

District roundup

BOGRA

6 UP buildings constructed

Sept 16: Six union parishad buildings have been constructed in Bogra district recently at a cost of Taka 31.20 lakh, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the projects were taken up in 1991-92 fiscal year. The union parishads are Jorgacha, Madhupur, Tak-e-chukani, Chaluabari, Saidpur and Kazla.

Construction work of Sarikandi Dakbanglow is progressing fast at a cost of Taka eight lakh, the source said.

PABNA

Brickfields use firewood despite govt ban

Sept 16: Brickfields here have continued to use firewood for burning bricks instead of coal despite government ban, reports UNB.

Firewood are seen piled up in huge quantity in the brickfields and the owners said it was cheaper than coal and adequately available.

There are also adequate supply of coal in the district, official sources said.

Indiscriminate felling of trees and random use of bamboo roots in brickfields of nine thanas of the district have been damaging environment and speeding desertification.

Local leaders demand stern action on the brick field owners.

MAULVIBAZAR

Catching of fish fry unabated

From Our Correspondent

Sept 16: Defying the government order, the fish fry are being caught indiscriminately in different parts of the district.

It is reported that a section of fishermen in Sadar and Rajnagar thanas are catching fish fry of Ruhi, Katla, Mrigel and Magur from rivers, canals and haors.

Everyday a huge quantity of different varieties of fish fry are being sold in different markets and bazars of the district.

It is learnt that some of the fishermen are using current nets for catching these fish fry.

The government has banned the catching of fish fry below nine inches to implement its open water fish production programme.

It is alleged that law enforcing agencies are often play a silent role to take any stringent action against the illegal catching of fish fry.

MYMENSINGH

Father to suffer life-term for killing son

From Our Correspondent

Sept 16: Nurul Alam, Additional Sessions Judge, Mymensingh in a judgement sentenced one person to life-term for killing his son recently.

The convicted person, Rafiqul Islam hails from village Daribari under Ishanganj thana.

According to the prosecution of the case, on the night of April 29, 1992, the convicted person killed his son Sumon (37-day old).

A case was filed with the police in this regard. The judge after examining the evidence sentenced him and fined Taka 5000 in default to suffer imprisonment for one year more.

BARGUNA

Obscene film shows on increase

From Our Correspondent

Sept 16: Indian Hindi and foreign blue films are being exhibited openly here at many public places causing moral degradation of the young generation.

The demand for the Indian Hindi films is on rise and both the Hindi and obscene films are also being shown in many village through VCPs, local people informed.

The school going boys and girls often drop their classes to enjoy the films in a body, some guardians alleged.

Taking advantage of law and order situation, some unscrupulous video shopowners in the town have turned their shops into mini-cinema halls, where obscene films are shown on commercial basis.

Besides, the youths of the town and other places are addicted to spurious drugs and liquor at the influence of foreign video films who often resort to anti-social activities.

BARISAL

460 youths get self-employment training

From Our Correspondent

Sept 16: Youth Development Department, Barisal district provided training on self-employment activities to 460 youths from three southern districts of Barisal, Jhalakathi and Bhola during the last financial year.

According to official sources, 59 youths were provided training on poultry and livestock farming, 154 on pisciculture, 67 on dress making, 15 on block making, 15 on batik printing and 150 on small trading.

The department also provided motivation training to 583 youths engaged in self-employment activities in different places of the districts.

A total of 643 youths were provided training on self-employment activities during last year.

Besides the department has also undertaken tree plantation programme. Meanwhile about one thousand saplings of different varieties were planted in different areas of the districts.

KISHOREGANJ

Pregnant housewife beaten to death

From Our Correspondent

Sept 16: A pregnant young housewife was beaten to death by her husband for dowry in Khamerdahunda village under Karimganj thana of the district recently.

According to the police, the victim Rubia Khatun (22), daughter of Nandu Miah, of village Kudirganga was married to Dulal Miah of Khamerdahunda village under same thana about two years ago.

Villages said, Dulal married Rubia Khatun and he was given Taka 10,000 as dowry money. But after the marriage, Dulal Miah demanded more dowry in cash and kind from his father-in-law.

Having been refused, he started torturing his wife and on the night of the incident Rubia Khatun was severely beaten by her husband and she died on the spot.

The husband dumped the body of his wife near his house and spread the rumours that his wife was killed in the snakebite.

Later, Karimganj police recovered the body and sent it to Kishoreganj Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

A case was registered with local police station in this connection. The accused is absconding.

SYLHET

Smuggled sugar worth Tk 86,000 recovered

From Our Correspondent

Sept 16: The BDR personnel recovered smuggled Indian sugar worth about Taka 86 thousand from Jaintapur village under Sylhet district in Monday night last.

A BDR source informed that on getting informations, a contingent of BDR headed by a magistrate first class raided the house of one Berai Miah of village Haripur at midnight. The smugglers were then engaged in unloading the smuggled sugar. They managed to escape realising the presence of BDR men. The BDR then recovered 46 bags of Indian sugar from the truck and inside the house and seized the same along with the truck.

It was later handed over to the customs authority. A case in this connection had already been registered with the police. It is informed that smuggled goods worth about Taka three lakh were also recovered from the same house of Berai Miah two months ago. Accordingly, a case was also registered against him, but the police failed to catch him yet.

BRAHMANBARIA

Eid-e-Miladunnabi celebrated

From Our Correspondent

Sept 16: The holy Eid-e-Miladunnabi was celebrated here Thursday last with due solemnity and religious fervour.

Special milad mahfil and discussion meeting were held in all the mosques. Quran khawani was held in various parts of the district. Discussion meeting was also held on the life and works of Prophet Mohammad (SM).

Local Islamic Foundation also chalked out week-long programme at the town.



SYLHET: Most areas of Hasan Market at the town go under water after a slight rainfall due to improper drainage system. — Star photo

Transplanted aman paddy under pest attack

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Sept 16: Transplanted aman paddy on a vast tract of land in four thanas of the district have been attacked by pests.

The pests are locally known as 'pamripoka' which damage the paddy in a massive way.

The affected thanas are: Sadar, Alamdanga, Damurhuda and Jibannagar. Out of the four thanas, Jibannagar is the worst-hit.

A total of about 80,000 acres of land has been brought under the transplanted aman cultivation during the current season in the district.

The district coordination committee who discussed the pest attack issue at the meeting and expressed grave concern. The meeting also urged the concerned authorities to take immediate steps to halt the menace.

Some farmers of the affected areas of the district informed that the concerned authorities are yet to take any step regarding the pest attack.

When contacted, the Agriculture Department informed that they are aware of the incident and are going to take steps to check the pest attack. Some farmers also informed that the pesticides which they buy from the local market are

not working properly to halt the pest attack. The prices of different types of pesticides are too high which the debt-ridden farmers are unable procure for the purpose, it is learnt.

The local farmers and social workers have urged the concerned authorities to take immediate and adequate steps to check the menace to save the huge quantity of aman crop in the district.

Another report says: The prices of jute which have started to come at different hats and bazars of the districts are too low.

At present, jute is being sold between Taka 230 and Taka 250 per maund which the sellers claim below the production cost of the product. The production cost of jute per maund stands at Taka 300, some growers informed.

The growers are to sell jute at the low price as they are arrange money to repay the loans and buy daily necessities.

This correspondent who visited some markets of the district found that the one maund of jute is being sold at Taka 230 to 250 according to the quality. It is informed that jute were being sold between Taka 300 and 320 per maund but suddenly the price has

come down.

There is no BJMC and BJC purchasing centre in the district for which jute is being sold at the sweet will of the middle men. In some cases the sellers are bound to sell the jute on credit as the number of buyers is very limited at the markets.

It is expected that about 75,000 bales of jute will be produced in the district during the current season. The fresh jute have started to appear at the markets and steps are needed to allow the growers to get the fair prices of their products.

A UNB report from Naogaon says: Transplanted aman cultivation in all 11 thanas of the district is being seriously hampered in the current season for want of sufficient rain water.

Farmer's said, 10 per cent of the cultivable land remain fallow throughout the year this season. Most of the lands could not be tilled due to shortfall of rain water.

A few farmers transplanted the aman seedlings with the help of shallow tubewells.

The farmers urged the authorities to take up schemes to extend irrigation facilities in the district to boost agri production.

UPEP facing manifold problems

From Our Correspondent

SHERPUR, Sept 16: The Universal Primary Education Programme (UPEP) is faced with serious problems in five thanas of the district.

According to reports, shortage of teachers, official staff, inadequate furniture, dilapidated condition of school buildings and improper administrative measures are said to be the main problems hampering the primary education programme.

The quota of teachers in government primary schools in five thanas of the district is not maintained properly. Some schools with a large number of students have been facing problems due to shortage of teachers while many schools without requisite students have excess teachers.

It can be mentioned here that there are 358 government and 59 non-government primary schools in these thanas of the district.

Many posts of teachers and office staff have been lying vacant for a long time in these thanas. High prices of paper and other appliances, financial crisis, poverty and other social problems are also deviating the children from the opportunity of primary education.

The primary schools which were damaged by storms, cyclones, floods and other natural calamities during the last few years have not yet been

repaired or renovated in the rural areas of the district.

Out of 59 non-government primary schools, students in most of the schools have to sit on bricks, mats and other things for want of requisite benches.

Tk 9cr spent for uplift of roads

MAJDEE COURT, Sept 16: A total of Taka nine crore had been spent on development of roads and highways in the district during the last fiscal year, reports UNB.

The development works included construction and repair of roads, bridges, culverts, bailey bridge and pavement of roads in six thanas of the district.

Sources said R and H Department of the district executed these works under ADB, World Bank, emergency cyclone restoration project and flood rehabilitation programme.

Sonaimuri-Ramganj Road, Dhagan Bhuiyan-Companiganj, Sonaimuri Road, Sonapur-Char Jabbar-Steamerghat Road, Dhagan Bhuiyan-Companiganj Road, Matiya-Jahajmara Road were among the roads developed during the period.

Besides, most of these schools have no class room for which the students are to attend classes under open sky or under the trees. During rainy season, they are deprived of attending classes.

Most of the non-government schools have no tubewells or latrines for which the students are to suffer much. For want of tubewells the students are to take impure water and consequently they become victim of various disease.

A report from Chapainabganj says: Non-government primary school teachers of the district Monday brought out a procession in the town in support of their five-point demand, reports UNB.

The demands include nationalisation of the registered non-government primary schools, providing necessary appliances to the schools and timely payment of salaries to the teachers.

They said Universal Primary Education Programme of the government cannot achieve the desired results without uniformity of policy for government and non-government primary schools.

The teachers also handed over a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner after a brief rally.

Across the country

Scourge of the man-eaters

Prof Abu Ahmed

SATKHIRA, Sept 16: Pachabdi Gazi, a world famous tiger-hunter is now stooped down by the blows of ageing.

He has been suffering from different kinds of ailments like gastric ulcer, diabetes and very many intestinal diseases. His eyesight down to feeble. He is often bed-ridden due to growing infirmity. Poverty stricken Pachabdi Gazi cannot manage two square meals a day. So is also the situation with the purchase of medicines and diets which he can hardly manage.

Some kind of cultivable land donated by the then Pakistan government had long been eroded into the river. The deeds of khas land awarded to him by the government about two years ago, have not yet come to his possession. In such circumstances it is almost impossible for Pachabdi Gazi to maintain a family of fifteen members.

He came of a hunter family of the village of Sora under Shyamnagar thana, lying at one end of the evergreen

these mishaps Pachabdi Gazi, the peerless record-maker in tiger hunting history, has kept his reputation unspooled for about half a century by dint of his matchless skill and indomitable courage.

A very spare looking Pachabdi Gazi has killed 59 tigers in total. Until 1972 he killed more than 25 crocodiles, wild boars and numerous deer. He followed the footprints of his father in the jungles at an age when children usually attend schools. He got proper training in hunting from his father. As recognition of his matchless bravery in tiger hunting, he was awarded certificate of Sanad-E-Khidmat (certificate for serving humanity) during the Pakistan period.

A young Pachabdi Gazi once went into the Sundarbans as a companion of the then GOC Omrao Khan. Two Pakistani soldiers of their team were attacked by a tiger while they were hunting deer. Pachabdi snatched away the rifle from one of the soldiers and killed

amateur hunters who came here for hunting at various times.

Pachabdi can exactly imitate the roar of tiger with the help of an earthen pipe or with both of his palms fitted to his mouth. He is able to draw deer within range by uttering their mating calls. He is expert in applying various tricks and stratagems in tiger hunting. And specially for this Pachabdi is to remain present whenever any high official comes to visit the Sundarbans. Moreover, Pachabdi is called in whenever a man-eater enters and starts ravaging a human habitation. Off and on he has to serve the high officials of the department in their household affairs. He is to save the villagers by killing tigers with the permission of the forest department.

During mid-July of the current year, I found Pachabdi sitting with a fishing rod by the side of a pond in front of the forest office at Burigolani in the Sundarbans. Lungi-clad Pachabdi had no other clothes on him. A small child was helping him. His eyesight has become so weak that he could not recognise me until introduced myself.

When I proposed to take a snap of him, he said with unhidden sarcasm: "How can this photo help me? What is the use of writing about me any more?" He continued to say, "my only thing of pride is the memory of my adventurous experiences of tiger hunting. No government has recognised my achievements. Till today I could not be promoted from the post of a boatman to a guard. My family of fifteen members often go unfed or half fed. After my death what will happen to my children?" He went on saying with a grief in choked voice, "I took the risk of life in the interest of the state. But there is no change in my fortunes." He complained that many completely worthless employees in the forest department are promoted overnight. Even a low-paid employee is able to make buildings and buy cars.

I saw tears in the eyes of Pachabdi Gazi. There are visible wrinkles of old age all over his body. His speaking power has also grown feeble. He is about to lose also his power of hearing.

Although he is physically crippled by the blows of poverty and age, he retains his mental strength of a tiger-hunter intact. Pachabdi is ever ready to take on a man-eater, anytime. But he has to wait for the permission of the authority concerned.



Pachabdi Gazi

Sundarbans. All of his family have been hunters for generations together. His grandfather Kinu Gazi, was also a noted tiger-hunter. Ismail Gazi, a brother of Kinu Gazi, was also an expert hunter. He lost his life while stalking one of those great beasts. Meher Ali Gazi, his illustrious father who is said to have slain more than 50 tigers himself led a victim to a tiger. A few years ago his younger brother was also killed by a tiger. At least 7 of his kith and kins were killed one by one by tigers. In spite of all

the tiger. Charmed by the valour of Pachabdi Gazi, Omrao Khan brought him to the local forest office, and appointed him as his boatman. Since then he has been working as a boatman in the forest department.

This famous hunter accompanied former Iranian monarch Reza Shah Pahlavi and King Mahendra of Nepal in their tiger hunting expeditions in the Sundarbans and worked as their guide in hunting. Besides he gave his help to many national and international

Kidnapped girl still remain untraced

MAGURA, Sept 16: A girl was kidnapped last week from her house by a gang of mastans at Katoli village of Salikha thana, has still remained untraced, reports UNB.

Villagers said, Chearon Nesa (16) daughter of Dhala Mia Dadar was abducted by a gang of armed mastans led by a villager identified as Kabir Hossein.

A case has been filed with the police in this connection, but none was arrested so far.

The villagers have called on the Police Superintendent of the district urging his immediate attention.

Reopening of college demanded

HABIGANJ, Sept 15: General students and leaders of various student organisations and the college students' union demanded reopening of the Brindaban College which was closed on Sept 11, reports UNB.

The Chhatra League (Inu) brought out a procession in the town of Friday night and chanted slogans in favour of the demand.

The college was closed sine die following a clash between two rival groups of students in which 30 students were injured.

School girl, child hurt in bomb blast

JHENIDAH, Sept 16: A school girl and a child were injured when a bomb they took as a plaything exploded, reports UNB.

The victims were identified as Shathi (10) daughter of late Monwar Hossain and Babu (6) son of Rafiqul Islam of Bapari-pura of the district town.

According to family sources, they were playing with a brick size article in the courtyard of Rokeya Villa in the town.

Shathi was rushed to Sadar Hospital in a critical condition.

Seven get life-term for murder in Chandpur

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Sept 16: Md Jamsedur Rahman, Sessions Judge, Chandpur sentenced seven persons to suffer life-term imprisonment and to pay fine Taka seven thousand each in default to suffer one and half years more.

The prosecution case in brief is that on 16-2-90 accused Straj Darjee, Mati Darjee, Bazlu Darjee, Mojb Darjee, Labu, Mohammad Ali and Aziz Bepari of village Kherudia under Chandpur thana killed To-fazzal Hussain Darjee near Lalpur Char.

The convicted persons kept concealed the body. After registration of the case at Chandpur thana, police held investigation and submitted charge-sheet against ten persons.

After examining the records and prosecution witnesses the court found the above seven persons guilty and sentenced them to life-term imprisonment.

The other three persons named Rastam Bepari, Waltul-

lah and Sukur Sardar were acquitted of the charge.

The PP, Sheikh Mattur Rahman and APP Siddique Rahman pleaded for the government and Advocate Kazi Habbur Rahman and Fazul Haque Sarker pleaded for the accused persons.

A UNB report from Jhenidah adds: A young girl was killed after rape by a gang of unknown miscreants in Shaikupa thana of the district on Friday.

The victim was identified as Toia Khatun (18), daughter of Sadar Ali of Shadukhali village in Shaikupa thana.

Police recovered the body from a field the next day. Police said she was tied up by a scarf.

Local people suspected she was dragged out in the field at night, gang-raped and strangled.

The body was sent to the morgue for autopsy. A case was registered with the local police.

Indian cows, goods worth Tk 5.40 lakh seized

JHENIDAH, Sept 16: Bangladesh Rifles and police in a joint operation seized 14 Indian cows worth about Taka 1.40 lakh from Shaikupa thana of the district, official sources said here today, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, Chuadanga BDR and Jhenidah police raided Bhagawanbannagar village of Shaikupa thana last week and recovered the cows from a jungle of the village.

However, the smugglers managed to escape leaving behind the cows.

Local leaders alleged that Indian cows are being smuggled into the country in large numbers through Satkhira, Jhenidah and Jessore borders with the collaboration of some officials.

Another report from Naogaon adds: Police have seized Indian goods worth about Taka

four lakh from Manda thana of the district.

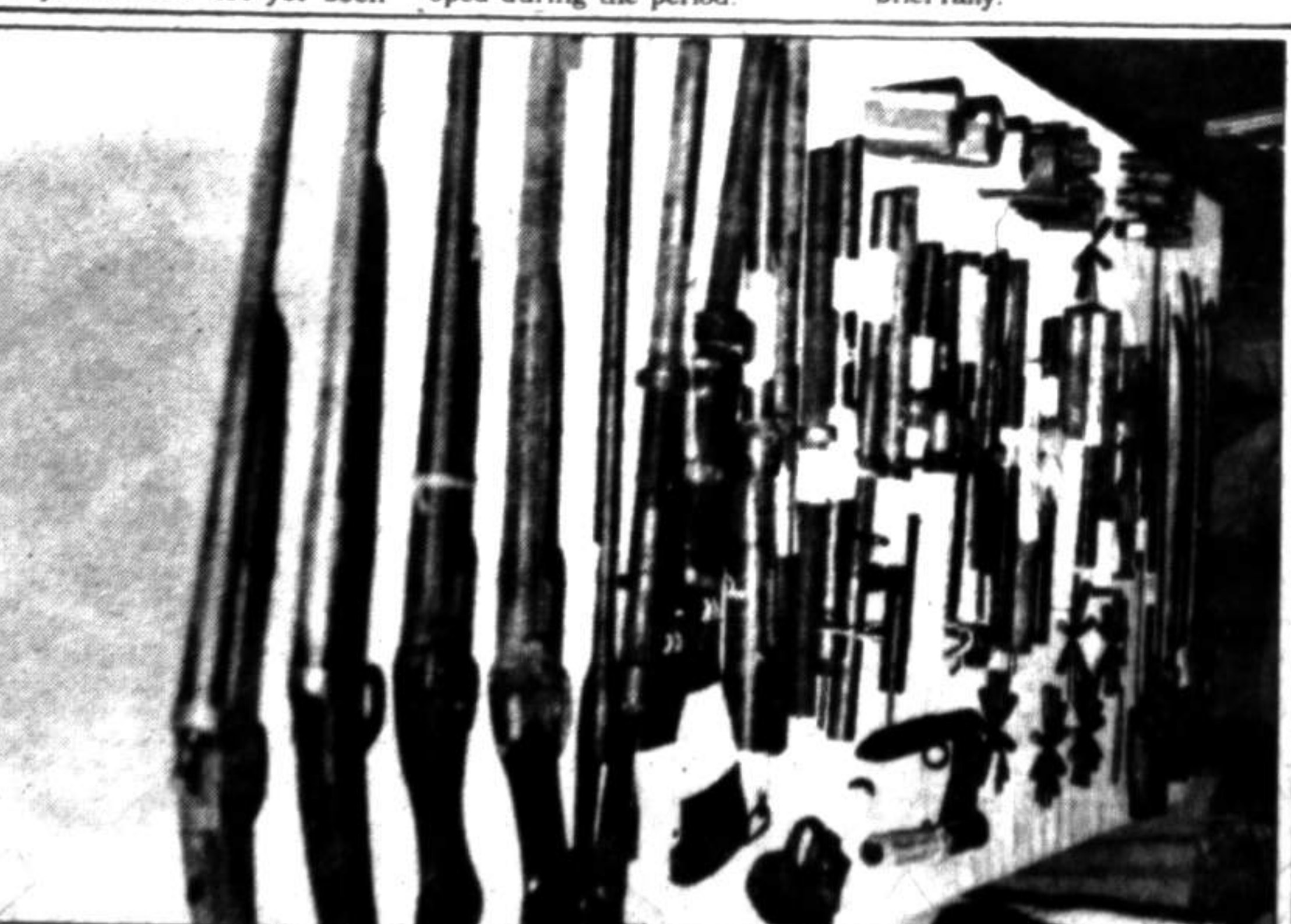
Acting on secret information, police raided house of Jalaluddin and Jahruddin of Nurullahbad village of Manda thana last week and seized goods including nylon nets and clothes.

A case has been filed with the local police.

Another report adds: A boy died of snake-venom in Badalgachi thana of the district last week.

The victim was identified as Shankar Chandra Mali (11), son of Anil Chandra Mali of Gayespur-village in Badalgachi thana.

Family sources said Shankar was playing football in Gayespur High School field. He was bitten by a poisonous snake as he went to a nearby jungle to bring the ball.



MYMENSINGH: Police recovered huge arms and ammunition during Operation August '92 from different areas of the district. — Star photo