



CHITTAGONG: These men are involved in ship-breaking work. Foreign ships are dismantled here at the Chittagong Port. Many of the workers received serious burn injuries during the work in the past. — Star photo

Pottery industry in northern region on the verge of ruination

From H B Khan

KURIGRAM, Jan 29: Due to lack of assistance and incentive, pottery, a village oriented cottage industry of the northern region, including Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Gaibandha, Nelpamari and Rangpur districts, is now on the verge of ruin.

About 20,000 families of potters involved in the vocation for generations have been facing multifarious problems. Some of them have given up their profession and are adopting other alternatives to survive.

Most of the potters live in Kauadoba, Kantalbari, Debalaya of Kurigram thana, Boidyrbazar, Singardabri, Sindurmati of Rajarhat thana, Raniganj, Thanahat of Chilmari thana, Bagua, Durgapur, Nazimkhan of Ulipur thana, Kumorpur, Bhitorbandia, Madalkhal, Paterwari of Nage-wari thana, Joymonirhat of Bhurungamari thana, Borobari, Teesta, Haribhanga of Lamoni thana, Zhunagach Chapari, Bhandabari, Noutara, Pareshat of Dimla thana, Priphata of Debiganj thana, Chilahati of Domar thana, Dakhawa of Halibandha thana, Nithpur, Titua of Porsha thana, Bhatmair of Kaliganj thana.

Out of these places, Piraphata Kumarpara of

toys and artificial toys. Bimol, another shopkeeper in the same mela (fair) looking pale and wearing a rush dress sitting with attractive toys for sale. He said that the time is not favourable for their livelihood. Haribol, another potters, said that earlier they had cultivable land but not anymore. They sold them for want of money.

Khitish, Sarat, Anil, and Jatin all are potters. They informed that the prices of clay, dice, colour, fuel and other things have now increased many times and thereby have exceeded the limit of their purchasing capacity. Prices and demands of the pottery products are very poor these days. Some of potters have already given up their profession and turned to other trades, they added.

The condition of their residential areas is very poor and unhygienic. While visiting some of the areas in Kumarpas this correspondent found the craftsmen in action making tiles. Sadly their own house roofs were made up of bamboos, and palm leaves. There is acute scarcity of drinking water in those localities though they make rings slabs for sanitary latrines for marketing.



KURIGRAM: An old man, who has been involved in pottery business for more than 25 years, is seen readying pottery products for oven burning. The products are still in demand in the local markets but few years ago there was great demand of pottery products outside the district. — Star photo

Debiganj thana is famous for producing ring-pots that are widely used in sinking wells in the villages while Nithpur of Porsha thana is reputed for tiles that are also widely used. Kauadoba Kurmarpara of Kurigram thana is famous for making toys and Haribhanga Kumarpara of Lalmonirhat thana is famous for making various types of pots.

The products of pottery industry from these areas usually include: pitcher, motki, basin (chari), bati, bowl, plate, ghati, bayam, ewer (badna), jug, kitchen utensil, lamps, pipe, glass, ties, ringparts for wells, lucrative toys for children such as birds, elephants, horses, saving banks for children, dice for making village cakes (pitha dice), and piri (wooden seat) for pressing bread in villages, dhupdant, and goddesses for the Hindu community.

While visiting the Madalkhal village recently, this correspondent found a little boy taking his father to the potters' shop to procure a saving bank. While talking to the boy this correspondent came to know that he wishes to save coins in the bank. A shopkeeper said that the margin of profit is meagre in this age of hard competition between the earthen

products said that they have been engaged in this business for over 10 years now. They can not hardly manage their livelihood now-a-days as demands for the pottery products have fallen. They earn only Tk 15 to 20 a day by doing the job. They also said that long ago the clay for making the goods, could be collected free of cost but now-a-days at least Tk 10 to 15 thousand is required to purchase one bigha of land by the potters for the purpose. Hence, the cost of a medium size pot cost between Tk 8 and 10 but it cost only about 50 paise before.

It is widely felt that the government should arrange both loans and training for saving the traditional industry from the brink of ruin wherein all members of the potter community irrespective of age, sex and groups, have been engaged from generation to generation. In that community, they are potters by birth and hence do not require any other training to earn their livelihood. Loan scheme for such self-employed community is required to save the potter generations and also to maintain the chain of the tradition.

Murder incident Step mother arrested

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Jan 29: At last police arrested the killer step mother of deceased Uzzal after 18 days of allegedly killing Uzzal.

Illegal power connections in Pabna

PABNA, Jan 29: Government is deprived of about Tk two crore revenue per month due to unauthorised connections of electricity in the town dwellers alleged, reports UNB.

The illegal connections were given by a section of local Power Development Board (PDB) officials and employees who collect Tk 15 to 20 per bulb a month from the unauthorised consumers, local people alleged.

These connections were given from metres of genuine customers and there are about 12,000 such illegal connections under Pabna PDB distribution office.

Besides, there are unauthorised metres in Nurpur, Radhanagar, Dilaipur, Gopalpur, Kalachandpur, Singar Narayanpur, South Ragabpur, Pathartala, Betala, Hemayetpur of sadar thana.

zal at village Jadabpur in Mohepur thana of the district.

According to reports, Uzzal, a nine years old boy was found dead in his bed recently. His step father, Mizanur Rahman and mother, Sabeda Khatun informed their neighbours that their step son died of diarrhoea and had arranged to bury the body. The neighbours of Mizanur Rahman, however, suspected at this and some of them informed the matter to local journalists and the incident was published in various dailies.

Following publication of the news item one of the Sub-Inspectors went to investigate the matter and unearthed the body from the grave in presence of a magistrate on December 23 last.

The body was sent to morgue for autopsy.

The post mortem reports said that Uzzal has been killed by using noose over his throat. The Mohepur police lodged a case against Mizanur Rahman and his wife, Sabeda Khatun on charge of killing Uzzal under section 302/201 on January 4. Police arrested Sabeda Khatun, the step mother while Mizanur Rahman was absconding till writing of this report. It was learnt that Uzzal was killed on the night of December 16.

Last year 321 road mishaps claim 230 people in Sylhet region

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Jan 29: At least 230 persons were killed in road accidents in four districts of greater Sylhet region during the last year (1994). Besides, 1466 others were also seriously injured in 321 accidents, according to official sources.

Of the total, the highest number of accidents took place in Sylhet district where 118 persons were killed and 720 others were injured in 195 mishaps in different roads of the district.

In the district of Hobiganj, the road accidents claimed a total of 43 lives and injured 384 others, during the same period.

In the district of Moulvibazar, 32 persons were killed in 42 road mishaps while 137

others were injured and the number of deaths caused by the road accidents in the district of Sunamganj stood at 37. The number of injured people was 225 while a total of 33 accidents took place in the district.

Of the total, 14 persons were killed and 139 others injured in 18 accidents in the month of January and 29 were killed and 49 others were injured in 29 accidents in the month of February while during the month of March, the number of death stood at 14 and the injured at 77 in 21 accidents.

During the month of April, 26 persons were killed and 97 others were injured in the 25 accidents while in May 17

were killed and 202 others hurt in 26 accidents and 13 persons were killed and 99 others were injured in 22 mishaps during the month of June.

According to the reports, the 19 road accidents caused deaths of 11 people and injured 130 others during the month of July, and 19 persons were killed and 77 others were injured by 23 road accidents during the month of August.

In the month of September, 25 persons were killed and 164 others were hurt in 35 accidents in the region while 36 accidents took the lives of 21 persons and injured 243 others.

Tk 25cr electricity bills remain unrealised in greater Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Jan 29: A total amount of Taka 25 crore 55 lakh and 37 thousand has been lying unrealised as electricity bills in four districts of greater Sylhet region, according to an official source. The PDB (Power Development Board) has got its five divisions in the region which forms the Sylhet circle.

Of these the Sylhet division is comprised of eight Electric Supply areas of Sylhet district namely, Balaganj, Beanibazar, Biswanath, Fenchuganj, Golapganj, Jaintapur, Kanaighat and Tajpur and five electric supply areas: Sunamganj, Chhatak, Dera, Jagannathpur, Jamalganj of Sunamganj district.

The Moulvibazar Distribution Division is comprised of four electric supply areas under Moulvibazar district and three electric supply areas in

the district of Hobiganj These are Kulaura, Shamsheernagar, Barlekha and Moulvibazar of Moulvibazar and Ajmiriganj, Baniachang, and Hobiganj of Hobiganj district.

Besides, Sales and Distribution Division, Sylhet-1 is comprised of the Sylhet town and adjacent areas. Sales and Distribution Division-2, Sales and Distribution Division-3 is comprised of the different adjoining areas.

During the month of December 94, a total of 2 crore 79 lakh 64 thousand units of electricity was brought to the Sylhet Circle from the National Grid. Of this 2 crore 16 lakh units was sold to the 87,013 subscribers.

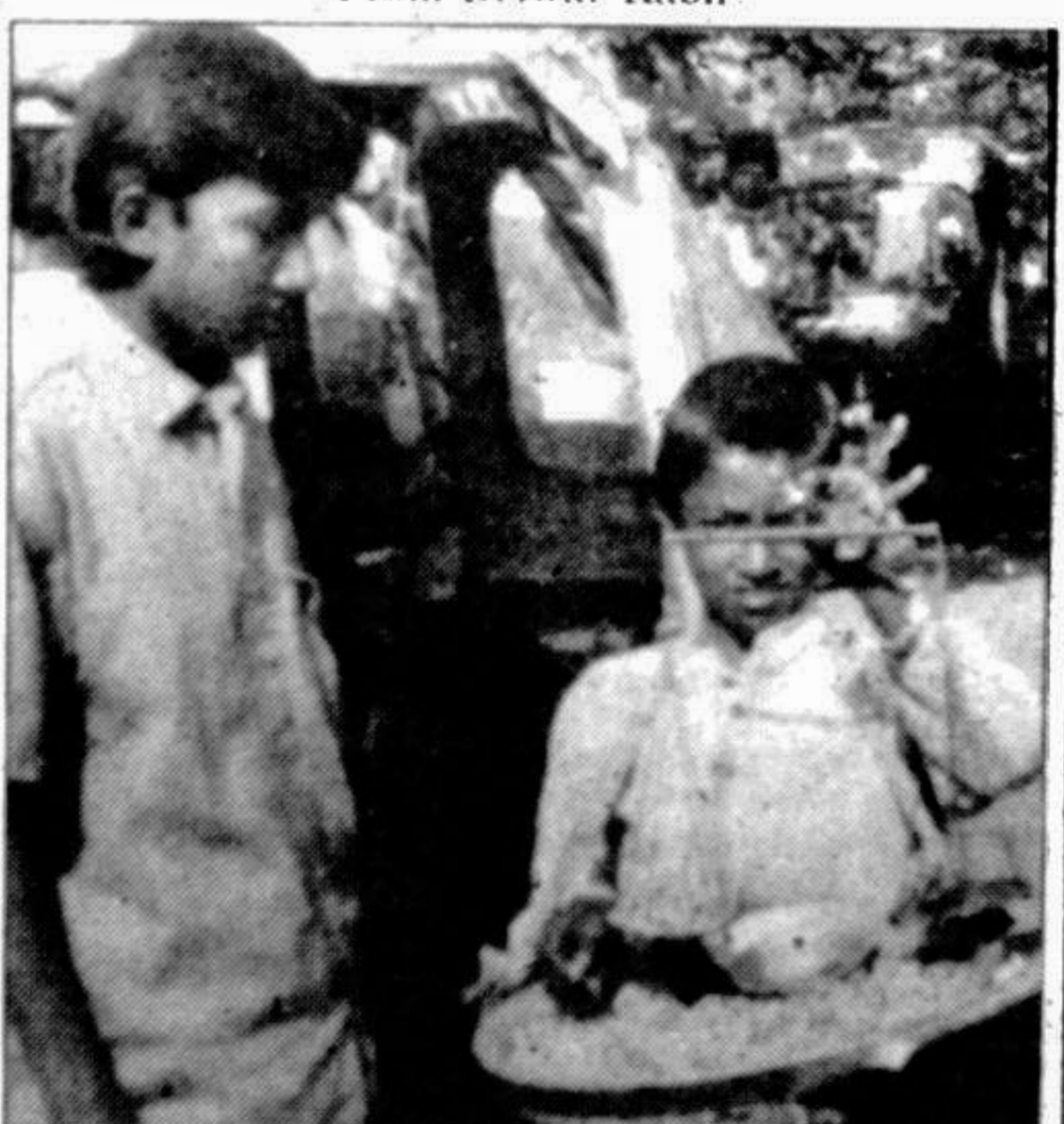
Of the total amount of outstanding Taka 5 crore 83 lakh 67 thousand has been lying unrealised in the four electric

supply areas of Moulvibazar district and three electric supply areas of Hobiganj district. These are, Kulaura, Shamsheernagar, Barlekha and Moulvibazar in Moulvibazar district and Ajmiriganj, Baniachang and Hobiganj electric in Hobiganj district.

An amount of Taka 4 crore 23 lakh 25 thousand has been lying outstanding in Sylhet Distribution Division comprising of eight electric supply areas of Sylhet district and five electric supply areas of Sunamganj district. These are, Balaganj, Beanibazar, Biswanath, Fenchuganj, Golapganj, Jaintapur, Kanaighat and Tajpur of Sylhet district and Chhatak, Dera, Jagannathpur, Jamalganj and Sunamganj of Sunamganj district, the source added.

Poverty not at all bar to education for Odud

From Delwar Kabir



JHENIDAH: Odud Ali selling peanuts in busy street area of the district. On an average he fetches Taka 30 a day out of selling the peanuts. — Star photo

JHENIDAH, Jan 29: Poverty is not at all obstacles to Odud Ali and that is why he goes to school everyday alongwith his little friends.

Odud Ali, 10, is the son of a day labourer at village Kabirpur in Saikupa thana of the district who is a student of class five. But poor father, Abdullah was not in a position to send his son to school.

Odud still wished to go to school. His father can hardly afford three meals a day for the family. So, Odud decided to earn some money to give a hand with his father but that did not stop Odud from attending school. He continued to go to school — in fact, he never missed a lesson in school.

Odud finds lesson in the school very interesting and remembers what ever he is taught in the class. He wished to continue education beside helping his father.

Odud Ali, after returning from nearby Jhaudia Government Primary School comes with his basket and balance in the street selling peanuts. Odud's mother, Majeda Khatun, a housewife and mother of two collects nuts for her son.

Odud Ali sells about 3 to 4 kilograms of nut earning between Taka 25 and 30 a day. He gives the profit money to his mother which is spent for Odud's education, dresses even in family requirements, Odud said.

Majeda Khatun said, before Odud started to sell peanuts' she had to pass days in hardship. But since her son, Odud started the business, the family no longer faces poverty. She also said that the poor students like Odud may remove poverty if they are engaged in such work like the one Odud is after.

3 killed in road mishaps

JESSORE, Jan 29: Police recovered bodies of two young girls from a place near to the Radha Nagar baor of Bagharpara thana of the district Friday, reports UNB.

The victims were identified as Tahmina, 20, daughter of Sohrab Hossain of Aladipur-village in Bagharpara thana and her cousin Parul, 12, daughter of Joban Milda of the same village.

On Thursday evening, Tahmina and Parul left their houses for Noapara but some unidentified miscreants kidnapped them on the way, police said.

Another report says: Two young men were killed in separate road mishaps here Friday. The deceased were identified as Abdul Gafur, 35, and Ibad Ali, 36.

Gafur died instantly when a Magura bound truck hit a bus from behind at Hashimpur on the Jessore-Magura highway. He was travelling on the back-bumper of the bus.

In another incident, Pedestrian Ibad Ali died on the spot when a bus knocked him down at Basundia on Jessore-Khulna highway.

Precious one taka coins

JHENIDAH, Jan 29: The recently released one taka coin is being smuggled out to India and also being melted in the country for its metal use, says UNB.

The smugglers of the coin are active in Jhenidah, Kushtia, Chuadanga, Meherpur, Jessore and Sathkhira border areas. Every day a huge number of coins are being taken to the other side of the border.

People said, one taka coin is rarely available in the hats and bazars. A section of businessmen involved in smuggling are collecting the coins from the available sources.

A one taka coin is being exchanged with taka 115, some local sources alleged adding many shopkeepers are handing over the coins to the smugglers for certain profit.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer (RHD)
Sylhet Road Division, Sylhet
Phone No: 6339

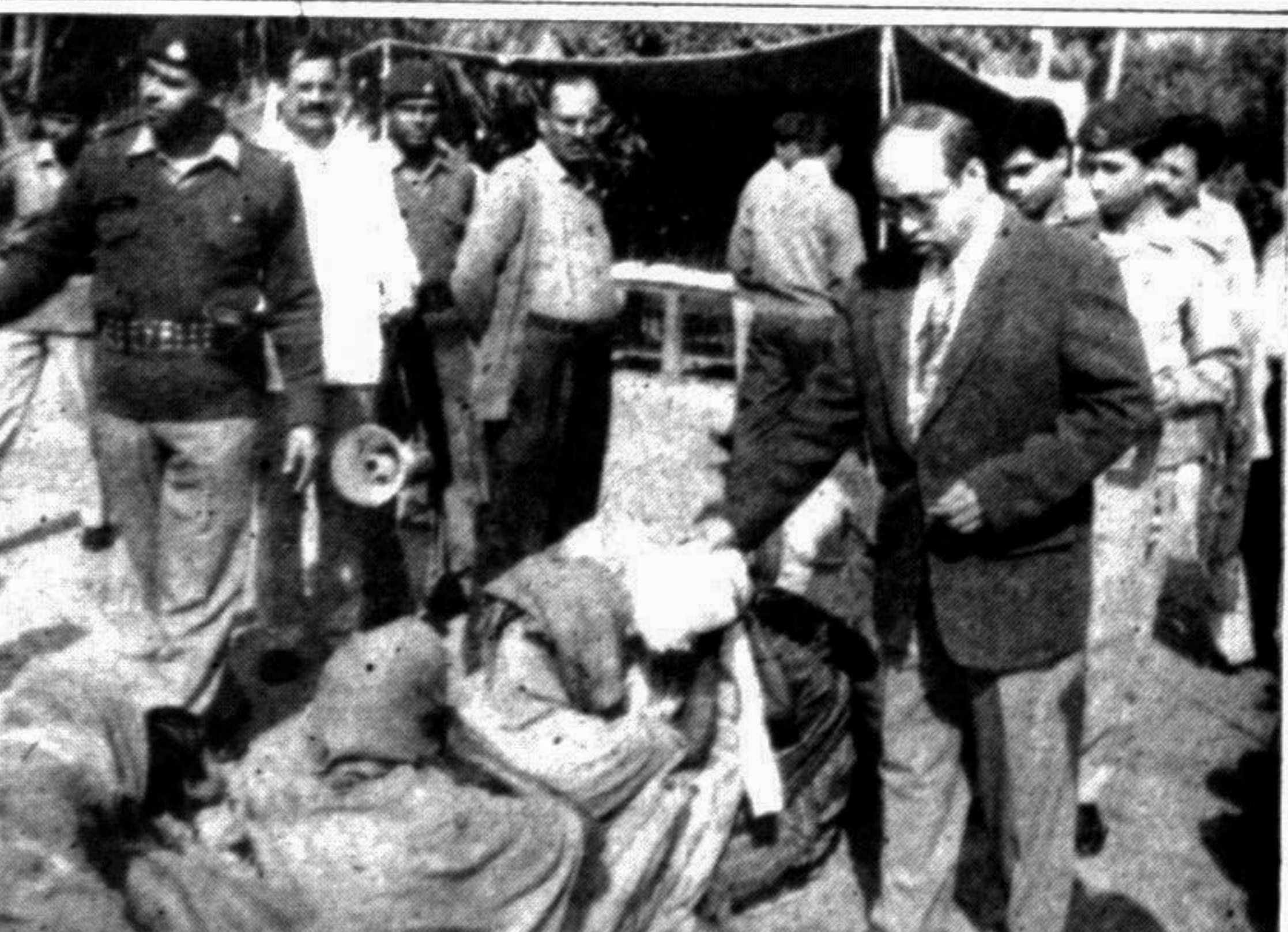
Tender Notice

No 59 of Sylhet Road Division During 1994-95

- Tender Notice No: 59 of Sylhet Road Division, 1994-95.
- Name of work: Tender for supplying Elastomer Rubber bearing and expansion joint HS angle steel plate for Bridge No 30/1 at 36th KM of Sylhet-Tamabil Road under (RHD) Road Division, Sylhet during 1994-95.
- Ch to: 266 Dev.
- Estimated cost: Tk 4,67,592/-.
- Earnest money: Tk 9,352/-.
- Time allowed: 30 (Thirty) days.
- Name of offices where this tender will be received: Undersigned/Superintending Engineer (RHD), Sylhet Road Circle, Sylhet.
- Name of offices where tender documents will be sold: Undersigned/Executive Engineer, (RHD), Road Division, Moulvibazar/Sunamganj/Hobiganj/Sub-Divisional Engineer, RHD Road Sub-Division, Sylhet/ Golapganj/ Biswanath and Mechanical, Sylhet.
- Last date of selling of the tender: 11-02-1995 up to office hours.
- Last date and time of receiving the tender: 12-02-1995 at 12-30 PM.
- Date and time of opening the tender: 12-02-1995 at 12-45 PM.

Syed Rashidul Hassan
Executive Engineer (RHD)
Road Division, Sylhet.

DPP-1942-24/1
G-157



SATKHIRA: The Police Super. Samaul Haq, Satkhira is seen distributing winter cloths among the destitute people of Satkhira town. The members of the police force of the district donated the amount of money for buying cloths from their salaries. — Star photo