

Importance given to rural development

MUNSHIGANJ, Jan 8 : Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman on Thursday said, the present government had attached paramount importance to rural infrastructure development and redoubled funds for this sector as it is the lifeline and key to improvement of rural economy, reports UNB.

He was addressing as chief guest a meeting organised here. Commerce Minister M Shamsul Islam also spoke on the occasion.

The Finance Minister said, a total of Taka 200 crore would be spent this year for development of rural roads and feeder-roads. This amount is four times the original allocation to this sector this year.

He said, in the recent Annual Development Programme (ADP) review meeting, a total of Taka 207 crore had been diverted from slow-going projects and a substantial portion of it would be spent in

Erosion of mighty Meghna renders 1000 families homeless

the road construction sector. This increased amount will pace up the overall infrastructural development of the country.

The Finance Minister said, the development allocations in the four city corporations of the country had also been increased substantially in the current fiscal year.

The total money spent in this sub-sector during the last three years has exceeded even the total allocations of the previous six years, he added.

Earlier, the Finance Minister laid the foundation stone of the 123 feet Mirkadam Bridge here. Undertaken by the Munshiganj Zilla Parishad, the bridge is expected to be completed within six months at a cost of Taka 18 lakh.

He also inaugurated the main building of the local Bashirunnessa Girls' High School on his arrival at Munshiganj.

Massive afforestation plan

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Jan 8 : An ambitious programme to put 1,080 hectares of land in northern districts under intensive afforestation will be executed this year at the initiative of the Forest Department in collaboration with the district and thana level administration.

Under the programme, 700 hectares of land will be cultivated with tree plants wood and the rest of 380 hectares of land with fruit bearing plants.

The available spaces beside the railway implementation of lines, roads, embankments and baran lands will be utilised for the programme.

Meanwhile, the government has allocated over Taka four crore for the successful execution of the programme which includes nursing of tree plants, growing of saplings, establishment of nurseries and protective measures for the plants.

At least 15 shops and other commercial installations were

9,078 mt sugar produced in 67 days

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Jan 8 : North Bengal Sugar Mills has produced about 9,078 metric tons of sugar crushing 1,14,047 metric tons of sugar-cane in 67 days.

It is learnt that the sugar mills fixed its production target at 19,150 metric tons crushing 2,20,115 metric tons of cane by 142 days.

According to sources, the mill authority is facing problems to pay the prices of sugar-cane as the produced sugar remains unsold. Only 828 metric tons of sugar have so far been sold.

The availability of Indian sugar at low prices is the cause of remaining local sugar unsold.

Home made sugar is available at local markets at Taka 26 to Taka 28. But Indian sugar is selling at Taka 23 to Taka 24.

On the other hand, 45 power crushers are running at the mills areas which produce molasses crushing about 18 thousand maunds of sugar-cane everyday.

As a result, the target of cane-crushing at the mills may not be achieved this season.

Inevitable but sad

CORILLA, Jan 8 : At least 11 people, including a woman died when they took rectified spirit as substitute to country liquor in Daudkandi thana during the last week of December, police sources said, says UNB.

However, two people were arrested for their involvement in illegal trading of the rectified spirit. They were identified as Dr A K M Abdul Rashid and his son Abdus Salam.

According to local elite, selling of country made liquor and rectified spirit without any valid licence was rampant in and around Daudkandi and people of different age groups, youngstars in particular, are taking it regularly.

The dead are, Mati Member, Khondoker Ramizuddin, Kalumaua, Noresh, Shahid, Ali Hossain, Mohd Selim, Rabul, Abdus Salam, Mohd Shajah and Raiza Begum.

The Awami League leaders at the meeting recalled the long-struggling tradition of Chhatra League in different national movements.

The anniversary was also observed in all thanas of the district holding seminars and cultural functions.



NATORE: The vendors have set up shops on Nichabazar Road of the district town. — Star photo

Gas supply to Jamalpur, Sherpur HQs from Apr

JAMALPUR, Jan 8 : The works to install gas lines in the greater Jamalpur district are going on in full swing, officials said, reports UNB.

The projects, 1.19 lakh feet long pipe line in Jamalpur poura area and 90,000 in Sherpur poura area, are expected to be completed by March of this year. Gas supply at the district headquarters will begin from April next.

The projects which went into operation on January 1 are being implemented at a cost of Taka 1 crore, officials said.

The Titas Gas has given connection to Jamuna Fertilizer Factory at Tarakandi in Sarsibari thana and the line has been extended to both Jamalpur and Sherpur district headquarters from the factory.

Another report says : Awami League leaders at a discussion meeting here on Tuesday urged all to follow the ideals of "Bangabandhu" Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to make the society free from all kinds of exploitation.

Tk 1.75 cr for construction of science buildings

BARISAL, Jan 8 : Facilities Department of the Ministry of Education has undertaken four projects at a cost of Taka 1.75 crore in two southern districts, reports UNB.

According to official sources, the projects include construction of science buildings in four degree colleges of Barisal and Jhalakathi districts.

The four degree colleges are : Syed Hamed Ali College, Government Women's College and Government College of Gaurnadi of Barisal district and Government Jhalakathi College.

Islamic Development Bank is providing financial assistance to these projects, the sources added.

A BSS report adds : A new daily newspaper 'The Daily Samer' took its debut from Barisal town on the new year's day.

Gridline Network by the month of March, this year, official said.

Now only 3.2 megawatt electricity is being supplied throughout the district against the requirement of 5.8 megawatt. There is only one Diesel Power Generation Plant with a capacity of 6.00 megawatt, reports UNB.

The government has been implementing a massive development programme to provide electricity facilities to the remote villages of the district for the development of the socio-economic condition of the rural people, the sources added.

Police and witnesses said, the Sarbaraha men opened fire after they were gheraoed by the villagers. The Sarbaraha members raided the village at midnight to collect toll, villagers said.

A case was filed with the local police.

National

Owners using firewood in brickfields despite ban

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Jan 8 : Despite government ban, the use of firewood in the brickfields is going on in the district.

It is gathered that felling of trees unabated to meet the requirements of the brickfields of Sirajganj district.

During current season, about 38 brickfields have been set up in different places of the district.

The main brickfields have been set up at Khidir, Chatiantali and Bambaria under sadar thana and at different places in Ullapara, Raiganj and Kamarkanda thanas.

in the area.

Both, firewood and bamboo roots are openly burnt in the brickfields but it is alleged the concerned authority do not take steps to resist this illegal practice.

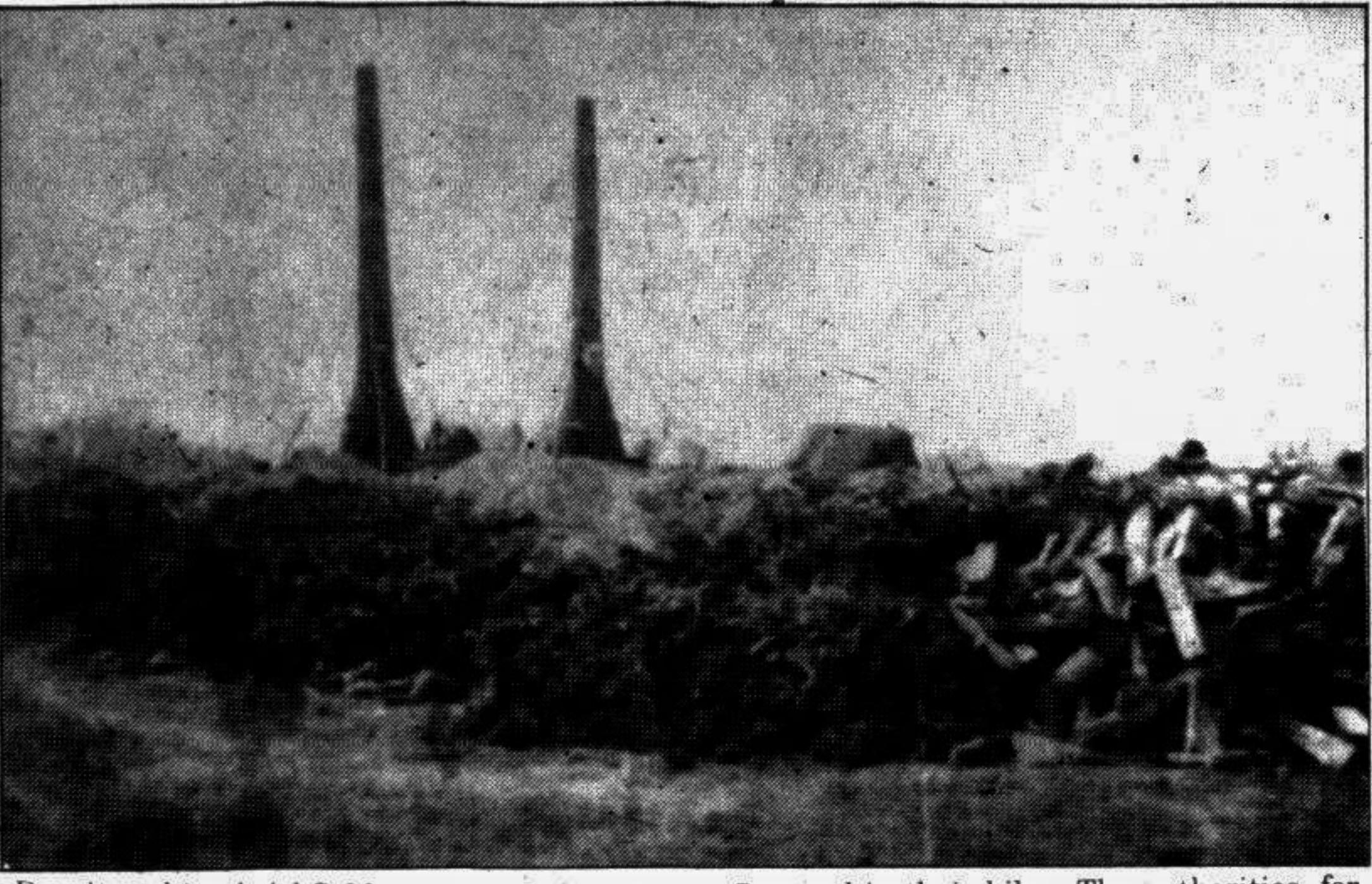
Bar assoc election

Electon of Sirajganj district Bar Association was held at the bar office on December 31. Two panels, one led by Abu Monla Abu Bakker Siddique and the other led by Advocate Abdul Jabbar Khan contested in the election.

local BRAC officials have told this correspondent that encouraging response has been shown in the areas to set up more such schools at Ullapara.

Our Madaripur Correspondent adds: The use of firewood in the brickfields of the district is going on unabated. Brickfield owners are using trees as fuel despite availability of coal in the depots, local people alleged.

Besides, bamboo roots are also being used as fuel for burning bricks in all 10 brickfields while age-old pine, mango and other fruit bearing



Despite a ban, brickfield owners continue to use firewood in their kilns. The authorities, for reasons best known to themselves, continue to look the other way. — Star photo

District roundup

B'BARIA

Minor girl killed in road accident

Jan 8 : A minor girl was killed in a road mishap near Bullaram bridge in sadar thana on Comilla-Sylhet highway on Saturday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said, the dead, identified as Runa (8) was killed when a Dhaka bound bus ran over her while she was crossing the road.

Police seized the bus but the driver managed to flee. The deceased was buried after autopsy in sadar hospital.

A case has been filed with the local police.

Another report says: Local Power Development Board has realised Taka one crore as electricity bills during the month of last December, official sources said.

The thanawise break up of realisation of money was as follows: Sadar — Taka 55.50 lakh, Akhaura — Taka 11 lakh, Nabinagar — Taka 10.30 lakh, Sarai — Taka 7.50 lakh and Ashuganj — Taka 15 lakh.

Besides, the board also disconnected 370 illegal electricity connections during the period.

NARSINGDI

Brother kills brother

Jan 8 : A man was allegedly killed by his elder brother at Lakhomi village in Shibpur thana on Sunday, reports UNB.

Villagers said, following a quarrel the elder brother Mubarak Hossain hit his younger brother Delwar Hossain (40) with a bamboo stick on January 1. He succumbed to his injuries next morning.

While attempting to bury the deceased without postmortem, the villagers informed the police who sent the body to hospital morgue for autopsy.

A case had been filed.

PABNA

Procurement of aman paddy inaugurated

Jan 8 : Aman procurement in nine thanas of the district began from Thursday, official sources said Friday, reports UNB.

MAK Azad, Officer-in-Charge of the local godown, inaugurated the procurement programme at its premises in a simple ceremony. Local MP Mohammad Osman Gani Khan was also present on the occasion.

The function was addressed, among others, by Deputy Commissioner of the district, Asikul Haque Chowdhury, District Controller of Food, Sukumar Chandra Roy, Assistant District Controller Asek Elahi, Sadar Thana Food Officer, Abdul Mannan, and Pabna Rice Mills' Association President Idris Ali Biswas.

Police said a gang of five men halted a rice-laden truck at Jorepul near Gabtoli, and forced its driver and his helper to take datura poison at gun-point on Tuesday afternoon. The miscreants also stabbed the two and fled with the truck leaving them unconscious near the PRTC complex.

Driver Shaifiullah, 52, was admitted to the Orthopedics Hospital, and helper, Anwar Hossain to the Savar Health Complex in critical condition.

They said the truck was carrying 152 bags of rice worth Taka one lakh from Bogra to the outskirts of the capital city, reports UNB.

SAVAR

2 decoits held

Jan 8 : Two persons were arrested here Friday for their alleged involvement in a robbery on the outskirts of the capital city, reports UNB.

Police said a gang of five men halted a rice-laden truck at Jorepul near Gabtoli, and forced its driver and his helper to take datura poison at gun-point on Tuesday afternoon. The miscreants also stabbed the two and fled with the truck leaving them unconscious near the PRTC complex.

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RAJSHAHI

Tk one crore sanctioned for construction of Bhumi Bhaban

Jan 8 : The Government has taken a programme to construct Bhumi Bhaban in Rajshahi at a cost of Taka one crore, reports UNB.

State Minister for Land Mohammad Kabir Hossain Thursday laid the foundation of the bhaban at the district collector building premises.

The government has already sanctioned Taka 35 lakh for the bhaban in the current fiscal year, said a PID handout.

Later, the State Minister presided over meeting of the selection committee of canal excavation in the district.

The meeting has taken decision to reexcavate three canals in the district during the current financial year. Four hundred metric tons of wheat have been allocated for the purpose.

A water regulator will also be constructed at Pabna thana of the district at a cost of Taka 18.5 lakh.

The clash occurred when the rival groups were trying to harvest the paddy from a plot of land.

PATUAKHALI

Seven injured in groups clash

Jan 8 : Seven persons, including two women, were injured, six of them seriously, in a clash between two rival groups of people at village Durgapur under Patuakhali thana recently, reports BSS.

The clash occurred when the rival groups were trying to harvest the paddy from a plot of land.

RAJBARI

Free text books for primary school students

Jan 8 : Government will distribute 1.29 lakh sets of text books free of cost among the primary school students of the district under the compulsory free primary education programme, says UNB.

According to the officials, the distribution has begun on January 1 this year among the 263 government and 100 registered primary schools.

Of the total books, 38,200 will be distributed in class one, 32,400 in class two, 23,900 in class three, 18,900 in class four and 15,600 in class five.

District primary education office sources said that the distribution of books would be completed by January 15.



SYLHET: Sirajuddin Ahmed, Commissioner, District Rover Scouts speaking as chief guest at the concluding function of the 5-day divisional course for the scouts held here recently. — Star photo