

District roundup

SATKHIRA

Shopkeeper stabbed to death

Dec 12: A shopkeeper was stabbed to death allegedly by his guest inside his shop at Kadamtola Bazar in sadar thana Wednesday night, reports UNB.

It was learnt that shopkeeper Ahmed Ali (55) was stabbed with a sharp knife by Reza of Thanagata village while he (victim) was sleeping with him on the same bed inside his shop at dead of night.

Hearing his hue and cry, night guards broke the door of the shop but found him dead.

Ali gave shelter to Reza on request to stay inside his room and they slept on the same bed at the night.

Reza was caught red handed by the night guards and later handed over to the police. A case was lodged with the police in this connection and the body was sent to the morgue for autopsy.

RAJSHAHI

10 degree exam centres cancelled

Dec. 12: Authorities have cancelled 10 degree examination centres under Rajshahi University on charges of unfairness, malpractice and corruption, reports UNB.

The Academic Council of Rajshahi University took the decision at a meeting on Saturday last.

The cancelled centres are: Santhya Degree College of Pabna, Thakurgaon Government College, Dinajpur Ideal College, Dinajpur KBM College, Rangpur Government College, Gobindaganj College, Gaibandha Government College, Sadullapur College and Baraganj College in Rangpur.

RANGPUR

Rival groups clash leaves one dead

Dec 12: A man was killed in a clash between two rival groups over harvesting crops in sadar thana on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Police sources said the victim, identified as Mahbubur Rahman (35), was killed when he tried to prevent his rivals from harvesting crops on a disputed land at Chankuti village.

A case was registered with Kotwali police in this connection and the body was sent to the morgue for autopsy.

SIRAJGANJ

Family fued cost a baby's life

Dec 12: Family fued cost a baby's life. A two and half month old baby was brutally murdered at Ariamohon village in sadar thana out of revenge between two families, reports UNB.

Police said Fauara Khatun, daughter of Mohammad Ali was killed allegedly by one Abu Taher and four of his accomplices. Abu Taher who went into hiding was arrested Wednesday.

The body was sent to Sirajganj General Hospital for autopsy.

A case has been filed by the deceased father with the local police.

FENI

20 including 4 cops hurt in attack

Dec 12: At least 20 people were injured including 4 policemen when a group of men attacked a house at Joypur village in Chhaganaiya thana of the district Thursday, reports UNB.

Police said about 200 people led by one Moazzem Hossain of neighbouring Langalboa village attacked the house of Gobinda Prasad Roy at about 12 mid night, but was resisted by police and villagers.

Police, who was earlier stationed at house premise, fired two rounds of shots to disperse the mob.

Among the injured Moazzem Hossain with bullet injury and Kamal Biswas were shifted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

The injured policemen are Sub-inspector Monir, constables Ahmed Hossain, Rafiq and Ali Azam were admitted into Chhaganaiya and Feni hospitals.

The other injured are Nani Gopal Choudhury, Sudhir Kumar Dev and Subimal Kumar Nandi.

SIRAJGANJ

3-bundle of phone wire recovered

Dec 12: Police recovered three bundle of telephone wire from Malshapara village and arrested a person in this connection, reports UNB.

Police acting on a tip raided the area and arrested Sirajul Islam (24) from Kandapara village in sadar thana.

The recovered wire amounted to about Taka 10,000.

KUSHIA

BNP workers asked to maintain peace

Dec 12: State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism, Abdul Mannan called upon the BNP workers to maintain communal harmony and peace in the society with spirit of Islam, reports BSS.

He said the great religion Islam teaches us to maintain peace in the society.

The State Minister was speaking as the chief guest at a conference of the BNP workers at the Kushtia Circuit House. He urged the party workers to resist all attempts to disturb the communal harmony in the society.

Later, the State Minister presided over the meeting of the canal digging programme of the Kushtia district at the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner.

Asharul Haque Mollah MP, Al-hajj Abdul Khaleque MP and Shelina Shaheed, MP were present.

DINAJPUR

Minor boy killed in road mishap

Dec 12: A teen-aged boy was killed and another one was injured when a truck knocked down them here on Thursday, reports UNB.

The accident occurred when the truck dashed Alam (15), son of Abdul Rahim of Golapbag, and Anisur Rahman (17), son of Montruiddin of Fakirpara of the town, while they were riding bicycle near Chourangi Cinema Hall.

They were rushed to the General hospital where Alam succumbed to his injuries. The condition of Anisur Rahman was stated to be critical.

Police seized the truck, but the driver managed to flee.

A case was filed with the police.

Another adds: A hawk was run over by a speeding bus at Birampur bazar of the district recently.

It was learnt the victim, Nagendra Nath (45), was run over by a Ghoraghat-bound speeding bus immediately after he got down from another one on the road at Birampur Bazar.

RAJBARI

Anniversary of Mir Mosharraf's death Dec 19

Dec 12: The 81st death anniversary of Mir Mosharraf Hossain, a noted author in Bangla literature, will be observed with due solemnity at Padomati village in Bahakandi on December 19, reports UNB.

A 51-member Mir Mosharraf Hossain Smriti Sangrahan Committee has already been formed in this regard under the patronisation of State Minister for Religious Affairs Prof. Jahannara Begum.

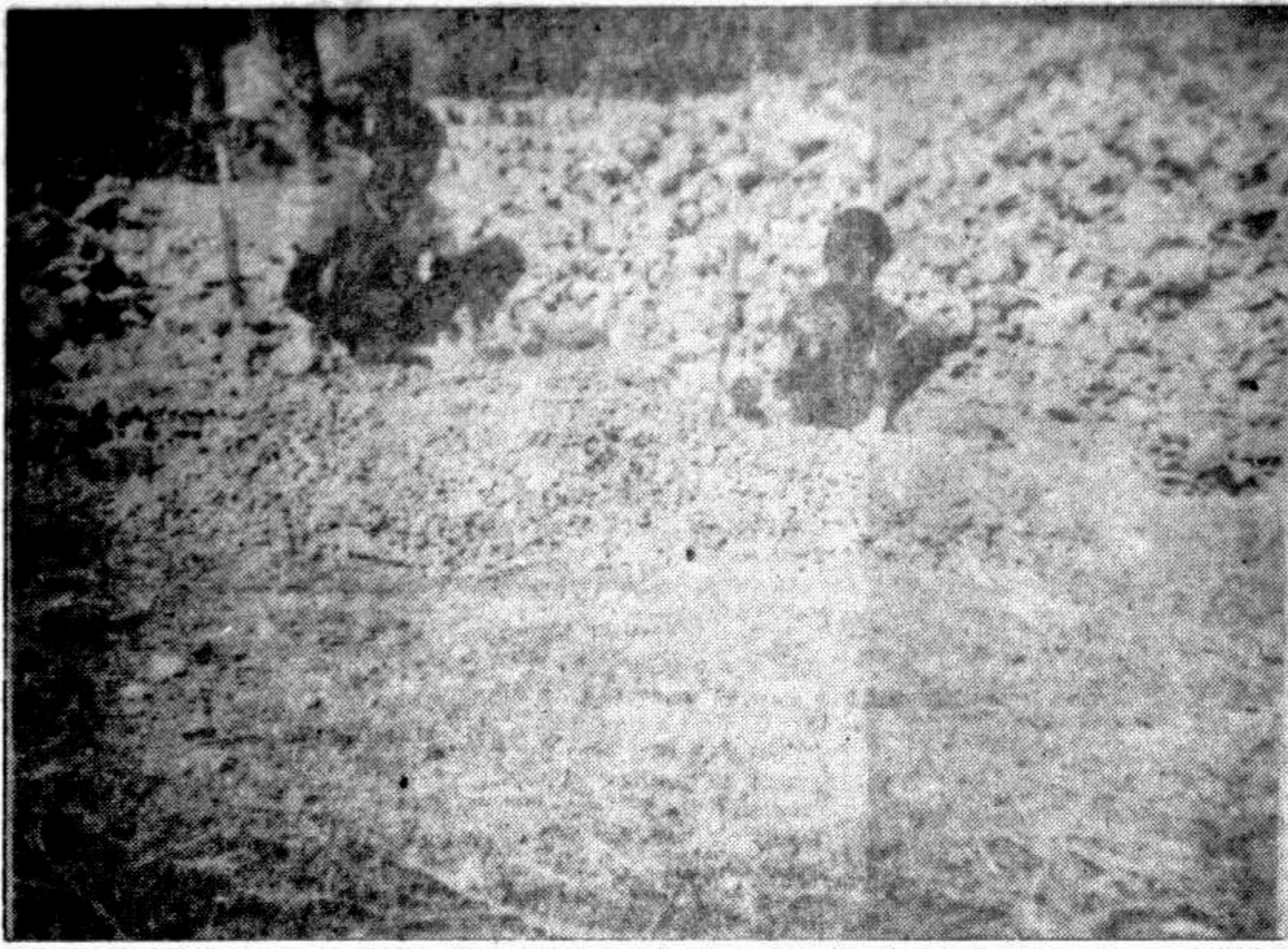
PANCHAGARH

Work on town protection plan to start soon

Dec: Construction of the Panchagarh Town Protection Embankment at a cost of Taka 14 crore will start in the current dry season, report UNB.

This was stated by Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz during visit to the dam site on Thursday.

The three-and-half-kilometre embankment will be built in two phases in three years to check erosion of the northern town by Karotoa River, with assistance from Asian Development Bank (ADB).



STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL: These two children are breaking bricks to arrange bread. They are supposed to attend school but poverty compels them to engage themselves in manual labour. —Star photo

Child labour increasing in northern districts

DINAJPUR, Dec 12: The number of child labourers is increasing in different areas of 16 northern districts of the country.

The districts are: Chapaina-wabganj, Natore, Naogaon, Rajshahi, Pabna, Sirajganj, Joipurhat, Bogra, Gaibandha, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Rangpur, Nilphamari, Panchagarh, Thakurgaon and Dinajpur.

The poor children are engaged in different works for earning livelihood.

The children at the age limit of 5 to 15 years are engaged in manual jobs on daily basis.

This class of children are found working as helping hands in motor, bi-cycle and rickshaw garages, welding shops and as boys in hotels and restaurants. Some of the children work as hawkers of newspapers and other commodities. Many of them are also plying rickshaws.

The child labourers get a nominal wage from their masters and there is no guarantee of their jobs. The children who are working as servants are often tortured by the house owners.

The child labourers work for more than 10 hours a day and earning between Taka 15 and Taka 20 to support their families.

These child labourers do not get proper diet and medical facilities and have been suffering from various diseases. Some children are found moving from door to door to beg for food.

These tender faces speak of their uncertainty of life and living. They cannot realise their social value as they never know how to read and write.

It is observed that privileged people of the society were taking advantages of the poverty of these class of children and they are being exploited.

According to International Labour Laws, the children below the age group of 15 are not allowed to take up hard work. But in our country, the law is not being enforced. The concerned authorities have been urged to take initiatives to rehabilitate the child labourers through opening institutions and thus help them enjoy the minimum rights for the greater interest of the national.

Some of the children informed this correspondent that none of them had a single piece of cultivable land.

Most of these families consist of seven to ten members. Still, a few of them have not given up the hope of going to schools again.

Poura polls campaign gains momentum

GAZIPUR, Dec 12: Campaign has gained momentum for the Pourashava election of the Tongi and Gazipur scheduled to be held on January 11 of the next year, reports UNB.

Supporters and workers of the probable candidates have become busy before submission of nomination papers.

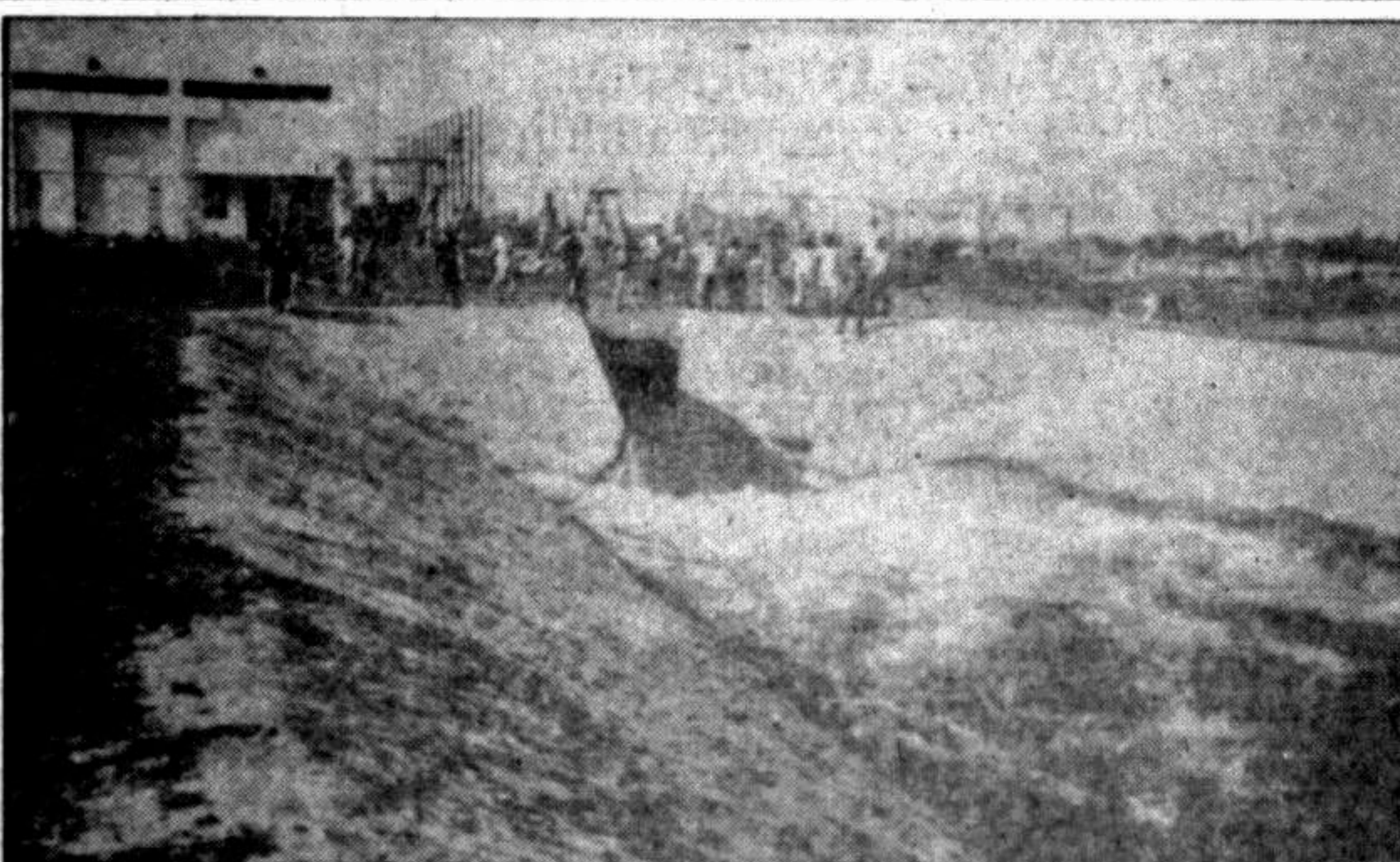
A few projection meetings were held recently and door to door campaign started by active supporters of the intending candidates.

Almost all roads under Gazipur and Tangail zones of the Roads and Highways Department are now in deplorable condition, local leaders informed here.

They said most of the culverts and bridges, built in the British or Pakistan period, had turned weak and risky without maintenance and development for the last several years.

During rainy season these roads become unfit for vehicles hindering transportation of goods and passengers.

The roads are, Dhaka-Sreepur Road, Dhaka-Gazipur Road, Dhaka-Tangail Road, Gazipur-Pubail Road, Rajendrapur-Kapasia Road, Tongi-Kaliganj Road and Gazipur-Kalkalor Road.



CHANDPUR: The Meghna-Dhonagoda Irrigation Project at Matlab thana of the district. —Star photo

Protest against demolition of Babri Mosque on

CHANDPUR, Dec 12: Angry Muslims continued continued protest in different parts of the country against the demolition of Babri Mosque at Ayodhya in India on December 6, reports UNB.

In Chandpur, a procession was brought out in the town to condemn the heinous act of demolition and grave assault on the feelings of world Muslims.

The protestors demanded of the Indian government to rebuild the 430-year-old mosque.

The procession at one stage near Purnabazar attacked a temple but was resisted by police and local elite.

Police were patrolling different parts of the town to maintain law and order.

UNB Kushtia Correspondents adds: Activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal brought out a procession and held a rally in protest of destruction of the ancient Babri Mosque.

Speakers at the rally condemned the act and termed the action as barbaric which spread communal violence throughout India killing hundreds of people.

Local Press Club also in a meeting expressed their resentment over the incident and condemned the demolition of the mosque by Hindu fundamentalists.

Presided over by AM Kaiser, the meeting called upon all to maintain peace and harmony in the country as per teachings of Islam.

A report from Pirojpur says: At least 20 temples were damaged in different places of the district during the last three days by mobs protesting the demolition of Babri Mosque at Ayodhya in India.

Of them, 13 temples were damaged in Sadar, 5 in Nesarabad, one in Mathbaria and one in Bhandaria.

Meanwhile, an all-party emergency meeting was held at the Deputy Commissioner's conference room on Thursday to ward off further violence.

The meeting, presided over by the Deputy Commissioner, was attended by local elite and leaders of different political and social organisations.

It expressed vow to maintain law and order situation in the district and check further violence at any cost. A committee was also formed headed by Additional District Magistrate Abul Fozal for maintaining communal harmony and law and order situation.

An earlier BSS report says: State Minister for Establishment Md Nurul Huda called upon the students, political leaders, social workers and peoples of all walks of lives to uphold the national heritage and the glorious history of communal harmony at all costs.

He was addressing a workers rally of district BNP and its front organisations at the local public hall on Thursday.

Presided over by the General Secretary of the district BNP Muniruzzaman Pinal, the rally was also addressed by Chhatra Dal, Juba Dal and Srantik Dal leaders.

Mr Huda said the BNP government wanted to engage the nation in the development activities but a known-quarter was creating unrest in social and political fields to dismantle the development spree.

He said, "Another vested quarter is also trying to create law and order situation to fulfill their hindus interests".

The state minister said all patriotic people of the country should face any evil design of any quarter in the interest of national image.

Later Nurul Huda had a meeting with the district level officials at the local Circuit house. He reviewed the law and order situation and sectorwise development activities in the district and gave directives to the administration to handle the anarchists and opportunists with an iron hand.

He sought about cooperation of the government officials to face any untoward situation.

Another report adds: Several thousand Muslim devotees brought out a procession in the town after Juma prayer on Friday protesting the demolition of Babri Mosque in India by Hindu fundamentalists.

The processionists, led by district BNP Secretary Humayun Islam Khan, Imam of Sirajganj Jame Mosque and Jamaat leader Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.

Eight get life-term for killing VDP member

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Dec 12: The Additional District and Sessions Judge of Sunamganj A K M Anwar Hossain while passing his judgement in a murder case found eight persons guilty and sentenced them to suffer life-term imprisonment recently.

The court also acquitted a woman in the same case of the charge brought against her.

The prosecution case in brief is that a group of people kidnapped Sajidur Rahman, a member of the Village Defence Party of Barapapra area of Sunamganj town of February 27, 1990 from a shop. He was later killed with some sharp weapons.

While they were trying to conceal the body, some local people saw the matter one but all the killers managed to escape. He was caught and handed over to the police station.

Siddique Ali, father of the victim registered a case with the police station. The police after holding investigations submitted chargesheet against nine accused persons including a woman.

The court after examining all records and witnesses, found eight persons guilty and passed the aforesaid judgement.

A 8-year boy was killed following a road accident recently.

According to the reports, the victim Jashim, son of Arosh Ali of village Ausha under Kotwali police station was knocked down at a place near Tuberbazar by a speeding minibus on the day of incident.

A case in this connection had already been registered with the police station. Post-mortem on the body was performed in the hospital Morgue.

Different rly routes need more coaches

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Dec 12: More railway coaches have been demanded by the passengers of different northern railway routes. The routes are: Dinajpur-Teestamat Ghat, Santahar-Lalmoinirhat, Santahar-Chilahati, Perbatipur-Kurigram, Perbatipur-Lalmoinirhat and Perbatipur-Panchagarh sections.

The inadequate existing passenger coaches are in deplorable condition.

The condition of bogies of local trains is more pitiable. Due to shortage of bogies, most of the trains remain overloaded all the times.

Only five to six old compartments are attached to the trains in some sections. The old and worn passengers are often found helpless to board the train at different stations. Passengers are found crowded inside the open space of luggage vans.

Very often passengers are seen travelling on roof tops and hooks between two bogies. Moreover, passengers remain crowded both the sides of locomotive powers which create much problem to the locomotives during operation.

Compartments specially of mail and local trains are not worth using. Many of the hard board and pexet pieces have already disappeared from compartments. Wooden, aluminium fittings like sheet, window frame and shutters have been stolen.

It was informed that organised gang of miscreants have been engaged in pilfering railway property for a long.

The passengers on these routes have urged the concerned authority to look into the matter and take steps to mitigate the sufferings.

Farmers in Barind Area to get Tk 7cr crop loan

Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank (RAKUB) has taken up a Taka seven crore credit programme for increasing crop production in the Barind Area under Rajshahi, Naogaon and Chapai-Nawabganj districts, says a press release.

A memorandum of understanding to this effect has been signed between Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank and Barindro Bohumukhi Unnayan Kartipakha in the Bank's Head Office at Rajshahi.

AKM Sajedur Rahman, Deputy General Manager, RAKUB and M Asaduzzaman, Executive Director, BBUK signed the memorandum of understanding on behalf of the respective organisations.

The memorandum of understanding stipulates that Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank in cooperation with the Barendro Bohumukhi Unnayan Kartipakha will provide production loans to the farmers of the area for Rabi Crops including paddy in the command area of the Deep Tubewells set up by the Kartipakha through the Bank's 57 branches in the first phase. A total of 285 deep tubewells in command area of about 17,000 acres of land will come under this programme.

It is expected, that over 25,000 farmers will be directly benefited and an additional 19,000 tons of paddy will be produced after implementation of the programme.

The credit will be provided mostly in the form of imputs under strict supervision. The RAKUB and Barindro Kartipakha have undertaken a joint training programme for the field officials of both the organisations in this region.

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, Dec 12: After a three-hour search this afternoon police arrested 14 Rohingya terrorists from Nayapara Refugee Camp Number 1 and recovered sharp weapons and crackers from their possession.

On Saturday evening, a group of armed Rohingyas from Camp Number 1 attacked another camp and at one stage they involved in gunbattle with the police. Seventy people including 15 policemen were injured in the clash. Since then a tense situation has been prevailing at the camps in Nayapara.

Meanwhile another batch of 100 Rohingyas is expected to be repatriated to Myanmar tomorrow.

Help ensure rights of handicapped persons

FARIDPUR, Dec 12: World Handicapped Day was observed here recently with a call to ensure the rights and privilege the handicapped persons as recommended by U N Charter, reports BSS.

In this connection a discussion meeting organised by social service department was held in the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner.

Speakers at the discussion meeting stressed the need for establishing the rights of the retarded people particularly the children so that they can lead an honorable life in the society. They also emphasised their rehabilitation in the society.

16.79 lakh acres under Aman farming

MADARIPUR, Dec 12: A total of 16,78,859 acres of land have been brought under transplanted and broadcast aman cultivation programme in 11 southern districts during this year, reports UNB.

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

Official sources said, 633,308 acres of lands have been brought under upshavari and 10,45,551 acres under local variety.

Production target of aman has been fixed at 18,75,981 metric tons of paddy in these districts in the current season.

Diarrhoea has claimed one life and attacked 143 persons in the district, according to official sources.

The dead was identified as, Azmol (4).

A total of 66 medical teams are working in the district.

Paucity of pure drinking water and adulterated food were the main reasons for the outbreak of the disease recently, medical sources said.

Former UP member killed

BRAHMANBARIA, Dec 12: A former union parishad member of Kalkitacha village of the district has been strangled by a gang of miscreants, reports UNB.

Informed sources said, the victims Nareschandra Das (50) was kidnapped by the miscreants reportedly as a sequel to previous enmity over land ownership.

A case has been lodged in this connection with Sarail police station.

A gang of miscreants took away Taka 5000 from a sweetmeat shop and a gold chain from its owner at gun point here.

Police sources said the miscreants numbering about ten were trying to go away without paying the bill after taking sweets and tea from the shop at station road.

When the owner demanded money, they took out pistols and looted the money and the chain.

A case has been lodged under terrorist act with the police.

11 murder, 10 dacoity, 20 hijacking cases in Nov

JESSORE, Dec 12: A total of 11 murders, 10 dacoities and 20 hijacking cases has been registered in the district in the month of November this year, reports UNB.

Police sources said although the number of murders decreased, the other crimes recorded no change. About 15 people were killed in October, they said.

Narcotics Control Department recovered heroin, wine, ganja, pynsvidi-syrup worth Taka 1.50 lakh from different places of the district between July and October this year.

A total of 35 cases have been filed and at least 33 people were arrested during the same period.

The recovered items included 06 grams of heroin, 105 grams of opium, 8 kgs of dry ganja, 76 ganja plants, 11 bottles of phynsvidi syrup, 480 kgs of jaova, 129 bottles of country-made liquor, 100 bhng plants, wine, bear and ram.

One killed in road accident

MAGURA, Dec 12: A man was killed and another injured seriously in a road accident near Belanagar College on Magura-Kamarkhali highway Sunday, reports UNB.

According to the witnesses, while two people were returning home from Magura town by rickshaw, a speeding bus hit the rickshaw from behind injured them seriously.