

National

Bomb blast kills one, 3 injured

CHANDPUR, Apr 23: A young man died and three others were injured when a bomb exploded on the second floor of a building at Puranbazar in the town on Monday evening, reports UNB.

The seriously injured Liton, 22, of Puranbazar area along with three others were admitted to the sadar hospital where he succumbed at midnight.

The three other critically injured were shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital from the sadar hospital.

The cause of explosion and the identities of the three victims could not be known immediately. But local people suspected that the blast occurred while they making the bomb.

One stabbed to death

HABIGANJ, Apr 23: A man was stabbed to death allegedly by his younger brother, police said today.

The victim was identified as Abdul Hannan, 32, Shatik village in Nabiganj thana.

Witnesses said Hannan used some timber in his newly built shop. His younger brother Abdul Gaffar picked up a quarrel with him claiming the ownership of the timber. At one stage, Gaffar became furious and stabbed his elder brother with a sharp knife on April 15.

Later Hannan succumbed on way to Nabiganj Health Complex.

The body was sent to sadar hospital morgue for post-mortem. A case has been lodged with the police.

Stolen motor cycle, deadly weapons recovered

DINAJPUR, Apr 23: Police has recovered a stolen motor cycle from the residence of an advocate of Gurgola in the town and arrested him, says UNB.

Acting on a secret information, police raided the house of Advocate Abdul Hye on April 18 and recovered the motor cycle of Sirajuddin. The vehicle was stolen from his manager's residence on March 15.

The search was conducted by a team led by one Magistrate along with the Officer-in-Charge of Kotwali police. The motor-cycle was kept at the residence in 33 pieces. They also recovered 30 inches long two knives from the room of Jubayer, son of Abdul Hye.

Two separate cases have been filed with the Kotwali thana. Advocate Abdul Hye was later granted bail but Jubayer was taken to police remand.

Frequent power disruption

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Apr 23: Power disruption in Sirajganj district, especially in the thana level have created problems for the consumers. Production in different sectors specially handloom have fallen alarmingly due to extensive power failure in Kazipur, Kamarkhanda, Belkuchi and Chowhali thanas.

It is gathered that since last week, power supply has been disrupted.

Everyday power supply in thana areas remains suspended from dusk to midnight. On April 13 and 14, power supply resumed only for three hours at midnight.

The domestic consumers are not getting any benefit of power even after paying maximum bills.

The industries also fail to run in three shifts. Irrigation of crop lands was also hampered following power disruption.

Plan for 62 uplift projects

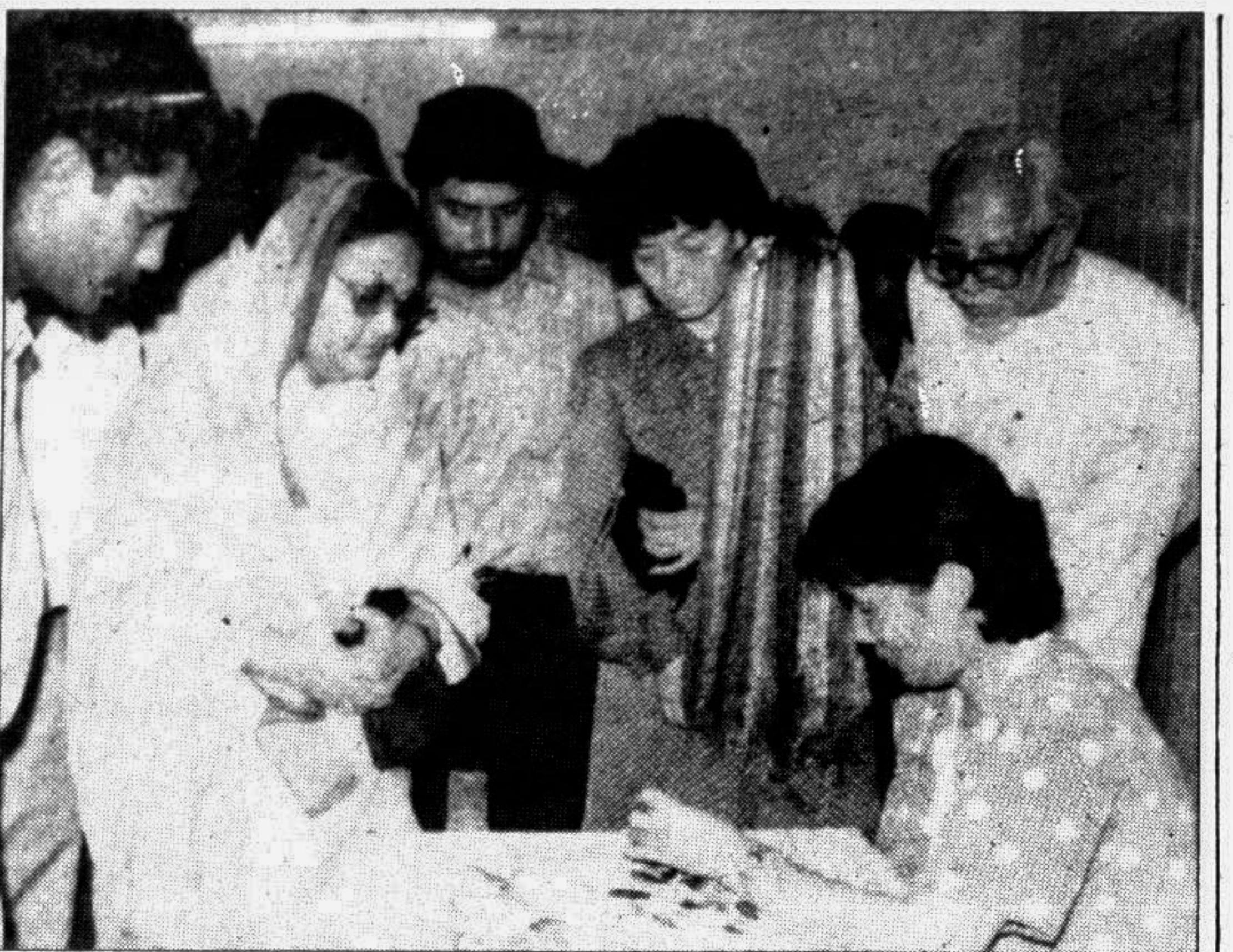
From Our Correspondent

MOULVIBAZAR, Apr 23: Moulvibazar municipal authority has taken up a plan to execute 62 development projects involving — culvert, roads construction and reconstruction of drains and purchasing office furniture at a cost of Taka two crore.

The amount will be received from the government's grant for the development programme.

Water remains stagnant at many points and after a slight rainfall the roads become muddy and slippery risking movement.

Moreover, the municipal authority will also take up another project for construction of a new municipal office building at a cost of Taka 10 lakh.



RAJBARI: Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy organised a six-month long training course on knitting and embroidery. A team of experts from North Korea are helping 40 female trainees in the course. Prof Jahanara Begum, State Minister for Cultural Affairs is being shown an embroidery work.

Crop output threatened

Large scale use of insecticides

From A Correspondent

BARGUNA, Apr 23: Indiscriminate use of insecticides including DDT, a banned item, is adversely affecting agricultural products and also posing a threat to the human health.

At present, insecticides under different brand names are on wide-scale use by the farmers of the district.

Insecticides are used to kill the harmful insects or pest which damage agricultural crops. Being potentially poisonous insecticides are to be used in appropriate doses. But poor and ignorant farmers not being aware of their harmful effects either use in large doses or in doses below the actual requirement, both of which contributes to ill consequences — agriculture sources said.

Indiscriminate and over dose use can kill the insects which naturally control the pest population. Excess use of insecticides also can jeopardise soil contents.

Application of insecticides much below the required can lead to development of resistant varieties of pest resulting dramatic rise in pest population. Local farmers have already experienced these effects as they are to use more and more amount.

The DDT, a dangerous insecticide product is also sold in different local pesticide shops and even in some grocery shops, sources said.

Due to the hazardous effects on human health DDT was banned in many developed

countries of the world and in Bangladesh, too. The DDT is used generally to control mosquitoes in malaria prone areas. But being cheaper and a little more effective than the other varieties of insecticides, poor and ignorant farmers are indiscriminately spraying it on different varieties of crops, it is learnt.

Some of the insecticides with organo-phosphorus compounds including the DDT have high biological magnification and can possibly enter into the every human tissues through different food grains. These chemicals are also highly persistent in their actions and may be carcinogenic (cancer producing property).

The residents of Patarghata Pourashava area have been plagued by a host of problems which include deplorable condition of roads, inadequate street lights, absence of proper drainage system, shortage of accommodation, lack of proper sanitary arrangement, mosquito menace, frequent power failure.

The area of the town is expanding with the increase of population but the pourashava authority has failed to provide minimum civic facilities to the town-dwellers.

Most of the roads in the pourashava area are narrow and uneven. Cracks and potholes have developed at many points on the roads. After slight rainfall, these roads become muddy and slippery.

The conservancy service of the pourashava area is not satisfactory. There is no public latrine or urinal in the town areas.

Most of the roads in the town are dirty and full of garbages.

There is no arrangement for cleaning the roads.

Apart from this, there are some places inside the pourashava area which remains full of water-hyacinth for months together.

Huda rules out caretaker govt

RANGPUR, Apr 23: Information Minister Nazmul Huda said here Thursday that a caretaker government could not be formed when there is an elected government for a specific period of time through a free, fair and neutral polls, reports BSS.

In a democratic set-up there can be only one government which is an elected government by the people, the minister said while addressing the local leaders and workers of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party and its front organisations at the Rangpur Circuit House here.

He said that there cannot be a government without people's mandate in democratic system of administration. He said the government elected by the people could only ensure free, fair and neutral polls and it could not be possible with any other body.

He said during the rule of the BNP the Election Commission could hold several elections such as union parishad.

municipal elections, city corporation elections and by-elections of the Jatiya Sangsad freely and fairly remaining independent and neutral.

He said if question arises regarding a particular election the solution is also there in the Constitution. There is provision of cancellation of polls in the Constitution on submission of specific proof, he said.

The minister also met the lawyers at the local bar office. President of the lawyers' association Nazrul Islam spoke on the occasion.

He also inaugurated the three day conference of the Radio Announcer Club (RANC) at the Rangpur town hall premises.

Addressing the function, Huda said, effective measures would be taken to raise the power of the Rangpur radio transmission to one hundred kilowatt. Director General of Radio Shamsuzzaman Chowdhury, Bangladesh representative of the Voice of Germany Poet Asad Chowdhury also spoke.

District roundup

CHITTAGONG

Honesty for qualitative changes urged

Apr 23: Jamaat-e-Islam Secretary General and leader of the party's parliamentary party Maulana Matiur Rahman Nizam Thursday said that rule of honest people and dependence on laws of God could help build up a happy and prosperous Bangladesh, says BSS.

Addressing as chief guest the biennial conference of Bangladesh Railway Employees League (BREL) at the Pologround Wajidullah Institute here he said, all past governments failed to bring about changes to improve the lot of workers because of lack of direction.

He is need for honest leadership, rule of honest people and adherence to laws of God for bringing about qualitative changes in national life, he added.

The conference presided over by BREL President Arkan Ali was also addressed by Sheikh Ansar Ali, MP, Jamaat Central Organising Secretary Maulana Monirul Chowdhury, Chittagong city Jamaat Amir Maulana Abu Taher and other local leaders of the party. He called for turning Bangladesh Railway into a profitable organisation by taking appropriate measures and improving rail services.

He also called upon professionals to honestly contribute their mite towards national development.

The Jamaat secretary general also called upon political parties not to take resort to destructive activities just to oppose rivals.

MUNSHIGANJ 'BNP committed to build exploitation free Bangladesh'

Apr 23: Commerce Minister M Shamsul Haq Thursday said that those who were trying to foil the on-going development activities in the country could not be the friend of people, reports BSS.

"They are serving the interest of a vested quarter," he added.

The minister was addressing a freshers' reception organised by Jatiyalabadi Chhatra Dal, Rampal College unit at the college premises, an official handout said.

Recalling the glorious role of students in the return of democracy, the minister said, they (students) should build themselves up to shoulder the future responsibility of the nation.

Referring to the people-oriented education policy and poverty alleviation programme initiated by the government, the minister said, "we are committed to establish an exploitation free Bangladesh for our future generation." The main objective of the politics being pursued by the present government was to improve the lot of the common man, he added.

The minister called upon the students and guardians to come forward and make concerted efforts for establishing a happy and prosperous Bangladesh.

B'BARIA 100 feet long bypass bridge opened to traffic

Apr 23: The one hundred feet long Brahmanbaria town bypass bridge was opened to traffic here recently at a simple ceremony by State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Harun Al-Rashid, reports BSS.

Roads and Highways Department constructed the bridge at a cost of Tk 79 lakh.

Speaking on the occasion the state minister said, the government has given priority to communication development since a modern communication network is a precondition for rapid development of the country.

Presided over by Additional Chief Engineer of Roads and Highways Department Fazul Hoque, the function was addressed, among others, by Advocate Abdus Sattar Bhuiyan, MP, General Secretary of district BNP Hamidul Hoque.

The state minister said, the present government has been making all-out efforts for materialising the hopes and aspirations of the common people by implementing various development projects.

Rashid also addressed a public meeting at Dakkin Jagatshar Madrasa premises and distributed house building grants among the flood affected families of the union.

RAJBARI

Tk 2 crore bus terminal opened

Apr 23: State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahanara Begum inaugurated the district bus terminal near the town Tuesday, says UNB.

The terminal with the capacity of accommodating 150 vehicles has been built on five acres of land, three kilometres of the town, at a cost of Tk two crore.

It also has a commercial bank, a restaurant and two VIP waiting rooms for males and females.

Addressing a brief rally on the occasion, the state minister said, the BNP government had attached priority to communications and development sectors.

She sought cooperation of all irrespective of their political affiliation to sustain the development process.

Earlier, the state minister distributed Tk six lakh among 20 dairy farm owners and urged the people to undertake income generating projects to attain self-reliance.

KUSHTIA Price hike of cotton, handloom industries may face closure

Apr 23: Weavers of the district are suffering great hardship due to high prices of cotton yarn and essential raw materials, says UNB.

Twenty one thousand handlooms are lying idle due to scarcity of raw materials in six thanas of the district. So far, more than 80,000 weavers of these localities, engaged in this profession, have become jobless.

According to the Handloom Board, there are 38,000 handlooms in the district, which included 28,000 pitloom and 1,000 Chittaranjan loom.

In Kumarkhal alone, there are 14,000 handlooms, and 1,14,000 weavers are directly involved with this and 76 thousand people are dependent on this trade indirectly.

On the other hand, due to abnormal prices of raw materials, availability of smuggled Indian sarees and imported old ready-made garments in local markets, poor weavers can not sell their commodity at competitive price. As a result, the weavers have become hopeless and a large number of them have given up their profession.

Meanwhile, local people have urged the government to take strict measures to check smuggling of Indian goods to save the local weavers and the handloom industry. They also called upon the concerned authorities to formulate a proper policy for the development of the industry.

KISHOREGANJ Ring leader arrested on charge of burglary

Apr 23: An alleged ring leader of various criminal activities was arrested from his village Digbardi in Pakundia thana on Monday, reports UNB.

Mentionable that a burglary was committed at the house of Lutfar Rahman of village Putla of the same thana on April 6 in which valuables worth about Tk 22,000 were stolen.

On the following day, Lutfar along with his men created pressure on Mainuddin and some other suspected men. Finally Mainuddin returned the stolen goods including a TV set, two bicycles, wrist watch and a torch light. After that Lutfar filed a case with the police.

During the police interrogation Mainuddin confessed his guilt and disclosed the names of some other people connected with the burglary.

CHANDPUR Five injured while making bomb

Apr 23: Five youngmen were injured in a bomb explosion at Puranbazar in the town Monday, reports UNB.

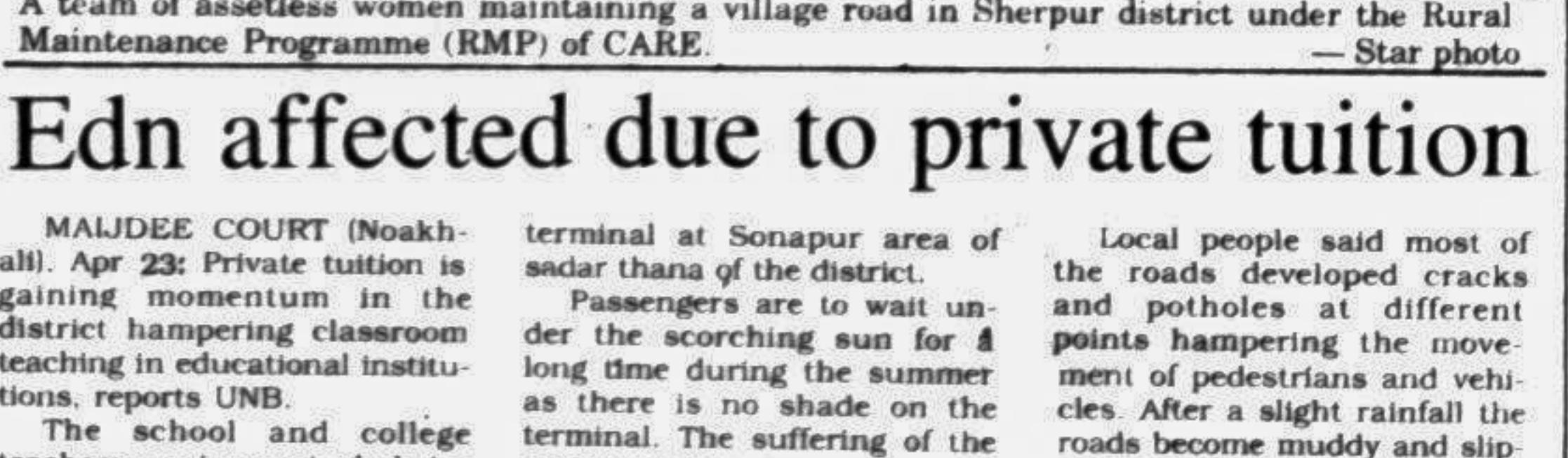
Witnesses said the explosion took place when they were making bombs at a house his evening.

The injured were identified as Liton, 22, Nazrul Islam, 22, Bimal Ghose, 25, Bachchu Khan, 26 and Sanjoy Khan, 20. They were admitted to sadar hospital under police custody.

A case was filed with the local police in this connection.



A team of assetless women maintaining a village road in Sherpur district under the Rural Maintenance Programme (RMP) of CARE. — Star photo



Edn affected due to private tuition

MAJDEE COURT (Noakhali). Apr 23: Private tuition is gaining momentum in the district hampering classroom teaching in educational institutions, reports UNB.

The school and college teachers are increasingly being engaged in private tuition practice to earn extra money. Most of them are seen coaching the students before and after the school and college hours.

Guardians of the students alleged that the teachers are more interested to coach in batches other than their regular classroom duties. As a result, poor students who cannot afford private coaching are the worst sufferers.

Passengers of different parts of sadar use the stoppage of Sonapur and make their journey in different routes including Dhaka, Chittagong and other districts.

More than 50 buses make their stoppages and keep the vehicles on the roads and roadsides in haphazard manner due to lack of bus terminal causing troubles to the pedestrians and other running vehicles.

A good number of ditches and derelict ponds, in and around the town have become the breeding centres of the mosquito as they are filled with water-hyacinths and garbages.

Most of the light posts have no bulbs as a result, many parts of the town remain in darkness.

The dwellers of Noakhali pourashava have been facing a lot of problems due to lack of civic amenities including deplorable condition of roads and inadequate street lights.

They said, the teachers charge Taka 500 to 1,500 per month for individual coaching while