

Goods worth Tk 3 lakh robbed

SAVAR, Dec 25: Dacoits looted goods worth about Tk three lakh including a gun from a house at Koltasuti village on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Police said, a gang of 20 dacoits swooped on the house of Nurul Islam by breaking open the door at about 8:00 pm and decamped with cash and valuables.

A case was filed with the police.

Another report adds: A 14-member district committee of Bangladesh Rural Journalists' Association was constituted on Monday at a meeting at the local Press Club with Delwar Hossain in the chair. Central committee president Mahbul Alam was present as chief guest.

The meeting elected Shamsuzzaman (UNB), Golam Mostafa (Bhorer Kagoj) and Delwar Hossain as president, general secretary and treasurer respectively of the committee.

'Govt to take step to utilise local technology'

JHENIDAH, Dec 25: Post and Telecommunication Minister Tarikul Islam said government will take all necessary steps to ensure proper utilisation of locally innovated appropriate technology to accelerate the pace of development, reports UNB.

He was addressing as chief guest at the opening ceremony of a two-day workshop on "Application and Extension of Appropriate Technology" here on Wednesday, an official handout said.

The minister stressed the need for ensuring application and proper utilisation of such technology through motivating the people.

Presided over by Divisional Commissioner of Khulna Abdul Mukhtar Chowdhury the ceremony was addressed, among others, by M A Wahab MP, Shahiduzzaman MP and Chairman of Jhenidah Municipality Anisur Rahman.

The workshop was organised by the Ministry of Science and Technology in collaboration with the district administration.

Country's noted scientists, agriculturists, technologists and concerned officials took part in the workshop.

An exhibition of locally innovative appropriate technology was also organised on the occasion.

Destitute women march against NGO in Jhenidah

JHENIDAH, Dec 25: About one hundred destitute women and their husbands brought out a procession against oppression of Non Government Organisations (NGOs) running in the district, reports UNB.

Carrying brooms the processionists paraded the main roads of the town chanting various slogans against the local NGOs. They also handed over a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner to press home their 9-point charter of demand on December 10.

Later, they held a meeting in front of the post office creating road blockade. Presided over by district Bittan Mahila Samaj president Delu Begum, it was also addressed by Bilkis Banu, Rahela, Subrata Kumar and Azizur Rahman Salam.

The speakers alleged that the NGOs do not pay just wages to the poor women and take resort to oppressive measures to deprive them from their remunerations.

They also alleged that the managing committees of the NGOs random misappropriate the materials including wheat donated for the distressed people.

They urged the district administration to probe into the matter and take immediate steps in this regard.

Dispute over land leaves five hurt

SATKHIRA, Dec 25: At least five people were injured Sunday in a clash between two groups over the possession of a disputed land at Thaina in Kaliganj thana, reports UNB.

According to villagers, the quarrel ensued as one group led by Kartik tried to take possession of the land for shrimp cultivation while his rival group led by Sadhan of the same village tried to cultivate paddy in the same land.

On the fateful day Kartik along with his men attacked the rival group when the latter tried to prepare the land for paddy cultivation.

The injured were sent to Kaliganj Hospital. Two cases were filed with the police by the two rival groups.

In Natore Sadar Hospital

Large-scale allegation of corruption, misuse of power

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Dec 25: People of Natore are being deprived of medicare facilities due to mismanagement, corruption, misuse of power and lack of necessary doctors at Natore sadar hospital, it is learnt.

About 13 lakh people live in Natore district. There are no other large hospital except sadar hospital and five thana health complexes in six thanas in Natore district. There are 15 union health complexes in 15 unions out of the total of 51 unions in the district.

According to official sources, there are 75 posts for doctors including specialist doctors in the sadar hospital, five thana health complexes and 15 union health complexes throughout the district.

It is also learnt that of the total, about 20 posts of doctors have been lying vacant for a long time. There is only one doctor for every 23,70 thousand people in Natore district at present.

According to a reliable source, the only ambulance of the sadar hospital has been remaining out of order for more than three years. There are about 10 Oxygen cylinders in the hospital. But six of them have no reading metres.

It is learnt that though there is no ambulance serving at present, there are two appointed drivers who have been drawing their monthly salaries regularly since the inception of the hospital. The amount of their salary is Taka 7,000 every month.

Mismanagement and negligence of duty are the common feature at the outdoor department of the hospital, it is alleged. Some doctors do not follow the schedule time. The schedule time is from 8 am to 2 pm. But it is alleged, doctors do not arrive in the office before 10 in the morning.

The Residential Medical Officer (RMO) Towfiqul Islam al-

legedly remain busy issuing different kinds of certificate including death certificates and post-mortem reports of police cases in exchange for bribes.

According to another source, though dates have been given for operation on 100 patients up to January 22, '95, however, it is doubtful that without the medical officer who assists the hospital Surgeon at operation theater and a Pharmacist-specialist of anaesthesia (both of whom were transferred); it would be difficult to even start the operations. Local authorities did not take any steps in this matter though they knew that the transfer of the two persons would create difficulties during operation in the hospital.

Most of the patients have been advised to make arrangements of their own for the operations in other hospitals or clinics.

The Civil Surgeon (CS) of Natore is conducting a private clinic, 'Nahar Clinic' in the town. Some concerned persons, unwilling to expose their names, informed this correspondent that about 1,200 successful operation have been completed in the hospital this year. The number is much higher than any private clinic. Naturally fewer patients seek treatment facilities in private clinics. This is why, it is alleged, CS did not take any steps against the transfer of the medical officer and the anaesthesia specialist.

Due to this attitude of the CS, common people of the town are now suffering a lot, it is alleged.

It is stated that among the 13 affiliated posts in Natore sadar hospital, two posts are lying vacant. Treatment in the eye and dental departments are remaining totally off as there are no posts of ophthalmologist and dentist in this

important hospital of the town.

According to another allegation, some dishonest doctors advise the patients to go to their private chambers, outside the hospital, where the doctors give proper treatment in exchange of a large amount of fees. A reliable source said, a huge amount of valuable medicines are being illegally sold from the hospital by some 'dalals' (middlemen) who are often found in the hospital complex.

Taka 22 is allocated for the daily meals of the patients who take admission in the hospital. But, some patients informed, meals are not served according to the allocation and the standard of served-meals is not so good.

According to Health Department, about Taka 32 lakh 2 thousand 500 has been sanctioned for expanding the medicare services in Natore district during the '94-'95 fiscal year. However, the amount is too little compared to the need.

Of the total, Taka nine lakh for sadar hospital, Taka 3.25 lakh for per health complexes at five thanas, Taka 40 thousand for per union health complexes in 15 unions and Taka 75 thousand for the only TB hospital in the district has been sanctioned.

But the standard of treatment in the hospitals and health complexes have not improved.

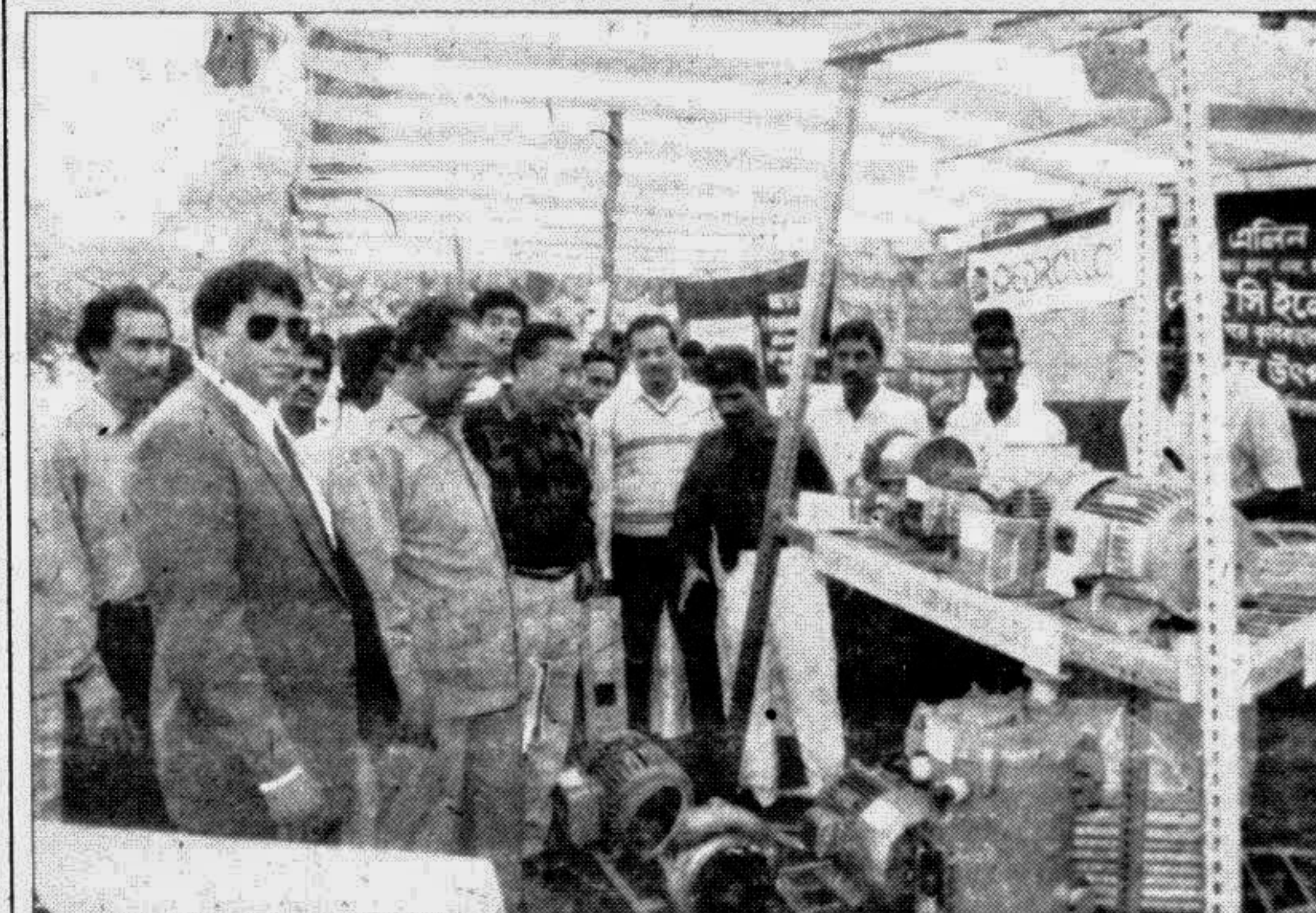
On November 29, '94, the district unit of Medicare Facility Development Committee held a meeting. A hot discussion took place there following the mentioned above allegations.

Two members of the Parliament from the district, DC Natore, SP Natore, Chairman of Natore Pourashava and local political and social leaders were present at the meeting.



NARAYANGANJ: Members of Kathamala performing a recitation at a cultural programme at the local Central Shaheed Minar recently on the occasion of Victory Day.

— Star photo



NATORE: The authorities of Bangladesh Palli Bidyut Samity, PBS-2 recently organised an exhibition of electric goods at the samity premises.

— Star photo

PDB officials urged to bring down system loss

RAJSHAHI, Dec 25: Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain urged the PDB officials to further intensify the drives to bring down system loss to an acceptable level and enhance revenue collection to mark PDB viable, reports UNB.

The minister was presiding over a revenue meeting of Northern Zone at Rajshahi Sunday. State Minister for Establishment Aminul Haque and Chairman of the PDB Kazi Golam Rahman also addressed the meeting which was attended by high officials including CBA leaders.

The meeting was informed that the PDB consumers at Northern Zone now stand at over 2,31,000 covering 16 districts under Rajshahi division.

The meeting was told that PDB has realised Tk 170 crore against the total bill amount of Tk 186 crore in the division achieving 91 per cent of the target in 1993-94. A sum of Tk 71 crore has been realised till November last out of the target of Tk 77 crore showing achievement of 92 per cent.

The meeting was revealed that average distribution system loss in the division in November last was 23.71 per cent while the target during the period was 18 per cent.

Jhenidah experiences extreme cold

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Dec 25: People of all walks of life of Jhenidah district are coming to town for purchasing warm clothing like sweater, shawl, jacket, pullover, quilt, blanket and others to protect themselves from extreme cold as winter captured Jhenidah district and adjoining districts in last two weeks.

The lush of green grass and plants wore a dewy look. In the morning the nature wears scenic beauty covering herself with fog.

Arrangement of poush parba is going on in full swing. Delicious date juice and date cake namely "patali gur" well-

comes the festivals. All types of vegetables like bacil, palang, onion plant, pulse plant specially motor shuti pulse, pumpkin, cabbage, coliflower beans radish and other varieties are seen in the markets, though they are not cheaper like in last seasons. Green tomatoes are very poor in quality and being sold between Taka 20 to 30 per kilogram.

For last few days temperature in Jhenidah district has sharply decreased. It is between 8 degree and 12 degree Celsius from evening to dawn. Poor people who can hardly afford to protect themselves from the bite of cold find the temperature a little too low. The prices of readymade quilt, locally known as "lep" is also very high.

A single size of lep is being sold between Taka 400 and 500 while a double size quilt costs atleast Taka 600 which is quite abnormal for a poor man. The price of woolen shawls, chadar, jumper etc. are also high. Further, used warm clothing in old cloths markets are being sold at higher rates than last year.

Talking to some traders it was learnt they were compelled to purchase clothings at higher rates as the supplies are inadequate to meet the demand.

Narail-Jessore road in deplorable condition

NARAIL, Dec 25: The road running from Narail town to Basundia of Jessore via Multa bazar is now in a deplorable condition, reports UNB.

Innumerable cracks and potholes have developed at many points of the road hampering the movement of vehicles and pedestrians.

Intercropping method becomes popular in Jhenidah

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Dec 25: Intercropping method of cultivation is becoming popular very fast in Jhenidah and adjoining districts.

According to reports intercropping of chuli potato, pulse, onion, garlic, radish etc. are cultivated with sugarcane in most cases. Now a days in different areas of Jhenidah district pumpkin is also cultivated with other crops. That is farmers are getting three to four crops at a time from the same land.

Julmat Ali, a farmer of village Srirampur in Saikupa, thana of the district said that in August this year he cultivated potato in a small piece of land. At the same time he cultivated turmeric and chilli on the same land. Further, he made a structure like platform on the land and planted pumpkin seeds there. Now he has been getting potato, chilli, turmeric and pumpkin all at the time.

About expenditure Julmat Ali said that it is a matter of fortune that he can cultivate many crops on the same land.

He informed that earlier he cultivated only a single crop in a season and earned maximum of Taka ten thousand from one bigha of land. But he earns atleast between Tk 20 thou-

Bus mishap claims 2 in Natore

NATORE, Dec 25: Two unidentified people were killed and 25 others injured, 10 seriously, in a road mishap at Bhabaniganj crossing of the town on Monday, reports UNB.

The seriously injured were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital and Natore Sadar Hospital.

Police said, the incident occurred when a minibus collided with a jeep near the bus terminal killing the minibus helper and a rickshaw-puller on the spot.

The bodies were sent to morgue for autopsy. Police seized the bus, but the jeep managed to flee away.

sand to 25 thousand from the land cultivating many crops which changed his fate.

Another farmer Akbar Ali of village Seikhpura in same thana said cultivating turmeric and pumpkin on six decimals of land he earned Taka 9 thousand this season which is much more than single crop.

Talking to the Deputy Director, Agriculture Extension Department Mirza Ali Amjad said that a few years back farmers were not interested follow intercropping system. But the mentality has been changed due to shortage of cultivable land.

About 250 acres of sugarcane land has been brought under intercrop system of cultivation in this season. Further, at least another 200 acres of land will be used for intercrop methods here.

The Deputy Director also informed that in town areas a good number of families are involved with cultivation of intercrop on roofs which might help to meet a portion of our national demand.

Serve the People gives loan among poor villagers

JHALAKATI, Dec 25: The Serve the People, has concluded its credit disbursement programme in Rajapur and Kathalia thana of Jhalakati district. The loan was disbursed to the villagers of Asroy, Dhanshiri and Uttampur of Rajapur thana and Purbachitki of Kathalia thana, under the Jhalakati district recently. The programme was conducted in association with PPMU of the Ministry of Land.

The villagers were given skill training prior to the loan disbursement so that they can raise their income level and their living standard.

Begum Shahjadi, Chairperson of Serve the People disbursed the loan to the villagers.

Begum Shahjadi in her speech explained to the villagers of the necessity to work and invest money on profitable concern. She also advised the villagers to pay their installments regularly. She assured them of more financial assistance in the near future.

SCO demands reopening of Chittagong University

CHITTAGONG, Dec 25: Sangrami Chhatra Oikya (SCO) here yesterday demanded reopening of Chittagong University and the halls immediately, reports BSS.

Addressing a press conference at local press club SCO leader Abdul Hannan said that about 14,000 students of Chittagong University were deprived of pursuit of their studies because of the closure of the university about a month ago following the killing of a JCD leader by rivals out the campus.

He also demanded fixation of dates of all deferred examinations and implementation of recommendations of judicial inquiry to probe the incident of December 22, 1990 on the campus. He also called for a ban on access to the campus by outsiders.

SCO leaders Shahidul Islam Chowdhury, S A Matin, A Z M Kamaluddin and Nurul Ahad were also present at the press conference.

Two killed in road accident in Jamalpur

JAMALPUR, Dec 25: At least two persons were killed and 25 others injured in a road accident on the Jamalpur Madarganj road here on the evening of Dec 17.

Police source said, a Madarganj-bound minibus, packed with same 80 passengers skidded off the Bhabki diversion road at 5 pm while taking a turn and dived 15 feet deep on the road side ditch.

The dead were identified as Nayeab Ali, 40, a day labourer, and Taybur Rahman, 60, of Madarganj thana. 25 of the injured were admitted to Jamalpur general hospital with severe injuries.

Smuggled goods worth Tk 8 lakh seized

BRAHMANBARIA, Dec 25: Bangladesh Rifles seized smuggled Indian motor cycle spare parts and Maktal carpets worth Tk 8.12 lakh from Haluapara in Madhabpur thana on Monday, says UNB.

Moreover, the BDR in four separate raids seized goods worth Tk 1.16 lakh from different border areas of the district during the last month.

The BDR seized the contrabands from Satchari, Ajampur, Sadar and Mantalla border areas.

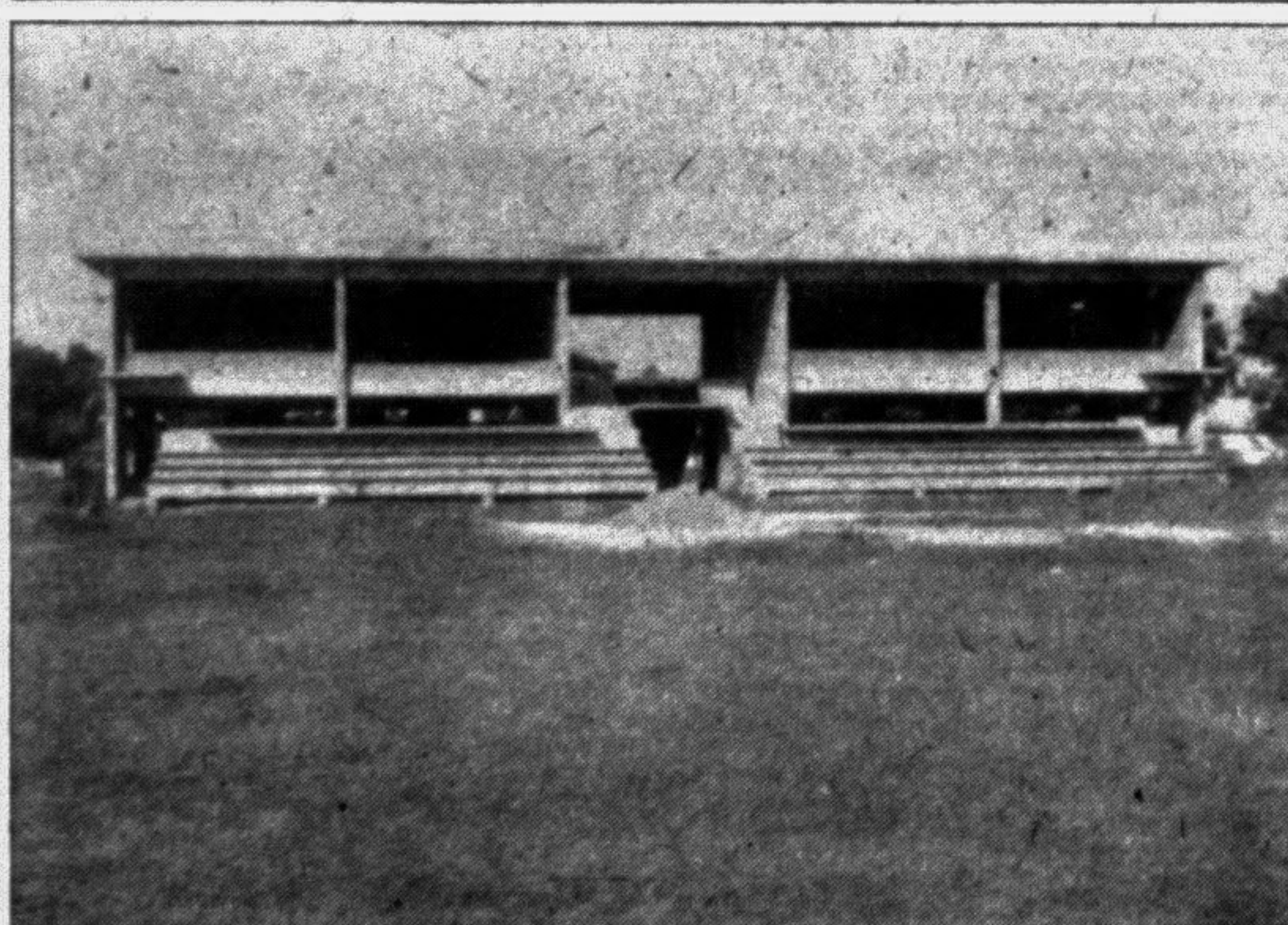
Shortage of fund, Bhola BSCIC uncertain

BHOLA, Dec 25: Establishment and distribution of Bhola BSCIC industrial estate could not be possible due to shortage of fund, says UNB.

According to official sources, the earth work of the estate started in 1989 has already been completed recently covering an area of 13.24 acres of land. But water supply and power distribution lines could not be restored due to fund constraints.

For the completion of water and power supply systems Tk 29 lakh is needed, of which only Tk 7 lakh has been sanctioned by the government, the source added.

Meanwhile, 20 entrepreneurs have already applied for industrial plots, but the distribution is being delayed due to lack of the completion of the works.



NATORE: It has been more than three years since the construction work of the Natore Stadium was started. The work remains in an incomplete stage where only ground leveling and gallery construction work has been partly completed. The foundation stone of the proposed modern stadium was laid by the Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in 1991. Taka 3.5 crore was estimated to complete the work. About three acres of land was given by the Roads and Highways Department for the purpose. Yet it is still uncertain when would the stadium be ready for use. It is alleged that the Sports Ministry and the National Sports Parishad (NSP) were informed about the position of the work but no step has been taken yet to complete the project.

— Star photo