

District roundup

GAZIPUR

25 pickpockets, 3 extortionists held from Ijtima

From Our Correspondent
Jan 20: The Tongi police arrested 25 pickpockets and three extortionists from the Tongi Biswa Ijtima on Sunday.
The police said, like every year, organised group of pickpockets come to the Ijtima where over 10 lakhs of people have gathered for three days to offer their prayers to Allah.
The extortionists, who claim to be students of the Jagannath University, City College and Dhaka College were caught red handed while raising tolls from a market that was set up temporarily to sell goods to the Ijtima visitors.

NETRAKONA

Foundation stone of Press Club laid

Jan 20: Foundation stone of Khalajuri Press Club was laid at a function held at Khalajuri thana sadar recently, reports BSS.
Acting Thana Nirbahti Officer (TNO), Khalajuri A K M Kudratullah laid the foundation stone of the Press Club. Thana Parishad donated three decimals of land for the construction of the Press Club building.
Local journalists, political leaders and distinguished persons were present at the function.
Another report adds: Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, Netrakona district unit has taken up a programme to distribute warm clothes among the distressed and floating people in Netrakona district town in the current winter season.
Chairman of the Netrakona Red Crescent Society Advocate Hafizur Rahman Khan Wares said that under the programme 250 blankets would be distributed among the poor and homeless people.

RANGAMATI

Course on forest conservation concludes

Jan 20: A seven-day training course on forest conservation concluded at the Forestry Development and Training Centre (FDTC) here on Wednesday, reports UNB.
Sponsored by FDTC, the training course was attended by 20 Forest Range Officers from different forest divisions of the country.
A team of five-member experts, headed by the Director of FDTC Dr Shamsur Rahman imparted training on improved store, conservation of firewood and extension of forestry.

NATORE

JCD sweeps Abdulpur College union polls

Jan 20: Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) secured full panel bagging all the 18 seats in students union election of Abdulpur Government College at Lalpur thana of the district, reports UNB.
Lenin and Mohammad Aslam were elected Vice President and General Secretary respectively in the election held on Saturday.

RANGPUR

Road accidents leave 5 dead

From Our Correspondent
Jan 20: At least five persons were killed and five others injured on Sunday in three separate road mishaps here.
The condition of the injured was stated to be critical.
The accident occurred near Rangpur Cadet College when two trucks collided head-on killing three persons and injuring two others.

JHENIDAH

Valuables worth Tk 15 lakh gutted

Jan 20: Valuables worth Taka 15 lakh were gutted when a fire broke out at around 10 pm on Saturday at Brahimpur village under Sullakupa thana in the district, reports UNB.
Fire Brigade sources said 10 families were rendered homeless and 15 tin shed and 15 thatched houses were burnt. About 13 cows, 35 goats and 30 poultry birds were roasted. Sources said the fire originated from the kitchen of a house whose inmates had gone to attend a meeting in the village.

CHITTAGONG

4 special trains for devotees attending Urs Sharif

Jan 20: Bangladesh Railway will run four special trains daily on Chittagong-Nazirhat line from January 22 to 24 for the convenience of the devotees attending Miabhandar Urs Sharif, a BR Press release said here on Monday reports BSS.
The first special train will leave Chittagong station at 11-10 a.m. and reach Nazirhat station at 1-45 p.m. while the second special train will leave Chittagong station at 8-30 p.m. and reach Nazirhat at 10-50 p.m.

RAJBARI

Jahanara Begum opens canal re-excavation

Jan 20: State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahanara Begum formally opened the re-excavation programme of about 4 kilometer long Hajrakhali canal at Sultanpur in the district of Friday, reports UNB.
On the occasion a meeting was held with Sultanpur UP Chairman in the chair while Rajbari Deputy Commissioner Chowdhury Golam Maula was present as special guest.
The minister called upon all to shun politics of violence and hatred and take part in development activities for the welfare of the common people.
With the completion of the work within the next March, the canal will provide irrigation facilities to a vast area in the Sadar thana, officials said.

MAGURA

Heavy fog causes problem to vehicular movement

Jan 20: Heavy fog persisted throughout the district for the last one week causing poor visibility and inconvenience to the movement of vehicular traffic, reports UNB.
Movement of night coaches remained disrupted causing sufferings to hundreds of passengers.
Normal life in the district has also been affected due to thick fog that continues till 10 am every day. Rickshaw-pullers and day labourers are the worst sufferers.
Meanwhile, poor and floating people in the district have been suffering much due to biting cold as they cannot afford to buy warm clothes.
Local leaders have urged the authorities to distribute warm clothes among the poor and floating people on humanitarian ground.

PABNA

Urs Mubarak from Jan 21

Jan 20: The holy Urs Mubarak of Biba Khwaja Nurul Huda Chisty Quinuzzaman (RA) will be held at Arisur graveyard in Pabna on January 21 and at the Jamaat-e-Sunnati Pak Darbar Sharif in Bheramara (Kushtia) on January 22, reports BSS.
Peer Shahib Khawja Nazmul Huda Chisty Sabri Nazam has requested all ashkan and mirdan to attend the Urs Mubarak.

SIRAJGANJ

20,000 women offer munajat

Jan 20: Some 20,000 women assembled here Monday to offer prayer simultaneously with the Akheri Munajat of Biswa Ijtima at Tongi, reports UNB.
Organised by local women, the munajat, similar to the Akheri Munajat, was conducted by Anwara Begum of the town.
Women, most of them elderly, converged on the Masampur Jam-e-Masjid premises from the town and thanas as well as several northern districts to join the special prayer this noon.
Local people said the women had been organising such munajat annually in Sirajganj town for the last five years on the occasion of Biswa Ijtima at Tongi in Gazipur.

Another message adds: Two persons were killed in a dacoity at village Moulabirkata Doolhajara under Chakaria thana Tuesday night.
According to Chakaria police a group of ten armed dacoits entered the house of one Monir Ahmed at night. After some altercation between the dacoits and the owner of the house the dacoits opened fire on him as a result Monir Ahmed (71) died on the spot.



AGRI VARSITY: Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University Prof. Muhammad Ashraf Ali Khan inaugurating the day-long seminar on National Research Systems for Agricultural Development in Bangladesh held here at BAU recently under the auspices of BAAS Mymensingh chapter. —Star photo

30,000 potter families face financial crisis

DINAJPUR, Jan 20: Traditional pottery industry in the greater Dinajpur district is on the verge of extinction due to lack of capital and patronisation, reports UNB.
About 30,000 families in the greater district are engaged in this age-old ancestral profession. Most of them are by birth potters and hence do not possess any other training to earn their livelihood. Besides, these skilled artisans have been facing fund shortage to carry on their profession.
On the contrary, producers are faced with innumerable problems in the absence of marketing facilities. They are not getting any incentive from any quarter to maintain their occupation, local people said.
Finding no other alternative, the potters in the region are compelled to switch over to other vocations to earn their bread.
The potters are found mostly in Kotwali, Birol, Kaharole, Bochojong of Dinajpur and Thakurgaon districts and Debiganj and Tetulia of Panchagarh district.
These skilled artisans are producing clay made utensils, pitchers, plates and galasses which are used in every day life of villagers throughout the country.
Local people urged the concerned authorities to take necessary steps immediately to save the age-old pottery industry from ruin.
Our Correspondent reports: About 1,37,372 persons have been sterilised till September 1992 in three northern districts of Panchagarh, Thakurgaon and Dinajpur, it is learnt.
According to the directive of the Deputy Commissioner, Family Planning Coordination Committees were formed at Union level. The Union Parishads are also taking keen interest to popularise the birth control devices.
Out of the total 73,559 persons are male and 63,813 persons are female.

In the year 1991-92, some 954 male and 12,323 female were sterilised. In the year 1990-91, 4,945 male and 1,315 female, in 1985 2,087 male and 2,200 female, in 1986 5,335 female and 1,018 male and in the year 1988 3,896 female and 801 male were sterilised.
In Takurgaon district, 7,064 persons were sterilised from July to September 1992. The month-wise break-up is as follows: April 924, May 549, June 1,245, July 1,720, August 1,400 and September 1,226. Thana-wise break-up of sterilisation is as follows: Thakurgaon 3,417, Pirganj 1,975, Ranisankail 814, Balladangi 692 and Ilaipur 167.
It is further learnt that from March to November 1992, some 14,862 persons were sterilised in 13 thanas of Dinajpur district. Of them 10,899 persons are male and 3,874 persons are female.

Poura polls fever grips Comilla

COMILLA, Jan 20: Comilla and Laksam Pourashava elections generated much enthusiasm among the workers and the supporters of candidates as the date of withdrawal was expired and allotment of symbols completed, reports UNB.
The elections will be held on January 30.
Six candidates for the post of chairman and 96 candidates for the 18 posts of commissioner are contesting in the Comilla Pourashava elections while 5 contestants for the seat of chairman and 51 candidates forward commissioners are fighting for Laksam Pourashava elections.
Electioneering has gained momentum in Comilla Pourashava as more or less 100 mikes are being used from dawn to late night every day to win the support of the voters.
The candidates are going door to door begging votes. The walls have already been decorated with the posters, portraits and wall writings. A good number of camps have been set up by the candidates to gear up campaign.
Most notable aspect of Comilla Pourashava election is that to contestants for chairmanship from the ruling BNP are in the race. One was selected by the party and the other was expelled from the district BNP for his refusal to withdraw his candidature.
Jatiya Party is also in the field with lone candidate who is being backed by a veteran political quarter. Awami League seem to have failed to set a candidate of their choice.
Valuables worth about Taka 60,000 were looted in a daring bus dacoity at Padua bazar on Comilla By-pass Road, 4 miles south of the town.
According to witnesses, 7 to 8 dacoits boarded the Comilla bound night coach of Dolphin Fleet from Dhaka in disguise. When the coach reached at the point the dacoits swooped on the passengers and started beating them mercilessly injuring two people seriously.
They tied up the driver of the bus and started driving the vehicle themselves raising the volume of the cassette. Another night coach Rajdoot which was just behind the ill-fated coach overtook it and managed to block the road at Chashapara bridge.
The dacoits then hurriedly got down from the vehicle and fled away when a police patrol car arrived there.
The passengers said, they requested the police to chase and nab the dacoits but the police failed to comply. The plying of vehicles was, however, disrupted on the point for about 4 hours.
A case was filed and Comilla Police Super and Kotwali Thana Officer-in-Charge visited the spot.
Shamsul Alam, who was injured seriously, was admitted to Comilla General Hospital.

Another message adds: A passenger was crushed under the wheels of a bus when the conductor pushed him out of the bus at Battisha area of Chawdhagram thana on Dhaka-Chittagong Trunk Road recently.
The bus named Jatri Sebha and going towards Basurhat from Dhaka. The victim, identified as Abu Taher (40), died on way to hospital.
Police arrested a fugitive accused Soheli alias Aroon on Tuesday night from a house in Comilla Shilpa Nagar.
Police sources said, Aroon was wanted in connection with several cases including a murder committed in 1990.
Local people said Aroon, an infamous terror of the area, was engaged in anti-social activities for a long time. Nobody dared to challenge him while committing serious crimes in the locality.
They urged the authority to take stringent action against the culprit.

Inhuman

From Our Correspondent
NARAYANGANJ, Jan 20: A rickshawpuller lost his penis at the hands of his former Mohajan (patron) today at 11 am at Chashara here as he refused to pull his rickshaw again.
Critically injured Nader, the rickshawpuller was admitted to the Narayanganj General Hospital.
Hospital sources said Nuru Mohajan, the owner, called the rickshaw puller today to his garage to inquire as to why he was not pulling his rickshaw for the last few weeks. The conversation on the matter turned into a scuffle and at one stage the Mohajan cut off Nader's penis with a pair of scissors.



BOGRA: Dr. Gulshan Ara, Senior Consultant and Director of local Baby Friendly Hospital speaking at a breastfeeding seminar held here at Thenamara Mohila Samaj Sangha recently. —Star photo

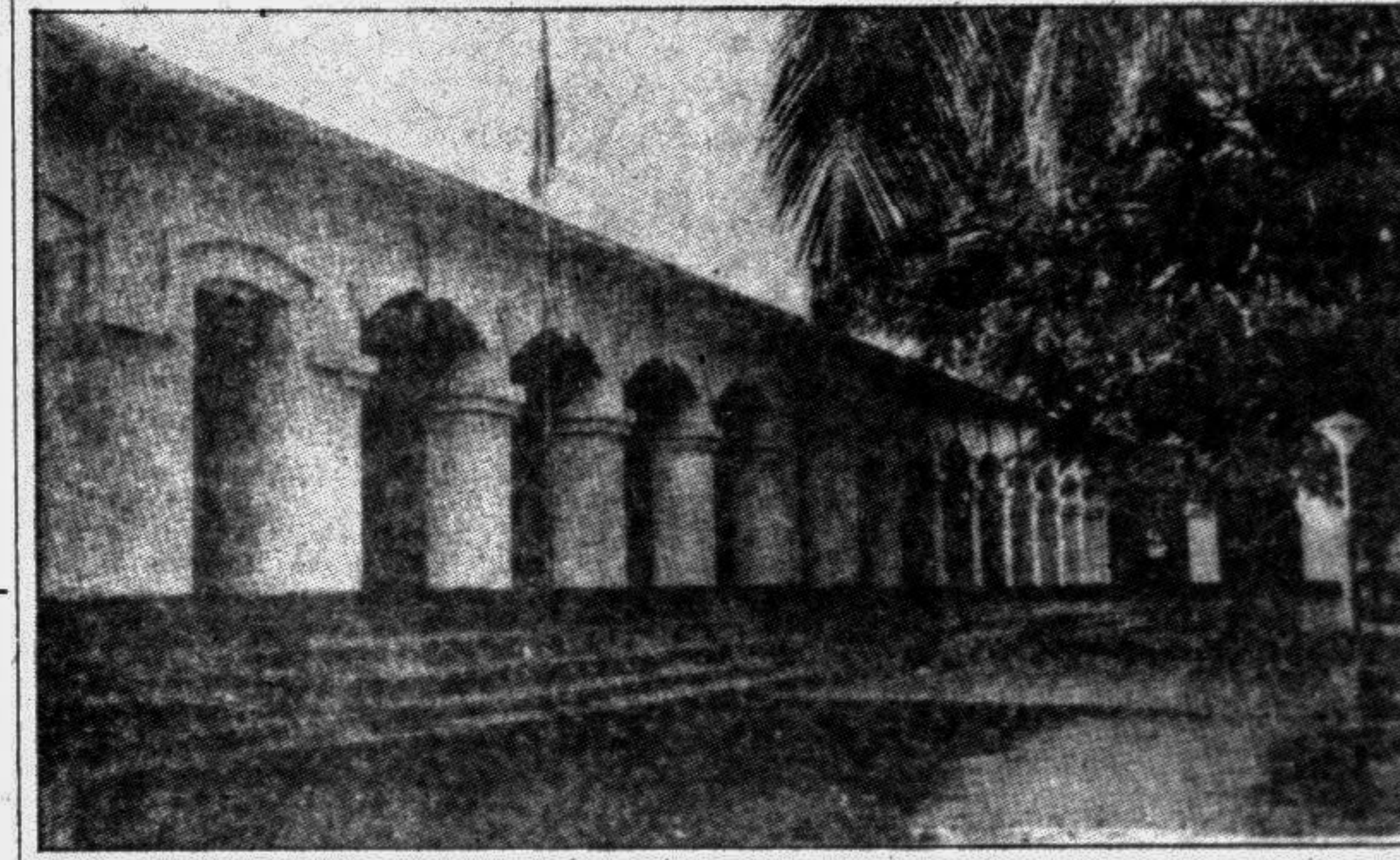
Across the country

A glimpse of a centenarian

Annada Government High School in Brahmanbaria is a name that stands out in the educational arena of Bangladesh. Established in 1875 by late Rai Bahadur Annada Prosad Roy, a great philanthropist, has made its mark in the cause of spreading education. This school is in fact even older. Initially it school started functioning as an added Anglo-vernacular school in 1860 and was raised to the status of a high school in 1875 by Rai Bahadur Annada Prosad Roy, a landlord of Sarail estate of Brahmanbaria. Since then or for the last 118 years this school has been called the Annada High School.
Annada Prosad's father late Babu Jagabandhu Roy, who was a Dewan of East India Company in the Mymensingh Collectorate, bought a share of Sarail Perganah on auction and established his zamindary in Brahmanbaria in 1802. His fore-fathers hailed from Pirzoppur under Bhagaban Gola of Murshidabad district. Kamala Ranjan Roy, who was awarded the title of Raja by the King George V on 9 June, 1938 in recognition of his meritorious social services to the country, was the grandfather of Annada Prosad Roy and was alive at the Cassim Bazar Palace Murshidabad till 1985. He was 80 at that time. In a letter dated 9 September, 1985 to the President of the Centenary Celebration Committee of the School, Kamala Ranjan Roy indicated that a piece of land had been donated by him to the Sarod maestro Ustad Alauddin Khan near the Halderpark, tank at Brahmanbaria for his residence. Like his father and grandfather Kamala Ranjan was also founded a girls high school after the name of his mother Rani Sarojini Girls High School at Brahmanbaria.
I have come across the names of a few celebrated personalities, who studied in Annada High School. Of them, poet Abdul Kadir, poet Sanaul Haq, Ustad Bahadur Khan, Mahbubul Alam (Chashi), Saiten Chakravarty (song composer of All India Radio), Professor Mohammad Noman (retired principal), Ambassador C M Shaif Sami have made marks in their respective fields. It is on record that this school had produced brilliant students because of

the sincere dedication and able guidance of its learned teachers like Rai Shaheb Bhavadeb, Rai Shaheb Nil Kumar, Babu Sasanka Sekhar, Babu Benode Behari, Jengendra Chowdhury and Mahbubullah. At present, however, there are only 33 teachers to offer education to about 1800 students.

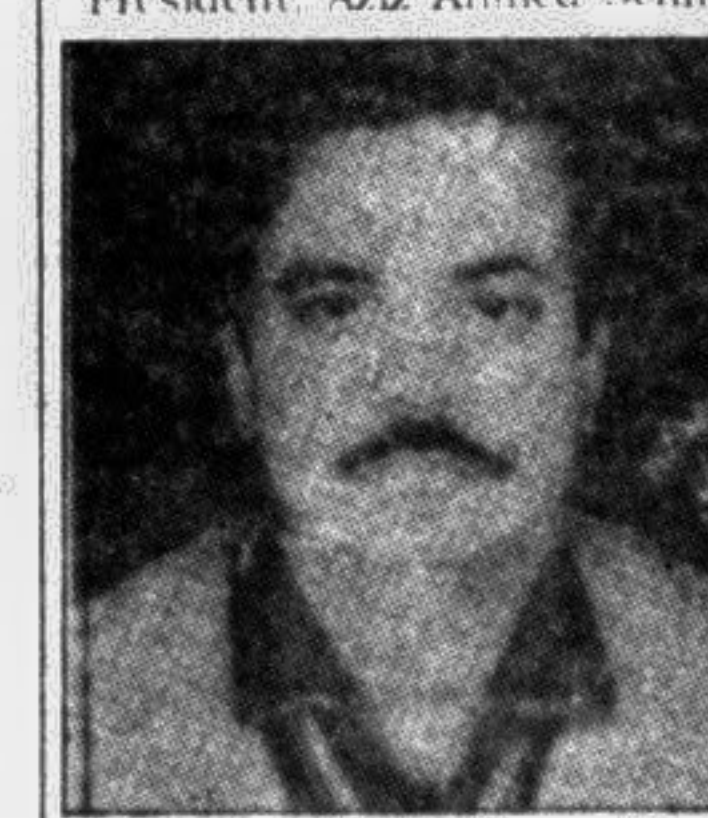
The school has three pucca buildings, two semi-pucca tin sheds and one pucca tin storied building. The school had a full-fledged hostel which was demolished by the Pakistan occupation army in 1971. No effort has yet been made by the government or philanthropists to rebuild the hostel and equip the gymnasium. Since it is an old institution of repute, it needs all round support for carrying on its good for the sake of continuity good old record. That good name is what inspires present teachers like Kazi Abid Hossain proudly serve the school. The school authorities in cooperation with the former students of the school celebrated the centenary of the school in 1987 after 12 years of the completion of hundred years of its existence.



BRAHMANBARIA: Annada Government High School. —Star photo

Sylhet Press Club executives

From Our Correspondent
SYLHET, Jan 20: The biennial election of the executive committee of Sylhet Press Club was held recently at the club building.
President, Aziz Ahmed Selim



Secretary, Muktabis-un-Noor

The 13-men body was elected with the following persons: President: Muktabis-un-Noor (Jalalabad), Vice Presidents: Moliuddin Shiru (Banglar Baan) and Abdus Sattar (The Daily Sylhet Dak), Secretary: Aziz Ahmed Selim (Jugabhery), Assistant Secretary: Helaluddin Rana (Inqilab), Treasurer: Ahea Reza Chowdhury (Kritrajagat), Office Secretary: ATM Haider, Sports and Cultural Secretary: Badruddoza Badar (Sylhet Dak) and Members: Jahruul Haque Chowdhury, Ajoy Paul, Sayeed Chowdhury, and Ikramul Kabir.

Farmer killed in tragic road mishap

JHENIDAH, Jan 20: Iman Ali (55), a farmer of Batpukuria village in Sadar thana was killed in a tragic accident on Sunday, reports UNB.
Family sources said, Ali while pouring fuel to a shallow machine was injured seriously when his wearing cloth touched the running the machine.
He succumbed on way to Jhenidah Sadar hospital. A case was recorded with the police.

Milk output on decrease

From Our Correspondent
KUSHTIA, Jan 20: Milk production is decreasing day by day in Kushtia district.
The production of milk has declined due to rapid decline in the number of milch cows.
Green grass that is needed for milch cows is not adequately available. At present, grass is not grown as before because of the pattern of crops has changed with the introduction of mechanised system of cultivation.
A major portion of grass land has been brought under IRRI-boro cultivation. Previously Khasari and Mash Kolai were abundantly grown in these lands. These crops were profusely used as fodder for cows.
All sections of people consumed locally produced milk to provide them with necessary nutrition.
Cattle disease is rampant in Kushtia district. During the past decade, thousands of milch cows had died after being attacked with various fatal diseases.
Farmers informed that the authorities do not take any step to save their cows from various diseases. The number of milch cows has declined due to various diseases.
Another report adds: One hundred twenty high schools in six thanas of the district are facing manifold problems. According to sources, inadequate funds, lack of educational appliances, shortage of furniture and accommodation are the main problems.
It is reported that most schools established under local initiative have not received government recognition. The schools running without government financial help facing closure.
Due to accommodation problems many students have to suffer much. Moreover, many schools buildings damaged earlier by natural calamities. Scarcity of pure drinking water is also acute in absence of tubewells in these institutions are yet to be repaired.

Cyclone storm death toll rises to 20

From Our Correspondent
KURIGRAM, Jan 20: The total number of deaths caused by the cyclonic storm that hit Kurigram district recently rose to 20.
At least one thousand people were injured in the 9 thanas of the district.
Thirty-five villages have been completely damaged and about three thousand thatched houses have been razed to the ground. The number of cattle-head and poultry birds died in storm would be over two thousand. Standing rabi crops on hundreds of acres of land have been damaged totally as the cyclone was followed by hail-storm.
An official source said, though the extent of damage could not be ascertained immediately, it would be about Taka 6 crore.
Shafiqul Islam, Deputy Commissioner, Kurigram, visited the worst affected areas of the district.
Government sanctioned 30 tons of rice, 300 pieces of sarre, 300 pieces of lungi and cash of Taka 50,000 as relief for the cyclone victims of the district if it is learnt.
Our Correspondent adds: The foundation lying ceremony was addressed, among others, by Nazir Ahmed, TNO, Shamsul Haque Chowdhury, Mozhaur Hossain, ASM Yusuf, Sujauddowla, and AKM Shahidul Islam MP while local union parishad chairman Isahaque Ali presided.

India masses more BSF members along border

SATKHIRA, Jan 20: India has increased its Border Security Force (BSF) along the south-western frontier of Bangladesh, reports UNB.
Official sources said BSF recently constructed four new outposts at Bantala, Bakra, South Chakshaha, Hebbkhal and Uttarakhali.
Residents of border villages said BSF men focus search lights at night towards Bangladesh territory making the people scared.