

## District roundup

### NAOGAON

#### Accommodation problem at prison

Aug 10: Naogaon district jail, established about 150 years ago is now facing problem due to lack of accommodation facilities of the prisoners, reports UNB. More than 300 prisoners of the total 11 thanas of the district are now packed together like sardines at the jail where there are accommodations for only 100 prisoners.

Six acres of land for the proposed new jail is being occupied by some people at Kalidanga for more than a decade. Since the occupation of the land, no construction works of the proposed has yet been initiated.

Local leaders and the lawyers urged the concerned authorities to start the construction of the proposed jail and solve the problems of the prisoners without further delay.

### THAKURGAON

#### Drought affects standing crops

Aug 10: Drought condition is prevailing in the north-western region of the country covering Thakurgaon and Dinajpur districts during this monsoon though some other districts are inundated by flood waters, reports BSS.

Twentyfive unions of Panchagar district were affected by flood but other areas of greater Dinajpur district experienced drought during the season. Aman crop faces the adverse affect of drought, farmers said. Standing aman on about 50,000 acres in Thakurgaon district face this situation for want of rains.

According to an official source, aman was cultivated in two lakh acres in five thanas of Thakurgaon district in the current season.

### NETRAKONA

#### Kutcha latrines threat to public health

Aug 10: Large scale use of kutcha latrines has been posing a threat to public health in all the ten thanas of the district, reports UNB.

Almost all the people of the district use kutcha latrines due to their ignorance on its effect on health hazard. Local people said that even in the district town and thana headquarters people are reluctant to use sanitary latrines.

Thousands of kutcha latrines have been set up on the bank of the rivers, canals and ponds in the rural areas polluting the environment.

Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) sources said they had adequate numbers of rings and slabs for sanitary latrines but people are least interested in taking supply of them.

It is alleged that the Health Department did not initiated any kind of motivation programme to create public awareness about the hazards of using kutcha latrines.

Conscious people stressed the need for destroying all the kutcha latrines in the district specially in the urban and rural areas to ensure use of sanitary latrines.

### M'BAZAR

#### Two arrested for alleged murder

Aug 10: Police arrested two people Tuesday from Radhanagar village of Shreemongal thana for their alleged involvement with a murder case, says UNB.

The accused Bazul Miah and Shamsu Miah of the same village were wanted by the police in connection with the killing of a minor boy last month.

Police sources said the body of the ill-fated boy Jabbar (12) was recovered on July 26 from a canal at Radhanagar.

Both the accused later confessed to the police of their involvement with the murder, police added.

Another report adds: A man was electrocuted with his buffalo at Barkhapan village in Rajnagar thana in the district on Wednesday, witnesses said.

The dead was identified as Mayna Miah (40), a farmer of the village. He was electrocuted with his buffalo and died on the spot when he came in contact with a live electric wire which was lying in the field near his house.

A case has been filed with the local police.

### FARIDPUR

#### Fisheries Fortnight '93 inaugurated

Aug 10: With a call to make the pisciculture a social movement, the first National Fisheries Fortnight-93 was opened in the district on August 1, says UNB.

As part of the programme, a meeting was held at the Sadar thana auditorium with District Fisheries Officer Mahbul Haque in the chair.

The speakers called upon the people to take vow to cultivate fish in their ponds to meet the protein deficiency. They said there are hundreds of derelict ponds in the district and if concerted efforts are taken to cultivate the fish with government help, the district is bound to achieve self-sufficiency in fish.

They also urged the concerned authorities to simplify the present procedure of taking bank loans to boost fish production.

The meeting was also attended by some traditional fishermen, local leaders, fisheries farm owners and elite of town.

### SATKHIRA

#### Two rescued from hands of traffickers

Aug 10: Two minor Bangladeshi girls were rescued from the hands of women traffickers in the Indian province of Punjab, police sources here said, reports UNB.

The victims were identified as Shilpi (15), daughter of Rashid of Laskandi in Ararhajar thana of Narshindi District and Shahinoor (10), daughter of Sadek of Paschim Bhatmara in Boramandi of the same district.

According to police, the minor girls were lifted from Satkhira-Dhaka Bus Stand. Later they were sent to the Indian province of Punjab by the women traffickers allegedly led by one Dalia of Jatrabari in Dhaka.

### COX'S BAZAR

#### IIRO spends Tk 15 cr for Rohingya refugees

Aug 10: The International Islamic Relief Organisation (IIRO) has so far spent Taka 15 crore in giving relief to Rohingya refugees in Chittagong Hill Tracts, reports UNB.

Dr Ahmed Mohammad Abu Azama Al Sayedi, Director of IIRO Asia region who visited a refugee camp in Naikongchhat Monday told UNB that his organisation would continue relief operations for the refugees.

The Jeddah-based non-government organisation, IIRO has provided a water purification plant to Adarsha Gram refugee camp from which 15,000 refugees are getting about 72 thousand litres of pure water everyday. Besides, it has been giving relief and medicare to refugees in five camps in the area.

Dr Azama said IIRO, established 15 years ago, has been operating in 80 countries. In Bangladesh, IIRO has established 117 orphanages of which 36 already opened where 3,740 orphans live, each getting a provision of Taka 900 per month.

### NOAKHALI

#### Free treatment for mothers, children

Aug 10: A two-day free treatment programme of children and mothers was held here at local office of Bangladesh Family Planning, official sources said Monday, reports UNB.

Female Disease Samity and Bangladesh Family Planning Association jointly sponsored the treatment programme last week.

A total of 255 female and 247 children were treated by a seven-member medical team. Dr Samina Chowdhury, Dr Nasrat Zahana, Dr Nahida Bari, Dr Aftabur Nahar of the team conducted the treatment of the female patients.

The child patients were attended by Prof Sirajul Islam, Khairul Anam in cooperation with the local doctors.

### NAOGAON

#### Lightning kills 30 during current monsoon

Aug 10: A boy was killed along with two cows in lightning at Doachi village in Sadar thana of the district last week, reports UNB.

Witnesses said Rafiqul Islam died on the spot along with the cows while he was ploughing a land on July 21.

About 30 people were killed by thunderbolts during the current monsoon in different parts of the district.



The field workers in presence of Dewan Afsaruddin, DC, Netrakona distributing medicines among the flood victims at the Anjuman High School Camp, Netrakona recently. — photo by A K Mohsin

### Six lakh living on embankment

## Flood, erosion affected people protest evacuation

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Aug 10: Hundreds of flood and erosion affected people living on embankments brought out processions to protest the evacuation by the Water Development Board (WDB) authority recently.

About six lakh people of different char areas in six thanas of the district who have been rendered homeless by the remittent river erosions have been leading inhuman life.

The thanas are: Dewanganj, Islampur, Sarishabari, Bakshiganj, Madarganj and sadar. These homeless people have taken shelter on flood control embankment.

It is informed that most of these homeless people did not receive any house building grant. A few of them have erected temporary houses and the rest are virtually living under the open sky.

Unofficial sources said, at least 20,000 kutcha houses were damaged during the last four years by flood and erosion at different char areas rendering about 50,000 families shelterless.

Different NGOs distributed house building materials among some families and the remaining of the families are yet to receive any such aid.

In Dewanganj thana, all the 42 villages have been severely affected during the floods and erosion. Flood waters still remain stagnant in the villages bringing crop farming to a standstill. Eighty per cent people of the villages, who are farmers are now unemployed.

Reliable sources said, these distressed people are facing starvation. Meanwhile, about 60 villages in Islampur thana were eroded by the river Jamuna and Brahmaputra during the 1988 devastating flood rendering about 25,000 people homeless.

About 25,000 homeless people brought out a procession in Islampur demanding shelter. Men, women and children participated in the procession that paraded through streets at the town along with farmers and chanted various slogans.

All these homeless people from different parts of the district assembled at Jamalpur town to protest the notice served by WDB authorities asking them to leave the embankment areas immediately where they have been living for the past few years.

These distressed people have submitted application to the authority for rehabilitation.

### Notes from Satkhira

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Aug 10: An officer of Assasuni thana administration has been looking after four departments for the last four months.

It is reported that Abdur Rahman Bepari a magistrate of the discharges the duty of TNO, Assistant Commissioner (Land) and Finance Officer.

As a result, he finds little time to render his service for the public causing much inconveniences to public in general.

#### Lightning kills 2

Two persons were killed and two others were seriously injured by thunder bolt in two separate incidents took place in two police stations recently.

It is reported that Morzina (12) and Mostafizur Rahman (8) daughter and son of Ahmad Ali and Sirajul Islam of village Bondokati under Kaliganj were going to a nearby shrimp gher, a thunder hit them. As a result, Morzina died on the spot. Mostafizur and Sirajul sustained serious injuries and later admitted to Kaliganj hospital, in the other incident one Paritosh Barui (35) son of Balai Chandra Barui of village Nagarghata under Tala PS died by thunder bolt recently.

#### Two killed by snake bite

Two persons including a school girl died by snake bite in two separate incidents under Assasuni PS recently.

It is reported that one Rabindra Nath Sarkar of village Bajntala and Kabita Rani Mondal, a student of class seven of village Pujjala both under Assasuni police station while sleeping in their bedroom and bite them.

#### Five commit suicide

Five people committed suicide in Kaliganj and sadar thana of Satkhira district in a day recently.

Family sources said, Amina Khatun (54) wife of Fazar Ali of village Ghusuri was suffering from severe gastric pain and committed suicide by hanging, Jharna (18) daughter of Nirmla Chandra of Narayanpur committed suicide by taking poison following family feud. Akhtar (32) son of Ballak Gazi of Champafal village committed suicide by taking poison. All the victims hail from Kaliganj. Shikha Rani (14) daughter of Sushil Chandra of village Baichana and Nazrul Islam (20) son of Shamsar of village Ghona both under sadar PS also committed suicide by taking liquid poison due to family feud.

#### Dacoity in shrimp gher

Three dacoities were committed in three shrimp ghers under Kaliganj PS on the same night recently.

It is reported that a group of armed dacoits numbering 10 to 15 at dead of night raided the three shrimp ghers owned by Abdul Hamid, Sirajul Islam and Abdul Jalil at Gazi Durapur under Kaliganj PS recently.

### Boy crushed to death under speeding truck

MAGURA, Aug 10: A boy was crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck at Sreepur thana on Magura-Kamarkhal road on August 4, police sources said, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Ripon Ali Mollah (5), son of Rawshan Ali of Majhali village.

Police said a Kamarkhal bound bus hit Ripon from behind while he was crossing the road with his mother. He died on the spot.

## Govt firm to eliminate corruption, wastage

NARAYANGANJ, Aug 10: Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury said here on Thursday that the present BNP government had achieved self-sufficiency in food production during its two and a half years of rule, reports BSS.

More contacts are expected to be signed with the overseas countries for exporting our fine quality rice, he added.

The Home Minister was speaking as chief guest at a cheque distribution function for the dairy farm owners of Narayanganj district and the inauguration of fish fortnight and tree plantation programmes at Sastapur TNO office compound here.

Presided over by Deputy Commissioner, Narayanganj, Habibur Rahman, the function was also addressed by parliament members Advocate Abul Kalam, Professor Rezaul Karim and Ataur Rahman Angur.

Referring to the population boom he said all our noble efforts would be futile if we could not check the population explosion in a proper way. He stresses the need for mass literacy in the rural areas to popularise the family planning services to curb the population boom.

He said the government was committed to eliminate corruption from the administration and stop the wastage of national wealth for the welfare of the masses.

He urged the government officials to be honest and sincere in discharging their duties.

The minister urged the concerned officials to take stern action against the catching and selling of fish fry and the use of current nets and give punishment to the violators.

About 132 current nets were burnt in his presence.

He assured the ansars and VDP members that a financial institution would be set up in the model of Grameen Bank to render financial assistance to them.

The minister distributed cheques for Taka 18 lakh 81 thousand to 40 dairy farm owners to promote livestock farming in the district. He also released 2000 fish fry in the local pond and planted saplings in the no compound area.

## Jobless, food problem in flood-hit areas

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Aug 10: Acute unemployment problem and shortage of food have been prevailing in flood affected charland areas of the district.

The inhabitants of charlands in and around the river Teesta and Brahmaputra are almost landless and maintaining their livelihood as day labourers and fishermen. The affected charlands are: Kapasia, Zigabari and Dakhin Sreepur under Sunderganj Thana, Char Rahamapur, Manik Kore, Patdiyera, Krishnamoni, Nishchintapur, Haldia, Algerchar and Paglerchar under Sadar Thana, Fazlupur, Gaibgachi under Fulchari Thana.

All these charlands went under four to five feet flood water during last week.

After the recession of flood water they became jobless and reportedly received very little relief materials due to communication gap. The flood victims of charlands now throng to town and nearby Thana sadar in search of food and work.

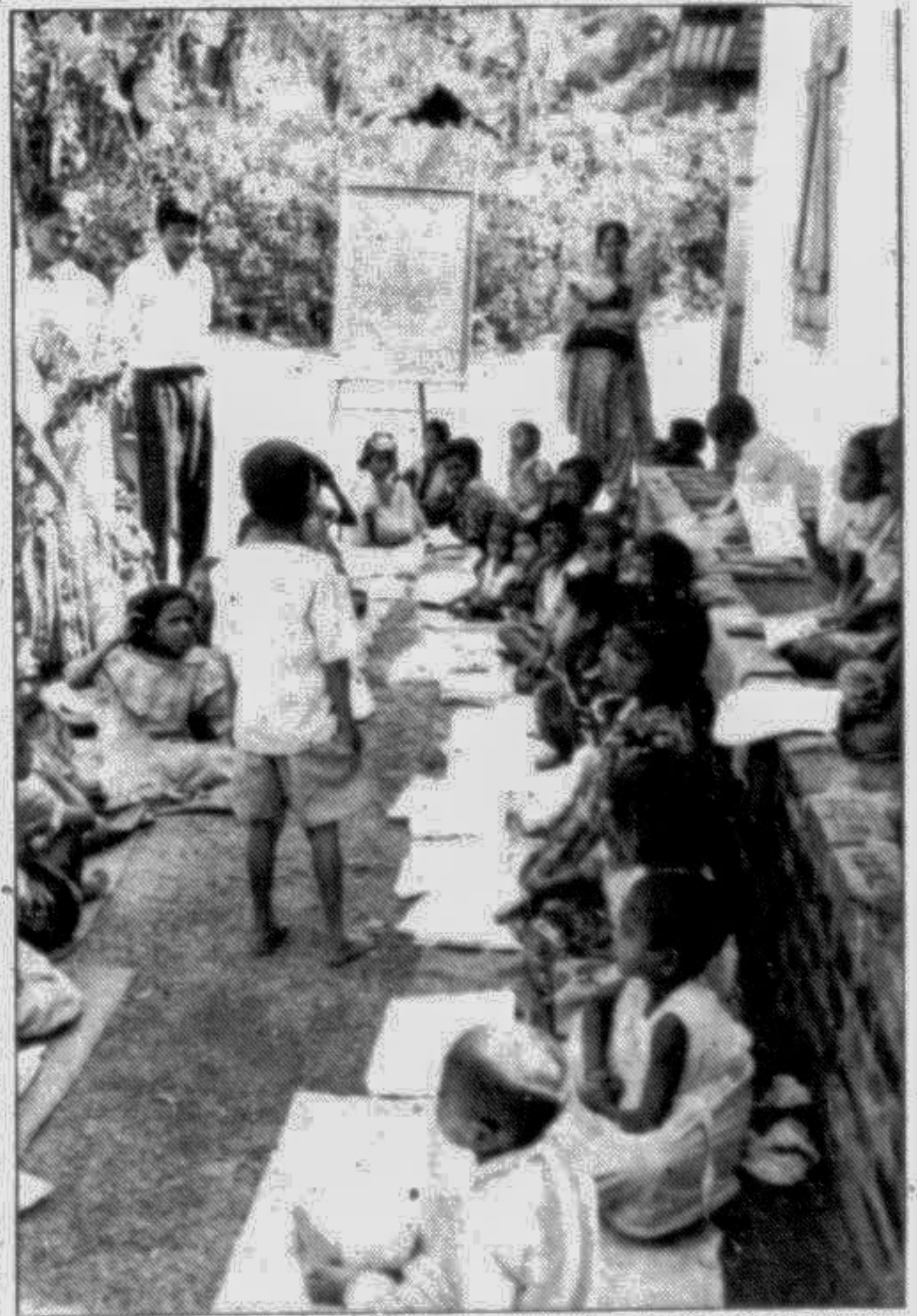
Besides, hundreds of homeless people of erosion-hit area along the western bank of river Brahmaputra are also crowding for search of work. Many of the flood affected people have started for towns leaving behind their families in search of work and food. All such families are now passing days in miserable condition. Many of such destitute means while turned into bidders.

Another report says: Teleprinter machine of Gaibandha public call office remains out of order for a long.

As a result, people of Gaibandha are not getting teleprinter service. Very often telegrams are sent by post or over telephone. Out going telegrams sent through the teleprinter machine are being refused by the outer stations due to overlapping, it is learnt.

With the disruption of teleprinter channel total telegraphic communication become uncertain in the district and lost the confidence of people.

Earlier, 150 to 200 telegrams were filed by the office everyday which declined sharply due to the disruption.



SYLHET: The classes of a primary school run by a local youth organisation in Khashdobir area are held under open sky. — Star photo

## Work on Barisal radio station expected to be started next yr

From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, Aug 10: The construction work of the proposed Barisal radio station is expected to be started by the first part of the next year.

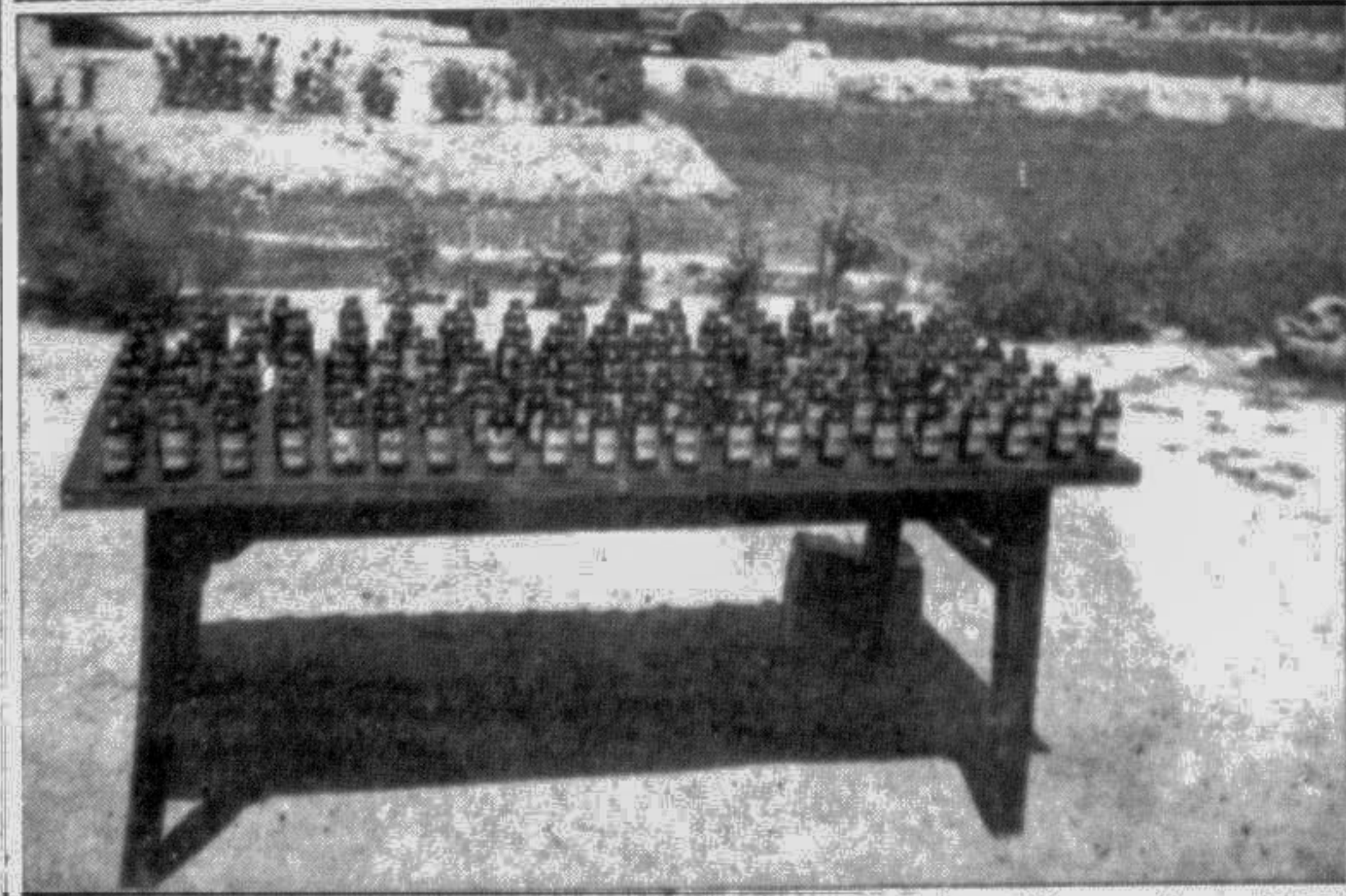
According to a source of the Ministry of Information, this project has already been included in the Annual Development Programmes of the current fiscal year — after the approval of ECNEC, Planning Commission and External Resources Division.

This 10-KW radio station will have two studios at the primary stage, the sources said.

It may be mentioned here that this radio station will be the first and only radio station in the vast southern region of the country. The Revenue Department has earned one crore twenty-four lakh seventy-six thousand taka as land development tax in Barisal district.

Thanawise annual collection of tax: Barisal sadar-34,35000 taka, Bakerganj 20,78000 taka, Ustipur-8,66000 taka, Babuganj-8,62000 taka, Gournadi 6 lakh taka, Aguljhara-7,62000 taka, Mulaodi-8,15000 taka, Hizla-5,63000 taka, Mehendiganj-17,7000 taka and in Banaripur thana-8,18000 taka.

Our correspondent from Perupur informed that 88 lakh 52 thousand taka have been collected by the Revenue Department from six thanas of Perupur district during the last financial year ended in June '93.



KUSHTIA: The BDR jawans seized huge quantity of smuggled phynsidi syrup from a bus at Bheramara recently. — Star photo