

District roundup

JAMALPUR
Ferry services may shut down anytime

Nov 19: The ferry communication between Bahadurabad and Teestamukh ghat and Jaganathganj and Sirajganj ghat are on the brink of closure due to emergence of innumerable chams and shoals in the river Jamuna, reports UNB.

Witnesses said some 67 small chams have emerged in the river between Bahadurabad and Teestamukh ghat on the advent of dry season. As a result, the plying of ferry on the route have become risky particularly during the thick fog.

Officials said at least five incidents of agrounding of ferries occurred during the last one week till November 13. Hundreds of passengers remained stranded for 5-6 hours in the mid Jamuna. The unscheduled delay of ferry caused delay of the train communication.

In the Bahadurabad-Sirajganj route some 53 chams have emerged resulting frequent changing of the route for running of the ferry.

Ferry communication remained suspended during the last two dry seasons for navigability problems. Officials said the ferry communication will be stopped in the route if proper dredging was not done immediately.

According to local people, in the monsoon the waters of these rivers overflow the banks inundating the low lying areas in the district due to river siltation and overflow of waters from the upper riparian. But all these rivers almost dry up in the dry season disrupting river communication and hampering the irrigation system.

Local elite said the rivers once considered as blessing for the district have now become problem due to heavy siltation and lack of dredging.

Farmers said they are facing great economical hardship as their return from cultivation in the dry season falls sharply.

They urged the authorities to take steps without further delay to dredge the rivers for smooth plying river vessels and boosting of agri-production.

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BARGUNA
Rivers need dredging

Nov 19: Dredging of the rivers Paflra, Bishkhali, Balassar and Khakdon in the district has become essential to ensure smooth plying of river vessels and boost agri-production during the dry season, reports UNB.

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TANGAIL
CI sheets for poor people

Nov 19: Government has sanctioned one thousand bundles of corrugated iron sheets for distressed people of Ghatail thana, reports BSS.

The CI sheets are being distributed among eleven unions of the thana. Meanwhile, selected distressed people of Ghatail, Digar and Lokerpara unions have received the item. Such people in eight other unions will be given CI sheets soon, an official source said.

Another report says: Taka 6.53 crore has been achieved in the district as savings in the first three months of the current fiscal year.

Official sources said that the target to reach the savings at Taka 20 crore could be achieved through savings bureau, post office and bank in the district.

BARISAL
Workshop for thana education officers

Nov 19: A three-day workshop for the thana education officers under Barisal division concluded at the Barisal primary training institute premises on Friday, says BSS.

Organized by the primary education department, the workshop was financed by the UNICEF, an official source said.

Thirty thana education officers participated in this workshop. Rokeya Rahman, Deputy Director (Monitoring), Hamida Khatun, Deputy Director (Book Distribution), Sajeda Begum, Assistant Director (Monitoring) and Selina Akhtar, Assistant Director (Publication) imparted training to the participants.

UNB adds: Police seized three kgs of ganja and arrested an old man from a house at Bhatikhana in the town on Tuesday.

Police, following a tip-off, raided the house of Samad Molla and nabbed him with the ganja at about noon, police said.

A case was filed with Kotwali police.

SYLHET
One killed, road blockade for two hours

Nov 19: The Sylhet-Sunamganj highway was closed for two hours (Monday) following a road accident which left a middle-aged woman killed on the spot, says UNB.

The victim, identified as Asmatunnesa (40), was hit and killed by a speeding minibus at Takerbazar at about 3.30 pm, witnesses said.

Angry villagers in the area blocked the highway for more than two hours since the accident occurred. Later, police rushed to the spot and cleared the highway.

The driver had fled with his vehicle after the accident.

MYMENSINGH
Tk 3.47 crore disbursed as agri loan

Nov 19: Taka 3,47,79,000 have been disbursed as agricultural loans out of Taka 4,44,60,000 sanctioned for the cultivation of transplanted aman paddy in the district in the current season, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the loans have been disbursed among 8,502 cultivators of 149 unions through different banks.

The bank-wise break-up upto September 30 is as follows: Bangladesh Krishi Bank disbursed Taka 2,27,84,000 among 5,200 cultivators, Sonali Bank Taka 78,48,000 among 2,173 cultivators, Agrani Bank Taka 26,44,000 among 783 cultivators, Janata Bank Taka 14,48,000 among 335 cultivators and Rupali Bank disbursed Taka 55,000 among eleven cultivators, the source said.

DINAJPUR
Paddy selling below output cost

Nov 19: Farmers are not getting fair price of paddy amidst bumper production as the government procurement is yet to start in 13 thanas of the district, says UNB.

Fine and coarse varieties of paddy are now selling between Taka 120 to 130 and Taka 170 to 190 respectively in the local markets. While the production cost ranges from Taka 190 to 250.

The district is expected to produce about five lakh tons of paddy in this season which is much above the target of this year.

It may be mentioned here that farmers here cultivated paddy on over 2.17 lakh hectares of land.

However, marginal farmers are in great problems as they are forced to sell the crop below the production cost. They urged the authorities to start paddy procurement in the district as per the government announcement.

KUSHITIA
Workshop on integrated pest management

Nov 19: A day-long workshop on integrated pest management of brown grasshopper was held at Mirpur thana parishad auditorium on Sunday, reports UNB.

The objective of the workshop was to educate the farmers to combat the brown grasshopper attack in their field.

Presided over by Additional Director, Agriculture Extension Department, Jessore region, the workshop was conducted by FAO specialist on integrated pest management Dr S Ramswami and Director of Plant Protection Wing of Agriculture Directorate Abdul Malek.

The experts discussed the ways and means to control the pest attack on transplanted aman paddy.

It may be mentioned that attack of brown grasshopper incur a heavy loss to paddy production every year.

RANGPUR
Drama festival inaugurated

Nov 19: A week long Capetan drama festival '93 has begun in the town here on Wednesday, reports UNB.

The Divisional Commissioner M Aminul Islam inaugurated the function which was also attended by Deputy Commissioner Md Aizal Hossain and Moktarul Rahman.

Five drama teams from Dhaka, Rajshahi, Gaibandha, Bogra and Sirajganj are taking part in the festival.

A large number of people are enjoying the festival everyday.



SYLHET: Dr Ismail Hossain, an economist speaking as chief guest at a seminar on "Islamic economy and banking" held here recently. — Star photo

Tk 420cr for rural uplift

JESSORE, Nov 19: Implementation of rural infrastructure development projects in the greater districts of Jessore, Khulna and Kushtia started by Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) at a cost of Taka 420 crore under financial assistance from Asian Development Bank (ADB), says a BSS report.

Under the programme, 600 kms of kutcha roads in 10 districts would be brought under bituminous carpeting level. These roads are, 93.51 km in Jessore, 78.30 kms in Khulna, 78.60 kms in Bagerhat, 54.89 kms in Chuadanga, 4.40 kms in Jhenidah, 48.90 kms in Kushtia, 48.50 kms in Magura, 29.19 kms in Meherpur, 36.83 kms in Narail and 89.41 kms in Satkhira districts.

Besides, 58 rural hats and bazars would be developed under the programme. These hats and bazars, are nine each in Khulna and Bagerhat, eight in Jessore, seven in Satkhira, five each in Jhenidah and Kushtia, four each in Chuadanga and Magura, three in Narail and two in Meherpur districts.

The programme includes development of 20 ferry landing platforms in these areas. One office complex would be constructed in each district headquarters for supervising and monitoring the schemes.

All these schemes have already started and expected to be completed before 1998. Once

all the union headquarters of these districts and important hats and bazars are covered by pucca road communication network, the rural people, particularly the farmers and cultivators, would be able to market their produce faster and easily.

Another reports says: A ceremonial parade marking the investiture of Adjutant General of the Bangladesh Army Major General Amin Ahmed Chowdhury, Bir Bikram as the third colonel commandant of the signal corps was held at the Signal Training Centre and School (STC and S) at the Jessore Cantonment Tuesday morning, an ISPR press release said.

On the occasion, the senior most commanding officer of the corps Lt Col M Mohtuddin Ahmed and the senior most Subedar Major Mohammad Shamsul Huq adorned him with the badges of rank of the colonel commandant and changed his cap ceremonially.

Speaking on the occasion, the new colonel commandant Major General Amin Ahmed Chowdhury called upon the members of the corps to grow themselves as ideal soldiers as well as ideal men by carrying out their continuous training, professionalism and high standard of human qualities.

He paid glowing tributes to the shahid members of the signal corps who had laid down their lives during the Liberation War in 1971 and said that the

signal corps achieved the present standard through hard labour, firm determination and resolute devotion of all its members.

General Amin asked them to make the corps still more effective and skillful through untiring and concerted efforts in keeping with the motto of the corps "drota-ontshchit".

Referring to the advancement of communication technology through out the globe, General Amin said that all members of the corps should keep themselves abreast with the knowledge of these advancement. They should attain at the highest level of talents, training and morale, he added.

Sugar crushing begins

Mobarakganj Sugar Mills started its seasonal production on Friday.

According to the mill source, 14,719 metric tons of sugar would be produced in the mill during the current crushing season covering 120 days. 170 lakh metric tons sugarcane would be crushed during the season for producing the target quantities of sugar.

It may be mentioned here that 1,500 acres of land were brought under sugarcane cultivation in the mill zone.

Mobarakganj Sugar Mills produced 13,700 metric tons of sugar during the last crushing season.

Steps underway to introduce people-oriented edn system

RANPUR, Nov 19: Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar Tuesday said, the present government is making all-out effort for improving the lots of the rural masses, reports BSS.

He said, steps are underway for introducing a people-oriented education system in the country.

The Education Minister was addressing as the chief guest at separate gatherings of the teachers, students and guardians at Taraganj and Mithapukur.

Joint Secretary of Prime Ministers Secretariat Nuruzzaman Mia, local Deputy Commissioner Aizal Hossain and district leader Nurul Huda Sultan also spoke on the occasion.

The Education Minister said, the government has undertaken various programmes for bringing the total population under the umbrella of education. He said, the food for education programme has been designed to encourage the less-fortunate children to impart education and a project is being implemented for providing scholarship to the female students living in the rural areas.

Barrister Sircar said, the government is determined to restore academic atmosphere in the campus through eradicating

violence and session jam. He called upon the students to put in their best efforts for making them worthy citizens of the country through pursuit of knowledge.

The minister also formally inaugurated the newly constructed buildings of Taraganj

502 held on various charges

NETRAKONA, Nov 19: Netrakona district police in a month long special anti crime drive rounded up 502 persons on various charges from different areas of the district, says a police source, reports BSS.

The month long special programme entitled "Operation Dragon-93" started in the first week of October in ten thanas under the district.

The arrested persons included convicted absconders, dacoits, terrorists, illegal fire arms holders and notorious criminals, wanted on various charges.

Crime has shown a significant fall in Netrakona district following the anti-crime operation, the Superintendent of Police said.

10,000 digital lines to be installed in Rajshahi

RAJSHAH, Nov 19: Post and Telecommunications Minister Tariqul Islam yesterday said connections of ten thousand digital telephones would be installed in Rajshahi by 1995, reports BSS.

He said this while visiting local telephone exchange here.

The Minister during his visit went round different sections of the exchange including switch room, metre room and test room.

He was apprised that Rajshahi Telephone Exchange earned revenue worth Taka 7.26 crore in the last fiscal year. He Directed the T and T authority to disconnect the lines and to take legal actions against the defaulter subscribers.

Tariqul asked the T and T officials to render services with dedications and sincerity for improving the standard of service to the subscribers.

Love takes his life

SIRAJGANJ, Nov 19: A college student allegedly committed suicide in Kazipur thana Monday as his overture of love was spurned, according to family sources, says UNB.

The dead was named Saleem Reza, 20, son of Afazuddin of Alampur village.

Saleem drank pesticide after he was refused by a school girl of the same village, the sources said.

Students suffer due to lack of transport

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Nov 19: Students of Chapainawabganj Government Girls High School have been facing great problem since long due to absence of transport facilities, says UNB.

It is the only government girls school in the district where girls students come from far flung areas every day amid great inconveniences. Guardians said in the absence of transport facilities many girl students were forced to abandon education.

During the examination period the suffering of the students know no bounds. Taking the advantage of situation, the rickshawpullers demand exorbitant fares from them.

Local elite have urged the concerned authorities to arrange a transport for the students of the school to help prosecute their studies smoothly.

Farmers must get benefit of fix price of paddy

BOGRA, Nov 19: Food Minister Mir Shaukat Ali inaugurated the procurement drive of aman paddy and rice for the year 1993-94 at Bogra sadar godown recently, reports BSS.

Speaking on the occasion the Food Minister said, officials of food department and other related persons will have to be alert so that common farmers get the benefit of price fixed by the government for procuring paddy and rice this year.

The government will procure two lakh metric tons of rice (three lakh mt paddy) this year. Price for rice and paddy per maund has been at Taka 310 and Taka 200 respectively.

Rajshahi division is the surplus paddy producing area of the country. About 35 lakh mt of aman paddy is expected to be produced in this division. Ten lakh metric tons of aman paddy will be surplus in this area and government will procure 2.70 lakh metric tons paddy from Rajshahi division during the current procurement drive which will be continued upto March 31, 1994.

A public rally was held in the evening in front of super market of the town where speakers called for immediate stoppage of all sorts of harassment to the business community and give exemplary punishment to the toll collectors.

Jail killing day observed

MYMENSINGH, Nov 19: The jail killing day was observed here with due solemnity under the auspices of Shahid Syed Nazrul Islam Smriti Parishad, reports BSS.

On this occasion a discussion was held in the local town hall under the presidency of Advocate M Zubed Ali, MP Conventor, Shahid Syed Nazrul Islam Smriti Parishad.

Among others Kamruzzaman presidium member of Bangladesh Awami League, Advocate Gazul Haque, Shamsul Haque MP, Promade Mankin MP, Advocate Musharraf Husain MP, Abdul Mannan Asst. Publicity Secretary Awami League, Professor Jatin Sarker and Principal Matiuur Rahman took part in the discussion.

The speakers observed that the terrorism and killings will not be removed unless and until the rule of law was established in the country. They also demanded repeal of Indemnity Ordinance.

TK 161cr customs duty earned from Mongla Port

KHULNA, Nov 19: The customs authority here earned Taka 161 crore as customs duty from Mongla Port during the last four months upto October of the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

The authority is expecting that the collection of customs duty during the current financial year will break all the previous records. The target of the current fiscal year has been fixed at Taka 210 crore.

It may be mentioned that the authority had collected Taka 140 crore in fiscal 1991-92 while Taka 160 crore in 1992-93 from Mongla Port.

Customs officials said the government has decided to import three lakh tons of salt for domestic use. Of the total quantity, about 2.5 lakh metric tons of salt is being imported through Mongla Port and out of this the customs is expected to realise duty worth about Taka 50 to 55 crore.

Besides, customs duty for importing cement is also expected to be shot up during the current financial year.

BSS adds: Speaker of Jatiya Sangsad Shaikh Razzak Ali called upon people to extend cooperation to the government for the successful implementation of the compulsory primary and mass education programme.

The Speaker was addressing a discussion meeting on implementation of compulsory primary and mass literacy programme at Dumuria recently.

Termining the governments compulsory primary education programme as the most effective programme the Speaker said that primary education is the basis of development. "We all have to cooperate in the implementation of the programme towards achieving our desired goal."

Rural electrification to help upgrade standard of common man's life

BHALUKA, (Mymensingh), Nov 19: Food Minister Mir Shaukat Ali said, rural electrification would help upgrade the standard of living of the common people, reports BSS.

Rural Electrification Board (REB) has been playing a vital role in creating physical infrastructure: an other facilities in this regard, he said.

The minister was addressing as the chief guest at a public meeting held here on Sunday at Bhaluka Primary School premises, organised on the occasion of the inauguration of rural electrification project at local thana.

Presided over by Amanullah Chowdhury MP, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Begum Nurjahan Yasmin MP, General Secretary of district BNP Prof. Abul Kashem, chairman of Dhaka Lalbagh BNP unit Mesbahuddin Sabu and Executive Director of the REB Kamruzzaman Khan.

The food minister said, Shahid President Ziaur Rahman had underscored the need for establishing Rural Electrification Board for the first time to improve socio-economic condition of the common people through expanding electrification network in rural areas.

The REB has taken up a project in Mymensingh district at a cost of Taka 68.96 crore with a foreign exchange component of Taka about 51 crore, an official handout said.

The project is expected to be completed by 1997-98 and more than 14 lakh people of the area will be benefitted from the project.

Tk 1.05 crore for primary schools

DINAJPUR, Nov 19: The government has allocated an amount of Taka 1.05 crore for the construction and renovation of 22 government and non-government primary schools in Dinaipur thana, reports UNB.

The allocated money would be utilised for 11 government schools and 11 non-government schools, and the construction work has already been started, official sources here said.

A major amount will be spent for the modernization and sanitation system of these schools, it added.

With the implementation of the scheme primary education will get further boost in the thana.



RANGPUR: District Ansar Adjutant Amir Hossain is talking with the farmers in Pirgacha to motivate them in rat killing and pest control. — Star photo

Smuggled cattle can be legalised thru taxes

CHITTAGONG, Nov 19: Smuggled cattle from India to Bangladesh can be legalised for marketing in the country through realisation of taxes at a fixed rate, said Home Minister Abdul Mattin Chowdhury Wednesday, reports UNB.

The government will install 11 customs check posts along the western border of the country for this purpose.

The minister made this statement after visiting border belts of Satkhira, Kushtia and Chapainawabganj districts.

Official receipts must be produced for the cattle from the customs authority, these receipts will be the legal documents for transporting and marketing of cattle throughout the country, said a handout.

"Increase output through hard labour"

CHITTAGONG, Nov 19: Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan Monday called for increasing production in mills and factories for the development of the country through hard labour, says BSS.

He expressed that with this end in view a healthy relation would be built up among labours, owners and the government.

The minister said, the government had taken up various programmes for the socio-economic development of the people.

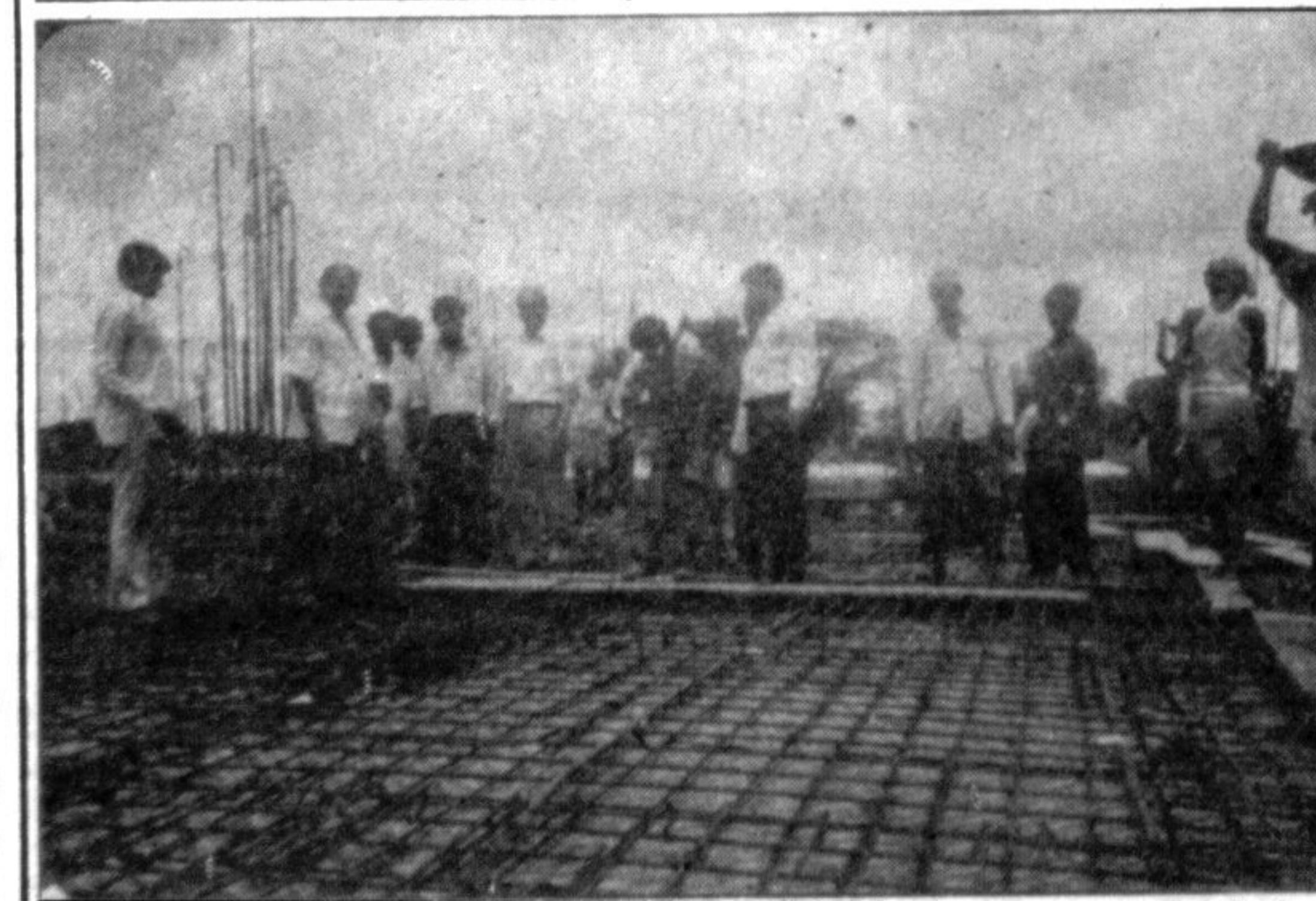
Presided over by Divisional Jatiatabadi Sramik Dal president A M Nazimuddin the function was addressed, among others, by City Mayor Mir Mohammad Nasruddin, Sirajul Islam Chowdhury MP and central general secretary of Sramik Dal Nazrul Islam Khan. Criticising a political party for creating disorder in the country by calling frequent hartals, the minister

said, the people should come forward unitedly to stop their evil design.

Another report says: Speakers at a condolence meeting here Monday paid tributes to late Giasuddin Chowdhury by re-calling his commendable services as president of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI), in early seventies as well as his contributions towards economic development as an honest businessman.

The condolence meeting held under the auspices of CCC and I at chamber house, was presided over by its president S M Abul Kalam. It was addressed by ex MP Azfar Rahman, former chamber engineer Ali Ahmad Khan, chamber members Mofizur Rahman, Muhammad Ibrahim and Shahjada Enayet Ullah Khan.

Giasuddin who was also a member of the then Pakistan national assembly died recently.



HAIBGANJ: The construction work of 100 bed hospital here is in progress and is expected to be completed by June 1994. — Star photo