

District roundup

MYMENSINGH
Martyred Intellectual Day observed

Dec 19: The Martyred Intellectual Day was observed at the Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) in a befitting manner, reports UNB.
A probhat ferry led by the Teachers' Association of BAU was brought out in the campus participated by various organisations. They laid wreaths at the Shahid Minar to pay homage to the martyrs.
Prof Nazrul Islam, General Secretary of the association briefly spoke on the significance of the day at the gathering assembled at the Shahid Minar.
Later a cultural programme was also held on the occasion.
Another discussion meeting was arranged by the association while special prayers were offered for salvation of the departed souls at different mosques.

TANGAIL
Workshop on post-disaster medical services

Dec 19: A four-day-long workshop on post-disaster medical services for doctors concluded Tuesday at Tangail Medical Assistant Training Centre auditorium here, reports BSS.
A total of 35 doctors took part in the workshop which was sponsored jointly by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Ministry of Health.
Prof Mashhur Rahman distributed certificates among the participants. He called upon them to discharge their humanitarian services sincerely.

LALMONIRHAT
Train rams minibus: One killed

Dec 19: At least one person was killed and eight others were injured when a train rams a minibus on a level-crossing near Gabtali thana in Bogra Thursday, reports UNB.
The body was identified as Abdul Hamid (30) of village Hasnarpura in Sariakandi thana.
Lalmohrhat Railway Division sources said the accident occurred at about 6:30 pm when the Bogra-bound bus from Sariakandi tried to cross the railgate by removing its chain.
Padmarag Express train, bound for Lalmonirhat, hit the bus at the rear. The bus turned turtle on the side of the rail track.
Of the injured, three were released after first aid and the remaining 5 admitted to Bogra Mohammad Ali Hospital in critical condition.

SIRAJGONJ
Miscreants ransack Press Club

Dec 19: Miscreants on Thursday ransacked a local Press Club and roughed up a journalist, police said, reports UNB.
Miscreants numbering about eight attacked the Press Club apparently being agitated by a news item published in a local weekly regarding burglary.
The attackers allegedly decamped with cash and valuables worth about Taka 6,000.
The injured was identified as Abdul Hamid, editor of the weekly - Jaha Bolbo Shaitya Bolbo.
Two cases - one with the local police and another with the Sadar Magistrate - were filed in this connection.

FARIPTUR
Atrashi Pir's son receives bullet injury

Dec 19: Elder son of Pir of Atrashi received bullet injury when a pistol went off Tuesday December 15, police said, reports UNB.
Mahfuzul Haque, elder son of the Pir was rushed to a private clinic of the town in a critical condition and operated upon there early Wednesday.
Sources said, the two brothers Mahfuzul and Mustafa Amir Faisal, were on their way to Sadarpur by a private car. When the car reached at Bakunda bridge, Mahfuzul asked Mustafa to check the pistol they were carrying. As the younger brother was checking the pistol, it suddenly went off and hit the back of his brother sitting in the front seat.
Police said the incident might be an accident.

BARISAL
New Divisional Commissioner takes over charges

Dec 19: MA Rashid, on Thursday took over charges as Divisional Commissioner of newly established Barisal Division. It was learnt here officially, reports BSS.
Prior to his joining the new assignment, Rashid was the Additional Commissioner of Chittagong Division.
The division, with 14 department offices, will formally start functioning from January one next.
The newly formed division comprising the districts of Barisal, Bhola, Jhalakati, Pirojpur, Patuakhali and Barguna, have an area of 12,104 square kilometre and a population of nearly 80 lakh.

MOULVIBAZAR
Lawyers urged to implement legal measures properly

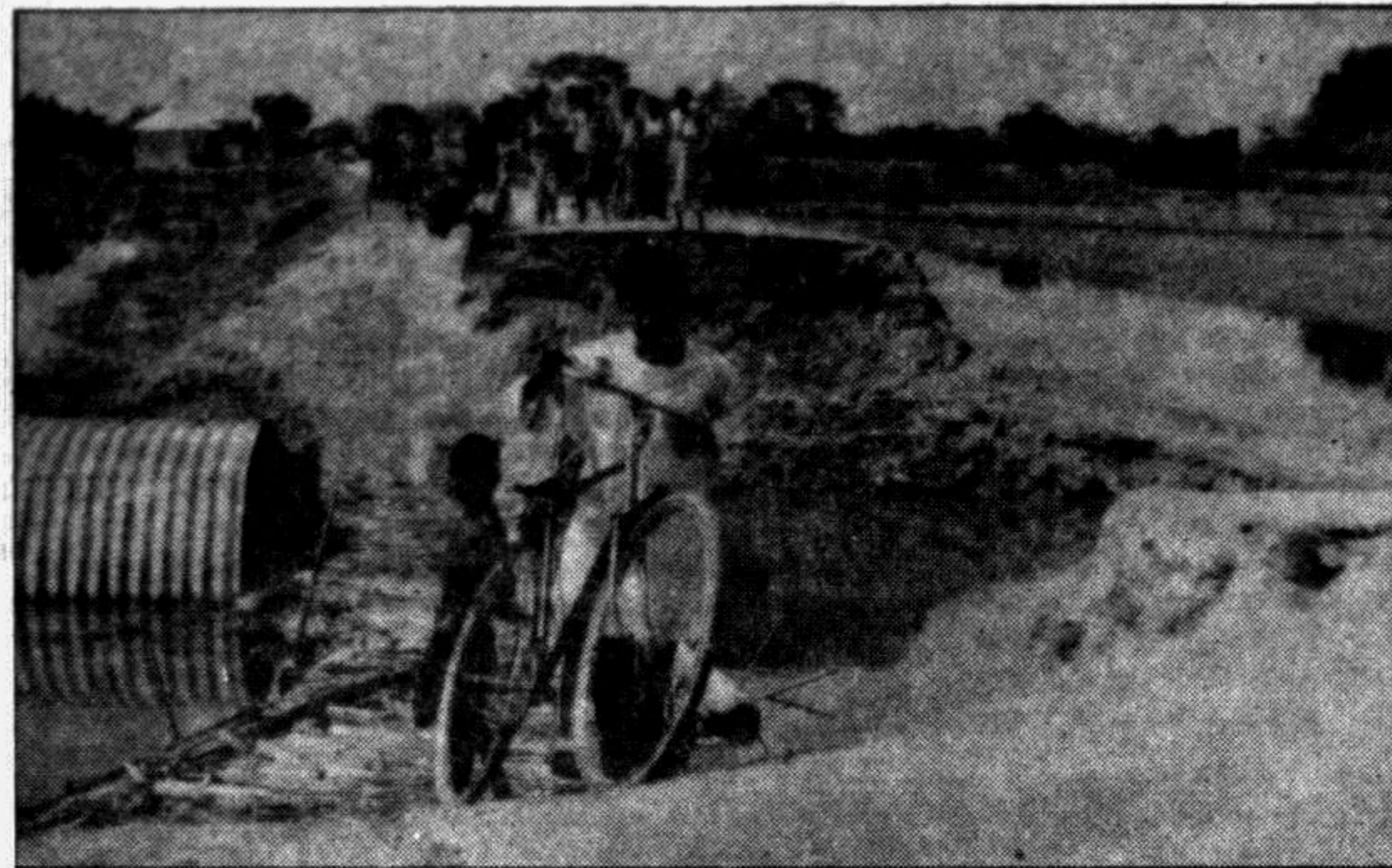
Dec 19: Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman Thursday said humanity and conscience are above any law for a peaceful and disciplined democratic society, reports UNB.
Addressing the members of the local Bar Samity at the Samity Bhaban, Rahman said rule of law, the bench and the bar are the most important factors to sustain democracy and development.
He urged the lawyers to implement all legal measures to ensure fundamental rights of the people and guarantee peace.
The minister underscored the need for more expeditious dispensation of law, independence of judiciary and reform of archaic law to bring dynamism in legal system.
The function was presided over by local Bar Samity president Advocate MA Munir.
Earlier, the Finance Minister attended the foundation laying ceremony of Begum Duree Samad Rahman Hall of Moulvibazar Girls' College.

BRAHMANBARIA
Law, order situation discussed

From Our Correspondent
Dec 19: A discussion meeting on law and order situation of the district held in the Deputy Commissioner's conference hall recently.
Political leaders of different parties, head of the educational institutions, elite persons of the town were present in the conference.
State Minister for Shipping Alhaj Advocate Harun-Ur-Rashid was present as chief guest while Advocate Abdus Sattar MP, as special guest.
The meeting was presided over by Deputy Commissioner Khabiruddin Ahmed. It was addressed among others by Police Super Habibur Rahman, Principal B Baria Govt College Professor Shajahan Chowdhury, Bar Association president Syed Emdadul Bari, Secretary Tahirul Islam, Chamber and Commerce President Fariduddin Ahmed, Shaiful Islam, general secretary Zila BNP Hamidul Hoque (Tukku), Editor of Pratibondh Moshir Rahman Khan, OC Mohd Ali, Head Master Shaifuddin Ahmed, local journalist Mohd Arzo, Dilara Haroon, Shumesh Roy, Akser Mohd Chowdhury.

SYLHET
Materials worth Tk one lakh seized

From Our Correspondent
Dec 19: The customs authorities seized a bar of one kilogram of silver and five hundred roles of Konica film from the possession of two passengers who were from Dubai in the afternoon of Tuesday (December 15).
An official source informed that the passengers brought these materials worth about Taka one lakh illegally. A case in the connection had been started by the custom department.
Another report adds: Sylhet Kotwali police arrested an absconding convicted person after three years on December 16.
Khalidur Rahman Surat had been absconding since 1989 after he was sentenced to suffer life-term imprisonment in a murder case. He was convicted for killing Ayub Ali Master of village Jaronda under Bawanath thana.



RANGPUR: People have been suffering much for the present condition of Badarganj Road. The road was damaged during the last flood. — Star photo

Diarrhoea claims 73 more lives in Ctg hill dists

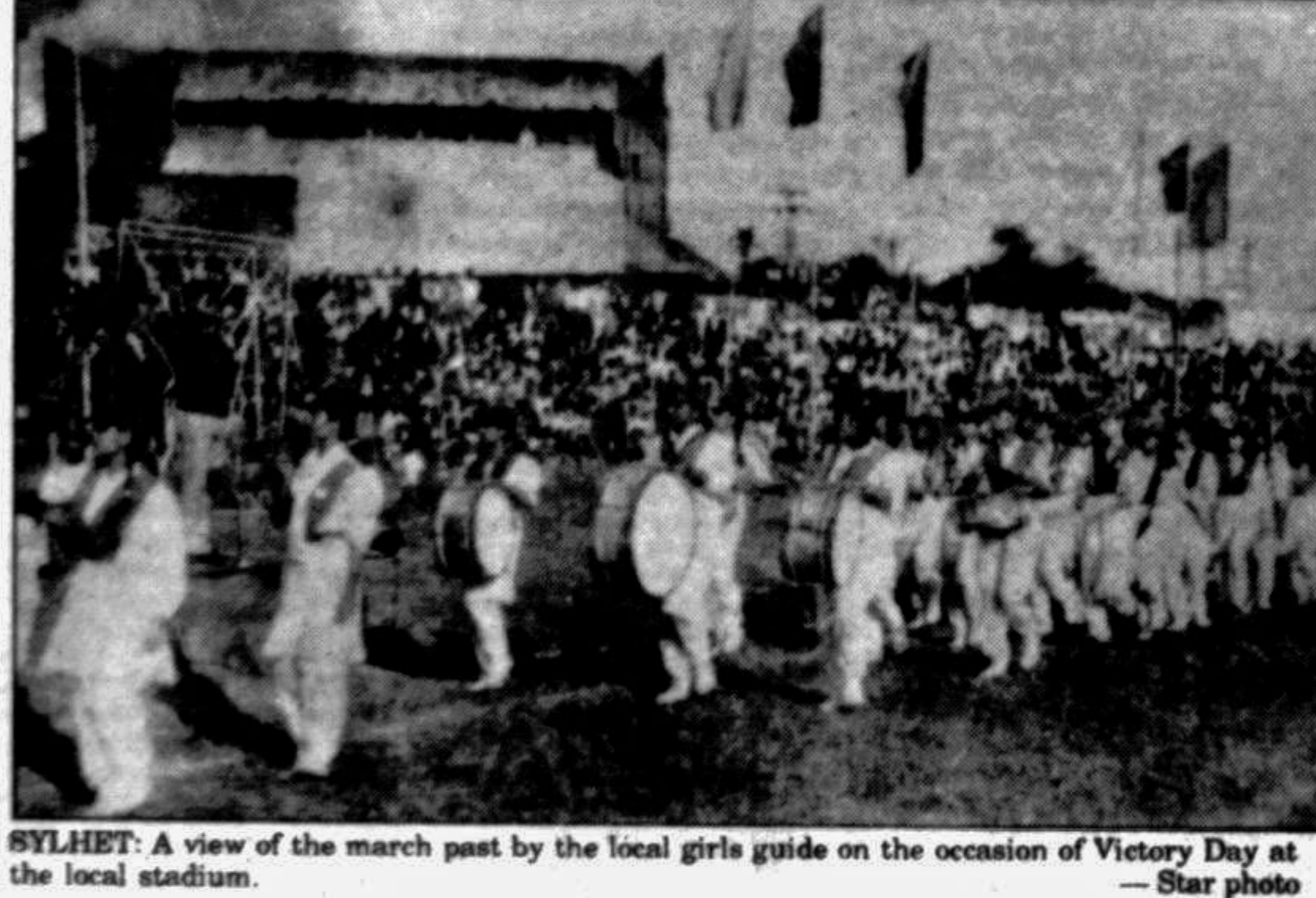
RANGAMATI, Dec 19: Diarrhoea has claimed 73 more lives in the last fortnight in Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bunderban hill districts, reports UNB.
Sources said 10 people died in Rangamati, 25 in Khagrachhari and 38 in Bunderban.
Confirming the death figures, local government sources said about 2,500 people were now suffering from the disease in the region, mostly in the remote areas.
With the latest figure, death toll from diarrhoeal diseases in the hill districts stood at 403 in the last three months, they added.
About 1,500 people have been attacked by the disease in Bunderban alone.
Health and Family Planning officials in Lama thana said 25 people died here in the last fortnight. Eight children died in Alikadam thana and five in Bunderban Sadar thana.
Local leaders said the authorities were yet to take any step to improve situation.
Balukhali union chairman Mayadhan Chakma said there was no health worker in the 26 union parishes under the Rangamati Sadar thana.
Khagrachhari Civil Surgeon Dr Abdur Rahman claimed that the situation there was under control.
Diarrhoea was reported in Panchhari, Ramgarh, Matiranga and Mohalchhari thanas of the Khagrachhari district.
The medical team indicated in their report that lack of health education, improved drinking water, acute shortage of food and medicine were the main reasons behind spreading diarrhoea.
In Rangamati district Sazek valley of Baghaichhari thana, Jhekamukh of Borkal thana and Belaichhari were said to have been affected by diarrhoea.
Social welfare grants of Taka 50 lakh are yet to be disbursed among the listed tribals to make them self-reliant.
The delay in disbursement has been adversely affecting more than 1500 families, who were enlisted in the first phase of the project.
The fund was allocated last year by the Ministry of Social Welfare.
According to local social services department, the list comprised of deserving people engaged in weaving, small trades, rickshaw projects, animal husbandry, poultry firm, vegetable cultivation and house building.
An official said the money could not be disbursed due to delay in reconstituting the committee.

Victory Day celebrated in districts

Victory Day was celebrated in different districts Wednesday in a befitting manner with elaborate programmes and cultural shows highlighting the day, reports UNB.
In Chuadanga, the day was heralded with a 21-gun salute, national flag was hoisted atop private and public buildings.
Police, Ansar, students of different educational institutions, BNCC, Girls Guide and socio-cultural organisations displayed physical feats at the local stadium.
Boalia Pallhunnayan Club arranged sports, discussion meeting and a cultural function.
Bangladesh Chhatra League organised a cricket tournament on the occasion. A football competition was also held between District and Pourashava administrations.
Our correspondent from Khulna adds a similar report: The celebrations began with a pledge to consolidate democracy and build a happy and prosperous Bangladesh through materialising the dreams of the martyred of the War of Independence.
The district began the day with a 21-gun salute at dawn. The other programmes included hoisting of national flag in all private and public buildings, placing of wreaths at the Shaheed Minar at Gollamari, holding of discussions and rallies on the significance of the day and offering special prayer at places of worship.
A colourful march past and physical feats by members of Police, Ansar, VDP, BNCC, Girls Guide and Scouts and students of different educational institutions were also held at the local stadium. Divisional Commissioner Moktadir Choudhury inspected the parade and took salute.
UNB correspondent from Narail adds: A grand rally was held on the occasion at the local stadium, participated by Police, Ansar, Boys Scouts, Girls Guide and students of different educational institutions.
The programme of the Victory Day began with a 21-gun salute and hoisting of flags. Improved diet was served in the hospitals and jails. Seminar, cultural function and photographic exhibition were also organised at local Press Club on the day.
Special prayer was offered in mosques and other worship places for the peace of the martyred.
From Chapainawabganj our correspondent adds: The day was observed amidst jubilation with discussion meetings, cultural shows and sports events marking the 21st anniversary of Victory.
The town streets were decorated with miniature flags while flags were hoisted atop public and private buildings.
A day's programme which began with 21-gun salute also include physical feats at the local stadium, improved diet for the inmates of hospitals, jails and orphanages.
Special prayer was offered at worship places.
Zila Shilpakala Academy organised a cultural function at Shaheed Shantu Hall in the evening. Deputy Commissioner Ashraf Ali attended the function as chief guest.
District Awami League, JSD (Inu), CPB, Gano Azadi League and other political parties also held separate discussion meetings highlighting the significance of the day.
Earlier, local Muktiyoddha Sangsad in a meeting exchanged wishes with their members and families at Shaheed Shantu Hall at 11 am.

Silver Jubilee function of BAU postponed

MYMENSINGH, Dec 19: The silver jubilee function of the faculty of Agricultural and Technology of Bangladesh Agricultural University has been postponed due to "unavoidable circumstances", reports UNB.
A university press release said the function scheduled to be held on Dec 23 and 24 would be held at a later date.
Meanwhile, the Employees Parishad of BAU staged their annual drama on Dec 12.
The drama, "Aynay Bandhur Mookh" (Friend's face on the mirror) written by Abdullah Al-Mamun was staged at the Shilpakarya Zainul Abedin auditorium.
Prof R H Bhuiyan, President of BAU Teachers' Association inaugurated the performance.
The play was directed by M A Salam, Cultural Secretary of the Employees Parishad.



SYLHET: A view of the march past by the local girls guide on the occasion of Victory Day at the local stadium. — Star photo

Lawyers urged to implement legal measures

MOULVIBAZAR, Dec 19: Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman said humanity and conscience are above any law to have a peaceful and disciplined democratic society worthy to steer smooth development and progress, reports BSS.
The Finance Minister was addressing the members of local Bar Association at its bhaban here. Presided over by the Bar Association President Advocate M M A Munir, the meeting was addressed by its members.
Saifur Rahman said, rule of law, bench and bar are the most important factors to democracy and development. He urged the lawyers to help implement all legal measures to ensure fundamental rights of the people and guarantee peace.
The Finance Minister underscored the need for more expeditious dispensation of law, independence of judiciary and reform of law to bring dynamism in legal system.
Earlier, he attended the foundation laying ceremony of Begum Duree Samad Rahman Hall of Moulvibazar Girls College.

25 fishermen hurt, Tk 20 lakh goods looted

BARISAL, Dec 19: Twenty-five fishermen were injured, five seriously, and valuables worth about Taka 20 lakh were looted by pirates from 10 fishing trawlers in the Bay of Bengal, reports UNB.
According to the fishermen, the pirates numbering 20 to 30 attacked the fishing trawlers in the deep sea near Sonarchar and Ruparchar area under Patharghata thana of Borguna district in the last week and looted fishing nets, fish, engine parts and other valuables.
The five seriously injured fishermen were admitted to Patharghata hospital while others were provided treatment by the Naval force personnel.
Cases were filed with the police.

Call to increase output in fields, factories

PANCHAGAR, Dec 19: Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mirza Golem Hafiz called upon the people to enjoy fruits of hard earned independence through boosting production in fields and factories, reports BSS.
He was witnessing a colourful combined march past and drill of district police, ansar, VDP, girls guide and students in observance of Victory Day at the local stadium.
He also inaugurated a children's painting competition at local Shishu Academy to mark the day.
While addressing the Freedom Fighters and members of shaheed Moktiyoddha at their local unit office and distributing gifts on the occasion, the Minister said that we fought for independence to achieve socio-economic, political and cultural emancipation. He said, we should put in our best efforts to increase production for economic emancipation.
He said, government was determined to build Bangladesh a welfare state to fulfil the hopes and aspiration of people. Present government had taken a number of programmes for rehabilitation and economic wellbeing of the Freedom Fighters, he added.
Later, more than 100 JP workers under the leadership of former pourashava chairman Tahidul Islam joined the BNP at the presence of the Law Minister.

We remember them
by Rajat Kanti Goswami

MAULVIBAZAR, Dec 19: A day of great sorrow for the people of Moulvibazar. On this day in 1971 just after three days of final victory on December 16 the country lost her 23 valiant freedom fighters here.
The freedom fighters were returning home with great enthusiasm and joining in batches their fellow freedom fighters amidst great cheers from the people of Moulvibazar at a transit camp already set up for them at the local century old Government Boy's High School. Along with others they were taking rest at the camp forgetting their untold pains and sufferings of their nine-month struggle with over whelming joy of victory.
But many of them were with arms and weapons, mines and explosives. They were in a total oblivion of those as they found their kith and kin.
It was in the morning on this day some freedom fighters were coming into the camps and some were going out for a walk and to see their near and dear one around the camp.
All on a sudden a mine fell down from the hand of a freedom fighter on the floor and exploded with a heavy tremor, damaging the school building. People rushed to the spot just after the explosion was over. They could not find no building or camp but a vast heaps of rubble. After a thorough search dead bodies of 23 freedom fighters were found among the heaps. Very few of them were identified.
Later on, they were buried with due honour in the south-east corner of the play ground of Government Boy's High School. The place has been earmarked as 'Moulvibazar Kendryia Shaheed Minar'.
Since then, every year people of Moulvibazar observe the day with due solemnity as Shaheed Day in memory of those martyrs.
Various socio-cultural and political organisations have chalked out elaborate programmes to observe the day.



MAULVIBAZAR: The local central Shaheed Minar where 23 Freedom Fighters were buried. — Star photo

Road mishaps take 8 lives in Gazipur, Habiganj

GAZIPUR, Dec 19: Seven people including a woman were killed and 12 others were injured Tuesday in a road mishap near Sutrapur in Kaliakoir thana of the district, police and hospital sources said, reports UNB.
Deputy Commissioner Delwar Hossain met with members of the shaheed families at his conference room and exchanged wishes with them.
Football competition was held at the local stadium. Photo exhibition, discussion meeting and cultural function were also organised at Zila Parishad Hall. The Deputy Commissioner attended the function as chief guest.
From Comilla our correspondent adds: The 21st anniversary of Victory Day was observed here Wednesday with spontaneous enthusiasm and grandeur with fresh vow to uphold the glorious victory of the people against the occupation forces.
They also pledged to protect independence and work unitedly for the prosperity of the country and its people.
The day began with 21-gun shots. The day's programmes included laying of floral wreaths at Shaheed Minar, hoisting of national flag atop government and private buildings, ceremonial march past and display of physical feats, showing of documentary films, special prayer at different places of worship, organising of football competition at local stadium, holding of discussion meetings and cultural function in Comilla Town Hall.
Deputy Commissioner Kabeerur Rahman inspected the parade at the stadium and took salute.
Parishad Office here Sunday on Habiganj-Shaistaganj road.
The victim Md Shaheen Chowdhury (20), SSC examinee of Habiganj High School, was knocked down by a local bus while he was returning home from school, police and witnesses said.
The helper of the bus, allegedly, pushed Shaheen overboard when Shaheen insisted to drop him near his residence, adjacent to the bus station.
The driver and the helper of the bus fled. Police, however, seized the bus.
The body was sent to the Sadar hospital for autopsy.
Meanwhile agitated students in the town damaged two trucks and detained two passenger buses in protest of the killing of Shaheen.
Another report adds that agitation in the town continued against destruction of Babri Mosque in India.
Some unruly people have set a fire to a drug store in Nabinagar thana Sadar Saturday night.
Later they drought out a procession parading the town roads chanting slogans against the demolition of ancient mosque by the Hindu fundamentalists.
The deceased are: Belal Hossain (35), Yakub Ali (28), Hedayet Hossain Bablu (30), Ashraf Ali (60), Nurul (45), Nurul Islam (40) and Sabjan Begum (25).
Of them, Yakub was killed on the spot and Ashraf died on his way to hospital while Sabjan succumbed to her injury at Gumudini Hospital.
Of the injured, three were referred to 'Dhaka Pangu Hospital' in a critical condition while nine others were admitted to Gumudini Hospital.
Eyewitnesses said the incident occurred when a Dhaka-bound speeding coaster (Tangail, Ba-339) and a tempo (Chatra-Metro Pa-2023) coming from opposite direction, collided head-on near Sutrapur.
Police seized the coaster while its driver managed to flee.
Another UNB report from Habiganj adds: One SSC candidate was run over by a speeding bus near the Thana