

Boro paddy on 1000 acres under water

From Our Correspondent
SYLHET, Mar 22: Standing boro paddy plants on more than 1000 acres of land in Companyganj thana went under water by onrush of water from hilly areas across the border on Monday morning.

According to official sources, boro crops of four haors namely, Rautir Beel, Dolain Beel, Chhoto Padhar and Baro Padhar have been inundated causing extensive losses to the farmers.

Another report says: A convict in a murder case was caught after 16 years by the police of Biswanath thana in the early hours of Monday. Abdur Rouf of village Naodhar was sentenced to suffer 20 years of rigorous imprisonment.

He killed one Azizullah of village Goahar on October 10, 1977. The judgement was given in absentia. He left the country for abroad using 'fake' names, several times it is alleged.

One killed in road mishap

From Our Correspondent
SYLHET, Mar 22: A young man was crushed to death under the wheels of a speeding microbus at Charkhai on Sylhet-Jakiganj highway Saturday noon. The accident took place at about 1 pm when the victim, Enam Uddin, 22, tried to cross the road. He died on the spot.

Beanibazar police has seized the microbus (Dhaka Metro Cha-02-0579) and arrested its driver, Abdul Haque. A case has been registered.

Notes from Jamalpur

From Our Correspondent
JAMALPUR, Mar 22: Property worth about Taka 20 lakh was gutted in a devastating fire in Kazaikata village of Islampur thana of the district recently.

Witnesses said, one cattle and several poultry birds were killed in the incident.

Raghu Mont Singh, TNO of Islampur visited to the spot.

In another fire incident in the same village, property worth Taka 15,000 were gutted.

One, Jaijon Begum (22) was burnt alive in her house in the fire incident.

Agri fair held

A two-day-long agricultural fair was held at Melandah thana agriculture office recently.

The fair was formally opened by Pores Chandra Desh, Additional Director of Agriculture Division, Mymensingh area.

A total of 200 items of various agricultural products was displayed at the fair.

In this connection a ceremony was held to distribute prizes among the winners at the same venue with Melandah thana Agriculture Officer Md Soltanuddin Ahmed in the chair. The function was addressed by Md Fazul Huq, Deputy Director at Mymensingh area (Agri).

Melandah Thana Nirbahi Officer BC Debanath and others.

77 held on various charges

A total of 77 persons was arrested from different areas of the district from in last one month, according to official sources.

The crimes committed include theft, murder, cattle head lifting, and antisocial activities.

Young girl commits suicide

A young girl named Tamina Begum has committed suicide by taking poison at village Gobergonj of Madariganj thana recently.

Reasons behind her suicide can not be known.

150 hurt in clashes

A total 150 persons was injured, 15 of them seriously in different clashes in last one month.

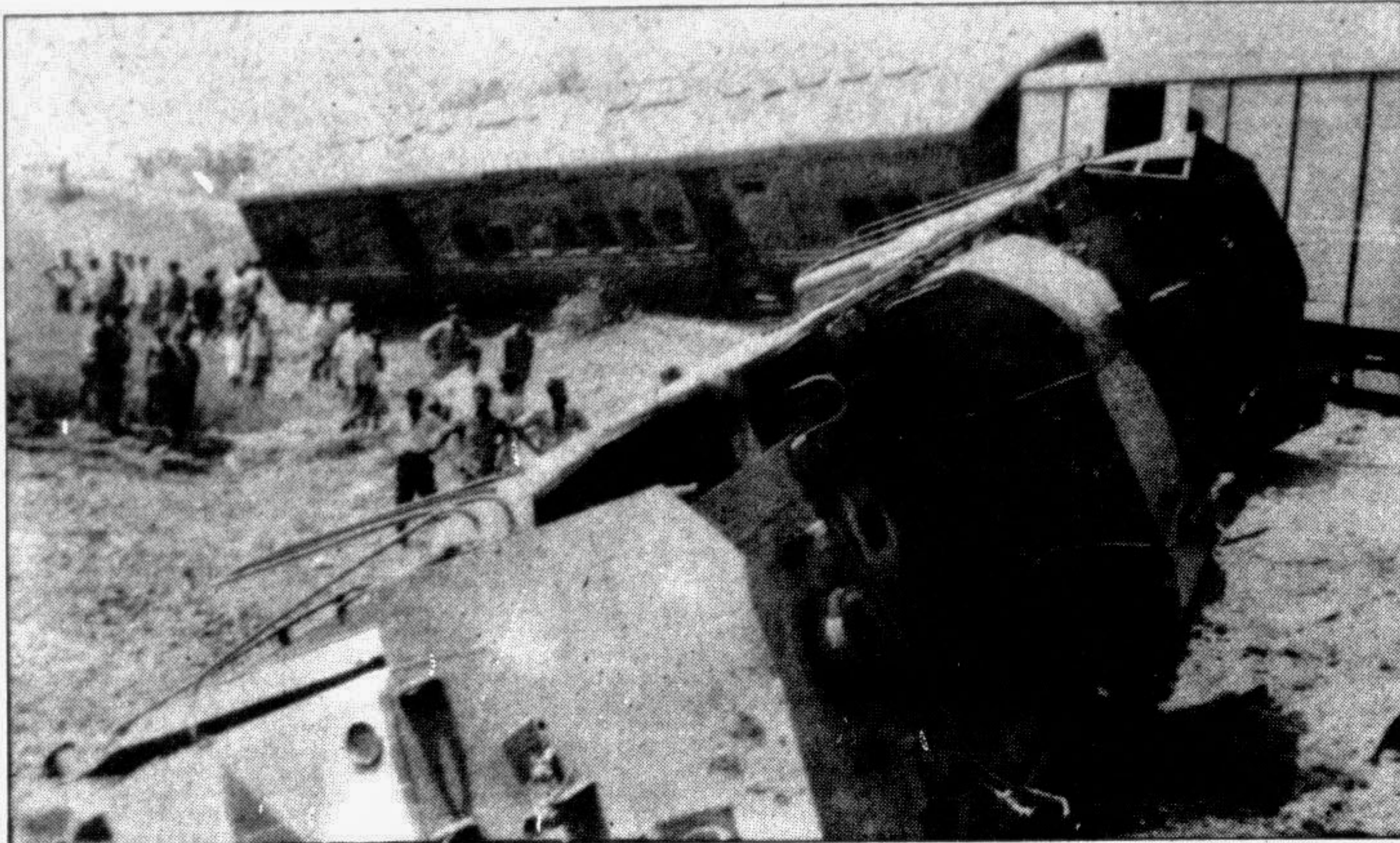
According to police sources, 45 persons were admitted to the thana health complexes. Seventeen cases have been filed in separate police stations and courts.

Six notorious gamblers held

Melandah thana police arrested six notorious gamblers from different places of the said thana here on holy Eid Day.

Some anti-social activities were also reportedly carried out at the gambling fair.

Melandah thana police, led by officer-in-charge Kattik Chandra, Sub-Inspector Mirza Abdullah, Sub-Inspector Abdul Bari, raided different areas and arrested of them.



COMILLA: The engine of a goods train and some passenger compartments went off the track after an accident with a Dhaka bound coach at Paduarbazar Railway Crossing on March 13. Fifteen persons were killed and over 100 injured in the mishap.

65pc children suffering from malnutrition

MADARIPUR, Mar 22: Children of Madaripur and Shariatpur districts have been facing vitamin-A deficiency and suffering from malnutrition due to ignorance of their mothers, says UNB.

According to the district health administration, about 700 infants of the districts have already lost their eyesights.

A recent survey carried out by district health officials said, infant mortality rate in the two districts has increased alarmingly with the reluctance of more and more mothers to breast-feeding.

About 65 per cent of the total kids of these districts have been suffering from different kinds of diseases due to malnutrition.

Civil Surgeons of Madaripur and Shariatpur said, young mothers of both rural and urban areas are reluctant to breast feed as they think breast milk is not essential for their infants.

Most of the mothers also fear that breast feeding might be the cause of losing their beauty.

Another survey showed that

30 per cent of both, rural and urban mothers preferred to feed their children with alternative baby food.

Distribution of vitamin-A capsules in the districts failed to produce the desired results due to lack of consciousness among the district dwellers, officials here commented.

Fund crisis hits education

Academic pursuit in all the private high schools in the district is being impeded due to shortage of furniture, accommodation, fund and inadequate library facilities.

According to school authorities, many schools which are yet to receive government affiliation are facing closure. Teachers of these schools are leaving their jobs as they are being deprived of salary for months.

Many schools damaged by cyclonic storms and floods have not been repaired in spite of repeated demands.

Guardians said, many students have already stopped their studies due to problems prevailing in these schools.

They urged the concerned authorities to look into the matter and take immediate steps to accord affiliation to these schools and take modernisation schemes to improve the academic pursuits.

Another report says: Construction of new houses and repairing of old ones in the district are being hampered due to shortage of bamboo.

Informed source said, the traditional bamboo-based cottage industries are also facing setback due to same reason.

According to sources, most of the bamboo growing areas are shrinking due to indiscriminate selling of bamboo clusters to the brickfield owners by the ignorant farmers.

Besides, price of the bamboo has increased which is beyond the purchasing capacity of the common people. Medium size bamboo is now being sold between Taka 60 and Taka 70, it is learnt.

Local people urged the concerned authorities to motivate the people how to maintain and develop the bamboo clusters for the economic benefit of the growers.

12 ideal villages to be set up

BARISAL, Mar 22: Government has undertaken a comprehensive programme to construct twelve ideal villages in three thanas of Barisal sadar, Banaripara and Mehendigonj during the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to Relief and Rehabilitation Office sources, government has sanctioned 1,256 metric tons of wheat to complete the work for the purpose.

Of the total, 481 metric tons of wheat have been sanctioned for four ideal villages in Barisal sadar thana, 75 metric tons for one ideal village in Banaripara and 700 metric tons for seven ideal villages in Mehendigonj thana.

The villages are: Panbaria, Hayatsar, Chasi Patang, Rajarchar, Duttapara, Darichar, Khajuria, Gagaria, Rang Rang Lagachar, Bidyanandapur, Kalikapur, Sadekpur and Char Bholanath.

The work of these projects will be completed by May.

Another report says: The 74th birth anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the father of the na-

Chowkider shot dead

From Our Correspondent
JESSORE, Mar 22: A chowkider of Sagordari union under Keshabpur thana in the district was shot dead by a group of armed outlaw party activists at Chingrabazar on Sunday night.

It is learnt, about 130 members of the party equipped with arms raided a cycle shop at the bazar and searched for local union chairman Hafiz Md Rahajuddin and the chowkider Tasiruddin Torufder.

The chairman managed to flee away through back door of the shop. But the chowkider could not escape. He was caught and dragged to the near by ferry ghat by this group and shot him dead by opening a number of fires on him. They then left the place leaving the body.

Police of Sagordari Camp under command of O/C, Keshabpur thana picked up the body and sent to hospital postmortem.

A case has been recorded with local thana in this connection.

District roundup

MADARIPUR

Dacoit held with arms, ammunition

Mar 22: Police arrested an alleged dacoit with arms and ammunition when he was preparing to commit dacoity at Moralkandi village in Shibchar thana on Thursday, reports UNB.

Police following a tip-off raided the village and nabbed Channia with three pipe guns, 10 bullet and one dao. Chan hailed from Lalbagh, Dhaka, police said.

Police also recovered four pipe guns, 12 bullets and arrested five members of the outlawed Sharbahara Party from the Shibchar thana in the last week.

Meanwhile, Police Superintendent of the district in a mass contact programme has been seeking cooperation of all sections of people to help combat the violence in order to improve the law and order situation in the district further.

KHULNA

More children becoming victim of diarrhoea

Mar 22: Children are increasingly being attacked by diarrhoea in Khulna region during the this year causing alarm among the people, reports UNB.

According to Khulna I D Hospital, of the 295 diarrhoea attacked people admitted for treatment in the last two months, 60 per cent of them were children. During the period four of them died.

Last year, about 6,632 people were attacked and 37 of them died, the sources added.

Besides, rate of child mortality has also increased in the region due to attack by other diseases like pneumonia, malnutrition, vitamin deficiency, meningitis, birth-trauma in the District Child Hospital.

Sources said, about 4,484 children were admitted to the hospital in the last year and of them 300 died.

Of them, some 170 children died of diarrhoea, 27 died of pneumonia, 26 died of meningitis and 77 died of other diseases like vitamin deficiency, birth-trauma.

LALMONIRHAT

Two killed, 2 injured in road mishap

Mar 22: Two people were killed and two others seriously injured, when a bus rammed a rickshaw at Borobari in sadar thana on the Kurigram-Bogra highway Sunday, reports UNB.

The dead were identified as Ranjit Chandra Roy 22, and Haroshbi Rani 60. They died on the spot.

Rickshawpuller, Helal 25, and the other passenger Madhabi 14 were admitted into Lalmonirhat Health Complex.

Police said, the Bogra bound passenger bus from Kurigram hit a rickshaw with three passengers while trying to overtake a truck at 11 in the morning.

The bus managed to flee. A case has been filed with the sadar thana.

C' NAWABGANJ

Smuggled Indian goods flood markets

Mar 22: Smuggled Indian goods have flooded the markets and sold in the border areas of five thanas of the district, says UNB.

According to sources, smugglers are active in border areas and contrabands are available abundantly in remote village markets of the Shibganj, Bholahat, Gomostapur, Nachol and sadar thanas.

The smuggled goods, including sarees, lungi, spare parts of bicycle and shallow engines, razor blades, matches, sugar, salt, rice, paddy, ata, flour, wheat, eggs, edible oil, cosmetics, phenisidyl syrup and cattle, are being sold in every markets.

Local elite alleged, smuggling and selling of contrabands are going on before the presence of concerned officials.

Besides, country made products including spare parts of bicycles, shallow engines, razor blades and match boxes are losing markets due to cheaper prices of these smuggled contrabands.

It is also informed that Indian flour and ata are being sold in different hats and bazars of the bordering areas at comparatively lower prices threatening the existence of local mills.

NOAKHALI

Anti-social activities on rise

Mar 22: Anti-social activities, including gambling and drug addiction, in Hatiya thana, particularly at Chowranghi Bazar, is increasing alarmingly causing concern among the people, reports UNB.

Local people alleged that a large number of school and college students gather in different corners of the bazar in the evening and engage in gambling and take spurious drugs, including ganja and Indian Phenisidyl syrup.

Some medicine and ganja traders are selling ganja and Phenisidyls to the youths before the nose of the law enforcers, they added.

"Police are not seen active to curb the rising trend of drug abuse and save the young generation from the path of self-destruction", said a frustrated school teacher.

He, however, attributed this degradation of the youths to the lack of sports and recreational facilities and shifting of the Hatiya police station to a remote area.

Local leaders urged the concerned authorities to take necessary steps to stop the anti-social activities without further delay.

JHENIDAH

Development programmes in progress

Mar 22: Local Government Engineering Department has been implementing various programmes including development of primary schools, growth centres connecting roads in Kaligonj thana of Jhenidah district, reports BSS.

Under these programmes, construction of buildings for 22 registered non-government primary schools and supply of required furniture at a cost of Taka one crore and six lakh are being done. Besides, another project has also been undertaken for the repair, reconstruction and supply of necessary furniture to the seven-teen out of a total of 66 government primary schools of the thana at a cost of Taka forty lakh.

Moreover, construction work of 15 kilometre (km) long Kaligonj - Arpara via Kola Bazar and 15 km long Kaligonj Arpara via Kazir bazar roads are being implemented at a cost of Taka one crore fifty lakh.

Meanwhile, earth work of 57 km long connecting roads with all the five growth centres has been completed recently.

SIRAJGANJ

Two killed, six injured in road accidents

Mar 22: Two people were killed and six injured seriously in two road accidents in the district Monday, reports UNB.

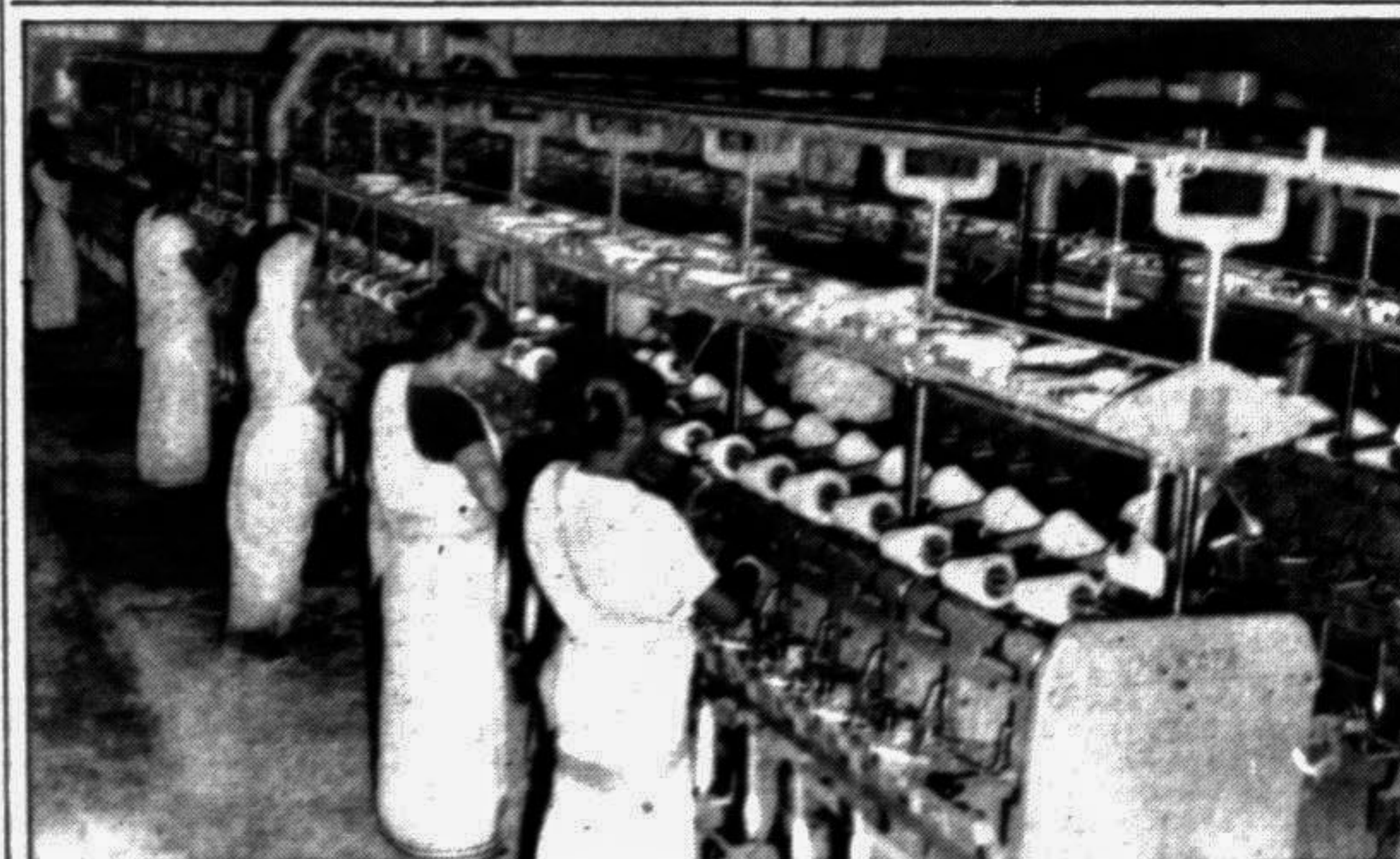
One person was killed and six others injured when a tempo skidded off the road into a ditch at Pachla in the Sirajganj-Bogra road in Ullapara thana at 12 noon.

The dead was identified as Motiur Rahman 60 of village Shangachi in sadar thana. He died on the spot.

The injured were admitted to the Sirajganj General Hospital and the body was sent to the morgue for autopsy.

Police seized the Sirajganj-bound tempo and arrested its helper and driver.

In another accident, a minor boy was crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck on the Bogra-Nagarbari highway at Sarishakol in sadar thana.



Women at work in the Rajshahi Textile Mills.

— PID photo