

District roundup

MAGURA
Misceants kidnap woman, rape her
May 15: A young woman was kidnapped and later gang raped by some miscreants at Narhati village of Sadar thana last week, reports UNB.
The victim, identified as Champa Begum, (25) was abducted from her grandfather's house at Derua village at gun point.
The following morning villagers recovered Champa in unconscious state and sent her to Sadar Hospital in critical condition.
The accused youths were later tried and fined Taka 500 each by a village arbiter.

SIRAJGANJ
Trial of killers of Jamaat leader demanded
May 15: Leaders of the district unit of Jamaat-e-Islami Thursday handed over a memorandum, addressed to the Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, to the Deputy Commissioner demanding trial of the killers of Jamaat leader Kashem, reports UNB.
Kashem, a Jamaat leader was killed on this day in 1992 in a clash between activists of Ghatank Dalal Nirmul Committee and Jamaat-e-Islami.

The memorandum demands rejection of bail petition and sentencing the 51 Nirmul members accused in the murder of Kashem to jail.
KHAGRACHHARI
Tribal housewife commits suicide
May 15: A tribal housewife reportedly committed suicide in Kanongpara village of Panchhari thana of the district last week, police said, reports UNB.
The victim identified as Shaktuntala Chakma (38), second wife of Shishubhusan Chakma, hanged herself from a tree near her house following a family feud, villagers said.
Police recovered the body and sent to Khagrachhari sadar hospital for autopsy.
A UD case was registered with the police in this connection.

DINAJPUR
One shot dead by BSF
May 15: A man was shot dead by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) at Minapukur Dithalia in Haripur thana in Thakurgaon district Sunday, reports UNB.
Police sources here said Nazrul Islam (45) was shot dead by BSF men when he tried to resist the lifting of five cows by them from Bangladesh territory.

NAOGAON
R&H Dept plans to construct flexible pavement
May 15: The roads and highways department has taken up a scheme to construct flexible pavement on Naogaon-Raninagar-Atrai road at a cost of Taka 42,24,032 in the current fiscal year, reports BSS.
According to an official source, work of the scheme will begin soon and be completed by the end of July.
With the completion of the work the road communication of the area will be improved considerably.

NOAKHALI
6 pry schools taken up for reconstruction
May 15: Local Government and Engineering Department has taken up a programme for reconstruction of six registered non-government primary schools in Sadar thana, reports UNB.
The estimated cost of the work has been fixed at Taka 25 lakh. The work is expected to be completed by June next.
The schools are located in the char areas of the thana and have been lying in a deplorable condition since long.
Another message adds: A new organisation namely Noakhali District Muktiyoddah Foundation has been formed here recently.
An 11-member committee has been formed with Alhaj Abdur Razzak as its Convener and Mujibullah Khondakar as its Member Secretary.
The foundation will render its services in upholding the spirit of liberation war and to help the martyred and distressed families of Muktiyoddah.

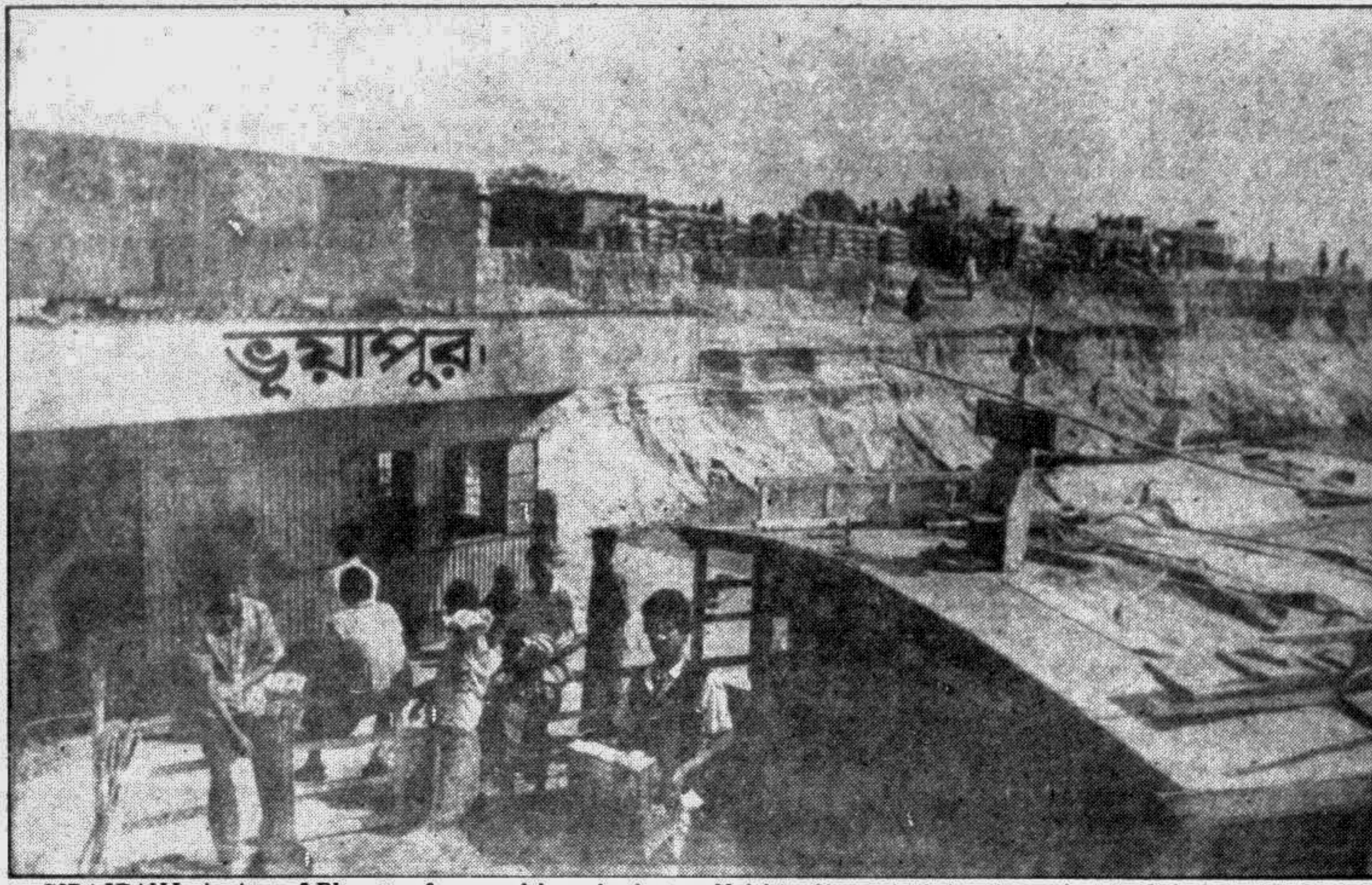
SHERPUR
Silk-cotton output reduced
May 15: Production of silk-cotton has drastically reduced in the district due to want on felling of silk-cotton trees, reports UNB.
Most of the trees in the district, once rich in silk-cotton production, are decaying due to lack of proper care and maintenance.
The silk-cotton is widely used in every family for making pillow, mattress, bolsters and other purposes.
A single tree produces at least two to five maunds of silk-cotton per year. It grows without much care in any type of soil.
The silk-cotton wood is being widely used in match and biscuit factories. It is also used as fuel in brickfield and domestic purposes.
The poor villagers are selling their trees, sometimes much before reaching at the maturity stage, for maintenance of their family.

FARIDPUR
Ansar, VDP rally held
May 15: The annual rally of Ansar and VDP of the district was held at the local Kabi Jasmuddin Hall last week, reports UNB.
Director General of Ansar and VDP Major General Syed Badruzzaman attended the rally as chief guest.
Presided over by Deputy Commissioner and District Commandant of Ansar and VDP Nurul Huda, it was addressed, among others, by Deputy Director of Central Zone Abul Quasem and District Adjutant Raphael Gomej.
The speakers urged the members of Ansar and VDP to involve themselves in on-going socio-economic development programmes in the fields of family planning, mass education, sanitation and tree plantation.

PAENA
Bodies of two fishermen recovered
May 15: Two bodies of missing fishermen were recovered by villagers from the Padma river Friday morning, reports UNB.
The bodies were identified as Shamir (27) and Narayan (35) of Mularchar area under Sujanaagar thana.
They were missing after a fishing boat capsized on the Padma during the norwester on Thursday evening.
Police recovered two fire-arms and arrested two people in the district on Monday, reports UNB.
Acting on a tip, police raided the houses of Afiah Mollah and Seken Paramanik of village Varana in Sadar thana and seized the arms.
Police also arrested 37 people throughout the district on Monday and Tuesday on charges of anti-social activities.

CHITTAGONG
Four held on charge of terrorist acts
May 15: Police Wednesday arrested four people including the city convener of the Jaitiyatabadi Sramik Dal on charge of terrorist acts, reports UNB.
Local people said a gang of hoodlums led by Nawab Ali, city convener of the Sramik Dal, launched an attack on a restaurant at Chaktali area in Chandigon thana and ransacked its furniture on Wednesday afternoon.
The accused launched the attack after the restaurant owner refused to pay them tolls.

CHUADANGA
Police arrest 4 persons with gun
May 15: Police arrested four people with a country made gun from Farmpara in Sadar thana on Wednesday night, reports UNB.
Acting on a tip, police raided the house of Goolam Farooq and nabbed Asman Ali, Btupul Hossain, Zaved and the house owner with the gun.
Asman Ali was said to be the general secretary of the local unit of Chhatra League (M-I).
Police said the accused were involved in collecting tolls and terrorist acts in Chuadanga town area.



SIRAJGANJ: A view of Bhuapur ferry and launch ghat at Nalchia Char which has been damaged due to continuous rainfall and rise in water level of the Jamuna and Dhaleswari rivers recently. —Star photo

Diarrhoea claims 257 lives in Bundarban

BUNDARBUN, May 15: Diarrhoea has assumed a serious proportion in a Rohingya refugee camp in Naingkhiongchari thana taking a toll of 257 lives in last fortnight, doctors and camp inmates said, reports UNB.
The water-and-food-borne disease broke out in the Naingkhiongchari refugee camp late last month and the death were among 697 inmates attacked by it till Monday. Most of the victims are children.
The camp has sheltered 15,032 refugees, including 7,520 females.
Doctors working in the camp attributed the spread of diarrhoea mainly to the use of contaminated water from canals.
Camp inmates said most refugees use contaminated water from nearby canals and fountains as the relief commissioner and camp-in-charge had allegedly restricted the females to bring water from ring wells or tubewells by breaking 'purdah'.
The restriction was allegedly imposed on the pressure of a local fundamentalist group. The medical officer in charge of the camp said the allegation was brought to the notice of higher authorities.
Thirty ring wells and 11 tubewells are operative out of 33 ring wells and 28 tubewells in the camp installed by the camp authority during the last one year and a half.
Another report adds: Primary education in the district has been facing setback due to shortage of teachers, furniture and necessary appliances.
According to official sources, of the total 183 government school, 27 are running by only one teacher each. There are also 76 non-government primary schools in the district. At least 159 posts of teachers including 58 posts of headmasters are lying vacant in the district since 1990.
Three government primary schools in sadar thana, five in Thansi thana, 10 in Lama thana, eight in Ruma thana and one in Roangchari thana are being run by a single teacher, the sources added.
Two government primary schools remained closed for more than a year due to non-appointment of teachers.
At present about 19,950 children are prosecuting their studies in total 219 primary schools in the district, while last year 8,926 children were enrolled in those schools.
Mentionable that appointment of primary teachers remained suspended in the district since 1989 immediately when the Primary Education Directorate had been placed under the disposal of the Local Government Council of the district.

Nirmul body dissolves unit committee at Pabna

PABNA, May 15: Local leaders of Ghatank Dal Nirmul Committee have dissolved its district unit calling it a 'terrorist organisation', reports UNB.
Convener of the committee Rafiqul Islam Bakul told a press conference here Tuesday that they had severed their relation with the Nirmul Committee as it had turned into a terrorist organisation.
Some 150 leaders and activists of the district Nirmul Committee had earlier joined BNP expressing allegiance to the leadership of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, he said.
Joint convener of the district Nirmul Committee Zahurul Islam Bishu, and other leaders including Commander of the local Muktiyoddah Sangsad Aurangzeb Bablu and freedom fighters Sarwar Hossain, Paresnath Chowdhury and Siddiqur Rahman were present at the press conference.
Another report adds: Use of cowdung as traditional fertilizer has diminished sharply among farmers here resulting in the decline of land fertility.
Farmers said, application of the cowdung raises crop production without any adverse effect.

Irregular train services in Kishoreganj Passengers facing immense difficulties

KISHOREGANJ, May 15: The train passengers of Bharab-Mymensingh, Mymensingh-Mohanganj and Mymensingh-Jatiganj sections are facing immense difficulties owing to irregular train services and negligence of the railway staff. Most of the trains run two to five hours late.
According to passengers, the number of trains in these sections is very few. The number of compartments in each train is meagre to cope with the rush of passengers.
Sometimes trains lack first and second class compartments creating great inconveniences for the upper class passengers.
The number of passengers travelling without tickets has increased in recent days in these lines causing difficulties to the genuine passengers. Moreover, innumerable beggars and toll collectors have been creating problems to the travelling passengers.
On the other hand, compartments, are not kept clean and sometimes water is not available in the latrines.
The door of many latrines in the inter-city, local and express trains are found broken. The toilets have no electricity and the fans are not sufficient in the compartments. Some unscrupulous railway staff members are involved in stealing of lights, fans and other valuables, it is alleged.
Gratification is collected from the smugglers instead of sending them to the railway police station, it is also alleged. All the third class compartments both in local and express trains have been made second class compartments but the amenities are not enhanced. Waiting rooms in most of the stations have no sitting arrangements for upper class passengers. The waiting rooms in almost all the stations of this section are in a pitiable state and remain dirty. Most of the time these are found under lock and key.
No timetable
The trains running on these routes do not maintain any timetable and usually arrive and depart late often by two to five hours.
As a result, the passengers particularly those who have to attend schools, college and offices are bewildered with after helplessness. It is alleged that the authorities have failed to take appropriate measure so far despite repeated representations by the members of the public.
It is further alleged that some corrupt railway employees are allowing passengers to travel without ticket after taking illegal gratification from them and thus depriving the governments revenue.
There is no permanent arrangement to clean the platform of the stations. Besides, in the absence of power supply in the compartments anti-social elements carry on their heinous activities.

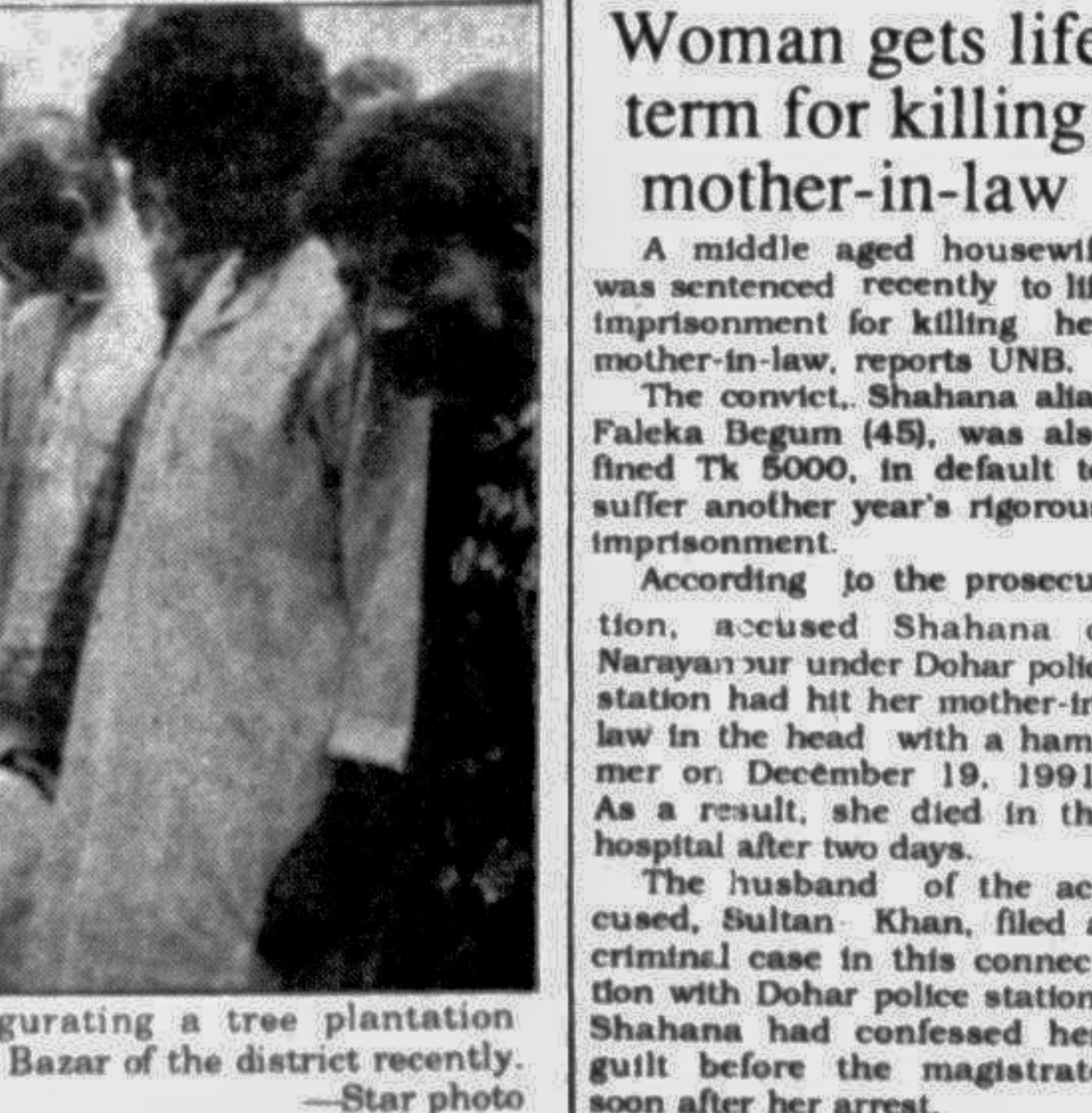
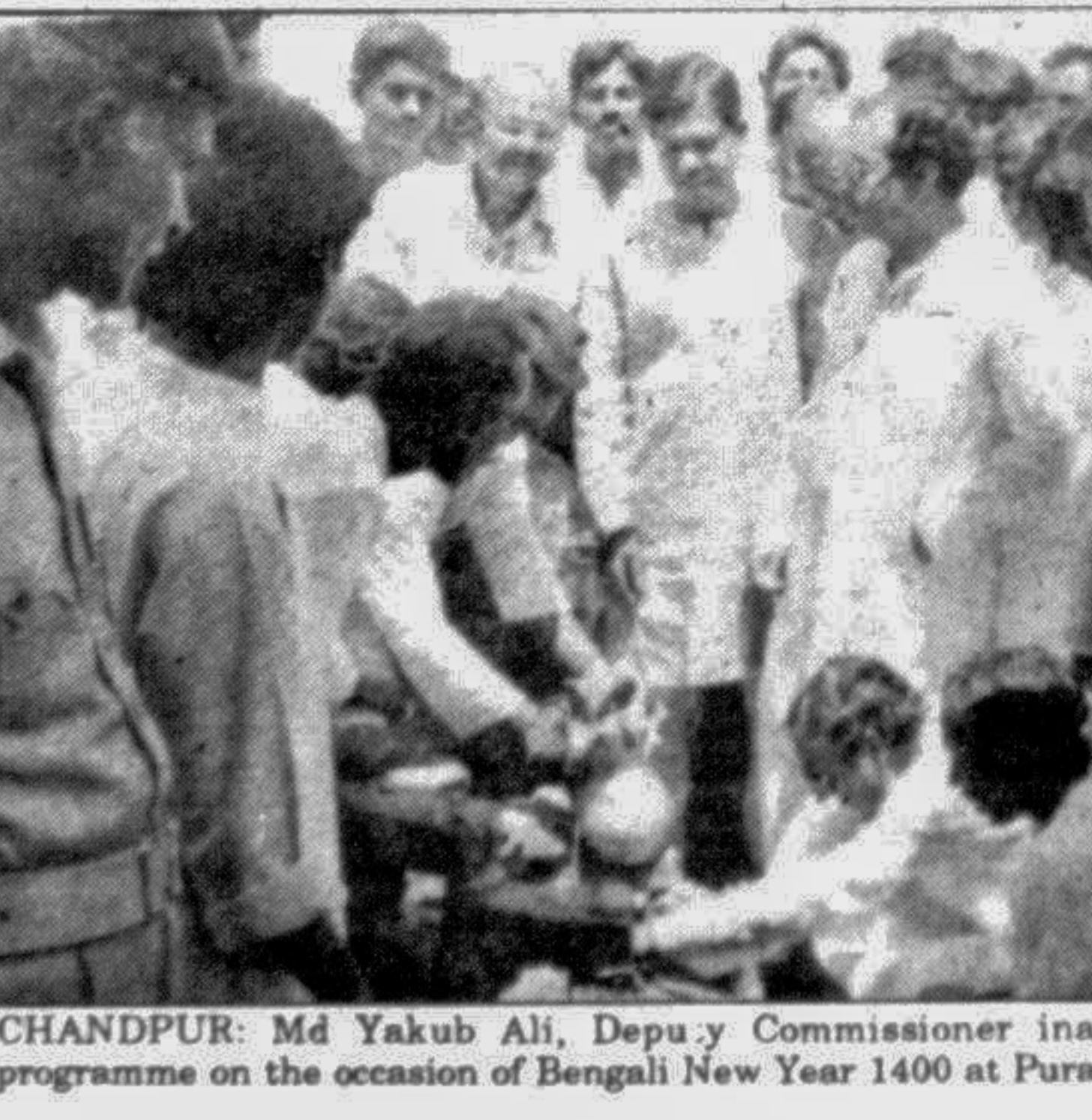
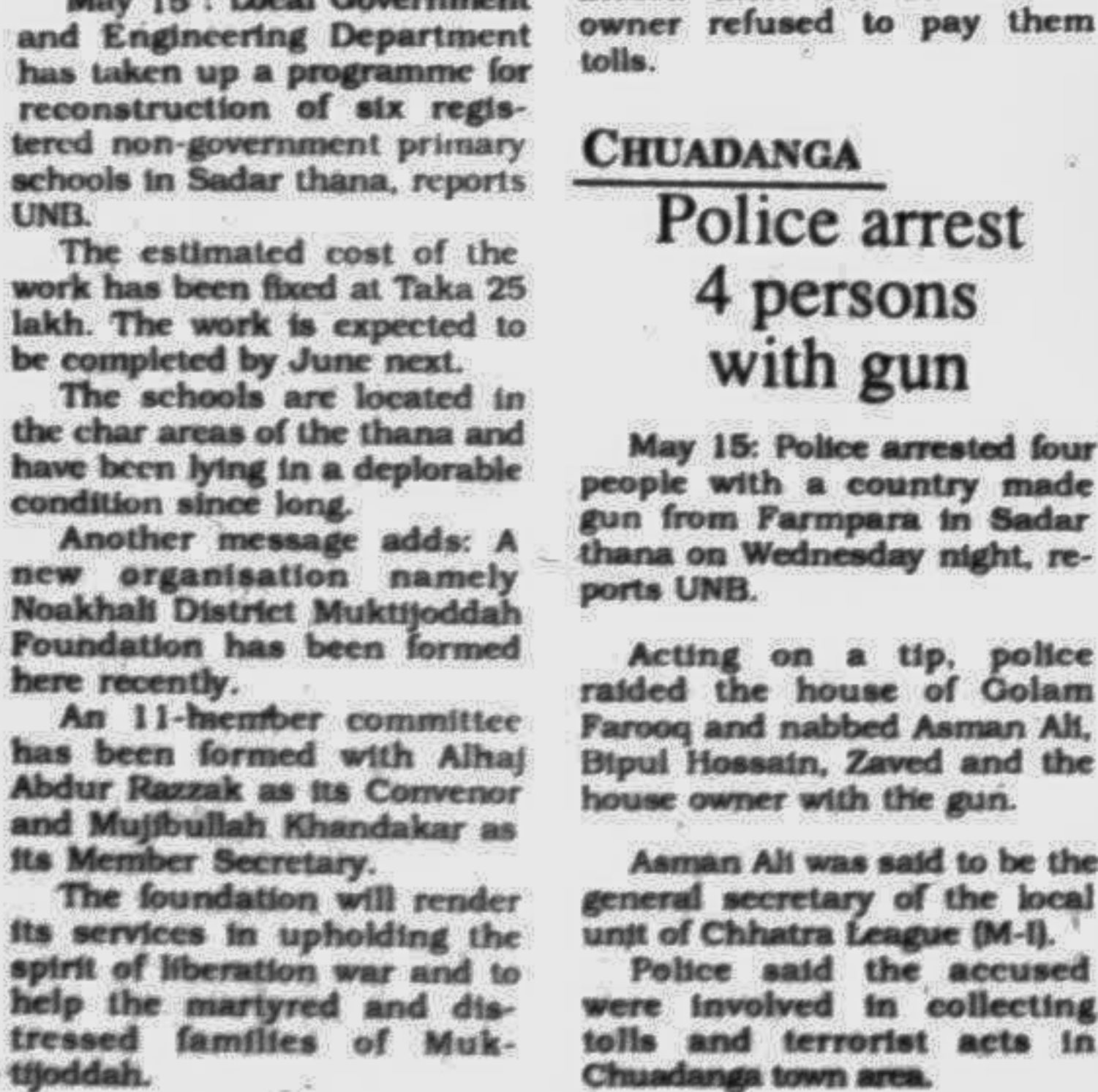
From Our Correspondent
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385 committed suicide in Manikganj last yr

SAVAR, May 15: At least 385 people, including 308 women, allegedly committed suicide in seven thanas of Manikganj district during the last year, reports UNB.
Police said propensity to suicide has increased alarmingly in the district in recent times.
Poverty, polygamy, unhappy family feud and frustration are said to be main reasons behind increasing number of suicide.
Chronic diseases, including abdominal pain, are also responsible for the suicide.
Another report from Sirajganj adds: Two persons were killed and another committed suicide at different places of Ullapara thana of the district Wednesday night, police said Thursday.
The victims are identified as Shamsul Islam (35) of Matriabaraha village, Halima Khatun (23) of Amdanga village and Hasina Khatun (25) of Pagla Baraha village of the thana.
Shamsul Islam, a cow trader was stabbed to death by unknown miscreants when he was returning home from Matriabaraha bazar. Police suspect that the victim was killed by members of the outlawed Sharbahara Party.
The miscreants took away Taka 10,000 which the victim was carrying with him.
Later police recovered his body and sent to the Sirajganj General Hospital for autopsy.
In another incident at Amdanga village, housewife Halima Khatun, was beaten to death by her husband Shafuiddin for dowry money, local people said. Halima fell ill and later died.
Her body was sent to Sirajganj General Hospital for autopsy. Shafuiddin absconded.
In village Pagla Baraha, Hasina Khatun, wife of a school teacher Kamaluddin allegedly committed suicide following a row with her husband, villagers said.
Local people alleged that Kamaluddin tortured Hasina and beat her for dowry money which forced her to end her life by taking poison.
Kamaluddin also went into hiding.
Three separate cases have been filed with Kamarkhand thana in these connections.

Frequent accidents due to overloading

DINAJPUR, May 15: Overloading of the buses and minibuses plying on Nagardbari Ghat-Bogra and Bogra-Rangpur-Dinajpur roads is a regular feature. Due to the overloading, accidents occur frequently.
Bus passengers of 16 northern districts of Chapaina-wabganj, Rajshahi, Naogaon, Natore, Sirajganj, Pabna, Joipurhat, Bogra, Gaibandha, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Rangpur, Nilphamari, Panchagarh, Thakurgaon and Dinajpur have been facing untold sufferings for lack of amenities for a long.
The miserable condition of the roads due to the negligence of the concerned authority, whims of the owners of the vehicles, misbehaviour of the helpers, conductors and drivers, overloading and stands without waiting sheds and toilets are the main cause of the suffering of the passengers.
It is alleged that conductors of most buses and minibuses realise fair at unauthorised rates from the passengers.
According to a report, there are over 80 bus stands in these 16 northern districts. But there are no waiting sheds and latrines in these bus stands. As a result, the passengers suffer much.
Over ten lakh people travel by buses and minibuses from these 16 district every day. The passengers including children and women suffer much at the bus stands for want of waiting sheds. They suffer when it rains. They also suffer in the scorching rays of sun. Female passengers face immense difficulties due to the lack of latrines and urinals.
The 28-kilometers long Natore-Bogra road and 108-kilometer long Bogra-Rangpur-Dinajpur road in dilapidated condition. Innumerable cracks and potholes have developed on them. At present, these two roads have become unfit for the plying of vehicles. Vehicles are plying of the roads with a great risk.
Brampur-Palashbari road has not been completely metalled. On the other hand, the road was badly damaged by the worst flood last year. The buses, minibuses and trucks are facing a serious problem while plying on the road. Fatal road accidents may take place at any time.
Overloading of the buses, and minibuses playing in these 16 districts is a regular feature. Due to the overloading accidents occur frequently.



SYLHET: The pitiable condition of a government office in the town needs immediate renovation which may collapse at any moment. —Star photo

Lightning takes nine lives in B'baria, Chandpur

BRAHMANBARIA, May 15: Seven people were killed and two others injured by lightning in separate incidents in the district, police sources said Thursday.
Siddique Mia (30) of Rajapur village and Abdul Mia (50) of Dubla village in Akhaura thana were died and two minor boys of Taraganon village of the same thana injured when thunder bolt struck them while they were working in the cropland on May 6.
Abdul Quddus, a day-labourer of Gopalpur village in Nabinagar met the tragic end while he was working in a paddy field. In sadar thana four people were killed when lightning struck them during their work in the field on the same day.
The victims were identified as Hossain Mia (22) of Lal Shaha, Jantu Bank of Uleshpara, two others from Majlisshpur whose identity could not be known.
UNB from Chandpur adds: Two fishermen were killed and another was injured when they were struck by lightning in the Dakatia river near Chandpur Bara Station Thursday.
The dead were identified as
Matin Miah (25) and Sirajul Babary (50) of village Balashia of Chandpur thana. Matin died on the spot while Sirajul fell unconscious and later died in Chandpur Zila Hospital.
Injured Anwar Hossain (17) of the same village was admitted to the hospital.
The fishermen were sitting on a boat using polythene to protect themselves from rain after fishing in the river when they were struck by the thunderbolt.
Training course on legal aid concludes
MADARIPUR, May 15: A 15-day training course organised by Madaripur Legal Aid Association for legal aid activists concluded here recently, reports BSS.
Held at the newly-constructed training centre of the association the training course included various topics such as fundamental human rights, children's rights and role of legal aid activists in stabilising rule of law in the society.
Twenty-three persons from 14 non-governmental organisations participated in the training course.
The dead were identified as

CHANDPUR: Md Yakub Ali, Deputy Commissioner inaugurating a tree plantation programme on the occasion of Bengali New Year 1400 at Puran Bazar of the district recently. —Star photo