

District roundup

SATKHIRA

One arrested with smuggled goods

Nov 27: Bangladesh Rifles arrested a man from Solepur border on Saturday while returning from India with smuggled goods, says UNB.

The accused was identified as Abdur Rahim of Baghatt of Kaliganj thana of the district. Police arrested him when he failed to produce his passport for visiting India.

He confessed that he crossed the border and sold out Bangladesh smuggled goods to India worth Taka 19,440.

The seized goods were handed over to the Basantapur customs officials and a case has been filed.

Another report adds: Six cows of a farmer of village Dudli in Kaliganj thana died of food poisoning.

According to the police, farmer Ahmad Mollah fed his cows on the previous night and the following morning he found with utter astonishment that six cows died and three others fell seriously ill.

He suspected that somebody killed the animals by food poisoning. A case has been filed with local police.

COMILLA

One killed in road mishap

Nov 27: A youth was crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck near Kakri bridge in Chouddagram thana on Dhaka-Chittagong trunk road on Saturday, reports UNB.

Police said the Chittagong-bound truck hit the victim Ashu (22) from behind killing him on the spot. His body was sent to hospital morgue for autopsy.

Police seized the truck and arrested the driver.

Another report adds: Bangladesh Rifles seized huge quantity of Indian sarees and blouse pieces worth about Taka five lakh from a bus here on Sunday.

BDR patrol party following a tip-off raided a Sylhet-bound bus at Paduar bazar on Comilla by-pass road and recovered 570 sarees and 298 blouse pieces.

BDR seized the bus but none was, however, arrested.

MALJEECOURT

Plot owners face various problems

Nov 27: Noakhali government Housing Project is facing a lot of problems due to lack of water supply, shortage of drainage system and other basic amenities, says UNB.

Official sources said the housing project started functioning at Maljee Court in 1977-78 with an area of 55 acres of land. So far 434 plots were allotted out of which 100 plots so far has not been handed over yet due to various complications.

On the other hand, only 17 houses were constructed over the total of 334 transferred plots. The officials through repeated notices asked the plot owners to construct houses but owners seem less interested due to various problems in the housing area.

Plot owners urged the concerned authorities to provide basic amenities at the project under a specific plan.

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NATORE

One succumbs to injuries

Nov 27: A middle aged woman, seriously injured in a road accident here on Dhaka-Rajshahi highway, succumbed to her injuries in Sadar Hospital on Thursday, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Kamala Begum (55) wife of Azizul Haque of Binodpur area of Rajshahi town, police said.

The woman met the accident when a Rajshahi bound jeep, coming from Pabna, hit Kamala as the driver tried to save a goat on the road at Gazirbeel area, witnesses said. She was rushed to Sadar Hospital and died on the day, hospital sources said.

A case was filed with Natore thana.

JAMALPUR

Section 144 to avert AL-NDA collision

Nov 27: Authorities clamped section 144 on Singhajani High School premises here from 2:30 to 10 pm Friday to avert trouble as Awami League and rival NDA convened meetings at the same venue at the same time, reports UNB.

Ex-student leader Jahangir Sattar Tinku was scheduled to attend AL meeting at 3 pm as chief guest while Mirza Azam MP as special guest.

Anwar Jahid of the National Democratic Alliance was due to attend NDA meeting at the same time as chief guest and ASM Solaiman as special guest.

District Magistrate Jalal Ahmed in an order imposed section 144 prohibiting gathering in the area in apprehension of unrest, district Information Office sources said.

MAGURA

9 injured in groups clash

Nov 27: A least nine people were injured and three houses damaged in a clash between two rival groups in Alukdia Pukuria village in sadar thana on Friday.

Witnesses said the clash ensued when one group led by Abdul Jalil and another group led by Arshad Ali Mondol of the village arranged separate religious functions on the same day at the same venue.

The injured Ishaque Ali (28), Sahadat Ali (25), Aminur Rahman (20), Bachchoo Mia (25), Masim Mia (45) supporters of Abdul Jalil Mia and Khalil Mondol (25), Altaf (22), Saick (35), supporters of Arshad Mondol were admitted to sadar hospital. Arshad Mondol was also injured in the incident.

During the clash three houses of Hossain Mollah, Jalil Mollah, and Mohon Mollah of the village were damaged.

PATUAKHALI

Adopt family planning methods

Nov 27: Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB) organised a seminar on "bad effects of early marriage and early pregnancy" in Pangasia union of the Sadar thana on Saturday, reports UNB.

The seminar, held in Mahila Madrasa Compound, was presided over by the Information, Education and Communication Secretary of the district unit of FPAB.

Dr Tahmina Siddiqui read out a paper in the seminar which was also addressed by Maulana Abdul Rahman Gazi, Golam Sarwar, Maulana Md Ashraf Ali and Maulana Abdul Manna Faruki.

At least 50 newly married couples took part in the seminar.

The speakers, terming the population boom as a number one national problems, said, without checking it effectively the target of national uplift could not be achieved.

They urged the couples to play positive role in checking the population boom by adopting family planning methods. The speakers also called upon the field workers and the supervisory staff to gear up the family planning programme.

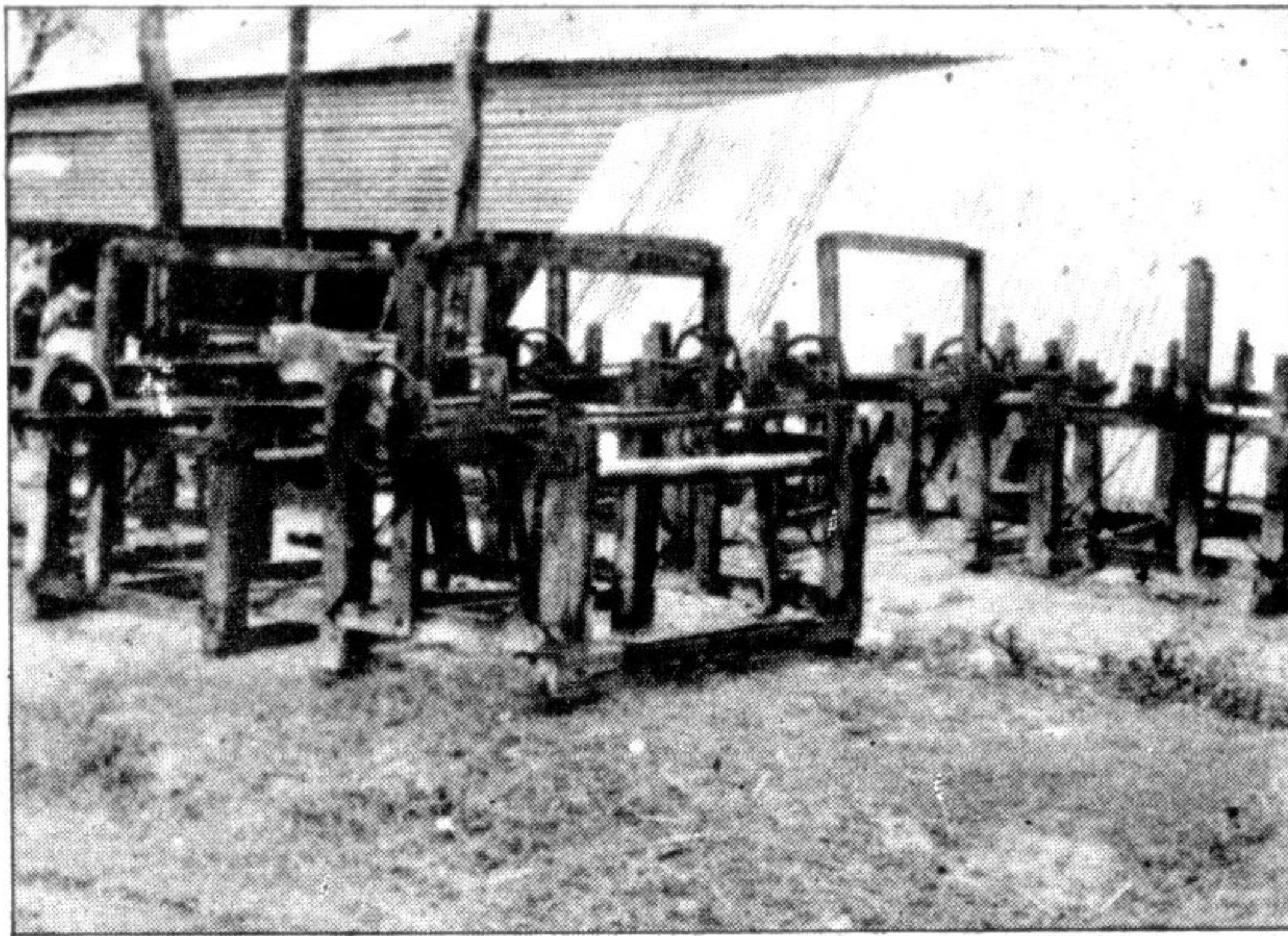
DINAJPUR

JCD wins all seats in college election

Nov 27: Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wing of ruling BNP, won all the 16 seats in KBM College Students Union election held on November 21, reports UNB.

Murad Ahmed, Mostafa Alam and M Maick have been elected VP, GS and AGS respectively, college sources said.

Bangladesh Chhatra League (M-I) also contested the election, the sources said.



SIRAJGANJ: A closed handloom factory in Khidramatia village under Belkuchi thana. — Star photo

Handloom industry needs proper patronisation

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Nov 27: The existence of handloom oriented cottage industries in Sirajganj district is threatened due to manifold problems including shortage of running capital. It is gathered that Belkuchi, Chowhali, Shahzadpur and Ullapara thanas are famous for handloom oriented cottage industries in Sirajganj district. There are about 20,000 handlooms in Belkuchi, 15,000 in Chowhali, 20,000 in Shahzadpur and 10,000 in Ullapara thanas.

Once high class saree, dhuti and other items were produced in the handloom factories. Following influx of smuggled printed sarees, the producers have lost interest to produce sarees.

Now lungi, bed sheets and grey cloth for printing purpose are widely produced in the running factories. Lungi of some famous brands are produced in Sirajganj district and are supplied to the home markets. After production, the items are sent to the process factories for mercerising. Cloth merchants from almost all the

districts come to the weekly hats of Shohagpur, Shahzadpur, Ullapara and Enayetpur to purchase the products.

Due to fall of demand and shortage of running capital, a considerable number of semi-automatic handlooms are closed down.

In 1984, the then government took up a scheme to disburse handloom loans to the factory owners at the rate of Taka 5500 per each semi-automatic and Taka 3500 for each pit loom on pass books issued by the Bangladesh Handloom Board. But due to some irregularities, a considerable number of bank loans were grabbed by the fake weavers.

The disbursing scheduled banks now face problems to recover of the loans. Very recently, the government have decided to exempt interest of handloom loans to make the loanes enable to refund the principal amount. The decision is now being processed in the inter-ministerial level.

Due to problems, production of saree has reduced but lungi have got a satisfactory demand

in the home market. Official sources have expressed hope that if production quality is improved by technical and financial assistance, lungi will also get a good demand in the markets abroad.

Bangladesh Handloom Board have set up a Services and Facilities Centre (SFC) at Belkuchi at the cost of Taka 4.85 lakh including foreign currency amounting to Taka 1.68 lakh. Works of the project have been completed and machinery have also been installed but production and services of the centre is yet to be resumed.

Local weavers have opened that the SFC will not serve the total purpose unless cloth processing unit is installed here. The matter is reported to the Ministry of Textiles for necessary action.

The handloom oriented cottage industry of Sirajganj may turn to a prospective and foreign currency earning sector if necessary steps including extending of technical and financial assistance are taken by the authorities concerned.

Tk 1.75 crore sanctioned to construct college buildings

BARISAL, Nov 27: Facilities Department of the ministry of education will implement four major projects involving Taka 1.75,79,490 in two southern districts during the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

The districts are: Barisal and Jhalakati.

According to an official source, the projects are: construction of science buildings in four degree colleges of the districts with the financial assistance of Islamic Development Bank (IDB).

The colleges are: Government Syed Hatem Ali College, Government Women's College, Government Gournadi College and Government Jhalakati College, the source said.

Top priority to education

MOULVIBAZAR, Nov 27: Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman has said, the present government laid paramount importance to wipe out illiteracy as an official handout on Friday, reports BSS.

The finance minister was inaugurating the newly built administrative building of Moulvibazar Government High School here on Thursday.

Rahman said, the present government placed education above all to ensure education for all by the year 2000.

Outlining the government's various epoch making programmes to improve education in the country, the finance minister said, the democratically elected government has allocated highest amount in this present year's budget in this sector. He said, the food for education programmes under-

Recognition of all-out performances

SAIDPUR, Nov 27: Chief of Army Staff Lt General Muhammad Noor Uddin Khan has called upon the members of the

army to rise above self-interest to achieve and maintain higher standard of professional efficiency, says a press release.



Chief of Army Staff Lt General Muhammad Noor Uddin Khan handing over the Regimental Colour to the "Durjoy Chobbish", a battalion of the East Bengal Regiment at the Saidpur Cantonment on Wednesday. — ISPR photo

Notes From Comilla

COMILLA, Nov 27: Kotwali police nabbed a fugitive convict from Chawkbazar bus stand of the town, says UNB.

According to the police, the arrested Masum was jailed for five years for a committing a dacoity in 1986. He remained absconding since then.

Acting on a tip, a police party led by S I Abdus Sattar arrested him recently.

In another drive Kotwali police recovered 50 bottles of phenistyl syrup from the house of Manik Mia at Bazrapur Moulaivipara on Sunday.

A case has been lodged against Manik Mia who went into hiding.

One held with pipegun

Bangladesh Rifles arrested a man from Sonatcha village in Chouddagram thana and recovered a pipegun and kirich from his possession on Sunday.

Acting on a secret information, the jawans raided the house of Abul Mia alias Abdullah, son of Ali Ahmed and arrested him.

Another report adds, BDR hauled a truck from Gangachar area in the town loaded with Indian saree.

They also seized 4,720 pieces of sarees worth Taka 15,39 lakh. The seized goods were deposited with the custom officials.

A case has been filed.

Workshop for teachers, guardians

A five-day long training workshop for teachers and guardians of the catchment area was concluded at district Diabetic Centre Thursday.

Md Katebur Rahman, Deputy Commissioner, was present as chief guest while Shafiqur Rahman, president Catchment Area Programme presided over.

DP Barua, Managing Director and Chief Editor of BSS and President of Bangladesh Society for Mentally Retarded Inaugurated the workshop on Sunday.

He urged the local authorities to arrange a piece of land for establishing the office of the society.

Another report adds, an intensive drive to perform IUD insertion was conducted from November 13 to 19 throughout the district as a part of a nationwide programme.

4 injured in groups clash

Four young men were injured, one seriously, in a clash between two rival groups at Patadda bazar in Chawdhagram thana on Tuesday.

Witnesses said the clash between the rival groups of local young men erupted following an altercation over an issue related to woman.

The injured were admitted to Chawdhagram Health Complex. One of them named as Hiran was later shifted to Comilla Medical Centre with throat injury.

Building of sluice gate protested

A large number of peasants of Bejapur of the district brought a procession at Paduar bazar on Tuesday in protest against the construction of a sluice gate over Dakatia river.

The farmers also held a rally at the bazar, where ex-MP Principal Abul Kalam Majumder addressed as chief guest.

Steps taken to make them self-reliant

From Mozammel Haque

RANGPUR, Nov 27: The UNESCO Club, Rangpur has recently launched a number of income generating projects in the district to create job opportunities.

The club will also impart income-oriented trainings to the destitutes to make them self-reliant.

The projects include ideal village development programme, computer training, commercial training, sewing and embroidery training, poultry rearing, banana cultivations, ploughing training by power tiller, satranj manufacturing, schooling programme for working children and mass literacy for adults.

Under the village development programme, the club has included 35 unions of the district with an initial target of bringing at least 500 families in each union under the programme.

The unemployed boys and girls are getting training on computer course, commercial typewriting and shorthand. The embroidery and sewing training complexes have been functioning with a dozen of destitute women.

There are 55 adult education centres with around 1,800 learners and two working children schools having roll

strength of 225 have been running in full swing.

A poultry rearing and cage distribution project has been established at the club compound to help motivate the people in poultry farming.

The banana cultivation project has been established by the club at Gangachara thana on a plot of 1.50 acres where about 3,000 banana trees were planted and pumper yield is expected.

The facility to plough lands at subsidised rates engaging 10 donated power tillers has been extended at the initiative of the club.

In the recent days, the club has organised a new project to manufacture Satraj (mat) at Kamrapara, of the town area to create job opportunities for the skilled satranj workers. At the initial stage, a number of items namely floor mat, wall mat, prayer mat (jay-nama) puposh, gunny bags etc. are being produced in it. There are 20 workers in the project who are earning about Taka 50.00 each as daily wages.

The club needs adequate fund to expand its functions and also run the on-going programmes smoothly, it is gathered.

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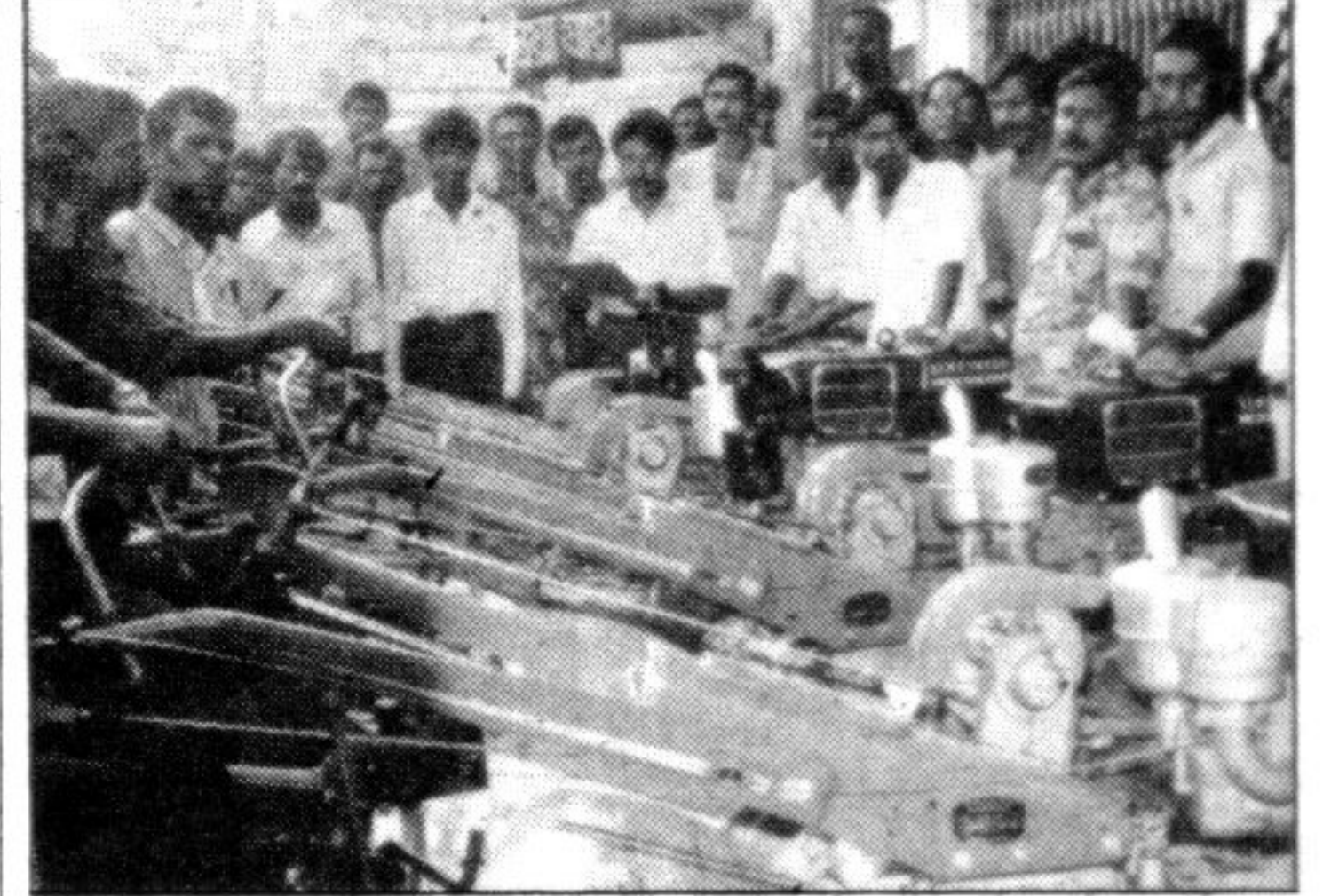
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RANGPUR: The local UNESCO Club is distributing power tillers to the unemployed youths to plough lands at subsidised rate to help the poor farmers. — Star photo

Rally demands immediate action to check erosion

JAMALPUR, Nov 27: People of all the nine unions in Dewanganj thana of the district brought out a procession in thana headquarters demanding immediate action to check the erosion of river Jamuna, reports UNB.

All the chairmen and members of the unions participated in the procession. The inhabitants also demanded rehabilitation of the homeless and construction of Dewanganj-Sanandabari road on emergency basis, sources said.

The processionists paraded the main thoroughfares of the thana town and chanted slogan in favour of their demands. Later, they held a meeting at thana sadar with Mujibur Rahman, Chairman Bahadurabad Union in the chair.

The speakers urged the authorities to take necessary steps to check the erosion as a good number of area being rendered homeless and huge quantity of crops and property are damaged in the district due to erosion every year.

Another report says: Ten

people accused of ransacking local BNP office and tearing of the portrait of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia were released on bail by the District Judge Sunday.

The accused people, among others, are Shahabuddin, Pingna union Awami League president, Giasuddin, school teacher, Lal Mia, President local Jubo League, Manik Chandra Gosh, Chhatra League unit President and Abdur Rahman, Secretary, Kumrul Hasari, organising Secretary and Raju Ahmed.

A case was filed against them for ransacking of the BNP local Pingna union Ward-2 office and stealing of goods on the night of Oct 18 with the Sharihabari police by the Secretary of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal Abdul Baset.

Advocate Matiur Rahman Talukder, President District Awami League in a statement terming the case as concocted and motivated called upon the BNP men to restrain from harassing the opponents.

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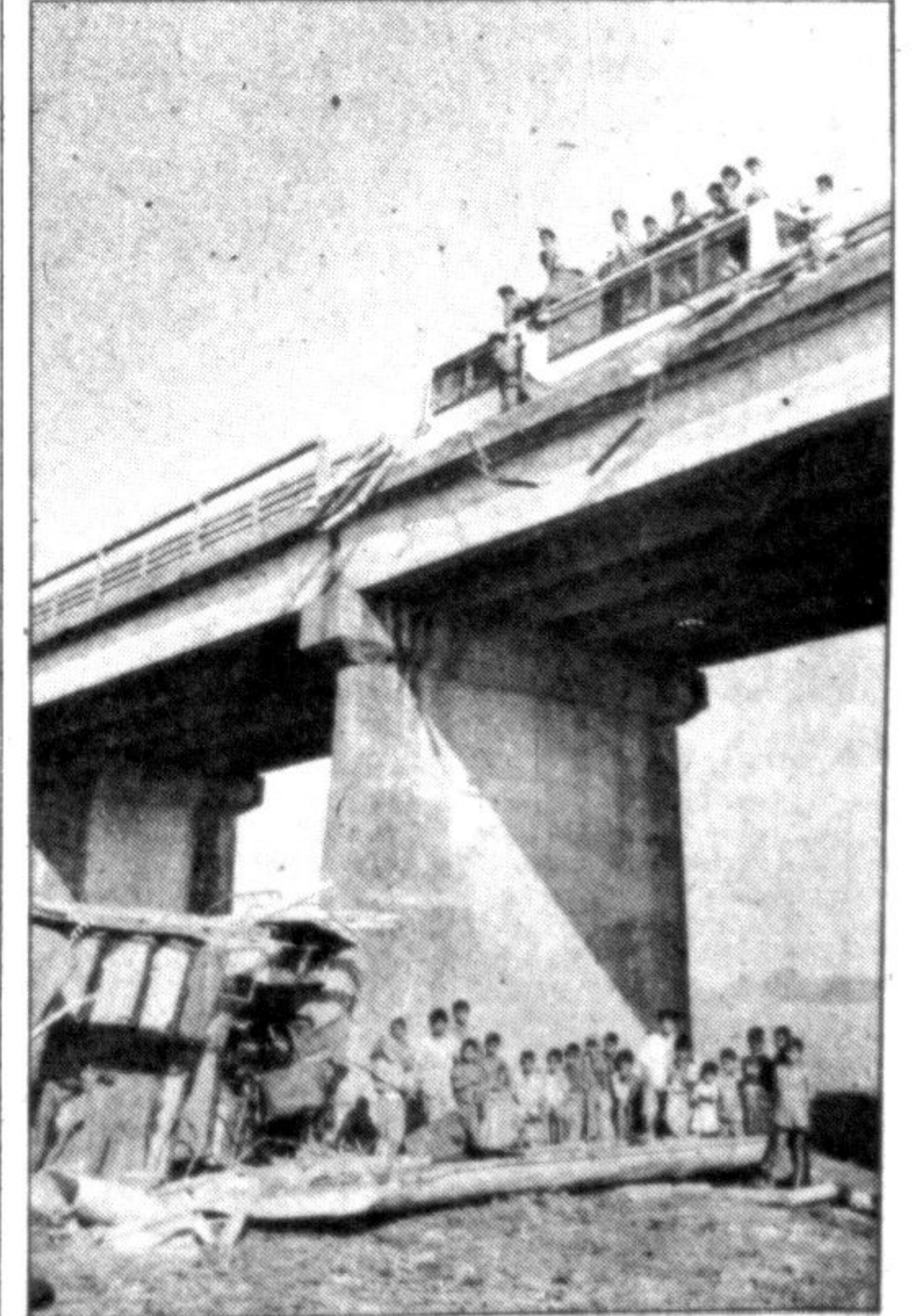
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A minibus plunged into a ditch tearing the guard rails of a bridge situated in between Jaypur and Kalampur under Dharmrai thana on Wednesday where 19 were killed and 40 others injured. — Star photo