds of S M G bullets from near Kalimondir of Bhangora Bazar recently.

KUSHTIA

Law, order situation discussed

From Our Correspondent

March 13: District Law and Order Committee meeting which was held here recently at Collectorate Conference Hall with Deputy Commissioner, Kushtia, Syed Hafiz Ahmed in the chair reviewed the overall law and order situation of the district in the light of holding peaceful, fair and impartial Parliamentary election on February 27.

The Upazila Chairmen of Kumarkhali and Daulatpur expressed their satisfaction over holding of impartial election and said that no election in the past was held in such a manner completely peaceful, fair and neutral.

The Deputy Commissioner said that he personally took initiative to form volunteer corp with one member from each candidate so that any attempt to cast false vote would be detected on the spot and this tactic proved very much effective and no complaint in this respect was available during casting of votes and every candidate was satisfied.

Pourasava Chairman of Bheramara where election is scheduled to be held on March 28 due to the murder of a candidate said that law and order in his area appeared very satisfactory. The Police Super said that two battalions BDR and police will be deployed during polls on March 28 and expressed his hope that holding of election on the day will be peaceful as all necessary steps have been taken by law enforcing agency in this regard. The members ruled out the complaint lodged allegedly by Nur Alam Ziku, JSD(Rab) candidate who lost the battle in Kushtia—4 constituency to the effect that false votes were cast and counting was wrong.

JHENIDAH

International Women's Day observed

From Our Correspondent

March 13: International Women's Day was observed last Friday at Jhenidah in a befitting manner.

On the occasion "Saptagram Nari Shannirvar Parishad", Jhenidah centre chalked out an elaborate programme to mark the day.

A big women labourers' rally was held at local W.A. High School ground. A discussion meeting was also arranged at the school auditorium under the auspices of the Parishad.

Mrs Monwara Khatun, President, Bangladesh Mohila Parishad, Jhenidah district branch was the chief guest in the meeting while Sabera Begum Jharna, Chairman of the Saptagram Nari Shannirvar Parishad, presided over the meeting.

Following the meeting a big procession paraded the main streets of the town chanting various slogans demanding their rights. About seven hundred women workers from different women organisations participated in the rally.

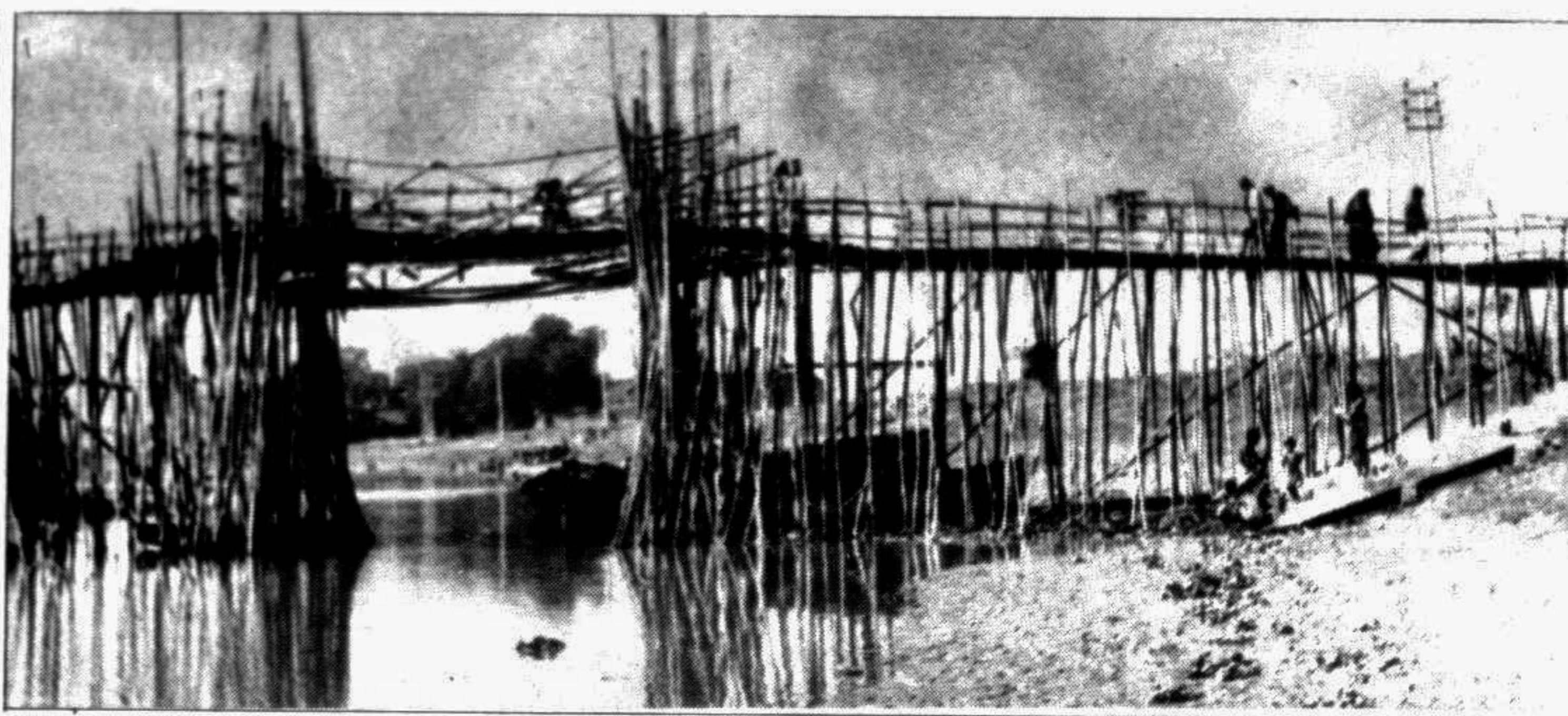
The meeting was addressed by Khondoker Azizul Haq, Senior Field Supervisor of Saptagram Nari Shannirvar Parishad and Amena Khatun of Kushtia Pradip Mohila Samity.

BARGUNA

Polythene pollution

Polythene bags, dumped indiscriminately in drains, are posing threat to health and sanitation of the town dwellers here, reports UNB.

According to sources, these bags block easy flow of rain water, filth and dirt causing environmental pollution. About 20 factories are manufacturing polythene bags in the country. Local elite have called for creating awareness among the people about the hazardous effects of polythene.



NARSINGDI: A bamboo bridge, the only means of crossing a big canal at a Narsingdi village constructed a decade ago, is now a threat to the passers by as well as the water transports. —Star photo

Call to organise rural youths in planned way for uplift

AGRI-VARSITY (Mymensingh), Mar 13: Prof. M. Asadur Rahman, Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University stressed the need for organising the rural youths in a planned way so that they could play a significant role in the process of national development, according to a press release of the university.

Terming youth as the golden hour in the life of human beings and the youngmen and women as the powerful force of a society, the Vice-

Chancellor further said that we must infuse in them the ideals of service, citizenship and fellowship in order to harness the yields of participation, co-operation and progress.

He urged the officials of Bangladesh Apex to take up appropriate projects to this end.

The Vice-Chancellor was speaking as the chief guest in the inaugural session of the 16th national convention of Bangladesh Apexians held at the Mymensingh T.T. College premises recently under the

joint auspices of Apex Club of Mymensingh and National Board of Bangladesh Apexians.

The inaugural session of the convention was presided over by the National President of Apex Bangladesh Mr. Shah Kamal Uddin and was attended by the Chairman of Bangladesh Trading Corporation Brigadier (Retd.) M. Habibur Rahman and the Principal of Mymensingh Teachers' Training College Prof. Salah Uddin as the special guest and the guest of honour respectively.

In his address as special guest, Brigadier Rahman urged the Apexians to tag their Apex movement with the on-going programmes of alleviation of our national poverty.

Others who spoke in the session included National Vice President Mr. Kamal Chowdhury and convention President Mr. Mokhesur Rahman Mukul.

Quite a good number of Apexians representing 45 clubs under seven districts of Apex Bangladesh attended the two-day national convention.

Notes from Barisal

From Our Correspondent

Double shifts for school students have already been introduced in 40 government high schools during the current academic session in the country. Previously this system was introduced in 22 government schools.

In Khulna Division this system has been introduced in seven government high schools during the current academic session. Three schools were taken under this system previously.

Newly included schools are Zila School, and Government Girls High School of Barisal, Jubilee High School and Government High School of Patuakhali, Zila School and Government Girls High School of Kushtia and the Government Girls High School of Jessore.

Prize-giving ceremony

The prize-giving ceremony of 14th National Science and Technology Week was held here recently at Government B.M. College, Barisal.

Prizes were distributed by Dr. Harun-Ar-Rashid, Principal, Sher-e-Bangla Medical College. Professor Nurul Islam Chowdhury and Moslem Mia spoke in the concluding session while Mr. Md. Hanif, Principal, Government B.N. College presided over the function.

Junior scientists of 11 science clubs and two educational institutes were awarded the prizes. They exhibited 111 scientific projects in the fair.

57 fire incidents last year

Property worth Taka 50,30,700 were gutted in different fire incidents last year. The fire station of Barisal town needs renovation and upgradation.

Last year 57 fire incidents occurred of which 25 originated from electric short circuit, 16 from furnace and the rest due to other reasons.

7 women traffickers arrested

PIROJPUR, Mar 13: Police arrested seven women traffickers including a UP member in Nazirpur upazila here, reports UNB.

Shankar Bepari, UP member of Dirgha union and his sister Jhanu Rani Bepari, Nrependra Nath Mondol, Jamini Mondol, Kanga Basu, Rajendra Nath Karat and Rustam Ali Sardar were nabbed recently.

Banks file 14,626 cases to realise Tk 11.41 cr

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Mar 13: A total of 14,626 certificate cases have been filed claiming about Taka 11.41 crore by different banks in Jessore district against defaulters for unrealised loans.

It is reported that different banks distributed loans to different persons and organisations for development projects. But since the loans remained unrealised despite expiry of terms, these cases have been filed by different banks.

Of the total amount Sonali Bank filed 3,705 cases for Taka 2,56,38,000 but only 720 cases for Taka 35,27,000 were settled and 2,985 cases for Taka 2,21,11,000 are still under trial.

Janata Bank has started 1,703 cases for Taka 79,77,000. Of them 571 cases for Taka 18,57,000 were settled and 1,132 cases worth Taka 61,20,000 still remain pending under trial.

Agrani Bank registered 3,565 certificate cases for realisation of Taka 19,22,000. Out of them 1,729 cases worth Taka 47,59,000 have been settled and 1,836 cases for Taka 91,63,000 are still under trial.

Bangladesh Krishi Bank filed 4,753 cases for realising its outstanding loans but only

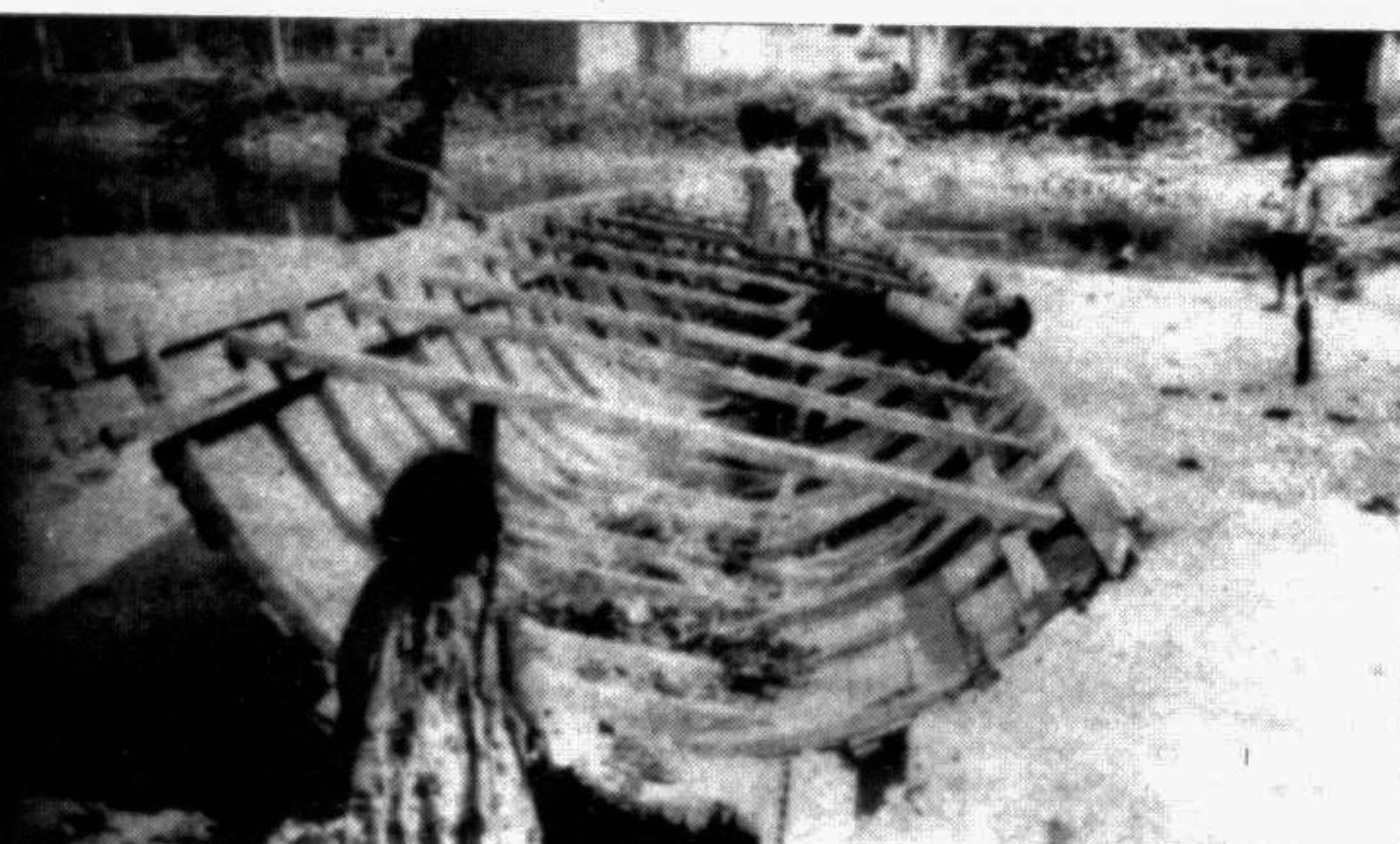
728 cases were settled and 4,026 cases for Taka 67,84,300 are still pending.

Rupali Bank filed 396 cases. Out of them 216 cases were settled and 180 cases for Taka 14,67,000 are still under trial.

Pubali Bank registered 160 cases out of which 34 cases for Taka 1,28,000 were settled and 126 cases for Taka 7,98,000 are still pending.

In all 115 cases of Uttara Bank have been settled and 51 cases for Taka 1,19,000 await decision.

The B.R.D.B. filed 178 cases for Taka 1,34,000 remained undecided.



PABNA: A broken boat kept on the field by its owner provides an ideal place for the children to play. —Star photo

Prices of baby food rise in Madaripur

From Our Correspondent

MADARIPUR, Mar 13: Prices of all kinds of baby food have shot up abnormally in the district for the last few weeks adversely affecting the consumers.

According to the shop keepers, a two-kg tin of Anchor is being sold at Taka 270 as against Taka 240, a few days back. A tin of two-kg of Red Cow sells at Taka 260 as against Taka 220. Dano of the

same quantity is also being sold between Taka 275 and 290 as against Taka 235 while Nespray is selling between Taka 265 and 270 instead of Taka 230 previously.

Besides, one pound tin of Cerelac is being sold at Taka 125 as against Taka 95 and 100. Horlicks (big size) is selling at Taka 85 as against Taka 70 and 75 a month ago while My Boy one pound is

selling between Taka 115 and 120 instead of Taka 95.

The sources added the low income group has been hard hit due to sudden rise in prices of baby food.

It is alleged that unscrupulous traders in connivance with a section of dishonest officials are engaged in creating artificial scarcity in the market to earn maximum profit.

Anti-socials active in Kushtia court rly station

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Mar 13: Kushtia Court Railway Station located just in front of Kushtia police station lacks minimum facilities and its surrounding have become dens of anti-socials since long. Police is reported to be reluctant to take any action against the miscreants.

According to reports, in the evening the miscreants become active and the people feel insecure.

Besides, number of trains is quite inadequate to cope with the large number of passengers who travel to and from Kushtia Court Railway station everyday.

It is alleged that the condition of waiting rooms are pitiable. They remain dirty and

locked even at the time of need. There is no arrangement to clean and sweep the platform and the booking counter functions just minute before the arrival of the train. As a result, many passengers fail to purchase tickets and travel without tickets causing loss to the Railway Departments.

Construction work of 40-

mile long Kushtia-Goalundo Road is yet to be completed.

The project was taken up in 1978 by late President Zia's government for an easy link between Kushtia and Dhaka.

Out of 40 miles, 17 miles are under the jurisdiction of the Kushtia Road division while the rest 23 miles are under Faridpur Road Division.

Political scene

A fatal shock

Star report

A correspondent from Brahmanbaria reports about the tragic death of Fulu Mia (35) at village Rasulabad in Nabinagar upazila on the day of Parliamentary polls on February 27. Fulu Mia died of heart failure immediately after he got the news that his candidature in Brahmanbaria-5 constituency could not win the election. It is indeed, a rare event that a political supporter can be so loyal to a candidate.

Local people confirmed to the Star correspondent that the deceased worked tirelessly for his candidature during election campaigns. The defeat gave him a fatal shock.

In another incident Mohammad Belal (25) of Sreerampur village of the same upazila tried to commit suicide by taking sleeping pills on hearing the report of his candidates defeat in the election race was brought to Nabinagar hospital in a critical condition.

Our Cox's Bazar Correspondent writes: Elected M.P. Mostaq Ahmed of Awami League from Cox's Bazar-3 constituency called upon the workers of his party to accept the result of the parliamentary election held on February 27 and try for better result in future election.

Addressing a reception arranged in his honour at Public Library field at Cox's Bazar, he said that he would ventilate local problems in parliament and advocate for total development of Cox's Bazar in a tourist resort.

The reception presided over by Advocate Ahmed Hossain, Senior Vice President of district Awami League was addressed by party leaders AKM Mozammel Haq, Nazrul Islam, Kamal Hossain, Yasin and M. Samshul Huda.

It was addressed by ex-Zila Parishad Chairman Anwarul Kader Baki, Nurul Islam Milon, Yier Ahmed, Humayun Kabir. A procession was brought out in the town chanting slogans to free Ershad and to withdraw warrant of arrest against Kazi Zaffar Ahmed and others.

Earlier a reception meeting was held at Padur bazar in honour of newly elected MP Monirul Hoque Chowdhury. District administration took sufficient security measures in the town. Secretary, JP Parliamentary Committee Mr. Monirul Hoque Chowdhury said JP believed in democracy. So that Ershad handed over power to Chief Justice. Mr. Monir demanded immediate presidential election. Without Ershad and other UP leaders UP MPs will not take oath, he added.

Pabna

Our Pabna correspondent says: Supporters and workers of JP held a big rally which paraded the streets of Pabna town on March 12 carrying by colourful banners, posters, photo of Ershad and chanting slogans.

The processionists demanded immediate unconditional release of former President A.H.M. Ershad and threatened to start mass movement.

Sathkhira

A Correspondent from Sathkhira Adds: A procession was brought out by Jatiya Party on Tuesday for immediate release of former President and Jatiya Party Chairman Ershad. The procession started from Amtala and paraded main roads of the town. The procession was led by ex-minister Razia Fayez. After the procession they arranged a meeting and demanded Ershad's release and fixation of date of presidential election according to Constitution.

Jamalpur

Our Jamalpur correspondent says: A public meeting was organised by District JP at local Shaheed Minar on Tuesday.

The meeting was presided over by Jamil Huq and addressed by former MP Shaikhul Islam Khoka, Pourashava Chairman Mirza Shaokatul Moni, Melandah Upazila Chairman Abdul Hal Bachchu, Hasan Hazari and former Chamber of Commerce President of Jamalpur Mr. Abdul Rauf Chowdhury.

The speakers demanded immediate release of former President H. M. Ershad and withdrawal of warrant of arrest against former Communication Minister Anwar Hossain and others.

After the meeting the procession paraded different streets of Jamalpur town chanting slogans for immediate release of former President Ershad and of warrant of arrest against other JP leaders.

Sherpur

Our Sherpur correspondent adds: Sherpur Zila Unit of JP held a meeting at Zila JP office on Tuesday presided over by Zila Unit Leader Mr. Abdul Wadud. The meeting was addressed by newly elected member of Parliament S. M. Rafiqul Bari Chowdhury as chief guest.

Md. Eliasuddin, Secretary, Zila Unit and Md. Lutfar Rahman, Chairman, Sherpur Pourashava.

Mr. Rafiqul Bari Chowdhury urged the Party workers to spread organisational work among the people rising above all personal interest to bring the people under the leadership of H.M. Ershad and under the banner of JP.

Tangail

BSS from Tangail adds: Tangail district Jatiya Party held a public meeting on Tuesday at Bindubashini High School playground to mark the victory of some of its candidates in the recent parliamentary elections and unconditional release of party Chairman H.M. Ershad and some leaders.

Mr. Shamim Al Mamun, a central leader of the party was the main speaker and called upon the Acting President to release party leaders immediately.

He called upon the political leaders to show tolerance to other parties and respect to the opinion of others.