

District roundup

NARAIL

Weavers facing various problems

June 21: About 5,000 weavers in the district are facing great difficulties in running their ancestral profession due to multifarious problems, reports UNB.

Fund constraints, non-availability of cotton yarn, dyes, chemicals and other necessary inputs and absence of government assistance have turned thousands of weavers helpless to run their business.

According to sources, about 1500 hand looms are in operation in the district producing lunges, sarce, towels and napkins.

But the spiralling price hike of manufacturing materials and increase of production costs are affecting smooth functioning of the hand loom industry.

The weavers urged the government and commercial banks to extend financial assistance to them on easy terms to save the industry.

MOULVIBAZAR

Two commit suicide, one electrocuted

June 21: Three people, including two women, were killed in three separate incidents in three thanas of the district during the last week, reports UNB.

Of the deceased, two allegedly committed suicide and the another was electrocuted, local people said.

According to sources, Inu Begum (25), wife of Lukman Miah of Rastilaj village in Kamalganj thana, allegedly committed suicide by taking poison.

In another incident, Taslima Begum (18), daughter of Arman Ali of Ganakia village under Kaulura thana committed suicide by hanging herself from the ceiling of her house.

The causes behind their deaths could not be ascertained immediately. Two separate cases were filed with local police.

Meanwhile, a rickshaw-puller was electrocuted in a storm that hit Rajchandra village in Balaganj thana.

The victim, identified as Abdul Jalil (28), died on the spot as soon as he came in contact with a live electric wire lying in a canal near Rajchandra Primary School, eyewitnesses said.

A UD case was registered with Balaganj police in this connection.

PATUAKHALI

Installation of 700 tubewells to end soon

June 21: The installation of 700 tubewells at a cost of Tk 2.50 crore is nearing completion in six thanas of the district, reports UNB.

The Public Health Engineering Department (PHE) and UNICEF are jointly installing the tubewells.

About 70 per cent work of the installation has already been completed while the remaining is expected to be completed soon.

According to sources, about 1,50,000 people of these areas will be benefited with installation of the tubewells.

Another report adds: Construction of eleven cyclone shelters is nearing completion in coastal areas of the district.

Official sources said, Tk 3 crore will be spent for construction of the cyclone shelters. The fund is given by the government of Netherlands and France.

GAFARGAON

Kidnapped boy rescued

June 21: One kidnapped minor boy was rescued and ten persons were arrested on charges of kidnapping by Gafargaon police recently, reports BSS.

Police said four-year-old Rubel, son of one Chand Miah of village Barabaria under Gafargaon thana of Mymensingh district was kidnapped by miscreants on May 22. The miscreants demanded Taka five lakh as ransom from the parents of the boy.

A police squad led by officer-in-charge of Gafargaon thana Md Aminur Rahman raided different places of Mymensingh and Netrakona districts and arrested ten persons involved in the kidnapping.

Two persons were arrested from Gouripur thana, two from Trishal thana, one from Atpara thana, one from Haliughat and four from Gafargaon, police said.

The accused person was sent to the court hajjat. Further investigation is proceeding.

SIRAJGANJ

30 pc target of production of jute achieved

From Our Correspondent

June 21: Only 30 per cent target of jute cultivation has been achieved in Sirajganj district during current season.

It is learnt that target of jute cultivation was fixed at 23,300 hectares of land. But jute is cultivated only in 9,400 hectares of land in nine thanas of Sirajganj district.

Abnormal fall in jute price has discouraged the farmers to cultivate jute, as reported by the growers.

PABNA

Erosion renders 35,000 people homeless

June 21: Some 35,000 people in seven thanas of the greater Pabna district were rendered homeless due to erosion by the River Jamuna during the last two months, reports UNB.

Official sources here said five primary schools, two madrasahs, three mosques, one post office and five other government offices in the thanas were devoured by the river during the period.

Standing crops on about 50,000 acres of land were also washed away by the flood water, officials said.

The worst affected thanas are Belkuchhi, Chowhali, Shahjadpur and Sadar thana of Sirajganj district, Bera and Shujanagar of Pabna district.

BARGUNA

Indiscriminate felling of trees

June 21: Fruit bearing trees in most thanas of the district are on the verge of extinction due to indiscriminate and largescale felling of trees, reports UNB.

The thanas — Barguna Sadar, Amtali, Patharghata, Bamna and Betagi — famous for different kinds of fruits produce a large number of high quality fruits every year.

But indiscriminate felling of fruit bearing trees, like mango, jackfruit, black berry, palm and guava, turns the district devoid of the pride.

An acute crisis of fruit has now been prevailing everywhere in the district. High yielding varieties of fruits are rarely found in the district following largescale cutting of fruit trees, sources said.

Local people said a group of greedy businessmen are cutting the trees in collaboration with local people for use in brick fields.

FENI

One jailed for keeping drugs

June 21: A man was sentenced to six months imprisonment in a judgement delivered here recently for keeping unauthorised drugs, reports UNB.

The accused Nazir Miah was arrested by local Narcotics Control Department personnel from Station road in the town along with 310 grams of ganja and 22 ganja cigarettes.

He was produced before the Sadar Thana Magistrate Court on Wednesday (June 9). The court gave the verdict on the same day after examining witnesses and documents.

SATKHIRA

Minor girl dies by snake-bite

June 21: One Lakhmi Rani, a minor daughter of one Gabinda Chandra Sarkar of Sirampur under Kotwali thana died by snake-bite Friday night, reports BSS.

Family source said a venomous snake came out of a hole in the mud wall of the house and bit her as she was asleep in the verandah. Her parents and people from the neighbourhood rushed to the scene as she raised alarm in pain. She died before any medical aid could be given.

C'NAWABGANJ

Goat rearing farm to be set up

June 21: Four goat rearing farms will be set up at a cost of about Tk 8.20 crore in four divisions of the country during the current year, official sources said, reports UNB.

The farms will be set up at Rajbarhat in Godagari thana of Rajshahi, Chuadanga in Khulna, Sevar in Dhaka and Tilagar in Sylhet in Chittagong division.

According to Livestock Department sources, the farms will be set up to produce high breed goats and improve the socio-economic condition of rural people.



SYLHET: The Boaljur Bazar area of Balaganj Thana under knee-deep flood water. Naturally, people move about on boats — Star photo

Notes from Satkhira

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, June 21: Two persons including a housewife were injured seriously in two separate incidents in Sadar thana recently.

It is learnt that Fahma Khatun (20) daughter of Abdul Khaleq of village Amtala and Anjad Ali (30) of Dhopakola village under Sadar thana were seriously injured following two separate clashes.

Both of them were sent to Satkhira hospital in a critical condition.

Indian cattlehead seized

The BDR personnel of 35 Rifles Battalion recovered 670 Indian cattleheads worth Tk about 4 lakh from a Khulna bound minibuss at headquarters checkpoint recently.

Acting on a secret information the BDR personnel on duty recovered the animals.

Commit suicide

Four persons namely Moniruddin Moral (60) of Sudderdangi, Alauddin (14) of Gharchala, Parvin (15) of Amtala and Swapan Chandra Sannay (24) of Gazipur all under Sadar PS committed suicide by taking insecticide recently.

Three more persons — Abdul Latif (23) and Majed (18) both of Khesra and Bhujahari Sarkar (22) of village Dohar under Tala PS committed suicide recently. The cause of their suicide is due to family feud, it is learnt.

Tk 50,000 snatched

Taka 50,000 was snatched away from one Hafizul Islam of Assassuni sadar by a gang of miscreants recently.

It is learnt that while Hafizul Islam was returning from his maternal uncle's house and reached village Nangda at about 4 pm.

The miscreants attacked him with lethal and sharp weapons and assaulted him physically and snatched away Tk 50,000 from him.

A case was lodged with Assassuni PS in this connection.

Shishu Hospital executive

The election of the executive committee of the Satkhira Shishu Hospital was held recently. The following office bearers were elected unopposed: President: Mujibur Rahman, DC Satkhira, Vice Presidents: Sirajuddin ADC (General), Satkhira and Samsul Haq (1), Secretary: Rawshan Ara Khanam, Joint Secretary: Amir Ali, Treasurer: Alhaj Abdul Gaffar, Executive members: Advocate Samsul Haq (2), Abdul Mutalib, Advocate Siraj Haidar and Mir Monjur Ali.

Boy drowned

A boy named Rabiul Islam (5) son of Ayejul Islam of village Bahera under Debhata PS drowned in the pond and met tragic death.

It is learnt that the minor boy while playing by the side of a nearby pond, suddenly fell into it. Thereafter the local people recovered his body from the pond.

Theft committed

A theft was committed recently in a house of Nizamuddin, a sepoy of Satkhira PS, now resides with his family at Munjitpur under Satkhira paurasava.

The thieves entered the house by breaking open the door and decamped with ornaments worth Tk 7000. A case was lodged with Satkhira PS.

Institute for research needed Ginger can fetch more foreign currency

From Our Correspondent

DINAJPUR, June 21: Establishment of an institute for research on development of ginger production along with some ginger processing plants in the northern region may earn a substantial amount of foreign currency for the country through exporting processed ginger to a number of foreign countries, knowledgeable sources believe.

Ginger is grown in Dinajpur, Thakurgaon, Nilphamari, Rangpur, Kurigram, Rajshahi and Chittagong Hill Tracts. Out of these districts, Dinajpur is the most suitable place for ginger production abundantly. It may be mentioned here that more than fifty per cent of the total ginger produced in the country grows in Nilphamari district.

There are centres for research and development in jute, paddy, tea, tobacco, wheat, cotton, forestry etc. But any such centre for development of ginger production is yet to be set up in the country. If improved methods are applied for ginger cultivation, its production could significantly expand. It is believed that if proper steps are taken, a large quantity of processed ginger may be exported after meeting the local demand resulting in a large amount of foreign currency every year. At present there remains a huge

excess stock of ginger after domestic consumption.

Experts expressed that there is scope of creating wide demand for Bangladeshi ginger abroad. During the pre-liberation period raw ginger was shipped to the then West Pakistan where it was dried and then consigned to different Arab countries. At present, only a small quantity of ginger is being exported to foreign countries.

Establishment of an institute for research on and innovations in ginger cultivation is also essential to improve the quality of the product as well as to minimise the cost of production in order to secure the international market in the face of sharp competition.

Mentionable here that method and process which is presently followed to dry raw ginger for commercial purpose is improper and said to be defective.

Mosquito menace

Mosquito menace at Dinajpur paurashava area has assumed an alarming proportion causing untold suffering to the town dwellers. Stagnant water in the road-side ditches, derelict ponds and haps of garbage beside the roads are the breeding places of mosquitoes.

No adequate and effective measures to eradicate mosquito have yet been taken by the Dinajpur Paurashava authorities. Conventional methods of spraying insecticides have proved ineffective. Consequently breeding of mosquitoes in the town continuing unabated.

It may be mentioned here that Dinajpur Paurashava lacks proper drainage system. Immediate measures should be taken for proper cleaning of the drains and ditches and the derelict ponds of the town.

Seminar on sanitation

JAMALPUR, June 21: A seminar on the development of sanitation was held recently at local public hall auditorium under the auspices of Public Health Department and UNICEF, reports BSS.

The seminar was presided over by Faizur Rahman, Chairman, Jamalpur Paurashava and addressed among others by Civil Surgeon Dr Askar Ali as chief guest and Mahubul Alam, Sub-Divisional Engineer, Public Health Department as special guest.

The speakers stressed the need for improvement of water supply and sanitation in the municipal area.

Number of drug addicts increase alarmingly in Natore

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, June 21: The number of drug addicts including and inmate of having licences to practise are selling the spirit to the addicts at exorbitant prices.

But as the government rule, licences for rectified spirit are only issued to the bonafide homeopathic manufacturers.

It may be mentioned here that there is no liquor shop in the district but it is openly sold in the town.

Some organised gangs are engaged in transporting all these drugs in co-operation with the members of the law enforcing agencies, it is learnt.

Witnesses said that the drugs were mainly being sold in Lal Bazar, Horizon Colony, Chowktrpar, Fulbagan, Railway areas, Kapuria Potty and different homeopathic drug-stores in the Natore paurasava.

Local guardians have urged the concerned authorities to take immediate measures to stop the selling of the drug to save the young generation from further ruin.

According to an unofficial survey report, there are about 9 thousand drug addicts throughout the district while about 3.50 thousand in the paurasava.

Most of the addicts are young and married and the intoxicating items include drugs, opium, tablet, liquor, Mritsanjibani sura and heroin.

Heroin, locally known as 'puria', a deadly drug is being sold in some areas of the town almost openly, local people complained.

About 2 thousand heroin addicts are in Natore town, the survey report adds.

The rickshawpullers, day labourers, frustrated youngsters and the students were becoming addicted to the killer drug gradually.

The survey further reports that there are 8 hundred student drug addicts in the district.

The addicted people were sell even their households, commit theft and resort to snatching to meet the cost of drugs especially heroin.

Rectified spirit is also being freely consumed as alcohol by the youths in the district town causing moral degradation.

Residents complained that addicted young people buy the spirit from homeopathic doctors and take it as alcohol by mixing water.

It is alleged that, some dishonest homeopathic doctors are collecting spirit from

New HYV watermelon

For the first time in Bangladesh a new highyielding variety (HYV) of watermelon named 'The Golden Crown' has been produced in Natore during the current season.

Two persevering farmer — Md Saqaban Mia and Nazmul Islam with technical assistance of the horticulturist of Natore Horticulture Centre, SM Kamruzzaman produced the new HYV of watermelon under special auspicious of Anqur Dairy and Nursery Farm.

Last year while Kamruzzaman was in Japan for a higher training on 'Production of genetic seeds', chose the 'Golden Crown' watermelon as a probable fruit for Bangladesh and brought seeds of the variety.

This year, the new variety of watermelon has been cultivated in Natore successfully. Mainly the 'Golden Crown' is produced in Taiwan.

The external colour of the new variety is generally bright yellow and orange mixed. But its substance is usually red.

Though the 'Golden Crown' variety of watermelon is comparatively small in size to other common varieties, this variety grows in plenty compared to other varieties.

Generally the weight of those watermelon is 3-4 kg and 5 to 10 watermelons are produced per plant. It is more sweet than other common varieties.

This variety takes shorter time for growing. The 'Golden Crown' takes maximum one and half months to grow. The system of cultivation is also easier.

The buyers in the local markets purchase this watermelon, sometimes at a higher price.

It is available in local markets in Natore at a cost of Taka 4 to Taka 6 per kg.

Many cultivators expect to cultivate the 'Golden Crown' variety at their fields during the coming season, the Anqur Dairy and Nursery Farm sources and S M Kamruzzaman said.

31-bed Bamna Hospital beset with problems

BARGUNA, June 21: The 31-bed Bamna Hospital is beset with manifold problems causing suffering to the patients, reports UNB.

Shortage of experts, lack of accommodation, inadequate supply of medicines, life saving drugs and other medicare facilities including blood bank and latest pathological diagnosis are hampering smooth functioning of the hospital.

The two-storied hospital can accommodate 31 patients which is quite inadequate to meet the growing demand of thousands of people of the locality. Any other patients, however critical, are compelled to stay on the floor.

The outdoor department has no waiting room, where 300 to 400 patients are coming everyday for treatment from far-flung areas of the district.

The hospital runs without any specialist on cardiology, gynaecology and dentistry and medical consultant who are essentials. As a result, critical patients suffering from these diseases have to move elsewhere for better treatment.

Very often the hospital also fails to provide medicines to the poor patients. Medicines for some common diseases like dysentery, indigestion and influenza as well as life saving drugs are not available in the hospital.

Crime incidents on rise in Chuadanga

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, June 21: Different crimes incidents including murder have abnormally increased in four thanas of Chuadanga district during the last six months.

During the period 22 people have been murdered. Of them, three were murdered in December last year, one in January, one in February, 4 in March, 4 in April and nine in May last.

The other crimes included dacoity, thefts, kidnapping, burglary, lifting of cattleheads, smuggling.

Meanwhile, police nabbed as many as 50 absconding miscreants, murderers, thieves, smugglers and other anti-social elements by launching special drive in four thanas of the district during the period.

The SP of Chuadanga Abdur Rahim has sought the co-operation of the public in curbing crimes and in maintaining law and order situation in the district.

Welding works in conspicuous places here and there beside the public roads has long been causing inconvenience to the residents of Chuadanga town.

The miniature engineering workshops in the town with least consideration of public annoyance and trouble gets on with different types of welding works in front of their business houses daily during the peak hours.

Consequently the particles of fire when shot off the iron plates at the time of doing welding works terribly seizes the eye sight of the pedestrians. The sparks often hurt seriously the eye sight of the children when they make curious look on it.

It may be noted here that there are about 30 miniature engineering workshops and welding shops in Chuadanga town.

Smuggled goods seized

Smuggled goods worth Taka thirty-eight lakh were seized by the members of the law enforcing agencies and Task Force from the different border areas and hats and bazars of Chuadanga district during last two months.

The smuggled goods included Indian cows, buffaloes, sugar, salt, sarce, blouse pieces, dal, jorda, potato, rui fish, cycle, cycle parts, onion, garlic, blade, fruits, imitations and Bangladeshi VCP etc.

In a separate drive conducted by the anti-smuggling Task Force in the last month seized gold and silver worth about Tk 5 lakh from the different jewellery shops of Darsana Bazar under Damurhuda thana of the district for possessing the same without licence.

Construction of court building

The construction work of Chuadanga District Judge Court building is complete.

The two storied new building of the Judge Court has been constructed at a cost of Taka two crore forty seven lakhs and five thousand.

The construction work of the court building has been completed in three phases beginning in 1987.

The new Judge Court building would solve the present accommodation problem. The new building would accommodate the three thana, assistant judges courts, cjlash and

Baralekha college adjudged best in '92

MOULVIBAZAR, June 21: Baralekha Degree College has been adjudged as the best college in the district during the last academic year for its excellent performance, reports UNB.

Baralekha Girls' High School and Suzal Madrasa have also been adjudged as the best school and madrasa for their performance during the same period, official sources said.

Md Abdur Rouf, Vice Principal of Baralekha Degree College, Abdul Hamid, Assistant Teacher of Baralekha PC High School and Abdul Aziz of Suzal Madrasa have been named as the best teachers for the year 1992.

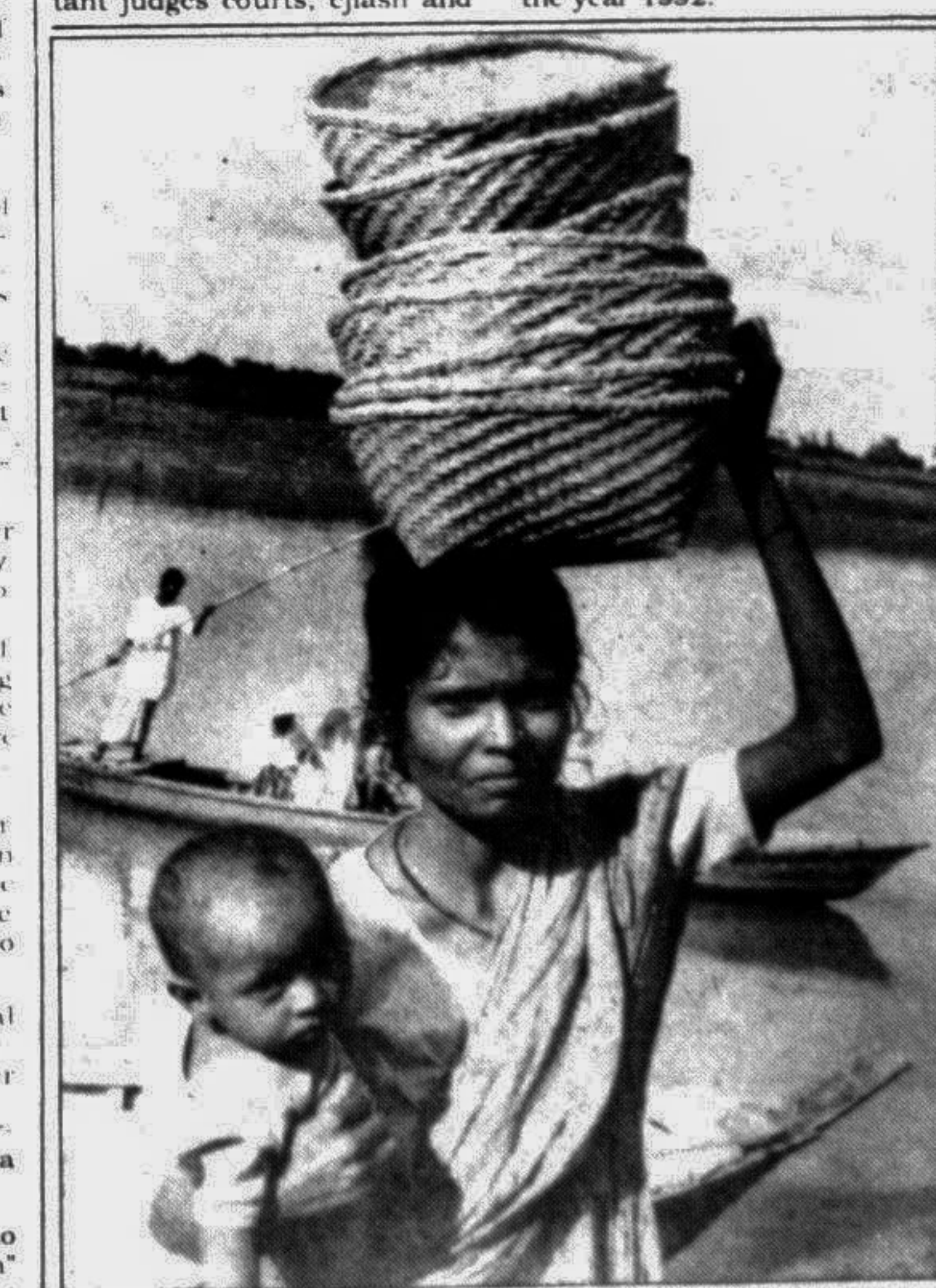
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COMILLA: This woman comes to town market thrice a week to sell the goods made from bamboo. She and few of her colleagues make such baskets which fetch quite a good amount of money. — Star photo