

District roundup

MAGURA
10 passengers hurt in road mishap

Feb 22: At least 10 passengers were injured in a road accident at Belnagar of Sadar thana on the Magura-Kamarkhal road on Thursday, reports UNB.

Hospital sources said the accident occurred when a Khulna bound coach from Dhaka hit a rickshaw van carrying the passengers from behind. Of injured, five were admitted to Magura sadar hospital.

The driver, however, managed to flee the scene with the vehicle.

CHAPAINAWABGANJ
JCD sweeps college union polls

Feb 22: Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal bagged all the seats of Adina Fazlul Haque Government College Students' Union in the election held peacefully, reports UNB.

Md Shamsul Alam Shamim and Jarjis Ali were elected as Vice President and General Secretary respectively.

JCO, Chhatra League (M-I), Chhatra League (Pro-JSD) and Islami Chhatra Sibir participated in the election on January 30.

COMILA
Palli Biddut Samity I executives

Feb 22: The executive committee of the Comilla Palli Biddut Samity I was elected for 1993 at its annual general meeting at Chandina recently, reports UNB.

Abdul Khaleque Sarkar and Mesbahuddin Ahmed were elected President and General Secretary respectively in the 10th meeting held on February 5.

Samity has so far installed 42,000 deep and shallow tubewells and set power connections on commercial basis. It earned a profit of Taka 1.86 crore in last fiscal year, the meeting was informed.

SIRAJGANJ
Storm lashes over 3 thanas: 25 injured

Feb 22: At least 25 people were injured, 3 seriously, when a storm lashed over 3 thanas of the district Thursday evening, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the storm with about 50 kilometres wind speed hit some 200 villages in Kazipur, Rayganj and Sadar thanas, damaging about 400 kutcha houses and standing crops.

The worst affected areas were 7 unions in Kazipur. Of the injured, Golam Ali (36), Rasid (22) and Sukur Ali (60) of Nichintopur in Kazipur thana were admitted to local health complex.

RAJBARI
Committee formed to ensure peaceful holding of SSC exams

Feb 22: A twenty-member committee to ensure peaceful holding of the forthcoming SSC examination at the district has been formed, reports UNB.

The committee was constituted at a meeting held at the Deputy Commissioner's conference room under his chairmanship on Sunday. DC Choudhury Golam Mowla and Headmaster of Government Girls' High School Probodh Kumar have been made president and secretary of the committee respectively.

It has been decided that the forthcoming SSC examination will be held in five centres in Sadar thana.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner (General), Police Super and all the headmasters of the district. The SSC examinations are scheduled to be held in mid-April.

FENI
Old man crushed under wheels of train

Feb 22: An old man was crushed under the wheels of a train at Feni Rail Station on Friday 12, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Pandra Kumar Rakhit (75) of Damapur in Sadar thana.

Witnesses said he was run over by the train when he was crossing the train track.

A case was registered with the Railway police station in this connection.

Another report adds: Property worth about Taka two lakh was gutted in a devastating fire at Purba Bhoiyoung Bazar on Sunday last.

TANGAIL
Book fair begins

Feb 22: A weeklong book fair began at Tangail public library premises here on Friday last, reports BSS.

Twentyfive book stalls have been put up by Islamic Foundation libraries, and other publishers and socio-cultural organisations.

The programme included competition of handwriting, recitation, drawing and debate for the school and college students.

Another report adds: Annual conference and certificate awarding ceremony of Tangail Dhulur Char Jamea Islamiya Madrasha and Yatimkhana was held on Friday. Akhatme Bukhari was also held on the occasion.

BRAHMANBARIA
Workshop on potato yield demonstration held

Feb 22: A field workshop on potato yield demonstration under the auspices of Agriculture Department held here at village Devagram under Akhaura thana of the district on February 15.

The workshop was inaugurated by M Abdul Bakar, Deputy Director, Agriculture Extension Brahmanbaria while Siddiqur Rahman, District Training Officer was present as special guest. Akhaura Thana Agriculture Officer Shahidullah presided over the function.

The function was addressed among others by Subject Matter Officer M Kabir Hussain, Plant Protection Inspector Abu Taher, Supervisor Feroj Miah, Amir Hussain and host farmer Mofizuddin Dewan. About 80 farmers were present in the rally. Kanu Lal Majumder conducted the rally.

SATKHIRA
Two killed by maneaters of the Sundarbans

Feb 22: Two people were killed by maneaters of Sundarbans on Sunday, reports UNB.

The victims were identified as wood-cutter Hemnath and fisherman Atiar of Shayanagar forest area. According to witnesses, while Hemnath was cutting wood the man-eater tiger jumped on him and took him away into a deep forest.

BARISAL
1,796.7 metric tons of wheat distributed

Feb 22: A total of 1,796.7 metric tons of wheat has been distributed among the members of 9,579 distressed families in ten thanas including Barisal Paurashava of Barisal district during the first six months of the current fiscal year, reports BSS.



Fazlur Rahman, State Minister for Communication laying the foundation stone of Azimnagar Railway Station building at Gopalpur on Friday.

Pregnancy complications
2500 die, 3500 suffer every year in Pabna dist

PABNA, Feb 22: About 2,500 women died of pregnancy and abortion complications and about 3,500 women suffer from female diseases every year in the district, a survey report said here recently, reports UNB.

The survey conducted by "Paribar", a non-governmental organisation said most of the abortions in the district were performed by untrained hands who apply traditional methods.

A section of employees at the government hospitals and private clinics also perform abortions to earn more money without considering the risk of life of the patients, the report alleged.

The rural women mostly il-

literate come to the clinics late in their pregnancies which make the abortion procedure life risking, the study observed.

Another report adds: The number of divorce in the rural areas of the district has increased in an alarming proportion causing concern among the guardians.

According to a report more than 70,000 marriages were terminated during the last six years in nine thanas of the district.

The report said the primary causes of divorce have been identified as dowry, polygamy, poverty and immoral activities. The worst victim of these failed marriages are the poor women in the rural areas, it

pointed out. Due to non-registration of marriages they are not getting legal protection in terms of obtaining allowances from their spouses or preventing the divorce, report said.

It was alleged that discrepancies in marriage registration office are high in remote areas due to higher fees demanded by the registrars.

Besides, despite legal restriction, a considerable number of people a marry more than once without written permission of the first wife, as per Muslim law required.

Local people urged the concerned authorities to take measures to ensure registration of the marriages at a reasonable fees to provide legal help to the poor women.

50 pc children out of schools

BOGRA, Feb 22: About one lakh children are deprived of primary education in this district for various problems. A total of two lakh 57 thousand students took admission in the schools. Out of the total, 50 per cent of the students do not attend their classes. It can be mentioned here that Compulsory Primary Education programme has been introduced in Bogra.

The total number of children in Bogra district is about three lakh of whom 49 per cent are girl child. But 50 per cent of the six-year old children are out of the school.

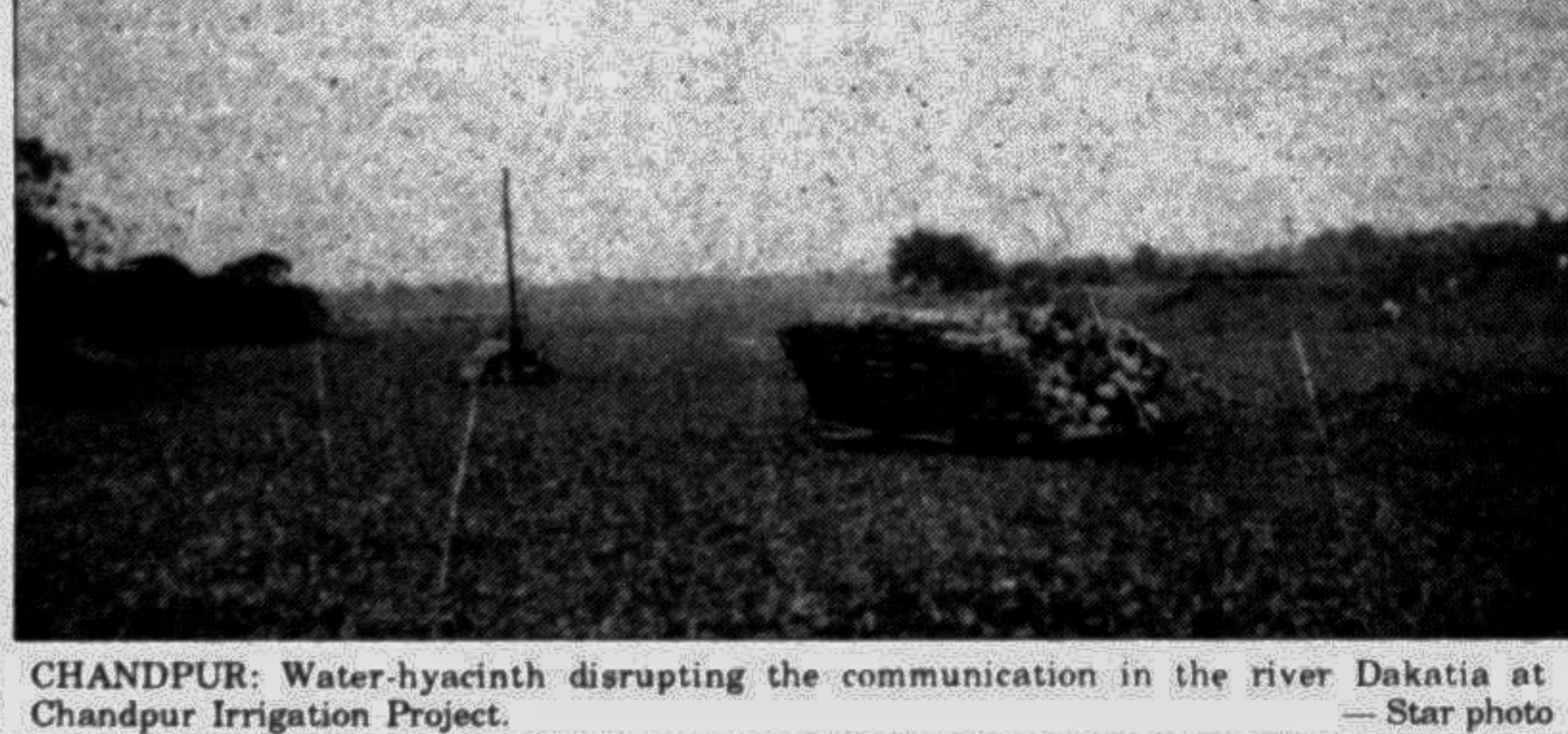
From Our Correspondent

Of the total primary schools in the district, 961 are government, 256 non-government. A total of three thousand nine hundred and 50 teachers is now engaged in different primary schools. One hundred posts of teachers are still lying vacant.

Poverty and ignorance of the guardians are the two main reasons for which the children can not attend schools. The poor children are to work for livelihood. They are seen engaged in grazing the cattle in the fields or doing petty works for earning bread. The girl children are found working as

servants. High prices of paper and other educational appliances also help the children out of the schools.

The primary school houses in rural areas which were damaged by the cyclone and other natural calamities during the last few years have not yet been repaired. The students of such schools are to attend classes in unhealthy situation. Many of the schools are holding classes under the open sky. These schools have no arrangement to supply safe drinking water.



CHANDPUR: Water-hyacinth disrupting the communication in the river Dakatia at Chandpur Irrigation Project. — Star photo

Shoals hamper smooth navigation

NARAIL, Feb 22: Innumerable shoals have emerged in the rivers Modhumati, Nabaganga and Chitra and in their tributaries causing serious obstacles to navigation in the district, reports UNB. Over 500 small and big chars and shoals have floated in 100-mile long river route in the district hampering the smooth river communication.

Most of the tributaries of these rivers have been silted up disrupting river communication and irrigation in the cropfields.

A competent source said that due to massive siltation in the rivers the ferry services are also facing frequent disruption. No ferry can reach its destination in time resulting in suffering of the passengers and wastage of a large quantity of fuel.

A good number of small launch ghats were closed as the water level of the rivers and tributaries has fallen abnormally.

ducted by some social welfare activists, about 50 per cent of the ponds under share ownership have been silted and dried up due to lack of maintenance. A large number of ponds are covered with water-hyacinths hampering fish cultivation.

The survey revealed that about Taka 3 crore could be earned annually if these ponds were cultivated properly. According to a cooperative farmer, concerned authorities should come forward with a motivation approach of cooperative farming to the share holders of the derelict ponds to make them understand their loss and benefit.

It is felt that schemes for re-excitation of silted ponds, introduction of scientific methods of fish cultivation are necessary to boost fish culture in the district.

Arrangement should be made to impart training on pisciculture and soft term loan facilities should be extended to the pisciculturists, the survey report said.

1200 ponds lying uncultivated

At least 1200 ponds of the district have been lying uncultivated due to lack of initiative. According to a survey con-

UPEP faces set back

UNB reports from Gazipur: The Universal Primary Education Programme (UPEP)

Foundation of Azimnagar Rly station laid

Fazlur Rahman, State Minister for Communication on Friday laid the foundation stone of Azimnagar Railway Station building at Gopalpur, Natore, during liberation period.

The State Minister in his speech at a function organised on this occasion said present government under the leadership of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia had under taken various development programmes to help build a happy and prosperous Bangladesh. Foundation laying of Azimnagar station is a unique example of that ambitious programme. Among others MA Rahim, General Manager, Railway Western Zone also spoke in the function.

Azimnagar Railway Station was previously known as Gopalpur Station. After independence of Bangladesh, Go-

palpur Station was re-named after Shahid Anwarul Azim, the then General Manager of North Bengal Sugar Mills, who was brutally killed by Pak army during liberation period.

Azimnagar Station is situated in between important Ishurdi and Abdulpur broad-gauge section of Western Zone of Railway. The tin-shed station was built in 1900.

Bangladesh Railway has undertaken a programme to build a modern station building at Azimnagar Station replacing the existing dilapidated tin-shed structure.

Meanwhile, railway has constructed a 200 feet long foot-over bridge at the station to facilitate passenger movement at a cost of Taka 15 lakh which was completed on January this year.

Teachers, students urged to help curb violence

NARAYANGANJ, Feb 22: Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury on Friday called upon the teachers and students to come forward in curbing terrorism on campuses, reports BSS.

He was addressing the prize giving function of Narayanganj Government Women College here.

Presided over by Vice Principal of the college Kazi Shadat Hossain, the function was addressed by VP of the college students union Amena Begum Shampa.

The Home Minister said the government was determined to root-out terrorism from every sphere of the society. He said terrorists could never be the friends of the people and the students. Terrorists were

destroying the very root of the society, he added.

He urged all to cooperate law enforcing agencies in eliminating terrorism.

Referring to education, Chowdhury said present government had given top priority to education sector. Terminating education as the backbone of the nation, he said most of our major problems could be solved through power of education.

Later, the minister distributed prizes among the winners of the college annual sports meet.

Earlier, the Home Minister handed over the key of a bus donated by the Prime Minister's office to the college VP.

325 Sirajganj people in jails abroad

SIRAJGANJ, Feb 22: At least 325 people of different thanas of the district are now confined in jails abroad, reports UNB.

A survey conducted by some social workers reveals that some brokers and manpower agents allured these people of better jobs in Malaysia, Singapore, Qatar, Kuwait, Pakistan and USA and collected money ranging from Taka 60,000 to 1,00,000 from each person.

The so-called manpower agents later managed to send them abroad without any legal job. Ultimately they were caught by the law enforcing agencies of those countries and were thrown into jails.

The report said the so-called manpower agents collected about Taka 3.25 crore from Sadar, Belkuchi, Raiganj,

Kamarkhand, Chowhall, Shahjadpur, Tarash, Kazipur and Ullahpara thanas during the last several years alluring the people for good jobs abroad.

A storm accompanied by rain swept across Sadar Thana of the district Thursday injuring at least 7 people.

It also damaged some 150 thatched houses, local residents said.

The storm which began at about 7 pm lasted for about 20 minutes.

At least seven people were injured when some local contractors clashed over a tender called by the Water Development Board at its office here Thursday.

During the clash, the office of the departmental engineer was also ransacked, witnesses said.

Treatment facilities in hospitals inadequate

CHIANDPUR, Feb 22: Most of the Health Complexes in seven thanas of the district have been facing manifold problems due to absence of ambulance, shortage of medicines and doctors, staff, nurses and medical apparatus. Thousands of people from far flung areas visiting the Health Complexes everyday. They return home disappointed without proper treatment.

Most of the Health Complexes are operating without doctors, medicine, X-ray machine, blood bank, dental facilities. Emergency patients cannot be moved due to lack of ambulance.

Moreover paucity of pure drinking water and lack of proper drainage system in the complex, are also increasing the sufferings of the patients.

It is reported that valuable medicines including life-saving drugs supplied to the complexes are being sold in the black market. Supply of medicine in the Health Complexes are very much insufficient in comparison with the requirements.

our Correspondent adds: Acute shortage of bullock is prevailing in the district hampering cultivation for a long time.

About 20 per cent of land remain uncultivated in the district each year as most of the farmers have no bullock to till their lands.

Many farmers are compelled to use milk cows to plough their lands following gradual reduction of milk production. Farmers are also seen to till their lands with spades and harrows due to lack of bullock.

Educationist dead

KISHOREGANJ, Feb 22: Well-known educationist and former district Education Officer M A Mannan died of old-age complications at his village home at Kottadi in Kishoreganj recently. He was 86, reports BSS.

The deceased was associated with a number of educational and social welfare organisations.

Notes from Moulvibazar

From Our Correspondent
MOULVIBAZAR, Feb 22: Teachers and student of Moulvibazar Government High School condoled the death of Pandit Ranada Prasanna Bhattacharya, a renowned teacher at a meeting held at the school auditorium recently.

The condolence meeting was presided over by headmaster of the school Mubassir Ali and it was addressed by some teachers and students of the school. President of Moulvibazar Sangbadik Samity Radhika Mohan Goswami was also present in the meeting.

Freshers' reception held

A freshers' reception of Rajnagar College in the district was held at the college auditorium recently.

The function was presided over by Azizur Rahman MP, President of college managing committee and Prof. Dr Fazul Karim Chowdhury, Planning Chief of the Ministry of Education attended it as chief guest.

The reception function was addressed among others by the acting principal of the college Jilal Uddin Ahmad, Rajnagar Thana Magistrate M A Awal, Prof Habibur Rahman Abu and Prof. Rajat Kanti Goswami. The function was conducted by Prof A K M Emdadul Haque.

Seminar on Water Management Study

A seminar on "North East Regional Water Management Study Project (FAP-6)" was held at the premises of Water Development Board (WDB) office, Moulvibazar recently under the joint auspices of the Ministry of Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control and Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and co-ordinated by Flood Plan Co-ordination Organisation (FPCCO).

The seminar was inaugurated by Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Hamidur Rahman Khan, while among others Ebaidur Rahman Chowdhury MP, Azizur Rahman MP, Prof. Abdus Shaheed MP, Nawab Ali Abbas Khan MP, former upazila chairman Major (Retd) Khalidur Rahman, S Shaquie of Flood Control Department, Abdul Mukit of WDB, specialist of Water Resources Fazlur Rahman and Moulvibazar district Journalists Association President Radhika Mohan Goswami took part in discussion.

Speakers discussed overall flood control measures of the district and urged the authorities concerned for the construction of flood protection embankment. They also suggested that Monu river which carried 36 lakh tons of sands during monsoon be dredged.

Cricket tourney inaugurated

Abu Sufian Cup Cricket Tournament was inaugurated recently at Baralekha Jubo Sangha play-ground recently.

An function was held on the opening day. Thana Nirbahi Officer of Baralekha S M Abdul Wahab inaugurated the tournament. The function was presided over by Shahabuddin Ahmed and it was addressed, among others by Mohibur Rahman, Montazir Ali, Dr Foyez Ahmed and Gopal Datta.

In the first match, Baralekha Green beat Bani-bazar team by 110 runs. Lufter Rahman Chunnu of Baralekha Green was adjudged the man of the match.

Sports contest held

Annual inter-thana sports competition of Moulvibazar district Ansar and VDP was held at Kulaura recently.

Nazir Ahmed, District Adjutant of Ansar and VDP inaugurated the competition while Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) of Moulvibazar distributed prizes among the winners.

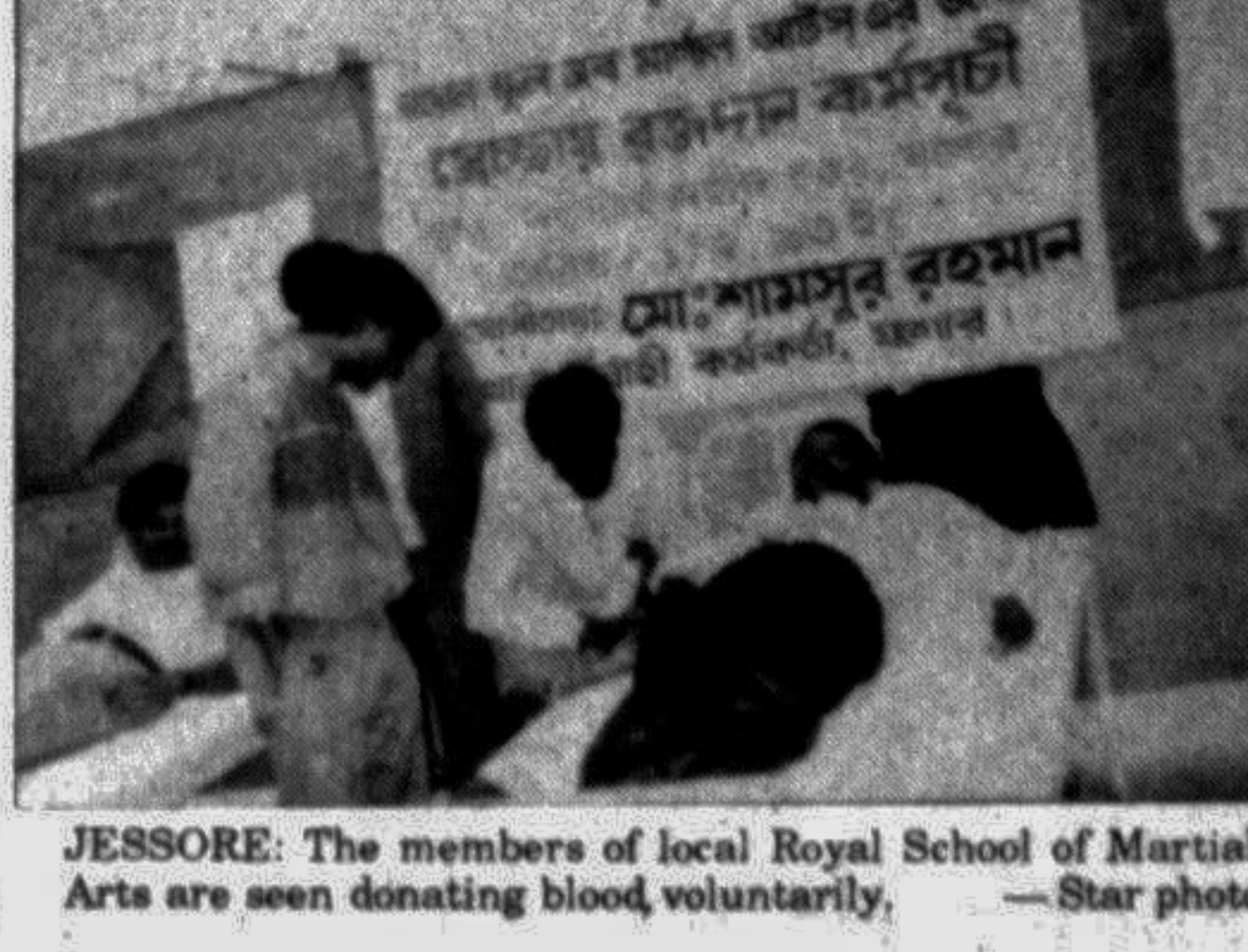
Kulaura and Baralekha thana teams of Ansar and VDP became champion among male and female groups respectively.

2 killed in separate incidents

UNB report adds: Two people were killed in two separate incidents in the district, police said here on February 18.

In one incident Wahab Ali (55) was crushed under the wheels of speeding truck near Ratna tea garden in Kulaura thana Monday. The driver, however, managed to escape with the vehicle.

In another incident, Cheraq Miah, a beggar of Abdulpur village of the same thana was slaughtered by some unknown assailants while he was returning home at night on Tuesday.



JESSORE: The members of local Royal School of Martial Arts are seen donating blood voluntarily. — Star photo