

District roundup

MAGURA

Three killed in road mishaps

July 19: A man was killed in a road accident near Kaashinathpur village in Sadar thana on Magura-Jhenidah Road on July 10, reports UNB. Police said Ful Miah (45), a truck driver was hit from behind by a speeding truck while he was going to work place by riding on a rickshaw van. He died on the spot. Police seized the killer truck but the driver managed to escape. A case was filed with the police. Police said Reshmi Khatun (19), a housewife of village Amural in Sadar thana allegedly committed suicide by taking poison following a feud with her husband Gonu Miah on July 13.

RAJSHAHI

70,000 saplings to be planted

July 19: The Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) will plant seventy thousand saplings in the current season on both sides of the rural roads constructed by the department in different thanas of the district as a part of country-wide tree plantation programme, reports BSS. The Employees' Welfare Parishad of LGED, Rajshahi has produced about one and a half lakh saplings of Shishu and epilept trees in the current season. The LGED will plant 70 thousand of the produced saplings and the rest saplings are being sold among the public. It is expected that about Tk two lakh will be earned by the welfare parishad by selling the saplings.

SATKHIRA

Dacoits loot valuables worth Tk 50,000

July 19: Valuables worth about Taka 50,000 were looted in a daring dacoity at village Atulia in Shyamnagar thana on Saturday night, reports UNB. According to police, a gang of armed dacoits entered the house of Syed Ali Gazi at dead of night. When the houseowner along with his son tried to resist the dacoits they beat them mercilessly and decamped with the booty. The seriously injured father and son were rushed to the local hospital and a case has been filed with the police. Another report adds: A youth of village Chuknagore in Debhata thana was run over by a speeding bus at Khulna bridge on Khulna-Kailganj Road Saturday evening. According to witnesses, the victim Ramjan (17) while getting down from the bus suddenly slipped down and crushed under the wheels. The driver, however, managed to flee with the vehicle. A case was filed with the police.

M'BAZAR

Relief for flood-hit areas

From Our Correspondent July 19: Taka 17.15 lakh, 100 metric tons of wheat and 600 metric tons of rice have so far been sanctioned as relief for the flood hit six thanas and one pourasava of the district. Besides, 700 tins of biscuits, 1600 pieces of sarees, 1900 pieces of lungis and 100 cartons of vegetable soups have been sanctioned for the flood affected people of the thanas of Kamalganj, Kulaura, Baralekha, Rajnagar, Srimangal, Sadar and Moulvibazar pourasava.

FENI

UP member held with wheat for flood victims

July 19: A UP member was caught by the villagers while selling wheat in the market in Porshuram thana allotted for the flood-hit people, reports UNB. Local people caught Shahid Ullah, member of GM Hat Union Parishad red handed while he was selling 3 ton and 250 kg wheat on July 12. Later, he was handed over to police. He was sent to jail hajat after his bail prayer was rejected by the Thana Magistrate court. The case was transferred to anti-corruption bureau for investigation. Another report adds: Police recovered 70 bottles of country-made wine from the premises of Ratanpur High School in Sadar thana on Thursday.

JAMALPUR

One kills wife, son with stone

July 19: A middle-aged man of village Moslemabad in Madarganj thana allegedly killed his first wife and her son on Wednesday, police said, reports UNB. The deceased were identified as Maleka Begum (35), first wife of Abul Kashem and their son Ershad (12). According to police and villagers, Abul Kashem (45), being influenced by his second wife, hit Maleka and Ershad with a stone repeatedly when they were asleep at dead of night. Both the victims died on the spot. Kashem who returned on the same night from the house of the father of his second wife committed the brutal murder, the sources added. Police arrested Kashem.

CHANDPUR

Demand for ban on refined salt

July 19: Local Salt Mills Owners' Association brought out a procession in the town on Thursday to register their protest against import of refined salt, reports UNB. The processionists paraded the main thoroughfares of the town and chanted various slogans. They also submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner of the district demanding ban on import of refined salt. Later, leaders of the association at a press conference demanded of the government to import crude salt through them instead of TCB. About 35 salt mills, producing refined salt, remained closed rendering about 8,000 workers jobless for shortage of crude salt for the last one month, they said. The leaders claimed if they are allowed to import crude salt directly they will be able to produce refined iodized salt at a price lower than that of TCB. President of Chandpur Chamber of Industries, Jahangir Akhand Selim, President and General Secretary of the Salt Owners' Association Khurshud Rahman Majumder and Abul Kalam Patwari spoke at the press conference.

COMILLA

Reopening of Halima Sutakal demanded

July 19: A protest meeting of the Halima Sutakal Sramik Karmachari Sangram Committee was held at the mill premises Thursday to press for reopening of the mill, reports UNB. The meeting condemned the unlawful lay-off of the mill and demanded an immediate end to the lay-off. It also resolved to observe a mass contact fortnight to apprise the people of all walks of life about their difficulties and mobilise public support to their demand. Presided over by labour leader Montazuddin, it was addressed, among others, by Abdul Mannan, Abdul Wahab, Habibur Rahman, Abdul Awal and Mohammad Shah Alam.

MUNSHIGANJ

Govt firm to attain welfare of people

July 19: Food Minister, M Shamsul Islam said here on Saturday that the main objectives of the present government was to attain welfare of the people through its production-oriented activities instead of slogan based programmes, reports BSS. He said the government was committed to foil the evil design of the vested quarters to disrupt the ongoing development process. The minister was speaking as chief guest at an evaluation meeting of overall development activities of the district here. "After getting foodgrain within their purchasing power, the people are now trying to improve their lot through development process initiated by the present government," the minister said. Referring to the different development programme including population control, compulsory primary education and tree plantation, Islam urged the concerned section to come forward with their sincere efforts to make the programme a success. Food Minister called upon the public representative and government officials to implement the overall development projects through mutual discussion. Earlier, the minister presided over a meeting of district law and order committee.



Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman laying the foundation stone of Bilashi Bridge on Dhaka-Sylhet Highway recently. —PID photo

Flood waters leave huge sands, muds Siltation to hamper farming, pisciculture, irrigation

MOULVIBAZAR, July 19: The receding flood waters of Monu and Dholai rivers have left behind a huge quantity of silt on the arable lands in Kulaura, Kamalganj, Baralekha and Sadar thanas, reports UNB. According to farmers, at least 5,000 acres of land have been silted up by muds and sands and it is apprehended that cultivation of crops will be hampered if these sands and muds are not washed away by the rain water. Besides, all the ponds and canals in the flood affected areas have also been silted up affecting pisciculture and irrigation system. Local people feels that immediate steps should be taken to remove the silts from these waterbodies. A man was awarded life-term imprisonment on charge of murder, court sources said here on Sunday.

According to the prosecution story, Charag Miah of village Taharlamua in Rajnagar thana of the district killed co-villager Farid Miah by a sharp weapon on July 12, 1991. Later, a case was filed and police after investigation submitted charge sheet against the five accused people. The District and Sessions Judge after examining the witnesses and the records, sentenced Charag Miah and acquitted four others on June 30. Another report adds: Diarrhoea claimed two lives and attacked 500 others in different parts of the district during the last fortnight. The victims were identified as: Rubel (8) of Chatalgaon village and Hena Akhter (8) of Rangirkul village in Kulaura thana, official sources said. Unofficial sources, however, put the death figure at nine adding that more than 1,000 people have been attacked in the same period. The worst affected areas are Kulaura, Barlekha, Kamalganj, Rajnagar and Sadar thanas of the district where children are the worst sufferers, local people said. District Civil Surgeon office sources said 59 medical teams were working round the clock in the affected areas to check the spread of the disease. But local people alleged that the situation continued to deteriorate as field workers were found inactive to combat the growing menace. They called upon the authorities to check the activities of the field workers and send efficient doctors to check the disease.

Help control population explosion

MAGURA, July 19: World Population Day was observed at the district headquarters with much enthusiasm, reports UNB. In this connection, district Family Planning Department brought out a colourful procession parading the main thoroughfares of the town. A discussion meeting was also arranged by the department in which Nirmal Chandra Sarkar, Deputy Commissioner of the district, attended as chief guest. District Civil Surgeon, Deputy Director, Family Planning and other high officials and local elite addressed the meeting. Speakers stressed the need to gear up family planning activities to check population boom giving special emphasis to mother and child health-care. They said no development activities in the society would bring the desired results without controlling the population explosion. They also called for creating awareness among the people to reduce the mortality rate of mothers and children. They also mentioned that the mothers should be properly trained about the health of their babies. A minor school girl was kidnapped and gangraped by some miscreants at Ghulia village in Mohammadpur thana, police said on Sunday. Family sources said a gang of six miscreants entered the house of Sunil Kumar Dash at dead of night on June 28 and kidnapped his daughter Kalyani Rani Dash (15) at gun point. Later, they took her to a nearby jute field, violated her one after another and left the

place leaving her unconscious. Parents of Rani recovered her unconscious body from the field and filed a case with the local police. Rani is a student of class nine at Binodpur High School. The students of her school brought out a procession in protest against the heinous crime and demanded exemplary punishment of the culprits. Dacoits kill one in night coach A businessman was killed and five passengers were injured when a group of armed robbers raided a night coach on Dhaka-Khulna road. The injured driver somehow drove to Magura sadar hospital and tried to admit the injured passengers there but failed. The driver then started for Jessore and on the way near Ichakhada bazar the injured passenger Forhad Sikdar succumbed in the bus. Later, on reaching Jessore he handed over the body to Kotwali police and filed a case. The dacoity in night coaches is increasing day by day in different points on Dhaka-Khulna route threatening life and property of the passengers. Another report from Moulvibazar adds: Valuables worth about Taka 50,000 were looted from a house at village Vuladhor in Baralekha thana of the district recently. Police said the robbers armed with deadly weapons, attacked the house of the Cashier of a local branch of the United Commercial Bank and entered the house by breaking open the door forcibly. The dacoits looted gold ornaments, colour television and clothes worth about Taka 50,000 from the house. A case was lodged with the local police but none was arrested so far.

Traders fined for violating metric system

RAJSHAHI, July 19: One hundred and fourteen mobile courts disposed of 1,333 cases and realised Taka 240,551 from different shops and establishments of Rajshahi Division in 1992-93 fiscal year for violating metric weighing system, reports BSS. According to an official source, ten businessmen were sentenced to imprisonment for various terms on charges of violating the metric system. A huge number stones weighing 83 maunds and six seers were recovered from the possessions of the owners of shops and establishments. The mobile courts were jointly conducted by district and thana administrations, police and Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institution, Rajshahi Division.

Notes From Rangpur

From Our Correspondent

July 19: The Relief and Rehabilitation Department has distributed about 90,000 pieces of Saudi meat in eight thanas of the district.

There are allegations that, most of the untor parishad chairmen and members had misappropriated bulk quantities of the Saudi meat allocated to them by the thana parishad for distribution among the poor people.

Meanwhile, some angry people in Mithapukur thana area have looted away huge quantities of the meat while the chairmen and members of some unions were lifting their shares of the meat.

Irregularities reported

Irregularities in implementing the repairing works of Teesta Barrage canal is going on, it is reported.

There are allegations that the contractors in cooperations with the officials of the department has swallowed several thousands of taka.

The ditches, holes and breaches developed on the main canal of the barrage, are allegedly being repaired by sand only.

Some local people brought the matter to the of concern higher authorities at Saidpur, but nobody has so far taken any action, it is further alleged.

Similar allegations on misuse of huge quantities of FWP wheat in running the Jamuneshwri river re-excavation scheme at Badargonj was received here.

Cluster village to be set up

A scheme is being executed to establish six cluster villages in four thanas of the district under the socio-economic development and poverty elimination programme launched by the Land Ministry.

A sum of Taka 30 lakh funded by EEC is being spent for the execution of the scheme.

Of the six cluster villages, two villages are being established at Binodpur and Chandkuthi in sadar thana, another two villages at Sankerpur and Rostomabad in Badargonj thana, one at Chatrapur in Kaunia and the remaining one at Hariarkuthi in Taragonj thana.

The scheme includes, rehabilitation of landless families, construction of community centres for use in running trainings on cottage industries, handicrafts and other income generating programmes. At the initial stage, around 450 destitute families will be rehabilitated in these villages.

Training course on health care

A three-day-long training course on health care was held at Azizullah Bangladesh-Australia Child Healthcare Centre at Tamphat union under Sadar thana recently.

The course was inaugurated by Afzal Hussain, Deputy Commissioner, Rangpur.

At least 54 scouts, rovers and girls guide participated in the course.

Abdul Karim Sarker, Additional Deputy Commissioner (General), Rangpur distributed the certificates among participants.

Housewife beaten to death for dowry

PABNA, July 19: A young housewife of Laxmpur village in Sathia thana was allegedly beaten to death by her husband for dowry on Friday, reports UNB.

Family sources said Akabbar Hossain (34), tortured his wife Samia Khatun (26) to death when she refused to bring a bicycle from her poor father as dowry.

Local people said Samia, mother of one child was being tortured by her husband and in-laws for dowry since her marriage two years back. On the fateful day, Mahiruddin, father of Samia, of Gopalnagar village in Faridpur thana, was informed that her daughter committed suicide. Later, he went to Hossain's house and found the body was lying on the floor with marks of injuries.

Mahiruddin alleged that when he went to file a murder case with Sathia police station, police did not take the case on the plea that a general diary in this respect was filed by Hossain earlier.

The victim's father later appealed to the Police Super to allow him to file the case with the police and take necessary action against the man responsible for the murder. The body was sent to Pabna Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

Problems hamper edn in Rangpur govt colleges

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, July 19: Shortage of teachers, accommodation of teaching and administrative staff, lack of auditorium, absence of boundary walls, inadequate laboratory apparatus, along with the problems in hostels have been affecting the academic atmosphere in almost all the government colleges in greater Rangpur zone.

Acute shortage of teachers is hampering proper education in Kurigram Govt College and Kurigram Govt Mahila College. Out of the total posts for the teaching staff in these two colleges, more than fifty per cent posts of teachers are lying vacant for a long time.

These are, Kurigram Govt College, Kurigram Govt Mahila College, Ulipur Govt College, Rangpur Govt College, Beguni Rokya Govt College, Gaibandha Govt College, Gaibandha Govt Women's College, Nilphamari Govt College, Lalmonirhat Govt College, and Patgram Jasmuddin Kazi Abdul Ghani Govt College.

Acute shortage of teachers has been prevailing in Rangpur Govt College, established in 1963 in the heart of Rangpur town and nationalised in 1984, since then no teacher has been posted there.

Required number of teaching staff in 16 departments of the college is 64. Whereas there are only 25 teachers available for more than 3,000 students in the college.

There are five departments, namely Political Science, English, Philosophy, Accounting and Botany. Each of these departments are run by only one teacher. There is no teacher for History department.

Rajshahi University introduced General Business, Marketing and Finance in B Com (Pass) courses in the colleges five years ago. Surprisingly there are no teachers for the subjects in any of the govt colleges in Rangpur zone. The teachers of Management Department have been conducting the classes on these subjects.

Smuggled goods (valued at about Taka 35,58,040) including Indian saree, cattlehead, salt, sugar, spare parts, medicines, hides, betelnut, zarda, kerosine oil, diesel, cosmetics and chemical goods were recovered while being smuggled into Bangladesh from India, while BDR men seized goods including old garments, clothes, hifsha fish, wrist watches, VCP, VCR sets, ball pen, spectacles, tape-recorders, polyester clothes and bronze items valued at about Taka 2,32,747 while being smuggled out of the country.

During this period 442 cases were registered, it is gathered.

17 die of kala-azar in greater Pabna

PABNA, July 19: At least 17 people died of Kala-azar in 12 thanas of greater Pabna district in the last four months, reports UNB.

But unofficial sources put the death figure at 40 in the same period.

Of the total, 14 deaths have been reported only in Raiganj thana. Malnutrition, tension and environment pollution are the main causes behind the outbreak of the disease, they said. The poor people are the worst sufferers as they can not purchase necessary medicine due to abject poverty.

Meanwhile, taking advantage of the situation, some unscrupulous drug-traders are selling the only medicine of Kala-azar "Stebatin-injection" at an exorbitant rate. A "Stebatin-injection" is being sold between Taka 115 and Taka 150 in the local markets whereas the normal price of the injection is Taka 85 only, local people alleged.

They urged the concerned authorities to take proper steps to combat the spread of the disease on emergency basis.

Woman killed as she refused to commit theft

BRAHMANBARIA, July 19: A thief of Dharmandal village in Nasirnagar thana allegedly killed his wife as she refused to accompany him for committing a theft, police said on Tuesday, reports UNB.

According to family sources, Masrab Ali insisted his wife Shahera Khatun (20) to go with him for committing the theft. But strangled her to death a week ago.

Later he put the dead body into a bag and hide it under water. A few days later the body was seen floating in a decompose shape which was identified by his brother, they added.

A case was filed with the police. Another report says: A brutal husband threw acid on his wife injuring her grievously, family sources said on Tuesday. The victim Monwara Begum (20) of Khaisar village was married with Ali Azgar of Durgapur village of Akhaura thana three years before.

As a sequel to family trouble Manwara left the house of her husband and came to her father's residence a few days back. Azgar came to his father-in-laws house on July 6 and on the following day he took revenge by throwing acid on her body. Manwara was sent to Sadar hospital where her condition was stated to be critical. But no case has yet been lodged in this connection.

Miscreants loot goods A gang of armed miscreants swooped on a shoe factory at Janata Market in the town and looted goods worth Taka 40,000 last week. Sources said as a sequel to previous enmity with Mohsin Mia, Proprietor of Rakshi Shoe Factory, the miscreants snatched the key of the factory from the guard and looted the goods. The owner was not present during the raid. Mohsin in his complaint to the police said the accused people also threatened to attack him in his Natols village home. He urged the district administration to nab the miscreants without further delay and ensure security of his life.

Six arrested with arms, ammunition, liquor

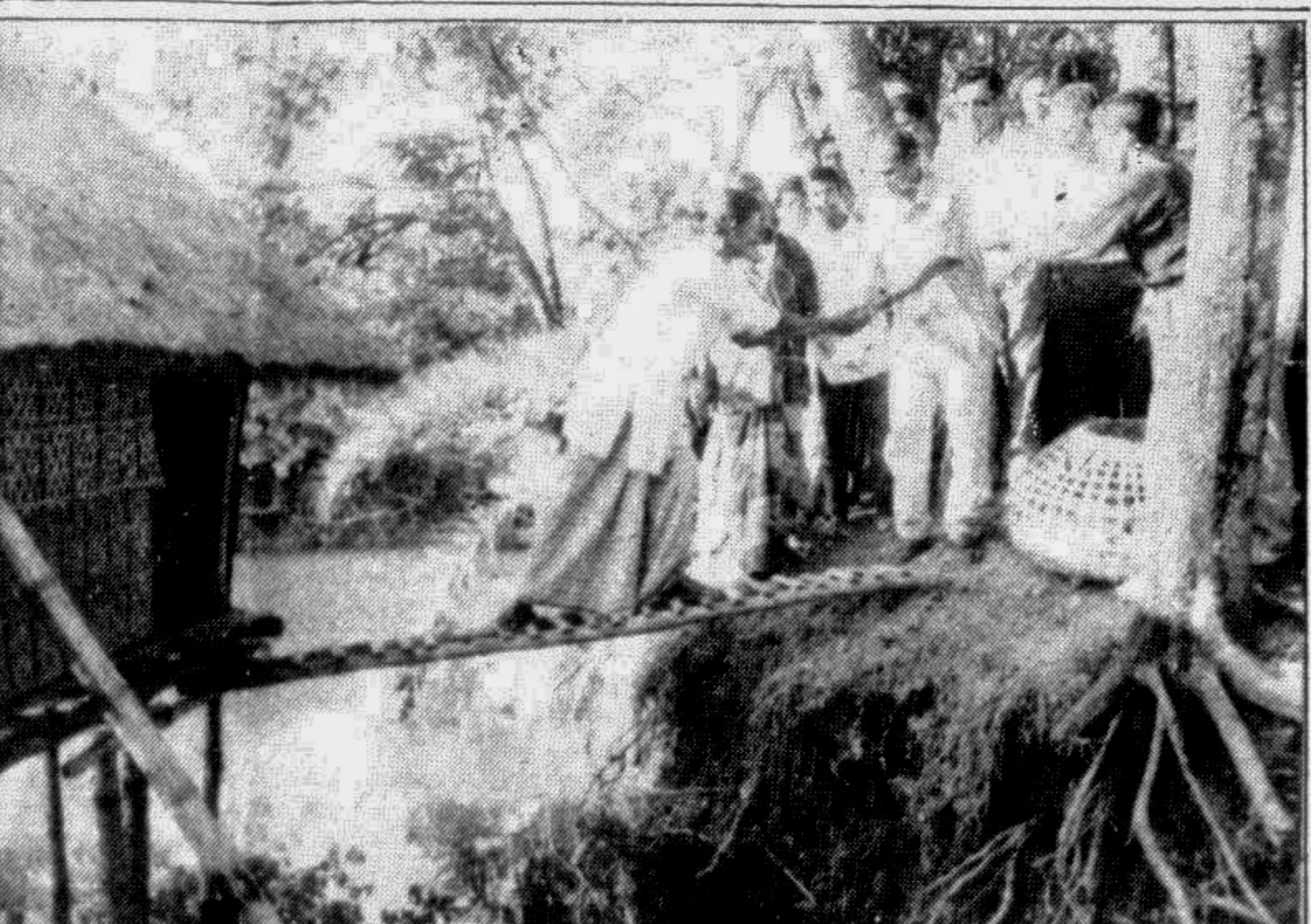
CHITTAGONG, July 19: Police rounded up six people, three with arms and ammunition and the rest with liquor, in two thanas of the district in last 24 hours, police said, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, police raided a hotel at Mansurabad in Doublemooing thana on Saturday and nabbed three young men with two country-made guns, four rounds of bullets and two cocktails. The arrested, identified as Tarek Hossain alias Ovi, Shukkur Ali and Abul Hasnat Ibrahim, were allegedly planning to commit an offence.

A case was filed with local police under the arms act in this connection. Another three youths named Jamal, Yusuf and Mizan were arrested along with 120 cans of beer worth Tk 10,000 from the roof of a house in Bandar thana area Thursday night.

Dacoit beaten to death An alleged dacoit was beaten to death at a village in Sitakunda thana on Saturday. Police said a group of youths caught Parimal Barua (27) with a pipe gun and a country-made gun at Alinagar village at about 3.30 am and beat him up for his suspicious movement along with his associates. He died in a local health complex at noon. His associates, however, managed to flee away.

Police said there were a number of cases against Parimal, son of Sudarsan Barua of Alinagar village. Some local people said the youths handed over Parimal to police and he died at the health complex after he was tortured by police at the local thana.



MYMENSINGH: Nurul Islam, Secretary, Planning Ministry handing over a spice of chicken to a farmer of Digarkanda village of the district recently. —Star photo