

Body of young boy recovered

From Staff Correspondent
 BARISAL, Apr 8: A boy, Sujjan, 13, was recovered by Barguna thana police from a ditch near Gourichanna bazar along Barisal-Barguna highway Thursday afternoon.
 Sujjan, son of Md Abdul Halim Mirdha of Gourichanna village of Barguna was missing after catching fish with one, Mostafiz on that day in a pond.
 Police arrested Mostafiz and lodged a case in this connection with Barguna thana.

880 MT of wheat sanctioned for Thakurgaon to combat drought

THAKURGAON, Apr 8: Government has sanctioned a total of 880 metric tons of wheat to combat the drought situation of the district, reports UNB.
 This was disclosed at a meeting of the Coordination Committees of Food for Works and Test Relief held at the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner on Wednesday. Environment and Forest Minister Akbar Hossain presided over the meeting.

Of the total wheat, 659 metric tons have been sanctioned for 53 schemes under special allotment and 221 metric tons for 131 schemes under the Test Relief programme.

The meeting also discussed about the prevailing drought and agricultural rehabilitation situation and the distribution relief materials in the district.

It decided to implement all the development programmes during the lean season of the year through coordination of all local bodies.

Environment and Forest Minister Akbar Hossain directed the concerned officials to activate all the uplift programmes during drought and lean period through formulating a year-based action plan with the cooperation of NGOs.

He said there will be no crisis if work is done in a planned manner adding employment opportunities could be created in lean season by undertaking various uplift schemes.

28 govt pry schools to be reconstructed

BHOLA, Apr 8: The Facilities Department of the Ministry of Education, Barisal region, has taken up a programme for repairing and reconstruction of 28 government primary schools in the district at a cost of Taka 1,08,77,000 in the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

According to officials, 16 primary schools will be reconstructed at a cost of Taka 78 lakh while 12 government primary schools will be repaired at a cost of Taka 30 lakh.

Of the schools, nine will be reconstructed in Barisal district, seven in Jhalakathi district, four in Bhola district and eight in Pirojpur district.

The construction work will start soon and is expected to be completed by June next. The schools will be provided with necessary appliances.

With the implementation of the programme primary education in the district will get further boost.

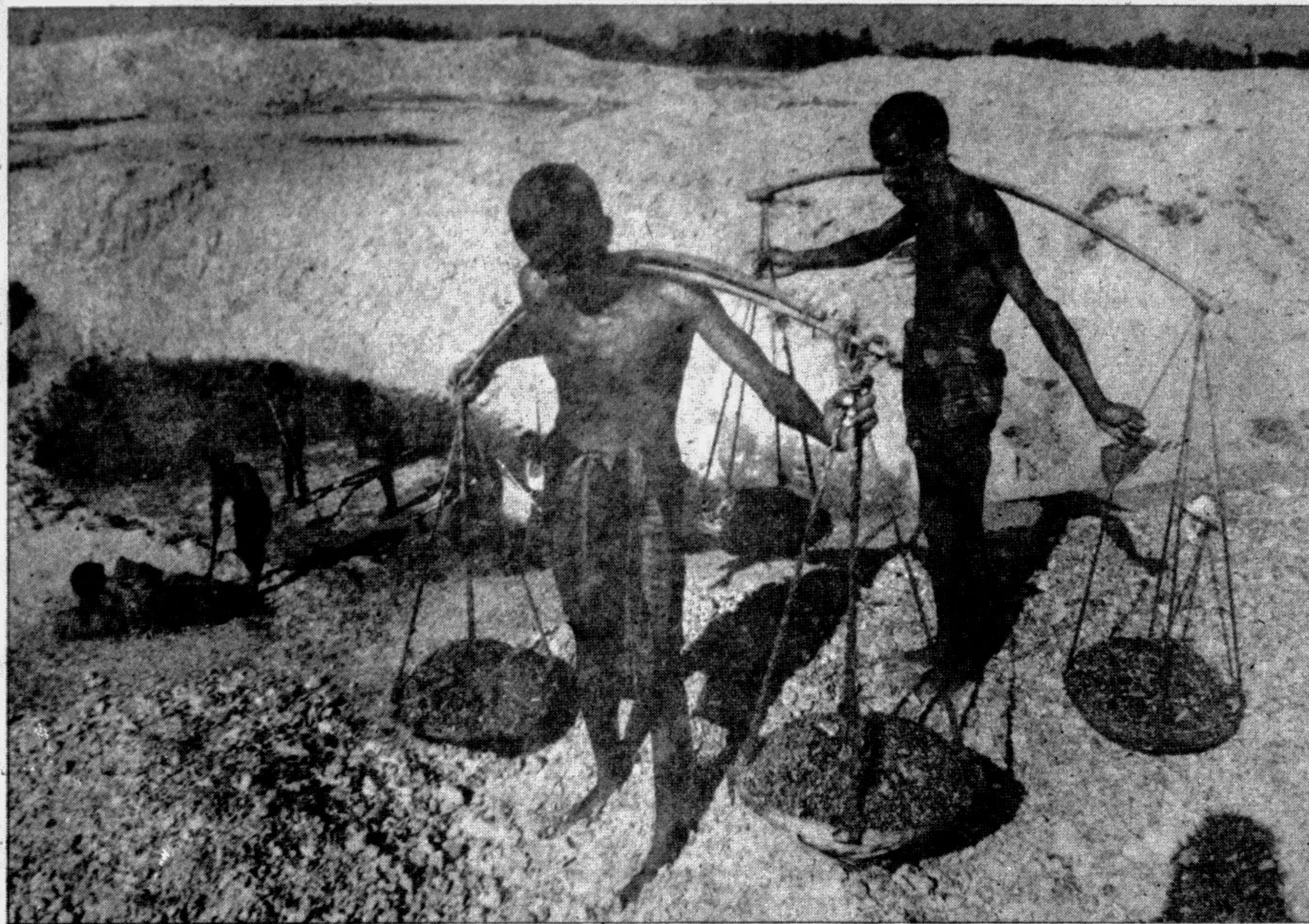
Contraband worth Tk six lakh seized in Rajshahi

RAJSHAHI, Apr 8: The BDR personnel seized contrabands valued at Tk six lakh from different areas of the district in several anti-smuggling drives Thursday, reports UNB.

The contrabands include Indian saris, salt, parts of radio and husking mills, bicycle tyre and tube.

The BDR men of 20 Rifles Battalion conducted the raids at char areas of Padma, Lutarupara, Kodal-Kathi, Rainagar and Char Boyar-Mari under the battalion area and seized the items.

Later, the contrabands were deposited to Rajshahi customs office, an official handout said.



LALMONIRHAT: These men are collecting chips of stones digging in the area in Patgram thana of the district. Hundreds of day labourers are engaged in collecting stones usually used for road construction purposes. Its like a coal mine — more you dig more you get. It is reported that a vast area in the northern districts especially in Kurigram and Lalmonirhat is covered with such reserve of chips of stones. — Star photo by AKM Mohsin

30,000 MT of sugar cane drooping in Darsana Sugar Mills

From Our Correspondent
 CHUADANGA, Apr 8: About 30 thousand metric tons of standing matured sugar cane are drooping in the fields at Darsana Sugar Mills zone area due to drought and failure by the mills authority to crush the sugar cane in the mills timely during the current cane crushing season of the mills.
 Till April 1 the mills has produced 11,569 metric tons of sugar by crushing 1,81,942 metric tons of sugar cane.
 The Darsana Sugar Mills

went into its seasonal production from October 2 last year. A spokesman of the mills told this correspondent over telephone that due to severe pests attack the juice of sugarcane was abnormally decreased in the mills zone areas sugar fields this year, as a result the mills might face a severe financial loss this year. He further informed that there is a standing order from the superior authority to run the mills till the entire sugarcane of the mills zone areas are used. It will take another one and a half months to lift the entire sugarcane, he added.
 On the other hand, hundreds of sugarcane cultivators gather every day in front of Darsana Sugar Mills office to draw the outstanding bills. But due to extreme fund crisis of the mills, the poor cultivators go back disappointed. Besides, large scale corruption in distribution of *purjees* is also alleged.

One sentenced to life for killing wife

From Our Correspondent.
 SYLHET, Apr 8: The District and Sessions Judge, Sylhet, M A Quddus while passing his judgement in a case found one person guilty and sentenced him to suffer life term imprisonment on charge of killing his wife recently. The court also acquitted two other persons of the charges brought against them in the same case.

The prosecution case in brief is that, in the night following August 11 of 1991, Maya Begum, daughter of Anwar Ali of village Assampara under Jaintapur thana badly beaten by her husband, Mosaddik Ali and two of his associates. The incident occurred as a sequel to a long standing family feud it was learnt. They later strangled her to death and hanged the body with the roof of the kitchen in the house. They also tried to term the incident as suicide.

However, a case in this connection was lodged with the police station. The police after holding investigations, submitted chargesheet against the victim's husband and two of his associates namely, Siraj and Abdul Hannan.

The court after examining all the records and witnesses, found the husband guilty and awarded lifetime imprisonment to him, while acquitted two other accused persons of the charges brought against them.

Burimari Land Port faces numerous problems

From Our Correspondent
 RANGPUR, Apr 8: The Burimari Land Port, the lone northern region's authorised route of imports and exports among Bangladesh-Bhutan and India has been lacking required amenities.
 Established about eight years back, the port has linked the northern region of the country with India and Bhutan by road to expand trade and commerce with these countries.
 According to the information, during the last financial year the port has earned a revenue of around Taka 400 crore but this year it is found the figure is far below due to manifold problems faced by the importers, exporters and the port staff.
 There is no adequate housing facilities for the staff to run their duties smoothly. On the other hand, the importers and exporters have been facing acute residential and banking problems in absence of residential hotels and bank branches.
 It is most surprising that the port is lacking 'weigh-bridge' since its inception and as a result the large scale anomalies in detecting malpractices in weighing of goods are running at the port which is allegedly causing huge tax evasion for years together.
 The rigid formalities in realising excise duties being imposed at this port by the excise department have been causing delay in the move-

60 houses burnt to ashes in fire incident

From Our Correspondent
 SIRAJGANJ, Apr 8: A devastating fire incident in village Halaakandi under Kamarkhanda thana gutted about 60 houses rendering more than 200 people of 20 families shelterless on April 4 noon.
 It is gathered that fire originated from the kitchen of Muzammel Haq of village Halaakandi and soon spread over the neighbouring houses. Sixty unshaded and thatched houses of 20 families were gutted. Valuables including food stuff, poultry birds and cash were burnt to ashes.
 The District Administration sanctioned Tk 16,000 and one metric ton of rice as relief which were distributed among the victims.

One commits suicide, minor girl drowns

HABIGANJ, Apr 8: A middle aged man allegedly committed suicide on Friday in Banlachang thana by hanging himself, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Abdur Razzak, 45, of Jatukaramapara village of the thana. The reason behind the suicide was not known immediately.

A case was filed with the police.
 In another incident, a minor girl drowned in a pond at Rajnagar area of sadar thana on Thursday.

The victim Dina, 6, daughter of rickshawpuller Ruku Mia slipped into the pond while playing near the pond.

Later, the body was recovered and sent to the sadar hospital by the local people where the doctors declared her dead.
 A case was filed with the police.

200 valuable foreign books donated for BAU library

MYMENSINGH, Apr 8: The Association of Former Students of Texas A & M University has donated some 200 valuable foreign books on higher studies in agriculture to Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), says UNB.

The leaders of the association formally handed over the books to the Vice-Chancellor Dr Shah Mohammad Farook on March 29, said a university press release.

Addressing a function on the occasion at the BAU central library, the Vice-Chancellor said, the students, teachers and researchers of the university would be greatly benefited by acquiring knowledge from these books.

He stressed the need for conducting research activities jointly by BAU and A & M University.

Presided over by the president of the association Dr M A Hasnat, the function was also addressed by Prof A M Moazzem Hossain, Prof M Islam Hossain and Prof Abdur Rahman.

3 months long training course on poultry, fisheries for youths

FENI, Apr 8: A three-month long training course for the youths on poultry, rearing of livestock and their treatment, and fisheries began at the Feni regional youth training centre on Monday, reports UNB.

Organised by Youth Development Directorate, a total of 100 youths from Feni, Noakhali, Laxmipur, Chandpur and Khagrachhari districts under Chittagong division took part in the course.

After completion of the training, government will provide project-based loan to the trainees to make them self-reliant.

Serious crisis of fodder, dairy farming hard hit

From Our Correspondent
 RANGPUR, Apr 8: The development of dairy farming in the district has been adversely affected for long due to lack of fodder.
 There are around three hundred dairy farms having nearly two thousand improved varieties of cattle in the town areas. The daily production from these farms is roughly 12,000 litres of milk. But due to dearth of marketing facilities, the dairy farm owners are completed to sell bulk quantity of milk to the tea shops at much cheaper rates while a small quantity goes to the private consumers at prices between Taka 14.00 and Taka 18.00 per litre.
 The fodder crisis and its abnormal high prices have caused much sufferings and economic hardships to the dairy farmers all over the district. Due to prolonged drought fodder crisis has taken a serious turn. As a result the prices of fodder like wheat, hey, oil cake, grass and paddy dust shot up thus enhanced the cost of cattle rearings burdening the economic hardships of farmers.
 The medical facilities are poor since the livestock offices and clinics at district and thana level are reportedly ill-staffed and lacks required medicines. The prices of the essential animal drugs manufactured in the country are very high while similar kind of Indian medicines are available at cheaper prices.
 The artificial insemination centres also lacks required amenities and there are no experts in these centres which is greatly hampering smooth functioning of the artificial insemination programmes causing much sufferings to the farmers.
 There are no research facilities towards improvement of cattle farmings, it is further alleged.
 According to the experienced circles, required measures for marketing of the milk, supply of fodder by producing balanced food and adequate medical aids would help flourish dairy farmings in the district.

Work on hospital remains suspended since 18 yrs

From Our Correspondent
 SIRAJGANJ, Apr 8: The project to construct the 50-bed hospital at Ullapara thana headquarters has not been implemented even after 18 years.
 It is gathered from different sources that in 1977, late President Ziaur Rahman in a public meeting, committed that a 50-bed hospital will be constructed at Ullapara Sadar to fulfill the long-cherished demand of the local people. Accordingly in September 1977, the then Deputy Secretary (Development) of the Ministry of Health and Family Planning vide his Memo No.V-1/Pr-1/7/35 instructed the then Civil Surgeon of Pabna to select the site of the hospital. On the same month, the then Deputy Commissioner of Pabna vide memo no. 667 requested the Executive Engineer of Public Works Department (PWD) to take necessary steps for acquiring 5.34 acres of land. The later completed selection of site and acquire three acres of land at Kawak village by the side of Ullapara town and North Bengal highway. The concerned authority also submitted a scheme for sanctioning fund amounting to Tk 26,83,000 primarily from the Ministry of Health vide memo no Dev/4/P-6/7/445 dated 12.11.79. In 1980, final decision for constructing the hospital was taken and tenders for the purpose were called.
 Afterwards, the Executive Engineer of Pabna PWD in a letter to the chief of Planning Cell, Ministry of Health and Family Planning, vide memo no. 40/2442 W.E. expressed his dissatisfaction on constructing the hospital. The contents of the letter could not be ascertained but since then and works on the project remained suspended.
 During the regime of president Ershad, commitments for constructing the hospital were made again but the situation remained unchanged.
 Later, on December 9, 1993 Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia visited the proposed site of the 50-bed hospital at Kawak. While addressing a huge public meeting at Ullapara Akbar Ali Government College ground the Prime Minister told that initially a 20-bed hospital will be constructed at the site which will be developed into a 50-bed hospital in phases. A big signboard of the hospital was also hung at the project site. But no works have been started as yet.
 The people of Ullapara have urged upon the authority to take necessary steps for constructing the hospital to meet the growing medicare needs of the people.

37 development projects in progress in Patuakhali

PATUAKHALI, Apr 8: A total of 37 development projects at a cost of Tk 42.50 lakh under Annual Development Programme are nearing completion in Kalapara thana of the district, reports UNB.
 Of the total, 10 projects will be implemented in irrigation sector, eight in education, seven in communications, four in social welfare, five in maintenance and three in Cottage Industry.
 Forty per cent work of the projects have already been completed, official sources said.



A maize demonstration plot in Ullapara thana of Sirajganj district. The local Agriculture Extension Department (AED) has been demonstrating such plots to local farmers encouraging maize cultivation in the area. — Star photo



JESSORE: The Civil Surgeon of the district Dr Amjad Hossain addressing a gathering of Poli Unnayan and Janakallayan Sangstha's camp for polio vaccination on National Immunisation Day (NID) recently. Dr Amjad Hossain (R) also immunising a child on the occasion of NID. — Star photos