

District roundup

PABNA

Attack on UNB office condemned

Feb 9: A meeting was held at the local Press Club on Saturday protesting the attack on the United News of Bangladesh (UNB) by some miscreants on Wednesday, reports UNB.

The meeting presided over by the former Secretary of the Press Club and UNB Correspondent Fazlur Rahman, was addressed among others, by President of the Press Club Yasin Ali Mridha, Murshad Subhani (Inquilab), Abul Ahsan (Telegraph), Zillur Rahman (Morning Sun), Mostafa Satez (Banglabazar Patrika), local BNP leader Advocate Shimul Biswas and Workers Party leader Abdur Rouf Abed.

The speakers said the vested quarters are again out to thwart the forward march of democracy in the country. In the past they also gagged the press to suppress freedom of opinion.

DINAJPUR

One killed, 10 hurt in picnic bus mishap

Feb 9: A man was killed and 10 others were injured when a picnic bus met an accident in Nawabganj on Friday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the accident occurred when the bus (Bogra 13a-4732) skidded off the road and fell into a roadside ditch at Shibanagar near Aftabganj Bazar.

Alauddin, a photo studio owner of Bogra, died on the spot. The injured were admitted to Phulbari Health Complex and Dinaipur General Hospital. Some injured were identified as Lutfor Rahman (40) of Chatlabari in Bogra, Habibar (35) of Katnapara in Bogra, Karim (25), Shuktara, Manjuara and Khakon.

PATUAKHALI

Amkhola Social Welfare Sangsad executives

Feb 9: A voluntary organization styled as North Amkhola Social Welfare Sangsad has been formed at Amkhola union in Goulachipa thana, reports UNB.

A 17-member executive committee was formed recently with Md Shajahan Gazi and Sultan Ahmed as President and General Secretary respectively.

The organisation aimed at poverty alleviation of the poor and landless families of the locality has already started a number of projects.

JHENIDAH

BRDB disburses Tk 9.50 cr as loan

Feb 9: Bangladesh Rural Development Board disbursed Taka 9.50 crore as loan in the district during the current financial year, reports UNB.

Of the total loan, over Taka 4.42 crore was distributed to boost crop production, over 4.56 crore to purchase irrigation equipment and over 51 lakh for 'Sanirbar Project'.

Sources said, with this Sanirbar Project, over 2000 members of 700 co-operative societies of the district will be benefited.

Besides, the Board realised about Taka 4.62 crore outstanding loans from the borrowers during the same period.

KHULNA

Hijackers rob Tk 35,000, stab one

Feb 9: A gang of hijackers stabbed a salesman of Liver Brothers Bangladesh Ltd and robbed him Taka 35,000 at Natiakhali area of the city Tuesday, reports UNB.

Police said salesman Ashraf Ali came under attack by the hijackers numbering 4 to 5 while he was returning with the company's money, collected from different shops.

A case was filed with the local police in this connection.

LALMONIRHAT

Contraband goods worth Tk 2.80 lakh seized

Feb 9: Anti-smuggling task force and BDR personnel seized contraband goods worth Taka 2.80 lakh from different places of the district last month, reports UNB.

Indian liquor, crackers, sarees, sugar, salt and VCP were among the items seized from buses, trains and local markets.

The smuggled goods were sent to the customs office and several cases were lodged with concerned police stations.

BRAHMANBARIA

Four miscreants rounded up

Feb 9: Four miscreants were rounded up by the police and members of public while they were fleeing after snatching Taka 66,000 from three businessmen at village Ashural in Nasirnagar thana, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, a gang of miscreants attacked the three businessmen while they were proceeding towards Bhairab Bazar for purchasing goods.

Hearing the hue and cry, local people rushed to the spot and caught two of the miscreants while they were fleeing with the cash money.

Following their confessional statement, two other miscreants were also arrested by the police. Police recovered Taka 2131 from their possession.

A case has been lodged and police investigation is going on.

TANGAIL

18 examinees expelled

Feb 9: Eighteen examinees of primary school headmaster recruitment examination at Kumudini Government College centre were expelled Friday for adopting unfair means in the examination halls, reports BSS.

A total of 828 candidates appeared at the competitive examination.

Official sources said over ten thousand candidates are appearing for the post all over the country.

Another competitive examination for the post of primary school assistant teachers will be held on Friday next.

RANGPUR

Inter-district drama festival begins

Feb 9: Litmond inter-district drama festival, organised by Shekha Sangsad, began at the Town Hall on February 1, reports UNB.

Commissioner of Rajshahi Division Aminul Islam inaugurated the festival.

A total of 14 teams from Dhaka, Khulna, Rajshahi, Sylhet, Mymensingh, Faridpur, Sirajganj, Bogra, Gaibandha and host Rangpur are participating in the festival which will continue till February 16.

KISHOREGANJ

607 metric tons of wheat allocated under FWP

Feb 9: The government has sanctioned 607 metric tons of wheat under Food for Works Programme for re-excavation of 12 canals in Kishoreganj district in the current dry season, reports BSS.

Re-excavation of Chakravarti-Khal under Sadar thana began recently at an allocation of 17 metric tons of wheat. The inaugural function was attended by State Minister for Relief Lutfor Rahman Khan, Major (Rtd) Akhtaruzzaman MP also spoke on the occasion.

About 270 hectares of land would come under irrigation facility after the re-excavation of the 800-metre Chakravarti-Khal.

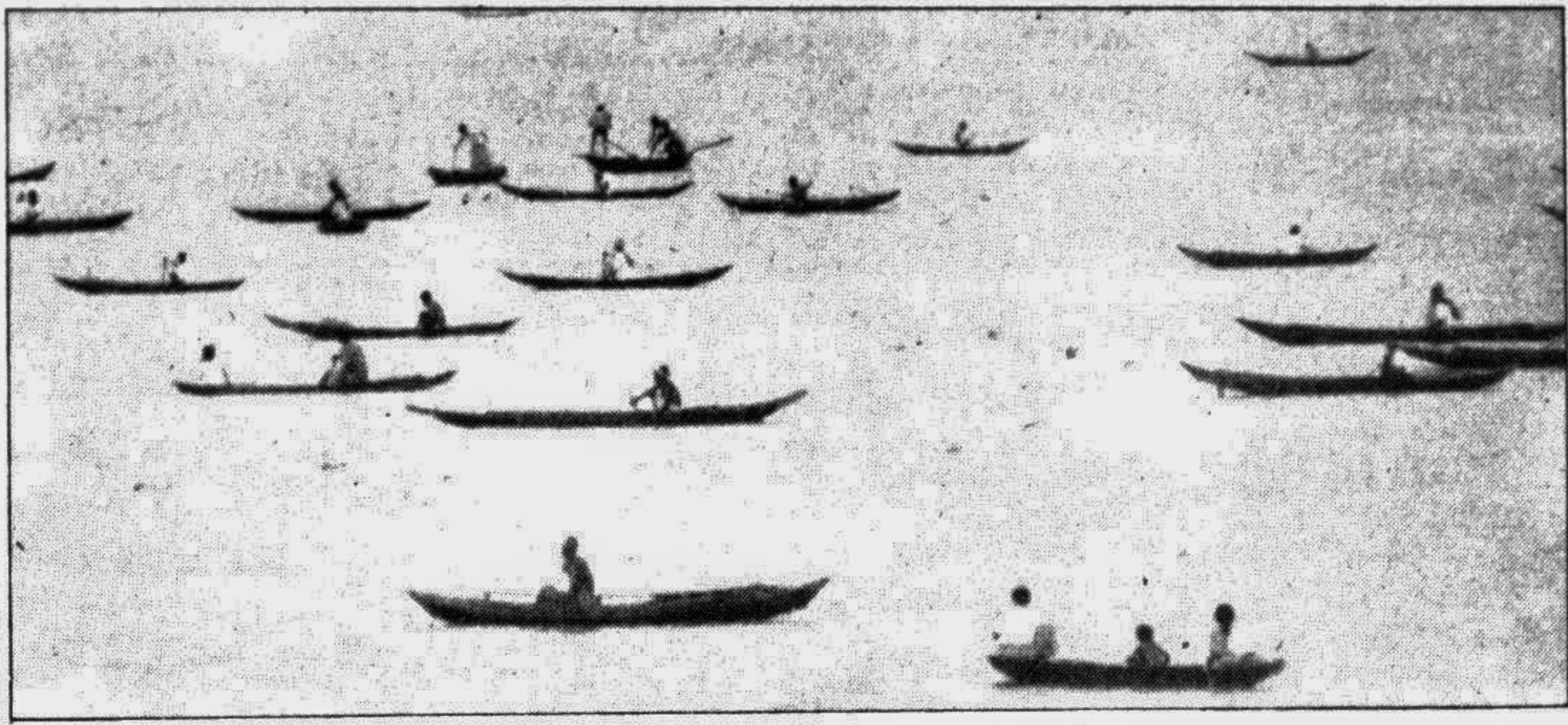
JAMALPUR

7 schemes to solve housing problems taken up

Feb 9: Telephone and Telegraph Department has taken up seven schemes in Mymensingh region at a cost of Taka 3.70 crore to solve the housing problem of its employees, reports BSS.

Official sources said seven housing schemes have been taken up in Tangail and Modhupur and two in Jamalpur.

The construction work will start shortly, the source said.



FISHING: Fishermen are catching fish early in the morning in river to earn their livelihood.

— Star photo

Impure drinking water causing diarrhoeal diseases

PATUAKHALI, Feb 9: Shortage of safe drinking water was the main reason for alarming spread of diarrhoeal diseases particularly in the southern regions of the country, health experts said, reports UNB.

According to a report, about 44 lakh people of Patuakhali, Barguna, Jhalakati and Pirojpur districts have been facing shortage of drinking water for a long time due to lack of adequate number of tubewells.

Officials said there are 26,000 tubewells including 12,527 deep tubewells in those four districts while there are no shallow tubewells in Patuakhali and Barguna districts, the report added.

Sources said about 1430 tubewells remained inoperable in Patuakhali, Barguna, Pirojpur and Jhalakati districts of Barisal Division. Of the disordered tubewells, 974 were shallow and 468 deep tubewells in Pirojpur district alone.

Public Health Engineering Department sources said there are one deep tubewells for every 300 people and one shallow tubewells for every 75 people in those districts.

But the local sources said there are 975 deep and 9114 shallow tubewells for about 12 lakh of people living in Pirojpur district.

Sources said PHE department repaired only 35 tubewells in Jhalakati and 50 in Pirojpur district in the current year but the number of choked up tubewells is as follows: 442 in Jhalakati, 524 in Pirojpur, 216 in Patuakhali and 252 in Barguna.

PHE has taken up a scheme to sink another 1,117 new

deep tubewells in those districts in the current fiscal year.

Gay girls on rise

Another report says: The number of floating gay girls is increasing in different areas of the town giving rise to anti-social activities.

Local people said, the gay girls are found alluring people in Katpatty, launch ghat, Swanirbar road, Natun Bazar and some parts of Kalikapur area of the town.

According to report, a middle aged woman of Katpatty area is entangled with the immoral business in the town. She is allegedly collecting girls from the villages on the assurance of giving good jobs and later compel them to resort to immoral activities for earning money.

Many guardians informed that their young wards were getting spoiled due to the influence of the gay girls in the town.

The elite of the town urged the authorities to check the growing menace and take immediate steps to rehabilitate the floating gay girls so that they can lead a decent life.

Village quacks on increase

A report states: The number of village quacks is on rise in both the urban and rural areas of the district.

Local people complained that many students, after passing the secondary and higher secondary certificate examinations, were taking up the profession of quackery finding no other way to survive.

They said most of the

quacks have no basic training and they are prescribing sub-standard medicines to their patients which they sold them at a high price.

As a result many patients suffer from prolonged disease and various complications, they added.

Rural people alleged that these rural 'doctors' usually did not charge any extra fee for visiting the patients. But they charge a high price of medicines given to the patients. Sometimes, they render medicare services to the poor patients on credit basis.

Qualified doctors in the town said increasing number of quacks in urban and rural areas with their lack of basic training are doing harm to the poor patients.

Postal dept plans to establish div office

Meanwhile Southern Zone of Bangladesh Postal Department has taken up a scheme to establish the divisional office and residence of Deputy Post Master General at Barisal in the current year.

Official sources said Tk. 6,32,022 has been sanctioned for undertaking the construction work.

Another Tk. 1,09,698 has been sanctioned for repairing of the Patuakhali departmental office and residence of the DPMG in the current fiscal year.

Official sources said Tk. 10,85,459 has been sanctioned for construction of the Zazira post office and the residence of the post master in the current year.

Notes from Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Feb 9: Two-month-long training course on bee-cultivation was inaugurated recently under the auspices of Bangladesh Small and College Industries Corporation (BSCIC).

The Chairman of BSCIC Md. Maniruzzaman Chowdhury inaugurated the course at BSCIC industrial area in village Sialkole.

A total of 50 participants attended in the training course on bee cultivation.

Obscene film shows rampant

Open show of obscene films have been rampant in the village areas of Sirajganj district.

In Mukundaganj Bazar of Belkuchi and Gopalpur Bazar of Chowhall thana, illegal VCR shows are going on since long past. It is alleged that obscene films are exhibited through open and wide publicity. Due to mysterious reasons, local administration overlooks the posters of obscene films marking 'half naked' or 'full naked'.

The young generation is being demoralised by such shows of obscene films.

Rickshaw Workers' Union executives

The bi-annual conference of Sirajganj district Rickshaw Workers Union held here at union office recently.

Shahzahan Ali, Shahidul Islam, Zahed Ali Sheikh, Badal Sheikh, Zainal Abedin and Abdul Basat were elected President, Vice-President, General Secretary, Assistant General Secretary, Organising Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

Old woman killed

Parizan Bawa (82) of village Shahidganj in Sirajganj Municipality was killed at her residence recently.

Her body was recovered on the next day. The victim was learnt to be a wealthy woman. Her husband was killed by the occupation forces in 1971.

Property abduction is the issue of murder, police said. The woman was childless.

A case has been lodged with Sirajganj police and was sent to Sadar hospital for autopsy.

District Bar election held

Election of Sirajganj district Bar Association was held peacefully.

Two panels contested in the election. Advocate Lutfor Rahman was elected President and Mobarak Ali was elected General Secretary of the District Bar Association.

Cut leg recovered

A cut leg of unidentified boy aged about 10 was recovered from a crop field of Shemarg village in Belkuchi thana recently.

The leg was kept under the pile of water hyacinth. On information, Belkuchi police recovered the leg and sent to Sadar hospital for report.

30 hurt as BNP, AL workers in Habiganj clash

HABIGANJ, Feb 9: At least 30 people were injured, 11 seriously, when supporters of ruling BNP and opposition Awami League clashed at Ajmiriganj thana on Sunday, reports UNB.

All the 11 seriously injured were brought here and admitted to the Sadar Hospital where the condition of Amiruddin (68), Vice-President of Sharifpur union BNP, was stated critical.

Witnesses said both the sides used sharp weapons, including kris and ram-dao, and exploded several crackers during the clash.

Local people said the clash was sequel to Awami League workers' attack on Mohibul Hassan Badal, President of Ajmiriganj thana Jatayatadabdi Juba Dal and former UP Chairman of Sharifpur.

Tk 35,000 snatched away from bank counter

KUSHIA, Feb 9: Unknown miscreants snatched away Taka 35,000 from Sonali Bank counter when an employee of Sadar thana Nirbahi office drew salary of the staff on Monday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said while Nezir Kazi was re-counting the money at the counter, a gang of miscreants suddenly swooped on him and decamped with the entire amount.

Another report adds: Bangladesh Rifles arrested two Indian nationals with Bangladeshi counterfeit notes from Kazipur frontiers on Thursday.

The arrested were identified as Mohammad Shahidullah and Kamal Mollik of West Bengal.

Another message adds: The Students' Union election of Kushiya Government College will be held on February 18.

College sources said in view of the persisting pressure from the students the authorities have decided to hold the elections before the Language Movement Day February 21.

UNB report from Khulna adds: Police arrested four miscreants and recovered one pipegun, two rounds of bullets, some spare parts and cash Taka 15600 from their possession.

The arrested were identified as Binoy, Mostaque, Belal and Islam who were involved with criminal cases at Daulatpur thana area.

Police suspected that they were involved in looting of a shop of Sirajul Haq of Daulatpur thana in which the thieves decamped with valuables worth about Taka 1.49 lakh.

Sub-standard note-books on open sale

MAIJDEE COURT, Feb 9: A section of unscrupulous people are publishing and selling sub-standard note books despite government ban, reports UNB.

According to informed sources, a section of dishonest people are making brisk business at Chaumhani market where note books are being sold at high prices.

It may be mentioned that government prohibited publication of note books upto class seven a few years back in order to discourage the students to depend on prepared answers and attain self reliance.

Teachers and guardians alleged that these note books with numerous errors and distortion of facts are being sold to the students.

Local people said due to lack of proper attention of the teachers in the classrooms and standard note books, the guardians are forced to appoint private tutors for their wards while the poor students are compelled to depend on sub standard note books and thereby lowering the standard

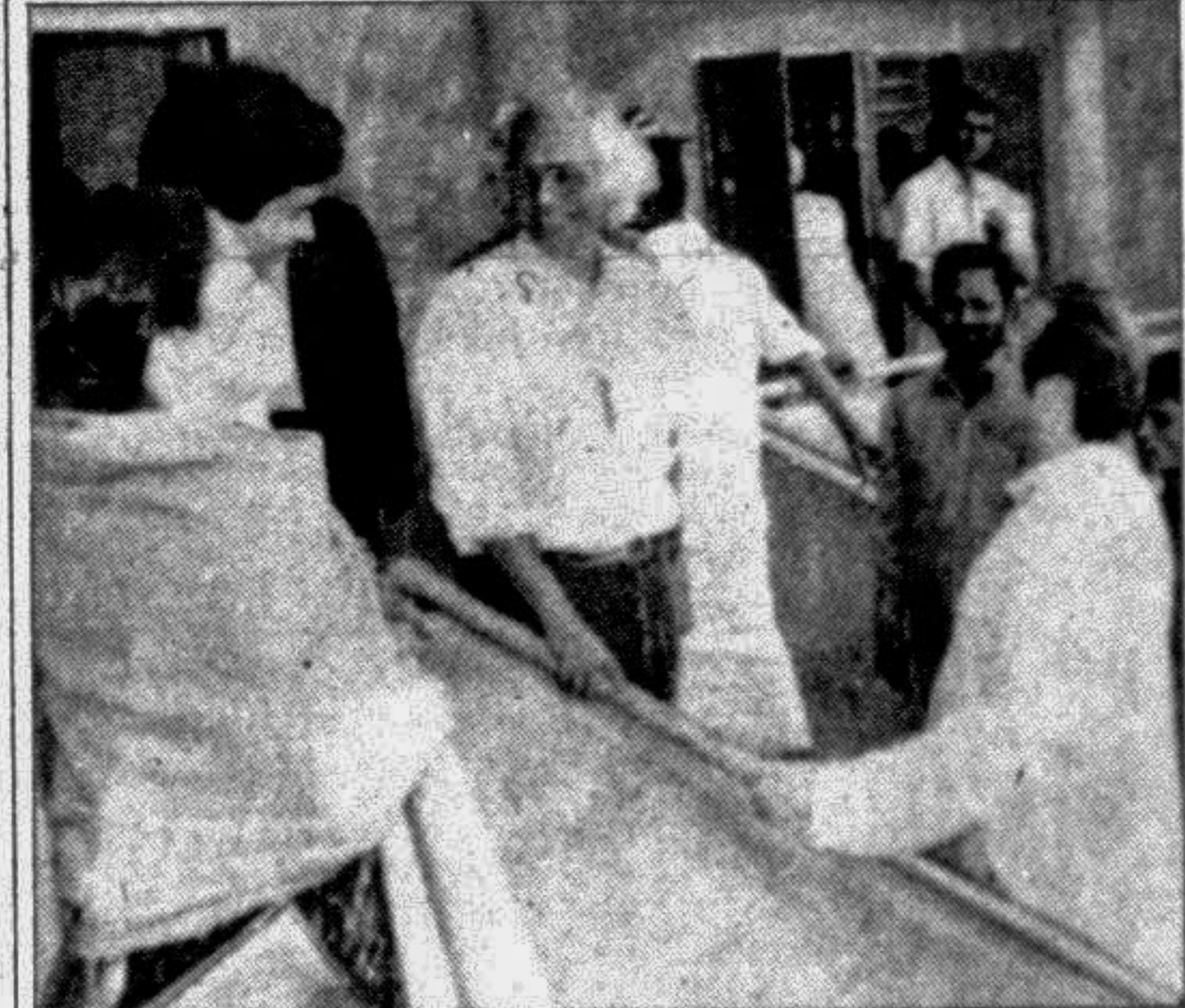
of education.

Meanwhile, guardians and the local educationists have urged the concerned authority to take steps against publication of substandard note books and allow publication of standard note books with the approval of National Curriculum and Text Book Board authorities.

Another report says: The election of Feni Bar Association was held at local Bar Bhaban on Friday with much enthusiasm.

The elected office bearers are: President — Khair Ahmed, Vice Presidents — Abdul Gofran Bhuiyan and Kazi Ahmed Karim, General Secretary — Abu Taher, Treasurer: Md Karimullah, Auditor, ASM Anwar Karim, Cultural Secretary: Nurul Islam Mojumder.

The executive member are: Khaja Mainuddin, Md. Hossain, Giasuddin Ahmed Nanu, Lutful Huq Mojumder, Sheikh Wahiduddin Chowdhury and Hafiz Ahmed, member (zonal), Ali Noor (Porshuram), Motashim Billah (Chhagalnaya), Md. Nurul Amin (Sonagazi) and AKM Fazlul Karim (Dagonbhuyan).



COX'S BAZAR: Advisor of Bangla-German Sampreeti Father Klaus Beurle and eminent educationist Prof Kabir Chowdhury is seen visiting a cyclone shelter built by BGS at Matarbari union of Moheshkhali thana recently.

—Star photo

Five to suffer lifeterm for murder in B'Baria

BRAHMANBARIA, Feb 9: Five people were sentenced to life imprisonment for murdering a man, court sources said here on February 8, says UNB.

The convicts Abdullah Mridha, Kawser Mridha, Jahangir Mridha, Nasir Mridha and Ali Ahmed were also fined Taka 1000 each or in default to suffer six months rigorous imprisonment more.

The case, in brief, was that Kazi Abdul Motahib who went to the graveyard of his mother at Chandpur village to pay respect later attended the Juma Prayer at the south mosque on April 27, 1990. When he came out of the mosque he was seriously injured in a clash between the rival groups on the appointment of the Imam of the mosque. He was immediately rushed to Sadar Hospital where he succumbed the next day.

A case was filed and police after investigation submitted charge sheet against ten accused.

Additional Sessions Judge Binoy Kumar Bose after examining the witnesses and records awarded the punishment on January 31 and acquitted five others.

Another UNB report from Sirajganj adds: Two students were awarded eight months imprisonment under the anti-terrorism act on Thursday, reports UNB.

The convicts are Abdullah Al Mahbub alias Babu (24) and Harunur Rashid (22) of Malshapara village of Sirajganj pourashava. They are students of Islamia College.

Court sources said the convicts, who were travelling by Padma Express without tickets, were challenged and fined by guard and attendants of the

train at Ishurdi.

When the train reached Sirajganj Bazar, they got down from it and attacked the train at Sirajganj Ghat along with their accomplices in which the Guard and attendants of the train were injured.

A case was filed with Sirajganj Bazar Railway thana police in this connection. Police submitted chargesheet against the accused on October 27, 1992.

District and Sessions Judge Fazlul Karim awarded the punishment after examining 21 witnesses and other documents of the case.

Help develop cooperative system

KHULNA, Feb 9: The Registrar of Bangladesh Cooperative Societies Alhaj Aszual Hogue Bhuiyan on Tuesday said that there is no alternative to cooperative system for attending socio-economic development of the common masses, reports BSS.

He was speaking as chief guest at the foundation laying ceremony of the multi-storied building complex of the Khulna Cooperative Land Mortgage Bank.

The function was presided over by Chairman of the Cooperative Land Mortgage Bank, Khulna Advocate Gazi Abdul Bari and addressed among others by Al-haj Liaquat Ali, Editor, Dainik Purbanchal and former Chairman, National Cooperative Union.

Al-haj Liaquat Ali said that the importance of cooperative movement in our national life can not be measured.



SYLHET: Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman speaking as chief guest at the installation ceremony of the newly elected office-bearers of Sylhet Press Club held here recently.

— Star photo