

District roundup

FARIDPUR

Tagore's birth anniversary observed

May 16: 132nd birth anniversary of poet Rabindranath Tagore was observed here by various socio cultural organisations, reports BSS.

In connection with the birth anniversary of the poet Faridpur Shilpakala Academy arranged a cultural programme Saturday at the academy auditorium. Speakers paid rich tributes to the great poet and urged all to follow ideals of the poet who advocated peace by shunning the path of animosity and malice.

Among others Swedish Ambassador to Bangladesh Bjorn Sternby, Alf Samuelsson, permanent secretary for development cooperation of Swedish government and KM Nurul Huda, Deputy Commissioner of Faridpur spoke on the occasion.

The discussion was followed by a musical soiree and presentation of dance-drama 'Shama' composed by Tagore.

JHENIDAH

Man slaughtered by gang: Boy killed in accident

May 16: A middle-aged man was slaughtered by a gang of armed miscreants at Ratanpur village in Sadar thana on Sunday night, reports UNB.

Police said the miscreants numbering about 30 stormed the house of Azibar (48) and dragged him out and slaughtered near his residence.

Later police recovered the body and sent it to Jhenidah Hospital morgue for autopsy. The reason behind the murder could not be known.

A case was filed with the police.

Another report adds: A school boy was killed and three people were injured in a road accident in the town on Monday.

Police said a Dhaka bound bus from Khulna knocked down Swapan (12), who was riding on a bicycle and hit a Mekshaw injuring its three passengers.

Swapan, student of Jhenidah Government Boys' High School, died on way to hospital. The injured were admitted to Sadar Hospital in a critical condition.

Police seized the bus but its driver, however, managed to flee the scene.

NOAKHALI

Minor boy killed in road mishap

May 16: A minor boy was killed when a tree fell on him from a truck near the Matjdee bus stand area last week, reports UNB.

The dead identified as Raju (12), was the son of an ice-cream hawker of Matjdee bus stand area.

A tree fell on Raju while the labourers were unloading the trees from a truck.

Raju, came out of his house to see the unloading of the trees, local people said.

Police seized the truck and a case has been filed with the local thana.

DINAJPUR

Samad Azad blames govt for weak JS

May 16: Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Parliament Abdus Samad Azad today accused the government of hatching a conspiracy to make the parliament ineffective, reports UNB.

"BNP is trying to rule the country sidetracking the parliament and ignoring the opinions of legislators," the Awami League leader told a huge public meeting at Dinajpur Institute premises here.

Protesting the prorogation of the 9th session of the fifth parliament after transacting business only for five days, Azad said the government deprived the elected representatives of discussing the problems of commonman.

Presided over by district Awami League President Abdur Rouf Chowdhury the meeting was addressed, among others, by party leaders Mamtaj Hossain, Abdur Rahim MP, Mustafizur Rahman MP, Aminul Islam MP and Kamruzzaman.

Samad Azad said there is no alternative to street movement for realising the demands of the common people and added that Awami League would launch a greater movement to force the government to undertake people-oriented development programmes.

NETRAKONA

Law, order situation improving

May 16: The overall law and order situation is improving in Netrakona district following special measures taken by Netrakona district police last three months, reports BSS.

The district police had formed a number of special squads and conducted over a dozen of raids in different remote areas and recovered a huge quantity of weapons and fire arms including two pistols, nine pipe guns and nineteen rounds of live ammunition in the last three months.

Police also rounded up 23 inter-district robber, 35 cowlifters and recovered 26 stolen cows from different areas.

Police had set up six temporary camps in different areas in the district to maintain law and order.

Police petrol were intensified in all the thana connecting roads with district headquarters and Netrakona-Mymensingh high way to check the road dacoity.

Police had a series of meetings with the leaders of different political parties socio-cultural and religious organisations and professional groups for minimising social and political unrest during the period.

CHITTAGONG

Young man burnt alive

May 16: A young man was burnt alive and five others were injured when a fire broke out at a ship breaker's yard near Jahanabad in Sitakunda thana last week, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Kurshed Alam (21), worker of GM Enterprise Ship Breaking Yard. The injured were released after first aid.

Witnesses said the fire broke out after a concentrated gas box suddenly exploded when a group of workers were cutting scrap ship by gas machine in an engine room.

Workers alleged the owner of the ship ran his business without 'gas free' certificate from the concerned department.

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

MADARIPUR

Potters facing problems

May 16: The potters of Madaripur have been facing manifold problems as the pottery industries are on the verge of ruination due to lack of patronisation, reports UNB.

Many potters of the district have already left their profession while others are trying to find out other jobs.

About 2000 people of Rasti, Kulapaddi, Ghatmazi, Chemuria, Mustafapur, Rajor, Kalkini, Ghosher Hat, Shibchar and Gopalpur of the district are engaged in pottery.

They manufacture earthen jars, plates, toys and various things and earn their livelihood by selling the products.

At present the earthen products have less demands in the market as these products cannot cope with aluminium products. They urged the authorities to provide them with credit facilities on soft term to enable them to continue their ancestral profession.

PABNA

Three cases filed against 15 people for misappropriation

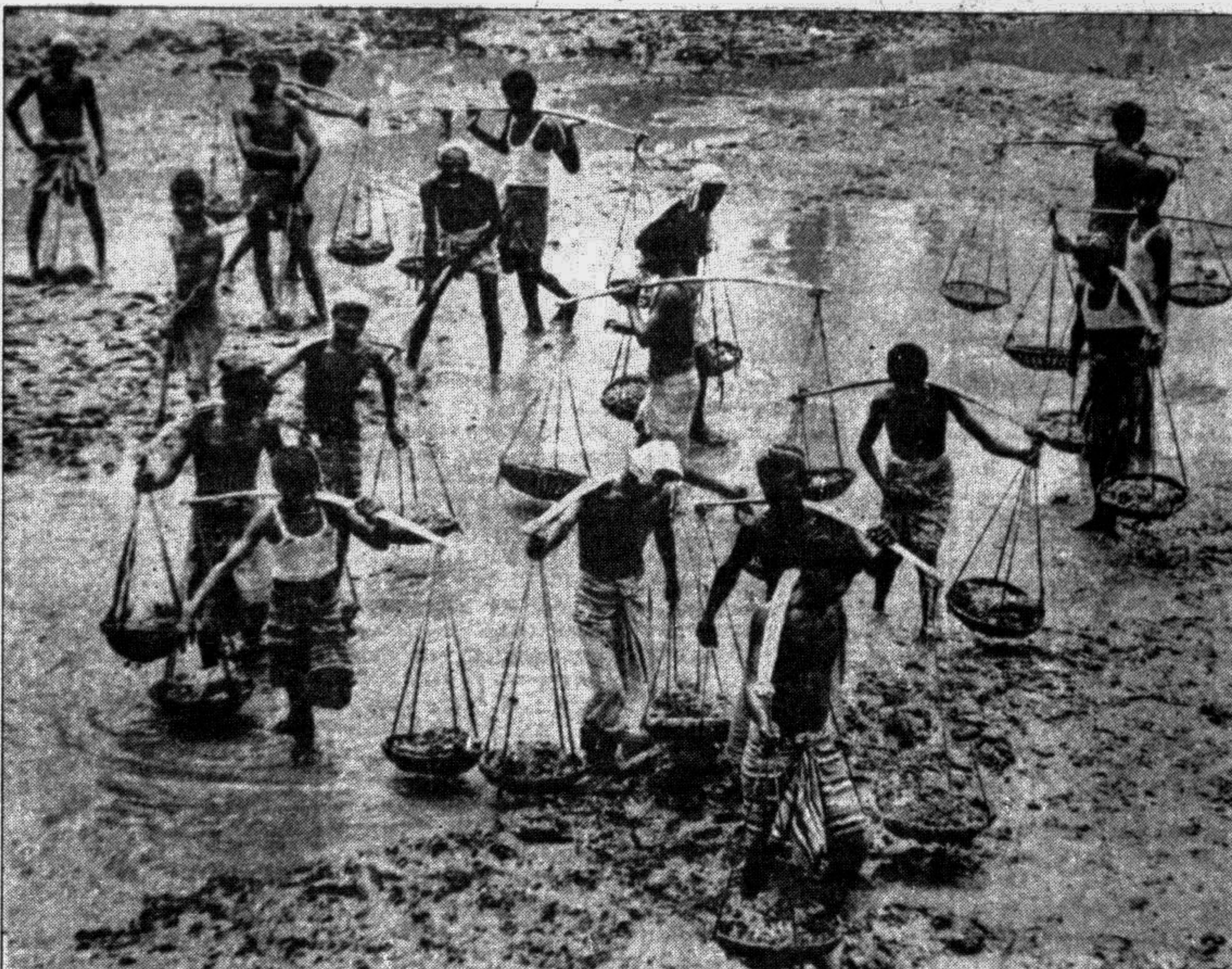
May 16: District Anti-corruption Bureau filed three cases against 15 people with Sadar and Ishardi police for misappropriation of Taka 5 lakh, reports UNB.

Official sources said Wahiduzzaman Biswas, Chairman of Shahpur union in Ishardi thana allegedly misappropriated 10 metric tons to wheat worth about Taka 2 lakh under Food for Works Programme last year. The bureau filed a case against the chairman with Ishardi thana on April 29.

Another case was filed against seven officials of Pabna Cooperative Industries Union for misappropriating Taka 3.59 lakh on April 29. The accused are Shahjahan Ali, president of the union, vice president Altaf Hossain and directors Atiqur Rahman, Asgar Ali, Keramat Ali, Abul Hossain and draftsman Nurul Islam.

The bureau filed another case with Sadar police on April 28 against seven people for making false deed.

The accused are Abul Hossain Fakir, Amzad Hossain, Ebadat Hossain, Matinul Haq, Sree Amullah and Joyanal Abedin.



LABOURERS ON WORK: The uplift works are going on in full swing in the northern districts and other parts of the country. — Star photo by A K M Mohsin

PHE sinks 42,500 shallow, deep tubewells in 1992

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, May 16: The Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department has already completed sinking of about 40,000 shallow and more than 2,500 deep tubewells last year for ensuring supply of pure drinking water particularly to the rural people of Barisal, Bhola, Jhalakathi, Patuakhali, Perajpur, Borguna, Faridpur, Rajbari, Madaripur, Gopalganj and Sariarur under Barisal circle.

According to official sources, the PHE fixed a target for sinking 1,395 deep and 2,250 shallow tubewells, 150 deep set pumps and resinking of 1,800 shallow tubewells in the circle during the current financial year.

The project is being implemented with the assistance of UNICEF.

Meanwhile, one hundred deep and fifty shallow tubewells have already been installed in these districts till March last.

Another report says: Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) has taken up a programme for disbursing more than three crore taka as small cottage industry loan particularly to the

distressed women of at least 47 thana areas of 35 districts under Dhaka, Khulna and Barisal divisions through its third phase loan disbursing programme. It may be recalled that the first phase of this programme was introduced in 46 thana areas of 43 districts of the country in 1986 last and the second phase was also implemented in 39 thanas of 36 districts.

It may be mentioned that the loan will be distributed under the joint initiative of Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) and Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) till 1996.

Ultimate purpose and objective of disbursing the loan is to ensure the betterment of socio-economic conditions of the rural poor and distressed women and female artisans. No collateral security will be needed for taking this loan.

Project establishment cost including working capital per unit, loan will be maximum taka five thousand though for some special cases it may be increased up to eight thousand taka with the interest rate of 12 pc and 14.50 pc respectively.

Another report adds: All the thana headquarters of the country will be linked up through 'operator-trunk-dial' system under Bangladesh T&T Board.

According to a highly placed source of T&T Department, it is also learnt that this system will be introduced by 1993-94 financial year.

Another report adds: The loan will be given for the sectors of readymade garments, jute and bamboo based factories, net and mat works, tailoring, wool knitting and embroidery, food processing, ghani oil, fish drying and processing, candle, hand fan, shoe making factories, radio and watch repairing shop, lime, chalk and paper bags making and some other income generating projects.

According to official sources, the loan will be disbursed in Barisal division through BKB branches of Borguna, Nalchiti, Babuganj, Daulatkhan (Bhola), Baufal (Patuakhali), Kawkhali (Perajpur) and Palong. The other branches are of Madaripur, Gopalganj, Pangsha and Madhukhali.

Another report adds: The arrested brothers — Sanjib and Dilip, learnt the technical know-how from their father and involved themselves in arms manufacturing. They had been selling finished arms to criminals for past 10 years.

A foreign made cut-rifle now sells at about Taka 5,000 while a local gun sells at Taka 3,000, they told police.

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Arms recovered in Satkania

CHITTAGONG, May 16: Police recovered a huge quantity of arms and arms-manufacturing materials from a thicket at South Rampura village in Satkania thana of Chittagong district Thursday night, reports UNB.

Two persons were also arrested from the village for their alleged involvement in arms manufacturing. They identified them as Sanjib Kumar Dey and Dilip Kumar Dey, son of Fani Chandra Dey.

Acting on a tip police, raided a house of village South Rampura village and arrested Dilip and Sanjib from there and recovered those materials from a thicket as per their confessional statement.

Recovered arms included seven foreign-made cut-rifle, two local-made gun, two pipe-guns, 20 unfinished local made guns, 20 unfinished pipe guns and a pistol. However, detailed of the recovered arms-manufacturing materials, could not be gathered immediately.

It may be mentioned that Fani Chandra Dey and his daughter Niyati Rani Dey were arrested by police in 1982 for their involvement in manufacturing arms illegally. Later, they were given imprisonment of seven years for the act.

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A foreign made cut-rifle now sells at about Taka 5,000 while a local gun sells at Taka 3,000, they told police.

One killed as rival groups clash

BRAHMANBARIA, May 16: A man was killed when two rival groups clashed at Sonatola village in Nasirnagar thana last week, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the victim, Rahis Miah (30), succumbed to his injuries at Sadar Hospital, where he was rushed in critical condition, after his opponents hit him with a iron bar at one stage of altercation.

The clash ensued between two rival groups as a sequel to previous enmity.

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

Govt to survey reasons for flood: Majid

DAUDKANDI, May 16: Minister for Agriculture, Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Majid-ul Haq said here today that the government would soon start a survey to identify the cause of sudden and early flood in the different rivers of the country, reports BSS.

He said the present government has already taken realistic measures to save different areas from early and sudden flooding of rivers, a PID handout said.

The minister was addressing the people affected by sudden flooding of the River Gumti at Vittikandi under Daudkandi.

12,580 poultry birds distributed among farmers

From Our Correspondent

NETRAKONA, May 16: Netrakona district Livestock Department so far distributed 12,580 poultry birds among the marginal and landless farmers of ten thanas of the district during the current fiscal year.

According to an official source, of the total, 4,000 poultry birds were distributed in Netrakona Sadar thana.

The programme has been taken up aiming at the development of socio-economic condition of landless and marginal farmers of the district, the source said.

Another report says: The target of family planning programme has achieved in district during the last financial year. Official sources said the Contraceptive Prevalent Rate (CPR) reached 92 per cent.

Meanwhile, mass motivation for family planning has yielded good results among the fertile couple in the district. They voluntarily come to the family planning office to seek advice for planned parenthood, the sources added.

Another report adds: Hats and bazars of all the 10 thanas of the district are in pitiable condition causing inconveniences to both the buyers and sellers.

Shopkeepers said, most of the hats and bazars have bad drainage system and the situation become worse during the

Unknown disease claims 100 cattle in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, May 16: An unknown disease claimed over 100 cattle in Kazipur thana of the district during the last 48 hours, reports UNB.

Kazipur BNP Secretary said a large number of cows were also attacked by the disease in 15 villages in Charbish union.

The BNP leader urged the concerned officials to take necessary steps to halt the epidemic.

Meanwhile, standing crops on 5,000 acres of land were submerged in four thanas of the district following heavy downpour and onrush of water in the river Jamuna during the last four days.

Local leaders said low lying land and char areas of Kazipur, Ghoulali and Hayganj thanas and Chalanbil area in Tarash thana were also gone under water.

Another BSS report adds: Commerce Minister M K Anwar has said that poet Rabindranath Tagore collected the materials of literature from different parts of the world and composed literate pieces

and thus enriched Bengali language. "We are grateful to him for his great contribution for our language," he added.

He was addressing a function organised in celebration of the 132nd birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore at Shahjadpur as chief guest, here.

Local Member of Parliament Qamruddin Yahia Khanmajlish, Deputy Commissioner, Sirajganj and a number local political leaders and literary personalities also spoke on the occasion.

The minister said that Rabindranath Tagore enriched Bengali literature by writing from his boyhood till his death. All branches of Bengali literature had been enriched at the magic touch of his mighty pen, he added.

Anwar said that we took part in our liberation struggle in 1971 being inspired by the songs and poems of poet Tagore and National Poet-Kazi Nazrul Islam and we achieved freedom from the Colonial rule.

Mushroom growth of hotels, restaurants in Dinajpur

From Our Correspondent

DINAJPUR, May 16: Mushroom growth of hotels and restaurants in all the thana headquarters and district town is posing health hazard to the inhabitants of the localities.

With the development of towns and consequent increase in the population, these hotels and restaurants have sprung up beside roads and in lanes.

It is learnt that most of these hotels are dirty and uncleaned. Food is prepared and stored in most unhygienic condition. It may be mentioned here that since there is no licenced residential hotel or restaurant in the thana towns. People who come from different places have no other choice but to go to these hotels.

The district and thana level health administrations are not paying any heed to this menace.

It is alleged that some dishonest health administration officials take bribe from the hotel owners and other shopkeepers. As a result, these illegal shopowners are running their business unabatedly.

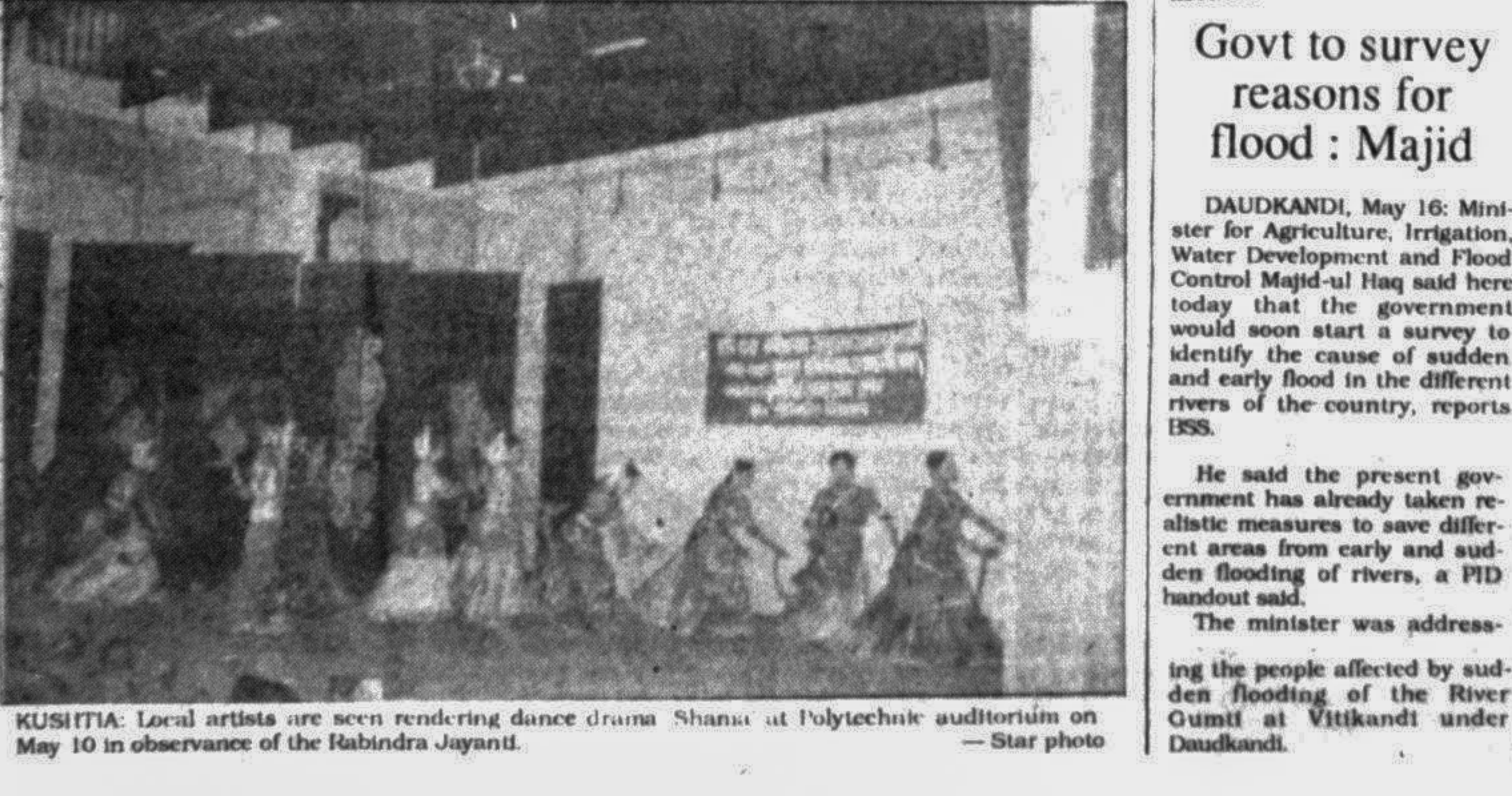
Meanwhile, adulterated edible oil is being sold in the district town and other thana towns with impunity.

On the other hand palm oil meant for preparation of soaps and other chemicals are being mixed with mustard and soybean oil and is sold in the markets.

It is reported that a section of organised gang is selling these adulterated edible oil, ghee, coconut oil to the wholesalers.

Knowing the facts some grocers are purchasing such adulterated oil and selling the same to customers. The poor customers getting the same at the cheaper price are buying them without any hesitation.

The law enforcing officials have been indifferent to the matter.



KUSHTIA: Local artists are seen rendering dance drama Shana at Polytechnic auditorium on May 10 in observance of the Rabindra Jayanti. — Star photo