

District roundup

KURIGRAM Teachers Assoc confce held

From Our Correspondent
Mar 7: The tri-annual conference of the Bangladesh Teachers' Association (Nazrul group), Kurigram Zila Unit was held at the local River View High School premises with ATM Badrul Islam, Head Master, River View High School in the chair recently. Elderly retired headmaster Pran Ballav Karanjai was present as the chief guest and formally inaugurated the conference. The conference was addressed, among others, by Biswanath Rudra, Aminul Islam, Abdullah Sorowardi, Mohammad Ali, Delowar Hossain, Feroj Ahmed, Pran Ballav Karanjai and ATM Badrul Islam. After the conference a 25-member new committee of Teachers Association, Kurigram Zila Unit was formed with Zoyan Abedin and Biswanath Rudra as its president and secretary respectively. More than 800 teachers of 77 high schools and 34 junior high schools of the district attended the conference.

KUSHIA Private tuition hampering education

From Our Correspondent
Mar 7: Most of the teachers in schools and colleges are engaged in private tuition hampering the education of the students in Kushia. The students who get support of private tutors do better results in the examinations and the poor section who can not afford private tuition fee are in great difficulty. Because coaching in classes is sufficient which deprives the students from real education. The teachers of secondary schools here have established mini-private schools in their houses to teach students in shifts at an exorbitant tuition fees. A teacher teaches a number of batches of students from dawn-to-dusk. Real teaching in secondary schools and colleges is being hampered to a great extent owing to a large scale private coaching by the teachers.

SIRAJGANJ 3506 metric tons wheat for 70 projects

From Our Correspondent
Mar 7: Co-operation for American Relief Everywhere (CARE) have sanctioned 3506 metric tons of wheat for 70 Food for Works (FFW) projects in the district. It is gathered that during the current dry season CARE have sanctioned 520 metric tons of wheat in 12 projects of sadar, 890 metric tons for 13 projects of Shahzadpur, 340 metric tons for eight projects of Raiganj, 413 metric tons for eight projects of Kazipur, 299 metric tons for seven projects of Belluechi, 433 metric tons for eight projects of Ullapara, 170 metric tons for four projects of Kamarkhanda, 195 metric tons for five projects of Tarash and 246 metric tons of wheat for five projects of Chowdhali thana. The projects include reconstruction of roads and re-excavation of ponds under the FFW programme. Local CARE authorities have expected completion of the projects by the month of April '93.

NETRAKONA Prices of essential commodities up

From Our Correspondent
Mar 7: The prices of essential commodities have registered a further rise in the district. Almost all the items are being sold at increased prices. It has hit hard specially the fixed income groups. The traders when interviewed attributed the cause of rise to short supply of commodities due to disruption of communication. A random survey showed that the price of rice has gone up by Taka 55 to 65 per mound on an average for the last one month. The price traders opined that the price of rice will not come down till the aman harvest. Besides, prices of other essentials like onion, turmeric, pulse, sugar etc. have also gone high. The price of baby food and the powder milk also recorded a sharp rise. The price of spices particularly garlic and onion have gone abnormally high. Garlic is being sold Taka 50 per kilogram and onion at Taka 25 to 26 per kilogram.

SYLHET Two youngmen held with revolvers

From Our Correspondent
Mar 7: Two revolvers were recovered and two youngmen were arrested from Mirza Jangal area of Sylhet town in the night following Tuesday last. According to the reports, on getting information, police parties headed by the Officer in-Charge and three other officers of Sylhet Kotwali thana caught two youngmen named Jafar and Islam from Mirza Jangal area, while they were getting ready for committing some criminal offences. Other accomplices of the gang however managed to escape. Two revolvers were also recovered from their possession. The arrested persons hail from Munshipara area of Sylhet town. Another report adds: Valuables worth over Taka one lakh were looted by a gang of armed miscreants from a house in Balaganj thana recently.

According to the reports, a gang of dacoits armed with firearms attacked the house of one Sushil Dev at village Lal Kailash under Tajpur union at about 1-30 am in the night following Monday last. They were 20 to 25 in number and entered into the house by breaking open the doors. The miscreants tied up the housemaster and two other persons with ropes. They took away Taka thirty thousand in cash and other valuables worth about Taka one lakh from the house.

MOULVIBAZAR BNSB clinic inaugurated

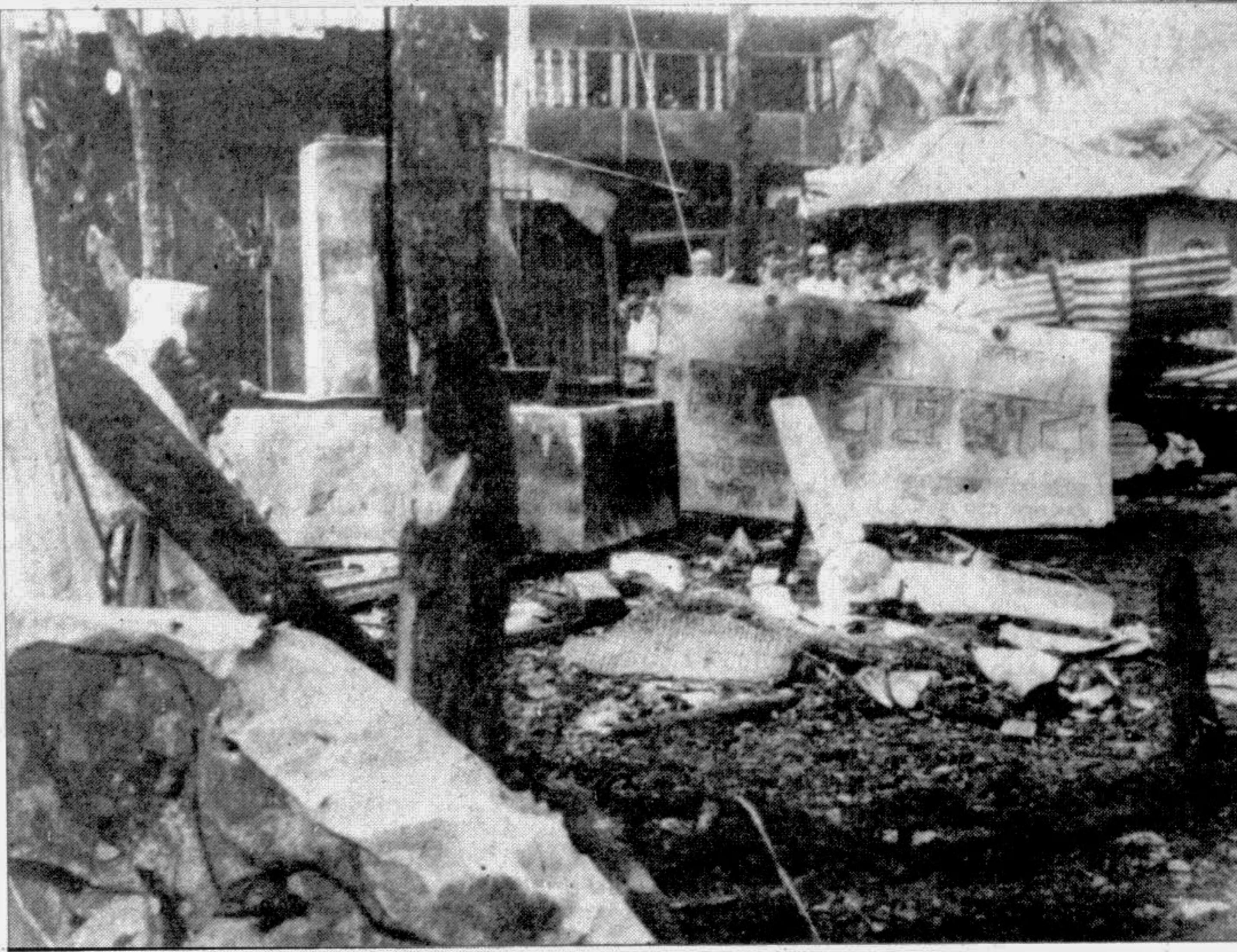
From Our Correspondent
Mar 7: 'Rajia Yakub under-five clinic' of Bangladesh National Society for Blinds (BNSB) was opened at Sherpur under Moulvibazar thana recently. The clinic was inaugurated by whip of the opposition in the parliament and local MP Azizur Rahman and inaugural session was addressed among others by Convenor of construction sub-committee Al-haj Akhli Miah and BNSB Moulvibazar district Secretary Dr. Shah Nural Islam. The normal functioning of the newly established clinic has already been started from the opening day. Another report adds: 'Nirjhar', an educational and cultural organisation of Moulvibazar organised a 'selection test' examination to distribute scholarship among the talented students. The examination was held recently at Moulvibazar Government College. About six thousand students of the district participated in the examination. The scholarship of 'Nirjhar' are only for the students of primary classes and every year they organised the same examination.

FARIDPUR Former President Ershad's release demanded

From Our Correspondent
Mar 7: Faridpur district Jatiya Party, Jatiya Juba Sanghati and Sangrami Chhatra Samaj jointly held a big rally at Faridpur recently demanding immediate release of former President H M Ershad. Local Jatiya Party leader and UP chairman Saiful Islam Nilu presided over the rally while former Zila Parishad Chairman and Jatiya Samik Party President Shah Mohammad Abu Zafar, Advocate Nasiruddin Ahmed Musa, Mebahur Rahman and student leader Hemayet Hossain Pikul spoke at the rally. Earlier, leaders and activists of the party brought out a procession in the town raising slogans in support of the demands for the release of Ershad and repeal of Anti-terrorism Act.

PABNA Lekhok-Shibir unit executives

From Our Correspondent
Mar 7: The sixth annual conference of Bangladesh Lekhok-Shibir, Pabna Unit, was held at Banomati Institute auditorium recently. Presided over by Raquibuz-zaman, the conference was inaugurated by Anu Mohammad, General Secretary of Lekhok-Shibir Central Committee. A 17-member new executive committee was formed in the conference. Mokbul Hossain and Salauddin Shahin as president and general secretary respectively.



RAJBARI: Twentysix houses were burnt to ashes in a devastating fire at Char Khankhonapur and Basantapur villages under Sadar thana on March 4. — Star photo

Law and order situation deteriorates, life insecure

Different kinds of crimes including the anti-social activities are on increase in the districts of Jamalpur, Satkhira and Chowgacha thana of Jessore.

Our Jamalpur Correspondent reports: Twentytwo people were killed in different incidents including land disputes, according to official source.

Road mishaps claimed 69 lives in the district on different routes during the last year.

Besides, toll collection, hijack, rape dacoity, theft and violence have recorded a sharp increase. Illegal sale of wine and its use, cultivation of ganja and other immoral activities are also on rise.

After complaints, police conducted raids all over the districts to curb the crimes but the law enforcing agencies failed to check crimes.

Unofficial sources informed that over 5,000 cattle were stolen from the villages of the district during last one year. It is also informed that some organised gang of miscreants demand ransom to free the cattle.

Some dishonest cobblers use to take the skin after stealing the cattle.

A total of 14 minor girls were raped and one of them was murdered after violating in last September. Twentythree persons were kidnapped and later demanded ransom from

the relations of the victims. Armed clashes occurred in different places including the educational institution where the activists used all kinds of latest fire arms.

Police recovered nine unidentified bodies from different places. The failed to identify the murderers in these cases.

Twentyone persons committed suicide during the period. Most of the victims are young housewife and girls.

At last 31 dacoities and over 100 thefts cases were recorded with the police stations of the district.

In total, the police arrested 300 people involved in different cases.

Satkhira
Our Satkhira Correspondent says: Anti-social activities such as prostitutions, drug addiction, illegal sale of drug and wine and gambling have been increasing alarmingly.

A good number of gang girls who have in and around the district town try to attract customers even at day time. This sort of activities get little resistance from the law enforcing agencies for the reasons not known. It is alleged that some local influential people are behind the scene.

Some owners of hotels and restaurants are reportedly engaged in this illegal business and they supply girls to their

customers regularly. The consumption of wine and drugs has increased considerably consequently, other crimes have marked remarkable rise.

The local social workers and guardians are in great anxiety for the large-scale moral degradation of the people.

Jessore
Our Correspondent from Jessore adds: Various crimes are alarmingly on increase in Chowgacha thana of Jessore district following the deterioration of law and order situation causing life and property insecure for quite sometime past, according to sources.

Sources said that tall extortion, murder, attempt to murder, rampage have become a regular phenomenon. These are being committed one after another in day light.

Reports received here indicate that a few armed activists of the locality are controlling the entire thana area and escalating terrorism in massive way. The people of the thana are hostage in their hands.

The recent murder of Siddiqur Rahman (30) of village Isapur under this thana was done by this group in broad day light in presence of the public.

When contacted, the police refused to express the actual cause of delay in taking action regarding the matter.

Notes from Kishoreganj

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Mar 7: The body of one Abdul Malek (65) of village Shaitdhar in Nikli thana of the district was recovered by the police from Rokshar Beel recently.

According to reports, Abdul Malek went out of the house for searching his goat which was lifted three days ago. Later his body was found lying in the beel.

A case was registered with Nikli police in this connection. The body was sent to the morgue of Kishoreganj sadar hospital for post-mortem.

Minor girl violated
A 3-year-old girl was raped at village Barudia under Kishoreganj sadar thana recently.

According to the police, Nazrul used to live in house of Mamtazuddin as boy servant. On the day of incident at 11 am Nazrul took Koli, minor daughter of the house master to a nearby banana garden where he violated the chastity of Koli. She was recovered in an unconscious state and sent to the sadar hospital for treatment.

Water vessel lying out of order
Agni Shika-8, a fire fighting water vessel of Bhairab Fire Service Station of the district has been lying out of order for the last 10 years following the development of a hole in the base of the vessel.

A new fire fighting water vessel was sanctioned by the government for the Bhairab Fire Service Station in 1987 and some employees were also appointed. But the new vessel has not yet been sent to Bhatrab Fire Service Station.

Drama staged
A social Bengali drama 'Jalanta Barud' written by Ranjan Deb Nath was staged at Gachhata Palli Academy in Katiadi thana of the district under the auspices of Ekata Natya Ghosti recently.

Humayun Kabir, Ali Hossain, Gopal, Mohammad Ali, Babul, Shanti Ranjan, Meraj, Masud, Hashimuddin, Nazimuddin, Faruk, Shahidullah, Asad, Ashrafur Islam Khokon, Geeta, Ansh and Sabitree took part in the different roles of drama.

The drama was directed by Dr. Humayun Kabir.

Prices of goods register sharp rise
COMILLA, Mar 7: With the advent of holy Ramadan the prices of almost all essentials have registered a sharp rise in the district, reports UNB.

The price of onion, edibles and pulses have shown an steady rise. Onion is being sold at Taka 13, soyabean oil at Taka 40 and mustard oil at 64 per kg as against Taka 9, 38 and 48 a few days back respectively.

Prices of masoor dal, chhola, kheshari dal, fish and meat have shot up abnormally.

Poultry bird weighing about one kg is selling at Taka 100 against Taka 90 earlier. Mutton per kg is being sold at Taka 110 and beef at Taka 70 as against Taka 90 and 60.

However, the price of rice remained static in the local hats and bazars.

Basic amenities absent at Parbatipur Rly station

From Our Correspondent

DINAJPUR, Mar 7: The Parbatipur Railway Junction Station of the district lacks basic amenities due to which people undergo numerous sufferings.

The platform of the station is not adequately covered with sheds to protect the passengers from the scorching heat, cold and rain. Sheds with leakages in the roofs cover only one third area of the platform. Consequently, the passengers can hardly take shelter under the existing sheds. Apart from this, absence of the sitting arrangement in the platform adds a lot troubles to the passengers.

Facilities are meagre in waiting rooms. There are only two small waiting rooms with poor accommodation of which one of the waiting room is occupied by the postal RMS service since last 15 years, creating sufferings to the passengers.

Besides, lack of tubewells in the platform and paucity of pure drinking water pose another problem especially during the hot spell. Moreover, railway tracks remain dirty with garbages and night-soils, which emit a bad odour all along causing health hazard to the passengers.

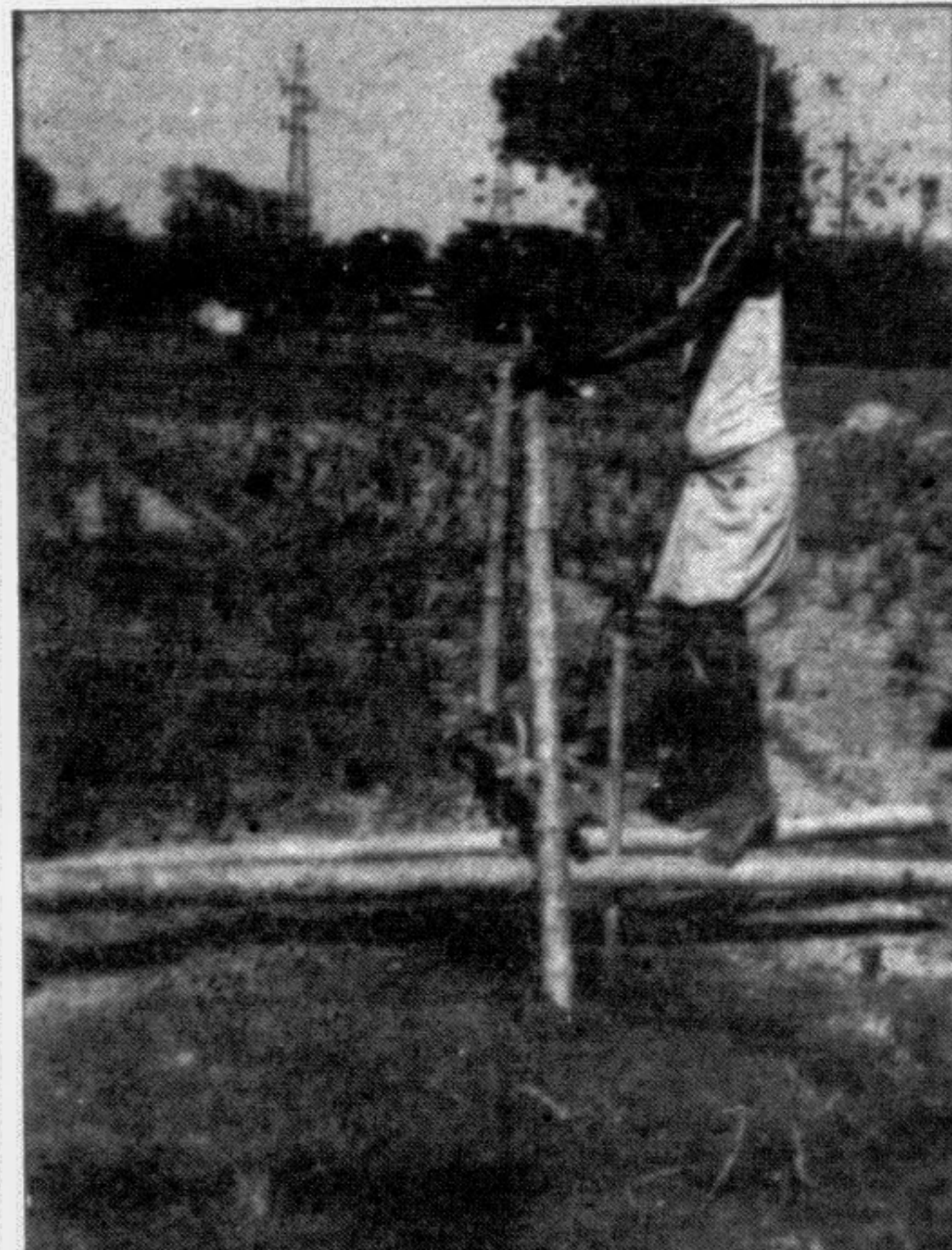
The rush of the hawkers in the platform make it impossible for the passengers to move easily especially when the train arrives. Besides, the platform has become an abode of the floating population who freely use the platform and pollute the atmosphere.

The concerned authorities have been urged to ensure appropriate steps to improve the condition of the Parbatipur Railway Junction Station to provide basic amenities to the passengers.

According to Livestock Department sources, cowdung is rarely used in land these days following the degeneration of livestock population. Official statistics show that every year on an average 25,000 cattle die due to various diseases and other calamities.

On the otherhand, use of cowdung as fuel has increased in the rural areas. Increasing, said effects due to rampant use of chemical fertilizer include less water-holding capacity of agricultural land, existence of increased sulphate and salinity posing threat to productivity of land.

The livestock and agricultural authorities have taken no measures to motivate the cultivators of using natural and green manures in land.



KURIGRAM: A farmer is seen operating treadle (foot driven machine) pump to irrigate his land. — Star photo

Govt officials asked to work with sincerity

BOGRA, Mar 7: State Minister for Finance Mojibur Rahman has called upon the government officials to discharge their duties with sincerity and accountability for providing maximum facilities to the masses, reports BSS.

He was presiding over a meeting of the government officials of the district at local zila parishad auditorium here recently.

The state minister reviewed on going development programmes of various departments of the district in the meeting with special emphasis on education, health and family planning, agriculture, industries, PDB, Public Health Engineering and environment.

The state minister said the main objective of the BNP government is aimed at the welfare of the people as people's expectation from the present democratically elected government is high. So, he said, the government officials have to render their services with pragmatic approach ignoring traditional attitude.

Listing various development programmes of the government Mojibur Rahman said, proper implementation of the programmes vested upon the government officials. He cautioned the public servants saying negligence of duties in this regard would not be tolerated.

Referring to bumper crop production this year he said 'We have to gear up fisheries and livestock sector to supplement the national economy.'

Kanlaon can erupt anytime in Philippines
MANILA, Mar 7: A third Philippine volcano was reported stirring to life today and officials warned people living nearby to flee in case it erupted, reports Reuter.

Kanlaon volcano on the central island of Negros joined Mayon and Pinatubo on volcanologists' list of volcanoes that could erupt without warning.

There were reports of something abnormal being shown by Kanlaon, 'Raymundo Punongbayan, head of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, said on television.

Kanlaon, a 2,460-foot (750 metre) mountain 530 km (330 miles) south of Manila, is an unpredictable volcano capable of erupting suddenly without any warning, Punongbayan said.

Besides, lack of tubewells in the platform and paucity of pure drinking water pose another problem especially during the hot spell.

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Mosquito menace poses serious threat to health in Kurigram

KURIGRAM, Mar 7: Mosquito menace has become a serious threat to public health in Kurigram district town.

Besides, great annoyance, the mosquito menace has caused sufferings recently as malaria fever has broken out in the district. The town dwellers have blamed the local civic body for its indifference to the public demands.

On the otherhand, the purashava authorities admitting their limitations said that the town-dwellers had little awareness about public health and environmental pollution.

Most of the dwellers discharge household wastes on roadsides and other public places instead of dustbins. A handful of dustbins were set up in the town long ago. Most of them are now either damaged or choked up and most of the dwellers do not get any dustbin within their reaches.

Besides, canals, ponds and marshy land inside or outside the town remain filled with water-hyacinths. Coupled with filth, stagnant water serves veritable mosquito breeding centres. The purashava authority neither spent anything

to clear these water bodies nor initiated any voluntary programme in this regard.

With the sundown mosquitoes in swarms come out of their breeding places to invade the inmates with their piercing stings. They inmates in their futile efforts try hard to ward off the attack of this formidable enemy by using spray and other articles commonly used to keep mosquitoes at bay.

The students who are to keep late hours at night to prepare their lessons are the worst victims of these insects.

Some owners of hotels and restaurants are reportedly engaged in this illegal business and they supply girls to their



MYMENSINGH: M A Jabbar Khan, District Adjutant of Ansar, VDP speaking at a function in observance of Fire Service and Civil Defence Week '93 held here recently. Police Super and other district high officials are also seen in the picture. — Star photo