

### Diarrhoea claims six, attacks 100 more in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent  
 SYLHET, Oct 26: Diarrhoea has broken out in Gowinghat thana. The disease has already claimed six persons during the last one week in two villages while at least over one hundred others have been suffering infected by the disease. The dead are, Sulata Begum, 3 daughter of Abdul Muswir, Jaheda Begum, 3 daughter of Saifullah, Abdur Rahim, 7 son of Malu Miah, Amana Begum daughter of Azizur Rahman of village Ufar and Fariza Bibi and Sohel Ahmed of village Gahara.

Some health officials had visited the said villages and distributed medicines among the patients.

Diarrhoea has also broken out in the Pannagram and Sultanpur villages of Pashchim Jafflong union, Kathalbarikandi, Rustampur, Upagram, Bichhnakandi, Bagalya haor, Harikhelkandi and Gahara of Rustampur unions where more than one hundred people have been attacked with the diseases.

The supply of medicines and saline in the affected villages is too small to meet the need, it is alleged. The poor patients can not afford to buy the costly medicines from the open markets, it is alleged.

**Another UNB report from Jamalpur adds:** Diarrhoea has claimed 15 lives and attacked more than 200 people in four unions of Melanda thana during the last three weeks ending Monday, unofficial sources here said.

However, sources at the Civil Surgeon office here claimed that four people have died of diarrhoea till the date but declined to give any detailed description.

Affected unions are Fulkocha, Ghosherpara, Mahmudpur and Charbanipakuria.

The number of diarrhoea affected people is increasing because of negligence of doctors and health officials, the Executive Director of BK Hospital said.

### Property worth Tk 10 lakh gutted in Chandpur

CHANDPUR, Oct 26: At least 12 people were wounded and property worth Tk 10 lakh was gutted in a fire at Munshirhat under Matlab thana on Monday night, police said, reports UNB.

The fire originated from an electric shop and engulfed three jute godowns, one rice mill and five other shops within two hours at a commercial area in Munshirhat.

Besides, 12 people received burn injuries while taking part in extinguishing the fire.

### Smuggled goods worth Tk 26 lakh seized in Sept from B'baria

BRAHAMBARIA, Oct 26: Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) seized smuggled Indian goods worth more than Tk 26 lakh from different areas of Brahmanbaria district during the month of September, says UNB.

The seized Indian goods included banned phensidyl syrup, sarees, timber, spare parts for vehicles, match boxes and 'ganja'.

Five alleged smugglers were also arrested during raids by 23 Rifle Battalion, BDR sources said.

A total of 139 cases were lodged in this connection.

### Sylhet town development works on progress

From Staff Correspondent  
 SYLHET, Oct 26: Works of a total of 81 development schemes have been completed in Sylhet pourashava.

When contacted, the chairman of Sylhet Pourashava, A F M Kamal informed this correspondent that, all these schemes were taken up by the pourashava during the last financial year at a total expenditure of Taka three crore 72 lakh.

The schemes include: 36 'Secondary Town Development Programme' while 25 were taken up under the Annual Development Programme (ADP) with the assistance from the government and 20 were taken up with the pourashava's own budget. The Secondary Town Development Programme is being implemented with the financial assistance from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), he added.

The schemes include: Construction and Reconstruction of Roads, culverts, bridges, drains, protection of walls, tree plantation, extension of water supply lines, renovation of halls and other structures, the source added.



A seminar on Development of Tissue Banking in Bangladesh was held in Mymensingh Medical College on Tuesday. Professor Quazi Shahidul Alam addressing a gathering at the seminar. —Star photo

## Seminar at MMC Tissue banking, a new dimension in field of medical treatment

By Masud Arif back from Mymensingh

Oct 26: Doctors at a seminar at the Mymensingh Medical College Tuesday underlined the need for "tissue banking" in Bangladesh which could add a new dimension in the arena of treatment in the country.

The seminar, on Development of Tissue Banking in Bangladesh was held at the lecture gallery of the Mymensingh Medical College.

The doctors felt the need to popularise the issue of tissue banking at the community level to convince that the tissue transplantation and its widespread use is within the capacity to widen a new horizon in medical practice in the country.

Doctors said, more people were becoming disabled who could be otherwise, treated with grafting of tissues.

They also added that a national level programme is required to popularise tissue banking and its implementation.

The seminar was addressed by Professor A F M Ruhul Haque, head of the Department of Orthopaedic of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), Dr Qazi Shahidul Alam, Associate Professor and Incharge of Casualty Department, DMCH, Dr M Serajul Islam, Chief Scientific Officer, Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission

(BAEC), Azizunnesa of the BAEC and Dr Monimul Haque. Professor Haider Ali Talukder, head of the Department of Surgery of Mymensingh Medical College, presided over the seminar while the Director of the college Dr Col. Md Salam also participated in the seminar.

Besides, Dr Manirul Islam Khan, a founder member of the Bangladesh Tissue Banking Association (BTBA), the organiser of the seminar, delivered the welcome address.

The Hoffmann-La-Roche Ltd. sponsored the seminar while the ACME Laboratories Ltd, Mymensingh Medical authorities and the BAEC helped the BTBA to arrange the seminar.

Dr M Serajul Islam while addressing the seminar expressed the need for expansion of tissue banking process in the country. He also briefed the gathering on the history of tissue banking in Bangladesh.

The technique of tissue banking had been initiated at the BAEC and a 'tissue banking' laboratory was set up at the Institute of Food and Radiation Biology, AERE, Savar.

So far, more than 4000 amnion membrane grafts have been prepared, Dr Islam mentioned and added that these have been supplied mainly to the children's hospital in Dhaka which successfully used

on more than 200 patients who received burn or similar injuries. Besides, some bone grafts had also been prepared and supplied to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital and to the Orthopaedic Hospital, also in Dhaka.

Dr Islam hoped that a national tissue bank would be established by the year 2000. He hoped that cooperation would be extended from all concerned, specially the surgeons, for preparations of tissues and their end use.

The second speaker at the seminar, Dr Qazi Shahidul Alam shared experiences he had from the developed countries in developing tissue banking.

Professor A F M Ruhul Haque also mentioned that use of tissue banking could be economical in a poor country like ours to treat patients.

Citing some examples, Professor Haque in a paper said, a prosthetic replacement of a damaged bone might cost around five thousand dollar, whereas a cadaveric bone can be used for the same purpose with an expenditure of about 25 dollar.

He, however, added that many other tissues like heart valve, dura mater, fascia lata, peripheral nerve, tendon, tympanic membrane etc. can

also be harvested and re-used in clinical practice.

Professor Haque, who is also the Vice-President of BTBA, informed that tissues were taken from the (dead bodies) cadaver within few hours of death; removal of the tissues could be done in sterile condition.

Tissues are taken to laboratories where they are washed with different sorts of solutions and sterile water. Once these preparations are completed the tissues are then, in most cases, placed into a freeze-drier where water is extracted and tissues are cooled. Following this procedure, tissues are packed into polythene bags in a bacteria free air-flow system and the bags are sealed leaving the tissues in anaerobic process. The tissues are then sterilized by gamma radiation and can be stored in a normal room temperature shelf for re-use later on.

Besides, Azizunnesa described different steps of the preservation of tissue followed at the BAEC. The doctors said that tissue bank was similar to eye bank, blood bank or kidney bank. Slight motivation programmes could help in popularising the use of tissue banking in the country, doctors added saying that there is need of government support for its expansion.

## 'Mentally retarded people need community-based programmes'

LALMONIRHAT, Oct 26: The regional conference of seven branches of the Society for the Care and Education of Mentally Retarded, Bangladesh (SCEMRB) on Friday last emphasised the need for rehabilitating the mentally retarded through community-based programmes, reports BSS.

Speaking on the occasion DP Barua, President of the SCEMRB said, the UN international year of the family, 1994 has called for supporting families including rehabilitations of mentally retarded, he said. Lalmonirhat branch has set a pioneering example by rehabilitating 85 mentally retarded persons in the rural areas of Durgapur and Moghalhat through rural-based survey in the far-off areas. Success of the community based rehabilitation here may be followed up in other branches with adequate fund support.

The SCEMRB regional conference, first of its kind in the northern part of the country held at local zilla parishad hall was participated by the delegates from branches in Rajshahi, Lalmonirhat, Rangpur, Kurigram, Bogra, Pabna and Dinajpur. The first session was chaired by Nurul Haque Sarker, President of the Lalmonirhat branch of SCEMRB.

Deputy Commissioner of Lalmonirhat, Kazi Farid Ahmed attended the concluding session which was presided over by Dr Gyausuddin Molla, Secretary General of SCEMRB. Abu Bakar Siddiqui of Lalmonirhat branch in the keynote paper emphasised the

need for adequate facilities of special education and rehabilitation for the mentally retarded by establishing their rightful shares in the parental property and through community based rehabilitation.

Among others G W H Chowdhury, Vice President of SCEMRB, CDR (Retd) A J M Hamed Hussain, First Jt Secretary General, A N M Saleh, General Secretary of Rajshahi Branch, Sahar Barnu Salam, First Vice President, Asian Federation for Mentally Retarded, Samar Pal, Secretary of Lalmonirhat Zilla Parishad, Bashiruddin Ahmed, Thana Education Office Azharul Islam of SCEMRB, Dinajpur branch and Abul Hussain Bhuiyan of RDRS took part in the discussion.

## Ancient Mosques, graveyards unearthed in Jhenidah

From Delwar Kabir

JHENIDAHA, Oct 26: Archaeologists along with a number of local historians discovered three ancient mosques and a graveyard at Sadibpur-Belat area, some three kilometres from Barobazar in Kaliganj thana of the district, recently.

According to reports, Barobazar, a big town, was very well known in ancient period located in southern part of Jhenidah town near Jessore highway about 30 kilometres from the district headquarters.

Many small graves and a number of broken portions of walls were found from the site. Jore-Bangla mosque was found at village Belat, three kilometres from Barobazar. It was excavated from two small hills. The Mosque has four sheds 80 feet long in all and

8.97 metres respectively and height was measured 8 feet. The sizes of the bricks, used for construction of Jore Bangla and Galakata mosques, were 14 centimetre in length, 12 centimetre wide and four centimetre high.

South of Jore Bangla mosque and east of Galakata mosque many ancient sketches were found. Existence of many kancha graves were also traced.

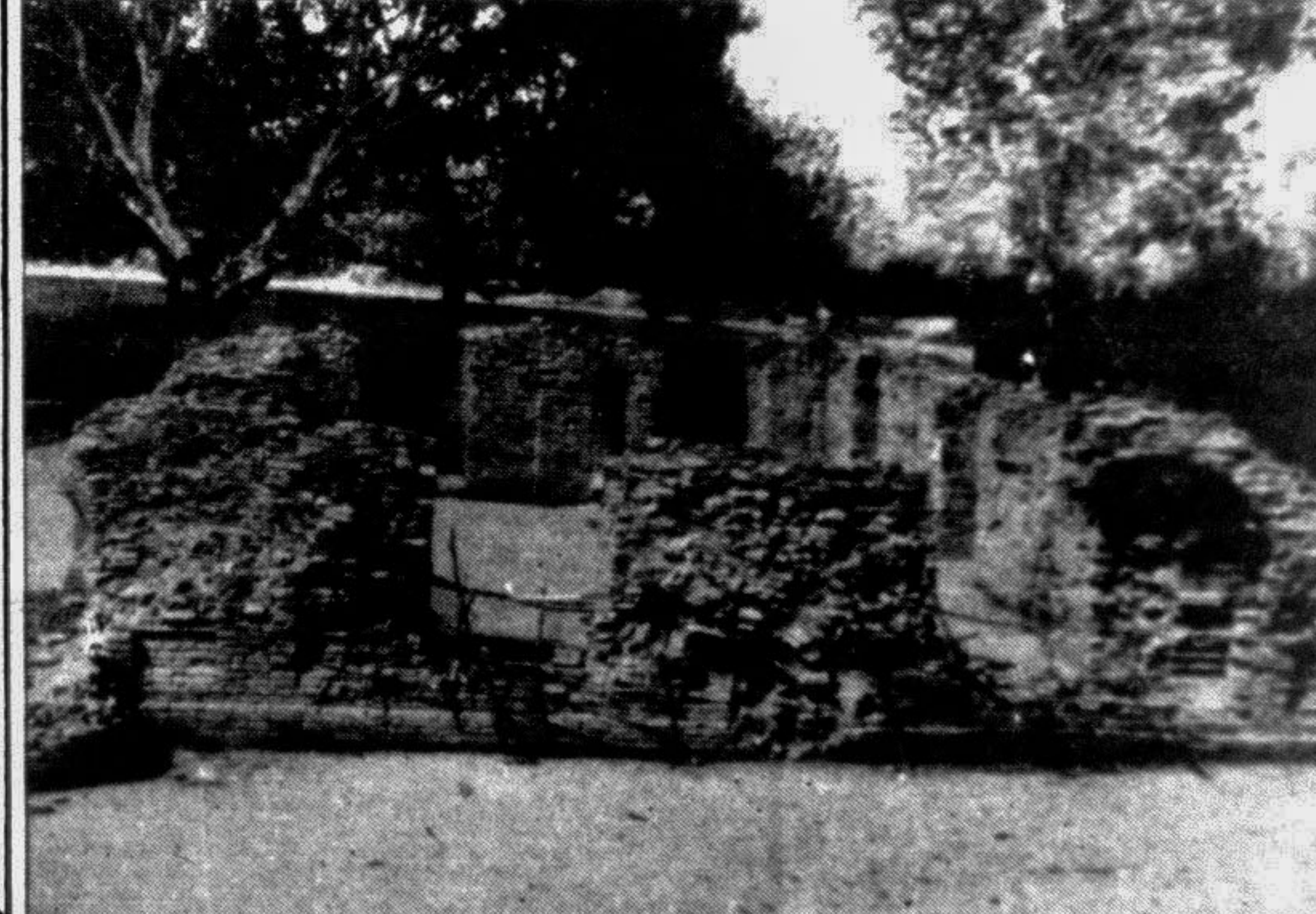
A few months back, another Mosque with two domes was unearthed in village Satghachia near Barobazar town.

Archaeologists also detected a mass graveyard south of Ranimator Pukur adjacent to Barobazar. This graveyard was found divided into two portions. Eight stones slabs, four pucca graves and a chil-

mysteries would be found. They also plan to excavate neighbouring mounds to find more information on the subject.

There are different opinions about these Mosques, ponds, graveyards and other places. History says, Pir Hazrat Khanjahan Ali on way to Bagerhat settled at the site for few years at Barobazar along with his followers and constructed Mosques, dug ponds.

Another interesting story say, to spread Islam as the best religion, Gazi and Kalu came to Barobazar on the way to Sundarbans. When they reached Barobazar, they were manhandled by the men of King Sreeram. Gazi and Kalu used their spiritual power to peacefully settle matters. King Sreeram was very pleased to



The ancient Galakata Mosque unearthed recently at Barobazar in Jhenidah district. —Star photo

## More care could attract more tourists

From Ashit Chowdhury

SIRAJGANJ, Oct 26: The ancient Nabaratna Temple at Hatikumrul in Ullapara thana may be turned into a popular tourist spot.

The Nabaratna Temple at Hatikumrul is situated about 15 kilometres west of Sirajganj town and about one kilometer to the east of Hatikumrul bus stand on Nagarbari-Bogra highway.

were two friends. So far, according to information gathered, King Mathura constructed the Kantazi Temple and Ramnath Bhaduri constructed the Nabaratna Temple. It is said that Ramnath Bhaduri was an influential employee of the then king. When Mathura Nath of Dinajpur failed to pay his revenue, Ramnath played a vital

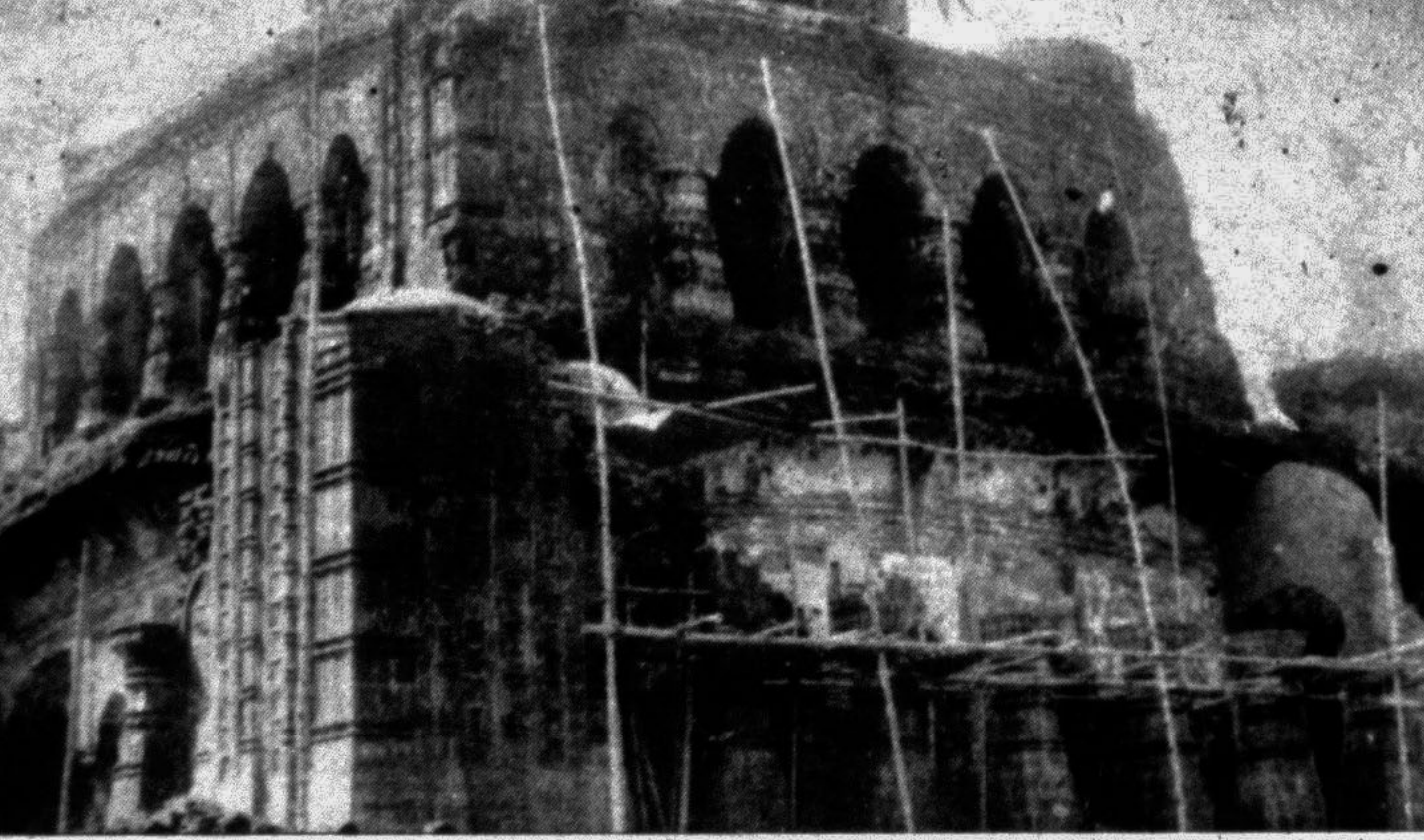
role to save the defaulting zaminder. Later, Mathuranath paid a handsome amount of money to Ramnath who had spent the amount to construct the seven storied 'Doi Manch' at Hatikumrul. Almost similar designs, sketches and idols were used in constructing the Kantazi Temple and Hatikumrul 'Doi Manch' which

are popularly known as the Nabaratna Temple.

The seven storied Temple of Hatikumrul is now in a deplorable condition. The lower part of the Temple remains below ground level due to earthquakes it is learnt. However, the Archaeological Department had taken up a project to make some repairing works of the Temple in

'size bricks to repair the Temples.

According to history, there is a big 'safe' lock made of iron lying beneath the pond near Nabaratna and Shiva Temples. The 'safe' is said to be full of hidden treasures. None could recover the 'safe' from the pond even using elephants to pull the 'safe' out from deep underneath.



The ancient Nabaratna Temple at Hatikumrul in Sirajganj district. —Star photo

The actual time of construction of the temple could not be traced. But it is believed that the temple was constructed as a 'Doi Manch' in the 16th century. The ancient Kantazi Temple of Dinajpur was constructed having similar design at the same time it is learnt. The founders of Kantazi Temple and Nabaratna Temple

1988. An amount of Taka 55 lakh have so far been spent to repair the Nabaratna Temple and a neighbouring, Shiva Temple.

It is alleged that valuables inside those Temples were stolen when left uncared.

The temples were made of small bricks. The Archaeological department is using same

The connecting two roads towards the Temples from Bogra-Nagarbari highway remain damaged. Vehicles can not reach the spots comfortably.

In the meantime, the Archaeological Department is now taking steps to make the temple sites more attractive.

## Poor aman crop output forecasted in Chuadanga

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, October 26: The target of transplanted aman paddy production is expected to decline sharply throughout Chuadanga district during the current season for want of necessary rainfall and irrigation facilities.

The local Agriculture Extension Department sources disclosed that 20 per cent of the total standing transplanted aman paddy has, meanwhile, been damaged for want of adequate supply of water. But according to an unofficial report, it is learnt that about 30 to 35 per cent of the total standing transplanted aman paddy has so far been damaged throughout Chuadanga district for want of necessary rainfall and irrigation facilities during the current season.

According to Agriculture Department sources, during the current transplanted aman paddy cultivation season a total of 30 thousand hectares of land has been brought under cultivation in four thanas of Chuadanga district.

When our correspondent

visited some of the areas of the said four thanas of the district it said that standing transplanted aman paddy on huge areas of land remain dry and are left totally untouched.

Ashadul Hoque of village Monohorpur under Jibannagar thana, a small farmer said for want of rainfall transplanted aman paddy have been destroyed incurring heavy financial losses.

Another colleague of Hoque, Shaukat Ali of village 'Sutia' in the same thana also narrated similar stories.

The local Agriculture Extension Department authority tried their best to mobilise the cultivators to use their shallow tubewells during the current transplanted aman paddy cultivating season to face the drought situation but failed to motivate farmers in some areas.

The food deficit is apprehended this year in the district because transplanted aman paddy is a major crop production.

## New roads constructed in M'bazar tea gardens

From Our Correspondent

MOULVIBAZAR, Oct 26: The newly-constructed Balishira-Monu-Doloi Circular Road, a vital link road in the tea garden areas of Moulvibazar district was recently inaugurated.

Commerce Secretary A F M Mofazzal Karim inaugurated the road in a simple function held at Balishira Tea Estate with Syed Abdul Hasib in the chair. Mickel Dure Chief of European Economic Council (EEC) at Dhaka office attended the inaugural function as special guest in his speech. Mickel Dure said the EEC is interested to expand all kinds of co-operation for the development of the tea industries of Bangladesh.

A total of Tk three crore 48 lakh 72 thousand was sent to construct the road under the financial help from the EEC, STABEX and Complex Fund.

The Divisional Tea Garden Road Development Committee supervised the construction work.