

District roundup

SATKHIRA

Two killed in road mishaps

From Our Correspondent

Sept 1: Two persons were killed in two separate road accidents in the district recently.

It is reported that one Shahin Bablu (4), son of Abdul Majid of village Palashpole while crossing Satkhira-Kaliganj road was run over by a Satkhira-bound minibus and he died on the spot.

The other victim Shahidul Islam was run over by an unknown minibus near Montala under Shymnagar thana on Kaliganj-Shymnagar Road recently.

The workers' conference of the Bangladesh Rickshaw Sramik League of the district unit was held here at local rickshaw terminal recently.

Abdus Samad presided over the function. It was addressed among others by Md Ensur Ali, Rabintra Nath, Elias Ali, Shahidul Islam, Jakat Ali, Rustam Ali and Entaj Ali.

Later, a 41-member executive committee of Satkhira district Rickshaw Sramik League was formed with Rabintra Nath and Md Ensur Ali as President and Secretary respectively.

GOPALGANJ

Two housewives commit suicide

From Our Correspondent

Sept 1: Two housewives committed suicide in Gopalganj Sadar thana recently.

It is learnt, one Abeda Begum (25), wife of Rajab Ali Mollah of Ulpur village under Gopalganj Sadar thana committed suicide by hanging herself over family trouble.

A UD case has been lodged with Gopalganj PS in this regard.

Another Parvati Rani (20), wife of Sibru Pramanik of village Karagati under Gopalganj Sadar thana committed suicide by hanging herself over family trouble.

A UD case was filed with Gopalganj PS in this connection.

SYLHET

Lightning kills young man

From Our Correspondent

Sept 1: A young man was killed by lightning at village Haribarpur under Jamalganj thana of Sunamganj district recently.

According to the reports, the tragic incident occurred when the victim Azad Miah was engaged in catching fish in a ditch near Sachna High School on the day of incident.

Another report adds: Police has recovered the body of a minor boy from Halmaghat area near Sunamganj town recently.

According to the reports, the victim went to have his bath in the river. At one stage, he drowned in the river. His relatives searched for him for three consecutive days, but failed to have any trace of him.

Later, police recovered the body and handed over to the family members of the deceased.

A case of UD has been registered with the police in this regard.

AGRI-VARSITY

Course on post-tree plantation care concludes

Sept 1: The concluding session of a three-day long training programme on "Post-plantation care of tree-saplings and their maintenance and extension" was held at the Bangladesh Agricultural University Extension Centre (BAUEC) on August 25, says a Press release.

The Director-in-Charge of BAUEC Prof A Halim presided over the session while it was attended by the Vice-Chancellor of BAU Prof M Ashraf Ali Khan as the chief guest.

In his speech as the chief guest, Prof Khan stated that we ought to plant more trees in order to sustain our existence as a nation.

Later on, the chief guest distributed certificates among 41 farmers taking part in the programme as trainees.

Those who spoke on the occasion included Shamsun Nahar, Haidar Ali Sarkar, Murtazid Ahmed and Dr A S M Ziaul Karim.

The function was conducted by M Rezaul Karim, Associate Director of BAUEC.

BARISAL

Rifle, pipegun recovered: 276 held

From Our Correspondent

Sept 1: Patuakhali police arrested 276 persons on different charges and recovered one rifle and a pipegun including some other lethal weapons through operation August '92 recently.

Police arrested Mohammad Nuru (30) and Mohammad Yunus (22), the members of so-called Sarbahara Party from Dakua village of Galachipa thana under Patuakhali district recently.

A case has already been lodged with Galachipa PS in this connection.

BRAHMANBARIA

153 unnatural deaths in 7 months

From Our Correspondent

Sept 1: One hundred fifty-three persons died in the incidents like suicide, electrocution, arson, road and train accident in the eight thanas of the district in the last seven months.

It is gathered that the highest number of unnatural deaths was recorded in Sadar thana. The thana-wise break-up of the deaths have been recorded as follows: Sadar thana-72, Nabinagar-7, Sarail-11, Nasir-nagar-9, Kasba-10, Akhaura-28, Ashuganj-5 and Banchharampur-11.

Separate cases were filed in the respective thanas.

RANGPUR

Rly spares worth Tk 36 lakh stolen

Sept 1: A daring theft was committed at the Saidpur Railway Bridge Workshop recently.

The miscreants stole away railway spares worth Taka 36 lakh from the godown of the workshop.

Police arrested two persons in this connection with the theft.

Another report adds: One newly married Alam (22) committed suicide by taking poison at his residence at Chandpur under Sundarganj recently.

A quarrel ensued with the victim and his parent on the issue of the marriage which was held beyond his will and at one stage he decided to commit suicide.

Just after the quarrel, he entered inside the house and closed doors and committed suicide by taking poison.

JHENIDAH

Release of JP leader demanded

From Our Correspondent

Sept 1: Jatiya Party district unit organised a meeting protesting the arrest of Khaleedur Rahman Tito, ex-state minister for Labour and Manpower and president, JP, of Jessore district unit.

Held at Chuadanga bus stand of Jhenidah town recently, the meeting was addressed among others by Mosharraf Hossain Moshah, ex-MP Nuruddin and Jalaluddin Ahmed while district unit president ex-MP Ashraf Ali Abidin Asha presided over.

Speakers condemned the arrest and demanded immediate release of the Jatiya Party leader. Earlier, a procession was brought out in the town raising slogans in favour of the demand.

MAULVIBAZAR

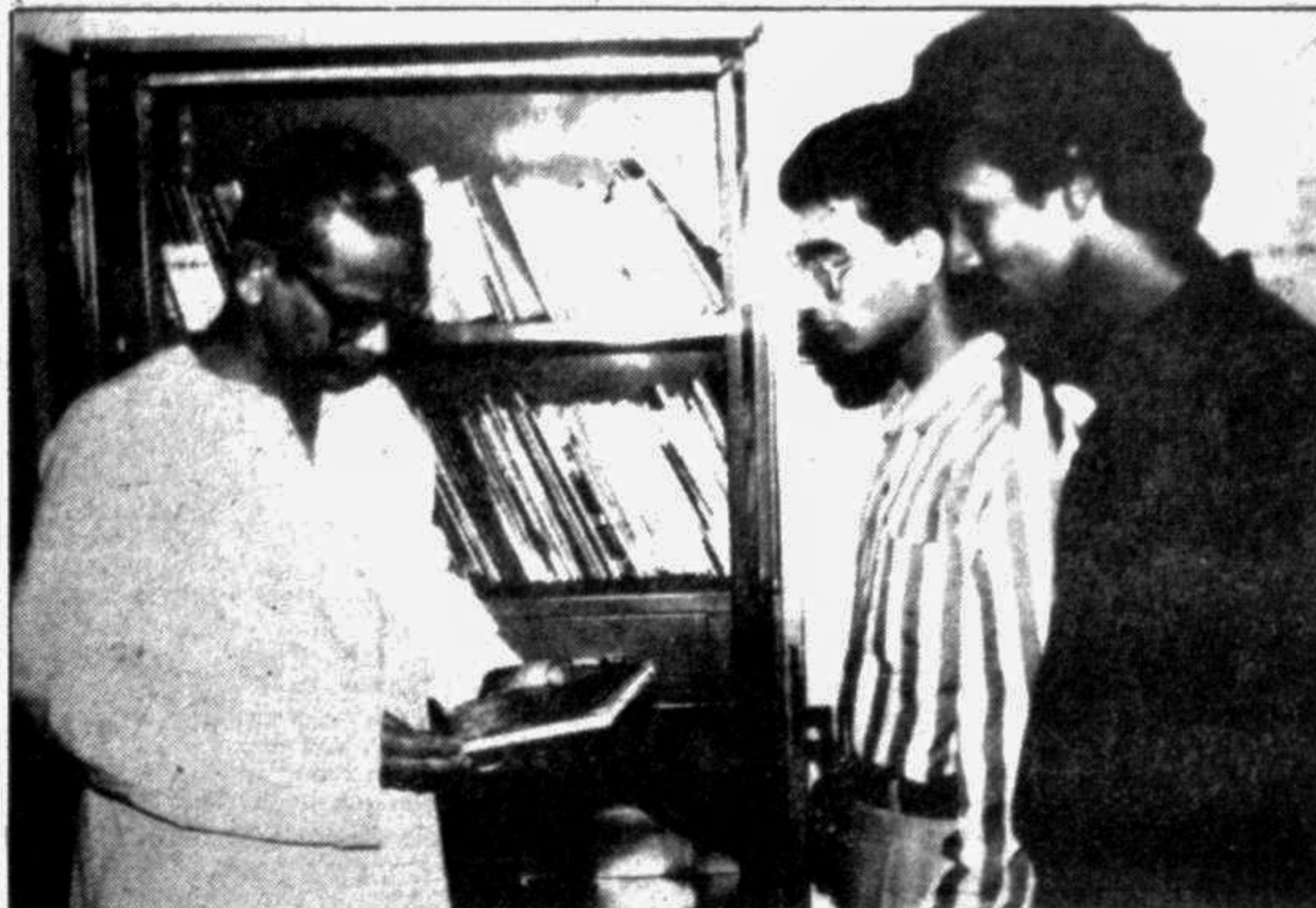
Noted politician dead

From Our Correspondent

Sept 1: Abdul Zabbar, a noted politician, former MP and freedom fighter died of heart attack on Friday at his Kulaura residence. He was 59.

He was the Vice President of the Central Committee of Bangladesh Krishak League, Vice-President of Maulvibazar District Awami League. He was elected Member of Parliament in 1979. He was also elected Upazila Chairman of Kulaura in 1990.

Namaz-e-janaza of late Abdul Zabbar was held at Kulaura. Central and district leaders of Awami League, leaders and workers of all political parties, students and social organisers and people from all walks of life attended his Janaja.



RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY: Prof M Harunur Rashid, Director General of Bangla Academy opening the RU Press Club library recently. —Star photo

Drought, irrigation problem

Marginal, poor farmers of N-dists in crisis

From Our Correspondent

DINAJPUR, Sept 1: The drought this year has left the marginal and poor farmers of the northern districts of the country economically crippled.

Drought is mainly responsible for acute scarcity of water for which the farmers could not cultivate their lands and irrigate the sown lands.

The problem of irrigation was also hampered as most of the pump machines remained out of order for the whole season.

A recent survey on North Bengal reveals that about 18,000 power pumps including the deep, shallow tubewells remained idle due to defectiveness. The survey report disclosed that there are 61,500 different kinds of tubewells in the northern region.

Out of the total, only 43,500 different kinds of tubewells worked more or less properly. The 18,000 power pumps remained idle. It is informed that a good number of tubewells remain idle for every year for various reasons.

There are 500 deep tubewells, 50,000 shallow tubewells and 6,000 other kinds of pumps, in the region.

Of the total, about 1,000 deep, 15,000 shallow tubewells and 2,000 other power pumps remain idle for want of machinery parts. Favourism, village politics, corruption of

the authority and the block committees are responsible for the installation and operation of the power pumps.

When contacted, an engineer of the Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) told this correspondent that improper use of power pumps, use of bad quality of oil and missing of spare parts are the main reasons for the short longevity of the power pumps.

Some farmers informed that high price of fuel, scarcity of spare parts, seeds, fertilizers and pesticides use to hamper the successful cultivation for which they are to pass very hard days.

The 16 northern districts include Chapainawabganj, Naogaon, Natore, Rajshahi, Sirajganj, Pabna, Joipurhat, Bogra, Gaibandha, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Rangpur, Nilphamari, Panchagarh, Thakurgaon and Dinajpur.

There are around one crore three lakh twenty seven thousand acres of agriculture and non-agriculture lands in the northern region of the country. But only 62,25,000 acres of land are used for cultivation in this region.

About 41,02,000 acres of land remain idle as these are khas lands. Out of the total, only ten per cent of the land get irrigation facilities. For the remaining lands, the farmers

are to depend on the nature.

The power supply problem is acute in the northern region of the country. This year, the continuous drought brought a havoc for the farmers as they could cultivate and sow the seeds in time.

The eastern part of the country which is known as northern districts possesses 52 per cent of the total land of the country where 48 per cent of the population live.

But it is irony of fate that this region gets only 100 megawatts power supply where as the eastern part gets 490 megawatts power supply. The percentage of loadshedding is seven to 15 per cent in eastern region where as the percentage of loadshedding is 15 to 25 per cent in western region.

The fall of the ground water level in the region is also alarming. The water level fall has varies from 15 to 45 feet in the areas. As a result, there is no water in many ponds, tubewells, wells and even some streams. Many tubewells including deep, shallow and other pumps remained inoperative due to the fall of water level.

The government have been urged to look into the matter impartially and take proper steps to solve the problems of thousands of people of the region for the greater interest of the country.

Notes from Madaripur

From Our Correspondent

MADARIPUR, Sept 1: Milk production is declining rapidly in the district due to shortage of cows and fodder.

Sources said, the number of cows is decreasing day by day because of indiscriminate slaughtering.

Shortage of fodder is also affecting milk production badly.

UPE Programme faces setback

Universal Primary Education Programme in the district has been facing setback due to manifold problems in the four thanas of the district.

Local leaders said, the dilapidated condition of the primary school buildings, shortage of teachers and accommodation problems are hampering the implementation of the programme.

It is learnt that many schools were damaged by floods and other natural calamities which are yet not repaired.

Besides, high prices of educational appliances including paper, pen and pencil etc have gone beyond the purchasing capacity of the poor students.

Local people urged the concerned authorities to remove the bottlenecks in implementing the programme without further delay.

Deep, shallow tubewells sunk

Public Health Engineering Department (PHE) of Barisal circle has sunk 2,903 deep and 3,414 shallow tubewells at cost of Taka 18,18,52,800 in 65 thanas of eleven southern districts for the supply of pure drinking water in rural and urban areas during the last fiscal year.

The districts are: Barisal, Madaripur, Faridpur, Shariatpur, Jhalakathi, Bhola, Pirojpur, Patuakhali, Boguna and Gopalganj.

According to an official sources, of the total 1,821 deep and 962 shallow tubewells were sunk with the financial assistance of UNICEF while 1,082 deep tubewells were installed with the financial assistance of the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Pye-dog panic

Pye-dog, menace has become alarming in different areas of the district over the last one month.

According to the report, the pye-dog with the advent of rainy season have taken shelter in different localities and in hats and bazars of the district posing great problems to the people.

Local people have urged the concerned authorities to take necessary measures in this regard as early as possible.

Seminar on journalism concludes

Local Jatiya Sangbadik Sangstha arranged a seminar on 'newspaper and journalism' here at district council auditorium recently.

M Salim Farazi, The Daily Star Correspondent and the President of Sangbadik Sangstha presided over the seminar.

M Ashiqul Haque Chowdhury, Deputy Commissioner of Madaripur attended in the seminar as chief guest while Prof Amzad Ali Khan, Principal of Govt Nazimuddin College as special guest. It was addressed among others by local teachers, physicians, businessmen and journalist.

BKB disburses Tk 45.41 crore

Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB), Barisal zone has distributed Taka 45.41 crore as agricultural loan among the farmers of 65 thanas in 11 southern districts over the last fiscal year.

The districts are: Barisal, Faridpur, Madaripur, Rajbari, Jhalakathi, Bhola, Pirojpur, Patuakhali, Boguna, Shariatpur and Gopalganj.

It is gathered that the government had sanctioned Taka 72.20 crore for disbursement among the farmers of the districts through 191 branches of BKB in the 1991-92 fiscal year.

Janmastami observed

Janmastami, the birth anniversary of Sri Krishna was observed in the district by the Hindu community in a befitting manner.

A three-day long programme was chalked out by the local Hory Mandir (Hory Temple) to mark the occasion. The programme included a discussion on the life and teachings of Sri Krishna.

A colourful procession was brought out which paraded the main thorough fares of the town on this occasion.

Aman farming going on in full swing

BARISAL, Sept 1: Broadcasting aman cultivation in eleven southern districts under Barisal Agriculture Zone (BAZ) is going on in full swing during the current season, reports BSS.

The districts are: Barisal, Jhalakathi, Bhola, Pirojpur, Patuakhali, Barguna, Faridpur, Rajbari, Gopalganj, Madaripur and Shariatpur.

According to an official source, 16,78,859 acres will be brought under broadcasting aman in these districts this year.

Of the total, 6,33,308 acres will be brought under upshi variety and 10,45,551 acres under local variety.

Meanwhile, 6,80,241 acres have been brought under cultivation.

A total of 375 demonstration plots out of 620 were arranged by the Bangladesh Agriculture Extension Department.

The districts are: Madaripur, Barisal, Faridpur, Shariatpur, Pirojpur, Bhola, Patuakhali, Barguna, Rajbari and Gopalganj.

Civic amenities absent in district town

NAOGAON, Sept 1: Town dwellers here have been facing multifarious problems due to lack of civic amenities, reports UNB.

Government employees are suffering much due to lack of accommodation in the town.

Town dwellers urged the authority to take steps to develop the town and provide it with civic amenities.

An organisation called the 'Naogaon Zila Sammashya Utaran Sangstha' has been formed to solve the local problems.

The members included advocates, doctors, businessmen and social workers of the town.

The 15-member executive committee consisted of Principal Baziul Haq, a prominent educationist as President, Rezaul Rahman and Dr Asif Ali as Vice-Presidents.



RANGPUR: The scouts are seen planting saplings at Raghu Primary School ground of Azizulla village under Rangpur Sadar thana recently. —Star Photo

Piracy on river routes, coastal areas increase

BHOLA, Sept 1: Piracy is increasing in the river Meghna, Tetulia and coastal areas of the district, local leaders alleged, reports UNB.

Daring dacoities are committed every day in these areas. In most cases pirates looted nets of the fisherman.

More than 25 dacoities were committed during the last fortnight here and the dacoits decamped with fish and other valuables worth lakhs of taka.

A villager was killed by the dacoits and more than 25 others were injured during the period.

Local leaders urged the authority to stop piracy by intensifying police patrol in the vulnerable areas.

At least 200 families have been rendered homeless during the current rainy season in five thanas of the district on account of erosion by the rivers Meghna and Tetulia.

The worst affected areas are: Ilsha, Kachia and Dhania union of Bhola Sadar, Charpata, Hazipur, Babantipur of Daulat-

khan, Molongchar and Chandpur of Tozumuddin, Lord Harding of Lalmoahon, Gongapur and Hasan Nagar of Borhanuddin thana.

About 300 acres of cultivated land have been devoured by the river Meghna and Tetulia during the period.

The homeless people are now living on the embankment and passing their days in great hardship. No relief has reached the distressed, some of them alleged.

2 pipe guns recovered

JHENIDAH, Sept 1: Police recovered two pipe guns from two rounds of SLR bullets from a field at Jaitampur village in Kachandpur thana on Sunday, reports UNB.

Acting on tip, police rushed to the spot and recovered the arms and ammunition.

Moheshpur thana police also recovered one abandoned pipe gun from Katakhal village recently.

4 killed in road mishaps, woman beaten to death

COMILLA, Sept 1: Four people were killed and 20 others injured in three road mishaps on Dhaka-Chittagong Highway recently, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, a Dhaka-bound bus from Lakhimpur plunged into a road side canal near Nuritola killing one person on the spot and injuring 20 others on August 25.

Three seriously injured were admitted to Comilla General Hospital. The cause of the accident was stated to be brake failure.

On the same day a speeding bus (Brahmanbaria-BA-504) heading towards Comilla from Daudkandi, crushed a father and son on Madhaya Bridge. The deceased were identified as Sujata Ali (45) and Abdus Sattar (10).

On August 26, an unidentified pedestrian while crossing the road was killed on the spot under the wheels of a Dhaka-bound speeding bus (Metro-Ja-04-0084) at Chandiha.

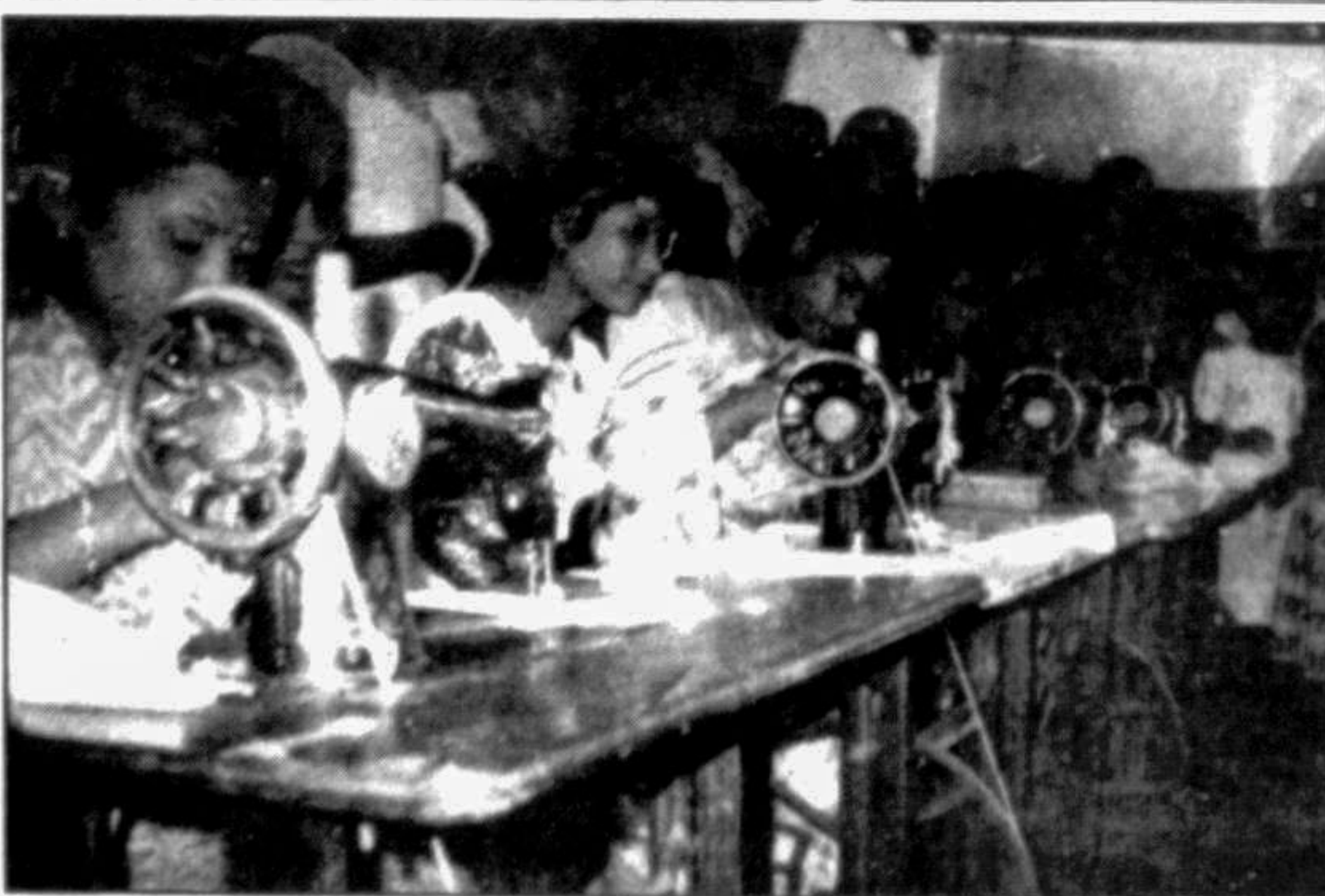
Three cases were filed with the police.

A woman was allegedly beaten to death by her husband at Lashihara village of Kachha thana.

Housewife hurt in bomb blast

JHENIDAH, Sept 1: A housewife was injured seriously in a bomb blast at Patbeela in Moheshpur thana on Friday, reports UNB.

The victim Earunnessa (35), wife of late Derajul Islam, was injured in the house of her relative Aminul Haq where the bomb was alleged to have been planted.



GAIBANDHA: The students of Gobindaganj Women's College taking vocational training recently. —Star photo