

Upazila roundup

JAMALPUR

37,157 acres brought under wheat farming

Mar 18 : A total of 37,157 acres of land has been brought under wheat cultivation in seven upazilas of Jamalpur district this year, reports BSS. According to Agriculture Extension Department, production target of wheat has been fixed at 29,500 metric tons in the district. Of the total, 16,568 acres were under irrigation command, the source said.

SATKHIRA

Husband kills wife

Mar 18 : A young housewife of village Gopalpur in Kaliganj Upazila of the district was allegedly killed by her husband recently, reports UNB. Police suspected that Noor Mohammed killed his wife Asiya Khatun (18) following a family feud. According to family sources, the couple got married two years back. On the fateful night they exchanged hot words and at one stage the husband became furious and killed Asiya. The body was sent to Sadar hospital for autopsy. A case was registered with Kaliganj police in this connection.

JHALAKATHI

Malpractices in tahsil office

Mar 18: Public resentment has been growing against malpractices in Timikrati Tahsil Office in Nalchiti upazila, reports UNB.

Local people alleged, they were harassed and deceived in various ways. Their prayers for correction of land records were hardly listened to and certificate cases were initiated in league with local touts without serving notice to the parties involved.

It was even alleged that land tax was not accepted from people wishing to pay, paving the way for certificate cases.

BRAHMANBARIA

Minor girl killed in road mishap

Mar 18 : A minor girl was killed and her mother was injured seriously while they were landing from a bus at Shantinagar Bus Stand in Sarail Upazila on Dhaka-Sylhet highway, reports UNB.

Police said Raushan Akhtar (5), and her mother Jahura Khatun (35), were dashed by a speeding truck in which the girl died on the spot. Her mother was rushed to Sarail Hospital in a critical condition. Police seized the truck but the driver and helper managed to escape. A case has been filed with the police.

MUNSHIGANJ

3 held for looting at Imampur

Mar 18 : Police arrested three persons from Imampur Union under Gazaria Upazila on charged of armed clashes, looting and ransacking different houses at Imampur and Andharmanik villages, district administration sources said.

When contacted over telephone, the Deputy Commissioner, Munshiganj, Mr Abdul Huq, told BSS that the law and order situation in Imampur Union was under control of the administration.

The SP Munshiganj, Mr Faruq Ahmed said, a temporary police camp has been set up in the union to maintain peace and order there.

The SP Munshiganj said, in all 13 houses were ransacked and looted in Imampur and Andharmanik villages by a section of unruly people on March 11.

The ransacking of the houses and looting of properties and valuable belongings took place following altercation between the winning Chairman and defeated candidates of the recently held union parishad election.

The house of the Union Parishad chairman candidate, Mr George Miah was heavily damaged, the SP said.

Four separate cases by the clashing groups had been instituted with Gazaria Police Station, the SP said and added vigorous investigation was going on to bring the culprits to book, the SP said.

DINAJPUR

IRRI output uncertain

Mar 18 : IRRI production in 3000 acres of land in Birganj Upazila remained uncertain as 30 deep tubewells lacked power supply for want of a transformer, reports UNB.

It is learnt that the tubewells were installed only last month remained inoperative due primarily to the lack of concern among the members of the staff of Pali Bidyut Samity.

The staff of Thakurgoan Pali Bidyut Samity are reportedly delaying the commissioning of the transformer for unknown reasons. As a result, the whole area remained uncultivated during the current IRRI-Boro season.

Local farmers called for urgent power supply to their deep tubewells by way of commissioning a transformer.

CHITTAGONG

21 students to get scholarship

Mar 18 : 'Banskhali' Foundation here has selected 21 students hailing from Banskhali Upazila for awarding scholarships for one year, reports BSS.

According to a press release of the foundation, the students were selected from primary and the high schools on the basis of competitive examinations.

Students grouping first, second and third will receive Taka 60, Taka 50, and Taka 40 respectively per month for one year.



TEKNAF: Some Rohingya refugees are taking bath in knee deep water of a pond and are to drink the same for want of adequate supply. —Photo by R N Sanyal

Hundreds of people attacked by chicken pox in Bogra

From Our Correspondent

BOGRA, Mar 18 : Hundreds of people of the district have been attacked by chicken pox. The disease has turned into an epidemic form.

Many people of the town have been attacked by chicken pox and it is gathered that at least 2 to 3 persons of each family have been suffering from the disease. The disease has been spreading very fast in the town area and other parts of the district.

It is reported that neither the Health Department nor the Municipal authority were taking any preventive measures to check the disease.

When contacted, the

Reexcavation of Auliapur-Badura canal in progress

PATUAKHALI, Mar 18: The reexcavation of Auliapur-Badura canal in Sadar upazila of the district is progressing fast, reports UNB.

According to farmers, the canal remained silted up for years together hampering irrigation in the area. Local administration sanctioned 61 metric tons of wheat for the project.

The reexcavation of the canal commenced in last January and is expected to be completed by the next month.

According to local people, the canal will shorten the passage to reach Munshirhat and Gazipur by 4 to 5 hours. Small launches may also ply in Amtali route through the canal, it is learnt.

District Health Officer said that they were aware of the matter and at present they have nothing to do. He informed that there is no vaccine in the store and they have not yet taken any vaccination programme.

A Health Department source informed that chicken pox has broken out as skin disease and the patients would be cured within 10 to 15 days. There is Expanded Immunization Programme in the country but there is no programme to check the disease.

The health official suggested that those who have been attacked by chicken pox should consult with the doctors. Some health workers advise to consult with the homeopathy doctors and take preventive measures from them.

A local MBBS doctor disclosed that they prescribe requisite medicine to protect from pneumonia because it becomes dangerous for chicken pox patients.

Some chicken pox patients informed that they feel acute pain and it is intolerable. The children are the worst sufferers.

The concerned authorities have been urged to take preventive measures immediately to redress the sufferings of the people.

The re-excavation of three canals in three upazilas of the district is going to be started soon under the voluntary participation of the people of the respective localities.

In the meantime, the re-excavation of three canals, Moril Beel to Karotoa River, under Sadar upazila, Nengratola Piroil Canal under

Khaloo upazila, canal beginning from Namoit Bridge to Deult Bridge under Nandigram upazila is going on full swing.

It is learnt from an official source that re-excavation of Sukhadaha canal, Aml Indoi canal, canal from Chakirhat to Boroghore will begin soon. The government has allotted 322 metric tons of wheat to re-excavate the canals, it is officially learnt. Half of the entire canal digging work is to be done on base of voluntary participation of the villagers.

When completed, about 45,000 acres of land will be brought under irrigation network during the next dry season.

Anniversary of Sheikh Mujib's birth observed

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Mar 18: The 72nd birth anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was observed here Tuesday in a befitting manner, reports UNB.

Party flag and National Flag were hoisted stop the district Awami League office. A discussion meeting was also held on the occasion.

Presided over by Dr Bulbul, president District Awami League, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Prof Enamul Haq, Prof Musharrif Hossain, Dr Mesbahul Haq, former MP Saiful Islam of CPB, Gama Azadi League unit chief Salimul Huq and Mahabubul Haq Shamim of Chhatra League (N-S), Emran Faruq Masum of district Juba League and Dablu Kumar Ghosh Secretary district Press Club.

Notes from Comilla

COMILLA, Mar 18 : The annual general meeting of the zonal unit of Pubali Bank Employees Association was held here recently, reports UNB.

Golam Mohammad Majumder, President, Comilla regional unit of the association presided over the meeting while Kamaluddin Ahmed, President and Abul Kashem, General Secretary of the central committee were present as chief and special guests respectively.

The meeting was addressed by representatives from Chandpur and Brahmanbaria units.

Electric wires stolen

A huge quantity of electric wires of Pali Bidyut Samity-1, worth about Taka 20,000 were stolen from poles to the east of Elligonj Bazar last week.

Theft of electric wires of the samity were very frequent in recent days affecting the domestic, commercial, industrial and irrigation pumps.

Another report says : A week-long training course on mechanised cultivation got underway here with chairmen and officials taking part in it. Training is being imparted on how to handle the tractors and power tillers properly.

2 get 2 yrs RI each for smuggling

Two smugglers were awarded two years rigorous imprisonment each with a fine of Taka 1,000, in default, to suffer six months more.

Additional Sessions Judge, Nurul Wadud found accused Serajul Islam and Raja Mia guilty under Special Powers Act of 1974 and awarded the punishment recently.

The case, in brief, is that acting on tip, railway police recovered 610 Indian glasses and 240 phials of phenisidyl syrup worth about Taka 10,000 in a train compartment and arrested Serajul Islam and Raja Mia.

Police after investigation submitted charge sheet against the accused persons.

Another report adds: Police recovered 538 kgs of Indian sugar worth about Taka 13,500 from different markets of the town in two separate raids during the last week.

None was arrested in this connection.

Course on elementary subjects of Islam

The Islamic Foundation Branch here started a 20-day course from the 1st of Ramadan teaching elementary subjects on Islam.

Forty-nine school and college students from different educational institutions of the district are attending.

Other programmes include Tafsil, training on teaching the holy Quran, Islamic cultural events and discussion meetings. A total of 36 Tafsil mahfils will be held in different parts of seven upazilas of the district.

Meanwhile, a competition of Qirat, Hamd, Naath and Azan would also be arranged at Chandri village in Sadar upazila.

Discussion meetings on Independence Day, holy Lilaal Qadar and Jum'atul Wida would also be arranged in the Foundation office promises to be addressed by eminent religious leaders and intellectuals of the district.

Abnormal fall in subsoil water level 1200 deep tubewells lying inoperative

MANIKGANJ, Mar 18 : About 1200 shallow and deep tubewells have been lying inoperative due to abnormal fall in the subsoil water level, reports UNB.

According to Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department here water level in Daulatpur, Satura, Harirampur, Shibalaya, Singair and Sadar upazila went down by 30 to 40 feet. Officials apprehend that

almost all the tubewells of the district will go out of use if the water level go down further.

BADC sources said, about 35 per cent tubewells used for irrigation in seven upazilas of the district have already gone out of commission.

Meanwhile, persisting drought in the district has already hampered IRRI and boro production over a vast tract of land.

A discussion and recitation of self-composed poems were held recently at Udichi office here.

Organised 'Chhandak,' an organisation of local poets, the function was presided over by Monojit Roy, convener of the organisation. Jatindra Mohon Ghose, Saidur Rahman, Paresh Chandra Devnath, Ranjan Shaha, Kalyan Shahji, Ruhul Islam Tipu, Dipak Ghose, Jahengir Mohammad, Laftun Nesa, Lalit, among others recited their self-composed poems.

The function was followed by a discussion and a musical soiree.

Chowkider killed in road mishap

JHENIDAH, Mar 18: A village guard was killed Monday when a Dhaka-bound speeding coach knocked him down at Dulalumdia in Kaliganj upazila on Jhenidah-Jessore Road, police and hospital sources said, reports UNB.

Dhirendranath Das (45), a chowkider, met the accident while he was crossing the road on his 11 Kaliganj Police Station.

The body was sent to Sadar Hospital for autopsy. The driver managed to escape with the vehicle.

Load-shedding hampers output in fields, mills

From Our Correspondent

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Mar 18: Regular load-shedding in five upazilas of the district hampering the production in different sectors to a large extent and creating numerous problems for the domestic consumers.

It is learnt that load-shedding for hours together has become a regular feature in the district. Every day power supply remains suspended from 5 pm to 9 am and 6 pm to 9.30 pm in Chapainawabganj district town. Power disruption in other upazilas continues for more than eight hours.

According to source, at least seven magwatts power supply is required for Chapainawabganj district. But it is reported that only 5 magwatts power is being supplied here. Under this circumstances, PDB has to maintain load-shedding to manage the situation during the last one month.

As a result, the IRRI-boro

cultivators, mill owners, traders and businessmen in the district are facing serious hindrances. Due to frequent power supply, the irrigation system is being hampered seriously. A large number of IRRI-boro schemes have been dried up in the absence of irrigation for over a month through power pumps, deep tubewells. The cultivators apprehend that the IRRI-boro production in the current season will be greatly hampered.

The factory and mill owners informed that their production were also hampered owing to insufficient power supply. The domestic power supply consumers are also suffering much due to frequent interruption of electricity. The students are the worst sufferers as they final to continue their studies.

The local people urged the concerned authorities to look into the matter immediately.

No wheat to continue FWP projects in Pabna

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Mar 18: All the projects under Food for Works Programme in the district have been closed for want of wheat and thus hundreds of workers have become unemployed.

The total allotment of wheat was 2681.50 metric tons for the implementation of the 51 projects under CARE and 1867.26 metric ton for the implementation of 42 projects under WHO in the nine upazilas of the district.

Bangladesh Water Development Board, Pabna unit have sanctioned 20,604.79 metric tons of wheat for implementation of irrigation and rural development projects. But there are only 10 to 12 metric tons of wheat in all the food godowns of the district, says District Food Officer.

As a result, it is not possible to lift wheat by the delivery order of the concerned authority as there is no stock. It is

learnt that there are over 60 such delivery orders issued recently but they are unable to lift the goods as there is no stock.

The Executive Engineer, Pabna told this correspondent that the members of the project committees are not going to the project side as they will not be able to supply the wheat to the workers.

The seven canal digging programmes in seven upazilas of the district were also closed for the same reason. The total sanction for the on-going canal digging projects is 498 metric tons.

The conferences of the local Muktiyoddha Sangad unit of Chatmohar and Vangura upazilas were held recently.

Awarangzeb Bablu, Commander and Md Abul Kalam Sarwar, Deputy Commander of Pabna district unit attended both the conferences.

Re-excavation of 7.42 km Bhaimara Canal going on

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Mar 18: The re-excavation work on 7.42-kilometre Bhaimara Canal under Juranpur Union of Damurhuda upazila, Chuadanga which began on February 8 is now going on in full swing.

Tariqul Islam, Minister for Women Affairs formally opened the re-excavation programme in presence of huge gathering.

Of the total area, fifty per cent will be re-excavated under Food for Works Programme while the rest 50 per cent will be completed under voluntary participation by the people of the area.

The government sanctioned 120 metric tons of wheat for the purpose.

According to official source, on completion of the project about 5000 acres of land will get irrigation facilities and as a result about 13000 metric tons of paddy and wheat are expected to be produced in the common area annually. Besides, a big fish cultivation

project would also be possible where fish worth Taka 10,000 is expected to be produced in the project.

Police station

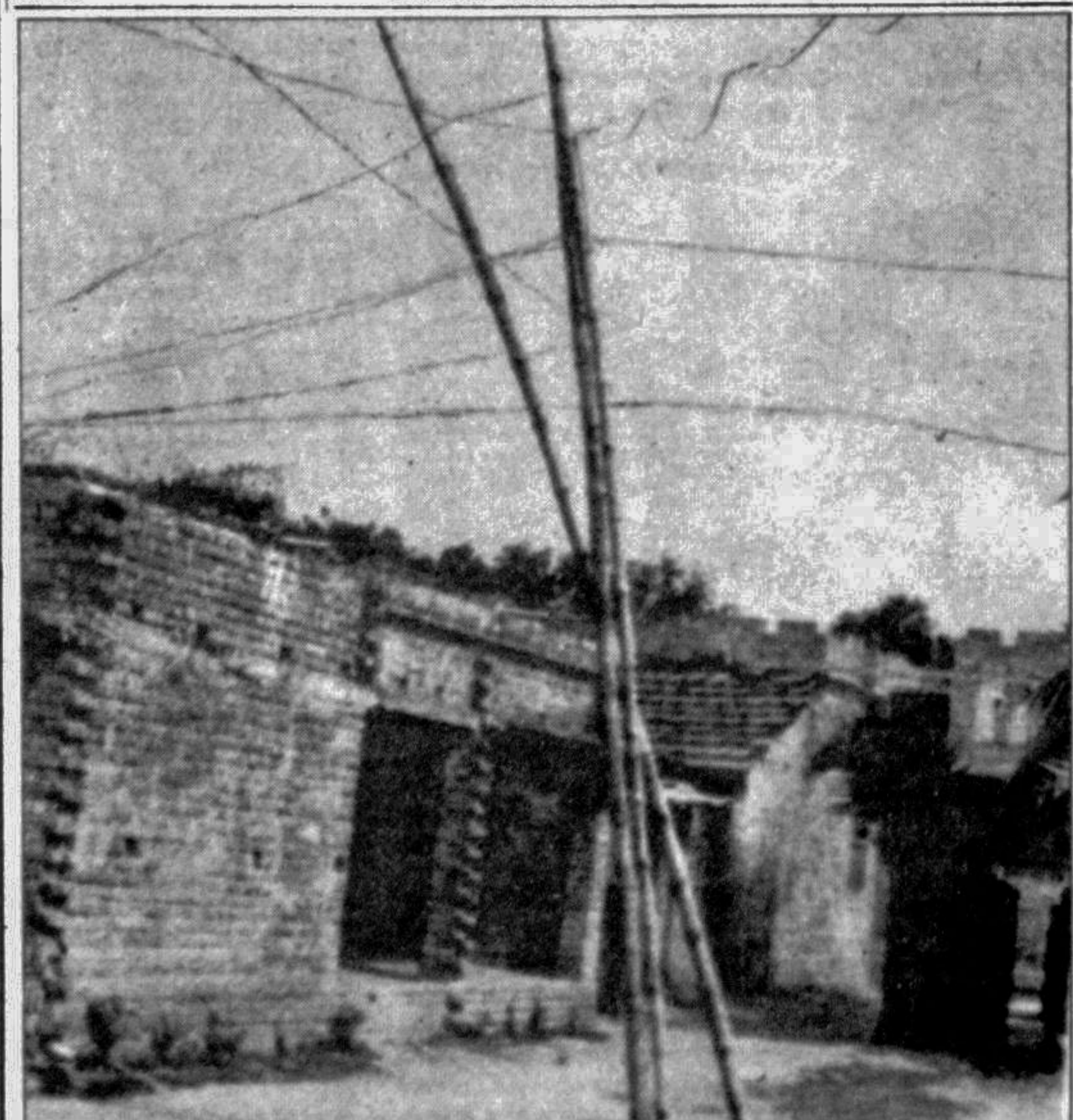
The government has decided to establish a new police station in Chuadanga district

comprising of four unions of Alamdanga upazila.

According to an official source, the newly constituted police station will be named as Ashmankhali with Ganagi, Bhangbria, Khadimpur and Baradi unions.

The total population of the new police station is 90,000 including 44,000 female. There will have 58 villages under the new police station.

The newly constituted police station is likely to function shortly. It can be mentioned here that the people of the locality had been demanding a new police station for a long.



CHAPAINAWABGANJ: The local PDB authority extended few connections by bamboo poles in the poura area without considering the security of life and property. They do not still bother to change the pole after two years. —Star photo