

## National

## Super market soon in Barisal town

**BARISAL**, Mar 9 : Barisal paurashava has taken up a programme for the construction of a super-market at a cost of Taka 3.5 crore during the current fiscal year, says BSS.

According to an official source, the market will be built on about 30,000 square feet of land near 'Bibir Pukur' area.

The super market will consist of a rest house, shopping space, under-ground parking lot and other modern facilities, the source added.

## Notes from Chuadanga

## From Our Correspondent

**CHUADANGA**, Mar 9 : Police have recovered huge quantities of illegal arms and ammunitions from three thanas of Chuadanga district during the month of February.

According to official source, police have recovered two country made pipe-guns, one Indian six chambered revolver, one Indian shutter gun, one country made shutter pistol, one country made shutter gun, two rounds of rifle ammunition, two rounds of gun ammunitions, four rounds of SLR ammunition, two rounds of used rifle ammunition.

Police has also arrested six extremists who are alleged members of the out-lawed Purba Bangla Communist Party and Sharabha Party. Four cases under arms act and three general diaries have been registered in the respective police stations.

## Influx of child labourers

Influx of child labourers has alarmingly increased in Chuadanga district. The children, from rural areas are compelled to engage themselves in hotels and restaurants as waiters, rickshaw pullers and in various small scale factories as day labourers.

Besides, many of them work as servant in residential houses, co-boys and work in different shops.

Most of the child labourers are between 10 to 15 years of age get minimum wages. According to an unofficial survey there are thousands of child labourers belonging to destitute families.

## Press Club Office bearers

The election to the executive Committee of Chuadanga Press Club was held at the Press Club auditorium peacefully on February 18.

The elected members of the executive committee for the year 1994-95 are president Wasiqur Rahman Joarder, Vice President Iqbal Atahar Taj, Secretary Sharifuddin Hashu, Asstt secretary Akbar Ali, finance secretary Munshi Abdur Razak, office secretary Ali Kadar Palash, cultural and publication secretary Begum Maleka Haque Makhan, sports secretary Firoz Khan, members Belal Hossain, M Rabul Hoque, Enamul Hoque, Sardar Ali Hossain and Habibur Rahman Lal.

## Re-construction of school buildings

The re-construction work of four registered non-government primary schools in Chaudanga thana is now going on in full swing at a cost of Taka 16.80,000.

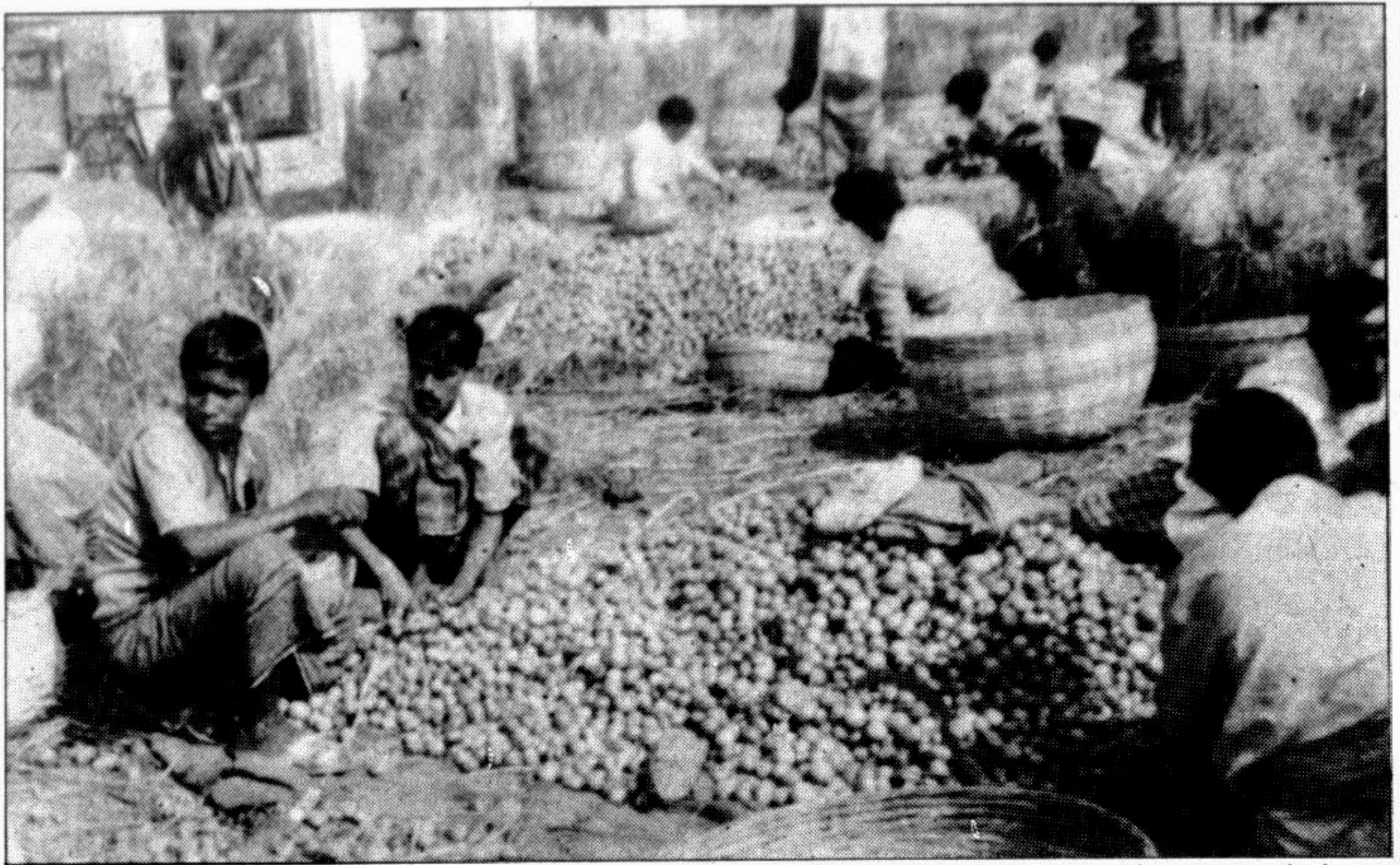
In the meantime 50 per cent of the work has been completed and the rest of the work is expected to be completed by the current financial year.

The schools under reconstruction are, Jalsuka registered Non-Government Primary School under Sankachandra Union, Chhoto Shohor registered non-government primary school under Titudah union, Nilmonyganj registered non-government primary school under Mominpur union and Kundupur registered non-government primary school under Begumganj union.

## 35,000 mt of wheat expected

A total of 35,000 metric tons of wheat are expected to be produced from four thanas of Chuadanga district during the current rabi-crop cultivation season. Of the total, 8000 metric tons of wheat will be produced in Chuadanga thana, 15,000 metric tons in Alamdanga thana, 8000 metric tons in Damurhuda thana and 4000 metric tons in Jibannagar thana.

According to an official source, during the current rabi-crop season 18,000 hectares of land have been brought under wheat cultivation in four thanas of Chuadanga district. Of the total land 4000 hectares have been brought under cultivation in Chuadanga thana, 8000 hectares in Alamdanga thana, 4000 hectares in Damurhuda thana and 2000 hectares in Jibannagar thana.



JHENIDAH: The tomatoes are being graded according to size by the farmers here. Huge quantities of tomatoes and other vegetables are damaged every year for want of storage facilities.

— Star photo

## 8000 colleges, schools to be developed this yr

## From Staff Correspondent

**BARISAL**, Mar 9 : The government has undertaken a development programme to construct and reconstruct about 8000 educational institutions during the current fiscal year.

About 250 crore taka will be spent for the implementation of the projects.

According to an Education Ministry source, this development programme include 525 colleges, 137 girls high schools, 1510 secondary schools, 1040 government primary schools and 500 madrassas of the country.

About 4000 low-cost schools will be constructed in such places in the country where there is no educational institution at present. Frequent load shedding in Patuakhali and Borguna districts including divisional headquarters and its adjoining areas almost paralysed the normal life. Loadshedding also hampered Eid shopping both for the traders and customers.

Area-wise loadshedding in Barisal and its adjoining areas is not less than three to four hours a day while in Patuakhali and Borguna about ten hours in 24 hours — local sources said. The PDB sources, when contacted said, short supply is continuing in the national

Meanwhile, the UNB Cha-

ndpur Correspondent says:

Distribution of the books among the 785 government primary schools in all the seven thanas of the district has been completed last week.

According to district Primary Education Officer, a total of 3,52,500 sets of books have been distributed among the same number of students through the Thana Education Offices.

Of the total books, 58,200 sets were distributed free of cost in Sadar, 80,200 in Matlab, 50,000 sets at Hajiganj, 39,000 sets at Shahristi, 43,200 sets at Kochna, 61,800 sets at Faridganj and 20,100 sets at Haimchar thana.

It is learnt that the number of dropout students of government primary schools in the district is 8.37 per cent on an average.

Meanwhile, under Non-formal Primary Education Programme, BRAC, a non-government organisation, has set up 723 primary schools in five thanas of the district. BRAC claims that they are simply inviting the dropouts and those who never go to schools, to their school.

The organisation has started its activities in Chandpur since 1992.

## Academic atmosphere absent in most primary schools

## From Our Correspondent

**KISHOREGANJ**, Mar 9 : Most of the government and non-government primary schools in 13 thanas of Kishoreganj district have been facing manifold problems.

These problems include shortage of teachers and accommodation, lack of necessary appliances like black boards, chalk, dusters etc, paucity of pure drinking water, shortage of funds, furniture and irregular payment of salary.

According to district primary education department, there are 808 government and 310 non-government primary schools in the district.

The total number of students in government schools is 2,31,090 while the non-government schools have 59,997 students. As many as 122 posts of primary teachers have been lying vacant for a long time.

Shortage of teachers is another hindrance to proper education. Besides, dearth of trained teachers has aggravated the problem further.

Some of the teachers complained that they were not receiving their salaries for months together.

Most of the non-government primary schools established under local initiatives have not yet received government recognition although these institutions have a good number of students and other requisite facilities. Some of these schools were setup before the liberation period and have been running in deplorable condition. Due to fund constraints payment of salary of the teachers remain irregular over the years. As a result, many teachers have already left their respective institutions in utter disappointment.

On the other hand, the government schools have also been plagued with innumerable problems hampering the very purpose of the universal primary education programme to a great extent.

Most of the schools have been lacking the requisite number of furniture. As a result, students are to sit on floor or mats. In some schools it was found there was no chair. The supply of necessary appliances including black boards, chalk, duster are too inadequate.

Town dwellers complained that the areas plunge into darkness almost every day giving rise to anti-social activities. Many electric and electronic

household gadgets have been damaged due to voltage fluctuations.

Production in the local mills and workshops, including irrigation in the IRR-Boro blocks have also been affected.

The price hike of food stuffs in the markets is largely attributed to the frequent power failure as people cannot crush their paddy and wheat due to power disruptions. Owners of these factories and mills alleged that frequent power failure has decreased production causing huge economic losses.

Local people said despite repeated appeals Power Development Board has shown a deaf ear in the matter.

Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia urged the concerned authority to extend financial assistance to them to boost betel leaf cultivation in the district.

Another report says: Land

because cow-dung is used as fertilizer in the land rarely.

According to the farmers, application of cowdung develops fertility of land without any adverse effects. It makes huge nutrients in the soil and help plants grow rapidly.

Local people said, the cow-dung is being used as fuel due to shortage of fire wood. Almost all the families in rural areas make cakes of cowdung for use as fuel.

Fertilizer experts said that people are destroying the natural manure due to ignorance. They stressed the need for mass awareness about the use of natural manure.

Meanwhile, many growers have given up the betel leaf cultivation due to non-availability of bank loan on easy terms.

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